

**Marijuana-Related Emergency Department Discharge Data
 San Diego County 2006-2012**

Below are Emergency Department (ED) visits where one of the diagnoses was marijuana abuse, either dependent or nondependent use. When an individual gets diagnosed in the ED, an ICD-9 diagnosis code is assigned. There are 4 possible codes for cannabis dependence and 4 codes for nondependent cannabis use. The diagnosis can be made any number of ways (e.g., a blood test, what the patient tells the doctor/nurse, etc.). Also, the diagnosis may be deemed a primary or secondary diagnosis.

The table below shows cannabis use as the *primary diagnosis only* (i.e., marijuana use was the primary reason for the ED visit). Between 2006 and 2012, the number of persons discharged from EDs in San Diego County with cannabis listed as a primary diagnosis increased 153%, from 85 in 2006 to 218 in 2012.

San Diego County ED Discharges Where Marijuana Was the Primary Diagnosis							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Cannabis-Related Discharges	85	98	85	112	151	208	218
Population – SD County	2,976,492	2,998,477	3,032,689	3,064,436	3,095,313	3,115,810	3,143,429
Cannabis-related Discharge Rate*	2.86	3.27	2.80	3.65	4.88	6.68	6.94

*Rate per 100,000 people

When looking at cannabis use as either the primary or secondary reason for the ED visit, the increase in cannabis-related ED visits is much higher. Most of the people who have cannabis listed as the secondary diagnosis came into the ED for something else (e.g., broken arm, the flu, an injury, etc.) and cannabis use was added on as a secondary diagnosis. In these cases the drug use may or may not have contributed to the reason for the ED visit. The figure below illustrates the increase in (1) primary and (2) either primary or secondary cannabis-related ED discharges. The number of persons discharged from San Diego County EDs with cannabis as either a primary or secondary diagnosis *combined* increased nearly 400%, from 1,167 in 2006 to 5,815 in 2012.

