

The enactment of adult use cannabis regulation is not associated with significant upticks in marijuana use by adolescents

“Youth Risk Behavior Survey data from 47 states from 1999 to 2017 assessed marijuana, alcohol, cigarette, and e-cigarette use among adolescents (14-18+ years; N = 1,077,938). Associations between RML (recreational marijuana legalization) and adolescent past-month substance use were analyzed using quasi-experimental difference-in-differences zero-inflated negative binomial models. ... Controlling for other state substance policies, year and state fixed effects, and adolescent demographic characteristics, models found that RML was not associated with a significant shift in the likelihood of marijuana use. ... Results suggest minimal short-term effects of RML on adolescent substance use, with small declines in marijuana use.”

Recreational marijuana legalization and adolescent use of marijuana, tobacco, alcohol. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2020

“This report provides key insights into substance use behaviors of U.S. high school students during 2009–2019. Encouraging findings include decreasing prevalence of current alcohol use and decreases in the prevalence of lifetime use of marijuana. ... Lifetime marijuana use increased during 2009–2013 and then decreased during 2013–2019. ... The findings in this report indicate that youth substance use has declined in recent years.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prescription Opioid Misuse and Use of Alcohol and Other Substances Among High School Students — Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2019, 2020

“Taken as a whole, these studies suggest that marijuana legalization has not had much overall effect on marijuana use by children and adolescents, at least during the past two decades. From 2000 to 2019, marijuana legalization changed substantially, and now medical marijuana is legal in 33 states and recreational marijuana use in 11. Despite these changes, adolescent marijuana prevalence has varied little, with the national percentage of US 12th graders who have ever used marijuana hovering within a narrow window of 42% to 49% during this time period.¹ In 2019, it was at 44%, toward the lower end of this range. ... In summary, prevalence of marijuana use among adolescents has remained remarkably steady over the past 20 years despite substantial changes in its legality across the United States during this period.”

Marijuana legalization and prevalence among adolescents, *American Journal of Public Health*, 2020

Medical cannabis access laws are not associated with adverse effects on traffic safety

“While attention has been given to how legalization of recreational cannabis affects traffic crash rates, there has been limited research on how cannabis affects pedestrians involved in traffic crashes. This study examined the association between cannabis legalization (medical, recreational use, and recreational sales) and fatal motor vehicle crash rates (both pedestrian-involved and total fatal crashes). ... We found no significant differences in pedestrian-involved fatal motor vehicle crashes between legalized cannabis states and control states following medical or recreational cannabis legalization. Washington and Oregon saw immediate decreases in all fatal crashes (-4.15 and -6.60) following medical

cannabis legalization. ... Overall findings do not suggest an elevated risk of total or pedestrian-involved fatal motor vehicle crashes.”

An examination of relationships between cannabis legalization and fatal motor vehicle and pedestrian-involved crashes, Traffic Injury Prevention, 2020

“This paper reports a quasi-experimental evaluation of California’s 1996 medical marijuana law (MML), known as Proposition 215, on statewide motor vehicle fatalities between 1996 and 2015. ... We found that legalizing medical marijuana in California led to a sustained reduction in statewide motor vehicle fatalities. ... California’s 1996 MML appears to have produced a large, sustained decrease in statewide motor vehicle fatalities amounting to an annual reduction between 588 and 900 vehicle fatalities.”

Marijuana medicalization and motor vehicle fatalities: A synthetic control group approach, Journal of Experimental

Please help get this harmless “drug” to be treated like alcohol.

Sincerely,

Jamie Brenneise