

## Marijuana Use Among San Diego Arrestees: Two 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 the set of 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 2018, as well as comparisons to 2017, 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.<sup>1</sup>

### Highlight 1

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



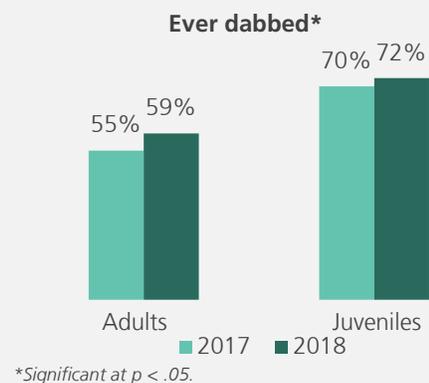
### Highlight 2

Around 1 in 3 (31%) arrestees said they thought marijuana was physically addictive and 3 in 5 (61%) it was psychologically addictive. There was no significant difference between adults and juveniles.



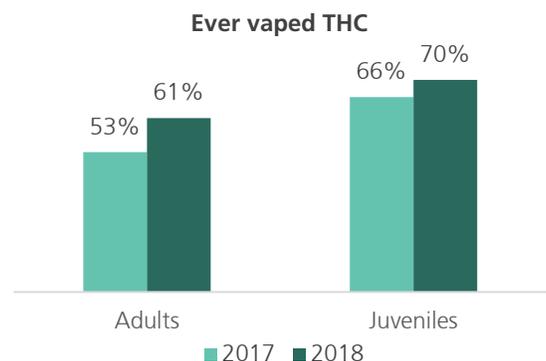
### Highlight 3

Dabs are concentrated doses of cannabis that are 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. Almost three in four (72%) juveniles say they have ever dabbled THC, significantly more than adults (59%) in 2018. The use of dabbing is a concern because of the higher concentration of the drugs 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 2018, for adults, the mean age they first dabbled was 27.1, and for juveniles, it was 14.2.



### Highlight 4

Seventy percent (70%) of juveniles reported ever vaping THC in 2018, as did 61% of adults. These percentages were higher than those reported in 2017 for both juveniles (66% in 2017) and adults (53% in 2017). In 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued warnings related to vaping any products that contain THC.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> In 2018, the marijuana addendum was completed with 366 individuals (277 adults and 89 juveniles), and in 2017 it was completed with 378 (301 adults and 77 juveniles). More information is available about the SAM program at [sandag.org/cj](http://sandag.org/cj).

<sup>2</sup> [fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/vaping-illness-update-fda-warns-public-stop-using-tetrahydrocannabinol-thc-containing-vaping](http://fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/vaping-illness-update-fda-warns-public-stop-using-tetrahydrocannabinol-thc-containing-vaping)

## Highlight 5

Almost 3 in 4 (71%) adults and over half (53%) of juveniles in 2018 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

Adults were significantly more likely than juveniles (80% versus 58%) in 2018 to say that their marijuana use had beneficial effects for them. 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.

**80% of adults** and **58% of juveniles** said their marijuana use is beneficial\*

Juveniles were more likely to say it helps with anxiety/anxiousness (**81%** versus **54% of adults**)\*

Juveniles were more likely to say it helps improve their mood (**31%** versus **18% of adults**)\*

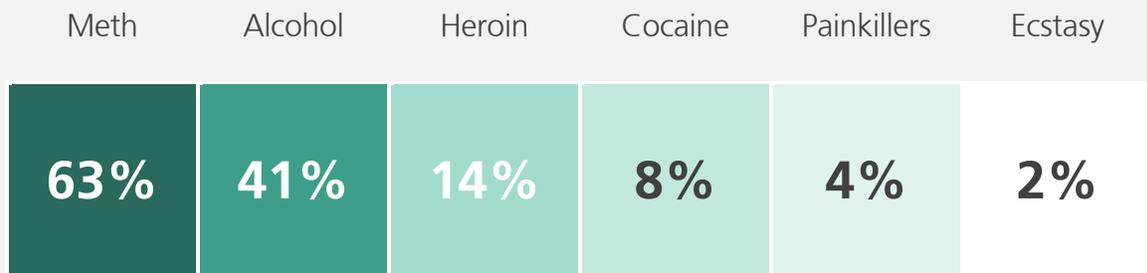
Adults were more likely to say it helps with pain (**20%** versus **2% of juveniles**)\*

Adults and juveniles were equally likely to say it helps them sleep (**20% of adults** and **21% of juveniles**)

\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

## Highlight 7

Around 1 in 7 arrestees (15%; 17% of adults and 8% of juveniles) said they use marijuana with another drug, most often meth (63%).



## Highlight 8

In 2018, 56% of adult arrestees thought that marijuana could impact someone's driving ability, and 55% had driven under the influence of marijuana. Of the adults who thought marijuana could impact one's driving ability, 51% also reported driving under the influence, versus 63% of those who thought it did not.



56% of adults think marijuana impacts one's driving ability

44% of adults think marijuana doesn't impact one's driving ability

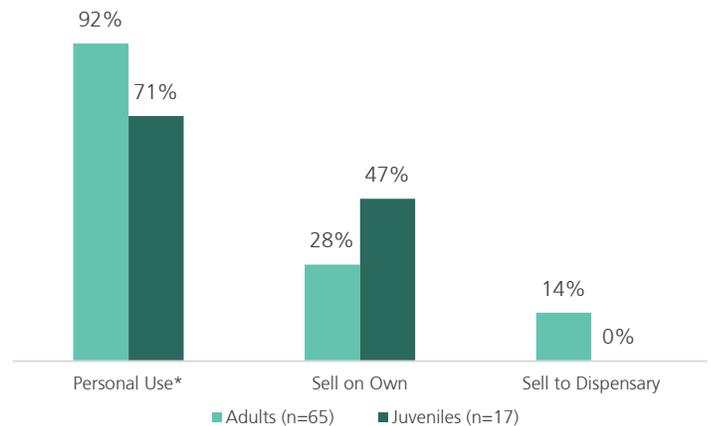
51% of these individuals have driven under the influence of marijuana

63% of these individuals have driven under the influence

## Highlight 9

Just over 1 in 5 (22%) arrestees said they had grown or helped someone else grow marijuana plants in the past year, which was lower than in 2017 (32%). Adults were significantly more likely to grow plant(s) for their own use and to sell to a dispensary, and juveniles were more likely to grow them to sell on their own, though these last two differences were not significant. On average (median), individuals grew 4 plants for their own use, 13 to sell on their own, and 20 to sell to a dispensary.

Purpose for growing or helping someone else grow marijuana plants



\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

## Highlight 10

In 2017, three individuals (1%) reported ever visiting an emergency room for any reason related to their marijuana use. In 2018, this had increased to eight (2%). While these numbers are still relatively small, this is a notable increase.

