

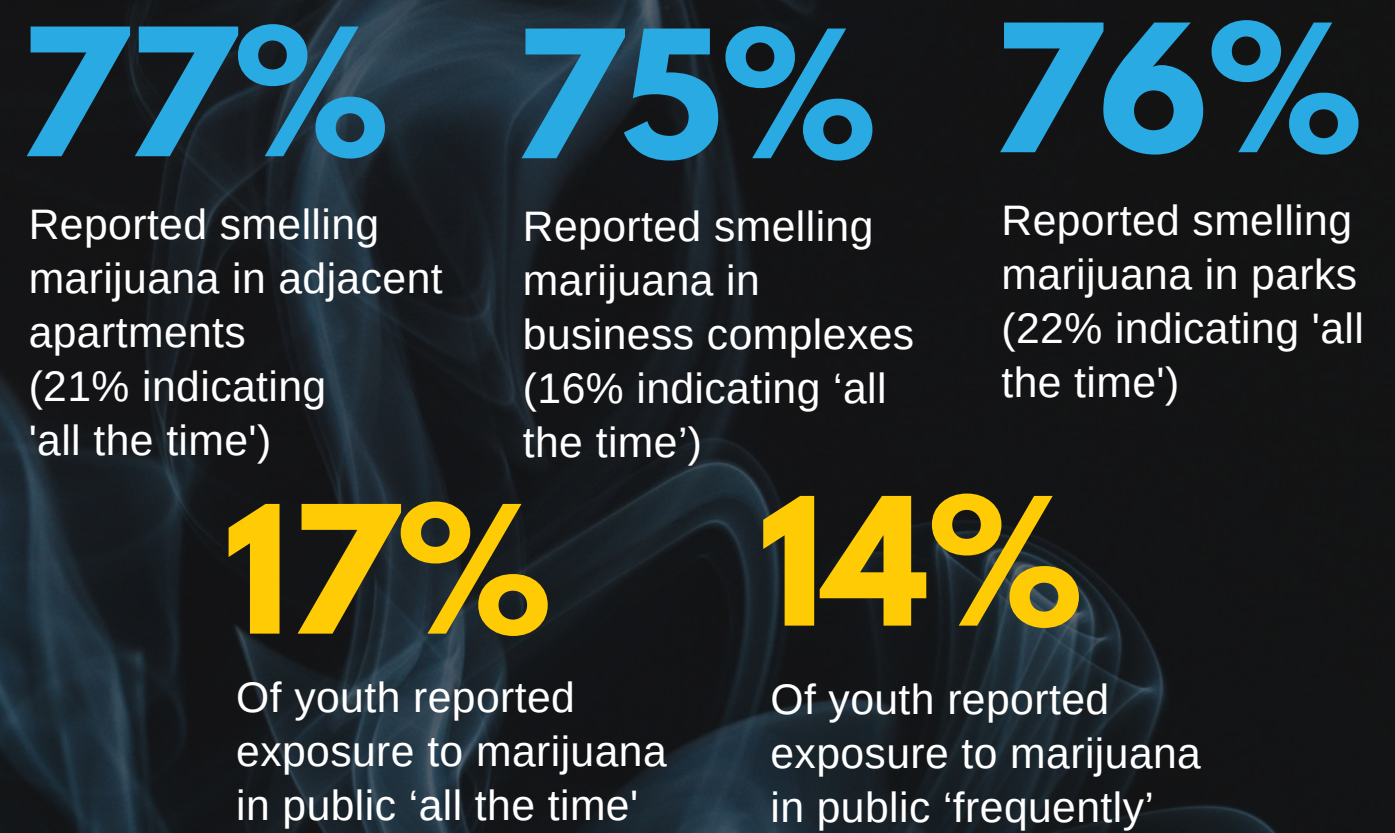
UP IN SMOKE

Los Angeles County Survey Reveals Marijuana is Erasing Decades of Progress Toward Smoke-Free Environments*

For decades, California's strong tobacco laws earned it the nickname "America's Non-Smoking Section." The tide is turning. A recent LA countywide survey of 13,500 residents revealed pervasive public exposure to marijuana smoke in parks, schools, apartment buildings, business complexes, and outdoor spaces in general.

KEY FINDINGS

The Marijuana Public Smoking Initiative (MPSI) was a countywide survey (1) of 13,500 residents completed in 2019 by the LA County Prevention Provider Network (2). Survey respondents indicated the following:






CONCERNS

The findings indicate a dramatic reversal of years of progress reducing California residents' exposure to secondhand smoke. Public health experts cite concerns about pervasive public exposure to marijuana smoke.

“Smoke is smoke. Both tobacco and marijuana smoke impair blood vessel function similarly.”

*Matthew Springer -
Cardiovascular Researcher and Associate
Professor of Medicine,
University of California, San Francisco*

-  **Health Impacts**
Secondhand marijuana smoke contains many of the same cancer-causing substances as tobacco smoke (3).
-  **Normalization of Cannabis**
A 2017 study (4) found teens mentioned the widespread use of marijuana and its legalization as evidence that marijuana is not harmful.
-  **Livability**
MPSI respondents** reported marijuana smoke bothered them 'extremely' (31%), 'very much' (17%), 'moderately' (14%), or 'slightly' (11%).

SOLUTIONS

- 1** Define smoking to include the smoking of marijuana as well as the use of electronic smoking devices.
- 2** Better educate the public about marijuana smoke's true impact.
- 3** Mobilize against the profit-oriented marijuana industry.

A truly safe public environment is 100% smoke-free.