

National Cannabis Survey, 2023

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New data show that, in 2023, five years after non-medical cannabis use was legalized, over one-third of younger adults aged 18 to 44 years and one in seven adults aged 45 years and older had used cannabis in the previous 12 months. Cannabis consumers tend to favour products such as dried leaf or flower and edible cannabis, and they often prefer legal cannabis sources because of product safety.

Younger Canadians are twice as likely to use cannabis than older Canadians

In 2023, more than one-third of adults aged 18 to 24 years (38.4%) and 25 to 44 years (34.5%) reported having used cannabis in the previous 12 months, compared with 15.5% of adults aged 45 years and older.

Frequent cannabis use may be a sign of dependence. A [recent study](#) found that almost three in four daily cannabis consumers (72.4%) experienced impaired control over their use of cannabis and were at risk for developing cannabis use disorder.

About 1 in 10 adults aged 18 to 24 years (8.7%) and 25 to 44 years (10.3%) reported having used cannabis daily or almost daily in the previous 12 months, compared with 4.8% of adults aged 45 years and older. Among adults aged 45 years and older, men (6.0%) were more likely to use cannabis daily than women (3.6%), while no gender differences were found for adults younger than 45 years.

Table 1
Previous 12-month cannabis use and daily cannabis use by age group and gender, 2023

	Previous 12-month use ¹			Daily cannabis use ²		
	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ⁹	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ⁹	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ⁹	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ⁹
	%					
18 to 24 years old ⁵						
Total	38.4	36.1	40.7	8.7	7.4	10.0
Men+ ^{3,10}	39.6	36.4	42.9	9.5	7.5	11.5
Women+ ¹¹	37.1	33.8	40.3	7.9	6.0	9.7
25 to 44 years old						
Total	34.5	30.7	38.3	10.3	7.9	12.7
Men+ ^{3,10}	36.4	30.6	42.2	11.2	7.8	14.7
Women+ ¹¹	32.5	27.6	37.4	9.3	6.2	12.4
45 years and older						
Total	15.5⁶	13.8	17.2	4.8⁶	3.9	5.7
Men+ ^{3,10}	16.9 ⁷	14.5	19.3	6.0 ⁷	4.5	7.5
Women+ ¹¹	14.2 ⁸	11.8	16.6	3.6 ^{4,8}	2.5	4.6
18 years and older						
Total	24.5	22.9	26.2	7.1	6.2	8.1
Men+ ^{3,10}	26.4	23.9	28.9	8.3	6.8	9.7
Women+ ¹¹	22.7 ⁴	20.6	24.9	6.0 ⁴	4.7	7.2

1. Those who answered having used cannabis in the previous 12 months, among all Canadians.

2. Those who answered having used cannabis daily or almost daily in the previous 12 months, among all Canadians.

3. Reference category for gender differences within the same age group.

4. Significantly different from the gender reference category, p less than 0.05

5. Reference category for age differences.

6. Significantly different from the age reference category, p less than 0.05

7. Significantly different from men aged 18-24, p less than 0.05

8. Significantly different from women aged 18-24, p less than 0.05

9. Confidence intervals are used to express the precision of the estimates.

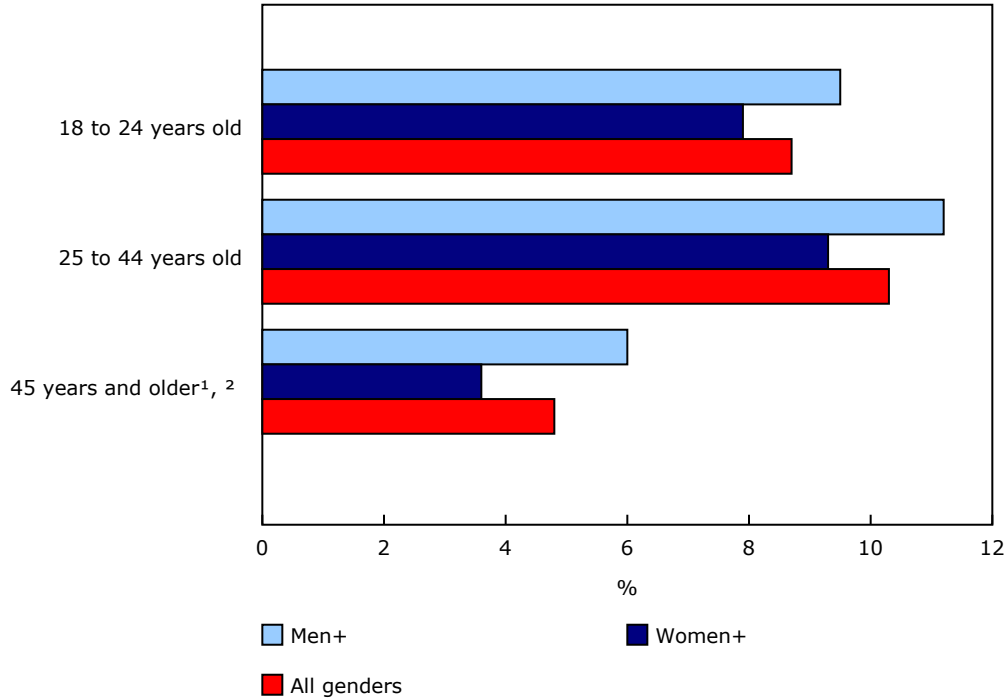
10. Men+: This category includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.



11. Women+: This category includes women, as well as some non-binary persons. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.

Source(s): National Cannabis Survey, 2023 (5262).

Chart 1
Prevalence of daily cannabis use among all Canadians by age group and gender, 2023



1. Significant gender difference between men+ and women+ in this age group.

2. Men+ and women+ in this age group are significantly different from their counterparts in other age groups.

Source(s): National Cannabis Survey, 2023 (5262).

Different cannabis products for different age groups

The *Cannabis Act* first allowed legal sales of dried cannabis, fresh cannabis, cannabis oil, cannabis plants and cannabis seeds in October 2018. A year later, it was expanded to include cannabis extracts, edibles and topicals.

Different cannabis products have a range of [potency levels](#), and the method used to consume the product can affect how quickly the effects are felt.

Across all age groups, the two most commonly used product types in the 12 months preceding the survey were dried leaf or flower (62.1%) and cannabis edibles (57.1%).

Several product types (vape pens and cartridges, cannabis extracts and concentrates, cannabis beverages, dried leaf or flower, and edible cannabis) were more commonly used among younger cannabis consumers compared with older consumers. Other product types (cannabis topicals and oral cannabis oils) were more commonly used among older consumers than younger consumers.

For cannabis consumers aged 25 years and older, dried leaf or flower products were used more commonly among men (70.2%) than women (48.4%), and edible cannabis products were more commonly used among women (62.7%) than men (51.9%). These gender differences were not present for young adults aged 18 to 24 years.

Table 2
Cannabis products used in the previous 12 months, by gender, age 18 years and older, 2023

	Overall			Men+ ^{1, 4}			Women+ ⁵		
	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³
	%								
Dried flower or leaf	62.1	58.3	65.8	70.7	66.0	75.5	52.3 ²	46.7	57.8
Edible cannabis	57.1	53.4	60.9	53.2	48.0	58.4	61.7 ²	56.4	66.9
Cannabis vape pens or cartridges	32.0	28.5	35.4	32.2	27.2	37.3	31.7	26.9	36.5
Oral cannabis oil	25.6	22.2	28.9	22.9	18.3	27.5	28.6	23.7	33.5
Cannabis beverages	19.0	15.6	22.4	19.9	14.9	24.9	18.0	13.5	22.4
Cannabis topicals	16.5	13.6	19.5	14.5	10.3	18.7	18.8	14.5	23.1
Hashish or kief	13.5	11.2	15.9	15.4	12.1	18.7	11.4	7.8	15.1
Cannabis extracts or concentrates	8.7	6.8	10.7	10.7	8.0	13.5	6.4 ²	3.6	9.3

1. Reference category for gender differences.
2. Significantly different from the reference category, p less than 0.05.
3. Confidence intervals are used to express the precision of the estimates.
4. Men+: This category includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.
5. Women+: This category includes women, as well as some non-binary persons. Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.

Source(s): National Cannabis Survey, 2023 (5262).

Table 3
Cannabis products used in the previous 12 months, by age group, 2023

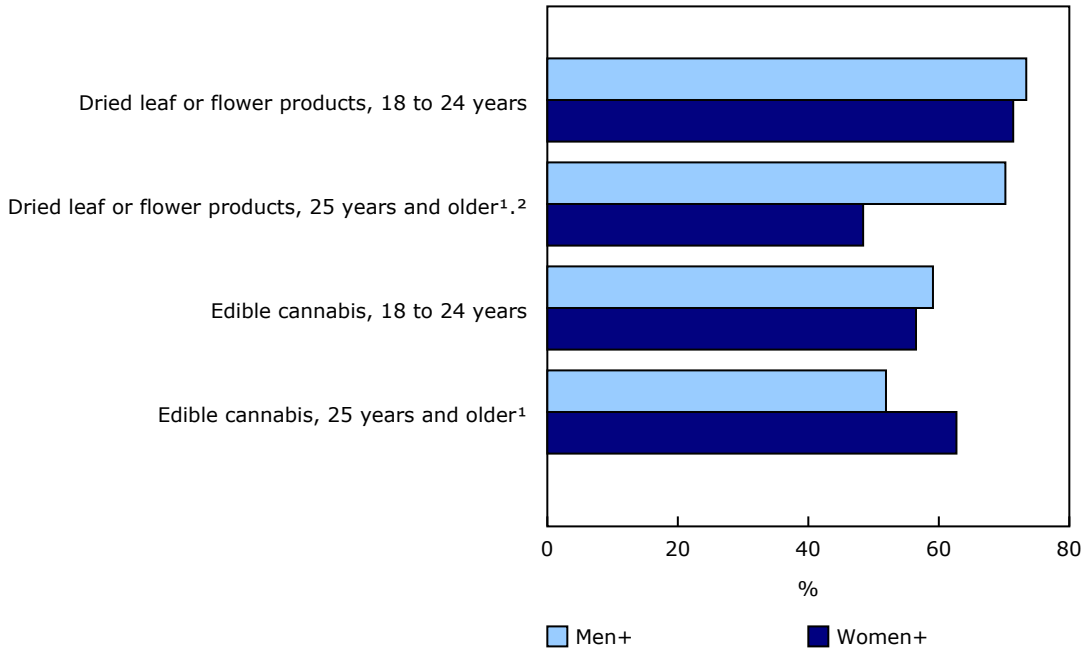
	18 to 24 years old ¹			25 to 44 years old			45 years old and older		
	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³
	%								
Dried flower or leaf	72.5	69.1	75.8	68.9	63.1	74.8	47.3 ²	41.5	53.1
Edible cannabis	57.9	54.1	61.7	61.8	55.6	68.1	50.1 ²	44.5	55.8
Cannabis vape pens or cartridges	49.8	46.0	53.7	38.0 ²	31.7	44.4	14.5 ²	10.8	18.2
Cannabis beverages	17.1	14.3	19.9	26.3 ²	20.1	32.5	9.5 ²	6.1	13.0
Oral cannabis oil	15.0	12.3	17.6	21.3 ²	16.0	26.5	37.0 ²	31.2	42.7
Hashish or kief	14.4	11.8	17.0	12.6	8.7	16.6	14.4	10.6	18.2
Cannabis extracts or concentrates	11.2	8.8	13.6	9.7	6.2	13.2	6.1 ²	3.6	8.6
Cannabis topicals	7.7	5.6	9.8	14.3 ²	9.7	18.9	24.1 ²	18.8	29.3

1. Reference category for age differences.
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Source(s): National Cannabis Survey, 2023 (5262).

Chart 2

Use of dried leaf or flower and edible cannabis products, by age group and gender



1. Significant gender difference between men+ and women+ in this age group.

2. Women from this age group are significantly different from women aged 18 to 24 years.

Source(s): National Cannabis Survey, 2023 (5262).

Product safety is the most common reason for buying legal cannabis

With [more than 3,000 legal cannabis stores in Canada](#), over two in three cannabis consumers are buying from the legal market. Among those who used cannabis in the 12 months before the survey, just over 7 out of 10 (71.7%) bought exclusively from legal sources.

The main reasons reported for buying cannabis from a legal source were product safety (38.0%), convenience (16.9%) and a desire to follow the law (12.9%).

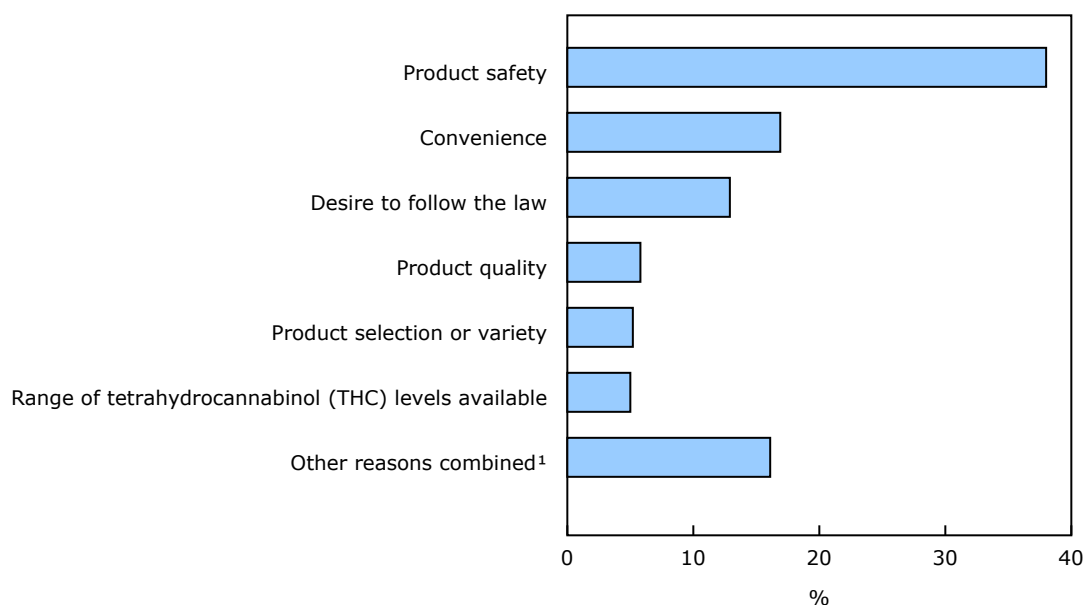
Table 4
Legality of cannabis sources, among previous 12-month users, by gender, age 18 years and older, 2023

	Overall			Men+ ^{1, 4}			Women+ ⁵		
	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Estimate	Lower limit of confidence interval (95%) ³	Upper limit of confidence interval (95%) ³
	%								
Purchased from legal sources only	71.7	68.3	75.1	72.1	67.6	76.5	71.2	66.0	76.4
Purchased from illegal sources only	1.9	1.0	2.8	2.5	1.2	3.9	1.2	0.0	2.3
Purchased from both legal and illegal sources	7.4	5.3	9.6	9.6	6.2	13.0	5.0 ²	2.3	7.6
Did not purchase in previous 12 months	19.0	16.1	22.0	15.8	12.5	19.1	22.7 ²	17.7	27.6

1. Reference category for gender differences.
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Source(s): National Cannabis Survey, 2023 (5262).

Chart 3
Top reason for purchasing cannabis from legal sources, age 18 years and older, 2023



1. All other reasons that the respondent could choose from are included in this category: price, product availability or supply, product packaging, product reliability, range of cannabidiol (CBD) levels available, more selection of products with other cannabinoids, delivery options, and ability to talk to sales staff.

Source(s): National Cannabis Survey, 2023 (5262).

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Note to readers

The Cannabis Act (Bill C-45) became law on October 17, 2018. Since cannabis legalization, Statistics Canada has conducted [several surveys](#) to measure the social, health and economic impacts of legalized cannabis. The [2023 National Cannabis Survey](#) is the latest contribution to this effort.

Data were collected from July 14 to October 15, 2023, from 2,251 young adults aged 18 to 24 years and 5,185 adults aged 25 years and older. The sample was drawn from people living in the 10 provinces and excluded people living in collective dwellings or people living on reserves.

Cannabis includes marijuana (e.g., weed and pot), hashish, hash oil or any other products made from the cannabis plant. This includes products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD) or any other cannabinoids (e.g., cannabitol [CBN], cannabigerol [CBG] and delta-8-THC).

The information in this release is self-reported and limited to what the survey respondents were willing to share on an online questionnaire or to an interviewer over the phone. Social desirability and fear of punishment are potential sources of bias, especially for questions that ask respondents to admit to illegal behaviour.

Small sample sizes for some analyses may also have reduced the ability to reach statistical significance. In some cases, age groups were combined to improve statistical power and the stability of the estimates.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5262](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).