



JUNE 2021 REPORT

THE DIFFERENCE AGE MAKES FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS CONSUMPTION


THE QUESTION

How does medical cannabis use change among age groups?

Are different age demographics more or less likely to use medical cannabis?

How does gender, condition treated, and location influence this?

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THE ANSWER

Between January 1, 2018, and June 23, 2021, more than 82,442 patients ranging in age from 20 to over 90 reported medical cannabis use within the RYAH Data ecosystem.

Almost half of logged sessions were from users under 30. In part, this is presumably due to more familiarity with the technology, but this also mirrors trends reported elsewhere.

Men under 40 were more likely to report medical cannabis use. Women between the ages of 40 to 70 were slightly more likely to use medical cannabis than men.

The data suggested younger consumers are more likely than older to treat depression, stress, and pain. There was more variation in anxiety.

48.7% OF PATIENTS WITHIN
RYAH DATA ARE
UNDER THE AGE OF 30

ANALYSIS

According to Statista, 22 percent of consumers in the US who currently smoke marijuana (as of July 2019) are under the age of 30. Only 3 percent are over the age of 65. [1]

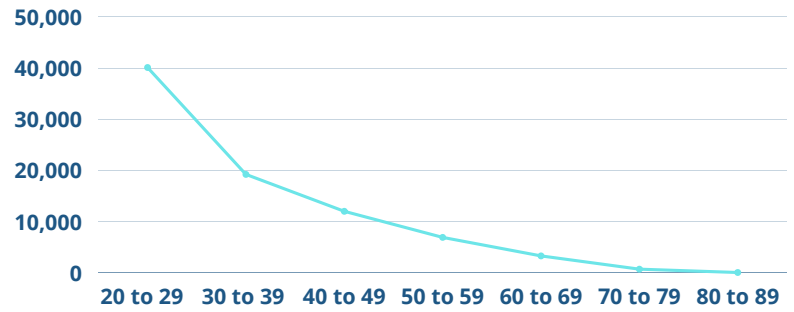
This mirrors the findings from the RYAH Data ecosystem, where 48.7% of users are under the age of 30, and only 5 percent are over 60.

In the US, where 91 percent of adults agree cannabis should be legal for medical use, the support is highest among Millennials (under 38) and lowest among the Silent generation (over 74). [2]

Legalization Across the US:

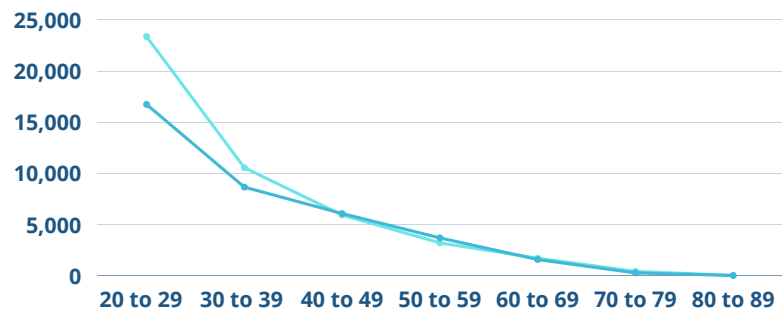
- California legalized medical cannabis in 1996.
- Oklahoma legalized medical cannabis in 2018.
- Florida legalized medical cannabis in 2016.

OVERALL TRENDS



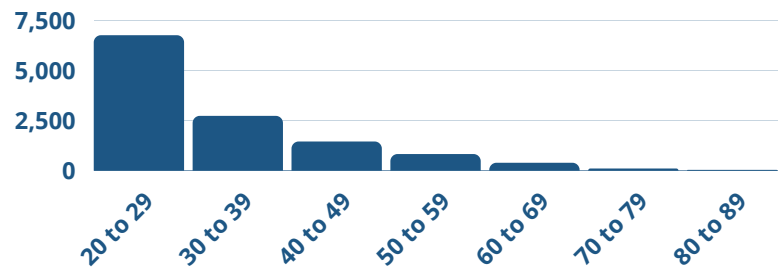
GENDER

MALE FEMALE

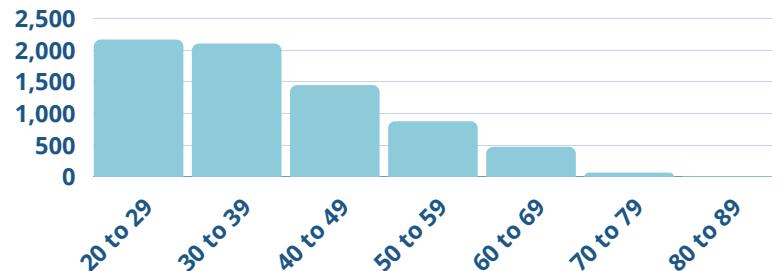


LOCATION

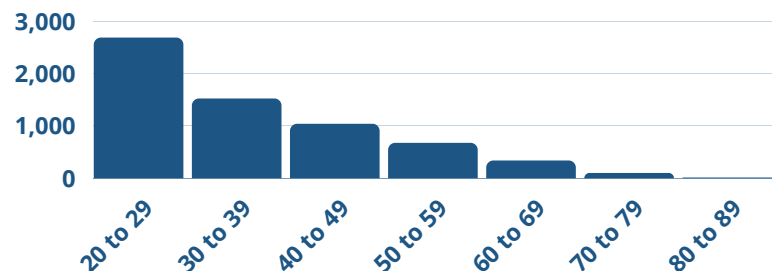
CALIFORNIA



OKLAHOMA



FLORIDA



ANALYSIS

Interestingly, a substantial number of people in the RYAH Data ecosystem aged 50 to 59 report using cannabis for anxiety, bucking the downward trend seen across other conditions.

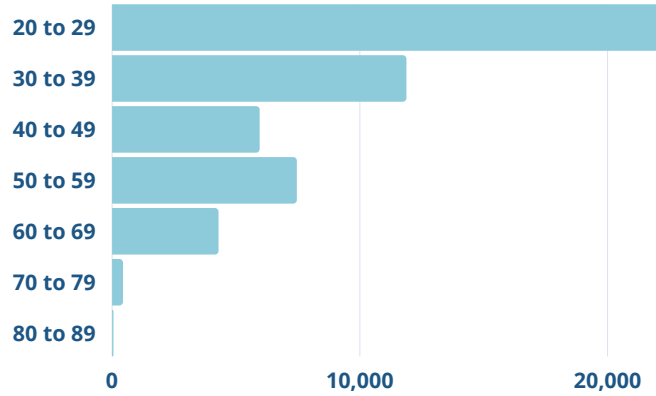
Most of the available peer-reviewed information indicates anxiety rates decrease with age, including statistics from the National Institute of Mental Health. However, these numbers have not been updated since 2003. [3]

More recent studies on cannabis use among older populations suggest "cannabis use by older adults is likely to increase due to medical need, favorable legalization, and attitudes." This includes data from one 2020 paper that found 15 percent of people surveyed from a pool of patients over the age of 65 had used cannabis within the last 3 years. [4]

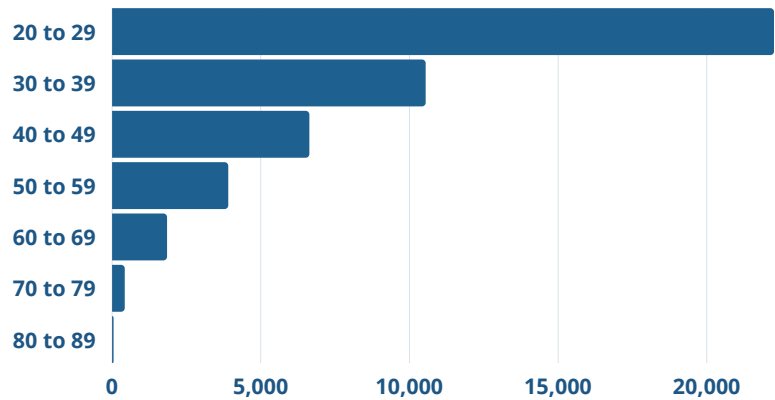
A vast majority (78 percent) used cannabis strictly for medicinal purposes, with pain, sleep, anxiety, and depression the top conditions treated.

TARGET CONDITION

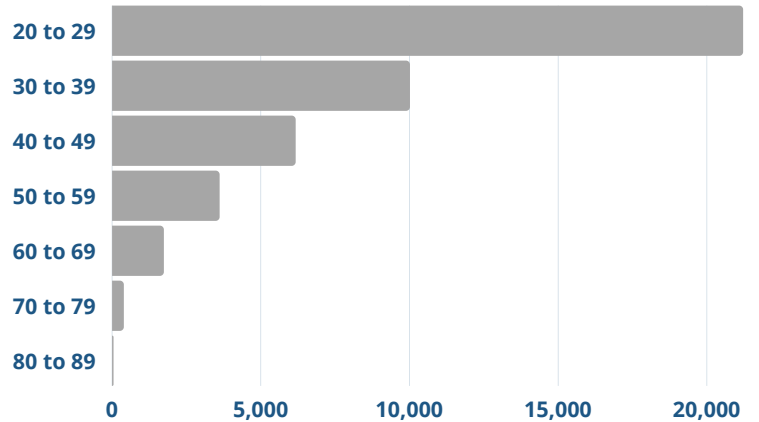
ANXIETY



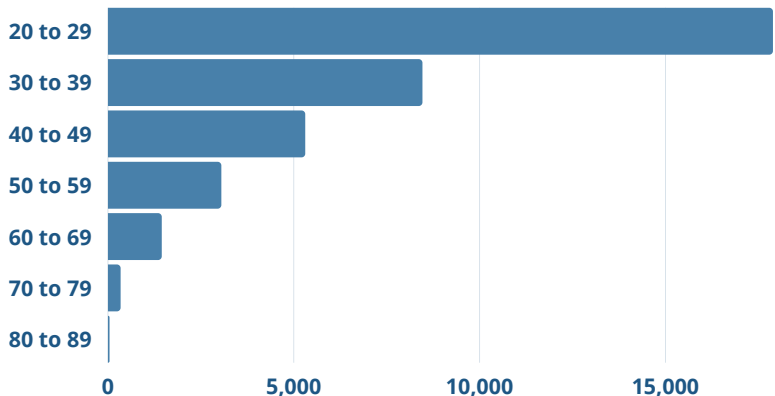
DEPRESSION



STRESS



PAIN



ADDITIONAL SOURCES

[1] Published by Statista Research Department. (2020, October 13). Americans who smoke marijuana by age group 2019. Statista. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/737849/share-americans-age-group-smokes-marijuana/>.

[2] Daniller, A. (2020, May 30). Two-thirds of Americans support marijuana legalization. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/11/14/americans-support-marijuana-legalization/#:~:text=Meanwhile%2C%20an%20overwhelming%20majority%20of,to%20the%20survey%2C%20conducted%20Sept.>

[3] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). Any Anxiety Disorder. National Institute of Mental Health. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/any-anxiety-disorder>.

[4] Yang, Kevin H et al. "Cannabis: An Emerging Treatment for Common Symptoms in Older Adults." Journal of the American Geriatrics Society vol. 69,1 (2021): 91-97. doi:10.1111/jgs.16833

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