



Negative Impacts of Marijuana Dispensaries Near Schools

Research strongly suggests that marijuana dispensaries located close to schools lead to negative outcomes. Here is what the literature shows:

- A [2023 study](#) found that the proximity of marijuana dispensaries to schools was not only associated with higher youth use, but also with a reduction in the age of use initiation.
- A [study](#) of marijuana dispensaries in California published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* found that dispensaries “closer to a school had a higher proportion with interior child-appealing marketing.” 84% had no age limit signs and 28% offered free samples.
- A [2020 analysis](#) found that dispensaries located in the vicinity of schools are correlated with “a statistically significant 2.81 percentage point reduction in the proportion of students achieving high growth on all subjects and a 2.32 point increase in students reporting low growth.”
- A [2023 study](#) of 24,154 students discovered that “advertising for 8th graders and presence of a retailer within a mile from school for 11th graders were associated with cannabis use.”
- Among [11th graders in Oregon](#), just 16% who live in areas with a low-density of dispensaries use marijuana while 24.3% who live in a high-density dispensary area use the drug.
- A [RAND study](#) showed a positive relationship between use and living close to a dispensary. The researchers also found, “storefront signage had a four- to six-fold larger effect on number of times used per day and positive expectancies.”
- A [study](#) in the *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* journal found that, “an additional one dispensary per square mile in a ZIP code was cross-sectionally associated with a 6.8% increase in the number of marijuana hospitalizations.”
- A [study](#) in Colorado found recreational and medical marijuana dispensaries are “associated with statistically significant increases in rates of neighborhood crime and disorder.”
- The city of Denver [reported](#) in 2023 that “marijuana businesses make up less than 1% of all businesses in Denver but account for approximately 6% of all reported business burglaries.”