

National Cancer Institute's Cannabis Supplement Grant: Twelve Surveys of Cannabis Among Cancer Patients

Patterns of Cannabis Use Among Cancer Patients

AAPOR Annual Meeting

Chicago, IL

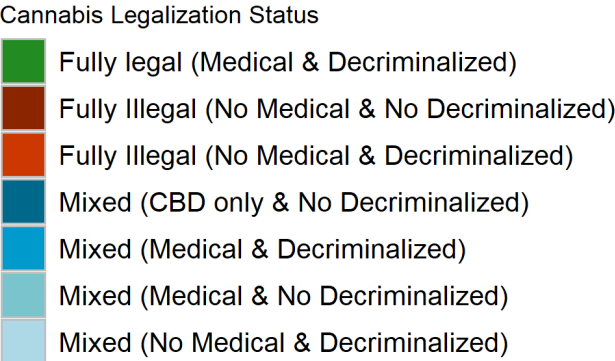
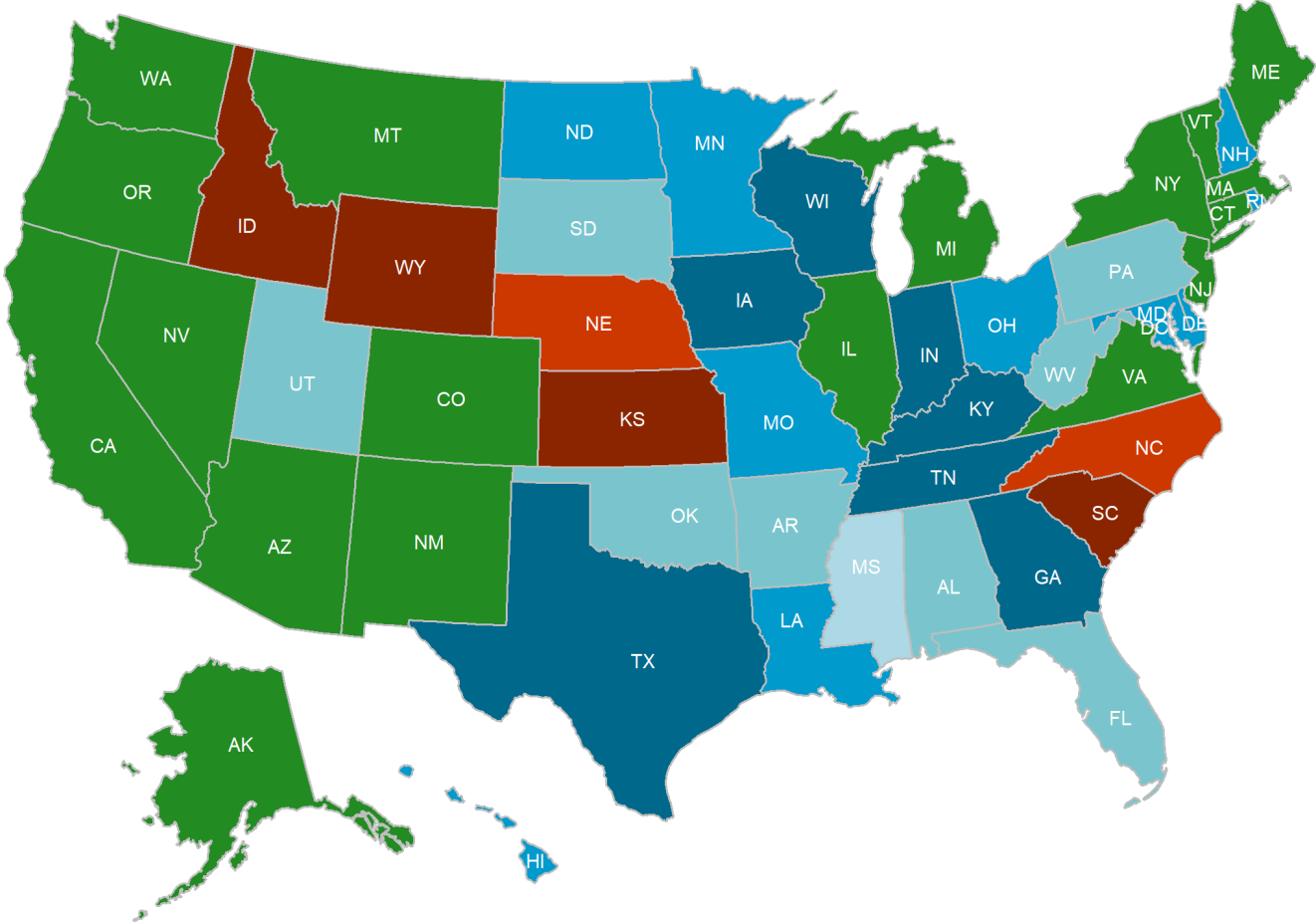
Outline

- Background
- Purpose and goals of cancer center surveys
- Awarded proposals
- Challenges
- Introduction of Panel

Key Definitions: Cannabis and Cannabinoids

- Cannabis is a broad term used to describe organic products:
 - Marijuana
 - Hemp
 - Cannabinoids
- More than 104 cannabinoids:
 - Δ^9 – tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
 - Cannabidiol (CBD)
- Cannabinoid-based medicines (e.g., Epidiolex, Nabiximol, Dronabinol)

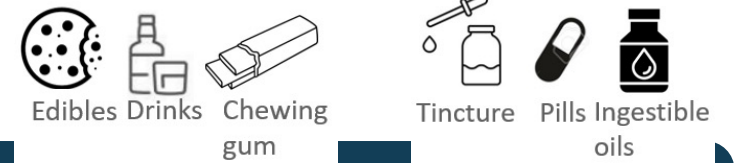
Legal Landscape of Medical and Nonmedical Cannabis Use



Available Delivery Methods

Oral

- Edibles, Drinks, Gum, Tincture, Pills, Ingestible Oils



Inhalation (Smoking, Vaporizers)

- Water Pipe, Joint, Dabs, Blunt, Vapes

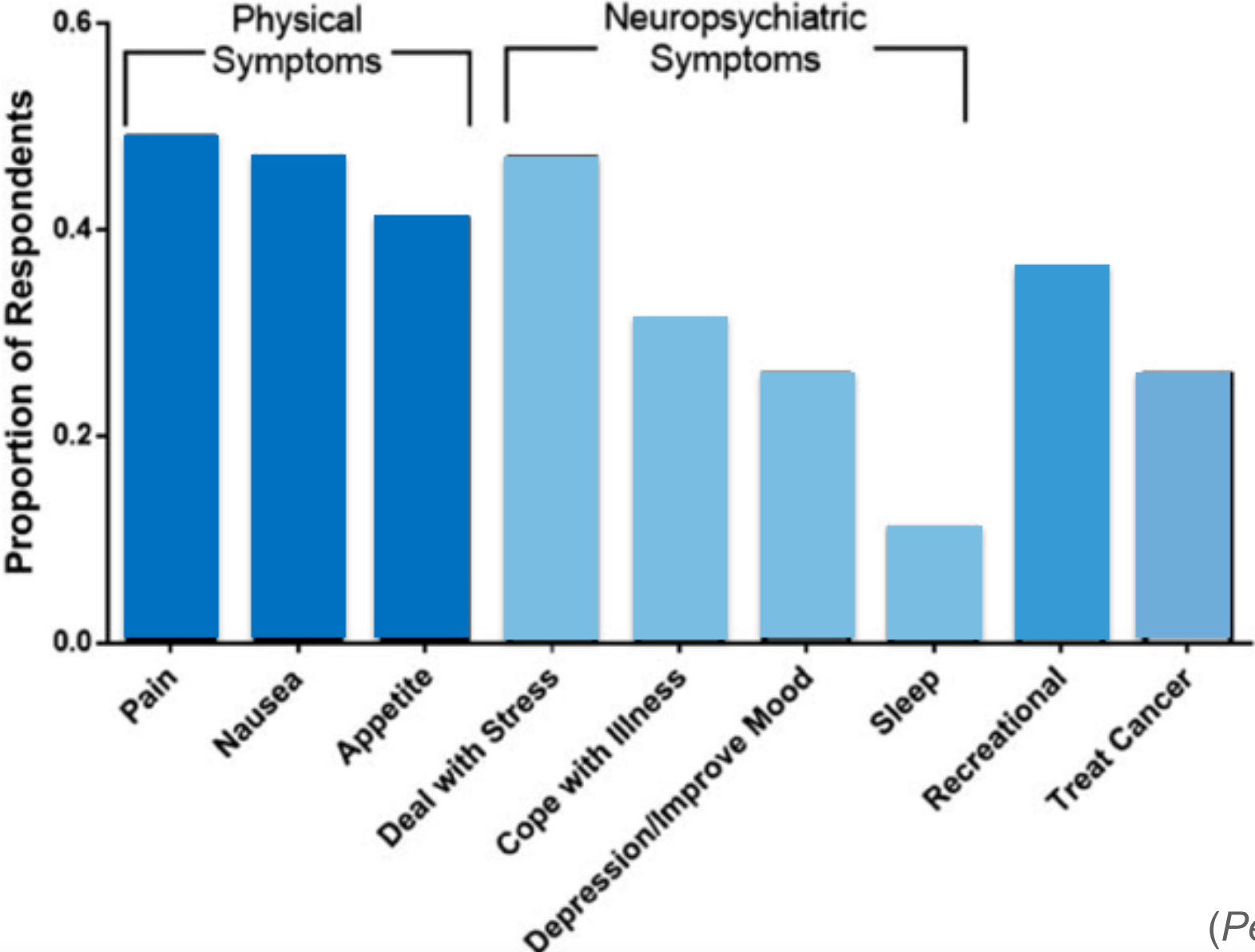


Topical

- Spray, Cream, Patches, Bath Soaks

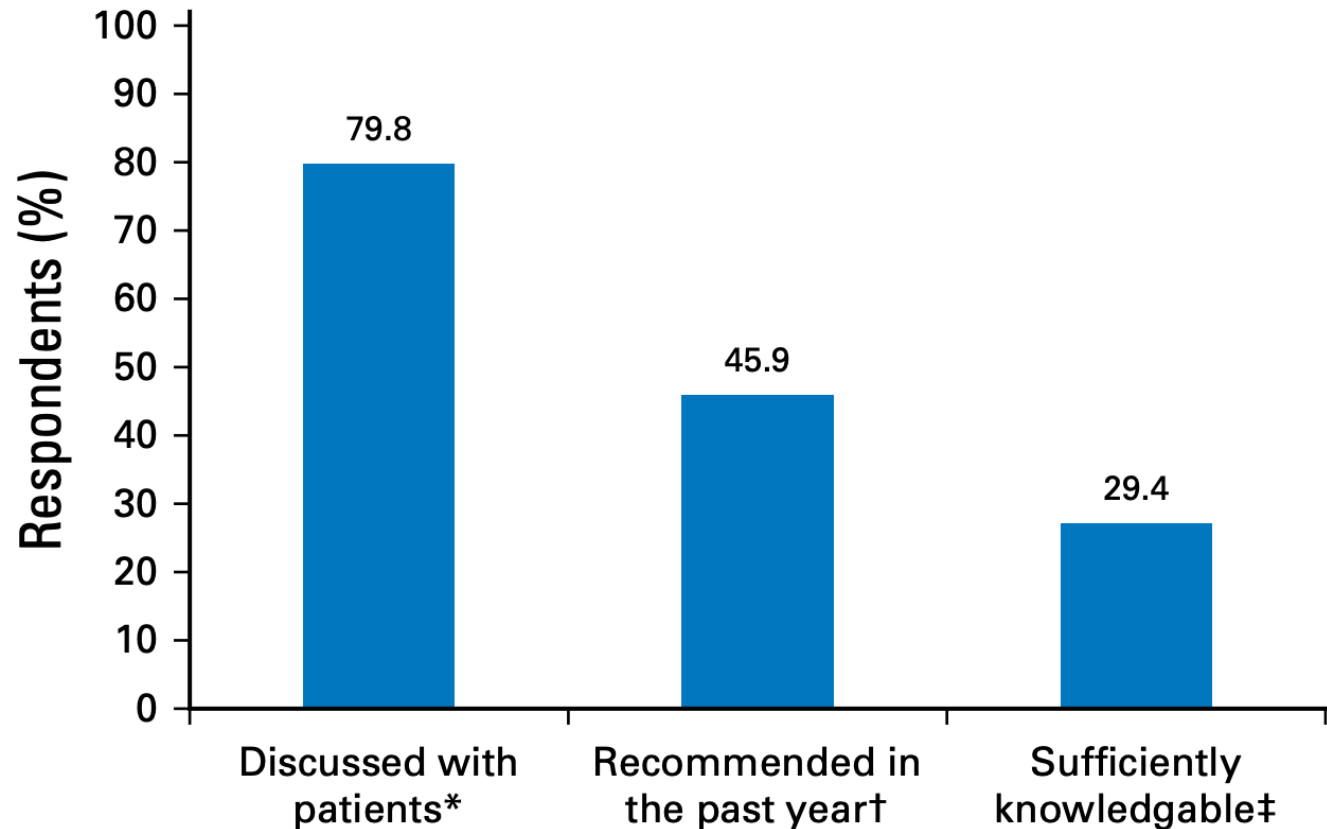


Reason for cannabis use among the survey respondents



24% (222/926) of cancer patients used cannabis to manage symptoms

Oncologists' practices and knowledge on medicinal cannabis



Can it help?

- Do studies show that cannabis can improve my symptoms?
- Can cannabis help to treat my cancer?

Is it safe?

- What are the risks of using cannabis?
- Is cannabis safe to use with opioids?

Is it available?

- What are the laws and in my state?
- What types of products are available?

(Braun, I.M., et al., J Clin Oncol, 2018)

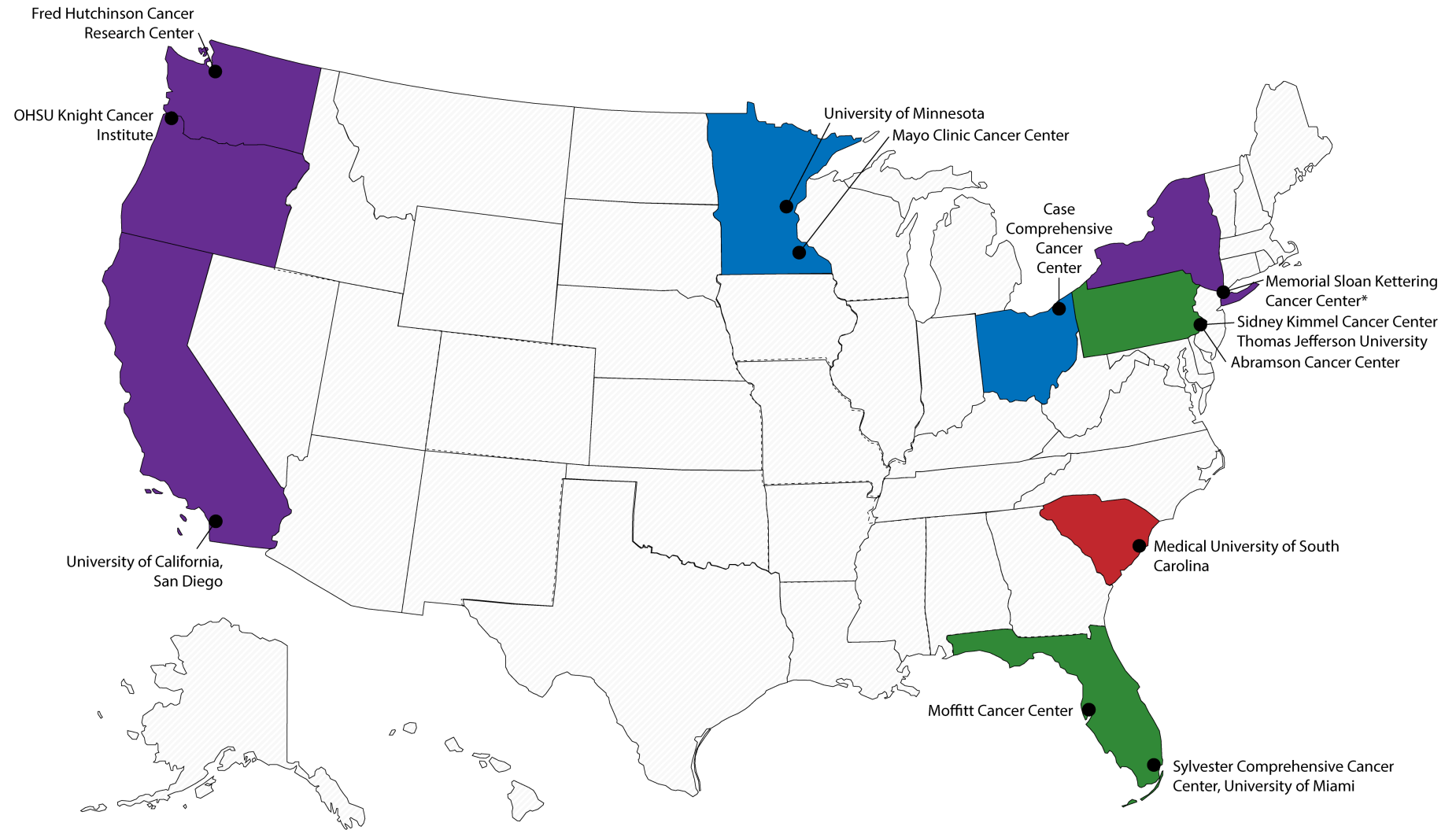
Purpose and Goals: Administrative Supplements for Cancer Center Support Grants

- Overall goal is to understand the prevalence and patterns of cannabis use among cancer patients
- Survey of ambulatory cancer patients in the United States
- Cancer patients should include:
 - Those undergoing active or have recently completed active treatment
 - Diverse populations by age, sex, race/ethnicity and tumor types

Response to Calls for Administrative Supplements

- 71 NCI-designated cancer centers located in 36 states and the District of Columbia
- 49 (69%) cancer centers submitted applications in response to the cannabis administrative supplement
- 12 (24.5%) were selected for funding

Administrative Supplement Cancer Centers Awards and Cannabis Legalization Status Map



- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center: locations in NY and NJ
- Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center locations in PA, MD and NJ
- Abramson Cancer Center is in close proximity to NJ

Legalized
 Medical and Decriminalized
 Medical
 Fully Illegal

* In early 2021, New York legalized marijuana for recreational use. However, since implementation lags, the legalization status change will not affect this survey.

Core components of survey

- Current and past use of cannabis
- Frequency and duration of use
- Mode(s) of use
- Therapeutic reasons for use
- Perception of benefit or harm
- Discussion of use with clinical providers
- Recommended use by clinical provider



Other elements include:

- Tumor Type
- Age of Cancer Diagnosis
- Current and Past Treatment
- Demographic Data

Challenges

- Laws governing use vary widely across the US
- Different sampling strategies used
- Different methods for data collection
- Survey administered during COVID-19 pandemic

Panel: *The National Cancer Institute's Cannabis Supplement Grant: Twelve Surveys of Cannabis Use Among Cancer Patients*

