Supplemental Online Content

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This supplemental material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.
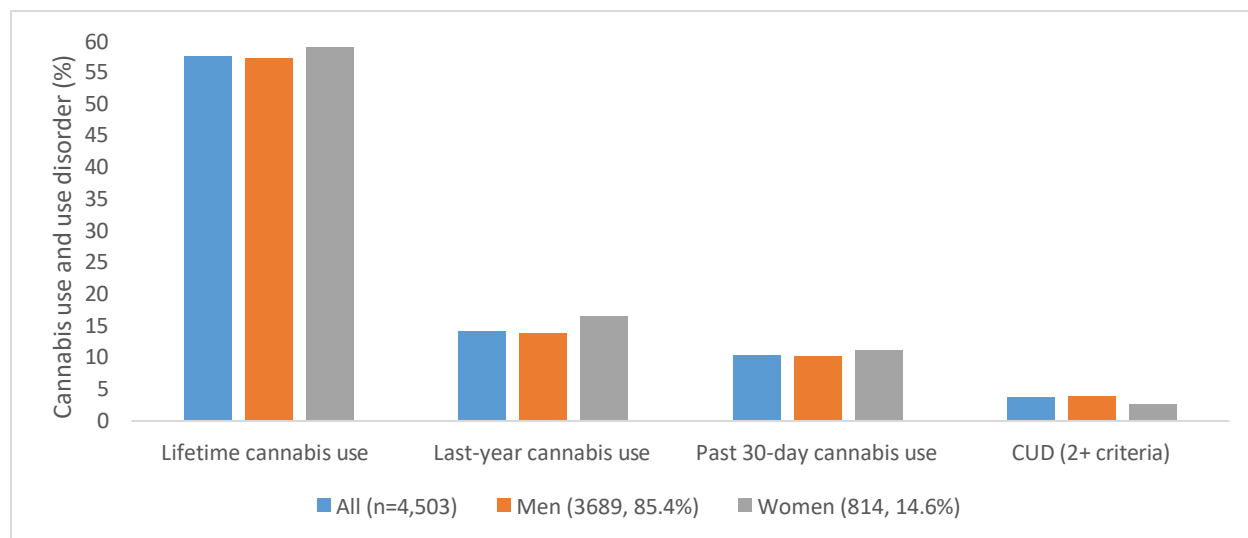
eFigure 1. Cannabis use and any past 12-month cannabis use disorder among U.S. Veterans by gender: 2020-2023, n=4,503

Results shown are weighted percentages for endorsing cannabis use (smoking, vaping, dabbing, or edibles) among all respondents and by gender.

Cannabis use disorder (CUD) among those who reported past 30-day cannabis use was defined as reporting two or more of the following 11 criteria: tolerance; withdrawal/high use; taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than intended; a great deal of time getting using or recovering from use; important activities given up; recurrent psychological or physical problems; hazardous use; recurrent social problems; failure to fulfill obligations; craving; and/or persistent desire to cut down
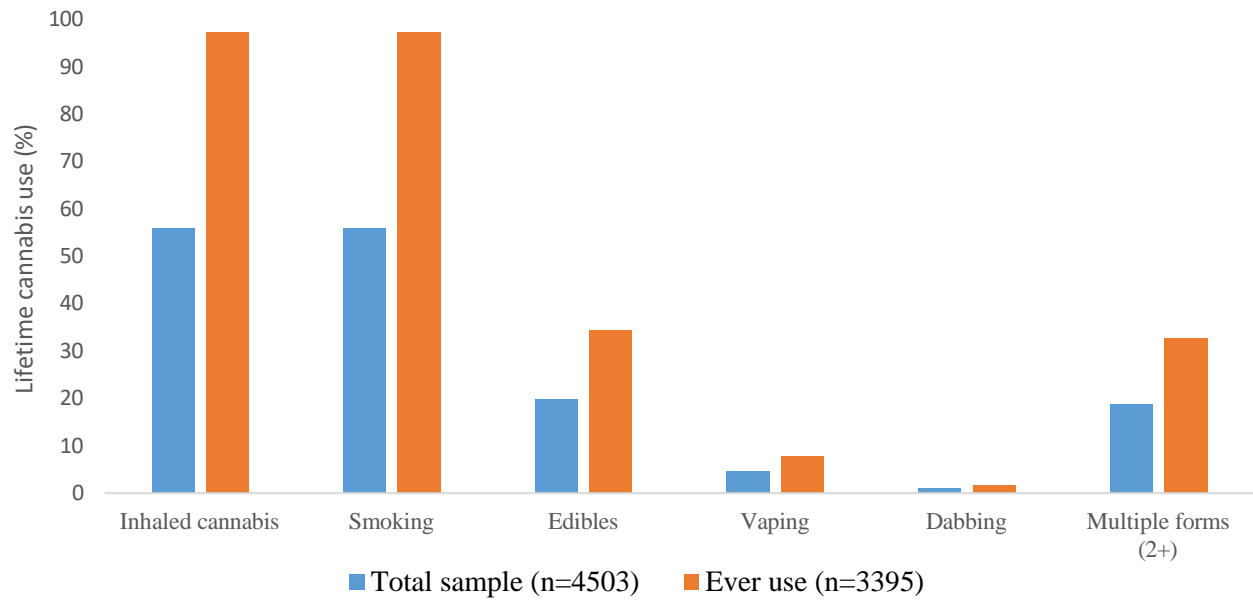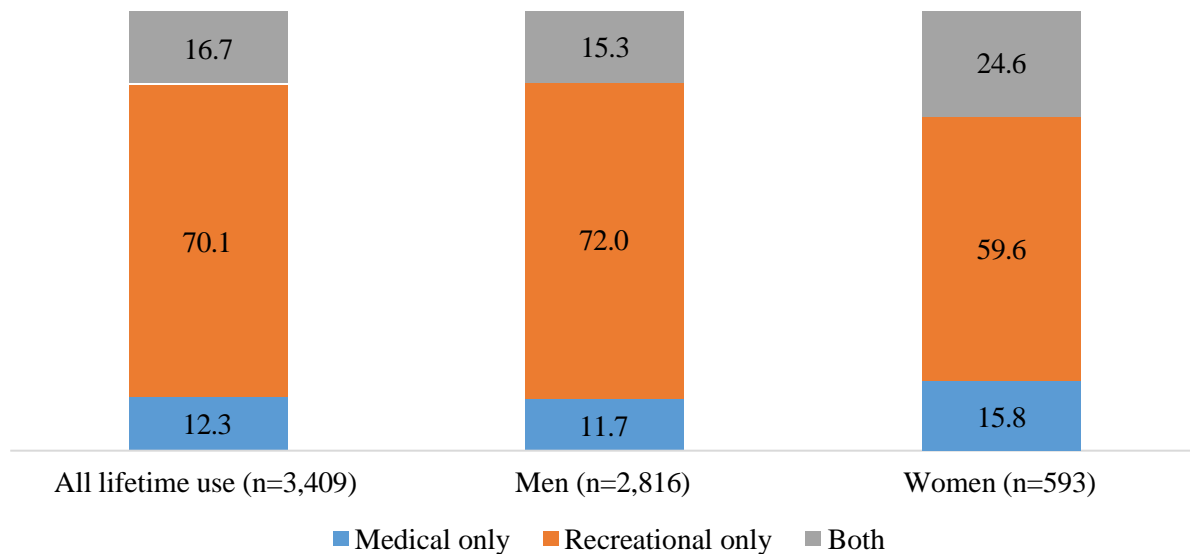
eFigure 2. Forms of any lifetime cannabis use among U.S. Veterans 65 years and older: 2020-2023

Results shown are weighted percentages by modes of any lifetime cannabis use (smoking, vaping, dabbing, edibles).
Inhaled cannabis: any smoking, vaping, and/or dabbing.
Multiple forms: reporting any two or more forms of use, including smoking, vaping, dabbing, and/or edibles

eFigure 3. Reasons for any lifetime cannabis use among U.S. Veterans: 2020-2023, n=3,409

Results shown are weighted percentages among those with available data on forms of lifetime cannabis use (smoking, vaping, dabbing, use of edibles, or topicals) and by gender
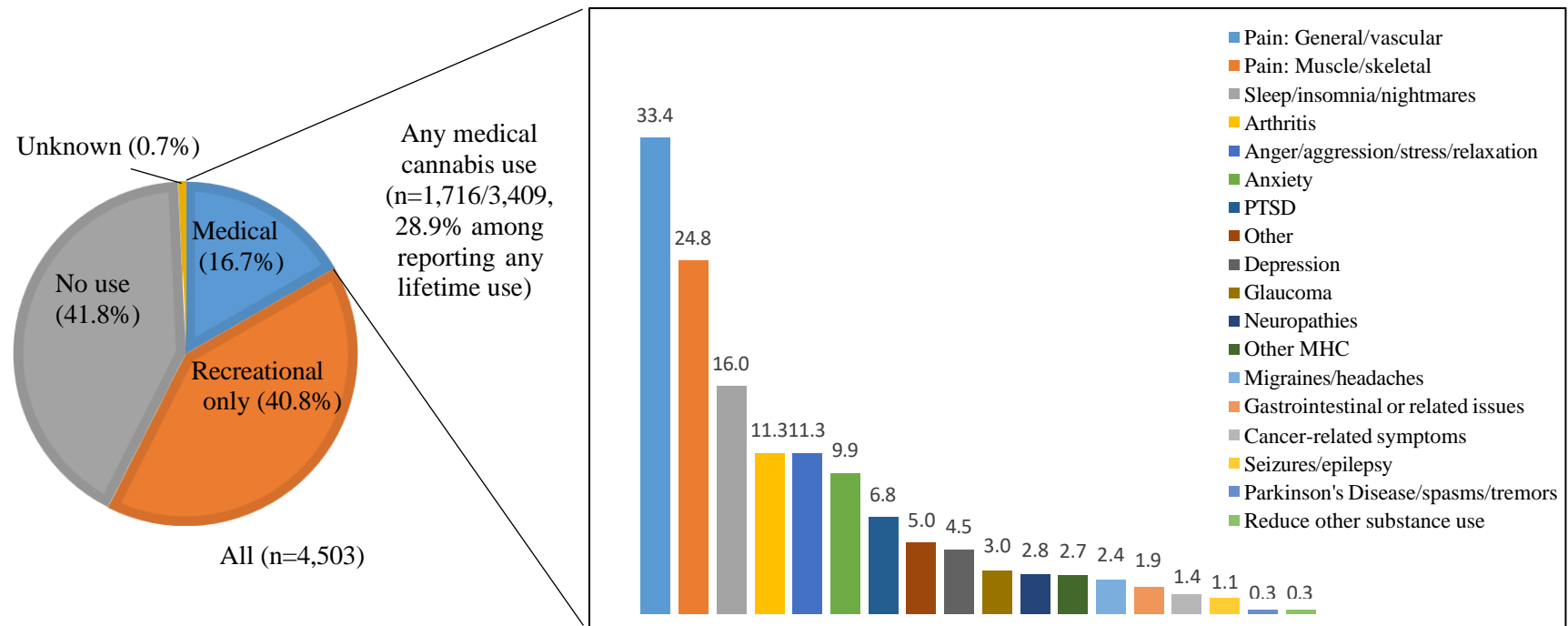
eFigure 4. Medical reasons for lifetime cannabis use among U.S. Veterans 65 years and older: n=4,503

Results shown are weighted percentages for endorsing reasons for lifetime cannabis use: medical only, recreational only, or both.
Specific reasons for medical use (not mutually exclusive) were asked of those who reported lifetime cannabis use in any form (smoking, vaping, dabbing, edibles, or topicals) for any medical use (1,716 or 16.7%), including medical only (593, 7.1%) or medical and recreational purposes (1,123, 9.6%)
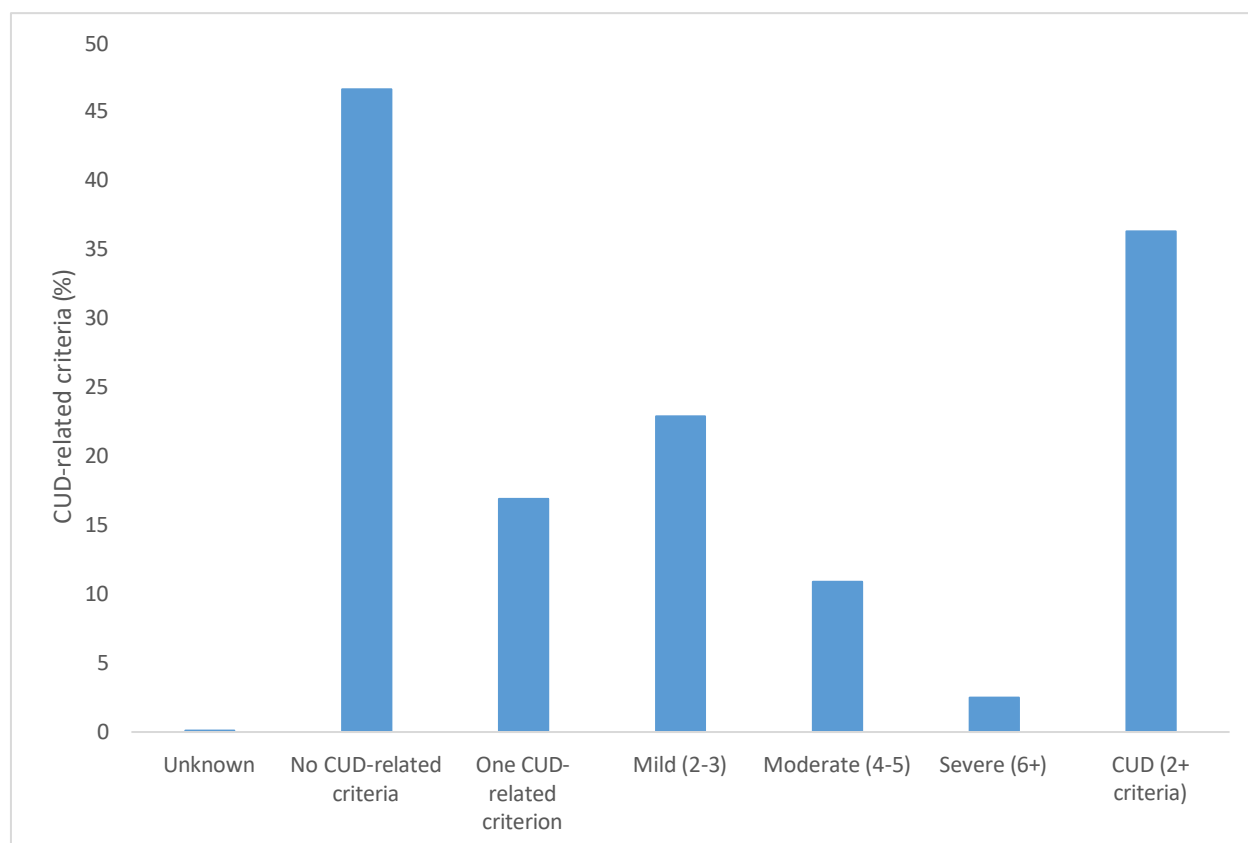
eFigure 5. Any past 12-month cannabis use disorder among U.S. Veterans 65 years and older who report past 30-day cannabis use: 2020-2023, n=1,193

Results shown are weighted percentages for endorsing criteria related to cannabis use disorder (CUD). Cannabis use disorder (CUD) defined as reporting two or more of the following 11 criteria: tolerance; withdrawal/high use; taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than intended; a great deal of time getting using or recovering from use; important activities given up; recurrent psychological or physical problems; hazardous use; recurrent social problems; failure to fulfill obligations; craving; and/or persistent desire to cut down

eFigure 6. Frequent current cannabis use and any past 12-month cannabis use disorder among U.S. Veterans 65 years and older who report past 30-day cannabis use: 2020-2023, n=1,193

Results shown are weighted row percentages by reasons of lifetime cannabis use.
Cannabis use disorder (CUD) defined as reporting two or more of the following 11 criteria: tolerance; withdrawal/high use; taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than intended; a great deal of time getting using or recovering from use; important activities given up; recurrent psychological or physical problems; hazardous use; recurrent social problems; failure to fulfill obligations; craving; and/or persistent desire to cut down

eTable 1. Comparison of respondents and non-respondents among U.S. Veterans: 2020-2023

Characteristic	Respondents (n=4,503)	Non-respondents (n=4,409)	P[a]
Age			0.04
65-70	2,474 (54.9)	2,533 (57.5)	
71-75	1,644 (36.5)	1,541 (35.0)	
76-80	385 (8.5)	335 (7.6)	
Race			<.001
American Indian or Alaska Native	56 (1.2)	49 (1.1)	
Asian	35 (0.8)	41 (0.9)	
Black or African American	850 (18.9)	794 (18.0)	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	49 (1.1)	53 (1.2)	
White	3,409 (75.7)	3,147 (71.4)	
Not defined[b]	104 (2.3)	325 (7.4)	
Ethnicity			<.001
Hispanic or Latino	219 (4.9)	210 (4.8)	
Not Hispanic or Latino	4,168 (92.6)	3,942 (89.4)	
Unknown	116 (2.6)	257 (5.8)	

Results shown are frequencies and unweighted column percentages: n (%).
[a]*P-values obtained from Pearson's Chi-squared tests.*
[b]*Included n=1 respondent with more than one race.*

eTable 2. Survey items and measures for patterns of cannabis and tobacco use, and diagnostic criteria for cannabis use disorder among U.S. Veterans: 2020-2023

Cannabis use[a]	Question	Response options
Lifetime cannabis use in any form (base)	Have you ever used marijuana in any form?	Yes; No
Lifetime cannabis use by forms (base)	Have you ever _____ marijuana? 1) Smoked (e.g., a joint, pipe, bong, spliff, or blunt) 2) Vaporized 3) Dabbed 4) Used edible (e.g., brownies, gummy candies, tinctures, or sublingual drops) 5) Topically applied marijuana (e.g., lotions, balms, or oils)	Yes; No
Years of daily or near-daily cannabis smoking	Over the entire period you _____ marijuana, how many years did you smoke marijuana on a daily or near-daily basis? 1) Smoked	____years
Past 30-day cannabis use	Have you _____ marijuana in the last 30 days? (base) 1) Smoked 2) Vaporized 3) Dabbed 4) Used edible 5) Topically applied	Yes; No
	For smoking cannabis only: In the last 30 days, have you smoked a_____(base)	Joint; pipe; bong; spliff; blunt; Refused; Don't know
	In the last 30 days, how many days per week did you _____? 1) Smoke a (joint; pipe; bong; spliff; blunt) 2) Vaporize 3) Dab 4) Use edible marijuana 5) Topically apply marijuana	Every day; 6 days/week; 5 days/week; 4 days/week; 3 days/week; 2 days/week; 1 day/week; #days/month
Past-year cannabis use	Have you _____marijuana in the last year? 1) Smoked (such as a joint, pipe, bong, spliff, or blunt) 2) Vaped 3) Dabbed 4) Used edible 5) Topically applied	Yes; No
Tobacco use[b]		
Lifetime cigarette use	Have you ever used tobacco in any form, including vaping nicotine?	Yes; No
	Have you smoked more than 100 cigarettes in your lifetime?	Yes; No
	When did you last smoke a cigarette?	___days ago; weeks ago; __months ago; __years ago; ___Year last used__; Age last used
Lifetime use of other tobacco products	Have you ever smoked a _____? 1) Cigarillo 2) Cigarette 3) Cigarillo 4) Cigars 5) Pipe 6) E-cigarette (electronic cigarette)	Yes; No

	Which category best describes the total number of times of _____ you've smoked [or vaporized nicotine] over your lifetime? 1) Cigarillos 2) Cigarettes 3) Cigarillos 4) Cigars 5) Pipes 6) E-cigarettes	51-500; 501-1000
Past 30-day tobacco use	In the last 30 days, how many days <u>per week</u> did you smoke a_____? 1) Cigarette 2) Cigarillo 3) Cigars 4) Pipe 5) E-cigarette	Every day; 6 days/week; 5 days/week; 4 days/week; 3 days/week; 2 days/week; 1 day/week; # days/month
Past 12-month cannabis use disorder (CUD)	**Diagnostic criteria**	**Definition used in the analysis**
CUD	1) Tolerance, 2) Withdrawal/high use, 3) Taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than intended, 4) A great deal of time getting using or recovering from use, 5) Important activities given up, 6) Recurrent psychological or physical problems, 7) Hazardous use, 8) Recurrent social problems, 9) Failure to fulfill obligations, 10) Craving, 11) Persistent desire to cut down	Reporting 2 or more of the diagnostic criteria

[a]– *Survey items on lifetime cannabis use were the base questions for past 30-day and past-year use, and reasons for use. All forms of cannabis use were reported. For the modeling, (frequent) current cannabis use was defined as smoking, vaping, dabbing, or use of edibles in the past 30 days.*
[b]– *Current tobacco use was defined as reporting tobacco smoking (cigarette, cigarillo, cigar, pipe, or use of electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes) at least 16 days in the past 30 days. Tobacco cigarette smoking frequency was assessed among those who reported having smoked >100 cigarettes in the lifetime. Other tobacco product use (cigarillos, cigars, pipes, or e-cigarettes) frequency was assessed among those reporting use of at least 51 products in the lifetime. Thus, no current use (i.e., past) tobacco use status was defined as no past 30-day use among those who reported ever smoking >100 cigarettes or using >51 of other tobacco products.*
All survey questions included "Refused" and "Don't know" response options

eTable 3. Medical reasons for cannabis use among U.S. Veterans: 2020-2023

Analyzed categories	*What medical reasons have you used it for?*
(1) Anxiety	1. Anxiety
(2) Arthritis	2. Arthritis
(3) Cancer-related symptoms	3-5. Cancer: general, pain, nausea and vomiting
(4) Depression	6. Depression;
(5) Gastrointestinal or related issues	7-8. Appetite; nausea/vomiting;
(6) Glaucoma or vision problems	9. Glaucoma
(7) Migraines, headaches	10. Migraines/headaches
(8) Neuropathic pain	11. Neuropathies
(9) General or vascular pain	12-14. Pain: general, vascular; spinal cord damage
(10) Muscle or skeletal pain	15. Pain: muscle/skeletal
(11) Parkinson's disease, spasms, tremors	16-17. Parkinson's Disease; spasms/tremors
(12) Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	18. PTSD
(13) Reduction of other substance use	19. Opiate therapy (in lieu of)
(14) Seizures or epilepsy	20. Seizures/epilepsy
(15) Sleep difficulties	21-22. Sleep/insomnia; nightmares/night terrors
(16) Other mental health issues	23. Bipolar disorder
(17) Other clinical conditions or medical concerns	24-34. Crohn's Disease; diabetes/high blood sugar; hepatitis-C; HIV/AIDS; Huntington's Disease; hypertension/high blood pressure; IBS/Stomach issues; libido; lung-related issues; multiple sclerosis; psoriasis, and other reported clinical conditions not listed in the survey
Anger, aggression, relaxation, or stress	35-37. Anger/aggression; relaxation; stress
Options (survey items) not reported by respondents	38-42. Allergies; ALS/Lou Gehrig's (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis); Alzheimer's/dementia; Sickle cell anemia; Terminal illness

[*]*Respondents could select among the 42 options included in the survey or choose the "Other" category and provide information on other conditions not included in the questionnaire. Because of sparce data or small cell sizes for some medical reasons, we created 17 combined categories. We also reported percentages of those who used cannabis for management of anger, aggression, relaxation, or stress.*

eTable 4. Characteristics of those with versus without any past 12-month cannabis use disorder among U.S. Veterans reporting past 30-day cannabis use: 2020-2023, n=1,190

Characteristic	CUD[a] (546, 36.3%)	No CUD (644, 63.7%)	AOR (95% CI)[b]	P[b]
Age				
65-70	263 (43.2, [34.1-52.3])	295 (31.9, [24.4-39.4])	6.03 (2.26-16.12)	<.001
71-75	241 (52.1, [42.8-61.4])	277 (47.5, [38.0-57.0])	4.86 (1.89-12.48)	.001
76-84	42 (4.7, [3.1-6.3])	72 (20.6, [10.6-30.6])	Reference	
Gender				
Men	490 (89.3, [83.3-95.3])	525 (81.5, [74.8-88.1])	3.42 (1.69-6.93)	<.001
Women	56 (10.7, [4.7-16.7])	119 (18.5, [11.9-25.2])	Reference	
Race and ethnicity				
Black or African American and non-Hispanic	123 (22.3, [14.8-29.8])	135 (15.5, [9.7-21.4])	1.33 (0.70-2.53)	.38
Hispanic	26 (4.1, [1.1-7.1])	26 (5.2, [0.8-9.5])	1.02 (0.38-2.70)	.98
White and non-Hispanic	373 (71.1, [63.1-79.1])	461 (75.2, [67.6-82.7])	Reference	
Other race and non-Hispanic[c]	24 (2.5, [1.4-3.6])	22 (4.2, [0.6-7.7])	0.68 (0.25-1.83)	.44
Marital status				
Other	324 (53.8, [44.2-63.3])	342 (56.2, [46.8-65.6])	0.73 (0.41-1.31)	.29
Married, partner, engaged	222 (46.2, [36.7-55.8])	302 (43.8, [34.4-53.2])	Reference	
Education				
Bachelor's and beyond	103 (23.8, [15.2-32.5])	177 (29.2, [20.4-37.9])	Reference	
High school/Some College degree	414 (71.9, [63.1-80.7])	444 (68.7, [59.9-77.5])	1.16 (0.64-2.12)	.62
Less than high school graduate	29 (4.3, [1.4-7.1])	23 (2.2, [0.4-3.9])	1.65 (0.48-5.71)	.43
Employment				
Employed	36 (7.6, [1.9-13.2])	55 (7.6, [3.0-12.1])	0.68 (0.21-2.23)	.52
Retired	350 (65.6, [56.8-74.4])	418 (68.1, [59.5-76.7])	Reference	
Other	160 (26.8, [19.0-34.7])	171 (24.3, [16.4-32.3])	0.96 (0.54-1.71)	.89
Hard to pay for basic needs (n=1,188)	192 (27.7, [20.2-35.1])	154 (29.5, [20.2-38.7])	0.90 (0.50-1.63)	.73
Not very hard	352 (72.1, [64.6-79.6])	490 (70.5, [61.3-79.8])	Reference	
State cannabis legalization status				

Non-legal	138 (23.2, [16.1-30.2])	161 (24.7, [17.1-32.3])	Reference	
Medical only	183 (34.4, [25.3-43.5])	206 (32.9, [23.9-41.9])	1.38 (0.70-2.72)	.35
Recreational+medical	225 (42.5, [32.9-52])	277 (42.4, [23.9-41.9])	1.66 (0.89-3.09)	.11
Frequent past 30-day cannabis use: ≥20 days	392 (64.9, [55.5-74.4])	360 (45.4, [35.9-54.8])	2.64 (1.58-4.40)	<.001
Non-frequent past 30-day use	154 (35.1, [25.6-44.5])	284 (54.6, [45.2-64.1])	Reference	
Reasons for lifetime cannabis use (n=1,189)				
Medical only	80 (13.4, [7.2-19.5])	198 (34.1, [24.7-43.5])	0.27 (0.14-0.53)	<.001
Recreational only or both	465 (86.5, [80.3-92.7])	446 (65.9, [56.5-75.3])	Reference	
Any past 30-day tobacco use[d]				
Never	66 (11.9, [5.8-18.1])	105 (22.6, [14.1-31.0])	Reference	
No current use	321 (58.9, [49.6-68.2])	351 (59.8, [50.7-68.9])	1.41 (0.66-3.00)	.38
Current (>16 days/ past month)	159 (29.2, [20.6-37.8])	188 (17.6, [12.1-23.2])	1.64 (0.66-4.07)	.28
AUDIT-C (Positive vs Negative; n=1189)	207 (37.0, [28.0-46.0])	208 (29.7, [21.4-38.0])	1.10 (0.66-1.86)	.71
Past 30-day illicit drug use (n=1182)[e]	22 (2.2, [1.2-3.2])	10 (0.6, [0.2-1.0])	2.69 (1.06-6.85)	.04
≥10 symptoms based on the Generalized Anxiety Disorder screener, GAD-7 (n=1,189)	105 (19.6, [12-27.3])	81 (8.1, [2.9-13.3])	5.01 (2.06-12.14)	<.001
≥10 depressive symptoms based on the Patient Health Questionnaire, PHQ-8 (n=1,188)	145 (20.1, [13.7-26.5])	105 (16.0, [8.8-23.1])	0.89 (0.44-1.80)	.75
≥19 based on PCL-8 inventory (n=1,185)	57 (6.0, [4.2-7.9])	41 (5.3, [1.6-8.9])	0.44 (0.17-1.17)	.099
Loneliness (n=1,188)				
Not lonely	352 (76.0, [69.9-82.0])	495 (78.0, [70.0-85.9])	Reference	
Lonely	192 (23.8, [17.8-29.8])	149 (22.0, [14.1-30.0])	1.22 (0.67-2.22)	.50
CAN score (n=1,187)				
<50	136 (30.3, [20.9-39.7])	171 (26.3, [18.8-33.8])	Reference	
50 to <75	252 (44.0, [34.7-53.4])	285 (41.9, [32.6-51.2])	0.99 (0.53-1.85)	.96
≥75	156 (25.5, [17.8-33.2])	187 (31.7, [22.1-41.4])	0.69 (0.35-1.37)	.29
≥1 deficit in activities of daily life support (n=1,184)	211 (36.2, [27.3-45.0])	197 (30.1, [21.3-38.9])	1.76 (1.05-2.95)	.03

Falls in the past 12 months (n=1,189)	193 (29.0, [21.0-37.1])	226 (29.4, [21.4-37.3])	0.79 (0.45-1.40)	.42

Results shown are frequencies and weighted percentages together with the 95% confidence intervals [%-%] among those reporting past 30-day cannabis use and non-missing data on cannabis use disorder (CUD; n=1,190), unless otherwise specified: n (%, [%-%]).

a – CUD was defined as reporting two or more of the following 11 criteria: tolerance; withdrawal/high use; taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than intended; a great deal of time getting using or recovering from use; important activities given up; recurrent psychological or physical problems; hazardous use; recurrent social problems; failure to fulfill obligations; craving; and/or persistent desire to cut down.

b – Results were obtained from an adjusted logistic regression with all listed variables entered simultaneously; CUD was the outcome variable: n= 1,164 observations used (miss=29, 2.4%), n=532 with CUD versus n=632 without CUD.

c – Other race and non-Hispanic category included respondents of another race (Asian: n=7, 0.7%, American Indian or Alaska Native: n=10, 0.4%, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: n=15, 0.6%), of multiple races (n=1, 0.04%), or of unknown or not reported race or ethnicity (n=13, 1.8%).

d – Smoking cigarette, cigarillo, cigars, pipe, or e-cigarette use >16 days in the past month.

e – Including cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, or other illicit drugs.

Abbreviations: CUD: Cannabis use disorder; AOR: Adjusted Odds Ratio, CI: confidence interval; PCL: posttraumatic stress disorder checklist for DSM-5; AUDIT-C: the Alcohol use Disorders Identification Test-Consumption; CAN score: the Care Assessment Need score

eTable 5. Association of forms and frequency of use with past 12-month CUD among U.S. Veterans who reported any past 30-day cannabis use: 2020-2023, n=1,193 (Sensitivity models)

	Outcome 1 (≥2 criteria)						Outcome 2 (≥4 criteria)			
	Model 1: CUD vs no CUD		**Model 2: CUD vs no CUD**		**Model 3: CUD vs no CUD**		**Model 4: CUD vs no CUD**		**Model 5: CUD vs no CUD**	
Forms of use & Covariates	AOR (95% CI)	P	AOR (95% CI)	P	AOR (95% CI)	P	AOR (95% CI)	P	AOR (95% CI)	P
Any smoking (986; 72.4, [65.4-79.3])	2.99 (1.23-7.26)	.02					3.88 (1.08-14.02)	.04		
Any vaping (170; 11.5, [7.7-15.3])	1.56 (0.59-4.09)	.37	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.99 (0.39-2.51)	.98	NA	NA
Any dabbing (32; 1.7, [0.6-2.8])	1.48 (0.26-8.53)	.66					1.32 (0.38-4.57)	.66		
Any edibles (339; 36.9, [29.8-43.9])	1.17 (0.57-2.39)	.67					1.15 (0.45-2.97)	.77		
Frequent past 30-day use (753; 52.4, [45.4-59.4])					2.02 (1.16-3.51)	.01	1.87 (0.89-3.90)	.10	1.79 (0.83-3.86)	.14
Form of use							NA	NA		
Edibles only (135; 21.7, [14.9-28.5])	NA	NA	0.21 (0.07-0.64)	.006	0.28 (0.09-0.89)	.03	NA	NA	Reference	
Any inhaled use (1058; 78.3, [71.5-85.1])			Reference		Reference		NA	NA	14.85 (4.94-44.62)	<.001
Age										
65-70 (558; 36.0, [30.0-41.9])	4.53 (1.91-10.72)	<.001	4.64 (1.94-11.14)	<.001	5.49 (2.15-14.02)	<.001	3.43 (1.33-8.87)	.01	3.47 (1.33-9.01)	.01
71-75 (521; 49.2, [42.2-56.2])	4.13 (1.70-10.05)	.002	4.26 (1.72-10.51)	.002	4.96 (1.89-13.03)	.001	3.18 (1.17-8.61)	.02	3.16 (1.14-8.80)	.03
76-84 (114; 14.8, [8.1-21.6])	Reference		Reference		Reference		Reference		Reference	
Gender										
Men (1018; 84.3, [79.6-89.1])	1.74 (0.76-3.99)	.19	1.50 (0.67-3.33)	.32	1.63 (0.71-3.72)	.25	1.41 (0.60-3.32)	.43	1.27 (0.53-3.06)	.60
Women (175; 15.7, [10.9-20.4])	Reference		Reference		Reference		Reference		Reference	
Reasons for lifetime cannabis use										
Medical only (278, 26.5, [19.9-33.2])	0.39 (0.20-0.79)	.009	0.40 (0.2-0.79)	.009	0.36 (0.18-0.73)	.005	0.76 (0.29-1.98)	.58	0.8 (0.31-2.08)	.65
Recreational only or both (912, 73.4, [66.7-80])	Reference		Reference		Reference		Reference		Reference	

Numbers shown are frequencies, weighted row percentages together with the 95% confidence intervals for cannabis use disorder (CUD) by forms of use (not mutually exclusive): n (%; [%-%]).

Adjusted odds ratios for forms of use are shown in associations with two outcome variables – CUD defined as reporting any two (outcome 1) or four (outcome 2) of the following 11 criteria: tolerance; withdrawal; cannabis taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than intended; a great deal of time getting using or recovering from use; important activities given up; recurrent psychological or physical problems; hazardous use; recurrent social problems; failure to fulfill obligations; craving; and/or persistent desire to cut down.

Frequent past 30-day cannabis use was defined as smoking, vaping, dabbing, or using edibles 20 or more days in the past 30 days.

Leastwise deletion was used in all weighted models:

Model 1 – Variables: reporting either smoking, vaping, dabbing, or use of edibles: are primary independent variables, while adjusting for age, gender, and reasons of lifetime cannabis use (n=1182: 545 with CUD vs 637 without CUD).

Model 2 – Variables: a 2-level variable indicating forms of cannabis use: edibles only compared to any inhaled cannabis use, while adjusting for age, gender, and reasons of lifetime cannabis use (n=1189: 545 with CUD vs 644 without CUD).

Model 3 – Variables: a 2-level variable indicating forms of cannabis use: edibles only compared to any inhaled products, while adjusting for age, gender, frequency of past 30-day cannabis use, and reasons of lifetime cannabis use (n=1189: 545 with CUD vs 644 without CUD); reciprocal results for edibles only vs. any inhaled cannabis.

Model 4 – Variables: reporting either smoking, vaping, dabbing, or use of edibles: are primary independent variables, while adjusting for age, gender, and reasons of lifetime cannabis use (n=1182: 209 with CUD vs 973 without CUD).

Model 5 – Variables: a 2-level variable indicating forms of cannabis use: edibles only compared to any inhaled cannabis use, while adjusting for age, gender, and reasons of lifetime cannabis use (n=1189: 209 with CUD vs 980 without CUD).

Abbreviations: CUD: Cannabis use disorder; AOR: Adjusted odds ratio; CI: Confidence interval; NA: Not applicable