

Medical marijuana laws increase use among juveniles, study says

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Juvenile use of marijuana is increasing substantially as more medical marijuana laws pass nationwide.

In a [recent study](#) published in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*, Florida International University researchers examined data on juveniles between the ages of 12 and 17 who participated in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a representative survey of the U.S. population conducted by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Their nationwide study found that the percent of juveniles reporting recreational [marijuana](#) use increased substantially following the passage of a medical marijuana law, accounting for other potentially salient causal factors.

"Well-meaning social policy often has unintended and detrimental effects for society," said Criminal Justice Professor **Lisa Stolzenberg** and lead author of the study.

After ruling out a change in marijuana availability as a causal factor, Stolzenberg said the most likely explanation for the increase in use is that medical marijuana laws diminish the [social stigma](#) frequently associated with the recreational use of marijuana.

Provided by Florida International University

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