

When does marijuana endanger kids?

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The Associated Press brings a dilemma to light that seems to be growing, based on several instances throughout the U.S.

In Colorado, Michigan and New Jersey there have been cases of parents losing custody of their children after accusations from neighbors or schools that marijuana plants found in a home with children endangers the kid's lives.

The dilemma: For many states, pot won't bring criminal charges, however the same plant can be evidence in a child custody or abuse case.

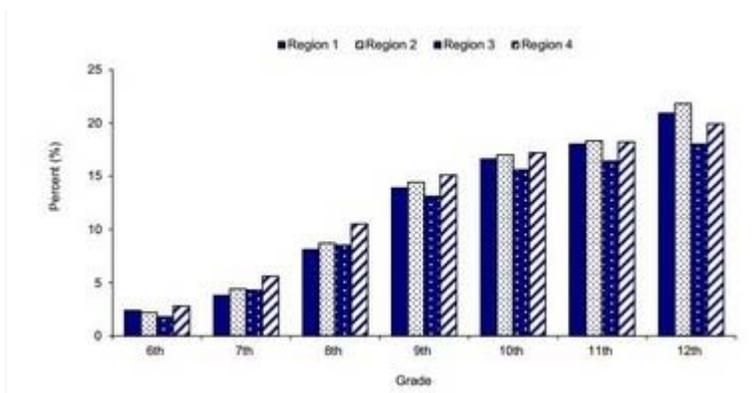
Colorado considers adult marijuana use legal but pot and other Schedule I substances are under federal law. Therefore, the

Associated Press says pot can't legally be in a home where children reside.

Democratic lawmakers have tried to argue that marijuana must be shown to be a harm or risk to children to constitute abuse, but their efforts were



Map of the four regions that statistics were collected from by the Alabama Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services Division, Office of Prevention.
Alabama Department of Mental Health



The above chart shows marijuana use by Alabama youths. Research is by the Alabama Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services

futile.

Supporters promised to try again to give law enforcement some definition about when the presence of drugs could harm children, even if kids don't use it.

Marijuana is not legal in Alabama, **but some say the state could be next.**

Research by the Alabama Department of Mental

Division, Office of Prevention shows statistics

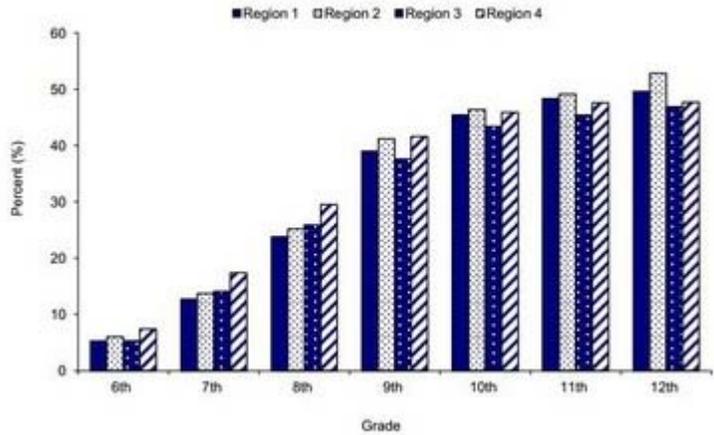
about marijuana usage in Alabama. In this study, region four includes the following counties: Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Conecuh, Butler, Crenshaw, Coffee, Dale, Barbour, Henry, Houston, Geneva, Covington, Escambia, Mobile and Baldwin.

Research between 2009 and 2010 shows that marijuana use by Alabama's youth increases by grade.

In region four, by the 12th grade about 20 percent of teens say they've used marijuana in the last month. Also by the 12th grade, 50 percent of students in region four say their friends use marijuana.

Between 2006 and 2008, eight percent of Alabamians 12-years-old and up reported having used marijuana in the past year. The national average is 10.3 percent.

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The above chart shows the percentage of Alabama youth that report their friends use marijuana. Research is by the Alabama Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services Division, Office of Prevention.
Alabama Department of Mental Health