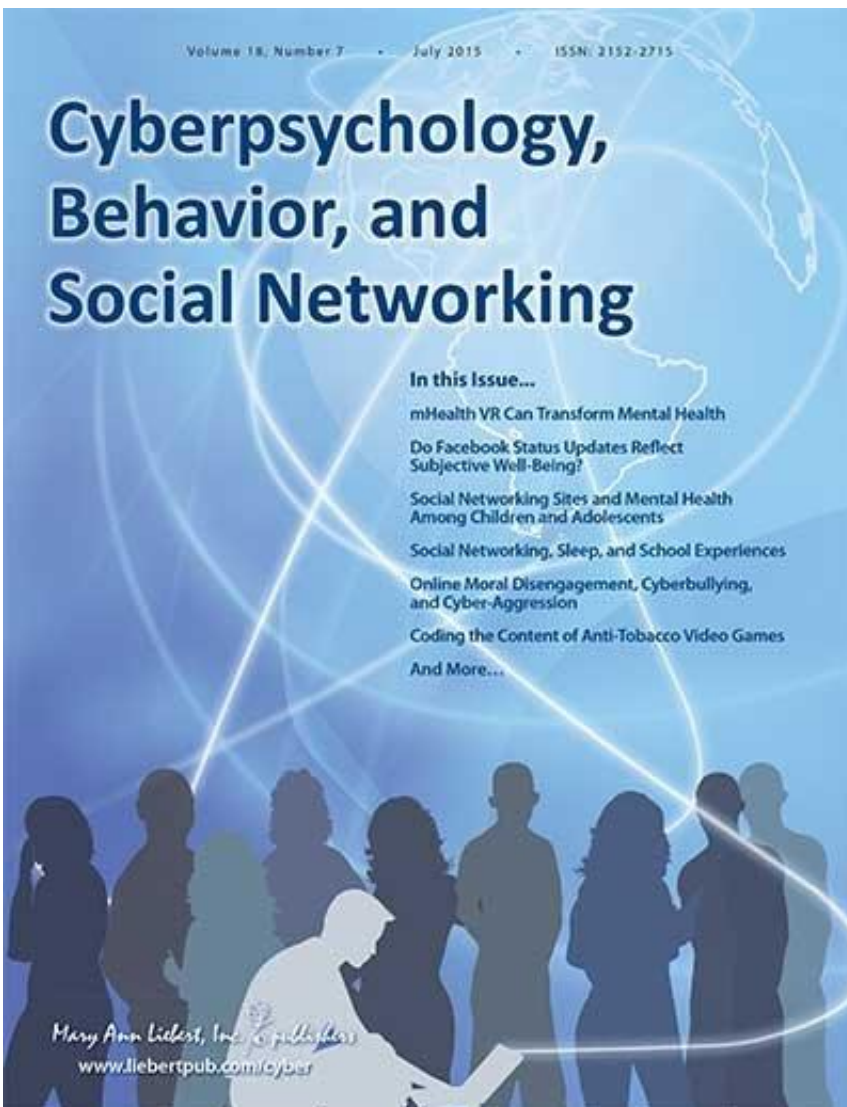


# Adolescents are not shy about discussing marijuana use on Twitter

July 15 2015



Credit: Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

More than 65% of the marijuana-related messages posted by adolescents on Twitter indicate a positive attitude toward marijuana use, and of the teens' original tweets evaluated as part of a recent study, nearly 43% suggest personal use of the drug. Sharing these positive perceptions and acceptance of marijuana use on social media contributes to normalization of the behavior, according to the article published in *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*.

In "[Prevalence of Marijuana-Related Traffic on Twitter, 2012-2013: A Content Analysis](#)", Leah Thompson, Frederick Rivara, MD, MPH, and Jennifer Whitehill, PhD, University of Washington, Seattle, Amherst College, and University of Massachusetts Amherst, assessed and compared the [marijuana](#)-related content on Twitter during two 3-week periods: one before and one after the 2012 U.S. elections in which two states legalized recreational marijuana use. The authors focused on original Twitter messages posted by adolescents, reporting overwhelmingly positive comments on the medical and social benefits of marijuana, with little mention of its potential for causing harm.

"As marijuana legalization continues across the U.S., providing accurate information concerning its benefits and potential harm will become ever more important," says Editor-in-Chief Brenda K. Wiederhold, PhD, MBA, BCB, BCN, Interactive Media Institute, San Diego, California. "Social [media](#) networks such as Twitter may be one of the key sources with which to disseminate this information to teens."

**More information:** The article is available free on the [Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking](#) website until August 15, 2015.

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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