

Marijuana Use Trends & THC Concentration in Colorado

Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
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COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Marijuana use in Colorado

Populations

1. Children and adolescents (ages 0-17)
2. Adults 18 years and older
3. Pregnant women

Outcomes/Impact

1. Discharges from Hospital and Emergency Dept.
2. Exposures reported to poison center
3. THC Concentration



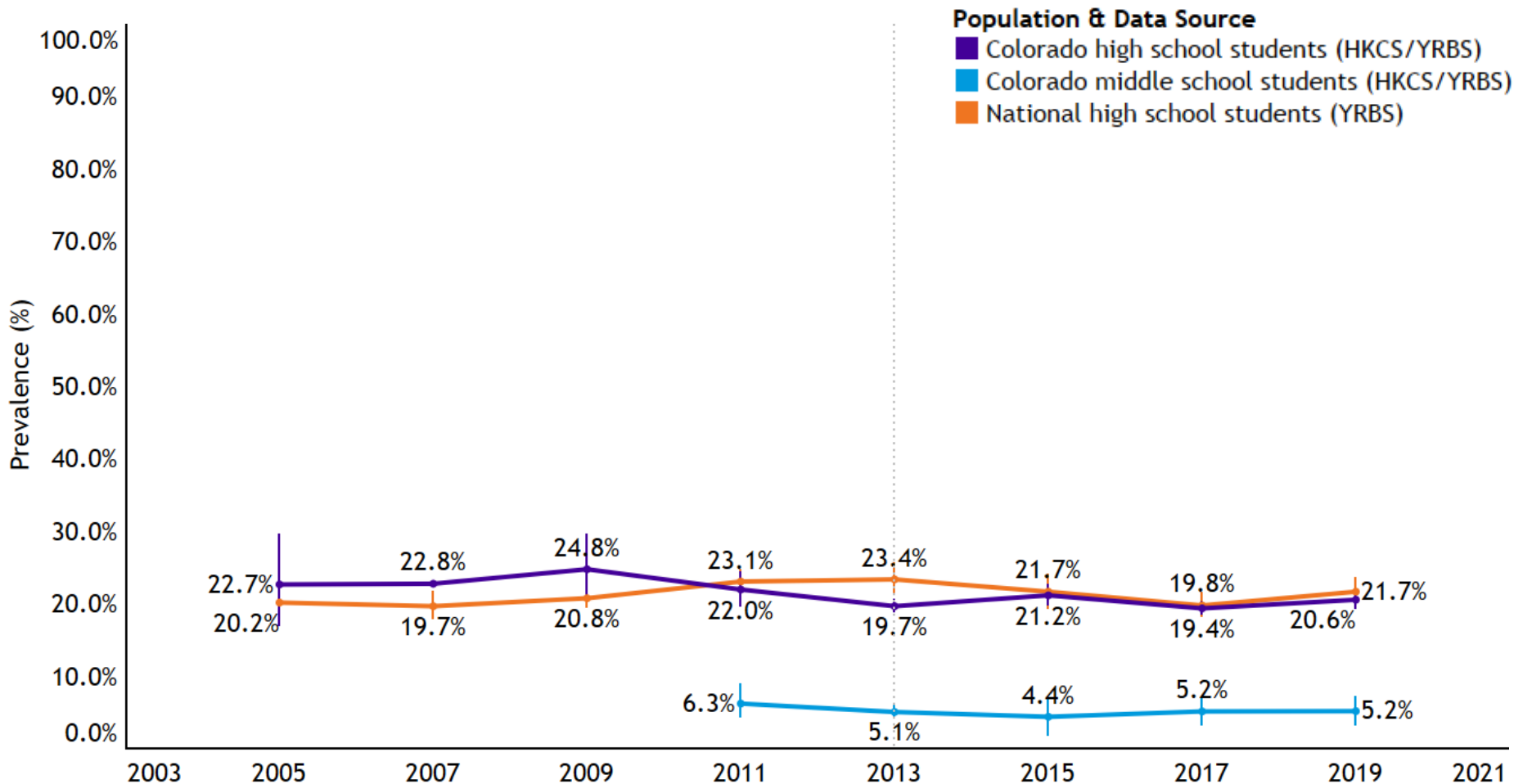
Youth Marijuana Use & Trends

Methods

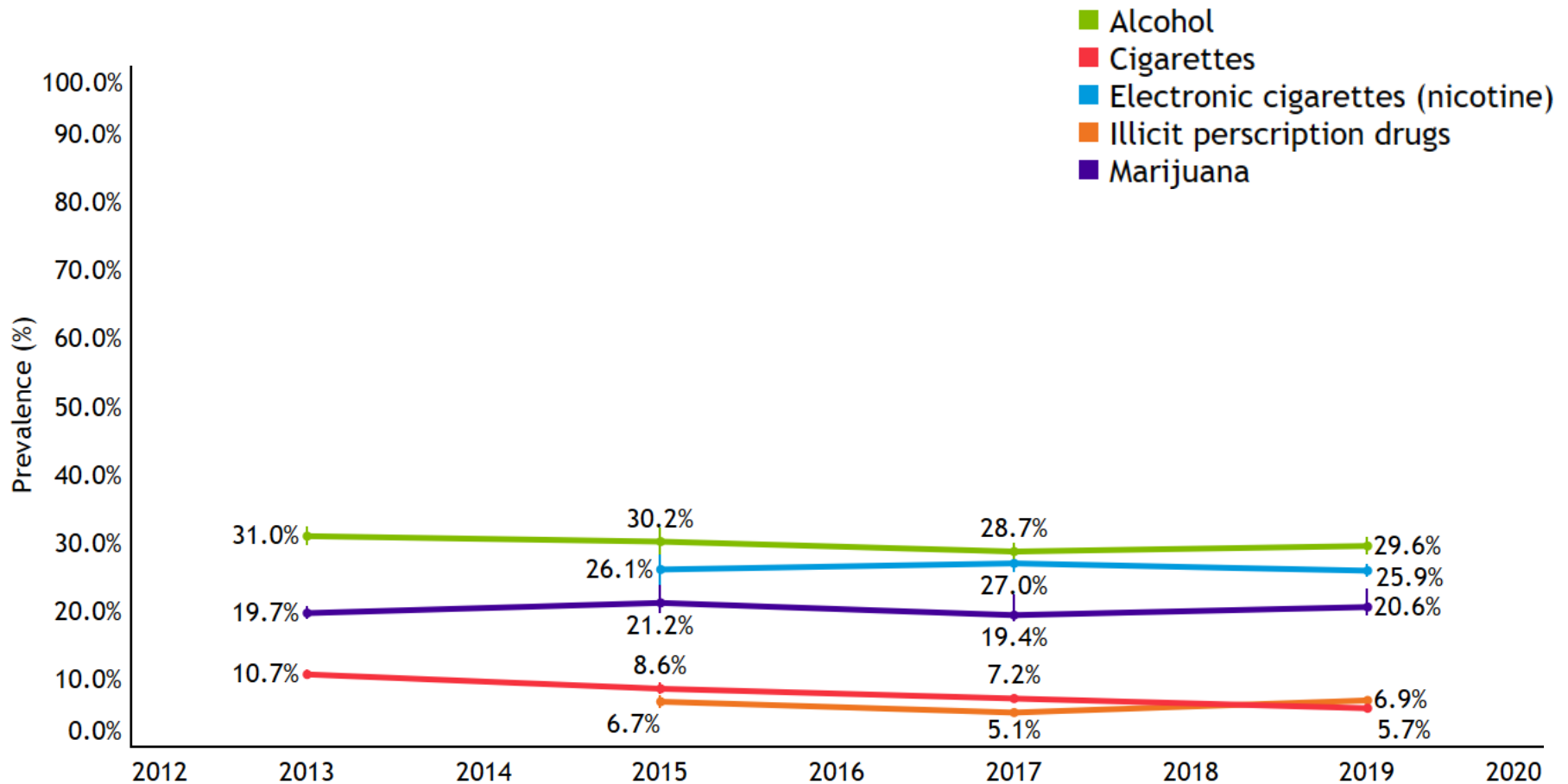
Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS)

- Every 2 years, self-reported, school-based Colorado survey
- Determine prevalence of substance use with weighted analyses and statistical significance by non-overlapping confidence intervals

Biennial prevalence of past 30 day marijuana use, 2013-2019



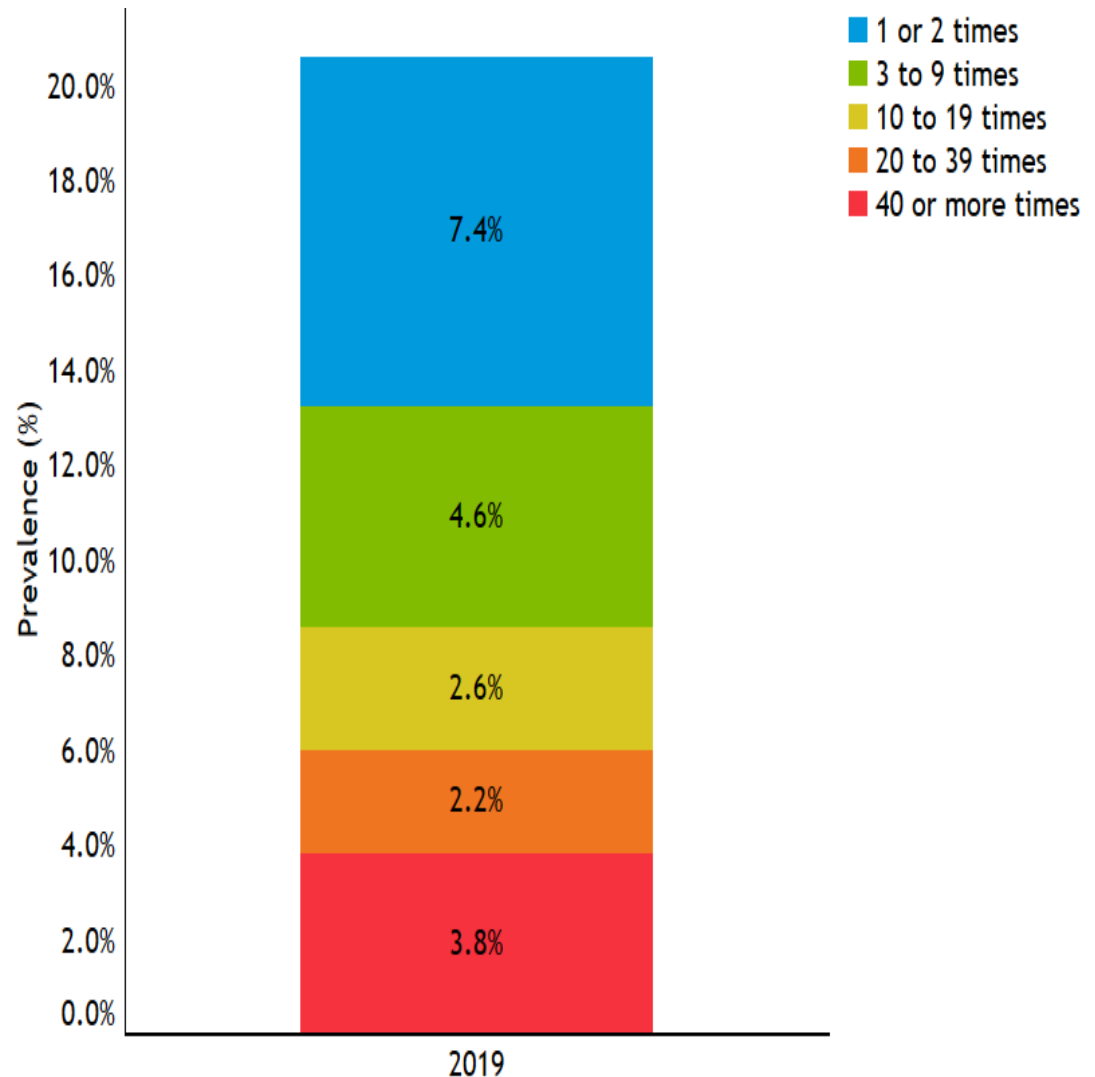
Past 30 day substance use among high school students, Colorado 2005-2019



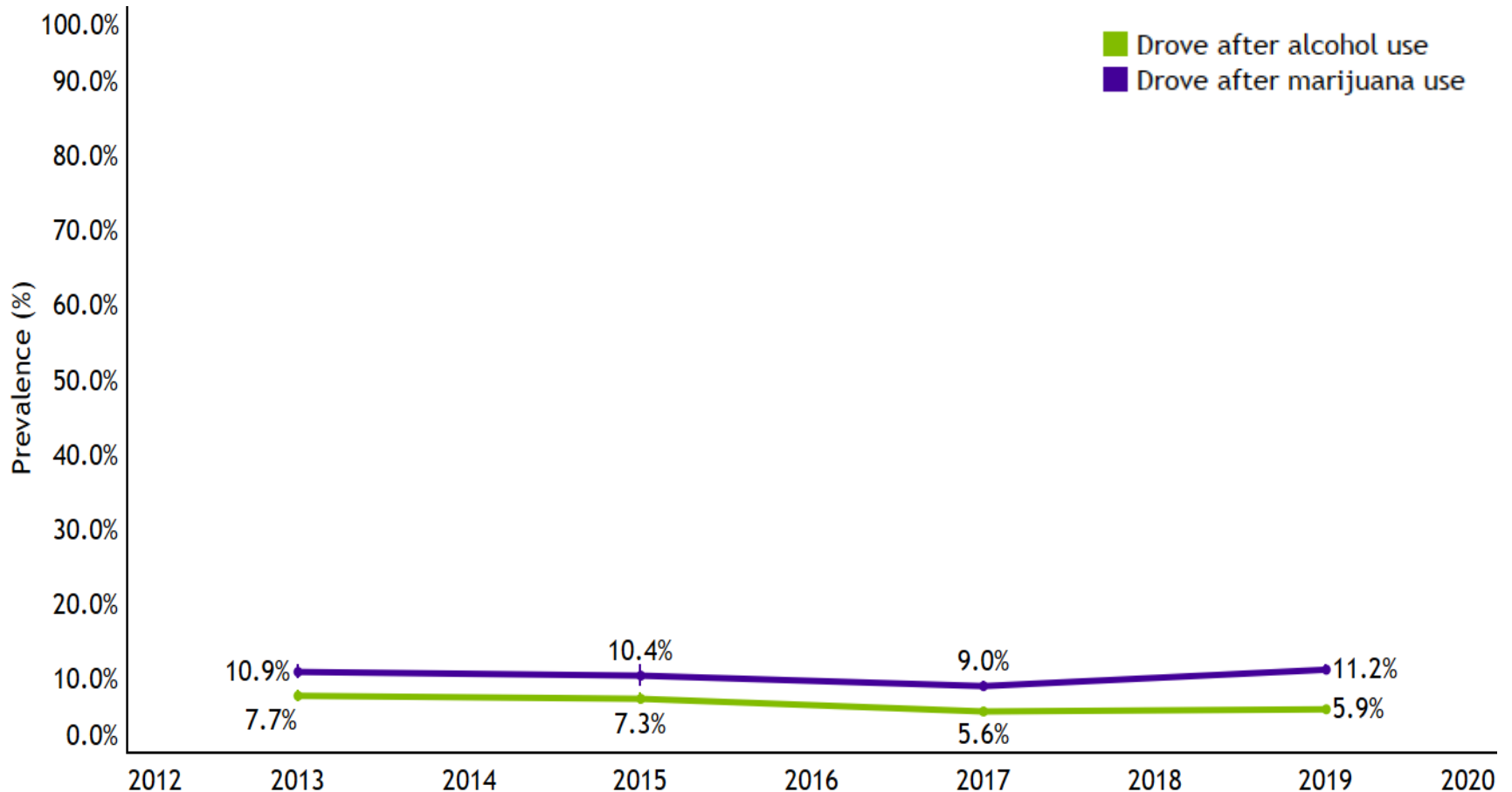
Marijuana use among high school students, 2019

Lifetime
35.9%

Past 30 Days
20.6%



Driving after substance use among high school students that drove in the past 30 days, 2013-2019 ***CORRECTED 9/15/2020***



Methods of Marijuana Consumption

Methods of use

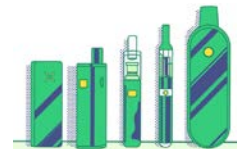
Any use of any method in the past 30 days

Can select multiple methods used

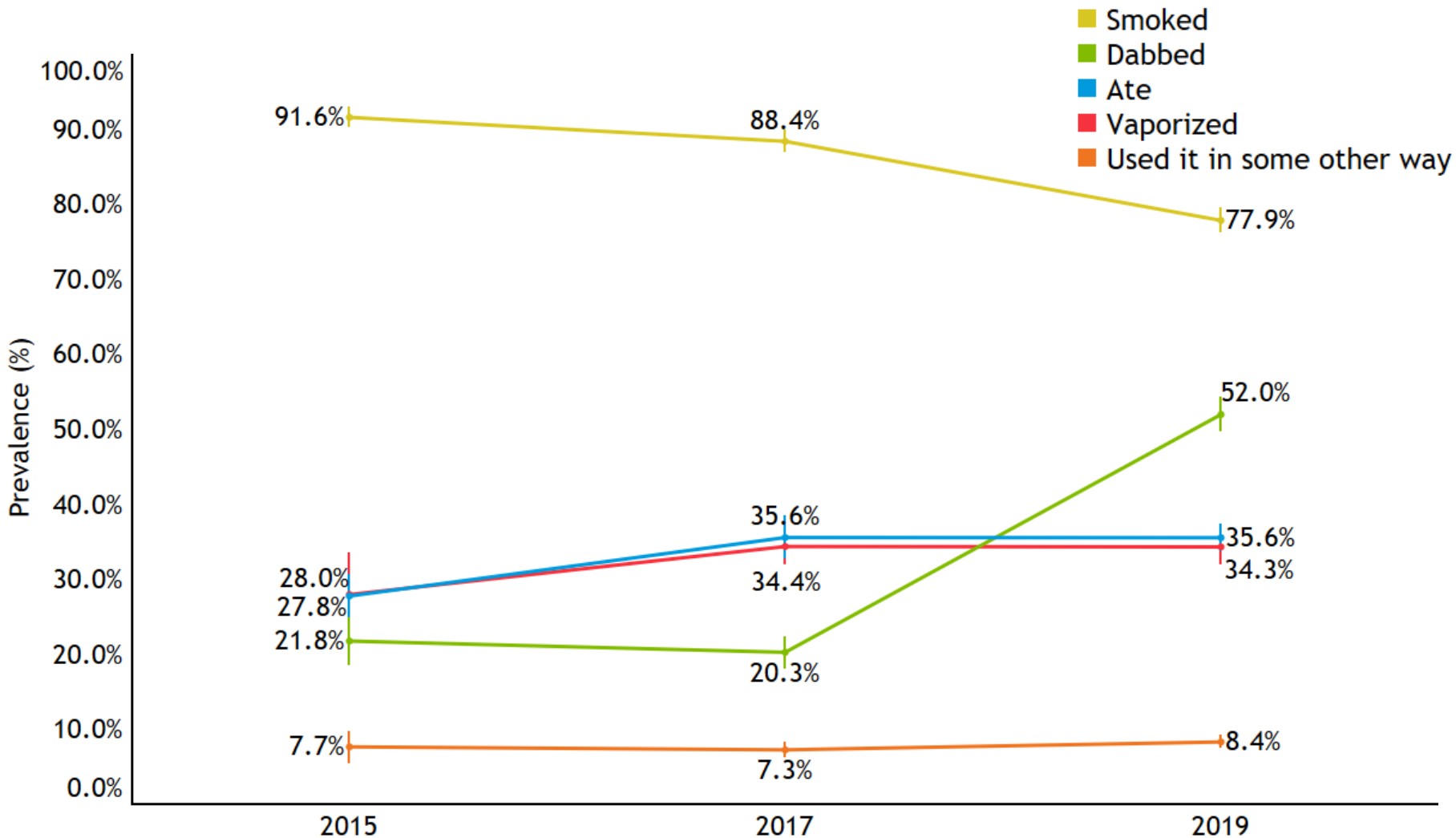
Method of usual use

Method used the most in the past 30 days, can still be a multiple-methods user

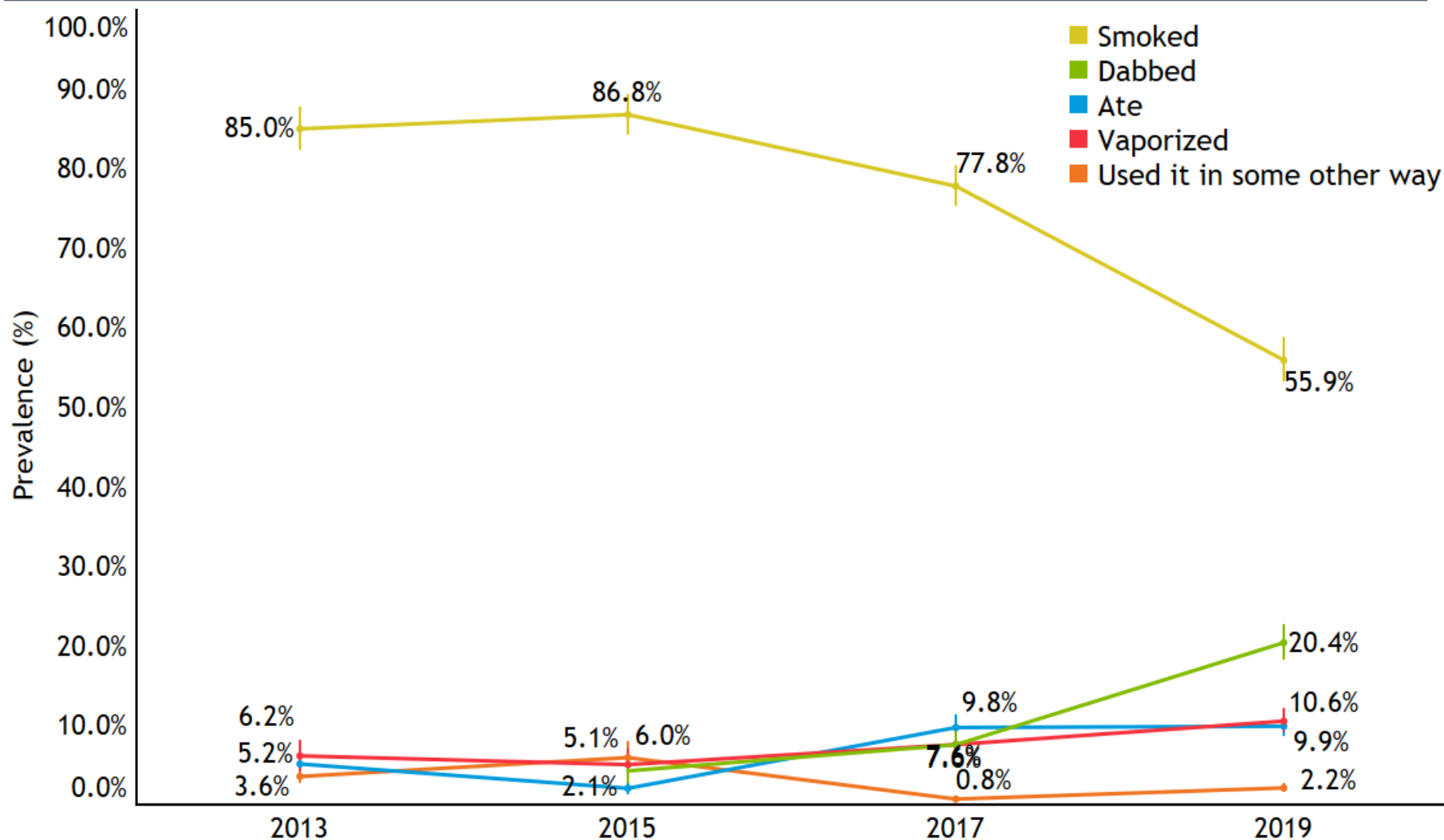
Can select only one method used



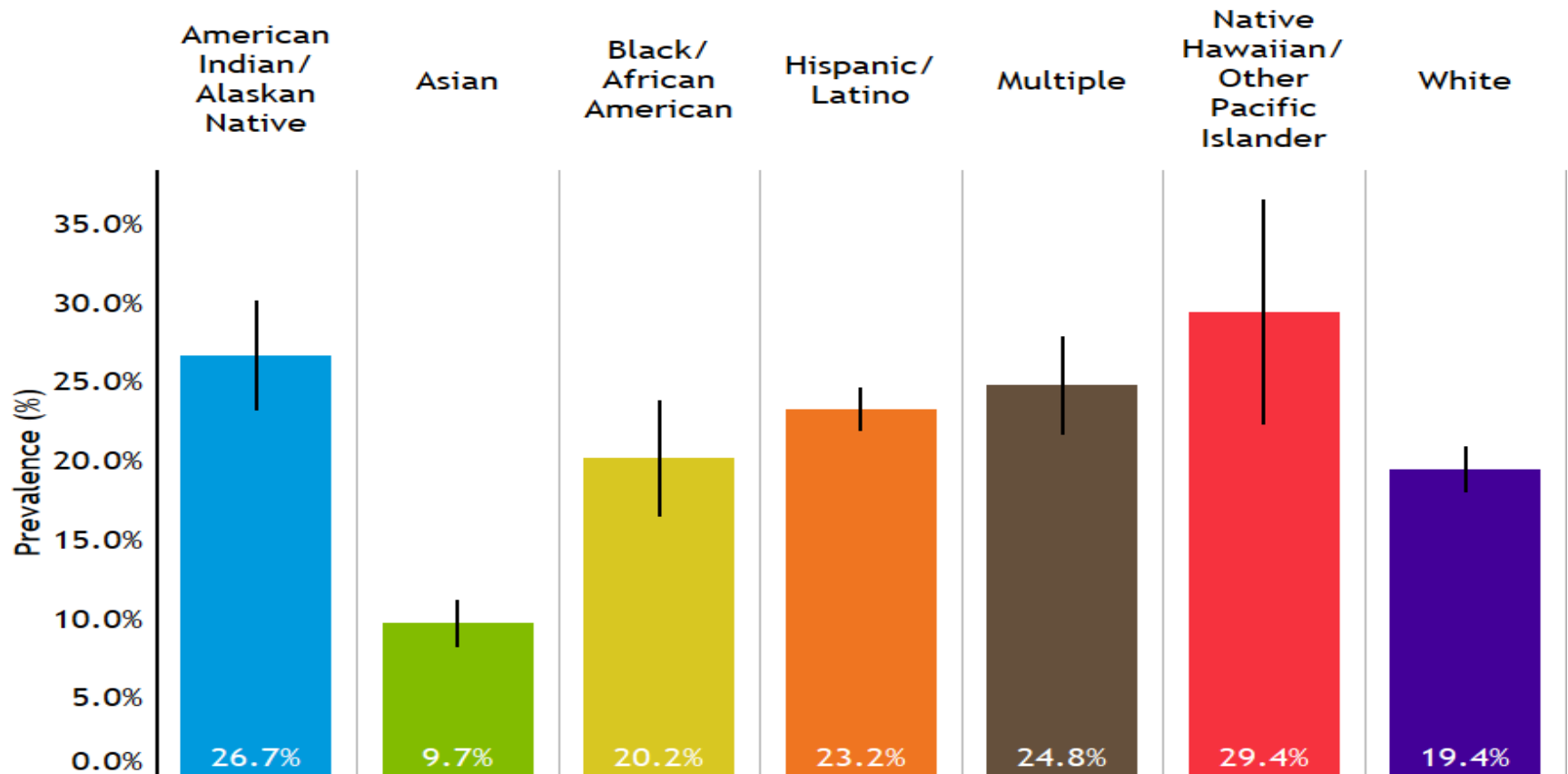
Marijuana method of use among high school students currently using marijuana, 2015-2019



Marijuana method of usual use among high school students currently using marijuana, 2013-2019



Marijuana use demographics among high school students, 2019



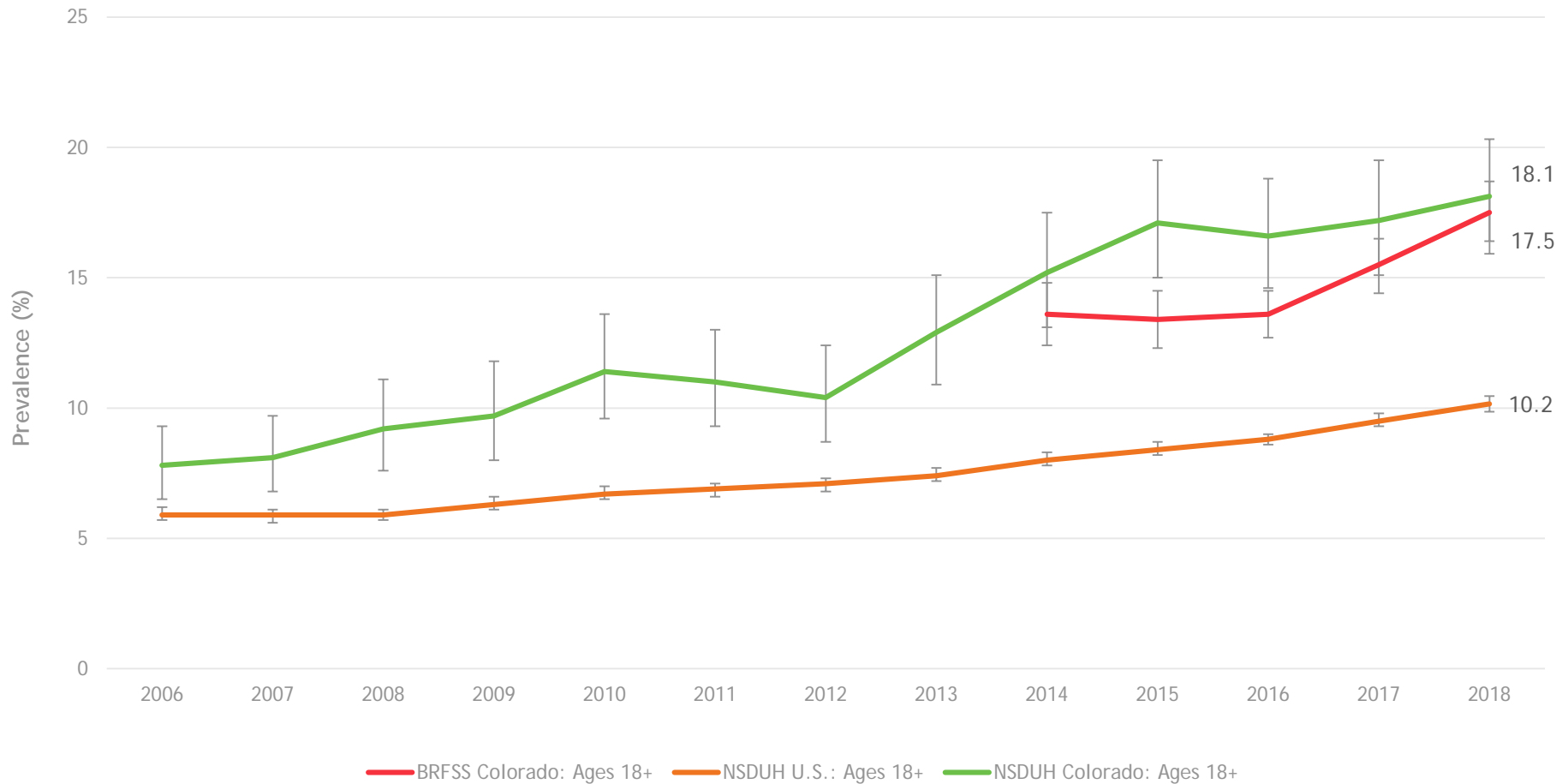


Adult Marijuana Use & Trends

Methods

- **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)**
 - Annual self-reported, telephone-based survey (Adults 18+)
 - Largest survey asking about adult substance use in Colorado

Past 30 day marijuana use among adults in Colorado and the U.S., 2006-2018

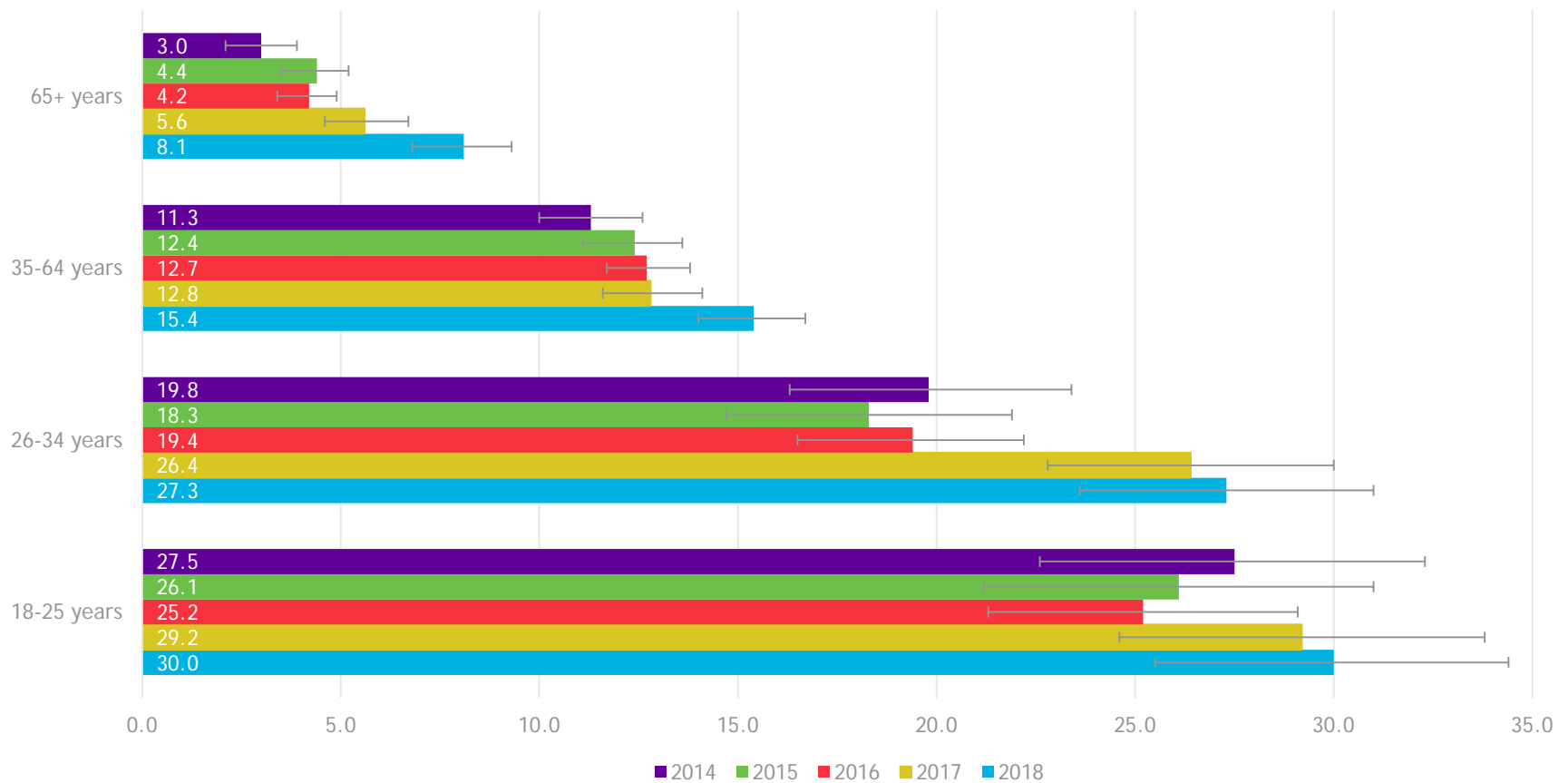


Produced by: Marijuana Health Monitoring Program, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 2020

Data Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS); National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

*Black bars indicate margins of error (95% Confidence Intervals)

Current marijuana use among Colorado adults (18+ years) by age categories, 2014-2018



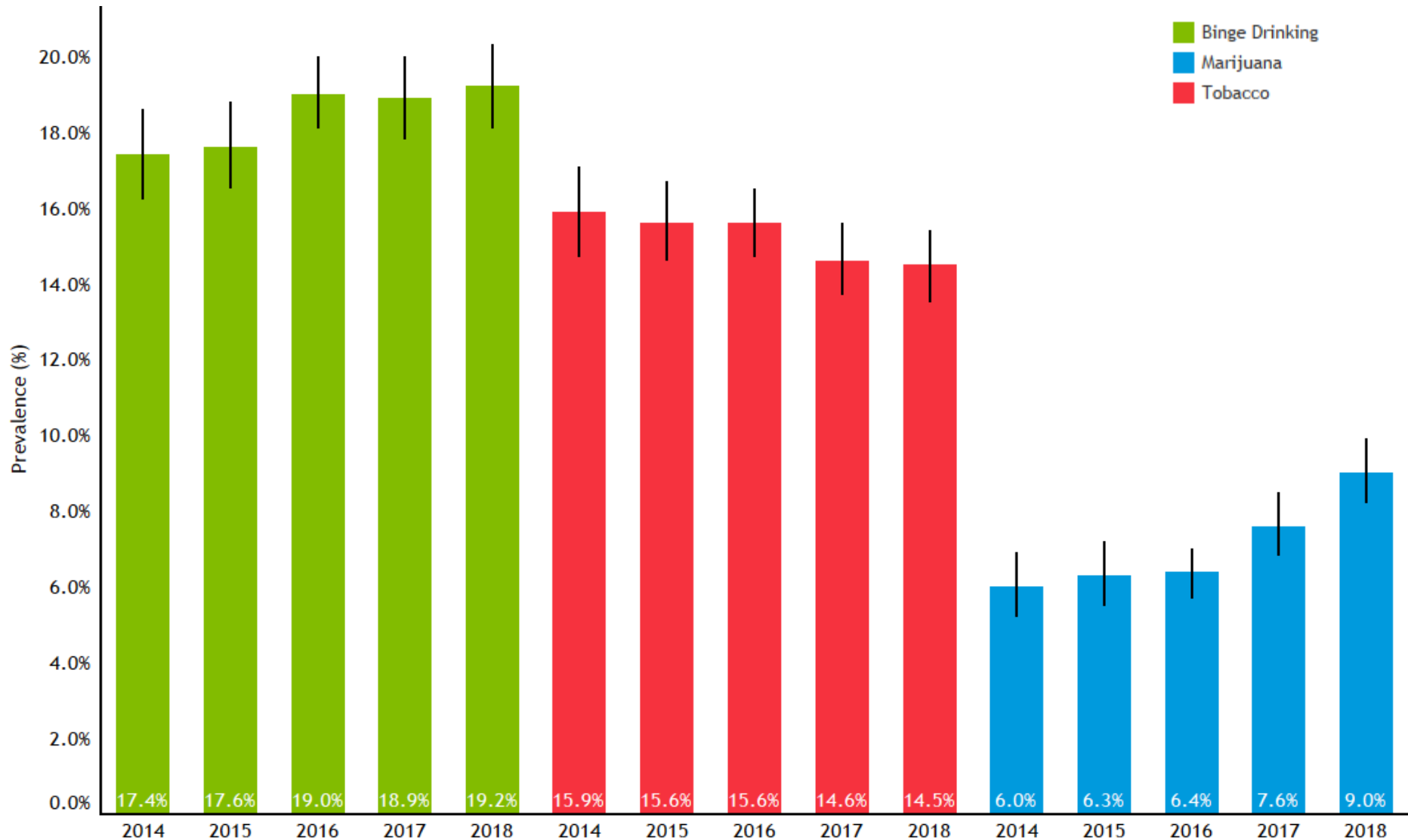
This figure shows the prevalence of past thirty day marijuana use out of all Colorado adults

Produced by: Marijuana Health Monitoring Program, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 2020

Data Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

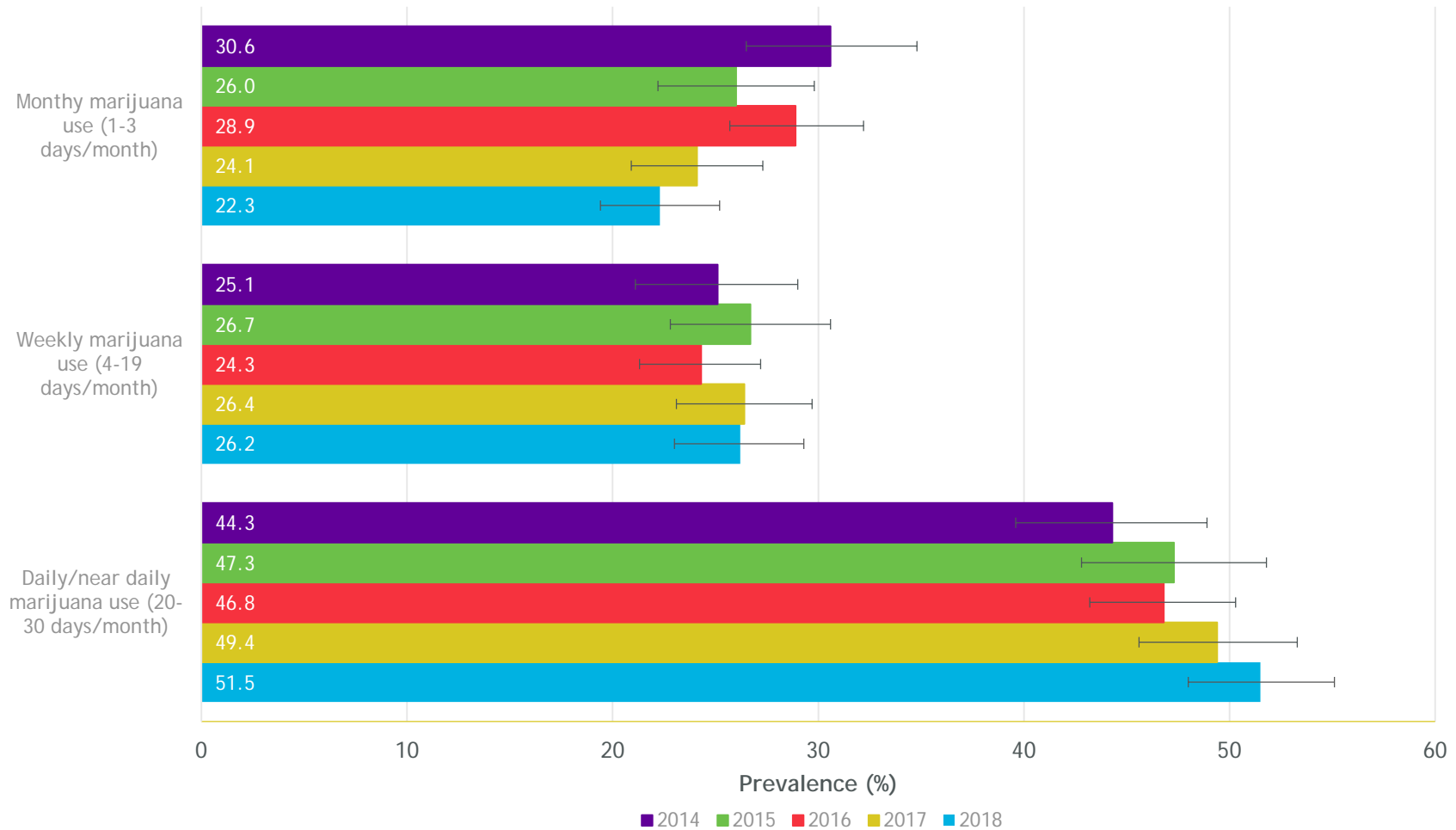
Black bars indicate margins of error (95% Confidence Intervals)

Daily or near daily substance use among adults, Colorado 2014-2018



Produced by: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 2020
Data Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)

Frequency of use among adult marijuana users in Colorado, 2014-2018



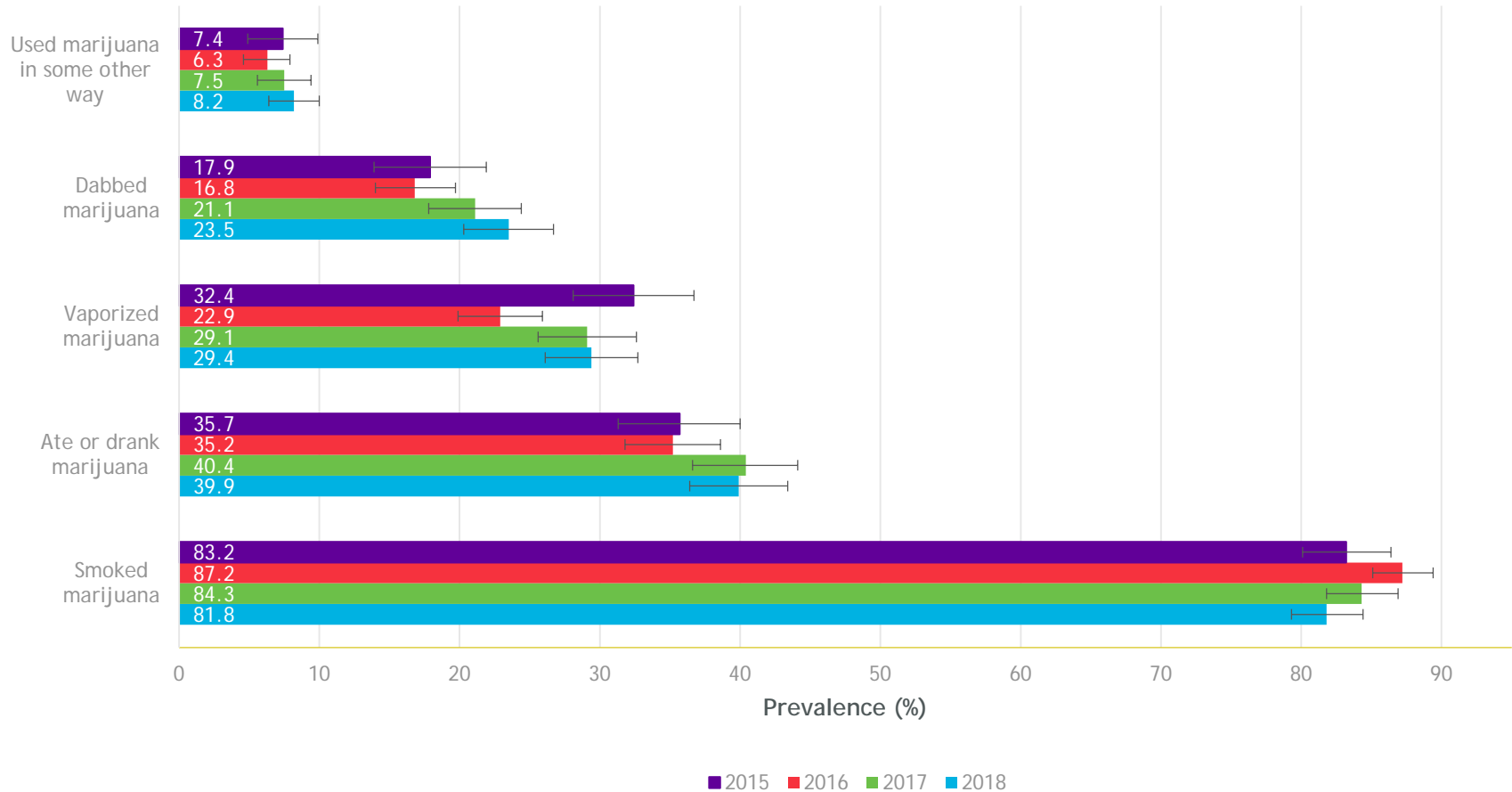
This figure shows the prevalence of frequency of use out of Colorado adults who reported past thirty day marijuana use

Produced by: Marijuana Health Monitoring Program, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 2020

Data Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Black bars indicate margins of error (95% Confidence Intervals)

Methods of marijuana use among adult marijuana users in Colorado, 2015-2018



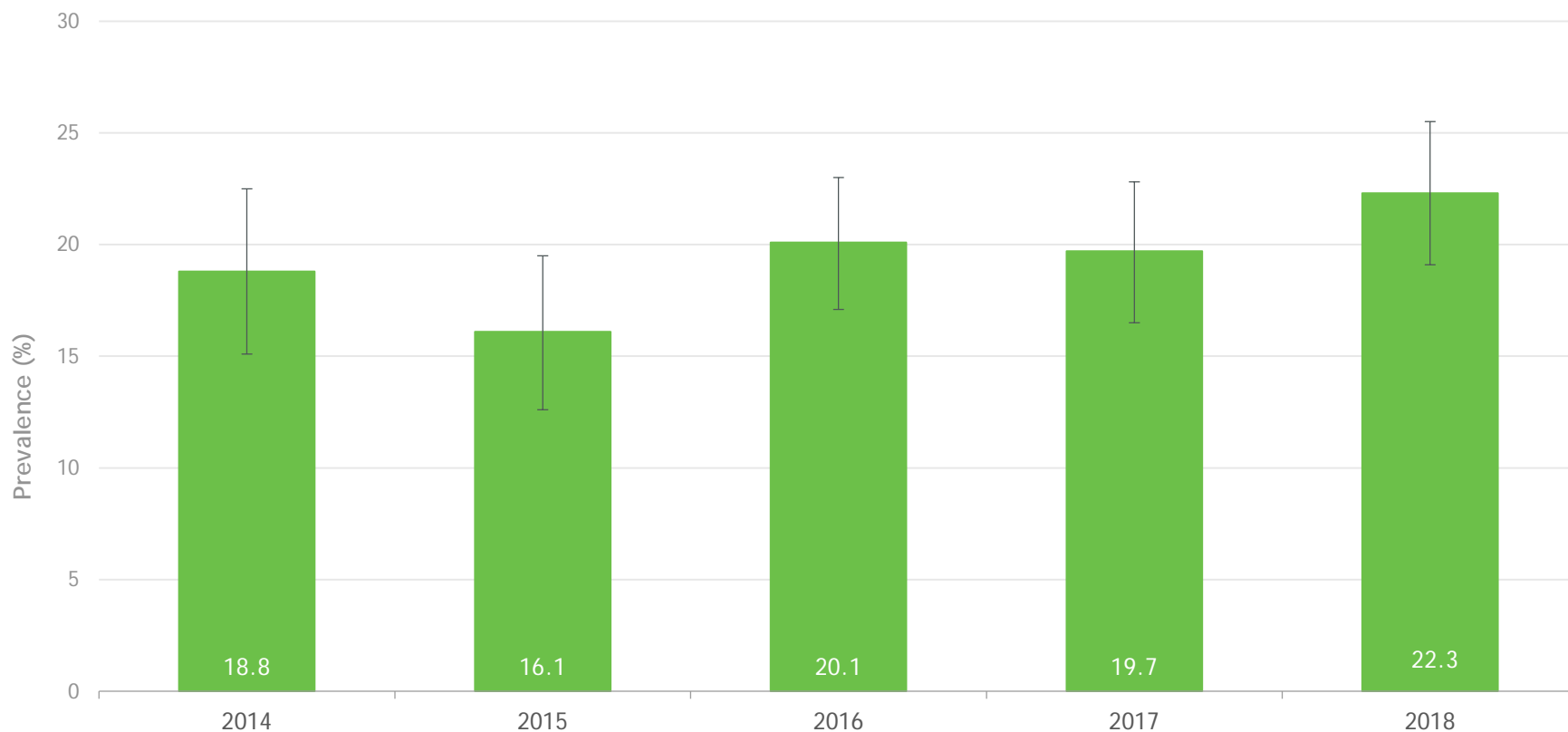
This figure shows the prevalence of frequency of use out of Colorado adults who reported past thirty day marijuana use

Produced by: Marijuana Health Monitoring Program, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 2020

Data Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Black bars indicate margins of error (95% Confidence Intervals)

Reported driving after marijuana use among adult marijuana users in Colorado, 2014-2018



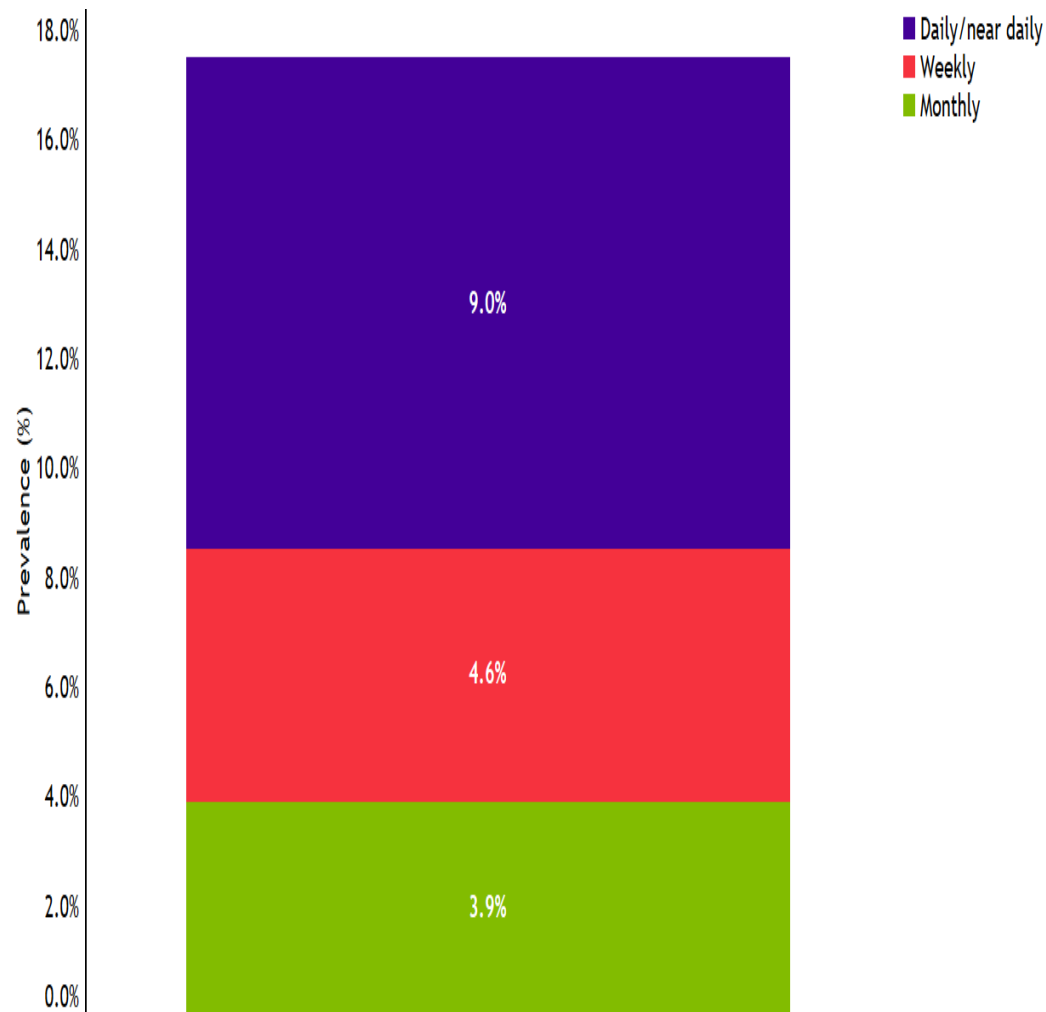
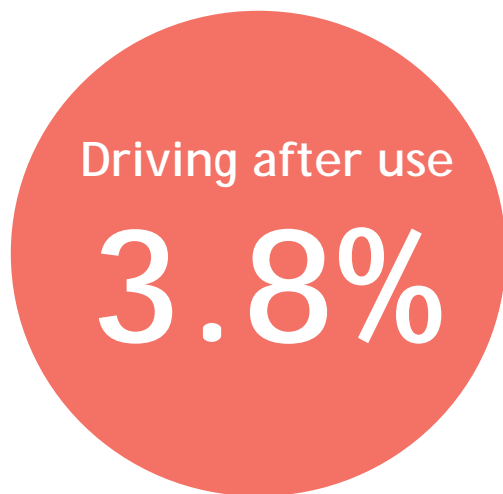
This figure shows the prevalence of frequency of use out of Colorado adults who reported past thirty day marijuana use

Produced by: Marijuana Health Monitoring Program, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 2020

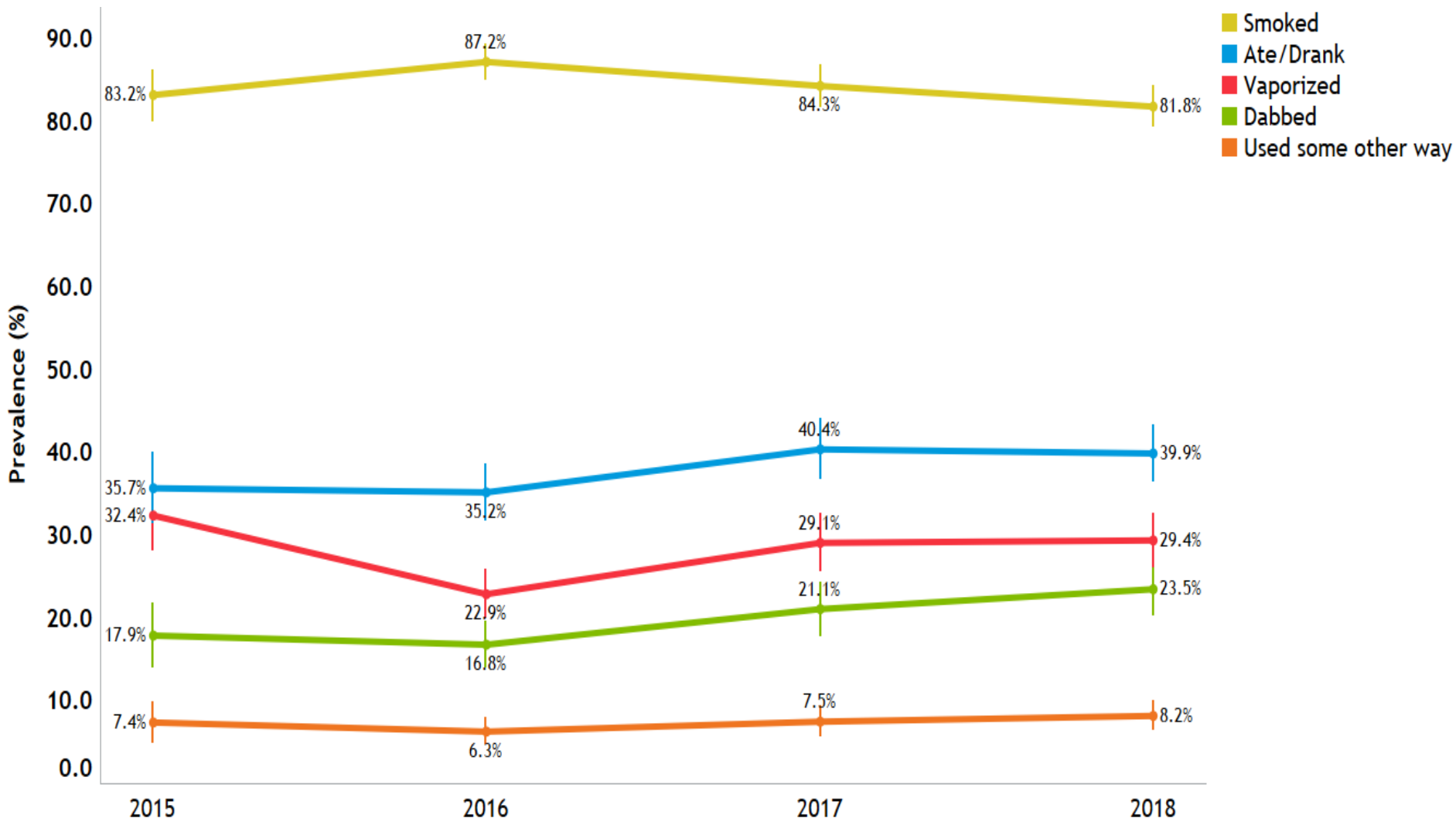
Data Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Black bars indicate margins of error (95% Confidence Intervals)

Marijuana use among adults, Colorado 2018



Marijuana method of use among adults that currently use marijuana, 2015-2018



SUMMARY: MARIJUANA USE IN COLORADO

- Past 30 day use is stable among Colorado populations, daily use increasing for adults
- Methods of consumption changing for youth
- Driving after use is increasing in adults and youth

THC Concentration Report

Background

Footnote 88a, 2019 Long Bill (CDPHE)

“...Review and study data...peer-reviewed studies on THC potency of marijuana and any related health effects.”

Statement of Concern

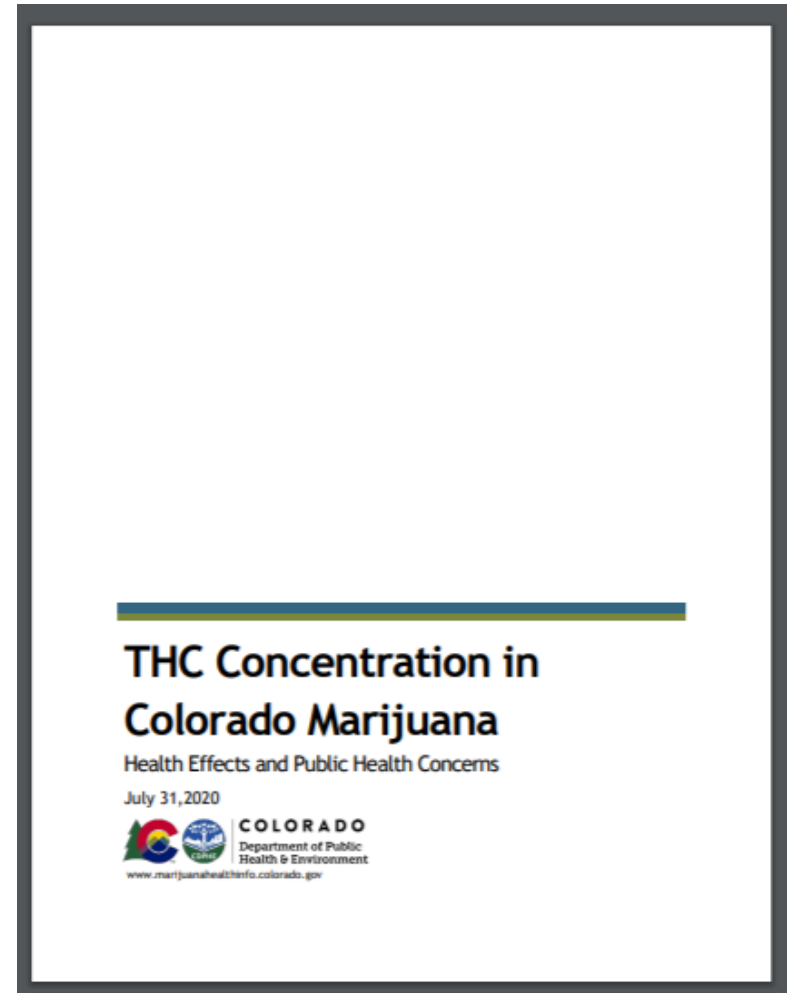
“Products containing a high THC concentration raise public health concern because increased dose may lead to higher potential for adverse health effects in consumers of these products.”

Approach to research

Systematic review of literature

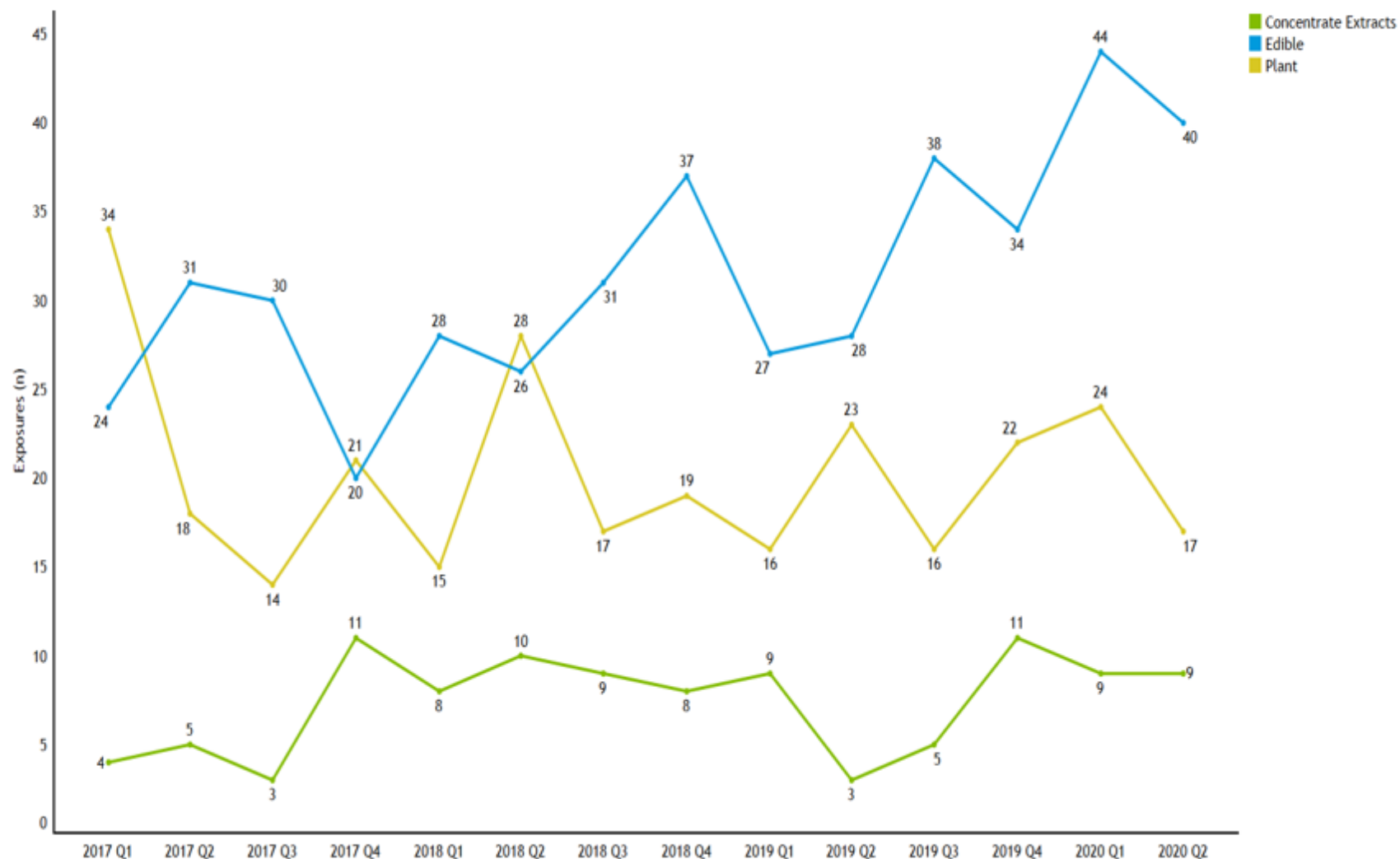
Analyze use trend and health effects data

Approval by Retail Marijuana Public Health Advisory Committee



www.marijuanahealthinfo.colorado.gov/reports-and-summaries

Figure 2: Quarterly count of top three marijuana exposures reported to RMPDS, Colorado January 2017 - June 2020



Produced by: Marijuana Health Monitoring Program, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 2020.

Data Source: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Safety. |

Key Findings

Strong to moderate evidence
THC concentration ~mental health
effects adolescents, young adults and
adults

Insufficient evidence
concentrate products ~ dependence
concentrate products ~ acute health
effects

Effect on blood levels varies by
product type

SUMMARY: THC CONCENTRATION

Almost all retail MJ products in CO contain THC in concentration >10%

More research needed

- products with higher THC concentration
- higher THC concentration and association with health effects

Improvement needed in data collection, include type of product and % THC

Q & A

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