



## BACKGROUND

- Terpenes, naturally occurring volatile compounds in plants, contribute to the aroma, flavor, and colors of cannabis.
- Research suggests that terpenes may enhance therapeutic potency of cannabis as part of the entourage effect.
- Cannabis industries often use terpenes for strain differentiation, yet their role in flavor and medicinal effects remains elusive to many consumers.

## OBJECTIVE

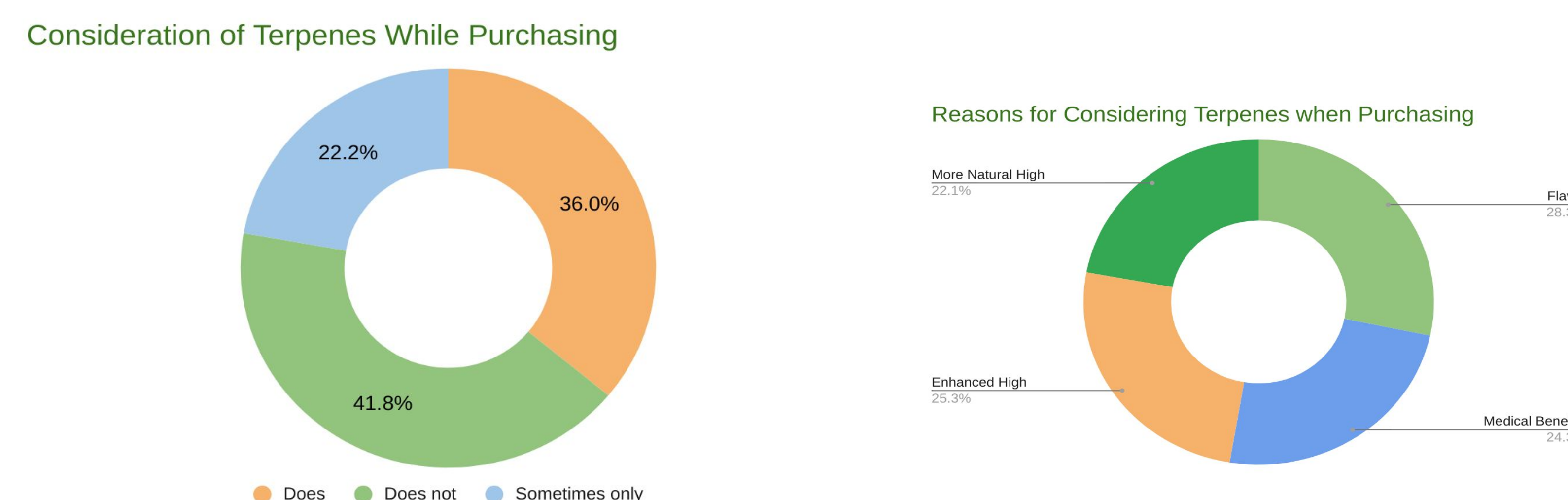
- Estimate the prevalence of cannabis consumers by age considering terpene content when purchasing cannabis for medical purposes.

## METHODS AND PROCEDURES

- Anonymous electronically administered survey conducted via REDCap to collect self-reported data on cannabis consumption patterns, reasons for use, and consideration of terpene content in their cannabis
- Descriptive statistics and chi-square tests conducted using SAS Analytics with a two-tailed alpha set to 0.05
- Post-hoc analysis compared terpene consideration and age group category.

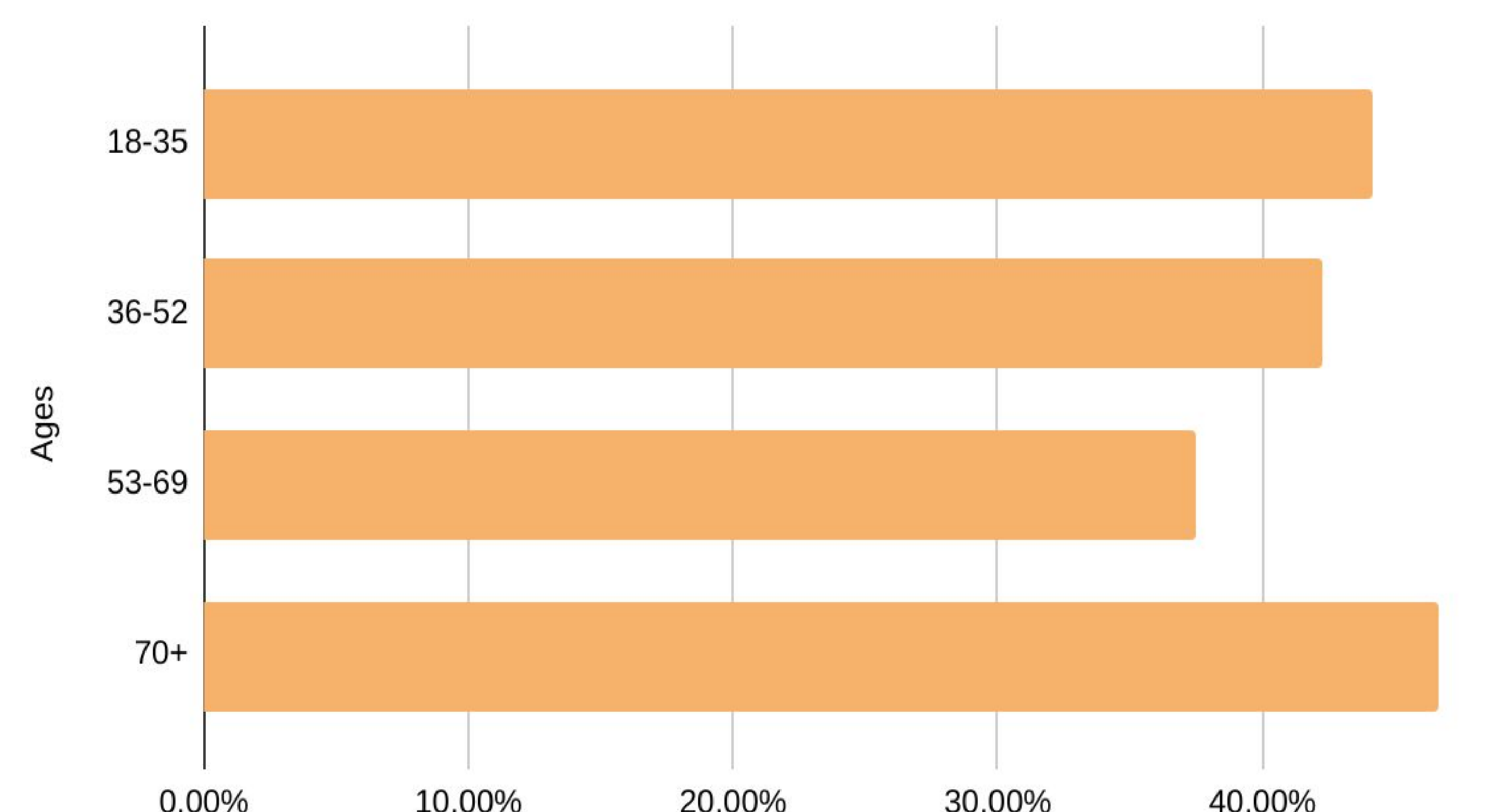
## RESULTS

**Figure 1: Considerations Pertaining to Terpenes Use**



**Figure 2: Terpene Consideration when Purchasing Cannabis**

Difference by Age Group in Consideration of Terpenes During Cannabis Purchase



## CONCLUSION

- More than half consumed cannabis for medicinal purposes (63.2%, N=1288).
- 55.8% of participants purchased with a medical card while 44.2% self-medicated without a medical card
- 41.8% of participants did not consider the terpenes content when purchasing cannabis products, compared to 36.0% that did and 22.2% considered sometimes only.
- There was a difference by age group in consideration of terpenes during cannabis purchase (44.2% of 18-to-35-year-olds, 42.3% of 36-to-52-year-olds, 37.5% of 53-to-69-year-olds, and 46.7% of respondents over 70 years of age)
- Among respondents considering terpene content when purchasing cannabis, 78.9% use terpenes for flavor, 67.8% for medical benefits, 70.4% to enhance their high, and 61.5% for a more natural high.

## CONCLUSION

- Participants over 35 years of age tend to factor terpenes into their cannabis purchases more often.
- Notably, a larger proportion of cannabis consumers used terpenes for their flavor and to enhance their high.
- Future research and age-appropriate education is required to address the needs of cannabis consumers regarding terpenes and their health advantages.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Denise Vidot, the Vidot Lab, and the volunteers that made this dataset possible.