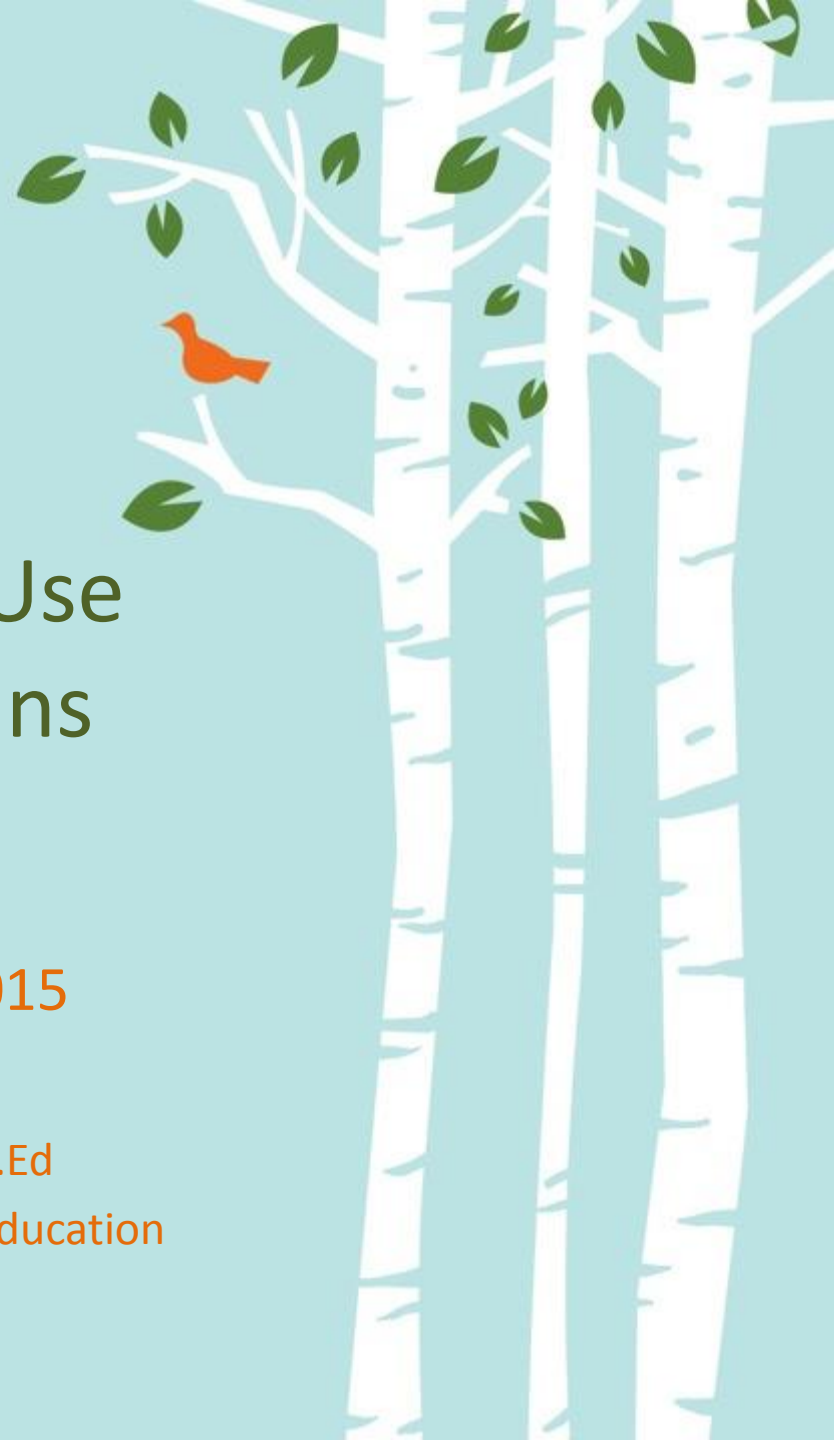




Wellness Connection  
of Maine



# Medical Cannabis Use Among ME Veterans With PTSD

OMNE Nursing Summit 2015

Presented by Becky DeKeuster, M.Ed  
Co-founder/Director of Community & Education

# Survey Process & Demographics

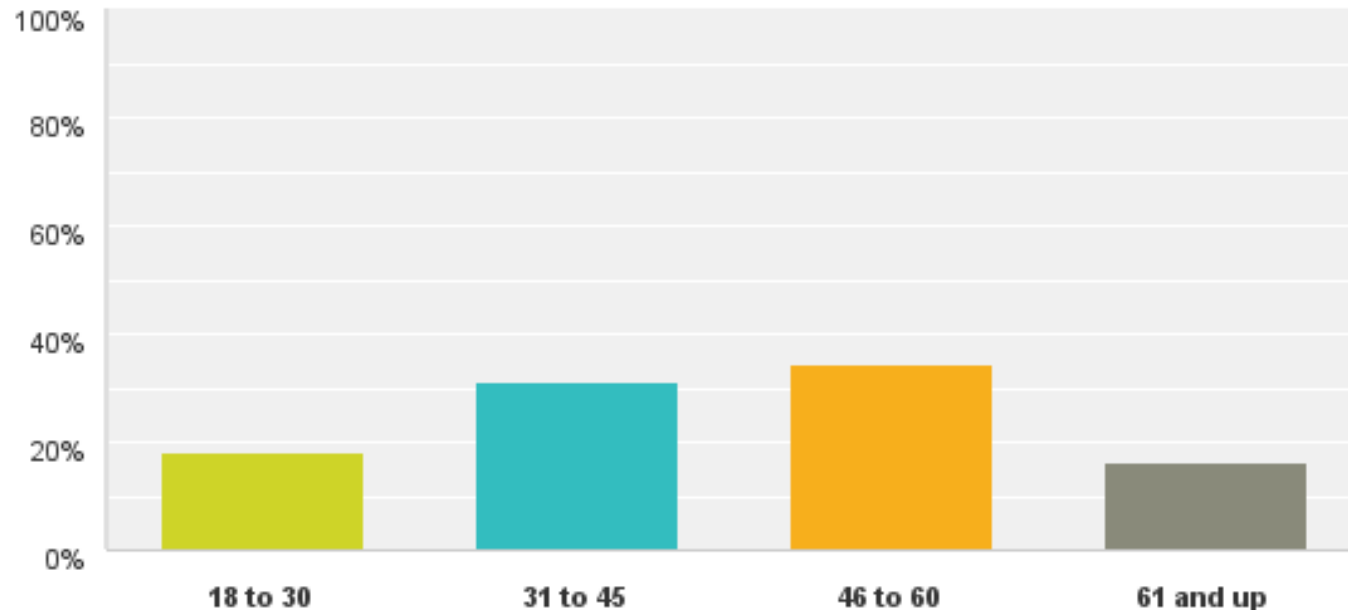
Online survey conducted 2/17/15 – 3/16/15

67 respondents

47 male (70.15%), 18 female (26.87%) , 2 prefer not to state (2.99%)

## Q2 What is your age group?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 0



# Survey Process & Demographics

**33 currently receive services through the VA (62.26%)**

**35 MMJ patients w/ PTSD as primary qualifying condition (53.03%)**

**24 MMJ patients w/ another primary qualifying condition (36.36%)**

**7 are not currently MMJ patients (10.61%)**

**40 are military-service-related disabled (60.61%)**

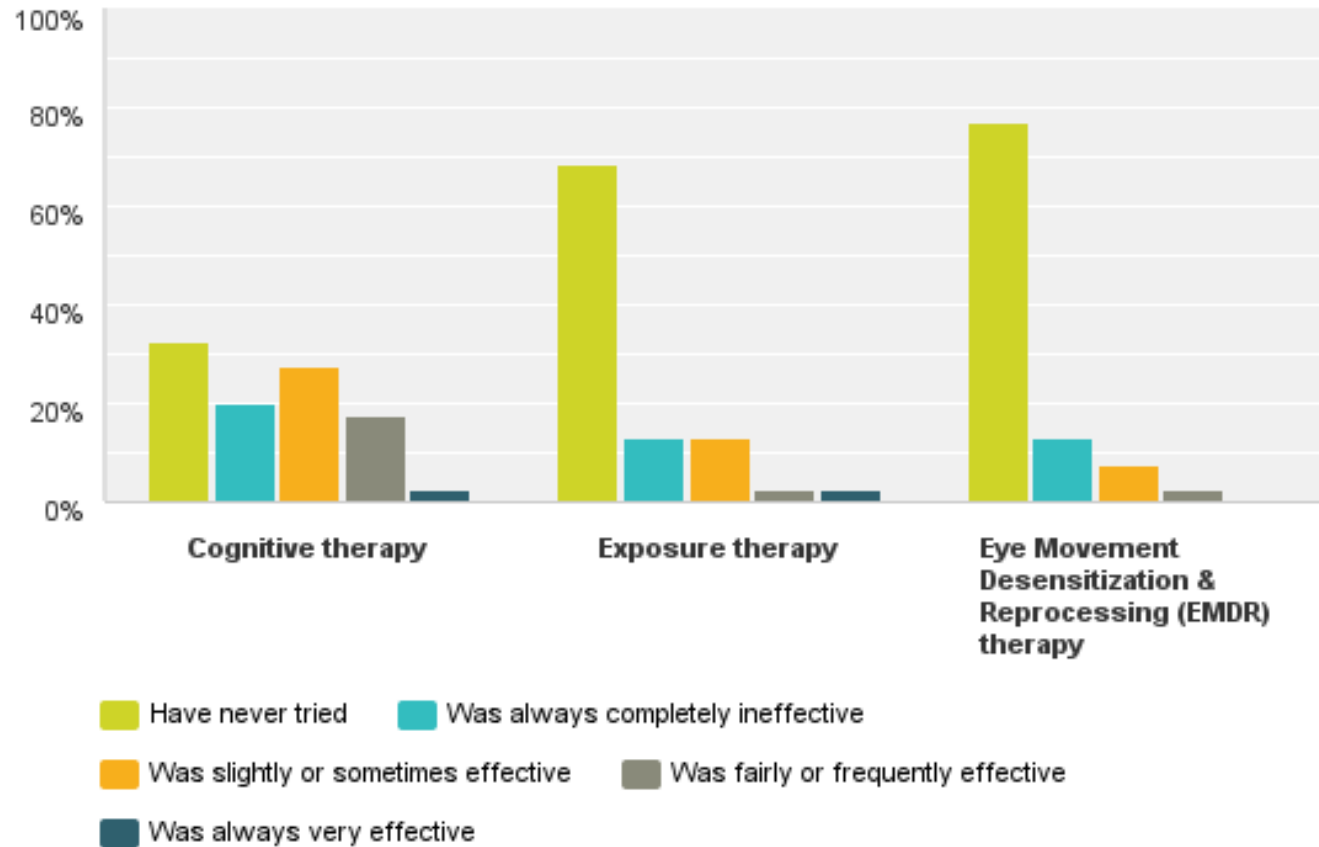
**33 currently receive services through the VA (62.26%)**



# Data: Symptom Relief

## Q15 Have you participated in any of these types of therapy to treat your PTSD?

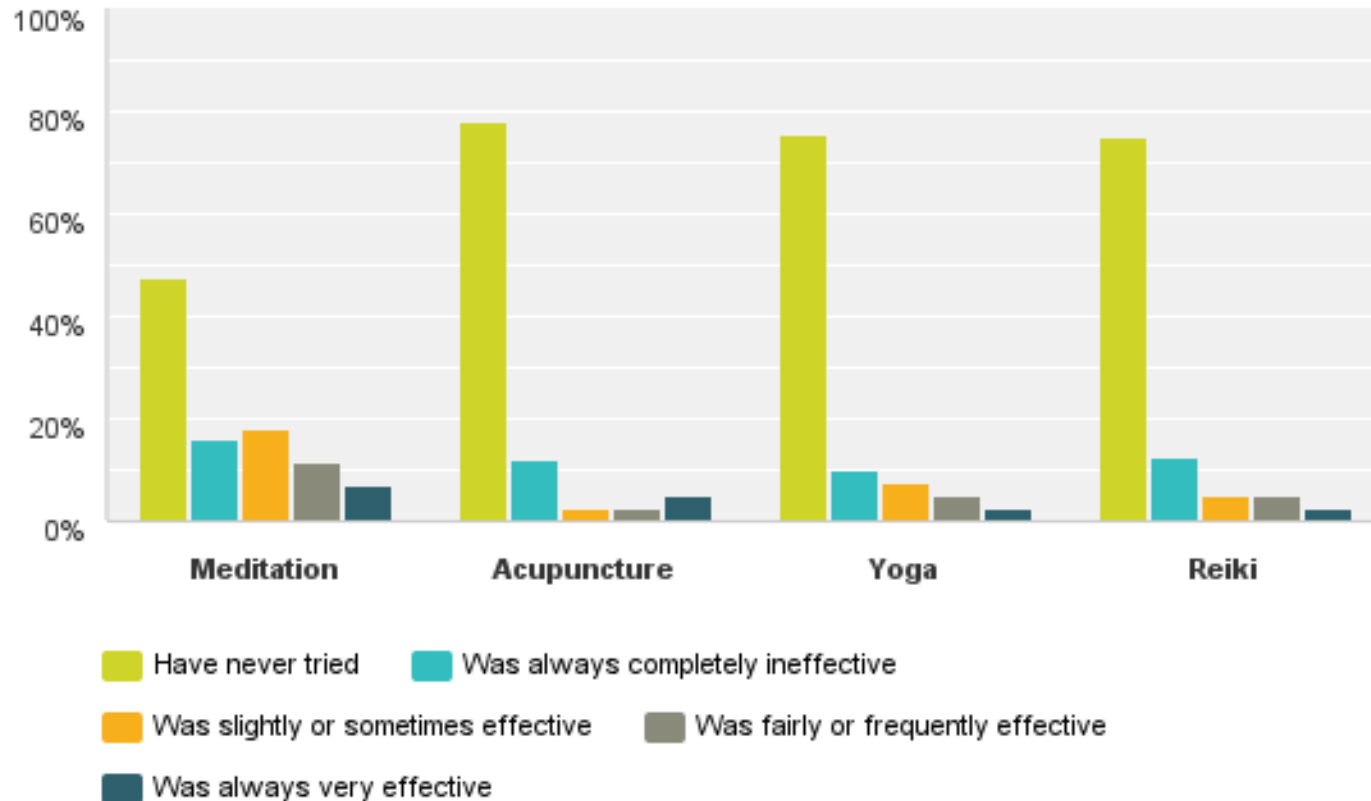
Answered: 43 Skipped: 24



# Data: Symptom Relief

## Q16 Have you ever tried complementary or alternative therapies for your PTSD?

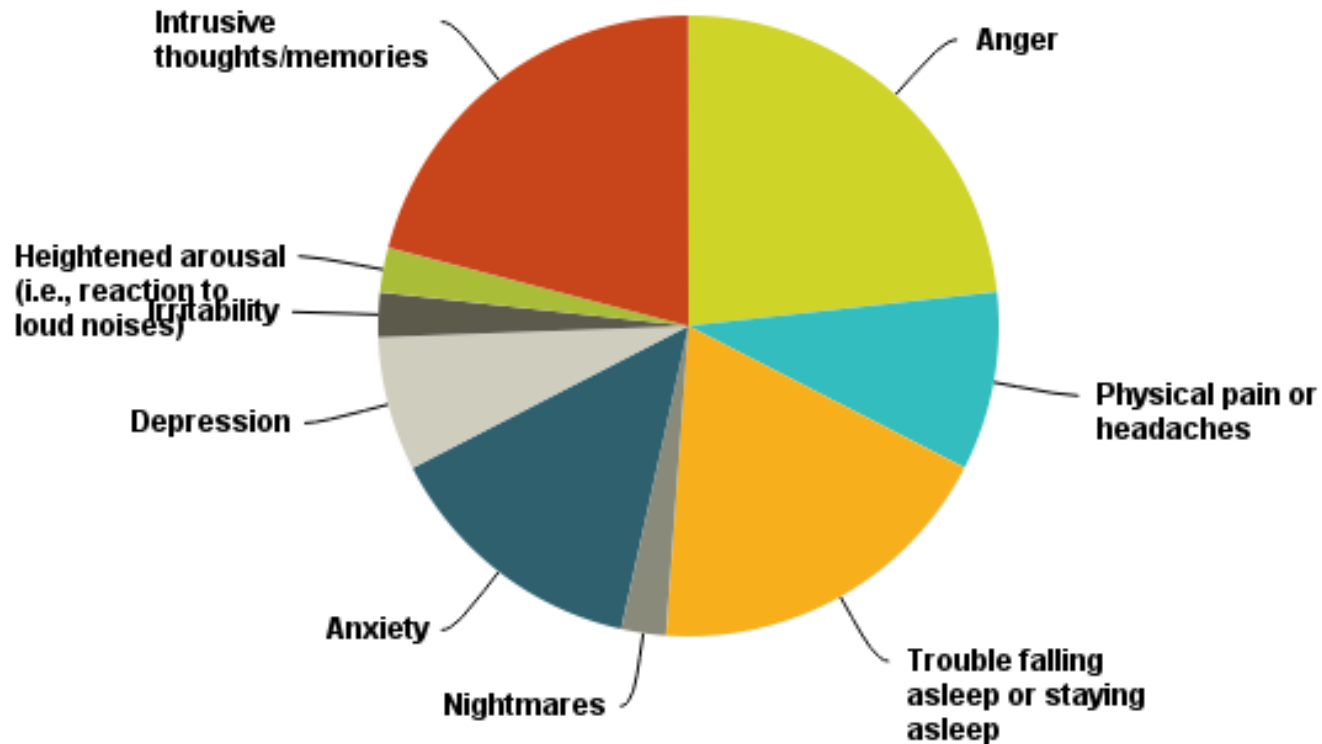
Answered: 44 Skipped: 23



# Data: Health Risks/Problems

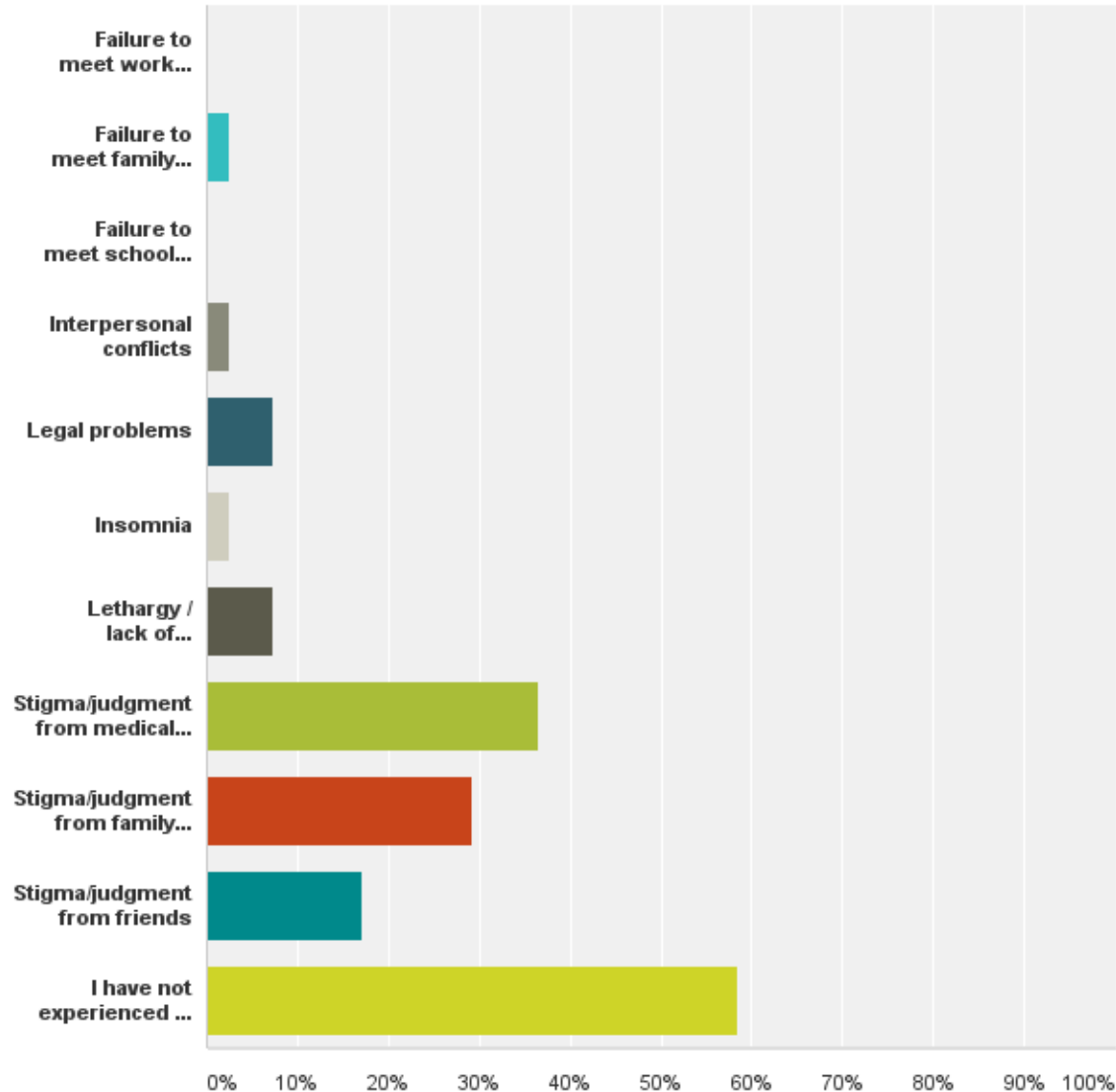
**Q11 Left untreated, how does your PTSD manifest? (Check all that apply.)**

Answered: 43 Skipped: 24



## Q27 Have you ever experienced any of the following as a result of your cannabis use? (Check all that apply.)

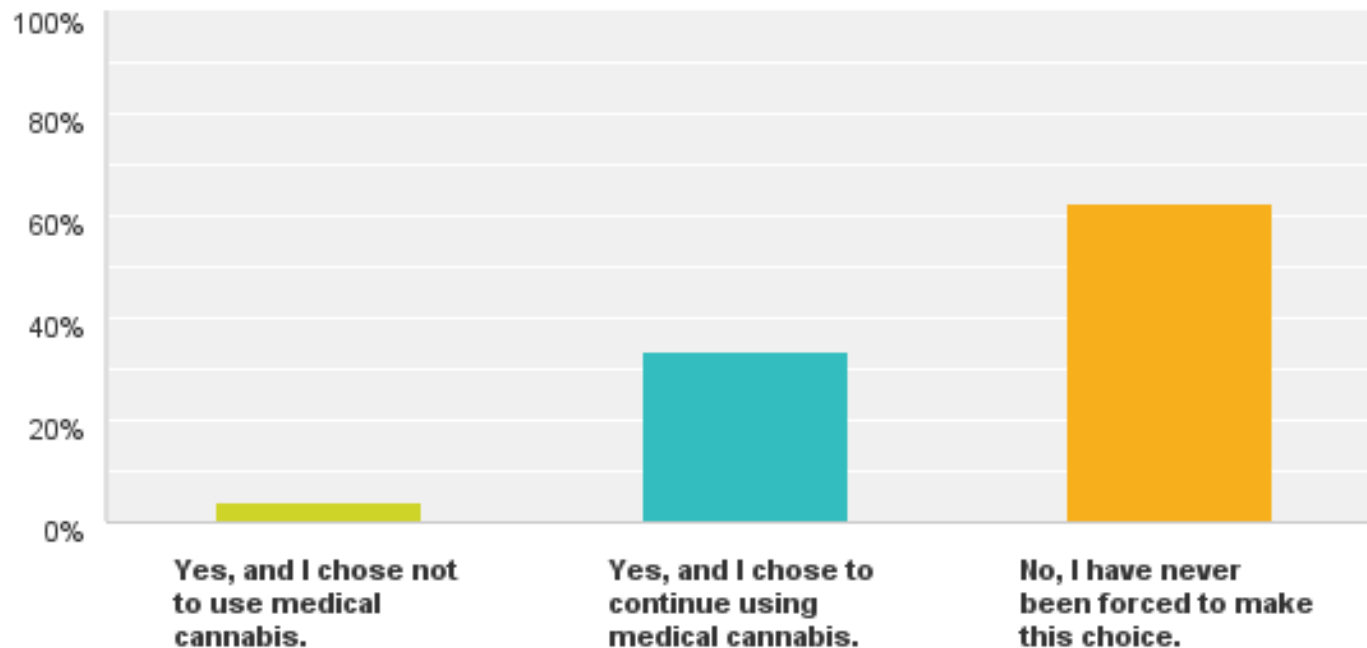
Answered: 41 Skipped: 26



# Data: Barriers to Access

**Q9 Have you ever been asked to choose between continuing with a VA program, or continuing to use medical cannabis?**

Answered: 24 Skipped: 43

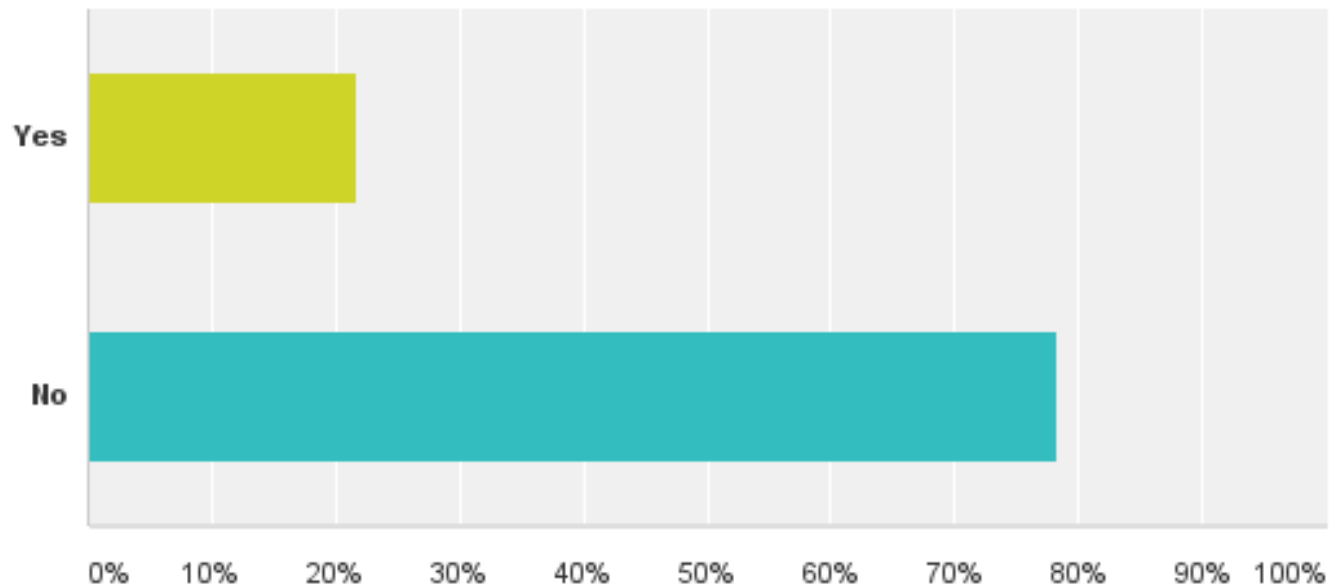




# Data: Barriers to Access

**Q10 At any time, has your VA practitioner ever referred to your medical cannabis use as addiction or abuse?**

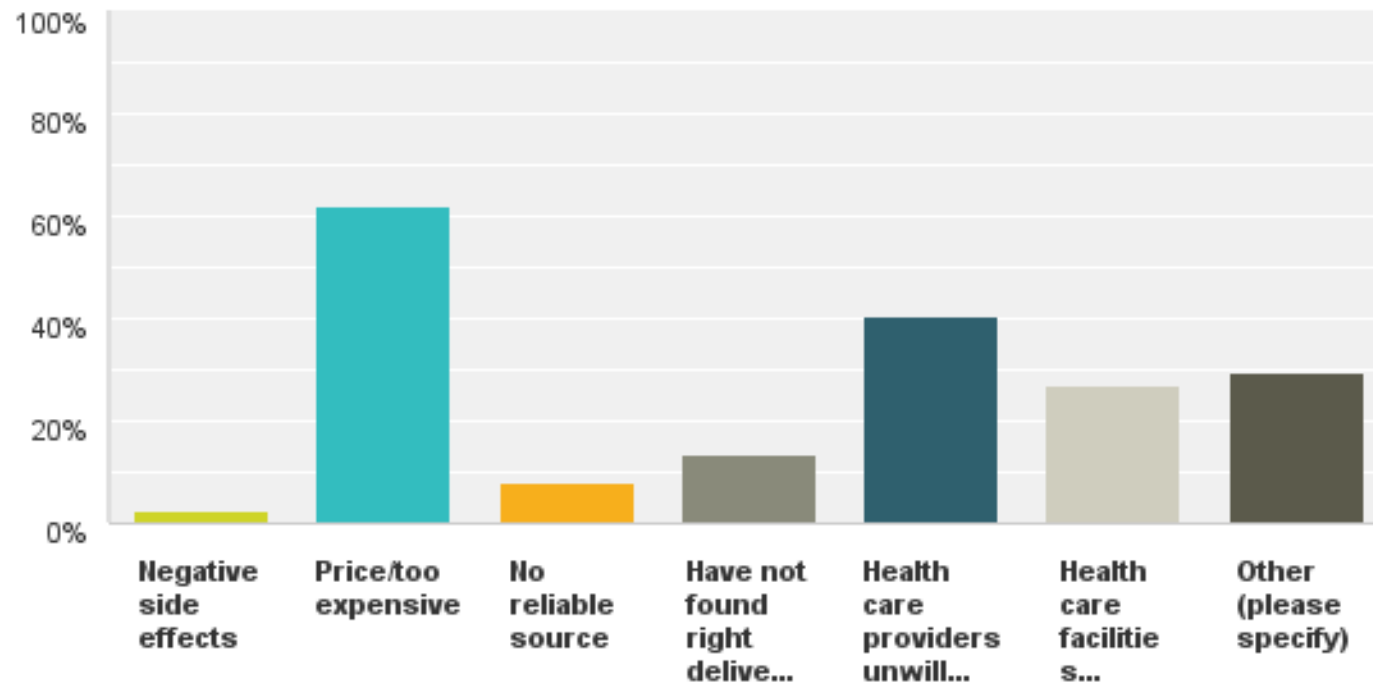
Answered: 23 Skipped: 44



# Data: Barriers to Access

**Q28 Which, if any, of these issues do you experience as a barrier to your use of medical cannabis? (Check all that apply)**

Answered: 37 Skipped: 30



# In Their Own Words

**“Had to sign a narcotics contract... I am now unable to get any Oxycodone (previously prescribed, never abused) for breakthrough pain. However, medical cannabis does help with fibromyalgia.”**

**“They cut me off of all of my controlled medications to include all of my pain management drugs and sleeping pills. One of the best decisions I have made in years.”**



# In Their Own Words

**“I was told I could no longer have [ADHD and pain meds]. I was on pain killers and was told I could no longer have them if this was my choice... I would never give up the life I have now. It has helped me in so many ways. I feel like I’m living again. I feel again. I have empathy and compassion. Yes, I did the work, but medical marijuana played a huge role in that work and I will never deny that.”**



# Policy & Practice Recommendations

- **Stigma & stereotypes**
- **Provider education**
- **VA policy changes**
- **Policy changes in non-VA facilities**
- **Patient dignity & empowerment**



# THANK YOU

for your time and attention!

[www.mainewellness.org](http://www.mainewellness.org)

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