

Understanding New Yorkers' Knowledge of Cannabis Safety Practices and Laws



On March 31, 2021, New York (NY) enacted the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA), legalizing adult-use cannabis for those age 21 years and older. The MRTA requires monitoring the impact of cannabis policies on public health and safety. As the regulated cannabis market continues to grow in NY, ensuring the safety of New Yorkers – especially those too young to consume – remains a top priority.

Findings from the 2024 NY Chronic Disease Public Opinion Poll call attention to gaps in adult New Yorkers' awareness of cannabis laws and safety practices.

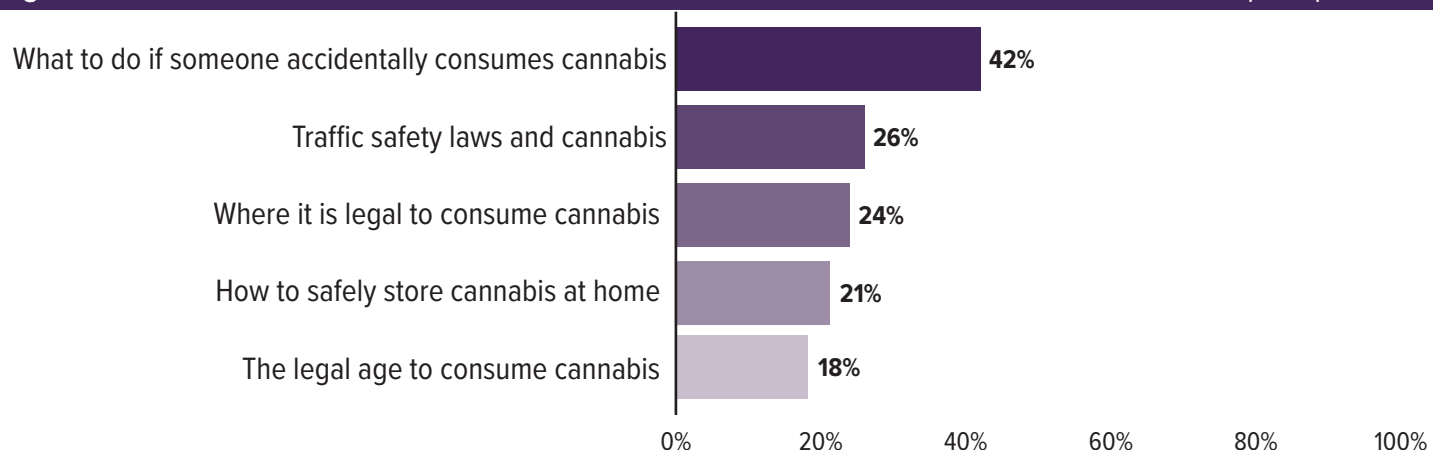
Among adults who reported consuming cannabis in the past 30 days (i.e., current consumers), 42% were not familiar with what to do if someone accidentally consumed cannabis. Furthermore, 26% were unaware of cannabis-related traffic safety laws, and 21% did not know about safe storage practices.

These findings underscore the need for continued and ongoing public education about: (1) responsible cannabis consumption, (2) safe storage practices^{1,2}, and (3) cannabis laws related to traffic safety and where it is legal for adults 21 years or older to consume.

Lack of Knowledge Regarding Cannabis Laws and Safety Practices

Among adults (18+ years) who reported consuming cannabis, 42% said they were not familiar with what to do if someone accidentally consumes it.

Figure 1. Percent of current cannabis consumers that are **not familiar** with cannabis laws or safer consumption practices



References:

1. Roehler DR, Smith H 4th, Radhakrishnan L, Holland KM, Gates AL, Vivolo-Kantor AM, Hoots BE. Cannabis-Involved Emergency Department Visits Among Persons Aged <25 Years Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic – United States, 2019-2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2023 Jul 14;72(28):758-765.
2. Tobin T, Xie J, George K. Unintentional Pediatric Ingestion of Cannabis-Addressing a Growing Public Health Risk. *JAMA Pediatr*. 2023 Oct 1;177(10):993-994.

Safer Practices for Cannabis Consumption



Keep cannabis locked, out of sight, and out of reach of young people and pets.



Keep regulated cannabis products in their original child-resistant packaging.



Keep cannabis separate. Do not store infused cannabis products like drinks or gummies in a shared refrigerator or pantry near other food products where they may be accidentally consumed.



If there is an accidental exposure to cannabis or cannabis products of any kind – call 911 if it's a medical emergency or the Poison Center (800) 222-1222 for non-urgent matters.



If you feel different, you drive different. Driving under the influence of cannabis is illegal. Cannabis consumption can slow motor coordination and other skills needed to drive safely.



Always make a transportation plan before consuming cannabis. Stay put or get a ride.



Be mindful when smoking. Keep smoke away from others. Remember, you cannot smoke or vape cannabis inside a motor vehicle, a private business, restaurants (including patios), a hookah or “cigar bar,” federal property (including public housing), most public and state parks as well as beaches, or any place where smoking is not allowed.



Purchasing cannabis products from the New York State regulated cannabis market is safer than buying unregulated products. When you buy legal products, they are lab tested and labeled accurately with all the information you need.

Additional Information

Explore the **New York State Cannabis Education Library**: cannabis.ny.gov/education.

Know your rights and **what is legal**: cannabis.ny.gov/know-your-rights-cannabis.

Get the facts about **safer cannabis consumption**: cannabis.ny.gov/get-facts-flier.

Learn about cannabis **safe storage**: cannabis.ny.gov/safe-storage-rack-card.



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