

Marijuana and Tobacco Use in Indiana

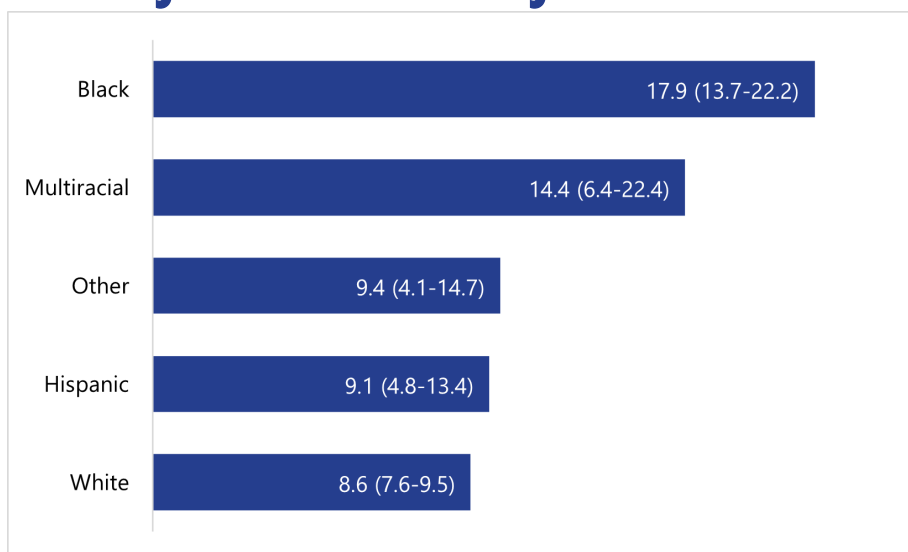


Introduction

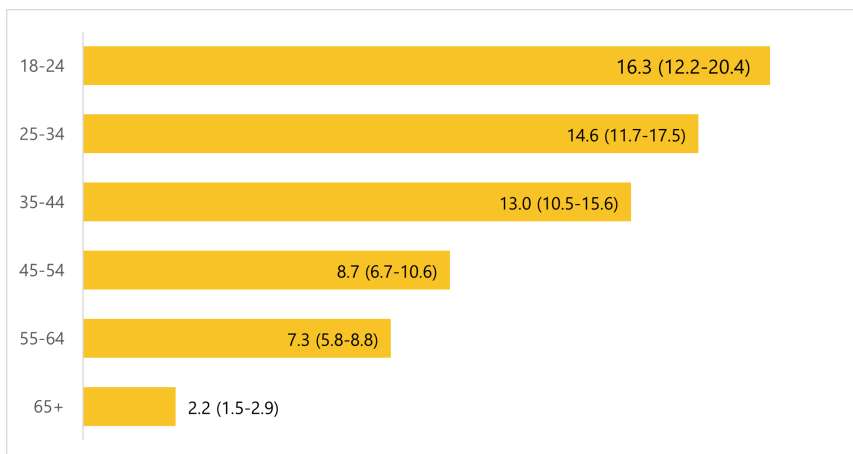
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According to a 2019 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 91% of U.S. adults believe that marijuana should be legalized either for medical or recreational use or both. As many states have already begun to decriminalize marijuana use and the odds for full federal legalization have never been higher, it is important to examine the prevalence of marijuana use among Hoosiers. Additionally, as Indiana continues to demonstrate higher than average tobacco use rates, it is of interest to examine the potential relationship between marijuana use and tobacco use. 2020 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey data were analyzed to determine whether disparities exist across demographics for both marijuana and marijuana/tobacco dual use among Indiana adults. *Note:* the use of "cigarette" throughout this text refers to tobacco cigarettes.

Differences in Current Marijuana Use by Race/Ethnicity*



When comparing current marijuana use by race and ethnicity, results indicated that 17.9% of Black adults reported current marijuana use. This was significantly higher than both White and Hispanic adults (8.6% and 9.1%, respectively). No other significant differences were found between groups based on race and ethnicity.



Differences in Current Marijuana Use by Age*

Approximately 16.3% of Indiana adults between the ages of 18 and 24 reported current marijuana use. Prevalence of current marijuana use gradually decreases as age range increases with Hoosiers between the ages of 18 and 34 reporting current use at a significantly higher rate than adults ages 45 and older.

Fast Facts

- 1 in 10 Indiana adults reported using marijuana in the past 30 days. Among Hoosiers ages 18-24, this number increased to 1 in 6.
- Men (11.2%) reported current marijuana use significantly more than women (8%).
- 13.1% of Indiana adults with an annual income of \$15,000 or less reported current marijuana use. This percentage decreases as annual income increases.
- Marijuana use decreases as educational attainment increases. 13.2% of adults who had not earned a high school diploma reported current marijuana use, while significantly fewer college graduates reported current use (5.2%).

*All graphs include prevalence (%) with 95% confidence intervals.

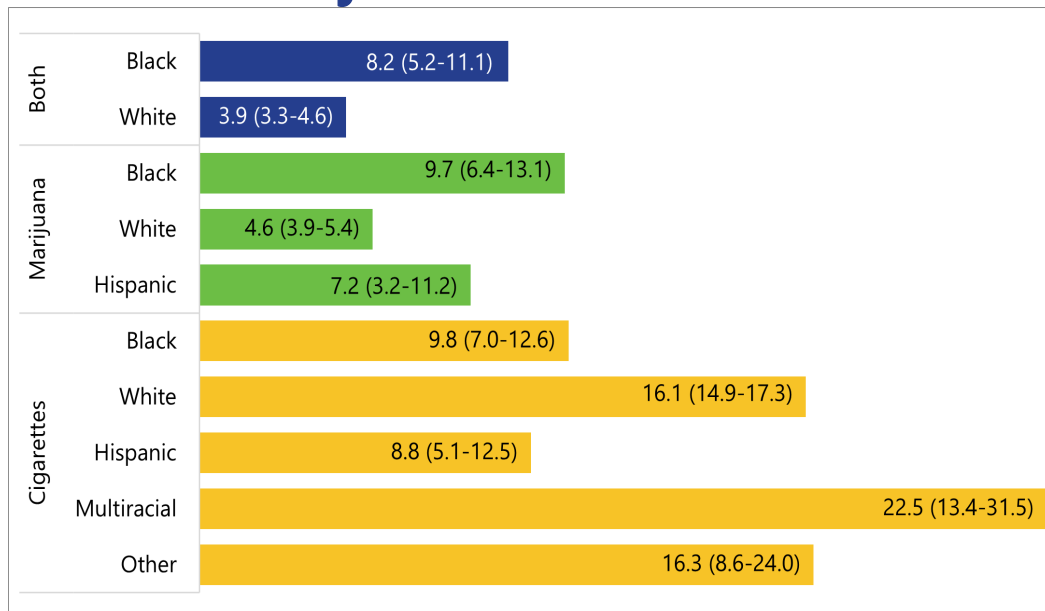
Marijuana and Cigarette Dual Use Prevalence

In the sample of 2020 Indiana BRFSS participants who answered questions about both marijuana and cigarette use, 4.2% reported at least some current use of both substances. In Indiana, it is more common for adults to smoke cigarettes (15.1%) than to use marijuana (5.3%).

4.2% of Indiana adults reported recent dual use

Note: "Dual use" refers to adults who have used marijuana in the past 30 days and also smoked cigarettes some days or every day.

Marijuana and Cigarette Dual Use Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity*



When comparing current marijuana and cigarette dual use based on race/ethnicity, results indicated that 8.2% of Black adults reported current dual use, which was significantly higher than current dual use reported by White adults (3.9%). Black adults also reported marijuana only use (9.7%) at a significantly higher rate than White adults (4.6%). White adults were significantly more likely to smoke cigarettes only (16.1%) than both Black adults (9.8%) and Hispanic adults (8.8%). Groups with insufficient data were excluded from this analysis.

Additional Marijuana and Cigarette Dual Use Findings

There were no differences between the prevalence of men and women who reported dual use, but both groups reported smoking cigarettes at a significantly higher rate than using marijuana or dual marijuana/tobacco use.

Indiana adults who reported an annual income of \$50,000+ reported smoking cigarettes and dual use at a significantly lower rate than those with an annual income of less than \$35,000. All income levels reported smoking cigarettes at a significantly higher rate than using marijuana or dual marijuana/tobacco use.

Indiana adults who graduated college reported smoking cigarettes and dual use at a significantly lower rate than all other education groups (no high school diploma, high school diploma and some college).

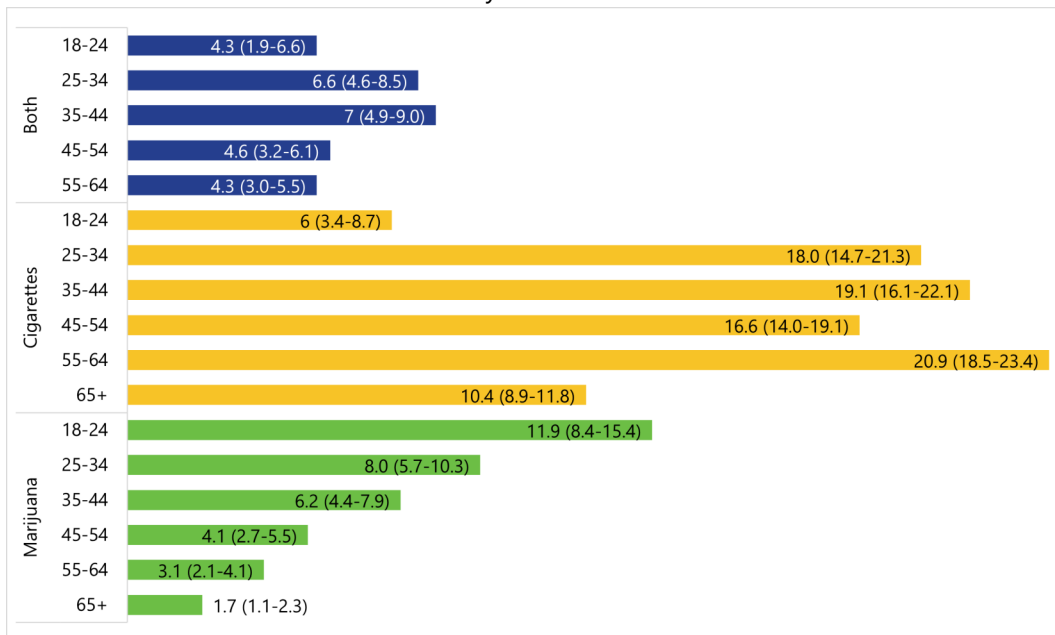
***All graphs include prevalence (%) with 95% confidence intervals.**

For additional information about BRFSS findings related to marijuana and tobacco use, please visit the [Health: Epidemiology Resource Center: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#).



Marijuana and Cigarette Dual Use Prevalence by Age*

Analyses performed using 2020 Indiana BRFSS data determined that there was no significant difference in prevalence of dual use of marijuana and cigarettes between different age groups. However, there were differences in preference of type of use within and between each age group. For example, those in the 18-24 age group preferred marijuana only over dual use, while respondents in the remaining age groups preferred cigarettes only over both marijuana only and dual use. Groups with insufficient data were excluded from this analysis.



Conclusion

Using marijuana and marijuana/cigarette dual use data taken from the 2020 Indiana BRFSS, we can see that demographic differences exist based on race/ethnicity, age, sex, income and educational attainment. For example, marijuana/cigarette dual use is most prevalent in the 35-44 age range, but cigarette only use is most prevalent in all age groups. Concerning race/ethnicity, Black adults reported the highest incidence of marijuana/cigarette dual use (8.2%). In summary, current marijuana use varies across races/ethnicities and is higher in younger age groups, those with lower annual incomes and those who have less educational attainment.

7.0% of adults aged 35-44 reported current dual use

Individuals 35-44 years old have the highest prevalence of dual use of all the age groups.

Future Research Possibilities

Future directions for further analyses could include examining potential differences between demographic groups when reporting reasons for marijuana use. It may also be interesting to compare the dual use findings presented in this newsletter to prevalence rates of dual use of marijuana with e-cigarettes and vaping products instead. As conversations surrounding marijuana legalization continue in Indiana, it will be particularly important to consider these and other similar findings when legislators commence their efforts to implement policy changes surrounding marijuana use in our state.

*All graphs include prevalence (%) with 95% confidence intervals.

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