

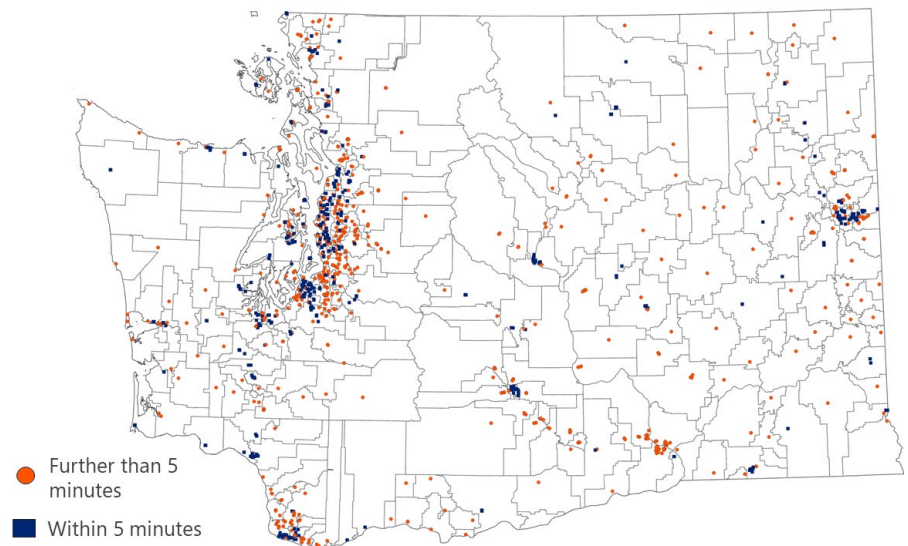
# Licensed Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Access and High School Outcomes in Washington State

This report is part of a larger legislative mandate to assess the long-term public health, safety, and economic impacts of Initiative 502 over a 20-year period. In this report, we specifically focus on outcomes related to high school performance.

## Background

Although Initiative 502 did not legalize cannabis consumption and purchase for those under the age of 21, evidence has suggested that exposure to cannabis retail and retail-related advertising predicts higher rates of adolescent cannabis use. This study examines the relationship between school proximity to cannabis retailers and high school outcomes.

**High Schools in Washington, by Cannabis Retail Proximity (i.e., within 5 minutes)—2019**



## Findings

- Students attending a school located within five minutes of a cannabis retailer have a 7% higher number of average monthly unexcused absences and a 2.5% lower likelihood of graduating high school in four years.
- Among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in rural regions, school proximity to a retailer also relates to a 48% higher likelihood of an annual cannabis-related disciplinary occurrence.
- A larger number of nearby retailers relates to more unexcused absences (one more retailer correlates with a 3% increase).

## Limitations

- More data are required to examine the potential mitigating impacts of school-based cannabis prevention strategies.
- Other school and neighborhood characteristics, which we cannot account for, may explain some of the differences in school outcomes.

### Assignment Details

Assigned by initiative 502 in 2012  
 Full report available on [WSIPP's website](https://www.wsipp.wa.gov)

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