

The Nebraska Assessment of College Health Behaviors (NACHB) was administered in 2024. The NACHB survey is designed to assess students' personal attitudes and behaviors related to alcohol, drugs, mental health issues, and personal violence. The NACHB helps understand individuals' attitudes towards campus and community policies, other student's behavior, and bystander interventions. The data from the survey makes it possible to research trends of these behaviors on campus over time. In 2024, 6,235 students from 22 schools participated.



Overall use

More than one out of five (21%) college students at participating NECPA schools reported using marijuana in the past year. Around 20% reported using edibles. Marijuana derivatives like wax, dabs, oils, or shatter were less common – with 13% using in the last year.

There were group differences in use of marijuana:

- Use was **higher** for NE residents than non-residents (22% vs. 21%).
- Students ages **21+** used more than underage peers (25% vs. 20%).
- Students involved in **Greek organizations** were more likely to use than non-Greek (29% vs. 22%).
- **Urban** students were more likely to use than rural students (24% vs. 17%).

Why they use

Students who reported using marijuana were asked to reflect on the times they have used and given a list of 20 options to identify reasons for use. The most frequent reason given was **“to get high”**, with 58% saying most or all of the time. This answer was highly correlated with other reasons around positive feelings, such as liking the feeling, or because it was fun, or exciting.

Seven of the 20 reasons were reported more frequently by Non-Greek students versus Greek students.

Respondents' sex was associated with a negative reason: 12% of females said they used because it helps them when they feel depressed or nervous, versus 7% of males. This was also the case for NE residents (12% vs. 6% for non-residents) and non-Greek students (10% vs. 6% for Greek students).

Where they use

Seven out of ten students who report using marijuana used at a social gathering or friend's house (70%), or at their own home (63%). There were differences by age: nearly three quarters of those who were 21+ (74%) used at home, compared to 54% of underage students.

The outdoors (36%) and in a car (32%) were selected by around a third of the respondents. Nearly half of male students (42%) said they used marijuana outdoors, compared to one in three female students (33%). Using in a car was more common for underage students (36%) than for students ages 21 and up (27%).

Use in a car

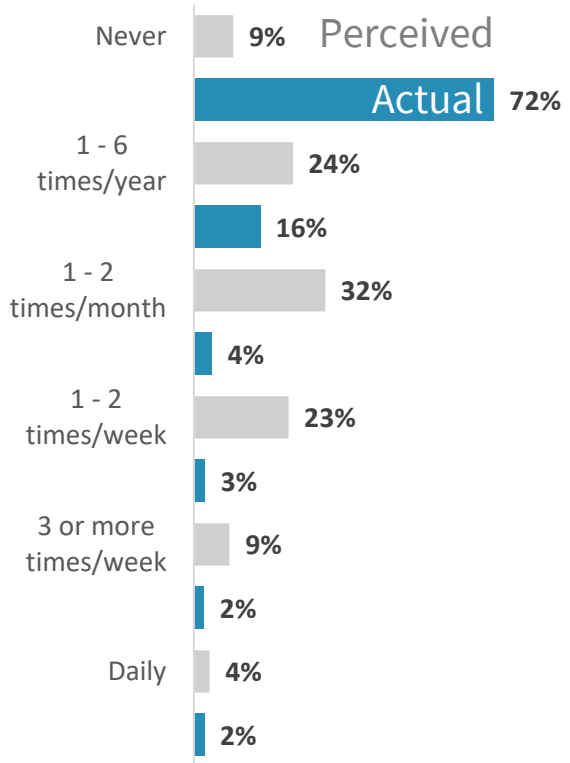
Students who said they used in a car were asked the usual status of the car at the time. About 73% said the car was parked off campus at the time, and 6% said the car was parked on campus. Around 21% said the car was being driven.



Over a third of users (35%) said they drove a vehicle in the past year after using marijuana. Approximately 12% said they drove after using at least five times in the past year.

Perceptions

While only 29% of students said they used marijuana in the past year, the perception was that 91% of students believed their peers used at some point in the past year. More than a third (35%) thought fellow students were using at least weekly.



Intentions to change

Students who reported marijuana use were asked about their intentions to change their use.

- Around half of students (53%) saw no reason to change their use.
- About 11% were thinking about using less or quitting.
- Slightly over one in 20 (6%) were ready to quit or use less.
- Over one in four (29%) were currently trying to use marijuana less often and/or quit.