

MONITORING THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF MARIJUANA IN WASHINGTON STATE

POPULATION-BASED SURVEYS

The Washington State Department of Health uses the Healthy Youth Survey, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System to monitor current use of marijuana in youth, adults and pregnant or nursing women in Washington.

Table 1. Years of data available on current marijuana use from WA population-based surveys, 2002-2017

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Adolescents (grades 6, 8, 10, 12) Healthy Youth Survey	█	▧	█	▧	█	▧	█	▧	█	▧	█	▧	█	▧	█	▧
Adults (18+) Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Pregnant or Nursing Mothers Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	▧	█	█

In addition to assessing current use of marijuana, the Healthy Youth Survey includes a variety of questions related to social context and other predictors of marijuana use. These include questions on use of marijuana by friends, perception of risk of harm from using marijuana, perceived accessibility of marijuana and parental attitudes toward marijuana use.

OTHER DATA SOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)

DOH, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health agencies, is researching methods to identify marijuana-related emergency department visits in real-time syndromic surveillance data.

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

DSHS collects and analyzes data on admissions to publicly funded addiction treatment centers.

Poison Control Center (WAPC)

WAPC tracks calls regarding marijuana poisoning or overdose and reports data on a monthly basis.

Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)

WTSC compiles and analyzes data on fatal automobile accidents to identify crashes involving alcohol and other drugs.

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

OSPI collects data related to student discipline incidents.