

Marijuana Survey Results

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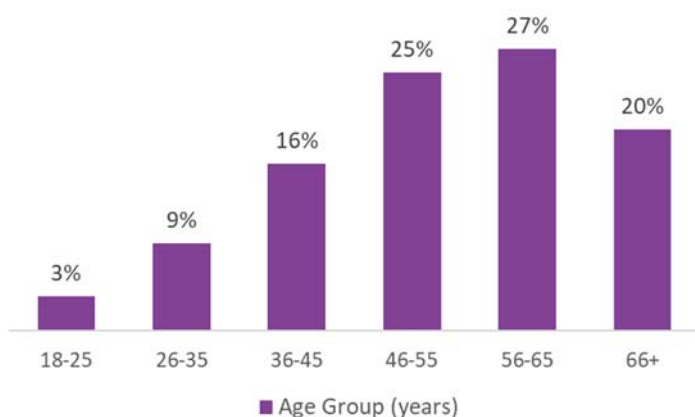
Respondent demographics

In summer 2018, a survey was circulated among residents of Windsor County and nearby areas to gather reactions to new Vermont legislation concerning marijuana possession and use.

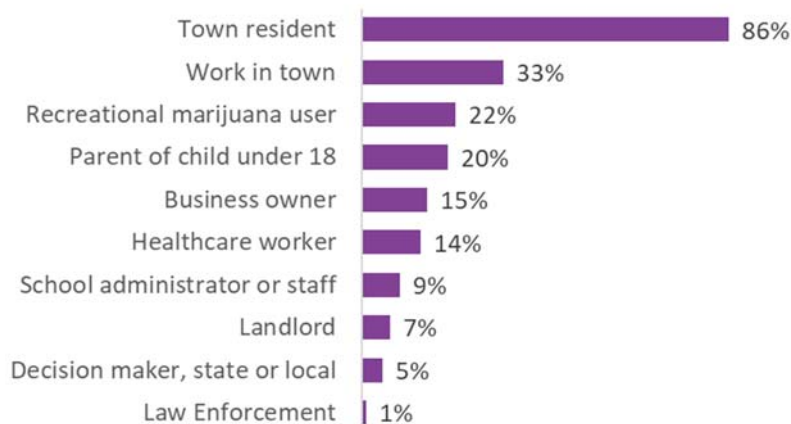
602 individuals responded to the survey.

Who responded to the survey?

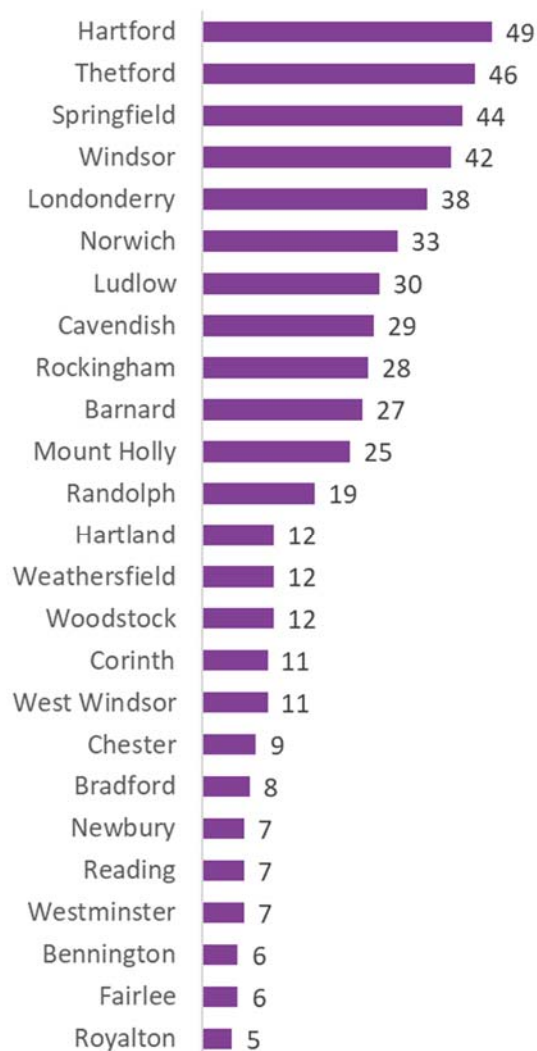
88% of the 602 respondents were over 35 years, and almost half (47%) were over 55 years



86% of the 602 respondents were town residents. 22% were recreational marijuana users and 20% were parents of children under 18 years of age.



Percentages will not sum to 100% because respondents may report membership in multiple categories



Contributing fewer than five responses: Andover, Athens, Baltimore, Bellows Falls, Belmont, Bethel, Boston, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Chelsea, Clarendon, Dorset, Dummerston, East Corinth, Grafton, Jamaica, Killington, Lebanon, Manchester, Marlboro, Mendon, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Pomfret, Putney, Rutland, Ryegate, Sharon, Shrewsbury, Stockbridge, Strafford, Topsham, Townshend, Vershire, West Fairlee, Weston, Windham, Winhall, and NH bordering towns

Broad themes from the survey

Youth exposure: What is the effect of marijuana on developing brains and how can young people be protected?

Further education: How will the new law be regulated and enforced? Where can people obtain a clear explanation of what is and isn't legal under the new law?

Retail sales: What are plans for retail sales of marijuana and the subsequent tax revenue?

Working under the influence: How does the law impact current workplace drug testing and what are the rights of employees and employers?

Driving under the influence: How will driving under the influence be prevented? Without an at-the-scene test for marijuana use, how can driving under the influence be monitored and enforced?

This report provides a deeper look into each of these major themes.

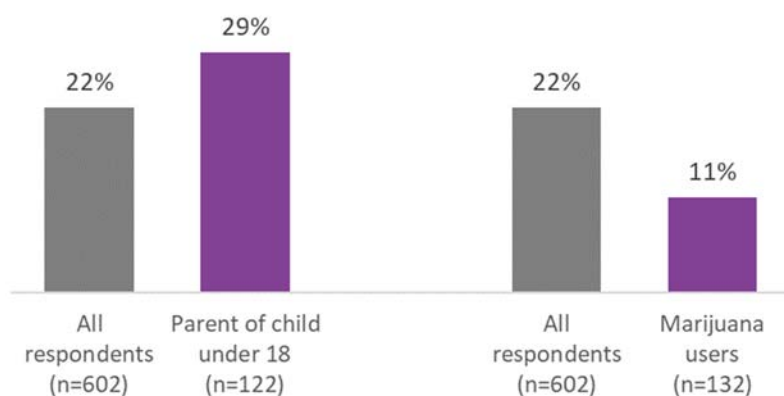
The detailed responses to each of the survey questions are provided at the end of the report

Youth exposure

22% of the 602 respondents were concerned about youth exposure to marijuana

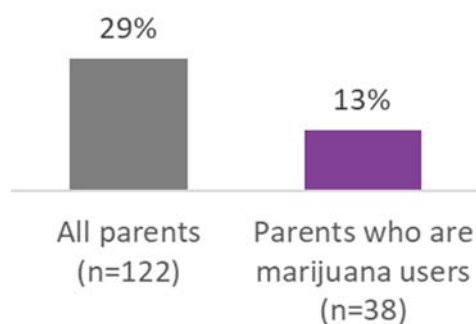
Parents were significantly more concerned about youth exposure, while recreational marijuana users were significantly less concerned *

% concerned about youth exposure



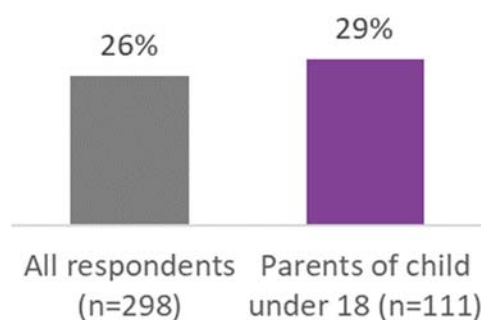
Among parents, recreational marijuana users were significantly less concerned about youth exposure to marijuana *

% of parents concerned about youth exposure



Parents were more likely to be recreational marijuana users than the general population in the same age range, although this difference was **not** statistically significant *

% recreational marijuana users among those aged 26-55 years (91% of parents)



Concern about youth exposure was defined as:

- Including “Youth exposure to marijuana” as a disadvantage of the new law, or
- Including “How will young people be protected?” as a question about the new law, or
- Including “Education about the impact of marijuana on developing brains” as information needed for self or for the community

* Statistical significance is based on chi-square tests of proportion with p-value<0.05 considered significant

Further education

The need for **further education** was expressed in the following areas:

- How the new law will be regulated and enforced
- Specific questions about the content of the law
- Scientific research pertaining to the consequences of marijuana use
- Community education about both the harms and benefits of marijuana use

Themes for **further education** were pulled from the following survey questions:

- What questions do you have (related to the new law or marijuana use or both) ?
- What information do you feel you need (related to the new law or marijuana use or both)?
- What information do you feel your community needs to know (related to the new law or marijuana use or both)?

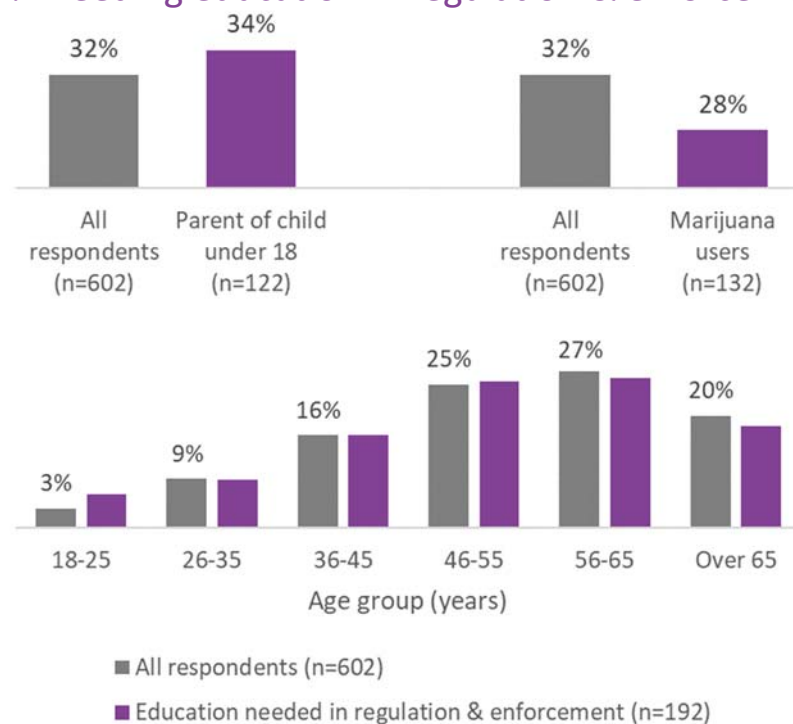
Additional needs for further education regarding driving under the influence and marijuana in the workplace are specifically addressed under those themes.

Further education: Regulation & Enforcement

32% of respondents expressed a need for further education about regulation and enforcement.

These respondents did not differ from the general population by age, parent or marijuana user status *

% needing education in regulation & enforcement



A need for **further education about regulation and enforcement** was based on:

- Including “How will enforcement of the law be controlled/monitored?” as a question about the new law, or
- Including “Further explanation of the law and how it will be enforced” as information needed for self or for the community, or
- Including “Assurance of the monitoring and enforcement of the law” as information needed for self or for the community.

Sample comments: Regulation & Enforcement

“Clarify and publish specific regulation pertaining to the marijuana law.”

“More information about how it will be regulated and how the state will respond to abuses and research findings.”

“How will law enforcement make sure everyone is following these new laws?”

“How do you go about reporting suspected use of marijuana? Can you even do that or will people continue to use marijuana in public?”

* Statistical significance is based on chi-square tests of proportion with p-value<0.05 considered significant

Further education: Specific content & Scientific information

No significant differences in the need for **specifics about content of the law** or for **scientific information about marijuana** were observed based on age, parent status, or marijuana user status *

Sample comments: Specifics about the content of the law:

“What exactly is now legal? What is the difference between medical and recreational laws?”

“What is the law for out-of-staters? Can I have out-of-state friends enjoy as I do? Will Vermont residents be able to carry or use it in other states?”

“How many plants can we legally grow? How do you define "mature" plants?”

“What is the amount limit per person at any time?”

“Must marijuana be grown inside?”

Sample comments: Scientific research pertaining to the consequences of marijuana use:

“Science!!! All things regarding the brain development and the effects of THC on a brain under 25 years of age.”

“The youth need proper science based education on marijuana. And on why it's important to wait as to not hurt their still developing brains. No more scare tactics, honest information. It would be helpful to finally have scientific research about the effects of long term use.”

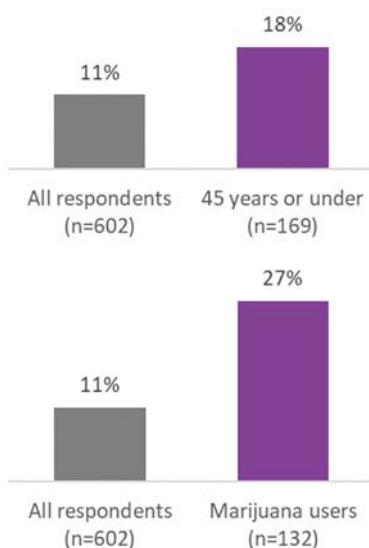
“Unbiased science/fact based information (which is not a lot) about side effects and potential health complications.”

* Statistical significance is based on chi-square tests of proportion with p-value<0.05 considered significant

Further education: Community Education

Some respondents expressed a desire for community education to communicate that marijuana is **LESS** harmful than generally believed. These respondents were significantly more likely to be younger and to be marijuana users *

% expressing desire for this community education



Sample comments:

“People should realize the medical and therapeutic benefits of marijuana. This is a natural product that has many purposes.”

“I feel many people remain unaware of how benign and even beneficial marijuana use is for the average user. There's still a lot of fear around it that I don't think is warranted.”

“Keep spreading information that correctly identifies marijuana as a relatively harmless recreational substance that is NOT a gateway drug.”

That marijuana is not a drug it is a plant that comes from nature and has many medicinal purposes!”

Others expressed a desire for community education to communicate that marijuana is **MORE** harmful than generally believed. These respondents were significantly less likely to be marijuana users (1% vs 7% overall), but there was no significant difference in age *

“The detrimental health effects should be front and center. Pot is equally as unhealthy and dangerous as tobacco is and should be regulated, as should tobacco / nicotine, as the carcinogen's that they are.”

“Make it known that this new drug is not safe and could lead to life long problems to users.”

“The truth about marijuana. It's not harmless to your body or mind, and it's harmful to our communities and our children and our economy.”

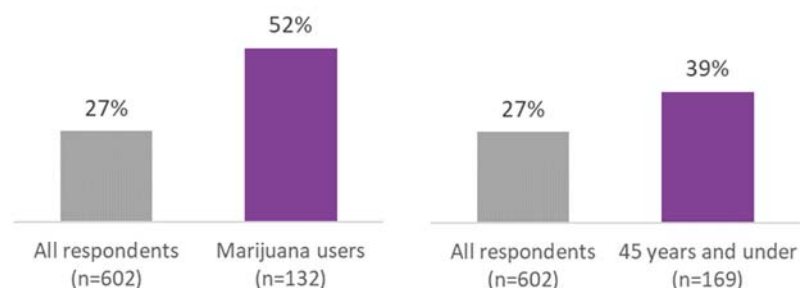
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Retail Sales

27% of the 602 respondents expressed interest in **retail sales** of marijuana or the subsequent tax revenue.

Recreational marijuana users and those under 45 years were significantly more interested in retail sales; there were no significant differences in interest among parents or business owners *

% interested in retail sales or tax revenue



Interest in **Retail Sales** was defined as:

- Including “No retail sales or tax revenue” as a disadvantage of the new law, or
- Including “What are the plans for retail sales of marijuana?” as a question about the new law, or
- Including “Information about plans for retail sales of marijuana” as information needed for self or for the community

Sample comments: Retail sales & tax revenue

“The new law does not provide a regulatory tax and sales portion that can benefit the state financially”

“Regulating the sale of marijuana would make it possible to buy seeds, marijuana, and ensure that the quality was known and that it could not be laced with other drugs”

“Who will sell or supply it? Who sets the standards for quality and purity? Who determines the selling price? What recourse will consumers have if the product is below standards?”

“How quickly can we bring MJ use out of the shadows and create a retail market that’s regulated? That way we will have money to do prevention work in schools.”

“Who can we lobby to create and implement a retail market?”

* Statistical significance is based on chi-square tests of proportion with p-value<0.05 considered significant

Working under the influence

No significant differences in concern about **working under the influence** were observed by age, parent status, or marijuana user status *

A borderline significant difference ($p=0.09$) was observed among business owners, but the small number of business owners ($n=92$) makes drawing conclusions difficult.

Concern about **working under the influence** was expressed by the following:

- Including “Individuals working under the influence” as a disadvantage of the new law, or
- Including “What are the workplace rights for employers?” as a question about the new law, or
- Including “Information about how the new law applies to the workplace” as information needed for self or for the community

Sample comments: Working under the influence

“How does the VT law allowing recreational use affect drug testing? Are employers allowed to regulate pot use outside of the workplace (i.e. on the weekends?)”

“There are a number of jobs that do pre-employment drug testing. Will that be allowed to continue?”

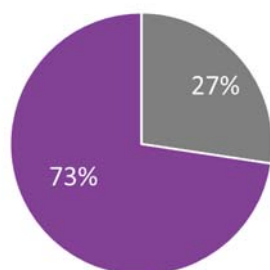
“There is a lack of information about changes to Employer drug testing. Is this still tested? I can have a cocktail, but not do that at work or bring it with me to work.”

“The new law encourages the use of marijuana during the work day slowing productivity and dulling the decision-making process.”

“More information regarding the laws and regulations concerning the workplace, and how/if they are allowed to regulate marijuana use outside of work”

* Statistical significance is based on chi-square tests of proportion with $p\text{-value}<0.05$ considered significant

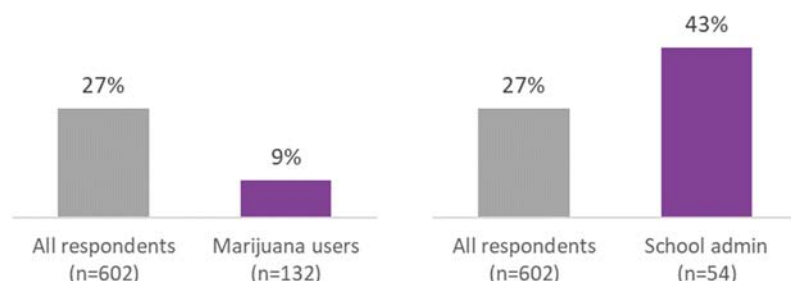
Driving under the influence



27% of the 602 respondents expressed concern about driving under the influence

Recreational marijuana users were significantly less concerned about DUI, while school administrators were significantly more concerned about DUI. No other significant differences were observed. *

% concerned about driving under the influence



Concern about **driving under the influence** was expressed by the following:

- Including “Driving under the influence” as a disadvantage of the new law, or
- Including “How with DUI be monitored and what are the consequences?” as a question about the new law, or
- Including “How DUI will be monitored and the consequences of DUI” as information needed for self or for the community.

Sample comments: Driving under the influence

“How do they plan on assessing drivers under the influence? And how reliable is it going to be? What are the parameters?”

“How will they be testing drivers roadside in order to know if they're driving under the influence? Will there be a marginal amount of marijuana allowed to be in your system like the laws surrounding drunk driving?”

“How do we keep impaired drivers off the road?”

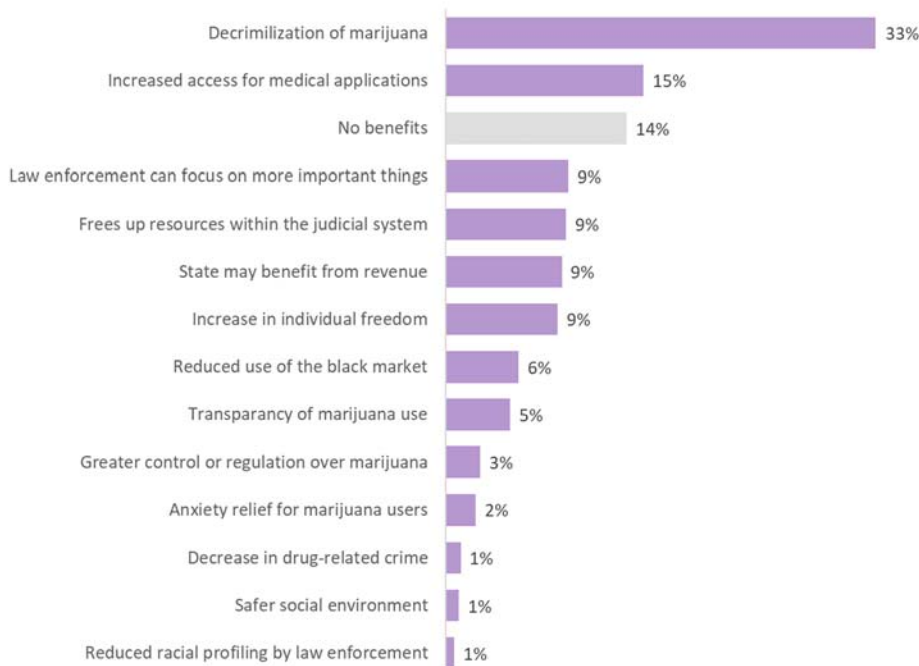
“I am concerned about people driving under the influence. I'd like to see messages about preventing DUI. For locals but also visitors.”

“Limits for driving a car and other activities that can harm others.”

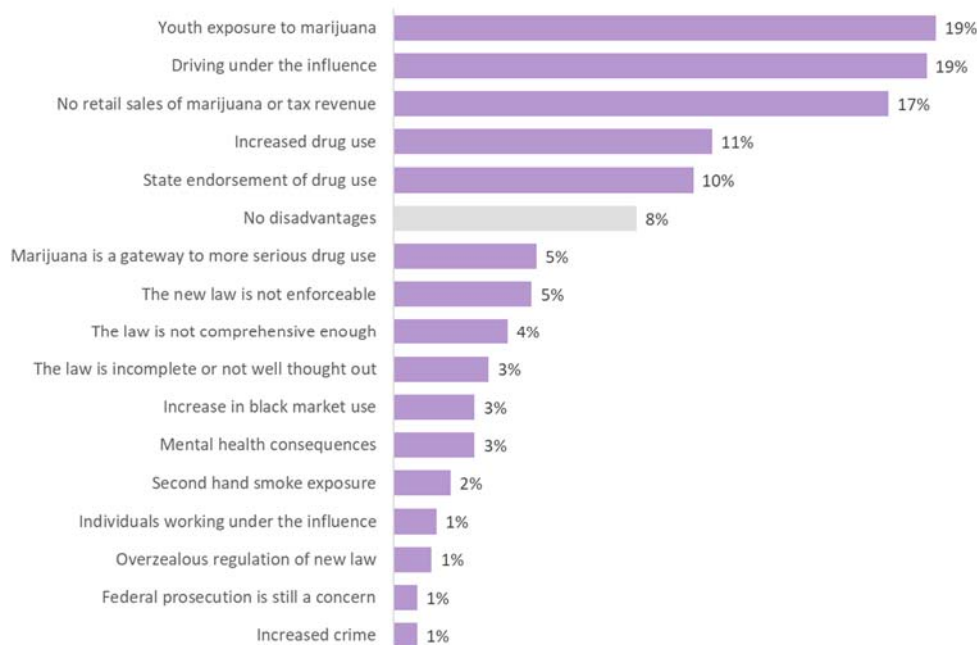
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Survey question responses

What do you see as the benefit(s) to the new law?



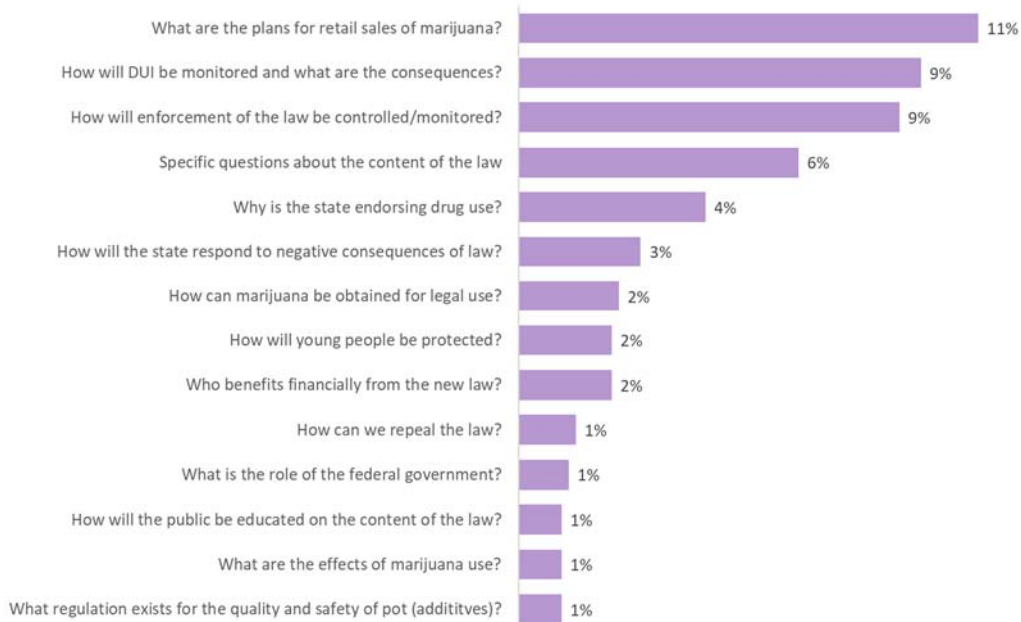
What do you see as the disadvantage(s) to the new law?



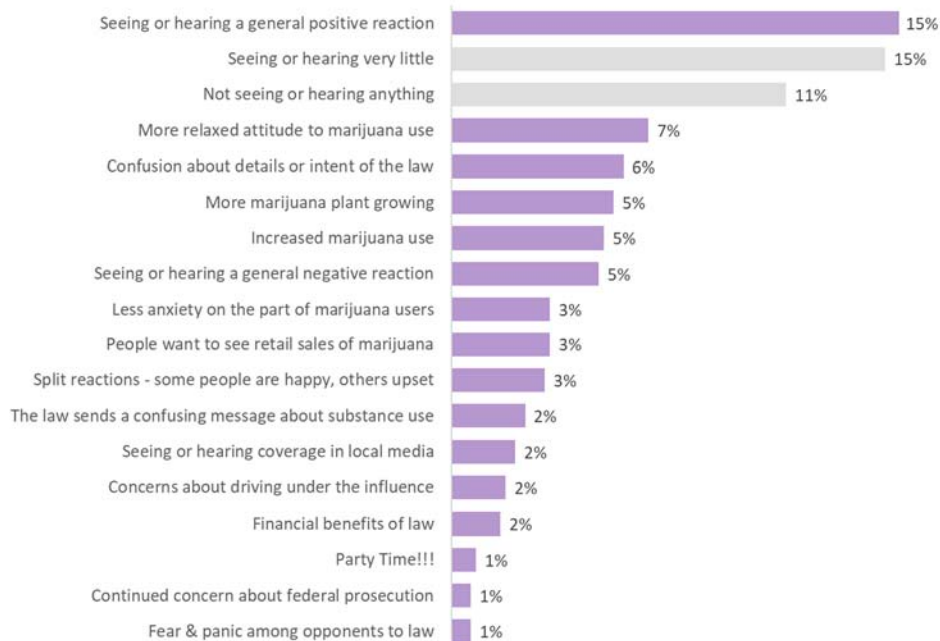
Percentages represent the percent of the 602 respondents who provided the given response. Percentages will not sum to 100% because respondents could provide multiple responses to each question or no response.

Survey question responses

What questions do you have (related to the new law or marijuana use or both)?



What are you seeing and/or hearing (related to the new law or marijuana use or both)?



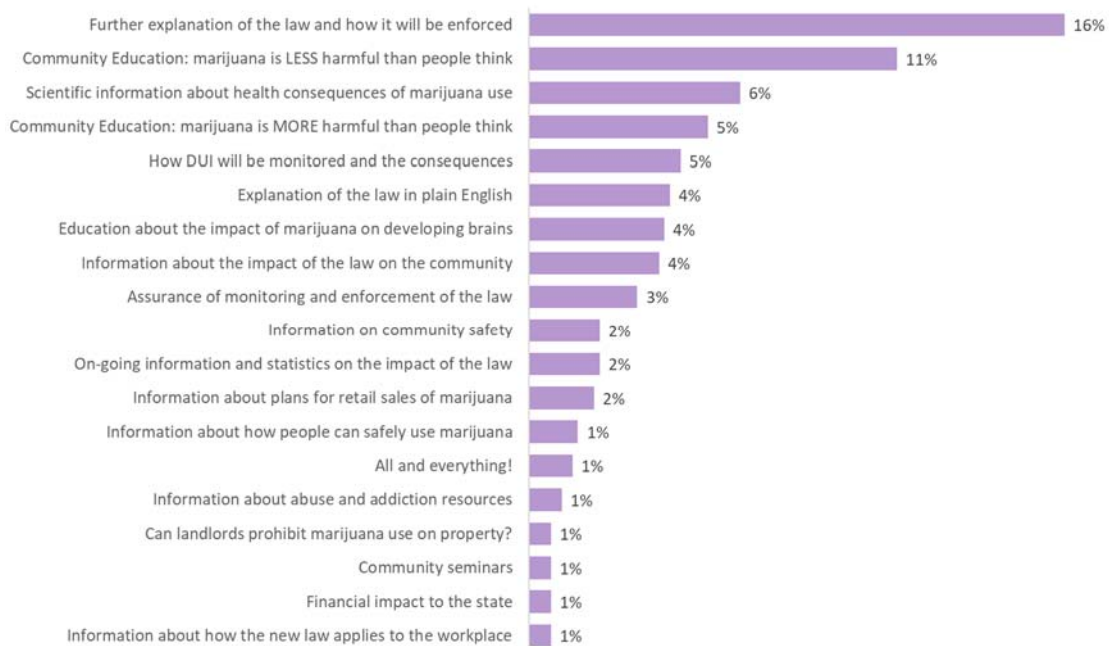
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Survey question responses

What information do you feel you need (related to the new law or marijuana use or both)?



What information do you feel your community needs to know (related to the new law or marijuana use or both)?



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