

FACTSHEET

The study on the Controlled Cannabis Supply Chain Experiment

This factsheet briefly summarises the design of the study being conducted on the Controlled Cannabis Supply Chain Experiment, including the objective, what is being measured and the research methods used.

Objective

The Controlled Cannabis Supply Chain Experiment was set up to establish whether it is possible to regulate the production, distribution and sale of cannabis and how this will affect crime, public order, safety and public health. Throughout the experiment researchers will be studying the effects.

The results of the study will be used to gain insight into the possibility of a regulated cannabis supply chain, and will inform the government’s decision on whether to adapt its coffee shop policy. It is an exploratory study intended to provide new insights for the Dutch cannabis policy.

The study, commissioned by the Research and Data Centre (‘WODC’), is being carried out by researchers from Breuer&Intraval, RAND Europe and the Trimbos Institute. An independent guidance and evaluation committee, consisting of experts from various disciplines, will supervise the researchers throughout the study and evaluate the experiment.

Design

During the experiment the researchers will carry out various measurements in the context of the study in order to enable a comprehensive evaluation of the experiment.

- 1. Preliminary measurement.** This data provided a picture of the situation with regard to cannabis and coffee shops at that time. It was initially collected for the purposes of a baseline measurement. Because the experiment was delayed, it was decided to use the results from 2021 as a preliminary measurement instead. A baseline measurement was then conducted.
- 2. Baseline measurement.** This measurement was conducted before the start of the experiment. The researchers set out the policy theory underpinning the experiment. In addition, they collected the initial data with which subsequent measurements can be compared.
- 3. Monitoring the experiment.** During the experimental phase (2025 to 2029), researchers will conduct yearly interim measurements for monitoring purposes. They will look at the experiment’s effects on crime, public order, safety and public health. The findings of each measurement will be presented in an annual report.
- 4. Evaluation of the experiment.** An evaluation will be conducted approximately three and a half years after the start of the experimental phase. Researchers will establish the extent to which a controlled cannabis supply chain is possible and how it can be achieved. They will also look at the effects of the production and sale of regulated cannabis on crime, public order, safety and public health.

The different phases of the experiment

Preparatory phase		Start-up phase		Transitional phase		Experimental phase	
1 July 2020		15 December 2023		17 June 2024		7 April 2025	
31 May 2023 Preliminary measurement	14 May 2024 Baseline measurement	9 September 2026 T1 measurement	Summer 2027 T2 measurement	Spring 2028 T3 measurement + evaluation	Summer 2028 Guidance and evaluation committee’s final report	Autumn 2028 Government decision	End of experiment

Scientific research reports on the experiment

** A fourth interim measurement (T4) will also be carried out. However, the results are not expected until after the experiment has ended so it is not included in the figure above.*

Research methods

This study uses a quasi-experimental design, where the developments in the 10 intervention municipalities are compared to those in 10 comparison municipalities.

Intervention municipalities (orange)	Comparison municipalities (blue)
1. Groningen	1. Enschede
2. Almere	2. Haarlem
3. Arnhem	3. Helmond
4. Nijmegen	4. Leeuwarden
5. Zaanstad	5. Leiden
6. Voorne aan Zee	6. Lelystad
7. Breda	7. Roermond
8. Tilburg	8. Tiel
9. Maastricht	9. Utrecht
10. Heerlen	10. Zutphen



Locations of intervention and comparison municipalities

Data sources

Data is collected at various times in the following ways:

- Interviews with the parties involved (municipalities, coffee shop owners, growers and supervisory authorities);
- Surveys among coffee shop visitors and people who live and/or work near coffee shops;
- Visitor counts at different times in different coffee shops;
- Analyses of coffee shop menus;
- A continuous online survey among individuals purchasing cannabis on the illicit market;
- Police data regarding drug-related incidents and offences;
- Analyses of contaminants and THC/CBD in the cannabis sold in coffee shops in the participating municipalities. (These analyses were carried out once before the start of the experimental phase and will be carried out once more during the experimental phase.)

Evaluation

The experiment began on 7 April 2025 which means that the end date will be 7 April 2029. Before the end of the experiment, the government will make a decision about Dutch cannabis policy on the basis of the study. The coalition agreement 'Let's get to work' states that follow-up steps will be determined on the basis of the evaluation. The final report will be drawn up by the independent guidance and evaluation committee, which will base its findings on the preliminary measurement, baseline measurement, interim measurements and the researchers' evaluation report. The committee's final report is to be submitted sometime around the summer of 2028, after which the government must present its position in the autumn of 2028. Below is a schematic view of the final evaluation process.



