A woman with dark hair, wearing a blue sweater and an orange jacket, is seen from the side, looking at a laptop screen. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting like a cafe or office.

Public Consumption of Cannabis **February 2018 Mixed Topic Survey Results**

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Edmonton

Public Opinion of Public Consumption of Cannabis

Results from a February 2017 Insight Community Survey

OBJECTIVES

The City of Edmonton is preparing for cannabis legalization later this year. To address issues relating to consuming cannabis in public places, a survey regarding different strategies and concerns pertaining to public consumption was administered to Insight Community members. Along with other considerations, research, and public engagement efforts, survey results will inform the City's approach to the public consumption of cannabis.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Insight Community Members were presented with the restrictions on public consumption of cannabis outlined in the Draft Alberta Cannabis Framework and asked whether the restrictions are appropriate, too strict, or not strict enough. 51% of respondents stated that the proposed restrictions are appropriate, 33% stated that the restrictions are not strict enough, 6% stated that they are too strict, while 10% were not sure.

Respondents who did not think the draft restrictions were appropriate were asked to provide their opinion of how the restrictions were not appropriate. Of the 33% of respondents who thought the restrictions were not strict enough, main themes included concerns over the smell of cannabis (21%), that public consumption should not be allowed at all (18%), and concerns regarding secondhand smoke (16%). Of the 6% of respondents who thought the regulations were too strict, main themes were that consumption should be allowed in stores in order to sample products (15%), consumption should be allowed in parked cars (12%), and that exceptions should be made for medicinal consumption (12%).

A majority of survey respondents support the public consumption restrictions from the Draft Alberta Cannabis Strategy, but there are caveats. For instance, most respondents oppose cannabis consumption in public areas where it could possibly be allowed according to the Alberta Cannabis Strategy depending on interpretation: heavy pedestrian areas (72%), sidewalks (68%), and parkland (57%). Based on results from this survey and the November-December 2017 cannabis survey conducted by the City, Insight Community Members seem supportive of allowing public consumption, but many members would like additional assurances that nuisances from odours and secondhand smoke will be adequately addressed in some way.

Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted online between February 13 to February 20, 2018. The survey was available through the Edmonton Insight Community, an online panel of Edmontonians who have signed up to provide regular feedback to City surveys throughout the year. The Insight Community has more than 7,000 members (February 2018). The public consumption of cannabis questions were completed by 2,071 Insight Community members.

As a non-random online survey, a margin of error is not reported for these results. However, if a probability sample had been used results for a random sample of 2,071 it would be accurate ± 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Demographic breakdowns are available from Insight Community Members as required but have not been included in this summary. However, demographic and behavioural information was used to provide a deeper understanding of how opinions may differ for specific groups of Edmontonians. Open-ended responses to questions regarding whether the proposed Provincial regulations on public consumption are appropriate were coded to provide overall themes.

Survey Results

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Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

Do you think the Provincial restrictions on public consumption are appropriate, too strict, or not strict enough?

(Note: Information that preceded this question is included in the Appendix)

Response	% of Responses	% of Responses (excluding "don't know")	# of Responses
Not strict enough	33	37	686
Appropriate	51	57	1053
Too strict	6	6	118
Don't know/not sure	10	-	214
Total	100	100	2071

At a minimum, how far away from doors, windows, or air intakes should people be when smoking cannabis?

(Responses only collected from those who think the restrictions are not strict enough)

Response	% of Responses	# of Responses
5 Metres	2	19
10 Metres	16	111
20 Metres	15	104
30 Metres or more	42	291
Other	24	161
Total	100	686

Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

In what ways do you think the draft regulations are **not strict enough**?

(Responses only collected from those who think the restrictions are not strict enough)

Theme	% of Responses	# of Responses
Concerns regarding the smell of cannabis	21	141
Do not believe any public consumption is appropriate	18	122
Concerns regarding secondhand smoke	16	112
Personal or public health and safety concerns	14	98
Believe cannabis should be restricted the same as alcohol	13	87
Need restrictions for condos, backyards, private property, etc.	9	63
Concerns over the mind altering properties of cannabis	8	52
Are opposed to legalization	7	49
Do not believe the restrictions will be enforced effectively	7	49
Need greater restrictions regarding distances from doors and non-consumers	7	46
Concerns regarding children being exposed to cannabis	7	45
Specific concerns about specific locations (transit stops, events, parks, etc.)	5	31
Other responses (ex. concerns about store locations, believe restrictions should be more strict in general, disagree with cafes)	8	53
No response	17	109
Total		686

Note: respondents may have provided more than one answer, so the total percent of responses does not add up to 100%.

Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

In what ways do you think the draft regulations are too strict?

(Responses only collected from those who think the restrictions are too strict)

Theme	% of Responses	# of Responses
Consumption should be allowed in stores to sample products	15	18
Consumption should be allowed in parked cars	12	14
Exceptions must be made for medicinal users	12	14
Cannabis should be treated similarly to tobacco	10	12
Cannabis cafes/lounges should not be delayed	9	11
Restrictions should be more flexible	9	10
Restrictions should be different for different products and methods of consumption	5	6
Cannabis should be treated the same as alcohol	4	5
Do not believe public consumption should be restricted	3	3
Other response	14	16
No Response	20	23
Total		118

Note: respondents may have provided more than one answer, so the total percent of responses does not add up to 100%.

The City is considering whether cannabis consumption should be allowed at some festivals. As you may know, festivals can contain adult-only areas such as beer gardens where alcohol can be consumed or tobacco smoking areas.

Similar to smoking areas and beer gardens, do you think it would be appropriate to have designated cannabis consumption areas at festivals?

Response	% of Responses	# of Responses
Yes	62	1275
No	27	557
Don't know/not sure	12	239
Total	100	2071

Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

Do you think cannabis consumption should be allowed...

- on or near sports fields?
- on sidewalks and public paths?
- on city parkland such as picnic areas (excluding playgrounds and sports fields)?
- In high pedestrian areas like Jasper Avenue or Whyte Avenue?

Area	% of Responses		
	Yes	No	Don't know
Sports fields	17	74	9
Sidewalks/public paths	25	68	7
City parkland	37	57	7
High pedestrian areas	20	72	8
Total Responses = 2071			

Are you concerned that cannabis consumption in public places could cause health issues due to secondhand smoke?

Response	% of Responses	# of Responses
Yes	56	1169
No	34	696
Don't know/not sure	10	206
Total	100	2071

How often do you consume cannabis?

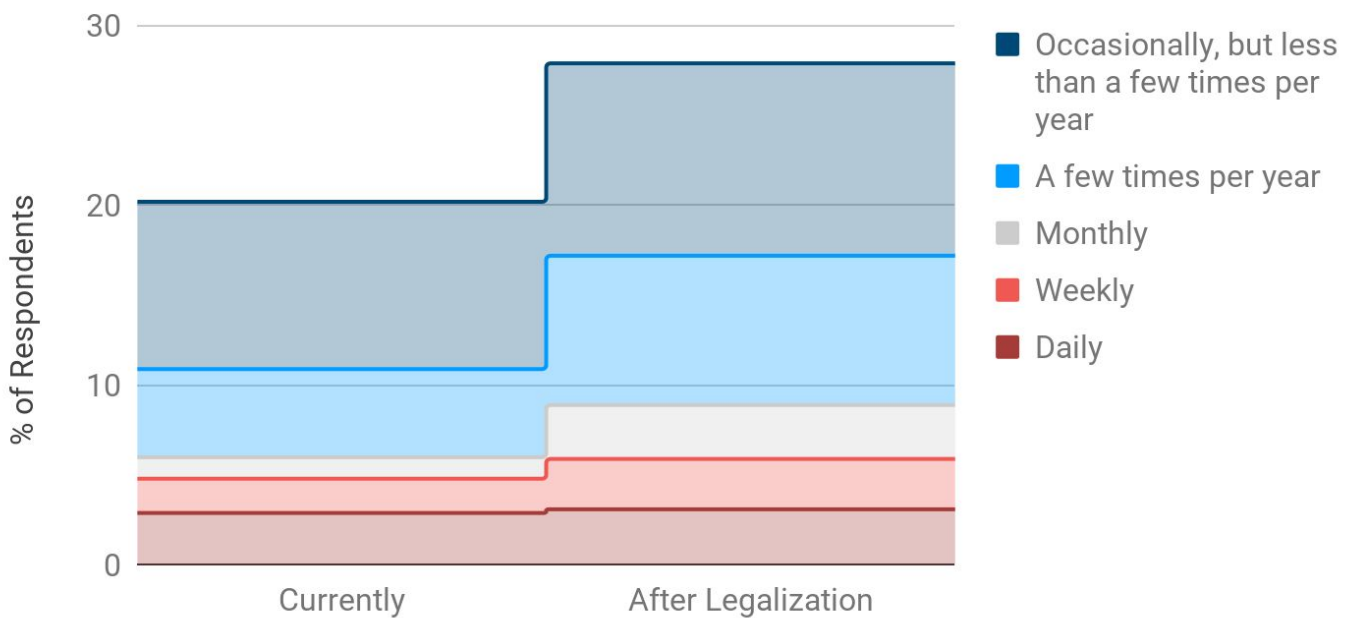
Response	% of Responses	# of Responses
Daily	3	60
Weekly	2	40
Monthly	1	24
A few times per year	5	101
Occasionally, but less than a few times per year	9	193
Never	73	1519
Don't know/not sure	0	7
Prefer not to say	6	127
Total	100	2071

Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

Approximately how often do you think you will consume cannabis once it is legalized?

Response	% of Responses	# of Responses
Daily	3	65
Weekly	3	58
Monthly	3	63
A few times per year	8	171
Occasionally, but less than a few times per year	11	221
Never	56	1166
Don't know/not sure	12	245
Prefer not to say	4	82
Total	100	2071

Comparing current and future (post-legalization) cannabis consumption (n = 2071)



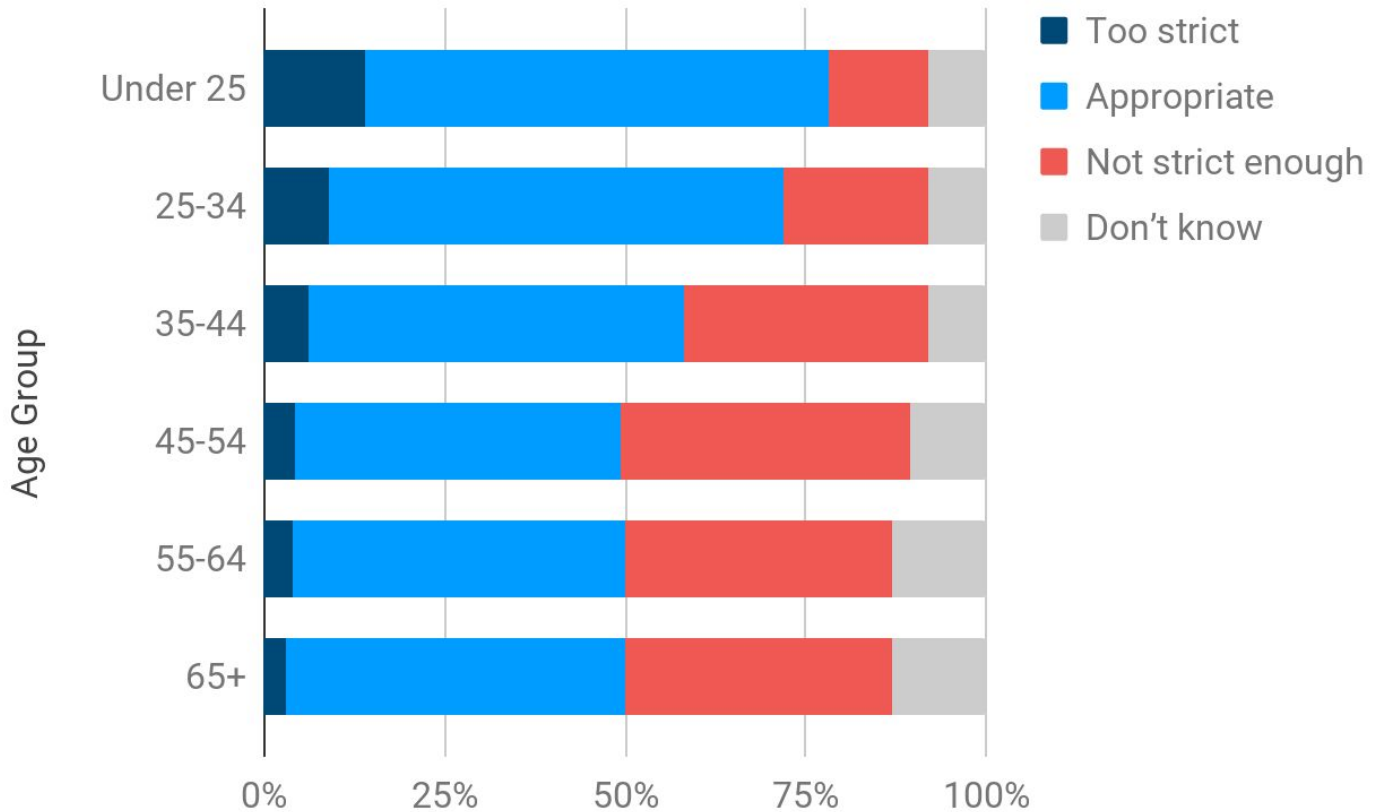
After legalization, it is expected that 9% of Insight Community Members will consume cannabis at least monthly in comparison to the current rate of 6%, and total rates of consumption will increase from 20% to 28%. These differences will likely be even larger, as 12% of respondents did not know how often they might consume cannabis after legalization.

Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

Understanding public preferences for public consumption restrictions for different groups of people

To gain further insight into who holds specific preferences for public consumption restrictions, responses to the first question were analyzed based on respondent age and frequency of cannabis consumption.

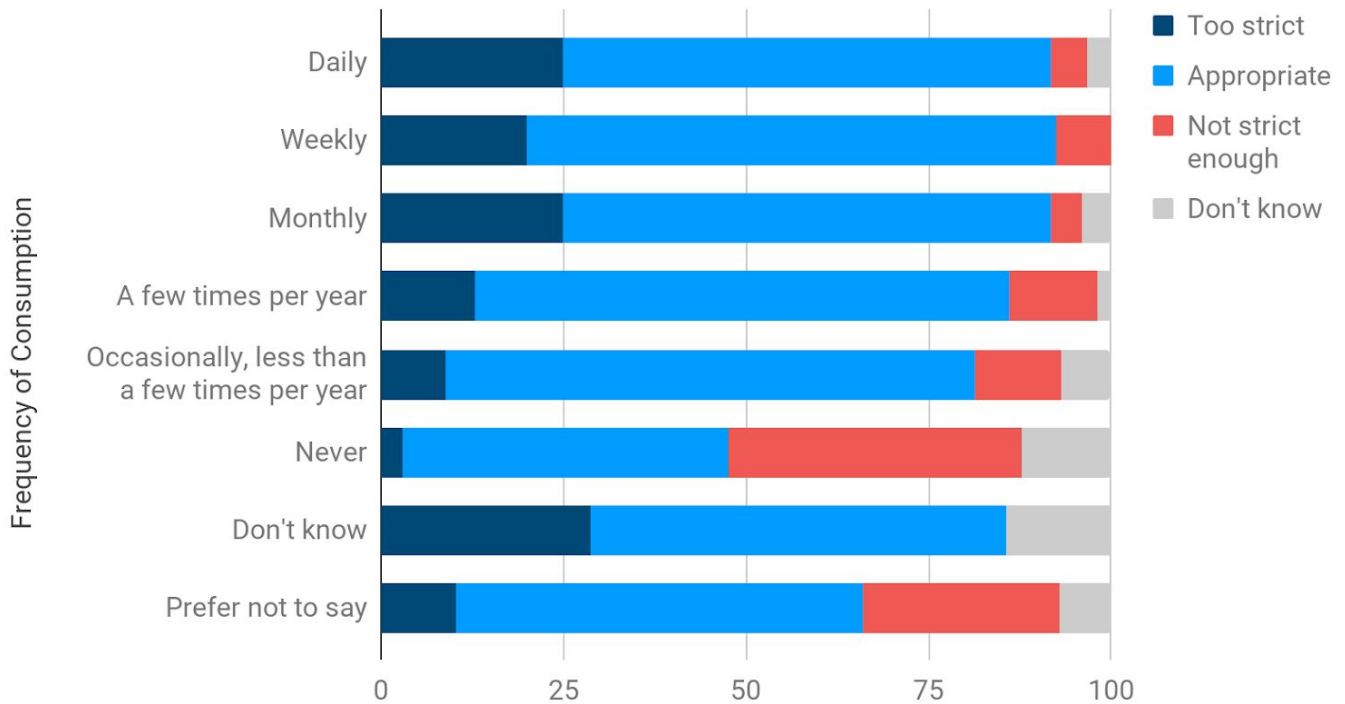
Preferences for public consumption restrictions by age (n = 2,024)



Age Group	% of Responses				Total Responses
	Not strict enough	Appropriate	Too strict	Don't know	
Under 25	14	64	14	8	36
25-34	20	63	9	8	369
35-44	34	52	6	8	428
45-54	40	45	4	10	353
55-64	37	46	4	13	490
65+	37	47	3	13	348
Overall/Total	33	51	6	10	2024

Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

Preferences for public consumption restrictions by cannabis consumption behaviour (n = 2,071)



Frequency of Consumption	% of Responses				# of Responses
	Not strict enough	Appropriate	Too strict	Don't know	
Daily	5	67	25	3	60
Weekly	8	73	20	0	40
Monthly	4	67	25	4	24
Few times per year	12	73	13	2	101
Occasionally, but less than few times per year	12	73	9	7	193
Never	40	45	3	12	1519
Don't know	0	57	29	14	7
Prefer not to say	27	56	10	7	127
Overall/Total	33	51	6	10	2071

Public Consumption of Cannabis - Feb. 2018 Insight Community Survey

APPENDIX

Information preceding the first survey question

Cannabis refers to products made from the leaves and flowers of the cannabis plant. You may have also heard it called marijuana or pot. Cannabis can be smoked, used with a vaporizer, or added to food or drinks. The federal government has stated that in July 2018, cannabis will be legal across Canada for personal use. To help make decisions regarding cannabis legalization, the City of Edmonton is seeking your opinion on consuming cannabis in public places.

The Government of Alberta has released a draft of the Alberta Cannabis Framework. Under the Alberta Cannabis Framework, the following restrictions of cannabis consumption in public places were proposed.

Cannabis use will be restricted anywhere tobacco is restricted, such as within 5m from a doorway, window or air intake of a building or patio, inside a building or on a patio. Cannabis will also be restricted in the following circumstances and places:

- School properties and outdoor areas frequented by children (playground and sports fields, for example)
- Hospital grounds
- In vehicles
- In cannabis retail stores

In the future, cafes or lounges where cannabis can be consumed will be considered.