



VOICES UNITED

THE SILICON VALLEY RESOURCE ON
SUBSTANCE USE AND ADDICTION

Reducing Underage and Binge Drinking and other Drug Use



Friday Night Live, Youth Leadership

Santa Clara County Friday Night Live is a club at high schools to address adolescent alcohol and other drug and related teen issues at their school and surrounding community. They typically organize Red Ribbon Week/National Night Out, connect with the San Jose City Youth Commission, and come up with their own projects as they assess their own environment.

Friday Night Live is a program of Voices United, a nonprofit whose mission is to reduce the underage and binge drinking and other drug use in Santa Clara County. For more on the Friday Night Live program and activities go to: www.VoicesUnited.net, click on PROJECTS, and click on the Friday Night Live photo. Voices United receives funding from the Santa Clara County Department of Alcohol and Drug Services (DADS) Prevention Division.

Lincoln High School Friday Night Live Club Community Mapping Project

There were three marijuana dispensaries near Lincoln High School when they started their Project in April 2013, now in June, there are five. What struck them was the blatant advertising they do: one has a man holding a board to get attention, and all the dispensaries have visible signs pointing to them. Students also noticed two were placed on either side of the Starbucks on Meridian and San Carlos. Starbucks is frequented by both the middle school (Hoover) and high school (Lincoln) students.

This prompted much discussion about whether this open advertising is giving students the impression marijuana use is OK. In these discussions the Friday Night Live Club members talked about smelling marijuana smoke on their school campus, and observing only healthy young people going in and out of the dispensaries. These and many other issues led the Club to develop an **Anonymous Marijuana Survey**. They wanted to know more about the impact marijuana dispensaries are having on youth use and attitudes to marijuana.

As a result of the Community Mapping Project they decided to issue a Marijuana Petition:

“We, the undersigned, hereby petition to support the Friday Night Live youth leadership club of Voices United at Lincoln High School in San Jose, to make sure marijuana dispensaries are at least one mile from any school, City community center, libraries and wherever youth traditionally hang out.”

Anonymous Marijuana Survey

- 1) Have you smelled marijuana smoke at school? ___ Yes, ___ No
- 2) What percent of students at Lincoln do you believe use marijuana? _____
- 3) Have you ever or do you currently use marijuana (in any form)? ___ Yes, ___ No
If yes, how often do you use it? *Circle which one applies:*
Once a month More than 5 times a month Once a week more than 3 times a week
- 4) How difficult is it for teens to obtain marijuana? *Circle which one applies:*
Very difficult Difficult Easy Really easy
- 5) In your opinion, at what age do most teens start using marijuana? _____
- 6) Are you aware that there are 3 marijuana dispensaries near Lincoln? ___ Yes, ___ No
- 7) Do students get their marijuana from:
 - a) those 3 marijuana dispensaries? ___ Yes, ___ No ___ Don't Know
 - b) people who buy it at those 3 marijuana dispensaries? ___ Yes, ___ No
 - c) family members? ___ Yes, ___ No
 - d) friends? ___ Yes, ___ No
 - e) Other: _____
- 8) Have you noticed the kinds of people that frequent the marijuana dispensaries?
___ Yes, ___ No
 - a) Are they sick people? ___ Yes, ___ No
 - b) Are they young healthy looking people, 18 – 25 years old? ___ Yes, ___ No
 - c) Other: _____
- 9) Have you noticed the guy with the board advertising one of the marijuana dispensaries across from the Starbucks on Meridian, and the green crosses near the others? ___ Yes, ___ No
 - a) Does it make you think about marijuana more? ___ Yes, ___ No
 - b) Does it make you feel using marijuana at your age is OK now? ___ Yes, ___ No
 - c) No opinion
 - d) Other: _____
- 10) Do you live in a household where the adults smoke marijuana? ___ Yes, ___ No



Santa Clara County Friday Night Live, a youth leadership program of Voices United, receives funds from the Santa Clara County Department of Alcohol and Drug Services, Prevention Division: www.sccdads.org

Anonymous Marijuana Pilot Survey

Developed by Youth

Summary

This is a pilot anonymous survey created by students themselves – therefore the survey may have some hick ups – however, some of the results are still worth noting.

They also, with permission from one of their vice principals, distributed them in their own way, and may not have been distributed as a researcher may normally have organized it. Students, however, have utilized lunch breaks and class room time to distribute the survey, which to them was random. They did not target certain types of youth.

Highlights

There were 186 surveys collected:

1. **92% (171)** of those surveyed smell marijuana smoke at their school
2. 49% (92) said it was ‘easy’ to obtain marijuana
46% (85) said it was ‘really easy’ to obtain marijuana
That means 95% (177) said it was ‘easy’ or ‘really easy’ to obtain marijuana
3. 66% (122) were aware that there are 3 marijuana dispensaries near their school. (*Note: since this survey was initiated in April, there are now in Mid-May 4 dispensaries*).
4. **Of those who said yes to noticing the marijuana dispensaries:**
47% (57) said students get their marijuana from those 3 dispensaries
45% (55) said no.

70% (85) said students get their marijuana from people who get it from dispensaries.

87% (82) said the kinds of people they see going in and out of the dispensaries are healthy looking people, 18-25 year olds.
5. 53% (99) of all students surveyed said youth get marijuana from family members
89% (166) of all students said youth get marijuana from friends
6. 59% (109) said seeing the guy promoting the dispensary made them think about marijuana more (*this may not be a good indicator question, because it doesn't take into account those that already think about marijuana a lot*).

33% (36) said seeing the promotions made them think it is OK to use marijuana at their age, 59% (54) said no.
7. Students who live with adults who smoke marijuana are twice as likely to be a smoker (*may be too small a sample – however, worth investigating further*).
8. Students estimate 60% smoke marijuana, 45% said they smoke marijuana.