



LIFETIME USE OF MARIJUANA

BY NEW JERSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Statewide

According to the *New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey*, marijuana was the substance used fourth most often by New Jersey adolescents in 2012. The statewide mean for lifetime use of marijuana was 5.4%, meaning that just over one-in-twenty students reported having tried marijuana at some point in their lives. This percentage is similar to the 5.7% rate measured in 2010, but it represents an increase from the 3.7% rate reported in 2007.

Countywide

In 2012, Cumberland County had the highest lifetime prevalence of 13.8%, followed by Passaic County at 11.0%. Conversely, the lowest lifetime rate of marijuana use was found in Morris County (0.9%). However, because of low response rates in some counties, caution must be used when interpreting county-level findings. Full results for lifetime marijuana use by county, sorted from high to low, can be found in Table 1 and a visual representation of county variation is available on the next page.

Table 1

| County | % |
|-------------------|-------------|
| <i>Cumberland</i> | 13.8% |
| <i>Passaic</i> | 11.0% |
| <i>Hudson</i> | 8.3% |
| <i>Ocean</i> | 8.1% |
| <i>Cape May</i> | 7.6% |
| <i>Atlantic</i> | 7.1% |
| <i>Essex</i> | 6.9% |
| <i>Middlesex</i> | 6.8% |
| <i>Gloucester</i> | 6.6% |
| <i>Mercer</i> | 6.4% |
| <i>Sussex</i> | 6.0% |
| <i>Camden</i> | 5.6% |
| Statewide | 5.4% |
| <i>Somerset</i> | 3.6% |
| <i>Bergen</i> | 3.3% |
| <i>Burlington</i> | 3.3% |
| <i>Salem</i> | 3.2% |
| <i>Monmouth</i> | 2.9% |
| <i>Warren</i> | 2.9% |
| <i>Morris</i> | 0.9% |
| <i>Hunterdon*</i> | n/a |
| <i>Union*</i> | n/a |

The 2012 New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey was commissioned by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to assess the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD), track antisocial behaviors, and document risk and protective factors among New Jersey youth. It was administered by the Bloustein Center for Survey Research (BCSR), at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The survey contained 6,544 respondents statewide, with county samples ranging between 105 and 403 respondents.

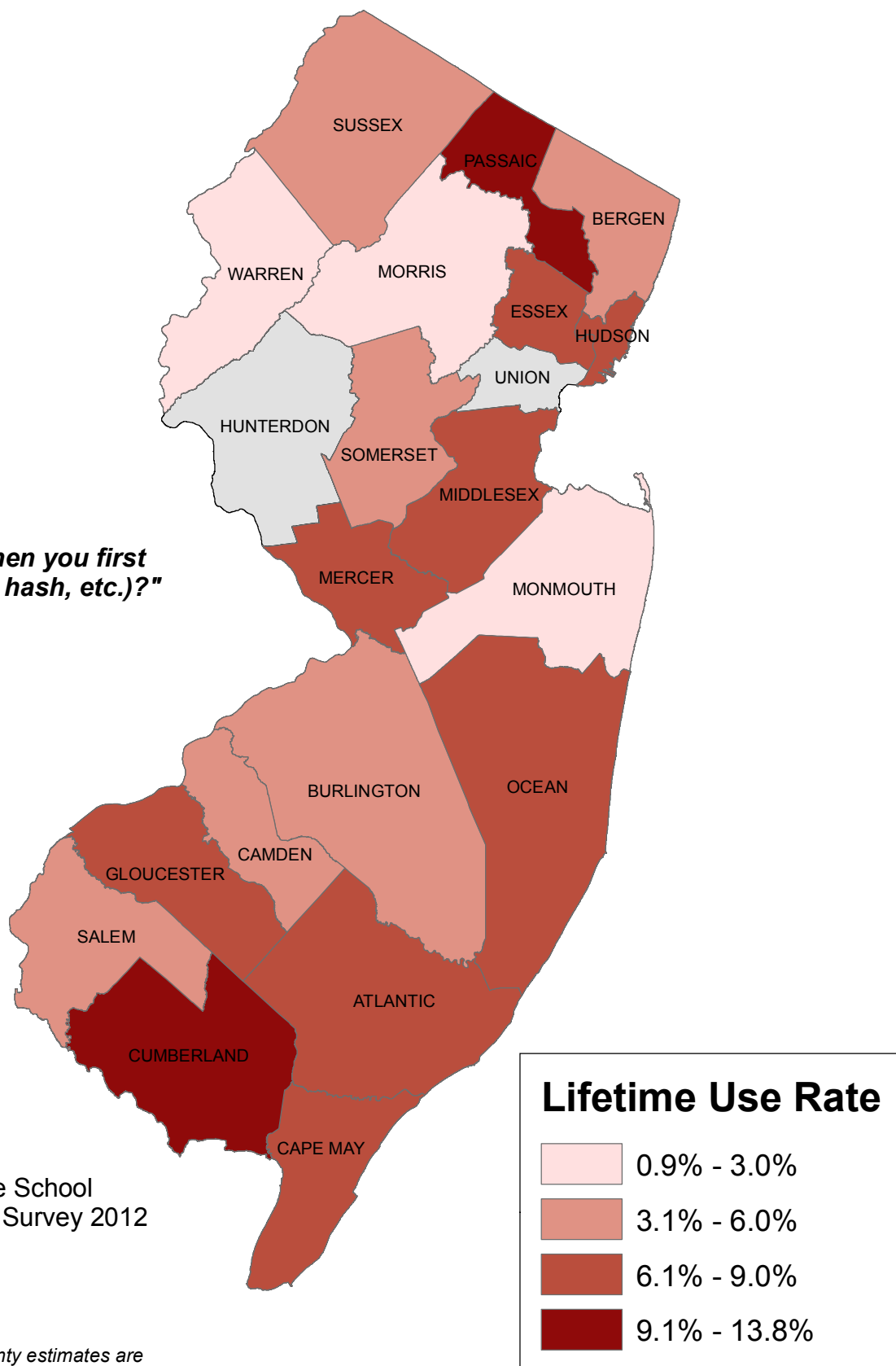
*Please note that Hunterdon and Union Counties are not represented here because their sample sizes were too small to be considered reliable.

LIFETIME USE OF MARIJUANA

By New Jersey Middle School Students

Min: 0.9%
Max: 13.8%
Mean: 5.4%

"How old were you when you first smoked marijuana (pot, hash, etc.)?"



Source: New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey 2012

**Note: Hunterdon and Union County estimates are not depicted here due to small sample sizes*