



Cannabis Use Patterns Among Patients Living with Chronic Pain during the Pandemic:

Insights from the COVID-19 Cannabis Health Study

MIAMI

Isabella Jimenez¹, Bria-Necole Diggs, MSPH^{1,2}, Amrit Baral, MBBS, MPH^{1,2}, Marlene Camacho-Rivera, SciD³, Jessica Islam, PhD⁴, Sarah E. Messiah⁵, and Denise C. Vidot, PhD^{1,2,3}



¹University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Sciences; ²University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; ³Moffitt Cancer Center; ⁴SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University; ⁵University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health

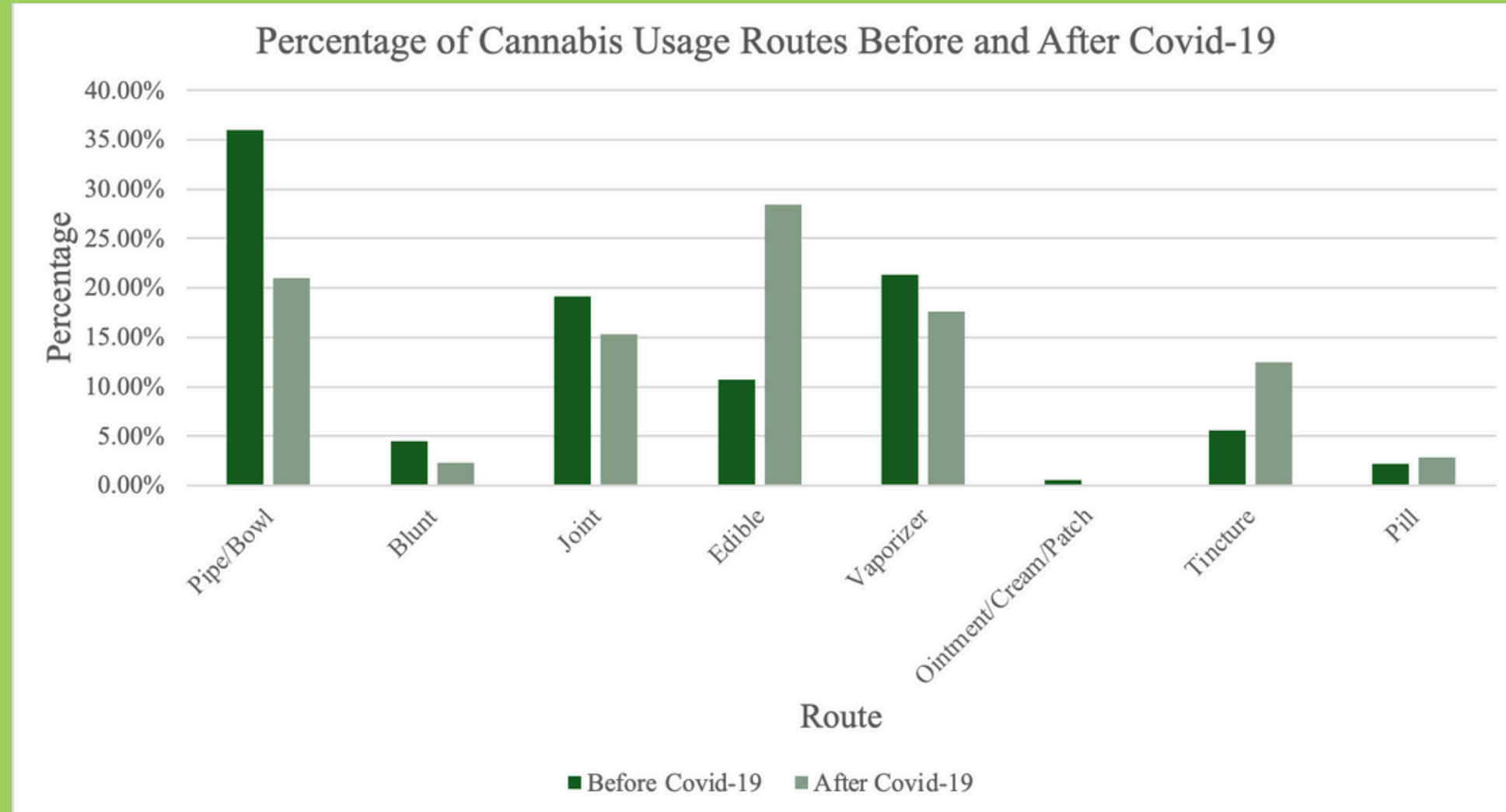
BACKGROUND

- Cannabis displays analgesic properties and literature suggests its efficacy as a natural alternative to pharmaceutical painkillers in alleviating chronic pain arising from health conditions.
- Prior studies reported a surge in cannabis use during the early stages of COVID-19 to manage symptoms of anxiety.
- There remains a gap in knowledge regarding the cannabis use patterns among patients living with chronic pain during later stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

METHODS

- Data utilized in this analysis are from the COVID-19 Cannabis Health Study which collected self-reported data on cannabis use, chronic health conditions, and COVID-19 using REDCap survey.
- Data was collected from 2,816 participants from March 2020 to March 2023.
- Descriptive statistics were employed using SAS Analytics with a two-tailed alpha set to 0.05.

RESULTS



KEY FINDINGS

- 94.5% of participants consumed cannabis within the past year and 28.4% reported living with chronic pain.
- Almost 40% of people with chronic pain increased their overall cannabis dosage during the COVID-19 pandemic, while 51.4% had no change in their cannabis dosage.
- Before COVID-19, participants reported a higher prevalence of pipe/bowl cannabis consumption compared to any other route, but after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic the most common route consumed switched to edible use.

CONCLUSIONS

- There was a shift from pipe/bowl usage as the most common route prior to COVID-19 to edible usage post- COVID-19.
- Future research should be done to examine how cannabis use among patients with other chronic conditions was affected by COVID-19.