

Research examines how recreational marijuana legalization affects a state's college enrollment

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New research has revealed up to a 9% increase in college first-year enrollments in US states that have legalized recreational marijuana compared with states without such legalization. The study, which is published in *Economic Inquiry*, found that the increase was from out-of-state enrollments, with early adopter states and public non-research institutions experiencing the most pronounced increases.

Recreational marijuana legalization did not negatively impact degree completion or graduation rate, and it did not affect college prices, quality, or in-state enrollment.

The findings suggest that some students perceive [recreational marijuana](#) legalization as a positive factor that influences their college choice.

"Future research should focus on how this policy impacts peer dynamics and the selection of academic disciplines, with a special emphasis on differentiating between STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics] and non-STEM fields," said the study's author Ahmed El Fatmaoui, MBA, a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma.

More information: From High School to Higher Education: Is recreational marijuana a consumption amenity for US college students?, *Economic Inquiry* (2024). [DOI: 10.1111/ecin.13225](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecin.13225)

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