

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) funding to support Connecticut college campuses to establish and expand evidence-based strategies to reduce alcohol and other drug usage. The goal of the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative (CHCI) is to assist colleges in Connecticut to create and sustain healthy campus and community environments.

The Center for Public Health and Health Policy at UConn Health conducted a [program evaluation](#) to assess whether the CHCI sub-grantee campuses reduced alcohol and other drug use and related problems between 2011 and 2014. As part of the evaluation, ten CHCI sub-grantee campuses administered the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey to students aged 18 to 24 in the spring of 2011 (n=6,073), and eight did so in 2014 (n=3,968). The response rate was 21.0 percent in 2011. The response rate for 2014 is unavailable.

This fact sheet focuses on student marijuana use on the CHCI campuses in 2011 and 2014.

### Marijuana Use in Past 30 Days (Table 1)

Slightly more than one-quarter of responding students reported using marijuana in the past 30 days in both 2011 and 2014. When examining the data by age group, the findings indicate that 21 to 24 year olds were somewhat less likely to have used marijuana in the prior 30 days than their younger classmates in 2014. One-third of males reported using marijuana, compared to one-quarter of female respondents. Among 18 to 20 year-olds and females, a higher percentage of respondents reported using marijuana in the past 30 days in 2014 than in 2011.

Age Range	CHCI 2011	CHCI 2014
18 to 24 Year-Olds*	27.1	28.6
18 to 20 Year-Olds*	27.0	29.4
21 to 24 Year-Olds	27.1	27.5
Gender	CHCI 2011	CHCI 2014
Male	33.8	34.1
Female*	22.5	25.2

\* $p < .05$  for difference between 2011 and 2014

### Days of Marijuana Use in Past 30 Days among Users (Table 2)

Student respondents who reported using marijuana within the past 30 days reported an average of approximately 10 days of use within that time frame for both 2011 and 2014. Older students reported using marijuana on slightly more days than their younger classmates. Male respondents reported using marijuana on approximately four more days than females. The responses also suggest that students used marijuana on more days in 2014 than 2011, and that this increase is statistically significant for female respondents, and all respondents aged 18 to 20.

Table 2. Estimate of mean days of marijuana use in the past 30 days among users

Age Range	CHCI 2011 Mean (C.I. <sup>a</sup> )	CHCI 2014 Mean (C.I. <sup>a</sup> )
18 to 24 Year-Olds	9.25 (8.8, 9.7)	9.75 (9.2, 10.4)
18 to 20 Year Olds*	8.70 (8.1, 9.3)	9.65 (8.9, 10.4)
21 to 24 Year Olds	10.19 (9.4, 11.0)	9.92 (8.9, 10.9)
Gender	CHCI 2011 Mean (C.I. <sup>a</sup> )	CHCI 2014 Mean (C.I. <sup>a</sup> )
Male	11.59 (10.8, 12.4)	12.24 (11.2, 13.3)
Female*	7.10 (6.54, 7.67)	8.23 (7.5, 9.0)

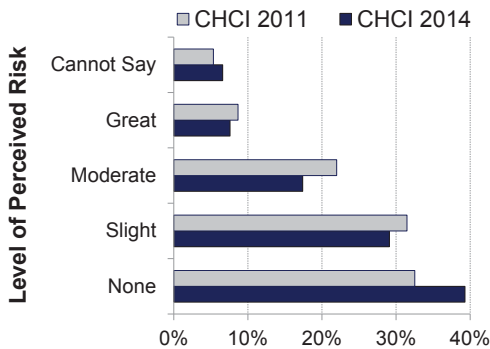
<sup>a</sup> 95% confidence interval for mean

\* $p < .05$  for difference between 2011 and 2014

## Perceived Risk of Using Marijuana Occasionally (Figure 1)

Students were asked whether they thought occasional use of marijuana posed no risk, some risk, moderate risk, or great risk to the user. Less than 10 percent of the respondents in both years thought occasional use presented the user with great risk, and slightly more than a third of all respondents thought occasional use posed no risk. A larger percentage of males (41.5%) thought occasional use posed no risk compared with females (27.0%) in 2011; this gap between male and female perceptions narrowed in 2014. For all groups, the perceived level of risk from occasional use remained approximately the same from 2011 to 2014.

Figure 1. Perceived risk for occasional marijuana use 2011 versus 2014.



## Perceived Risk of Using Marijuana Regularly (Figure 2 and 3)

Respondents tended to perceive regular use of marijuana as slightly less risky in 2014 than 2011. For all respondents, 28.4 percent thought regular use posed a great risk in 2011, and 22.4 percent thought so in 2014. As was the case with occasional use, slightly more females thought regular use risky than did their male classmates (Figure 3), though this gap narrowed in 2014.

Figure 2. Perceived risk for regular marijuana use 2011 versus 2014.

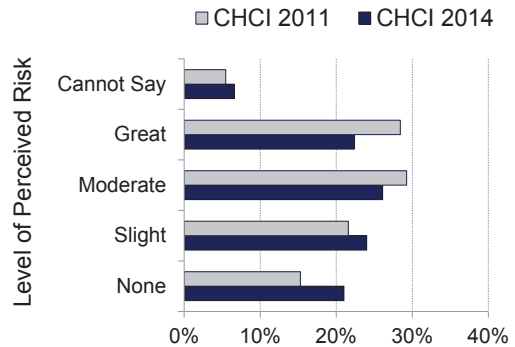
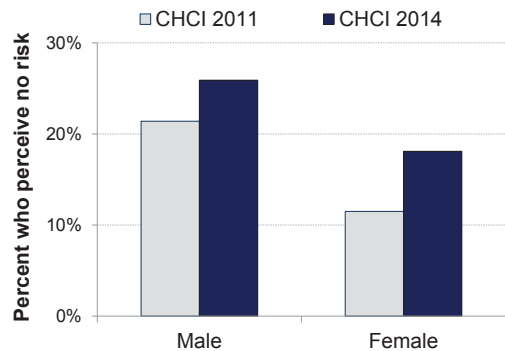


Figure 3. Perception of no risk for regular marijuana use by gender.



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