

# Washington's Young Adult Health Survey: 8 Years of Trends and Findings

Jason R. Kilmer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

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## Acknowledgements

- Thank you to Sandy Salivaras and Sarah Mariani for the invitation to present to today
- Thank you to CSHRB researchers I've had the honor of collaborating with who continue to advance the science related to cannabis use in a way that impacts the "real world":

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Christine Lee       | • Jason Ramirez               |
| • Katarina Guttmanova | • Annie Fairlie               |
| • Isaac Rhew          | • Scott Graupensperger        |
| • Charlie Fleming     | • Katherine Walukevich-Dienst |
| • Mike Gilson         | • Brian Calhoun               |
| • Brittney Hultgren   | • Connor McCabe               |
| • Jennifer Cadigan    | • Nicole Fossos-Wong          |
|                       | • Mary Larimer                |

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## Why conduct research with young adults between the ages of 18-25?

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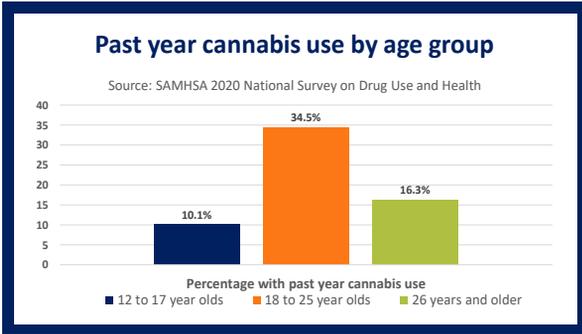
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### Washington Young Adult Health Survey (YAHS)

- Funded by Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery (DBHR):
  - Sarah Mariani
  - Sandy Salivaras
- Young Adult Health Survey Team:
  - Jason Kilmer
  - Mary Larimer
  - Isaac Rhew
  - Alice Yan
  - Rose Lyles-Riebli

Washington State Health Care Authority (Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery) (PI: Kilmer).

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### Young Adult Health Survey Recruitment

- Aimed to collect all Year One data before the first store opened in July 2014
  - 69.3% collected before the first store opened
  - Remaining 30.7% collected into August 2014
    - Only 18 stores had opened statewide in July
    - Only 31 stores had opened by August

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### Young Adult Health Survey Recruitment

- Participants recruited using a combination of direct mail advertising to a random sample from DOL, as well as online advertising (Facebook, Craigslist, Instagram, study web site, etc.)
- Assessed demographics on ongoing basis and modified strategies to recruit under-represented groups
- Convenience sample, not a random sample

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### Post-stratification weighting and analyses

- To improve generalizability, used post-stratification weights based on gender, race, and geographic region
- Weighted results are consistently very similar to non-weighted

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### Young Adult Health Survey

- Each year we collect data from a new cohort of 18-25 year olds

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Kilmer, J.R., Rhew, I.C., Guttmanova, K., Fleming, C.B., Hultgren, B., Gilson, M.S., Cooper, R.L., Dilley, J., & Larimer, M.E. (2022). Cannabis use among young adults in Washington State after legalization of nonmedical cannabis. *American Journal of Public Health, 112*, 638-645.

- n=12,963 young adults in Washington over 6 time points
- Included covariates for:
  - Sex assigned at birth
  - Race
  - Ethnicity
  - Geographic region of the state
  - Age
  - Attending 4 year college
  - Full time employment status
- Computed post-stratification weights to further control for distribution across the samples



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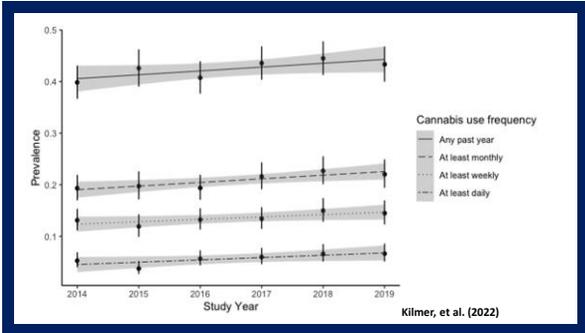
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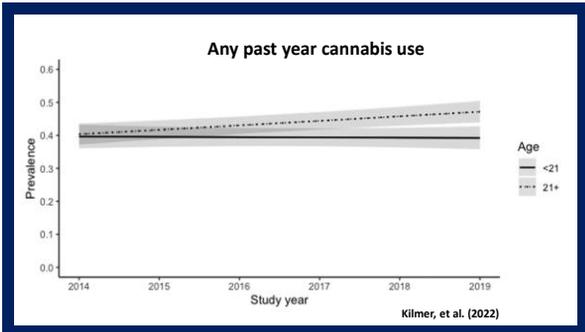
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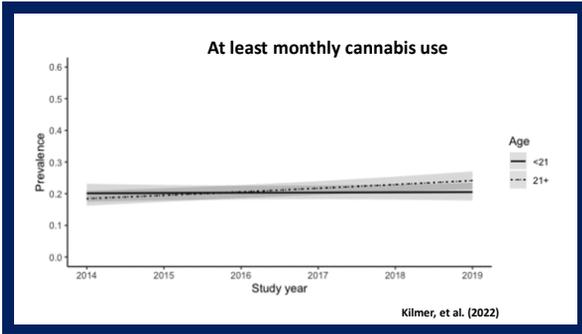
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MaCoun (2013), *Frontiers in Psychiatry*

Criterion	DSM-IV substance dependence	DSM-5 substance use disorder
Tolerance	✓	✓
Withdrawal	✓	✓
Taken more/longer than intended	✓	✓
Desires/unsuccessful efforts to quit use	✓	✓
Great deal of time taken by activities involved in use	✓	✓
Use despite knowledge of problems associated with use	✓	✓
Important activities given up because of use	✓	✓
Recurrent use resulting in a failure to fulfill important role obligations		✓
Recurrent use resulting in physically hazardous behavior (e.g., driving)		✓
Continued use despite recurrent social problems associated with use		✓
Craving for the substance		✓

**DSM-5 Cannabis Use Disorder Criteria**



Mild: 2-3 symptoms  
 Moderate: 4-5 symptoms  
 Severe: 6+ symptoms

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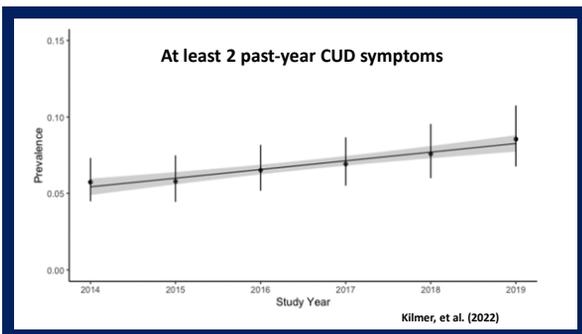
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What have trends looked like in the two years that followed?

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Any past year "recreational"/non-medical/personal use:  
Final five cohorts higher than cohort 1

	Cohort 1 (2014)	Cohort 2 (2015)	Cohort 3 (2016)	Cohort 4 (2017)	Cohort 5 (2018)	Cohort 6 (2019)	Cohort 7 (2020)	Cohort 8 (2021)	Total across 8 years
18-20	43.27%	44.82%	40.94%	43.41%	44.42%	43.68%	40.39%	44.89%	43.24%
21-25	43.67%	47.09%	46.55%	49.75%	50.87%	49.61%	52.29%	55.21%	49.15%
TOTAL	43.51%	46.29%	44.76%	47.43%	48.49%	47.24%	47.94%	51.19%	46.99%

Regression models:  
Cohort 1 vs Cohorts 2-8:  
Compared to Cohort 1, significantly higher prevalence for  
 • Cohort 4 (t=2.29, p<.05; odds ratio = 1.171)  
 • Cohort 5 (t=2.96, p<.01; odds ratio = 1.222)  
 • Cohort 6 (t=2.11, p<.05; odds ratio = 1.163)  
 • Cohort 7 (t=2.41, p<.05; odds ratio = 1.196)  
 • Cohort 8 (t=4.19, p<.001; odds ratio = 1.361)

Source: Young Adult Health Survey, Preliminary Data Report to DBHR, Kilmer (PI)

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Any past year "recreational"/non-medical/personal use:  
Increasing over time

	Cohort 1 (2014)	Cohort 2 (2015)	Cohort 3 (2016)	Cohort 4 (2017)	Cohort 5 (2018)	Cohort 6 (2019)	Cohort 7 (2020)	Cohort 8 (2021)	Total across 8 years
18-20	43.27%	44.82%	40.94%	43.41%	44.42%	43.68%	40.39%	44.89%	43.24%
21-25	43.67%	47.09%	46.55%	49.75%	50.87%	49.61%	52.29%	55.21%	49.15%
TOTAL	43.51%	46.29%	44.76%	47.43%	48.49%	47.24%	47.94%	51.19%	46.99%

Regression models:  
Linear trend from Cohort 1 to Cohort 8:  
Significant (t=4.27, p<.001)  
Odds ratio = 1.030 (odds of recreational marijuana use are 3.0% higher with each successive year/cohort)  
Age by cohort interaction:  
Significant (t=2.65, p<.01)

Source: Young Adult Health Survey, Preliminary Data Report to DBHR, Kilmer (PI)

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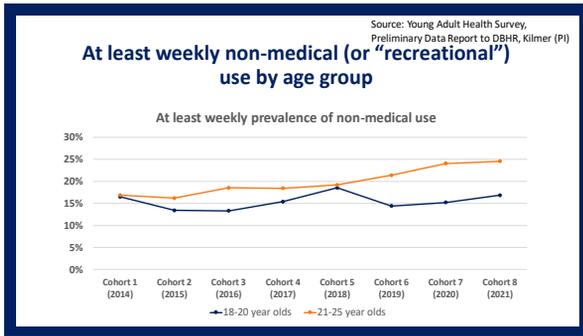
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### Perceptions of non-medical cannabis use

	Cohort 1 (2014)	Cohort 2 (2015)	Cohort 3 (2016)	Cohort 4 (2017)	Cohort 5 (2018)	Cohort 6 (2019)	Cohort 7 (2020)	Cohort 8 (2021)
Never	2.41%	2.42%	1.61%	2.31%	2.06%	1.50%	2.38%	1.92%
Once a year	1.92%	2.10%	1.74%	1.92%	1.27%	0.75%	1.32%	1.13%
2 to 3 times a year	8.22%	10.12%	6.73%	6.40%	3.89%	3.11%	2.23%	3.87%
Every other month	6.98%	7.29%	5.32%	4.59%	3.14%	3.90%	4.42%	3.48%
Once a month	9.74%	11.15%	10.41%	9.07%	6.88%	5.51%	6.39%	7.07%
2-3x/month	17.98%	19.68%	19.83%	18.91%	13.47%	13.93%	14.32%	14.04%
Once per week	12.65%	12.72%	15.43%	13.89%	14.28%	12.93%	12.64%	14.11%
More than 1x/wk	22.08%	20.70%	21.42%	23.94%	27.12%	25.90%	28.57%	29.17%
Every other day	9.27%	6.87%	8.56%	8.65%	11.10%	12.25%	13.10%	10.45%
Every day	8.84%	6.95%	8.96%	10.31%	16.79%	20.01%	14.62%	14.75%

Although 21.62% use at least weekly (meaning most don't), 68.48% think the typical person their age uses weekly

\*\* In ordinal logistic models, Cohort 4 (t=2.57, p<.01), Cohort 5 (t=10.66, p<.001), Cohort 6 (t=12.35, p<.001), Cohort 7 (t=9.72, p<.001), and Cohort 8 (t=9.02, p<.001) have higher perceived recreational marijuana norms compared to cohort 1; but cohort 2 has lower norms compared to cohort 1 (t=-3.35 p<.001) \*\*

\*\* Overall, a significant increasing linear trend over time (t=18.28, p<.001) \*\*

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	Cohort 1 (2014)	Cohort 2 (2015)	Cohort 3 (2016)	Cohort 4 (2017)	Cohort 5 (2018)	Cohort 6 (2019)	Cohort 7 (2020)	Cohort 8 (2021)
From friends	72.80%	76.26%	89.68%	72.40%	83.73%	66.96%	96.47%	85.62%
Spent money to someone	13.25%	16.47%	14.32%	11.40%	10.29%	15.17%	10.55%	16.80%
Got it from someone w/ medical mg. card	17.60%	14.12%	4.30%	3.24%	2.79%	2.82%	4.27%	4.58%
Got it from a med. dispensary	13.65%	18.89%	5.58%	4.72%	6.50%	8.28%	8.41%	12.03%
Got it at a party	22.99%	22.14%	23.08%	24.92%	20.12%	22.91%	8.82%	24.67%
Got it from family	5.85%	5.18%	11.75%	9.75%	11.24%	10.92%	13.49%	7.09%
Got it some other way	11.64%	4.12%	6.12%	9.02%	7.30%	6.21%	5.04%	6.24%
Bought from retail store	0.95%	4.58%	1.73%	1.92%	2.03%	3.55%	1.58%	1.03%
Got it from parents w/ permission	3.70%	6.02%	12.33%	10.44%	11.89%	11.91%	13.08%	13.91%
Stole it from them/steals	1.91%	1.11%	1.65%	0.23%	1.47%	2.78%	1.64%	0.42%
Stole it from store/dispensary	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.16%	2.80%

Where people get cannabis For 18-20 year olds...

Decreasing  
\* Getting it from friends  
\* Getting it from someone with a medical marijuana card

Increasing  
\* Giving money to someone  
\* Getting it from parents with permission  
\* Stole it from a store/dispensary

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### Other substances

- Significant decreasing trend in:
  - Alcohol, at least once in past year
  - Alcohol, at least monthly
  - Cigarettes, at least once in the past year
  - Pain relievers to get high, at least once in the past year
  - Opiates, at least once in the past year

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### Perceived risk of cannabis use keeps decreasing

- **Cannabis**
    - Physical risk of occasional cannabis use
    - Psychological/emotional risk of occasional cannabis use
    - Physical risk of regular cannabis use
    - Psychological/emotional risk of regular cannabis use
  - **Alcohol**
    - Physical risk of 2 drinks every day
    - Psychological risk of 2 drinks every day
    - Physical risk of 5+ drinks every weekend
    - Psychological risk of 5+ drinks every weekend
- Gilson, Kilmer, Fleming, Rhew, Calhoun, & Guttmanova (2022)

\*\*\* significant decreasing linear trend \*\*\*  
 \*\*\* significant increasing linear trend \*\*\*

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### Next (and current) steps

- Collecting data for Year 9 through mid-December
- Dr. Katarina Guttmanova received a second secondary data analysis grant (NIDA R01DA057705) focusing on changes before to during the COVID-19 pandemic among young adults
  - Findings from this project will inform tailoring and development of prevention and intervention efforts aimed at reducing health risk behaviors and improving public health
- Included new items (e.g., CBD only, Delta-8 only)
- Stay tuned for new findings in early 2023!
- And, while you're supporting young adults in Washington...

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Young Adult Emotions & Health

Based on answers to just a few questions, people will receive tailored information to help them:

- Reflect on feelings
- Learn coping strategies
- Improve well-being

RESEARCH SUPPORTED BY WASHINGTON STATE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY



A free web-based tool for 18-29 year olds in WA State

- Developed by behavioral health experts at the University of Washington
- No identifying information is asked or collected
- Can be accessed 24/7 on any device with an internet browser

CHECKINWA.ORG



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Thank you!

[jkilmer@uw.edu](mailto:jkilmer@uw.edu) @cshrb\_uw  
<https://sites.uw.edu/uwyyahs/>

• CSHRB:

- Dr. Christine Lee
- Dr. Katarina Guttmanova
- Dr. Isaac Rhew
- Dr. Mary Larimer
- Rachel Cooper
- Daniela Acuna
- Alice Yan
- Rose Lyles-Riebli

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- Sarah Mariani
- Sandy Salivaras

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Slides added during Q&A

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