

PATTERNS AND CORRELATES OF CANNABIS USE BY CUMULATIVE LIFETIME VIOLENCE SEVERITY AS A TARGET/PERPETRATOR IN A COMMUNITY SAMPLE OF EASTERN CANADIAN MEN.

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BACKGROUND

Patterns and correlates of cannabis use are necessary to inform Canadian health promotion initiatives. In the wake of the 2018 cannabis legalization for non-medical use, cannabis use is poorly understood, particularly in the context of violence, gender and health. Knowledge is limited by dichotomous measurement of cannabis use, failure to report by sex, and a focus on individual types of violence rather than cumulative lifetime violence severity (CLVS). Men are more likely than women to become problematic cannabis users. Our goals were a) to explore variation in men's descriptive profiles by CLVS, social determinants, gender norms, and health by patterns of past year cannabis use (never, sometimes, daily), & b) to compare these profiles for men with lower versus higher CLVS. CLVS was defined as physical, psychological or sexual violence in childhood or adulthood as target or perpetrator in the family, community, school, workplace or partner relationships and measured with the CLVS-64 scale.

SAMPLE

In 2016-2017, we recruited a community sample of 589 of participants ages 19 to 65 who identified as men, were English speaking, and lived New Brunswick to complete an online survey including measures of variables of interest.

RESULTS

- Cannabis use (46.6%) was almost twice that reported in the 2018 Canadian Cannabis Survey (26.5%) and was significantly more likely among men in the higher CLVS group. See Table for patterns of cannabis use & CLVS for total sample & a comparison between low & high CLVS groups.
- 97.5 % of sample reported CLVS, 81.7% as both target & perpetrator.

	Total Sample (N =589)			Lower CLVS group (n = 294)			Higher CLVS group (n = 295)		
Mean CLVS	1.40 (range 1 to 2.73)			1.16 (range 1.00 to 1.32)			1.65 (range 1.32 to 2.73)		
Cannabis use past year: % (n)	46.6 (275)			38.1 (112)			55.3 (163)		
	Never	Sometimes	Daily	Never	Sometimes	Daily	Never	Sometimes	Daily
	53.3 (314)	25.6 (151)	21 (124)	61.9 (182)	26.2 (77)	11.9 (35)	44.7 (132)	25.1 (74)	30.2 (89)
Mean CLVS	1.35	1.40	1.55	1.15	1.16	1.17	1.61	1.65	1.70

- Daily cannabis use was associated with being single, divorced or separated, as well as having less education, lower income, being unemployed and having difficulty living on income in the total sample. Irrespective of CLVS levels, having high school education or less & difficulty living on income is associated with daily cannabis use. In the higher CLVS group, unemployment was associated with daily use.
- In the total sample, daily use was associated with symptoms of chronic pain, depression, PTSD and anxiety. Findings by CLVS group are less definitive and further study is needed, including whether cannabis is being used therapeutically or recreationally.
- Sometimes use was associated with possible hazardous alcohol use and daily use with current smoking, use of street drugs and use of prescription drugs in an unprescribed way. There were similar patterns noted among both CVLS groups.