

Co-use of alcohol and marijuana and beliefs among teens

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New research from the Prevention Research Center of the Pacific

Institute for Research and Evaluation examines whether recreational marijuana legalization in Oregon and marijuana and alcohol retail outlet density levels are associated with co-use and beliefs supportive of use of each among teens.

Using data from 11th graders who participated in the Student Wellness Survey from 2010-2018, researchers assessed past-30-day co-use changes in counties with low, medium, and high densities of licensed [marijuana](#) and alcohol outlets.

Findings include:

- A significant post-legalization increase in past-30-day co-use in 2016 in counties with the highest retail outlet [density](#).
- Significant post-legalization increases in perceived risk and parent approval of alcohol and marijuana use.
- Legalization and greater retail availability of both marijuana and alcohol were positively associated with co-use among teens, and beliefs favorable to alcohol and marijuana use.

Says lead author, Dr. Grisel García-Ramírez: "Our results suggest that adolescents living in communities with greater retail availability of recreational marijuana and [alcohol](#) may have greater indirect access to these substances through diversion, as it is illegal for them to purchase and use them. So, their primary sources are likely to be social rather than commercial."

More information: García-Ramírez, Grisel, Mallie J. Paschall, and Joel W. Grube. Retail Availability of Recreational Marijuana and Alcohol in Oregon Counties and Co-Use of Alcohol and Marijuana and Related Beliefs among Adolescents. *Substance Use & Misuse* (2020): 1-8.

Provided by Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

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