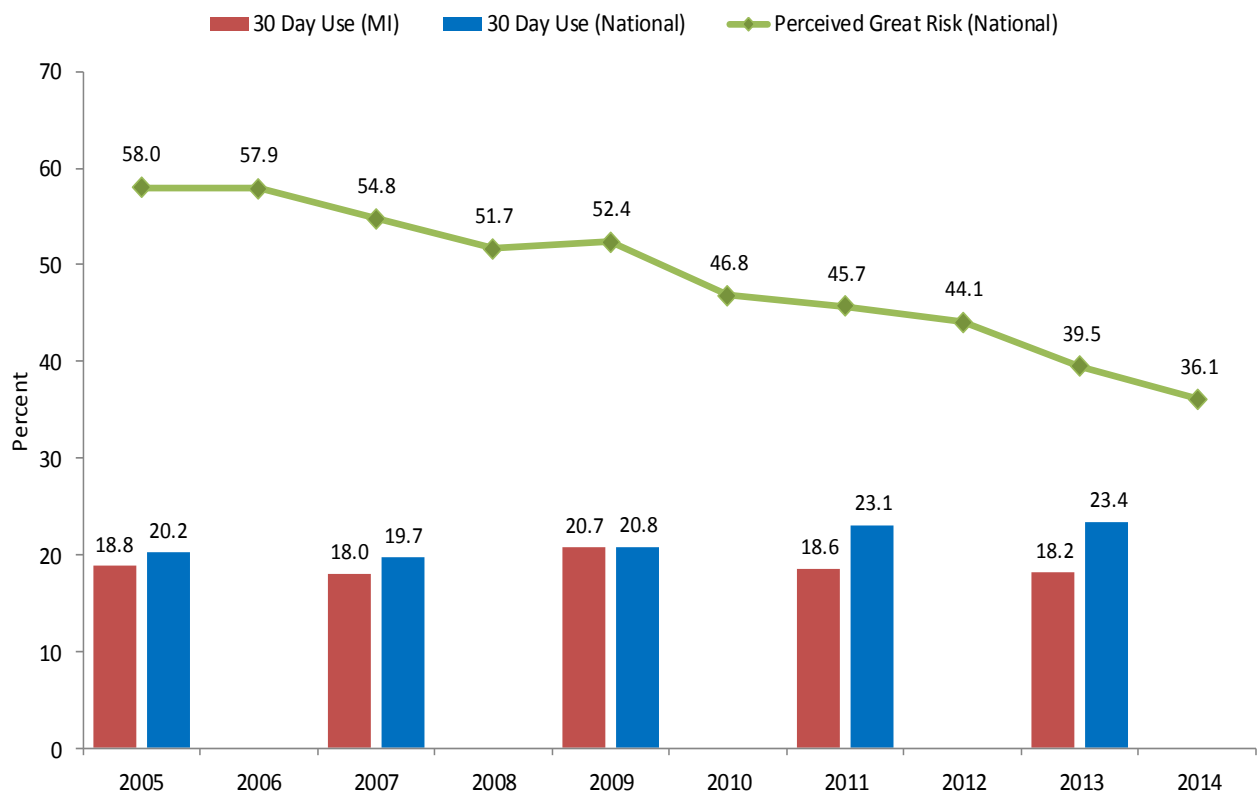


Marijuana Use and Perception of Risk Among High School Students



Understanding the health risks associated with the illicit substances is a powerful motivator for individuals to avoid the use or abuse of these drugs¹. The graph below presents the declining national perception of risk associated with marijuana use over the last ten years, as well as current use among high school students (9th—12th graders) throughout the United States and in Michigan.

Use and Perception of Great Risk of Marijuana Among High Schoolers: 2005-2014



In summary:

- Nationally, perceived risk of marijuana use among students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grades decreased by 38% over the last 10 years. Fewer teens now believe using marijuana is harmful.
- Coinciding with the declining perceived risk nationally, marijuana use in the last 30 days among high school students increased, from 20.2% in 2005 to 23.4% in 2013. During this time period, the prevalence of marijuana use among Michigan high school students remained the same at 18 percent.

1. Henry, K. L., M. D. Slater, et al. (2005). Alcohol use in early adolescence: The effect of changes in risk taking, perceived harm and friends' alcohol use. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 66(2), 275-283.