

### Objective

- To compare medical marijuana (MMJ) qualified physicians' opinions regarding the effectiveness, dosing ability, product consistency, side effects, safety, and affordability of vaping vs. smoking as administration modes.

### Methods

- A state-wide anonymous MMJ physician survey developed by the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research.
- Distributed among 1612 certified MMJ physicians in Florida via mail and e-mail between June and October 2020.
- We asked the question: "For each of the following characteristics, indicate whether you think Smoking (flower), or vaping is better, or if there is no difference".
- Chi-Square tests were used to compare the proportion of physicians that endorsed "smoking is better" vs "vaping is better" on each characteristic.

### Results

- 116 MMJ physicians (7.3% response rate) from 29 Florida counties responded to the survey.
- The mean (SD) age was 57 (12) years old, and 70% were males.
- The majority of physicians thought there is no difference between vaping and smoking flower for safety over time (54%), overall side effects (63%), coughing and breathing side effects (45%), and affordability for patients (48%) (**Figure 1**).
- More physicians thought smoking was better for overall therapeutic effects ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and affordability ( $p = 0.0109$ ), while vaping was better for product consistency over time ( $p = 0.0011$ ), ability to find a consistent dose ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and ability to ensure optimal dose ( $p = 0.0098$ ).

# Which is better: vaping or smoking flower? A perspective from certifying physicians in Florida

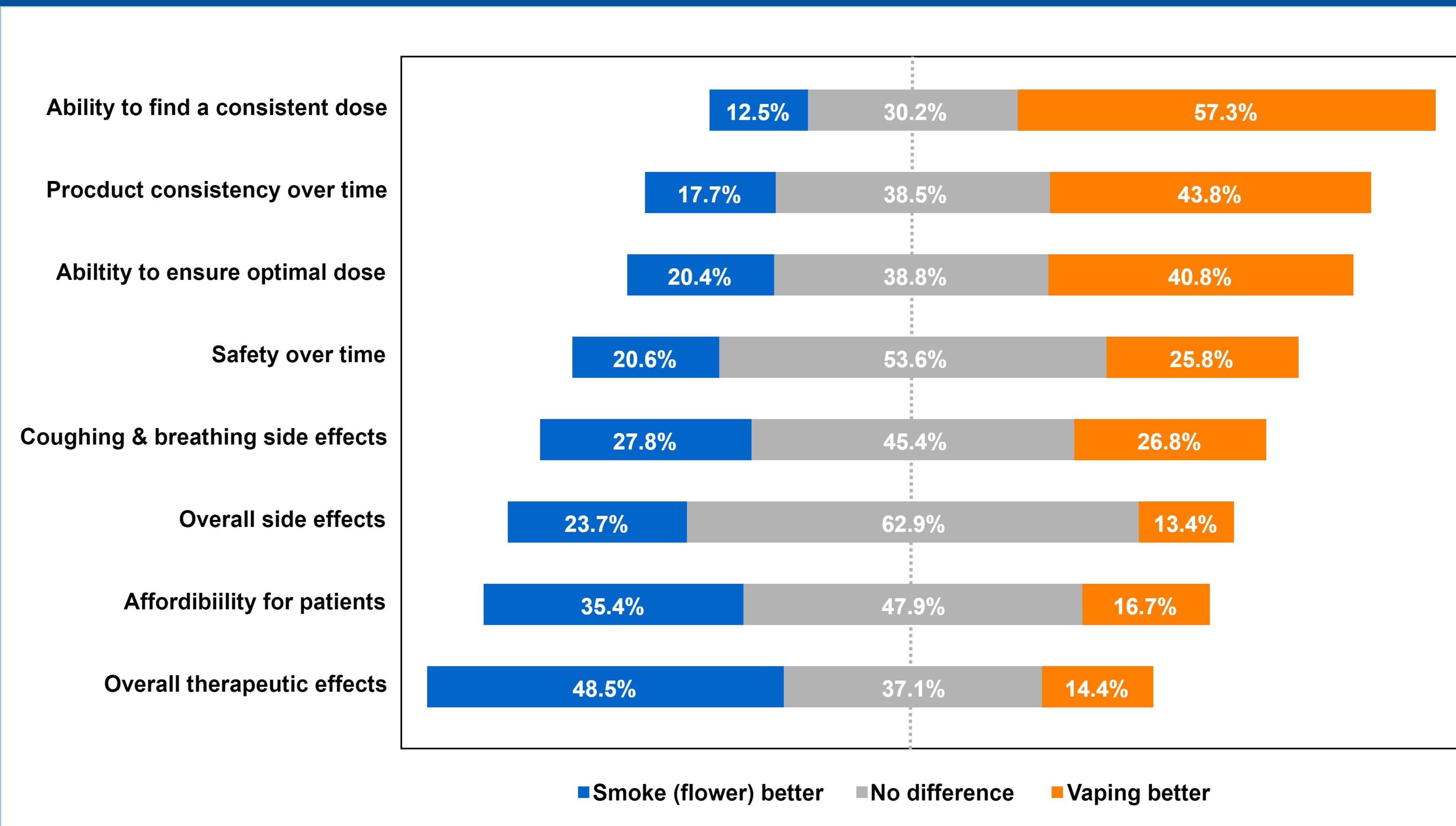


Figure 1: Opinions of medical marijuana qualified physicians in Florida about vaping vs. smoking as administration modes.

The majority of surveyed MMJ physicians believed:

There is no difference between smoking and vaping for MMJ-associated side effects.

Vaping is better for ensuring optimal dose and dose and product consistency.

Smoking is better for overall therapeutic effects

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