



Cannabis Home Cultivation in Canada Before and After Legalization: Research Highlights

Key Findings

- Cannabis home cultivation among people who consume cannabis for medical and nonmedical reasons rose slightly after legalization, from about six per cent in 2018 to nine per cent in 2020.
- Most people who cultivate cannabis grow within the nonmedical four-plant limit set out in the *Cannabis Act*.
- Those most likely to cultivate cannabis identify as:
 - Male,
 - Aged 35 years and older,
 - Atlantic provinces resident,
 - Not single (e.g., married, common law, divorced, separated or widowed)
 - Having more than a high school diploma,
 - Using cannabis daily or almost daily,
 - Using cannabis for medical or both medical and nonmedical reasons, as opposed to nonmedical reasons only, and
 - Consuming by smoking.
- Home cultivation was less common in Manitoba and Quebec, the two provinces where cultivation is prohibited.
- There is an association between cannabis home cultivation and workplace use.
- More research is needed to understand the implications.

The research highlights summarize findings from the two published journal articles the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addictions co-authored about cannabis home cultivation before and after legalization.

Implications for the *Cannabis Act*

Home cultivation may:

- Reduce the likelihood that consumers will buy from the illicit market if legal stores are not available or if home cultivation is preferred.
- Provide consumers more control over product strains and strength.



- Have health and safety risks associated with unknown quality, strength or both of home cultivated cannabis.
- Provide easier access to people in the home who are under the legal age for cannabis use.
- Present a risk for those in the same home, such as children and youth, particularly in terms of safe storage and possibility of accidental consumption.
- Allow an opportunity for illegal resale.

Areas for further research

- Explore how home cultivated cannabis is stored in the home and potential risks for accidental consumption.
- Examine whether cannabis legalization has affected rates of workplace accidents or fatalities.

References

- Cristiano, N., Pacheco, K., Wadsworth, E., Schell, C., Ramakrishnan, N., Faiazza, E., Beauchamp, E., & Wood, S. (2022). An analysis of cannabis home cultivation and associated risks in Canada, before and after legalization. *Health Reports* 33(9), 21–31. <https://www.doi.org/10.25318/82-003-x202200900003-eng>
- Wadsworth, E., Cristiano, N., Pacheco, K., Jesseman, R., & Hammond, D. (2022). Home cultivation across Canadian provinces after cannabis legalization. *Addictive Behaviors Reports*, 15, Article 100423. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.abrep.2022.100423>

