



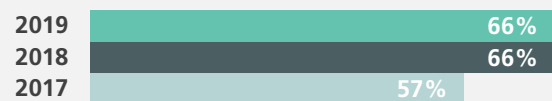
Marijuana Use Among San Diego Arrestees: Three Years of Data Post-Proposition 64

In 2016, with the passage of Proposition 64 (which legalized the recreational use of marijuana in California for individuals 21 years of age and older), a marijuana addendum was added to Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) questionnaires. These additional questions related to how marijuana was used, marijuana use and driving, and the perceived benefits of use, among other topics. This CJ Flash highlights results from 2019, as well as comparisons to 2017 and 2018 when noteworthy, the first full year the new questionnaire was administered to the arrestees (adults and juveniles) booked into a local detention facility and interviewed as part of SAM.¹

Highlight 1

Two-thirds (66%) of arrestees said they were more likely to use marijuana after legalization in 2019 and in 2018, compared to 57% in 2017. There was no significant difference between adults and juveniles.

More likely to use marijuana after legalization



Highlight 2

Around 1 in 3 (30%) arrestees said they thought marijuana was physically addictive and almost 3 in 5 (57%) it was psychologically addictive. There was no significant difference between adults and juveniles who thought marijuana was physically addictive, but juveniles were significantly less likely to think it was psychologically addictive, compared to adults (42% versus 61%).

30%
Marijuana is
physically addictive

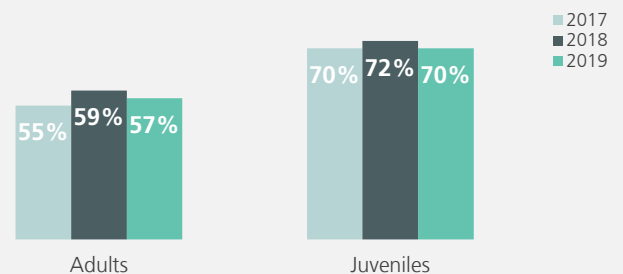
61% adults
42% juveniles
Marijuana is
psychologically addictive

*Significant at $p < .05$.

Highlight 3

Dabs are concentrated doses of cannabis made by extracting THC using a solvent. The result is a sticky oil that is heated on a hot surface (such as a nail) and inhaled. Over two-thirds (70%) of juveniles say they have ever dabbled THC, significantly more than adults (57%) in 2019. The use of dabbing is a concern because of the higher concentration of the drug that can be consumed and how quickly the high can happen, as well as the risk of explosions when THC is extracted for dabbing. In 2019, for adults, the mean age they first dabbled was 25.8, and for juveniles, it was 13.6.

Ever dabbled*

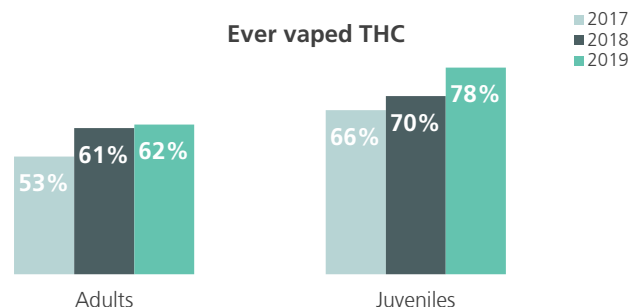


*Significant at $p < .05$.

Highlight 4

Over three-fourths (78%) of juveniles reported ever vaping THC in 2019, as did 62% of adults. These percentages were higher than those reported in 2017 and 2018. In 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued warnings related to vaping any products that contain THC.

Ever vaped THC

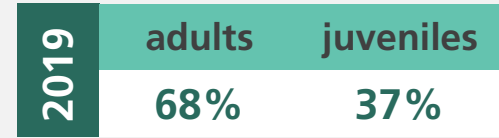


¹ In 2019, the marijuana addendum was completed with 357 individuals (283 adults and 74 juveniles), in 2018 with 366 individuals (277 adults and 89 juveniles), and in 2017 with 378 (301 adults and 77 juveniles). More information is available about the SAM program at sandag.org/cj.

Highlight 5

More than two-thirds (68%) of adults and 37% of juveniles in 2019 said they think the potency of marijuana has increased since they started using it. Adults were significantly more likely to report marijuana had gotten stronger over time, which is not surprising considering they have most likely been using it for a longer period of time.

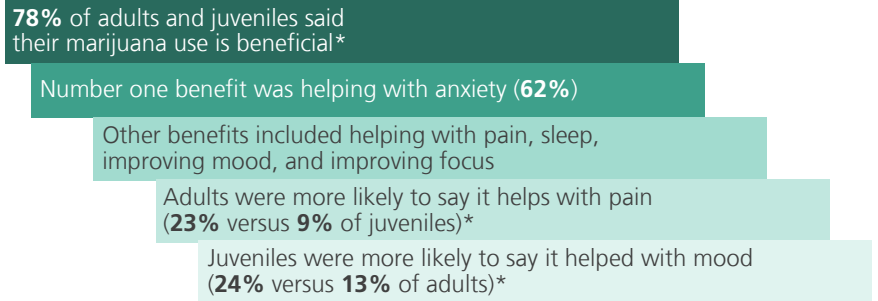
Think the potency of marijuana has increased since they started using it



*Significant at $p < .05$.

Highlight 6

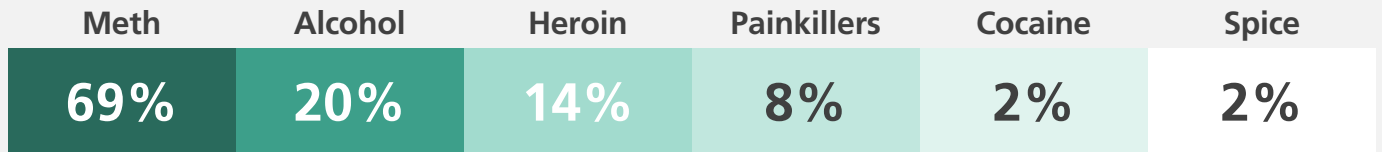
Around three-quarters (78%) of adults and juveniles said their marijuana use was beneficial to them. The top benefit overall was helping with anxiety (62%), followed by helping with pain (20%), helping with sleep (17%), improving mood (15%), and improving focus (10%). Of those who reported benefits, juveniles were more likely to say it made them less anxious and improved their mood, and adults were more likely to say it helped with pain.



*Significant at $p < .05$.

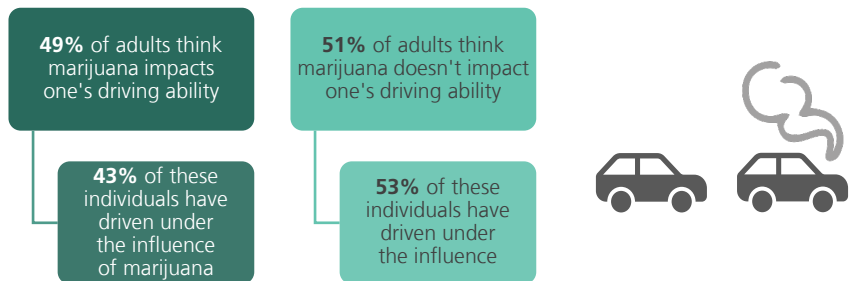
Highlight 7

Around 1 in 7 arrestees (14%) said they use marijuana with another drug, most often meth (69%).



Highlight 8

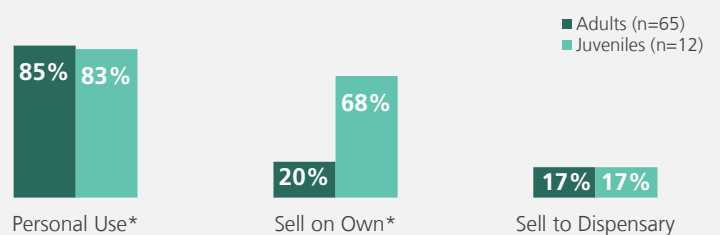
In 2019, 49% of adult arrestees thought that marijuana could impact someone's driving ability, and 47% had driven under the influence of marijuana. Of the adults who thought marijuana could impact one's driving ability, 43% also reported driving under the influence, versus 53% of those who thought it did not.



Highlight 9

Just over 1 in 5 (22%) arrestees said they had grown or helped someone else grow marijuana plants in the past year, the same percentage as 2018, but lower than the 32% in 2017. Juveniles were significantly more likely to grow plants to sell on their own, though these last two differences were not significant. On average (median), individuals grew 3 plants for their own use, 9 to sell on their own, and 100 to sell to a dispensary.

Purpose for growing or helping someone else grow marijuana plants



*Significant at $p < .05$.