In order to obtain current, generalizable, and community-level data on issues related to alcohol and other drug use, Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Alcohol and Drug Programs commissioned a random digit dial telephone survey. A total of 769 adult Ventura County residents were surveyed to obtain local information regarding their concerns, behaviors, and perceptions related to substance abuse and availability of County services. The following findings are specific to marijuana use; perceptions of harm and ease of access; levels of concern related to impaired driving; and impaired driving behaviors.

**Marijuana Use Among Ventura County Adult Residents**

- 43% of respondents reported using marijuana at least once in their life.
- On average, respondents first used marijuana at the age of 20.
- Men were more likely than women to report ever having used marijuana.
- Respondents 45 to 64 years of age were most likely to report ever having used marijuana compared to other age groups, followed by those ages 18 to 25.

**Past 30 Days**

- Of the respondents who reported ever having used marijuana, 11% had used marijuana in the 30 days prior to participating in the survey.

**Perceptions of Ease of Access, Harm, and Level of Concern Among Respondents**

- *Ease of Access.* 84% of respondents believe marijuana is “fairly easy” or “very easy” for teens to obtain.
- *Perception of Harm.* Nearly 1 in 3 respondents believe people “greatly” risk harming themselves if they smoke marijuana once or twice a week.
- *Concern with Teenage Use.* Roughly 1 in 2 respondents reported being “very concerned” with teenage marijuana use.
- *Concern with Impaired Driving.* 76% of respondents reported being “very concerned” about impaired driving (under the influence of alcohol or drugs) near their home.

**Impaired Driving Behaviors Among Ventura County Adult Residents**

- 2% reported having driven a car while they were under the influence of marijuana or been in a car when the driver was under the influence of marijuana, including medical marijuana.
  - Young adults, ages 18 to 25, were twice as likely as other age groups to have driven or been the passenger in a vehicle when the driver was under the influence of marijuana.