



Association between Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis and Polysubstance Use Behavior among Cannabis Users During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Preliminary Results from the COVID-19 Cannabis Health Study

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BACKGROUND

- Since the COVID-19 Pandemic was declared a national emergency in March 2020, there has been an increase in substance use (NIH, 2022).
- In this study, we aimed to evaluate polysubstance use after a positive COVID-19 diagnosis among cannabis consumers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by examining changes in substance use reported among respondents to the COVID-19 Cannabis Health Study.

METHODS

- An online survey was distributed March 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic until March 2022. A subsample of cannabis users who reported a positive COVID-19 diagnosis was generated.
- COVID-19 Cannabis Health Questionnaire was used to collect self-report quantitative data on Alcohol, Cannabis, Tobacco, Methamphetamine, Opioids, Cocaine and Psilocybin use "since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic".
- Prevalence estimates were determined using SAS Analytics.

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RESULTS

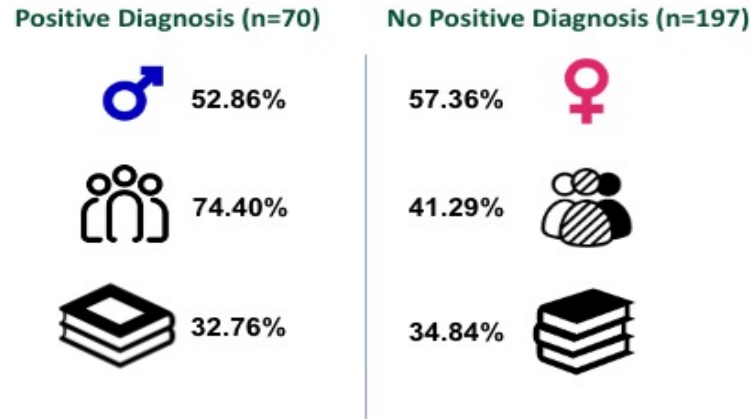


Figure 1. Comparison of Demographic Characteristics between COVID-19 Positive and Negative Individuals: Gender, Ethnicity, Race, and Education

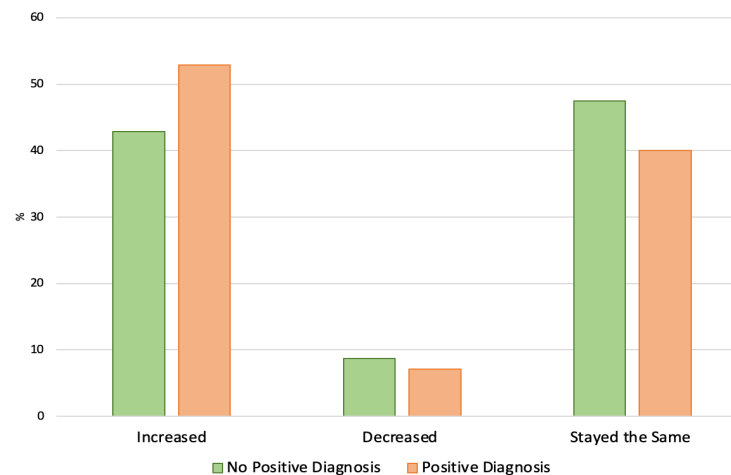


Figure 2. Comparison of Cannabis Use Pattern during the Pandemic between COVID-19 Positive and COVID-19 Negative Individuals

KEY FINDINGS

- 261 participants self-reported their COVID-19 diagnosis; 70 reported a positive COVID-19 test result (26.82%).
- The prevalence of cannabis consumers with a self-reported positive diagnosis of COVID-19 (26.82%) was higher than non-cannabis consumers (0.0%).
- 24.29% of cannabis consumers with self-reported positive COVID-19 test reported an increase in alcohol use.
- Among cannabis users that tested positive for COVID-19, 27.1% co-used psilocybin, 20.0% co-used cocaine, and 41.4% co-used tobacco. The majority never used methamphetamine (98.6%).
- There was a larger self-reported increase in cannabis use among COVID-19 positive users (52.9%) compared to negative COVID-19 test consumers.

CONCLUSION

- While the study sample had a limited number of responses to the COVID-19 testing questions, preliminary data begin to show the need to further explore the impact of COVID-19 on substance usage within a larger population.
- While cannabis usage increased for cannabis users and alcohol usage decreased, the reasons for this change can guide future research in better understanding social behaviors.