



## FEBRUARY 2022 REPORT


### 2 YEARS IN, HAS COVID-19 CHANGED MEDICAL CANNABIS USE?

#### THE QUESTION

It's been widely reported that cannabis consumption has increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What patient trends and patterns can we see since March 2020 by looking within the RYAH Data Ecosystem?

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#### THE ANSWER

**Between March 11, 2020, and February 21, 2022, patients logged 29,403 sessions in the RYAH Data Ecosystem. We will compare this dataset's demographic details, ailments, and preferences against the sessions logged before the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic (January 1, 2018, to March 10, 2020).**

Most shifts were minor but measurable. There was a slight uptick in the number of women reporting sessions compared with men. Also, fewer moderately experienced consumers post COVID-19, but more reported consuming "daily" or "often."

Although the number of people treating anxiety increased, reports for depression, stress, and pain all decreased slightly after the start of the pandemic.

# +29,000

**PATIENT SESSIONS LOGGED SINCE COVID-19**

# ANALYSIS

Authors Juliette Salles et al. reported on the "Changes in Cannabis Consumption During the Global COVID-19 Lockdown" with a survey of 182 individuals.

Interestingly, lockdowns "brought about either an end to the consumption of cannabis or new use of the drug."

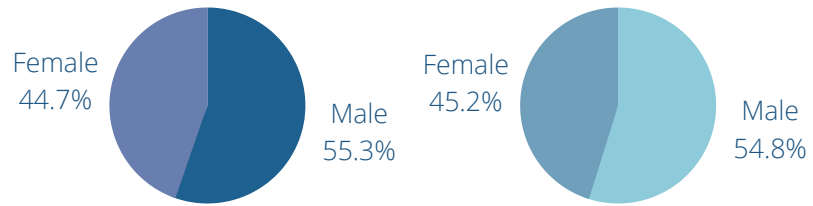
Cannabis consumers were more likely to report being unsatisfied with government measures and worried about their jobs, getting sick, and the economy. But they were also less worried about their overall health.

The risk factors for cannabis use were a lower age, co-addictions, and high levels of emotions.[1]

# GENDER

BEFORE COVID-19

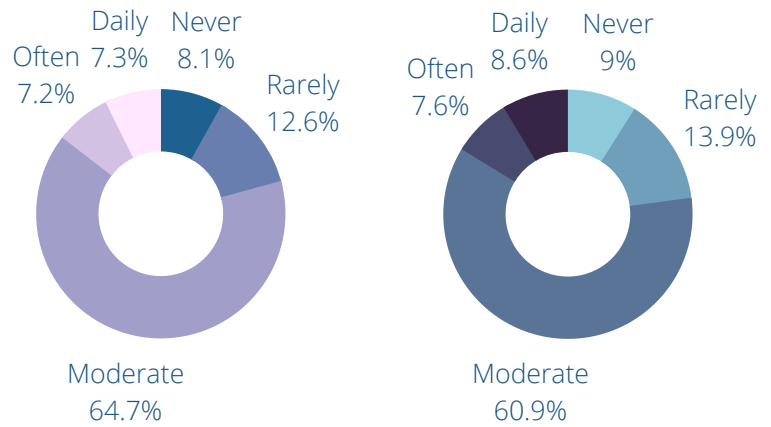
AFTER COVID-19



# CANNABIS EXPERIENCE

BEFORE COVID-19

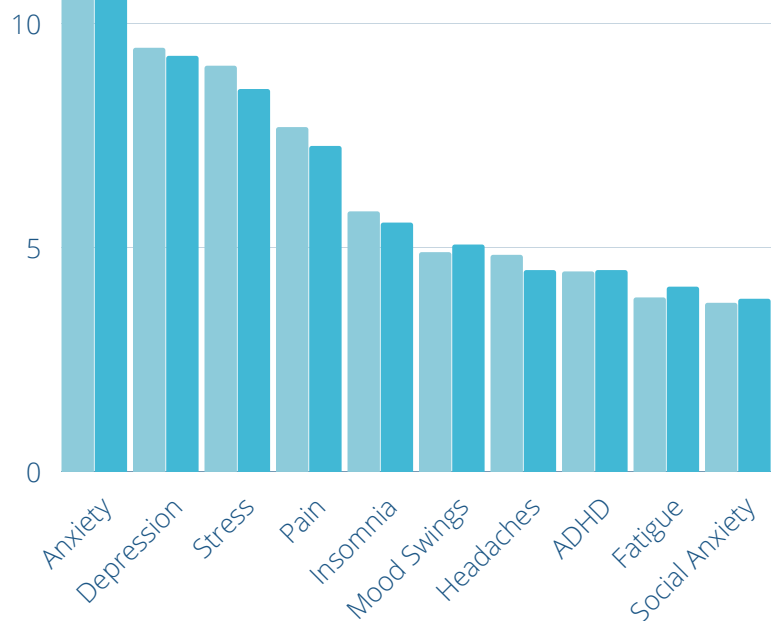
AFTER COVID-19



# AILMENTS

BEFORE COVID-19

AFTER COVID-19



## ANALYSIS

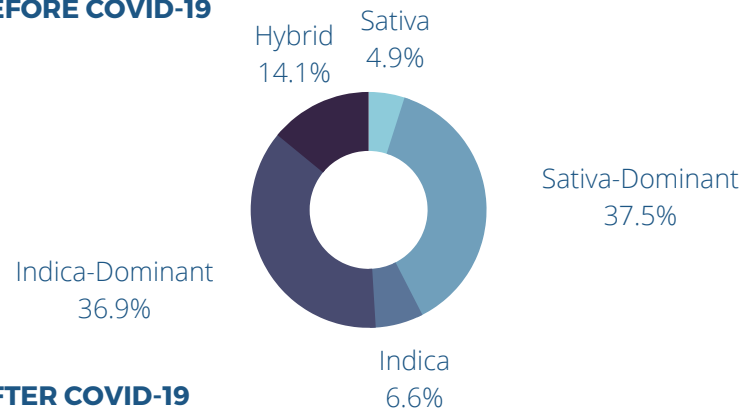
According to a January 2021 survey about cannabis use patterns in Canada after the start of the pandemic, slightly more than half of the respondents reported consuming more.

As per the author's hypothesis, "Cannabis use among cannabis users may have increased after the pandemic began for a variety of reasons, including social isolation, boredom, changes in daily routines and additional stress and anxiety about the future."

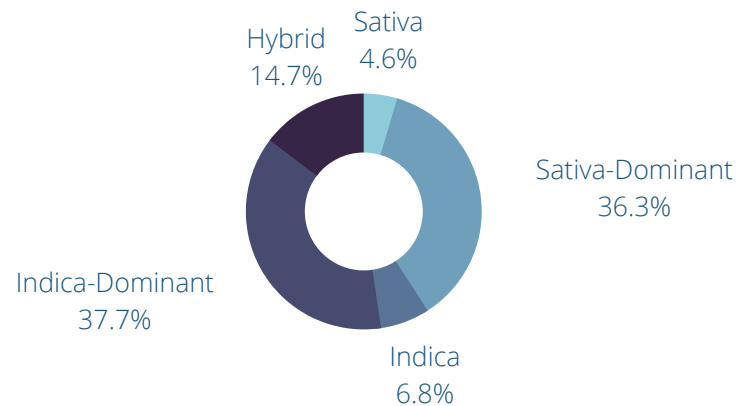
Risk factors were Canadians under the age of 50, lower rates of post-secondary education, and people who were more worried about COVID-19 related financial stressors. People in Ontario were also more likely to have increased consumption. [2]

## CULTIVAR TYPE

### BEFORE COVID-19



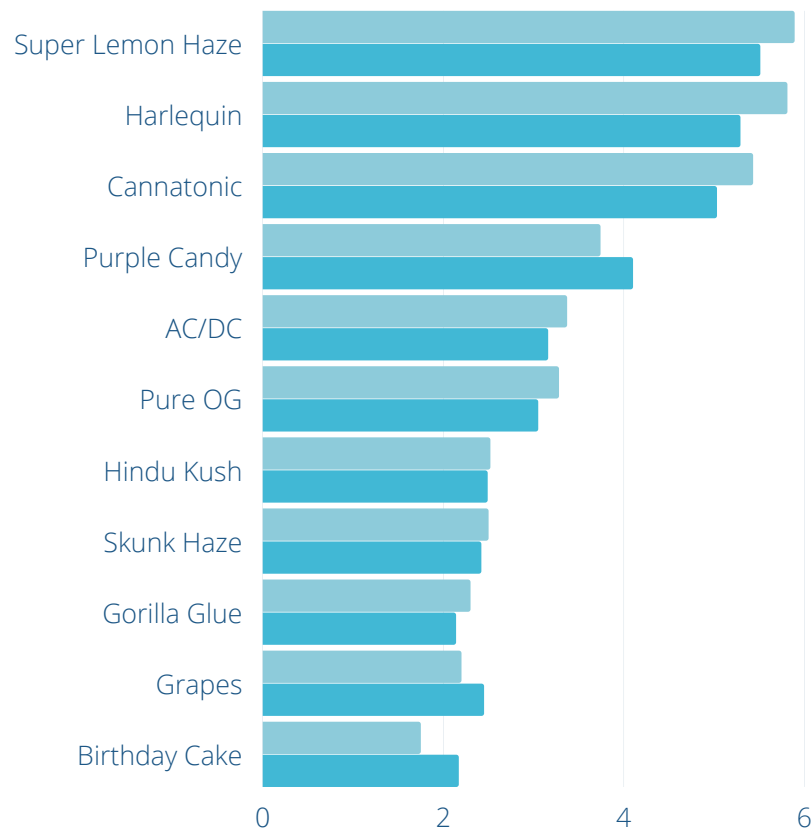
### AFTER COVID-19



## PREFERRED CULTIVAR

### BEFORE COVID-19

### AFTER COVID-19



## ADDITIONAL SOURCES

[1] Salles, Juliette et al. "Changes in Cannabis Consumption During the Global COVID-19 Lockdown: The International COVISTRESS Study." *Frontiers in psychiatry* vol. 12 689634. 11 Nov. 2021, doi:10.3389/fpsy.2021.689634

[2] Half of cannabis users increased consumption during first wave of COVID-19. CAMH. (n.d.). Retrieved February 23, 2022, from <https://www.camh.ca/en/camh-news-and-stories/half-cannabis-users-increased-consumption-1st-wave-covid-19>

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