



## METHODS

## Needs Assessment Highlights

CCSMH was funded by Health Canada to develop accredited eLearning modules.

A needs assessment survey was distributed to physicians, other healthcare providers, and healthcare students to determine current knowledge, confidence and awareness of cannabis use among older adults. A survey was also sent to older adults and caregivers to assess their experience with healthcare providers regarding cannabis.

Development of the eLearning modules was informed by the results of the needs assessment, other surveys and the scientific literature.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS



**1557** respondents completed the anonymous CCSMH needs assessment survey in Fall 2020

- **195** physicians
- **43** nurse practitioners
- **521** other healthcare providers
- **39** healthcare students
- **686** older adults
- **73** older adult caregivers

## Healthcare Provider Responses (Physicians & NPs)

% who have or have not prescribed, authorized or recommended cannabis to their older patients

**58% have not**

Of these:

- **44%** would consider it
- **36%** are unsure
- **20%** would never consider it



**42% have** Of these:

- **75%** had prescribed a pharmaceutical form of cannabis
- **58%** had authorized the medical use of non-pharmaceutical cannabis

**89%** are aware of older adults in their practice using cannabis



**Only 39%** feel strongly or very strongly that they have sufficient knowledge and expertise to address older patients questions about cannabis

**57%** of healthcare students indicated that they have not learned about cannabis in their curriculum

Primary concerns of physicians & NPs related to cannabis and older adults

79% Interactions with other medications

65% Chronic adverse effects

62% Acute adverse effects

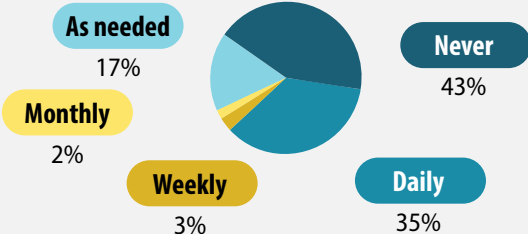
58% Intoxication/impairment

39% Legal considerations

38% Effects on driving

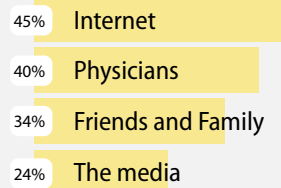
## Older Adult Responses

How often do you use cannabis?



**45%** of respondents get their information on cannabis from the internet.

This suggests a need for further discussion between healthcare providers and older adults to ensure the safest and most effective use of cannabis.



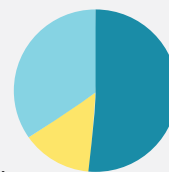
How do you use cannabis?

- **54%** with a prescription or medical authorization from a physician/NP for medical or therapeutic purposes
- **37%** without a prescription or medical authorization from a physician/ NP for medical or therapeutic purposes
- **25%** for non-medical reasons

- Cannabis oils are the most commonly used mode of cannabis product, followed by dried cannabis and edible food products



**14%** of respondents had concerns about discussing cannabis with their doctor or healthcare provider



**51%** of respondents stated that they had talked to their doctor about cannabis. However **41%** of those stated that their doctor was unable to answer their questions.

Most common reasons for using cannabis

71% Pain 56% Sleep 31% Anxiety