

Cannabis Perceptions among Canadian Adolescent Boys and Girls

Cannabis use varies across gender, and gender norms can increase the risk for cannabis-related harms. Here are some ways to support youth based on their gender.

Compared to girls, **BOYS**



Are more likely to use cannabis frequently, competitively, heavily and while alone.



Buy and advertise cannabis for sale openly through social media.

This means **increased risk**



Of harm to the body and brain, and of developing a cannabis use disorder.



Of exposure to criminal consequences.

How to **provide support**



Discuss how to reduce risk by recommending [lower-risk cannabis use guidelines](#).



Inform youth of the legal consequences of cannabis possession and sale under the legal age.

Compared to boys, **GIRLS**



Are concerned with stigma and stereotypes associated with cannabis use.



Buy cannabis discreetly, often meeting with sellers alone.

This means **increased risk**



That they will hide their use and be less likely to seek support for problematic use.



Of entering unsafe situations that could lead to physical harm.

How to **provide support**



Educate about the signs of dependency and cannabis use disorder, and about resources for problematic cannabis use.



Outline steps they can take to stay safe when purchasing.

