

# Provincial Patterns and Trends in Cannabis Use among Youth: **Saskatchewan**

## Background: Cannabis Use in Canada

This factsheet presents recent patterns and trends of cannabis use among young people in Saskatchewan, including prevalence of use, perceptions of harm, cannabis use and driving, and dimensions of risk.

- In October 2018, the Government of Canada implemented the *Cannabis Act*, legalizing cannabis for non-medical use in Canada.
- The legislation prioritizes the health and safety of young Canadians by restricting youth access to cannabis through regulations on its production, sale and consumption.
- Canadian youth report the highest prevalence rates of non-medical cannabis use among developed countries.
- Patterns of non-medical cannabis use among Canadian youth vary by region.
- Some subgroups of youth, including Indigenous youth and youth belonging to gender-based minorities, demonstrate increased risk of experiencing cannabis-related harms.
- Increasing awareness and understanding of the risks and harms unique to Canadian youth can inform the development and implementation of cannabis public education efforts.

## Highlights

- In 2016–2017, Saskatchewan students reported the third highest prevalence of cannabis use in Canada, with almost 15% of students having used cannabis in the past 30 days.
- Students in grades 10–12 reported four times greater prevalence of cannabis use in the past 12 months than students in grades 7–9 (34.6% vs 8.1%).
- Prevalence of past-year cannabis use was similar among males and females (23.0% and 21.4%).
- Among students in grades 7–12 who reported using cannabis in the past year, over one in three (42%) reported using it once or more per week.
- Among students in grades 7–12 who reported using cannabis in the past year, the majority reported smoking it (92%), followed by dabbing it (40%) and vaping it (32%).
- Among youth aged 15–24 who reported using cannabis at least once in their lifetime, the mean age of initiation was 16.4 years of age for males and 15.9 years for females.
- Over half of youth in grades 10–12 (56%) reported cannabis to be fairly easy or very easy to obtain. The usual ways of obtaining it were sharing among friends (38%), getting or buying it from someone else (29%), or getting or buying it from a friend or family member (11%).



## Data Sources

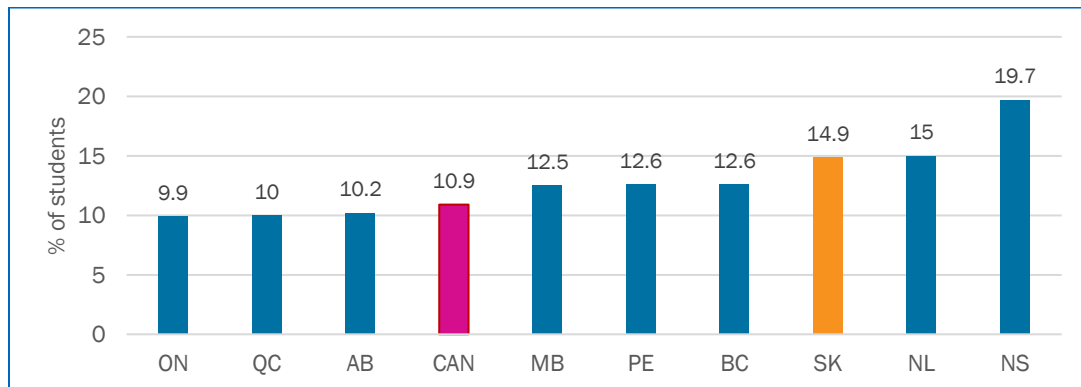
This report is based on the following sources of school and population-based survey data on cannabis use among youth.

- Canadian Student Tobacco Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CSTADS) is a biennial school-based survey of students in grades 7 to 12, conducted on behalf of Health Canada.
- Cancer Risk Assessment among Youth (CRAYS) is a school-based survey of students in grades 9 to 12 in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.
- Canadian Tobacco Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CTADS) is a telephone-based (including cell phones) survey of the Canadian population aged 15 and older, living outside of institutions and First Nations reserve communities, conducted by Statistics Canada.

## Prevalence of Cannabis Use among Youth across Canada

- Saskatchewan students had the third highest prevalence of use in Canada in 2016–2017.
- About 15% of students in grades 7 to 12 had used cannabis in the past 30 days.

Past-30-day cannabis use among grade 7–12 students

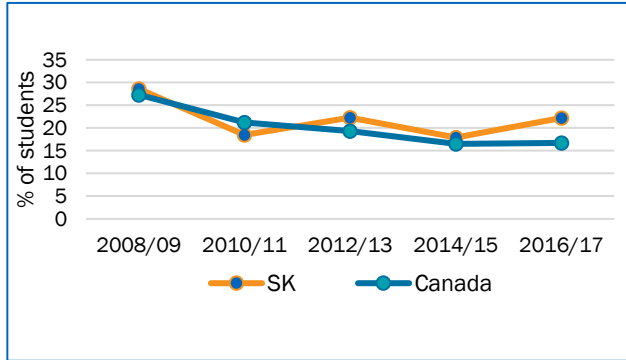


Source: CSTADS 2016–2017



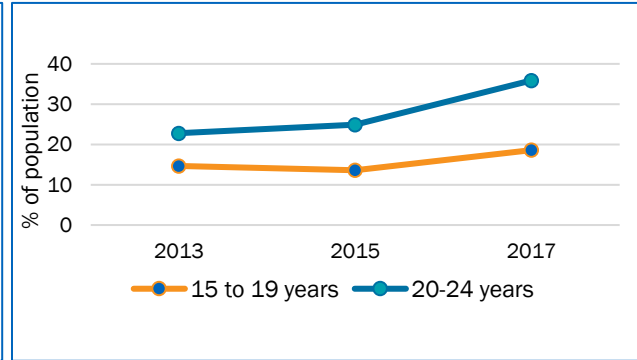
## Patterns of Cannabis Use among Youth in Saskatchewan

**Past-12-month cannabis use by grade 7–12 students (2008–2009 to 2016/17)**



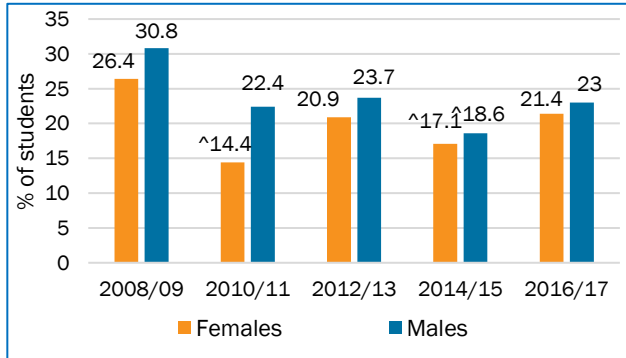
^ Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution: SK 2010–2011 and SK 2014–2015.  
Source: CSTADS 2008–2009 to 2016–2017

**Past-12-month cannabis use by youth aged 15–24 (2013 to 2017)**



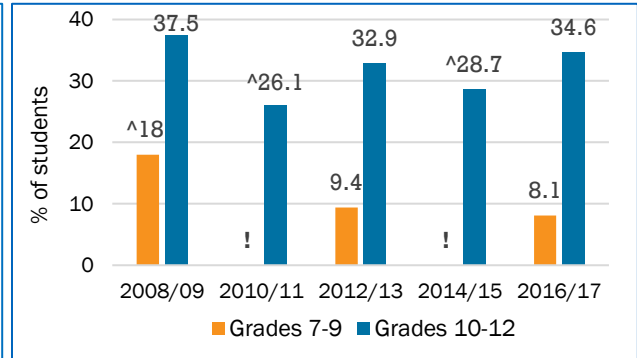
^ Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution: 15–19 years: 2103 and 2017.  
Source: CTADS 2013, 2015, 2017

**Past-12-month cannabis use by sex (2008–2009 to 2016–2017)**



^ Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution.  
Source: CSTADS 2008–2009 to 2016–2017

**Past-12-month cannabis use by grade (2008–2009 to 2016–2017)**



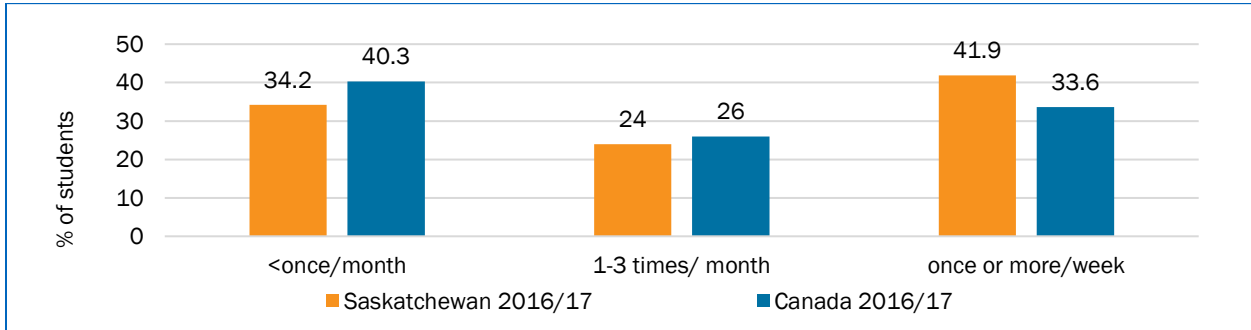
Source: CSTADS 2008–2009 to 2016–2017  
^ Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution.  
! Due to low sample size and/or large coefficients of variation, the quality of these estimates is low.

- Past 12-month use has remained unchanged overall among grade 7–12 youth since 2008–2009; as well as among males and females.
- Past 12-month cannabis use among youth in grades 7–9 has decreased in Saskatchewan since 2008–2009.
- Among 15 to 24-year old, past 12-month use has also increased since 2013.



### Frequency of Cannabis Use among Students in Saskatchewan

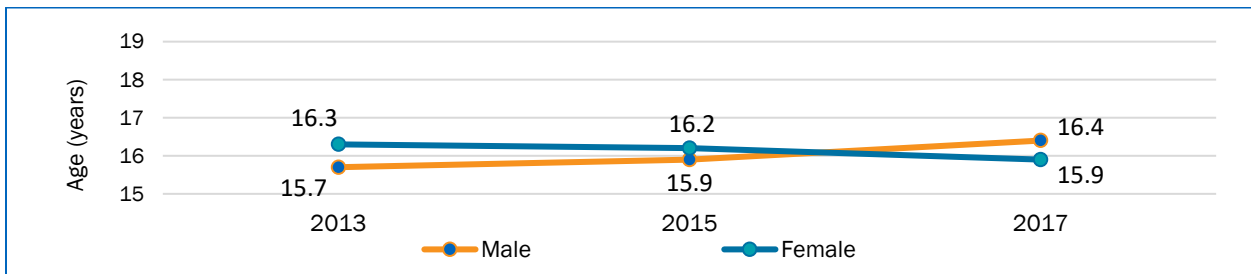
Frequency of cannabis use in past 12 months among students who have used cannabis



Source: CSTADS 2016–2017

### Age of First Cannabis Use among Youth in Saskatchewan

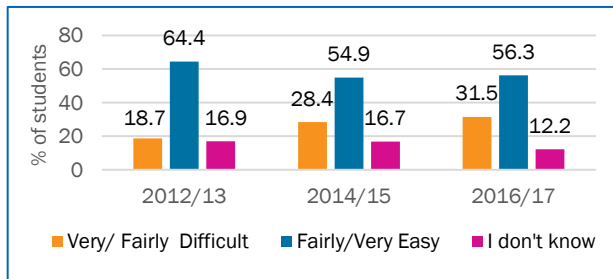
Mean age for initiating cannabis use among youth aged 15–24



Source: CTADS 2013, 2015, 2017

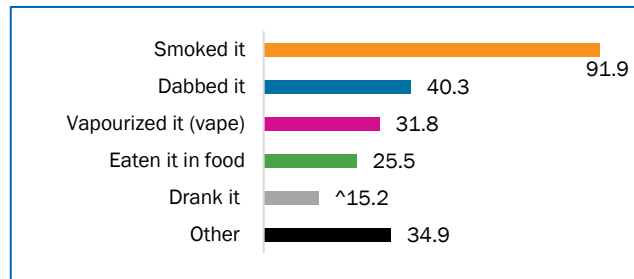
### Mode of Use and Ease of Access to Cannabis

Perceived ease of access among grade 10–12 students



Source: CSTADS 2012–2013, 2014–2015, 2016/17

Mode of cannabis use in the past 12 months in grade 7–12 students



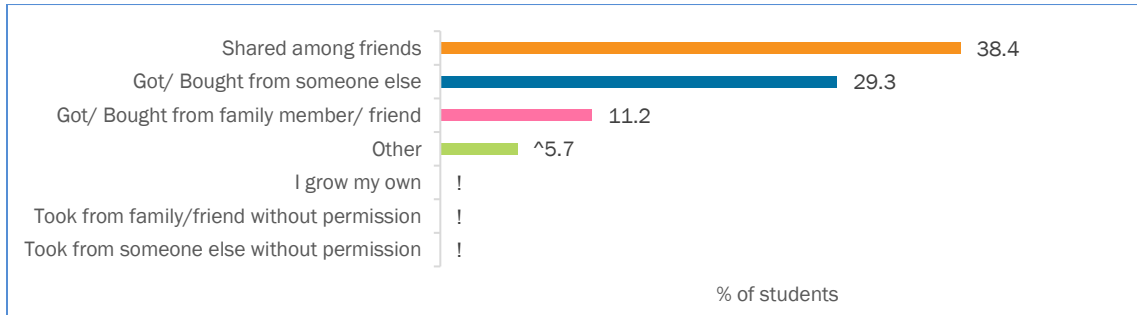
^ Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution. Source: CSTADS 2016–2017

- Among students who have used cannabis in the last 12 months, about one third use less than once per month.
- Age of initiating cannabis use among males and females has not changed significantly between 2015 and 2017.
- Among students who have used cannabis in the past 12 months, the large majority have smoked it.
- The perceived ease of access to cannabis among grade 10–12 students has remained relatively unchanged from 2014–2015 and 2016–2017, with over half of students finding it fairly or very easy to obtain.



### Usual Source of Cannabis

Usual source of cannabis among grade 7–12 students who have ever tried cannabis (2016–2017)



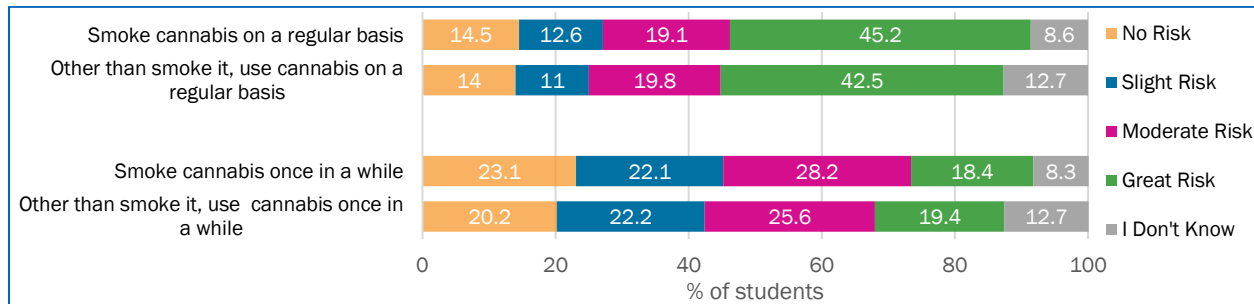
Source: CSTADS 2016–2017

^ Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution.

! Due to low sample size and/or large coefficients of variation, the quality of these estimates is low.

### Perceived Harms of Cannabis Use

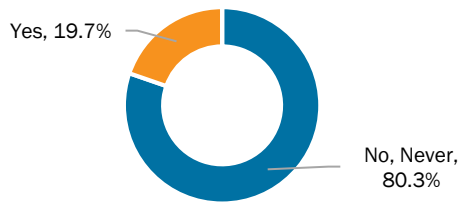
Responses to "How much do people risk harming themselves when they do each of the following activities?" among grade 7–12 students (2016–2017)



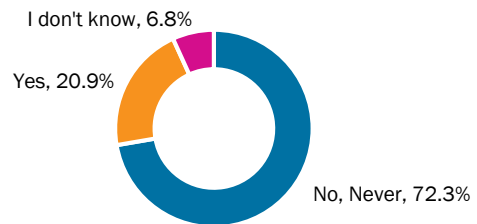
Source: CSTADS 2016–2017

### Cannabis Use and Driving

Grade 11–12 students who reported having driven a motor vehicle within two hours of using cannabis (2016–2017)



Grade 7–12 students who reported being a passenger in a motor vehicle driven by someone who had used cannabis in previous two hours (2016–2017)



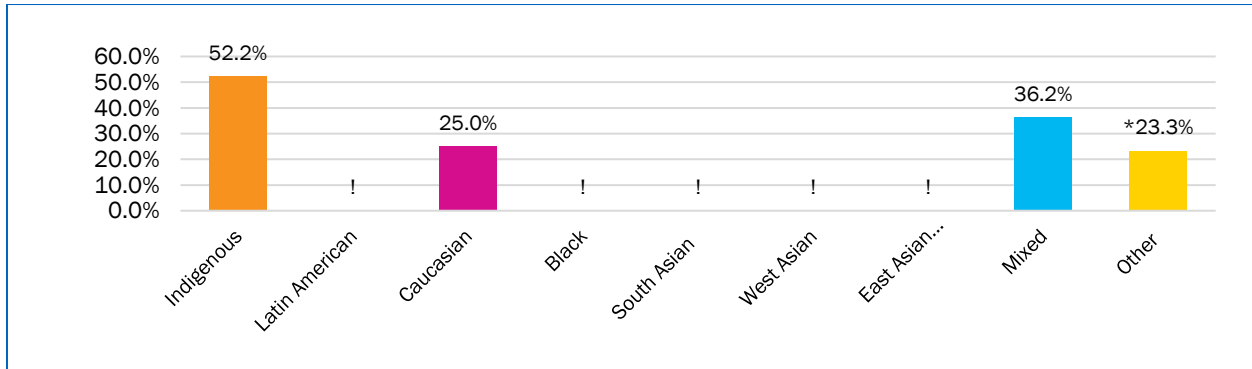
\*Motor vehicles include a broad range: cars, motorcycles, off-road vehicles (including agricultural machinery), light trucks and regular trucks.

- Before legalization, the majority of students reported that they shared cannabis among friends or that they purchased it from someone else.
- The majority of students feel that using cannabis on a regular basis is a risk.
- The majority of students reported they had not driven a motor vehicle within two hours of using cannabis or had not been a passenger in a motor vehicle driven by someone who used cannabis within the last two hours; about 20% stated they had.



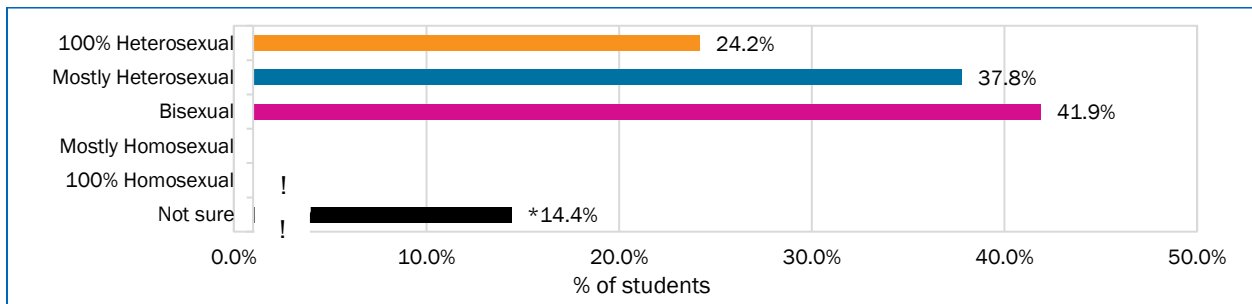
### Dimensions of Risk for Cannabis Use among Saskatchewan Youth

Past 12-month cannabis use among grade 9–12 students, by ethnic group (2017)



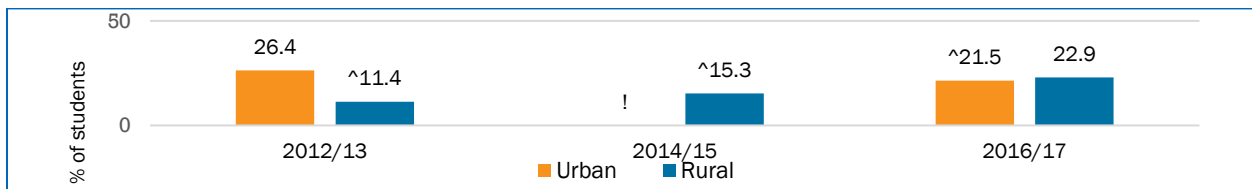
\* Due to low sample size and/or large coefficients of variation, the quality of these estimates is low. Interpret with extreme caution.  
 ! Due to low sample size and/or large coefficients of variation, the quality of these estimates is low.  
 Source: CRAYS 2017

Past 12 month cannabis use among grade 9–12 students, by sexual orientation† (2017)



\* Due to low sample size and/or large coefficients of variation, the quality of these estimates is low. Interpret with extreme caution.  
 ! Due to low sample size and/or large coefficients of variation, the quality of these estimates is low.  
 † Measuring sexual identity and orientation is difficult and changing. According to Statistics Canada, in 2016 4% to 10% of Canadian youth considered themselves either homosexual or bisexual.  
 Source: CRAYS 2017

Past 12-month use among grade 7–12 students attending urban and rural schools



^ Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution.  
 ! Due to low sample size and/or large coefficients of variation, the quality of these estimates is low.  
 Source: CSTADS 2012–2013, 2014–2015, 2016–2017

- Indigenous grade 9–12 students reported 52% prevalence of cannabis use in the past 12 months.
- Youth who were not 100% heterosexual reported a higher prevalence of cannabis use in the past 12 months than youth who were 100% heterosexual.
- The prevalence of past-year cannabis use among students attending school in a rural setting has been lower than students attending school in an urban setting in 2012–2013. The prevalence of past-year cannabis use was similar among students attending school in a rural setting and students attending school in an urban setting in 2014–2015 and 2016–2017.



## Appendix: Data Table and Confidence Intervals

Series	Year	Percent- age	95% Confi- dence Limits
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, SK	2016–2017	22.2	[17.5-26.9]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, SK	2014–2015	17.9	[8.1-27.6]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, SK	2012–2013	22.3	[17.5-27.2]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, SK	2010–2011	18.5	[11.5-25.5]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, SK	2008–2009	28.6	[20.3-36.9]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, Canada	2016–2017	16.7	[15.0-18.3]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, Canada	2014–2015	16.5	[15.3-17.8]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, Canada	2012–2013	19.3	[17.1-21.5]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, Canada	2010–2011	21.2	[19.7-22.6]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–12, Canada	2008–2009	27.3	[25.7-29.0]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–9	2016–2017	8.1	[5.8-10.4]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–9	2014–2015	!	!
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–9	2012–2013	9.4	[6.5-12.4]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–9	2010–2011	!	!
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 7–9	2008–2009	18.0	[10.0-26.0]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 10-12	2016–2017	34.6	[26.9-42.3]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 10-12	2014–2015	28.7	[13.7-43.8]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 10-12	2012–2013	32.9	[26.0-39.8]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 10-12	2010–2011	26.1	[17.4-34.7]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, grades 10-12	2008–2009	37.5	[28.3-46.7]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, male	2016–2017	23.0	[19.4-26.6]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, male	2014–2015	18.6	[9.0-28.3]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, male	2012–2013	23.7	[18.7-28.6]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, male	2010–2011	22.4	[16.1-28.8]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, male	2008–2009	30.8	[21.7-39.8]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, female	2016–2017	21.4	[14.8-28.0]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, female	2014–2015	17.1	[6.7-27.4]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, female	2012–2013	20.9	[16.0-25.9]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, female	2010–2011	14.4	[6.2-22.6]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, female	2008–2009	26.4	[18.3-34.5]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, age 15–19	2017	18.6	[12.4-24.8]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, age 15–19	2015	13.6	[9.3-17.9]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, age 15–19	2013	14.7	[9.9-19.6]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, age 20–24	2017	35.9	[25.2-46.7]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, age 20–24	2015	24.9	[18.5-31.3]
Cannabis use, past 12 months, age 20–24	2013	22.8	[16.6-29.0]
Past 12-month, frequency of use, <once/month, SK	2016–2017	34.2	[27.7-40.6]
Past 12-month, frequency of use, 1–3 times/month, SK	2016–2017	24.0	[19.5-28.4]
Past 12-month, frequency of use, once/week or more, SK	2016–2017	41.9	[32.8-50.9]
Past 12-month, frequency of use, <once/month, Canada	2016–2017	40.3	[37.9-42.8]
Past 12-month, frequency of use, 1–3 times/ month, Canada	2016–2017	26.0	[24.5-27.6]
Past 12-month, frequency of use, once /week or more, Canada	2016–2017	33.6	[31.6-35.7]
Age at Initiation, female	2017	15.9	[15.3-16.5]
Age at Initiation, female	2015	16.2	[15.7-16.7]
Age at Initiation, female	2013	16.3	[15.8-16.8]
Age at Initiation, male	2017	16.4	[15.6-17.2]
Age at Initiation, male	2015	15.9	[15.2-16.6]
Age at Initiation, male	2013	15.7	[15.0-16.5]
Past 12 months mode of cannabis use, smoke	2016–2017	91.9	[88.8-95.0]
Past 12 months mode of cannabis use, eaten in food	2016–2017	25.5	[17.7-33.4]
Past 12 months mode of cannabis use, drank	2016–2017	15.2	[9.8-20.7]
Past 12 months mode of cannabis use, vaped	2016–2017	31.8	[23.6-40.1]
Past 12 months mode of cannabis use, dabbed	2016–2017	40.3	[34.2-46.3]
Past 12 months mode of cannabis use, other	2016–2017	34.9	[28.2-41.6]
Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, very/fairly easy	2016–2017	56.3	[50.1-62.4]
Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, very/fairly difficult	2016–2017	31.5	[26.1-37.0]
Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, I do not know	2016–2017	12.2	[9.5-14.9]
Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, very/fairly easy	2014–2015	54.9	[46.0-63.8]
Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, very/fairly difficult	2014–2015	28.4	[23.0-33.8]
Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, I do not know	2014–2015	16.7	[11.9-21.5]
Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, very/fairly easy	2012–2013	64.4	[59.4-69.4]



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Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, very/fairly difficult	2012–2013	18.7	[16.3-21.1]
Perceived ease of access, grade 10–12, I do not know	2012–2013	16.9	[13.6-20.1]
Usual source of cannabis, last 12 months, shared among friends	2016–2017	38.4	[32.6-44.2]
Usual source of cannabis, last 12 months, got/bought from friend/family	2016–2017	11.2	[9.2-13.3]
Usual source of cannabis, last 12 months, got/bought from someone else	2016–2017	29.3	[23.3-35.2]
Usual source of cannabis, last 12 months, took it from family member/ friend without permission	2016–2017	!	!
Usual source of cannabis, last 12 months, took it from someone else, without permission	2016–2017	!	!
Usual source of cannabis, last 12 months, grow my own	2016–2017	!	!
Usual source of cannabis, last 12 months, other	2016–2017	5.7	[2.6-8.9]
Smoke cannabis on a regular basis: No risk	2016–2017	14.5	[11.9-17.2]
Smoke cannabis on a regular basis: slight risk	2016–2017	12.6	[10.5-14.7]
Smoke cannabis on a regular basis: moderate risk	2016–2017	19.1	[17.2-21.0]
Smoke cannabis on a regular basis: great risk	2016–2017	45.2	[40.8-49.6]
Smoke cannabis on a regular basis: I do not know	2016–2017	8.6	[7.2-10.1]
Smoke cannabis once in a while: No risk	2016–2017	23.1	[19.8-26.4]
Smoke cannabis once in a while: slight risk	2016–2017	22.1	[20.3-23.9]
Smoke cannabis once in a while: moderate risk	2016–2017	28.2	[25.9-30.4]
Smoke cannabis once in a while: great risk	2016–2017	18.4	[15.9-20.9]
Smoke cannabis once in a while: I do not know	2016–2017	8.3	[6.8-9.7]
Other than smoke, use on a regular basis: no risk	2016–2017	14.0	[11.2-16.8]
Other than smoke, use on a regular basis: slight risk	2016–2017	11.0	[8.7-13.3]
Other than smoke, use on a regular basis: moderate	2016–2017	19.8	[18.0-21.6]
Other than smoke, use on a regular basis: great risk	2016–2017	42.5	[39.0-46.0]
Other than smoke, use on a regular basis: I do not know	2016–2017	12.7	[11.2-14.3]
Other than smoke, use once in a while: no risk	2016–2017	20.2	[17.0-23.4]
Other than smoke, use once in a while: slight risk	2016–2017	22.2	[19.6-24.7]
Other than smoke, use once in a while: moderate	2016–2017	25.6	[23.1-28.1]
Other than smoke, use once in a while: great risk	2016–2017	19.4	[17.0-21.8]
Other than smoke, use once in a while: I do not know	2016–2017	12.7	[10.9-14.5]
Driven a vehicle within 2 hours of using cannabis, yes	2016–2017	19.7	[15.4-24.1]
Passenger within 2 hours of driver using cannabis, yes	2016–2017	20.9	[16.4-25.5]
Passenger within 2 hours of driver using cannabis, no	2016–2017	72.3	[67.4-77.1]
Passenger within 2 hours of driver using cannabis, I don't know	2016–2017	6.8	[5.7-7.9]
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among Indigenous/ Aboriginal	2017	52.2	[36.6-67.9]
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among Latin American/ Hispanic	2017	!	!
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among Caucasian	2017	25.0	[20.8-29.1]
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among Black	2017	!	!
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among South Asian (Indian...)	2017	!	!
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among East/ Southeast Asian	2017	!	!
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among West Asian/ Arab	2017	!	!
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among Mixed	2017	36.2	[28.8-43.5]
Used cannabis in past 12 months, among Other	2017	23.3	[12.3-34.2]
Used cannabis last 12 months, 100% heterosexual	2017	24.2	[20.7-27.8]
Used cannabis last 12 months, mostly heterosexual	2017	37.8	[27.3-48.4]
Used cannabis last 12 months, bisexual	2017	41.9	[30.6-53.2]
Used cannabis last 12 months, mostly homosexual	2017	!	!
Used cannabis last 12 months, 100% homosexual	2017	!	!
Used cannabis last 12 months, not sure	2017	14.4	[5.5-23.3]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, Saskatchewan	2016–2017	14.9	[10.5-19.4]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, Ontario	2016–2017	9.9	[7.4-12.4]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, British Columbia	2016–2017	12.6	[9.5-15.7]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, Alberta	2016–2017	10.2	[8.4-12.0]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, Manitoba	2016–2017	12.5	[10.1-14.8]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, Prince Edward Island	2016–2017	12.6	[10.1-15.0]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, Nova Scotia	2016–2017	19.7	[17.6-21.8]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, Quebec	2016–2017	10.0	[9.0-10.9]
Cannabis use, past 30 days, Newfoundland and Labrador	2016–2017	15.0	[13.4-16.7]
Past 12-month cannabis use in urban youth, grades 7–12	2016–2017	21.5	[13.0-29.9]
Past 12-month Cannabis use in rural youth, grades 7–12	2016–2017	22.9	[16.3-29.6]
Past 12-month Cannabis use in urban youth, grades 7–12	2014–2015	!	!
Past 12-month Cannabis use in rural youth, grades 7–12	2014–2015	15.3	[8.1-22.5]
Past 12-month Cannabis use in urban youth, grades 7–12	2012–2013	26.4	[19.2-33.7]
Past 12-month Cannabis use in rural youth, grades 7–12	2012–2013	11.4	[7.0-15.8]





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