

# Marijuana Source Assessment Matrix: What Do We Want to Know About Marijuana Access?



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The Washington State Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) requested a review of how national, state, and other surveys ask about the sources of marijuana acquired/consumed by youth and adult marijuana users. It is presented in a matrix summarizing how different surveys approach the issue and the implications of those differences. In addition, DBHR was interested in ADAI’s recommendation on how to ask about source of marijuana and—if recommendations would differ by age—how to ask of youth, young adults, and adults, particularly what response options to include to get at important distinctions, while keeping the number of response options reasonable. Below is a matrix representing a number of ways source of marijuana has been assessed in surveys of youth and adults in the last 5+ years.

## National Studies/Instruments

Study	Year	Population	Mode	Question	Answer Choices	Notes/Comments
Monitoring the Future	2012-2017	USA students; grades 8, 10, 12	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted by survey administrator	How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Probably impossible</li> <li>Very difficult</li> <li>Fairly difficult</li> <li>Fairly easy</li> <li>Very easy</li> </ul>	Similar to Communities that Care Survey wording but different enough that comparability is unclear: note differences in emphasis on difficulty rather than ease in stem and in wording of answer choices.
Monitoring the Future	2012-2017	USA students; grade 12	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted by survey administrator	Where did you get the marijuana or hashish you used during the last year? (Mark all that apply.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Took from a friend without asking</li> <li>Took from a relative without asking</li> <li>Given for free by a friend</li> <li>Given for free by a relative</li> <li>Bought from a friend</li> <li>Bought from a relative</li> <li>From my own "medical marijuana" prescription</li> <li>Bought from a drug dealer / stranger</li> <li>Other method</li> </ul>	Note dimensions of took/given/bought and friend/relative/dealer/stranger; also assessing whether youth have their own MMJ prescriptions.

<b>Monitoring the Future</b>	2012-2017	USA students; grade 12	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted by survey administrator	Did you get any of the marijuana or hashish you used during the last year from someone else's medical marijuana prescription?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>	Note single item assessment of retail marijuana diversion.
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<b>Study</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2012	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	Are there any students at your school whom you know sell illegal drugs while at school? Remember, illegal drugs include things like marijuana and prescription drugs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know/no response</li> </ul>	Single item measure of access to drugs at school.
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	If you wanted to buy/get marijuana right now, how long would it take you to get it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An hour or less</li> <li>• A few hours</li> <li>• Within a day</li> <li>• Within a week</li> <li>• Longer than a week</li> <li>• Would be unable to get it</li> </ul>	Changed from buy to get in 2010. Unique rating of length of time rather than ease/difficulty.
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2010	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	[IF COULD GET MARIJUANA] If you wanted to get marijuana right now, who would you get it from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friend/classmate</li> <li>• Family member</li> <li>• Dealer</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Refused</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	Very clear focus on source operationalized as a person.
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2010	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	[IF COULD GET MARIJUANA] How would you contact this person?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text message/cell phone</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• IM (instant message)</li> <li>• Facebook/Myspace/other social networking site</li> <li>• Craigslist/other internet source</li> <li>• Talk to them face to face</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Refused</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	Very clear focus on method of contacting source person.
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2010	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	[IF COULD GET MARIJUANA] Do your parents know this person?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	Straightforward focus on parental awareness of source person.

<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2004, 2006	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	How many of the parties you attend have marijuana available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> <li>• Some</li> <li>• Most</li> <li>• All of them</li> <li>• Don't know/no response</li> <li>• N/A (attended no parties)</li> </ul>	Very clear focus on availability of marijuana at parties. Also asked if a party is at someone's home, how often the parents are at home during the party.
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Study	Year	Population	Mode	Question	Answer Choices	Notes/Comments
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2006	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	Have you ever been to a party at someone's home at which teens your age were smoking pot while the parents were at home?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know/no response</li> <li>• N/A (attended no parties)</li> </ul>	Very clear focus on parents not preventing marijuana use.
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2006	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	At these club events, are drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, Ecstasy, or prescription drugs usually available, or not?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know/no response</li> <li>• N/A (attended no clubs)</li> </ul>	Very clear focus on availability of marijuana at club events.
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	Which is easiest for someone your age to buy/get: cigarettes, beer, marijuana, or prescription drugs such as OxyContin, [Percocet,] Vicodin, [Xanax,] or Ritalin, without a prescription?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cigarettes</li> <li>• beer</li> <li>• marijuana</li> <li>• prescription drugs</li> <li>• the same</li> <li>• don't know/no response</li> </ul>	Changed from buy to get in 2010; Xanax added/Percocet deleted. Comparison of drugs does not speak to ease. They could all be difficult to get with cigarettes being the least difficult, or they could all be easy to get with cigarettes being the easiest.
<b>National Survey on American Attitudes on Substance Abuse by CASAColumbia</b>	2006	Nationally representative sample of youth aged 12-17	Telephone-based survey	Have you ever, in your life, been offered marijuana?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know/no response</li> </ul>	Simple, straightforward question, though it doesn't appear they asked if the person ever actually used marijuana in his/her life.
<b>National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)</b>	2002-2018	Individuals aged 12 and older	Telephone survey	How difficult or easy would be for you to get some marijuana, if you wanted some?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probably impossible</li> <li>• Very difficult</li> <li>• Fairly difficult</li> <li>• Fairly easy</li> <li>• Very easy</li> </ul>	Item is similar to both CTC wording and MTF wording.
<b>National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)</b>	2002-2018	Individuals aged 12 and older	Telephone survey	Now think about the last time you used marijuana. How did you get this marijuana?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You bought it</li> <li>• You traded something else for it</li> <li>• You got it for free or shared someone else's</li> <li>• You grew it yourself</li> <li>• Don't know/Refused</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	Focus on type of transaction for most recent procurement.

<b>National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)</b>	2002-2018	Individuals aged 12 and older	Telephone survey	During the past 12 months, that is, since [DATEFILL], did you buy any marijuana?  During the past 12 months, that is, since [DATEFILL], did you trade something for marijuana?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know/refused</li> </ul>	Note similar questions for buying and trading for marijuana. Sets up follow-up questions for most recent procurement of that type
<b>Study</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
<b>National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)</b>	2002-2018	Individuals aged 12 and older	Telephone survey	The last time you bought marijuana, who did you buy it from?  The last time you traded something for marijuana, who did you get it from?  The last time you got marijuana for free, who did you get it from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A friend</li> <li>• A relative or family member</li> <li>• Someone I had just met or didn't know well</li> <li>• Don't know/Refused</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	Note similar questions for buying, trading for, and obtaining free marijuana. Mutually exclusive answer choices.
<b>National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)</b>	2002-2018	Individuals aged 12 and older	Telephone survey	The last time you bought marijuana, where were you when you bought it?  The last time you traded something for marijuana, where were you when you got it?  The last time you got marijuana for free, where were you when you got it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inside a public bldg, such as a store, restaurant</li> <li>• Inside a school building</li> <li>• Outside on school property</li> <li>• Inside a home, apartment, or dorm</li> <li>• Outside in a public area, such as a parking lot</li> <li>• Some other place (specify)</li> <li>• Don't know/Refused</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	Note similar questions for buying, trading for, and obtaining free marijuana. Answer choices are generally mutually exclusive though "other" responses seem to overlap with predefined choices.
<b>National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)</b>	2002-2018	Individuals aged 12 and older	Telephone survey	Did you sell any of the marijuana you bought this last time?  Did you sell any of the marijuana you got this last time?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know/refused</li> </ul>	Note trading for and obtaining free are combined here as "got."
<b>National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)</b>	2002-2018	Individuals aged 12 and older	Telephone survey	Did you give away or share any of the marijuana you bought this last time?  Did you give away any of the marijuana you got this last time?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know/refused</li> </ul>	Note trading for and obtaining free are combined here as "got."

<b>Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)</b>	1991-2019	USA students; grades 9-12	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted by survey administrator	Marijuana source not asked	N/A	Biennial survey coordinated by CDC. All states except WA, OR, WY, MN.
<b>National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions-III</b>	2012-2013	USA adults	Telephone interview	Marijuana source not asked	N/A	Survey sponsored by NIAAA, three waves, roughly 10 years apart.

### Multistate Studies/Instruments

Study	Year	Population	Mode	Question	Answer Choices	Notes/Comments
<b>American Drug and Alcohol Survey</b>	2010	Children's Form (4th-6th grade) and Adolescent Form (6th-12th grade)	Self-administered questionnaire, conducted by teacher or administrator	How easy do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs if you wanted some?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very easy</li> <li>• Fairly easy</li> <li>• Hard</li> <li>• Very hard</li> <li>• Probably impossible</li> </ul>	Item is similar to both CTC wording and MTF wording. Comparability to either is questionable given lack of precise match to either.
<b>Communities That Care survey</b>	1992-2018	Children and youth	Unspecified	If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very hard</li> <li>• Sort of hard</li> <li>• Sort of easy</li> <li>• Very easy</li> </ul>	Developed by UW SDRG
<b>Pride Surveys Questionnaire</b>	2015-2018	Students in grades 6-12	Unspecified	How easy is it to get marijuana (pot, hash, etc.)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't Know/Can't Get</li> <li>• Very difficult</li> <li>• Fairly difficult</li> <li>• Fairly easy</li> <li>• Very easy</li> </ul>	Unclear whether asking about respondent's personal ability or about respondent's judgment of others' ability. The grades 6-12 survey does not ask where students obtain marijuana but asks where they "smoke" it.
<b>Pride Surveys Questionnaire</b>	2018	Students in grades 4-6	Unspecified	How easy is it for kids your age to get marijuana (pot, weed, hash oil)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't Know/Cannot Get</li> <li>• Hard to Get</li> <li>• Easy to Get</li> </ul>	Updated wording in 2018 compared to 2014 to specify "for kids your age" and add "don't know" to "cannot get" in answer choices. This lumps kids who have tried but been unable to get marijuana in with kids who have no interest in getting marijuana.
<b>Pride Surveys Questionnaire</b>	2018	Students in grades 4-6	Unspecified	Where do <u>you</u> get marijuana (pot, weed, hash oil)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never Get</li> <li>• At Home</li> <li>• Friend's House</li> <li>• At School</li> <li>• Other Places</li> </ul>	Updated wording in 2018 compared to 2014 to underline "you."

## Single State Studies/Instruments

Study	Year	Population	Mode	Question	Answer Choices	Notes/Comments
Washington Healthy Youth Survey	2016	Washington public schools; grades 6, 8, 10, 12	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted in class period by teacher	If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very hard</li> <li>• Sort of hard</li> <li>• Sort of easy</li> <li>• Very easy</li> </ul>	Same stem and answer choices as Communities That Care survey
Washington Healthy Youth Survey	2016	Washington public schools; grades 8, 10, 12	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted in class period by teacher	During the past 30 days, how did you get marijuana?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I did not get marijuana in the past 30 days.</li> <li>• I bought it from a store.</li> <li>• I stole it from a store.</li> <li>• I got it from friends.</li> <li>• I got it at a party.</li> <li>• I got it from an older brother or sister.</li> <li>• I gave money to someone to get it for me.</li> <li>• I took it from home without my parents' permission.</li> <li>• I got it at home with my parents' permission.</li> <li>• I got it some other way.</li> </ul>	Answer choices may not be mutually exclusive and conflate where with from whom. In a single event, a student could have given a friend money to get it for her and bring it to her at a party. Should she endorse getting it at a party, from friends, AND giving someone money to get it?
Oregon Healthy Teens Survey	2015, 2017	Oregon students; grades 8, 11	Self-administered paper or online survey, conducted by survey administrator	If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very easy</li> <li>• Sort of easy</li> <li>• Sort of hard</li> <li>• Very hard</li> </ul>	Biennial, alternates with Student Wellness Survey. Same stem and answer choices as Communities That Care survey.
Oregon Student Wellness Survey (administered by International Survey Associates, LLC, dba Pride Surveys)	2016, 2018	Oregon students; grades 6-8, 11	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted by survey administrator	If you wanted to get some, how easy would it be for you to get some marijuana?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very hard</li> <li>• Somewhat hard</li> <li>• Sort of easy</li> <li>• Very easy</li> </ul>	Biennial, alternates with Healthy Teens Survey No obvious reason for minor alterations of the stem and answer choices compared to Communities That Care survey.

<b>Oregon Student Wellness Survey (administered by International Survey Associates, LLC, dba Pride Surveys)</b>	2016, 2018	Oregon students; grade 11	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted by survey administrator	During the past 30 days, from which of the following sources did you get marijuana? (Please mark all that apply.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I did not use marijuana during the past 30 days</li> <li>• A public event such as a concert or sporting event</li> <li>• A party</li> <li>• Friends 18 or older</li> <li>• Friends under 18</li> <li>• A family member</li> <li>• A medical marijuana cardholder or grower</li> <li>• I gave someone money to buy it for me</li> <li>• I grew it</li> <li>• I got it some other way</li> </ul>	Biennial, alternates with Healthy Teens Survey. Answer choices may not be mutually exclusive and conflate where with from whom. In a single event, a student could have given a friend with an MMJ card money to get it for her and bring it to her at a party. Should she endorse getting it at a party, from friends, a MMJ cardholder, AND giving someone money to get it?
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Study	Year	Population	Mode	Question	Answer Choices	Notes
<b>California Healthy Kids Survey</b>	2018	California students; grades 9 and 11	Self-administered machine-readable or online survey, conducted in class period by teacher/proctor	How do most kids at your school who use marijuana usually get it? (Mark all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At school</li> <li>• At parties</li> <li>• At concerts or other social events</li> <li>• At their own home</li> <li>• From an adult acquaintance</li> <li>• From friends or another teenager</li> <li>• Buy it at a marijuana dispensary</li> <li>• At bars or clubs</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	Answer choices may not be mutually exclusive and conflate where with from whom. In a single event, a student could have gotten it from an adult acquaintance at a party. Should she endorse getting it at a party AND from an adult acquaintance?
<b>Healthy Kids Colorado</b>	2017	Aligned with YRBS. Colorado students. High School Survey.	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted in class period by teacher	During the past 30 days, how did you <b>usually</b> get the marijuana that you used? (Select only one response.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I did not use marijuana during the past 30 days</li> <li>• I bought it at a marijuana store or center</li> <li>• I bought it from someone else</li> <li>• A parent or family member over the age of 21 gave it to me</li> <li>• A friend over the age of 21 gave it to me</li> <li>• Someone under the age of 21 gave it to me</li> <li>• I took it without permission from the owner</li> </ul>	Note this refers to the usual source and only one answer is allowed. Mutually exclusive answer choices, but no "other way" option. Interest in retail marijuana diversion to kids, age of supplier, family sources.

<b>Healthy Kids Colorado</b>	2015	"Communities that Care Grantee 2016 Administration" "2016 High School Survey"	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted in class period by teacher	During the past 30 days, how did you <b>usually</b> get the marijuana that you used? (Select only <b>one</b> response.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I did not use marijuana during the past 30 days</li> <li>• I got it at a public event such as a party, bar, club, restaurant, concert, or sporting event</li> <li>• I got it from someone with a Medical Marijuana License (Card)</li> <li>• I got it with my own Medical Marijuana License (Card)</li> <li>• Someone gave it to me</li> <li>• I took it from a family member</li> <li>• I got it at school</li> <li>• I got it some other way</li> </ul>	Note this refers to the usual source and only one answer is allowed. Answers are not mutually exclusive. If someone gave it to them at a public event, what should they choose? Interest in retail marijuana diversion to kids.
<b>Study</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Idaho Healthy Youth Survey</b>	2017	Public and charter schools, grades 6, 8, 10, 12	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted in class period by teacher	During the past 30 days, how did you get the marijuana that you used? (Mark all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I bought it from a dealer or stranger</li> <li>• I bought it from a friend or family member</li> <li>• I bought it on the internet</li> <li>• A friend or family member gave it to me for free</li> <li>• I took it from a family member or friend</li> <li>• I bought it from a marijuana dispensary</li> <li>• I grew it myself</li> <li>• I got it some other way</li> </ul>	Unique to assess internet source.
<b>Arizona Youth Survey</b>	2016	Arizona students; grades 8, 10, 12	Self-administered paper or online survey, conducted by survey administrator	If during the past 30 days you used marijuana, how did you get it? (Mark all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I did not use marijuana during the past 30 days</li> <li>• I got it from someone with a medical Marijuana Card</li> <li>• Friends</li> <li>• Family/Relatives</li> <li>• Parties</li> <li>• Home</li> <li>• School</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	Answer choices are not mutually exclusive, conflates places and people.



<b>Illinois Youth Survey</b>	2018	Illinois students; grades 8, 10, 12	Self-administered machine-readable or online survey, conducted in class period by teacher/proctor	In the past year, did you get your own marijuana from any of the following sources? (Mark all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A friend gave it to me</li> <li>• My parents WITH their permission</li> <li>• My parents WITHOUT their permission</li> <li>• My older brother or sister gave it to me</li> <li>• I bought it from someone who sells drugs</li> <li>• An adult (other than my parents) WITH that adult's permission</li> <li>• I took it from someone else's home</li> <li>• I gave a stranger money to buy it for me</li> </ul>	Answers are mutually exclusive but there is no "other way" option. Interest in parental/adult permission, family sources.
<b>Study</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Massachusetts Prevention Needs Assessment Survey - Hampshire County</b>	2017	Massachusetts students; grades 10, 12	Unspecified	If you used marijuana in the past 30 days, HOW did you usually GET it? (Mark all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I got it from a friend</li> <li>• I got it from a family member</li> <li>• I got it from a dealer or stranger</li> <li>• I bought it at a store</li> <li>• I got it with my Medical Marijuana ID Card</li> <li>• I grew it or someone in my family/household grew it</li> <li>• I got it some other way</li> </ul>	Note interest in retail marijuana diversion, family sources.
<b>Massachusetts Prevention Needs Assessment Survey - Hampshire County</b>	2017	Massachusetts students; grades 10, 12	Unspecified	If you used marijuana in the past 30 days, WHERE did you usually USE it? (Mark all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At my home</li> <li>• At another person's home</li> <li>• When driving or riding in a car or other vehicle</li> <li>• At a restaurant, bar, or club</li> <li>• At a public place such as a park, beach, forest, or parking lot</li> <li>• At a public event such as a concert or sporting event</li> <li>• On school property</li> <li>• Somewhere else</li> </ul>	Included to show overlap between a question about locations of use and questions about sources.

<b>Portsmouth (Rhode Island) Health and Wellness Survey</b>	2013-2014	Portsmouth middle and high school students; grades 7-12	Self-administered machine-readable survey, conducted in class period by teacher/proctor	During the past 30 days, if you smoked marijuana, how did you get the marijuana you used? (please check all appropriate answers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I did not use marijuana in the last 30 days</li> <li>• I bought it from a stranger</li> <li>• I gave someone else money to buy it for me</li> <li>• I got it from a sibling</li> <li>• I got it from my parents/guardians without their knowledge</li> <li>• I got it from my parents/guardians with their knowledge</li> <li>• I got it from a friend (not at a party)</li> <li>• I got it at a party where an adult was in the house</li> <li>• I got it at a party where no adult was in the house</li> <li>• Other (please describe)</li> </ul>	Note question specified smoking marijuana, may miss other routes of use. Answers may not be mutually exclusive. Interest in parent/guardian knowledge of use.
<b>Study</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Improving Cannabis Science Survey conducted by RAND</b>	2018	Washington State adults	Web-based survey	Many people share or give away cannabis, so some people buy more than they use, and others use more than they buy. These next few questions ask about that. In the last 30 days, have you shared your marijuana with others?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul>	Interesting line of questioning about directionality of sharing but unclear why this is important.
<b>Improving Cannabis Science Survey conducted by RAND</b>	2018	Washington State adults	Web-based survey	In the last 30 days, have other people shared their marijuana with you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul>	Interesting line of questioning about directionality of sharing but unclear why this is important.
<b>Improving Cannabis Science Survey conducted by RAND</b>	2018	Washington State adults	Web-based survey	Now think about the amount you shared over the past 30 days and the amount people shared with you over the past 30 days. Do you think it was the same amount?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, I gave away as much as I received.</li> <li>• No, I gave away more than I received.</li> <li>• No, I gave away less than I received.</li> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul>	Interesting line of questioning about directionality of sharing but unclear why this is important.

<b>Improving Cannabis Science Survey conducted by RAND</b>	2018	Washington State adults	Web-based survey	We'd like to know about the last three times you purchased cannabis. If you have not purchased cannabis, leave these blank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data of purchase:</li> <li>• Primary type of product (e.g., bud, hash oil, edible):</li> <li>• Quantity purchased (e.g., 1.5g, 1/2oz, 1 brownie):</li> <li>• Amount you spent, in dollars:</li> <li>• Did others contribute money to the purchase?</li> <li>• If so, how much did they contribute (in dollars)?</li> </ul>	
<b>Improving Cannabis Science Survey conducted by RAND</b>	2018	Washington State adults	Web-based survey	From whom did you buy? (Check one for each purchase - most recent purchase, 2nd most recent purchase, 3rd most recent purchase)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friend or family member (non-licensed)</li> <li>• Stranger (non-licensed)</li> <li>• Medical dispensary</li> <li>• Recreational store</li> <li>• Delivery service from a medical dispensary or recreational store</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	No space to specify other, unclear what one would select if purchase was from a licensed person.

### Commentary and General Recommendations

Surveys of marijuana use sometimes ask about access, particularly how easy or difficult it is for individuals to procure marijuana, the sources from which they procure it, and other aspects of marijuana sourcing. There is considerable variability from survey to survey in the construction of items to assess source of marijuana, with no gold standards for either question stems or answer choices. As shown in the above examples, questions tend to conflate *from whom*, *where*, and *how* individuals obtain marijuana with the *context* in which they use marijuana. It is unclear how respondents approach such questions when multiple answer choices fit for a single incident (e.g., respondent gave money to a friend at a party to get it from a medical marijuana cardholder). Questions do not differentiate primary sources from infrequent sources.

In deciding what existing items to choose or whether and how to rework items to assess source of marijuana, it comes down to what exactly do we want to know? How will the information serve us? For example, is it important to differentiate between friend and family sources? Will that knowledge affect intervention development? Considering that “I got it at a party” could mean 1) someone was passing around a joint and they partook of it or 2) they had prearranged to procure a quantity of marijuana at the party to take home, is such a difference important for our purposes?

Different ways of constructing items and answer choices will have different benefits and drawbacks, so it becomes a matter of priorities and tradeoffs. How important is it to compare from year to year? If comparisons over time from year to year are important, question wording should not be changed at all or changed only minimally. NSDUH uses a strategy of phasing new questions in, so that old questions can be directly compared with new questions within years before dropping old questions. If year-to-year comparisons are not critical, important considerations for item and answer choice construction are listed below.

Are we interested in the respondent's experience/behavior or the respondent's perception of climate/peers? This should be made explicit in the question. Focusing on respondents' personal experience/behavior limits the sample for source questions to marijuana users only, which is a much smaller sample. This may increase the reliability of the answers because it removes the speculative aspect that querying non-users involves. Other possibilities include constructing an item in which those who have used marijuana are instructed to answer about their own personal experience while those who have not are instructed to answer about their peers, or constructing two items: one that everyone gets that asks about climate/peers and one that only users get that asks about personal experience. Focusing on climate/peers allows asking non-marijuana users their perceptions of peer access, which may be well-informed or ill-informed. To gauge how informed non-using respondents are, it would be helpful to assess their perception of what proportion of their peer group uses marijuana.

If actual source among users is of interest, the timeframe should be made clear in the question. Are we interested in capturing all of the sources they have used, the usual source, or the most recent source? In any case, answer choices should be mutually exclusive so that respondents are not confused about which answer fits the best. When answer choices are not mutually exclusive, respondents will often just select the first one that fits. Source should be defined as a person OR a place OR a situation, etc. If source is more than one of these things, there should be more than one question about source.

## Specific Recommendations

### *Questions for Adults*

The NSDUH items are among the best constructed items psychometrically and enable comparison to a national sample of individuals aged 12 and above. For adults, a subset of the NSDUH questions, supplemented with content similar to what is assessed in the RAND questions, would provide a good picture of marijuana use in Washington. Although the interest is in source, asking about month/year and what product(s) helps to contextualize source information and stimulate respondent's memory.

- During the past 12 months, that is, since [DATEFILL], did you buy any marijuana?
- During the past 12 months, that is, since [DATEFILL], did you trade something for marijuana?
- During the past 12 months, that is, since [DATEFILL], did you get marijuana for free?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know/Refused
- Think about the last time you used marijuana. How did you get this marijuana?
  - You bought it
  - You traded something else for it
  - You got it for free or shared someone else's
  - You grew it yourself
  - Don't know/Refused
- Did you sell any of the marijuana you got this last time?
- Did you give away or share any of the marijuana you got this last time?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/Refused
- We'd like to know about the last three times you bought marijuana in the past year. [record month of survey administration]  
Think about the last time you bought marijuana. If in the past year, what month was it? [skip to where]
- Now think about the next to last time you bought marijuana. If in the past year, what month was it?
- Now think back to the third to last time you bought marijuana. If in the past year, what month was it?
  - January
  - February
  - March
  - April
  - May
  - June
  - July
  - August
  - September
  - October
  - November
  - December
- Where did you buy it?
  - At a marijuana store without a medical marijuana card
  - At a marijuana store with a medical marijuana card
  - From a friend
  - From a relative or family member
  - From someone I had just met or didn't know well
  - Don't know/Refused
  - Other (please specify)
- What did you buy? (check all that apply) [loop through second and third to last time, if applicable]
  - Flower/Bud/Pre-rolls
  - Cartridge/Disposable Vape
  - Tincture
  - Topical
  - Edible
  - Other Concentrate/Extract (Hash, Oil, Resin, Rosin, Wax, Shatter, Distillate, Crystals, etc.)

- Don't know/Refused
- Other (please specify)
- The last time you traded something for marijuana, who did you get it from?
- The last time you got marijuana for free, who did you get it from?
  - A friend
  - A relative or family member
  - Someone I had just met or didn't know well
  - Don't know/Refused
  - Other (please specify)

### **Questions for Youth**

Among youth, there will be a much smaller percentage of marijuana users, so it is desirable to ask all youth about source, *if they wanted it*. Thus, the recommendation for ease of access is to maintain the wording in the Washington Healthy Youth Survey, which is very clear and enables asking the question of every respondent, comparing year to year, and comparing to other administrations of the Communities that Care Survey.

- If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?
  - Very hard
  - Sort of hard
  - Sort of easy
  - Very easy

Similar question construction for source would be desirable for the same reasons.

- If you wanted to get some marijuana, who would you get it from?
  - Don't know
  - A friend around my age
  - A much older friend
  - A brother or sister
  - A parent/guardian
  - Another family member
  - A stranger or person I don't know well
  - Other (what type of person?)
- If you wanted to get some marijuana, where would you get it?
  - Don't know
  - My home

- Someone else's home
- My school
- Someone else's school
- At a party
- At a marijuana store
- From the internet
- Other (what type of place?)

### ***Questions for Young Adults***

For young adults, the questions asked could be largely the same, but modifications to the answer choices would be warranted. The NSDUH question on ease of access would enable comparison to the national sample.

- How difficult or easy would be for you to get some marijuana, if you wanted some?
  - Probably impossible
  - Very difficult
  - Fairly difficult
  - Fairly easy
  - Very easy
- If you wanted to get some marijuana, who would you get it from?
  - Don't know/Refused
  - A friend or sibling
  - A romantic partner
  - A parent/guardian
  - Another family member
  - A bud tender
  - A stranger or person I don't know well
  - Other (please specify)
- If you wanted to get some marijuana, where would you get it?
  - Don't know/Refused
  - My home
  - Someone else's home
  - My school/work
  - Someone else's school/work
  - At a party

- At a marijuana store
- From the internet
- Other (please specify)

**Citation:** Stoner SA. Marijuana Source Assessment Matrix: What Do We Want to Know About Marijuana Access? Seattle: Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute, University of Washington, December 2018. URL: <http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2018MarijuanaSourceQuestions.pdf>

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