

## Marijuana Use Among San Diego Arrestees: Results of Addendum Questions Post-Prop 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 the set of Substance Abuse Monitoring questionnaires. These additional questions related to how marijuana was used, marijuana use and driving, as well as the perceived benefits of use, among other topics. This CJ Flash highlights results from 2017<sup>1</sup>, the first full year the additional questions were asked.

### Highlight 1

Two in three juveniles (67%) and over half (54%) of adults said it is more likely they will use marijuana since its legalization. In addition, juveniles were significantly less likely than adults to think that marijuana could be psychologically addictive (47% versus 66%). Around one in three (30%) arrestees overall thought marijuana could be physically addictive as well.

More likely to use marijuana now it is legal

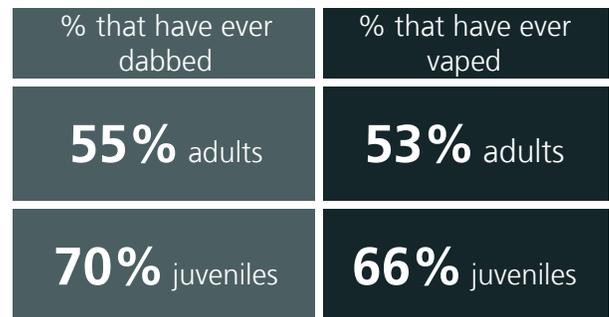
**67%** of juveniles      **54%** of adults

Think marijuana is psychologically addictive

**47%** of juveniles      **66%** of adults

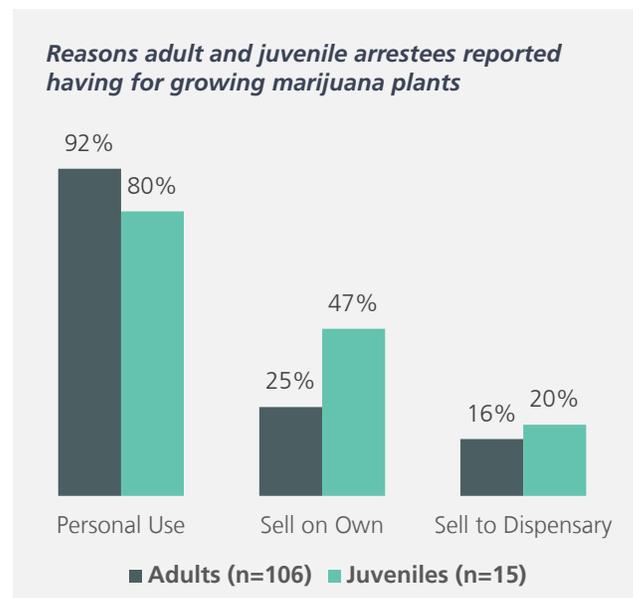
### Highlight 2

While adults and juveniles were equally likely to report ever smoking (100%) and eating (78%) marijuana, juveniles were significantly more likely to report dabbing<sup>2</sup> and vaping, with around two in three using these alternative methods. 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. For adults, the mean age they first dabbled was 28.06, and for juveniles it was 14.02.



### Highlight 3

Adults were significantly more likely to report they had grown marijuana plants in the past year than juveniles (around one in three [35%] compared to one in five [19%]). However, when asked who the plants were for, it was interesting to note that juveniles were more likely to have the plants to sell, compared to adults.



**Three individuals reported ever visiting an ER because of marijuana use – 1 because of dehydration and 2 because they had consumed too much THC when using edibles.**

<sup>1</sup> The addendum was completed with 301 adult and 77 juvenile arrestees who reported marijuana uses in the last year.

<sup>2</sup> Of the 213 arrestees who ever reported dabbing, 85 percent had used wax, 56 percent shatter, and 49 percent butane hash oil. Fourteen percent also reported that they had ever been involved cooking dabs.

## Highlight 4

Adults were more likely to report ever driving after consuming marijuana (54%), compared to juveniles (26%), which is not necessarily surprising given the driving age. However, it is interesting to note that juveniles were less likely to think that marijuana could impact a person's ability to drive, compared to adults (39% versus 51%).



## Highlight 5

Almost two-thirds (63%) of the adults reported the potency/strength of marijuana had increased since they first used it, compared to 39 percent of the juveniles.

**Adult and juvenile perception of how potency of marijuana has changed since they started using it**



## Highlight 6

Three in four (74%) of those surveyed overall reported that their own use of marijuana was beneficial in some way. When asked to describe how, the top responses included it helped with their anxiety, pain, and put them in a better mood overall. In addition, 14 percent said it helped them with their sleep and 13 percent to eat, which could be related to trying to counteract the effects of other drug use by the individual, such as meth<sup>3</sup>.



<sup>3</sup> Of the 54 arrestees who reported using marijuana with something else, 30 said they used it with methamphetamine, 18 with alcohol, 8 with crack/cocaine, 7 with heroin, 5 with prescription drugs, and 1 with tobacco.