People Factors and Their Relationship to Marijuana Use

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Background Information

▶ Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug in the United States (Pearson, Liese, Dvorak, & Marijuana Outcomes Study Team, 2017).

▶ Social acceptability and perceived risks and benefits are predictors of decision-making, but some researchers suggest the possibility of social norms being more important drivers of adolescents' decisions to use marijuana (Roditis, Delucchi, Chang, & Halpern-Felsher, 2016).

▶ Past research shows people's friends' approval to be user related; marijuana users report their best friends having high approval, and non-users report their best friends having low approval (Pearson, Liese, Dvorak, & Marijuana Outcomes Study Team, 2017).
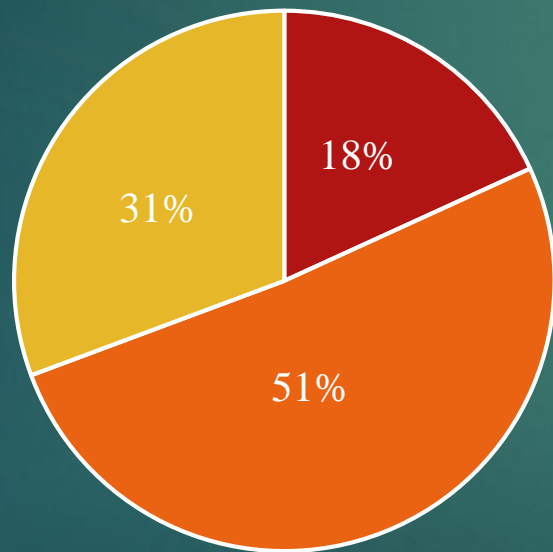
People Factor: Education Level

Education Level and Marijuana Use
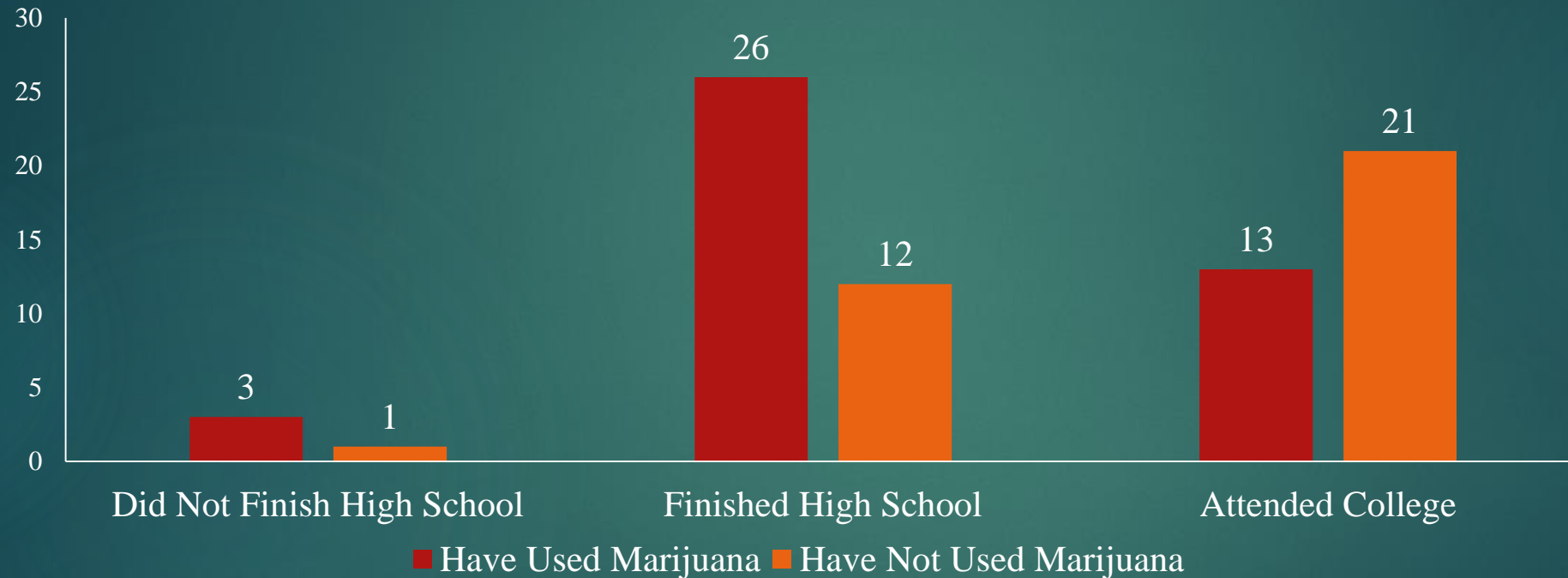
- Social Norm: "Everyone experiments with a little weed in college; it's no big deal."

People Factor: Friends' Attitudes

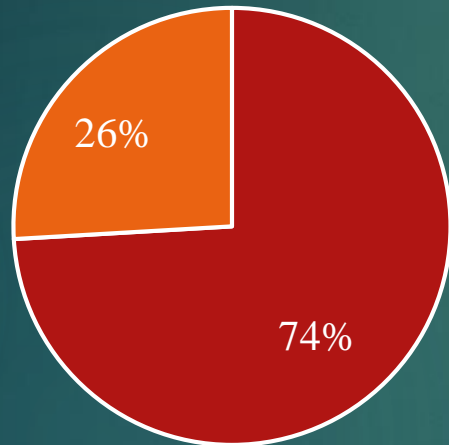### How One's Friends Would Feel If They Used Marijuana

18%
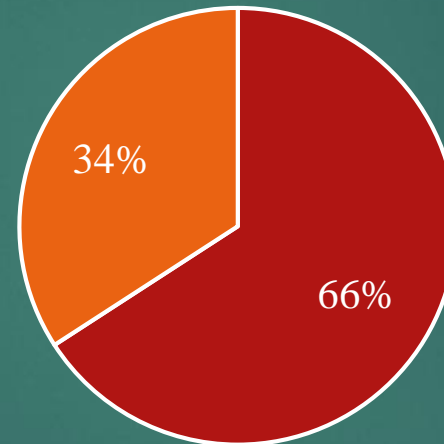
51%

31%

■ Disapprove ■ Indifferent ■ Supportive

a. Surprised by amount of indifference

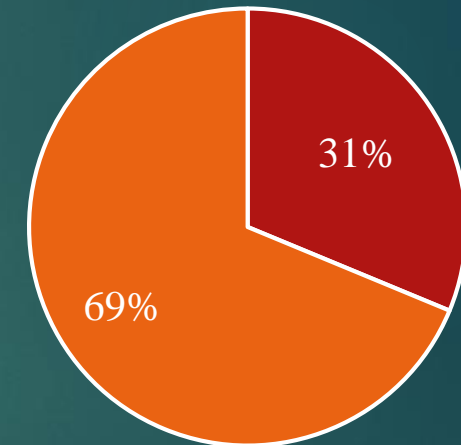b. "You are who your friends are."

People Factor: Friends' Attitudes

Friends Approve

26%

74%

Friends Are Indifferent

34%

66%

Friends Disapprove

31%

69%

■ Have Used Marijuana
■ Have Not Used Marijuana

- Friends' attitudes certainly appear to influence or share some relationship with personal marijuana use.
- "Participants who reported that their friends used marijuana had a 27% greater odds of using marijuana themselves" (Roditis, Delucchi, Chang, Halpbern-Felsher, 2016, p. 93).

People Factor: Friends' Attitudes

Friends' Attitudes and Use
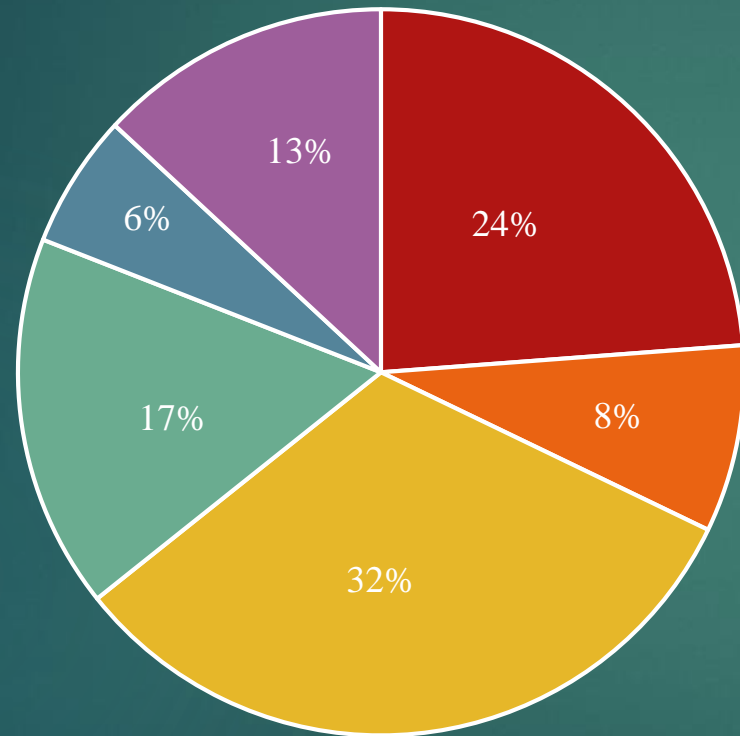
Legend:
- Approve-Yes
- Approve-No
- Indifferent-Yes
- Indifferent-No
- Disappr.-Yes
- Disappr.-No

This sample, N = 84: 62% have used marijuana in their lifetime

"We observed marijuana use rates similar to representative samples of young adults and college students (i.e. 53.3% lifetime marijuana users)" (Pearson, Liese, Dvorak, Marijuana Outcomes Study Team, 2017, p. 83).

People Factor: Living Situation

Home and Marijuana
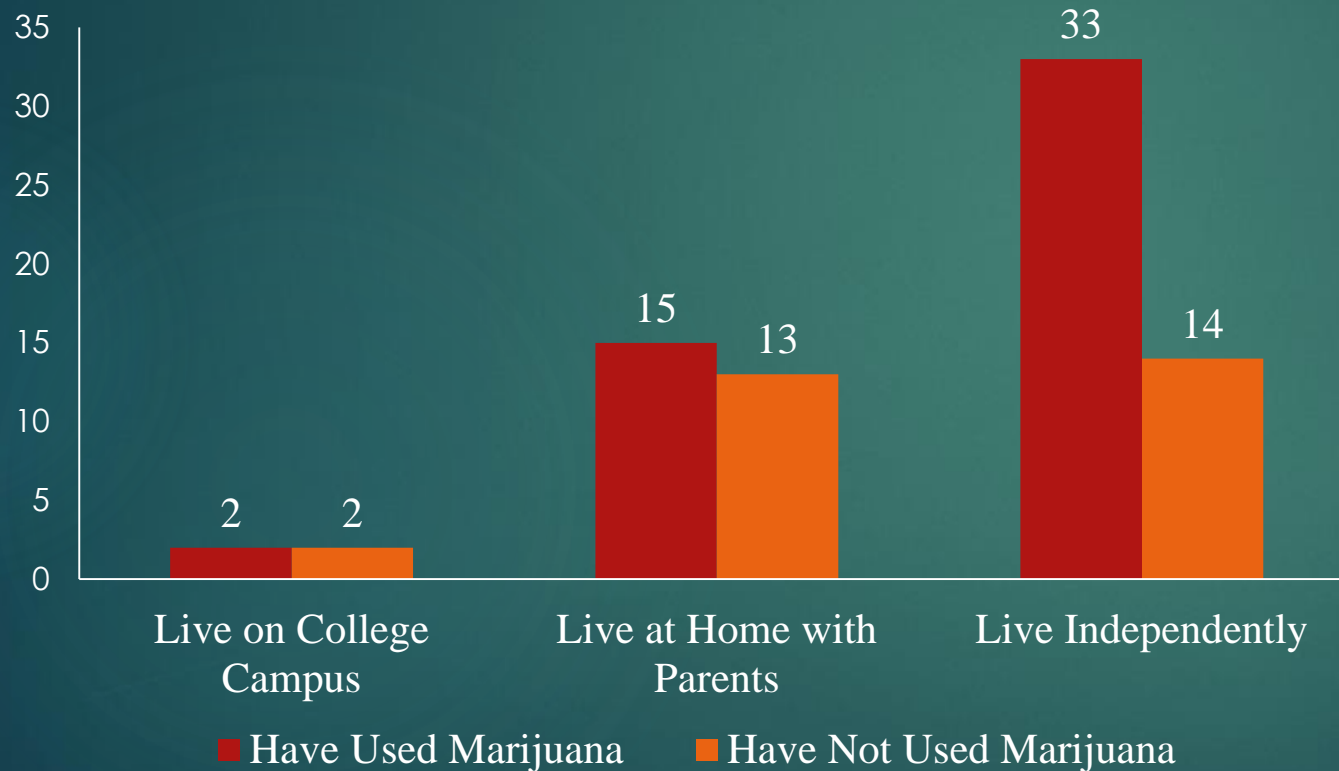
- Small Sample of "Live on College Campus"
- People who live independently may have an easier time getting and consuming marijuana without immediate consequences

People Factor: Activity Engagement

# of Activities	Have Used Marijuana	Have Not Used Marijuana	Percent That Have Used
0	11	5	68.75%
1	18	6	75%
2	12	13	48%
3	8	4	66.66%
4	3	3	50%
5	0	1	0%

Activities bring their own cultures, norms, and influences. Some of these cultures, norms, and influences may include marijuana use.

People Factor: Gender

Gender and Marijuana Use

Legend: Have Used Marijuana | Have Not Used Marijuana

Data:
- Male – Have Used Marijuana: 23
- Male – Have Not Used Marijuana: 14
- Female – Have Used Marijuana: 29
- Female – Have Not Used Marijuana: 18
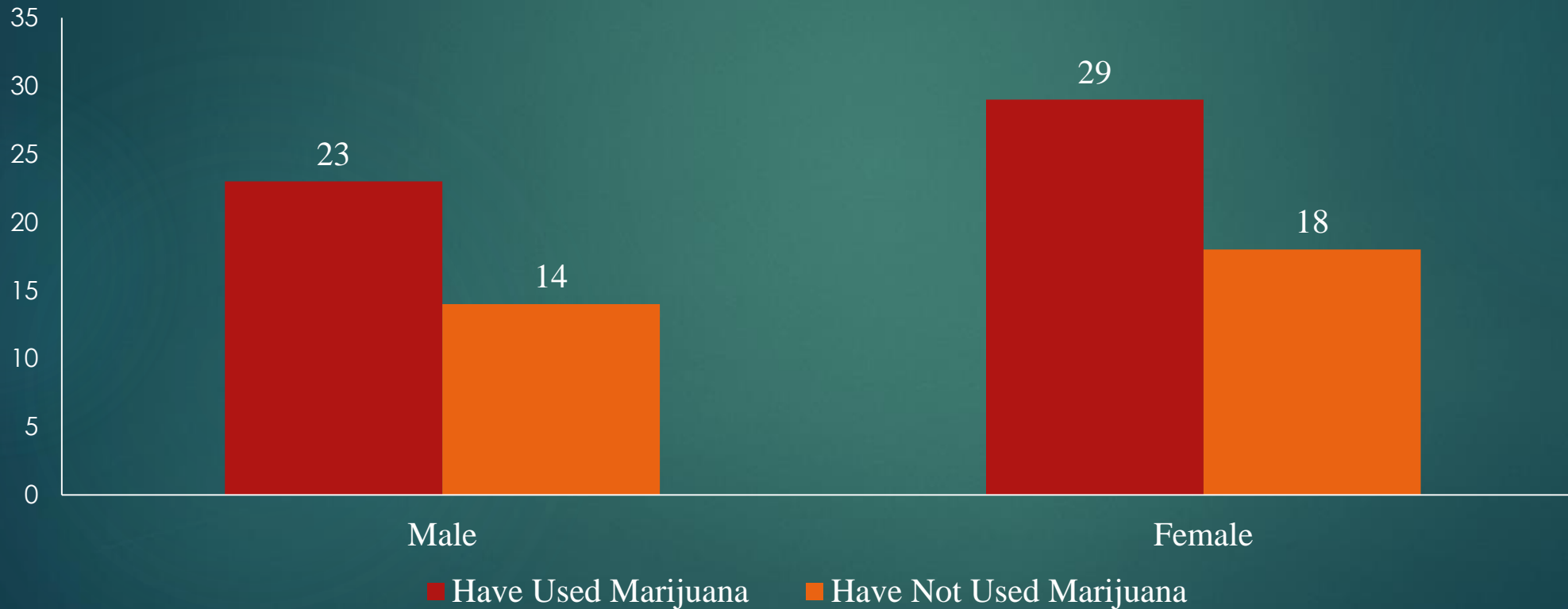
Conclusion

▶ A. Not everyone who has attended college has used marijuana; the social narrative that smoking weed is a rite of passage in college is not reflected in the data.

▶ B. One's use or non-use of marijuana appeared mostly congruent with their friends' attitudes toward his or her use.

▶ C. Those who lived independently had engaged in more use of marijuana as a group proportionally than the other living-situation groups.

▶ D. More Activities did not appear to mean less marijuana use.

▶ E. Men and women had equal amounts of marijuana use as groups.

References

▶ Pearson, M. R., Liese, B. S., Dvorak, R. D., & Marijuana Outcomes Study Team. (2017). College student marijuana involvement: Perceptions, use, and consequences across 11 college campuses. *Addictive Behaviors, 66*, 83-89. doi:10.1016/j.addbeh.2016.10.019

▶ Roditis, M. L., Delucchi, K., Chang, A., & Halpern-Felsher, B. (2016). Perceptions of social norms and exposure to pro-marijuana messages are associated with adolescent marijuana use. *Preventive Medicine, 93*, 171-176. doi:10.1016/j.ypmed.2016.10.013