

Victorian cannabis Inquiry evidence

Drug Free Australia

Just some of its harms

- **Amotivational Syndrome** one of the least of harms
- **Psychosis** – causal in **30%** new cases in London, **50%** in Amsterdam
- **37%** greater chance of **depression**
- Cannabis use is associated with a **3.5** fold risk of **suicidal attempts**
- **VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION** – particularly inter-personal & domestic violence escalating to homicide
- **Brain Function**
 - Verbal learning is adversely affected
 - Organisational skills are adversely affected
 - Cannabis causes loss of coordination
 - Associated memory loss can become permanent
 - Cannabis is associated with attention problems



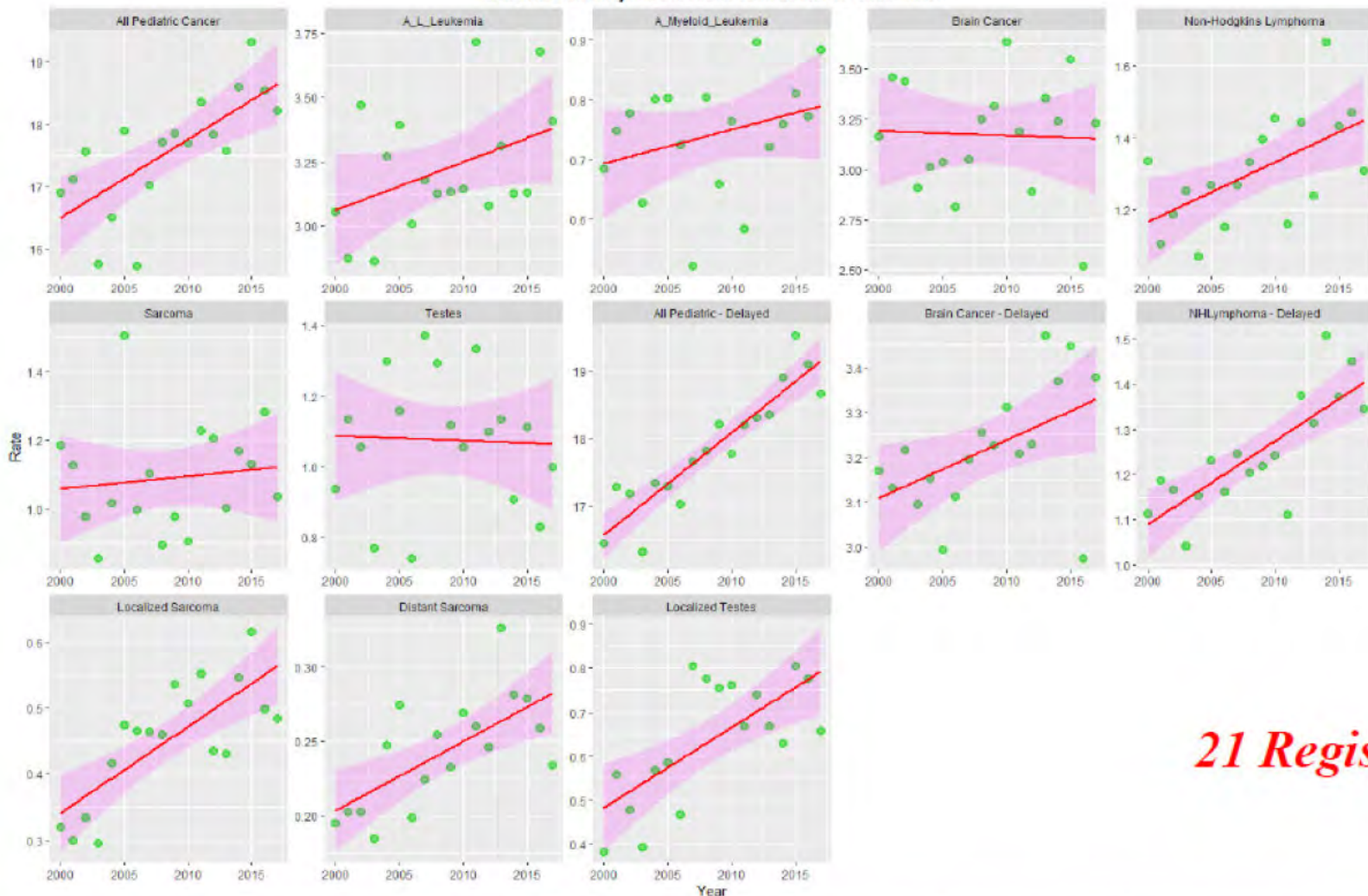
Harms

- Drivers are 16 times more likely to hit obstacles
- Causal for autism (2019)
- Genotoxic and mutagenic – pediatric cancers (2021)



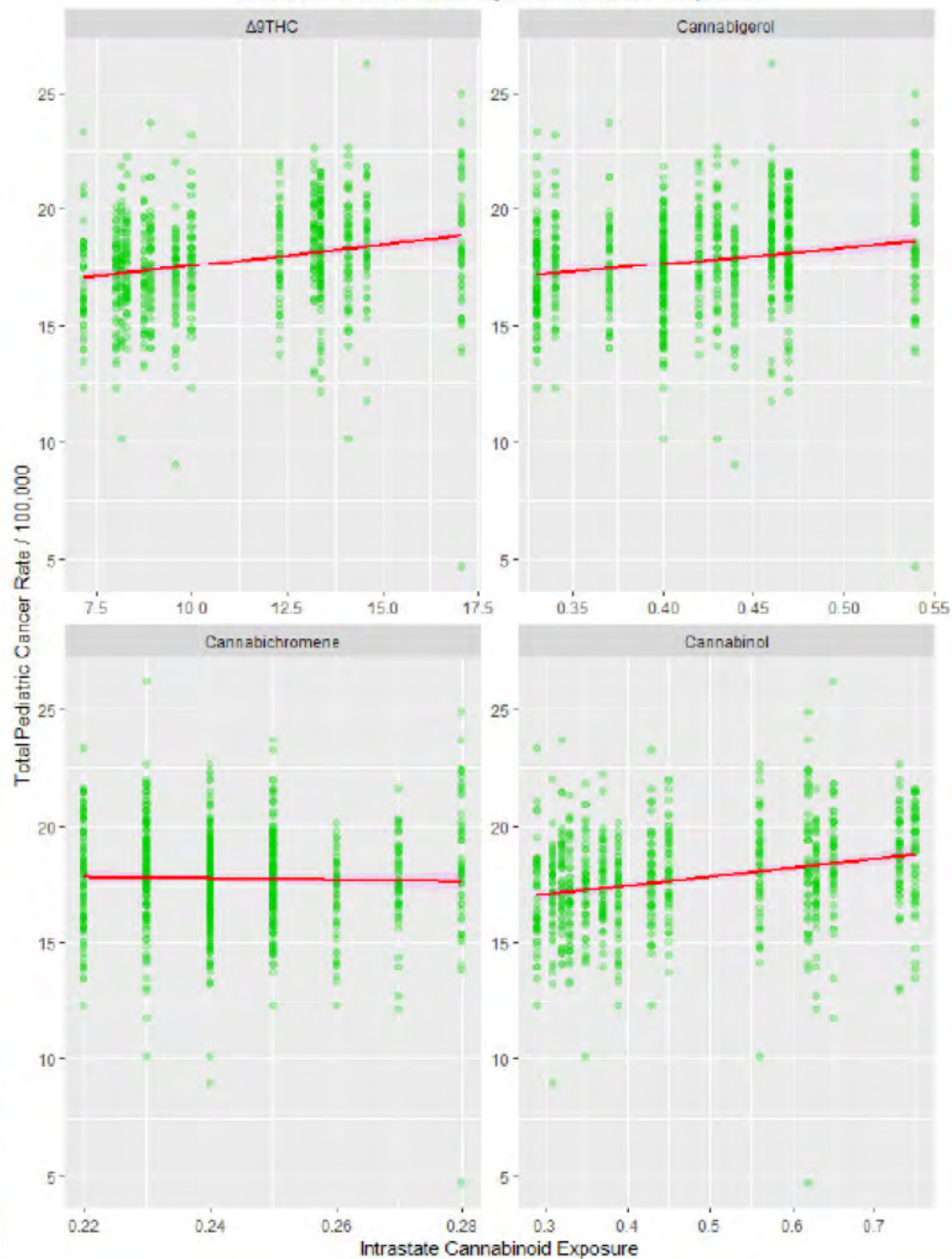
((SF1 - Paediatric Cancers 2000-2017))

Selected and Major Paediatric Cancer Rates Over Time



21 Registries

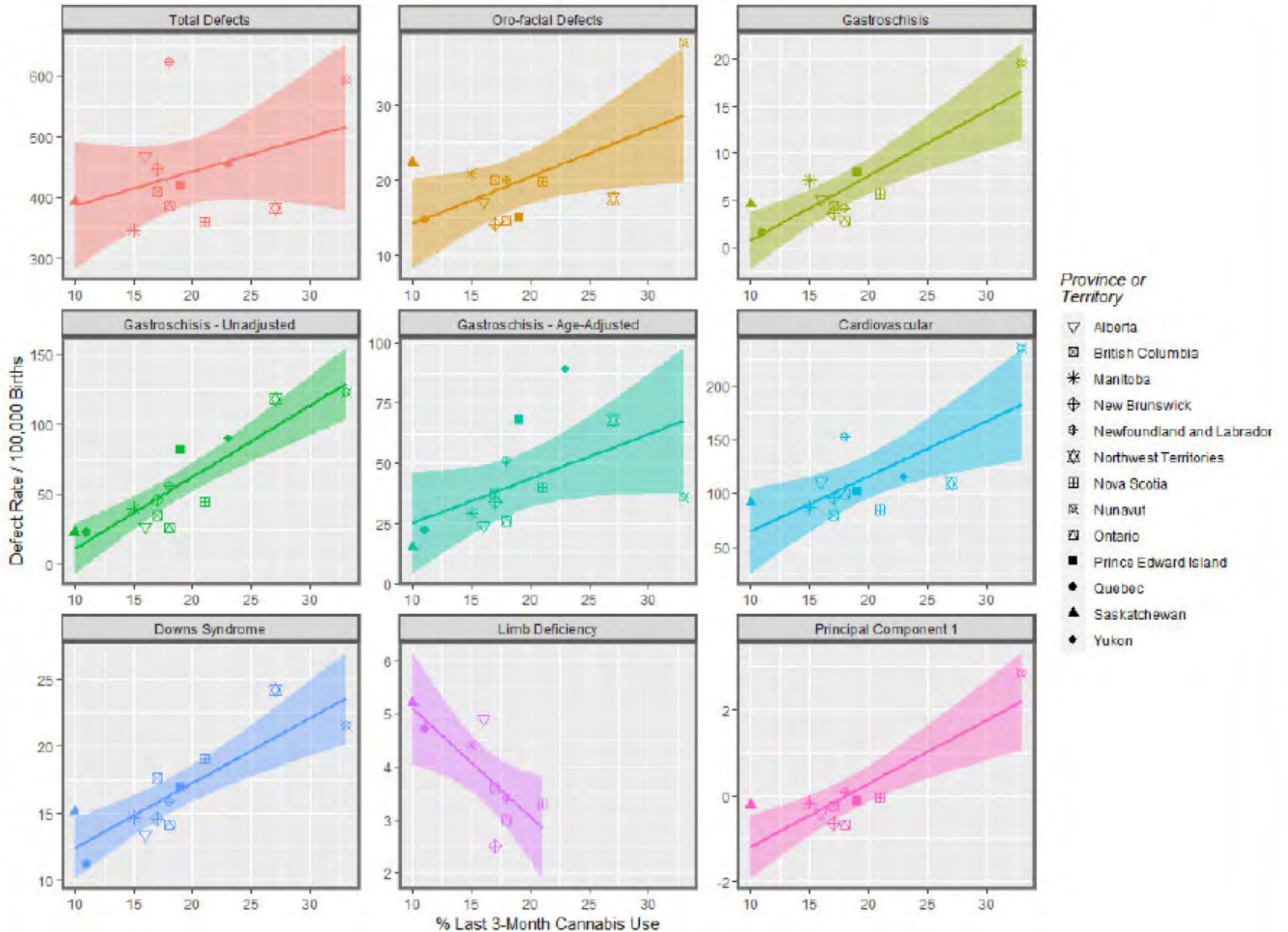
Pediatric Cancer Rate by Cannabinoid Exposure



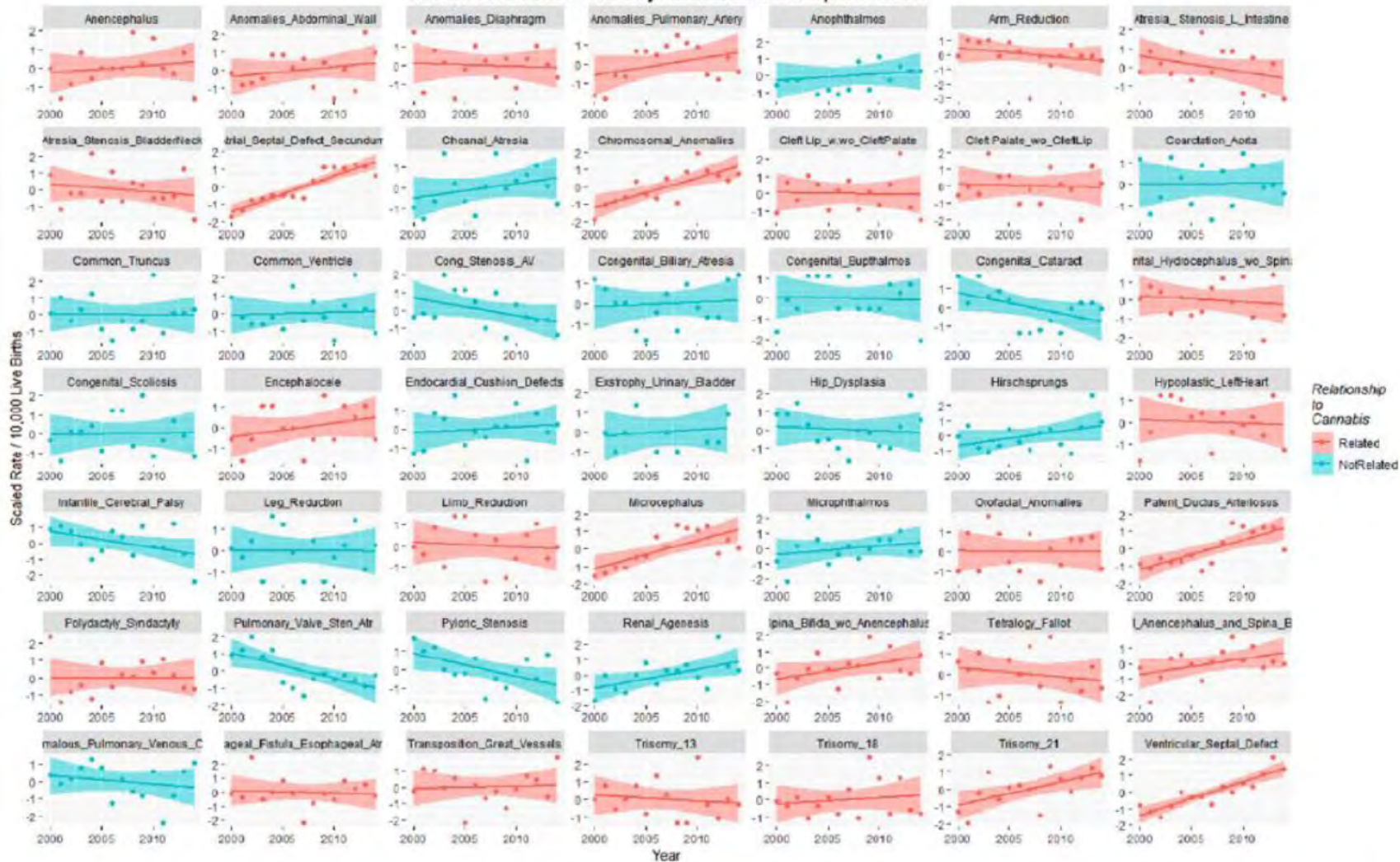
Harms

- Drivers are 16 times more likely to hit obstacles
- Causal for autism (2020)
- Genotoxic and mutagenic – pediatric cancers (2021)
- Newly confirmed or discovered birth defects (2020) – the new Thalidomide

Congenital Defect Rate by Recent Cannabis Use



Time course of Scaled Defects by Described Relationship to Cannabis



Harms

- **Drivers** are **16** times more likely to hit obstacles
- Causal for **autism** (2020)
- Genotoxic and mutagenic – **pediatric cancers** (2021)
- Newly confirmed or discovered **birth defects** (2020) – the new Thalidomide
- Points to causality in **adult cancers**

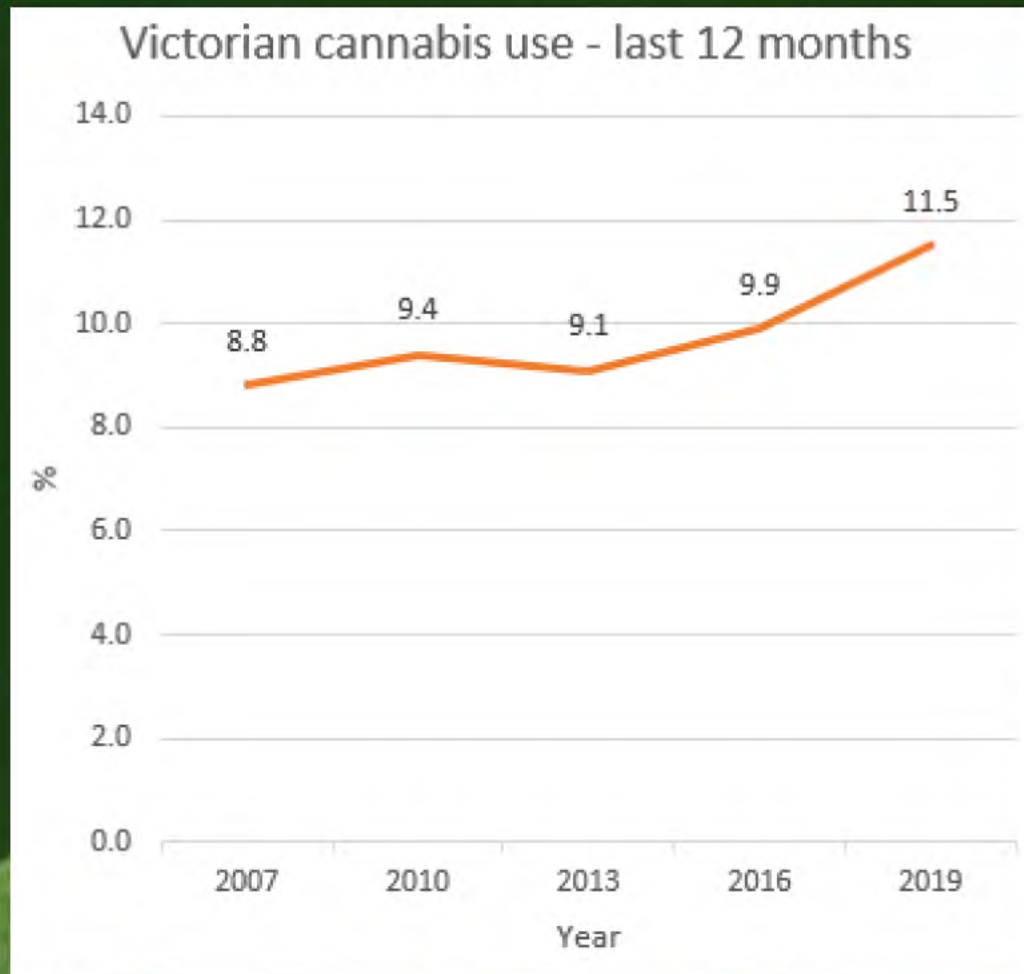
80% not approving cannabis

- Should we listen to minority activist groups or the majority of Australians?

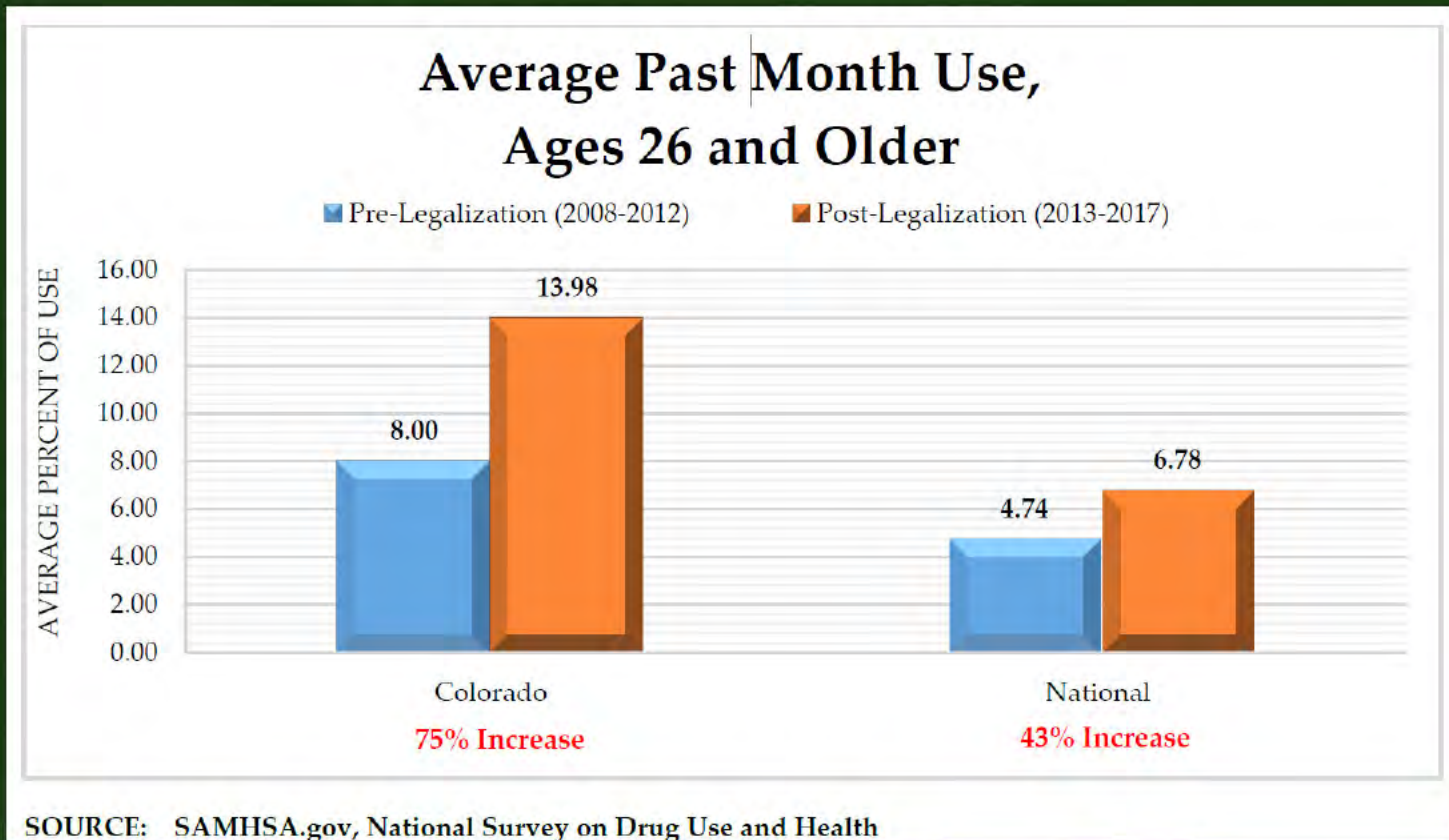
Table 9.7: Personal approval^(a) of the regular use by an adult of selected drugs, people aged 14 and over, 2007 to 2019 (per cent)

Drug	Proportion														
	Males					Females					Persons				
	2007	2010	2013	2016	2019	2007	2010	2013	2016	2019	2007	2010	2013	2016	2019
Alcohol	51.7	51.5	51.7	52.4	50.8	38.9	38.9	38.6	39.8	40.1	45.2	45.1	45.1	46.0	45.4
Tobacco	15.8	17.4	17.3	18.1	17.7	12.9	13.3	12.2	13.2	13.1	14.3	15.3	14.7	15.7	15.4
Illicit drugs (excluding pharmaceuticals)															
Marijuana/cannabis	8.7	11.0	12.6	17.8	23.6#	4.6	5.3	7.0	11.2	15.6#	6.6	8.1	9.8	14.5	19.6#
Ecstasy	2.5	3.0	3.3	3.9	5.3#	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.3#	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.9	3.8#
Meth/amphetamine ^(b)	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2
Cocaine/crack	1.8	2.2	1.9	2.0	3.0#	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.3#
Hallucinogens	2.1	3.2	4.5	5.1	8.0#	1.2	1.6	1.7	2.4	3.2#	1.7	2.4	3.1	3.7	5.6#
Inhalants	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Heroin	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
Pharmaceuticals															
Over-the-counter pain-killers/pain-relievers ^(b)	n.a.	14.4	14.8	19.5	n.a.	n.a.	14.3	14.2	18.7	n.a.	n.a.	14.3	14.5	19.1	n.a.
Prescription pain-killers/pain-relievers ^(b)	n.a.	13.4	13.0	13.2	13.3	n.a.	12.6	12.2	12.1	11.5	n.a.	13.0	12.6	12.7	12.4
Tranquilisers, sleeping pills ^(b)	4.8	7.2	9.5	10.1	10.1	3.4	5.7	6.8	8.5	8.5	4.1	6.4	8.2	9.3	9.3
Steroids ^(b)	2.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.9	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4
Methadone or buprenorphine ^(b)	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5

31% rise in illicit cannabis

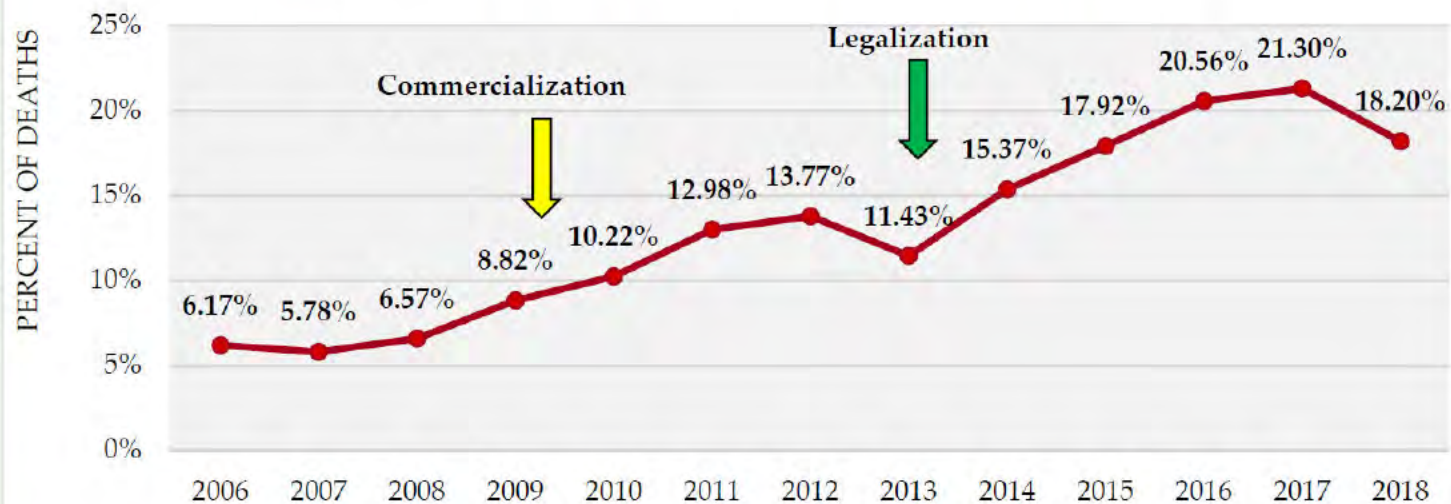


Is legalisation an option?



Is legalisation an option?

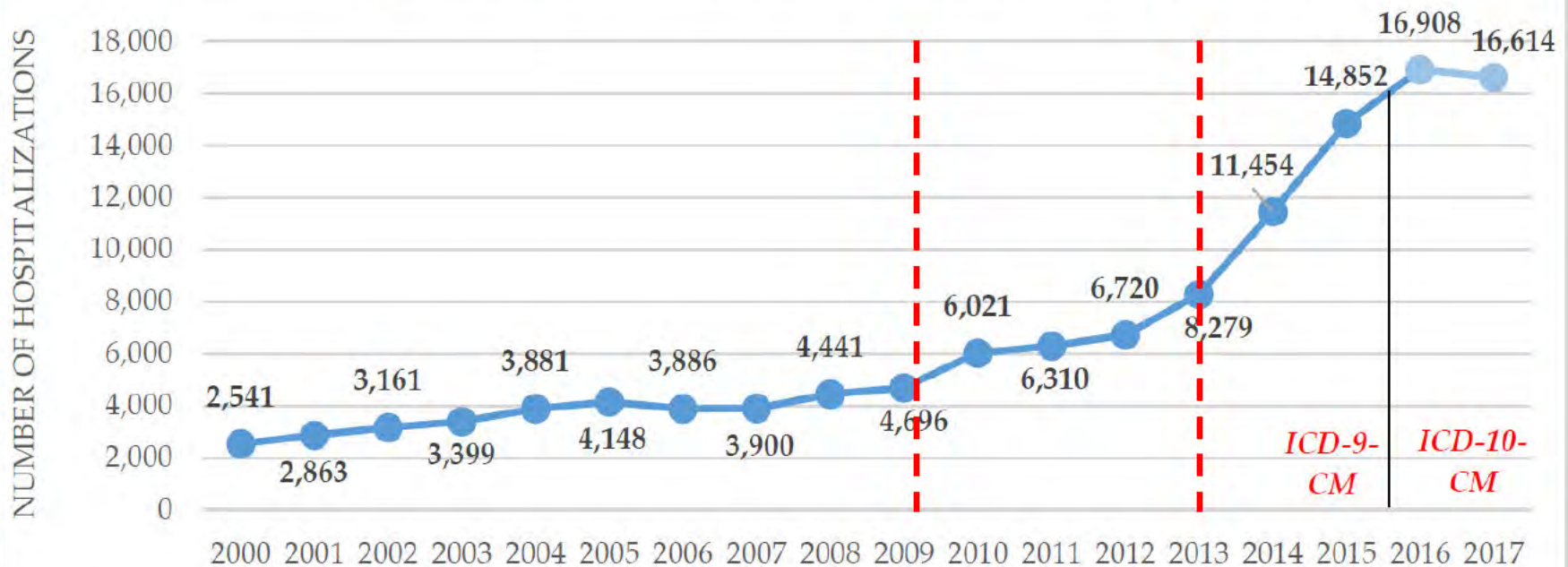
Percent of All Traffic Deaths That Were Marijuana-Related when a Driver Tested Positive for Marijuana



SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2006-2011 and Colorado Department of Transportation 2012-2018

Is legalisation an option?

Hospitalizations Related to Marijuana



SOURCE: Emergency Department Discharge Dataset, as analyzed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; 2013-2017

Is legalisation an option?

Percent of Suicides in which Marijuana was Present



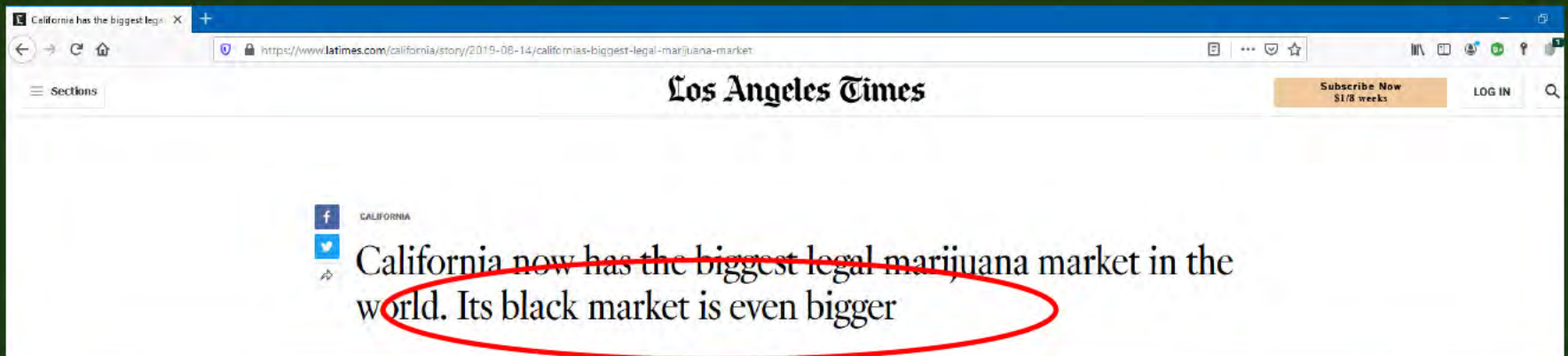
SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Violent Death Reporting System

Use tied to perception of risk

Changes in Perceived Risk

- A large majority of 12th graders perceive that regular use of any illicit drug presents great risk of harm for the user.³
- In 2015, 85 percent of 12th graders perceived great risk of harm from regular use of heroin (85 percent), crack (81 percent), cocaine (79 percent), and LSD (61 percent).³
- Among the illicit drugs, marijuana has the lowest perceived risk, with approximately one-third (32 percent) thinking regular use carries great risk.³
- Substantial proportions of 12th graders view even experimenting (i.e., using once or twice) with most of the illicit drugs as risky. But only 12 percent of 12th graders see experimenting with marijuana as entailing great risk.³
- Only 32 percent of 12th graders perceive risk of harm from regular marijuana use, which is its lowest level ever. Between 2006 and 2015, perceived risk of regular use generally declined, while current use (i.e., past 30 days) rose steadily, at least through 2012.³

Is legalisation an option?



A screenshot of a web browser displaying a Los Angeles Times article. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-14/california-biggest-legal-marijuana-market>. The page header includes the "Los Angeles Times" logo, a "Sections" menu, a "Subscribe Now \$1/8 weeks" button, and a "LOG IN" link. The main content area features a social media share icon for Facebook and the word "CALIFORNIA". The headline reads: "California now has the biggest legal marijuana market in the world. Its black market is even bigger". The words "biggest legal marijuana market" are circled in red.

But California's black market for marijuana continues to flourish as high taxes and a refusal by most cities to allow licensed shops makes it cheaper and easier for people to buy from illicit dealers, he said. An estimated \$8.7 billion is expected to be spent in the illegal cannabis market in 2019 – more than double the amount of legal sales.

We know what works

- Iceland resilience-based community approach

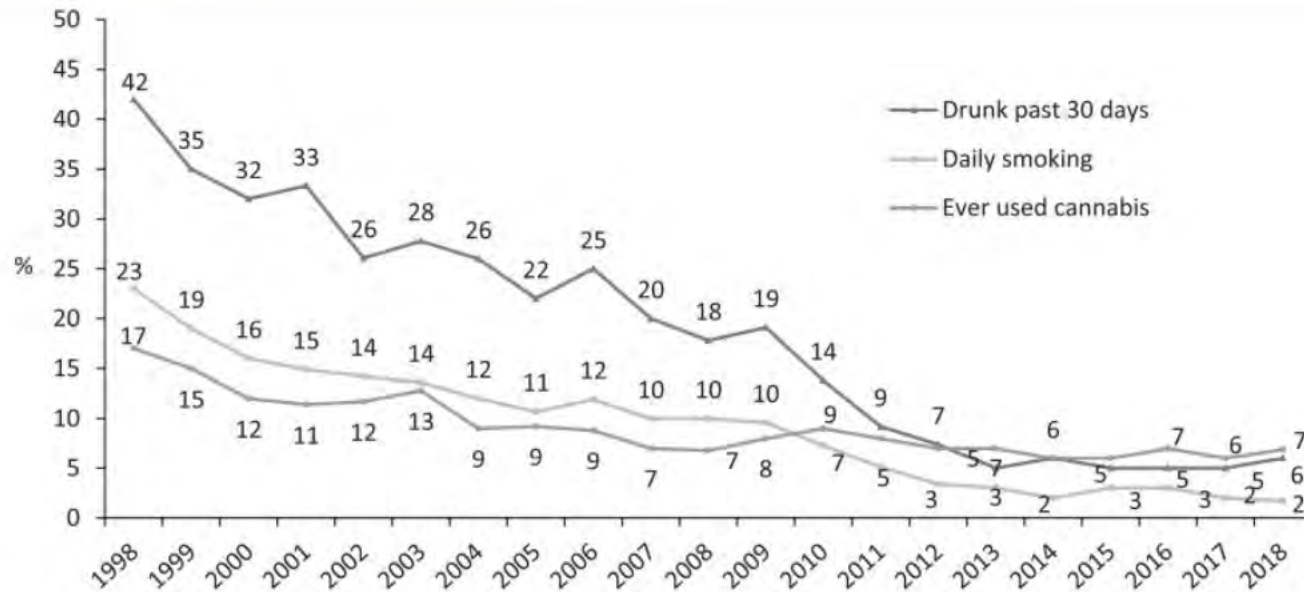


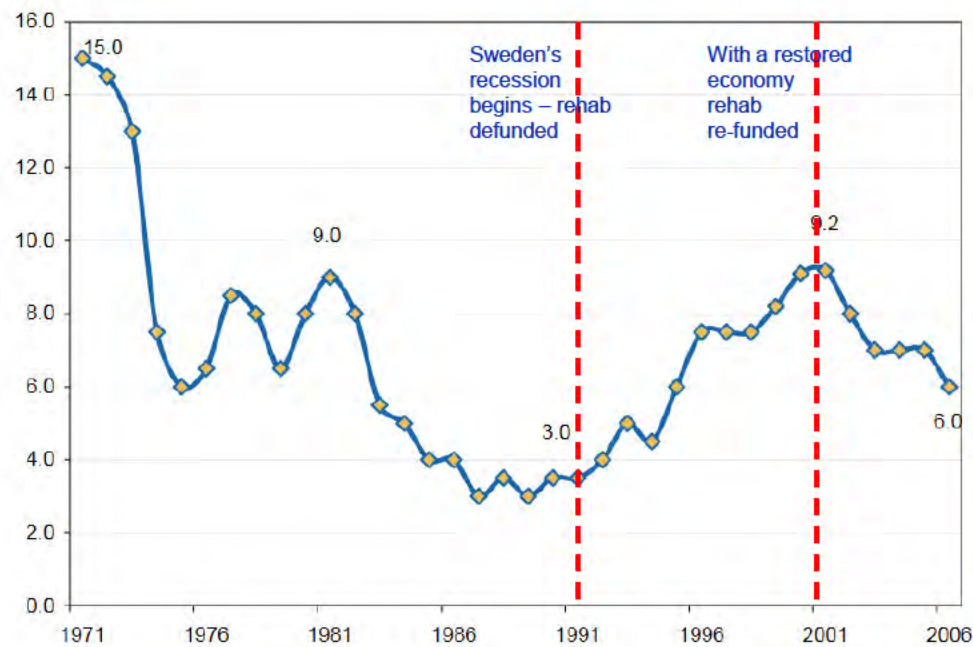
FIGURE 2 Annual Percentage of Self-Reported Substance Use Among Icelandic Adolescents, 1998-2018

SOURCE: Kristjansson et al. (2016).

We know what works

- Sweden's rehab-centric approach

Figure 5: Life-time prevalence of drug use among 15-16 year old students in Sweden, 1971-2006



Source: CAN

We know what works

Table 2.1: Summary of recent^(a) drug use, people aged 14 years or older, 1993 to 2010 (per cent)

Drug/behaviour	1993	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
Illicit drugs (excluding pharmaceuticals)							
Cannabis	12.7	13.1	17.9	12.9	11.3	9.1	10.3
Ecstasy ^(b)	1.2	0.9	2.4	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.0
Meth/amphetamines ^(c)	2.0	2.1	3.7	3.4	3.2	2.3	2.1
Cocaine	0.5	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.6	2.1
Hallucinogens	1.3	1.9	3.0	1.1	0.7	0.6	1.4
Inhalants	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6
Heroin	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Ketamine	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.3	0.2	0.2
GHB	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.1	0.1	0.1
Injectable drugs	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4
Any illicit^{(a)(d)}		17.7	22.0	16.7	15.3	13.4	14.7

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/85831350-afb6-4524-8d8d-764fa5d2d1f8/12668-20120123.pdf.aspx>
Ctrl+Click to follow link

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/85831350-afb6-4524-8d8d-764fa5d2d1f8/12668-20120123.pdf.aspx> p 8

Use of any Illicit Drug in Previous 12 Months - Australia

