College administrators see problems as more students view marijuana as safe
Colleges look for ways to address the issue amidst changing public attitudes

Public opinion on marijuana use is shifting nationally. Surveys find Americans view marijuana as safer than alcohol and other drugs, and an increasing number of state are legalizing marijuana for medical and recreational uses.¹

College campuses are on the frontlines of this shift in attitudes. This first-ever survey of campus administrators on marijuana use and responses confirms that these shifts in law and attitudes are having an effect on student behavior. Most administrators in this survey said a growing number of students see marijuana as safe (Figure 1). Data on drug use bears this out: Between 2014 and 2016, annual prevalence of marijuana use among college students increased by 14 percent.²

As more students view marijuana as safe, administrators are seeing problems associated with marijuana use. These include issues with academic performance (41 percent), decreased student motivation (37 percent), and mental health issues (36 percent).

In the face of this change, 79 percent of administrators believe that colleges “should implement policies and programs to effectively reduce marijuana use among college students”. But only a third think their campus is putting a great deal (5 percent) or a fair amount (28 percent) of emphasis on the issue (Figure 2).

There are substantial barriers to implementing effective policy, including disagreement across different roles on campus over the seriousness of the issue. The survey shows an opportunity for training targeted at higher education professionals on the impacts of marijuana use on academic success and student well-being, as well as how to identify problematic marijuana use and successful intervention strategies. There is also a role for professional associations, which are well-trusted, to disseminate actionable information about marijuana to administrators.

Administrators perceive student marijuana use is on the rise.

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² Source: [https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/college-age-young-adults](https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/college-age-young-adults)

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**KEY FINDINGS**

- Administrators are seeing increased marijuana use and related problems, and think colleges can and should address the issue.
- Administrators do not think their campuses are putting much emphasis on the issue now. Lack of resources, coordination, and information are seen as the biggest barriers to prevention and enforcement.
- There are wide gaps in opinion between different administrative roles on campus. Health, residence, and safety officials are much more aware of issues around marijuana than those in academic or student affairs administration
- Officials across all roles are interested in more training on marijuana-related issues. There is an opportunity for campus leaders to use training to even out knowledge about the marijuana across departments on campus.

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**Figure 1: Administrators report students increasingly view marijuana as safe.**

Q: During the past 3 years, would you say the number of students attending your school who perceive that marijuana is safe has...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>54%</th>
<th>23%</th>
<th>22%</th>
<th>1%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stayed about the same</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Nearly seven in ten administrators (69 percent) report that the number of students with marijuana related issues has increased (37 percent) or stayed the same (32 percent) over the past three years. A majority (55 percent) report marijuana use in residence halls on campus, including a near-universal 95 percent of administrators in working in residence or fraternity/sorority life.

A majority (55 percent) of administrators who are closest to the issue – those working in health, wellness, alcohol and other drug prevention, residence life, and campus safety - see an increase in marijuana-related issues. Administrators at larger institutions (52 percent) and schools with a larger share of residential students (68 percent) are also more likely to say marijuana issues have increased.

These trends also apply to the perception that marijuana is safe. A majority (54 percent) of all administrators believe that the number of students who perceive marijuana as safe has increased. This figure is even higher among front line administrators (64 percent) and those at larger and more residential campuses.

**Campus response is seen to be lagging behind.**

With marijuana use and associated problems seemingly on the rise, a large majority of administrators (79 percent) agree that campus should do something about the problem. But it is not clear whether the current campus response is up to the challenge. Only a third of administrators said their campus put a great deal (5 percent) or a fair amount (28 percent) of emphasis on preventing marijuana use. Just 23 percent said that their campus planned to increase prevention activities over the next few years.

When it comes to evidence-based approaches, there are gaps in campus prevention strategies. A third or fewer administrators report their campuses regularly screen students for marijuana problems at health centers, counseling, or when they violate campus policy. These figures are consistently lower than for screening for alcohol problems in the same scenarios.

Only 30 percent reported the existence of a task force to address substance use in general, and just 1 percent knew of a marijuana-specific task force. Just 16 percent report participation in a coalition with other schools or community organizations that address marijuana use.

Many administrators are unaware of their campus's plans for marijuana prevention (40 percent) or whether marijuana related problems have increased (30 percent). Nearly half (49 percent) of administrators did not know how often their campuses collected data on marijuana use.

When a student is found to have marijuana on campus, the most common response is disciplinary action, usually probation for the first offense. Education and counseling were much less common. For problem users, the most common campus response was referral to off-campus treatment. That may be because the large majority of administrators reported their campus had no physicians

**Figure 2: Administrators agree campuses should work to reduce marijuana use, but few think their own institutions are putting much emphasis on it.**

![Agree / Disagree: College campuses should implement policies and programs to effectively reduce marijuana use among college students.](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A great deal / fair amount | Not very much / none at all | Unsure |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much emphasis would you say your campus places on preventing student marijuana use?
specializing in addiction medicine (72 percent). Less than half (48 percent) had one or more counselors on campus specializing in substance abuse, although they are more common on larger residential campuses.

**Barriers to action on marijuana.**

Administrators report several barriers to prevention and enforcement, including a lack of resources (64 percent), information (59 percent), and coordination (58 percent). A majority (55 percent) also cited opposition among students (Figure 3).

Lack of coordination is especially noteworthy given the very different levels of concern and knowledge among administrators in different roles on campus. Front line professionals – those working in health, counseling, and addiction; fraternity, sorority and residence life; and student conduct and safety – were more likely to perceive an increase in marijuana use on campus than were those in academic or student affairs administration. They were also more likely to see barriers to effective policies addressing the issue.

This knowledge and opinion gap between different types of administrators is itself an illustration of the lack of coordination and information cited as top barriers to implementing marijuana policy. Indeed, front line roles rated a lack of coordination between departments as their top concern (68 percent). They also rated each issue as more of a barrier to successful policy than those working in academic and student affairs. Nearly half of these respondents cited a lack of support from campus administration as a hindrance (47 percent).

This gap was seen on other questions as well. When asked if they agreed or disagreed that “Marijuana use on campus is a serious problem” administrators were almost evenly split, with 49 percent agreeing and 44 percent disagreeing. But 64 percent of front line administrators agreed with the statement, compared to only 30 percent of academic and student affairs professionals.

**Figure 3: Lack of resources, information, coordination seen as top barrier to marijuana prevention and enforcement.**

*Q: Keeping in mind that your answers are confidential, how much of a barrier do you think each of following presents to successful marijuana prevention and enforcement policies on your campus?*

- **Lack of resources for enforcement**: Not a barrier 23% | Minor barrier 33% | Major barrier 31% | Unsure 12%
- **Lack of information about effective marijuana policies**: Not a barrier 28% | Minor barrier 38% | Major barrier 21% | Unsure 13%
- **Lack of coordination across campus departments**: Not a barrier 31% | Minor barrier 33% | Major barrier 25% | Unsure 11%
- **Opposition from students**: Not a barrier 31% | Minor barrier 39% | Major barrier 16% | Unsure 14%
- **Lack of support from campus administration**: Not a barrier 51% | Minor barrier 22% | Major barrier 15% | Unsure 12%
- **Opposition from faculty members**: Not a barrier 51% | Minor barrier 25% | Major barrier 6% | Unsure 18%
- **Opposition from staff**: Not a barrier 58% | Minor barrier 20% | Major barrier 6% | Unsure 16%
- **Marijuana is legal in the area where the campus is located**: Not a barrier 62% | Minor barrier 11% | Major barrier 13% | Unsure 14%
- **Opposition from alumni**: Not a barrier 59% | Minor barrier 16% | Major barrier 5% | Unsure 20%
Information and training are potential ways to bridge gaps and address student marijuana use.

Academic research and professional associations are almost universally trusted by administrators and could be leveraged to help disseminate information about the health and academic effects of marijuana use and abuse. There is already a substantial body of academic research on marijuana use and its effects on health and academic performance that could be translated by professional associations or other outside groups into useful and actionable information.

Conclusion: A role for campus leadership.

College campuses are front and center as Americans’ opinions shift on marijuana. More permissive attitudes pose numerous challenges to higher education, starting with making students aware of how marijuana use might affect their educational goals and how it might pose risks to their mental health and productivity. This survey suggests that administrators are seeing the effects of this shift in public opinion first hand and understand the need to address it, even if some on campus do not see it as a serious issue. There are administrative and

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### Pop Quiz: Administrators’ knowledge about marijuana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>% correct</th>
<th>% unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The earlier the age that marijuana use begins, the worse the cognitive effects are.</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More frequent marijuana use is associated with more cognitive problems.</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana can be physically addictive.</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who use marijuana are more academically disengaged than non-users.</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who use marijuana are at risk for other forms of substance use</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who use marijuana skip more of their classes than non-users.</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana use is related to an increased risk of mental health problems.</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana use is an effective way to reduce stress.*</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana use is associated with fewer academic problems than excessive drinking.*</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A substantial proportion of marijuana users do not consume alcohol excessively.*</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who use marijuana are much more likely to be excessive drinkers than non-users of marijuana.</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Agreement with the statement was the correct response on all items except those with asterisks, where disagreement aligns with the scientific consensus.
attitudinal barriers to dealing with marijuana use on campus, including differences of knowledge and opinion among campus staff in various roles.

Fortunately, there are also some indications that training and information sharing might bridge some of these gaps, and that educational professionals would be open to such an approach. Ultimately, it will be up to campus leaders and senior administration to dedicate time and resources to smooth out gaps in knowledge about marijuana use on campus and enable a more effective approach to prevention and enforcement.
Thinking about your position on campus, which of the following best describes your sector?

- Health Center: 8%
- Counseling: 9%
- Health and Wellness: 9%
- Academic Affairs: 21%
- Residence Life: 9%
- Student Conduct: 4%
- Campus Safety: 6%
- Student Affairs: 23%
- Alcohol and Drug Prevention: 4%
- Fraternity and Sorority Life: 1%
- Other: 6%

How many years have you been in your current position?

- 0 to 1 years: 19%
- 2 to 5 years: 36%
- 6 to 10 years: 18%
- More than 10 years: 26%

Is marijuana use legal for recreational use in the state where your campus is located?

- Yes: 11%
- No: 88%
- Unsure: 1%

Is marijuana use legal for medical use in the state where your campus is located?

- Yes: 45%
- No: 44%
- Unsure: 11%

*Asked of 394 respondents indicating that marijuana was legal for medical or recreational use.*

Are advertisements for marijuana allowed or not allowed in each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order rotated.</th>
<th>Allowed</th>
<th>Not allowed</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus newspaper</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus radio station</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus bulletin boards, kiosks, etc.</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics publications</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the past 3 years, would you say the number of students with marijuana-related problems on campus has...

- Increased: 37%
- Decreased: 1%
- Stayed about the same: 32%
- Unsure: 30%

What kinds of problems have you seen or heard about associated with marijuana use on your campus?

*Multiple responses allowed; percentages total more than 100 percent.*

- Use in residence halls: 55%
- Academic issues: 41%
- Decreased student motivation: 37%
- Mental health issues: 36%
- Campus safety issues: 22%
- None selected: 11%
- Other (broken out below): 14%
- Marijuana not a problem on campus: 6%
- Student conduct / legal issues: 3%
- Use among athletes: 1%
- Medical beneficial uses of marijuana: 1%
- Medical problems: 1%
- Unsure: 1%
- Remaining other: 1%
- Students’ employment prospects: <1%

In the past 3 years, would you say the number of students on campus who perceive that marijuana is safe has...

- Increased: 54%
- Decreased: 1%
- Stayed about the same: 23%
- Unsure: 22%

To the best of your knowledge, how does your campus collect student level data on marijuana use?

- Every year: 14%
- Every two years: 12%
- Every three years: 5%
- Does not collect data: 16%
- Other: 3%
- Unsure: 49%

*Asked of the 237 respondents who indicated data was collected at least once every three years*

To the best of your knowledge, how effectively is this information used to inform prevention strategies?

- Very effectively: 13%
- Somewhat effectively: 42%
- Not too effectively: 26%
- Not at all effectively: 9%
- Unsure: 10%
Please describe how this information is used. *Open-ended; responses could be coded to multiple categories and total more than 100 percent.*

To inform programming and prevention: 49%
Reported out to national organization and on campus: 35%
To determine resources for counseling: 21%
Not used: 8%

How much emphasis would you say your campus places on preventing student marijuana use?

- A great deal: 5%
- A fair amount: 28%
- Not very much: 46%
- None at all: 9%
- Unsure: 10%

In terms of marijuana prevention activities on campus, which of the following best describes your plans for the next few years?

- Increase prevention activities: 23%
- Keep prevention activities about the same: 36%
- Scale back on prevention activities: 1%
- Unsure: 40%

How adequate would your say your campus’s response is for students who have a problem with marijuana?

- Completely adequate: 12%
- Somewhat adequate: 46%
- Somewhat inadequate: 16%
- Completely inadequate: 5%
- Unsure: 20%

Does your school conduct any university-wide education or messaging campaigns for students about risks associated with marijuana use?

- Yes: 28%
- No: 50%
- Unsure: 22%

Does your school have an on-campus task force or working group addressing marijuana use on campus?

- Yes, specific to marijuana: 1%
- Yes, part of a general substance abuse task force: 30%
- No: 47%
- Unsure: 22%

Does your school participate in a coalition with other schools or organizations in the community addressing marijuana use?

- Yes: 16%
- No: 48%
- Unsure: 22%
How is your school’s administration most likely to handle students in the following situations? Please check all that apply. Multiple responses allowed; percentages total more than 100 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Counseling</th>
<th>Disciplinary action</th>
<th>Contact parent / guardian</th>
<th>No action</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student brings marijuana into area or event where prohibited</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student hosts an on-campus party at which marijuana/paraphernalia are found</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student has marijuana in the residence halls</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student is arrested for marijuana violation off-campus</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following was asked for each item where respondents indicated disciplinary action would be taken.

Which best describes the disciplinary action for a first offense on your campus in each of the following situations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Expulsion</th>
<th>Suspension</th>
<th>Probation</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student has marijuana in the residence halls</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student brings marijuana into area or event where prohibited</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student hosts an on-campus party at which marijuana/paraphernalia are found</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student is arrested for marijuana violation off-campus</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keeping in mind that your answers are confidential, how much of a barrier do you think each of following presents to successful marijuana prevention and enforcement policies on your campus?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Major barrier</th>
<th>Minor barrier</th>
<th>Not a barrier</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources for enforcement</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of coordination across campus departments</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information about effective marijuana policies</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposition from students</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support from campus administration</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana is legal in the area where the campus is located</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposition from faculty members</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposition from staff</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposition from alumni</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What other factors not mentioned above present a barrier to successful marijuana prevention and enforcement policies on your campus? *Open ended. May add up to more than 100 percent as responses could be coded into multiple categories.*

- Insufficient resources: 29%
- Attitudes towards marijuana: 20%
- Unsupportive/inconsistent/nonexistent policies: 14%
- Not a problem on campus / not applicable: 11%
- Other priorities on campus: 10%
- Lack of awareness / understanding of issue: 6%
- Other: 5%
- None: 4%
- Unsure: 3%

Are students at your campus routinely assessed for a possible *alcohol* problem when visiting each of the following campus services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health center wellness visits</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health center mental health visits</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling center</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student conduct / judicial office after violating a campus policy</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are students at your campus routinely assessed for a possible *marijuana* problem when visiting each of the following campus services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health center wellness visits</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health center mental health visits</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling center</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student conduct / judicial office after violating a campus policy</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the followed approaches does your campus take to students with identified marijuana problems? *Multiple responses allowed; percentages total more than 100 percent.*

- An online intervention session: 24%
- A single in-person intervention session: 44%
- Multiple in-person intervention sessions: 28%
- On-campus treatment services: 31%
- Referral to off-campus treatment services: 60%
- Other: 14%

*Asked of 267 respondents who indicated on or off campus referrals.*

To which of the following types of services does your school refer students with identified marijuana problems? *Multiple responses allowed; percentages total more than 100 percent.*

- A specific list of off-campus physicians specializing in addiction medicine: 35%
- A specific list of off-campus counselors: 75%
- An in-patient drug treatment program: 37%
- A free clinic: 35%
- A 12-step group: 36%
- Collegiate recovery program: 19%
How many physicians, if any, do you have on campus specializing in addiction medicine?

- None: 72%
- 1 or more: 10%
- Unsure: 19%

How many substance use counselors do you have on campus?

- None: 72%
- 1 or more: 10%
- Unsure: 19%

Whether you use each one or not, which of the following do you think would be a reliable source of information about marijuana use and associated health issues?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Very reliable</th>
<th>Somewhat reliable</th>
<th>Not very reliable</th>
<th>Not at all reliable</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic journals</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications from professional associations</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your own training</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online medical resources (WebMD, other sites)</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News reports (newspapers, magazines, broadcasts)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Order rotated

- College campuses should implement policies and programs to effectively reduce marijuana use among college students.
  - Strongly agree: 43%
  - Somewhat agree: 36%
  - Somewhat disagree: 12%
  - Strongly disagree: 5%
  - Unsure: 5%

- The administration on this campus is supportive of campus efforts to address student marijuana use.
  - Strongly agree: 25%
  - Somewhat agree: 45%
  - Somewhat disagree: 10%
  - Strongly disagree: 5%
  - Unsure: 14%

- There is nothing we can do to prevent college students from using marijuana.
  - Strongly agree: 7%
  - Somewhat agree: 22%
  - Somewhat disagree: 36%
  - Strongly disagree: 32%
  - Unsure: 3%

- Marijuana use on campus is a serious problem.
  - Strongly agree: 16%
  - Somewhat agree: 33%
  - Somewhat disagree: 28%
  - Strongly disagree: 16%
  - Unsure: 8%

- We shouldn’t worry so much about student marijuana use.
  - Strongly agree: 6%
  - Somewhat agree: 18%
  - Somewhat disagree: 29%
  - Strongly disagree: 44%
  - Unsure: 4%
How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

**Order rotated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students who use marijuana are more academically disengaged than non-users.</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The earlier the age that marijuana begins, the worse the cognitive effects are.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More frequent marijuana use is associated with more cognitive problems.</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who use marijuana skip more of their classes than non-users.</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana is much more potent than it used to be.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana use can lead to legal problems for students.</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

**Order rotated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students who use marijuana are at risk for other forms of substance use, like cocaine or prescription drugs.</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who use marijuana are much more likely to be excessive drinkers than non-users of marijuana.</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A substantial proportion of marijuana users do not consume alcohol excessively.</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana is associated with fewer academic problems than excessive drinking.</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana is related to an increased risk of mental health problems</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana is an effective way to reduce stress</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevant staff are empowered to intervene with students whom they think have a problem with marijuana use.</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant staff have a good sense of how prevalent marijuana use is on campus.</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How interested would you be in receiving additional training about the following issues?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Very interested</th>
<th>Somewhat interested</th>
<th>Not very interested</th>
<th>Not at all interested</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possible impacts of marijuana use on student health, and well-being</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to identify problematic marijuana use in students</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to intervene to reduce student marijuana use on campus</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible impacts of marijuana use on academic success</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The last few questions are for statistical purposes, to help us categorize your responses with those of others.

Approximately how many of each are enrolled at your campus?

*Undergraduates:*
- 5,000 or less: 36%
- 5,001 to 10,000: 32%
- More than 10,000: 32%

*Graduate students:*
- 500 or less: 39%
- 501 to 2000: 31%
- More than 2000: 30%

Do you work for a public or private college?
- Public: 92%
- Private: 8%

*Asked of public college employees:*

Do you work for a 4-year college or university or community college, or does your work cover both kinds of schools?
- 4 year college or university: 72%
- Community college: 22%
- Cover both types of school: 6%

*Next two asked only of private and 4-year public college employees (community colleges excluded).*

Approximately what percentage of undergraduate students on your campus live in on-campus housing?
- 10% or less: 24%
- 11% to 20%: 21%
- 21% to 30%: 21%
- 31% to 40%: 13%
- More than 40%: 21%
Are there fraternities or sororities on your campus?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What type of training have you received regarding substance use prevention or intervention? *Open-ended; responses could be coded to multiple categories and total more than 100 percent.*

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework / conferences</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work orientation</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal / Unsure</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional in field (law enforcement, counselor, nurse)</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic credential (MA, PhD)</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online training</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**About the Poll**

These results are based on a national online survey of college campus administrators conducted September 6 - October 3, 2017. A total of 744 administrators offered responses, and 523 completed it. Respondents were contacted via email distributed by the National Association of System Heads (NASH) to its members, to be shared with relevant administrators on campuses. The survey was also distributed to members of the American College Health Association (ACHA) via their listserv. The final data were weighted to better match the distribution of higher education institutions across census regions, using data from the National Center for Education Statistics. The poll was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group for The Mary Christie Foundation and The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation in conjunction with the National Association of System Heads (NASH).