

**Fact Sheet: Young Adult Health Survey (YAHS)**

Updated: September 23, 2016

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| <p><b>Overview</b></p>                 | <p>The Washington State Young Adult Health Survey (YAHS) is an online survey that measures marijuana and other substance use, perceptions of harm, risk factors, and consequences among young adults (18-25 years old) living in Washington State. Motivated by the passage of Initiative 502 in 2012, the first wave of the survey began in 2014 before the recreational marijuana stores opened their doors; a total of 2,101 eligible young adults participated. The survey is administered annually. Follow-up interviews with prior years' participants have been conducted to assess changes in young adults' marijuana use over time.</p> <p>The survey data are used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementing the new rules required by Initiative 502, which legalized the recreational use of marijuana for adults 21 and above;</li> <li>• monitoring the trends in marijuana use patterns and consequences among young adult;</li> <li>• assessing the impact of Initiative 502; and,</li> <li>• supplying data to guide planning of prevention and intervention programs.</li> </ul> <p>Key findings from the survey are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost half (43%) of young adults in 2014 reported they used marijuana for recreational purposes during the past year, and 14% used marijuana for medical purposes. Survey respondents interviewed in both 2014 and 2015 showed relatively little change in marijuana use. Results from the summer/fall 2016 survey will be available in summer 2017. These will be important for examining trends to assess the impact of changing marijuana laws.</li> <li>• The most commonly reported source of marijuana for young adults was from friends.</li> <li>• Young adults greatly underestimated the proportion of their peers who do NOT use marijuana, and overestimated the proportion of their peers who DO use marijuana.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Eligibility Requirements</b></p> | <p>Participants must be residents of Washington State and between the ages of 18 and 25. Respondents were recruited using a combination of direct mail advertising to a random sample of 18-25 year olds registered with the Department of Licensing, and online advertising, including social media.</p>  |
| <p><b>Authority</b></p>                | <p>Initiative 502 Section 28 authorizes the use of I-502 revenue to pay for the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) and an expansion to include the young adult population. The surveys are to be managed by the Department of Social and Health</p>   |

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|                             | Services.   |
| <b>Budget</b>               | \$425,000 Designated Marijuana Funds for two surveys in FY16-F17  |
| <b>Partners</b>             | The YAHS is conducted collaboratively by DHBR and its contractor, the University of Washington.   |
| <b>Oversight</b>            | DBHR's Office of Decision Support and Evaluation provides oversight to the YAHS.  |
| <b>For more information</b> | Rebecca Grady/ <a href="mailto:Rebecca.Grady@dshs.wa.gov">Rebecca.Grady@dshs.wa.gov</a> /360.725.3705<br>Website: <a href="http://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha">http://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha</a> |