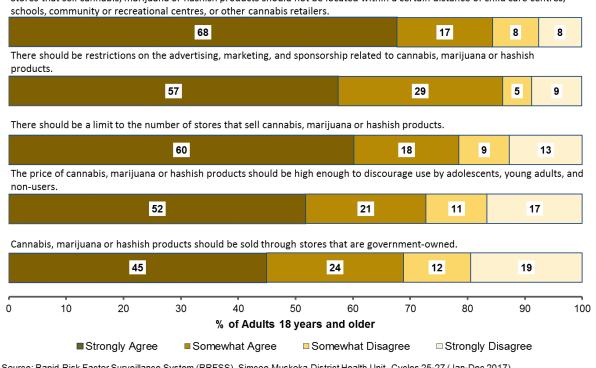# Cannabis Policy Support

In 2017, as part of the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS), over 1,110 randomly sampled adult residents of Simcoe Muskoka were asked a series of questions about their support for the regulation of cannabis products, also known as marijuana or hashish, for recreational use. This is a brief summary of the results of those survey questions.

Residents were asked to indicate their level of agreement (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree) with five different cannabis-related policy statements that could be used to help support the legalization of the drug for recreational use. Ensuring that cannabis retailers are located away from facilities serving youth (like schools and recreation centres) and other cannabis retailers was the policy statement that received the most support with 68% **(95% confidence interval 64%, 71%)** of respondents strongly agreeing. Limiting the number of cannabis retailers and restricting the marketing of cannabis products were also highly supported with 60% **(56%, 64%) and** 57% **(54%, 61%)** of respondents strongly agreeing with the statements. Limiting the sale of cannabis products to government owned retailers was the policy statement receiving the least support, with 45% **(41%, 49%)** of respondents strongly agreeing and 19% **(17%, 23%)** strongly disagreeing. See figure 1 for the full breakdown of support for the five policy statements.

Figure 1: Percent of adults (18+) who reported their level of agreement with various cannabis policy statements, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 2017.

Agreement with Cannabis Policy Statements, Simcoe Muskoka Adults (18+), 2017