

# Update from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy on the Initiative 502 Evaluations

WASHINGTON STATE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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House Regulated  
Substances &  
Gaming  
Committee:  
Work Session

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# WASHINGTON STATE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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# WSIPP'S WORK

Our role is to provide **rigorous, non-partisan research** on topics of legislative interest.

We specialize in **quantitative research**, including outcome evaluations, economic analyses, and evidence reviews.

WSIPP's research projects are initiated and funded through:

- Legislative assignments
- Approval by WSIPP's Board of Directors. The work must be:
  - ✓ Of importance to the state
  - ✓ Consistent with WSIPP's non-partisan mission

# WSIPP'S CANNABIS-RELATED STUDIES

1) RCW 69.50.550: Initiative 502 evaluations

**Today's focus**

2) Board-approved contract: Employment and Wage Earnings in Licensed Marijuana Businesses (2017)

3) 2018 supplemental operating budget

- ✓ Suppressing Illicit Cannabis Markets After State Marijuana Legalization (2019)
- ✓ Measuring Youth Cannabis Use in Washington State (2019)
- ✓ Updated Inventory of Programs for the Prevention and Treatment of Youth Cannabis Use (2019)

# WSIPP'S INITIATIVE 502 (I-502) ASSIGNMENT

## RCW 69.50.550

WSIPP shall conduct cost-benefit evaluations for the implementation of [this act]...The evaluations shall include, but *not necessarily be limited to*:

- Public health and health care,
- Public safety,
- Substance use,
- Criminal justice,
- Economic impacts, and
- Administrative costs and revenues

*\*\*abbreviated assignment language\*\**

# I-502 BENEFIT COST ANALYSIS (BCA)

- **How did I-502 change outcomes?**
  - Several outcomes to consider
  - Different components to I-502
    - » Legalized adult possession
    - » Established legal retail market
    - » Mandated prevention and education

# WSIPP'S I-502 ASSIGNMENT

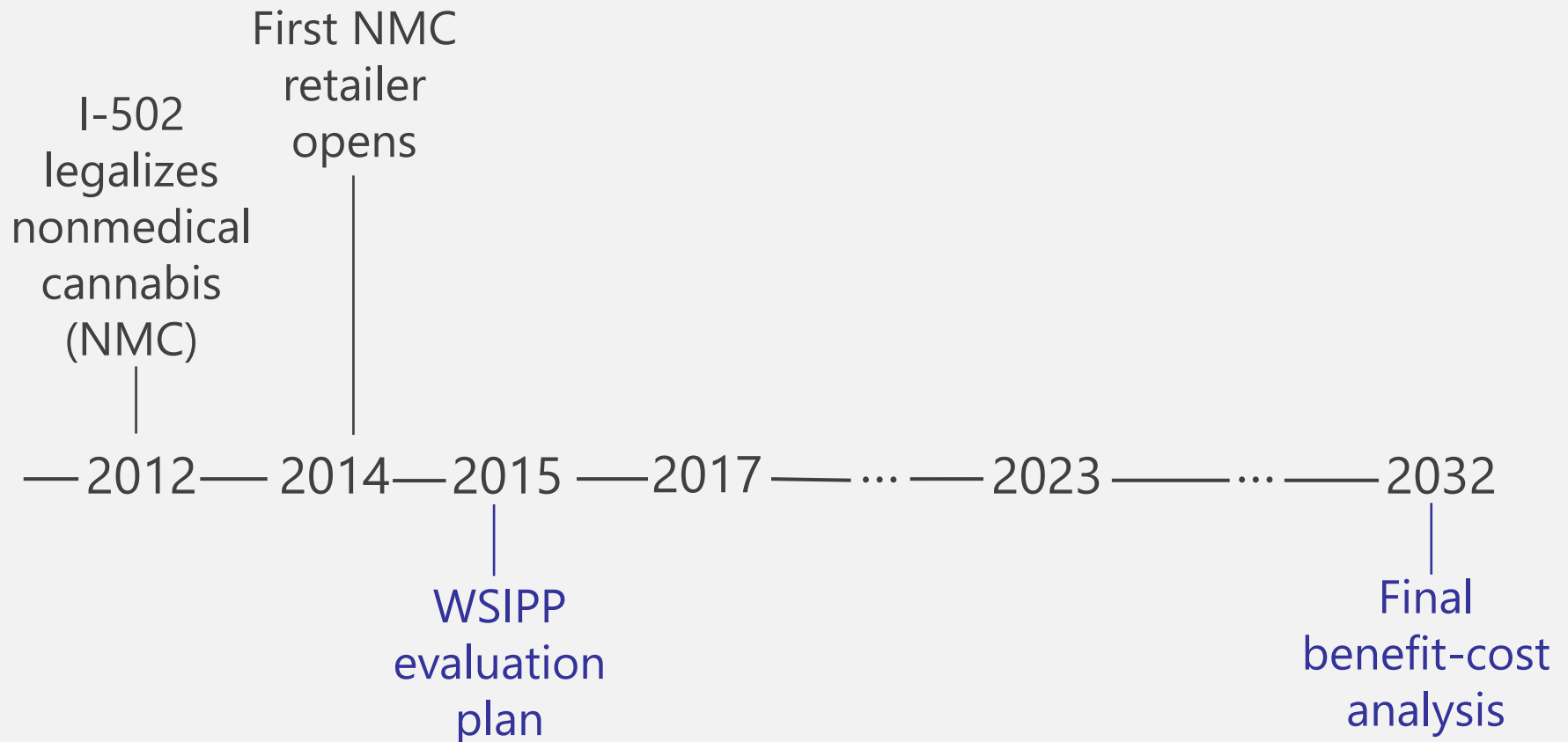


# WSIPP'S I-502 ASSIGNMENT

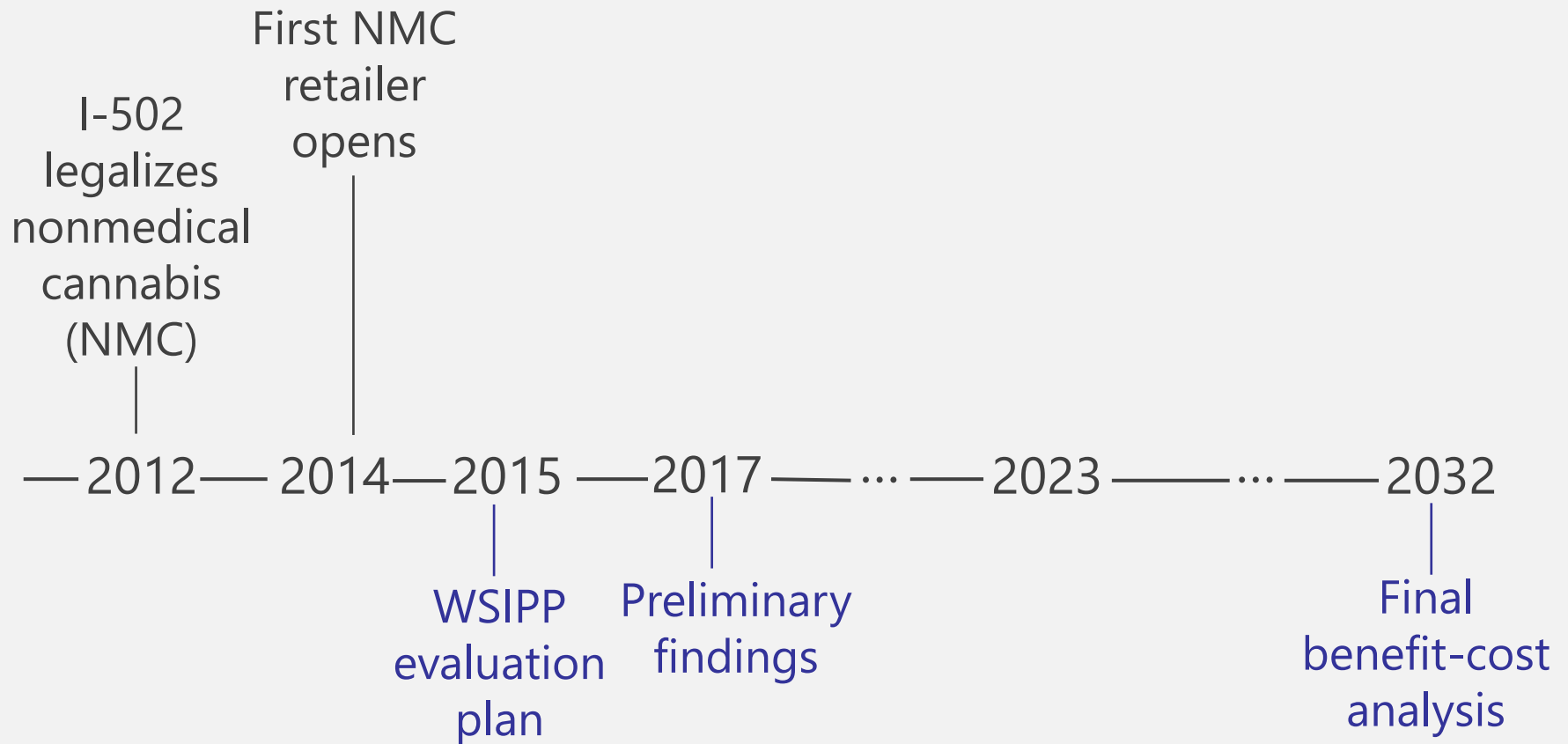




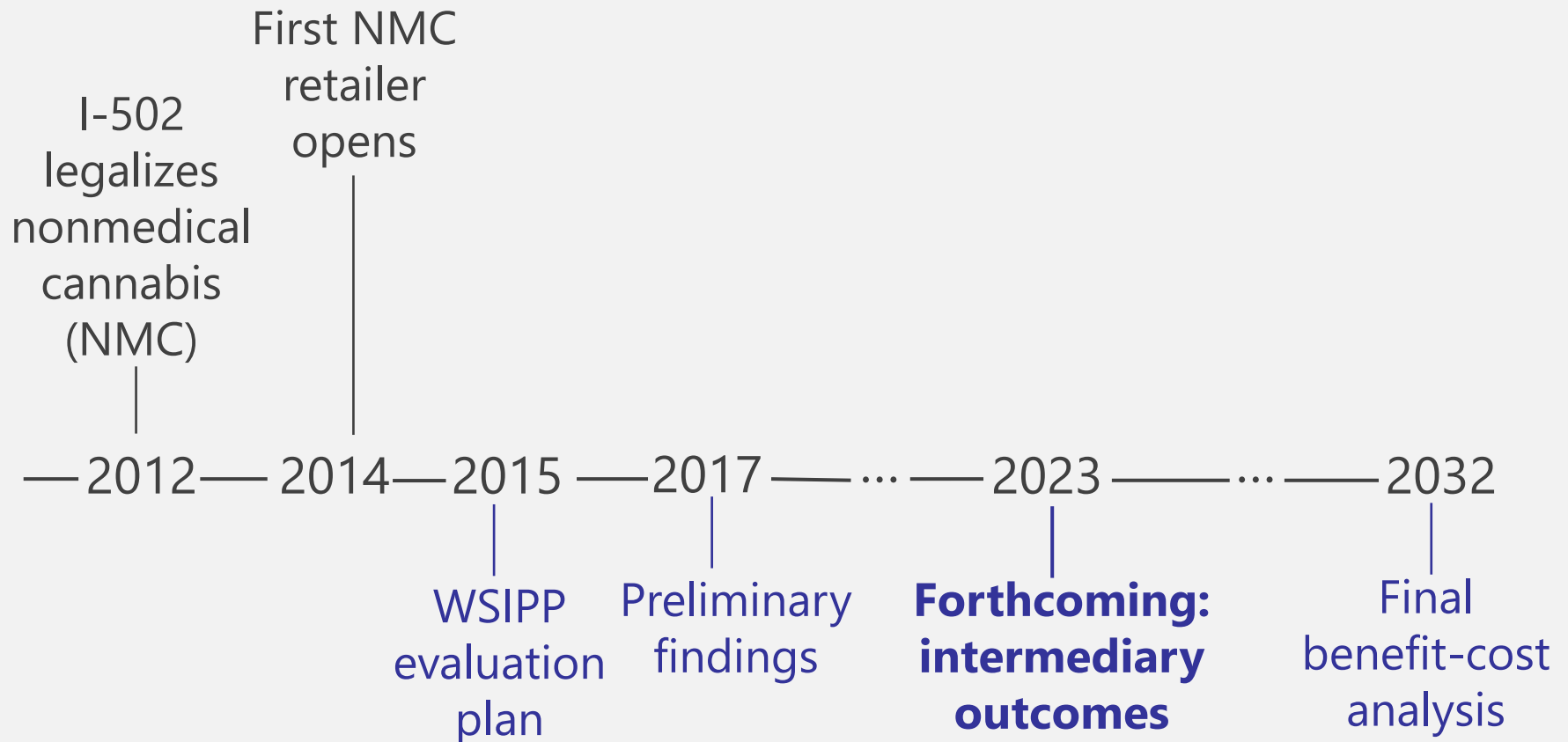
# WSIPP'S I-502 ASSIGNMENT



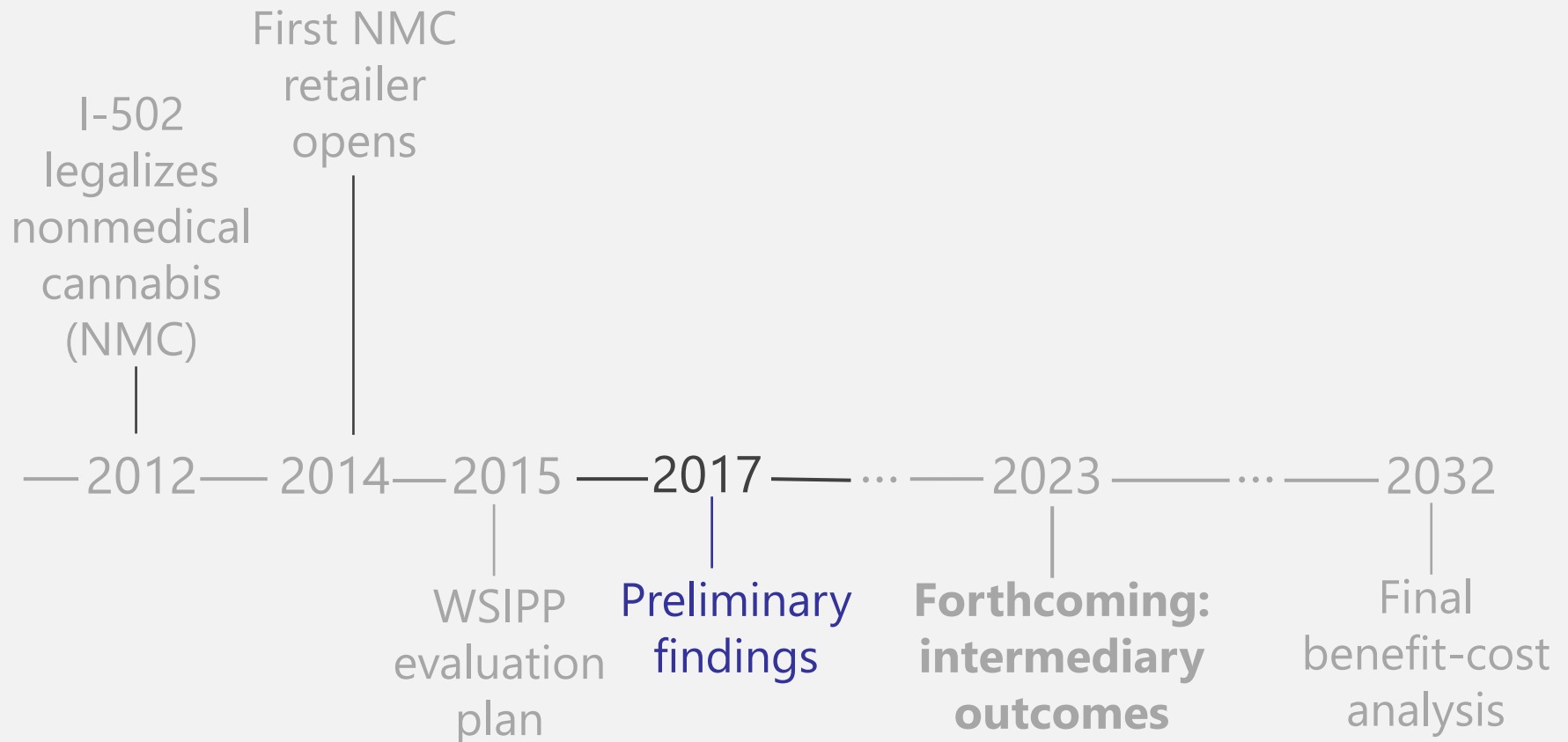
# WSIPP'S I-502 ASSIGNMENT



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# I-520 EVALUATION: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS (2017)

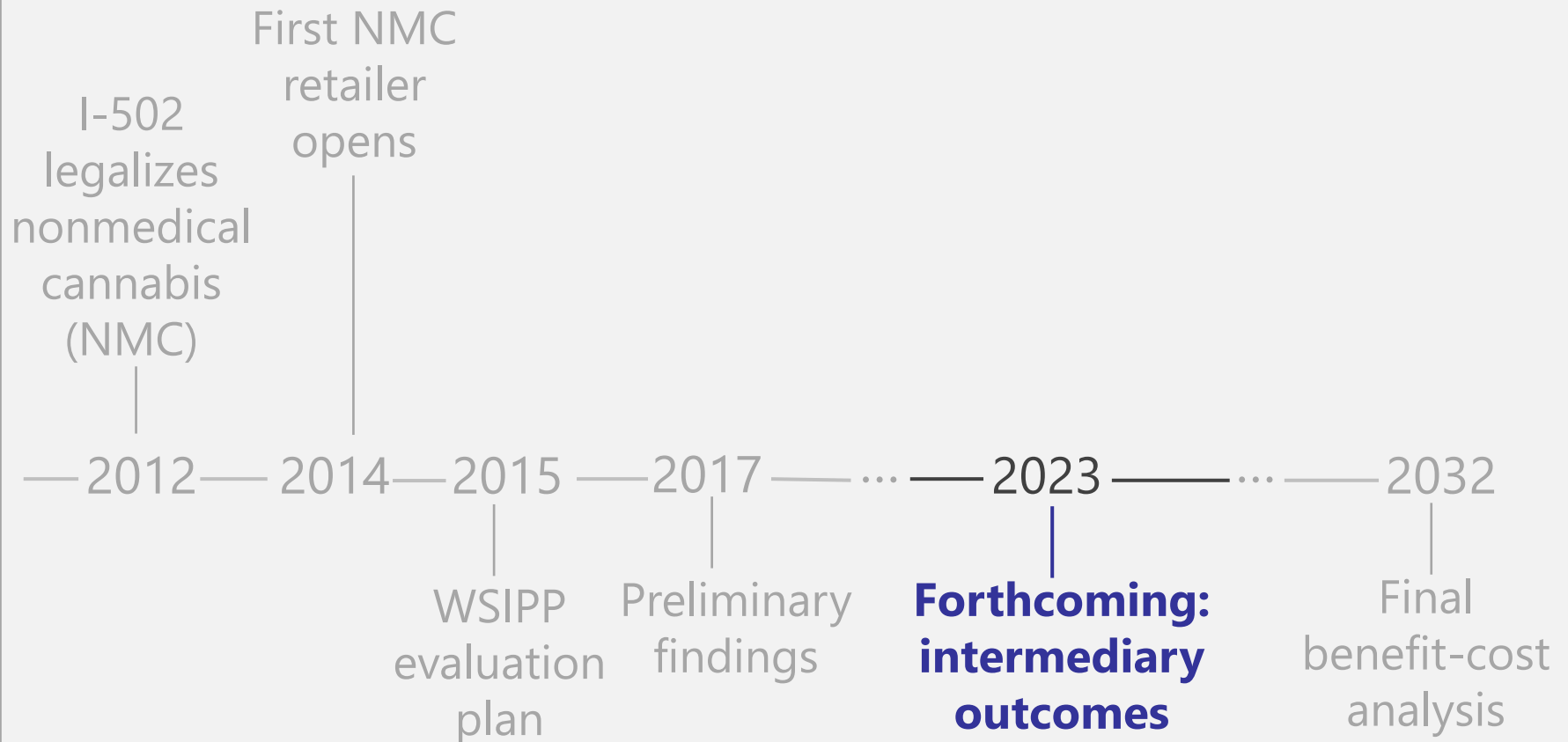
## National data

- I-502 *did not relate to* changes in cannabis abuse treatment
  - Compared to other states
  - Study period: 2000-2014

## WA State data

- Higher county cannabis sales *related to* higher reported adult cannabis use
  - Study period: 2011-2015
- County cannabis sales *did not relate to* changes in
  - reported youth cannabis use (study period: 2002-2016)
  - drug-related convictions (study period: 2005-2016)

# WSIPP'S I-502 ASSIGNMENT



# I-520 EVALUATION: FORTHCOMING (2023)

## 1. Review of Cannabis Policy, Revenues, and Expenditures

*(Forthcoming June 2023)*

- Relevant policy
- Past-decade revenues and expenditures

## 2. Outcome Evaluations

*(Forthcoming September 2023)*

- How cannabis legalization/retail relates to:
  - Reported substance use
  - Related diagnoses and health care use
  - Traffic safety
  - Criminal justice outcomes

# I-520 EVALUATION: FORTHCOMING (2023)

## National data

- Reported substance use
  - Examines how reported cannabis use and other substance use changed after I-502 (12/12) and commercial sales (07/14)
    - Compared to other states
    - Outcomes include reported use of:
      - » Cannabis
      - » Alcohol
      - » Cigarettes
      - » Other drugs

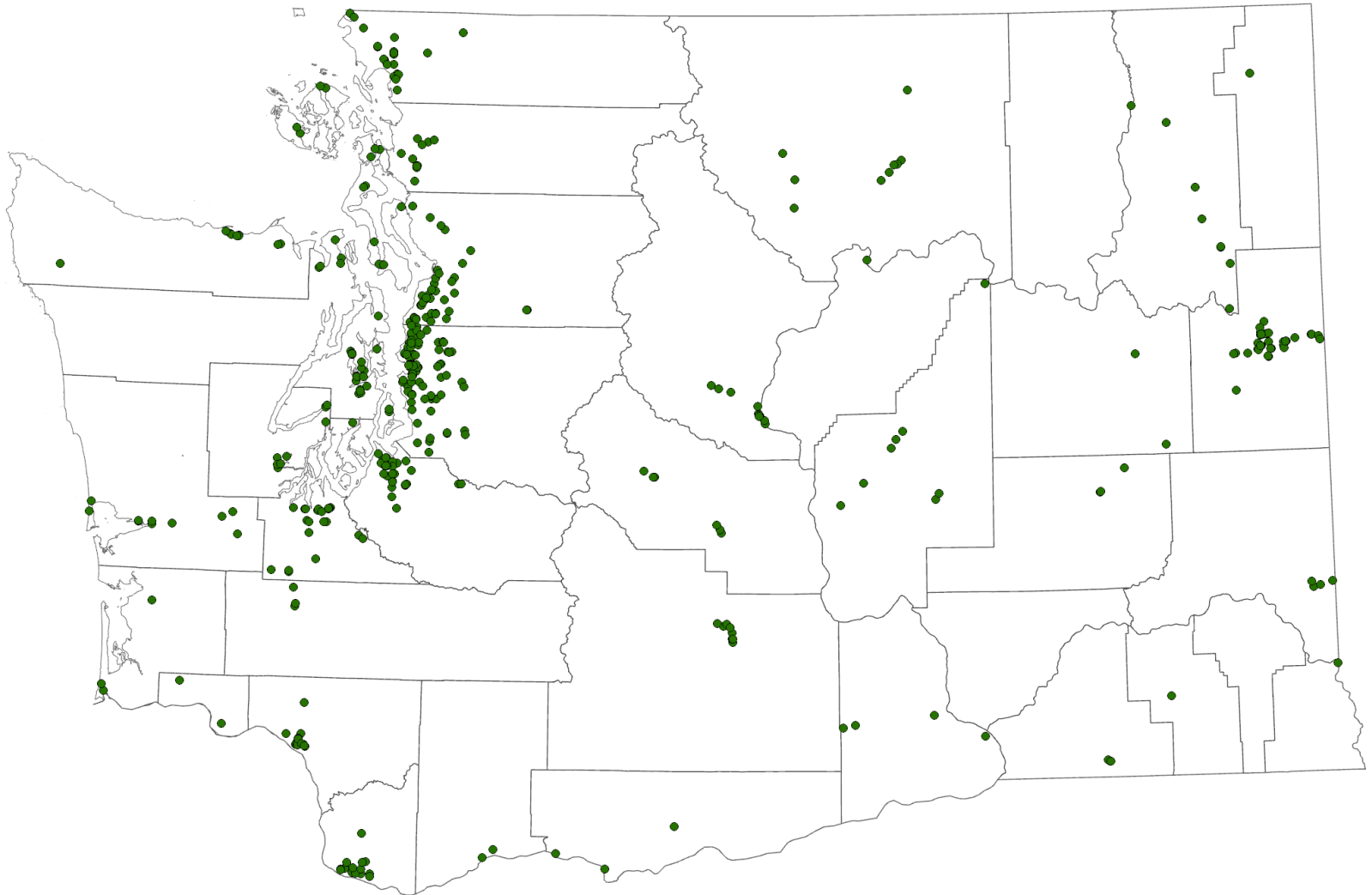


# I-520 EVALUATION: FORTHCOMING (2023)

## **WA State data**

- Impact of local access to licensed cannabis retailers in WA.

# Nonmedical Cannabis Retail Licensee Locations, Counties 2019



## **Reported cannabis use**

- Population of surveyed adults ages 21+
- Outcomes include reported:
  - » Any/past-month/heavy cannabis use

## **Substance Use Disorder and Health Care**

- Population of Medicaid enrollees ages 12+
- Outcomes:
  - » Cannabis, alcohol, opioid use disorder diagnoses
  - » Psychotic disorder, mania/bipolar, depression diagnoses
  - » Substance use & mental health treatment
  - » Antipsychotic, antianxiety, antidepressant prescriptions

## Traffic Fatalities

- Population of all drivers in fatal crash
- Outcomes include drivers testing positive for:
  - » Cannabis (THC >5ng/mL)
  - » Alcohol, other drugs, poly-drug use

## **Criminal Justice**

- Population of persons with charges filed
- Outcomes include cannabis/substance related:
  - » Charges
  - » Convictions (including DUI)
  - » Sentencing

# I-520 EVALUATION: FORTHCOMING (2023)

## **1. Review of Cannabis Policy, Revenues, and Expenditures**

*(June 2023)*

## **2. Outcome Evaluations**

*(September 2023)*

Reports will be available on our website at  
[wsipp.wa.gov/Publications](http://wsipp.wa.gov/Publications)

Reports are also circulated to relevant committees, committee staff, and our Board of Directors.

# THANK YOU!

## Questions?

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# APPENDIX

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# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## *WSIPP'S CANNABIS-RELATED RESEARCH*

**Website:** [www.wsipp.wa.gov](http://www.wsipp.wa.gov)

### **I-502 Evaluation Reports:**

[I-502 Evaluation Plan and Preliminary Report on Implementation](#) (2015)

[I-502 Evaluation and Benefit-Cost Analysis: Second Required Report](#) (2017)

### **Other Cannabis-Related Reports:**

[Employment and Wage Earnings in Licensed Marijuana Businesses](#) (2017)

[Suppressing Illicit Cannabis Markets After State Marijuana Legalization](#) (2019)

[Measuring Youth Cannabis Use in Washington State](#) (2019)

[Updated Inventory of Programs for the Prevention and Treatment of Youth Cannabis Use](#) (2019)