

HOW MANY MORE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS SAY THAT THEY WOULD USE CANNABIS IF IT WERE LEGAL?

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Background

Potential increase cannabis use by young people after legalisation is a major concern.



Legalisation?

We estimated how many more young Australians could use cannabis if it became legally available.

Design

Data was drawn from the 2016 National Drug Strategy Household Survey which included 3052 youths (adolescents aged 12-17 and young adults aged 18-25 years) in Australia.

Incident cases were estimated by multiplying the prevalence and estimated population sizes from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Results

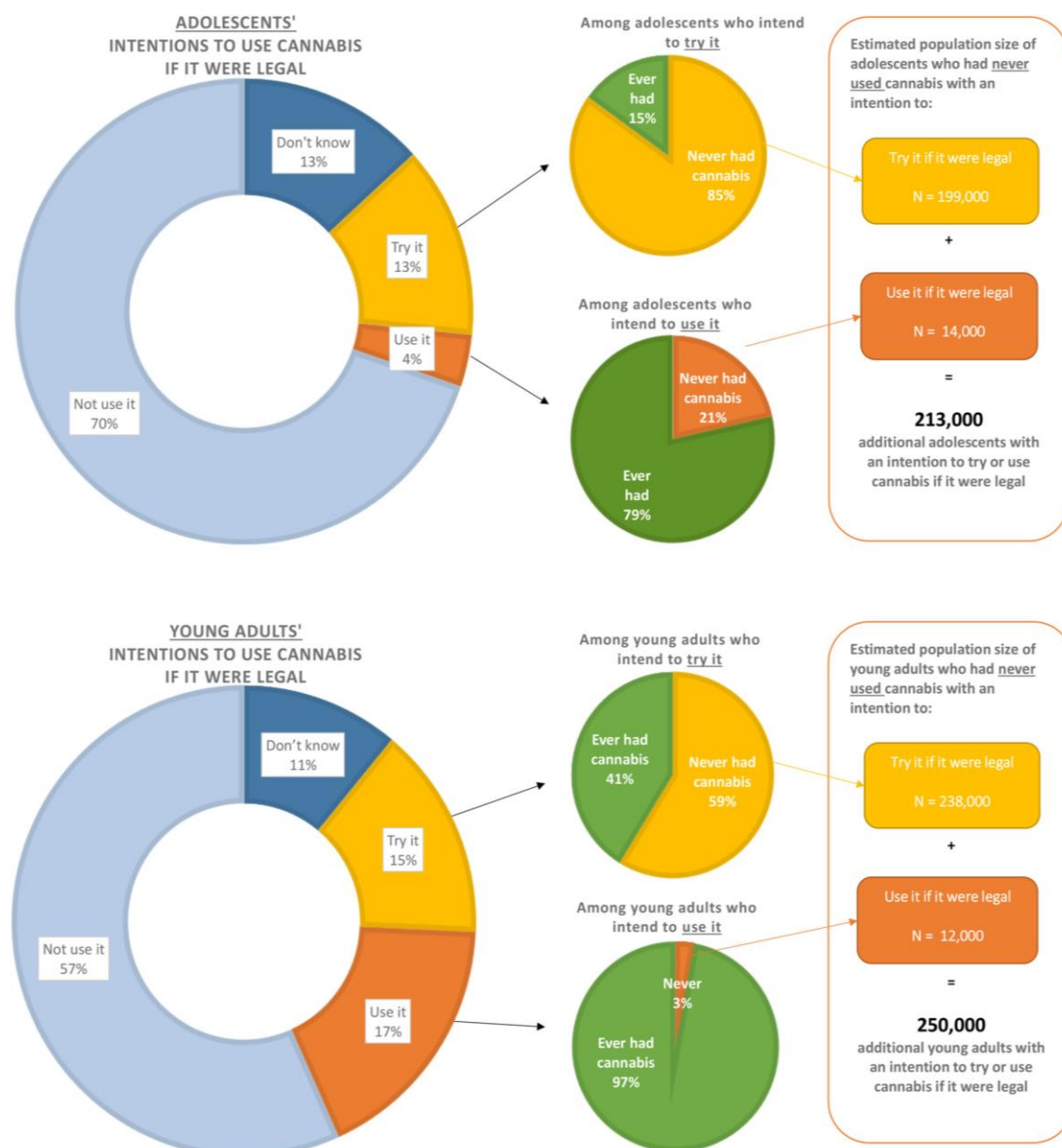
17% of adolescents would try (13%) or use (4%), and 32% of young adults would try (15%) or use (17%) cannabis if it were legal.

We estimated 199 000 adolescents and 238 000 young adults would try it where 14 000 adolescents and 12 000 young adults would use cannabis if it were legalised in Australia.

Conclusion

A substantial minority of young Australians say that they would use cannabis for the first time if it were legalised.

A proportion of young people who have used cannabis also expressed an interest in increasing their use. Both would warrant special attention if cannabis were legalised.



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