

**Medical Marijuana Knowledge and Attitudes: A Survey of Dental and Dental Hygiene Faculty and Students**

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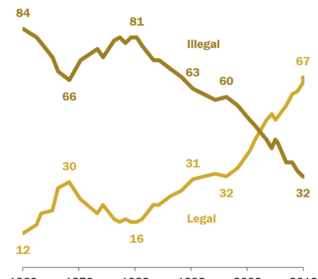
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## Background

- Social attitudes have changed toward marijuana
- 42 countries & 35 states have legalized medical marijuana
- Dentist often first point of contact for pain management
- Survey was done to better understand dentists' and dental students' knowledge and attitudes toward medical marijuana

**U.S. public opinion on legalizing marijuana, 1969-2019**

*Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not? (%)*



Year	Illegal (%)	Legal (%)
1969	84	12
1979	66	30
1989	81	16
1999	63	31
2009	60	32
2019	32	67

Note: No answer responses not shown. 2019 data from Pew Research Center's online American Trends Panel; prior data from telephone surveys. Data from 1969-1972 from Gallup; data from 1973-2008 from General Social Surveys.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2019.  
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Medical Marijuana Literature

- Physician attitudes shift
  - 41% support legalization in '89 by 76% in 2013
  - Influenced by specialty (oncologists & hospice specialists more favorable)
- Limited training in MM
  - 66.7% of medical school deans state students not prepared to prescribe MM
  - 90% of residents and fellows state that they lacked the knowledge to prescribe MM
  - 85% state that they received no education in medical school or residency on MM
  - 78% believed that MM education should be required at some point
- Similar findings among nurses and pharmacists
- Lack of research on dentists and MM

## Survey Design

<h3>Survey</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 questions</li> <li>• 4 categories           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographics</li> <li>• Knowledge</li> <li>• Opinions</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Based on survey of pharmacists – modified for dentists and pilot tested</li> </ul>	<h3>Experience</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-15 minutes to complete</li> <li>• 7 point-Likert scale &amp; multiple response choice</li> <li>• Lottery with prizes used to improve response rate</li> </ul>	<h3>Sample</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty dentist</li> <li>• Faculty dental hygienist</li> <li>• Dental student</li> <li>• Resident</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 930 invitations – 19% response rate</li> </ul>
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## Demographic Data

•Table 1: Demographic profile of study participants

Survey Respondents	%
Gender	
Male	48
Female	52
Age (years)	
20-29	76
30-39	8
40-49	5
50-59	5
60+	5
Ethnic background	
White	34
Black or African American	0
Asian	54
Hispanic/Latino	3
Other	4
Occupation	
Dentist	17
Dental Student	78
Dental Resident	2
Dental Hygienist	1
Other	1

## Summary Results

- Opinions
  - Efficacy
    - 70% agreed MM valuable for pain
    - 70% agreed MM valuable addition to the currently available pain management options
    - Majority respondents see
      - perceived efficacy in managing pain
      - Perceived safety compared to NSAIDs, APAP, and narcotics
- Knowledge
  - 2/3rds report a low level of knowledge about MM & side effects
  - More than 80% low level of knowledge about dosage & dosage forms
- Education
  - 94% need more education about MM
  - 92% more research needed

## Unresolved Regulatory Environment

- Legal in 35 states but remains illegal at federal level
- A dilemma for dentists
  - Undermines ability to serve patients
  - Beliefs about efficacy
  - Need for training and research into effects, dosage, dispensing options etc.
- Need state-federal coordination

