



Cannabis Legalization: Home Cultivation

Findings

- *The Cannabis Act* allows adults of legal age to grow a maximum of four plants per household (not per person) and to share a maximum of 30 grams of cannabis harvested from these plants with other adults of legal age.
- While *the Cannabis Act* allows home cultivation, provinces and territories are allowed to make their own permissions. For example, Quebec does not permit home cultivation.
- *The Cannabis Act* also allows people registered with Health Canada for use of cannabis for medical purposes to grow the plant themselves or their designated person or responsible adult. These limits are set by the individual registration certificate and can exceed the limit set for those who are not registered.
- The 2022 Canadian Cannabis Survey (CCS) found that six per cent of people in Canada and 14 per cent of those who had used cannabis in the past 12 months had plants growing (Health Canada, 2022). This was unchanged from data collected in 2021.
- The average number of plants was 3.5, unchanged from 2021 data (Health Canada, 2022), with the average number being 3.1 for plants grown outside and 3.9 for plants grown inside.
- A new question in 2022 asked whether the people who had grown cannabis did so for someone who was authorized by Health Canada for medical purposes. Of this, 20 per cent indicated they had authorization (Health Canada, 2022).
- For people who use cannabis for medical purposes, the CCS found that eight per cent grew their own or had it grown for them (Health Canada, 2022). This was a new question, so a comparison with 2021 is not possible.
- Most people who engage in home cultivation appear to be growing within the limit of four plants (Wadsworth et al., 2022). This suggests the maximum plant number per household may serve as an effective control measure to stop large-scale production while allowing greater equitable access to legal cannabis.
- However, public health affects of home cultivation must be explored further to understand their impact, including the increased access to the flower among youth and selling on the illegal market (Cristiano et al., 2022).
- Additionally, the impact on health and safety within the home needs further investigation, such as electrical and fire hazards, and biological safety (e.g., mould, pesticides) (Eykelbosh & Steiner, 2018).



Policy Considerations

There has not been enough time to fully understand the impacts of cannabis legalization. More time is needed to build concrete evidence. Home cultivation is a particularly under-researched area due to the privacy of residential homes. However, despite the limited information CCSA suggests:

- Investigating the risks and safe production practices of home cultivations, including electrical safety, mould and other contaminants; and
- Keeping home cultivation limits to reduce the risks attributed to home grown plants, such as trafficking or diversion to youth.

CCSA Resources

[A Public Health Perspective on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation in Canada](#)

[Cannabis Legalization: 2021-2022 Observations](#)

[Cannabis Home Cultivation in Canada Before and After Legalization: Research Highlights](#)

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.

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Wadsworth, E., Cristiano, N., Pacheco, K., Jesseman, R., & Hammond, D. (2022). Home cultivation across Canadian provinces after cannabis legalization. *Addictive Behaviours Reports*, 15, Article 100423. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.abrep.2022.100423>

