

# Youth & Marijuana Use



Marijuana use by Buffalo County youth shows a promising general reduction in the past few years. While the proportions of teens who have ever tried marijuana held steady at about one in five for the past decade, the most recent survey shows a noticeably smaller share of the current cohort of high-school-aged students has ever consumed marijuana. For the youth who reported using marijuana in the previous month, the data show a steady decrease in consumption over the same time period. While fewer than one in seven Buffalo County teens report having ever tried marijuana, one in fourteen report using it in the past month. However, roughly one in seven teens report using THC-based cannabis products such as edibles, vape cartridges, or synthetics.

*Percent responding one or more.*

		2012	2014	2016	2018	2021	2023
During <b>your life</b> , how many times have you used <b>marijuana</b> ?	Buffalo County Respondents	20.6%	19.1%	18.2%	19.4%	13.6%	12.9%*
	Nebraska Respondents	23.6%	26.6%	25.4%	25.6%	18.7%	14.4%
During the <b>past 30 days</b> , how many times did you use <b>marijuana</b> ?	Buffalo County Respondents	11.2%	10.0%	8.6%	8.8%	6.7%	7.1%*
	Nebraska Respondents	11.7%	13.7%	13.4%	11.6%	11.0%	6.6%

*\*data set was weighted for representativeness*

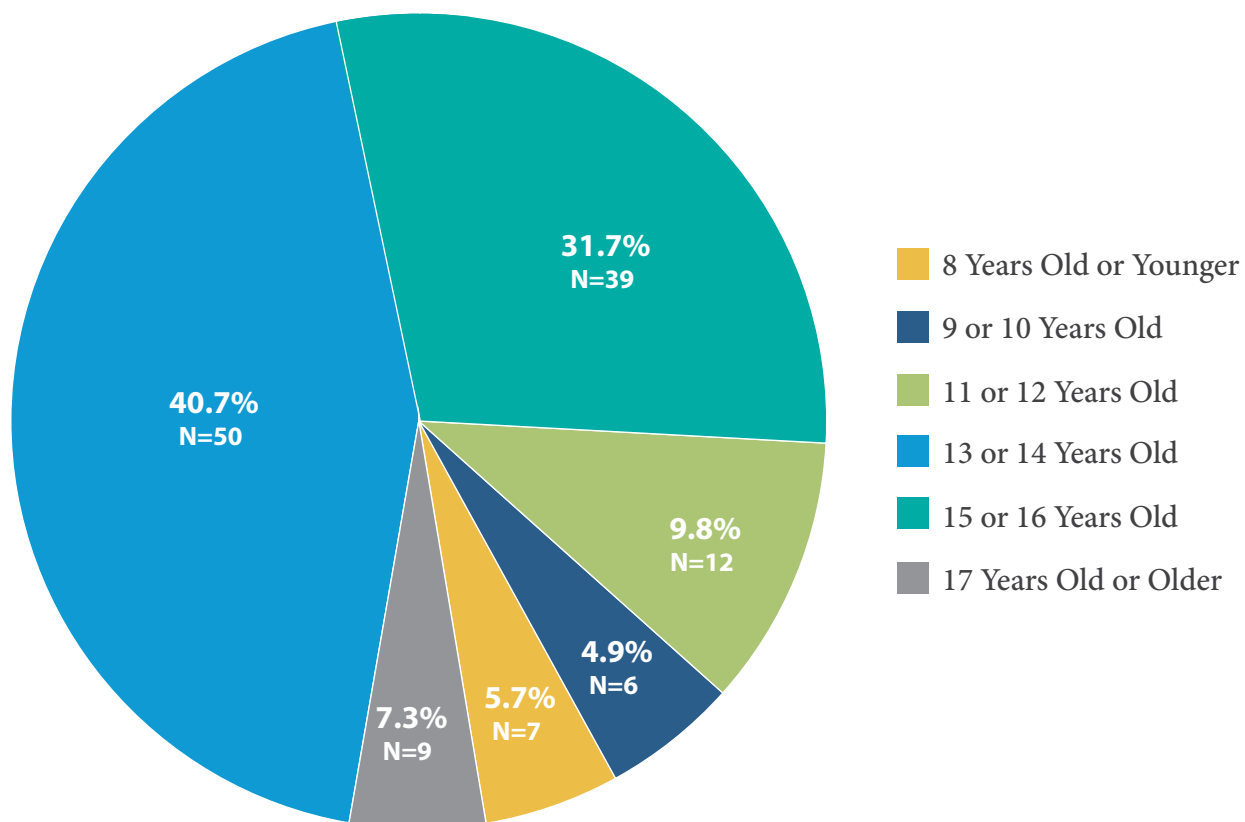
**14.7%**  
of Buffalo County Youth

Have used **THC-based cannabis products** such as edibles, vape cartridges, or synthetics (at least once in their life)

## Age of First Marijuana Use

Of the respondents who have ever tried marijuana, almost all of them (92.7%) were younger than 17 at the time of their first use. 40.7% were 13 or 14 years old, about one in three were 15 or 16 years old, and about one in five were 12 or younger.

*Of those who have ever tried marijuana, how old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?*



### Research Methods

Every two to three years, Buffalo County Community Partners collaborates with the Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to administer and analyze the Youth Behavioral and Risk Factor Survey. Data from Buffalo County were collected from a representative sample of Buffalo County youth between October and December 2023. In all, 1023 Buffalo County youth, from grades 9-12, completed the 2023. Copies of current and past reports, along with a full description of the Buffalo County research methods, are available at [www.bcchp.org/assessments](http://www.bcchp.org/assessments). For research methods respecting the Nebraska data, see <https://bosr.unl.edu/sharp/>.