



MARCH 2022 REPORT

MEDICAL CANNABIS FOR GLAUCOMA

THE QUESTION

Cannabis for glaucoma first made headlines in the 1970s, but more recent research has revealed a few limitations.

Today, do patients still use cannabis for glaucoma? If so, who are they? What are their preferences?

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THE ANSWER

Between January 18, 2018, and March 22, 2022, patients logged 2,541 sessions in the RYAH Data Ecosystem for glaucoma.

Slightly more men than women reported using cannabis for glaucoma through RYAH Data.

Patients treated other conditions in conjunction with glaucoma, similar to the larger population. Anxiety, depression and pain were still the top conditions logged.

A majority of patients had moderate experience with cannabis. Sour Diesel, Blue Cookies and Cannatonic were the top cultivars reported for change in relief related to desired effects.

2,542

**SESSIONS LOGGED FOR GLAUCOMA
SINCE JANUARY 1, 2018**

ANALYSIS

The demographic profile of patients logging sessions through the RYAH Data ecosystem differs slightly from previous epidemiology studies.

As per data from the NIH National Eye Institute (2010), the prevalence of glaucoma by gender was: [1]

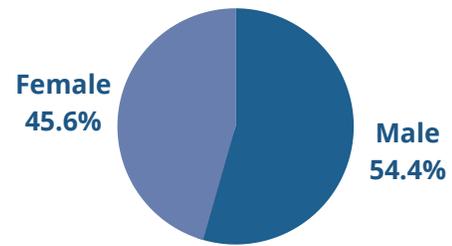
Male: 61%
Female: 39%

A major difference between national glaucoma demographic data and the RYAH Data Ecosystem was sessions logged by age.

Data within RYAH skews towards younger generations, presumably due to familiarity with technology and mobile applications, as well as positive views on cannabis.

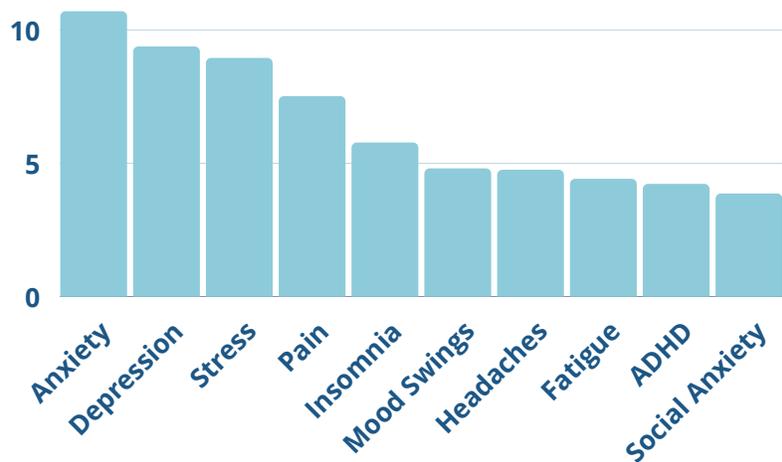
The NIH National Eye Institute reports the prevalence of glaucoma as notably higher among older generations, whereas in RYAH the numbers were greater among 20 to 49 year-olds. [1]

GENDER

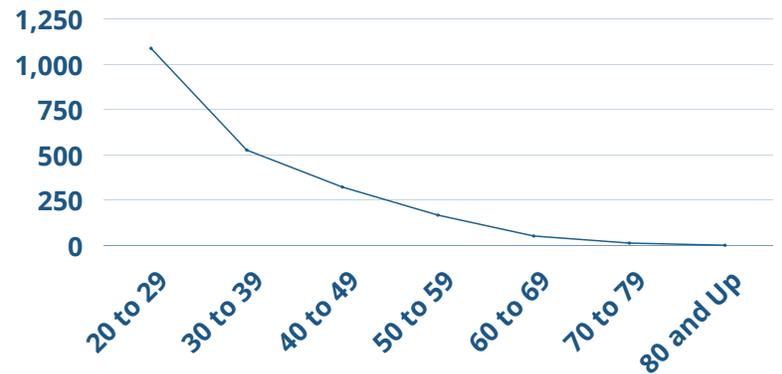


AILMENTS

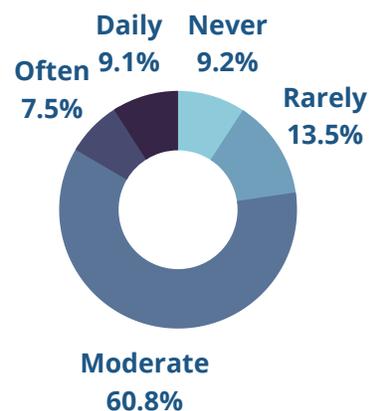
TREATED IN CONJUNCTION WITH GLAUCOMA



AGE



CANNABIS EXPERIENCE



ANALYSIS

As a 2019 literature review explained, several small, randomized controlled trials using all manner of THC-rich products (joints, oral products, cannabis concentrates, or even those applied topically via eye drops) have demonstrated that this cannabinoid temporarily reduces IOP.

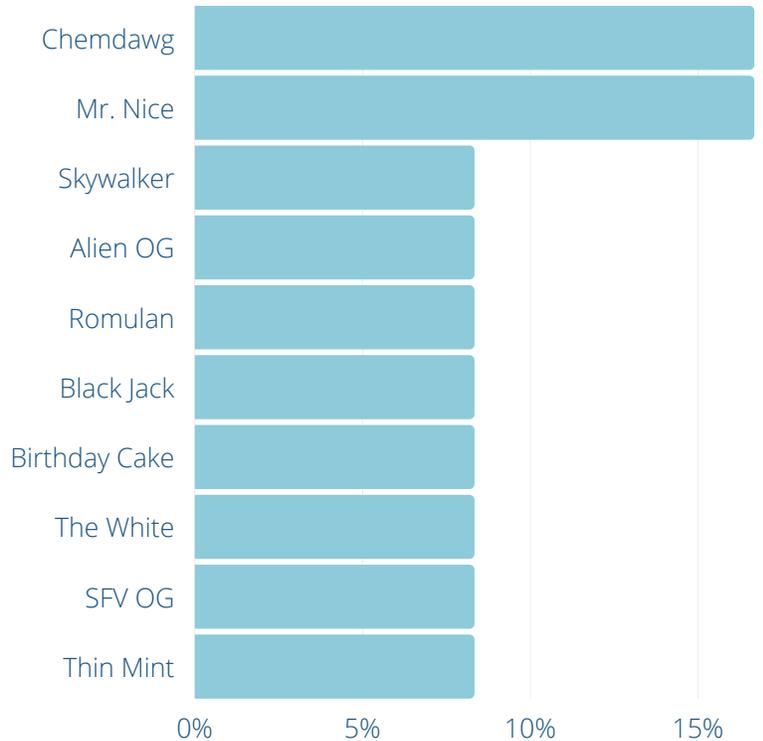
Notably, CBD tends to have the adverse effect of increasing ocular pressure. [2]

Despite the evolving view among academics, opinions among eye specialists differed.

According to a 2022 survey, published in the Journal of Glaucoma, "Over 25% of the glaucoma specialists responded that MMJ had a role in the treatment of glaucoma, despite the recommendation of the professional society." [3]

PREFERRED CULTIVARS

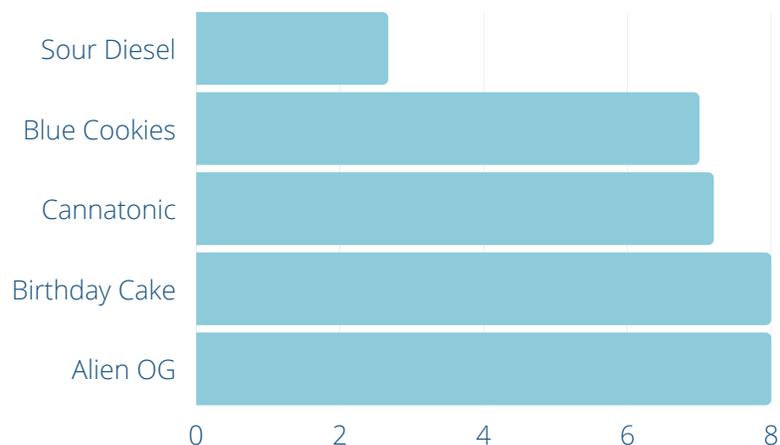
OVERALL



"55% OF SURVEYED EYE SPECIALISTS HAD AT LEAST ONE PATIENT ASK ABOUT MEDICAL CANNABIS." [3]

PREFERRED CULTIVARS

RELIEF FOR DESIRED EFFECTS



"(37%) OF RESPONDENTS HAD PATIENTS WHO CITED USING [MEDICAL CANNABIS] FOR THEIR GLAUCOMA." [3]

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

[1] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). Glaucoma tables. National Eye Institute. Retrieved March 25, 2022, from <https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/outreach-campaigns-and-resources/eye-health-data-and-statistics/glaucoma-data-and-statistics/glaucoma-tables>

[2] MacMillan, K. M. M., Keddy, A., & Furlong, J. (2019). Cannabis and glaucoma: A literature review. *DALHOUSIE MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 46(1). <https://doi.org/10.15273/dmj.vol46no1.9830>

[3] Bergman, Z., Douglas, J., Wang, J., Idowu, O., & Kaleem, M. (2022). Attitudes and Perceptions Toward the Use of Medical Marijuana by Glaucoma Specialists. *Journal of glaucoma*, 31(2), 67-71. <https://doi.org/10.1097/IJG.0000000000001966>

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