

# Milestone Reached: Daily Cannabis Use Surpasses Alcohol in the US

New survey data indicates that daily cannabis use has surpassed daily alcohol consumption in the United States for the first time, marking a significant milestone in drug use trends.

## Rise of Daily Cannabis Use

Based on data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the research reveals a substantial increase in cannabis use since 2008. Past-year usage has surged by 120%, and the total days of cannabis use reported per capita have jumped by 218%.

## Growth in Daily or Near Daily (DND) Use

The number of individuals engaging in daily or near daily (DND) cannabis use has increased exponentially over the years. From 1992 to 2022, DND cannabis users rose from 0.9 million to 17.7 million, a 15-fold increase. This growth has outpaced trends in alcohol consumption.

## Shift in Consumption Patterns

Cannabis use patterns now resemble those of cigarette consumption more closely than alcohol. Notably, in 2022, the number of DND cannabis users surpassed that of DND alcohol users, highlighting a shift in drug consumption habits.

## Changing Demographics of Cannabis Users

Contrary to previous perceptions, marijuana use is no longer predominantly associated with young people. Individuals aged 35 and older now account for more days of cannabis use than those under 35, indicating a broadening demographic of cannabis users.

## Comparison to Tobacco Use

Jonathan Caulkins, a cannabis policy researcher at Carnegie Mellon University, notes that a significant portion of current cannabis users engage in daily or near daily use, a pattern more akin to tobacco use than traditional alcohol consumption.

## Implications and Future Research

The shift in daily cannabis use trends raises questions about the public health implications and regulatory considerations. Further research is needed to understand the long-term impacts of increased cannabis consumption and to inform evidence-based policies addressing cannabis use in society.

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