

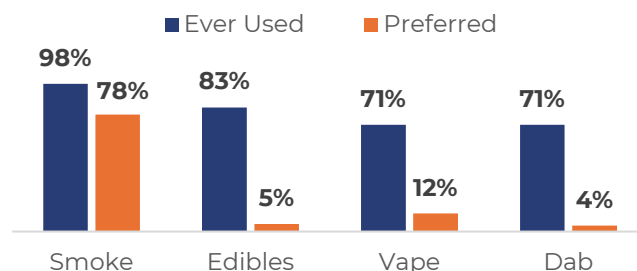
Marijuana Use Among San Diego Arrestees: Nine Years After Proposition 64

As part of SANDAG's Substance Use Monitoring (SUM) project, individuals booked into San Diego County jails are interviewed to better understand substance use trends across the region. Since the passage of Proposition 64 in 2016—which legalized the recreational use of marijuana in California for individuals 21 years of age and older—tracking marijuana usage has become a key tool for evaluating its potential impact on public health and safety. In 2025, 91% of juveniles and 92% of adults interviewed reported having tried marijuana. This CJ Flash highlights insights from 191 individuals who were administered a supplemental marijuana addendum due to reporting marijuana use within 30 days of their interview.¹

Highlight 1: Smoking remains most popular method of consuming marijuana

When respondents were asked which methods they had used to consume marijuana, nearly all (98%) reported having smoked marijuana. When asked which method they preferred, 78% said smoking—far more than vaping (12%), edibles (5%), or dabbing (4%). Reasons for preferring a certain method included ease, convenience, and affordability.

Figure 1: Marijuana Consumption Methods

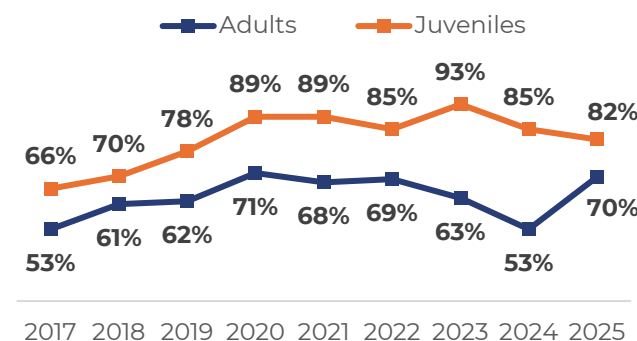


Source: SANDAG, 2025

Highlight 2: Gap narrows between adults and juveniles who vape

Juveniles have consistently reported higher rates of THC vaping than adults, with the widest gap observed in 2023 and 2024. In 2025, this gap narrowed considerably, with the juvenile rate falling to 82% from its 93% peak in 2023, while adult vaping reached 70%, its highest level recorded. This sharp increase in adult vaping warrants continued observation to determine whether it represents a sustained change or a year-to-year fluctuation.

Figure 2: Percentage of Adults and Juveniles Who Have Vaped (2017 to 2025)



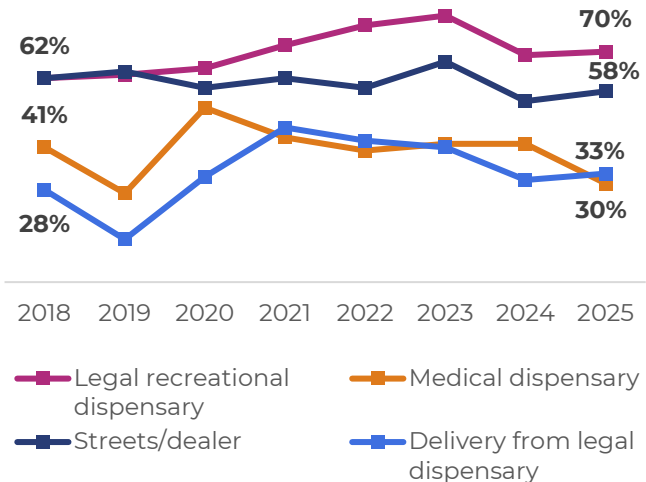
Source: SANDAG, 2025

¹ In 2025, a total of 191 individuals completed the marijuana addendum (169 adults and 22 juveniles). Due to an overall decrease in the number of respondents interviewed over the years, longitudinal findings should be interpreted with caution. For more information about SUM, visit: [SANDAG.org/cj](https://www.sandag.org/cj).

Highlight 3: Despite marijuana legalization, street dealer purchases remain common

Legal recreational dispensaries have become an increasingly common source of marijuana, peaking at 81% of respondents in 2023. Yet street dealers remained the second most common source for adults in 2025, showing that purchases outside the legal market remain common.² Meanwhile, the share of adults reporting purchases from a medical dispensary was the lowest since 2019. Respondents who preferred legal dispensaries commonly cited quality, safety, and ease of access, while those who preferred street dealers pointed to ease, convenience, and avoiding taxes.

Figure 3: Reported Marijuana Sources in the Last 12 Months (2018 to 2025)



Source: SANDAG, 2025

Highlight 4: Nearly one in two reported driving under the influence of marijuana

In 2025, nearly one in two (46%) respondents reported having driven after ingesting or smoking marijuana (48% of adults and 27% of juveniles). Among those who reported doing so, over half (52%) do not believe that driving under the influence of marijuana impairs driving. Together, these findings highlight a disconnect between reported behavior and perceived safety risks.

Figure 4: Respondents Who Have Driven Under the Influence and Risk Perception



Source: SANDAG, 2025

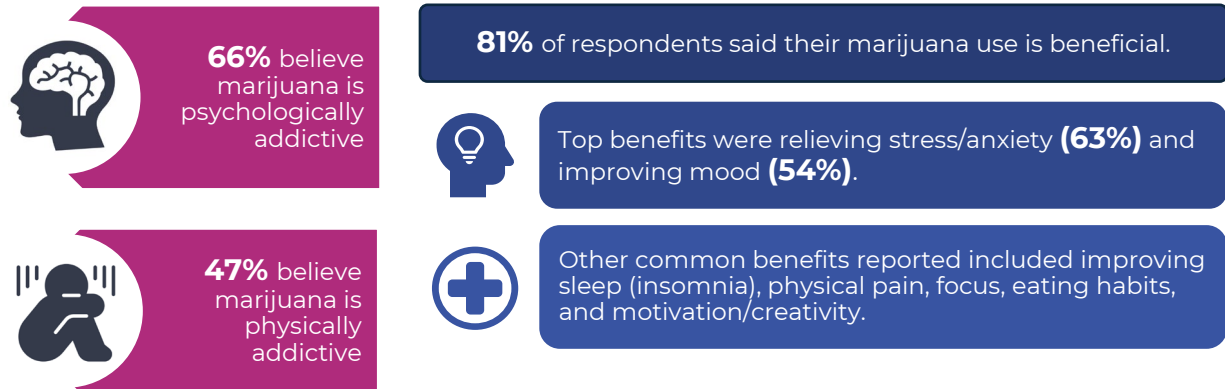
Highlight 5: Despite acknowledging addiction risks, majority of respondents view marijuana as beneficial

In 2025, 66% of respondents said marijuana is psychologically addictive and nearly half (47%) felt it is physically addictive. Yet despite these beliefs, the majority (81%) still viewed marijuana as beneficial. When asked what they believe the benefits are, respondents reported it helps relieve stress and anxiety, improves their mood, and helps their sleep. These findings suggest

² Highlight 3 data comes from the SUM main adult instrument. There were 172 adult respondents that provided information on where they obtained marijuana in the 12 months prior to interviewing.

that the perceived therapeutic value of marijuana may outweigh concerns about addiction, whether psychological or physical.

Figure 5: Respondent Perceptions of Marijuana's Addictiveness and Benefits



Source: SANDAG, 2025

