

# Marijuana Use and the Workplace: Highlights and Trends



Every year, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) conducts the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).



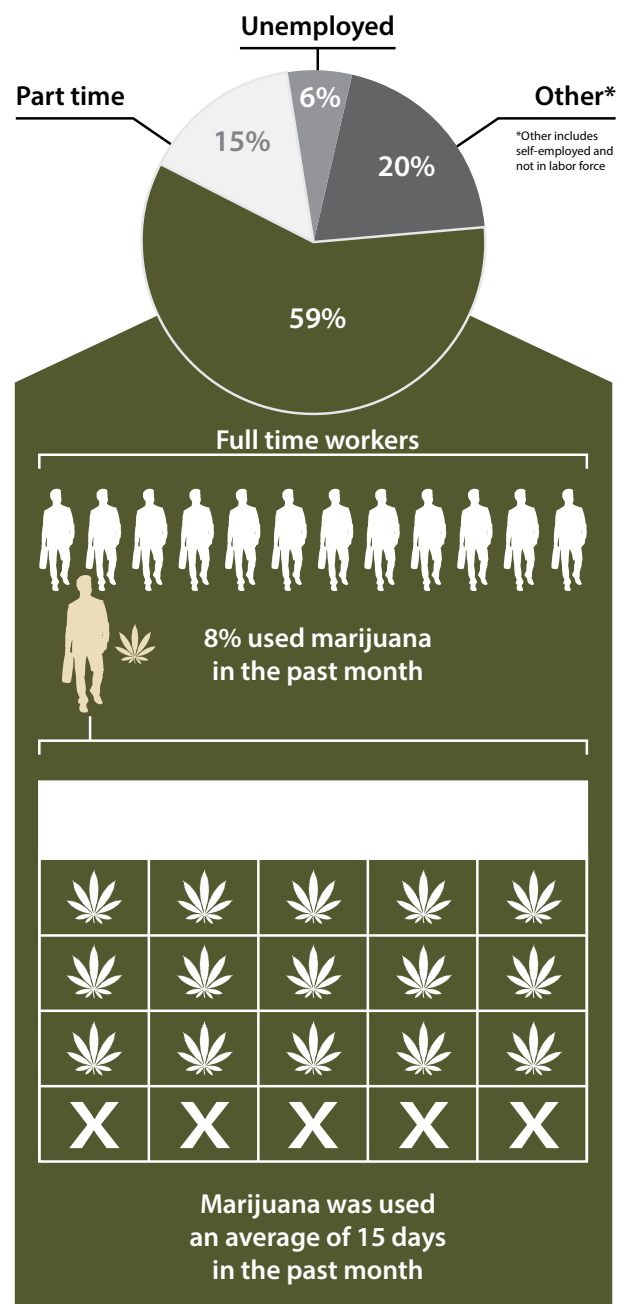
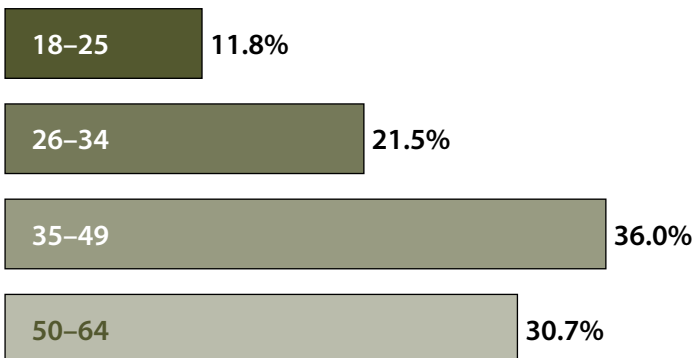
The NSDUH covers a wide range of topics, including employment status, patterns of marijuana and prescription drug use, medical marijuana laws, workplace practices, and absenteeism. In 2013, a nationally representative sample of 55,160 respondents aged 12 years or older completed a household interview. Some key findings are explored as follows.

## Spotlight on Full-time Workers and Marijuana Use

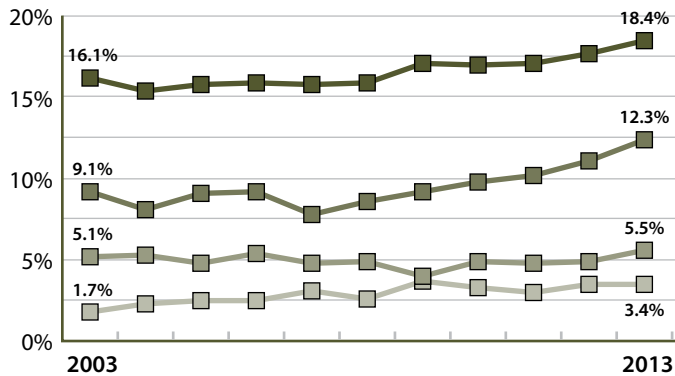
Among respondents aged 18–64 in 2013, 59 percent indicated their employment status was full-time. About 1 in 13 full time workers reported using marijuana in the past month. Marijuana users working full time reported using marijuana on an average of 15 days in the past month.

About two-thirds of full-time workers were aged 35–64 years. From 2003 to 2013, the largest increases in the prevalence of marijuana use in the past month were among 26–34-year-olds (+3.2 percent) and 18–25-year-olds (+2.3 percent). For 50–64-year-olds, the prevalence doubled from 1.7 percent in 2003 to 3.4 percent in 2013.

### Percentages of the Full-time Workforce



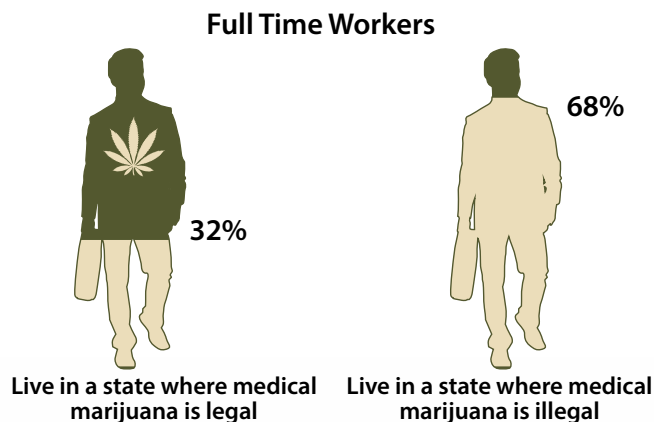
## Changes in Marijuana Use During the Past Month



Note: Prevalence rates for 2004–2012 were calculated using the NSDUH Public Use Files. Questions about SAMHSA restricted-use data should be sent to [samhda-support@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:samhda-support@samhsa.hhs.gov).

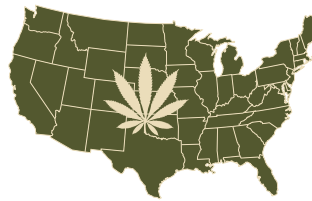
## Spotlight on Medical Marijuana Laws

In 2013, the NSDUH added a new question asking whether respondents lived in a state where marijuana use is allowed for medical reasons. Among full-time workers aged 18–64, about one-third reported living in a state where marijuana is approved for medical purposes.



In states where medical marijuana is allowed, about 1 in 10 full-time workers used marijuana in the past month. The prevalence of marijuana use in the past month was roughly 7 percent among full-time workers living in states where medical marijuana is prohibited.

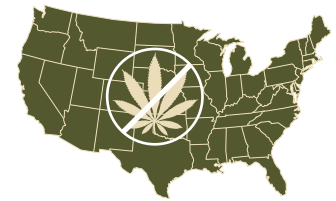
### Medical Marijuana Allowed



10%

of full-time workers used marijuana in the past month

### Medical Marijuana Prohibited

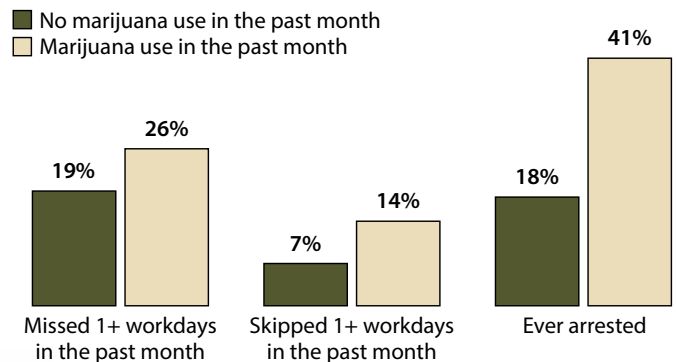


7%

of full-time workers used marijuana in the past month

## Spotlight on Absenteeism and Workplace Policies

Over the past month, about 1 in 4 full-time workers who used marijuana also missed 1 or more workdays. Twice as many marijuana users skipped 1 or more workdays, and about 2 in 5 users reported ever being arrested compared with less than one-fifth of non-users.



Compared with full-time workers who did not use marijuana in the past month, those who used marijuana indicated that their employer was...

**30% less likely**  
to offer an Employee Assistance Program

**40% less likely**  
to distribute information about alcohol and drugs

**45% less likely**  
to have a written policy about alcohol and drugs

Note: Rates were calculated using multivariable logistic regression controlling for age, gender, and race.

