



Health Clinicians' Attitudes Toward Cannabis

The majority of healthcare professionals endorse the use of cannabis as a therapeutic treatment option

"The present study aimed to characterize knowledge and attitudes on medical cannabis among a convenience sample of U.S. healthcare providers. ... Key findings indicated that most respondents (>85%), regardless of their role in healthcare, believed cannabis to have legitimate therapeutic uses and had patients who used cannabis. Furthermore, most participants were supportive of legal access to medical cannabis, open to using it in their own practice, and interested in receiving further training to do so."

Knowledge, attitudes, and concerns about medical cannabis among US healthcare professionals, Journal of Cannabis Research, 2026

"This study aimed to measure NP [nurse practitioner] students' knowledge and perception of medical marijuana (MM) and determine whether they need additional education on the topic. Most students (94%) felt that MM should be legalized in all US states. Likewise, 97% felt that MM education should be included in NP program curricula."

NP student knowledge and perceptions of medical marijuana, Nurse Practitioner, 2024

Nationwide survey data compiled by researchers affiliated with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that nearly seven-in-ten practicing medical professionals supported the use of medical cannabis. Those who favored its medical use were most likely to endorse marijuana use for treating pain (73 percent), cancer (72 percent), and nausea (61 percent).

Clinician beliefs and practices related to cannabis, Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research, 2021

"We surveyed US physicians at the largest national EM conference (American College of Emergency Physicians' Annual Conference) held in San Diego, CA from October 1 to 4, 2018. Of the thousands of conference participants approached, 539 US physicians completed the anonymous written survey, which represented 15.2% of the US physicians attending the conference. ... A majority (70.7%) of the participants believed that cannabis has medical value."

Emergency room physicians would prefer using cannabis over opioids for first-line treatment of a medical condition if provided with medical evidence: A national survey, Cureus, 2021

A growing percentage of healthcare professionals acknowledge either having issued recommendations for medical cannabis or indicate that they would do so if it were legally permissible

A CDC survey of medical clinicians in the US reported that over one-quarter of respondents (27 percent) had issued authorizations to their patients to engage in the use of medical cannabis.

Clinician beliefs and practices related to cannabis, Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research, 2021

A survey of nursing students in the United States and in Israel reported that the "vast majority" of respondents (91 percent) would recommend cannabis to their patients if allowed to do so.

Attitudes and knowledge about medical cannabis among Israeli and American nursing students, Nurse Education Today, 2021



Most healthcare professionals acknowledge never having received any formal training in cannabis science and believe that educational training on cannabis ought to be part of their curriculum

"Less than half of the nursing students across studies indicated receiving formal education within their curriculum. ... Nursing students overwhelmingly report feeling unprepared and lacking confidence to provide care to patients with cannabis use, which may relate to inadequate formal education within nursing curricula."

Nursing students' attitudes and knowledge of medical and recreational cannabis use, International Journal of Addiction Nursing, 2026

"US physicians and medical trainees perceived significant knowledge barriers to recommending MC [medical cannabis] and counseling patients on its therapeutic use. Students, residents, and fellows remain minimally prepared on this topic, both on the pharmacological principles and the ability to provide guidance to patients who have questions. ... Effectively training current and future healthcare professionals on MC is a necessary step toward improving patient care and reducing potential stigma associated with medical versus recreational cannabinoid use."

Physicians' knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions about medical cannabis in the United States: A scoping review, Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids, 2025

"Few [of those surveyed] considered themselves sufficiently informed to make cannabis-related clinical recommendations. These results suggest both a need for expanded high-quality evidence for medical cannabis in palliative care and for improved formal education for HPM [hospice and palliative care] fellows."

Palliative medicine fellows' discussions, perceptions, and training regarding medical cannabis, Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, 2024

"This study found that HCPs' [health care professionals] knowledge about the medical risks and benefits of clinical cannabis, although similar among professions, is generally poor and has specific important gaps. ... The findings of this study support that, despite a growing evidence base, and even after many years of legalization, HCPs including APRNs [advance practice registered nurses] have substantial gaps in their knowledge of the potential risks and benefits associated with the use of cannabis for medical purposes."

Cannabis for medical purposes: A cross-sectional analysis of health care professionals' knowledge, Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2022