



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

Centre canadien sur  
**les dépendances et**  
**l'usage de substances**

**Evidence. Engagement. Impact.**

**Données. Engagement. Résultats.**



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# Evaluating Cannabis Legalization in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities

## Lisbon Addictions

Rebecca Jesseman

October 25, 2019

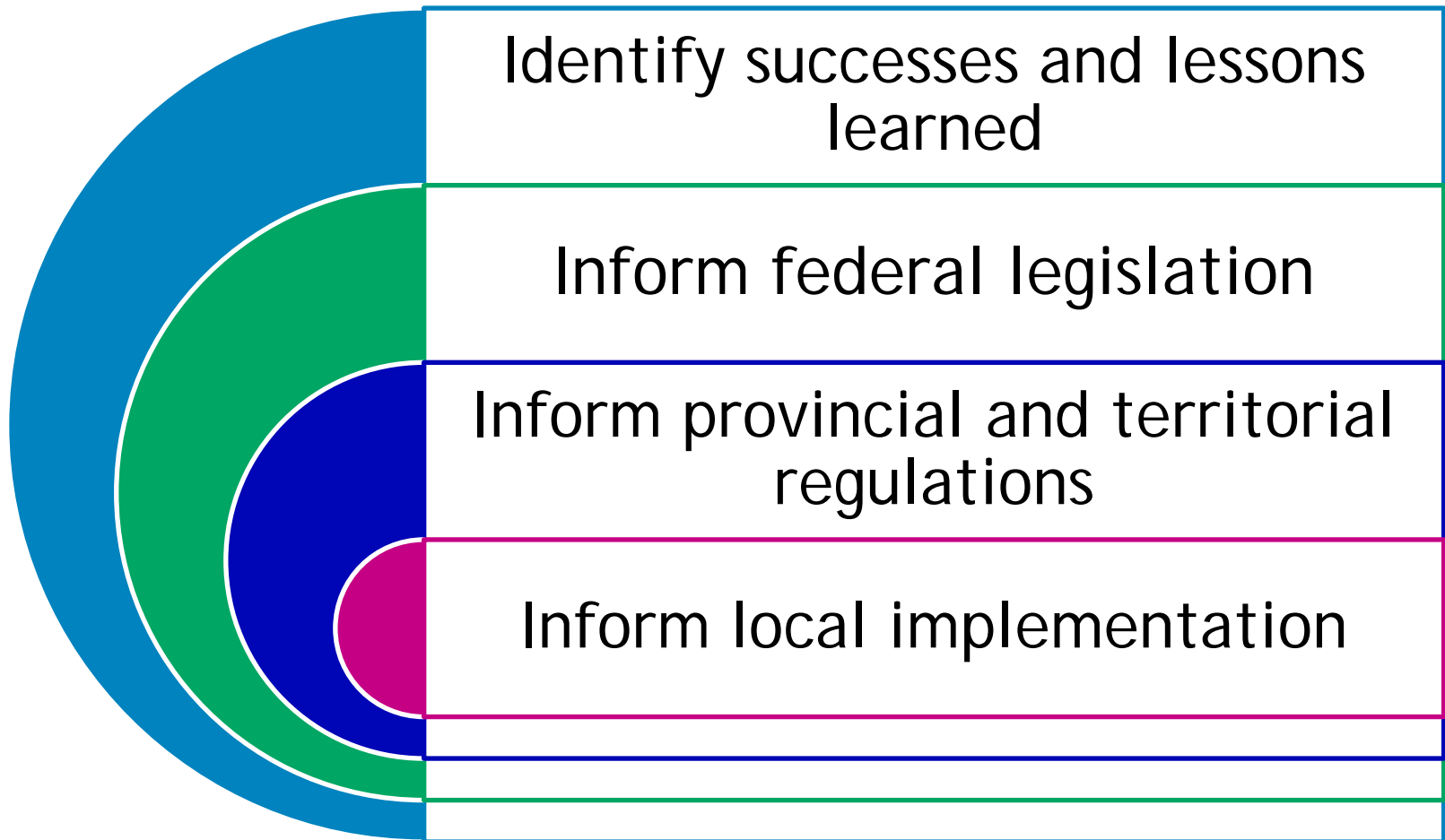
#LxAddictions19

# 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



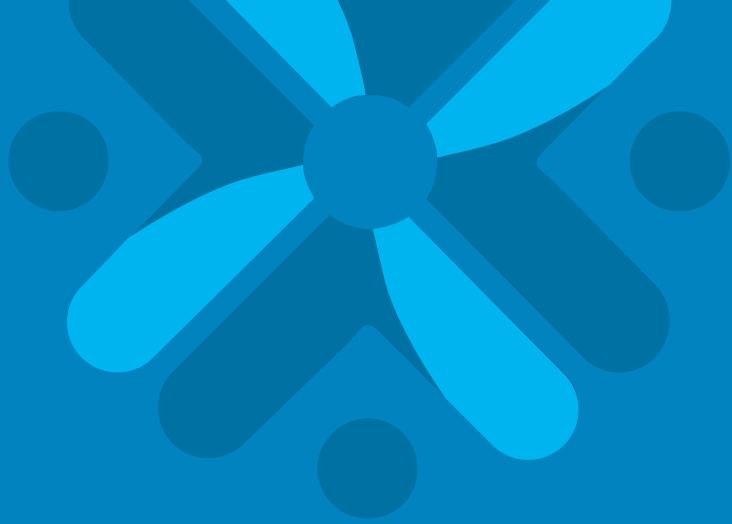
# Bill C-45 (Cannabis Act)



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

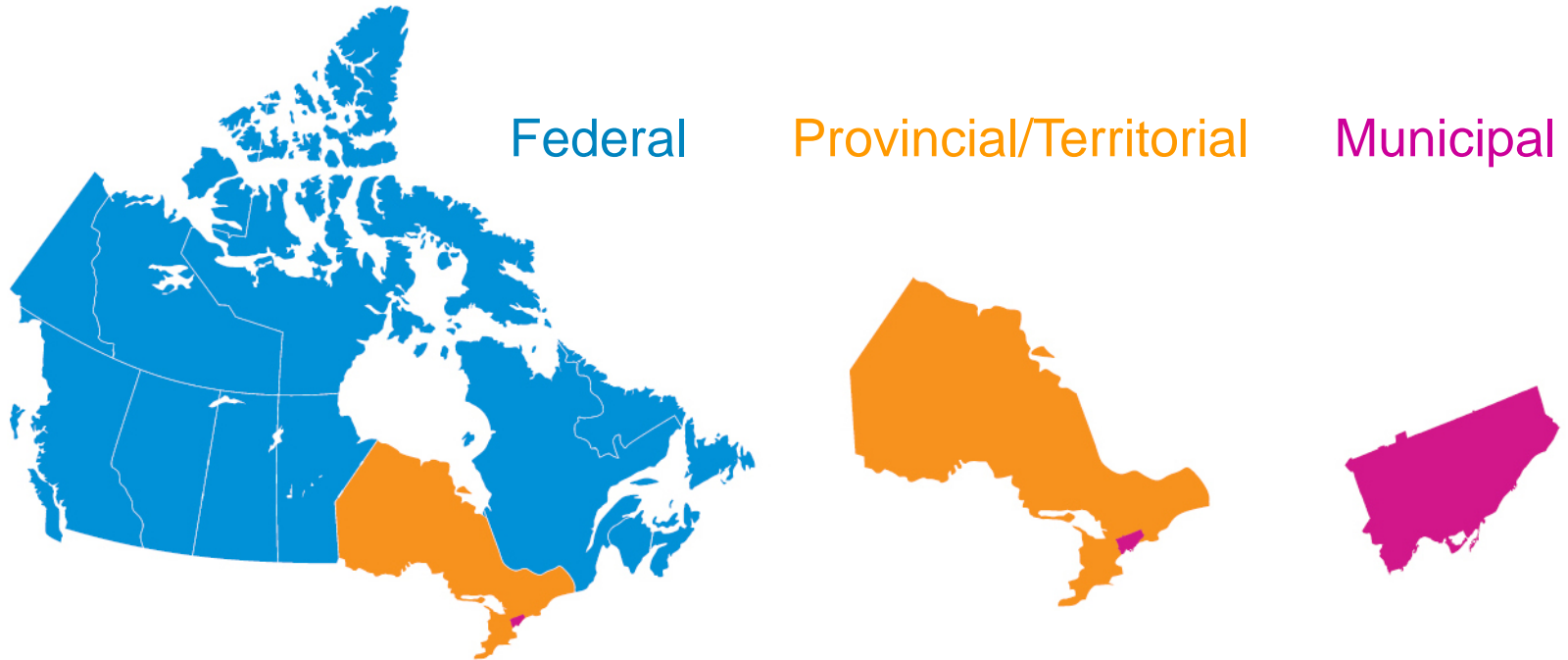
# The Cannabis Act (In Brief)

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

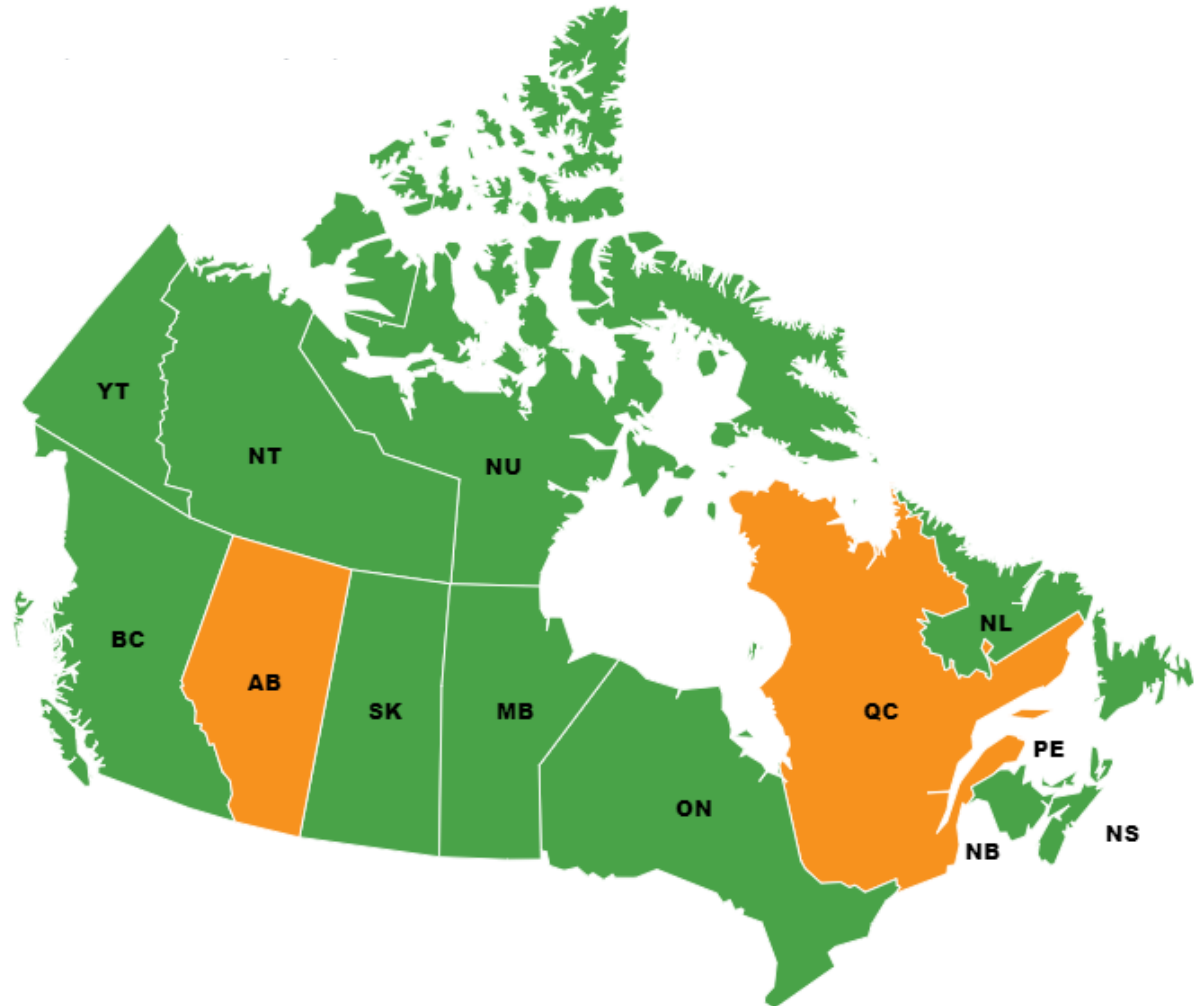




# Provincial Differences: Legal Age

## Minimum legal age

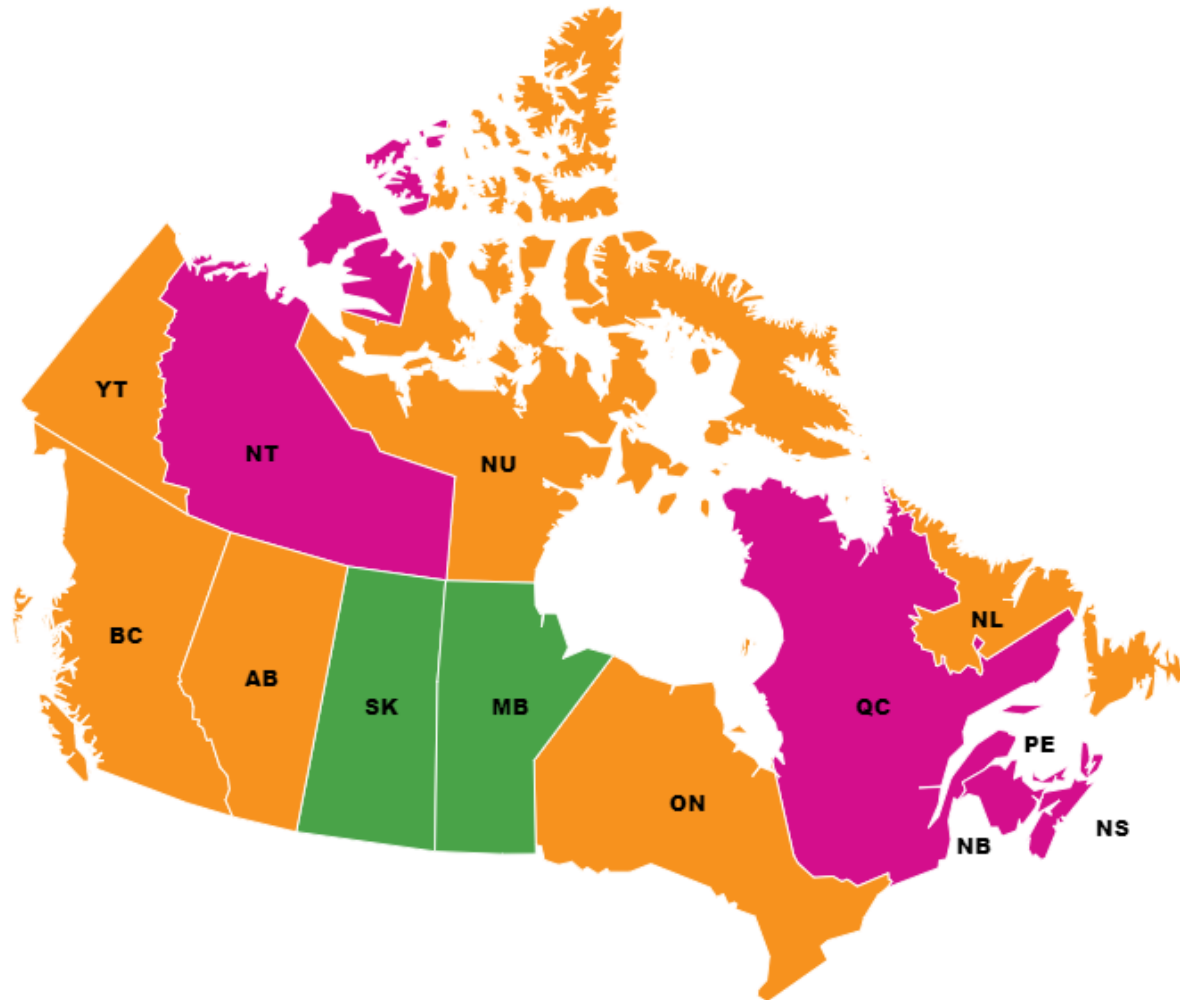
- 18 in Alberta & Quebec (orange)
- 19 for all other provinces & territories (green)



# Provincial Differences: Retail Model

## Sales model

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





# Informing Regulatory Development

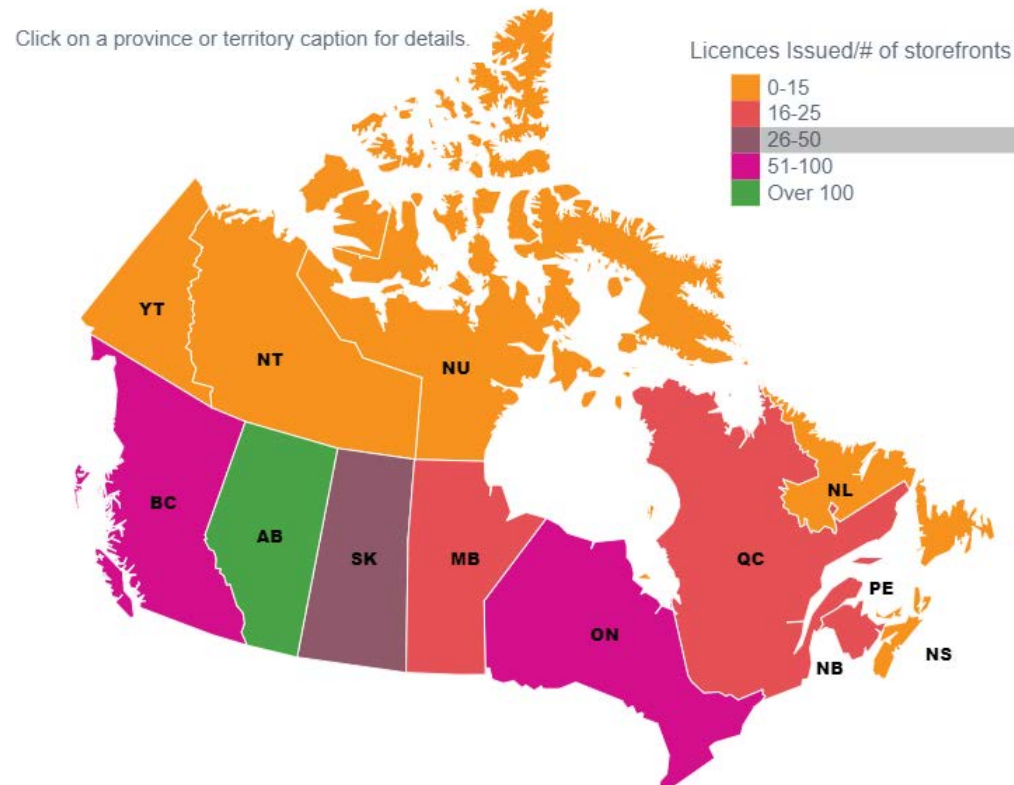
# Review of Federal Legislation



- *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



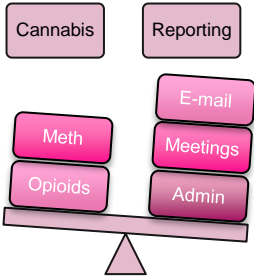
# Challenges



Data collection



Capacity

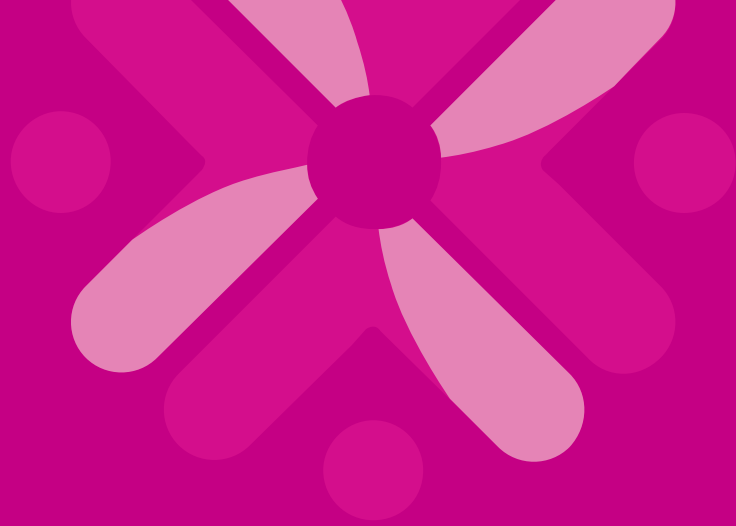


Sharing & collaboration



Politics





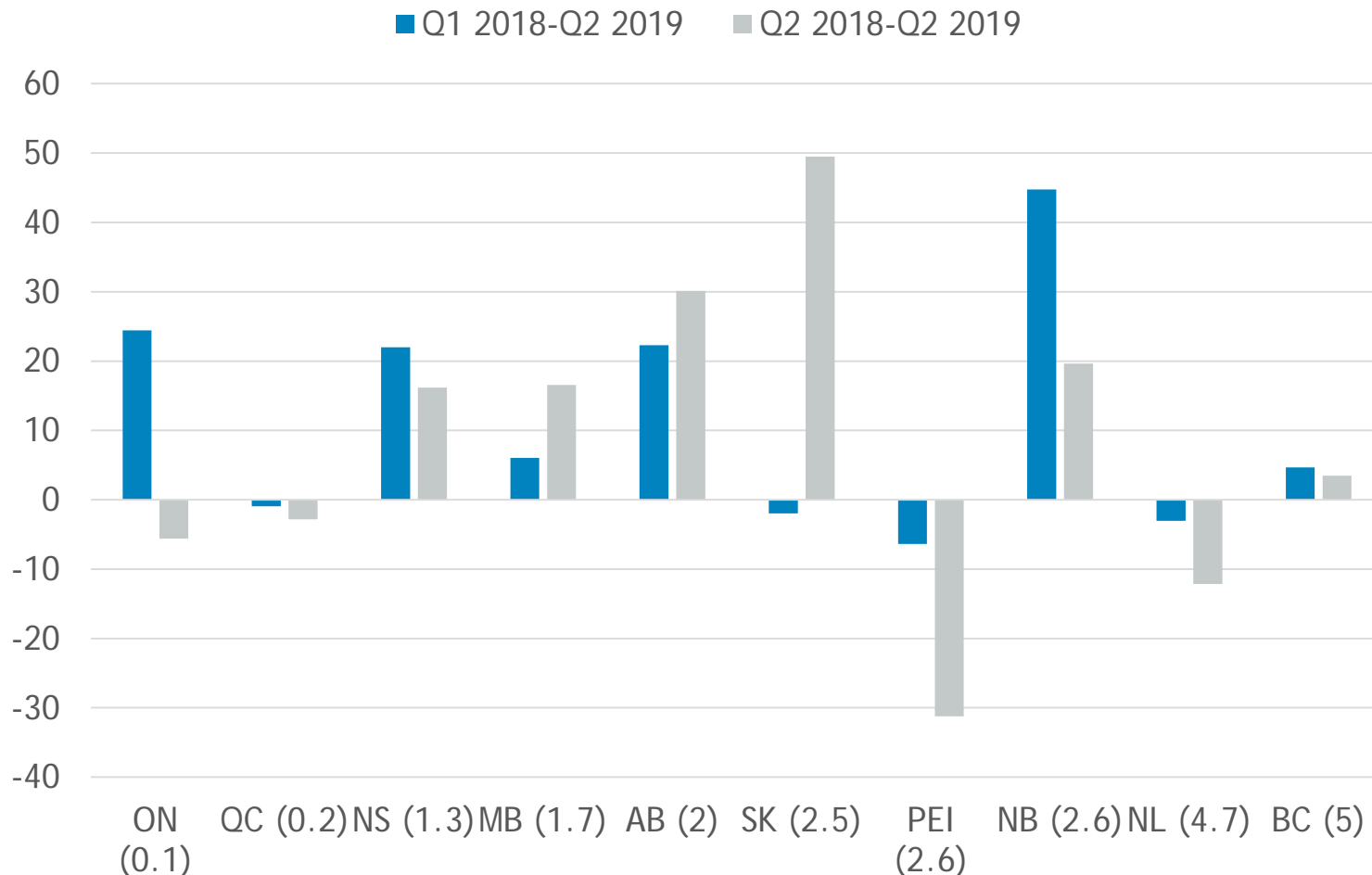
The Story So Far ...

# Caution!

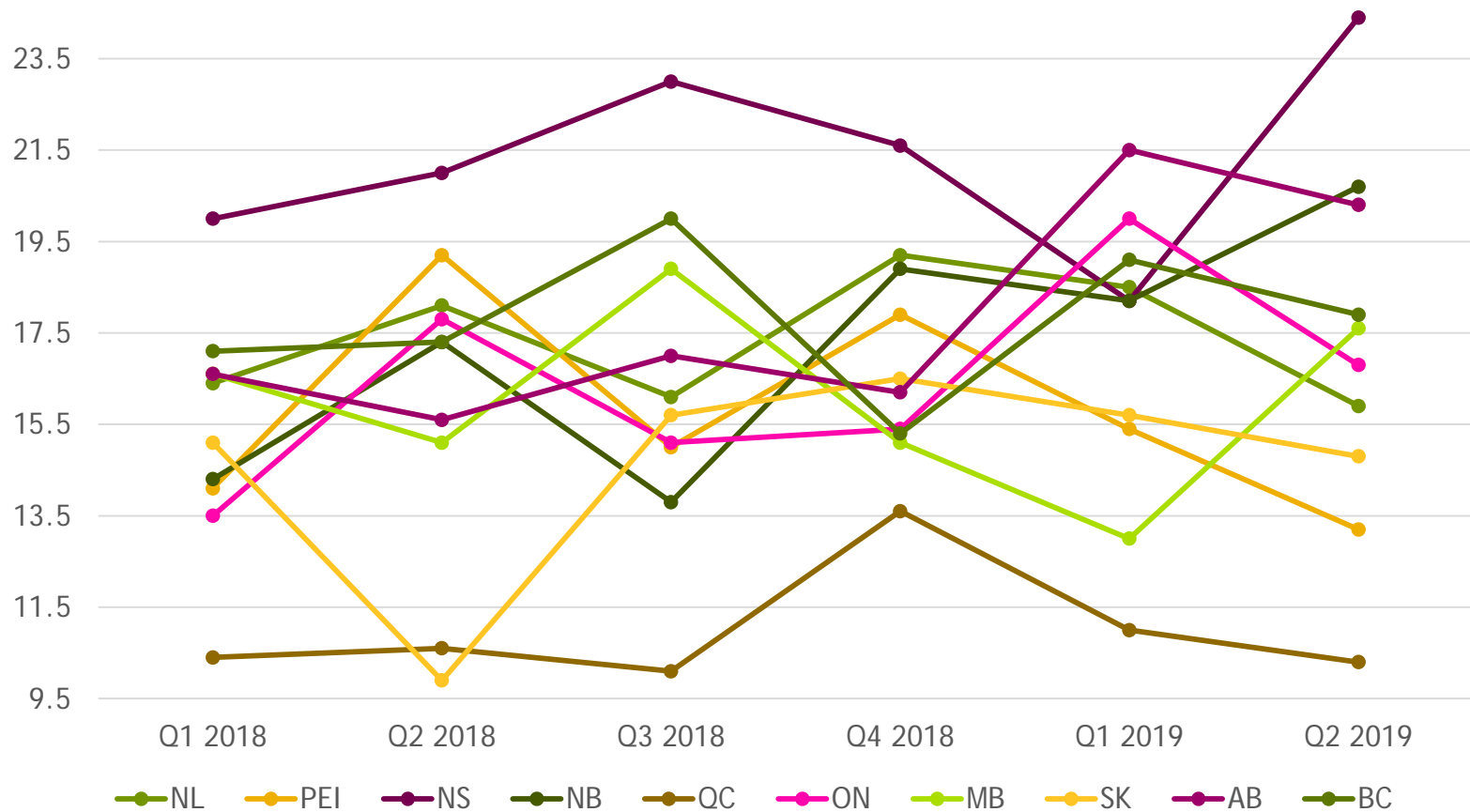




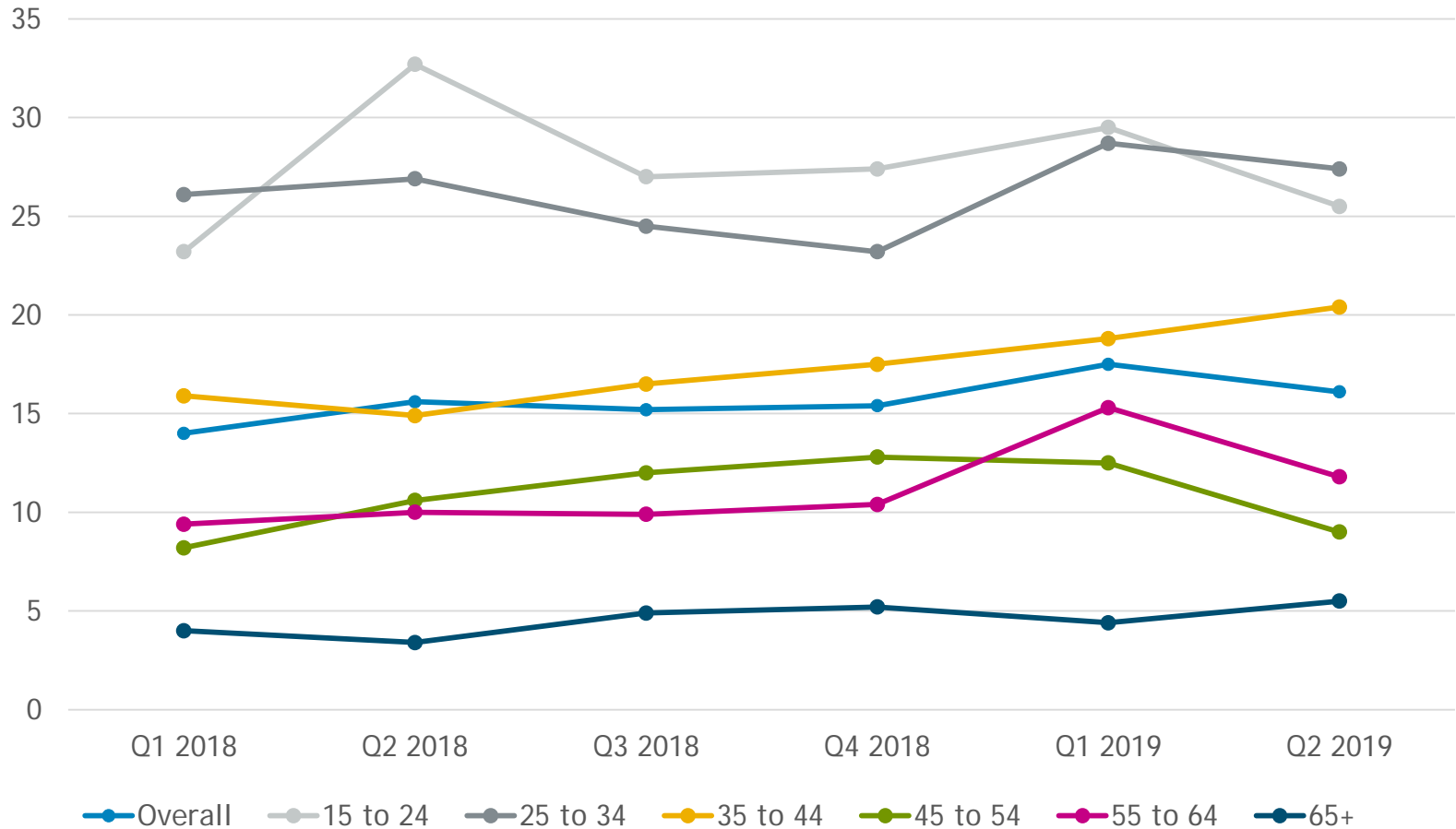
# % Change in Reported 3-Month Use by Outlet Density (per 100,000)



# 3-Month Consumption by Province

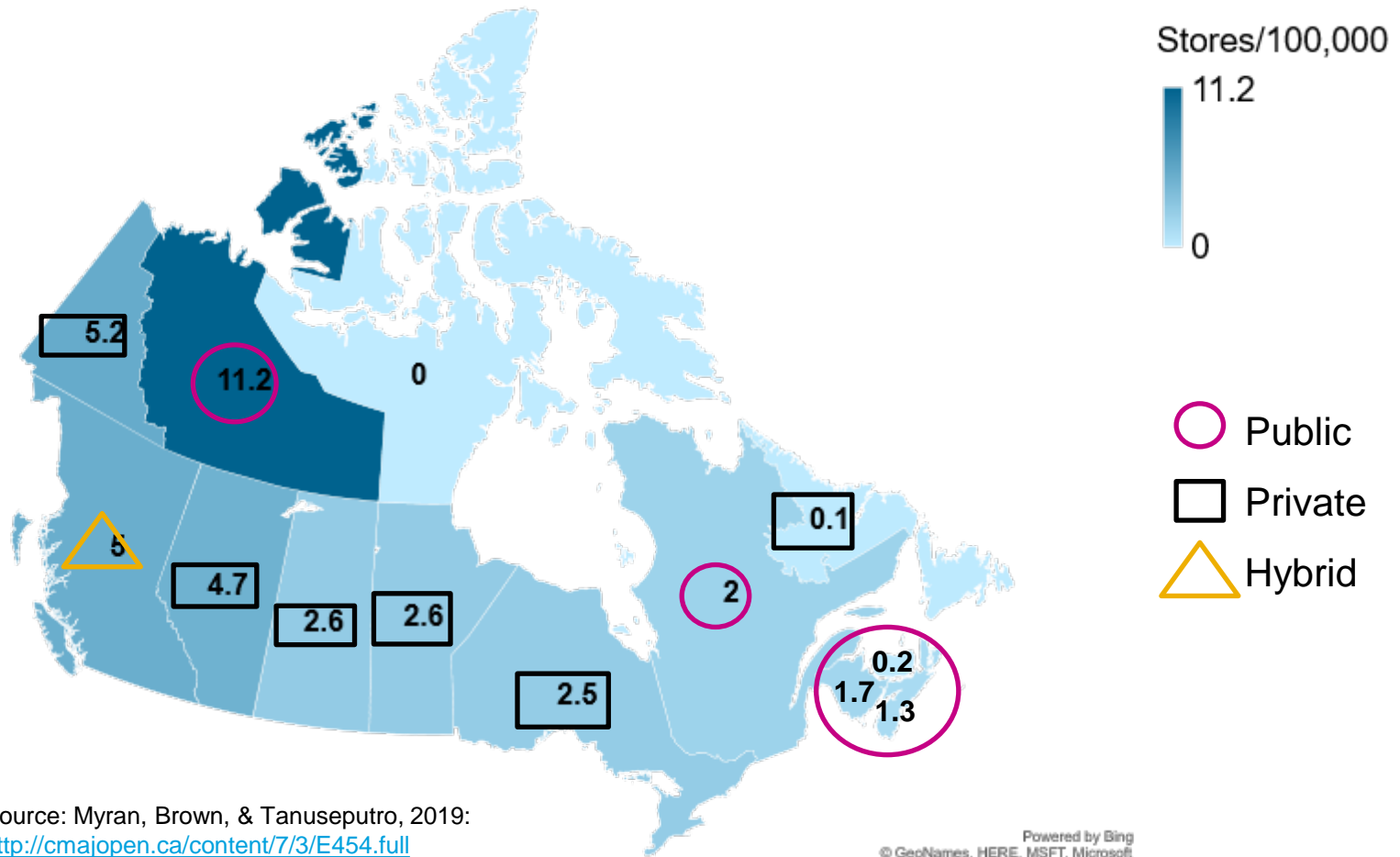


# 3-Month Consumption by Age (%)



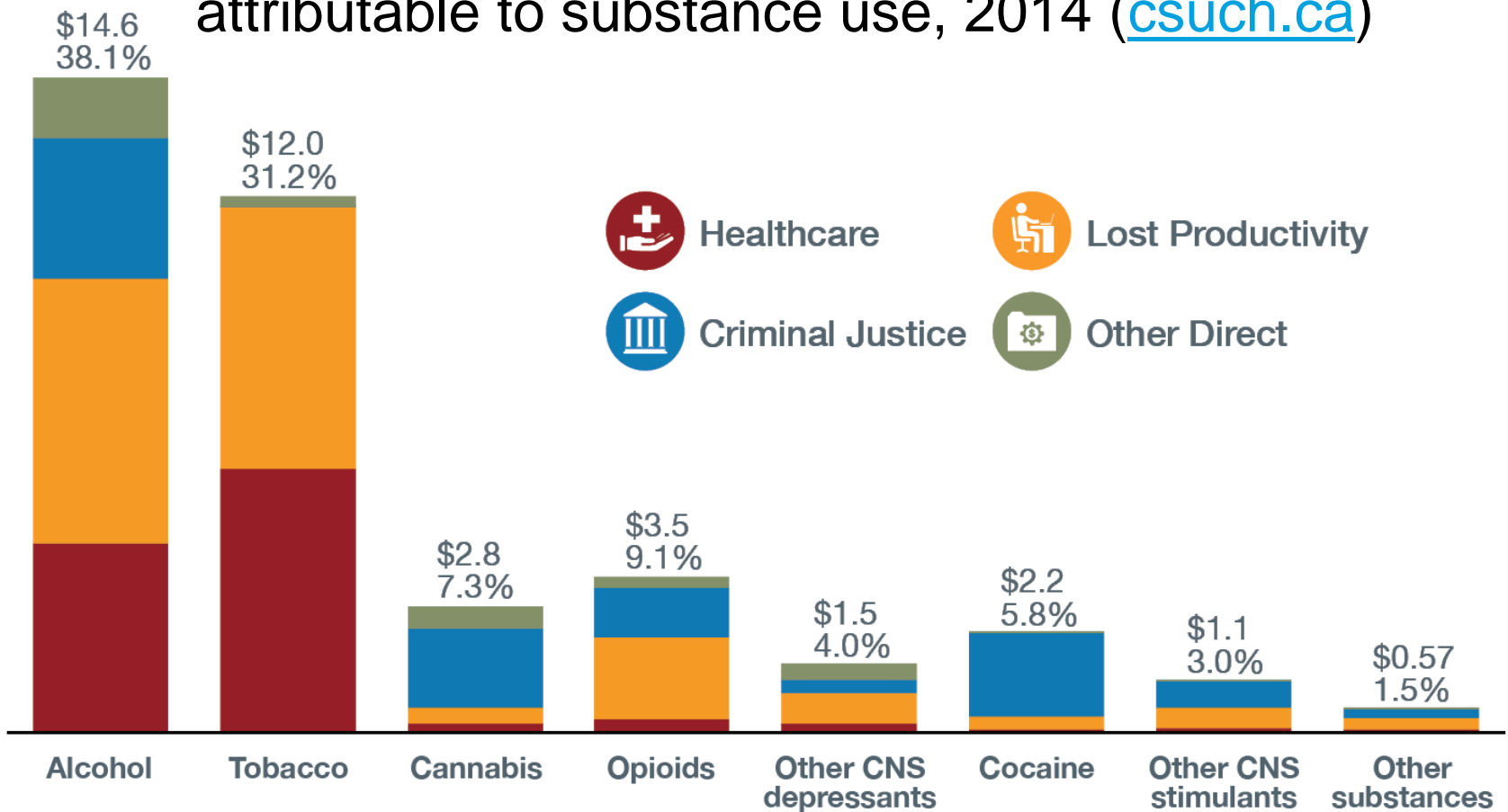
Source: Statistics Canada: National Cannabis Survey (2018-2019)

# Retail Storefront Density



# Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms

Costs in billions and percentage of total overall costs attributable to substance use, 2014 ([csuch.ca](http://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



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

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	<a href="#">🌐</a>	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	<a href="#">🌐</a>	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	<a href="#">🌐</a>	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

To provide feedback on the database, please contact [cannabis@ccsa.ca](mailto:cannabis@ccsa.ca)

[Submit a cannabis research project](#)

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# Questions and Comments

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# Contact Information



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