

Community support for policies related to cannabis

Health indicator report

Background

- The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information about support for cannabis related policies among Halton adults aged 18 and over.
- On October 17, 2018, cannabis will be legalized for recreational use in Canada under the Cannabis Act (Bill C-45).¹ Once legal, Ontario residents aged 19 and over will be able to purchase cannabis products online through the provincial government's Ontario Cannabis Store.² The Ontario Government has also announced intentions to introduce legislation that, if passed, would create a highly regulated private retail model for cannabis.² For more information on cannabis legalization see the Ontario Government's website at ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization.²
- This health indicator report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS).

Key findings

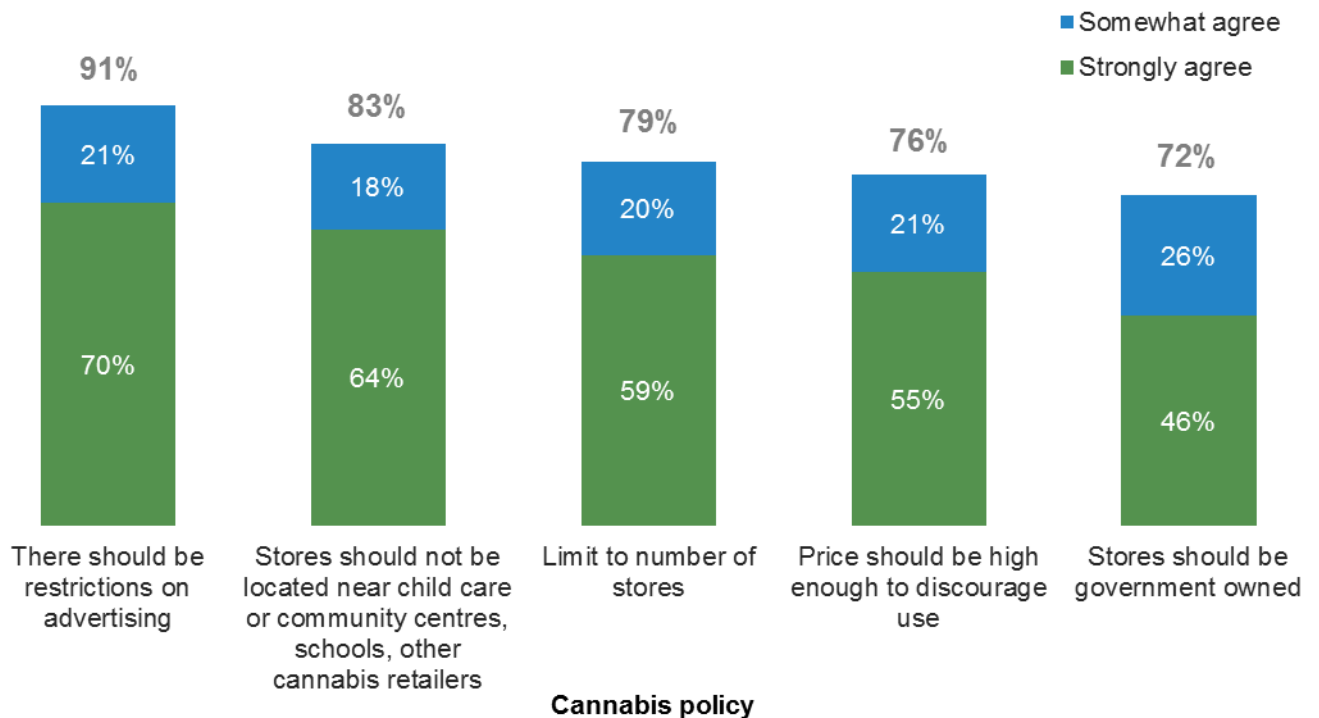
- In 2017 among Halton adults:
 - 91% agreed that there should be restrictions on cannabis advertising
 - 83% agreed that cannabis stores should not be located near child care centres, schools, community centres or other cannabis retailers
 - 79% agreed that there should be a limit to the number of stores selling cannabis
 - 76% agreed that the price of cannabis should be high enough to discourage use
 - 72% agreed that stores selling cannabis should be government-owned.
- In general, there was higher support for cannabis related policies among females and adults aged 45-64 and 65+ in Halton.



Support for policies related to cannabis

Overview

- In 2017:
 - 91% of Halton adults reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that there should be restrictions on advertising, marketing, and sponsorship related to cannabis products.
 - 83% of Halton adults reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that stores that sell cannabis products should not be located within a certain distance of child care centres, schools, community centres, or other cannabis retailers.
 - 79% of Halton adults reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that there should be a limit to the number of stores that sell cannabis products.
 - 76% of Halton adults reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that the price of cannabis products should be high enough to discourage use by adolescents, young adults and non-users.
 - 72% of Halton adults reported that the strongly/somewhat agree that cannabis products should be sold through stores that are government-owned.



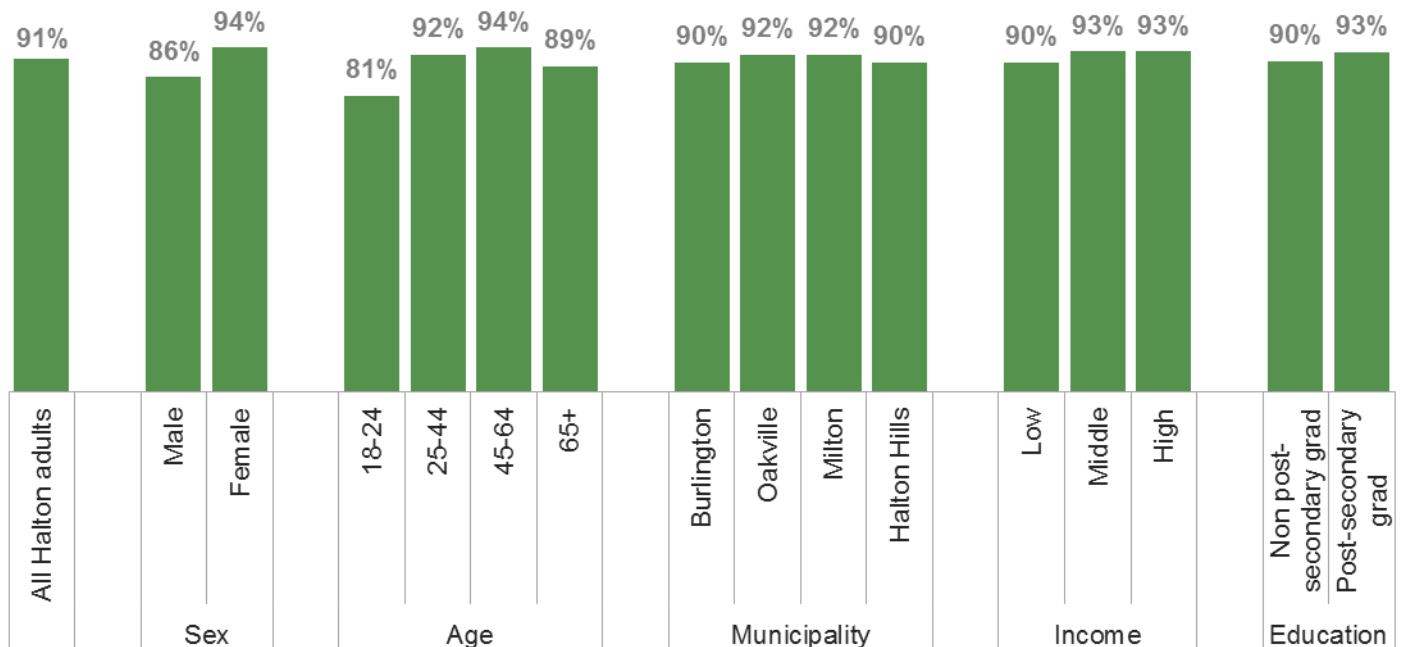
Percentage of Halton adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree with cannabis policies, Halton Region, 2017



Support for policies related to cannabis

Support for restrictions on advertising

- In 2017:
 - Halton females were more likely than males to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that there should be restrictions on advertising, marketing, and sponsorship related to cannabis products, and this difference was statistically significant.
 - Halton adults aged 45-64 were more likely than adults aged 18-24 to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that there should be restrictions on advertising, marketing and sponsorship related to cannabis products, and this difference was statistically significant.
 - There were no statistically significant differences by municipality, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that there should be restrictions on advertising, marketing and sponsorship related to cannabis products.



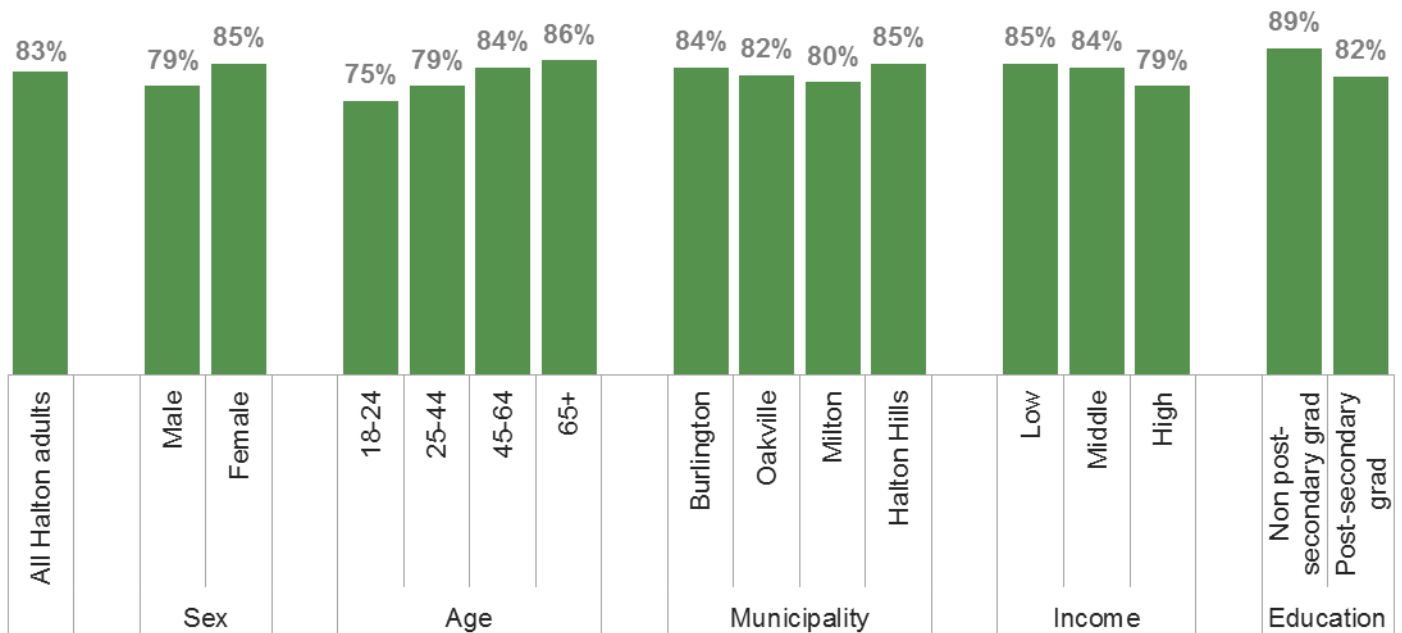
Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree that there should be restrictions on cannabis advertising, marketing, and sponsorship, Halton Region, 2017



Support for policies related to cannabis

Support for restrictions on stores near child care or community centres, schools & other cannabis retailers

- In 2017:
 - There were no statistically significant differences by sex, age, municipality, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they somewhat or strongly agree that stores that sell cannabis products should not be located within a certain distance of child care centres, schools, community centres, or other cannabis retailers.



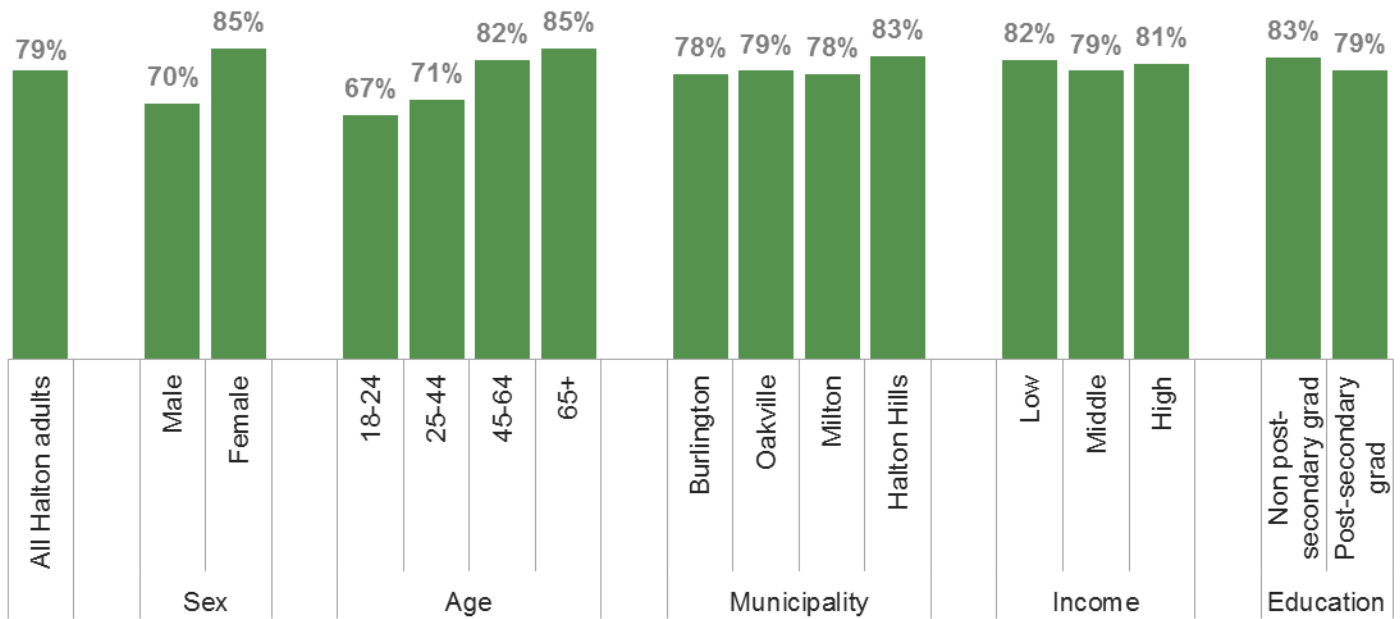
Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree that stores that sell cannabis products should not be located within a certain distance of child care centres, schools, community centres, or other cannabis retailers, Halton Region, 2017



Support for policies related to cannabis

Support for a limit to the number of stores that sell cannabis products

- In 2017:
 - Halton females were more likely than males to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that there should be a limit to the number of stores that sell cannabis products, and this difference was statistically significant.
 - Halton adults aged 18-24 and 25-44 were less likely than adults aged 45-64 and 65+ to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that there should be a limit to the number of stores that sell cannabis products. These differences were all statistically significant.
 - There were no statistically significant differences by municipality, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that there should be a limit to the number of stores that sell cannabis products.



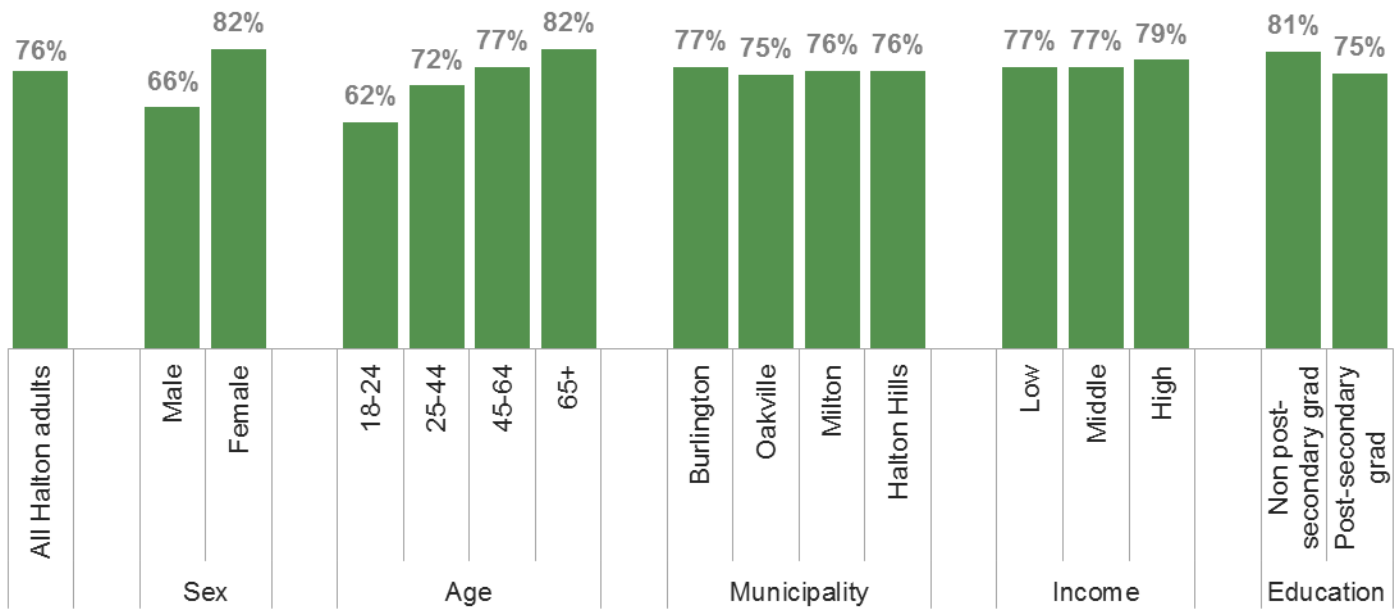
Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree that there should be a limit to the number of stores that sell cannabis products, Halton Region, 2017



Support for policies related to cannabis

Support for cannabis prices to be high enough to discourage use

- In 2017:
 - Halton females were more likely than males to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that the price of cannabis products should be high enough to discourage use by adolescents, young adults and non-users, and this difference was statistically significant.
 - The percentage of Halton adults who reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that the price of cannabis products should be high enough to discourage use by adolescents, young adults, and non-users increased as age increased. These differences were statistically significant when comparing adults aged 18-24 to ages 45-64 and 65+.
 - There were no statistically significant differences by municipality, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they strongly/somewhat agree that the price of cannabis products should be high enough to discourage use by adolescents, young adults, and non-users.



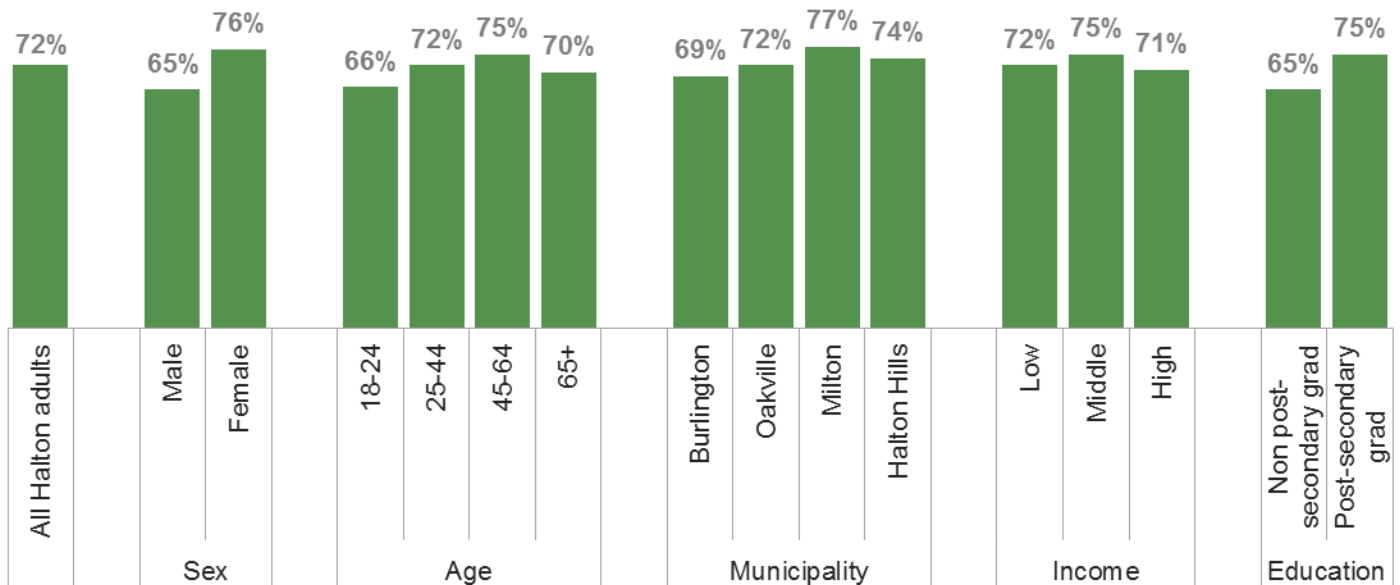
Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree that the price of cannabis products should be high enough to discourage use by adolescents, young adults, and non-users, Halton Region, 2017



Support for policies related to cannabis

Support for cannabis to be sold in government-owned stores

- In 2017:
 - Halton females were more likely than males to report that they strongly/somewhat agree that cannabis products should be sold through stores that are government-owned, and this difference was statistically significant.
 - There were no statistically significant differences by age, municipality, income or education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that cannabis products should be sold through stores that are government-owned.



Percentage of adults aged 18+ who somewhat or strongly agree cannabis products should be sold through stores that are government-owned, Halton Region, 2017

About RRFSS

- The Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System is an on-going telephone survey (land line and cell phone) used to collect information on attitudes, behaviours, knowledge and awareness of issues related to health in Halton. RRFSS is conducted by the Institute of Social Research and York University.
- Each year, a random sample of approximately 1,200 adults aged 18 and over are surveyed in Halton Region.
- In 2016, RRFSS underwent changes in sampling and analysis methodology. **Therefore, it is not recommended to compare data from the 2016 onwards to past years of RRFSS data.**
- For more information on RRFSS methodology and limitations, see the RRFSS Data Notes and Data Interpretation Guide at Halton.ca/healthstats

Data notes

Definitions:

Cannabis includes marijuana and hashish.

Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [2017], Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

Limitations: The questions did not specify whether the policies would be federal, provincial or local policies. Questions about support for cannabis policies were asked of residents throughout 2017, when Bill C-45 (Cannabis Act) was being debated and amended. Responses may have differed depending on when in the year the survey was administered and the information related to cannabis legalization available at the time.

References

1. Bill C-45, *Cannabis Act*, 42nd parliament, 1st session, Ontario, 2018. Available at <https://openparliament.ca/bills/42-1/C-45/>
2. 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