

# WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

2022

CANNABIS  
CONSUMPTION  
SPACES PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ministry of  
Public Safety and  
Solicitor General

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Methodology & Demographics.....	3
Cannabis Use.....	4
Views on Cannabis Consumption Spaces.....	5
Interest in Visiting Consumption Spaces.....	7
Demographic Differences in Support and Interest in Cannabis Consumption Spaces.....	8
Views on Proposed Principles.....	10
Alcohol and Cannabis Co-location.....	11
Concerns about Cannabis Consumption Spaces.....	12
Potential Opportunities with Cannabis Consumption Spaces.....	13
Perspectives on Cannabis Consumption Spaces Based on where People Source their Cannabis.....	14
Conclusions.....	14
Appendix A: Methodology & Demographics.....	16
Telephone survey.....	16
Online survey and Written Submissions.....	17
Appendix B: Supplemental – Support and Access.....	20
Access to Spaces to Smoke or Vape Cannabis.....	20
Views on Cannabis Consumption Spaces.....	20
Appendix C: Supplemental – Consumer Preferences.....	22
Interest in Visiting Consumption Spaces.....	22
Alcohol and Cannabis Co-location.....	25
Concerns About Cannabis Consumption Spaces.....	25
Potential Opportunities with Cannabis Consumption Spaces.....	26

## Executive Summary

The Province of British Columbia is considering whether cannabis consumption spaces should be permitted and if so, how they should be regulated. “Cannabis consumption space” is a general term that refers to a business such as a cannabis lounge, a special event or other establishment that has cannabis for sale and use on-site.

In Spring 2022, the Province sought feedback on cannabis consumption spaces through a demographically and geographically representative telephone survey, an online survey and written submissions. The purpose of this engagement was to gain insight into whether people in B.C. think these spaces should be permitted and if they would visit these spaces. The Province also sought to understand the extent to which people agree or disagree with the proposed policy principles that might guide *how* these spaces could be regulated, and perspectives on potential concerns or opportunities.

Detailed findings can be found in the full report, but some key findings include:

- Overall, 61% of telephone survey respondents and 34% of online survey respondents supported cannabis consumption spaces. Differences between results from the telephone and online surveys may be partly due to the research methods used, with the online survey at greater risk of self-selection bias (i.e., participation from people who feel strongly either for or against cannabis consumption spaces) whereas telephone survey respondents were selected via random sampling.
- Most people who use cannabis were in support of consumption spaces, as were cannabis retailers, producers, and industry associations who provided written submissions. In contrast, consumption spaces were generally not supported by people who do not use cannabis and from some public health and safety organizations or local governments who provided written submissions.
- The majority of people who use cannabis reported they would visit a cannabis consumption space to purchase and use cannabis and were most interested in visiting cannabis cafés/lounges. Those who do not use cannabis indicated they are likely to avoid events and businesses permitting cannabis consumption.
- Individuals and public health and safety stakeholders were most concerned about co-location of alcohol and cannabis (e.g., cannabis and alcohol sales at the same location), and potential increased risk of people driving impaired.

The Province is grateful to all the individuals and organizations who participated. At this time, no decisions on consumption spaces have been made, pending further analysis of issues raised during this engagement.

## Introduction

In preparation for the legalization of non-medical cannabis in 2018, British Columbia enacted the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* and *Cannabis Distribution Act* to regulate the possession, personal cultivation, public consumption, sales, and distribution of non-medical cannabis.

Cannabis consumption spaces were not considered at the time of legalization because the Province had a limited time-frame to prepare a regulatory framework in advance of the federal legalization date. As well, B.C. had taken a relatively permissive approach to allow cannabis use in public spaces (with some exceptions such as in parks, on school properties and in public buildings).

The Province is now considering whether cannabis consumption spaces should be permitted. In Spring 2022, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General invited feedback from people living in British Columbia, stakeholders, and Indigenous partners. The engagement was guided by the [Non-Medical Cannabis Consumption Space Engagement Discussion Paper](#), which provided information on these spaces and outlined the proposed principles that would guide the Province's approach.

Findings from the public engagement will help inform decisions on whether cannabis consumption spaces should be permitted, and if so, how they should be regulated. The main report outlines key findings; additional detailed information is included in the Appendices.

## Methodology & Demographics

Between April and May of 2022, people aged 19+ who live in B.C. were invited to provide feedback on cannabis consumption spaces by participating in a telephone survey, an online survey, and/or by submitting a written response.

A random sample of 730 people completed the **telephone survey**, which captured opinions from those supportive, opposed, and neither supportive nor opposed to cannabis consumption spaces. To ensure the sample was representative of people living across B.C., sampling quotas were set for each Health Authority to ensure there was an adequate sample size for each region. Responses were also weighted to reflect the B.C. population in terms of age, gender, and Health Authority. In this report, findings from the telephone survey refer to the weighted sample unless otherwise noted.

The Province also conducted an **online survey** to allow more people to provide their feedback and to include additional questions beyond those in the telephone survey. There were 15,362 people who completed the online survey. This sample is larger than most B.C. public engagements, which may reflect strong opinions that some people hold about cannabis use and regulation. Online survey respondents generally held stronger opinions

than telephone survey respondents either in support or opposition to cannabis consumption spaces. However, the findings from the online survey do not necessarily represent the broader B.C. population because of the potential for self-selection bias associated with choosing to complete the online survey. For example, views on cannabis consumption spaces were strongly influenced by respondents' consumption habits, and a larger-than-expected number of online survey respondents reported using cannabis daily (versus less often).

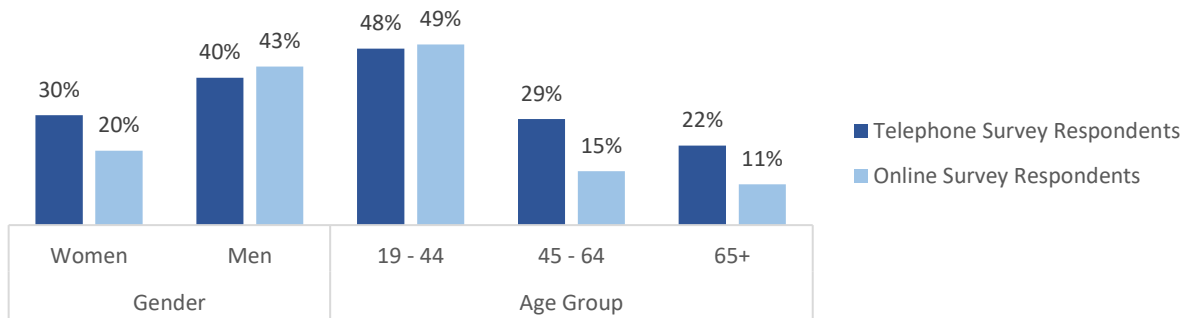
To collect feedback on proposed principles that would guide the development of cannabis consumption spaces and allow for open-ended responses, the Province invited individuals, businesses, and organizations to provide **written submissions**. Written submissions allowed respondents to provide feedback on behalf of a group (e.g., organizations, municipalities), share their subject matter expertise (e.g., road safety), and provide more detailed feedback than would be possible through a survey. In total, 66 written submissions were received. Although formal written submissions were not provided from Indigenous nations or organizations, the First Nations Leadership Council, the First Nations Health Authority, and Indigenous Tourism BC took part in prior public engagement.

Cannabis consumption spaces were broadly defined as a wide range of possible configurations (e.g., events, cannabis-primary, non-cannabis primary spaces, etc.). This reflects that the Province has not decided whether to allow consumption spaces or what specific types of spaces would be permissible. Although respondents were informed that indoor smoking and vaping would not be permitted in these spaces, some respondents may not have considered this restriction when submitting their feedback. Respondents were provided with a range of possible consumption spaces as examples, and their feedback reflected a wide range of perspectives on what a desirable space might constitute.

## Cannabis Use

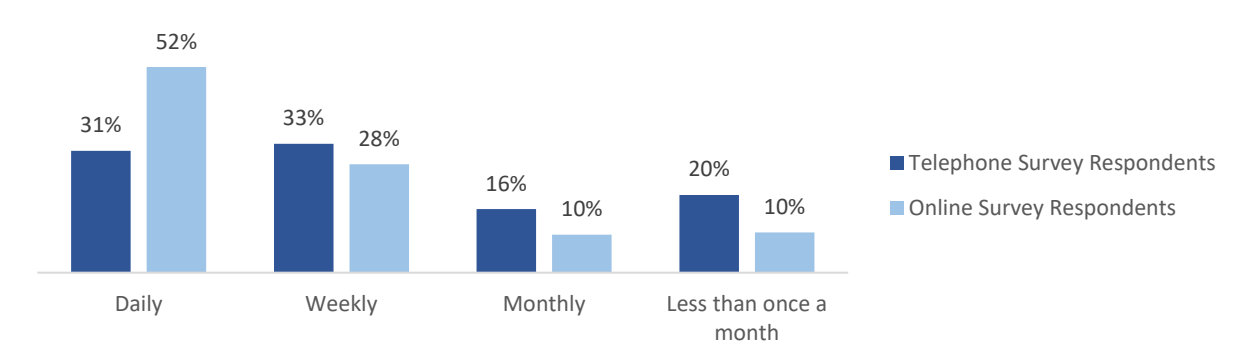
Similar to results from the [2021 BC Cannabis Use Survey](#), 35% of telephone survey respondents and 30% of online survey respondents reported using cannabis at least once in the past 12 months. As shown in Figure 1, cannabis use was more common among males than females and among respondents aged 19 to 44 years compared to older respondents, although these differences were less pronounced among telephone survey respondents.

Figure 1: Cannabis use by age and gender



As shown in Figure 2, survey respondents who used cannabis were more likely to report using cannabis at least once a week (versus less often). More than half of online survey respondents (52%) who used cannabis in the past 12 months reported using cannabis daily, while responses from those who completed the telephone survey more closely reflected results from the 2021 BC Cannabis Use Survey.

Figure 2: Frequency of cannabis use among telephone and online survey respondents who used cannabis in the past 12 months



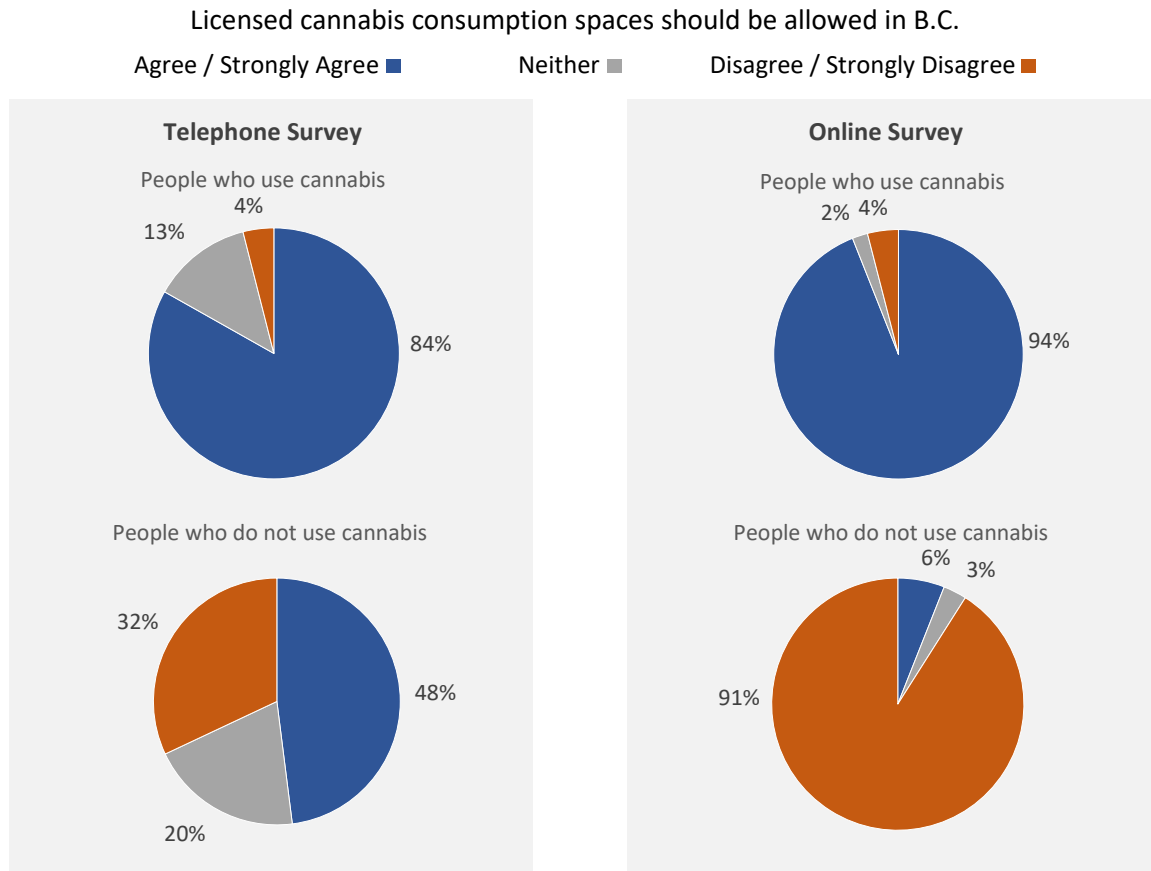
## Views on Cannabis Consumption Spaces

When asked whether licensed cannabis consumption spaces should be allowed in B.C., most telephone survey respondents were in support (61%), including 84% of those who use cannabis and 48% of those who do not use cannabis (see Figure 3). In contrast, only 34% of all online survey respondents expressed support for consumption spaces. Online respondents had strong views on cannabis consumption spaces that were dependent on their consumption habits, with 94% of people who use cannabis supporting these spaces, and 91% of people who do not use cannabis opposing these spaces

Likewise, written submissions tended to reflect either strong support for or against cannabis consumption spaces. Most cannabis industry-affiliated respondents expressed

support, while public health and safety organizations and local governments either expressed caution or opposition to these spaces.

Figure 3: Views on cannabis consumption spaces based by cannabis use



Across both surveys there was greater support for cannabis consumption spaces among people who use cannabis for non-medical purposes than those who use it only for medical purposes.

Survey respondents were also asked how comfortable they would be if a cannabis consumption space was in their neighbourhood. Few respondents who support consumption spaces stated that they would be uncomfortable if these spaces were located in their neighborhoods (25% telephone survey; 3% online survey). Conversely, most respondents who opposed these spaces indicated they would not feel comfortable with them in their neighbourhoods (99% in telephone and online surveys). Among those who neither agreed nor disagreed with allowing cannabis consumption spaces, most indicated they would not feel comfortable if these spaces were located in their neighbourhoods (53% telephone survey; 65% online survey).

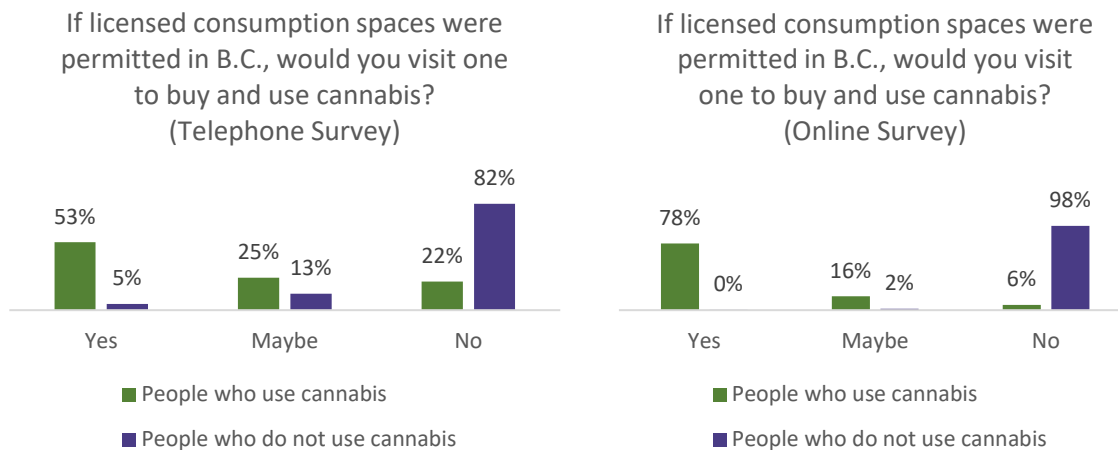


It is important to note that a limitation of the survey was that it did not specifically define a “neighbourhood” or the type of consumption space that may be located in one’s neighbourhood. Respondents may have different interpretations of “neighbourhood” as their immediate area (e.g., their street) or multiple neighbourhood blocks. Likewise, there was limited opportunity to probe the extent to which respondent concerns were specifically related to cannabis more broadly, a specific type of consumption space, or could be related to any other types of businesses or events being in their neighbourhood.

## Interest in Visiting Consumption Spaces

To assess potential interest in consumption spaces, survey respondents were asked to indicate if they would visit these spaces to buy and use cannabis. Most respondents who use cannabis were interested in visiting a cannabis consumption space, and few respondents who do not use cannabis were interested in visiting these spaces (see Figure 4). Across both surveys, those who use cannabis for non-medical purposes indicated greater interest in visiting a consumption space compared to those who use cannabis for only medical purposes. Considering that an estimated 1.4 million people living in British Columbia reported using cannabis at least once in the past year (based on the 2021 BC Cannabis Use Survey), there may be at least 750,000 people in B.C. who are interested in visiting a cannabis consumption space at least once.

Figure 4: Interest in visiting a consumption space to buy and use cannabis



Online respondents were asked additional questions to provide insight on their views and preferences. For example, online respondents who use cannabis were generally interested in buying and using cannabis at multiple types of consumption spaces, including cannabis cafes or lounges (94%), festivals and events (80%), food and drink businesses (79%), and



cannabis-secondary businesses<sup>1</sup> that allow for the sale and use of cannabis (84%). When asked which type of consumption spaces respondents were *most* interested in visiting, half of respondents (50%) selected cannabis cafes or lounges, while festivals and events (18%), food and drink businesses (14%), and cannabis-secondary businesses (12%) were less frequently selected.

Additionally, online respondents who use cannabis were asked to indicate the top three factors that would make cannabis consumption spaces more attractive. Availability of food and non-alcoholic beverages for sale was most favoured (34% of respondents), followed closely by comfortable seating and a welcoming atmosphere (33% of respondents), and providing social activities, such as board games, pool, and arcade games (31% of respondents).<sup>2</sup>

Among online respondents, those who do not use cannabis reported that they would avoid events (93%), food businesses (90%) and cannabis-secondary businesses (91%) that allowed for cannabis to be sold and used on-site. Reasons cited for avoiding these spaces were typically the potential for smoke or odours, the presence of intoxicated people, and to a lesser extent, the risk of contamination or accidental cannabis ingestion (see Appendix C for more details). Of those that use cannabis, a smaller number reported they would avoid events (13%), food businesses (15%) and cannabis-secondary businesses (16%), citing similar reasons.

## Demographic Differences in Support and Interest in Cannabis Consumption Spaces

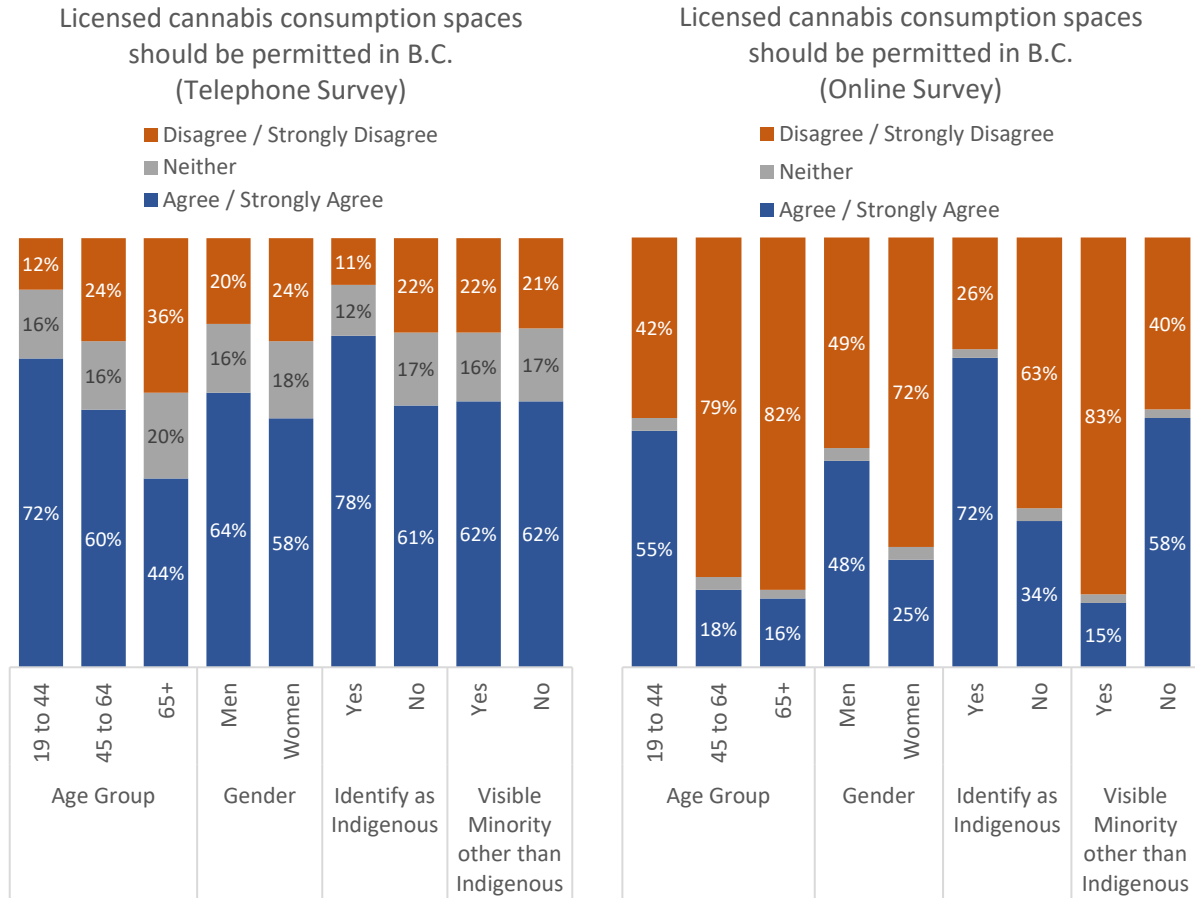
There were some demographic differences in respondents' support or opposition to cannabis consumption spaces in both the telephone and online surveys, which reflected differences in the prevalence of cannabis use across different groups. For example, as shown in Figure 5, there was greater support for consumption spaces among younger respondents than older respondents. Moreover, among those who use cannabis, those aged 19 to 44 were also more interested in visiting consumption spaces (81% online, 62% telephone) than those aged 45 to 64 (72% online, 41% telephone) and those aged 65+ (59% online, 38% telephone).

---

<sup>1</sup> Cannabis-secondary businesses are defined as businesses that allow for cannabis sale and consumption, but this is not the main purpose of the business. Examples of these businesses include a spa that offers topical cannabis treatments and a theatre that serves cannabis beverages.

<sup>2</sup> There were 32% of respondents who indicated that permitting indoor smoking and vaping would make these spaces more attractive, however the Province is not considering permitting indoor smoking and vaping.

Figure 5. Views on consumption spaces by demographic variables



Overall there was greater support for cannabis consumption spaces among men than women in the online survey (48% and 25%), but the gap was narrower in the telephone survey (64% and 52%). When considering only cannabis users, the online survey suggested men and women were comparable (79% and 77%), while the telephone survey suggested more men than women were interested in visiting these spaces (61% and 42%).

Support for consumption spaces was similar across each Health Authority. However, there was greater geographic variation in the opposition expressed by people who do not use cannabis with higher levels of opposition coming from Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health. Among those who use cannabis, support ranged from 92% to 95% in the online survey, and between 74% and 84% in the telephone survey. However, opposition from those who do not use cannabis ranged from 80% to 94% across Health Authorities in the online survey, and 24% to 48% in the telephone survey.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> In the online survey, there were notable differences in support for consumption spaces by Health Authority, but these were primarily due to differences in the prevalence of cannabis use among respondents in each Health Authority (see Appendix A;

Indigenous respondents were more likely to express support for cannabis consumption spaces than non-Indigenous respondents. Among online survey respondents<sup>4</sup> who used cannabis, 75% of Indigenous respondents and 65% of non-Indigenous respondents indicated interested in visiting a consumption space.

In the online survey, only 15% of those who identify as a visible minority support consumption spaces, compared to 58% who were not a visible minority, which is a significant variance. However, this difference did not emerge in the telephone survey, with equal support among these two groups. There was a relatively larger proportion of respondents who identify as a visible minority in the online survey (42%) versus the telephone survey (11%).

## Views on Proposed Principles

The [\*Non-Medical Cannabis Consumption Space Engagement Discussion Paper\*](#) outlined five proposed principles that would guide the Province's approach to cannabis consumption spaces. These principles build on the Province's cannabis legalization goals and reflect initial feedback gathered from key organizations in public health and safety, the cannabis industry, tourism and hospitality sectors, and local governments and Indigenous organizations in Fall 2021. The five principles are:

1. Prioritize public health and safety
2. Encourage consumers to transition to regulated products
3. "Start low and go slow"
4. Collaborate with Indigenous Peoples
5. Respect local control over land-use decisions

Written respondents were specifically asked to provide their feedback on the proposed principles. Of the 25 written responses that included input on the proposed principles, most cannabis industry-affiliated businesses and public health and safety organizations agreed with the principles.

Many cannabis-affiliated businesses saw the proposed principles as a helpful framework for the Province to allow cannabis consumption spaces responsibly. A few respondents indicated their concern that the Province may start too slowly or place too many restrictions initially, but most agreed with the "start low and go slow" approach and proposed starting with spaces where consumption already occurs but isn't currently regulated (for example, music festivals).

---

e.g., lower than expected rates of cannabis use among online respondents from Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities).

<sup>4</sup> Too few responses were received from those completing the telephone survey to draw meaningful conclusions about interest in visiting consumption spaces.

Some public health and safety respondents provided feedback that public health should be the Province's primary focus. There was concern that the principle of encouraging consumers to transition to regulated (from illicit) cannabis products would emphasize economic development considerations over public health ones. Additionally, some respondents were concerned that there is not enough public health and safety data available to understand potential impacts of developing cannabis consumption spaces.

Feedback from local government stakeholders confirmed support for the proposed principle of respecting local control over land-use decisions. Some local governments indicated that they would likely use that control to prohibit or strictly limit consumption spaces within their jurisdiction.

Given that it was less likely that respondents would have reviewed the Discussion Paper, telephone and online survey respondents were not asked their opinion on the proposed principles. However, the overall survey instruments included questions that explore aspects of how the principles may apply to specific examples, such as comfort with cannabis consumption spaces in a neighbourhood, cannabis and alcohol co-location, and identifying concerns and opportunities.

## Alcohol and Cannabis Co-location

Based on pre-engagement with stakeholders in 2021, a controversial and complex issue identified for further exploration in the engagement was whether alcohol and cannabis should be sold together. Respondents were asked about whether alcohol and cannabis should be available for purchase and use at the same place (e.g., in a bar or restaurant). Telephone survey respondents had similar levels of support (42%) and opposition (41%) for alcohol and cannabis co-location, while online survey respondents were more likely to be opposed to co-location (64%) than to support it (32%).<sup>5</sup> Conversely, those who use cannabis were more likely to support co-location.

Most respondents who provided a written submission, particularly those from public health and safety organizations, opposed co-location. The most common reason for opposing co-location was the greater challenge it would present, both for individual customers and for business owners, in assessing intoxication and preventing over-consumption. However, most cannabis industry-affiliated organizations were supportive of co-location, with some raising arguments around individual choice and identifying economic challenges with prohibiting co-location (e.g., feasibility of establishing separate cannabis hospitality businesses competing with liquor hospitality businesses, especially in rural areas).

---

<sup>5</sup> The remaining respondents indicated that they neither agreed nor disagreed that alcohol and cannabis should be co-located.

Online survey respondents who identified they would visit a cannabis consumption space were also asked what they would purchase if co-location was permitted. Although 43% of people who use cannabis identified that they would purchase both cannabis and alcohol, it is difficult to draw specific conclusions regarding impacts to public health and safety. The 2021 BC Cannabis Use Survey showed that, among people who use cannabis, some people report sometimes (58%) or always (7%) using it in combination with alcohol.

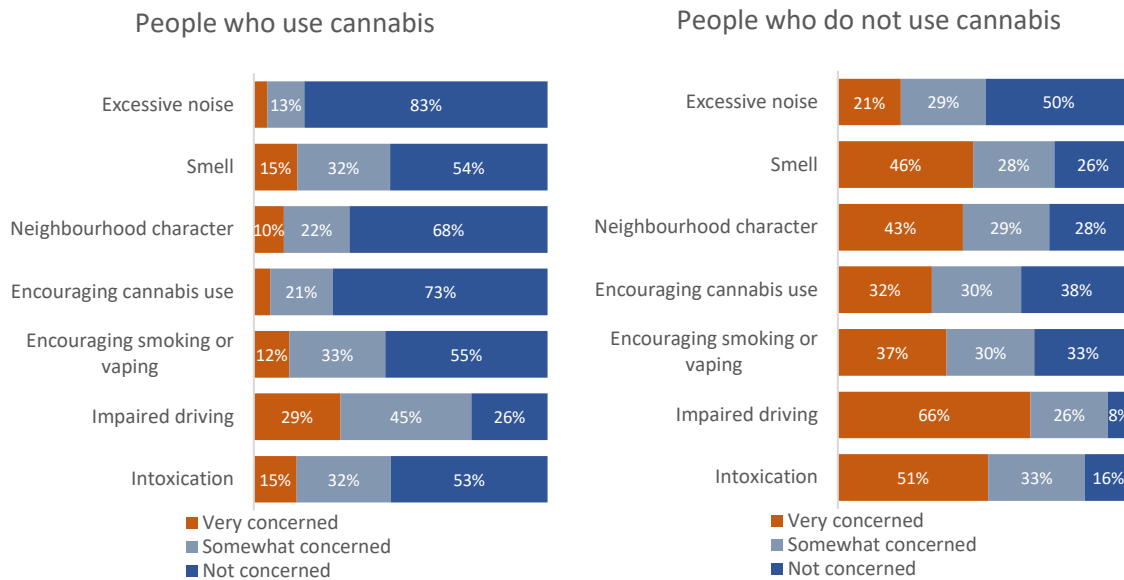
## Concerns about Cannabis Consumption Spaces

To learn more about the perceived risks of cannabis consumption spaces, survey respondents were asked to indicate their extent of concern for a series of potential issues. In general, those who use cannabis reported fewer concerns than people who do not use cannabis. Findings from the telephone and online surveys reflected similar patterns, so the figures presented in this section only show results from the telephone survey, with results from the online survey included in Appendix C.

Respondents were most concerned about increases in cannabis-impaired driving, followed by people becoming too intoxicated, and the smell of cannabis. Relative to those who use cannabis, those who do not use cannabis were more likely to report concerns about the potential impact of consumption spaces on neighbourhood character, and that these spaces could encourage cannabis use (see Figure 6).

Some telephone survey respondents also reported other concerns not listed in the questionnaire, such as the impact of consumption spaces on children and youth (3.3%), increased public health costs due to health impacts on those that use cannabis (2.1%), and broader public health impacts, including second-hand smoke (2.0%).

Figure 6: Concerns associated with cannabis consumption spaces among telephone survey respondents<sup>6</sup>



Individuals, public health and safety organizations, and local governments who provided written submissions were also concerned with increased risks of impaired driving, second-hand smoke, the normalization of smoking behaviour, and resource constraints for police or bylaw officers that may impact compliance and enforcement activities to confirm that businesses and consumers are abiding by any established requirements.

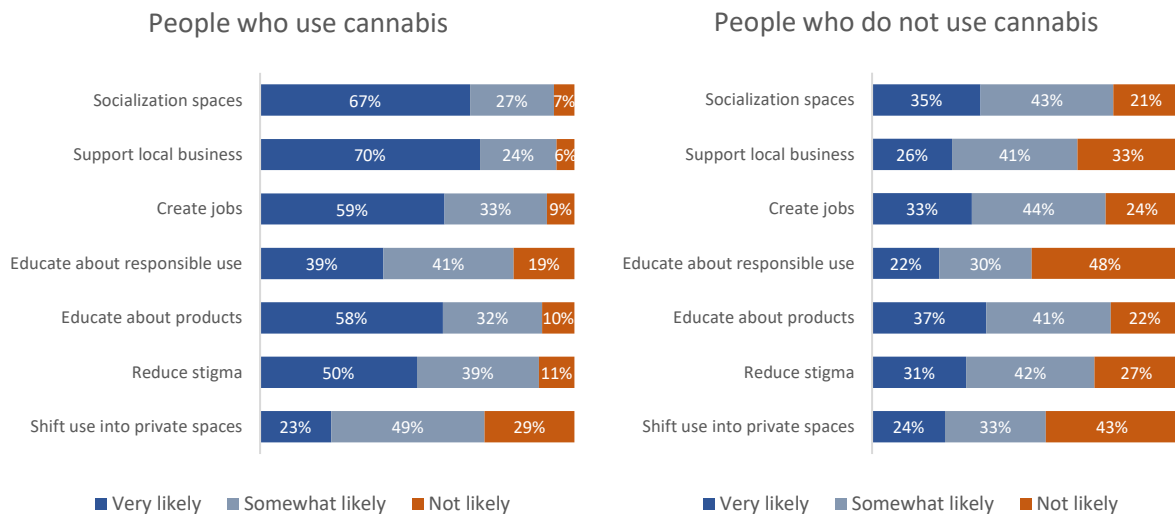
## Potential Opportunities with Cannabis Consumption Spaces

Respondents were also asked to indicate the likelihood that consumption spaces would lead to potential opportunities. People who use cannabis generally felt that there were more opportunities than people who do not use cannabis. Only findings from the demographically representative telephone survey are presented – the online survey responses (see Appendix C) were highly skewed based on support for or against consumption spaces generally.

Respondents tended to see cannabis consumption spaces as a way to provide spaces for people to socialize, create jobs, and educate people about cannabis products. People who use cannabis also expected consumption spaces to support local businesses and to reduce stigma associated with cannabis use. Education about responsible cannabis use and shifting use into private spaces were generally viewed as less likely to occur compared to other potential opportunities (see Figure 7).

<sup>6</sup> Data labels for responses ≤5% have been removed for visual purposes.

Figure 7: Opportunities from cannabis consumption spaces identified by telephone survey respondents



Individuals and cannabis industry-affiliated organizations who provided written responses identified that consumption spaces could educate consumers about safe consumption, support the economy by increasing legal cannabis sales and generate more government business revenue.

## Perspectives on Cannabis Consumption Spaces Based on where People Source their Cannabis

One of the Province’s top priorities for the cannabis sector is to reduce the size and scope of the illicit cannabis market. To understand whether cannabis consumption spaces might influence the behavior of people who buy from illicit cannabis sources, respondents were asked to indicate where they bought their cannabis products from in the past year.

In the telephone survey, respondents who buy cannabis from only legal or only illicit sources were equally interested in visiting consumption spaces (53% and 47%, respectively), while those who buy cannabis from both legal and illicit sources were more likely to be interested in visiting these spaces (74%). Similar findings emerged from the online survey, with similar interest between those who buy from only legal (78%) or only illicit sources (72%), and greater interest from those who buy from both legal and illicit sources (88%).

## Conclusions

Overall, findings from the public engagement demonstrate that support and interest for cannabis consumption spaces is largely dependent on whether a person uses cannabis,



though almost half of non-users (48%) completing the demographically weighted telephone survey indicated that they would support consumption spaces. In all, most people (61%) living in British Columbia who completed the telephone survey supported consumption spaces. People who use cannabis support the development of these spaces and identify more potential opportunities, while people who do not use cannabis are more likely to oppose these spaces and have more concerns.

Cannabis consumption spaces were supported by most telephone survey respondents (61%), but only one third (34%) of online survey respondents. In part, this difference may be due to the sampling methods that were used to recruit respondents – telephone survey respondents were randomly selected and not necessarily actively seeking to participate in the engagement, while online survey respondents were more likely motivated to participate in order to express strongly held views.

Across all three engagement channels, regardless of *whether* respondents were in favour of consumption spaces or not, most responses aligned with the proposed principles that could guide the Province's approach to *how* consumption spaces could be regulated. This was particularly the case in terms of the principles of prioritizing public health and safety, and local control over land-use decisions. However, some respondents placed emphasis on different principles, largely dependent on the focus of their organization.

Feedback from this engagement will help inform decisions by the Province on whether to allow consumption spaces, and if so, how this should be done. The Ministry would like to sincerely thank those who took the time to provide their feedback by telephone, online or written submission.

# Appendix A: Methodology & Demographics

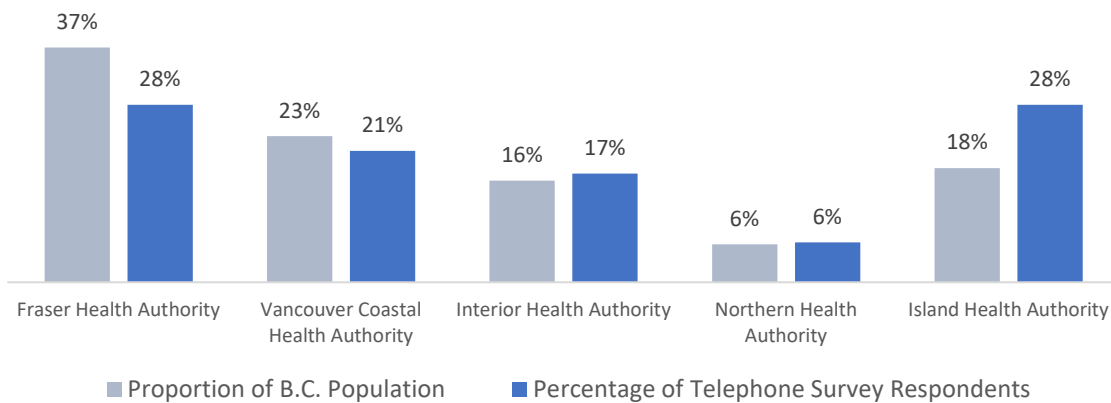
## Telephone survey

Between April and June of 2022, the Province conducted a telephone survey to obtain feedback from a random sample of people aged 19+ who live in B.C. In total, 730 people completed the telephone survey. There were more responses from those who identify as women (54%) compared to men (45%), two-spirit (0.3%), or gender-diverse (0.4%), and more responses from those aged 65+ (47%) compared to those aged 19 to 44 (25%) and 45 to 64 (28%).

The sample included 3.7% of respondents who identified as Indigenous, and 10.9% of respondents who identified as a member of visible minority group other than Indigenous. The most frequently reported visible minority groups were South Asian (1.9% of total sample) and Chinese (1.8% of total sample).

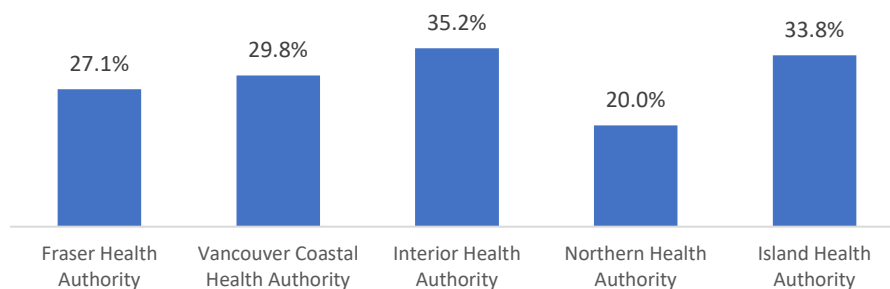
Figure 1 shows the population size of each Health Authority area as a proportion of the B.C. population compared against the proportion of responses from each Health Authority (prior to weighting).

Supplemental Figure 1: Percentage of telephone survey respondents and the proportion of the B.C. population residing in each Health Authority



The prevalence of cannabis use was similar across Health Authorities in the telephone survey, with the exception of fewer respondents in the Northern Health Authority reporting cannabis use in the past 12-months.

Supplemental Figure 2: Percentage of telephone survey respondents who reported using cannabis in each Health Authority in B.C. (unweighted)



### Online survey and Written Submissions

To encourage members of public to provide feedback, the Province issued a news release and distributed notifications to Indigenous nations, Indigenous organizations, public health and public safety stakeholders, local governments, and cannabis industry organizations, as well as engaged in other media activities.

#### Online Survey

The Province also conducted an online survey between April and May of 2022, which included the same questions as the telephone survey, as well as additional questions to gauge consumer preferences (see Appendix C). The online survey was open to all people aged 19+ living in B.C., and people who completed the telephone survey were also sent a link inviting them to complete the additional questions in the online survey.

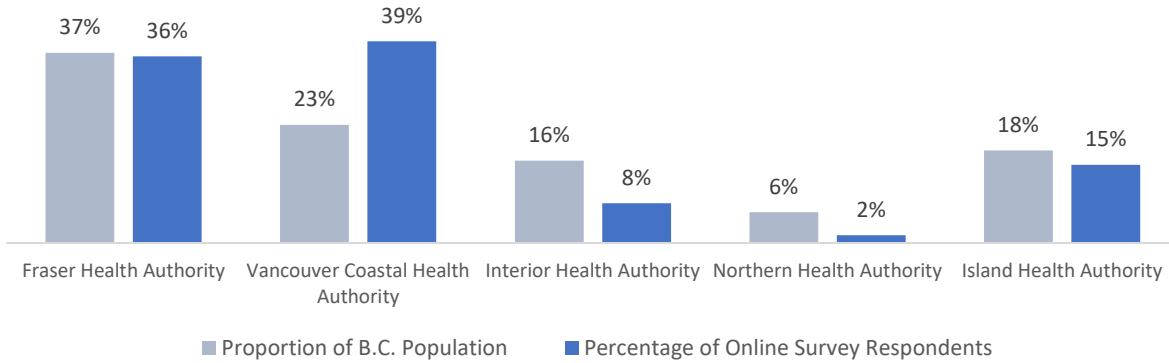
There were 15,362 people who completed the online survey.<sup>7</sup> Respondents tended to be individuals aged 25 to 44 (42%) or 45 to 64 (40%) and were more likely to identify as women (58%) than men (41%), two-spirit (0.3%), or gender-diverse (1.3%).

There were 3.2% of respondents who identified as Indigenous, and a further 42.2% who identified as a members of a visible minority group other than Indigenous. The most frequently reported visible minority group was Chinese (25.4% of total sample), followed by South Asian (1.3%). Figure 3 shows the proportions of responses from each Health Authority, as well as the estimated population size of each Health Authority area as a proportion of the B.C. population.

---

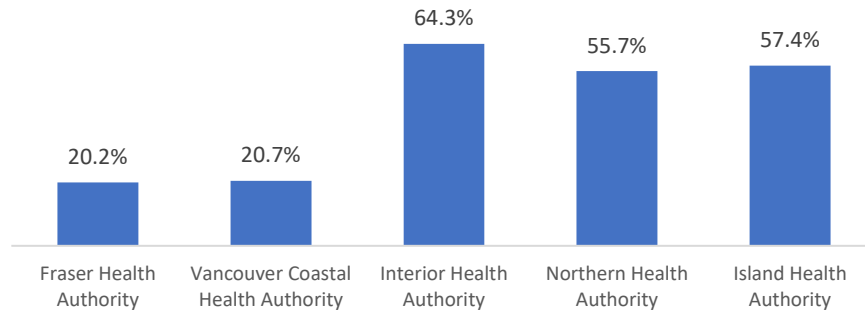
<sup>7</sup> When the online survey was launched there was a technical error that prevented some of the questions being presented to respondents. The error was resolved during the first day that the survey was live, but it impacted the survey for 1,131 respondents. However, findings on the available items were not significantly different between these respondents and respondents who completed the survey on subsequent days, so all responses were retained for analysis.

Supplemental Figure 3: Percentage of online survey respondents and the proportion of the B.C. population residing in each Health Authority.



There were large differences in the prevalence of cannabis use by Health Authority among online survey respondents. Respondents from Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities had lower reported rates of cannabis use compared to the 2021 BC Cannabis Use Survey (26% in Fraser Health and 30% in Vancouver Coastal Health) while Interior Health, Northern Health and Island Health all had higher rates (39% in Interior Health, 38% in Northern Health, and 40% in Island Health). These results suggest that there may have been regional differences in self-selection bias from the online survey. Some regions may have had more cannabis users than non-users who are interested in participating, while other regions may have had greater engagement from non-users who live there.

Supplemental Figure 4: Percentage of online survey respondents who report using cannabis in each Health Authority in B.C.



### Written submissions

The Province received 66 written submissions from individuals and organizations, including cannabis-affiliated respondents (e.g., producers, retailers, associations), public health and safety stakeholders (e.g., Health Authorities, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, etc.) and municipalities. Written submissions from organizations can be reviewed [here](#).

## Appendix B: Supplemental – Support and Access

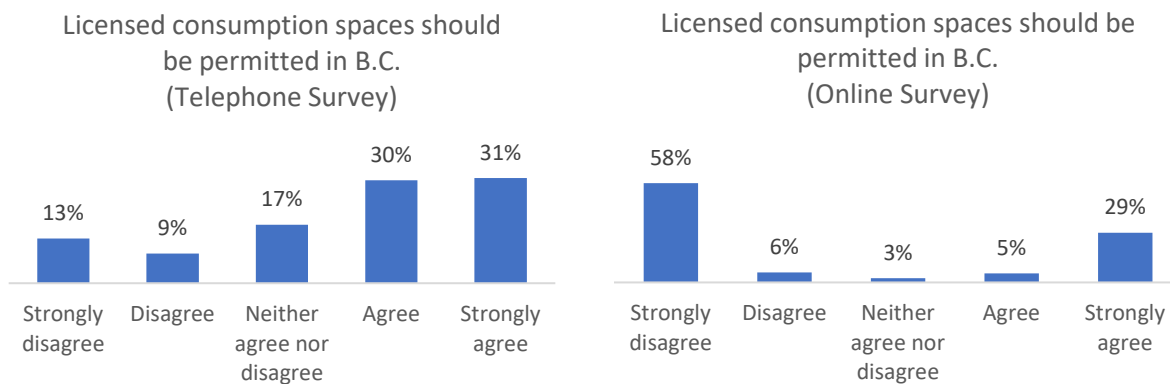
Additional information is included below regarding respondents' access to spaces to smoke and vape cannabis. Furthermore, while the main report provides information generally related to telephone survey results on cannabis consumption, additional supplementary figures below outline views on cannabis consumption spaces across both surveys, including by Health Authority and by use of medical or non-medical cannabis.

### Access to Spaces to Smoke or Vape Cannabis

Though B.C. law generally allows consumption of cannabis in public places, local and Indigenous governments, strata associations and landlords may place restrictions that further limit spaces where cannabis can be used. To understand what impact that may have on people living in British Columbia, survey respondents were asked if they had access to a space to smoke or vape cannabis. Most telephone respondents who use cannabis reported having a space to smoke or vape cannabis (79%), although this was only true for around half of online survey respondents (53%). Around one quarter (24%) of online survey respondents and 10% of telephone survey respondents reported that it has been very difficult to access a space to smoke or vape cannabis. Challenges in accessing a space were mostly attributed to provincial regulations, local government bylaws, strata rules, or tenancy agreements.

### Views on Cannabis Consumption Spaces

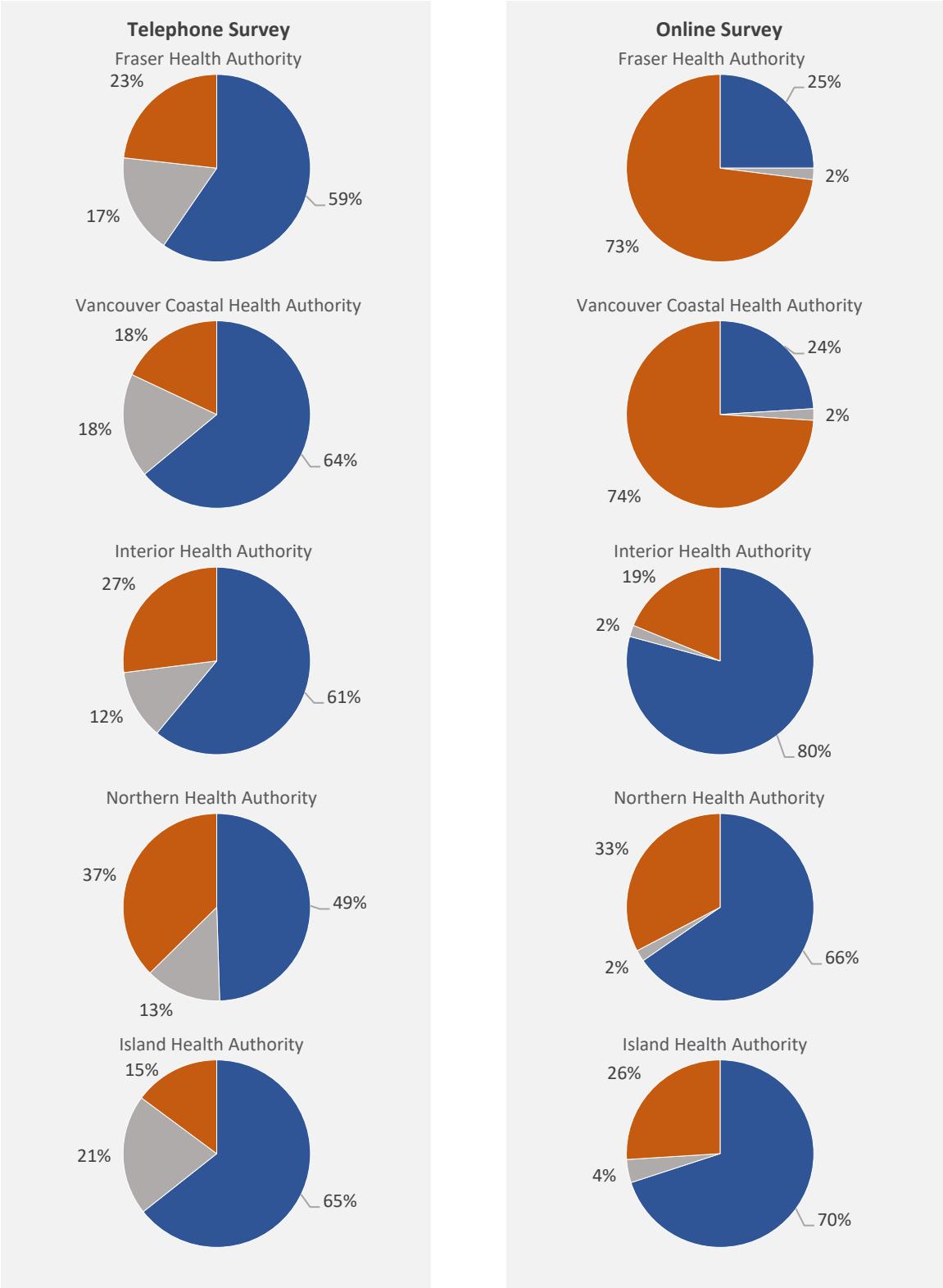
Supplemental Figure 5: Views on cannabis consumption spaces among all telephone and online survey respondents



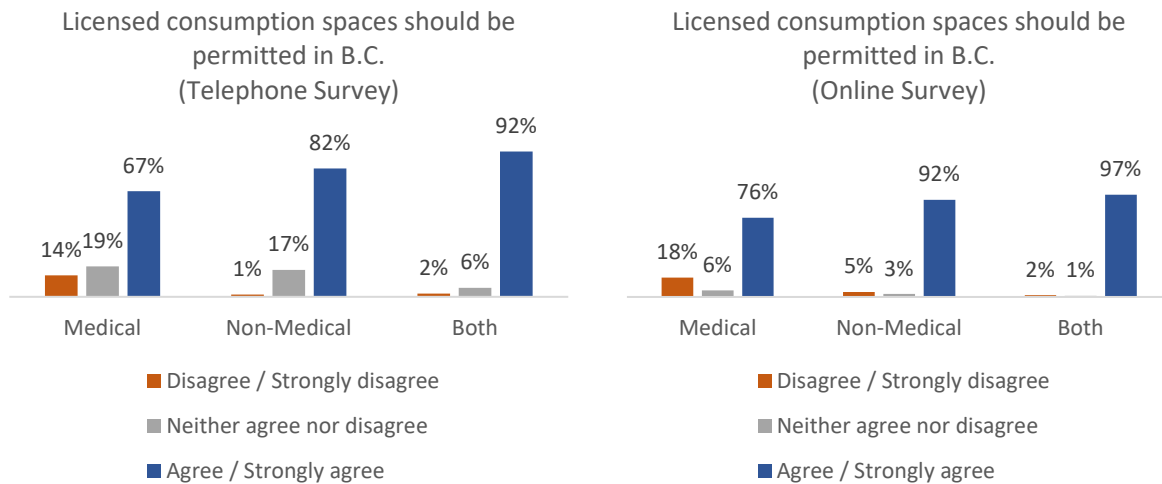
Supplemental Figure 6: Views on consumption spaces by Health Authority

Licensed cannabis consumption spaces should be allowed in B.C.

Agree / Strongly Agree ■      Neither ■      Disagree / Strongly Disagree ■



Supplemental Figure 7: Views on consumption spaces among medical and non-medical cannabis users



## Appendix C: Supplemental – Consumer Preferences

The online survey allowed the Province to ask additional questions to gauge consumer preferences. As noted in the main report, online survey respondents had strong opinions either in support or opposition to cannabis consumption spaces. Nevertheless, the responses collected provide greater insight into how respondents feel about consumption spaces and their interest in visiting (or avoiding) these spaces.

### Interest in Visiting Consumption Spaces

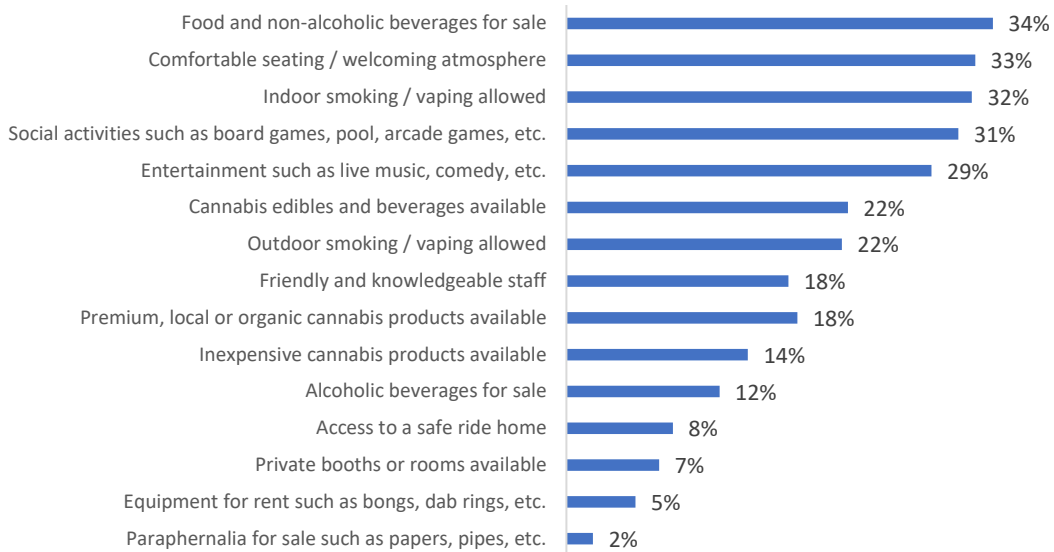
#### Factors Making Cannabis Consumption Spaces More Attractive

Online respondents who used cannabis in the past 12 months were asked to select up to three factors that would make cannabis businesses more attractive. “Cannabis businesses” were defined as places where the primary purpose of the business is the sale and use of cannabis.



## Supplemental Figure 8: Factors Making Cannabis Primary Businesses Attractive

For businesses where the primary purpose is the sale and use of cannabis, what factors would make these businesses attractive? (Online Survey)

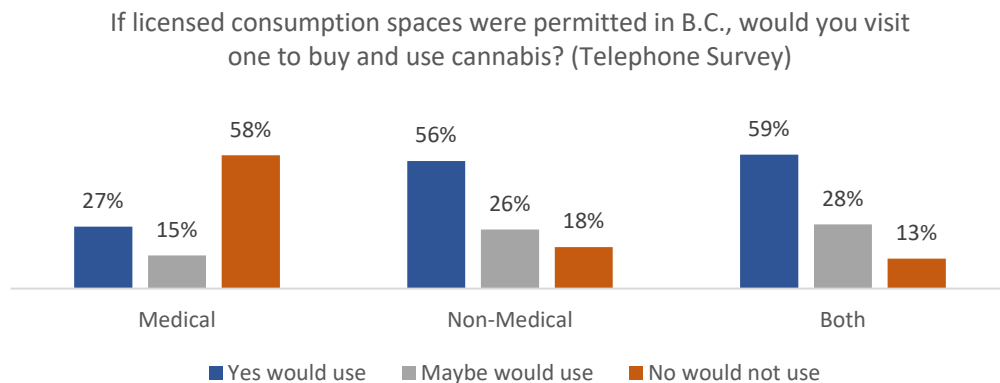


### Interest in Consumption Spaces Based on Frequency of Use

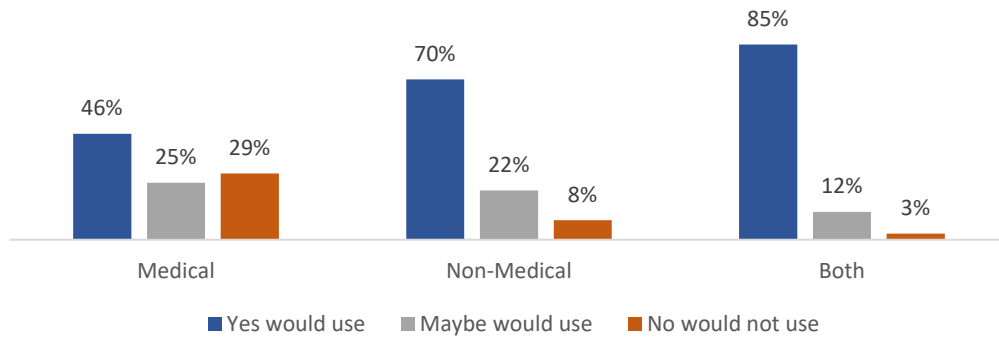
Most telephone respondents who use cannabis monthly (65%) reported they would likely visit cannabis consumption spaces, compared to daily (60%), weekly (58%) and less than monthly (26%) of users. Online survey respondents who use cannabis reported higher interest in visiting these spaces, with 88% of daily users and 77% of weekly users identifying they would likely use consumption spaces, compared to less frequent monthly users (67%) and people who use cannabis less than monthly (36%).

### Interest in Consumption Spaces Based on Purpose of Cannabis Use

Supplemental Figure 9: Interest in Visiting Consumption Spaces Based on Purpose of Cannabis Use



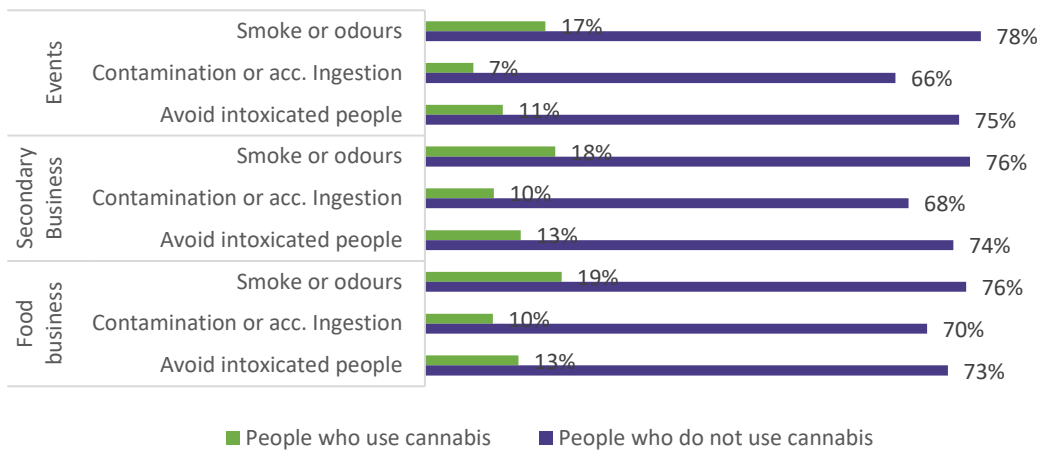
If licensed consumption spaces were permitted in B.C., would you visit one to buy and use cannabis? (Online Survey)



### Avoiding Cannabis Consumption Spaces

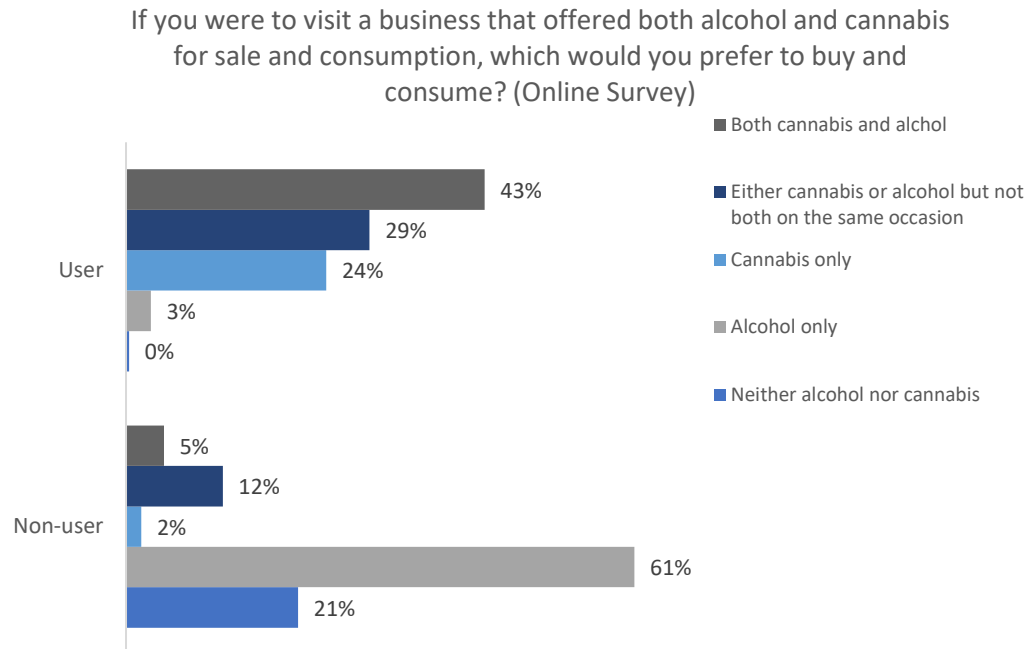
Supplemental Figure 10: Reasons for avoiding events or businesses that permit cannabis consumption

Why would you avoid an event or business that allowed for the sale and consumption of cannabis? (Online Survey)



## Alcohol and Cannabis Co-location

Supplemental Figure 11: Intended purchasing decisions if alcohol and cannabis co-location was permitted at consumption spaces

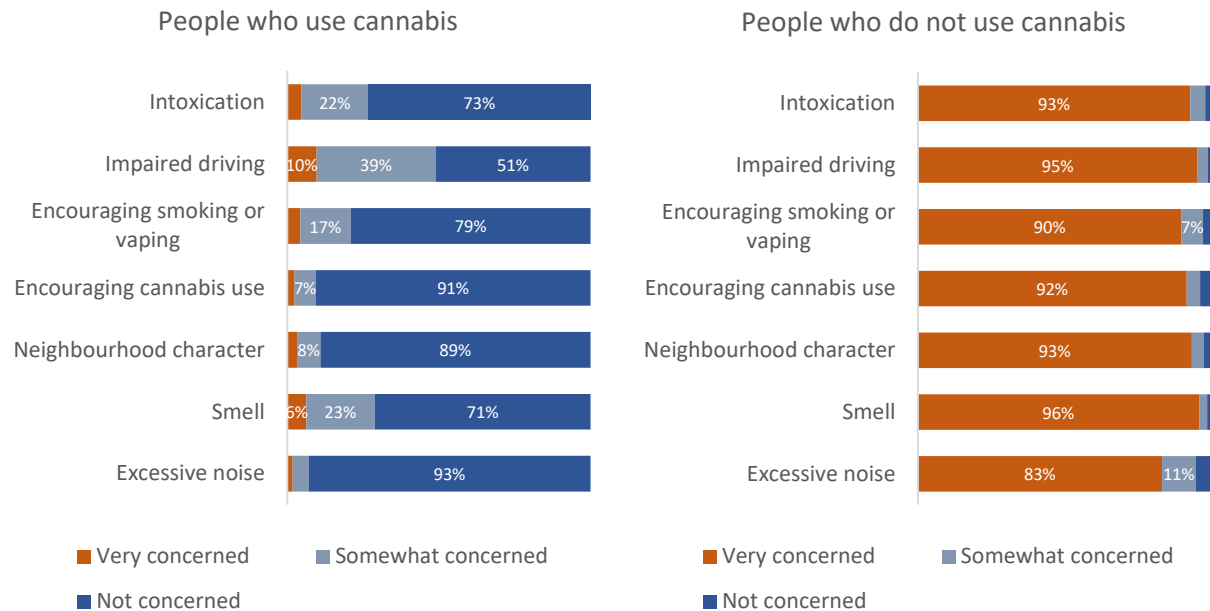


## Concerns About Cannabis Consumption Spaces

Similar to the telephone survey, respondents completing the online survey were most concerned about increases in cannabis-impaired driving. Those who do not use cannabis were more likely to report concerns with the smell of cannabis, people becoming too intoxicated, the potential impact of consumption spaces on neighbourhood character, and that these spaces could encourage cannabis use and smoking or vaping.

Some online respondents identified concerns not listed in the questionnaire, including the impact on children (6.1%), health impacts on others, including second-hand smoke (2.8%), and increased public health costs (0.8%).

Supplemental Figure 12: Concerns associated with cannabis consumption spaces among online survey respondents<sup>8</sup>

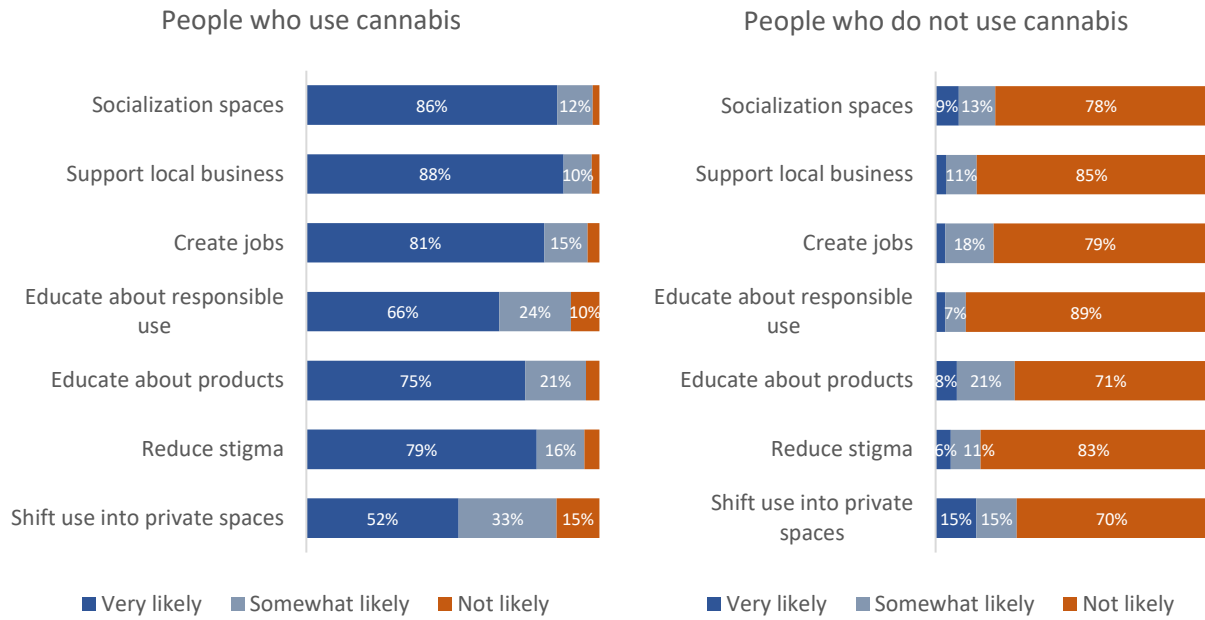


### Potential Opportunities with Cannabis Consumption Spaces

Online respondents who use cannabis tended to see consumption spaces as being likely to provide spaces for people to socialize, create jobs, support local businesses, and to a lesser extent, provide education around products and responsible use and reduce stigma. By contrast, people who do not use cannabis were much more skeptical of whether these spaces would create positive opportunities.

<sup>8</sup> Data labels for responses ≤5% have been removed for visual purposes.

Supplemental Figure 13: Opportunities from cannabis consumption spaces identified by online survey respondents<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Data labels for responses ≤5% have been removed for visual purposes.

**What We Heard Report**  
Cannabis Consumption Spaces  
Public Engagement 2022



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ministry of  
Public Safety and  
Solicitor General