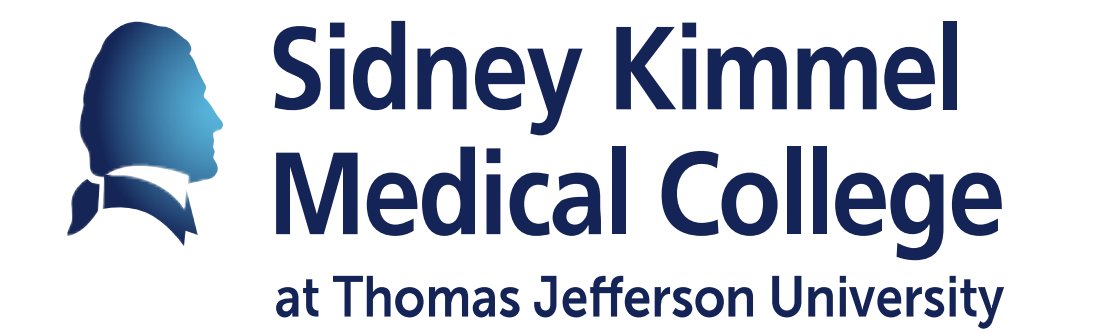




Orthopaedic Patient Perspectives on Medical Cannabis: A Survey of Over 2,500 Patients



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Introduction

- Cannabis is currently listed by the Drug Enforcement Agency as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, which has prevented medical researchers from performing high quality clinical trials
- 2019 Pew Research poll: two-thirds of American citizens support the legalization of cannabis (doubling since 2000)
- Medical Cannabis (MC) is now legal in 36 states and the District of Columbia for a variety of qualifying medical conditions, and recreational cannabis (RC) is now legal in 15 states
- MC has been found to be subjectively effective in chronic pain management by improving symptoms, decreasing opioid usage, and improving overall quality of life
- Perception and acceptance of MC by the general public remains poorly understood
- The purpose of this study is to assess current orthopaedic patient perspectives of MC, and to investigate factors that may represent barriers to patient utilization of MC

Materials and Methods

- Anonymous cross sectional survey study
- From October 2020 to January 2021, all patients presenting for an office visit with one of thirteen musculoskeletal physicians across New Jersey and Pennsylvania were asked to participate
- MC is legal in both states that were investigated, with New Jersey legalizing MC in 2010 and Pennsylvania in 2016
- Patients completed a novel survey that was created by the investigators regarding patient opinions of MC
- All survey responses were collected and stored electronically via SurveyMonkey

Results

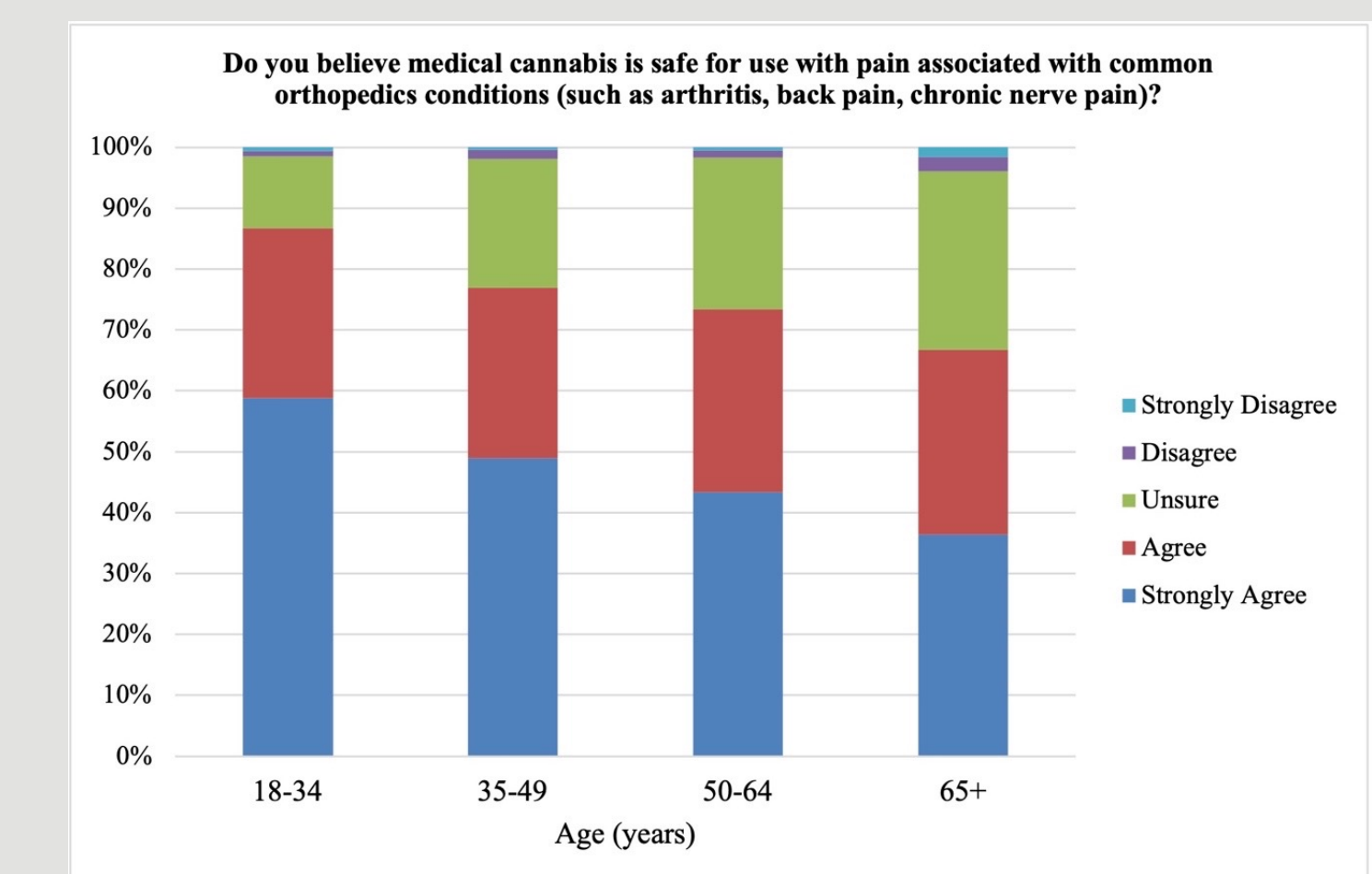
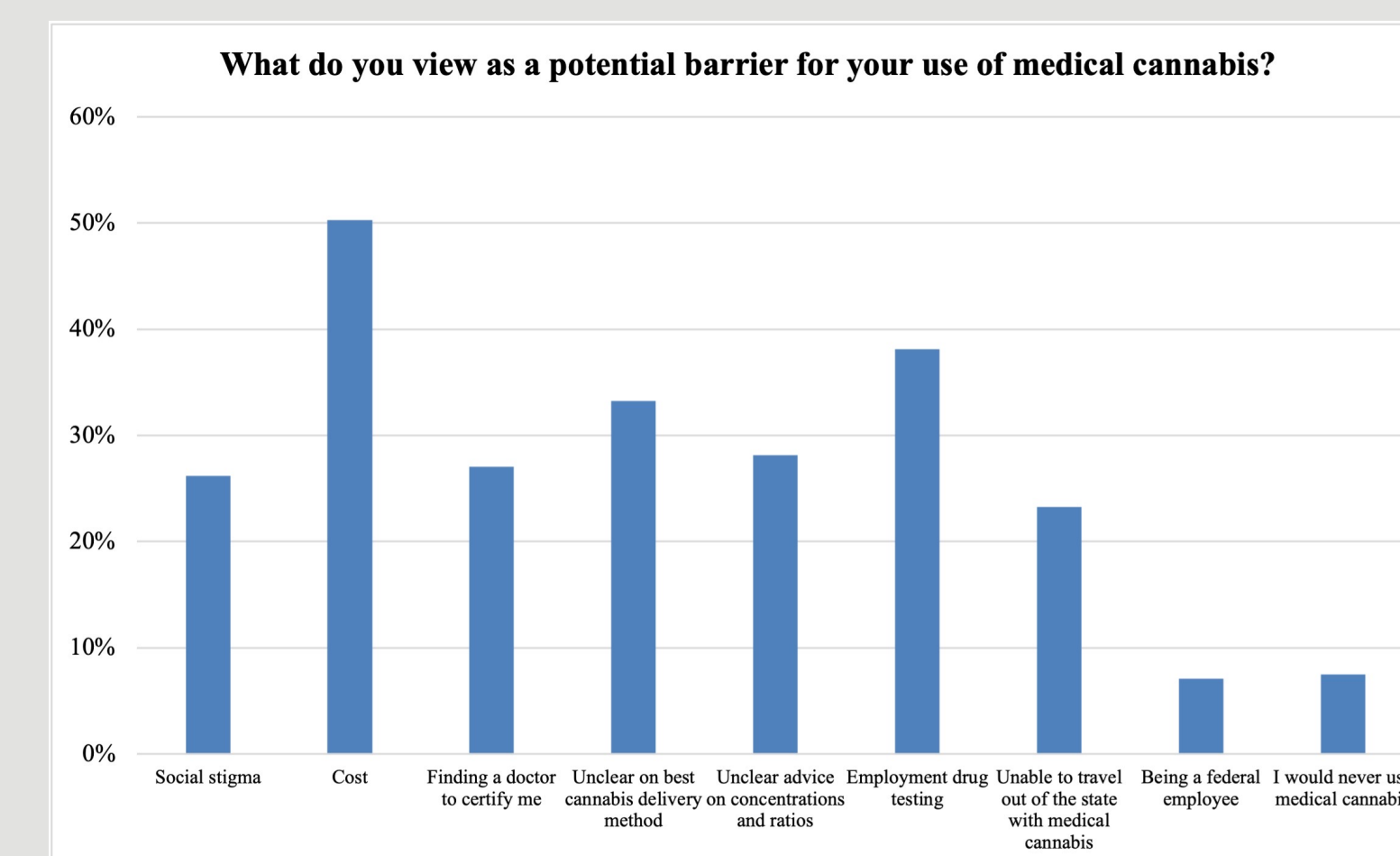
- 2,547 unique respondents
- One in ten patients (9.4%) currently used MC for a medical condition
- Of the patients not currently using MC, most (81.6%) would consider using MC for a chronic pain or orthopaedic condition
- Most (90.6%) were aware of the legality of MC in their state, and most (89.3%) believed MC should be legal throughout the United States

	N	%
Sex		
Male	1064	41.9%
Female	1476	58.1%
Age		
18-34	459	18.0%
35-49	634	24.9%
50-64	893	35.1%
65+	561	22.0%
Education Level		
High school	552	21.7%
College	1118	43.9%
Graduate school	626	24.6%
Professional school	241	9.5%
None of the above	9	0.4%

Results (cont.)

- Cost was the most commonly selected potential barrier to using MC at 50.3%, and 71.4% of patients believed the cost of MC to be either expensive or not affordable
- Significantly more patients aged 18-49 selected social stigma as a potential barrier for MC use than patients aged 50+ (p<.001)
- Most patients agreed that MC is safe for use with common orthopaedic conditions (75.2%) and is safer than using prescription opioids (77.1%)
- Older patients were significantly less likely to believe MC is safe for orthopaedic conditions, or that MC is safer than opioids (p<.05)

	MC should be legal		RC should be legal		Social stigma as a barrier for MC use	
	N (%)	p Value	N (%)	p Value	N (%)	p Value
Sex		p=.275		p<.001		p=.016
Male	940 (88.5)		429 (40.4)		302 (28.7)	
Female	1322 (89.9)		399 (27.1)		358 (24.4)	
Age		p=.585		p<.001		p<.001
18-34	416 (90.6)		211 (46.0)		157 (34.5)	
35-49	569 (90.0)		212 (33.5)		213 (33.8)	
50-64	787 (88.6)		257 (28.9)		197 (22.4)	
65+	496 (88.6)		148 (26.4)		94 (16.9)	
Education Level		p=.009		p=.165		p=.024
High school	472 (86.0)		169 (30.8)		119 (21.8)	
College	1015 (91.0)		380 (34.1)		299 (27.0)	
Graduate school	564 (90.5)		204 (32.7)		180 (28.9)	
Professional school	209 (86.7)		75 (31.1)		62 (26.1)	
None of the above	7 (77.8)		0 (0)		0 (0)	
Current MC Use		p=.328		p<.001		p=.062
User	209 (87.5)		106 (44.4)		73 (31.3)	
Non-User	2055 (89.5)		721 (31.4)		587 (25.7)	



Conclusion

- These findings appear to reflect nationwide trends in the increasing acceptance of both medical and recreational cannabis
- Most patients would consider using MC for chronic pain or other orthopaedic conditions if indicated
- General public knowledge, cost, and social stigma remain barriers for orthopaedic patient utilization of MC