

**TITLE:** Marijuana Use among Adults with Disabilities

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Public Health Practitioners, Social Workers, Primary Care Team, Program Developers, and Policy Makers.

**ABSTRACT:** Background: Some evidence suggest that people with disabilities are more likely to use marijuana. However, there is limited research on differences in consumption across varying types of disability (e.g., sensory, mobility, cognitive).

Methods: We analyzed 2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data in Oregon. We conducted t-tests and regression analyses to examine associations between any disability and marijuana use and between specific types of disability and marijuana use.

Results: Compared to adults without disabilities, adults with disabilities were more likely to have used marijuana in the previous month [38.1% vs 26.2%, p-value <0.0001]. On average, Oregonians with disabilities also used marijuana more days of the month than was the case for people without disabilities (6.41 vs. 3.65, p <0.0001). Our stratified analysis indicates that people with disabilities were significantly more likely to use marijuana in groups both with and without medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, people with cognitive disability had the highest odds of marijuana use, even when controlling for sociodemographic and mental health characteristics.

Conclusion: Adults with disabilities are more likely to use marijuana than adults without disabilities. Recently announced Federal plans to crack down on marijuana possession and use may disproportionately impact people with disabilities.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Discuss differences in prevalence of marijuana consumption among varying disability types.

Describe how stress, depression and the social context may influence marijuana use among people with disabilities.

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