



Global Cannabis and Psychedelics  
Research Collaboratory

# Age-Group Differences in Reasons for Cannabis Use during Pregnancy: Results from the COVID-19 Cannabis Moms Study

Francesca Lama<sup>1</sup>, Amrit Baral, MBBS, MPH, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>, Bria-Necole Diggs, MSPH<sup>1,2</sup>, Cynthia Lebron, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Genester Wilson-King, MD<sup>6</sup>, JoNell Potter, PhD, APRN, FAAN<sup>2</sup>, Sarah E. Messiah, PhD<sup>1</sup>, MPH, FTOS<sup>3,4,5</sup>, and Denise C Vidot, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies <sup>2</sup>University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, <sup>3</sup>University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health; <sup>4</sup>Center for Pediatric Population Health, UTHealth School of Public Health; <sup>5</sup>Department of Pediatrics, McGovern Medical School, <sup>6</sup>Victory Rejuvenation Center



CANNABIS MOM STUDY

## BACKGROUND

- ✱ Studies suggest pregnant women use cannabis for symptom management or recreation.
- ✱ Pregnancy is not a qualifying condition for medical cannabis.
- ✱ Reasons for use among pregnant women may vary by age group, though research in this area remains limited.

## OBJECTIVE

- ✱ To examine differences in reasons for cannabis use during pregnancy by age (18-34 vs ≥34 years old).

## METHODS

- ✱ This is a cross-sectional study (N=252) of pregnant or breastfeeding women during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✱ Self-reported data were collected on cannabis use in lifetime, past year, past 30-days, and during pregnancy.
- ✱ Self-reported data were collected about pregnancy and breastfeeding history.
- ✱ Analysis included pregnant respondents (n=81; 32.1% of the overall sample).
- ✱ Chi-squared/Fisher's exact tests and descriptive statistics were used to analyze cannabis use, reasons for use, and type of cannabis consumed by age group.

## RESULTS

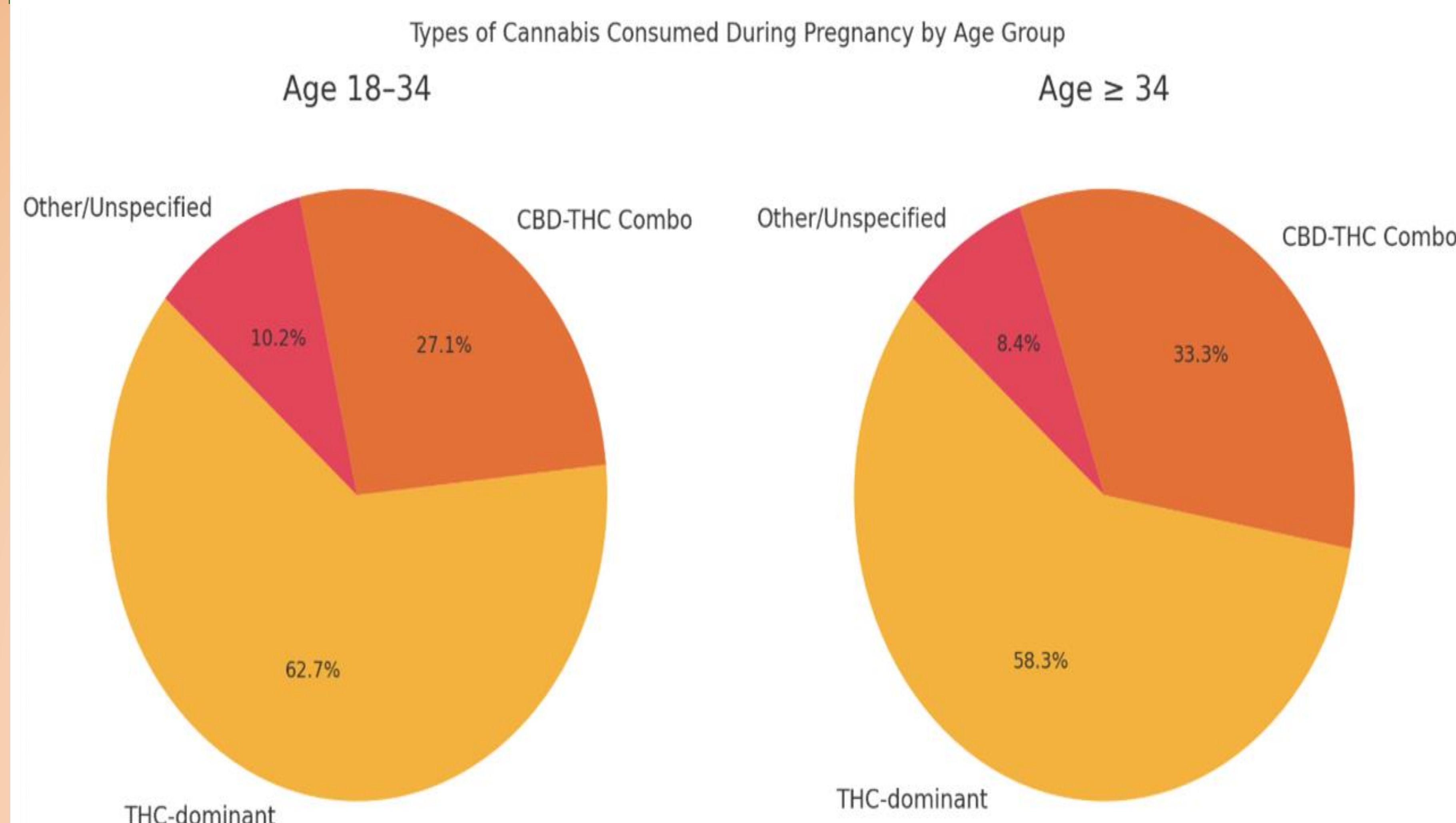


Figure 1: Types of Cannabis Consumed During Pregnancy by Age Group

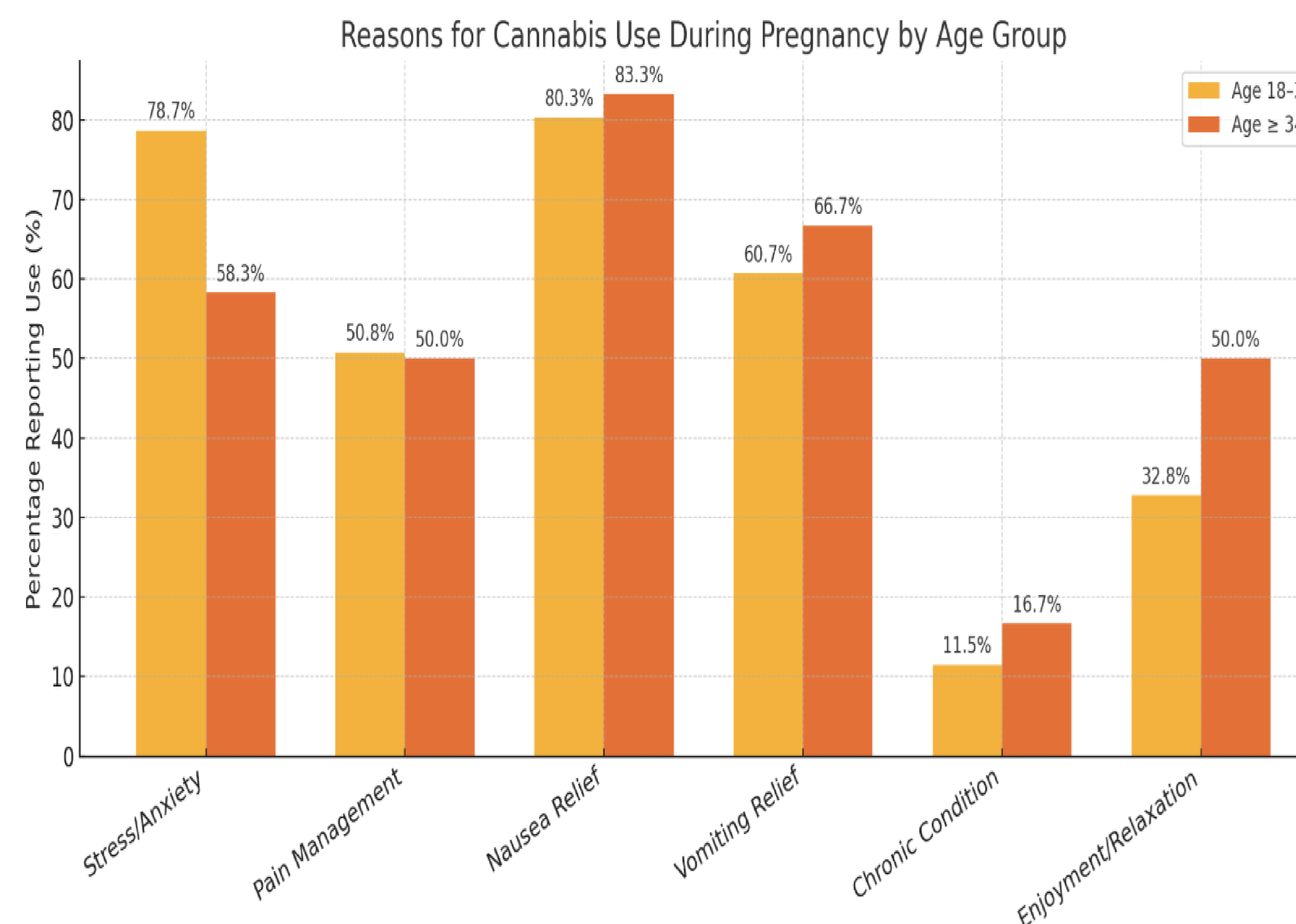


Figure 2: Reasons for Cannabis Use During Pregnancy by Age Group

## KEY FINDINGS

- ✱ A higher proportion of younger adults were currently pregnant in the overall study (35.9%) compared to ≥ 34 years (20.6%;  $p=0.024$ )
- ✱ A slightly higher proportion of 18–34-year-olds reported use to relieve stress/anxiety (78.7% vs. 58.3%,  $p=0.15$ ), and manage pain (50.8% vs. 50.0%,  $p=0.96$ ) than participants ≥ 34 years
- ✱ Younger adults (18–34 years) made up a larger share of currently pregnant participants (35.9%) compared to those ≥ 34 years (20.6%,  $p = 0.024$ )
- ✱ A slightly higher proportion of ≥ 34 years consumed cannabis during pregnancy for nausea relief (83.3% vs 80.3%,  $p=0.81$ ), vomiting relief (66.7% vs. 60.7%,  $p=0.76$ ), managing a chronic health condition (16.7% vs. 11.5%,  $p=0.64$ ), and enjoyment/relaxation (50.0% vs. 32.8%,  $p=0.33$ ).
- ✱ A higher proportion of 18–34-year-olds consumed THC-dominant cannabis (62.7% vs. 58.3%,  $p=0.90$ ); ≥ 34 years consumed a combination of CBD-THC (33.3% vs. 27.1%,  $p=0.89$ ).

## CONCLUSION

- ✱ Results showed no statistically significant differences by age group in reasons for cannabis use during pregnancy.
- ✱ Public health strategies should be implemented to improve the health of women who consume cannabis during pregnancy should be age-inclusive.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Funding for this study was supported by Provost COVID-19 Rapid Response Award (PI: Dr. Denise C. Vidot)