



Canadian Centre
on **Substance Use**
and **Addiction**


Centre canadien sur
les dépendances et
l'usage de substances

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Evaluating Cannabis Legalization in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities

Lisbon Addictions

Rebecca Jesseman

October 25, 2019

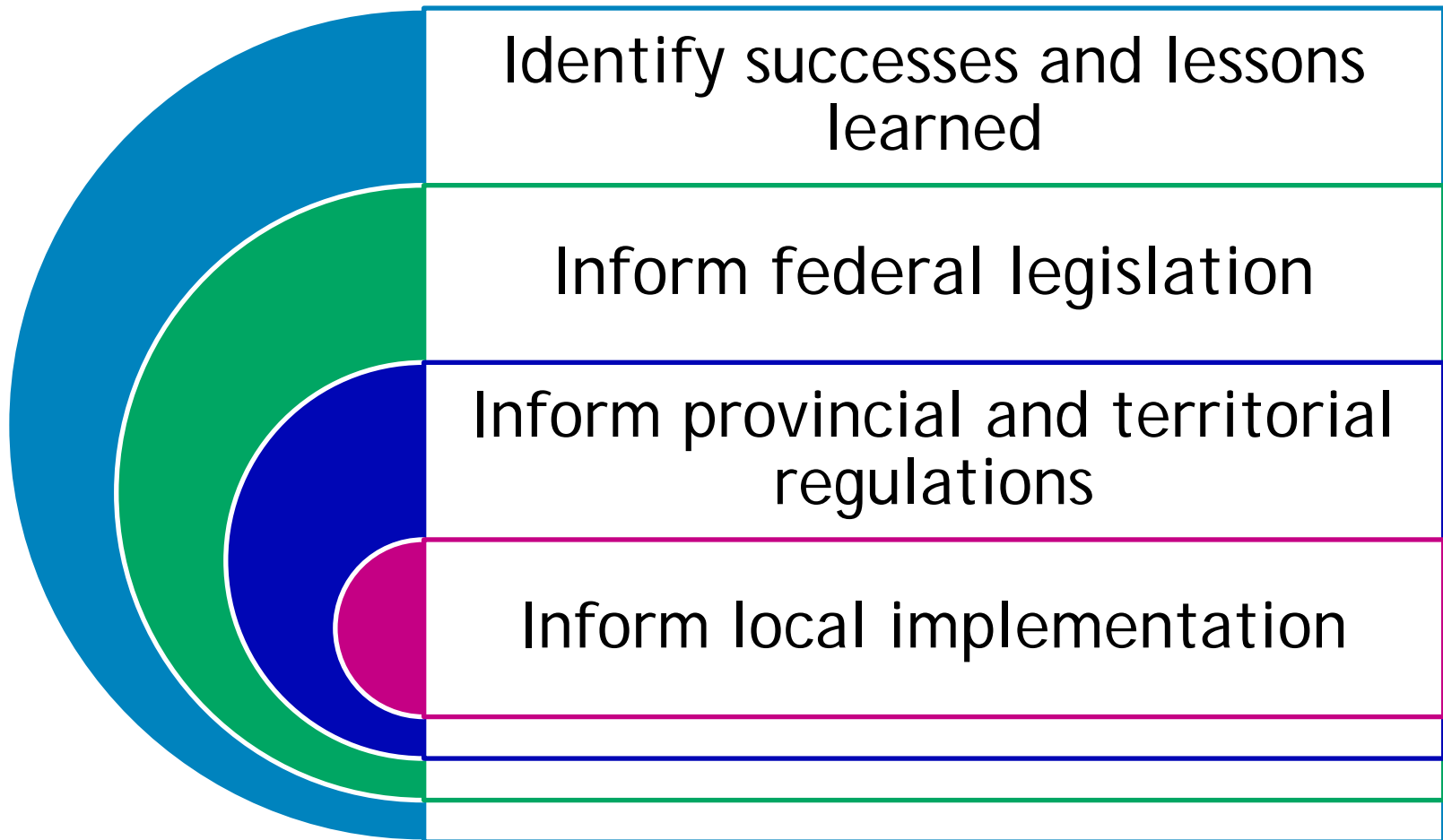
#LxAddictions19

About CCSA



- **Vision:** A healthier Canadian society where evidence transforms approaches to substance use.
- **Mission:** To address issues of substance use in Canada by providing national leadership and harnessing the power of evidence to generate coordinated action.
- **Value Proposition:** Provide national leadership to address substance use in Canada. A trusted counsel, we provide guidance to decision makers by harnessing the power of research, curating knowledge and bringing together diverse perspectives.
- National non-profit organization with a pan-Canadian and international role.

Evaluation Objectives

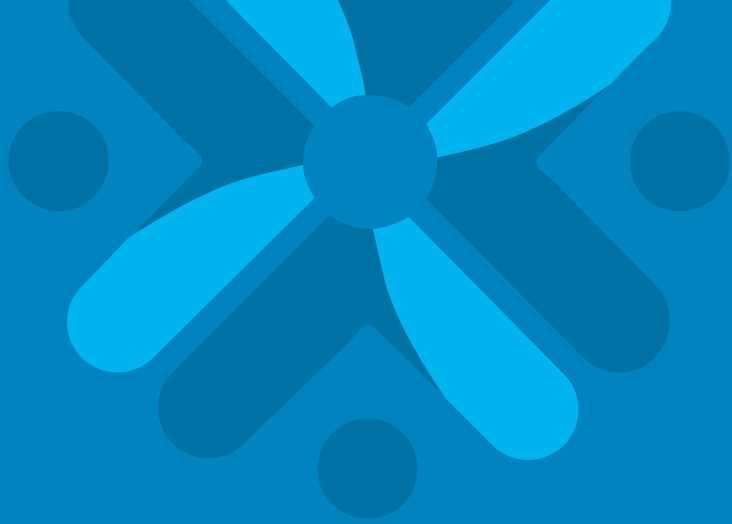


Bill C-45 (Cannabis Act)

- **Objectives**
 - Prevent young persons from accessing cannabis
 - Protect public health and safety
 - Deter criminal activity
 - Reduce the burden on the criminal justice system

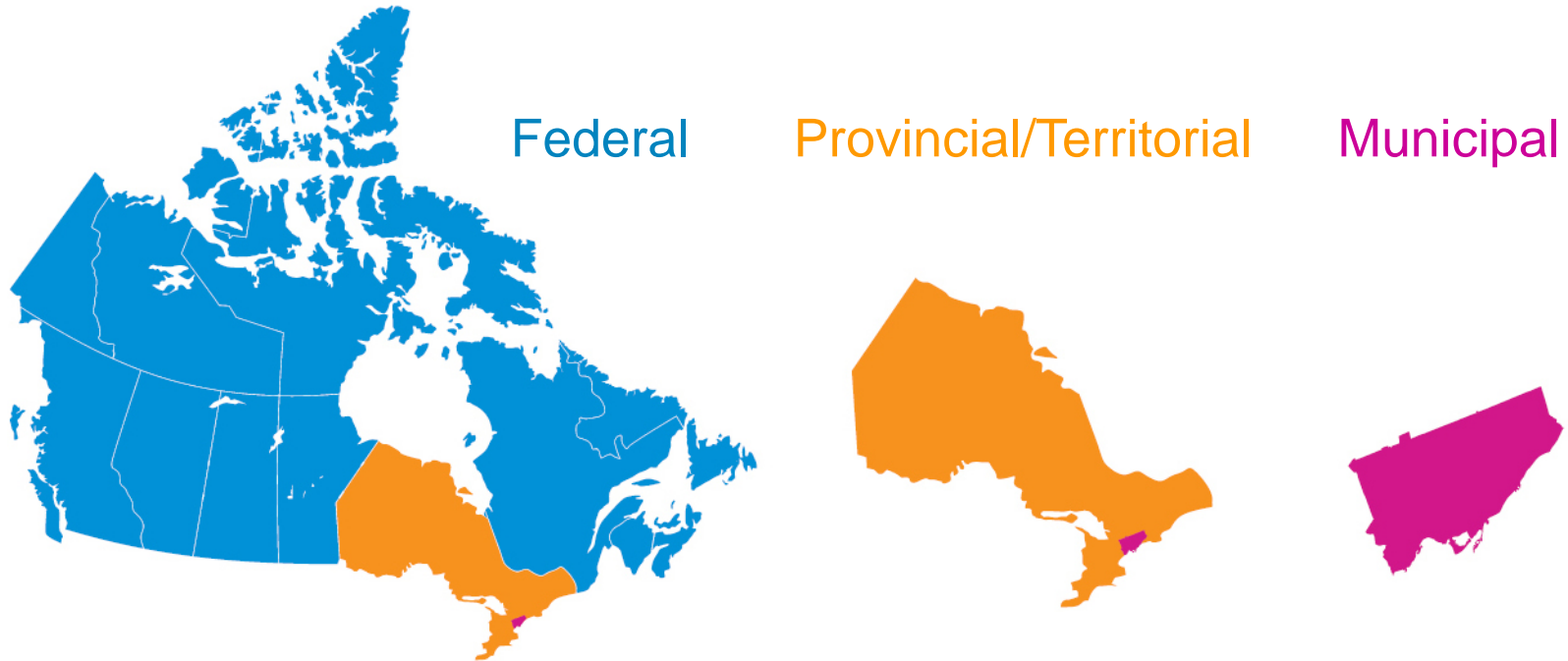
The Cannabis Act (In Brief)

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Minimum age | 18 |
| Personal cultivation limit | 4 Plants |
| Public possession limit | 30 g dried (or equivalent) |
| Product formats | Dried or oils (First year) Edibles, extracts & topicals (Oct. 17, 2019) |
| Penalties | Fine to 14 years in prison |
| Packaging | Can't appeal to youth Mandatory warnings Must specify THC & CBD levels |
| Advertising & marketing | Tightly restricted |



Canada's Natural Experiment

Division of Authority



Provincial Differences: Legal Age

Minimum legal age

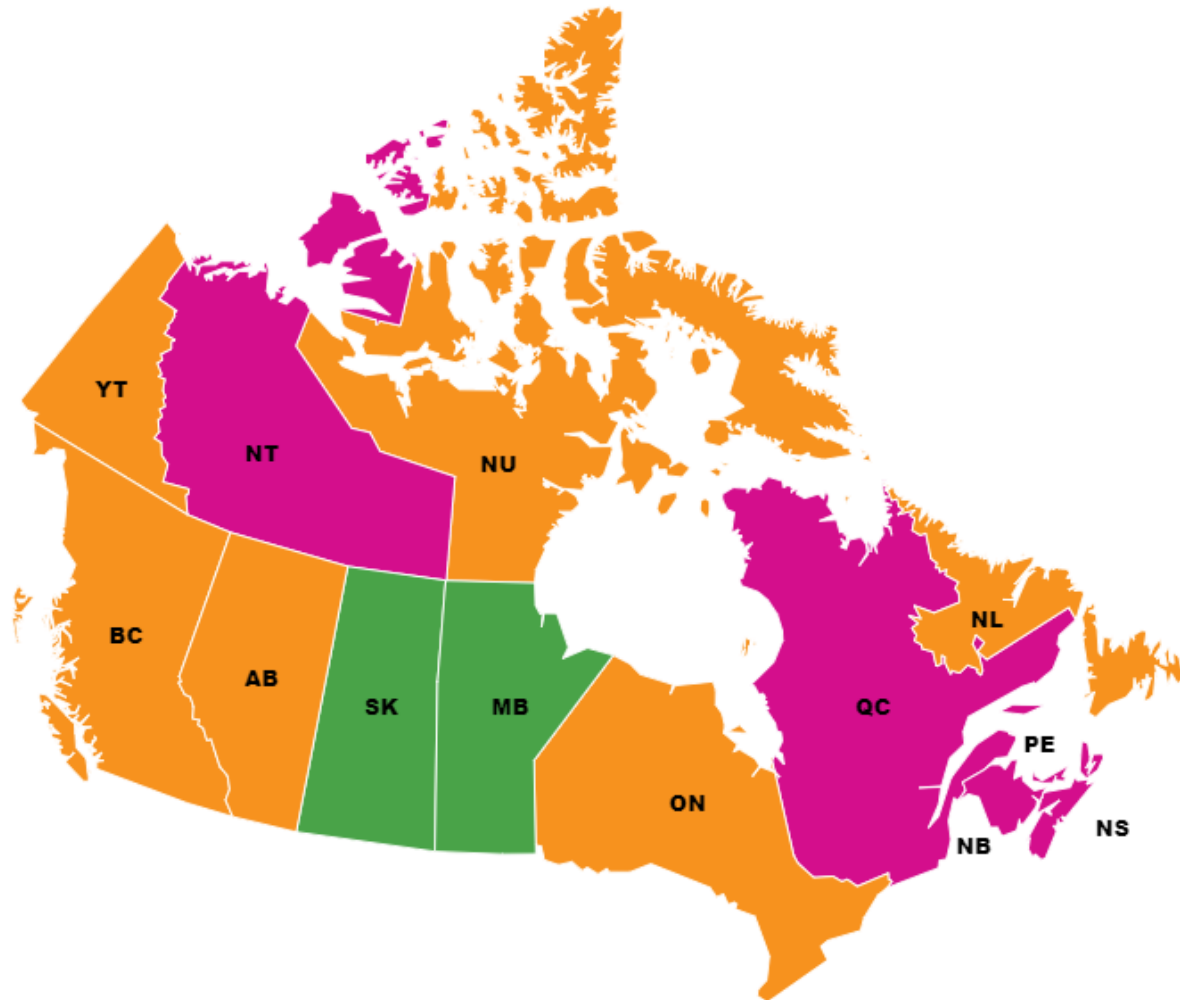
- 18 in Alberta & Quebec (orange)
- 19 for all other provinces & territories (green)



Provincial Differences: Retail Model

Sales model

- Public (pink)
- Private (green)
- Hybrid (orange)





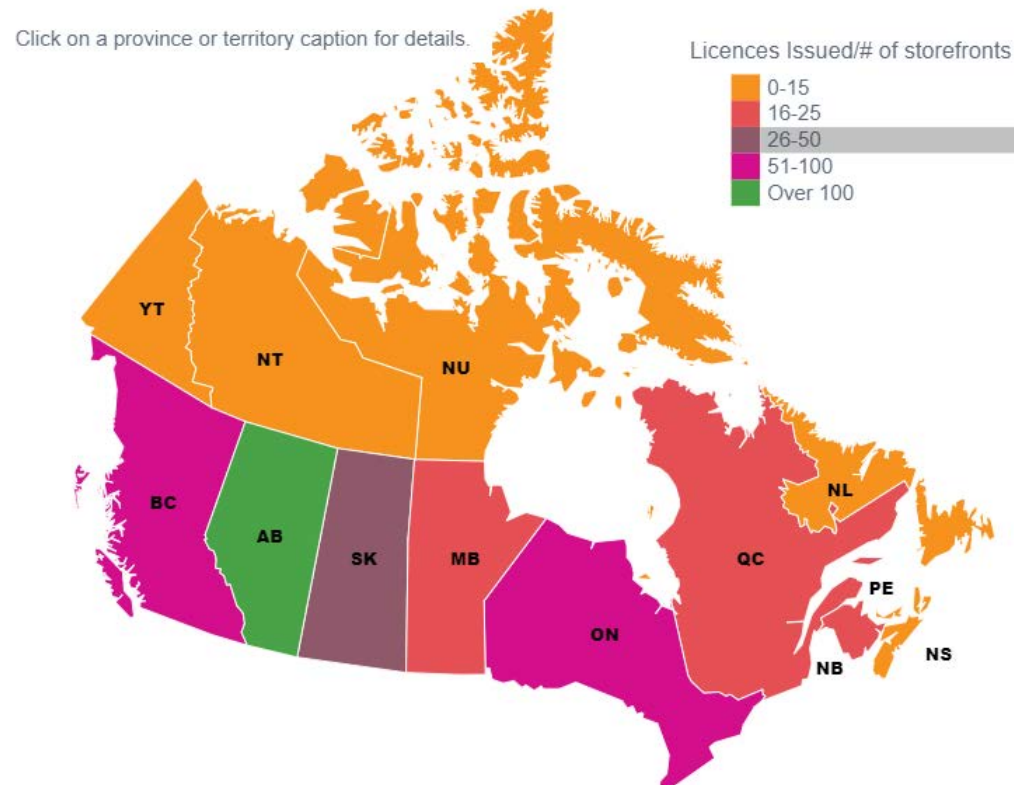
Informing Regulatory Development

Review of Federal Legislation

- *Cannabis Act* Section 151.1 (1): Three-year (Oct. 2021) review of the Act and its administration and operation on:
 - Public health
 - Health and consumption patterns of young persons
 - Impact on Indigenous persons and communities
 - Impact of home cultivation
- Review of medical cannabis regulations in 2023

Jurisdictional Evaluations

- Combination of internal and contracted
- Central table for dialogue coordinated by Health Canada



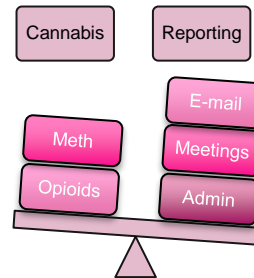
Challenges



Data collection



Capacity



Sharing & collaboration



Politics



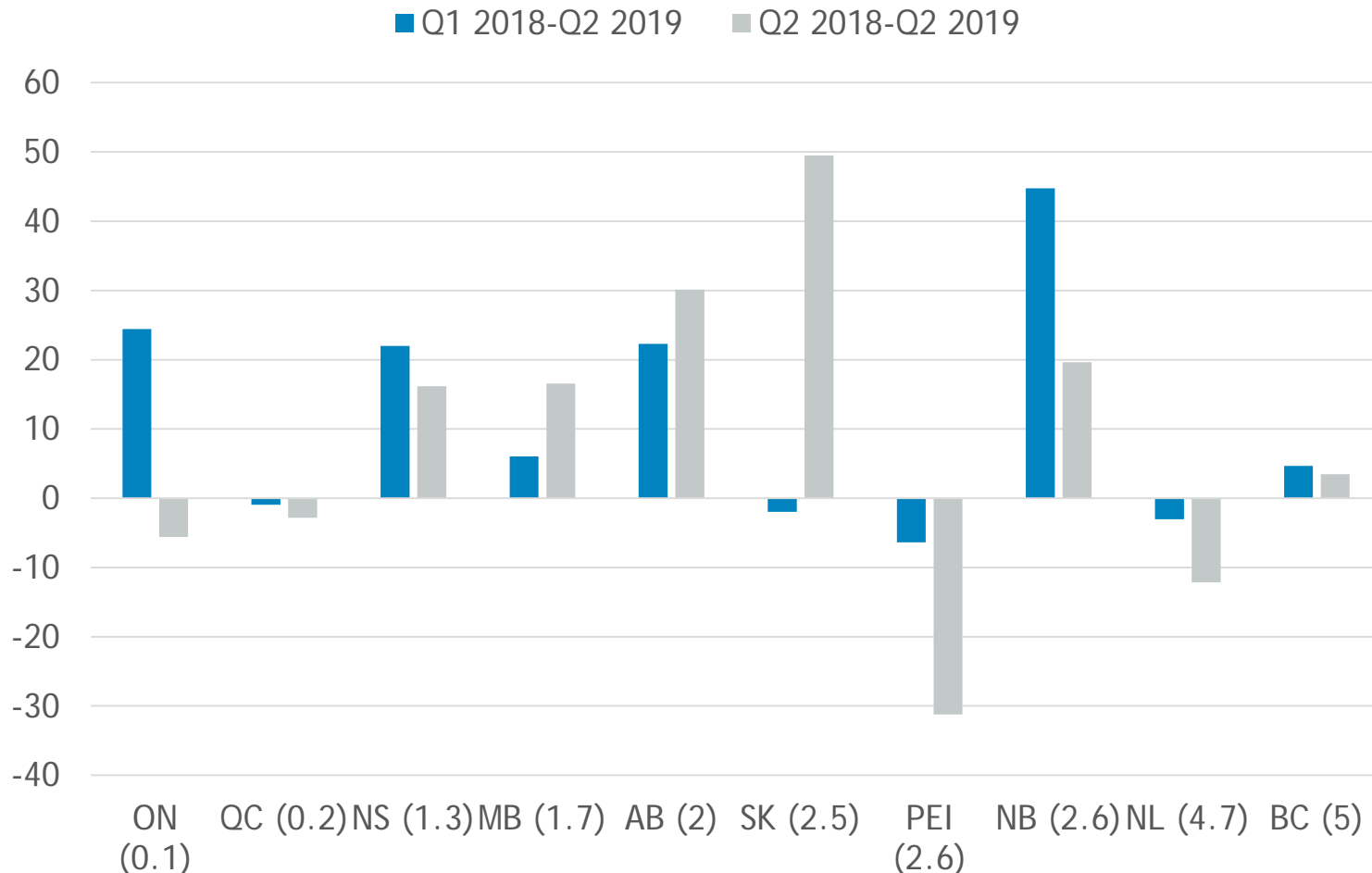


The Story So Far ...

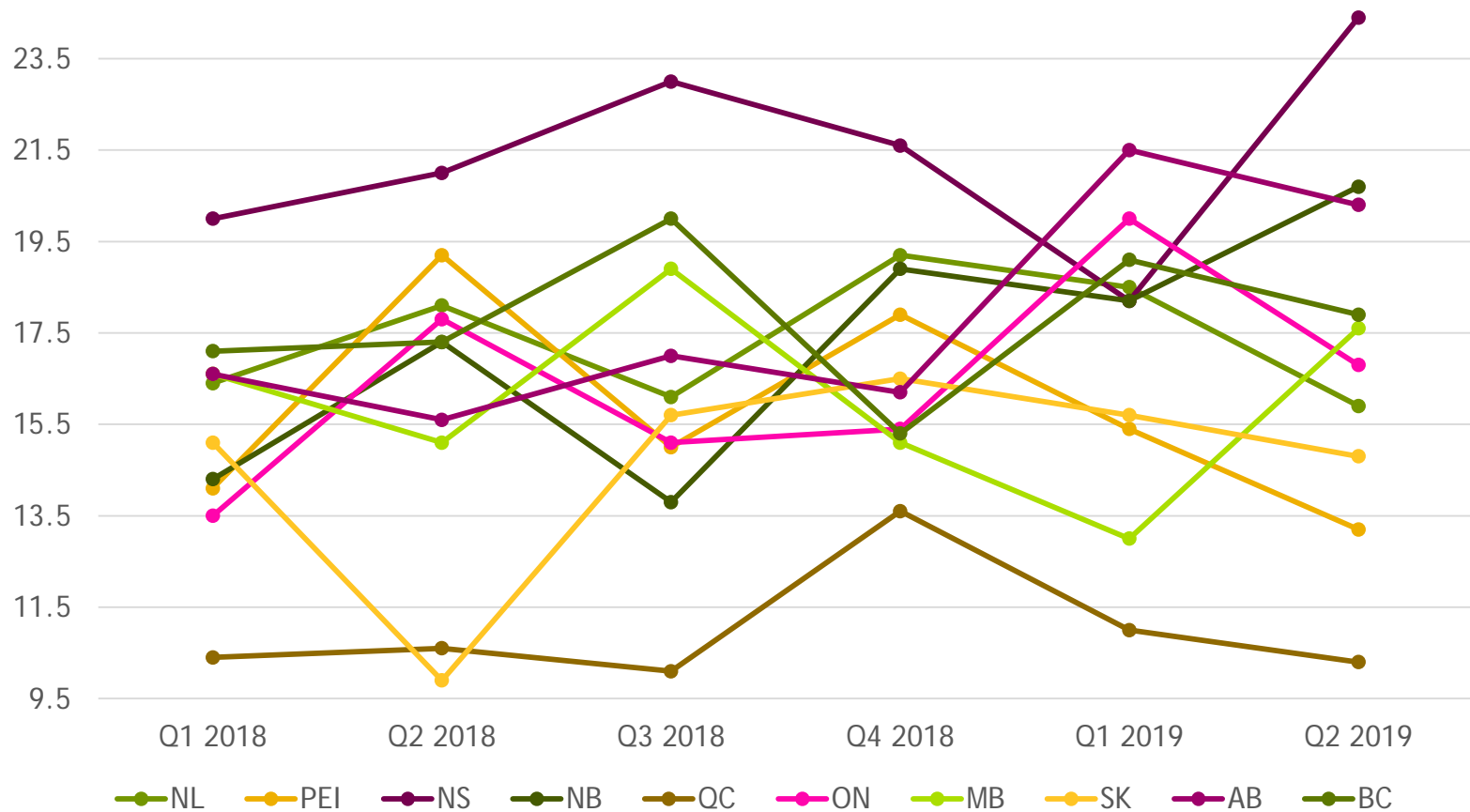
Caution!



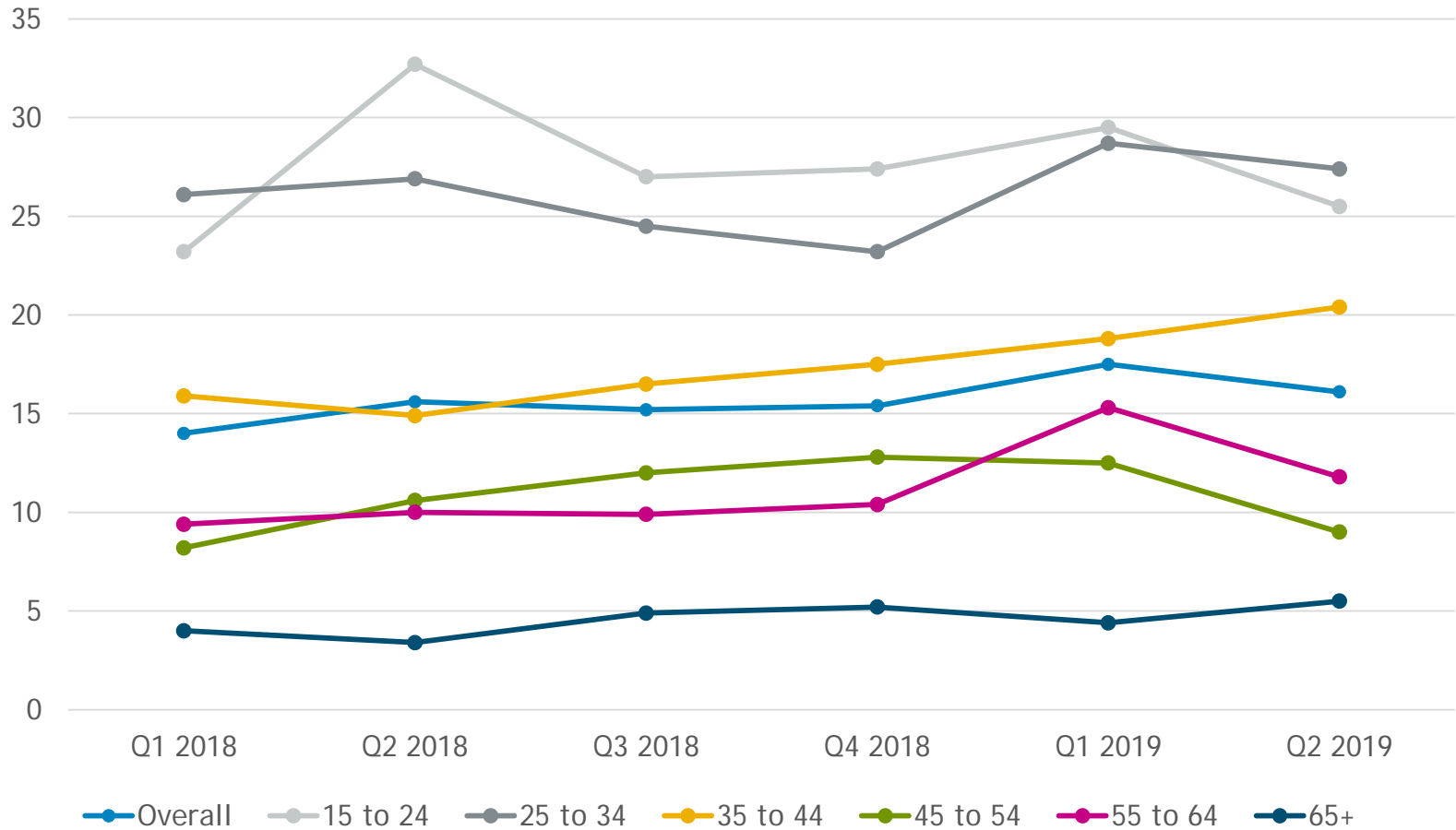
% Change in Reported 3-Month Use by Outlet Density (per 100,000)



3-Month Consumption by Province

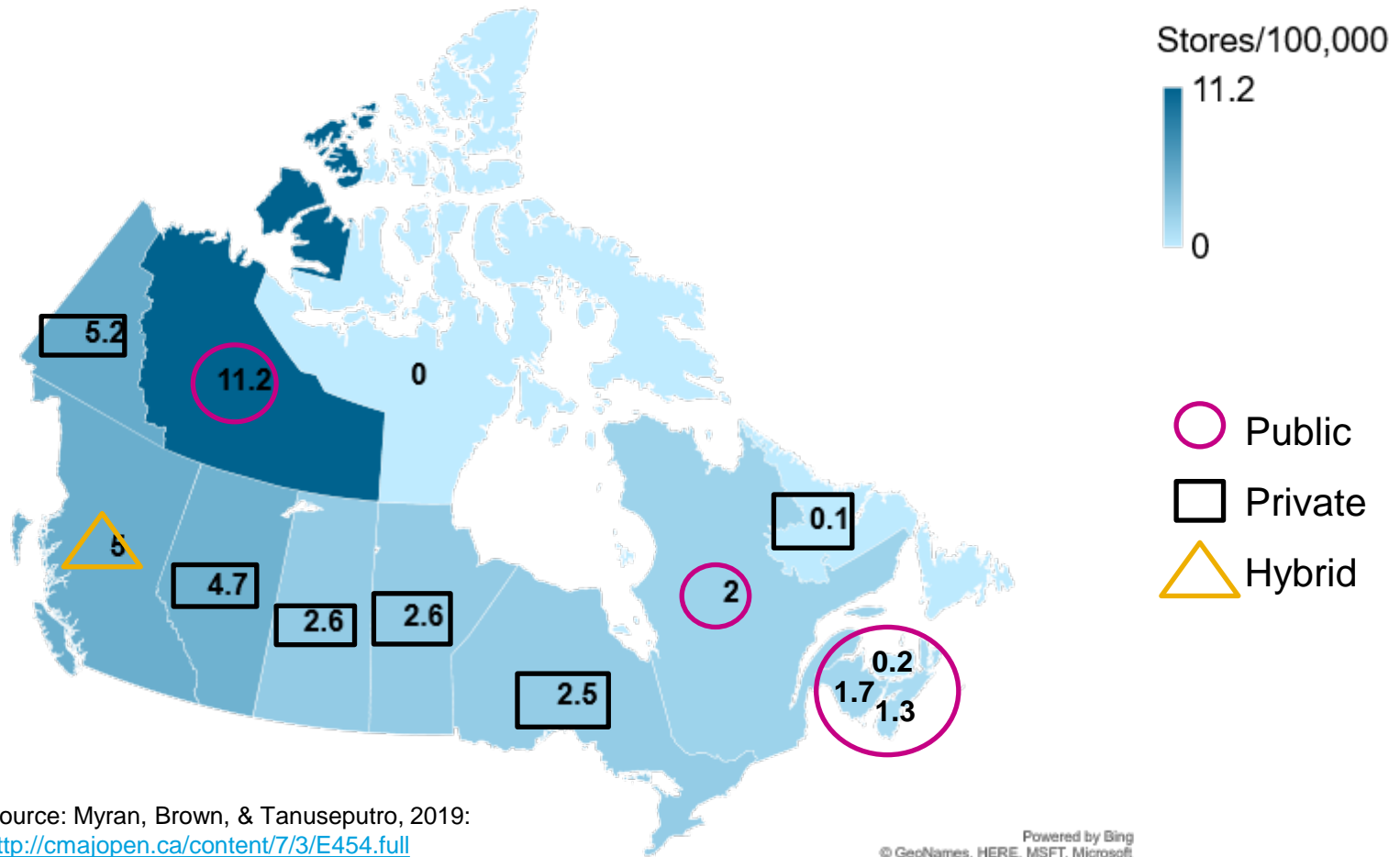


3-Month Consumption by Age (%)



Source: Statistics Canada: National Cannabis Survey (2018-2019)

Retail Storefront Density

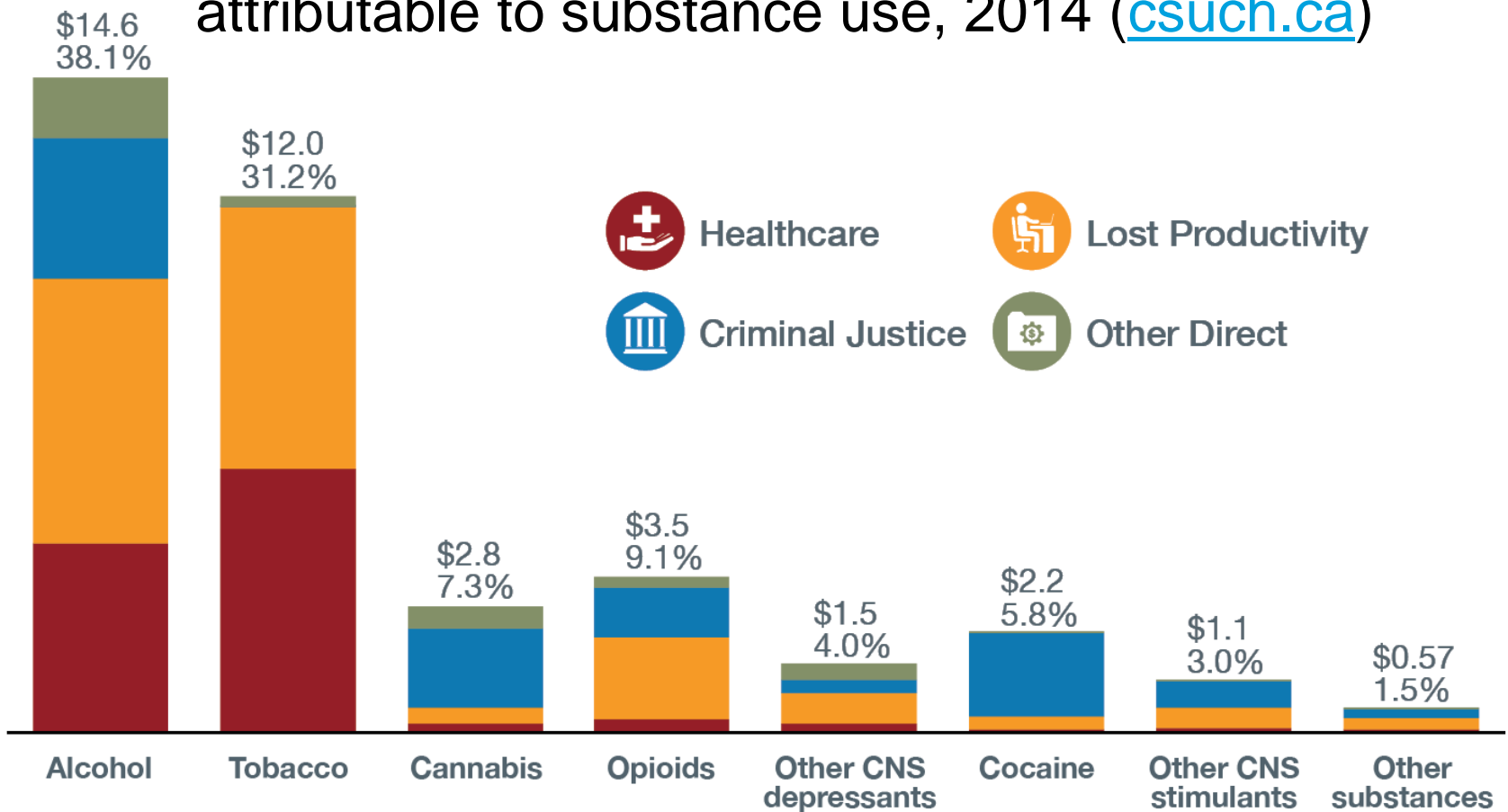


Source: Myran, Brown, & Tanuseputro, 2019:
<http://cmajopen.ca/content/7/3/E454.full>

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Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms

Costs in billions and percentage of total overall costs attributable to substance use, 2014 (csuch.ca)



Annual Data Sources



- Hospital data (Canadian Institutes for Health Information)
- Canadian Cannabis Survey: over-sampling for targeted data on consumption
- National and provincial surveys
- Police (Uniform Crime Reporting) and court data

Key Gaps



- Standard dose
- Impacts on Indigenous communities
- Impact on the illegal market
- Poly-substance use and substitution
- Data disaggregation (equity impacts)
- Economic impacts
- Effective oversight

Sharing & Collaboration

Data Last Updated
10/9/2019 11:14:51 AM

Canadian Cannabis Research Database



Search by Abstract

| Principal Investigator(s) | Website | Institution | Project Title | Topics |
|--|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Gagnon, Marilou Guta, Adrian | | University of Ottawa | "Smoking is better than taking pills": A longitudinal qualitative study of cannabis use and symptom management among people living with HIV | Medical Benefits Qualitative |
| Maeve O'Leary-Barret Bennoit Mâsse Robert Pihl Sherry Stewart Jean Séguin Patricia Conrod | | Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine | A cluster-randomized controlled trial evaluating the effects of delaying onset of adolescent substance abuse on cognitive development and addiction following a selective, personality-targeted intervention programme: the Co-Venture trial | Problematic Use Cannabis Use Disorder Poly-Substance Use Treatment & Interventions Prevention Harm Reduction Youth Review/Meta-Analysis |
| Nathan Nickel Marcia Thomson Tracie Afifi Marni Brownell Alan Katz Marian Shanahan | | University of Manitoba | A data infrastructure for monitoring the impact of cannabis legalization: Data collection and linkage strategies to inform health and social policy | Economic Market Motivations & Patterns Of Use |
| Hamideh Bayrampour | 🌐 | University of British Columbia | A pilot prospective cohort study to examine the prenatal cannabis exposure and early developmental outcomes | Pregnancy Sex & Gender Clinical Epidemiological |
| Benicio Frey | 🌐 | McMaster University | A proof-of-concept, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of cannabis-infused MCT oil for treatment of insomnia in major depression | Mental Health Medical Benefits Psychiatric Clinical |
| Benicio Frey | 🌐 | Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research | A proof-of-concept, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of cannabis-infused MCT oil for treatment of insomnia | Mental Health Medical Benefits Clinical |
| Brian Hutton David Conn Melanie Willows Kimberly Corace | | Ottawa Hospital Research Institute | A scoping review to assess the effects of medical and non-medical cannabis use in older adults | Brain & Cognition Mental Health Medical Benefits Poly-Substance Use Smoking & Vaping |

Research Topics

- Select All
- Demographics
- Endocannabinoid System
- Health Impacts
 - Brain & Cognition
 - Medical Benefits
 - Mental Health
 - Pregnancy
 - Psychomotor Performance
 - Respiratory & Cardiovascular
- Health Promotion & Harm Reduction
- Methods of Use
- Motivations & Patterns of Use
- Policy & Regulations
- Problematic Use, Dependence & Treatment
- Research Methods
- Social Impacts

To provide feedback on the database, please contact cannabis@ccsa.ca

Submit a cannabis research project

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Questions and Comments



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