



## MAY 2020 REPORT

### CHANGES IN CANNABIS USE SINCE COVID-19


*“Introducing RYAH Data, our new data analytics report leveraging insights from our proprietary data lake.”*  
- Gregory Wagner,  
CEO, Ryah Medtech, Inc.

## THE QUESTION

How has the evolution of the global COVID-19 pandemic changed patient use of medical cannabis?

With medical cannabis declared an essential service in a majority of legal states, and reports of increased demand, how have patient habits changed?

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## THE COMPARISON

- The WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. The US went into lockdown around March 15, 2020.
- This report compares cannabis use before the pandemic (the control) with use following the WHO announcement.
- **71,278 patients reported through RYAH Data between January 1, 2018, to February 1, 2020. 5,939 patients reported between March 11 and May 14, 2020.**

## THE RESULTS

Nationally, patients continue to use cannabis for the treatment of anxiety, depression, and stress at levels similar to those before the pandemic.

In hard-hit areas, like New York state, patients are reporting measurably higher use of cannabis for **anxiety & stress** than before.

Strain preference has also shifted. Patients' favorite strains are now **CBD-rich**. Cannatonic & Harlequin have surpassed THC-rich strains in the RYAH database.

## ANALYSIS

Since the start of the pandemic, New York state has surpassed Pennsylvania and Ohio as the state with the 4th highest number of patients within the RYAH ecosystem.

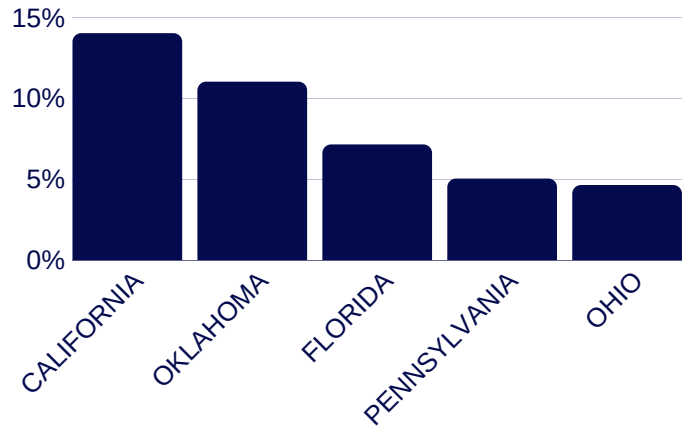
New York state became the national COVID-19 epicenter in early April.

Since the pandemic began, there have been minimal changes to the top five ailments treated at the national level.

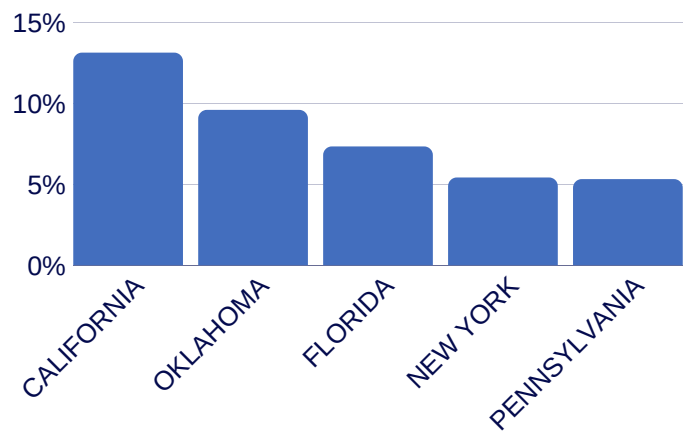
Patients reported slightly more use of medical cannabis for the treatment of anxiety, but all other numbers have dropped slightly.

## USE BY LOCATION

### THE CONTROL



### SINCE COVID-19



## AILMENTS TREATED

### (NATION LEVEL)

#### THE CONTROL



#### SINCE COVID-19



# ANALYSIS

In New York, the initial epicenter of the outbreak in the country, there have been measurable changes to ailments treated with medical cannabis since the pandemic began.

Before, anxiety and depression were the top treated conditions. Now anxiety and stress are the top conditions treated.

Furthermore, patients treating anxiety rose by 1.5%.

Before the pandemic, Super Lemon Haze was the most preferred strain at the national level. This is a THC-rich strain, with more than 25% THC. [1]

Since March 11, 2020, two CBD-rich strains have surpassed Super Lemon Haze as the most preferred strains. Harlequin and Cannatonic both have more than 10% CBD. CBD is under investigation for its ability to reduce stress and anxiety. [2]

No significant difference in medical cannabis use by gender was reported.

# AILMENTS TREATED

(NEW YORK STATE)

## THE CONTROL

ANXIETY	10.79%
DEPRESSION	10.09%
STRESS	9.86%
PAIN	6.69%
INSOMNIA	5.75%

## SINCE COVID-19

ANXIETY	11.29%
STRESS	9.46%
DEPRESSION	9.14%
PAIN	6.68%
INSOMNIA	6.31%

# STRAIN PREFERENCE

## THE CONTROL

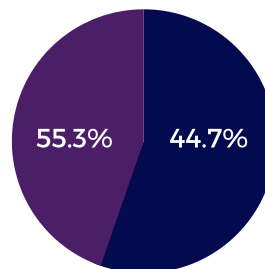
1. SUPER LEMON HAZE
2. HARLEQUIN
3. CANNATONIC
4. PURPLE CANDY
5. ACDC

## SINCE COVID-19

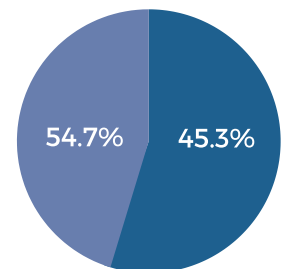
1. HARLEQUIN
2. CANNATONIC
3. SUPER LEMON HAZE
4. PURPLE CANDY
5. PURE OG

# USE BY GENDER

## THE CONTROL



## SINCE COVID-19



## ADDITIONAL SOURCES

**(1) Strain details provided by AllBud should be used as rough guidelines only.**

Find Marijuana Dispensary, Strain & Doctor Info & Ratings. (n.d.). Retrieved May 14, 2020, from <https://www.allbud.com/>

**(2) Shannon, S., Lewis, N., Lee, H., & Hughes, S. (2019). Cannabidiol in Anxiety and Sleep: A Large Case Series. The Permanente journal, 23, 18-041. <https://doi.org/10.7812/TPP/18-041>**

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