



Cannabis (Marijuana) Use in Montana

	United States	Montana
Percent of adults aged 18+ who report past month cannabis use ¹	18.0% 2019-2020	16.5% 2019-2020
Percent of population aged 16-20 who report driving under the influence of cannabis ¹	7.3% 2019-2020	16.5% 2019-2020

Key Points

“**Marijuana**” refers to parts of or products from the plant *Cannabis sativa* that contain substantial amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is primarily responsible for the effects on a person’s mental state.

“**Cannabis**” refers to all products derived from the *Cannabis sativa* plant. For this document, we will use the term cannabis instead of marijuana.

- From January through June of 2022, sales of cannabis in Montana totaled over **\$148 million**; 63% was for non-medical (recreational) use.²
- In 2021, there were **5,218** cannabis-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits.³
- Though rarely fatal, overdosing on cannabis is possible. Rapid heart rate, poor coordination, extreme confusion, dizziness, and lethargy are symptoms of cannabis poisoning. Between 2020 and 2021, there were **163 cannabis poisoning cases** seen in Montana emergency departments; **36 (22%) of these were among children aged 10 and under.**⁵



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Montana initially legalized cannabis for medical purposes in 2004. In November of 2020, 57% of Montanans voted in favor of Initiative 190 (I-190), which legalized non-medical adult-use cannabis for adults 21 years or older. Eligible dispensaries began selling cannabis for adult-use on January 1st of 2022 in counties where the majority of citizens voted in favor of I-190.

1. National Survey on Drug Use and Health, State Estimates, 2019-2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/state-reports-NSDUH-2020>
2. Montana Department of Revenue, Cannabis Sales Reports, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://mtrevenue.gov/cannabis-sales-reports/>
3. Montana Hospital Discharge Data System, 2019-2021 Office of Epidemiology and Scientific Support, Public Health and Safety Division. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Data provided courtesy of participating MHA members

For more information on what the Department of Public Health and Human Services is doing to bring education, prevention, and support to local leaders and their communities regarding cannabis/marijuana, please visit:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/prevention/marijuanaprevention>