

The National Safety Council conducted a survey, “Eliminating Preventable Deaths,” focused on the public perceptions of the importance and impact of accidental or preventable deaths compared to those of other causes of death and injury. More than 2,000 surveys were completed between April 30 and May 9, 2019.

When asked which of the following would the respondent (assuming s/he lives in a state with legal medicinal marijuana) prefer be prescribed to treat severe pain:

- 34% prefer medical marijuana
- 13% opioid painkillers
- 30% whatever the doctor recommends
- 15% neither, I would prefer something else
- 9% not sure / don't know

When asked to rate how much each respondent agreed with a statement: (% saying strongly/somewhat agree)

- 74% - marijuana is an impairing substance and should not be used while driving
- 66% - the country needs to set a blood alcohol content level equivalent for marijuana
- 57% - marijuana is an addictive substance
- 56% - marijuana should be decriminalized nationally
- 55% - employers should drug test for marijuana, even if it is legal to use recreationally

A second survey, “Opioids at Work,” focused on employers’ awareness of the impact of the opioid crisis on the workplace, as well as cannabis and other substances. This report compiled 526 online interviews with HR staff, safety professionals and managers in January and February 2019.

When asked how concerned they were about cannabis having a negative impact on their workforce:

- 39% said it was a major concern
- 42% said it was a minor concern
- 19% said it was not a concern

When asked about whether employee use of illicit cannabis/marijuana was specifically covered in their organization’s written policies:

- 71% said it was covered
- 24% said it was not covered
- 5% said they were unsure if it was covered

When asked about whether employee use of legal or prescribed cannabis/marijuana products was specifically covered in their organization’s written policies:

- 54% said it was covered
- 39% said it was not covered
- 7% said they were unsure if it was covered