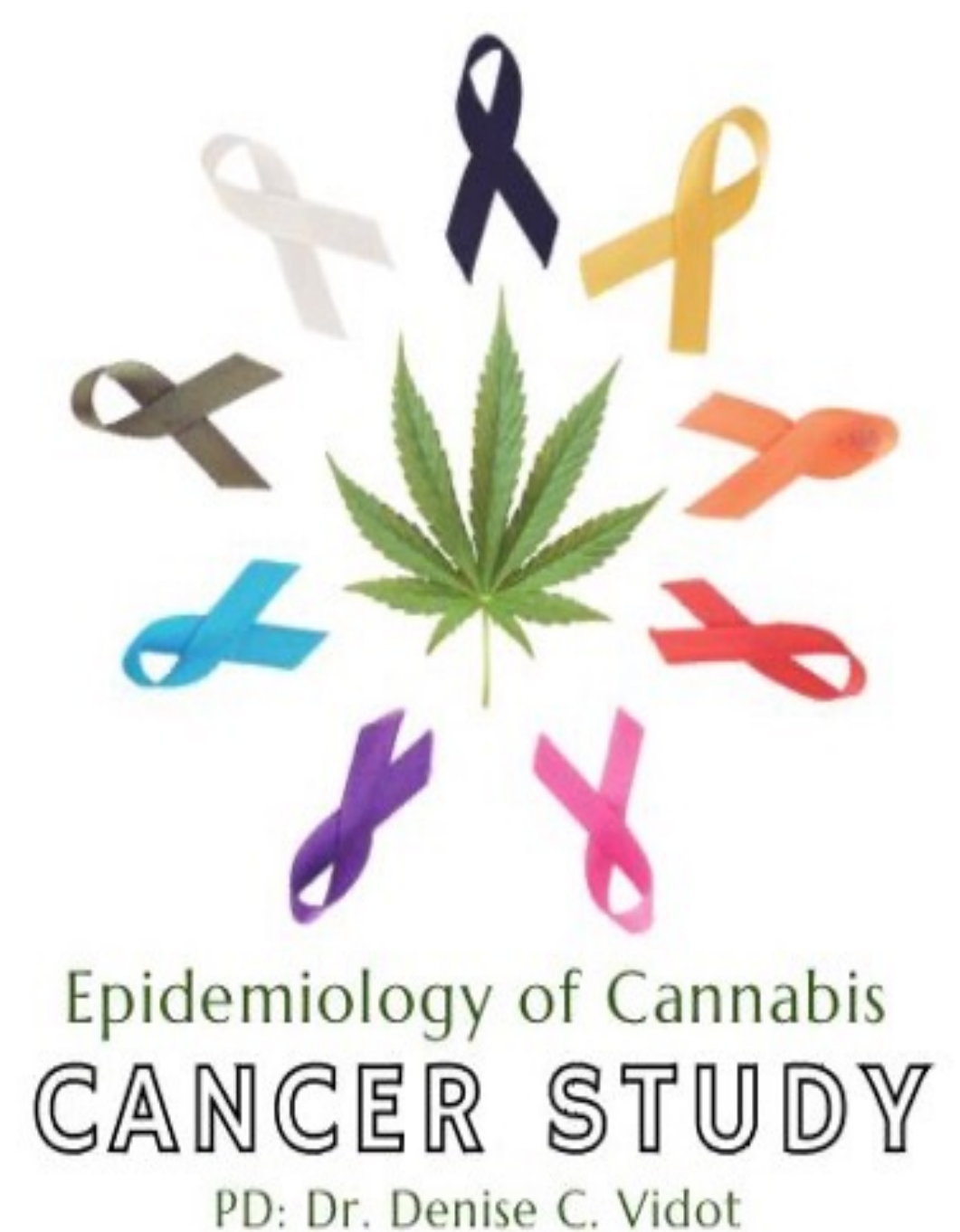




Information-Seeking Behaviors on Cannabis in Cancer Care: Differences by Cannabis Use Status and Age

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Epidemiology of Cannabis
CANCER STUDY
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BACKGROUND

- Cannabis use is becoming increasingly prevalent among cancer patients; however, there is limited research on how patients seek information related to its use.
- While existing evidence indicates that patients commonly consult healthcare providers, online platforms, and peer networks, few studies have explored how these behaviors vary by cannabis use status and age.

OBJECTIVE

- To examine how age and cannabis use status influence cannabis-related information-seeking in cancer care.

METHODS

- Data are from the NCI-funded Cannabis and Cancer Study (N=437) at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Cannabis use status was self-reported (current, former, or never users). Age-groups included 18–39, 40–59, and ≥60y.
- Participants were asked where they seek cannabis-related information for cancer. Options included: healthcare providers, oncologists, nurses, other patients, and dispensaries.
- Chi-squared/Fisher's exact tests, examined differences in information-seeking behaviors, with statistical significance set at $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS

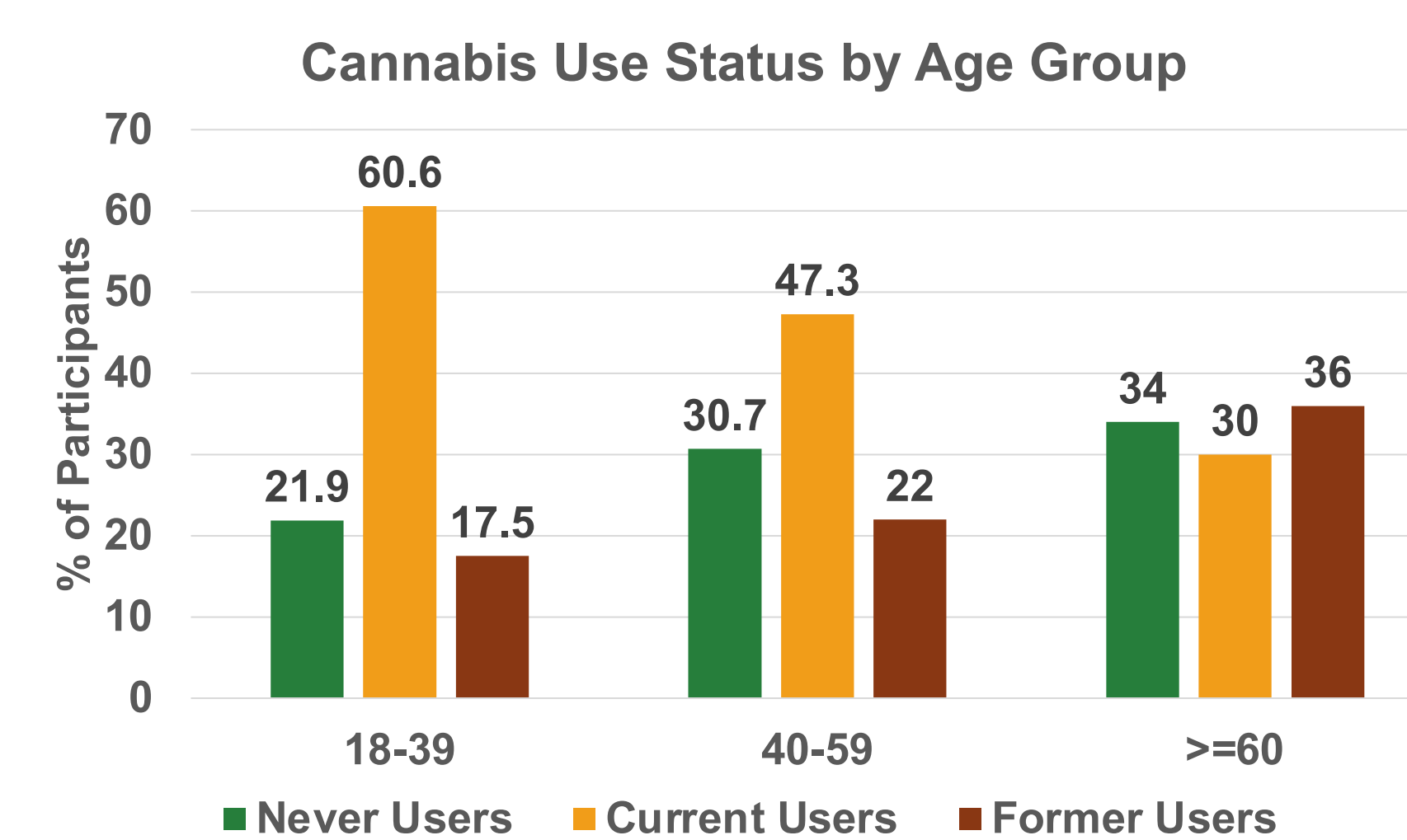


Fig. 1: Data shows distribution of cannabis use status (never, former, current) across three age groups. Younger participants (18–39) made up majority of current users.

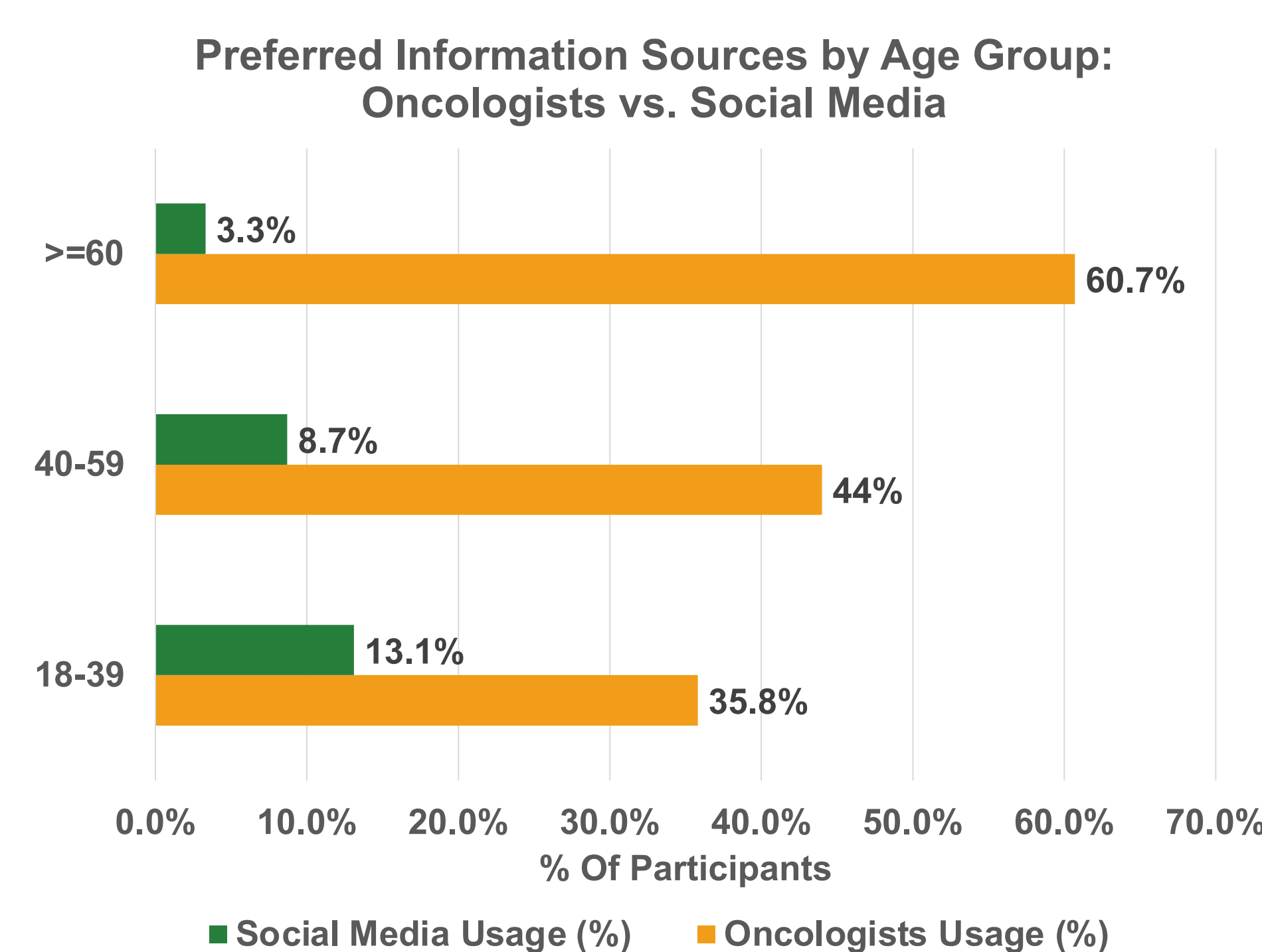


Fig. 3: Contrasts the use of oncologists and social media across age groups to show generational differences in information-seeking behaviors.

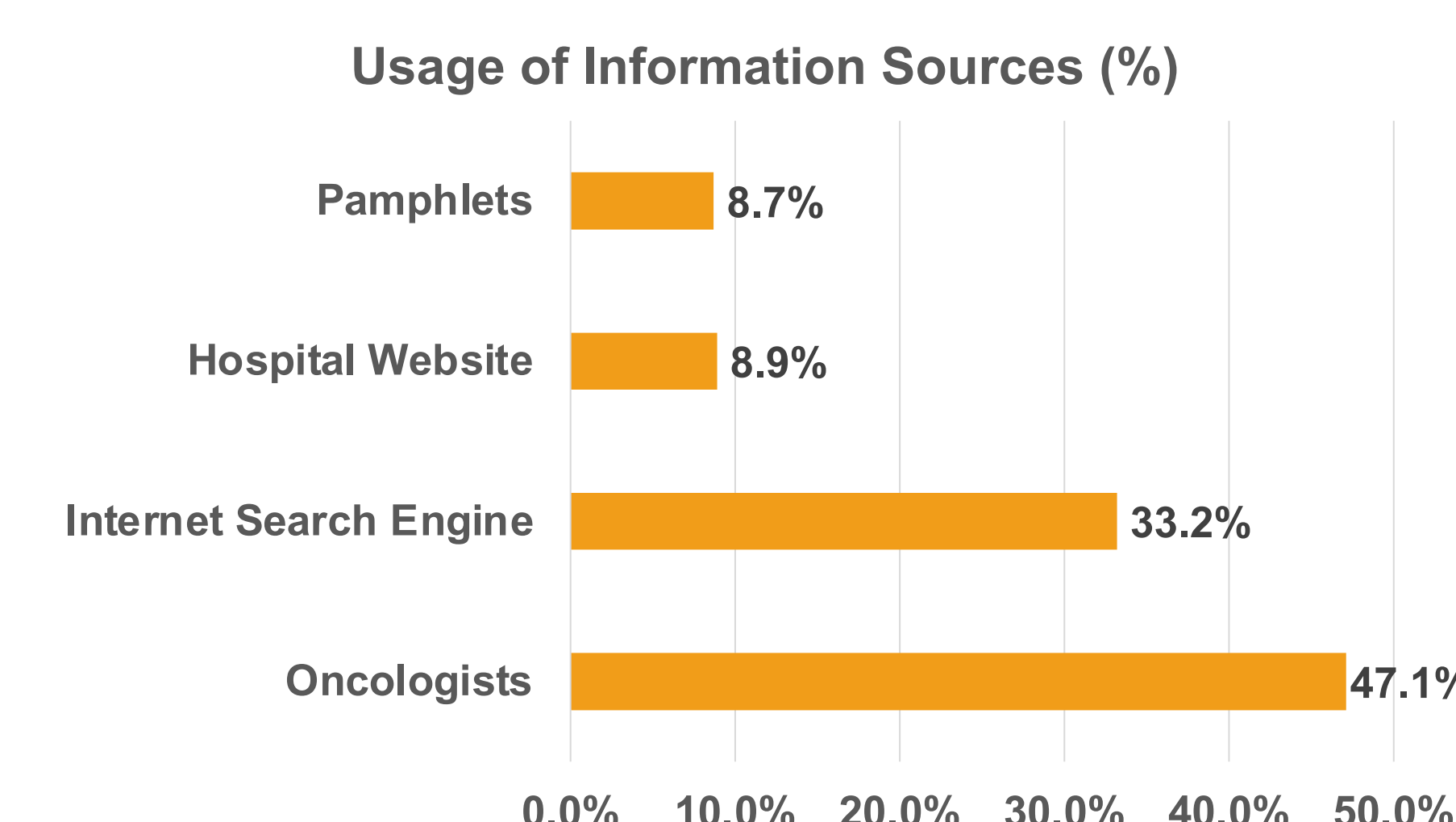


Fig. 2: Data present overall usage rates for each information source across the full study sample.

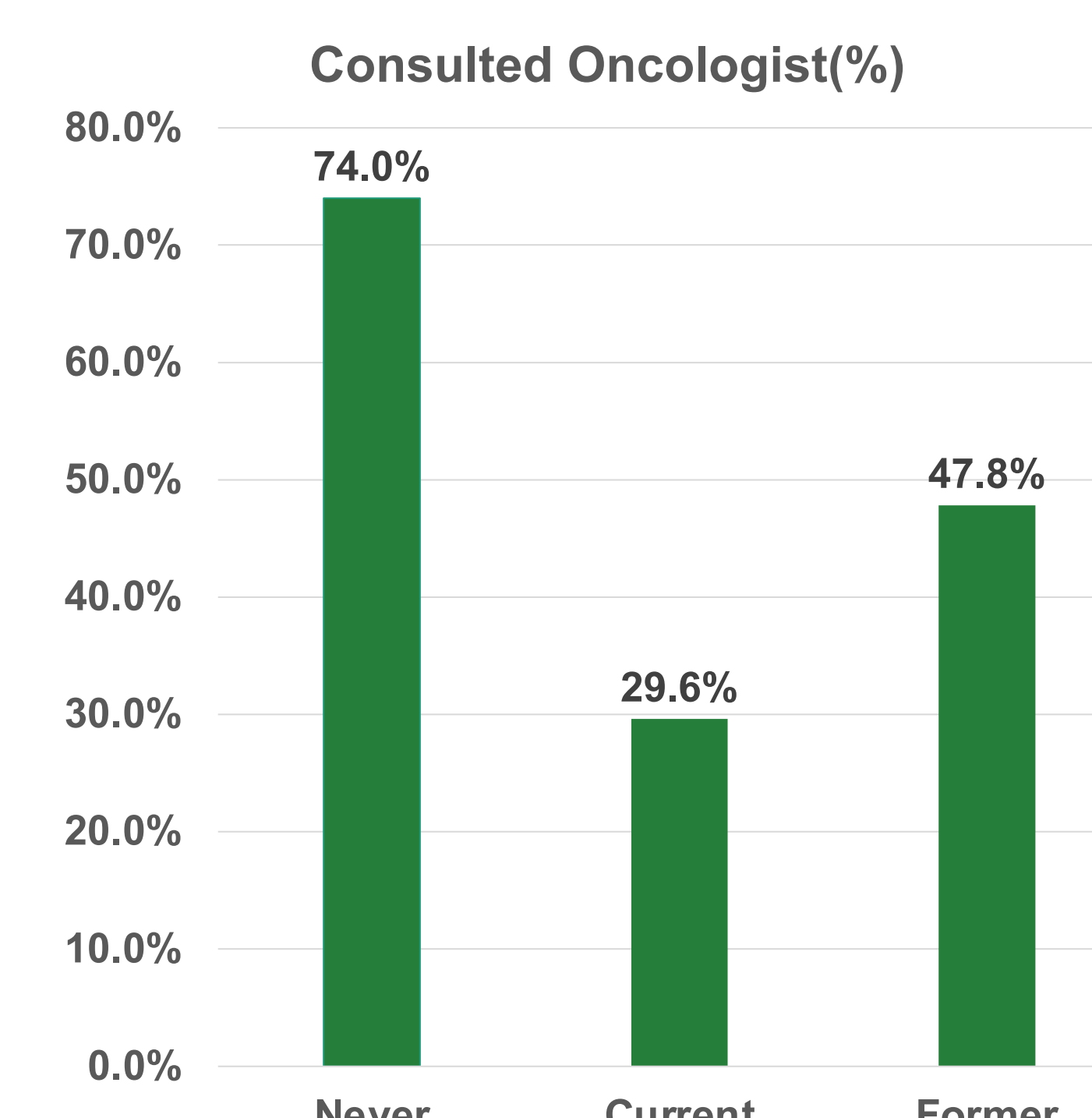


Fig. 4: Compares the percentage of participants in each cannabis use group who reported consulting an oncologist.

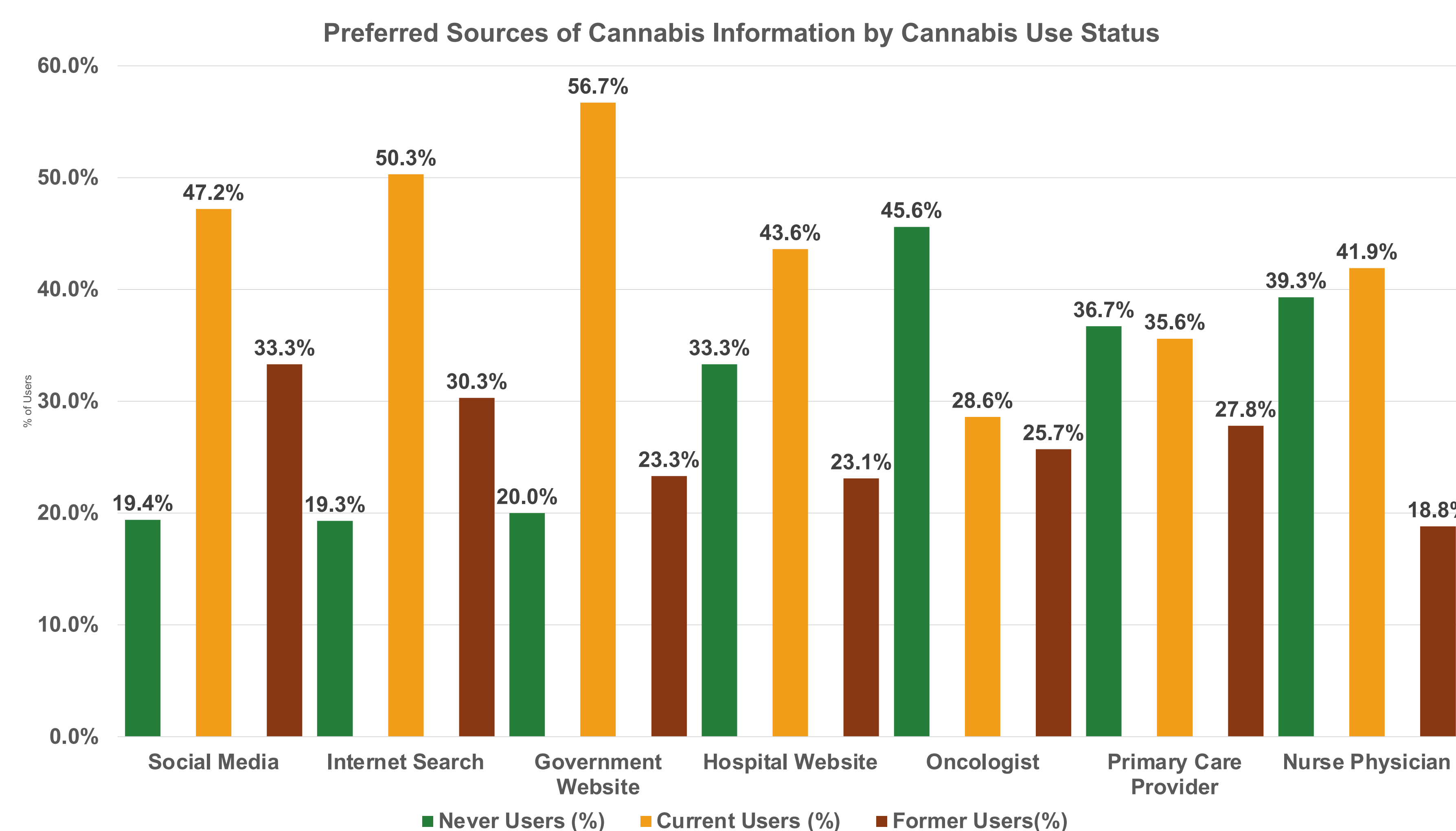


Fig. 5: Illustrates the distribution of cannabis-related information sources among participants by cannabis use status (Never Users, Current Users, Former Users). Current users showed a higher reliance on online sources, particularly internet searches (50.3%) and government websites (56.7%), while never users were more likely to consult healthcare professionals such as oncologists (45.6%) and primary care providers (36.7%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Younger participants (18–39y) made up 60.6% of current cannabis users, while adults ≥60 years made up 48.6% of former users. (Cannabis use status differed significantly by age, $p < 0.001$). Fig. 1.
- Oncologists were the most common information source (47.1%), followed by internet searches (33.2%), while pamphlets and hospital websites were least used (<9%). Fig. 2.
- Younger patients favored social media, while older adults preferred oncologists for cannabis information ($p=0.01$ and $p<0.01$). Fig. 3.
- Current cannabis users were significantly less likely to consult their oncologist compared to non-users (29.6% vs 74.0%, $p<0.0001$). Fig. 4.
- Current cannabis users preferred primary care providers and online sources, while former users/ never users relied more on oncologists and healthcare professionals. Fig. 5.

CONCLUSION

- Cannabis use status and age influence information-seeking behaviors, with younger users favoring online sources and older or former users relying more on oncologists and healthcare professionals

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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