

Cannabis is the Great Replacement Not the Gateway Drug

Instead of being a gateway drug, cannabis replaces the toxic substances Americans are already using. Check out the data and research regarding the demand for various substances, which are a lot more toxic than cannabis, when cannabis is legalized.

Opioids

[Legalizing cannabis led to an immediate decrease in opioid overdose deaths.](#) And specifically, [legalizing cannabis seems to stop overdose deaths from synthetic opioids.](#)

[States with legalized medical cannabis see declines in nonmedical opioid use.](#)

[And payments to doctors for opioids falls wherever cannabis is legalized.](#)

Excessive Drinking and Alcoholism Falls

[Consider that 178,000 Americans die every year directly because of alcohol.](#) [And the CDC estimates that the cost of excessive alcohol consumption is \\$249 billion.](#)

[Wherever cannabis is legalized excessive drinking falls.](#)

And check out what is going on in Canada which legalized cannabis in 2017. Cannabis usage is going up, people are still drinking alcohol, but excessive drinking and alcoholism is plunging:

Past 12 Months Substance Use, Substance Use Disorder, and Total Associate Costs

Past Year Substance Use (>15yr olds)	2012	2022	Source
Cannabis use	12%	27%	Statistics Canada
Alcohol use	78%	76%*	Canadian alcohol drugs survey

Past Year Substance Use Disorder (>15yr olds)	2012	2022	Source
Cannabis use disorder	1,3%	1,4%	Statistics Canada
Alcohol use disorder	3,2%	2,2%	Statistics Canada

Canada now has 250,000 to 400,000 less alcoholics because of cannabis legalization.

Prescription Drug Demand Falls

[The evidence shows that cannabis replaces more toxic pharmaceuticals, not only improving people's lives but lower government drug costs.](#)

[And studies have shown that health insurance premiums go down.](#)

Workers Comp Claims Fall

The best data point that shows the benefits of cannabis legalization is that [workers comp claims fall whenever cannabis is legalized.](#) That's when you realize that Americans are consuming toxic, harmful substances to get through the day, and when you legalize cannabis, they simply can function and get injured less at work.