Can Pregnant People Smoke Weed?

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[More pregnant people are smoking weed](https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2019/06/study-finds-increased-cannabis-use-during-pregnancy) and admitting to lighting up to their healthcare professionals. Marijuana is Schedule I and illegal at the federal level. Several states are legalizing recreational and medicinal use. There is concern from governing health bodies like, The American Academy of Pediatrics, [that no amount of weed is safe](https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana/marijuana-pregnancy) during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

So what happens when pregnant people smoke anyway? Some states criminalize drug use during pregnancy-even states that legalized or decriminalized marijuana use. The thought is criminal justice can influence reproductive behaviors.

A CDC study on 42 states (and D.C.) found that 26 states consider drug use during pregnancy as child abuse. This means the District of Columbia, a local government that legalized recreational weed amounts up to two ounces, can charge pregnant people with child abuse.

How do criminal justice bodies get involved? If a pregnant person discloses drug use, or if healthcare professionals suspect drug use, eights states will test in the office or hospital. And over half of the states in this study are required to report positive drug screen results.

Pregnant people that self-medicate with weed are seen as having a drug abuse problem in much of the United States. Although some states offer programs for rehabilitation- the consequences of smoking a joint while pregnant could be jail time.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GH1ECvb4E2HNWMZUSumoTIFZnZAh5SEP122I9WV_kbg/edit?usp=sharing>