

# 2022 Cannabis Data Snapshot

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**Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch**  
**California Cannabis Surveillance System**



## Key Data Points

Nearly 1 in 10 California high school youth used cannabis in 2022 (9%).<sup>1</sup>

Among adults, cannabis use was highest among 21–24-year-olds in California in 2022 (29%).<sup>2</sup>

Practically half of all cannabis-related emergency department visits were among teens and younger adults, ages 15-30 years old (46%).<sup>3</sup>

Teens and children were the most impacted by cannabis poisonings compared to others.<sup>3,4</sup>



## Data Sources and Information

1. The California Youth Tobacco Survey (CYTS): The 2022 CYTS is a school-based survey of approximately 11,500 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders across California. It is considered representative of the California public school student population.
2. The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS): CHIS is an annual phone and web-based survey of a random sample of approximately 20,000 California adults. The data are considered representative of the adult (age 18 and older) population of California.
3. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) Emergency Department (ED) data: These data include all cannabis-related visits to EDs made by California residents (adult and child) in 2022.
4. California Poison Control System (CPCS): CPCS data includes all cannabis-related calls to the CPCS by individuals or medical professionals in California in 2022.

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# High School Youth Cannabis Use

## 9% of Californian high school youth used cannabis.<sup>1</sup>

Twice as many 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported having used cannabis in the past 30 days compared to 10<sup>th</sup> graders.



The most common ways of obtaining cannabis were buying it themselves and someone giving it to them.



Female: **7%**  
Male: **8%**  
Identified in another way: **13%**  
Declined to answer: **13%\***



10<sup>th</sup> grade: **6%**  
12<sup>th</sup> grade: **12%**

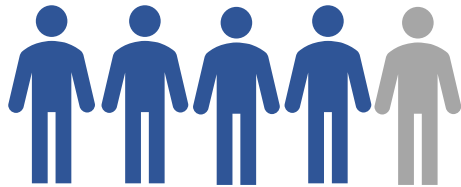


Among youth cannabis users:  
I buy it myself: **36%**  
Someone gives it to me: **30%**

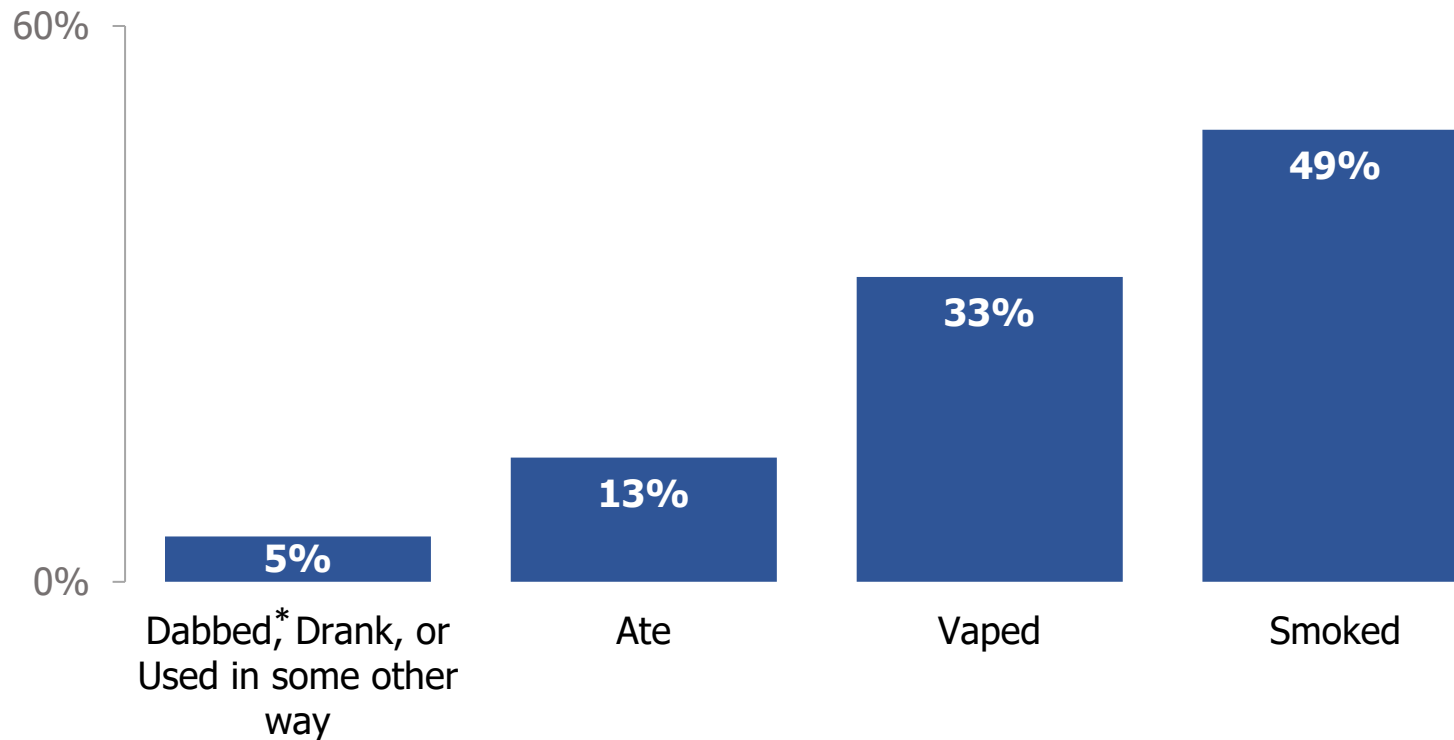


Among those who reported buying it,  
Buy it myself from a store or dispensary: **41%**  
Buy it myself from someone: **40%**

# High School Youth Cannabis Use



**4 out of 5 high school youth cannabis users either usually smoked or vaped cannabis.<sup>1</sup>**



Californian 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students were surveyed in between January and June of 2022 within schools. Past 30-day cannabis use is reported above. 3.4% reported dabbing. 95% confidence intervals did not overlap for all four categories.

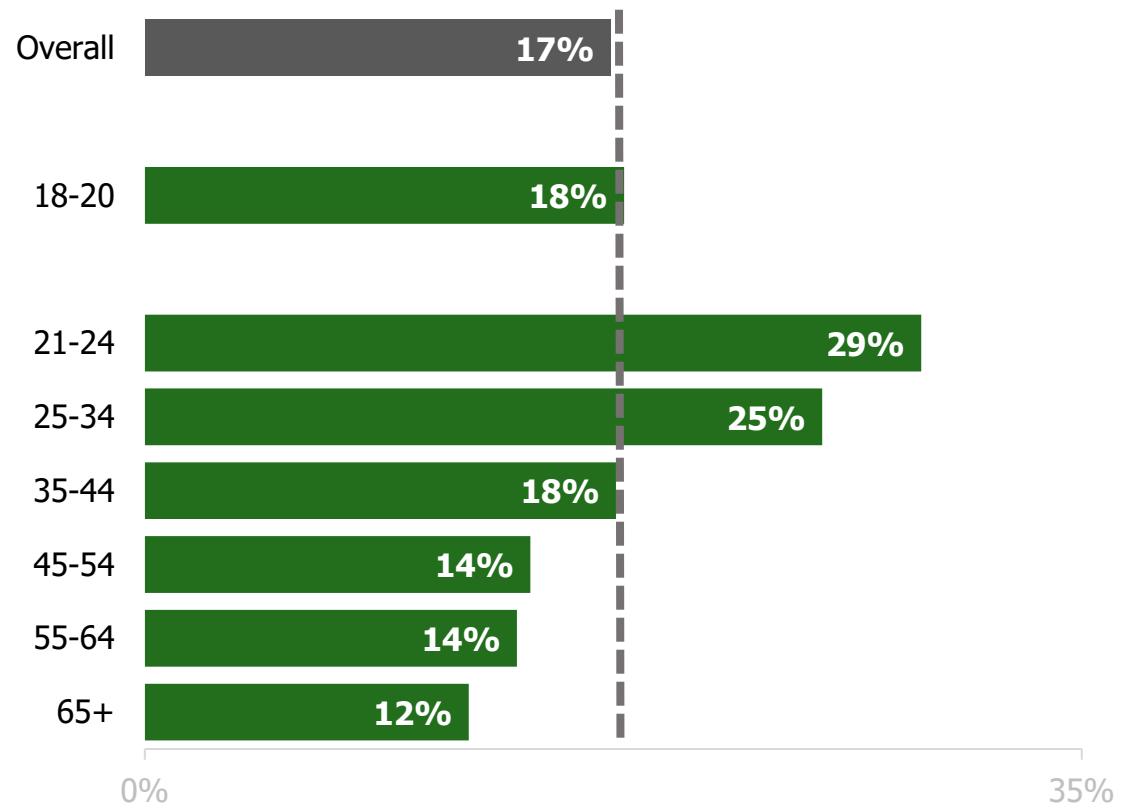
\*Dabbing refers to the process of heating cannabis oils, concentrates (sometimes called wax, budder, shatter or butane hash oil), on a hot surface and inhaling the product through a dab rig, which is a type of pipe or bong.

# Adult Cannabis Use

**17% of adult Californians used cannabis in 2022.<sup>2</sup>**

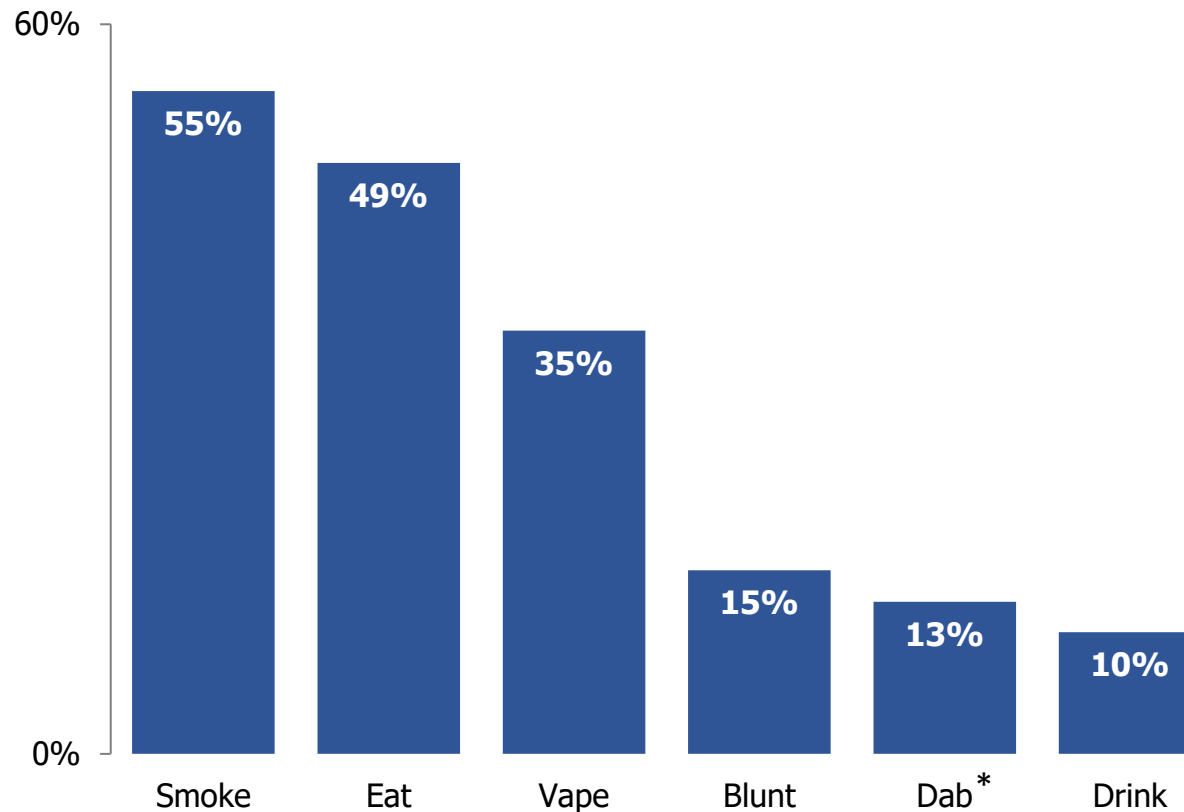
**Adult cannabis use has remained about the same (~17%) from 2017 – 2022 in California.**

**Cannabis use was more common among 21–34 year-olds** compared to adults aged 35+ years, in California in 2022.



# Adult Cannabis Use

Adults reported using cannabis by smoking it, eating it, or vaping more than other methods.<sup>2</sup>



Adults are 18+ years old. Denominator is past 30-day cannabis users. Categories are not mutually exclusive. *"During the past 30 days, how did you use marijuana? Did you..."*

\*Dabbing refers to the process of heating cannabis oils, concentrates (sometimes called wax, budder, shatter or butane hash oil), on a hot surface and inhaling the product through a dab rig, which is a type of pipe or bong.



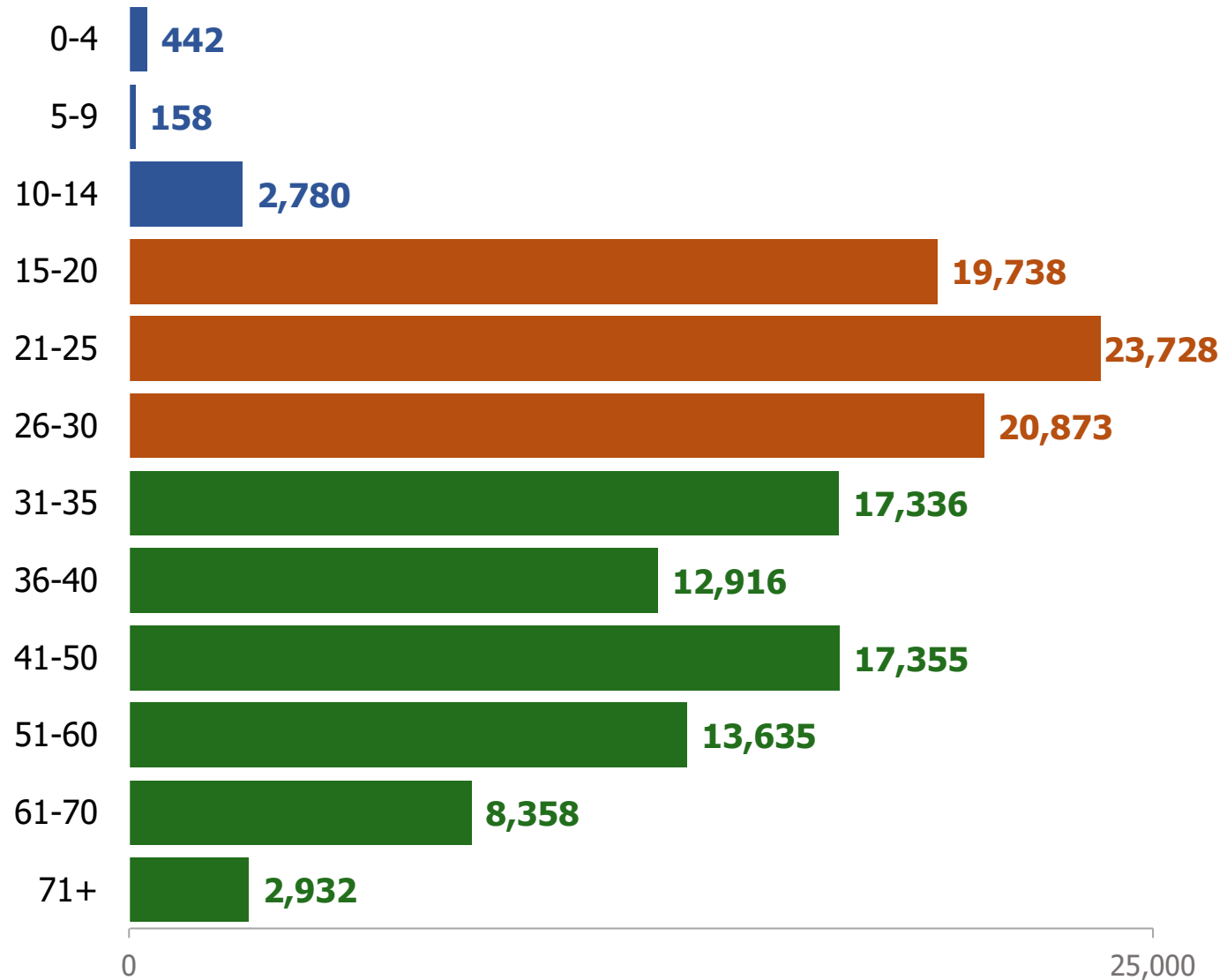
# Cannabis-Related Emergency Department Visits

**46% of all Cannabis-Related\*** emergency department (ED) visits were among Californians **15 - 30 years old**.<sup>3</sup>

**1 out of 50 (2%)** of all cannabis-related ED visits were among Californian children aged **0-14 years old** in 2022.

**1 out of 2 (46%)** of all cannabis-related ED visits were among Californian teens and young adults aged **15-30 years old** in 2022.

**1 out of 2 (52%)** of all cannabis-related ED visits were among Californian adults aged **31 years and older** in 2022.



\*Cannabis-related emergency department visits includes nearly all cannabis-related hospital codes (i.e., F12, T40.7, P04.81).

# Cannabis Poison Control System Calls

More **children 5 years and younger** were affected by potential cannabis poisonings compared to teens and adults in California in 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**30 calls** to Poison Control System due to a cannabis product for every 100,000 **≤5 year old Californians.**



**9 calls** to Poison Control System due to a cannabis product for every 100,000 **6-19 year old Californians.**

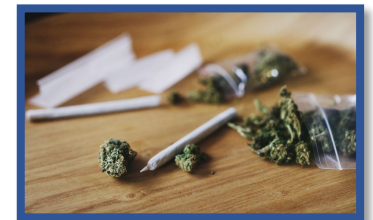
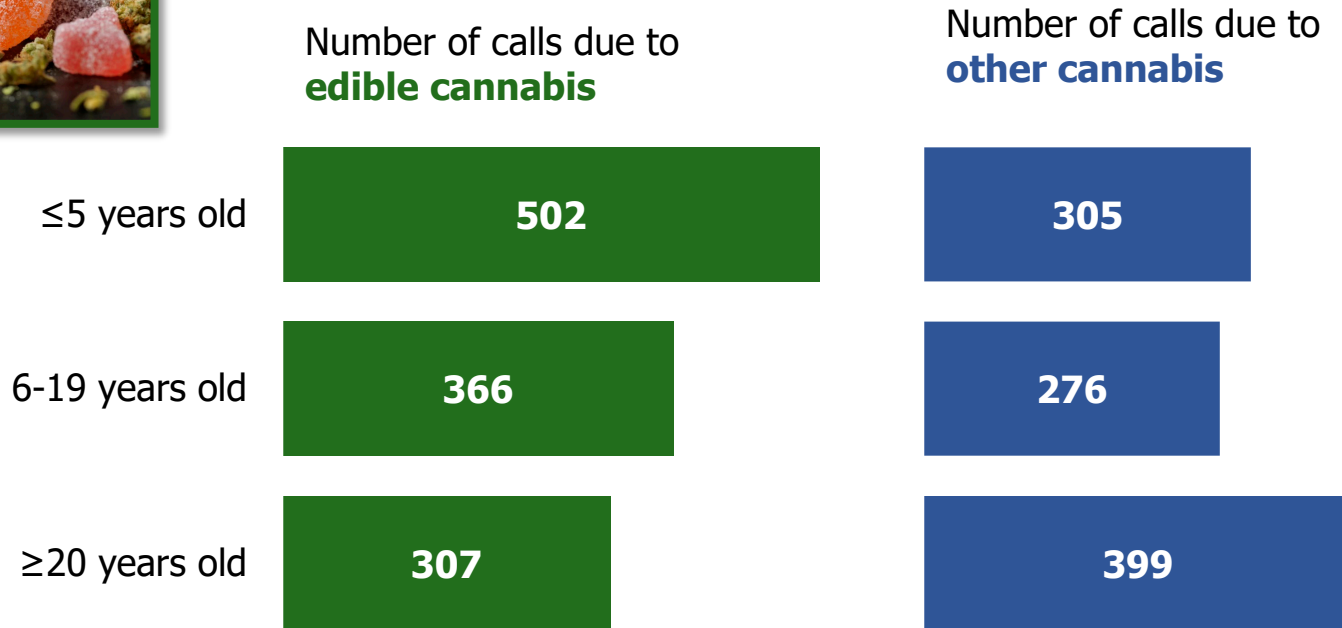


**2 calls** to Poison Control System due to a cannabis product for every 100,000 **20+ year old Californians.**



# Cannabis Poison Control System Calls

**37%** of all cannabis-related calls to the California Poison Control System were for children **5 years and younger**.<sup>4</sup>



**Among children 5 years and younger, nearly twice as many calls to the California Poison Control System were due to **edible cannabis** compared to calls due to other cannabis products (502 calls versus 305 calls).**

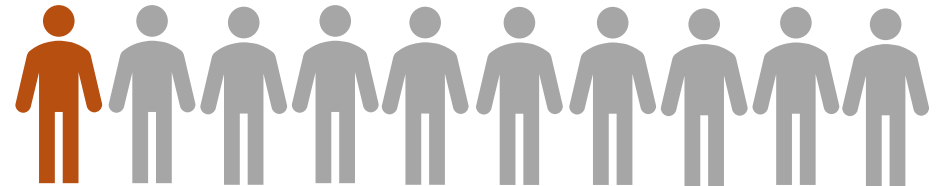
# Youth Cannabis Poisonings

**Young Children (<5 years old) were 2 times more likely\*** to visit the Emergency Department (ED) due to **cannabis poisoning** compared to adults 36 years and older.<sup>3</sup>

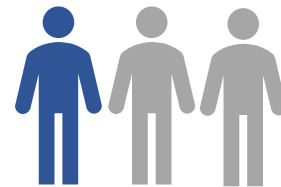
**Children & Teens (5-20 years old) were 2-4 times more likely\*** to visit the Emergency Department (ED) due to **cannabis poisoning** compared to adults 36 years and older.



**Nearly 1 out of 10 (7%)** of all ED visits due to cannabis poisoning were among Californian children **<5 years old** in 2022.



**1 out of 3 (33%)** of all ED visits due to cannabis poisoning were among Californian children and teens aged **5-20 years old** in 2022.



\*Prevalence ratios were computed using population rates. Cannabis poisonings includes hospital codes T40.7 in any diagnosis field.

## **Proactive Public Health Approaches:**

- Educate youth, young adults, parents, guardians, and schools about the risks of cannabis use.
- Implement evidence-based programs to promote physical and mental wellness and positive health behaviors (e.g., coping and problem-solving skills among young people).
- Create and promote safeguards against cannabis exposure among children and teens.
- Monitor and track cannabis use and related health outcomes among key populations who may be particularly sensitive to the health effects of cannabis use.

## **About the Youth Cannabis Prevention Initiative:**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch's (SAPB) Youth Cannabis Prevention Initiative (YCPI) works to address the negative impacts and consequences of youth cannabis use through health education; public awareness; state and local partnerships; and policy, systems, and environmental change. Visit the [CDPH Youth Cannabis Prevention Initiative website](#) to learn more about YCPI.

The YCPI is supported by the Youth Education Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account (YEPEITA), established by the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA). AUMA legalized the recreational sale and use of cannabis to people over the age of 21 and set up the Cannabis Tax Fund, including the YEPEITA.

For questions about this data snapshot or the YCPI, please contact us at [cannabis@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:cannabis@cdph.ca.gov).



## **Suggested Citation:**

2022 Cannabis Data Snapshot. California Cannabis Surveillance System, California Department of Public Health. 2023.

## **References:**

1. Annual results report for the California Youth Tobacco Survey 2022. RTI International.
2. California Health Interview Survey. CHIS 2017-2022. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Los Angeles, CA. July 2023.
3. California Department of Health Care Access and Information - Emergency Department Data, 2022.
4. California Poison Control System Data, 2022.