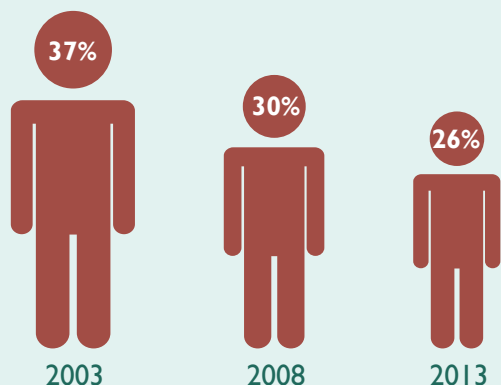


MARIJUANA USE AMONG BC YOUTH

Statistics are from the 2016 McCreary Centre Society report *Blunt Talk: Harms associated with early and frequent marijuana use among BC youth* which uses data from the 2013 BC Adolescent Health Survey. For more information or to download the full report, visit www.mcs.bc.ca.

BC youth use marijuana for many reasons. However, early and frequent use is associated with a number of health challenges, and research suggests that it may lead to additional difficulties in adulthood.

Youth aged 12–19 who had tried marijuana:



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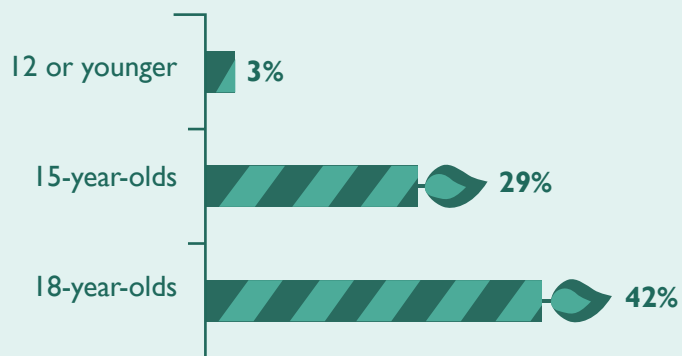
years old was the most common age youth first tried marijuana.



The percentage of youth who had driven after using marijuana decreased from 2008 to 2013. Those who had driven after using marijuana were twice as likely to have been recently injured in a motor vehicle accident as those who had never driven under the influence of marijuana.



The longer youth waited to try marijuana, the more likely they were to report positive mental health, and to have positive plans for the future.



Youth who waited longer to first try marijuana and those who used less frequently were more likely to...

- Feel connected to their family, school, and community.
- Find teachers and school staff helpful.
- Participate in at least one extracurricular activity on a weekly basis.
- Feel safe at school and in their neighbourhood.
- Feel good about themselves.

If you would like to talk to someone about substance use, visit www.youthinbc.com. For more resources to help youth and parents build their knowledge about substance use, visit www.helpingschools.ca.