

# Cannabis Policy Study in the Territories

Nunavut 2023 Report

**JUNE 2024** 



# Foreword and Acknowledgements

In October 2018, Canada became the second country to legalize non-medical cannabis. The primary objectives of the federal *Cannabis Act* include preventing young persons from accessing cannabis and protecting public health and safety by establishing a legal regulatory framework.

The Cannabis Policy Study in the Territories is a populationbased research study designed to examine the public health impacts of cannabis policies, including legalization of medical and non-medical cannabis. The cross-sectional survey was piloted in 2021, was repeated at 12 months (2022) and 24 months (2023) in the 3 territories in Canada: Nunavut, Yukon, and Northwest Territories. For more information about the study, please visit the project website: <u>www.cannabisproject.ca/territories</u>.

The current report summarizes findings from the 2023 Cannabis Policy Study in the Territories, with a focus on results specific to Nunavut. The research team would like to acknowledge the territorial governments, Indigenous organizations in Nunavut, Yukon, and Northwest Territories, and the Nunavut Advisory Council for their feedback on and support of this study.

The Cannabis Policy Study in the Territories is part of the larger International Cannabis Policy Study (ICPS), which includes annual surveys in the 10 provinces in Canada, United States (since 2018), Australia and New Zealand (since 2021), and the United Kingdom and Germany (since 2023). As the online survey used in the Cannabis Policy Study in the Territories was adapted from the ICPS, the majority of the survey measures included were identical between the two studies. Of note, individuals aged 16+ in the Cannabis Policy Study in the Territories were recruited using the methods described on page 5, whereas individuals aged 16-65 in the ICPS were recruited through an online consumer panel.

### FUNDING

Funding for this study was provided by the Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP).

### **ETHICS CLEARANCE**

The project has been reviewed and approved by the Nunavut Research Institute in Nunavut (research license #05 013 21N-M, 05 001 22R-M, and 05 012 23R-M), Scientists and Explorers licencing program in Yukon (research license #21-50S&E, 22-04S&E, and 23-24S&E), Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture, and Employment (research license #16891, 16960, and 17320), University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (ORE #42817), and Public Health Ontario Ethics Review Board (#2021-021.01 to 2021-021.03).

### **SUGGESTED CITATION**

Hobin E, Schwartz N, Forbes S, Poon T, Mayorga-Bernal V, Yu L, Iraniparast M, Fataar F, Hammond D. Cannabis Policy Study in the Territories: Nunavut 2023 Report. June 2024.

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### OVERVIEW

The Cannabis Policy Study in the Territories is a repeat cross-sectional survey conducted annually in the 3 territories in Canada (Nunavut, Yukon, and Northwest Territories) to examine trends in cannabis use and policy. This report summarizes key indicators assessed from September 25 to October 31, 2023 in Yukon and Northwest Territories. The survey for Nunavut was extended due to longer mail delivery times in the territory and closed on November 10, 2023.

### SAMPLE

Respondents aged 16+ who use and do not use cannabis were recruited across the 3 territories through mail push-to-web invitations sent via Canada Post licensed residential household and neighbourhood mailing lists, which include a near census of households across the 3 territories. The study was promoted using several methods: 1) local Research Assistants in 5 cities/hamlets in the 3 territories distributed study posters in their communities; 2) Indigenous and government organizations shared the study posters with their networks; 3) study posters were shared on public community pages on social media; 4) unpaid interviews were conducted with local media outlets; and, 5) radio and digital ads were purchased from local media outlets. Participants who completed the survey received a \$20 e-transfer as remuneration. The final analytic sample for 2023 included 2438 respondents across the 3 territories.

### SURVEY

The survey covers the following content areas:

- prevalence and patterns of cannabis use;
- cannabis purchasing and price;
- cannabis consumption and product types;
- commercial retail environment;

- risk behaviours;
- cannabis knowledge, perceptions of risk and social norms;
- exposure to health warnings and public educational campaigns;
- exposure to cannabis marketing and branding;
- substance use and other risk behaviours; and
- socio-demographics and socio-economic status.

### DATA ANALYSIS

Post-stratification survey weights were created using age-by-sex-by-territory and education groups, using 2021 Canadian Census data. With the exception of the unweighted sample profile characteristics, all estimates in the current report are weighted and rescaled to the original sample size within each territory. For 4 key indicators, results are presented using the breakdowns: Nunavut, Yukon, and Northwest Territories; within Igaluit, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife, and outside these 3 cities; and, all 3 territories, and the 10 Canadian provinces from the 2023 International Cannabis Policy Study (ICPS). As the ICPS surveys individuals age 16-65, results are also presented among the territories sample age 16-65 for comparability. For all other indicators, results are presented for Nunavut, Yukon, and Northwest Territories. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. In the figures presenting results, 'Don't know' responses were retained, and 'Refuse to answer' responses were excluded.

#### **TECHNICAL REPORT**

The survey and technical report are available at: <u>www.cannabisproject.ca/territories</u>. The technical report includes detailed information on methodology, survey weighting, and data suppression guidelines.



# Sample profile (n=2,438)

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Within Iqaluit, Whitehorse, or Yellowknife84 (63%)107 (63%)1,350 (95%)1,273 (91%)705 (77%)653 (76%)Outside Iqaluit, Whitehorse,50 (37%)62 (37%)65 (5%)132 (9%)208 (23%)211 (24%)	Other/mixed/unstated	21 (16%)	19 (11%)	193 (14%)	209 (15%)	134 (15%)	181 (21%)	
Within Iqaluit, Whitehorse, 84 (63%)       107 (63%)       1,350 (95%)       1,273 (91%)       705 (77%)       653 (76%)         Outside Iqaluit, Whitehorse, 50 (37%)       62 (37%)       65 (5%)       132 (9%)       208 (23%)       211 (24%)	Location							
or Yellowknife Outside Iqaluit, Whitehorse, 50 (37%) 62 (37%) 65 (5%) 132 (9%) 208 (23%) 211 (24%)		84 (63%)	107 (63%)	1 350 (95%)	1 273 (91%)	705 (77%)	653 (76%)	
Outside Iqaluit, Whitehorse, 50 (37%)         62 (37%)         65 (5%)         132 (9%)         208 (23%)         211 (24%)	-	54 (0570)	107 (0570)	1,000 (00/0)	1,2,3 (31/0)	, 0.5 (7770)	000 (7070)	
		50 (37%)	62 (37%)	65 (5%)	132 (9%)	208 (23%)	211 (24%)	
	-	. /	. ,	、 <i>,</i>	( <i>'</i>	. /	. ,	

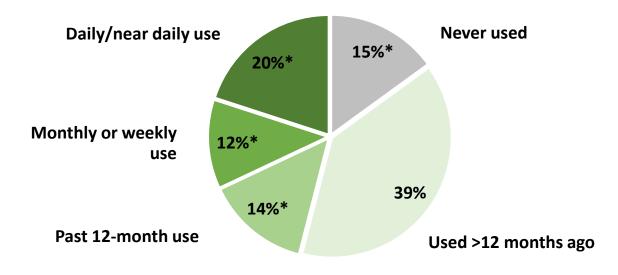
UNWEIGHTED RESULTS. INDIGENOUS: INCLUDES ALL RESPONDENTS WHO SELF-IDENTIFIED (IN PART OR EXCLUSIVELY) INDIGENOUS ETHNICITY OR STATUS. CAPITAL CITIES: NUNAVUT- IQALUIT; YUKON- WHITEHORSE; NORTHWEST TERRITORIES- YELLOWKNIFE.



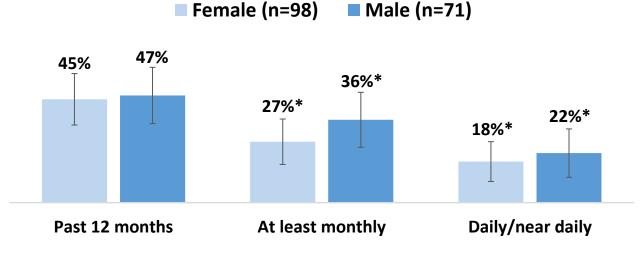
# Cannabis prevalence 2023

## Nunavut (n=169)

Respondents were asked to report their frequency of cannabis use. In Nunavut, the prevalence of daily/near daily use in the past 12 months was 20%, while the prevalence of never using in their lifetime was 15%. By sex, the prevalence of having used cannabis in the past 12 months was similar among males and females, whereas at least monthly (inclusive of more frequent cannabis use), and daily/near daily use were higher among males than females.



**By Sex** 



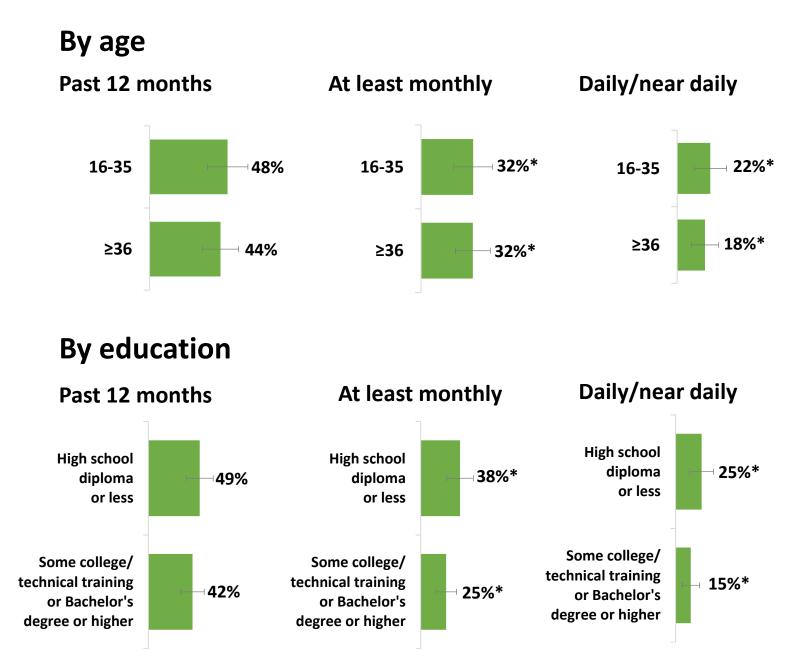
WEIGHTED RESULTS. CANNABIS USE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AND AT LEAST MONTHLY USE ARE INCLUSIVE OF MORE FREQUENT CANNABIS USE. \* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION.



# Cannabis prevalence 2023

## Nunavut (n=169)

In Nunavut, a similar prevalence of younger individuals (ages 16-35) reported using cannabis in the past 12 months (inclusive of more frequent cannabis use) as older individuals (≥36). A higher prevalence of individuals with less education (a high school diploma or less) reported using cannabis in the past 12 months, at least monthly, and daily/near daily than those with higher education (some college/technical training or Bachelor's degree or higher).

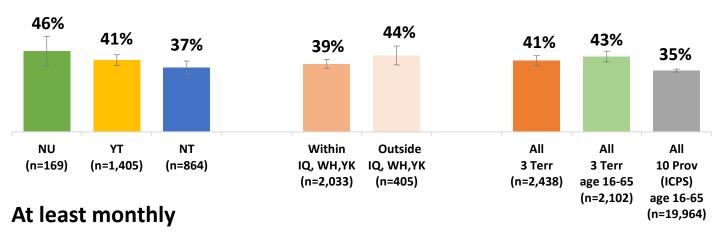


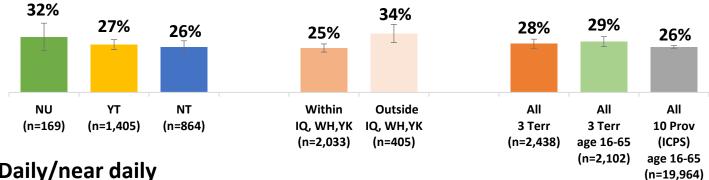




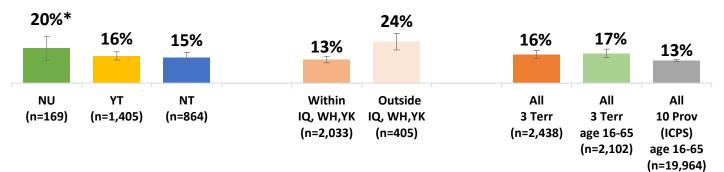
In Nunavut, the prevalence of past 12-month use (inclusive of more frequent cannabis use) was 46%. Prevalence of daily/near daily use was similar across all 3 territories. Prevalence of at least monthly and daily/near daily use was higher outside the cities of Igaluit, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife compared to within these cities. Prevalence of cannabis use was generally higher in the 3 territories than in all 10 provinces based on results from the International Cannabis Policy Study (ICPS) (comparing among participants age 16-65).

## Past 12 months





Daily/near daily



**E3 ICPS** 

9

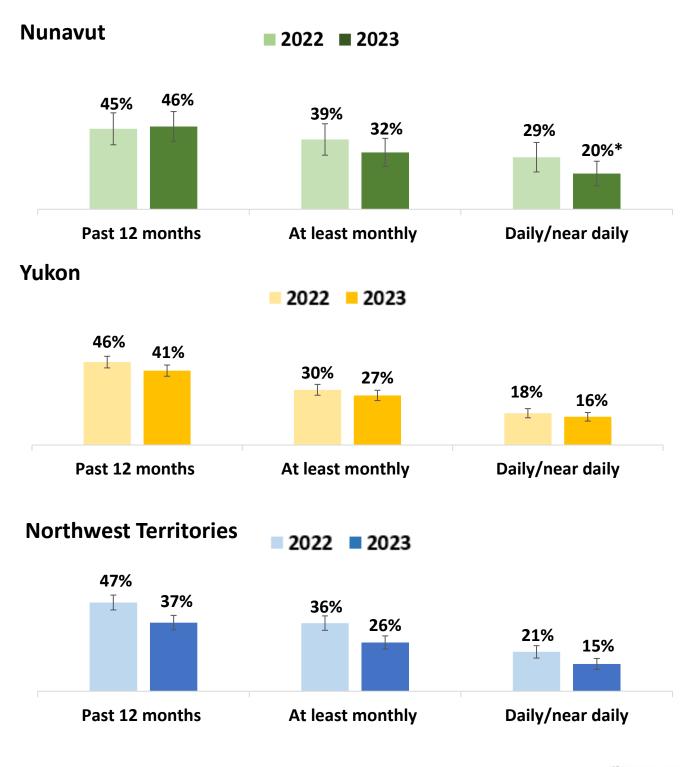
WEIGHTED RESULTS.

\* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES; IQ, IQALUIT; WH, WHITEHORSE; YK,

YELLOWKNIFE; TERR, TERRITORIES; PROV, PROVINCES; ICPS, INTERNATIONAL CANNABIS POLICY STUDY.

# Cannabis prevalence 2022-2023

Lower cannabis prevalence was generally found in 2023 compared to 2022. In Nunavut, the percentage reporting daily use was lower in 2023 compared to 2022. Caution is indicated in interpreting results as a decrease between survey years due to small sample sizes.



WEIGHTED RESULTS. \* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).

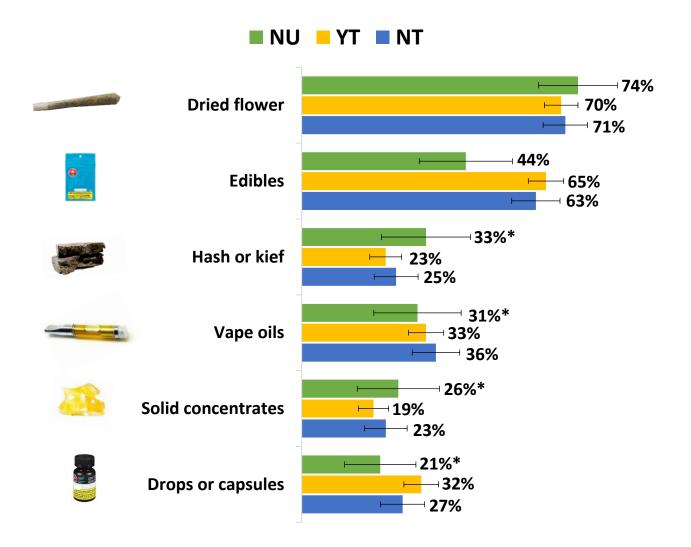
**ICPS** 10



In Nunavut, among past 12-month cannabis consumers, the most common types of products used in the past 12 months were dried flower (74%), edibles (44%), and hash or kief (33%). In Nunavut, hash or kief were more commonly used, whereas edibles were less commonly used compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories.

### Have you used cannabis in any of the following ways?

% YES IN PAST 12 MONTHS, AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS. NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312)



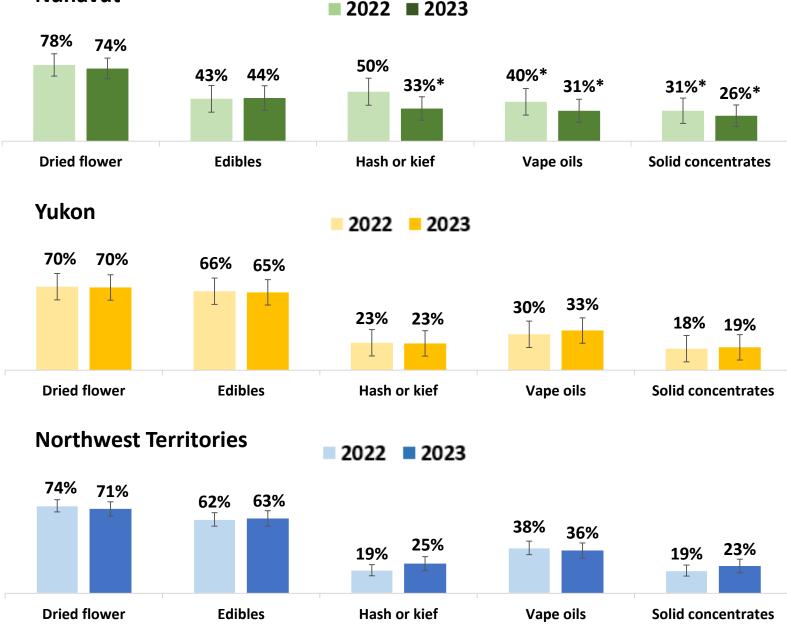




In Nunavut, the use of 'hash or kief' and 'vape oils' was lower in 2023 compared to 2022, whereas in Yukon and Northwest Territories the use of these products were similar. The use of edibles remained lower in Nunavut compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories in 2022 and 2023.

### Have you used cannabis in any of the following ways?

% YES IN PAST 12 MONTHS, AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS, TOP 5 MOST COMMON PRODUCTS



WEIGHTED RESULTS.

Nunavut

\* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION.

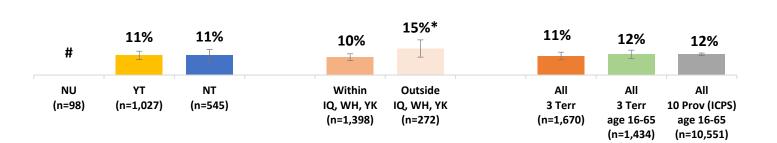
FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).

**ICPS** 12



In 2023, 27% of respondents in Nunavut reported having been a passenger with a driver who had used cannabis within 2 hours, which is higher relative to Yukon (17%) and Northwest Territories (19%). This measure was also higher outside the cities of Iqaluit, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife (30%) compared to within these cities (15%). Results for having driven a vehicle were suppressed in Nunavut due to high sampling variability.

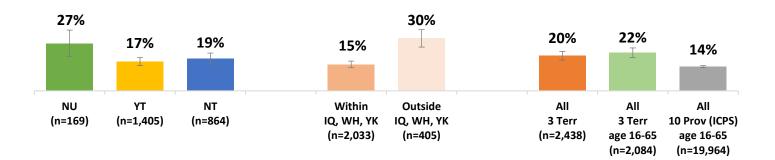
### Driven a vehicle within 2 hours of cannabis use



% YES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, AMONG 'EVER' CANNABIS CONSUMERS WITH A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

# Was a passenger in a vehicle with a driver who had used cannabis within 2 hours

% YES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS



WEIGHTED RESULTS. NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES; IQ, IQALUIT; WH, WHITEHORSE; YK, YELLOWKNIFE; TERR, TERRITORIES; PROV, PROVINCES; ICPS, INTERNATIONAL CANNABIS POLICY STUDY.

<sup>\*</sup> MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. # HIGH SAMPLING VARIABILITY; RESULT SUPPRESSED.



The self-reported prevalence of driving within 2 hours of cannabis use were similar between 2022 and 2023 in Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Self-reported prevalence of being a passenger remained higher in Nunavut in 2022 and 2023 compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories.



### Driven a vehicle within 2 hours of cannabis use

% YES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, AMONG 'EVER' CANNABIS CONSUMERS WITH A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS



## Was a passenger in a vehicle with a driver who had used cannabis within 2 hours

% YES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS



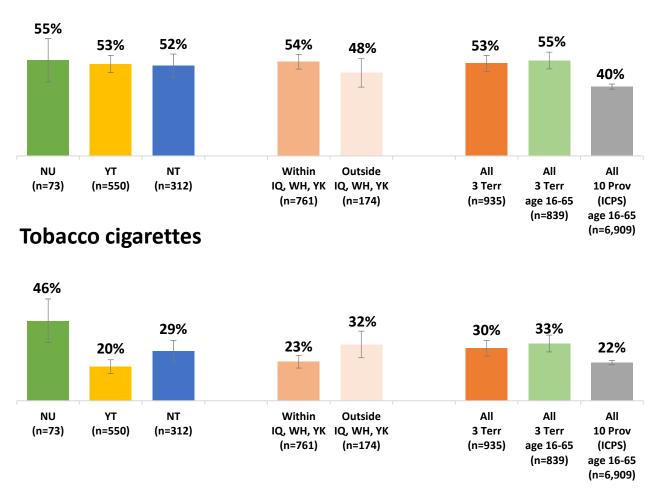
WEIGHTED RESULTS. NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES \* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. # HIGH SAMPLING VARIABILITY; RESULT SUPRESSED. FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)). 14



Among past 12-month cannabis consumers in Nunavut, 55% reported having used cannabis on the same occasion with alcohol, and 46% on the same occasion with tobacco cigarettes in the past 12 months. Higher use of cannabis on the same occasion with alcohol and tobacco were observed in all 3 territories than in all 10 provinces from the ICPS (comparing among participants age 16-65). A higher percentage reported using cannabis and tobacco on the same occasion within Nunavut compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories and outside Iqaluit, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife compared to within these cities.

## Simultaneous co-use of cannabis and alcohol or tobacco cigarettes in the past 12 months

% Yes to using cannabis and another substance on the same occasion in the past 12 months, among past 12-month cannabis consumers



## Alcohol

WEIGHTED RESULTS.

NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES; IQ, IQALUIT; WH, WHITEHORSE; YK, YELLOWKNIFE; TERR, TERRITORIES; PROV, PROVINCES; ICPS, INTERNATIONAL CANNABIS POLICY STUDY. FOR NU, RESULTS SUPPRESSED FOR CO-USE WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES.





Among the territories, reported use of cannabis and alcohol or tobacco cigarettes on the same occasion were similar between 2022 and 2023. The use of cannabis and tobacco cigarettes on the same occasion remained higher in Nunavut in 2022 and 2023 compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories.

## Simultaneous co-use of cannabis and alcohol or tobacco cigarettes in the past 12 months

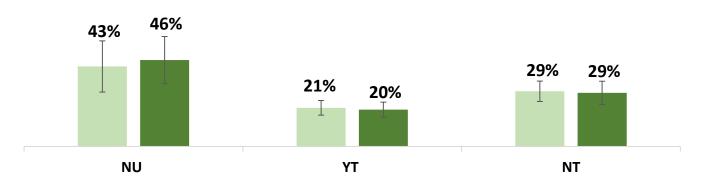
% YES TO USING CANNABIS AND ANOTHER SUBSTANCE ON THE SAME OCCASION IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS



2022 2023

## **Tobacco cigarettes**

Alcohol

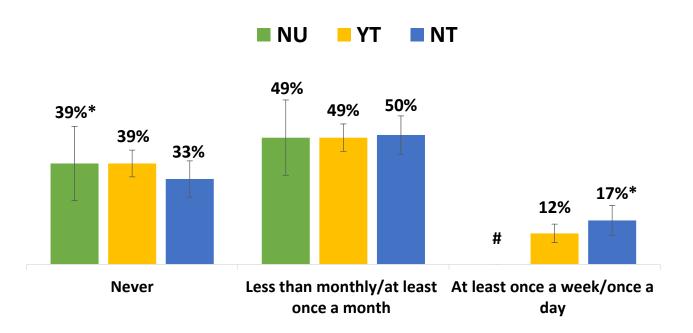


WEIGHTED RESULTS. NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FOR NU, RESULTS SUPPRESSED FOR CO-USE WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES. FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)). 16



In 2023, 49% in Nunavut reported using cannabis and alcohol at the same time 'less than monthly/at least once a month', similar to Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

## During the past 12 months, how often did you use alcohol and marijuana at the same time so their effects overlapped?



% AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS USERS WHO HAD EVER USED ALCOHOL. NU (N=56), YT (N=486), NT (N=261)

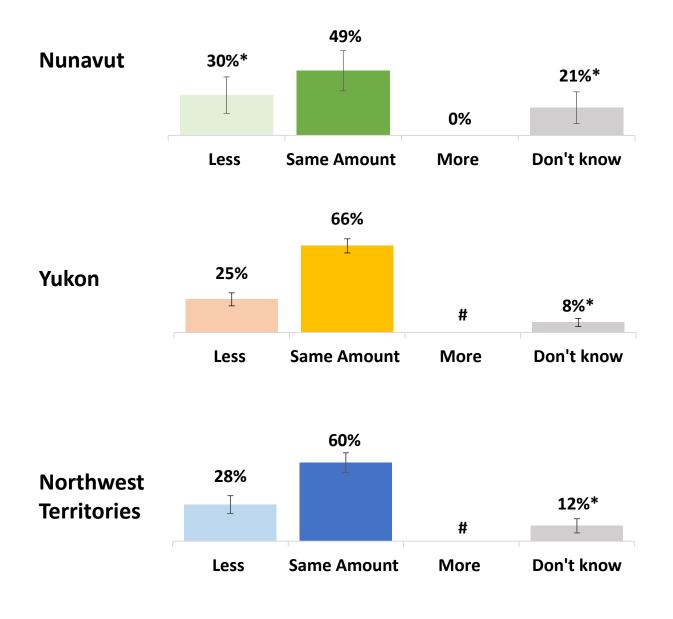




Among respondents in Nunavut who used cannabis and alcohol in the past 12 months, 30% reported drinking less alcohol as a result of cannabis legalization, while 49% said they drank the same amount.

# Has the amount of alcohol you drink changed as a result of cannabis legalization? Do you drink: less, same amount, more, or don't know?

% Among respondents who used cannabis and alcohol in the past 12 months. NU (N=52), YT (N=432), NT (N=240)





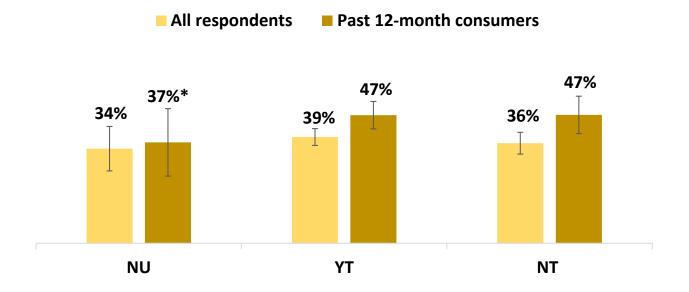


In Nunavut, 34% reported using alcohol at least weekly in the past 12 months, similar to Yukon and Northwest Territories. The prevalence of at least weekly alcohol use was similar between all respondents and past 12-month cannabis consumers.

## During the past 12 months, how often did you usually have any kind of beverage containing alcohol?

## At least weekly alcohol use among all respondents and past 12 month cannabis consumers

% YES TO DRINKING ALCOHOL AT LEAST WEEKLY, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864). AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS. NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312)

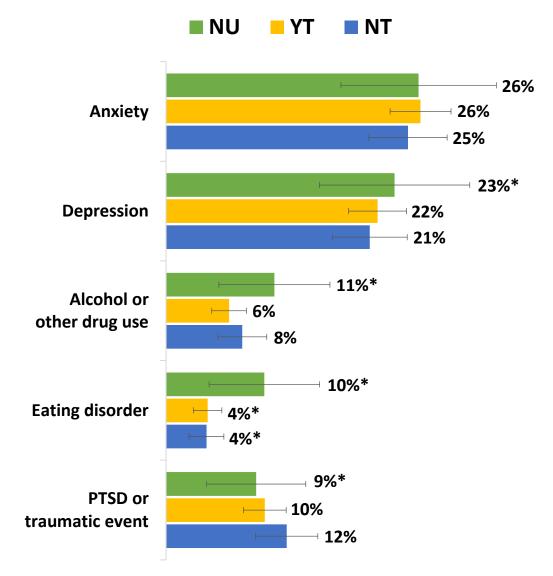




## Cannabis use to manage or improve mental health symptoms 2023

In Nunavut, 44% of 'ever' cannabis consumers reported having used cannabis to improve or manage their mental heath. Ever-cannabis consumers in Nunavut most frequently reported having used cannabis to improve or manage 'anxiety' (26%) and 'depression' (23%). Results were similar across the territories.

## Have you ever used cannabis to improve or manage symptoms for any of the following?



% YES, AMONG 'EVER' CANNABIS CONSUMERS, 2023. NU (N=139), YT (N=1,109), NT (N=634)

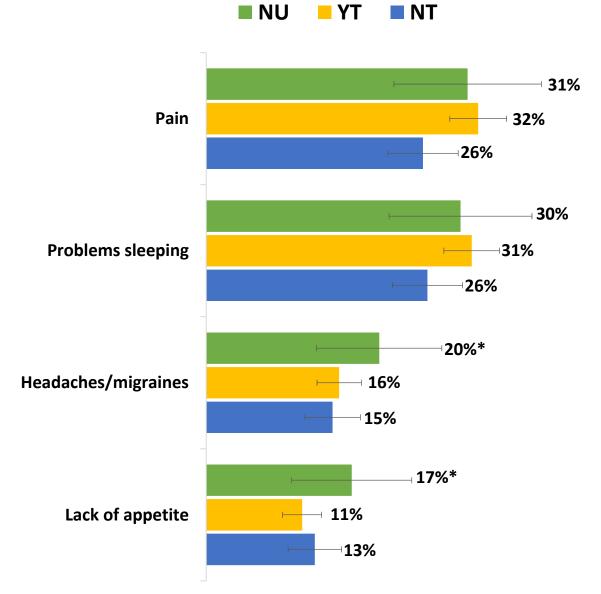
WEIGHTED RESULTS. NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. \* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. FOR NU, RESULTS SUPPRESSED FOR OTHER MENTAL HEALTH SYMPTOMS.



## Cannabis use to manage or improve physical health symptoms 2023

In Nunavut, 45% of 'ever' cannabis consumers reported having used cannabis to improve or manage their physical health. Ever-cannabis consumers in Nunavut most frequently reported having used cannabis to improve or manage 'pain' (31%) and 'problems sleeping' (30%). Results were similar across the territories.

## Have you ever used cannabis to improve or manage symptoms for any of the following?



% YES, AMONG 'EVER' CANNABIS CONSUMERS. 2023. NU (N=139), YT (N=1,109), NT (N=634)

WEIGHTED RESULTS. NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. \* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. FOR NU, RESULTS SUPPRESSED FOR OTHER PHYSICAL HEALTH SYMPTOMS.

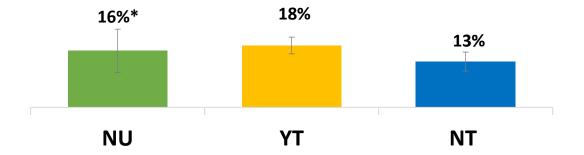


# Use of 'non-THC' CBD-only products 2023

In Nunavut, the prevalence of using 'CBD-only products' (with no THC) in the past 12 months was 16%. Results were similar across the territories.

## Have you used any CBD products with no THC (including CBD oil) in the past 12 months?

% YES, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864)



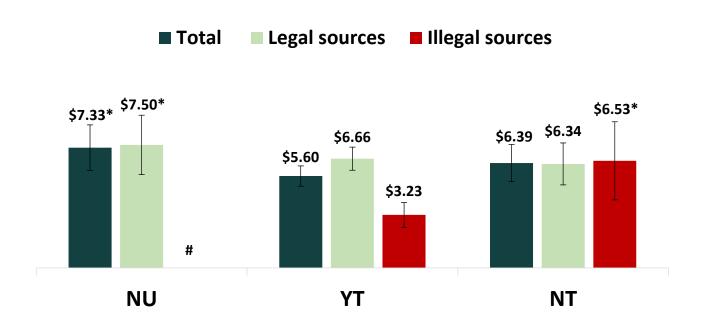




In Nunavut, past 12-month cannabis consumers reported paying on average \$7.33 per gram of dried flower (including from legal and illegal sources) and \$7.50 per gram of dried flower from legal sources in 2023. Prices were higher compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories.

### Price paid for dried flower

SALES WEIGHTED PRICE-PER-GRAM OF DRIED FLOWER AT LAST PURCHASE, AMONG CONSUMERS WHO PURCHASED DRIED FLOWER IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, 2023. NU (N=39), YT (N=270), NT (N=153)



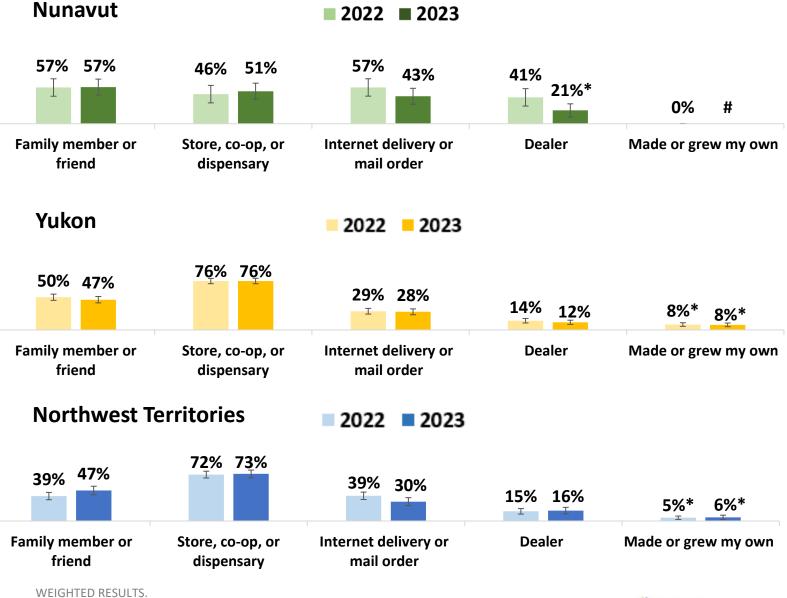




In 2023, the most common cannabis sources among past 12-month cannabis consumers in Nunavut were 'family member or friend' (57%), 'store, co-op, or dispensary' (51%), and 'internet delivery or mail order' (43%). 'Internet delivery or mail order' and 'dealer' were lower in Nunavut in 2023 compared to 2022. In Nunavut, compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories, 'store, co-op, or dispensary' remained lower, whereas 'Internet delivery or mail order' remained higher in 2022 and 2023.

## In the past 12 months, have you gotten any type of cannabis from the following sources?

% AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS. NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312)



**3 ICPS** 24

\* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION

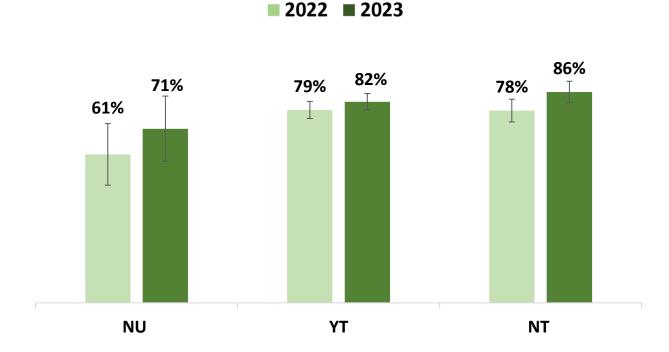
# HIGH SAMPLING VARIABILITY; RESULT SUPRESSED.

FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).

# Purchasing cannabis from legal sources 2022-2023

In 2023, past 12-month cannabis consumers in Nunavut reported purchasing on average 71% of products from legal retail sources, higher than 61% reported in 2022. Results in Nunavut were lower compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories in 2022 and 2023. Results in Yukon and Northwest Territories were similar in 2022 and 2023.

## Mean percentage of all cannabis products purchased in last 12 months from a legal retail source



% AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMER. NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312)



# Perceptions of legal cannabis 2023

In Nunavut, one-third of past 12-month cannabis consumers reported legal cannabis was of higher quality than illegal cannabis, and one-third reported legal cannabis was lower quality. Half of past 12-month cannabis consumers reported legal cannabis was more expensive than illegal cannabis. Over one-third reported legal cannabis was more convenient to buy than illegal cannabis, lower than perceived convenience in Yukon and Northwest Territories.

# How cannabis products from legal/authorized sources compare to cannabis products from illegal/unauthorized sources

% AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS. NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312)

#### Higher quality No difference Lower quality Don't know NU 29%\* # 28%\* 31%\* YΤ 18% 16% 17% 49% NT 23% 17% 16% 45% Price of legal cannabis More expensive No difference Less expensive Don't know NU 49% 17%\* 27%\* # YΤ 44% 44% 7%\* 5%\* NT 35% 12%\* 10%\* 43% **Convenience of buying legal cannabis** More convenient No difference Less convenient Don't know NU 37% 28%\* 14%\* 21%\* YΤ 56% 15% 21% 8%\* NT 52% 16% 7%\* 25%

## **Quality** of legal cannabis

WEIGHTED RESULTS.

NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

\* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION.

# HIGH SAMPLING VARIABILITY; RESULT SUPPRESSED.



# Perceptions of legal cannabis 2023

For both safety of buying and safety of using legal compared to illegal cannabis, over half of past 12-month cannabis consumers reported legal cannabis was safer to buy (57%) and to use (52%). Results were similar across the territories.

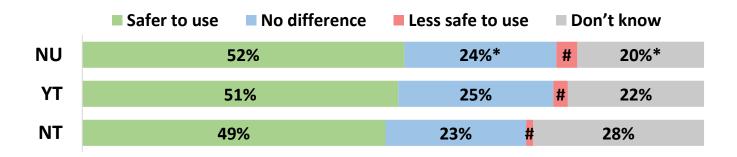
## How cannabis products from legal/authorized sources compare to cannabis products from illegal/unauthorized sources

% AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS. NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312)

	Safer to buy	No difference	Less safe to buy		D	on't know
NU		57%		22%*	#	17%*
ΥT		55%		23%	#	20%
NT		53%		22%	#	23%

## Safety of buying legal cannabis

## Safety of using legal cannabis





# Perceptions of legal cannabis 2022-2023

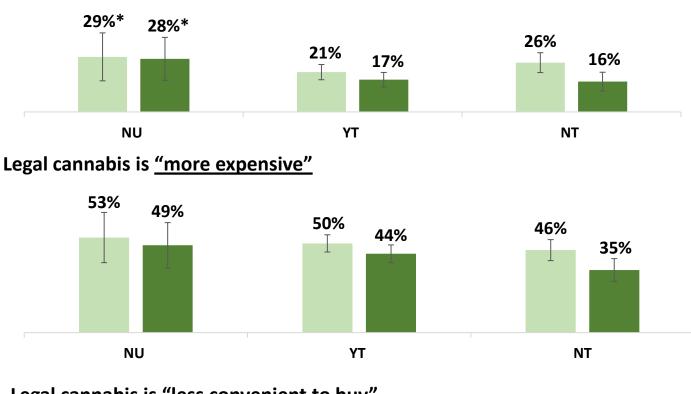
Negative perceptions of legal cannabis, as lower quality, more expensive, and less convenient were similar in Nunavut in 2022 and 2023. These negative perceptions of legal cannabis remained higher compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories.

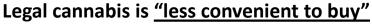
# How cannabis products from legal/authorized sources compare to cannabis products from illegal/unauthorized sources

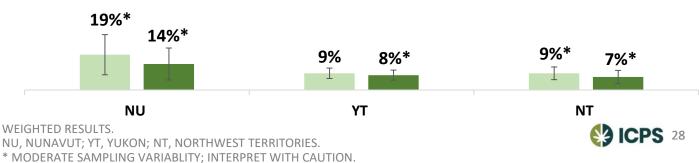
% AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS

2022 2023

## Legal cannabis is <u>"lower quality"</u>







FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).



Perceptions of legal cannabis as safer to buy or use were substantially higher in Nunavut in 2023 compared to 2022. In 2023, results in Nunavut were similar to Yukon and Northwest Territories.

## How cannabis products from legal/authorized sources compare to cannabis products from illegal/unauthorized sources

% AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS



## Legal cannabis is <u>"safer to use"</u>





## Legal cannabis is <u>"safer to buy"</u>

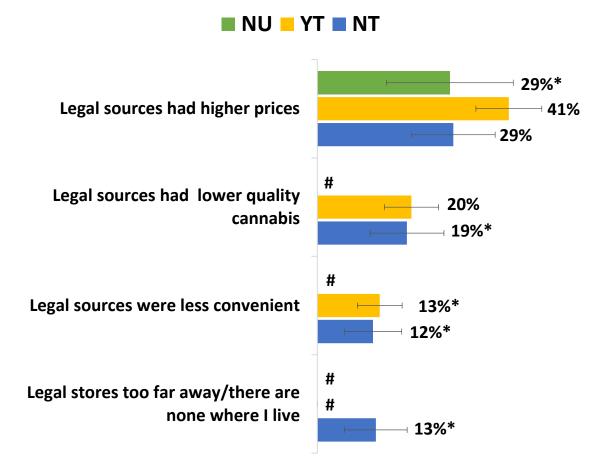


# Reasons for purchasing from illegal retail sources 2023

Consumers who purchased cannabis from an illegal source reported a range of reasons for doing so. In Nunavut, higher prices (29%) was the most common reason for purchasing cannabis from illegal sources.

### **Reasons for purchasing illegal cannabis**

% YES, AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED OBTAINING ANY CANNABIS FROM ILLEGAL OR UNAUTHORIZED SOURCES. NU (N=52), YT (N=249), NT (N=128)



WEIGHTED RESULTS. NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. \* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. # HIGH SAMPLING VARIABILITY; RESULT SUPPRESSED. FOR NU, RESULTS SUPPRESSED FOR OTHER RETAIL SOURCES.



# Perceptions of cannabis access 2023

In Nunavut, the majority perceived getting cannabis, buying cannabis from a legal online source, and buying cannabis from a legal store or dispensary to be 'very easy' or 'fairly easy'. In 2023, perceptions of cannabis access were similar across the territories, with the exception of lower perceived ease of 'buying cannabis from a legal store or dispensary', which is lower in Nunavut.

### Overall, how easy or difficult would it be for you to:

% AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864)

Very/fairly easy
Neither easy nor difficult
Very/fairly difficult
Don't know

## Get cannabis



## Buy cannabis from a legal online source

NU	62%	10%*	8%*	21%	
ΥT	56% 59	<mark>6 4%</mark>		34%	
NT	55% 99	% 4 <mark>%*</mark>		33%	

## Buy cannabis from a legal store or dispensary

NU	56%	#	26%	12%*
ΥT	83%		3%*	<mark>6%</mark> 8%
ΝΤ	72%		5%* <mark>11%</mark>	12%

NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.
\* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION.
# HIGH SAMPLING VARIABILITY; RESULT SUPPRESSED.



# Perceptions of cannabis access 2022-2023

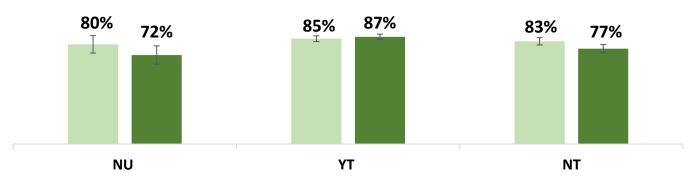
Perceptions of cannabis access and buying cannabis from a legal online source were similar in Nunavut, Yukon, and Northwest Territories in 2022 and 2023. Perceptions of ease of access for purchasing cannabis from a legal store or dispensary remained lower in 2022 and 2023 in Nunavut.

### Overall, how easy or difficult would it be for you to:

% AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS

2022 2023

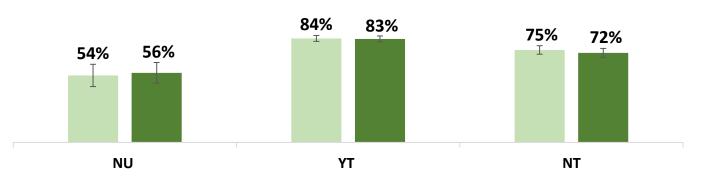
## Cannabis is <u>"very/fairly easy"</u> to access



## Buying cannabis from a legal online source is <u>"very/fairly easy"</u> to access



Buying cannabis from a legal store or dispensary is <u>"very/fairly easy"</u> to access



**SO ICPS** 32

WEIGHTED RESULTS.

NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

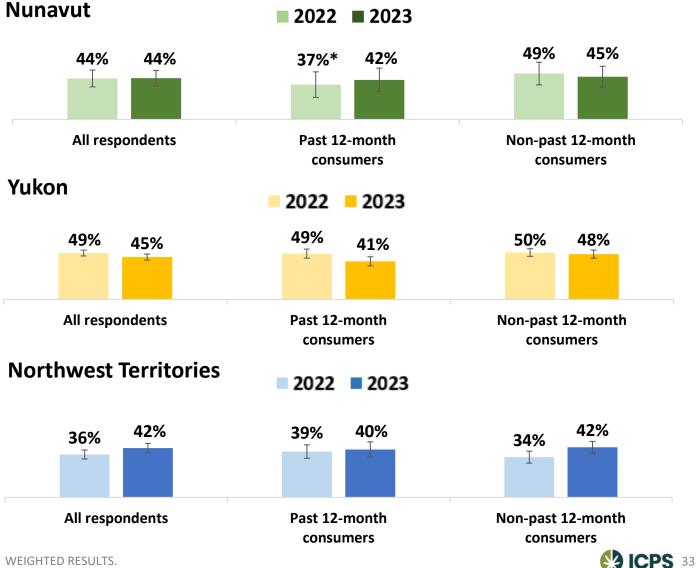
FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca))

# **3** Cannabis advertising exposure 2022-2023

In 2023, approximately 4 in 10 respondents reported noticing cannabis advertising or promotions in the past 12 months. Noticing cannabis advertising was similar among past 12-month cannabis consumers and non-past 12-month consumers and across the territories. Between 2022 and 2023, there was little difference in noticing cannabis advertising or promotion in Nunavut.

## Noticing cannabis advertising or promotion in the past 12 months

% YES TO NOTICING IN AT LEAST ONE LOCATION. AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS: NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864). AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS: NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312). AMONG NON-PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS: NU (N=96), YT (N=855), NT (N=552).



WEIGHTED RESULTS.

NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

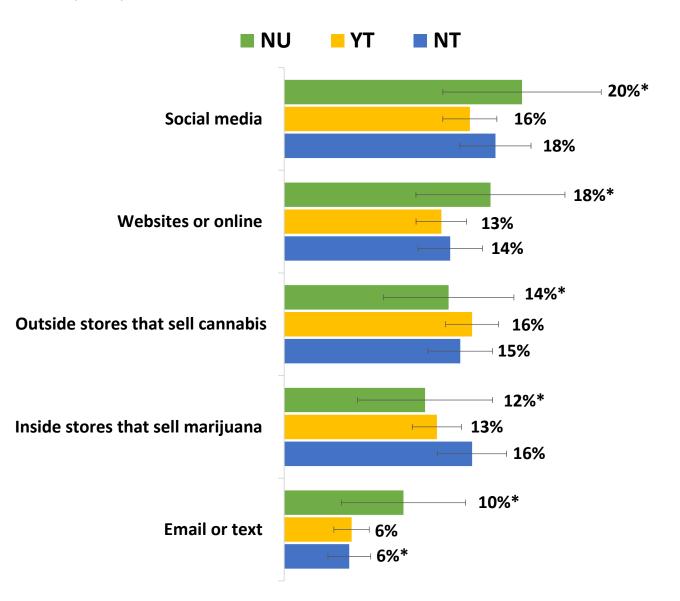
FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).



In Nunavut, cannabis advertising was most commonly noticed on social media (20%), on websites or online (18%), and outside stores that sell cannabis (14%).

### Noticing cannabis advertising or promotion in the past 12 months

% YES, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS, BY MARKETING CHANNEL. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864)



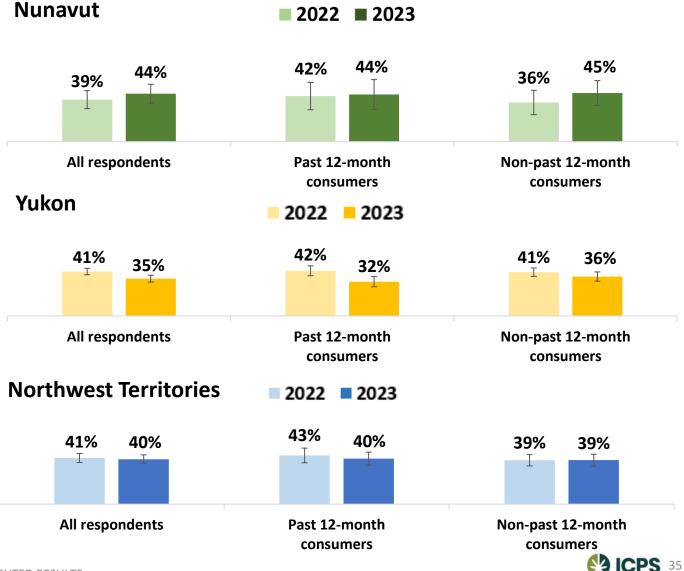


## Cannabis education campaign exposure 2022-2023

In 2023, 44% of all respondents in Nunavut recalled seeing an education campaign or public health message about cannabis in the past 12 months. Recall of cannabis education campaigns or public health messaging was-slightly higher in Nunavut in 2023 compared to 2022, whereas recall was slightly lower in Yukon in 2023 compared to 2022.

## Recall of cannabis education campaigns or public health messaging in the past 12 months

% YES TO RECALL IN AT LEAST ONE LOCATION. AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS: NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864). AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS: NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312). AMONG NON-PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS: NU (N=96), YT (N=855), NT (N=552).



WEIGHTED RESULTS.

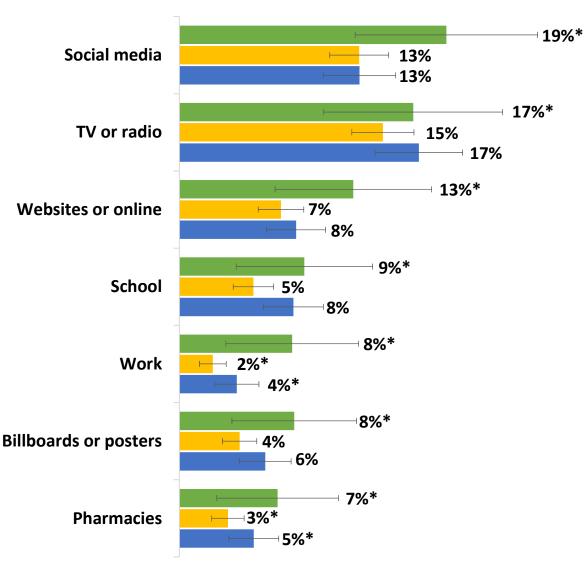
FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).

# Cannabis education campaign exposure 2023

In Nunavut, cannabis education campaigns were most commonly recalled on social media (19%), TV or radio (17%), and websites or online (13%).

## Recall of cannabis education campaigns or public health messaging in the past 12 months

% YES, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS BY MARKETING CHANNEL. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864)



NU YT NT

WEIGHTED RESULTS. NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. \* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. FOR NU, RESULTS SUPPRESSED FOR OTHER MARKETING CHANNELS.

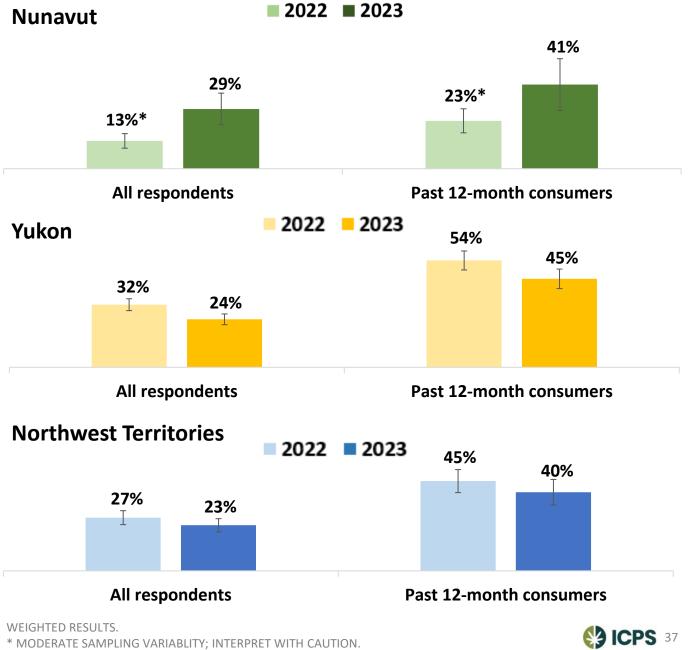


## Bealth warnings on products 2022-2023

In 2023, 29% of all respondents and 41% of past 12-month cannabis consumers in Nunavut reported noticing health warnings on cannabis product packages in the past 12 months. Compared to 2022, a greater percentage of all respondents and past 12-month cannabis consumers in Nunavut noticed health warnings on cannabis products in 2023. Noticing health warnings was lower between 2022 and 2023 in Yukon and Northwest Territories.

## In the past 12 months, have you seen health warnings on cannabis products or packages?

% YES. AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS: NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864). AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS: NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312).



FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca))



The World Health Organization (WHO) ASSIST tool assesses low, moderate, or high risk of problematic cannabis use. In 2023, 43% of past 12-month cannabis consumers in Nunavut had moderate risk cannabis use, somewhat higher compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories. Few differences were observed between 2022 and 2023 with respect to low and moderate risk cannabis use. High risk could not be reported in Nunavut due to high sampling variability.

#### **Risk of problematic cannabis use – WHO ASSIST SCORES**

AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS. NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312)



2022 2023

Moderate risk

Low risk



WEIGHTED RESULTS.

MODERATE RISK WAS CALCULATED BASED ON SCORING 8-26 AND HIGH RISK AS SCORING 27 OR HIGHER ON THE WHO ASSIST TOOL. THE QUESTIONS AND SCORING FOR THE WHO ASSIST TOOL ARE AVAILABLE AT: HTTPS://WWW.WHO.INT/PUBLICATIONS/I/ITEM/978924159938-2.

NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. HIGH RISK WAS NOT PRESENTED AS RESULTS WERE SUPPRESSED

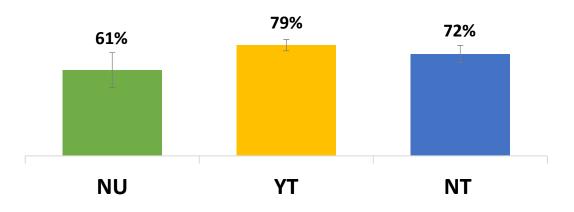
FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).

## Storage of cannabis in home 2023

In Nunavut, 61% of past 12-month cannabis consumers stored cannabis in the home. Among these consumers, 35% reported storing cannabis in an unlocked cabinet/drawer and 28% in a locked cabinet/drawer. The percentage keeping cannabis in the home was lower in Nunavut compared to Yukon and Northwest Territories.

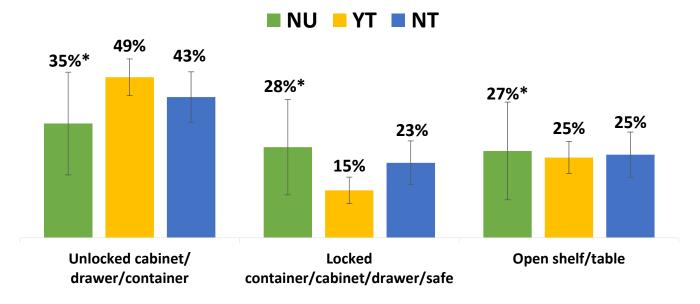
#### Do you currently keep any cannabis in or around your home?

% YES, AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS. NU (N=73), YT (N=550), NT (N=312)



#### Where is the cannabis in your home stored?

% YES, AMONG PAST 12-MONTH CANNABIS CONSUMERS WHO STORED CANNABIS IN HOME. NU (N=44), YT (N=427), NT (N=225)



#### WEIGHTED RESULTS. NU. NUNAVUT: YT. YUKON: NT.

NU, NUNAVUT; YT, YUKON; NT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. \* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. FOR NU, RESULTS SUPPRESSED FOR OTHER STORAGE LOCATIONS.

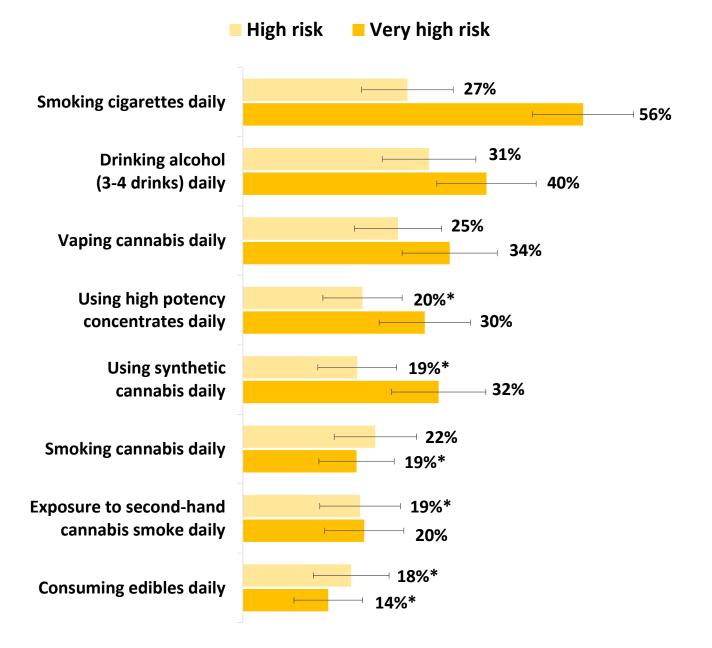




In Nunavut, risk perceptions of smoking tobacco cigarettes daily were highest, followed by drinking alcohol (3-4 drinks) daily. Among cannabis products, risk perceptions were higher for vaping versus smoking cannabis daily. Risk perceptions were lowest for daily consumption of edibles.

#### In your opinion, what is the level of health risk from:

% AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169)





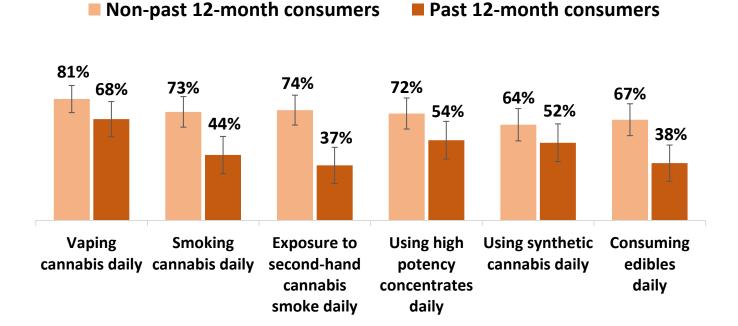


Among cannabis products, perceptions of moderate to very high risk of cannabis use were consistently higher among non-past 12-month cannabis consumers compared to past 12-month consumers in Nunavut. Risk perceptions were highest for vaping cannabis daily, smoking cannabis daily, and exposure to second-hand cannabis smoke daily.

#### By cannabis use (among all respondents in Nunavut)

#### In your opinion, what is the level of health risk from:

% MODERATE TO VERY HIGH RISK, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169)





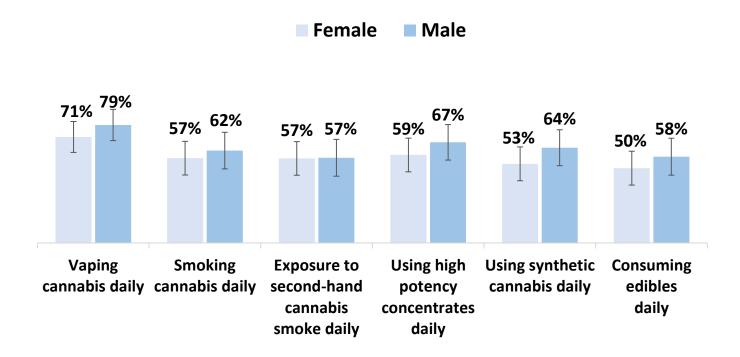


In Nunavut, perceptions of moderate to very high risk of cannabis products were generally higher among males compared to females.

#### By sex (among all respondents in Nunavut)

#### In your opinion, what is the level of health risk from:

% MODERATE TO VERY HIGH RISK, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169)





## Cannabis risk perceptions 2023

In Nunavut, perceptions of moderate to very high risk of cannabis products were higher among those aged 46 and older. Differences in risk perceptions across age groups were greatest for consuming edibles daily and using synthetic cannabis daily.

### By age (among all respondents in Nunavut)

59%

#### In your opinion, what is the level of health risk from:

% MODERATE TO VERY HIGH RISK, AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169)

Smoking cannabis daily

50%\* <sup>58%</sup> <sup>65%</sup>

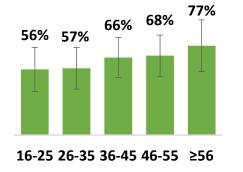
16-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 ≥56

73%

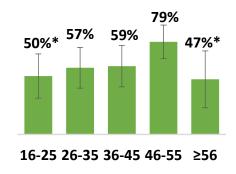
70% 72% 71% ↓ ↓ 16-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 ≥56

Vaping cannabis daily

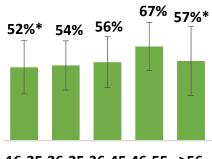
Using high potency concentrates daily



Using synthetic cannabis daily

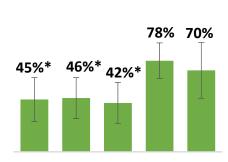


## Exposure to second-hand cannabis smoke daily



#### **16-25 26-35 36-45 46-55** ≥**56**

**Consuming edibles daily** 



**16-25 26-35 36-45 46-55** ≥**56** 



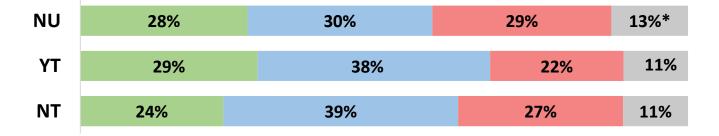


In Nunavut, almost one-third of respondents reported general 'approval' for cannabis, one-third reported neither approval nor disapproval for cannabis, and one-third reported general disapproval of cannabis. Results were similar across the territories.

## In your opinion, do people generally approve or disapprove of cannabis?

% AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864)







## Social acceptability of cannabis 2022-2023

In 2023, approximately 1 in 5 respondents in Nunavut would feel 'comfortable' or 'very comfortable' using cannabis in public, while more than 1 in 2 would feel 'uncomfortable' or 'very uncomfortable' using cannabis in public. The percentage reporting feeling 'uncomfortable' or 'very uncomfortable' was slightly higher in 2023 compared to 2022 in Nunavut.

#### How comfortable or uncomfortable would you feel openly using cannabis in public?

Nunavut ■ 2022 ■ 2023 58% 52% 19%\* 18%\* 12%\* 13%\* Uncomfortable/ Neither Comfortable/ very uncomfortable very comfortable Yukon 2022 2023 60% 58% Т 14% 16% 16% 10% Uncomfortable/ Neither Comfortable/ very uncomfortable very comfortable **Northwest Territories** 2022 2023 62% 56% 17% 14% 13% 11% Uncomfortable/ Neither Comfortable/ very uncomfortable very comfortable

% AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864)

WEIGHTED RESULTS.

\* MODERATE SAMPLING VARIABLITY; INTERPRET WITH CAUTION. RESPONDENTS WHO SELECTED 'REFUSED TO ANSWSER' AS THEIR RESPONSE WERE INCLUDED IN THE RESULTS. RESULTS NOT PRESENTED FOR 'DON'T KNOW' AND 'REFUSE TO ANSWER'. FOR 2022 SAMPLE VALUES REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).

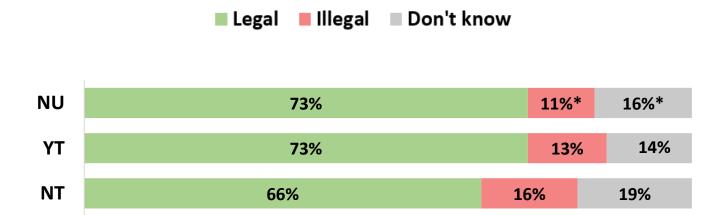




In Nunavut, 73% reported that recreational cannabis should be legal. Results were similar across the territories.

## Should the use of recreational (non-medical) cannabis be: legal, illegal, or don't know?

% AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864)



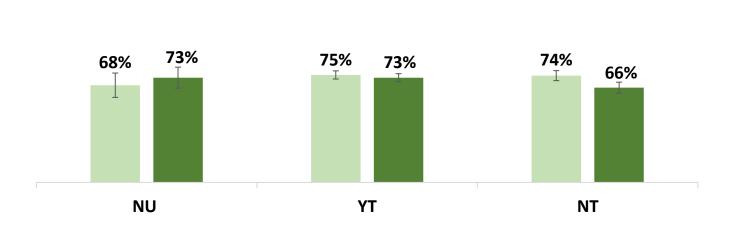




A similar percentage expressed support for the legalization of recreational cannabis in 2022 and 2023 in Nunavut and Yukon, whereas in Northwest Territories a slightly lower percent reported support in 2023.

#### Should the use of recreational (non-medical) cannabis be legal?

% AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169), YT (N=1,405), NT (N=864)



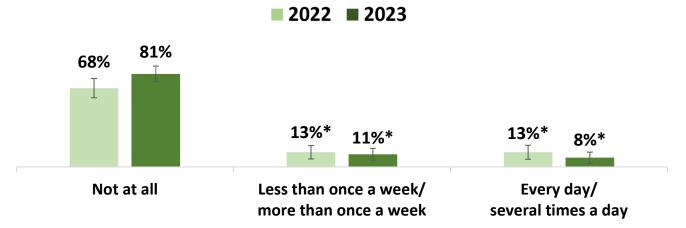
2022 2023



# Exposure to second-hand cannabis smoke 2022-2023

In 2023, a higher percentage of individuals in Nunavut reported no exposure to second-hand cannabis smoke in the past 30 days, compared to 2022. A lower percentage reported exposure to second-hand cannabis smoke 'less than once a week/more than once a week' and 'every day/several times a day' in 2023 compared to 2022. Among those living in attached housing, multiple unit buildings, and shared accommodations, a greater percentage reported noticing cannabis smoke 'at least once in past month to 6 months' in 2023, and a lower percent reported never noticing.

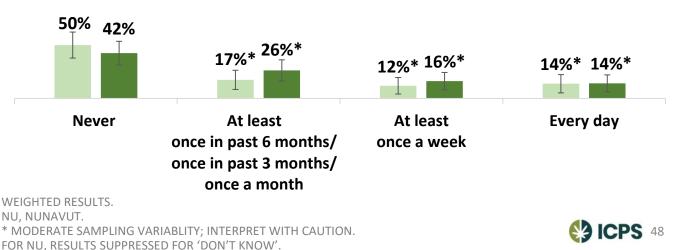
## In the past 30 days, how often were you exposed to second-hand cannabis smoke inside your home?



% AMONG ALL RESPONDENTS. NU (N=169)

## In the past 6 months, have you noticed any cannabis smoke entering your home from a neighbouring unit or from outside your building?

% AMONG RESPONDENTS WHO LIVE IN ATTACHED HOUSING, MULTIPLE UNIT BUILDINGS, AND SHARED ACCOMMODATIONS. NU (N=98)



FOR 2022 SAMPLE SIZE, REFERENCE THE 2022 NUNAVUT REPORT (2022 Nunavut Report (cannabisproject.ca)).



#### **CANNABIS POLICY STUDY IN THE TERRITORIES**

Visit the study website for more information: <u>www.cannabisproject.ca/territories</u>.

#### CONTACT

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School of Public Health Sciences

