

Marijuana-Related Emergency Department Discharge Data San Diego County 2006-2014

This fact sheet summarizes data obtained from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Emergency Department Discharge Database on County of San Diego Emergency Department visits related to cannabis use over a nine-year time frame (i.e., 2006-2014).¹ Table 1 provides data on discharges in which cannabis use was (1) the primary diagnosis or (2) either the primary or secondary diagnosis upon discharge (i.e., all diagnoses that included coding for cannabis).² For most secondary cases, individuals came into the Emergency Department for something else (e.g., broken arm, injury, flu, etc.) and cannabis use was added as a secondary diagnosis. In these cases, the drug use may or may not have contributed to the reason for the Emergency Department visit.

Table 1. Cannabis-related San Diego County Emergency Department Discharges by Year									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total ER Discharges	573,858	601,102	612,310	643,091	635,302	671,815	698,303	727,510	781,289
Primary Cannabis-related Diagnosis Only									
Primary Cannabis-related Discharges	86	107	77	111	136	188	205	171	232
Primary Cannabis-related Discharge Rate* by Total ER Discharges	15.0	17.8	12.6	17.3	21.4	28.0	29.4	23.5	29.7
Primary Cannabis-related Discharge Rate* by County Population	2.9	3.5	2.5	3.6	4.4	6.0	6.5	5.4	7.2
All Cannabis-related Diagnosis (Primary & Secondary Diagnosis Combined)									
All Cannabis-related Discharges	1,108	1,734	1,851	2,362	3,722	4,300	5,311	7,354	10,302
Cannabis-related Discharge Rate* by Total ER Discharges	193.0	288.5	302.3	367.3	585.9	640.0	760.6	1011.4	1318.6
Cannabis-related Discharge Rate* by County Population	37.1	57.5	60.7	76.7	119.6	137.2	168.0	231.0	320.5

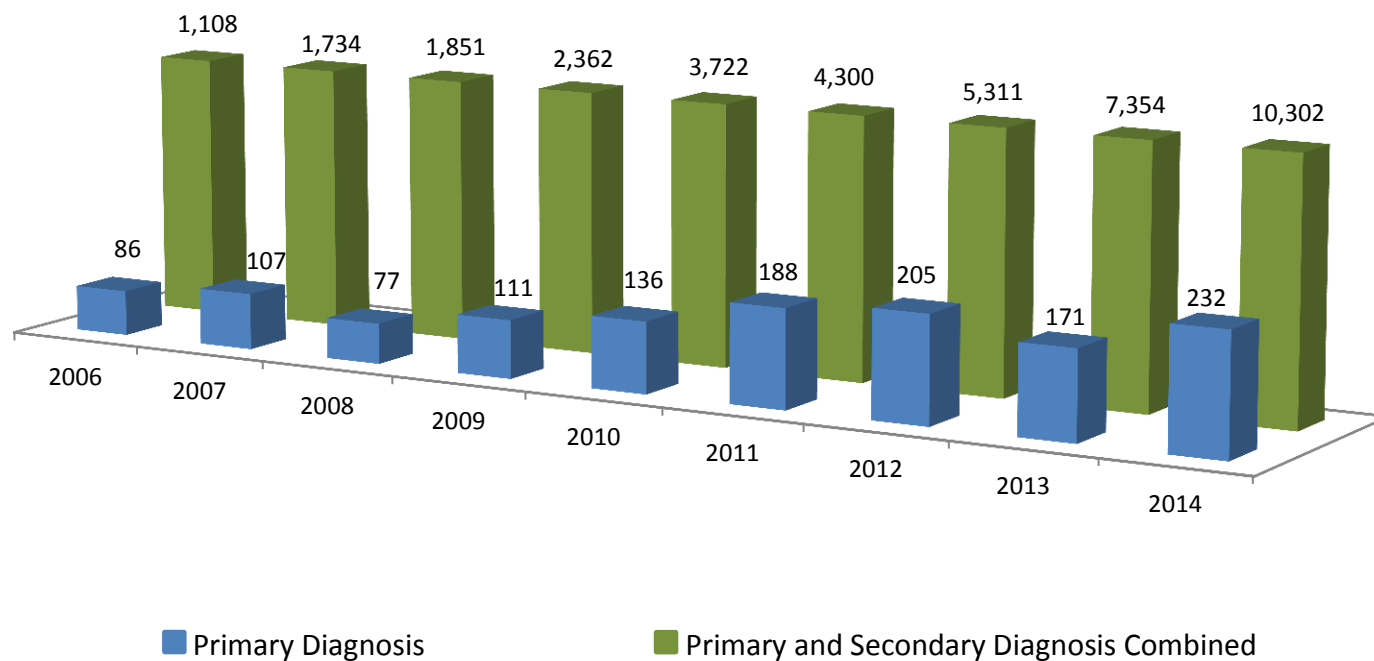
*Rate per 100,000 people

¹ Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Emergency Department Data. Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, Safe and Active Communities Branch. Reports generated from <http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov> on: March 14, 2016.

² A primary or secondary cannabis-related diagnosis is assigned an ICD-9 code of 304.3 or 305.2 following a positive blood test for the presence of THC or the patient's self-disclosure of use.

Figure 1 illustrates the increases for primary and combined primary and secondary cannabis-related Emergency Department discharges. Between 2006 and 2014, the number of persons discharged from Emergency Departments in San Diego County with cannabis as a primary diagnosis increased 170%, from 86 to 232. The number of persons discharged from San Diego County Emergency Departments with cannabis as a primary or secondary diagnosis *combined* increased 830%, from 1,108 to 10,302.

Figure 1. Number of Emergency Department Discharges for Cannabis-related Diagnoses in San Diego County: 2006-2014



❖ **Recommended Citation:** The Center for Community Research (CCR) prepared this analysis for the San Diego County Marijuana Prevention Initiative with data retrieved from the California Department of Public Health (March 2016).

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