

# Marijuana perceptions versus reality worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**About the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS):** The YRBS is led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and it's taken every 2 years by high school students across the country. Students answer questions in six areas and one of the areas is alcohol and drug use. It's a good way to find out what students are doing and track how behaviors change over time.

**Instructions:** Complete this worksheet after completing The influence of social norms and marijuana lesson. For this activity, start by finding the most recent YRBS results for the state in which you live. If it's not available for your state, find the national level data and complete the activity for the country as a whole.

The Youth Risk Surveillance System (YRBSS) keeps all of the data overtime and the CDC website ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) is a good place to start. Be sure to search for YRBSS.

1. What percentage of high school students currently use marijuana?

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- a. Is this number higher or lower than what you expected?

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- b. What does this tell you about what you thought was happening, and what students actually report about current marijuana use?

2. What percentage of students reported first time marijuana use before the age of 13?

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a. Is this number higher or lower than what you expected?

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- b. What does this tell you about what you thought was happening and the percent of students that used marijuana before the age of 13?

3. Now, choose another result that you think is surprising or interesting. What is the topic the question is about?

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a. What surprised you or interested you about this result?

4. What did you find out about what you thought your peers were doing versus what they are actually doing?