

Self-reported cannabis expenditure in the USA and Canada by daily and nondaily cannabis users

CARMEN C.W. LIM^{1,2}, JANNI LEUNG^{1,2}, DANIEL STJEPANOVIĆ¹, WAYNE HALL¹, JASON CONNOR¹, CORAL GARTNER³, ELLE WADSWORTH⁴, DAVID HAMMOND⁴, GARY CHAN¹

¹National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research, The University of Queensland, Australia, ²School of Psychology, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, ³NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence on Achieving the Tobacco Endgame, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland, Australia, ⁴School of Public Health & Health Systems, University of Waterloo, Canada

Presenter's email: <c.lim2@uq.net.au>

Introduction and Aims: With changing legalization status on recreational cannabis in many jurisdictions, cannabis products used have diversified away from dried flower towards alternative products such as cannabis oils, extracts and edibles. This study aims to estimate self-reported spending on cannabis products in Canada and the USA, by the legal status of recreational cannabis use.

Design and Methods: The International Cannabis Policy Study 2019 assessed patterns of consumption and purchasing behaviour of 10 cannabis products. Data were based on 16,342 respondents who used cannabis in the past year. Total expenditure was derived using unit price, past-year frequency of consumption, and amount consumed daily. Canadian dollars were converted to USD Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) dollars.

Results:

The average spending was highest in U.S. illegal states (USD 3,548.31), followed by U.S. legal states (USD 2,899.27) and Canada (USD-PPP 1,543.80). Dried flower accounted for 58% of expenditure in Canada, 47% in U.S. illegal states, and 44% in U.S. legal states. Cannabis concentrates accounted for 9% of expenditure in Canada, 16% in U.S. illegal states and 15% in U.S. legal states. Hash, tinctures, and topical products were the least purchased products in Canada and U.S. illegal states. Approximately 60-90% of the total expenditure was accounted for by people who consumed cannabis daily.

Discussions and Conclusions:

Dried flower accounted for the majority of expenditure, followed by non-herbal products such as cannabis concentrates and edibles. Demand was primarily driven by people who used cannabis daily. Future research should attempt to identify strategies to reduce cannabis-related harms in this group.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

CL was supported by an NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship [APP2005317], The University of Queensland Living Stipend and Tuition Scholarship and a National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research (NCYSUR) top-up scholarship. JL was supported by a NHMRC Investigator Fellowship [APP2010008] and The University of Queensland development fellowship. GC was supported by a NHMRC Investigator Fellowship [APP1176137]. DH has served as a paid expert witness on behalf of public health authorities in response to legal challenges from the cannabis industry.