

# Seattle's Cannabis Industry

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# Cannabis is a booming industry in Seattle

In 2021, just over 60 cannabis stores located in Seattle sold over \$185 million in cannabis products.

The median sales **per month** for a single location cannabis retail shop in 2021 was **\$484,807**.

The most profitable single location sold over \$12 million in cannabis products in 2021.

One retailer with five locations **sold over \$24 million in cannabis products in 2021**.

Source: 502data.com

What was  
once illegal,  
is now  
essential

Just 12 years ago, people in Seattle were arrested and convicted of Cannabis crimes. Black and brown people were disproportionately targeted for cannabis arrests.

Now there are nearly 20,000 cannabis jobs in Washington State.

During the pandemic, Cannabis workers were considered part of the “essential” workforce; however, cannabis workers are offered few protections on the job.

# Cannabis has a racist legacy

In Seattle, Weed and Seed targeted predominately Black residential neighborhoods. Nationally, Black people were arrested at a rate of nearly 4:1 for cannabis offenses, despite similar rates of use as all Americans.

Retail store owners in Washington are disproportionately white. Black people were largely left out of cannabis ownership opportunities.

Front-line, minimum wage, workers are disproportionately Black, Indigenous and/or people of color.

Sources: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2020/06/23/marijuanas-racist-history-shows-the-need-for-comprehensive-drug-reform/>

<https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FAS/BusinessLicenseTax/Cannabis%20forum/CANNABIS-EQUITY-SURVEY-ANALYSIS.pdf>

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/how-black-businesspeople-were-left-out-of-washingtons-green-gold-rush-after-marijuana-was-legalized/>

# Other cities have equity funds and training opportunities

Cities like Portland, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles have programs like cannabis equity funding, training for cannabis workers, and social equity licenses.

Sources: <https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FAS/BusinessLicenseTax/Cannabis%20forum/CANNABIS-EQUITY-SURVEY-ANALYSIS.pdf>

Los Angeles and San Francisco Municipal Code

# Top community priorities

Correct the wrongs of the war on drugs: automatic record vacations.

Invest in advancement, career growth and ownership opportunities for Black, Indigenous and People of Color in the cannabis industry.

Increased training, benefits and protections for workers in the cannabis industry.