

Maryland Medical Cannabis Patient Surveys: A 2022 to 2023 Pre/Post Legalization Comparison

The Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) conducted two survey waves to measure medical cannabis patient perceptions and behaviors before and after adult-use legalization in the State. The first survey was conducted in September 2022 and the second in September 2023--three months after the launch of adult-use cannabis sales (on 7/1/23). This two time-point study is one of the largest repeated, cross-sectional datasets measuring medical cannabis patterns of use and outcomes across multiple years.

Key Findings Include:

- Medical cannabis patients in Maryland are passionate about and actively engaged with the medical cannabis program.
- On average, patients spent less on all types of medical cannabis products in 2023 vs 2022.
- Patients report high satisfaction with the safety, price, and availability of medical cannabis.
- Public smoking and vaping are common with more than a third of respondents reporting use during the past month in public spaces, especially public recreation areas and event venues.
- Perceptions of risk related to cannabis use during pregnancy, keeping cannabis locked in the home, and cannabis impaired driving decreased in 2023.

Survey Stats

30K+

Patients participated in the 2022 and 2023 surveys

≥98%

Demographic match of actual patient population (age, gender, race, county of residence)

400

Variables were measured

Since the Launch of Adult-Use Cannabis Sales:

What Changed 2022 to 2023



Frequency of Use: 21.3 to 22.1
(Average days of use per month)



Perceived Efficacy: 73% to 77%
(Percent of patients who perceive medical cannabis to be very or extremely effective)



**Use During Pregnancy/
Breastfeeding: 56% to 75%**
(Percent of pregnant and/or breastfeeding respondents who reported consuming cannabis in the past month)



Drugged Driving: 18% to 39%
(Percent of respondents who drove under the influence of cannabis one or more times in the past month)



Medical-Only Use: 66% to 70%
(Patients who reported consuming cannabis solely for medical purposes)



Safe Storage: 62% to 54%
(Patients who reported always storing their medical cannabis in a safe, locked location in their home)

What Didn't Change



Preferred Methods: Flower, edibles, vapes, and concentrates remain the four most common methods of administration among patients.



Reported Conditions: Chronic pain, other chronic conditions, and PTSD remain the most reported qualifying conditions.



THC Dose: The median dose of THC per use has remained consistent across survey years.



Reasons for Program Engagement: Patients continue to cite the wider availability of products and strains, tax-free purchases, and access to higher potency products as the top reasons for participating in the medical cannabis program.

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