



Massachusetts Marijuana Legalization Fact Sheet

Out of state interest groups are lying about cannabis legalization in Massachusetts. Here are the facts:

Sales of adult-use cannabis products are strictly controlled

All licensed employees in Massachusetts' regulated cannabis industry must undergo state-mandated training requirements, including "responsible vendor training," prior to performing job functions. ([Marijuana Establishment Agent Training](#))

Any public advertising of licensed adult-use cannabis products must contain health and safety warnings, such as: "For use only by adults 21 years of age or older. Keep out of the reach of children;" and "This product may cause impairment and may be habit forming." ([Advertising Requirements](#))

Advertising or marketing licensed cannabis products in a manner that either targets those under the age of 21 or that utilizes "mascots, cartoons, and celebrity endorsements that [are] deemed to appeal to a person younger than 21 years old" is strictly prohibited by state law. ([Prohibited Practices](#))

All licensed cannabis products must adhere to strict labelling requirements ([Labeling of Marijuana and Marijuana Products](#)) and must be sold in "child resistant packaging." ([Packaging of Marijuana and Marijuana Products](#))

Packaging designs on licensed cannabis products may not imitate or resemble "any existing branded consumer products, including foods and beverages, that do not contain marijuana." ([Limits on Packaging Designs](#))

All licensed edible products are strictly limited by law to no more than 5mgs of THC per single serving. ([Packaging of Marijuana and Marijuana Products](#))

Youth cannabis use is at historic lows

Nationwide, cannabis use by adolescents has been declining for more than two decades and now stands at or near historic lows. ([Trends in adolescent cannabis use, 1991-2023](#))

Following legalization of the adult-use cannabis market, cannabis use by teens in Massachusetts has fallen approximately 25 percent. ([Results of the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, as summarized by MPP](#))

Rates of school disciplinary incidents involving cannabis have declined significantly in Massachusetts following adult-use regulation. ([Associations between evolving cannabis policies and cannabis-related school discipline among secondary school students in Massachusetts, 2005-2019](#))

Cannabis regulation spurs economic growth

The licensed cannabis industry is a major employer in Massachusetts, providing jobs for approximately 21,000 people. ([Cannabis Control Commission](#))

Licensed cannabis businesses grossed more than \$1.65 billion in sales in 2025, the most ever in a single year. ([Cannabis Control Commission](#))



Licensed cannabis sales have yielded over \$1.3 billion in new state tax revenue, including \$289 million in FY 2025 alone. Allocations from these funds promote substance abuse prevention programs and public awareness campaigns, and is also used to directly fund state agencies, including the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority and Massachusetts School Building Authority. ([MPP](#) | [Cannabis Control Commission](#))

Licensed cannabis dispensaries do not permit entry or sales to underage patrons

Licensed cannabis retailers are highly compliant in enforcing laws forbidding sales to those persons under the age of 21. "Underage youth are not obtaining marijuana at licensed recreational outlets." ([Journal of Safety Research](#) | [Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs](#) | [Addictive Behaviors](#))

Licensed dispensaries reduce neighborhood crime and increase local property values

Licensed cannabis dispensaries are associated with local reductions in criminality, including reductions in violent crimes and property crimes. ([The effect of marijuana legalization on neighborhood crime](#))

"Measures dispensaries take to reduce crime (i.e., doormen, video cameras), may increase guardianship such that it deters possible motivated offenders." ([Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs](#))

Licensed dispensary openings are associated with short-term and long-term rises in local property values, with some studies approximately annual increases of \$4,400 annually. ([Tomo Mortgage Report](#) | [Rutgers University](#) | [The effect of marijuana dispensary openings on housing prices](#))

Cannabis arrests and prosecutions have fallen steadily in Massachusetts following legalization, freeing up law enforcement resources

Cannabis-related arrests have fallen consistently in Massachusetts post-legalization. This frees up police and prosecutors to spend greater time and resources prosecuting more serious criminal activities (Data from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System, as summarized by [NORML](#))

Massachusetts voters overwhelmingly support the regulated market; They don't want to see a return to criminal prohibition

Voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of legalizing and regulating the adult-use cannabis market in 2016. This policy remains more popular than ever. More than 6 in 10 Massachusetts voters say they oppose the initiative effort to repeal legalization. ([Polls show most popular potential ballot questions](#))