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:

Reported smelling marijuana in adjacent apartments (21% indicating 'all the time')

Reported smelling marijuana in business complexes (16% indicating 'all the time')

75% 76%

Reported smelling marijuana in parks (22% indicating 'all the time')

Of youth reported exposure to marijuana in public 'all the time'

Of youth reported exposure to marijuana in public 'frequently'

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

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.



Mobilize against the profit-oriented marijuana industry.

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

Citations:

- 1) https://insight-editor.livestories.com/s/v2/mpsi---landing-page/478e9fa8-f82b-4268-aaa2-a451789dd9ac
- 2) http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/prevention/PP/SAPCPreventionContractorList.pdf
- 3) https://no-smoke.org/secondhand-marijuana-smoke-fact-sheet/
- 4) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5550346/

*IPS's corporate standard is to use the term 'cannabis.' For the purposes of this infographic, IPS is reflecting the language

used in the Marijuana Public Smoking Initiative. **Ages 26-64

