

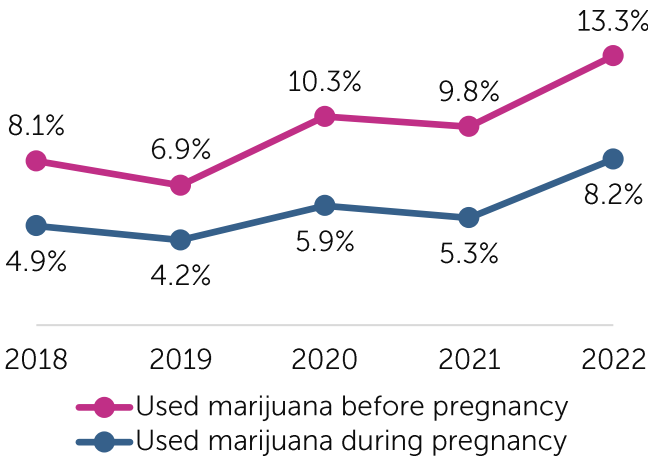
# Marijuana Use Around Pregnancy

SD PRAMS,  
2018-2022

Use of marijuana has increased among women of childbearing age.<sup>a</sup> SD PRAMS data gathered from 2018 to 2022 shows a significant increase over time in the number of mothers who use marijuana before becoming pregnant ( $p<0.001$ ) as well as an increase in use during pregnancy ( $p<0.01$ ).\* The highest percentage of marijuana use was reported in 2022, with 8.2% of mothers reporting use while pregnant and 13.3% before pregnancy.

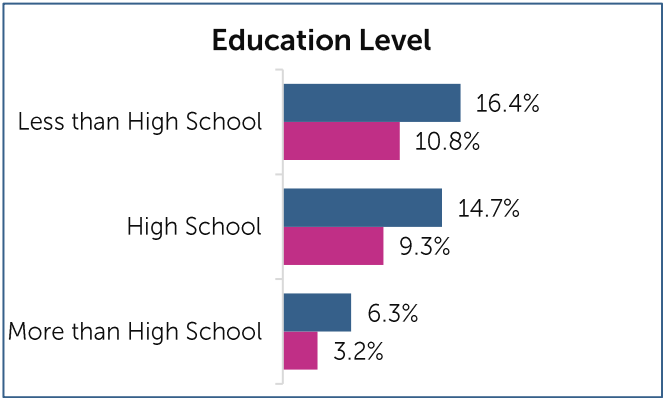
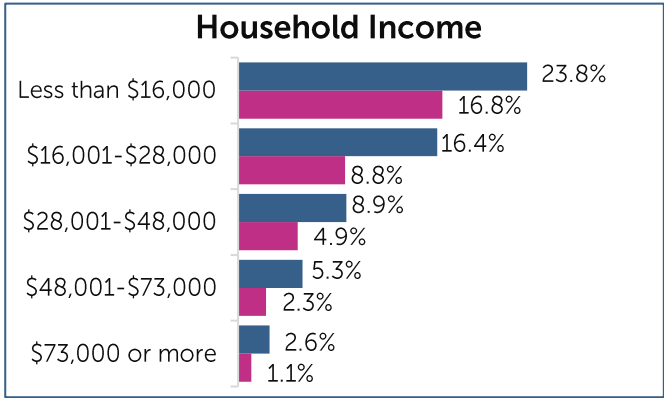
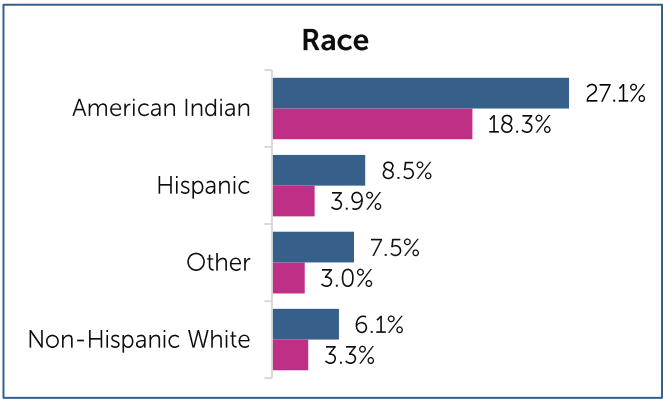
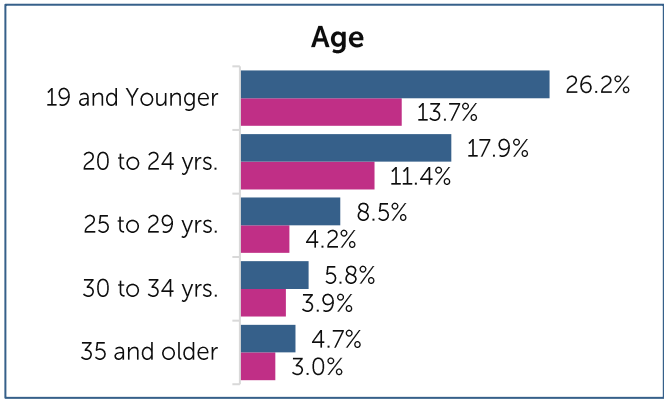
Marijuana use during pregnancy can potentially lead to problems for the developing fetus including respiratory complications, short term and long term cognitive and physical impairment, and delay or disruption of development in various areas.<sup>b</sup>

Percentage of moms who used marijuana before and during pregnancy



## Characteristics of Mothers Reporting Use of Marijuana Before and During Pregnancy

■ Before ■ During

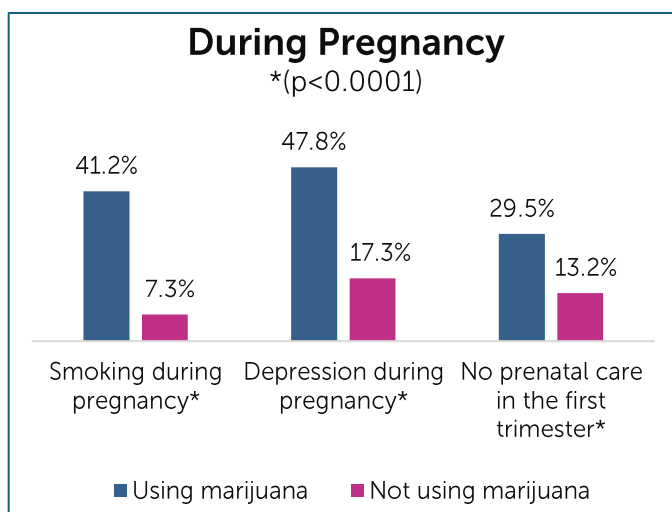
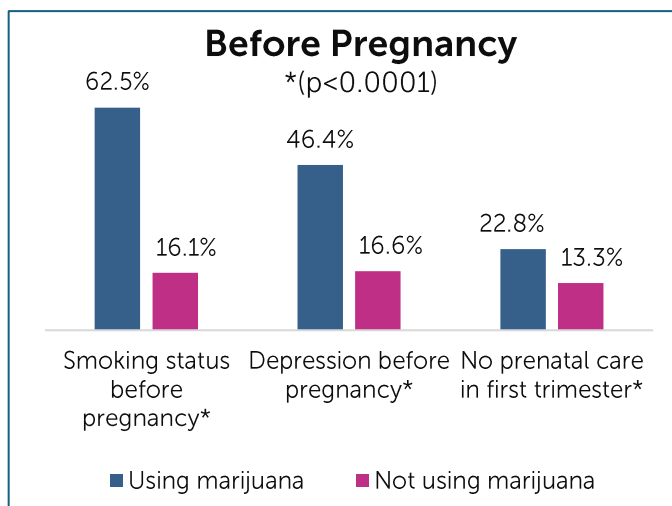


\*Cannabis was legalized for medical use in South Dakota on July 1, 2021. The survey question did not distinguish between prescribed and non-prescribed use.

## Association of Marijuana Use During Pregnancy with Demographic Characteristics

- American Indian mothers have 6.3 times higher odds of using marijuana during pregnancy than White mothers.
- Mothers in rural areas are 2 times more likely to use marijuana during pregnancy than those in non-rural areas.
- Mothers who completed education beyond high school had lower odds of marijuana use during pregnancy compared to mothers with lower education levels.
- Mothers with higher household incomes showed lower odds of marijuana use during pregnancy.
- Those who smoke have much higher odds of marijuana use during pregnancy.
- Mothers with depression were 5 times more likely to use marijuana during pregnancy compared to mothers without depression.
- Mothers who did not receive prenatal care during the first trimester have 3.3 times higher odds of marijuana use during pregnancy than mothers who did receive prenatal care during the first trimester.

## Health Factors Associated with Mothers' Marijuana Use



## Summary

Mothers that show the highest use of marijuana before and during pregnancy are 19 years-old and younger, report race as American Indian, live in a rural area, are not married, received less than a high school education, and have a household income of \$16,000 or less. Mothers that reported not smoking as well as mothers that reported not having depression had much lower odds of marijuana use compared to mothers that smoke tobacco or have depression. Also, moms who did not receive prenatal care during the first trimester have much higher odds of marijuana use during pregnancy compared to those who did receive prenatal care in the first trimester.

a. National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2023). Marijuana and hallucinogen use, binge drinking reached historic highs among adults 35 to 50. Available at: <https://nida.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/2023/08/marijuana-and-hallucinogen-use-binge-drinking-reached-historic-highs-among-adults-35-to-50>.

b. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2025). Cannabis and Pregnancy. Available at: [www.cdc.gov/cannabis/health-effects/pregnancy.html](https://www.cdc.gov/cannabis/health-effects/pregnancy.html)

This data brief was created in April 2025 by Grace Schroeder, Tingting He, Jenny Kerkvliet, and Callie Molengraaf in the Population Health Evaluation Center at South Dakota State University through an interagency agreement with the SD Department of Health. Further information about the SD PRAMS can be obtained by contacting the Office of MCH Data Analytics and Insights at [DOH.MCHdata@state.sd.us](mailto:DOH.MCHdata@state.sd.us).