

Patterns of problematic cannabis use among Canadian and US respondents; 2018-2020

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Disclosures

➔ **NO INDUSTRY FUNDING OR INTERESTS TO DECLARE.**

CONSULTANT / PAID SPEAKER / ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Regulatory agencies e.g., Canada, Australia, UK, EC, US CDC, etc.
- Non-governmental associations e.g., CCS, Heart & Stroke Foundation
- International public health authorities e.g., WHO

PAID EXPERT TESTIMONY - PUBLIC HEALTH LITIGATION

Tobacco

- Canada, Norway, Australia, UK, Ireland, Uruguay, Uganda, NB, AB, Class actions

Vaping

- Canada

Cannabis

- Canada, Quebec

Food & beverage

- San Francisco

BACKGROUND

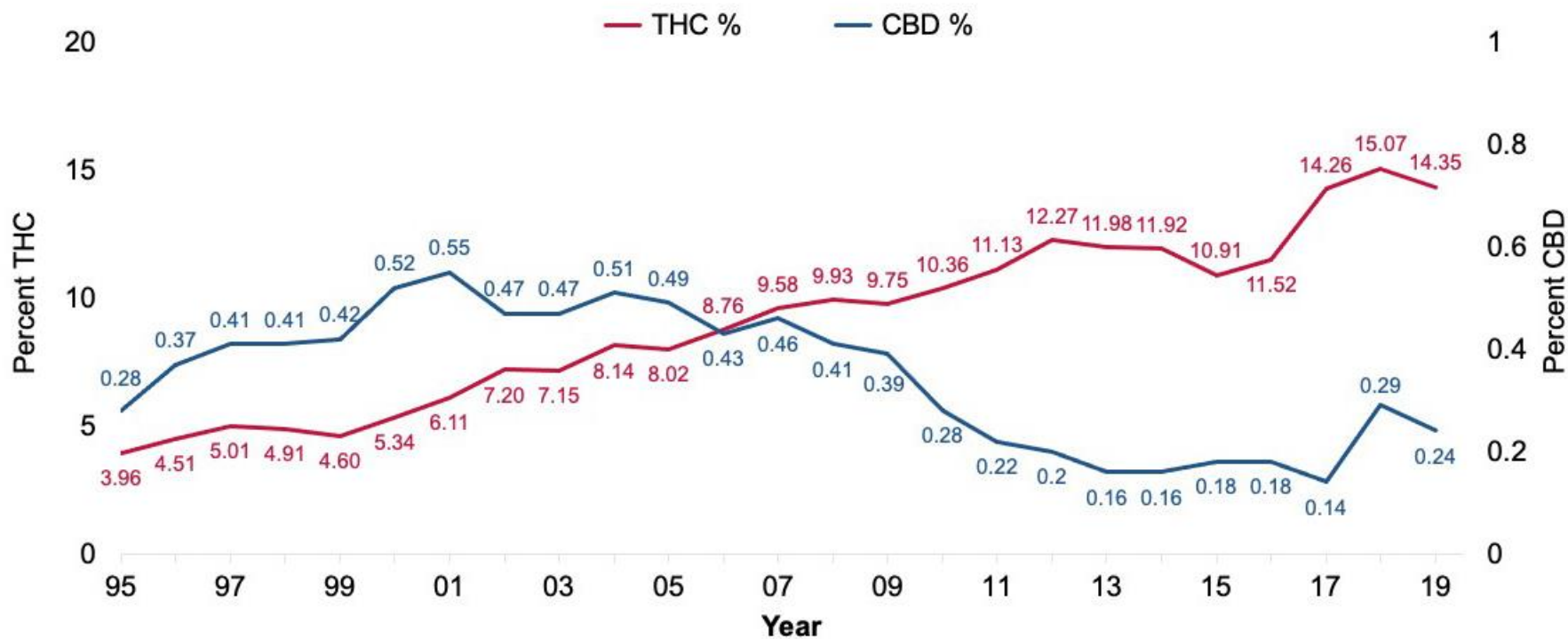
Cannabis

- Increasingly permissive policies in Canada and USA
- Trends may reflect recreational, not necessarily chronic or medical use^{1,2,3,4}
- Mixed evidence regarding policy shifts and problems with cannabis use – no causal mechanism described^{5,6,7,8}

CANNABIS POTENCY

Percent of THC and CBD in cannabis samples seized by the DEA from 1995-2019

Source: Potency Monitoring Program, Quarterly Report #146



CANNABIS POTENCY

Form	Description	THC potency
Fresh or dried herbal material	Flowers and leaves from the cannabis plant	up to 30%
Cannabis oil	Cannabis extract dissolved in oil. Can be used to make other forms (for example, edibles).	up to 3%
Chemically concentrated extracts (for example, hash oil/shatter/budder/wax)	Highly concentrated cannabis extract dissolved in petroleum-based solvent (for example, butane). Shatter, budder and wax most highly concentrated.	<u>up to 90%</u>
Physically concentrated extracts (for example, hash/kief)	Loose trichomes or pressed resin from the cannabis plant.	up to 60%
Edibles	Foods and drinks containing extracts of cannabis	Depends on the amount of extract added
Tinctures/sprays	Cannabis extract dissolved in a solvent, often alcohol. Can be used to make other products (for example, edibles).	varies
Creams/salves/liniments	Cannabis extract preparation prepared with alcohol, oil or wax and applied to the skin.	varies

BACKGROUND

International evidence

- Uruguay – prevalence and risk perceptions unchanged, stable crime statistics^{11,}
- Emphasis on public security conditions^{11,12}

BACKGROUND

International evidence

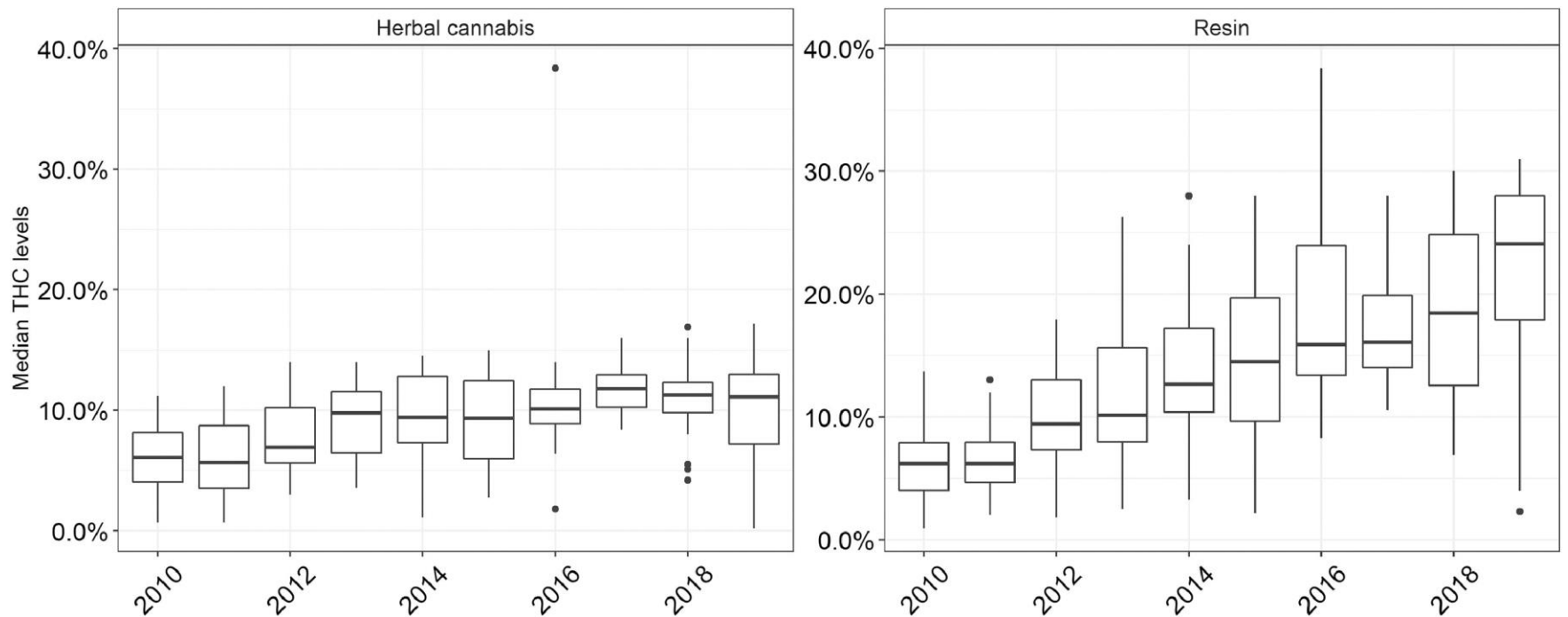
- Europe – emphasis on classic cannabis use metrics¹³

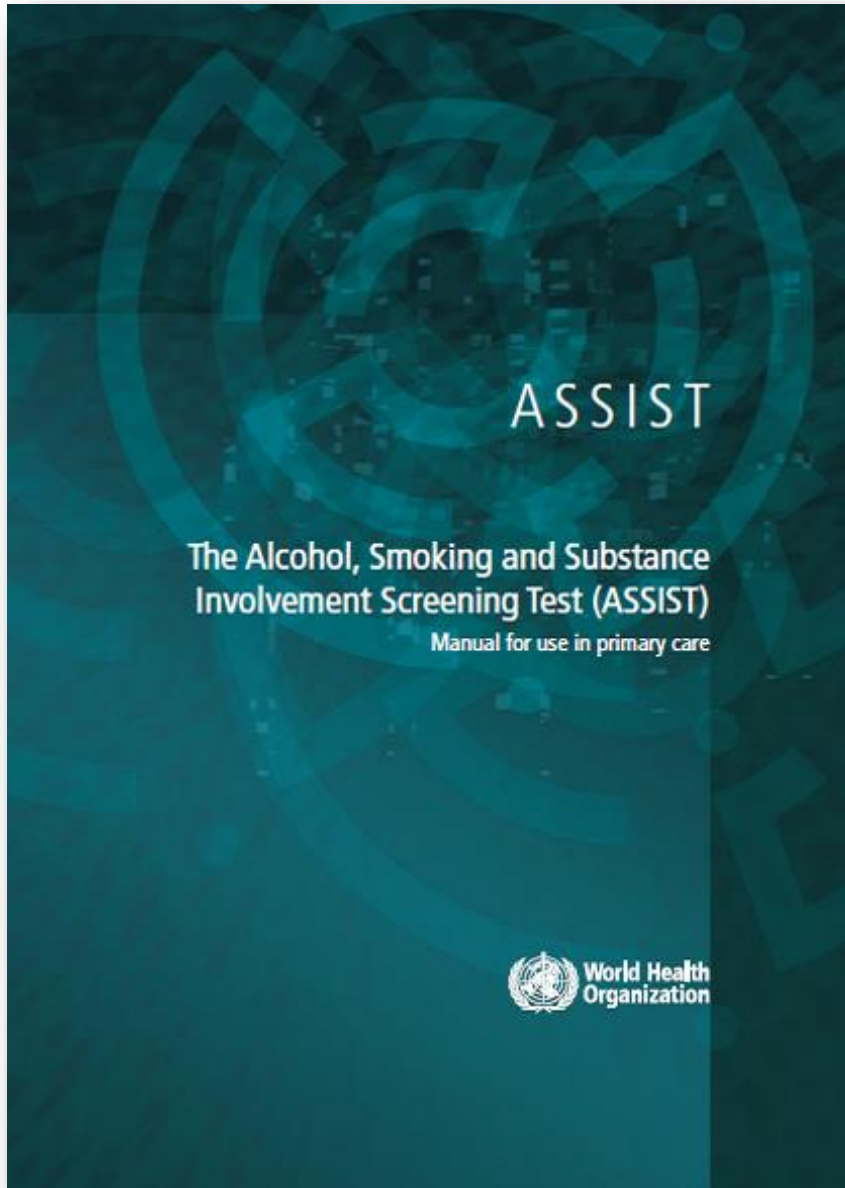


BACKGROUND

International evidence

- Europe – emphasis on classic cannabis use metrics¹³





**Identify hazardous,
harmful or
dependent
substance use.**

How have patterns of problematic cannabis use changed in Canada and USA between 2018 and 2020?



Methods

- Repeat cross-sectional surveys
- Annual data collection 2018...
- Online data collection
- Ages 16-65

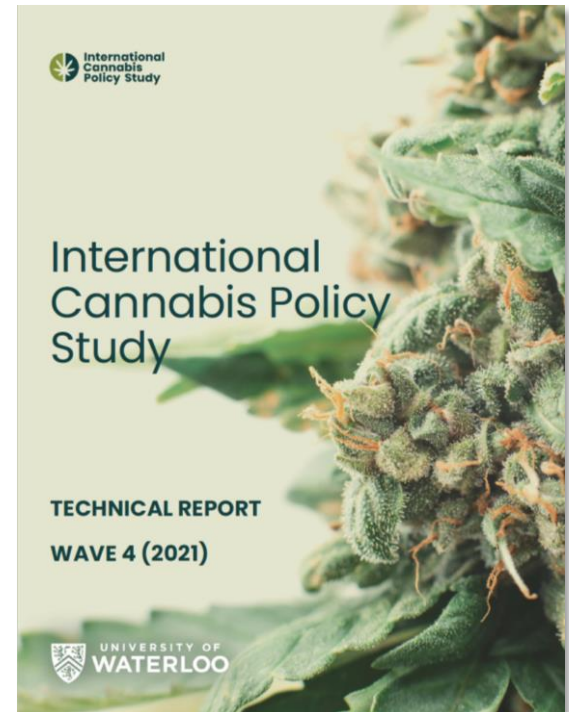
2018	2019	2020
27,169	48,111	45,681



USA



CANADA



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MEASURES

WHO ASSIST

Item 1	In your life, which of the following substances have you ever used ? "Cannabis (marijuana, pot, grass, hash, etc.)" No=0; Yes=3
Item 2	In the past three months, how often have you used the substances you mentioned? "Cannabis (marijuana, pot, grass, hash, etc.)" Never=0; Once or twice=2; Monthly=3; Weekly=4; Daily or almost daily=6
Item 3	During the past three months, how often have you had a strong desire or urge to use "Cannabis (marijuana, pot, grass, hash, etc.)"? Never=0; Once or twice=3; Monthly=4; Weekly=5; Daily or almost daily=6
Item 4	During the past three months, how often has your use of "Cannabis (marijuana, pot, grass, hash, etc.)" led to health, social, legal or financial problems ? Never=0; Once or twice=4; Monthly=5; Weekly=6; Daily or almost daily=7
Item 5	During the past three months, how often have you failed to do what was normally expected of you because of your use of "Cannabis (marijuana, pot, grass, hash, etc.)"? Never=0; Once or twice=5; Monthly=6; Weekly=7; Daily or almost daily=8
Item 6	Has a friend or relative or anyone else ever expressed concern about your use of "Cannabis (marijuana, pot, grass, hash, etc.)"? No, never=0; Yes, in the past 12 months=6; Yes, but not in the past 12 months=3
Item 7	Have you ever tried and failed to control, cut down or stop using "Cannabis (marijuana, pot, grass, hash, etc.)"? No, never=0; Yes, in the past 12 months=6; Yes, but not in the past 12 months=3

SCORING: Add up Items 2 to 7.

Low risk: 0-3 No intervention; Moderate risk:4-26 Receive brief intervention; High risk: 27+ More intensive treatment

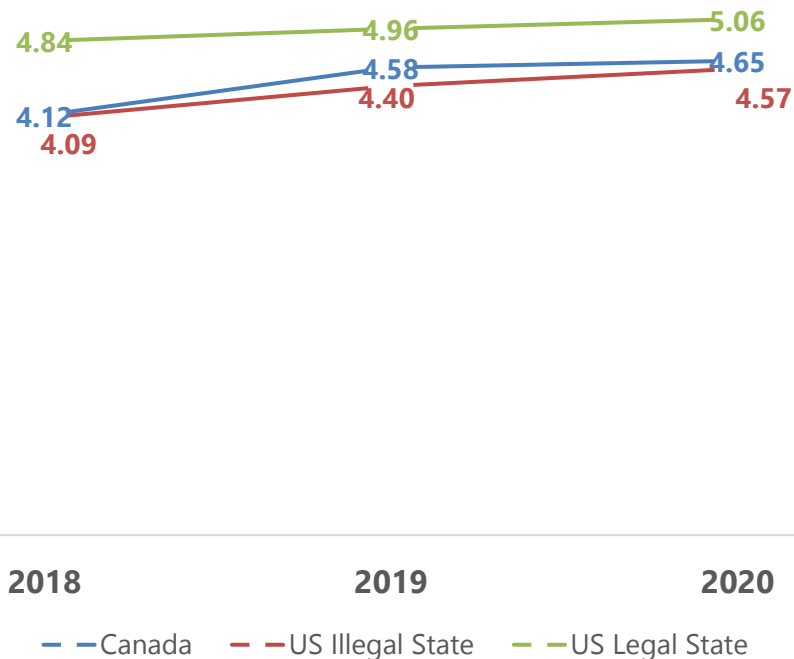
WEIGHTED SAMPLE

	Canada			US Illegal			US Legal		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
	n=5,683	n=9,458	n=9,572	n=5,308	n=6,401	n=7,122	n=4,549	n=13,993	n=11,014
Age									
16-25 years	746	1359	1239	679	957	1001	605	2333	1574
26-35 years	1359	2320	2284	1123	1521	1568	1149	3362	2643
36-45 years	1116	1953	2052	1016	1315	1492	770	2824	2345
46-55 years	1224	1871	1886	1240	1303	1483	1015	2700	2106
56-65 years	1238	1955	2111	1250	1305	1578	1010	2774	2346
Sex at birth									
Female	2728	4640	4647	2582	3125	3549	2279	6937	5554
Male	2954	4817	4925	2727	3277	3575	2271	7056	5460
Sexuality									
Heterosexual or straight	5091	8294	8336	4752	5701	6235	3936	11974	9483
Homosexual or gay or lesbian	591	1163	1235	556	701	888	613	2019	1531
Racial Group									
White	4694	7339	7370	4133	4912	5553	3577	10957	8755
Other/Mixed/Unstated	988	2119	2202	1175	1490	1570	972	3036	2259
Highest Level of Education Attained									
Less than high school	731	1325	1187	502	568	525	346	670	500
High school diploma or equivalent	1567	2564	2674	1092	1516	1825	786	3000	2356
Further training*	2109	3355	3440	2403	2559	2850	2204	6281	4746
Bachelor's degree or higher	1243	2121	2187	1302	1748	1899	1204	4000	3348
Income Adequacy									
Very difficult	522	1049	830	527	722	795	445	1583	1015
Difficult	1237	2282	1975	1240	1511	1457	951	3383	2213
Neither easy nor difficult	2009	3173	3516	1677	2082	2381	1517	4533	3803
Easy	1174	1791	2029	1149	1226	1381	966	2602	2278
Very easy	628	888	972	660	751	952	599	1529	1464
Cannabis Use Status									
> 12 months ago	2914	4076	4194	3000	3262	3720	2017	6113	5005
Past 12-month user	863	1729	1610	676	837	833	693	2028	1405
Monthly user	491	1064	1008	507	627	646	500	1279	1160
Weekly user	522	863	896	403	485	544	505	1263	1059

Overall problematic cannabis use scores were stable across measurement waves

Mean WHO ASSIST Scores in Canada and US jurisdictions; 2018-2020

n= 73,098

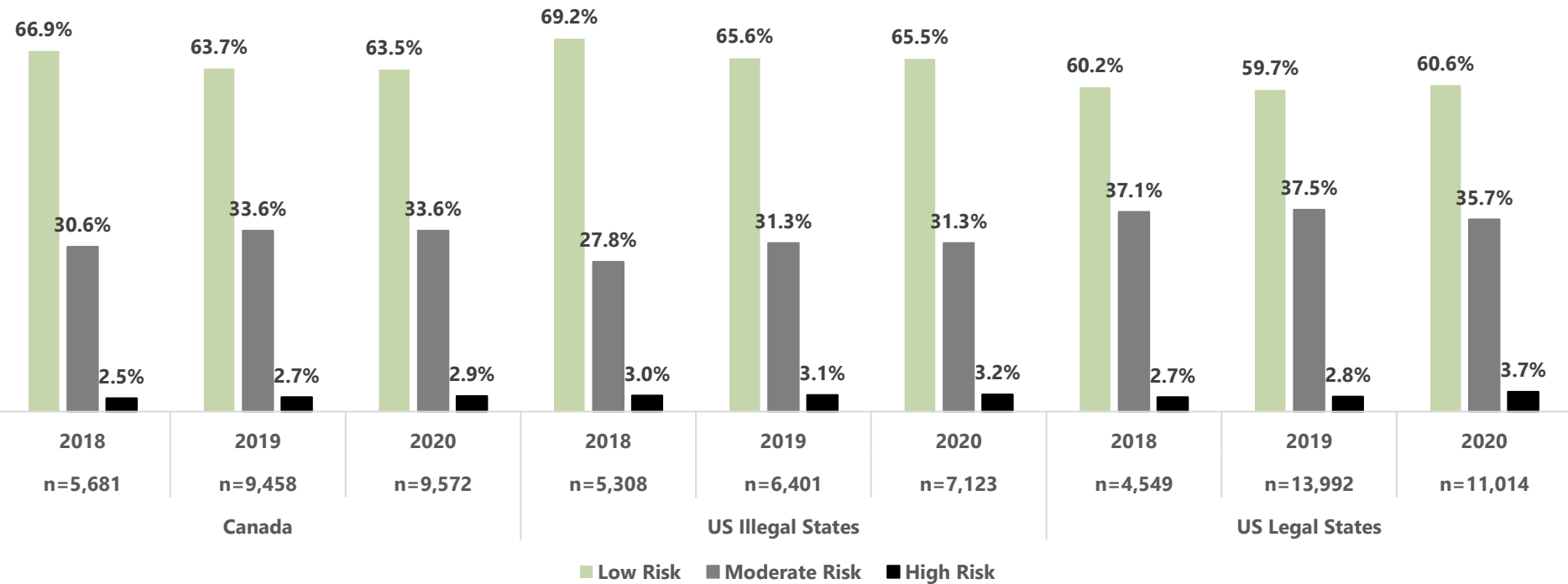


SCORING: Low risk: 0-3 No intervention; Moderate risk:4-26 Receive brief intervention; High risk: 27+ More intensive treatment

Populations in the United States were more likely to be classified into higher risk strata; 'legal states'

WHO ASSIST Risk Stratified Scores in Canadian and US jurisdictions; 2018-2020

N=73,098



Age, sex, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, education, are important considerations to inform public policy



Credit: Carlos David – carlosdavid.org

Use of Marijuana and Psychedelics Is Soaring Among Young Adults, Study Finds

The annual U.S. survey of substance use captures the growing mainstream acceptance of cannabis and hallucinogenic compounds.

 Give this article  



The annual survey of drug use indicated that daily consumption of marijuana among young adults nearly doubled over the previous decade. Peter Morgan/Associated Press

By Andrew Jacobs

Published Aug. 23, 2022 Updated Aug. 25, 2022

Marijuana and hallucinogen use among young adults reached an all-time record last year after having leveled off during the first year of the coronavirus pandemic, according to federal [survey](#) data.

Improved surveillance of problematic cannabis use in US settings

Prepare for unanticipated effects of a shifting regulatory landscape



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**A new international study on
cannabis legalization and public
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Thank you.

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