

MARIJUANA IN OKLAHOMA

2025

TEXOMA High Intensity
Drug Trafficking Area



PREPARED BY:
TEXOMA HIDTA
DECEMBER 2024



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

After direct requests from Oklahoma legislators, policy makers and their citizen constituents, the TEXOMA High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) has compiled this report to detail the current landscape of marijuana in Oklahoma. Medical marijuana became legalized in Oklahoma in June 2018 and this is the first comprehensive report of its kind in the state. The report is divided into separate topic sections, each providing current and trend information, where available, to provide insight into the overall impact since legalization.

As indicated through the data, marijuana legalization in Oklahoma has had a significant impact on the state, with increased marijuana use among both youth and adults. Along with a rise in marijuana related health issues such as emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and calls to the poison control center. The report also highlights the challenges of regulating the industry, including the diversion of marijuana for illegal purposes and the need for ongoing research on the long-term impacts of marijuana use.

Findings By Section

Medical Marijuana Industry

- ❑ A moratorium of new licenses for any dispensary, grower, or processor was established August 26, 2022, and is set to expire on August 1, 2026.
- ❑ Oklahoma has **12 times as many licensed medical marijuana growers as Colorado**, and **over 3 times as many medical and recreational growers combined**.
- ❑ Oklahoma **has more than 5 times as many licensed medical marijuana dispensaries as Colorado**, and **nearly twice as many medical and recreational dispensaries combined**.
- ❑ The medical marijuana industry has produced more than **32 times the marijuana supply** necessary to meet licensed patient demands.

- ❑ “The large oversupply observed in the regulated systems suggests that the licensed operators contributing to oversupply are very likely adding to an illicit market both at the point of cultivation and the point of retail sale.”
- *An Empirical Assessment of Oklahoma’s Medical Marijuana Market (June 2023)*

Youth Marijuana Use:

- ❑ The latest 2021/2022 national survey results show Oklahoma **youth ranked #3** in the nation for past month marijuana use, **up from #43** in the nation in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Oklahoma youth past month marijuana use for 2021/2022 **was 38% higher than the national average** compared to **21 percent lower** than the national average in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Youth past month marijuana use **increased 44%** in the four-year average (2019-2022) since Oklahoma legalized medical marijuana compared to the four-year average prior to legalization (2015-2018).
- ❑ **Since legalizing marijuana for medicinal use in 2018, Oklahoma** youth use rates have increased 73%.
- ❑ **56% of 12th graders** and **43% of 10th graders** perceive it to be “sort of” or “very easy” to obtain marijuana.
- ❑ By grade level, the percent of students who felt there was slight or no risk involved with using marijuana:
 - **59% of 12th graders,**
 - **48% of 10th graders,**
 - **37% of 8th graders**
 - **30% of 6th graders**
- ❑ The fifteen states with the lowest rate of current marijuana youth use all have some of the most restrictive marijuana laws in the country. Of those, Utah, Alabama, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Mississippi also have a restrictive form of medical marijuana legalization.
- ❑ The fifteen states with the highest rate of current marijuana youth use all have full marijuana legalization to include recreational use, aside from Oklahoma and Hawaii which are only legalized medically.

Adult Marijuana Use:

College Age

- ❑ College age past month marijuana use **increased 53%** in the four-year average (2019-2022) since Oklahoma legalized medical marijuana compared to the four-year average prior to legalization (2015-2018).
- ❑ The latest 2021/2022 national survey results show Oklahoma **college-age adults ranked #20** in the nation for past-month marijuana use, **up from #39** in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Oklahoma college age past month marijuana use for 2021/2022 was **8% higher than the national average** compared to **23% lower** in 2017/2018.
- ❑ **Since marijuana was legalized for medicinal use in 2018**, college age (18-25 years old) use increased 55%.

Adult

- ❑ Adult past-month marijuana use **increased 162%** in the four-year average (2019-2022) since Oklahoma legalized medical marijuana compared to the four-year average prior to legalization (2015-2018).
- ❑ The latest 2021/2022 national survey results show Oklahoma **adults ranked #11** in the nation for past-month marijuana use, **up from #42** in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Oklahoma adult past month marijuana use for 2021/2022 was **27% higher than the national average** compared to **30% lower** in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Since marijuana was legalized for medicinal use in 2018, **use for adults ages 26 and older increased 188%**.

Marijuana Investigations:

- ❑ There was a **4,166% increase in pounds of marijuana seized through investigative efforts** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ The **number of marijuana plants seized through investigative efforts increased 69,573%** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ There was a **717% increase in pounds of marijuana seized during interdiction stops** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ The **number of interdiction stops** which resulted in the seizure of marijuana **increased 117%** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ In 2023 65% of the highway seizures with known origin location came from Oklahoma compared to 15% of seizures in 2014, indicating an increased presence of illicit distribution from the state.

- ❑ Chinese criminal organizations have infiltrated the state to exploit the medical marijuana laws and, in addition to drug trafficking, have been linked to money laundering and human trafficking.

Emergency Department and Hospital Marijuana-Related Discharges:

- ❑ Due to a new data system being introduced in 2020, along with voluntary data entry, there is no trend information that can be determined for emergency department discharge numbers. Figures for 2022 and 2023 are provided.
- ❑ Overall number of discharges for inpatient hospitalizations for **all ages** with nonfatal cannabis poisonings **increased 228%** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ The number of **youth ages 1-4** discharges for inpatient hospitalizations with nonfatal cannabis poisonings **increased 960%** from 2016 to 2023.
- ❑ The number of **youth ages 5-14** discharges for inpatient hospitalizations with nonfatal cannabis poisonings **increased 300%** from 2016 to 2023.
- ❑ Discharges for inpatient hospitalizations for ages 15-24 and ages 25-44 with nonfatal cannabis poisonings show no definitive trends to be determined.

Marijuana Poison Control Calls:

- ❑ Marijuana poison control calls increased significantly for each age group comparing the five-year average (2019-2023) since Oklahoma legalized medical marijuana to the five-year average (2014-2018) prior to legalization.
 - **2,529% increase Ages 0-5 Years Old**
 - **381% increase Ages 6-19 Years Old**
 - **338% increase Ages 20+ Years Old**
- ❑ **Pediatric marijuana poison control calls (ages 0 to 5) increased 20-fold (1,900%) from 2018 to 2023.**
- ❑ Youth ages 6-19 years old marijuana poison control calls **increased more than six times (528%)** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ Adults ages 20 and older marijuana poison control calls varied since medical legalization in 2018 and overall, the total number of **calls doubled (130% increase)** from 2018 to 2023.

Treatment Admissions:

- ❑ In fiscal year 2024 **nearly three-fourths (73.4%) of all youth ages 12-17** listed marijuana as their primary drug of choice when entering substance abuse treatment.

- ❑ At **19.7%**, **marijuana treatment admissions for college age individuals** were the third highest primary drug of choice, after methamphetamine(31.2%) and alcohol (28.8%) in fiscal year 2024.
- ❑ At **6.7%** **marijuana treatment admission for adults ages 26+** were the third highest primary drug of choice, far below methamphetamine(34.9%) and alcohol(36.5%) admissions in fiscal year 2024.
- ❑ The number of treatment admissions with marijuana as the primary drug of choice have been declining over the past decade for both youth and college age individuals. Adults ages 26+ remained fairly consistent until a slight rise in FY23 and FY24 numbers.
- ❑ In 2023, out of all the marijuana treatment admissions in the state of Oklahoma **53.9% were from adults ages 26+**, **30.4% were from college age individuals 18-25**, and **15.7% were from youth ages 12-17 years old**.

Related Data:

- ❑ In 2019, Cannabinoids were the third most common drug found in cases submitted for testing.
- ❑ From 2020-2023, **Cannabinoids were the most common drug** found in cases submitted for testing.
- ❑ In 2023, Cannabinoids were the top drug detected in traffic death investigations.
- ❑ There was a **327% increase** in the number of cases testing positive for Cannabinoids from 2019 to 2023
- ❑ Violent crimes against persons **increased 103%** from 2019 to 2023.
- ❑ Crimes against property **increased 47%** from 2019 to 2023.
- ❑ Drug/ Narcotic Violation Crimes **increased 48%** from 2019 to 2023.

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to document the current landscape in Oklahoma since marijuana was legalized for medical use in June 2018. This report is meant to shed light on the complex realities of marijuana legalization in Oklahoma, providing insights for both policymakers and citizens. Oklahoma has already seen several impacts from legalization. This report creates an important opportunity to gather and examine meaningful data and identify trends. This entails a focus on a range of key areas affected by marijuana's legalization, from youth and adult marijuana use to health impacts related to emergency department visits, hospital admissions, poison control calls and substance abuse treatment admissions to impaired driving and illegal diversion to name a few.

It is crucial to understand the overall comprehensive picture to effectively identify any issues contrived by medical legalization and allow for comprehensive prevention programs, education initiatives, and community support to address them. As seen through the data, social attitudes towards marijuana have become more tolerant, leading to increased acceptance even among youth combined with an increasing perception of low risk for use. Additionally, increased access to marijuana, through both legal dispensaries and illicit trafficking has driven use to an all-time high among all age groups.

- Note that wherever available both current and trend information are presented throughout this document. However, the historic amount of trend data varies by topic and data source.

Summary

In June 2018, Oklahoma voters approved State Question 788, known as the “Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative”, which legalized the use, possession, and cultivation of medical marijuana for qualified patients. This initiative made Oklahoma the 30th state to legalize cannabis for medicinal use. Under the oversight of the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), patients with a qualifying medical condition can apply for a medical marijuana license. The program allows registered patients to possess and use marijuana for medical purposes with the recommendation of a licensed physician. Qualified patients can also cultivate a limited number of marijuana plants for personal use or designate a caregiver to assist them. Possession, sale, and cultivation of marijuana for non-medical purposes are still considered illegal under state law. The recreational use of marijuana remains illegal in Oklahoma. All medical marijuana purchases have a 7% sales tax assessed at the point of sale.

The Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) was established to administer the rules and regulations governing the state’s medical cannabis program. OMMA is responsible for maintaining a registry of patients, caregivers, and physicians as well as issuing licenses for growers, processors, testing labs, transporters, and dispensaries.

*Oklahomans rejected State Question 820 in 2023, which would have legalized recreational marijuana in the state. The passage would have allowed dispensaries in Oklahoma to sell cannabis and cannabis products to anyone age 21 and older.

Medical Marijuana Legalization Details

Only patients and their designated caregivers who are registered with OMMA can legally possess medical cannabis. Patients and caregivers are permitted to possess up to:

- 3 ounces (85 grams) of usable cannabis on their person
- 8 ounces (227 grams) at home
- 1 ounce (28 grams) of cannabis concentrates
- 72 ounces (2 kilograms) of edible products
- 6 mature plants and up to 6 seedlings

Although SQ 788 allows for the legal use of medical marijuana with a state approved license, under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act cannabis is still classified as a Schedule I substance, meaning marijuana possession without a state issued license is illegal.

Under SQ 788, any person, even if they are not in possession of a state issued medical marijuana license, is able to possess up to 1.5 ounces (42 grams) of marijuana, and only receive a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$400, if they can state a medical condition.¹

Medical marijuana products have a 7% state excise tax assessed at the dispensary in addition to a local sales tax that varies by city and county. The specific rate remains consistent with other non-medical marijuana retailers in the same area. Marijuana state and local sales tax revenue can be used to fund a number of items to include education, general state government and municipal/county services.²

¹ Oklahoma's Medical Cannabis Initiative State Question 788, Marijuana Policy Project, <https://www.mpp.org/states/oklahoma/sq788/>

² Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, Licensing and Tax Data, "Where does the state and local tax money go?", <https://oklahoma.gov/omma/about/licensing-and-tax-data.html>

Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA)

The Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) is the regulatory agency for Oklahoma’s medical marijuana program. OMMA is responsible for processing commercial and patient license applications, providing customer service to licensees and applicants, facilitating the rulemaking process based on state statutes, enforcing rules, investigating possible violations of medical marijuana laws along with additional duties.³

The passage of SQ 788 created the state laws that started the industry. OMMA’s rules are based on those state laws, and subsequent amendments and new state laws passed by the Oklahoma Legislature. OMMA was part of the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) until Oct. 31, 2022, and became an independent state agency on Nov. 1, 2022, when SB 1543 (2022) took effect. As of fiscal year 2024, (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), OMMA does not directly receive any marijuana revenue. Instead, the Legislature appropriates OMMA's funding annually.⁴

Key Laws Related to the Medical Marijuana Industry⁵

STATE QUESTION 788-

Oklahoma voters approved State Question 788 in June of 2018. This measure legalized the licensed use, sale, and growth of marijuana in the state for medicinal purposes. SQ 788 authorized a 7% excise tax on retail sales of medical marijuana and medical marijuana products. It also authorized the state government to collect license application fees and fines.

THE OKLAHOMA MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND PATIENT PROTECTION ACT-

In 2019, the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act was signed into law. The act requires applicants for medical marijuana business licenses to provide

³ Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), About OMMA, <https://oklahoma.gov/omma/about/about-omma.html>

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, State laws, Title 63. Public Health and Safety, Medical Marijuana and Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act, <https://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/index.asp>

proof of Oklahoma residency for at least two years, immediately preceding the date of the application, or five years continuous Oklahoma residency during the preceding 25 years.

SENATE BILL 1704-

SB 1704 was passed in 2022 and requires employees of a medical marijuana business licensee to obtain a credential authorizing the employee to work in a licensed medical marijuana business. The bill requires that a medical marijuana business license holder require their employees to be issued a credential.

SENATE BILL 18X-

In 2023, SB 18X passed and created two new funds under the Legislature's control. The Medical Marijuana Tax Fund receives medical marijuana excise tax revenue, which funds substance abuse programs and common education administered by other state agencies. The Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority Fund receives OMMA's fee and fine revenue, which funds OMMA's budget.⁶

Methods and Data Sourcing

The data in this report is comprised directly from several sources and entities within Oklahoma. Due to the nature of varying databases and their inherent changes in data collection overtime, the specific years of data presented vary in each section. When possible, trend data has been collected in order to show trends prior to medical legalization compared to post legalization in June 2018. However, some datasets were not available until post-legalization which highlights the need for ongoing data collection.

In addition to sourcing data directly from state databases, industry specific surveys were utilized as well. Law enforcement was surveyed through the annual TEXOMA HIDTA threat assessment which provided direct insight into marijuana investigations and illicit criminal activity. In a first of its kind survey, School Resource Officers (SROs)

⁶ Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), About OMMA, <https://oklahoma.gov/omma/about/about-omma.html>

were also surveyed for their on the ground perspective related to marijuana use and violations within Oklahoma schools

Trend calculations made across a span of years were completed using the standard percent change formula. Comparisons of two different datasets within the same year were calculated by the percent difference formula.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA INDUSTRY



Findings

- ❑ A moratorium of new licenses for any dispensary, grower, or processor was established August 26, 2022, and is set to expire on August 1, 2026.
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- *An Empirical Assessment of Oklahoma’s Medical Marijuana Market (June 2023)*

Medical Marijuana Licenses

While marijuana remains illegal under federal law, many states (including Oklahoma) have passed legislation, referendums, or initiatives legalizing the cultivation, possession, and use of marijuana for medicinal and/or recreational purposes. In June 2018, Oklahomans approved State Question 788, the Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative, which legalized the medical use of marijuana by patients who have state-issued medical marijuana cards.

Oklahoma's marijuana laws and industry are unique in many ways. Patients can receive a medical marijuana card for any medical condition, and Oklahoma is a "home grow" state, which means that patients and caregivers can grow marijuana for personal use. Oklahoma also had more cultivation grows than nearly every other state, even though the population size was significantly less.⁷

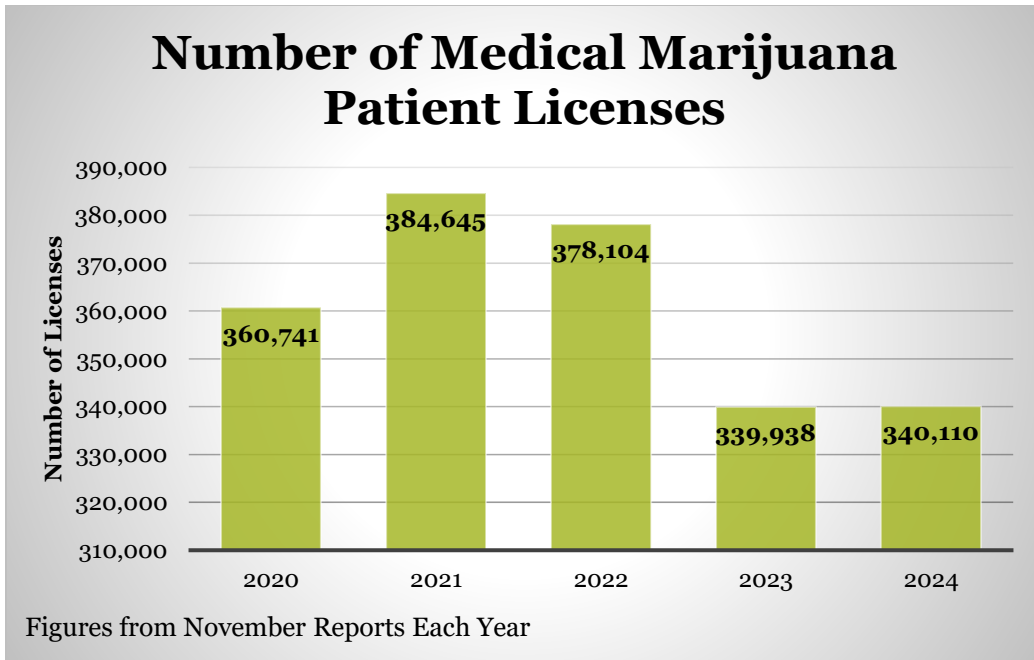
The number of state issued industry licenses grew rapidly once legalization took effect. However, since 2022 there has been a moratorium in place which has allowed for stabilization and even a slight decrease in the number of current licenses. This moratorium will expire in 2026:

"A moratorium began Aug. 26, 2022, for new dispensary, grower and processor licenses. HB 3208 (2022), passed by the Oklahoma Legislature and signed by the Governor, put the moratorium in place. HB 2095 (2023), also passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, extended the moratorium end date to Aug. 1, 2026, unless OMMA's Executive Director determines all pending licensing reviews, inspections or investigations are complete. The moratorium does not affect current licensees, who can apply for renewal."⁸

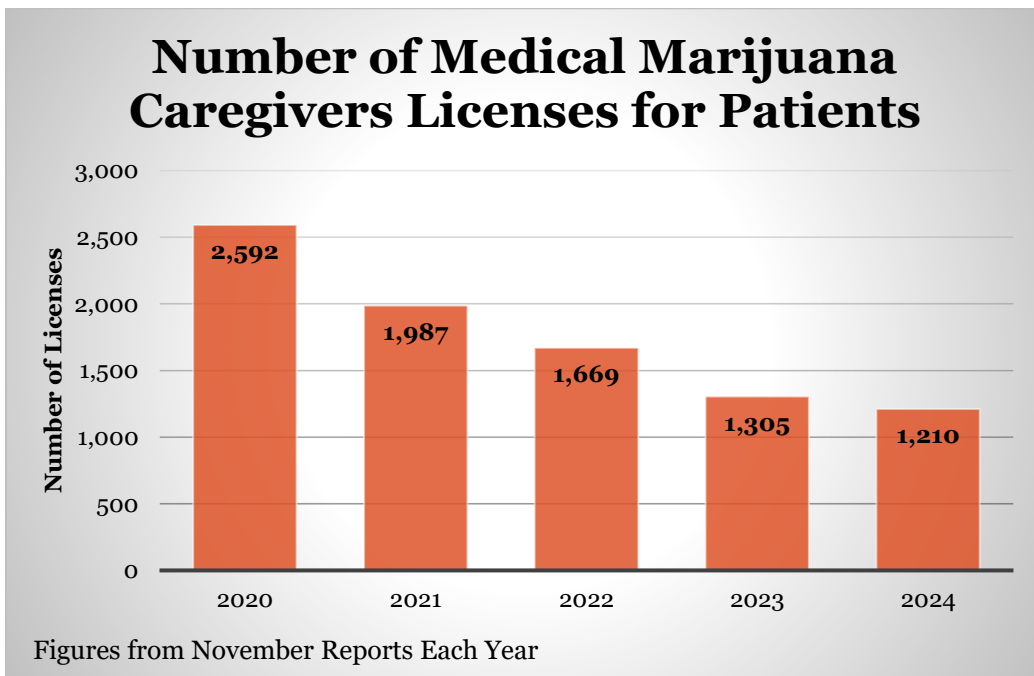
OMMA is required by state law to inspect businesses once a year.

⁷ Texoma High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), 2024 Annual Threat Assessment

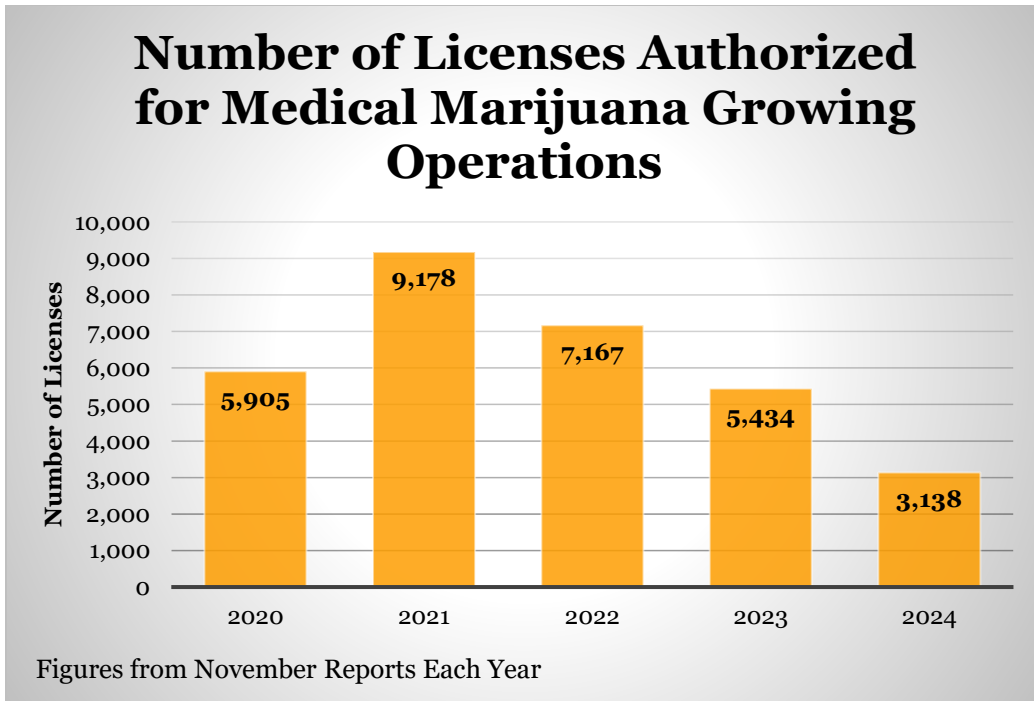
⁸ Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data, "Can OMMA Place a Cap on Licenses", <https://oklahoma.gov/omma/about/licensing-and-tax-data.html>



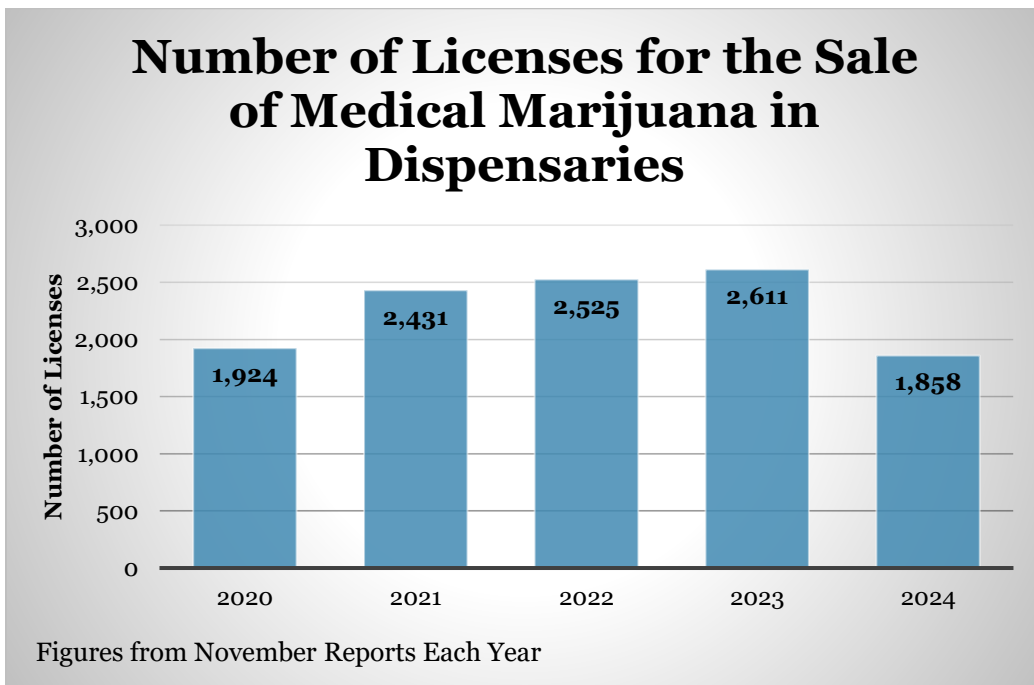
SOURCE: Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data, Accessed November 19, 2024



SOURCE: Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data, Accessed November 19, 2024

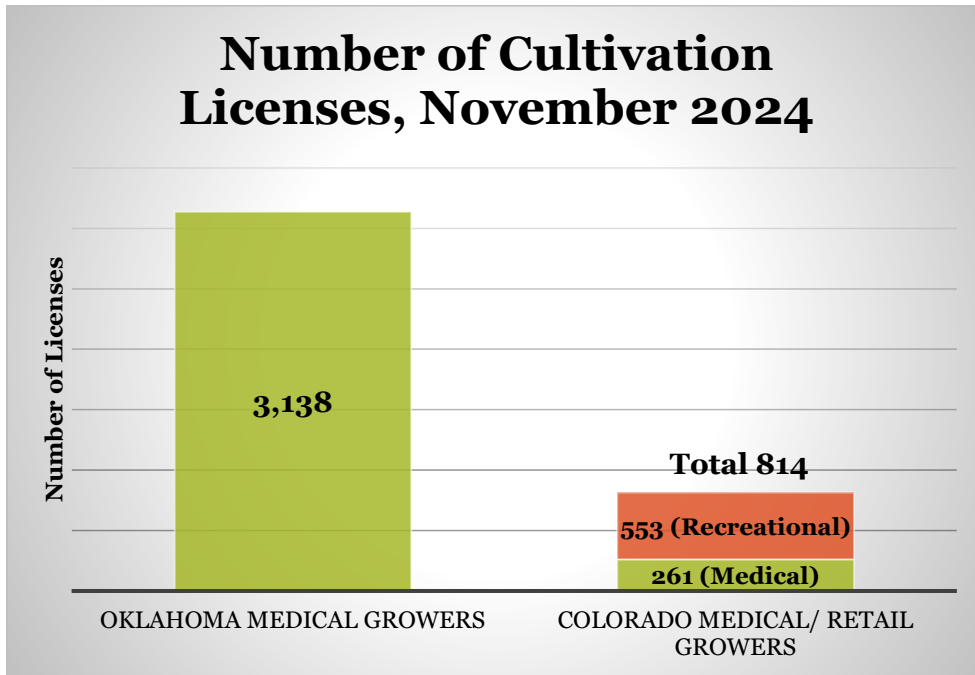


SOURCE: Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data, Accessed November 19, 2024



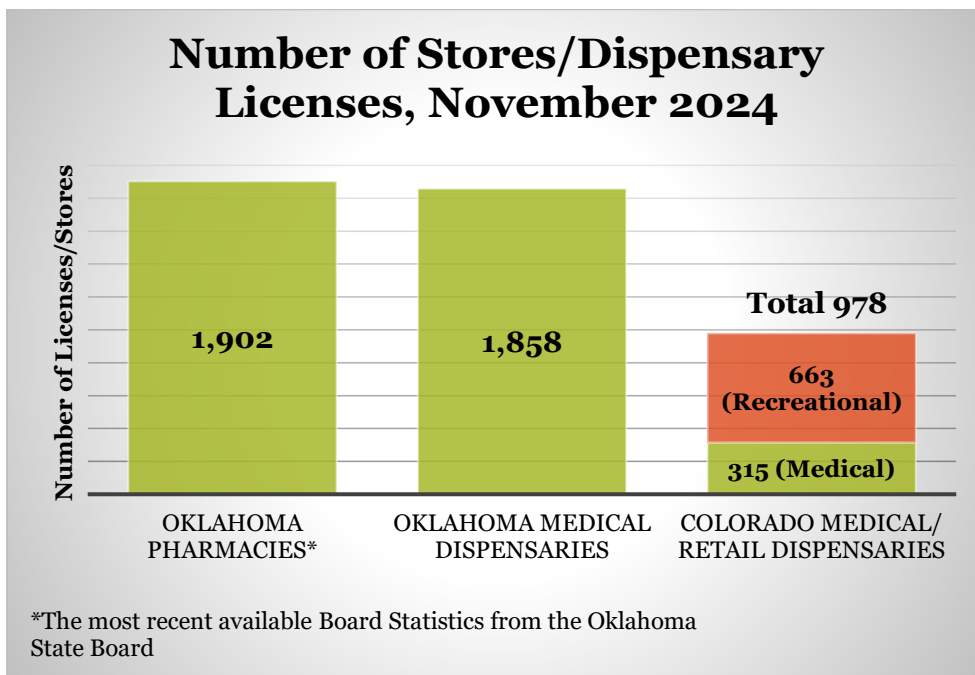
SOURCE: Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data, Accessed November 19, 2024

Business Comparison



Oklahoma has 12 Times as Many Licensed Medical Marijuana Growers as Colorado, and over 3 Times as Many Medical and Recreational Growers Combined.

SOURCE: Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data; Oklahoma; Colorado Department of Revenue, Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) Licensed Facilities, Accessed November 19, 2024



Oklahoma has More than 5 Times as Many Licensed Medical Marijuana Dispensaries as Colorado, and Nearly Twice as Many Medical and Recreational Dispensaries Combined.

SOURCE: Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data; Oklahoma ; Oklahoma Board of Pharmacy, Board Statistics; Colorado Department of Revenue, Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) Licensed Facilities, , Accessed November 19, 2024

Demand and Market Size⁹

The following section takes direct excerpts from “An Empirical Assessment of Oklahoma’s Medical Marijuana Market” June 2023, produced by Cannabis Public Policy Consulting. Below are several important findings from this unique study commissioned by the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA).

The study concluded that there is a significant oversupply (more than 32 times the supply) of marijuana produced by the legalized industry than is necessary to meet the needs of licensed patients. According to the study, “this is the largest oversupply of cannabis any state has demonstrated, including Oregon, which made headlines in 2019 for its significant oversupply issue.” The study further concluded that due to oversupply, there is a high likelihood that even state licensed operators are contributing to the illicit market from both the cultivation and sales end points.

Key findings from the study:

- “Demand for cannabis from the regulated medical market in Oklahoma is a similar proportion of total demand as compared to other states.” (page 01)
- “The medical cannabis market is oversupplied by about 32 times and could serve all cannabis consumers (patients and non-patients) 4.5 times over.” (page 14)
- “Key differences in subregion-specific supply and demand strongly suggest potential out-of-state diversion of cannabis and cannabis products, but future research is needed to verify such assertions.” (page 01)
- “The large oversupply observed in the regulated systems suggests that the licensed operators contributing to oversupply are very likely adding to an illicit market both at the point of cultivation and the point of retail sale.” (page 01)
- “The volume of oversupply within the regulated system coupled with low barriers to market entry suggest unlicensed/illicit cannabis cultivation operations are unlikely to be observed across the state, and that this illicit market may, in fact, be hiding in plain sight.” (page 01)
- “The design of the guiding medical cannabis program statute allowed such an oversupply problem to occur. Attempts to promote a free market in cannabis

⁹ An Empirical Assessment of Oklahoma’s Medical Marijuana Market (June 2023), Cannabis Public Policy Consulting, <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/omma/content/publications/supply-and-demand-study/EmpiricalAssessmentofOklahomasMedicalMarijuanaMarket.pdf>

programs often result in the misguided establishment of cannabis programs without production management tools that can prevent or mitigate oversupply or undersupply issues.” (page 18)

- “The inability to set limits on the volume of plants each grower may produce has contributed greatly to the issue of oversupply. A cannabis program void of any statutory or regulatory authority to place parameters on a supply chain is likely to experience oversupply to an exponential degree. Such is the case for Oklahoma.” (page 18)

Although the study was completed in 2023, the oversupply issue is still ongoing. As seen in the figure below, based on the study calculations, the total number of marijuana plants necessary to meet the demands of all Oklahoma marijuana users, (both those legally licensed as patients through the state as well as non-patient, illicit users), would be 2,237,623 plants.

Based on OMMA’s updated dashboard, the current number of live flowering plants is nearly double that number at over four million. This does not take into account the additional three million live non-flowering plants. The current number of flowering plants is more than 12 times the amount needed to meet the demands of the regulated market for licensed medical marijuana patients.

Live Plants

Includes all plants currently growing regardless of when they were planted.



7,388,470

TOTAL LIVE
AS OF 11-20-2024

4,082,265

LIVE FLOWERING PLANTS
AS OF 11-20-2024

3,306,205

LIVE NON-FLOWERING PLANTS
AS OF 11-20-2024

SOURCE: OMMA Dashboard, The Transparency Project: Oklahoma, NCS Analytics, Accessed November 20, 2024

Table 4. Annual Supply Needed to Meet Demand: Cannabis Grams to Pounds and Plants

	Regulated medical demand [^]	Total demand ⁺
Total Grams of Cannabis	50,017,550	340,593,300
Pounds of Cannabis	110,270	750,880
Total Cannabis Plants	328,604	2,237,623

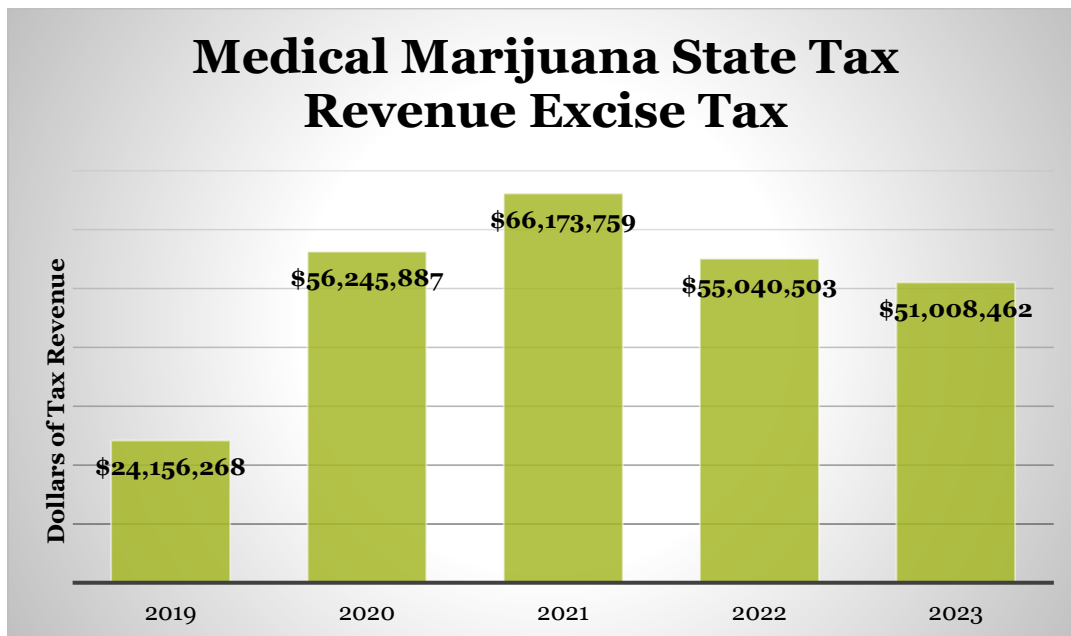
[^] Regulated demand = licensed patients’ demand from regulated medical sources
⁺ Total demand = all Oklahoma cannabis consumers’ demand, including non-patients

SOURCE: An Empirical Assessment of Oklahoma’s Medical Marijuana Market (June 2023)

Revenue

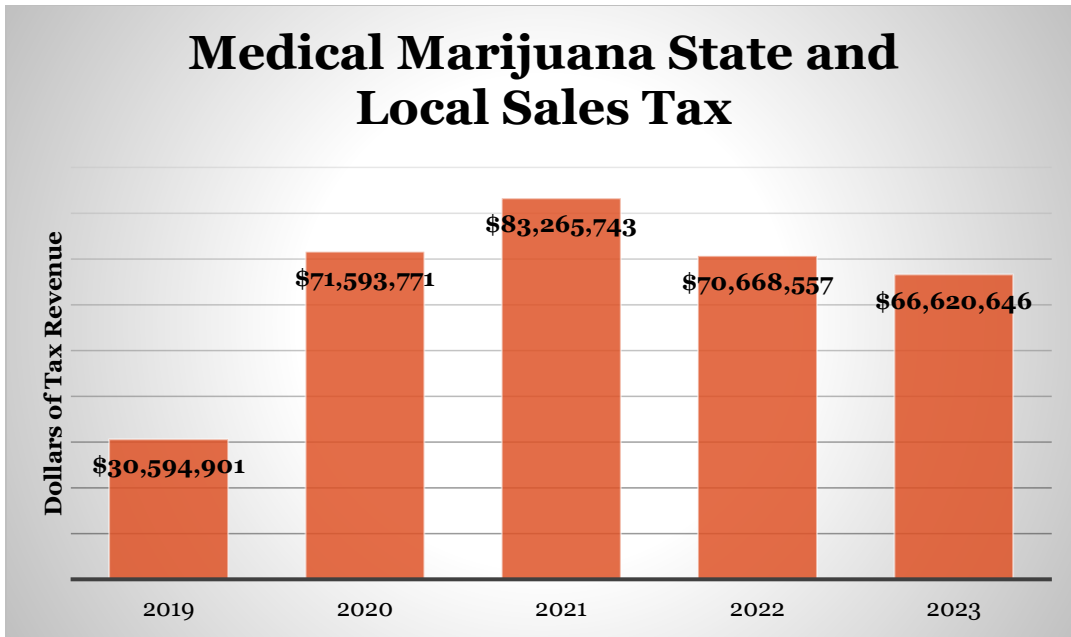
As of fiscal year 2024, (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), **OMMA does not directly receive any revenue.** Instead, the Legislature appropriates OMMA's funding annually:¹⁰

- Any excess money in the Legislature's Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority Fund is appropriated at the Legislature's discretion
- Retail medical marijuana sales are subject to state and local sales tax, too. The sales tax revenue goes to local governments, and other parts of the state government.



SOURCE: Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data, Accessed November 19, 2024

¹⁰ Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data, <https://oklahoma.gov/omma/about/licensing-and-tax-data.html>



SOURCE: Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA), Licensing and Tax Data, Accessed November 19, 2024

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YOUTH MARIJUANA USE



Findings

- ❑ The latest 2021/2022 national survey results show Oklahoma **youth ranked #3 in the nation** for past month marijuana use, **up from #43** in the nation in 2017/2018.
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- ❑ Since legalizing marijuana for medicinal use in 2018, Oklahoma **youth use rates have increased 73%**.
- ❑ **56% of 12th graders** and **43% of 10th graders** perceive it to be “sort of” or “very easy” to obtain marijuana.
- ❑ By grade level, the **percent of students who felt there was slight or no risk involved with using marijuana:**
 - 59% of 12th graders,
 - 48% of 10th graders,
 - 37% of 8th graders
 - 30% of 6th graders
- ❑ The fifteen states with the **lowest rate of current marijuana** youth use all have some of the most restrictive marijuana laws in the country. Of those, Utah, Alabama, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Mississippi also have a restrictive form of medical legalization.

- ❑ The fifteen states with the **highest rate of current marijuana** youth use all have full marijuana legalization to include recreational use, aside from Oklahoma and Hawaii which are only legalized medically.

Use Data

National Survey on Drug Use and Health

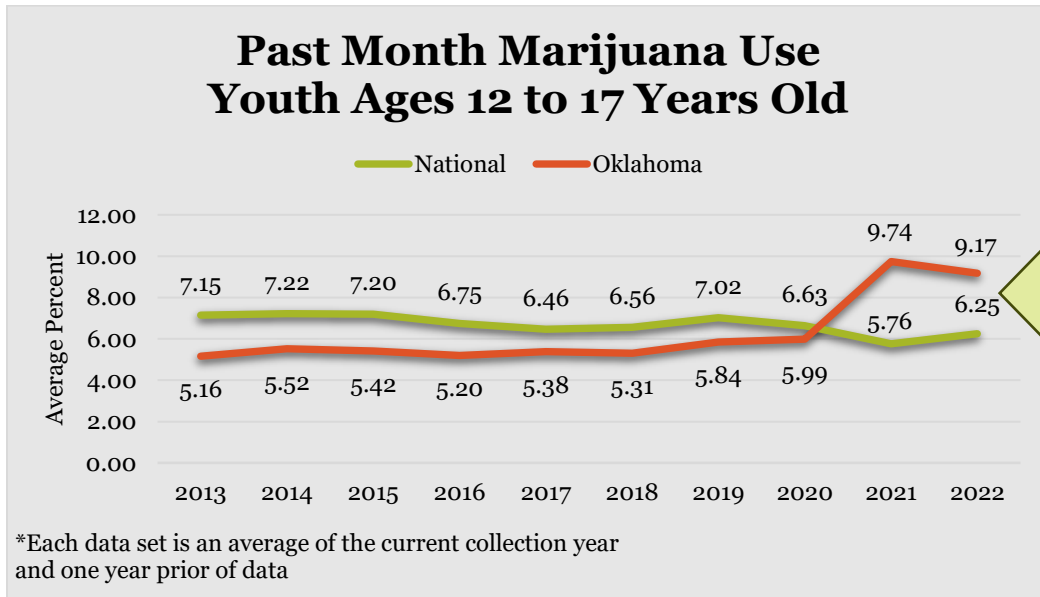
The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is conducted annually by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This important survey “provides nationally representative data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs; substance use disorders; mental health issues; and receipt of substance use and mental health treatment among the civilian, noninstitutionalized population aged 12 or older in the United States.”¹¹

The NSDUH survey has been conducted since 1971 and provides estimates that “allow researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and the general public to better understand and improve the nation’s behavioral health.”¹² Data from the survey are averaged between the current collection year and one year prior of data.

¹¹ National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), Details, <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health>

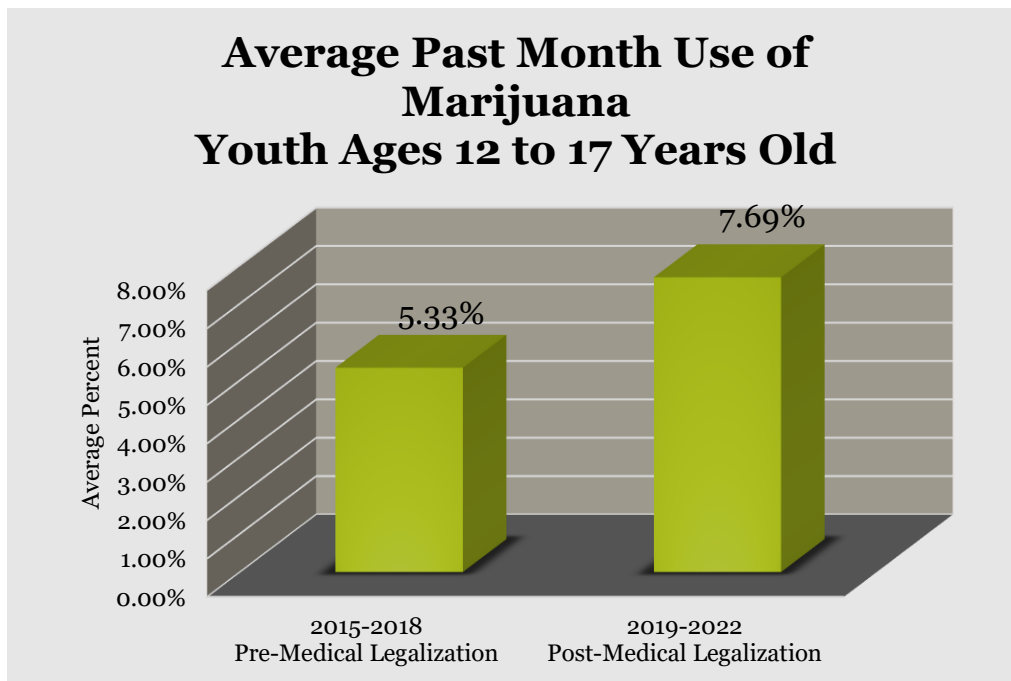
¹² Ibid

- ❖ Since legalizing marijuana for medicinal use in 2018, Oklahoma youth use rates have increased 73%.



2021 was the First Year Oklahoma's Youth Use Rose Above the National Average.

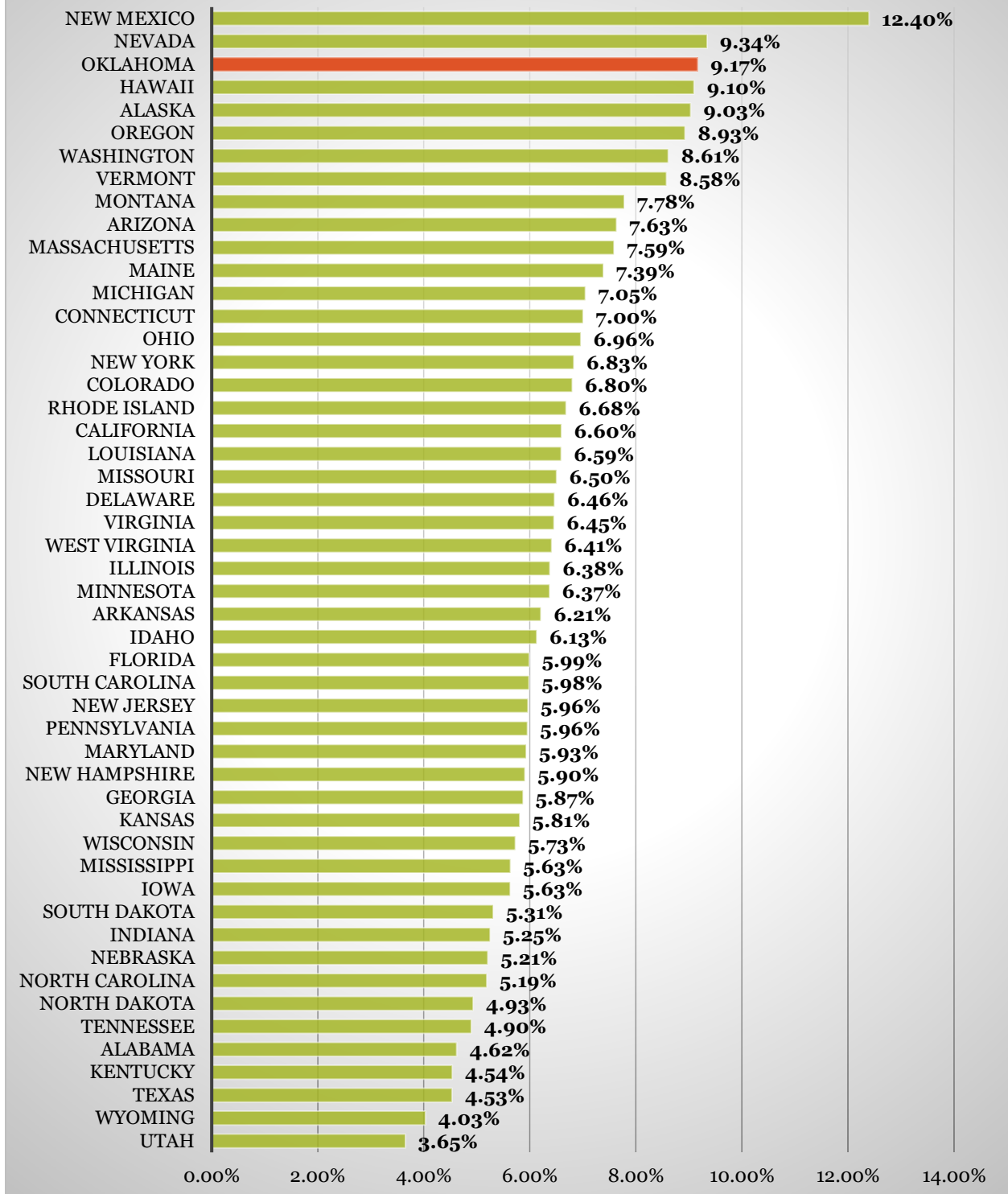
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022



44% Increase in Youth Marijuana Use when Comparing the Four Years After Legalization to the Four Years Prior to Legalization

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022

Past Month Usage, 12 to 17 Years Old, 2021/2022

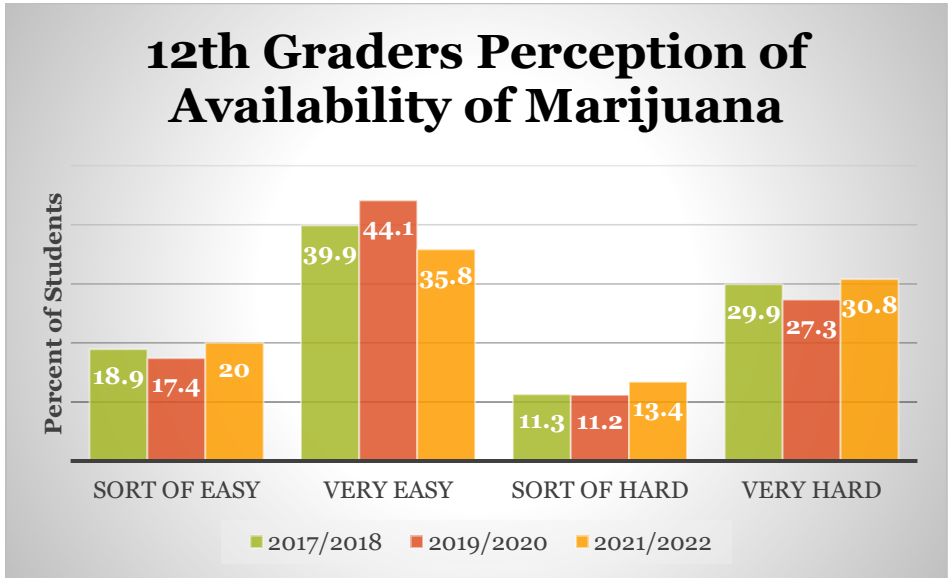


SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022

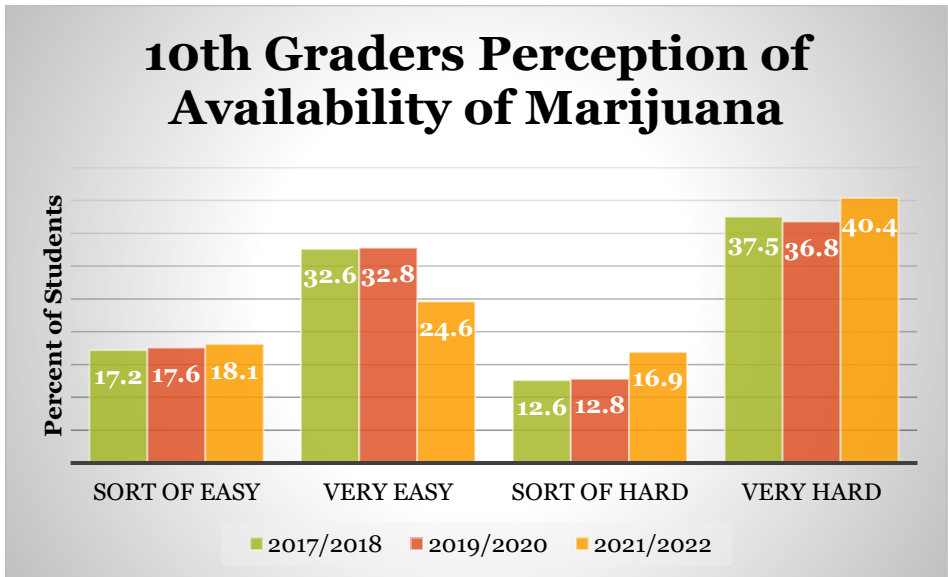
Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment (OPNA)

The Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (OPNA) is a biennial survey of public, private, and charter school students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. The survey is a project of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) and has been conducted in Oklahoma since 2004. ¹³

56% of 12th Graders and 43% of 10th Graders Perceive it to be Sort of or Very Easy to Obtain Marijuana

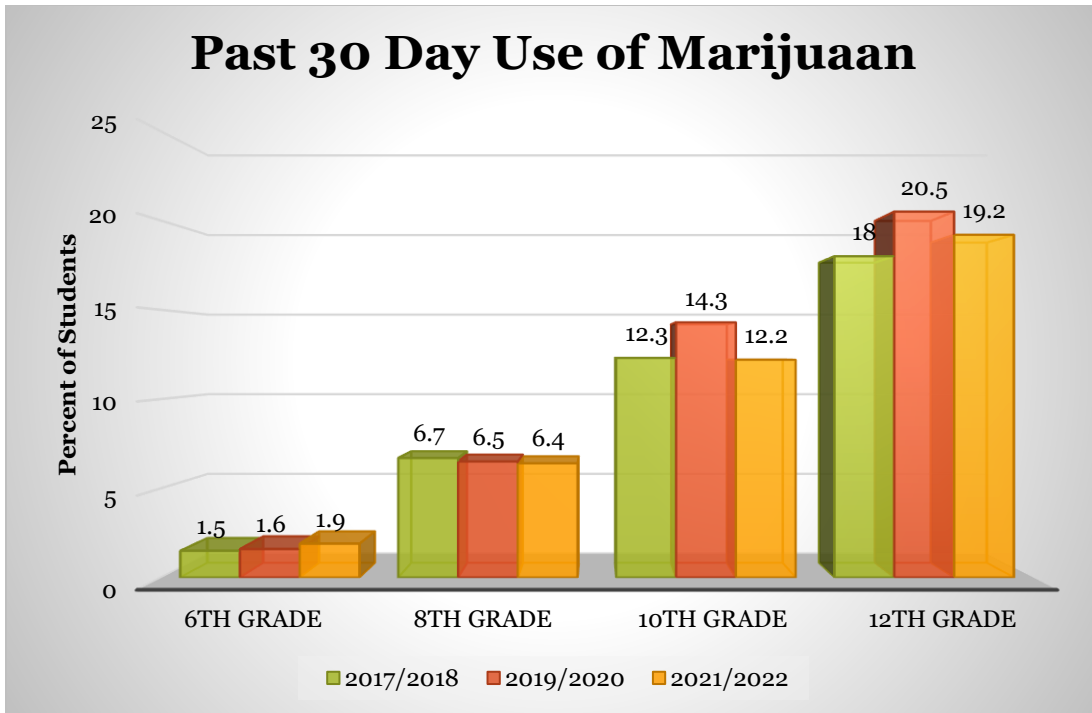


SOURCE: Oklahoma Prevention and Needs Assessment Surveys

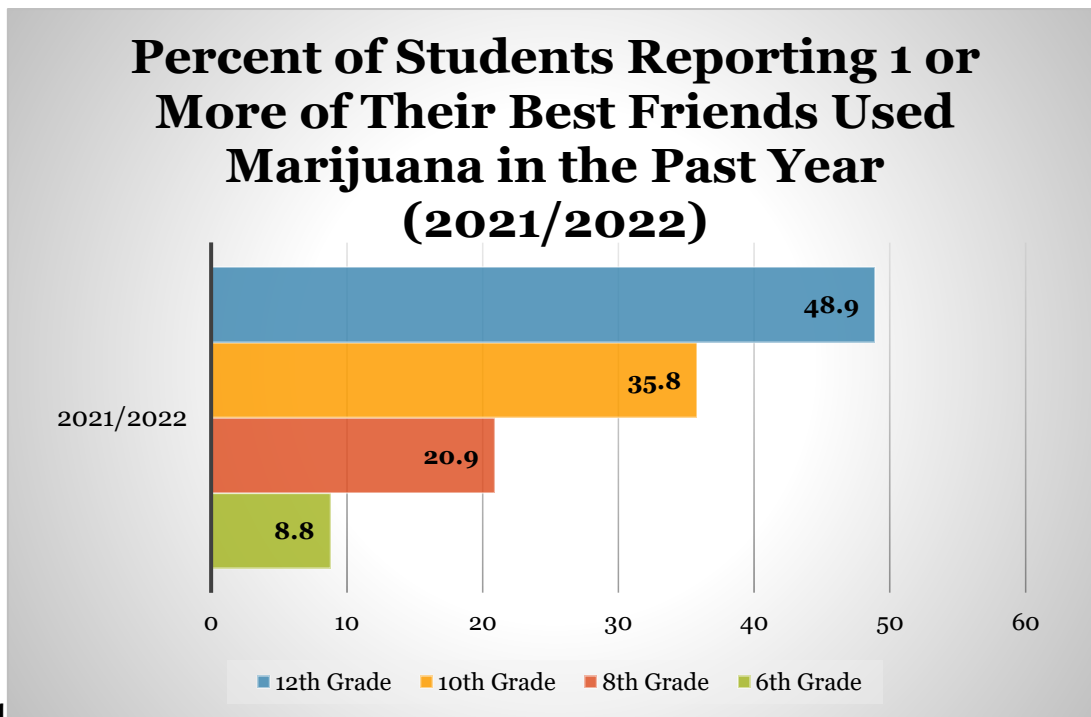


SOURCE: Oklahoma Prevention and Needs Assessment Surveys

¹³ Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, <https://oklahoma.gov/odmhsas/prevention/schools/opna.html>

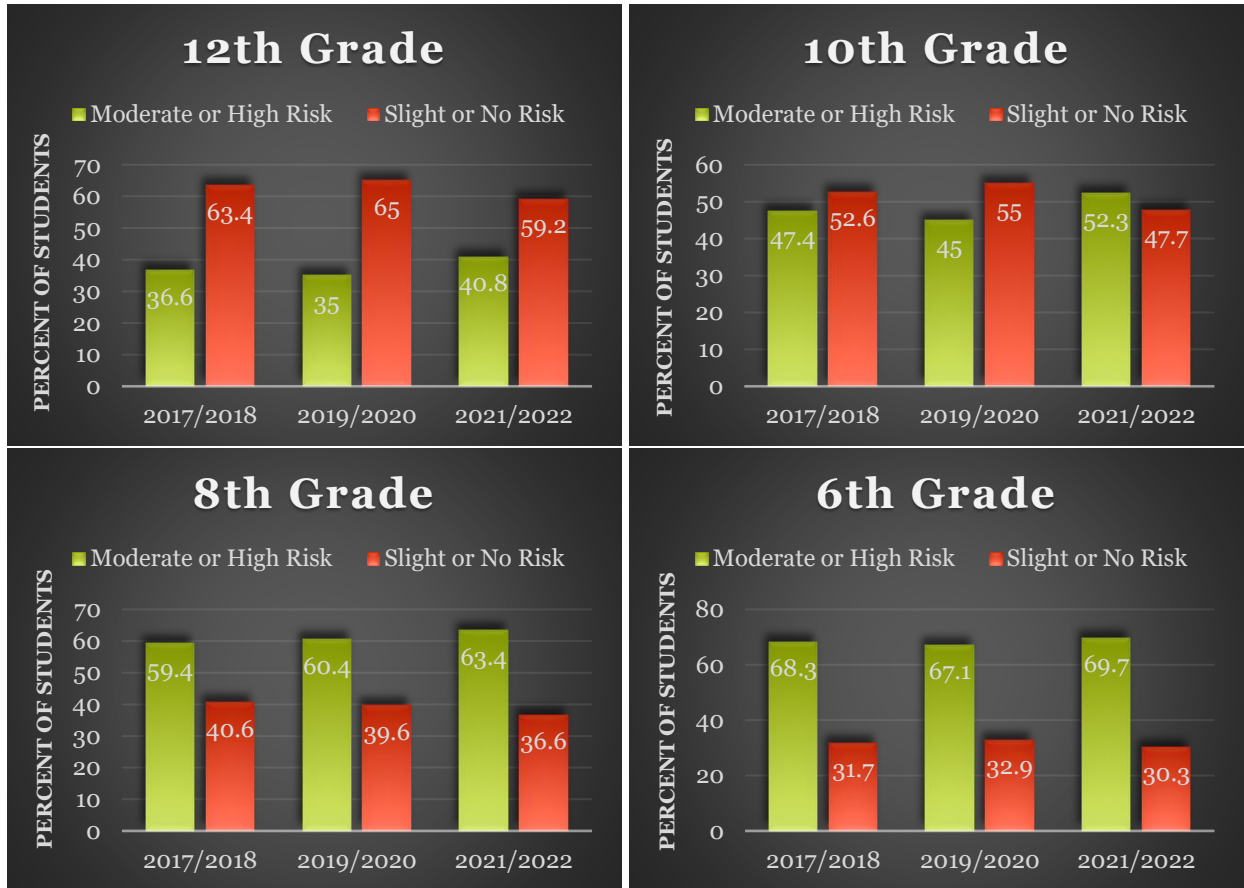


SOURCE: Oklahoma Prevention and Needs Assessment Surveys



SOURCE: Oklahoma Prevention and Needs Assessment Surveys

Perception of Risk of Using Marijuana by Grade Level

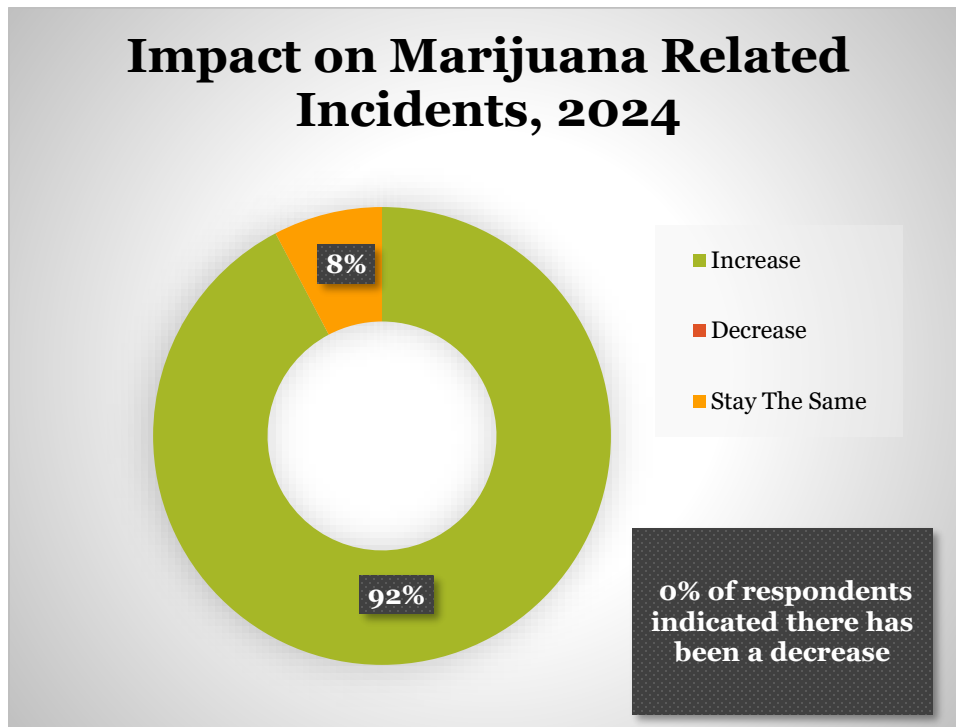


SOURCE: Oklahoma Prevention and Needs Assessment Surveys

Oklahoma School Resource Officer Survey

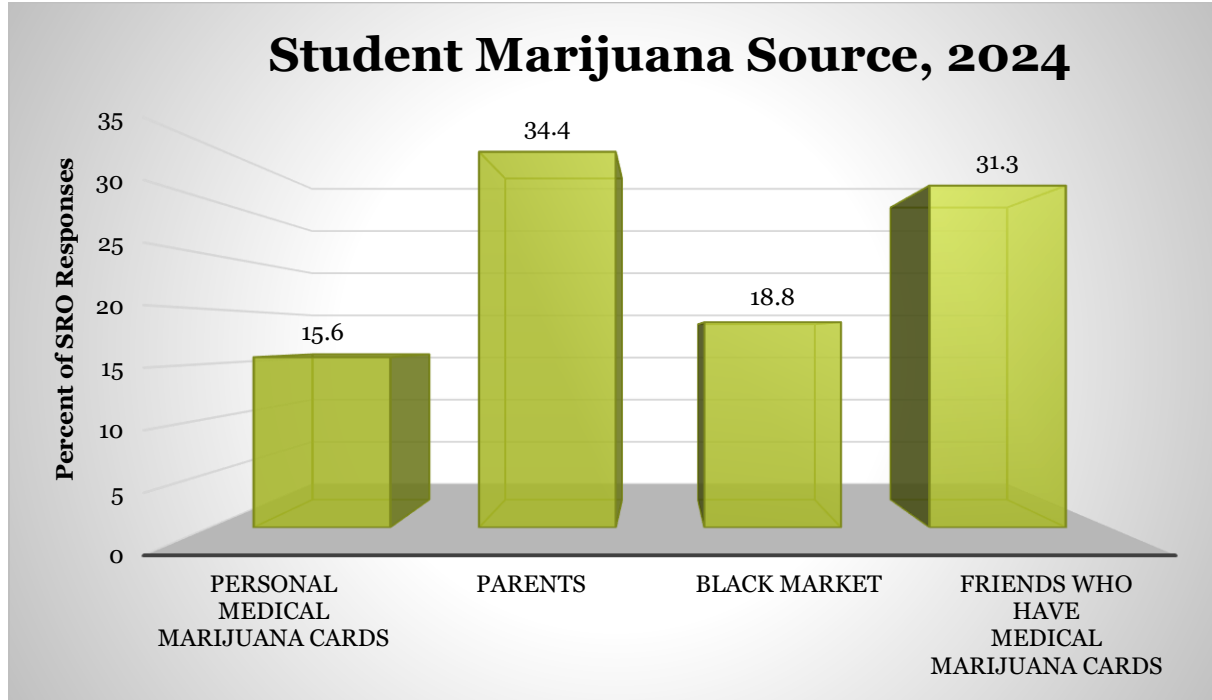
In November of 2024, school resource officers (SRO) throughout Oklahoma participated in a first of its kind survey concerning marijuana in schools. A school resource officer is a sworn law-enforcement officer with arrest powers who works, either full or part time, in a school setting. The primary responsibilities for an SRO is safety and crime prevention within schools. A survey of Oklahoma SROs asked for their professional opinion based on evidence observed in their schools. The questions and their responses are shown in the following pages.

Question: Since the legalization of recreational marijuana, what impact has there been on marijuana-related incidents at your school?



SOURCE: Oklahoma School Resource Officers and TEXOMA HIDTA

Question: Where do the students get their marijuana?



SOURCE: Oklahoma School Resource Officers and TEXOMA HIDTA

Case Examples from School Resource Officers

Anonymous responses:

“I had a middle school student bring her mother’s 3 vapes to school and use them. Her mother admitted all 3 had marijuana liquid.”

“Several occurrences where students have brought their parents' edibles to school and shared them. We have questioned students who have in their possession legally packaged edibles from dispensaries but won't admit when or where they were purchased. One Junior High School has had to call medical for students who have eaten edibles and think they have taken too much. This has happened more than a couple of times in a single school year. I have personally seen at least three Medical Marijuana cards issued to children under 16 years old. Since medical marijuana was legalized, marijuana in schools has increased tremendously, and I believe it's because it is so readily available. In the mornings, when students of all ages arrive at school, you constantly smell burnt marijuana on the students. Several of the students admit that their parents smoke marijuana in their house and cars with them present. There is this attitude that it's legal; why not?”

“While I haven't been at this school long, the small-town school seems just as affected by this as I have heard from other schools. Just recently though, I had an incident wherein a student brought to school a "rice-crispy" style THC infused edible from a prewrapped orange package. It was shared amongst four students in the bathroom. Some students who had ingested this edible, had a very low tolerance for it, or had never had THC before and as a result, one even exhibited some symptoms of overdosing (vomiting, fatigue, acute anxiety attack, paranoia) based on my training and experience. All were taken by their parents to a medical facility and two brought back confirmation of THC intoxication via a drug screening test performed by the medical facility. The same day and incident, a DIME Industries all-in-one disposable THC vape pen was located and confiscated by the suspected provider of the edible. The flavor/strain was "Wedding Cake" and appeared to be brand new. This specific product could be found and several of the nearby dispensaries, as could a similar rice-crispy style edible. Aside from this incident, I have several who I suspect are utilizing vape pens, some of which I believe to be Nicotine, and some THC. Even though this is a smaller, rural school, THC has had an impact on this school even at this scale. I have been in this position since Sept of 2023, but even since then, I have seen an increase in usage of THC products, all of which appear to have come from a dispensary and none of it from the black market. This is indicative to me, because what I am seizing is not dime bags of weed and makeshift improvised smoking devices, it's prepackaged commercialized products that could be obtained from a dispensary with a medical card. Kids tell me they obtain these from friends who have their card or from their parents who either give it to them willingly or don't know that their child was in possession of their products.”

ADULT MARIJUANA USE



Findings

College Age (18-25 Years Old)

- ❑ College age past month marijuana use **increased 53%** in the four-year average (2019-2022) since Oklahoma legalized medical marijuana compared to the four-year average prior to legalization (2015-2018).
- ❑ The latest 2021/2022 national survey results show Oklahoma **college-age adults ranked #20** in the nation for past-month marijuana use, **up from #39** in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Oklahoma college age past month marijuana use for 2021/2022 was **8% higher** than the national average compared to **23% lower** in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Since marijuana was legalized for medicinal use in 2018, **college age (18-25 years old) use increased 55%**.

Adult (Ages 26 and Older)

- ❑ Adult past-month marijuana use **increased 162%** in the four-year average (2019-2022) since Oklahoma legalized medical marijuana compared to the four-year average prior to legalization (2015-2018).
- ❑ The latest 2021/2022 national survey results show Oklahoma **adults ranked #11** in the nation for past-month marijuana use, **up from #42** in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Oklahoma adult past month marijuana use for 2021/2022 was **27% higher** than the national average compared to **30% lower** in 2017/2018.
- ❑ Since marijuana was legalized for medicinal use in 2018, **use for adults ages 26 and older increased 188%**.

Use Data

National Survey on Drug Use and Health

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is conducted annually by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This important survey “provides nationally representative data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs; substance use disorders; mental health issues; and receipt of substance use and mental health treatment among the civilian, noninstitutionalized population aged 12 or older in the United States.”¹⁴

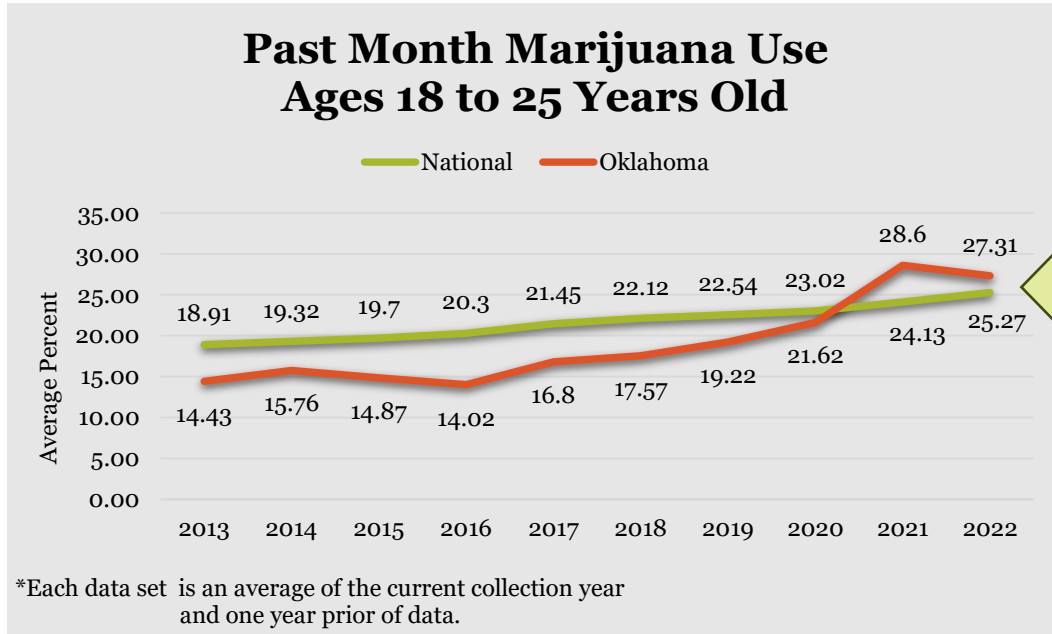
The NSDUH survey has been conducted since 1971 and provides estimates that “allow researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and the general public to better understand and improve the nation’s behavioral health.”¹⁵ Data from the survey are averaged between the current collection year and one year prior of data.

¹⁴ National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), Details, <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health>

¹⁵ Ibid

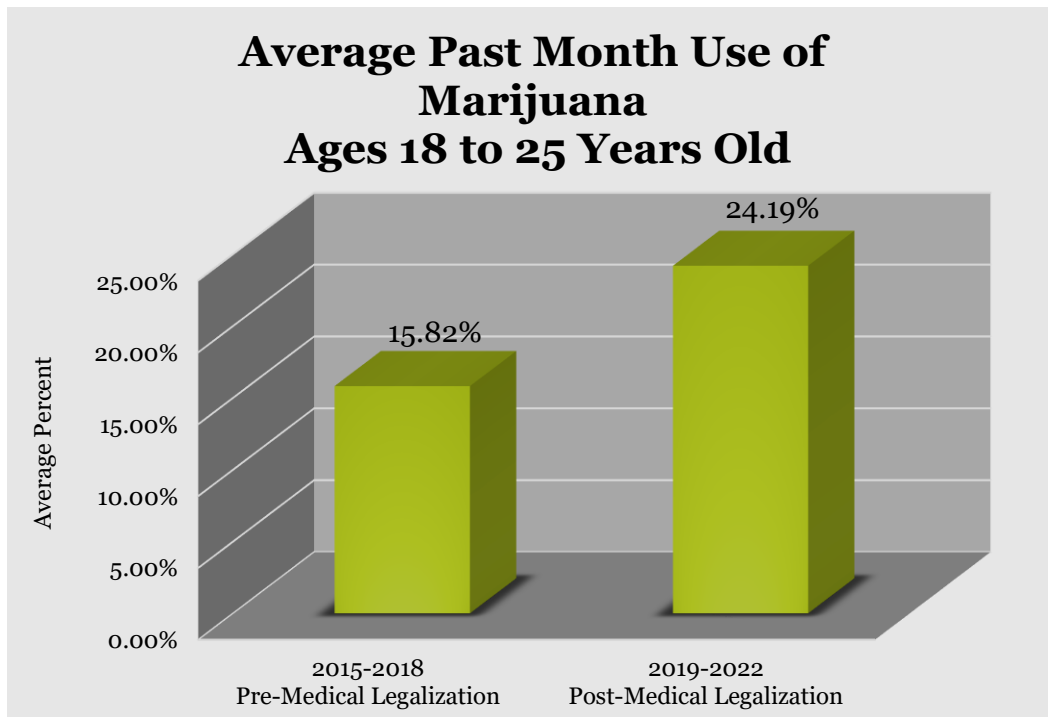
Adults Ages 18 to 25 Years Old

- ❖ Since marijuana was legalized for medicinal use in 2018, college age (18-25 years old) past month use increased 55%.



2021 was the First Year Oklahoma's College Age Use Rose Above the National Average.

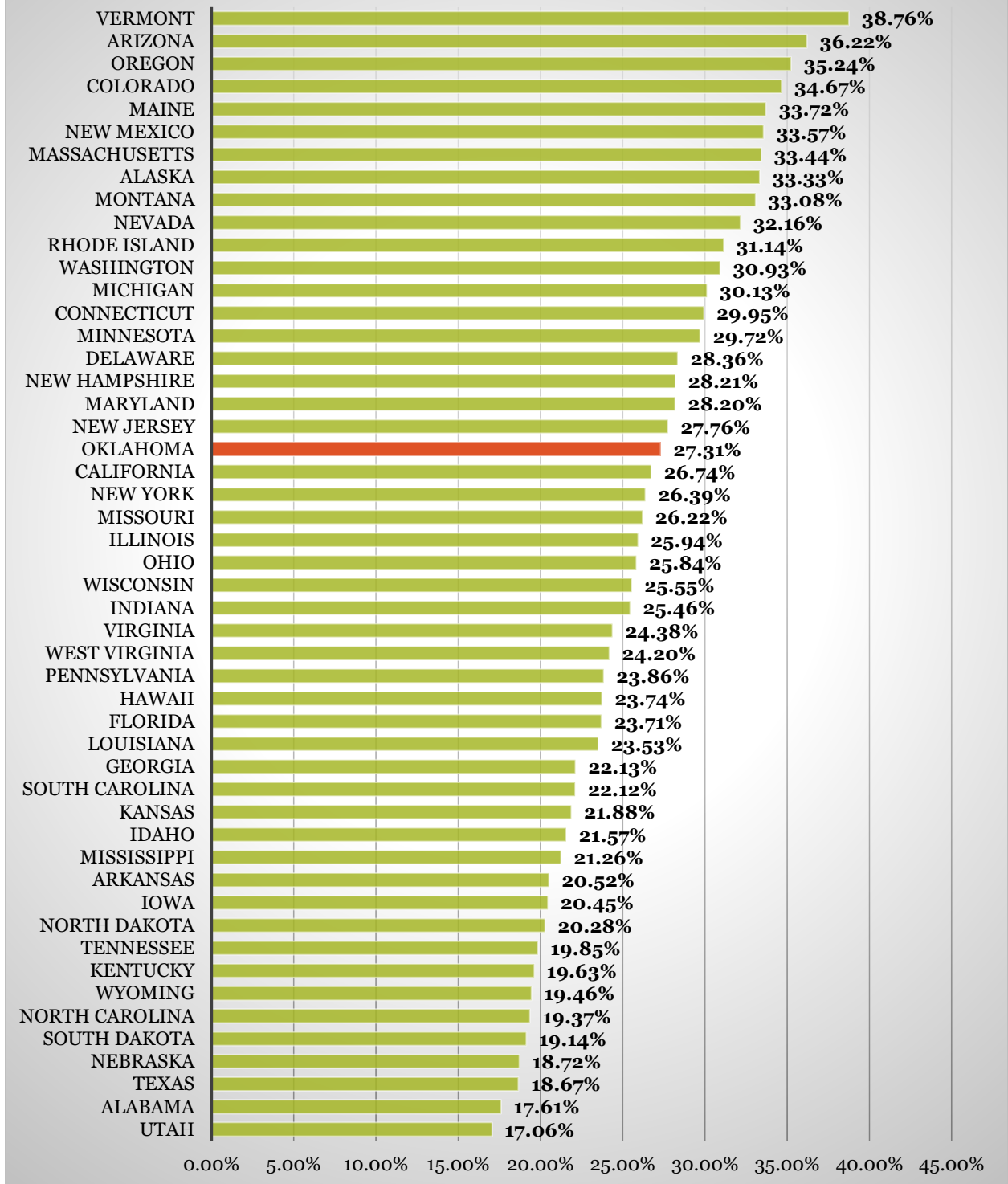
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022



53% Increase in College Age Marijuana Use when Comparing the Four Years After Legalization to the Four Years Prior to Legalization

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022

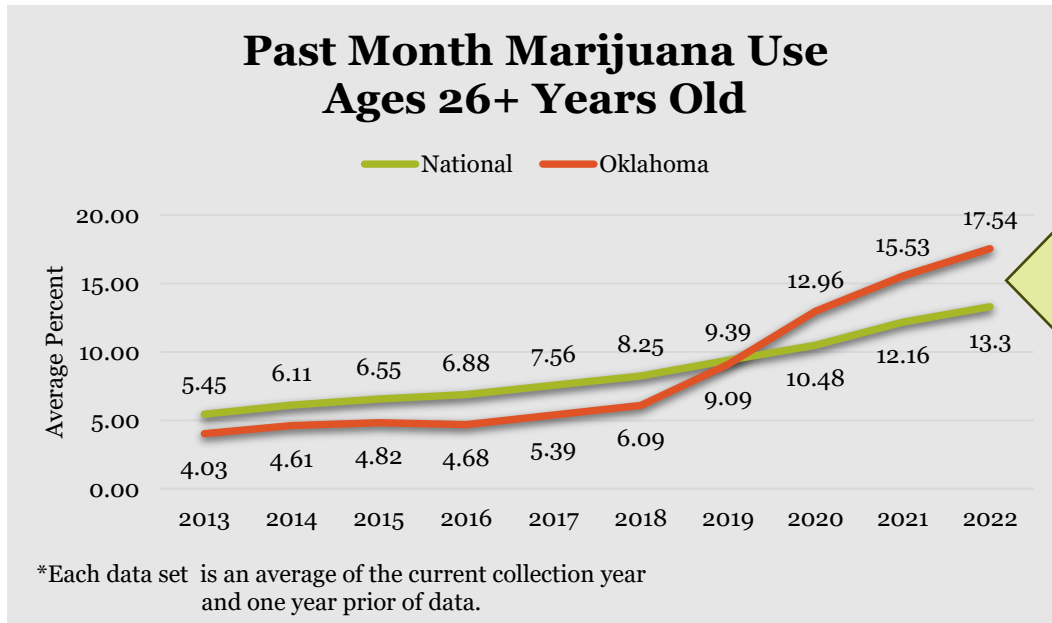
Past Month Usage, 18 to 25 Years Old, 2021/2022



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022

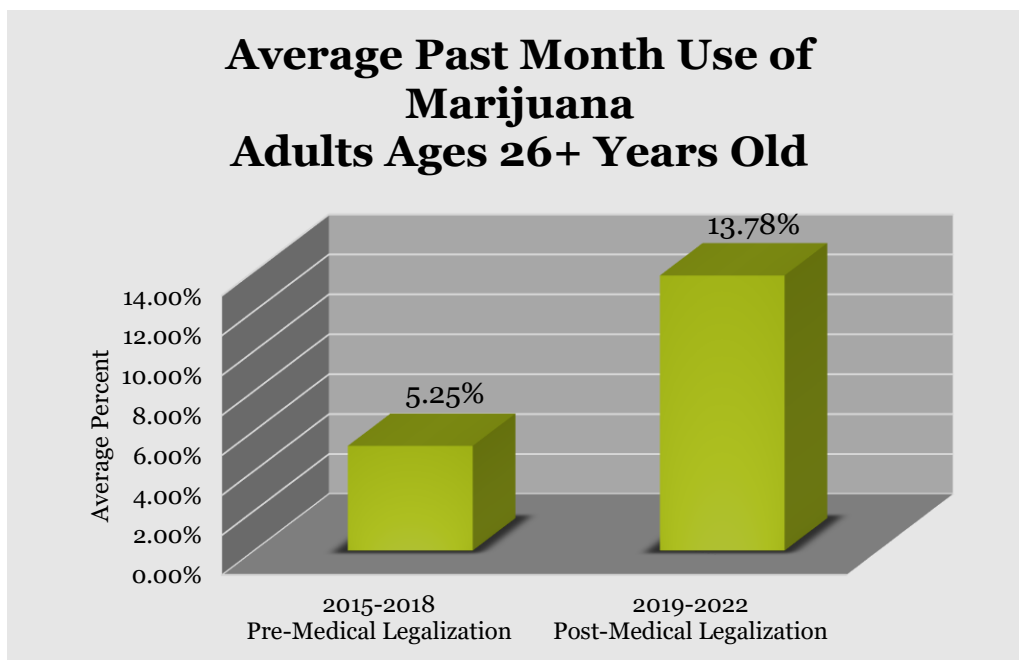
Adults Ages 26+ Years Old

- ❖ Since marijuana was legalized for medicinal use in 2018, past month use for adults ages 26 and older increased 188%.



2020 was the First Year Oklahoma's Adult Use Rose Above the National Average

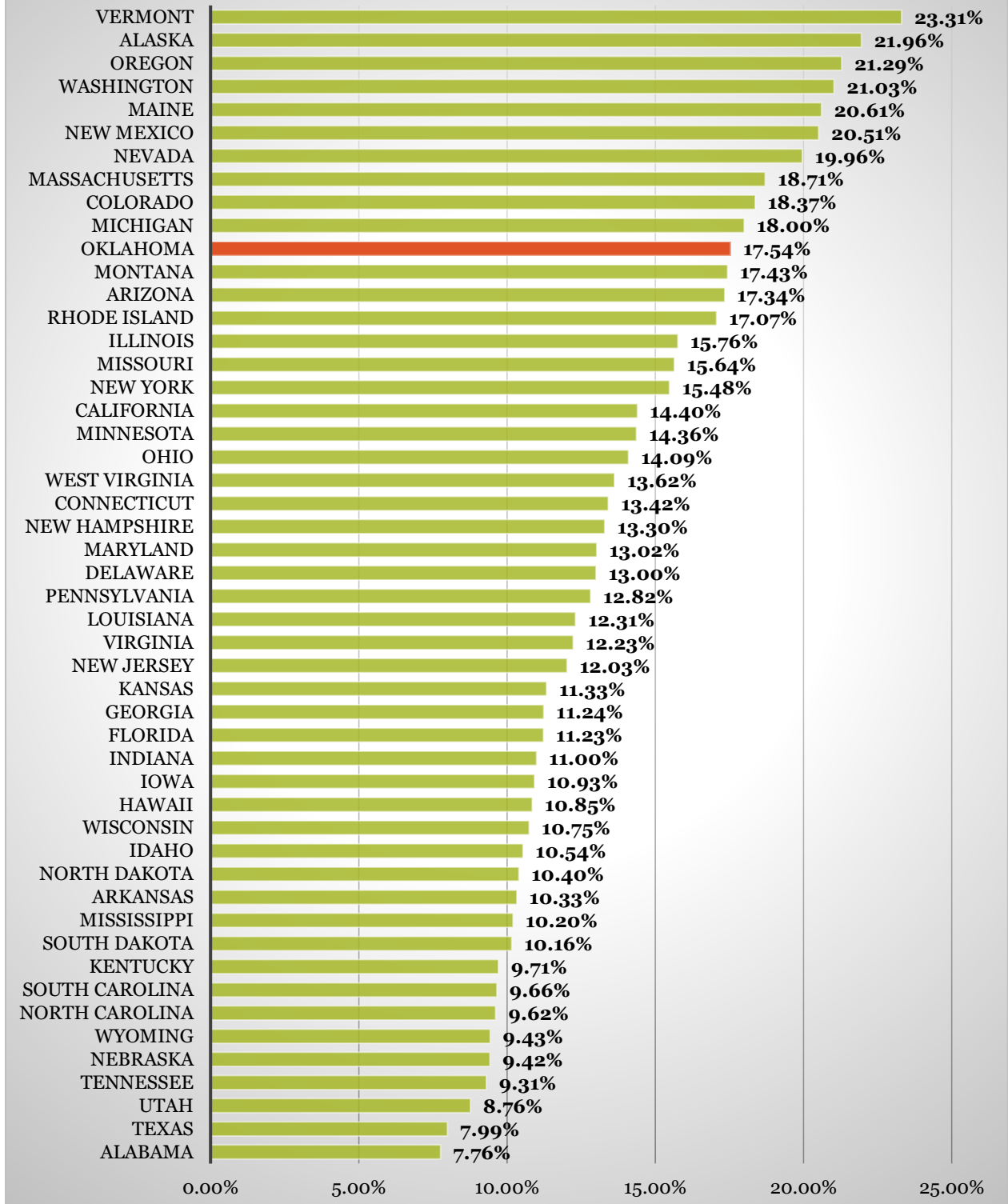
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022



162% Increase in College Age Marijuana Use when Comparing the Four Years After Legalization to the Four Years Prior to Legalization

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022

Past Month Usage, 26+ Years Old, 2021/2022



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2021 and 2022

MARIJUANA INVESTIGATIONS



Findings

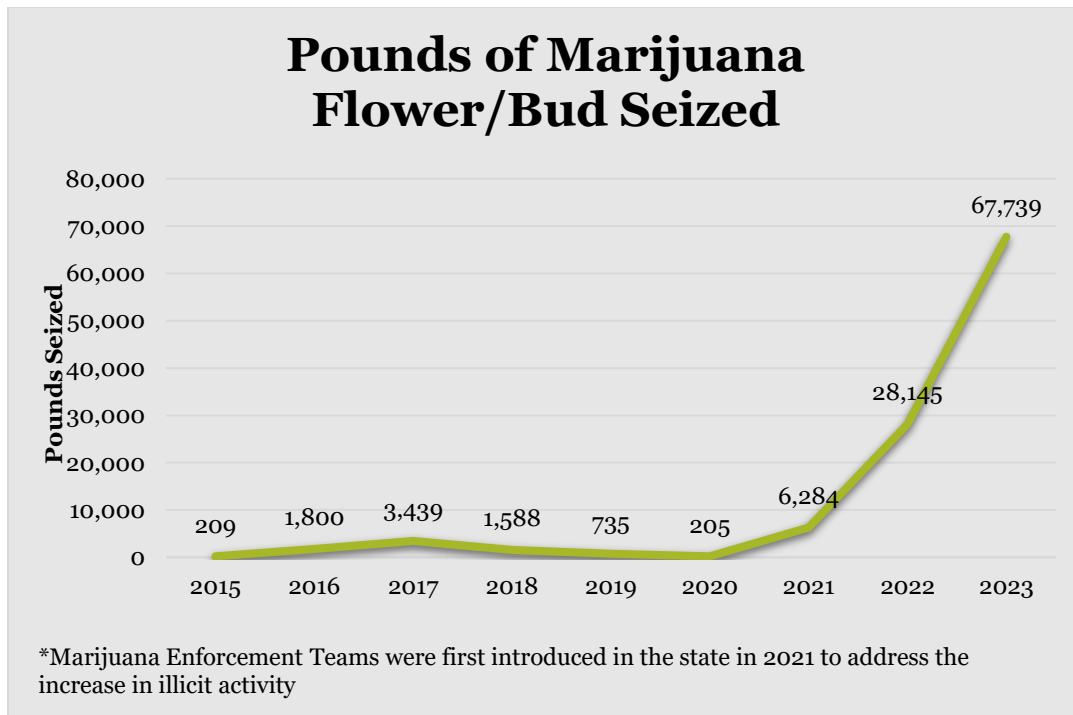
- ❑ There was a **4,166% increase in pounds of marijuana seized** through investigative efforts from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ The **number of marijuana plants seized through investigative efforts increased 69,573%** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ There was a **717% increase in pounds of marijuana seized during interdiction stops** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ The **number of interdiction stops** which resulted in the seizure of marijuana **increased 117%** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ In 2023 65% of the highway seizures with known origin location came from Oklahoma compared to 15% of seizures in 2014, indicating an increased presence of illicit distribution from the state.
- ❑ Chinese criminal organizations have infiltrated the state to exploit the medical marijuana laws and, in addition to drug trafficking, have been linked to money laundering and human trafficking.

Definitions

Marijuana Investigations: Oklahoma law enforcement cases investigating an individual or organization involved in illegal activity regarding marijuana, both within and outside of the state. This does not include cases where marijuana was found subsequent to another type of case.

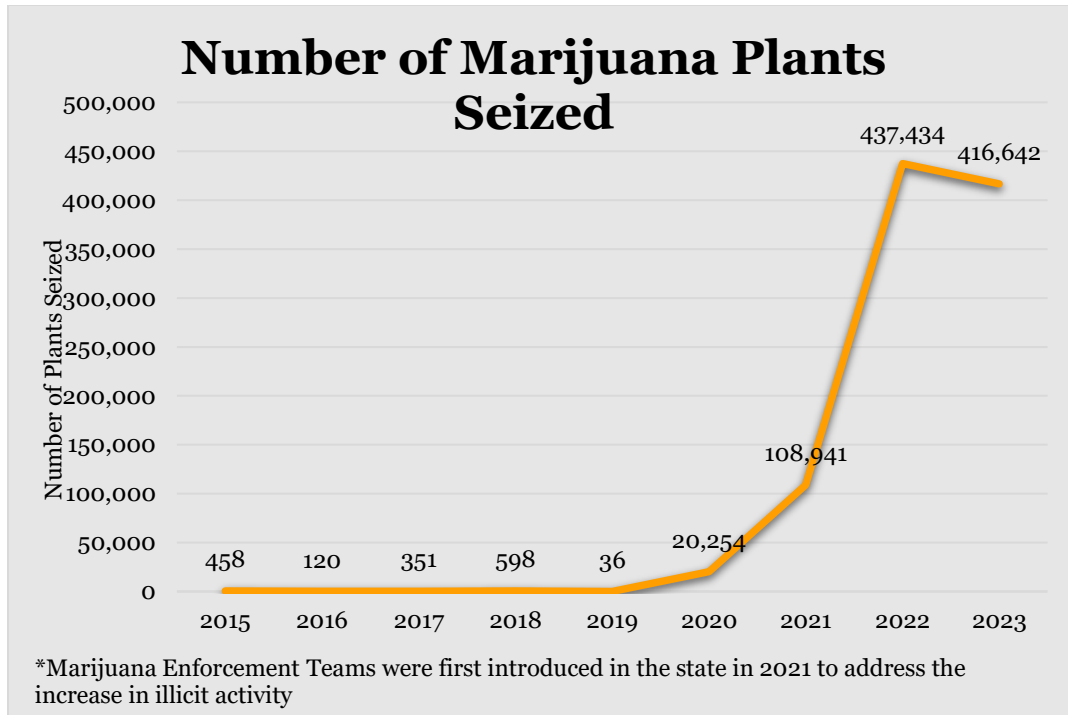
Marijuana Interdictions: Incidents where Oklahoma law enforcement officers stopped a driver for a traffic violation and subsequently found marijuana destined for other parts of the country. These are random traffic stops, not investigations.

Marijuana Investigations



SOURCE: Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

4,166% Increase in Pounds of Marijuana Seized
from 2018 to 2023



SOURCE: Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

69,573% Increase in the Number of Marijuana Plants Seized from 2018 to 2023.

Since the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes in Oklahoma, there has been a significant increase in illegal distribution and cultivation of marijuana seen in the state. In an effort to address the rising concern, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) established specific Marijuana Enforcement Teams (MET). The MET unit works to identify, investigate, and dismantle criminal drug trafficking organizations who have infiltrated the medical marijuana industry throughout Oklahoma. Since 2021, the MET have shut down 3,000 marijuana grows, arrested over 300 individuals and seized over one million pounds of marijuana through criminal investigations.¹⁶

¹⁶ Texoma High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), 2024 Annual Threat Assessment

These investigations included individuals operating with and without state issued licenses. Some entities hid behind a façade of legitimacy by having all the required state licenses and registrations, while some operated illegally without any licensing.

Individuals operating under the guise of legality often used various forms of fraud to obtain the necessary licenses. The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) has identified over one thousand grows that were established fraudulently.¹⁷ These fraudulent grows have led to illegal distribution of marijuana throughout the United States.

The OBN has made significant strides in revoking fraudulently obtained registrations once they are identified. These enforcement actions have resulted in a decrease of registered grows and have acted as a deterrent from fraudulently obtaining additional registrations.¹⁸

Chinese Grow Operations

In recent years, Chinese criminal organizations, often referred to as triads, have become involved in the marijuana industry throughout the United States. After the marijuana industry was created in Oklahoma with medical legalization in 2018, several Chinese criminal organizations infiltrated the state. These groups have been linked to illicit marijuana grow operations as well as obtaining state issued licenses to operate based on fraud. Many states, to include Oklahoma, have also seen an increase in human trafficking, labor trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking linked to these triads.

Oklahoma, in particular, was chosen as a destination for these criminal organizations due to inexpensive land and very few barriers required to enter into the marijuana industry. Law enforcement investigations determined that several of the medical marijuana grow operations were owned by individuals with connections to triads. These groups were often found to either have direct financial backing from China or other

¹⁷ Texoma High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), 2024 Annual Threat Assessment

¹⁸ Ibid

triads throughout the United States. Many of the Chinese criminal organizations have taken advantage of the legal system by using fraud in order to gain access as a state licensed grow operation. Types of fraud include fraudulent lease agreements, forged signatures, stolen identities of Oklahoma residents, shell businesses, straw owners, and any other means to obtain the required license and registration illegally.¹⁹

Open-Source Articles Related to Chinese Grow Operations in Oklahoma

Mayhem on the Prairie: Chinese gangsters rule the illicit marijuana trade in Oklahoma

https://www.citynewsokc.com/news/mayhem-on-the-prairie-chinese-gangsters-rule-the-illicit-marijuana-trade-in-oklahoma/article_8287f79a-eabf-11ee-9068-471a659973d1.html

Alleged 'straw ownership' of Oklahoma marijuana operations leads to indictments

<https://www.oklahoman.com/story/news/2024/09/02/3-men-indicted-in-straw-ownership-of-illegal-oklahoma-marijuana-farms/75046966007/>

From Fujian to Oklahoma: How Chinese mafias are running America's illegal weed market

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/from-fujian-to-oklahoma-how-chinese-mafias-are-running-americas-illegal-weed-market/articleshow/108735376.cms>

A Marijuana Boom Led Her to Oklahoma. Then Anti-Drug Agents Seized Her Money and Raided Her Home

<https://www.propublica.org/article/marijuana-oklahoma-chinese-immigrant-arrests-asset-seizure-2>

Oklahoma drug agents fighting back against Chinese organized crime linked to illegal marijuana industry

¹⁹ Texoma High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), 2024 Annual Threat Assessment

<https://kfor.com/news/local/oklahoma-drug-agents-fighting-back-against-chinese-organized-crime-linked-to-illegal-marijuana-industry/>

How Chinese organized crime is dominating Oklahoma's illegal medical marijuana market

https://www.normantranscript.com/news/how-chinese-organized-crime-is-dominating-oklahoma-s-illegal-medical-marijuana-market/article_9cd874d4-e214-11ee-b19a-4f569b0be4b3.html

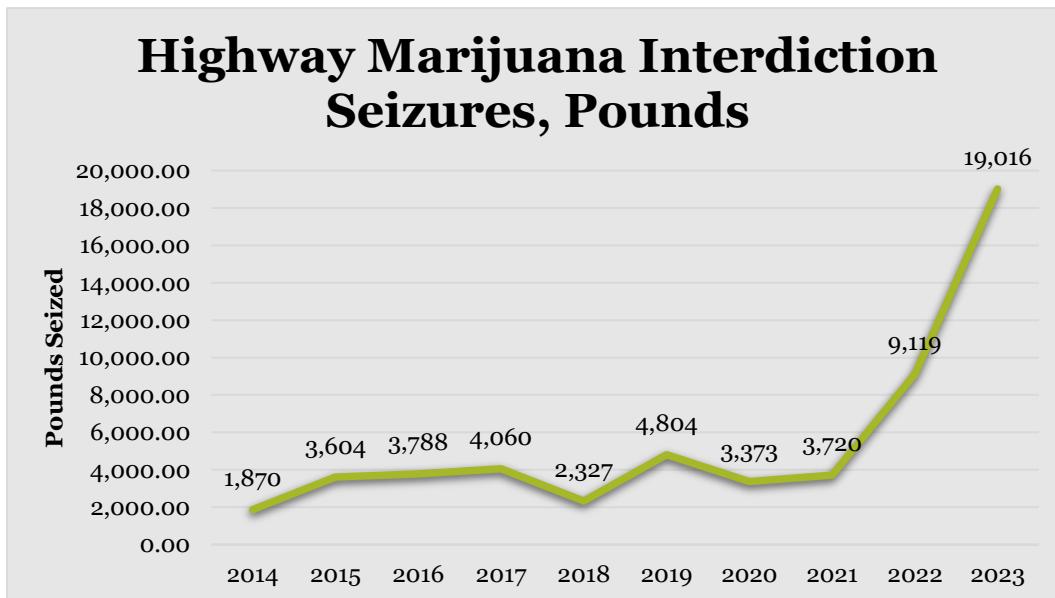
Federal Jury Convicts Chinese Nationals of Drug Conspiracy for Illegally Trafficking Black-Market Marijuana from Oklahoma Grow Operation

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdok/pr/federal-jury-convicts-chinese-nationals-drug-conspiracy-illegally-trafficking-black>

Highway Interdictions

EPIC Data

- These interdiction seizures are reported on a voluntary basis, by Oklahoma law enforcement, to the National Seizure System (NSS), managed by the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), and therefore **represent only a portion** of the overall interdiction seizures made throughout the state. .

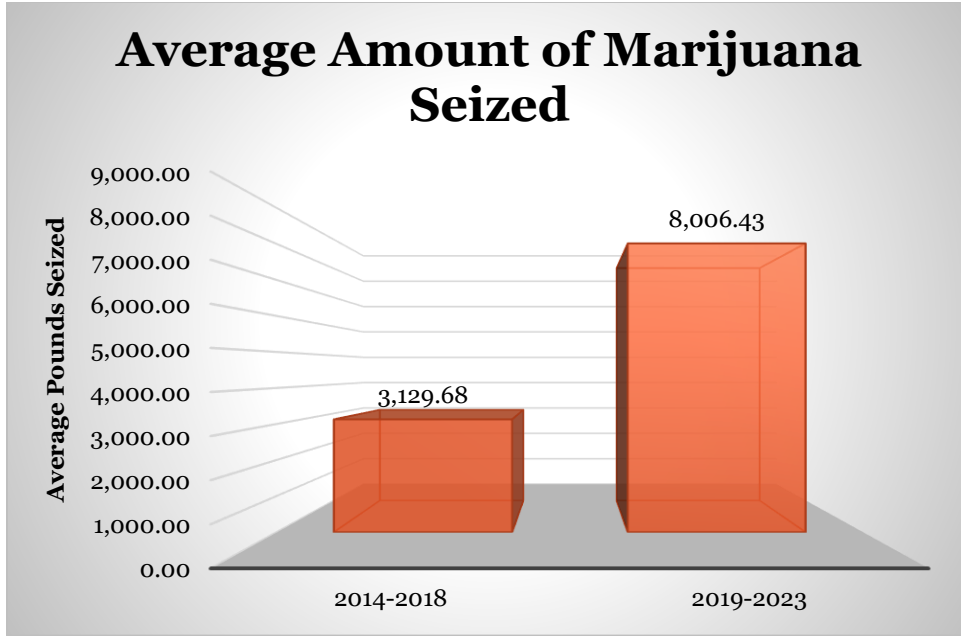


SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of November 14, 2024

717% Increase in Pounds of Marijuana Seized in Oklahoma During Interdiction Stops from 2018 to 2023.

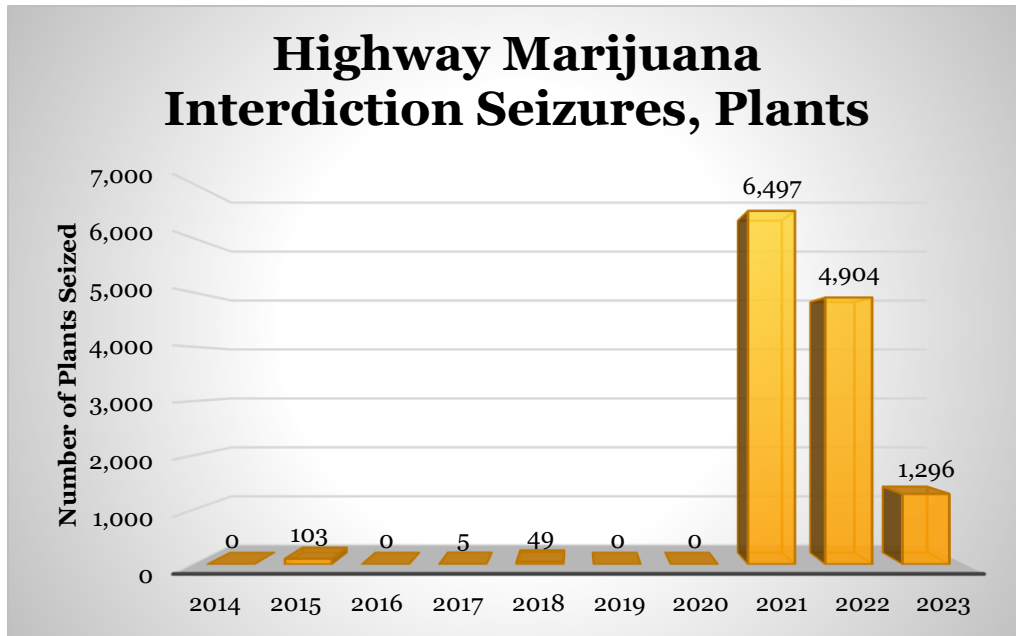
Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics agents seized over 17,000 pounds of marijuana flower from semi-trucks in one year alone. Through investigation it was determined most of the seized marijuana was destined to be illegally sold throughout the Midwest and Eastern States.²⁰

²⁰ Texoma High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), 2024 Annual Threat Assessment

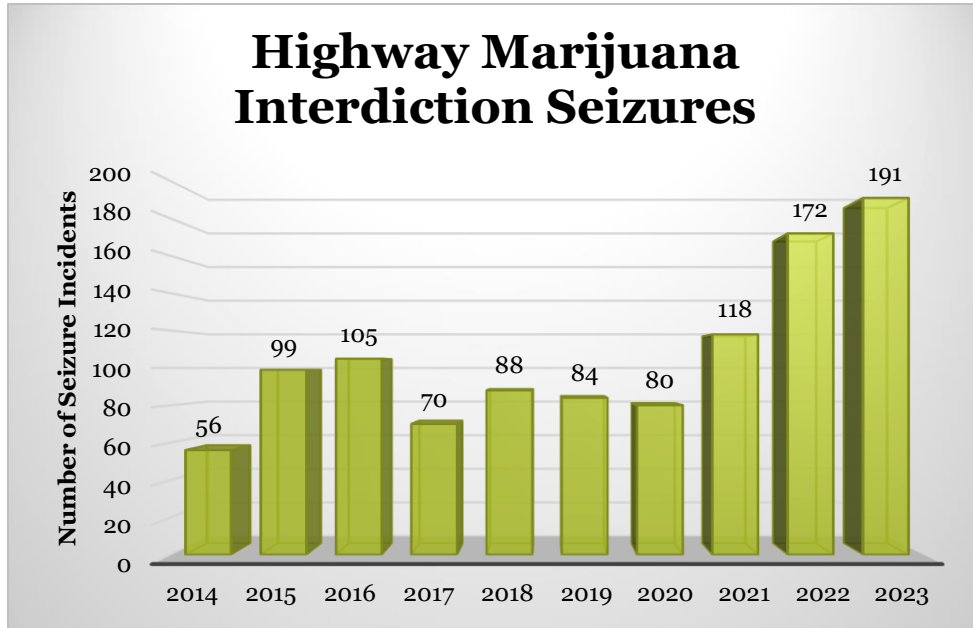


156%
Increase in
Pounds of
Marijuana
Seized when
Comparing
the Five
Years Pre and
Post
Legalization

SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of November 14, 2024



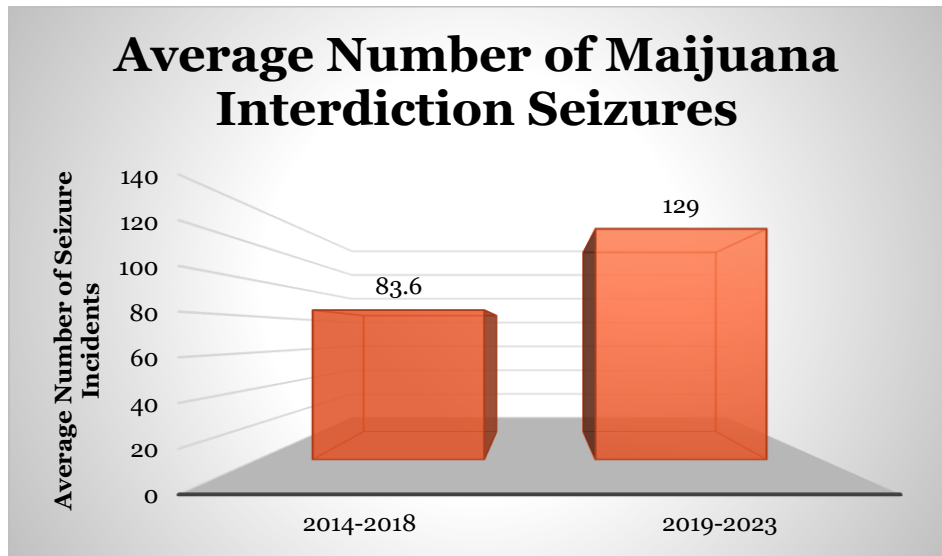
SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of November 14, 2024



SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of November 14, 2024

- In 2023 65% of the highway seizures with known origin location came from Oklahoma compared to 15% of seizures in 2014, indicating an increased presence of illicit distribution from the state.- EPIC Data

54% Increase in Number of Marijuana Interdictions when Comparing the Five Years Pre and Post Legalization



SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of November 14, 2024

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MARIJUANA-RELATED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND HOSPITAL DISCHARGES



Findings

- ❑ Due to a new data system being introduced in 2020, along with voluntary data entry, there is no trend information that can be determined for emergency department discharge numbers. Figures for 2022 and 2023 are provided.
- ❑ Overall number of discharges for inpatient hospitalizations for **all ages** with nonfatal cannabis poisonings **increased 228%** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ The number of **youth ages 1-4** discharges for inpatient hospitalizations with nonfatal cannabis poisonings **increased 960%** from 2016 to 2023.
- ❑ The number of **youth ages 5-14** discharges for inpatient hospitalizations with nonfatal cannabis poisonings **increased 300%** from 2016 to 2023.
- ❑ Discharges for inpatient hospitalizations for **ages 15-24** and **ages 25-44** with nonfatal cannabis poisonings show no definitive trends to be determined.

Definitions

Marijuana-Related:

A nonfatal cannabis poisoning (either from an emergency or hospitalization/inpatient) discharge. This means the discharge orders included at least one discharge diagnosis related to cannabis poisoning. Being marijuana-related does not necessarily prove marijuana was the cause of the emergency department or hospitalization/inpatient visit.

Discharge Data:

The data include discharges, which are not necessarily unique patients. Patients could be readmitted for the same injury or transferred between facilities. The data are from nonfederal, acute care hospitals in the state. Oklahoma residents seen in hospitals outside of the state are not included. – Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Injury Prevention Service.

International Classification of Disease (ICD):

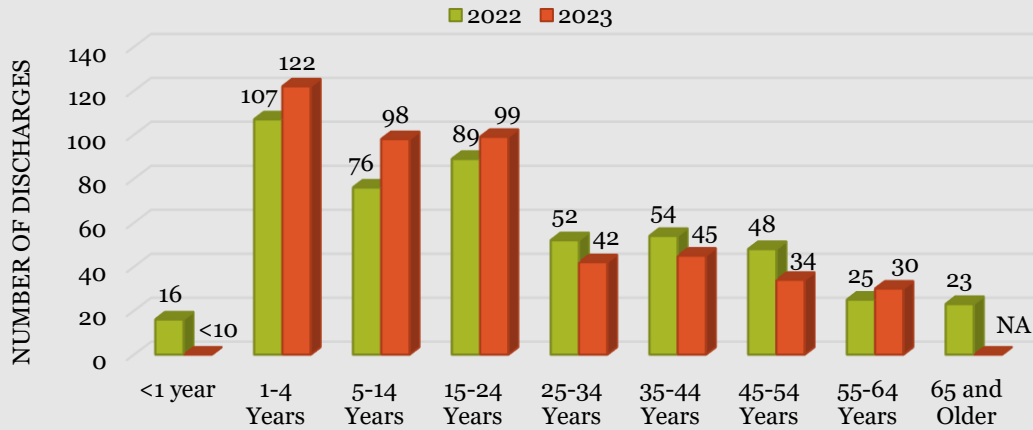
A medical coding system used to classify diseases and related health problems.

- In 2015, ICD-10-CM (the tenth modification) was implemented in place of ICD-9-CM. Comparison of trends before and after the conversion can be made difficult and/or impossible. The number of codes increased from approximately 13,600 codes to approximately 69,000 codes. Therefore, only marijuana-related hospitalization and emergency department data post 2015 is used for this report.

Emergency Department Data

Data for emergency department discharges are only available for 2022 and 2023. A new data system was introduced in 2020 and initially data was entered on a voluntary basis. There were still some systems issues occurring in 2021 which prohibits an accurate comparison to 2022 and 2023 numbers. - Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Injury Prevention Service.

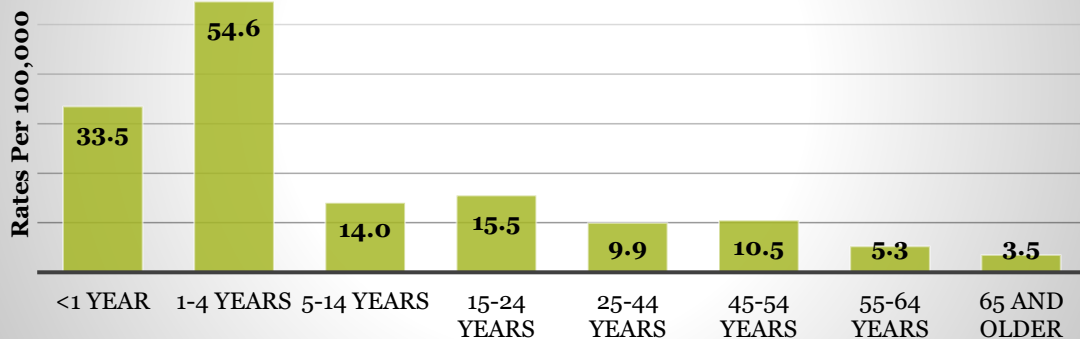
Number of Nonfatal Cannabis Poisoning* Emergency Department Discharges



*Discharges with at least one discharge diagnosis of T40.7 with a 6th character in (1, 2, 3, 4) and a 7th character in (A, blank)

SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Center for Health Statistics, Oklahoma Hospital Discharge Data; Data compiled by OSDH Injury Prevention Service

Rates of Nonfatal Cannabis Poisoning* Emergency Department Discharges, 2022



*Discharges with at least one discharge diagnosis of T40.7 with a 6th character in (1, 2, 3, 4) and a 7th character in (A, blank)

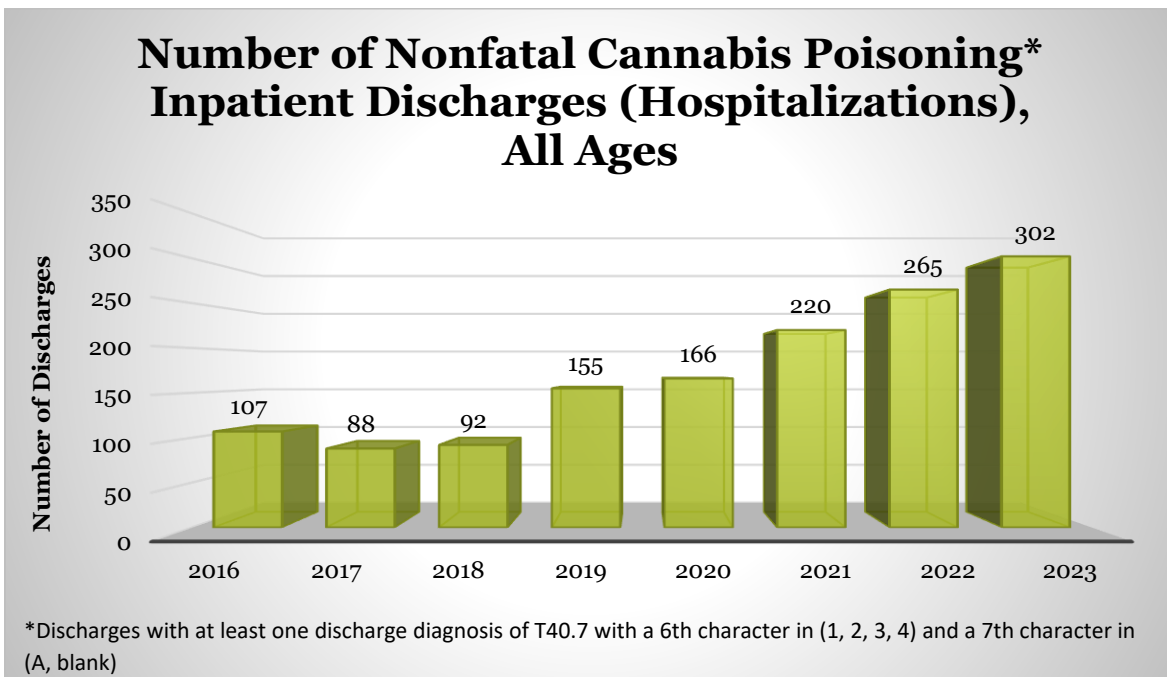
NOTE: 2023 Rates were not available at the time of publication

SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Center for Health Statistics, Oklahoma Hospital Discharge Data; Data compiled by OSDH Injury Prevention Service

Hospitalization Data

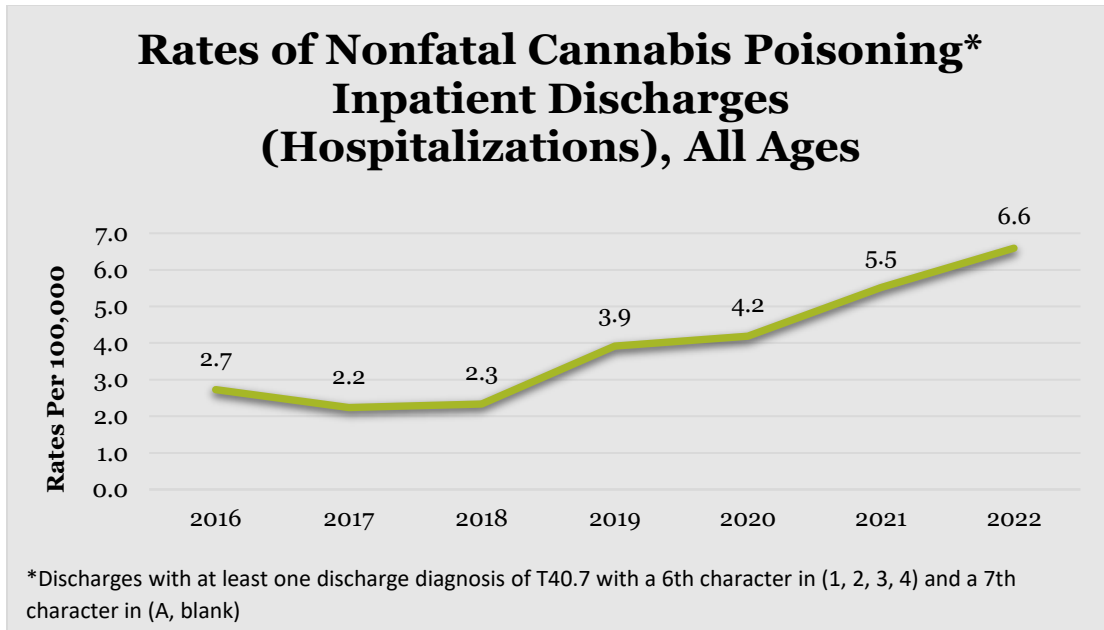
Inpatient discharges, or hospitalization visits, related to marijuana have risen in Oklahoma driven by increased use, accidental ingestion, and high potency products. These visits often involve complications like intoxication, anxiety, paranoia, and psychosis, particularly in individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions.²¹

- ❖ Since marijuana was legalized for medicinal use in 2018, hospitalizations for all ages have increased 228%.



SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Center for Health Statistics, Oklahoma Hospital Discharge Data; Data compiled by OSDH Injury Prevention Service

²¹ “The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research”, National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425748/>

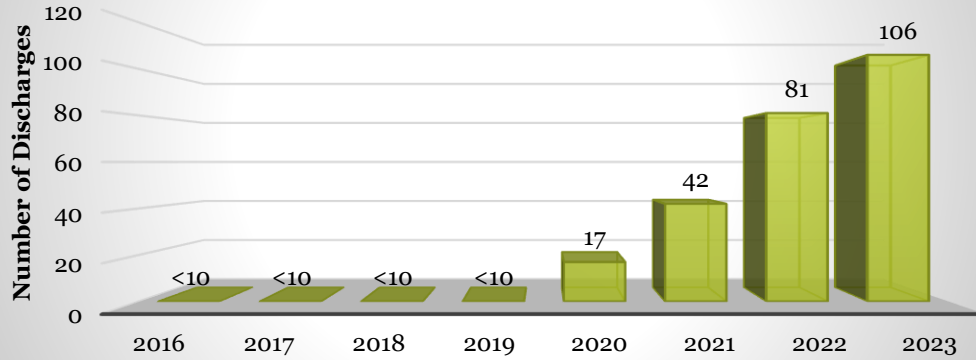


NOTE: 2023 Rates were not available at the time of publication

SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Center for Health Statistics, Oklahoma Hospital Discharge Data; Data compiled by OSDH Injury Prevention Service

The following graphs provide individual breakdowns of each age group comprising the total number of marijuana poisoning hospitalizations. Of note, child (ages 1-4) marijuana poisoning hospitalizations increased 960% from 2018 to 2023 after medical legalization. During that same time period youth (ages 5-14) increased nearly 4,000%. There were slight increases in each of the other age categories.

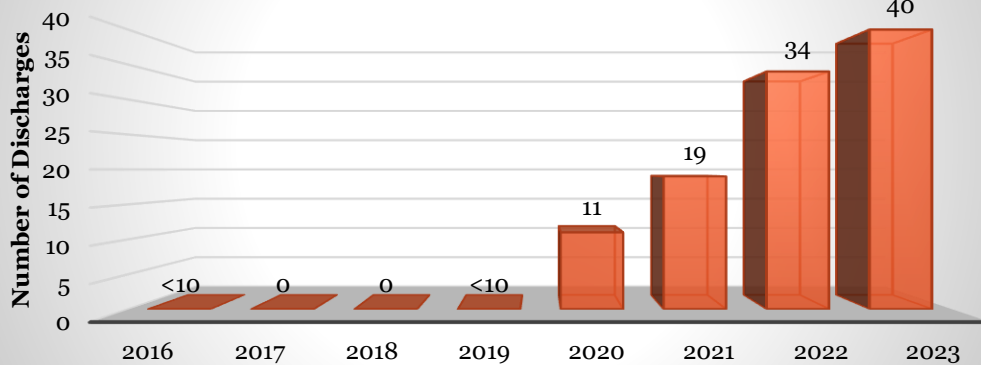
Number of Nonfatal Cannabis Poisoning* Inpatient Discharges (Hospitalizations), Ages 1-4 Years Old



*Discharges with at least one discharge diagnosis of T40.7 with a 6th character in (1, 2, 3, 4) and a 7th character in (A, blank)

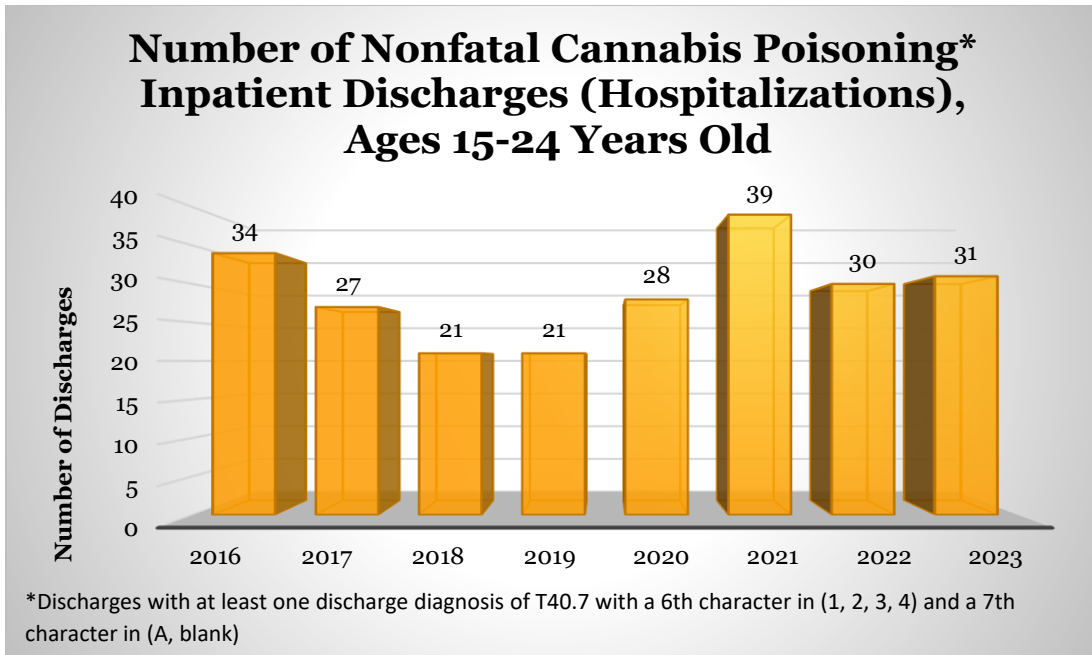
SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Center for Health Statistics, Oklahoma Hospital Discharge Data; Data compiled by OSDH Injury Prevention Service

Number of Nonfatal Cannabis Poisoning* Inpatient Discharges (Hospitalizations), Ages 5-14 Years Old

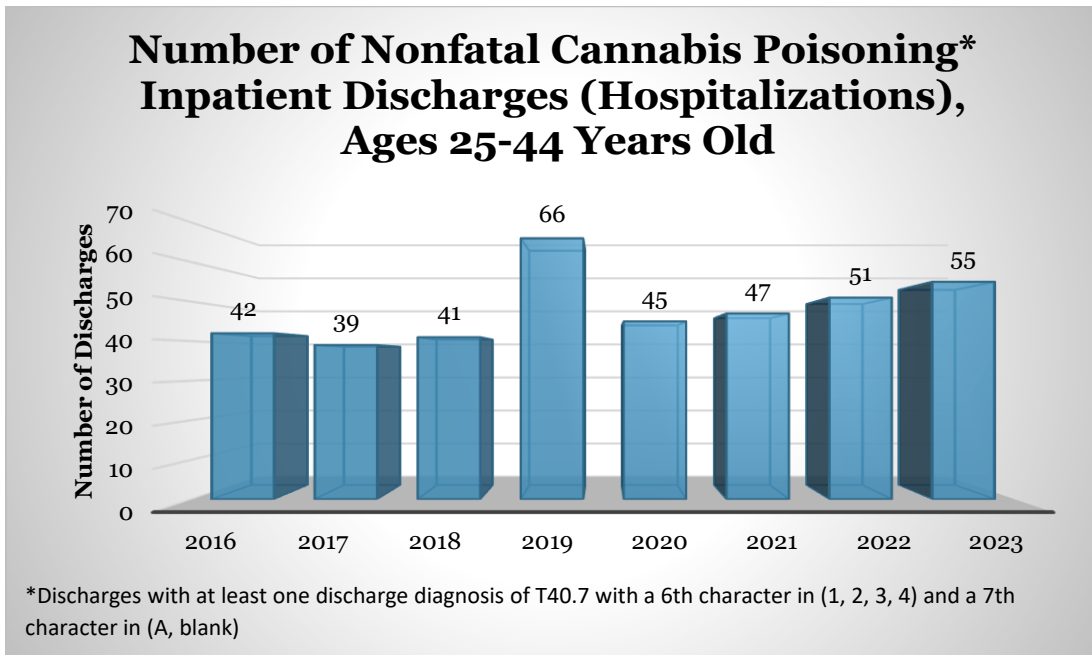


*Discharges with at least one discharge diagnosis of T40.7 with a 6th character in (1, 2, 3, 4) and a 7th character in (A, blank)

SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Center for Health Statistics, Oklahoma Hospital Discharge Data; Data compiled by OSDH Injury Prevention Service



SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Center for Health Statistics, Oklahoma Hospital Discharge Data; Data compiled by OSDH Injury Prevention Service



SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Center for Health Statistics, Oklahoma Hospital Discharge Data; Data compiled by OSDH Injury Prevention Service

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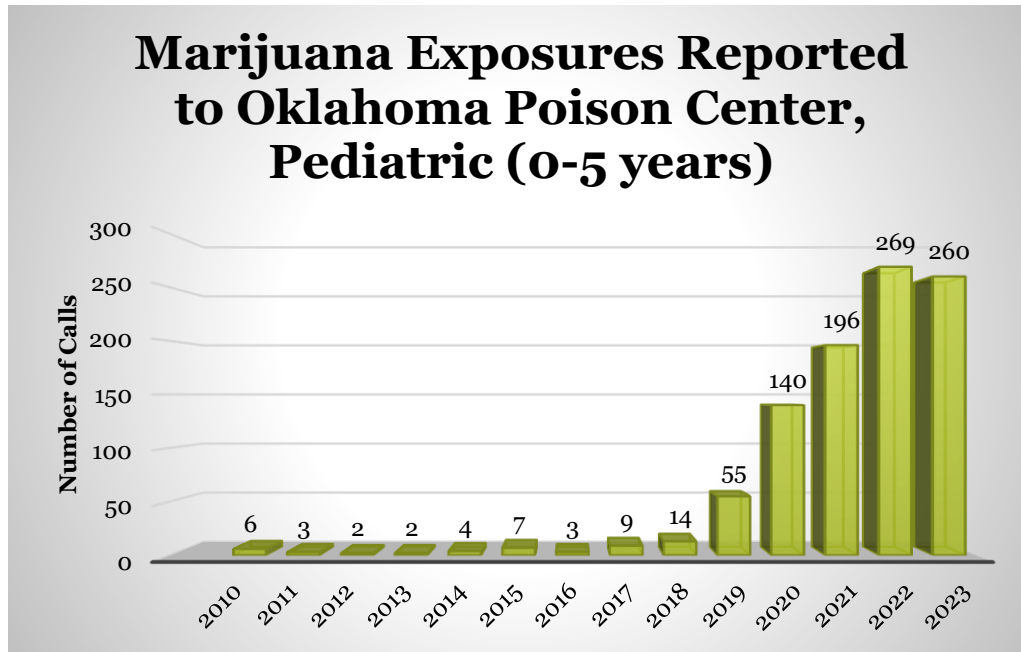
MARIJUANA POISON CONTROL CALLS



Findings

- ❑ Marijuana poison control calls **increased significantly for each age group** comparing the five-year average (2019-2023) since Oklahoma legalized medical marijuana to the five-year average (2014-2018) prior to legalization.
 - 2,529% increase Ages 0-5 Years Old
 - 381% increase Ages 6-19 Years Old
 - 338% increase Ages 20+ Years Old
- ❑ Pediatric marijuana poison control calls (ages 0 to 5) **increased 20-fold (1,900%)** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ Youth ages 6-19 years old marijuana poison control calls **increased more than six times (528%)** from 2018 to 2023.
- ❑ Adults ages 20 and older marijuana poison control calls varied since medical legalization in 2018 and overall, the total number of **calls doubled (130% increase)** from 2018 to 2023.

Data



SOURCE: Oklahoma Center for Poison & Drug Information

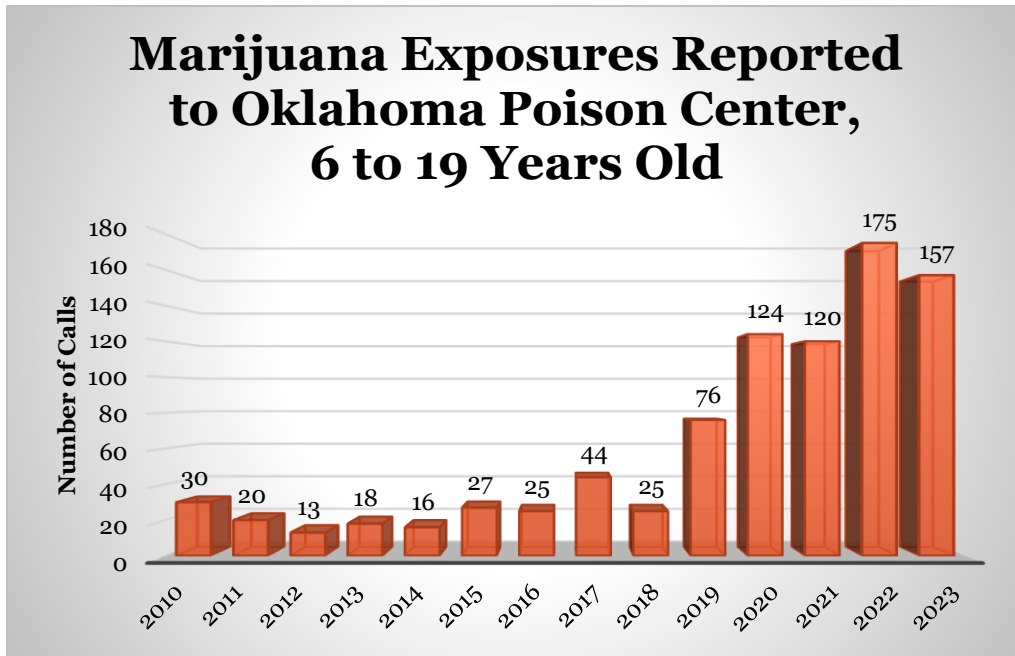
“In 2018, when medical marijuana was legalized in Oklahoma, there were 14 pediatric marijuana ingestions reported to the Oklahoma Poison Center. These exposures increased to 269 in 2022. This represents a 1920% increase in pediatric marijuana exposures reported to the Oklahoma Poison Center over 5 years. Most (98.9%) occurred in a residential setting, which highlights the importance of keeping marijuana products up and out of reach of children.”

- *Marijuana Edibles and Children*, Oklahoma Poison Center, oklahomapoison.org

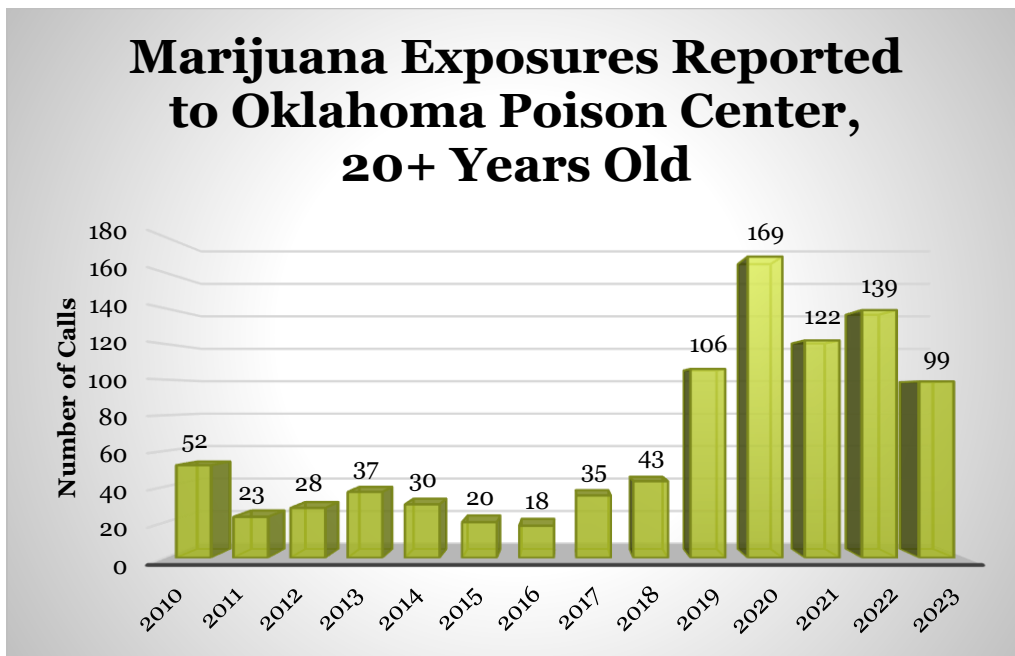
“In 2023 the Oklahoma Poison Center received 260 calls that involved children aged 0-5 years exposed to marijuana in our state. 181 children (70%) of these were treated in a healthcare facility.”

- *2023 Annual Report*, Oklahoma Poison Center, oklahomapoison.org

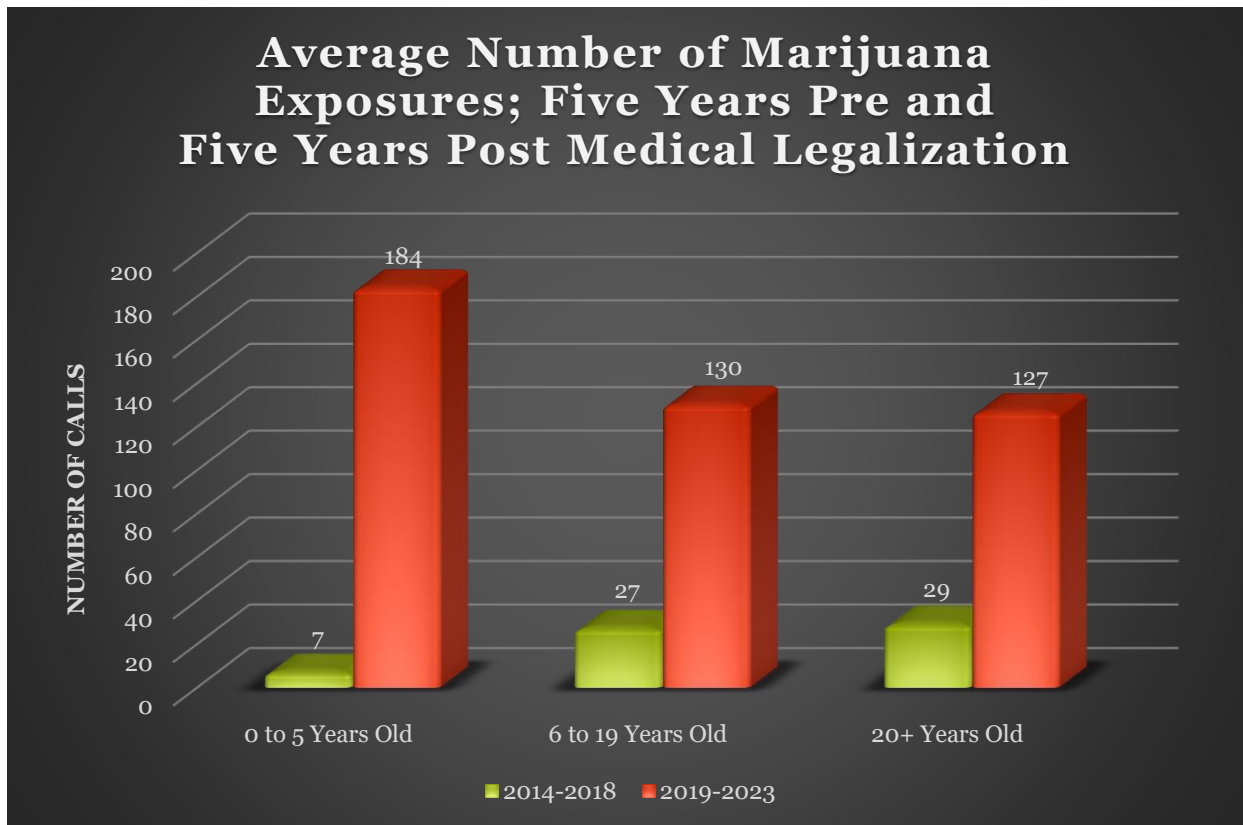
- ❖ Since the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes in 2018, youth ages 6 to 19 have seen a 528% increase in calls to the poison control center.



SOURCE: Oklahoma Center for Poison & Drug Information



SOURCE: Oklahoma Center for Poison & Drug Information



SOURCE: Oklahoma Center for Poison & Drug Information

Marijuana poison control calls increased significantly for each age group comparing the five-year average (2019-2023) since Oklahoma legalized medical marijuana to the five-year average (2014-2018) prior to legalization.

- 2,529% increase Ages 0-5 Years Old
- 381% increase Ages 6-19 Years Old
- 338% increase Ages 20+ Years Old

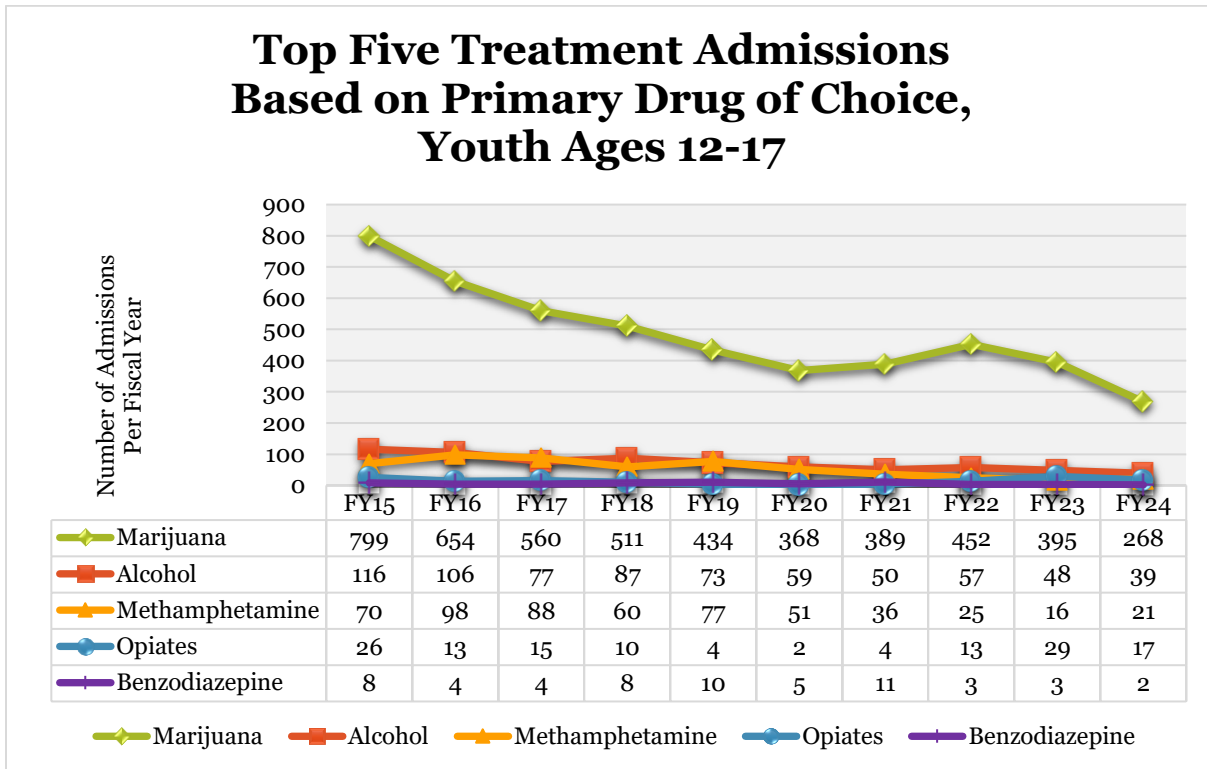
TREATMENT ADMISSIONS



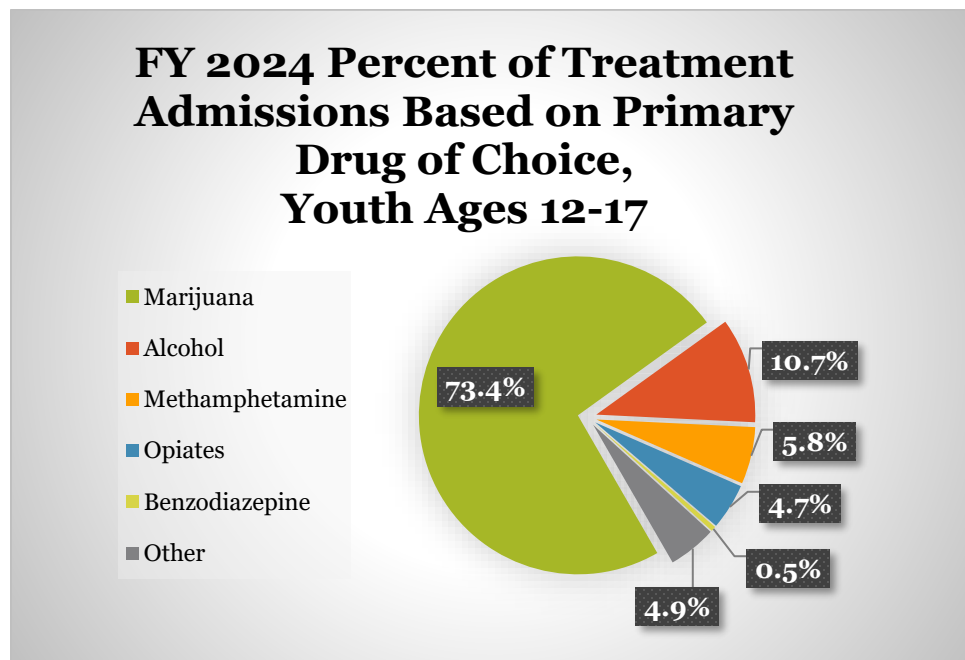
Findings

- ❑ In fiscal year 2024 **nearly three-fourths (73.4%) of all youth ages 12-17** listed marijuana as their primary drug of choice when entering substance abuse treatment.
- ❑ At **19.7%**, **marijuana treatment admissions for college age** individuals were the third highest primary drug of choice, after methamphetamine(31.2%) and alcohol (28.8%) in fiscal year 2024.
- ❑ At **6.7%** **marijuana treatment admission for adults ages 26+** were the third highest primary drug of choice, far below methamphetamine(34.9%) and alcohol(36.5%) admissions in fiscal year 2024.
- ❑ The number of treatment admissions with marijuana as the primary drug of choice have been declining over the past decade for both youth and college age individuals. Adults ages 26+ remained fairly consistent until a slight rise in FY23 and FY24 numbers.
- ❑ In 2023, out of all the marijuana treatment admissions in the state of Oklahoma **53.9% were from adults ages 26+, 30.4% were from college age individuals 18-25, and 15.7% were from youth ages 12-17 years old.**

Data



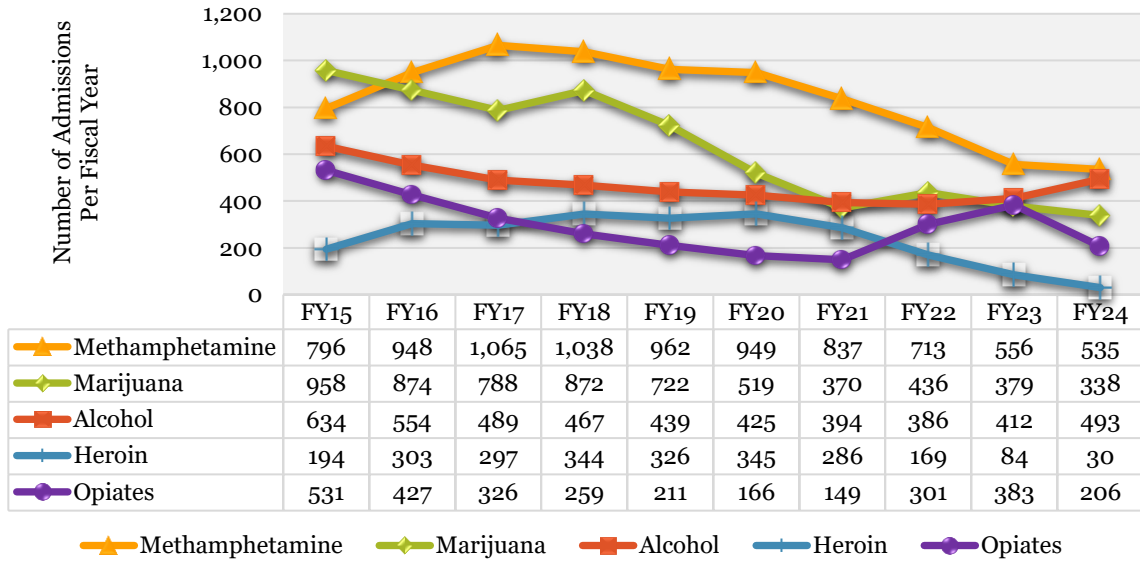
SOURCE: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) Online Query System, Accessed November 20, 2024



Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of All Youth Ages 12-17 Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions were due to Marijuana

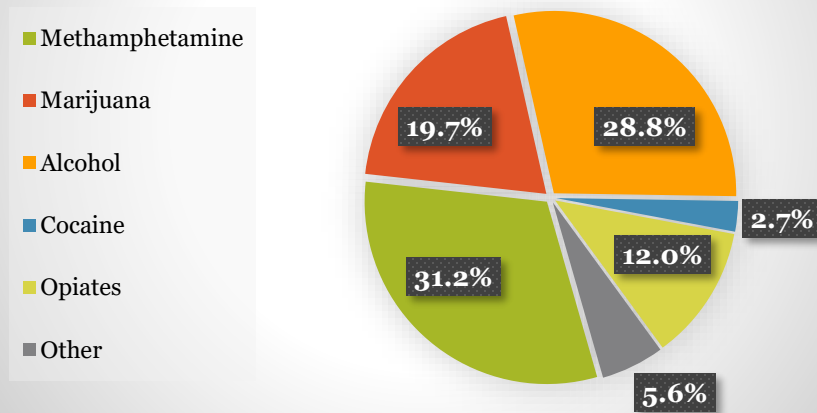
SOURCE: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) Online Query System, Accessed November 20, 2024

Top Five Treatment Admissions Based on Primary Drug of Choice, College Age 18-25



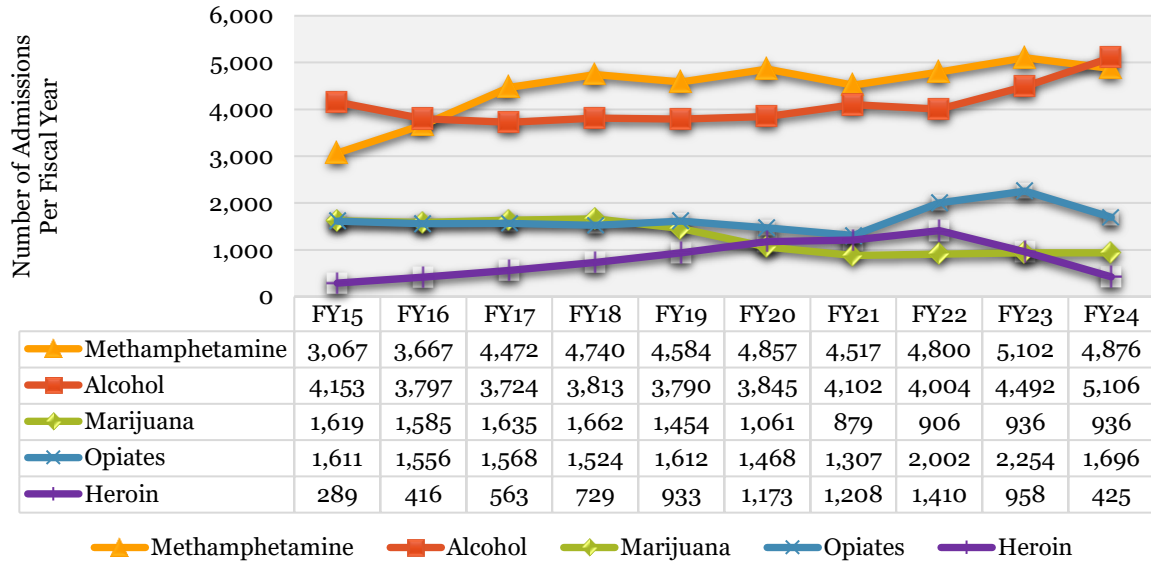
SOURCE: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) Online Query System, Accessed November 20, 2024

FY 2024 Percent of Treatment Admissions Based on Primary Drug of Choice, College Age 18-25



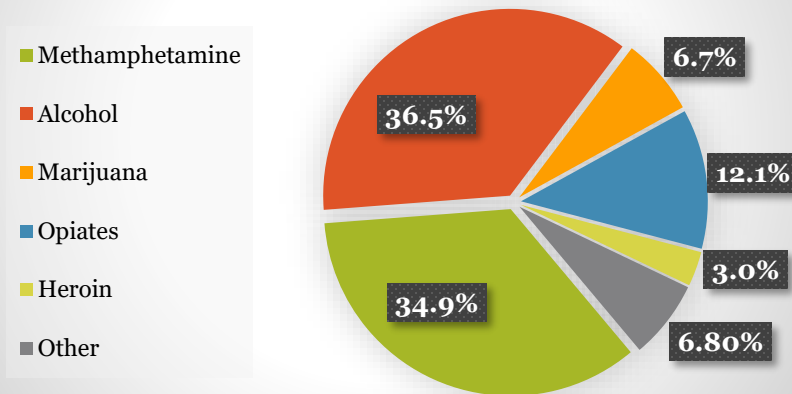
SOURCE: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) Online Query System, Accessed November 20, 2024

Top Five Treatment Admissions Based on Primary Drug of Choice, Adults Ages 26+



SOURCE: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) Online Query System, Accessed November 20, 2024

FY 2024 Percent of Treatment Admissions Based on Primary Drug of Choice, Adult Ages 26+



SOURCE: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) Online Query System, Accessed November 20, 2024

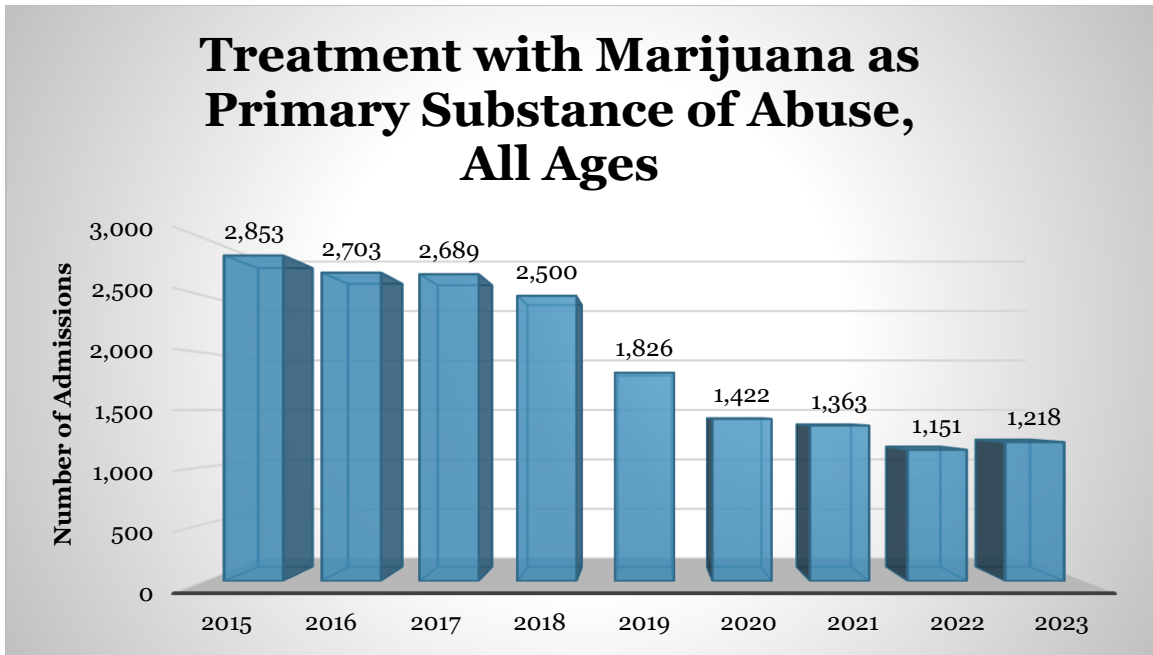
According to the Oklahoma Department of Health, approximately 1 in 10 people who use marijuana will become addicted. This statistic is further exacerbated when an individual begins marijuana use before the age of 18. At that point the rate of addiction rises to 1 in 6.²²

Although marijuana overdoses are not generally fatal, there can still be serious side effects associated with a marijuana overdose event. The signs and symptoms include:

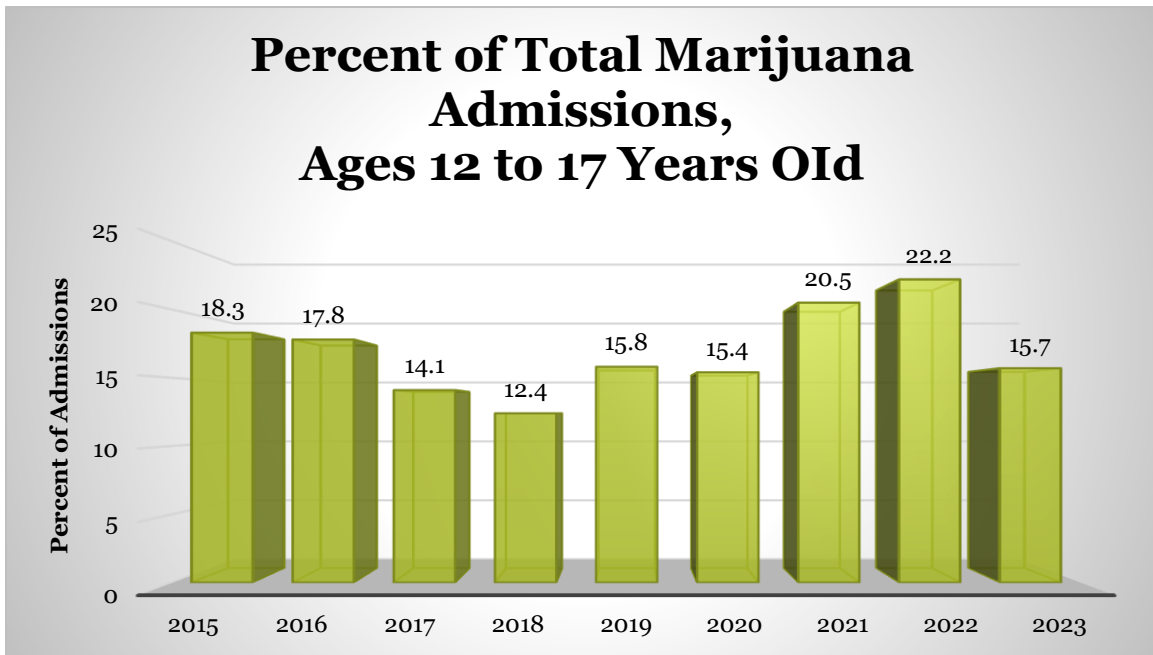
- Extreme anxiety or panic attacks
- Psychotic reactions in which someone loses touch with reality or becomes paranoid
- Decreased judgment, perception, and coordination
- A fast heart rate, chest pain, or heart attack
- Uncontrollable shaking or seizures
- Pale skin color
- Unresponsiveness
- Sudden high blood pressure with headache²³

²² Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service, Overdose, Marijuana
<https://oklahoma.gov/health/health-education/injury-prevention-service/drug-overdose/marijuana.html>

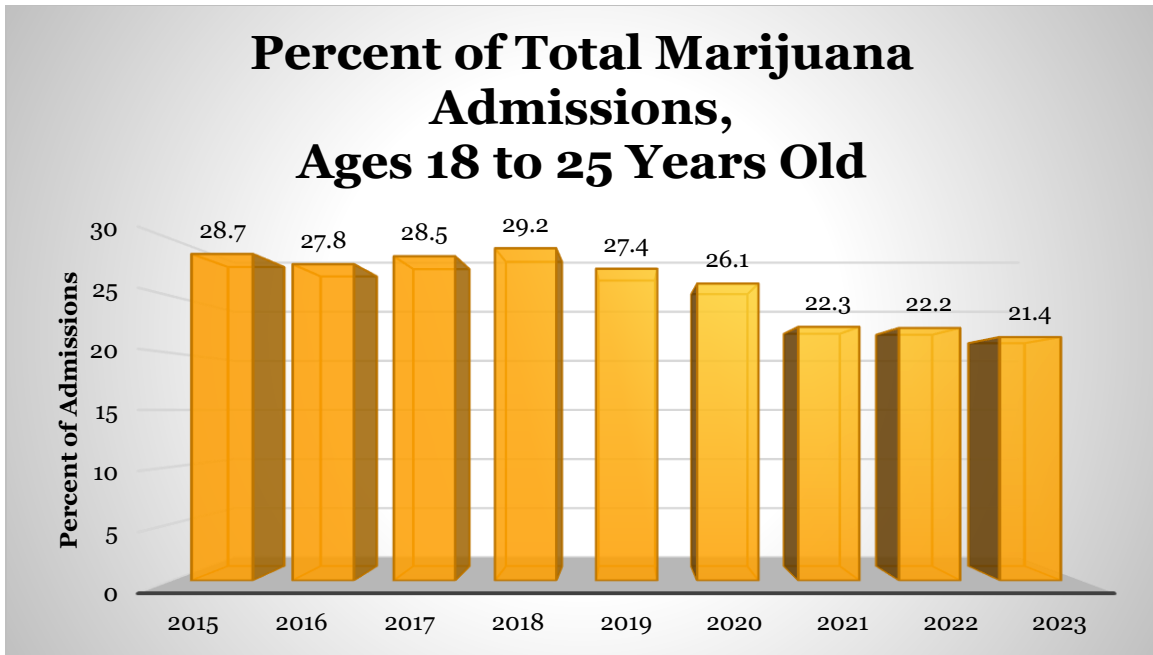
²³ Ibid



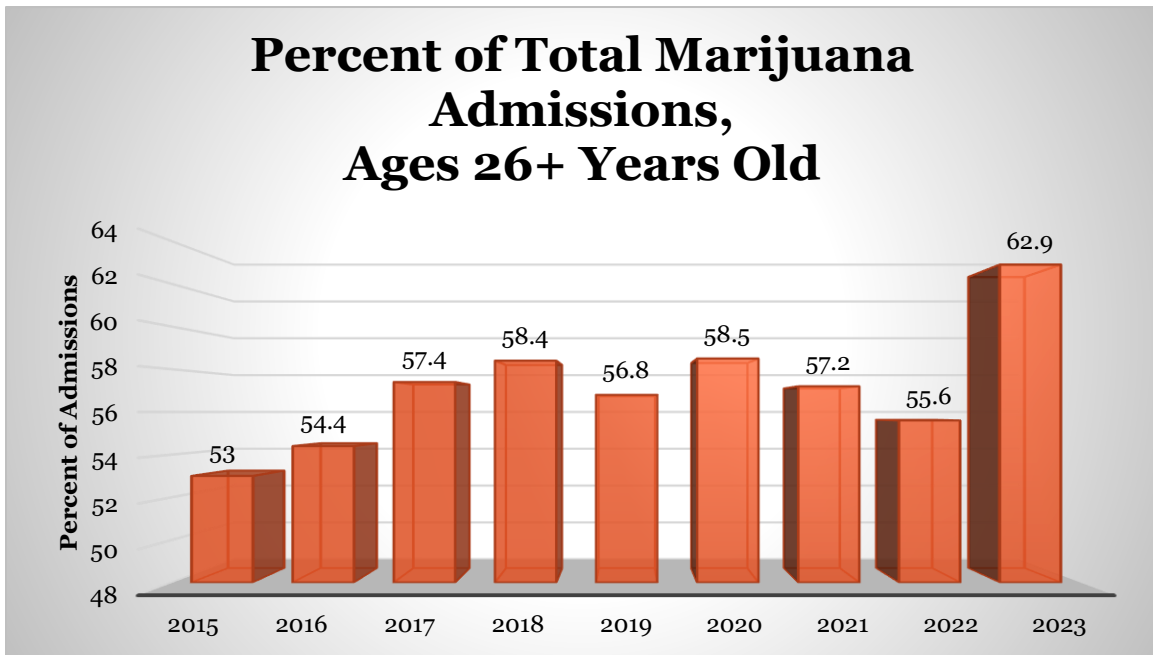
SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), Accessed November 15, 2024



SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), Accessed November 15, 2024



SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), Accessed November 15, 2024



SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), Accessed November 15, 2024

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RELATED DATA

Topics

- Impaired Driving
- Crime
- Public Safety Regarding Grow Operations



Findings

Impaired Driving

- ❑ In 2019, Cannabinoids were the third most common drug found in cases submitted for testing.
- ❑ From 2020-2023, **Cannabinoids were the most common** drug found in cases submitted for testing.
- ❑ In 2023, Cannabinoids were the top drug detected in traffic death investigations.
- ❑ There was a **327% increase in the number of cases testing positive for Cannabinoids** from 2019 to 2023

Oklahoma Crime

- ❑ **Violent crimes against persons increased 103%** from 2019 to 2023.
- ❑ **Crimes against property increased 47%** from 2019 to 2023.
- ❑ **Drug/ Narcotic Violation Crimes increased 48%** from 2019 to 2023.

Impaired Driving

“Driving under the impairment of drugs (DUI-D) per se law prohibits anyone with any amount of any Schedule I substance from operating a motor vehicle to include but not limited to:

- Opiates and opiated derivatives like morphine
- Hallucinogens
- Depressants
- Stimulants
- Synthetic cannabinoids
- Marijuana”

Oklahoma Highway Safety

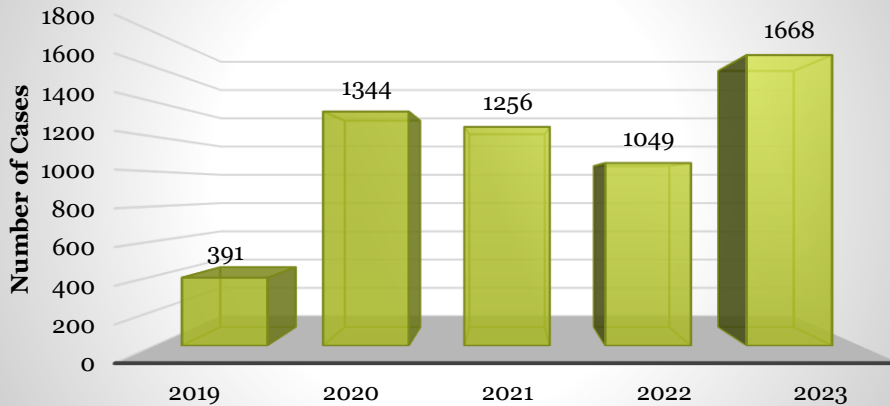
[www.https://oklahoma.gov/highwaysafety/focus-areas/drug-impaired.html](https://oklahoma.gov/highwaysafety/focus-areas/drug-impaired.html)

NOTES:

- **The below drug impaired driving statistics do not account for alcohol.**
- **Cases may have more than one drug identified.**
- **Data is from the OSBI Toxicology Unit for informational purposes only. This data is approximate and is subject to change with new information**

- In 2019 Cannabinoids were the third most common drug found in cases submitted for testing.
- 2020-2023 Cannabioids were the most common drug found in cases submitted for testing.

Total Number of Cases Testing Positive for Cannabinoids*

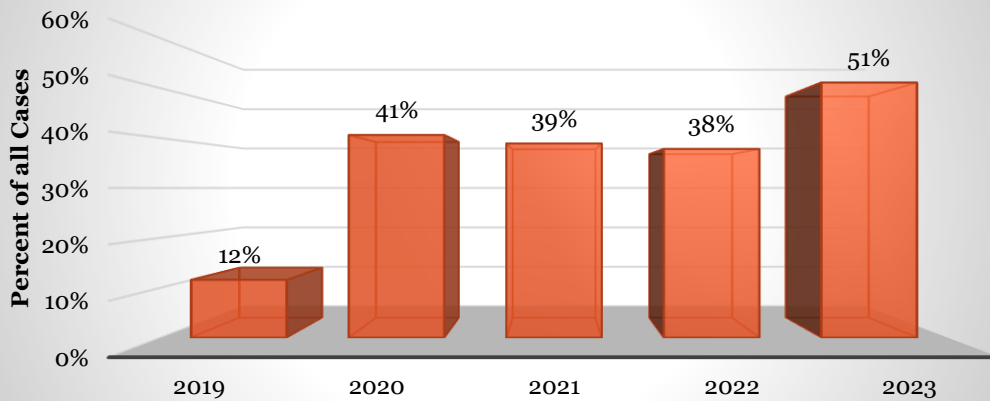


327%
Increase in the Number of Cases that Tested Positive for Cannabinoids from 2019 to 2023

*A positive result indicates a case included at least one of the following compounds: THC, hydroxy-THC and THCA.

SOURCE: Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Toxicology Unit

Percent of All Cases that Tested Positive for Cannabinoids*

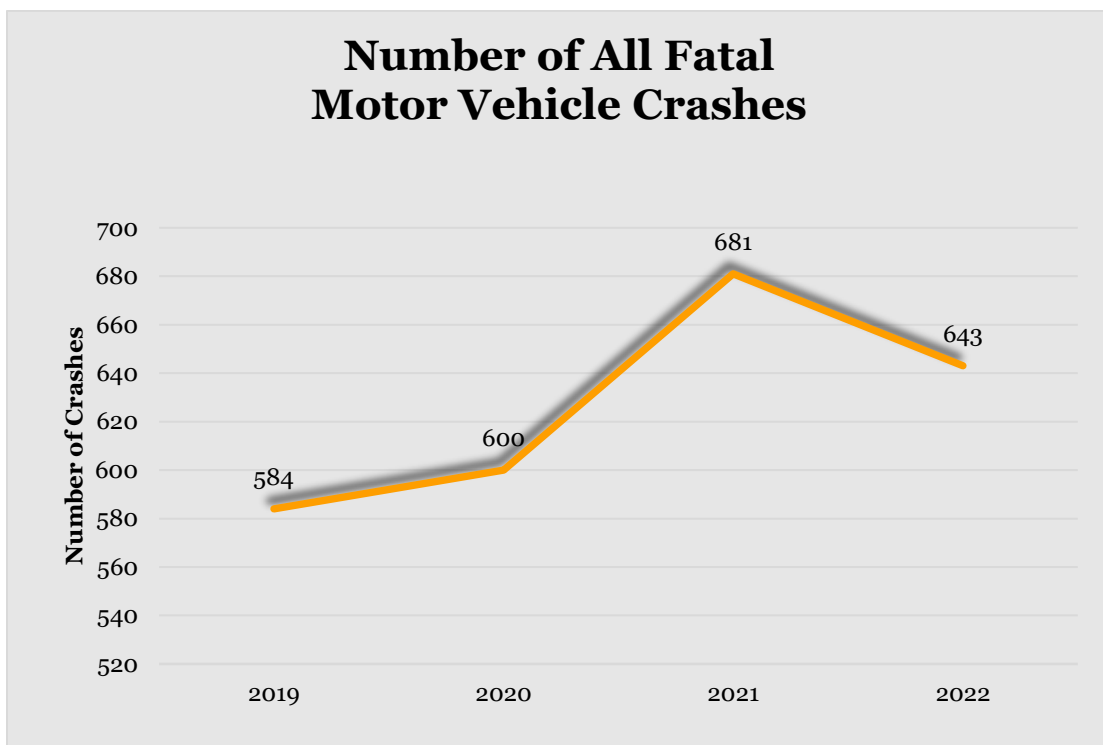


*A positive result indicates a case included at least one of the following compounds: THC, hydroxy-THC and THCA.

SOURCE: Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Toxicology Unit

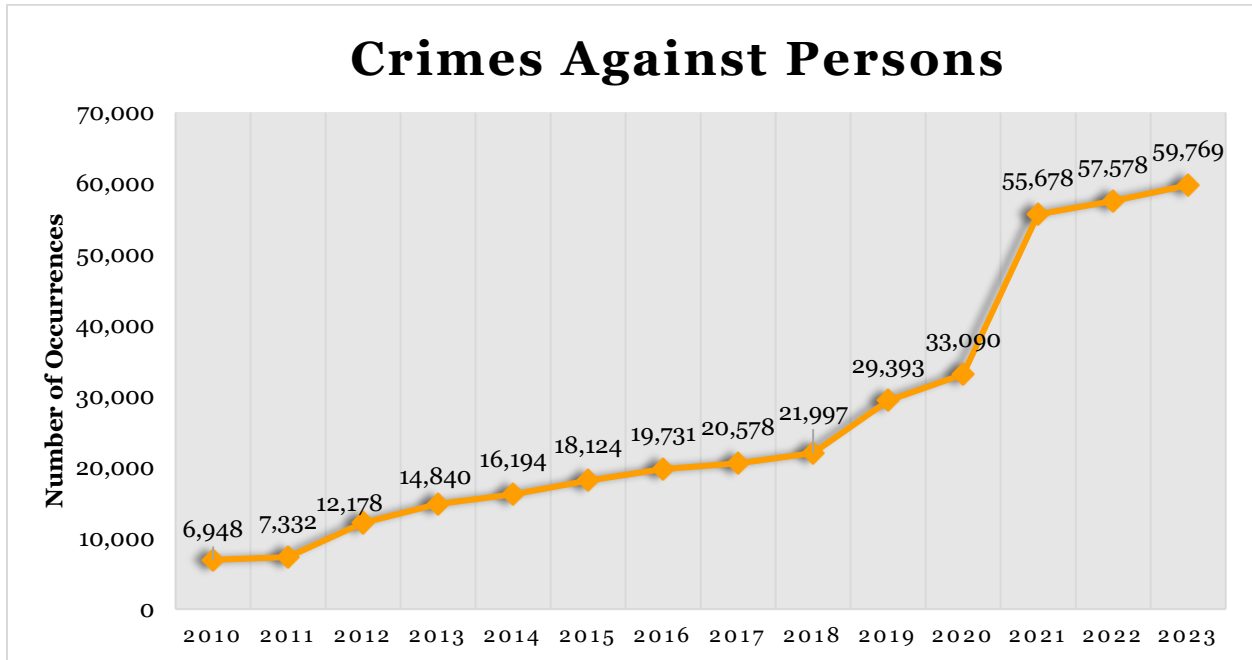
Top 5 Results in Traffic Death Investigations Cases, 2023	
1.)	No Drugs Detected
2.)	Cannabinoids
3.)	Methamphetamine
4.)	Amphetamine
5.)	Diphenhydramine

SOURCE: Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Toxicology Unit



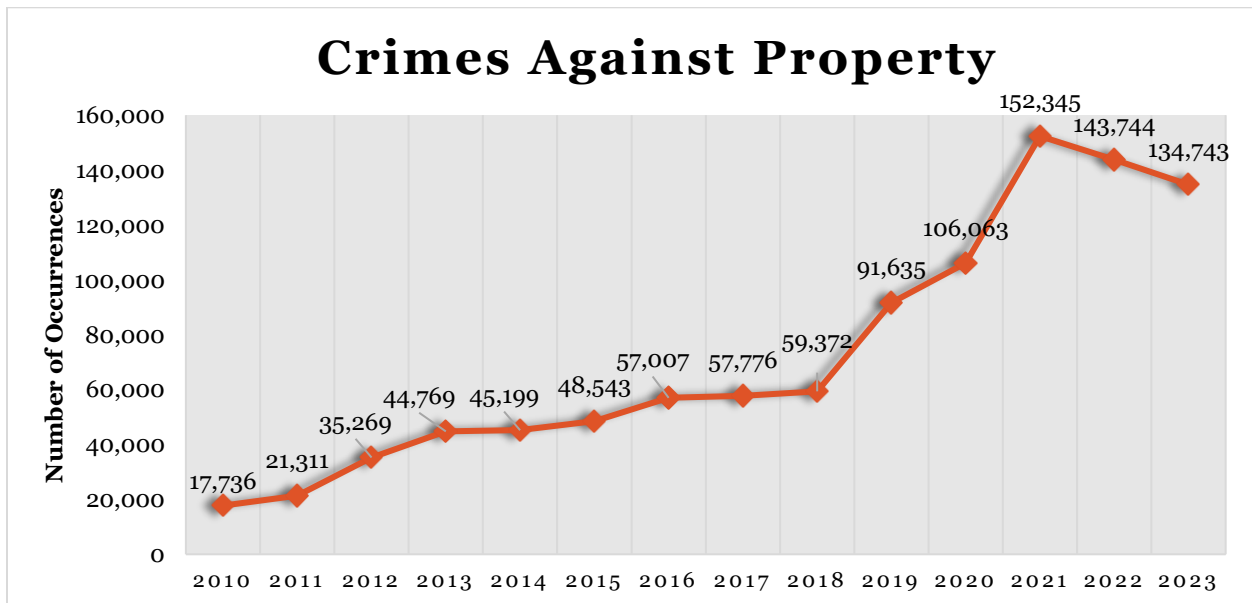
SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Motor Vehicle Crash Data Querying and Reporting

Oklahoma Crime



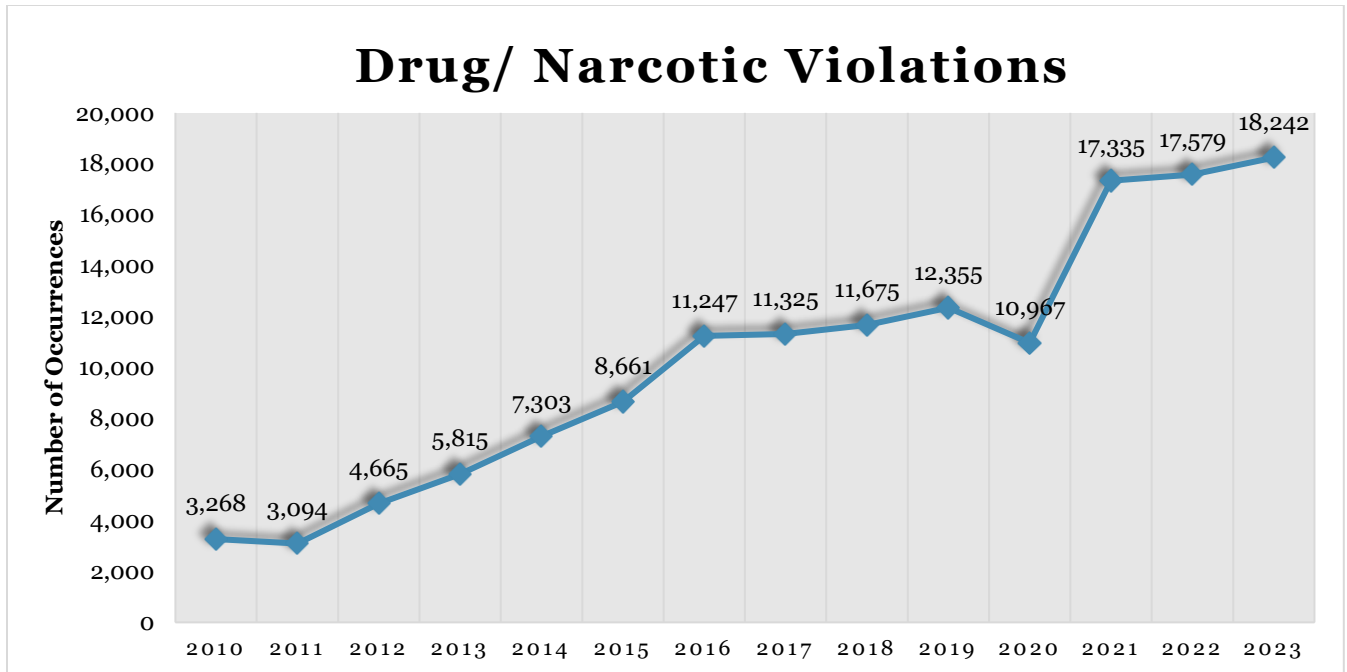
****Data counts the number of unique occurrences an offense was reported by a specific agency.**

SOURCE: Oklahoma Crime Statistics, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, <https://okcrimestats.osbi.ok.gov/>, Accessed November 18, 2024



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****Data counts the number of unique occurrences an offense was reported by a specific agency.**

SOURCE: Oklahoma Crime Statistics, Oklahoma State Bureau Of Investigation, <https://okcrimestats.osbi.ok.gov/>, Accessed November 18, 2024

Oklahoma Crime (5-Year Trend Comparison)	2014-2018	2019-2023
Violent/ Crimes Against Persons	Increased 36%	Increased 103%
Crimes Against Property	Increased 31%	Increased 47%
Drug/Narcotic Violations	Increased 60%	Increased 48%

Examples of Marijuana Related Crime

“As part of a joint effort by law enforcement in the Oklahoma City metro area, four search warrants were served at four residential locations. During the operation, two women were removed from homes, approximately 5 pounds of ketamine, and nearly 30,000 dollars in cash were seized. These women were used as prostitutes to cater to individuals working on marijuana grows. Many other women have been temporarily brought into the state for the sole purpose of sexual exploitation at the hands of marijuana workers.”²⁴

“Labor trafficking has also become an all too common occurrence in the state. Individuals have been recruited through online advertisements, promised good-paying jobs, and a place to stay. Once they arrived, they were required to work on marijuana grows and stay in horrible living conditions.”²⁵

“Oklahoma has seen an increase in the number of underground casinos. Oklahoma City Police Department’s Vice Unit shut down an illegal casino in the Asian District, arrested eight people, and found multiple pounds of marijuana and a significant amount of cash. Most of the suspects had out of state IDs or were from China. Several of the individuals arrested had ties to marijuana grows.”²⁶

²⁴ Texoma High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), 2024 Annual Threat Assessment

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Ibid

Public Safety Regarding Grow Operations

There have been numerous public safety dangers and hazards related to marijuana grow and manufacture operations. These include several dangerous onsite conditions which have resulted in the injury of industry employees while also placing the greater public at risk. As a result, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) has begun enforcing the requirement for any business to obtain a certificate of occupancy/final inspection (CO) before being granted a new registration or renewing an existing one. This requirement places the same burden on marijuana businesses that are placed on all other public businesses, with the expectation that public health and safety are ensured.

Examples of the dangers and dangerous conditions posed by homemade-electrical work and noncompliance with Oklahoma's fire and safety laws include the following:

“Since 2021, there have been at least 10 confirmed fires at marijuana manufacturer locations. In one of the fires, two employees were severely burned and sent to the hospital. This fire also resulted in first-degree felony arson charges being filed.”²⁷

“In another fire, more than 10,000 acres of land were set ablaze after medical marijuana combusted. This fire required the activation of the National Guard and numerous agencies from all over Oklahoma and Texas.”²⁸

“OBN agents have also seen evidence of previous fires on numerous occasions at marijuana manufacturing locations. In fact, on two separate enforcement operations, OBN agents were present when fires ignited in grow rooms.”²⁹

“When investigating indoor manufacturing facilities, OBN agents frequently encounter limited ingress and egress and have had to cut holes in walls to safely work in confined spaces. Grow rooms may be oxygen deficient, and OBN agents frequently wear oxygen monitors while inside these facilities.”³⁰

²⁷ “Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Position Statement on Medical Marijuana Registrants Providing Certificates of Occupancy”, July 2023, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, <https://www.obnndd.ok.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/430/638252794456800000>

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Ibid

“Agents have witnessed compressed gas cylinders that are free-standing and not secured. It is not uncommon to see chemicals, including ethanol and propane, improperly stored in unmarked, unsecured bulk containers.”³¹

Photographs from the “Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Position Statement on Medical Marijuana Registrants Providing Certificates of Occupancy”:³²



³¹ Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Position Statement on Medical Marijuana Registrants Providing Certificates of Occupancy”, July 2023, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, <https://www.obnndd.ok.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/430/638252794456800000>

³² Ibid



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Mead grow farm explosion raises concern over facility regulations



By Emily Tabar
Published: Aug. 18, 2021 at 6:25 PM CDT





NEWS WEATHER FEATURES LIVING OKLAHOMA GAME CENTER WATCH

Marijuana grow house goes up in flames during early morning fire in NW OKC

by Victor Park | Fri, April 15th 2022, 12:48 PM CDT

Firefighters remove marijuana plants and light fixtures after a Northwest OKC grow house goes up in flames.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — An early morning fire led to the discovery of a marijuana grow house in Northwest Oklahoma City on Friday.

Firefighters say they received a 911 call from a passerby who saw smoke coming out from a business along the 13700 block of North Lincoln Boulevard.

When crews arrived, they noticed thick black smoke coming out of the roof.

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Garvin County fire leads to illegal marijuana farm bust

