# Studies reveal contrasting effects of cannabis legalization on different age groups



Recent findings have shed light on the use of cannabis among different age groups following its legalization. A study published in JAMA by Rebekah Levine Coley of Boston College examined data from 900,000 high school students across various states between 2011 and 2021. Contrary to expectations, the study found a slight decline or stabilization in cannabis use among adolescents in states where cannabis was legalized, possibly due to restricted access and increased parental awareness.

In Canada, another study led by Dr. Nathan Stall of Sinai Health in Ontario noted a significant increase in emergency room visits for cannabis poisoning among older adults post-legalization. The study, published in JAMA Internal Medicine, referenced data from the Ontario Ministry of Health from 2015 to 2022. It attributed the rise to greater consumption of potent edibles, which have become legal since 2020. These edibles, often indistinguishable from regular foods and containing high levels of THC, have led to unintentional overconsumption, especially among seniors unfamiliar with their effects.

These findings highlight the varying impacts of cannabis legalization across different age demographics, underscoring the need for targeted education and stricter regulations to mitigate adverse effects.