

# Where do Washington young adults get cannabis?

## BACKGROUND

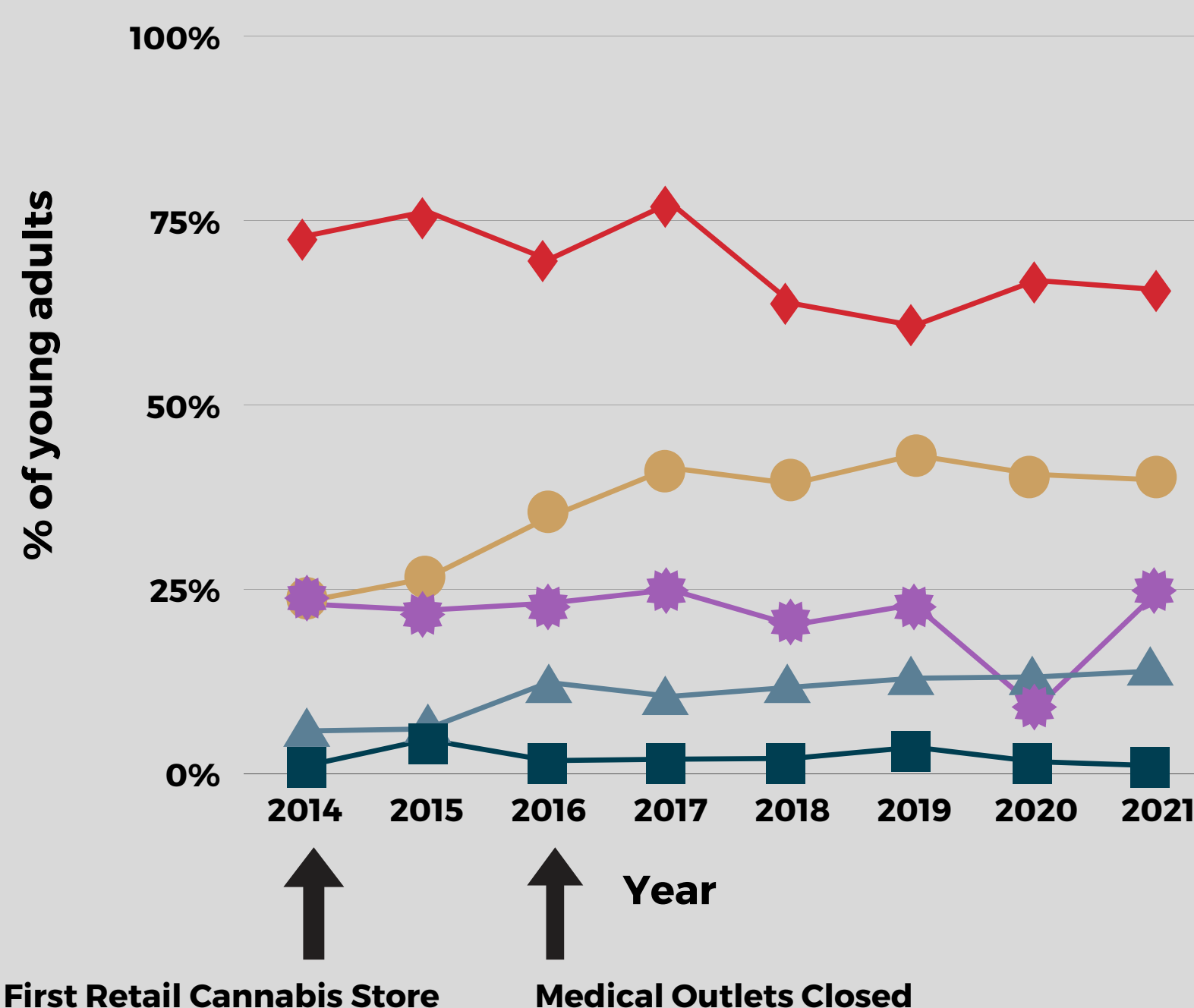
Washington state legalized non-medical use of cannabis for those over the age of 21 in 2012, and the first non-medical/retail store opened in Summer of 2014. **With the opening of non-medical/retail stores, researchers were interested in how this would impact where young adults get their cannabis**, as they are an at-risk age group for increased substance use ([White et al., 2019](#)).

In Spring 2014, the **Washington Young Adult Health Survey** began collecting data from thousands of Washington young adults (ages 18-25) and have every year since then (more info [here](#)). Researchers from the University of Washington analyzed 8 years of data from 2014-2021 to see how sources of cannabis use have changed for young adults over time.

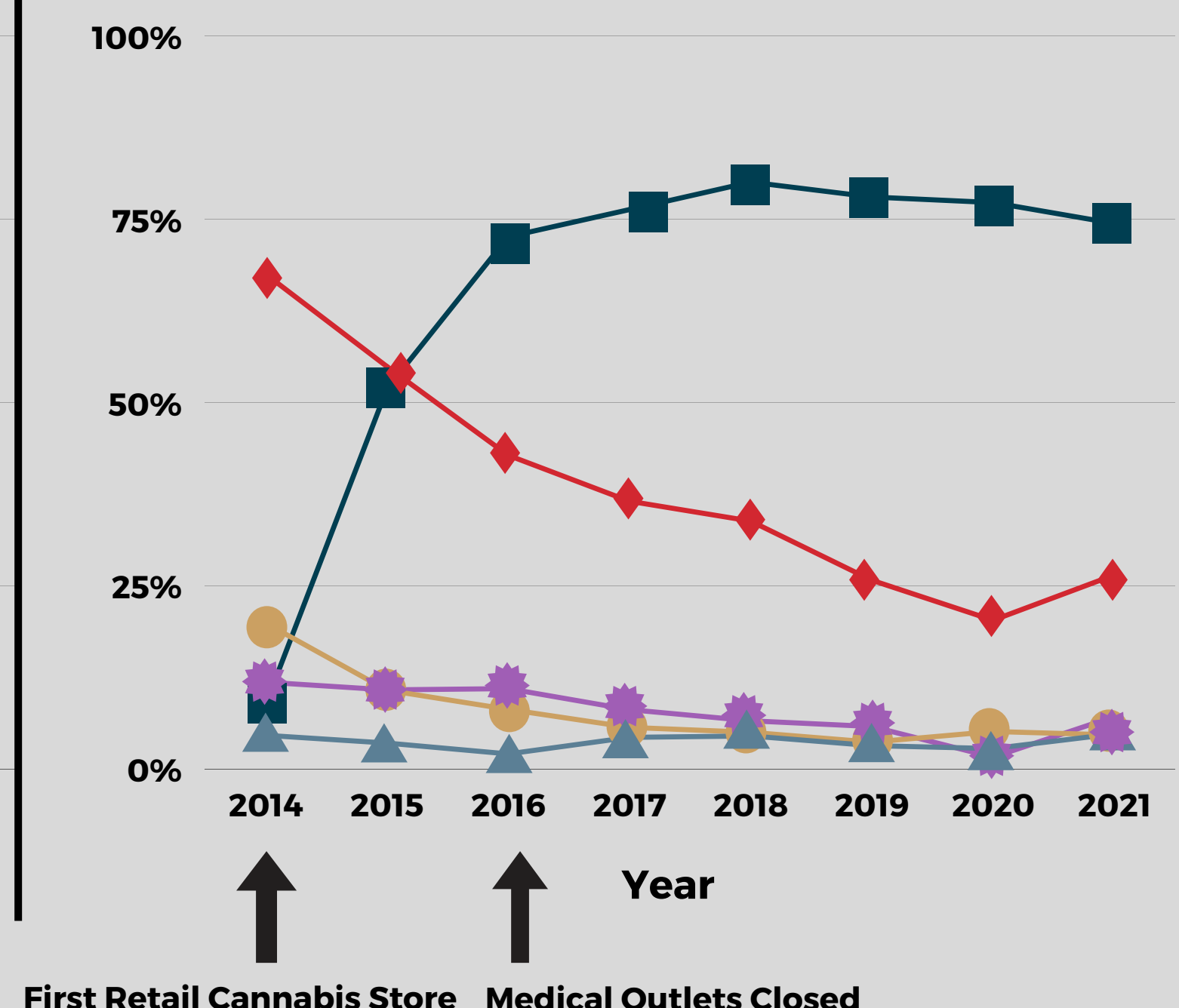
## RESULTS



### AGES 18-20



### AGES 21-25 (LEGAL AGE)



## MAIN POINTS

While 18-20 year olds have consistently received cannabis from friends, they are increasingly getting cannabis from parents and by giving money to someone.

21-25 year olds are mainly getting cannabis from retail stores, but still report getting it from other sources outside of the retail market.

## HOW CAN I USE THIS INFORMATION?

### YOUNG ADULTS

Although retail stores are overwhelmingly the top source for 21-25 year olds, older young adults still report other sources for cannabis. When obtained outside of stores, there is less of a guarantee of what a person may be eventually choosing to use. Young adults should caution what substances they are using to ensure safety.

### PARENTS

With increasingly higher percentages of 18-20 year olds describing parents as a source of cannabis, parents should be informed of the mental health, cognitive, and addiction risks associated with cannabis use. Cannabis products in Washington are increasing in THC concentration/ potency (see [here](#)), and researchers concluded high-potency products pose a particular risk to adolescents and young people.

To ensure data were as representative as possible, post-stratification weights were applied to data, and unweighted findings were similar to weighted findings. Figure only includes sources with a minimum of 10% endorsing the possible source. The **Washington Young Adult Health Survey** is funded by the **Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery** in **Washington's Health Care Authority**.

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White, H. R., Kilmer, J. R., Fossos-Wong, N., Hayes, K., Sokolovsky, A. W., & Jackson, K. M. (2019). Simultaneous Alcohol and Marijuana Use Among College Students: Patterns, Correlates, Norms, and Consequences. *Alcoholism*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acer.14072>

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