

# THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAWS AND MATERNAL MARIJUANA USE

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## INTRODUCTION

Marijuana is the most common illicit drug of abuse among pregnant women and its use has been associated with a number of negative neurobehavioral outcomes such as altered neural functioning, emotional deficits, behavioral deficits, low academic achievement, and increased risk of substance misuse. Current trends of societal norms concerning marijuana use are easing and many states are adopting various levels of relaxed marijuana policies. The purpose of this study is to evaluate whether there is an association between the allowance of medical marijuana (MM) and maternal marijuana use. This study will evaluate the prevalence and extent of maternal marijuana use in states that allow MM and states that do not allow MM.

## METHOD

This secondary analysis of a large national database, the 2014 National Survey of Drug Use and Health, will evaluate the responses of pregnant women to questions concerning past month, past year marijuana use, and the level of marijuana use while controlling for age, income, race/ethnicity, education, marital status, and MM law of primary residence.

## REFERENCES

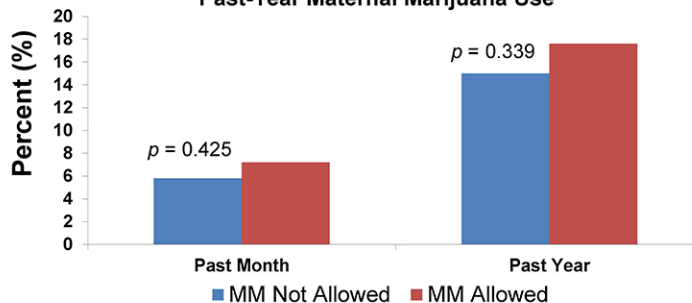
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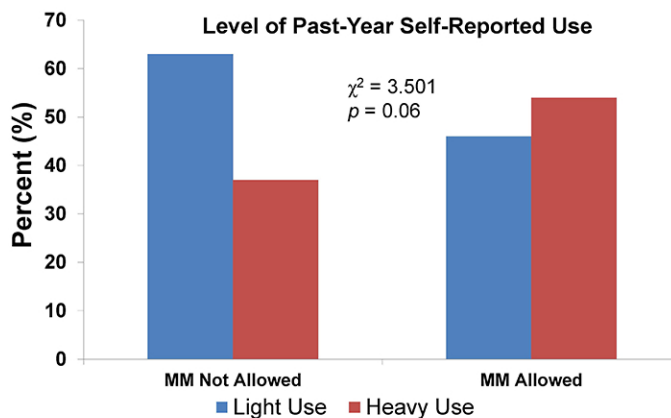
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	$\beta$	SE	Odds Ratio	$p$	Confidence Intervals
<b>Age Group</b>					
14-25	0.78	0.26	2.18	0.003	1.29 – 3.68
26-44	ref	ref	ref	ref	ref
<b>Race Ethnicity</b>					
Non-Hispanic White	ref	ref	ref	ref	ref
Non-Hispanic Other	-0.22	0.24	0.79	0.357	0.48 – 1.29
Hispanic	-0.78	0.30	0.45	0.010	0.25 – 0.83
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	ref	ref	ref	ref	ref
Not Married	1.53	0.33	4.65	<0.001	2.71 – 7.97

Prevalence of Self-Reported Past-Month and Past-Year Maternal Marijuana Use



Level of Past-Year Self-Reported Use



## RESULTS

There were 758 pregnant respondents. There were 452 women that lived in a state where MM was not allowed and 306 women in a state where it was allowed. In the states where MM was not allowed 26 (5.8%) reported past month use and 68 (15.0%) reported past year use. Of the 306 women that lived in a state where MM was allowed, 22 (7.2%) reported past month use and 54 (17.6%) reported past year use. The prevalence of past month and past year maternal marijuana use was higher in states where MM was allowed but that difference was not statistically significant ( $\chi^2 = 0.636$  and  $0.915$ , respectively and  $p = 0.425$  and  $0.339$ , respectively). However, Of the 68 women who reported past year marijuana use that lived in a state where MM was not allowed, 25 (36.8%) were classified as heavy users (> 100 times/year). Of the 54 women who reported past year marijuana use that lived in a state where MM was allowed, 29 (53.7%) were classified as heavy users. Pearson Chi-square analysis revealed that this was a marginally significant association with  $\chi^2 = 3.501$ ,  $p = 0.060$ .

## CONCLUSION

This study suggests that the presence of a medical marijuana law does not provide a statistically significant increase in the prevalence of maternal marijuana use but an increase in heavy users was observed.

## CONFLICTS

There are no conflicts of interest to report