

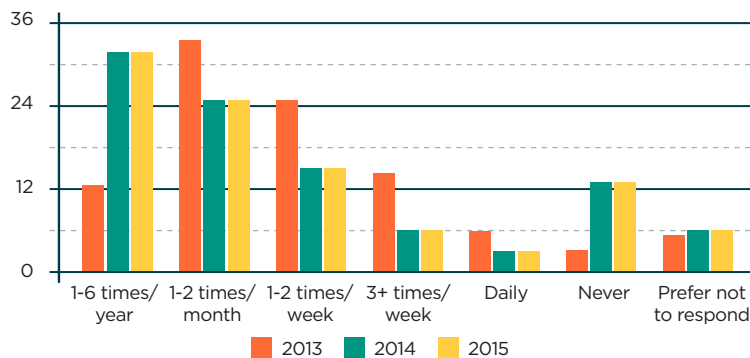
## MARIJUANA USE

The Missouri College Health Survey (MCHBS) is distributed annually to 21 campuses in the state of Missouri by Partners in Prevention (PIP). PIP is Missouri's higher education substance abuse consortium and is dedicated to promoting health and wellness on campuses statewide. The MCHBS collects data on several different student health behaviors, including the use of marijuana. According to the 2015 MCHBS, 23% of Missouri college students reported using marijuana in the past year.

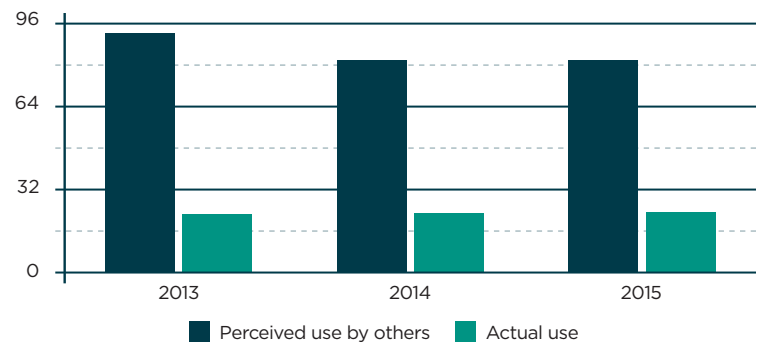
## DISCUSSION

The MCHBS data show that the self-reported actual use of marijuana is drastically different than how students perceive the use of others. Data shows that while reported marijuana use over the last three years has remained relatively constant around 23%, the perception students have of other people's use has decreased and leveled off. In 2013, students perceived that 92% of their peers had used marijuana in the last year. For the past two years, this perception decreased to 81%. Since 2013, the data shows an increase of actual marijuana use from 22% to 23%. In the last three years, perceptions about the frequency of other's marijuana use began to change. Students reported a perception of 14% of students using marijuana 3 or more times a week in 2014; however, that same perception dropped to 6% in 2015. In 2013, students perceived/believed that 13% of students used marijuana 1-6 times per year, which has increased by 250% to 32% this year.

**Perception of Marijuana Use**



**Marijuana Use - Perception vs. Reality**



## SUMMARY

Through the growing discussion on the legalization of marijuana, this topic remains a staple in the discussion of student wellness. The high perception of use by other people may also contribute to the slowly increasing rate of reported use, even though the perceived rate is decreasing. Over the course of the last few years, there has been a slight increase in reported marijuana use that has coincided with a significant drop in how much students perceive their peers to be using marijuana. Between 2014 and 2015 the trend for the perceived use of other students has leveled off at a low of 81%. More updates can be found at [pip.missouri.edu/research.html](http://pip.missouri.edu/research.html) as future data is collected.

Contact Partners in Prevention at (573) 884-7551.  
 Report prepared by Dina van der Zalm and Adam Dietrich, Partners in Prevention Research & Evaluation Staff

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