

Cannabis use

Health indicator report

Background

- The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information about cannabis use among Halton and Ontario residents aged 12 and over.
- Cannabis is a plant that is used for both medicinal purposes and as a recreational drug. Marijuana typically refers to dried leaves and flowers from a cannabis plant, while hashish is made from the resin of cannabis plants. Cannabis use is associated with several health risks including impaired concentration and coordination, as well as anxiety. While these negative health issues can affect people of all ages, adolescents are particularly at risk.¹
- Beginning October 17, 2018, cannabis is legal for non-medicinal use in Canada under the Cannabis Act (Bill C-45).² For more information on cannabis legalization see the Ontario Government's website at ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization.³
- This health indicator report uses data from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS).

Key findings

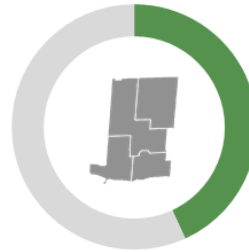
- 43% of Halton residents aged 12 and over report having ever used cannabis in their lifetime, and 12% report having used cannabis in the past year. This is similar to Ontario.
- Lifetime and past year cannabis use was highest among young adults aged 18-24.



Lifetime cannabis use

Halton vs. Ontario

- In 2015-16, 43% of Halton residents and 39% of Ontario residents aged 12 and over reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime.
- In 2015-16 there was no statistically significant difference between Halton and Ontario in the percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime.



43%
of Halton residents



39%
of Ontario residents

Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime, Halton Region and Ontario, 2015-16

Sex

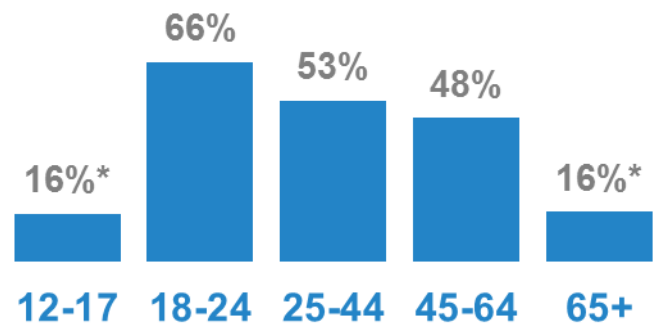
- In 2015-16, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of Halton residents aged 12 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime, by sex, Halton Region, 2015-16

Age

- In 2015-16, the percentage of Halton residents who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime was highest in the 18-24 year old age group, and then decreased as age increased. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing ages 18-24, 25-44 and 45-64 to ages 12-17 and 65+.



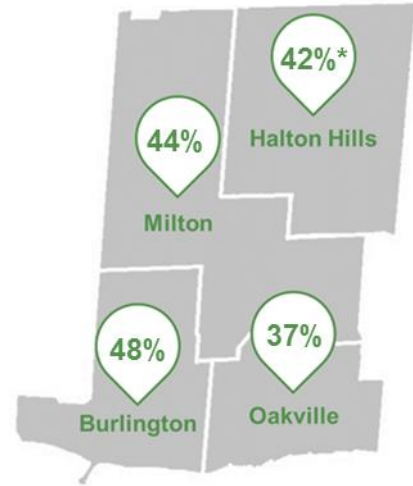
Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime, by age, Halton Region, 2015-16



Lifetime cannabis use

Municipality

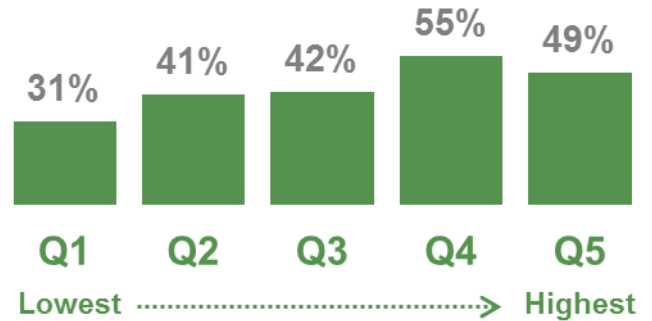
- In 2015-16, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton residents aged 12 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime, by municipality, Halton Region, 2015-16

Income

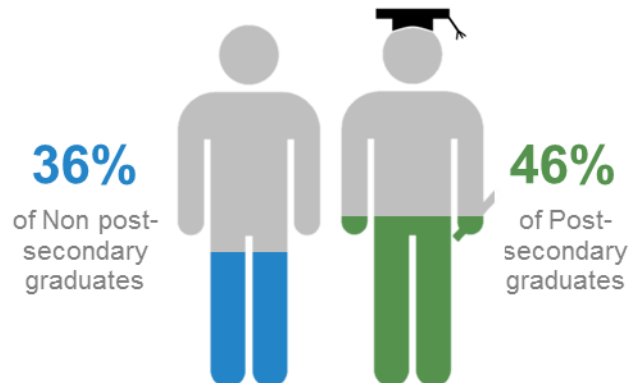
- In 2015-16, Halton residents aged 12 and over in the highest two income quintiles (Q4 and Q5) were more likely than those in the lowest income quintile (Q1) to report ever having used cannabis in their lifetime. These differences were **statistically significant**.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime, by income quintile, Halton Region, 2015-16

Education

- In 2015-16, there were no statistically significant differences by education in the percentage of Halton residents aged 25 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime.



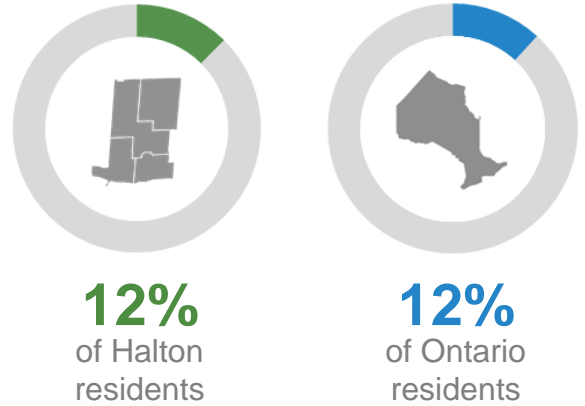
Percentage of residents aged 25 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime, by education, Halton Region, 2015-16



Past year cannabis use

Halton vs. Ontario

- In 2015-16, 12% of Halton residents and 12% of Ontario residents aged 12 and over reported having used cannabis in the past year.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year, Halton Region and Ontario, 2015-16

Sex

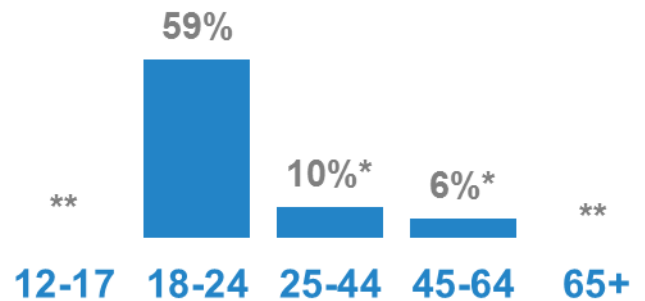
- In 2015-16, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of Halton residents aged 12 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year, by sex, Halton Region, 2015-16

Age

- In 2015-16, the percentage of Halton residents who reported having used cannabis in the past year was higher in the 18-24 year old age group compared to the 25-44 and 45-64 year old age groups. These differences were statistically significant.



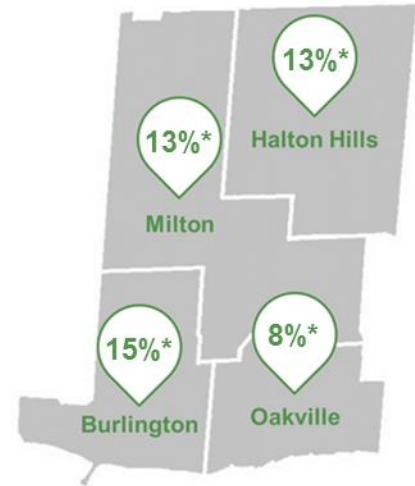
Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year, by age, Halton Region, 2015-16



Past year cannabis use

Municipality

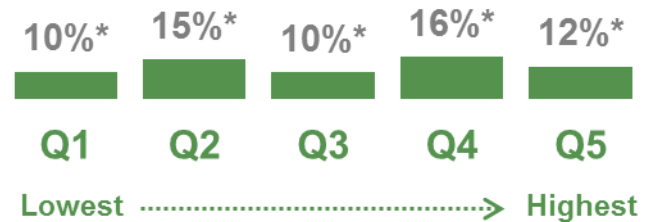
- In 2015-16, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton residents aged 12 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year, by municipality, Halton Region, 2015-16

Income

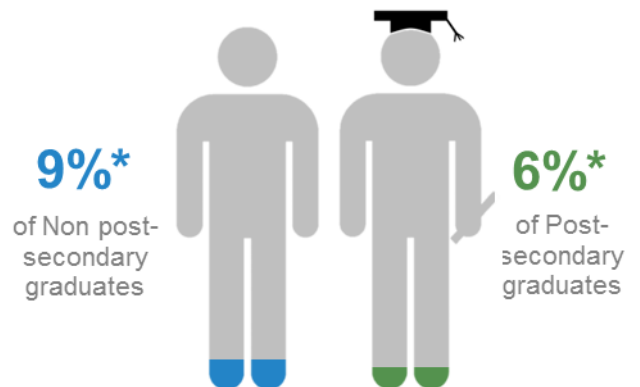
- In 2015-16, there were no statistically significant differences by income in the percentage of Halton residents aged 12 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year.



Percentage of residents aged 12 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year, by income quintile, Halton Region, 2015-16

Education

- In 2015-16, there were no statistically significant differences by education in the percentage of Halton residents aged 25 and over who reported having ever used cannabis in their lifetime.



Percentage of residents aged 25 and over who reported having used cannabis in the past year, by education, Halton Region, 2015-16

About CCHS

- The Canadian Community Health Survey is a voluntary, cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health system utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population. CCHS is conducted by Statistics Canada.
- Each year, CCHS surveys 65,000 people aged 12 and over from across Canada. The survey provides health information at the provincial and regional levels. CCHS is designed to provide reliable estimates at the health unit level every 2 years.
- In 2015, CCHS was redesigned, including major changes to content and methodology. **Therefore, it is not recommended to compare data from the 2015 cycle onwards to past CCHS cycles.**
- For more information on CCHS methodology and limitations, see the CCHS Data Notes and Data Interpretation Guide at Halton.ca/healthstats

Data notes

Definitions:

Cannabis includes marijuana and hashish.

Cannabis use includes one-time only use.

Data Source: Canadian Community Health Survey [2015-16], Statistics Canada, Share File, Ontario MOHLTC

Estimates marked with an asterisk (*) should be interpreted with caution due to high sampling variability associated with the estimates. Estimates marked with a double asterisk (**) are not reportable.

References

1. Health Canada. 2018. Health effects of cannabis. Accessed September 2018 from <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/campaigns/27-16-1808-Factsheet-Health-Effects-eng-web.pdf>
2. Bill C-45, *Cannabis Act*, 42nd parliament, 1st session, Ontario, 2018. Available at <https://openparliament.ca/bills/42-1/C-45/>
3. Government of Ontario. (2018). Cannabis legalization. Available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization>

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics website at www.halton.ca/healthstats

Last updated: September 2018