Cannabis legalization: What has changed?

An analysis using the 2018 and 2019 National Cannabis Survey

C-45 legalized the non-medical use of cannabis for adults

Cannabis Act enacted October 17, 2018
- Keep cannabis out of youth
- Keep profits out of the hands of criminals
- Protect public health and safety by allowing adults access to safe, legal cannabis

2018 Before legalization

2019 After legalization

Percentage of Canadians 15 years and older who consumed cannabis in the three months preceding the survey.

Canada
- 17% (2018) to 21% (2019)

B.C.
- 19% (2018) to 19% (2019)

Alta.
- 19% (2018) to 19% (2019)

Sask.
- 16% (2018) to 16% (2019)

Man.
- 18% (2018) to 18% (2019)

Ont.
- 18% (2018) to 18% (2019)

Que.
- 12% (2018) to 12% (2019)

N.S.
- 26% (2018) to 26% (2019)

N.B.
- 20% (2018) to 20% (2019)

N.L.
- 21% (2018) to 21% (2019)

P.E.I.
- 19% (2018) to 19% (2019)

After legalization, more consumers reported getting cannabis from legal sources and fewer reported getting it from illegal ones or from family and friends.

2018 (before legalization) 2019 (after legalization)

Legal
- 23% (2018) to 52% (2019)

Illegal
- 52% (2018) to 40% (2019)

Family and friends
- 38% (2018) to 49% (2019)

DID YOU KNOW?

After legalization... of Canadians (1.2 million people) reported being a passenger in a vehicle driven by someone who had used cannabis within 2 hours of driving; lower than before legalization.

13% of cannabis users (620,000 people) with a valid driver’s licence reported driving within 2 hours of using cannabis; unchanged from before legalization.

4% of Canadians (1.8 million people) consumed cannabis daily or almost daily; unchanged from before legalization.

After legalization, the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds reporting consuming cannabis in the 3 months preceding the survey remains unchanged at 33%.

6% of 15- to 17-year-olds reported consuming cannabis in the 3 months preceding the survey; lower than before legalization (20%).

For more information, please consult the Health Reports article - “What has changed since cannabis was legalized?”

Also visit: www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/cannabis.html