

Profile of cannabis use in Montréal prior to legalization, 2018

First profile for Montréal

Cannabis use is not a new phenomenon, but its recent legalization for non-therapeutic purposes has brought the topic to the fore.

Using the data collected for the *Enquête québécoise sur le cannabis 2018*, Montréal's public health department is providing the first profile of cannabis use and perceptions of this substance before its legalization in 2018.



Main results

Results focus on cannabis use by Montrealers aged 15 years or older in the 12 months preceding legalization.



Around 17% of Montrealers used cannabis at least once in the past year, and the proportion is highest for young adults aged 18 to 24 years (38%).



A majority of cannabis users (62%) reported using the drug occasionally*.



Individuals who used it did so for pleasure (95%) or for health reasons (60%).



80% of cannabis users said they had used the drug in combination with alcohol.



8 out of 10 Montrealers considered that cannabis impairs driving, but 1 out of 10 Montrealers still declared having been a passenger aboard a vehicle driven by someone who had consumed the drug within the previous two hours.



Half of Montrealers (51%) believed it is socially acceptable to use cannabis occasionally, compared with a strong majority who hold this view related to alcohol use (88%).

*Occasional use: Using cannabis 3 days/month or less in the past 12 months.

This regional profile of cannabis use before legalization helps guide preventive actions in Montréal.

Public health will monitor changes in behaviours and social norms regarding cannabis. It can then adapt its interventions and make recommendations on managing this substance, if needed, to protect the population's well-being.