



Comparison of COVID-19 Preventative Social Behaviors Among Cannabis Users and Non-Cannabis Users: Preliminary Results from the COVID-19 Cannabis Health Study

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BACKGROUND

- ✦ The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in global shutdowns and necessitated changes in social behaviors, such as the adoption of preventive measures like mask wearing and social distancing, due to the devastating impact of millions of infections and deaths.
- ✦ Complying with these preventive measures has been difficult; and adherence has been affected by several factors, such as cannabis, which has been linked to diminished decision-making ability and decreased inhibitions (Fatima et al., 2019).

OBJECTIVE

- ✦ To evaluate the preventive social behaviors between cannabis users and non-cannabis users throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

METHODS



✦ On March 21, 2020, an online survey was administered globally – 10 days after declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic.



✦ Subsample of cannabis consumers and non-consumers were created in order to evaluate differences.



✦ Prevalence (univariate analyses) and chi-square analysis, were conducted on the subsample using SAS Analytics.

RESULTS

Table 1. Demographic Prevalence among Cannabis Consumers and Non-Consumers

	Overall Sample N= 2,816	Cannabis Consumer 2,660 (94.46%)	Non Cannabis Consumer 156 (5.54%)
Gender, n (%)			
Female	1,348 (47.99%)	1,239 (46.48%)	109 (70.32%)
Male	1,428 (50.84%)	1,383 (52.11%)	45 (29.03%)
Other	15 (0.53%)	14 (0.53%)	1 (0.65%)
Transgender	18 (0.64%)	18 (0.68%)	0 (0.00%)
Age (years), mean (±sd)	42.30 (±15.70)	42.58 (±15.73)	37.62 (±14.41)
Race/Ethnicity			
Hispanic	430 (15.40%)	366 (13.88%)	64 (41.29%)
Non-Hispanic White	2,010 (71.99%)	1,962 (74.40%)	48 (30.97%)
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	147 (5.27%)	121 (4.59%)	26 (16.77%)
Non-Hispanic Asian	71 (2.54%)	61 (2.31%)	10 (6.45%)
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	8 (0.29%)	6 (0.23%)	2 (1.29%)
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	22 (0.79%)	22 (0.83%)	0 (0.00%)
Other	104 (3.72%)	99 (3.75%)	5 (3.23%)

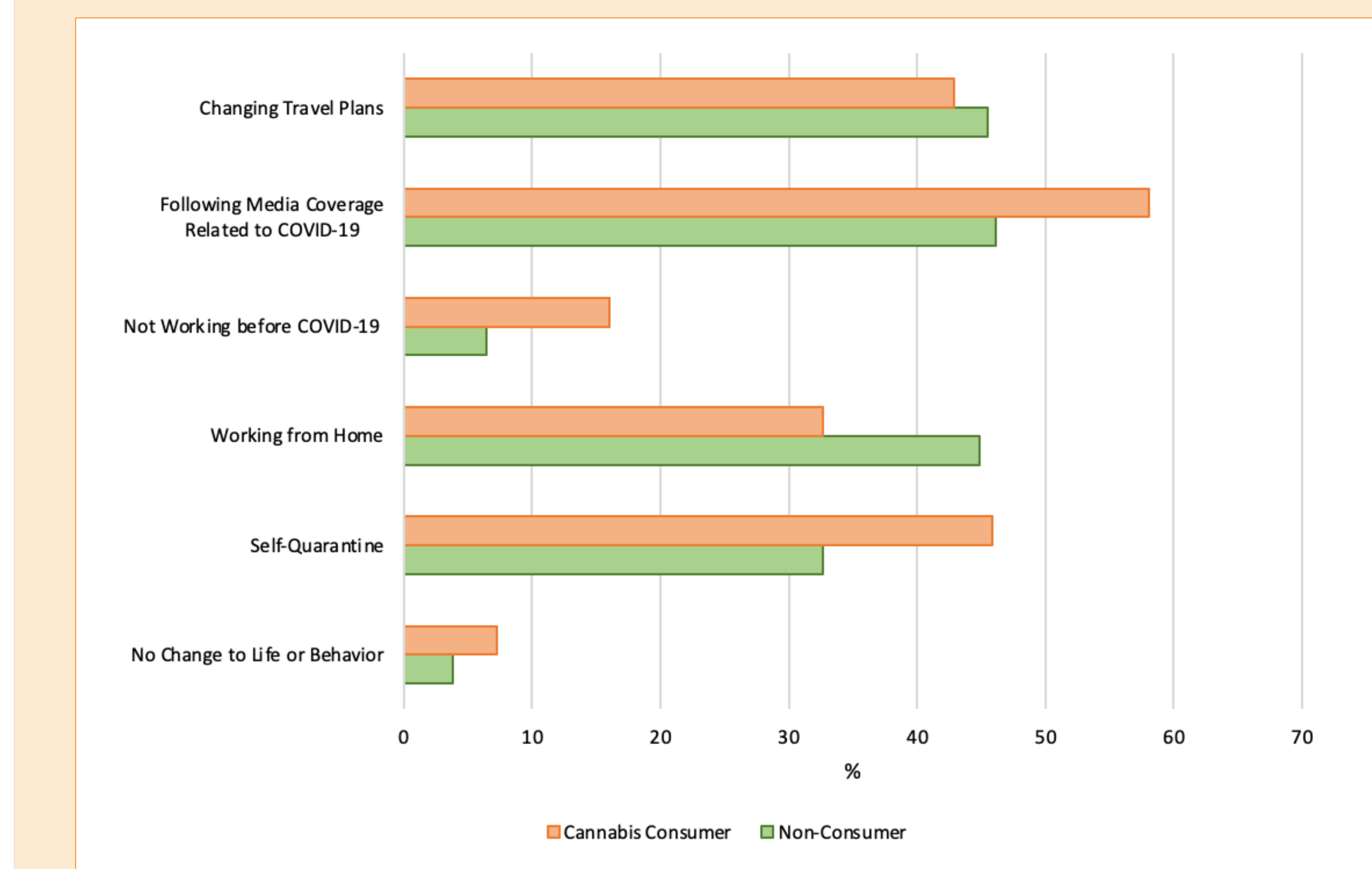


Figure 1. Self-Reported Social Behaviors of Cannabis Consumers and Non-Consumers

KEY FINDINGS

- ✦ Non cannabis consumers reported a higher level of education completed when compared to non-users.
- ✦ Significant differences in prevalence was found among cannabis consumers who self-quarantined, worked from home, unemployed before the pandemic, and following media coverage compared to non consumers.
- ✦ More cannabis consumers reported that COVID-19 had “very much” of an impact on their daily life compared to non consumers.

CONCLUSION

- ✦ A difference in social behaviors was found among cannabis consumers compared to non consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✦ With non cannabis users having a higher level of education, it is critical that future research explore how education level may have shaped social behaviors through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✦ Findings can inform prevention programs for future pandemics.

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PARTICIPATE TODAY



The COVID-19 Cannabis Health Study is still active and enrolling new participants each day. If you would like to participate and help future research for the short term and long-term impact of COVID-19, please scan the QR code.