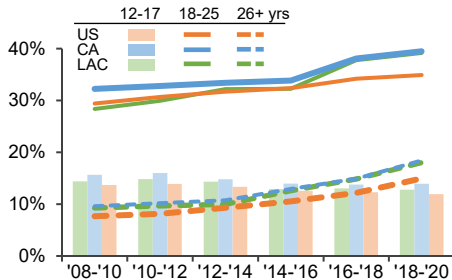


SAPC Data Brief

Impact of Marijuana Use

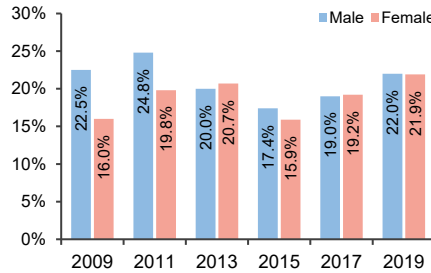
Prevalence Rate

Marijuana use in the past year, by age, 2008-2020¹



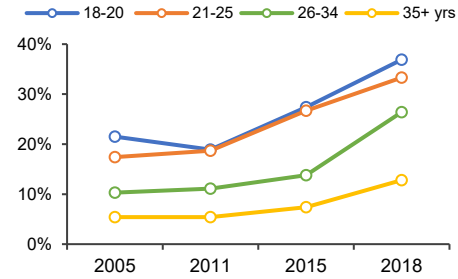
Rates of marijuana use among youth, young adults, and adults in Los Angeles County (LAC) were higher than in the US and lower than in California.

Marijuana use in the past month, by gender, 9th-12th graders, LAC, 2009-2019²



Rates of marijuana use among high school students in LAC increased and became similar between males and females in recent years.

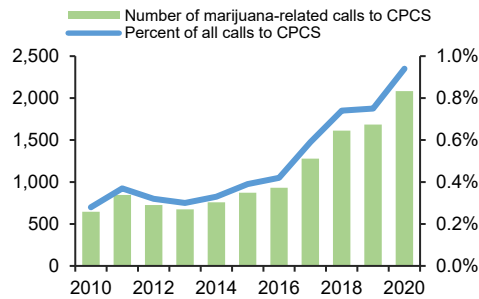
Marijuana use in the past year, by age, LAC, 2005-2018³



Marijuana use increased over the past decade in LAC for all adult age groups, particularly among underage (18-20 years) and young adults (21-25 years).

Poison Control Calls

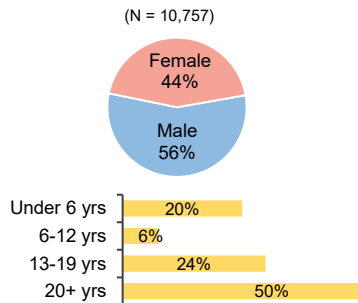
Marijuana-related calls to the California Poison Control System (CPCS)*, CA, 2010-2020⁴



Marijuana-related calls to CPCS gradually increased since 2013, then sharply increased after 2016, when recreational marijuana was legalized.

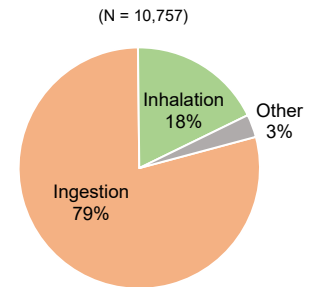
*Updated LAC-specific Poison Control data not available.

Marijuana-related cases reported to CPCS, by gender and age, CA, 2010-2020⁴



Marijuana-related cases reported to CPCS were more often males, and half of cases were among children (<13 years) and adolescents (13-19 years).

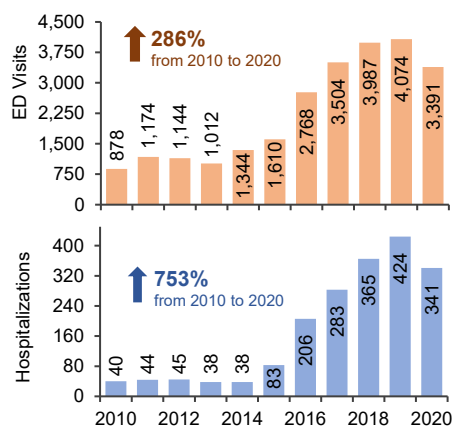
Marijuana-related cases reported to CPCS, by route of exposure, CA, 2010-2020⁴



Marijuana exposure through ingestion accounted for the majority of marijuana-related cases reported to CPCS, followed by inhalation.

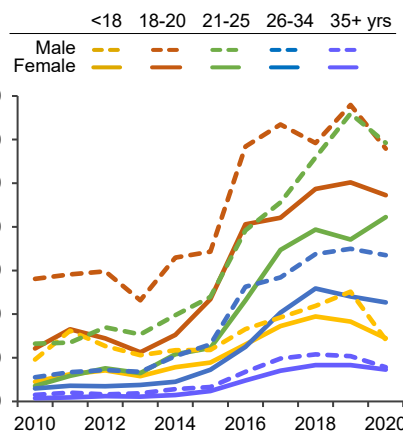
Healthcare Utilization

Marijuana emergency department (ED) visits and hospitalizations^a, LAC, 2010-2020⁵



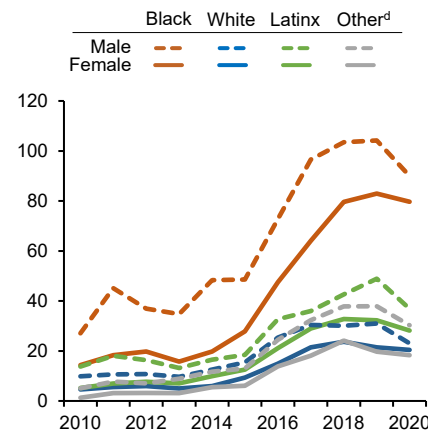
Marijuana ED visits and hospitalizations greatly increased in 2015 and continued to rise in the years following, peaking in 2019.

Marijuana ED visit^b rates, by gender and age, LAC, 2010-2020⁵



Males and females aged 18-20 and 21-25 years had the highest marijuana ED visit rates per 100,000 population.

Marijuana ED visits rates^b, by gender and race/ethnicity^c, LAC, 2010-2020⁵

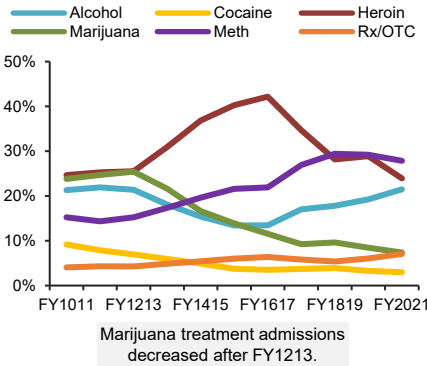


Black males and females consistently had the highest marijuana ED visit rates per 100,000 population over the past decade.

^a ED visits and hospitalizations due to marijuana include records that listed marijuana poisoning, dependence, or abuse as the primary diagnosis (excluding cases in remission). ^b Rates are per 100,000 population. ^c Due to methodological changes in reporting race, use caution when comparing race/ethnicity rates for 2020 with prior years. ^d Other includes Asians, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other.

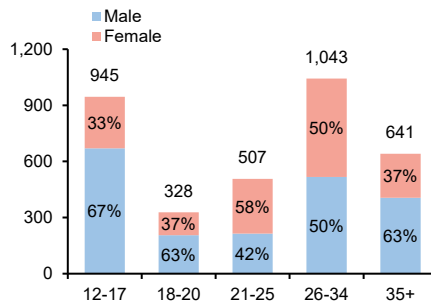
Treatment

Primary drug problem at treatment admission, LAC, FY1011-FY2021⁶



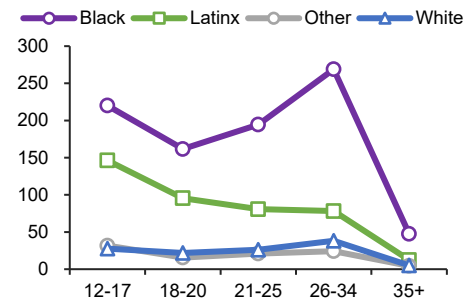
Marijuana treatment admissions decreased after FY1213.

Primary marijuana admissions by age and gender, LAC, FY2021⁶



Males and age 26-34 years were the most common gender and age groups among marijuana treatment admissions.

Primary marijuana admission rate by age and race/ethnicity, LAC, FY2021⁶



Blacks aged 26-34 years had the highest rate of primary marijuana admissions.

References and Notes

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health. 2008-2020 NSDUH Substate Region Estimates by Age Group

- Marijuana is the most commonly used drug in the US, especially among young adults.
- Rates of marijuana use among youth aged 12-17 years, young adults aged 18-25 years, and adults aged 26+ years in Los Angeles County (LAC) were higher than the national average and lower than the state average.
- In 2018-2020, about 12.8% of youth, 35.7% of young adults, and 18.0% of adults had used marijuana in the past year in LAC.
- In LAC, rates of marijuana use in the past year have increased more rapidly than those of CA and US for young adults and adults from 2008 to 2020: Young adults by 38%, and adults by 95%.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009-2019. Youth Online Data Analysis Tool.

- Marijuana use in the past month among high school students in the Los Angeles Unified School District was higher among males compared to females in LAC during the school years 2009-2011, then became similar between males and females thereafter.
- In 2019, among males, current use of marijuana was highest for 12th graders (28.1%). Among females, those in 10th grade had the highest rates of current use (24.2%).

3. Los Angeles County Health Survey, 2005-2018. Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

- Marijuana use in the past year increased for all age groups from 2011 to 2018, particularly among underage adults aged 18-20 years and young adults aged 21-25 years, which both increased from about 19% in 2011 to over 30% in 2018.

4. Roth W, Tam M, Bi C, et al. Changes in California cannabis exposures following

recreational legalization and the COVID-19 pandemic. Clin Toxicol (Phila). 2022; 60(5): 632-638.

- From 2010 to 2020, a total of 10,757 calls for marijuana exposure were received by the California Poison Control System (CPCS) 24/7 hotline for expert poisoning treatment advice and referral.
- Calls for marijuana exposure to CPCS gradually increased since 2013, then sharply increased after 2016, when recreational marijuana use was legalized.
- The number of marijuana exposure-related calls increased 124% from 932 calls in 2016, to 2,084 calls in 2020, accounting for nearly 1% of all calls to CPCS.
- Marijuana-related exposure cases reported to CPCS in 2010-2020 were more frequently made for males (56%) than females (44%).
- Half (50%) of marijuana exposure cases reported to CPCS in 2010-2020 were individuals under age 20 years. Young children under age 6 years accounted for 20%, children aged 6-12 accounted for 6%, and adolescents aged 13-19 years accounted for 24%.
- About 79% of cases reported to California Poison Control were for marijuana exposure involving ingestion, with 18% being due to inhalation, and 3% with exposure by some other route (topical, rectal, parenteral, subcutaneous, or ophthalmic).
- From 2010-2020, about 99% of young children under 6 years and 80% of children aged 6-12 years were reported as unintentional exposures to marijuana.
- Legalization of marijuana retail sales in 2018 may have increased the potential for exposure to marijuana among younger individuals, who are likely to mistake marijuana edibles for normal candy and consume an entire package.

5. Department of Health Care Access and Information (previously OSHPD). Emergency Department and Inpatient Discharge Data Set. California Department of Public Health.

- ED visits due to marijuana (records that listed marijuana poisoning, dependence, or abuse as the primary diagnosis) increased by 286% from 2010 to 2020 in LAC.
- Hospitalizations due to marijuana increased by

750% from 2010 to 2020 in LAC.

- Rates per 100,000 population of marijuana ED visits were highest among underage adult males aged 18-20 years from 2010 to 2019. By 2018, rates for young adults aged 21-25 years had consistently increased and became similar to that of underage adult males aged 18-20 years.
- While males had higher rates of marijuana ED visits than females, the rates increased more rapidly among females than males for all age groups.
- From 2010-2020, Black males and females had the highest rates of marijuana ED visits compared to other gender and racial/ethnic groups. Marijuana ED visit rates for Black males and females were over double those for Latinx, and over triple those for Whites.
- Increases in marijuana-related ED visits and hospitalizations observed in 2015 may be due in part to the change in the diagnosis coding system used by HCAI (transition from ICD9 to ICD10 starting from the fourth quarter of 2015).
- Decreases observed in 2020 may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS) and Sage data. Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

- The proportion of admissions to publicly funded SUD treatment programs with marijuana as the primary drug began decreasing in FY1213.
- From FY1011 to FY1920, primary marijuana admissions in LAC were most common among youth clients aged 12-17 years. However, in FY2021, youth admissions declined, and adults aged 26-34 years became the largest age group for primary marijuana admissions.
- In FY2021, the rate of primary marijuana treatment admissions in LAC per 100,000 population was highest among Blacks for all age groups, particularly Blacks aged 26-34 years. The primary marijuana treatment admission rate among those aged 26-34 years for Blacks was over 3 times higher than that for Latinos, and over 7 times than that for Whites.