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Purpose

- Cannabis is one of the most commonly used drugs during pregnancy and breastfeeding
- THC transfers to the infant through breast milk
- Limited data exist about how or why mothers use cannabis
- Thus, our aim was to understand more about the population of women who use cannabis while breastfeeding

Methods

- Anonymous online survey through InfantRisk Center website
- Cross-sectional, convenience sample
- Sample size of 1516 used for analysis
- Chi-square and ANOVA were used to test for between-group differences

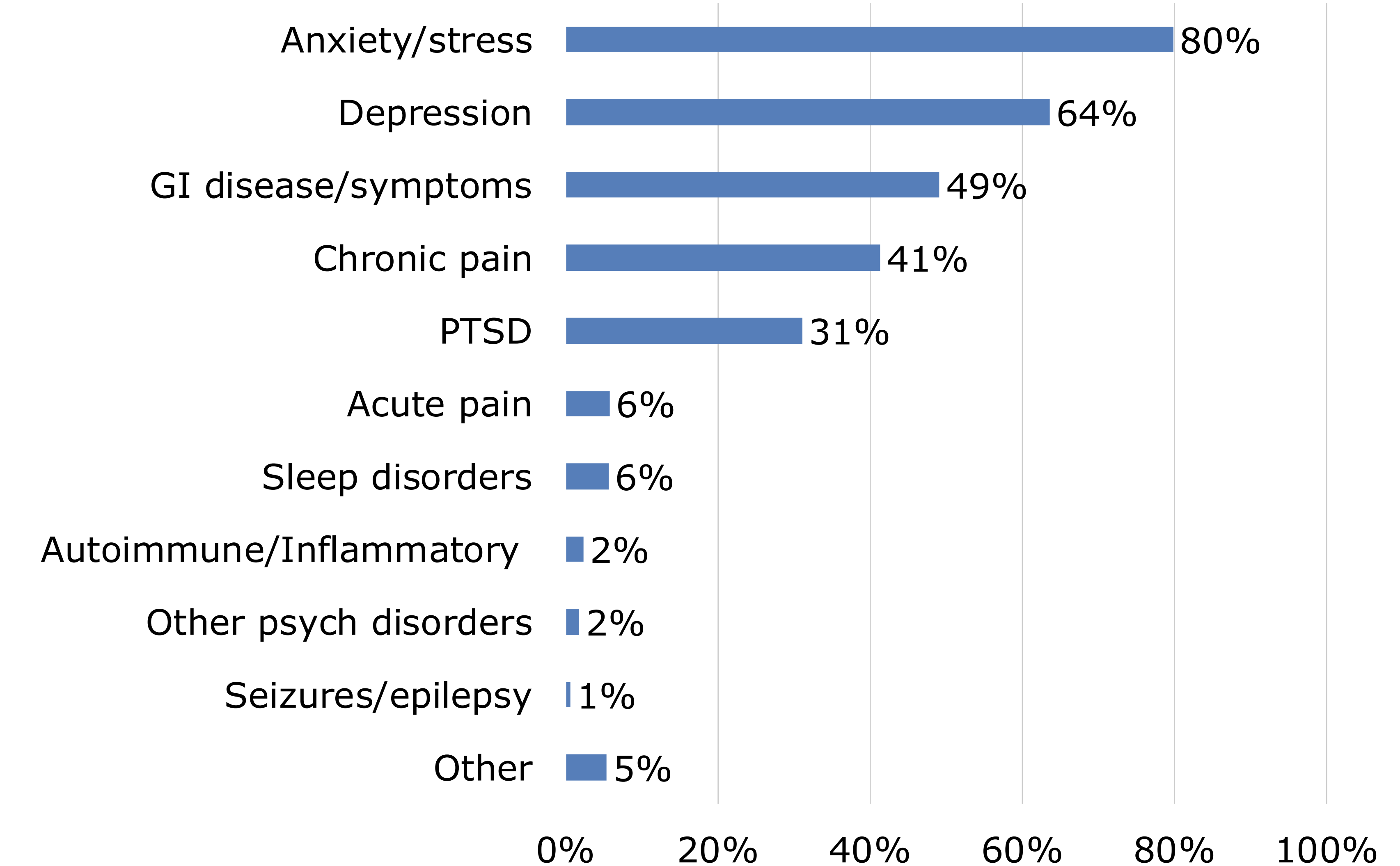
Demographics of respondents who used cannabis while breastfeeding.

	Less than Daily User	Low Daily User	High Daily User	p-value
	Mean (SD)			
Maternal Age	30 (6.0)	29.9 (5.4)	29.1 (6.5)	0.10
Parity	2.0 (1.0)	2.1 (1.2)	2.0 (1.2)	0.07
Education attainment				<0.001
≤ High school diploma	15.9	21	28.1	
Some college	51.7	53.4	54.8	
≥ Bachelor's degree	32.4	25.5	17.1	
Race/Ethnicity				0.69
White/Caucasian	76.9	80.9	79.2	
Hispanic	6.6	4.8	4.6	
Black/African American	2.6	2.1	1	
Native American/Alaskan Native/Pacific Islander	1.2	0.8	1.5	
Asian	0.5	0	0	
Multi-ethnic	11.2	10.9	13.2	
Other	1	0.5	0.5	
Marital status				0.006
Married	67.5	62.1	52.3	
Single	20.2	19.8	26.9	
Separated	1.8	1.9	3.7	
Divorced	2.8	6.4	5.6	
Widowed	0.6	0.7	0.9	
Other	7.1	9.1	10.6	
Preterm birth	10.9	11.3	10.6	0.95
Cannabis use during pregnancy	67.3	87.5	97.7	<0.001
Alcohol use	52.5	37.3	36.9	<0.001
Tobacco smoking	12.1	17.4	21.2	0.002

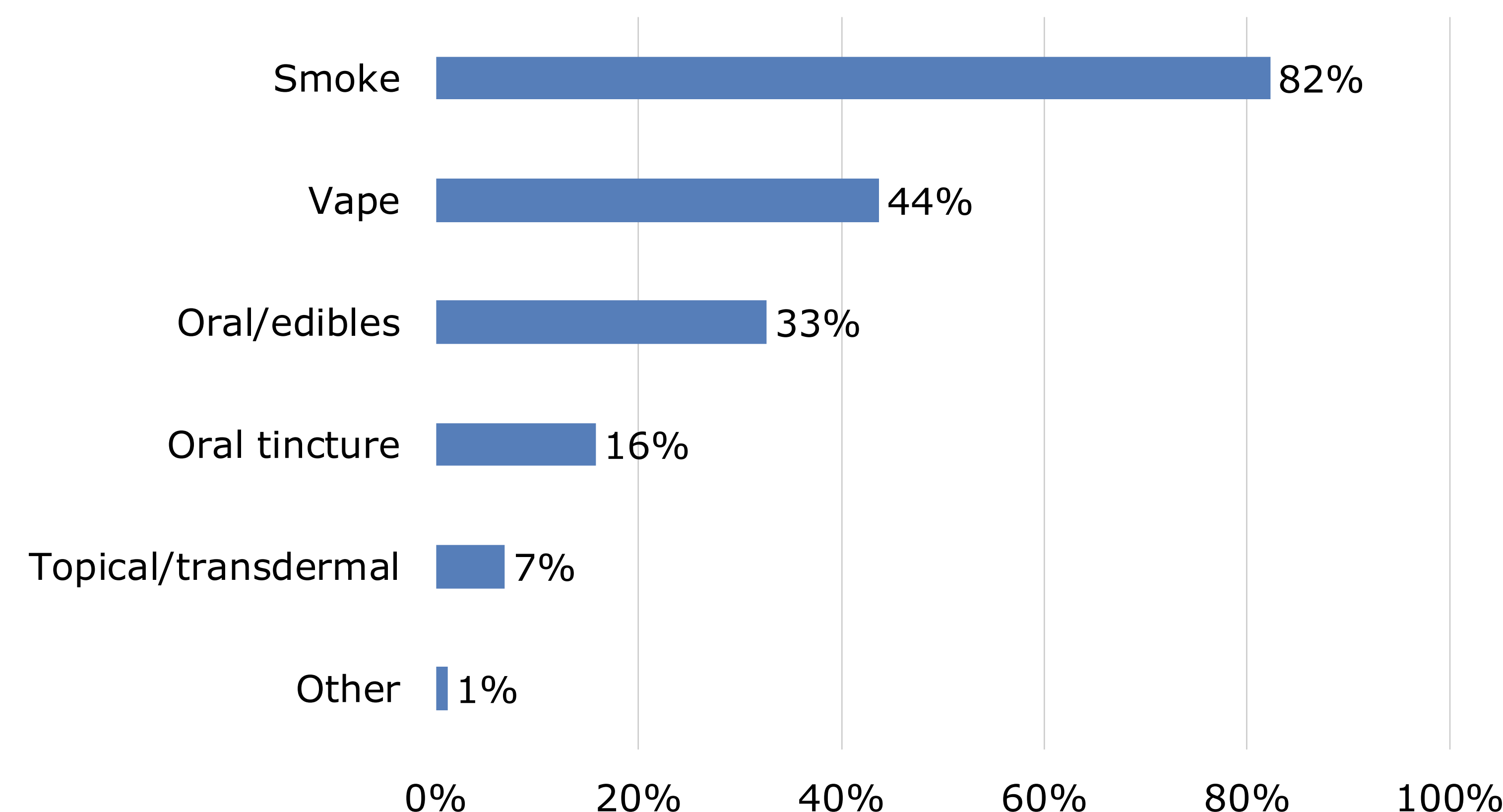
Results

- Frequency of cannabis use while breastfeeding:
 - 52% used less than daily
 - 32% used 1-3 times per day (low daily)
 - 16% used 4 or more times per day
- Compared to mothers who used cannabis less frequently, those who used 4 or more times per day:
 - Had lower educational attainment
 - More likely to have used cannabis during pregnancy
 - Less likely to use alcohol
 - More likely to smoke tobacco
- Cannabis use to “get high”:
 - Reported by 53% of all respondents
 - Slightly more common among the most frequent users (67%)
- 98% of respondents believed cannabis was a more natural alternative to medications

Health-related reasons for cannabis use among breastfeeding mothers



How cannabis is consumed by breastfeeding mothers



Conclusions

- Among mothers who used cannabis while breastfeeding, about half used it every day.
- Respondents used cannabis to treat various conditions or symptoms, often to treat more than one symptom
- Only about half used cannabis to “get high”
- Majority of respondents consumed cannabis by smoking
- More research is needed to understand the effects of cannabis on infant development, particularly with frequent, prolonged exposures

References:

1. Conner SN, Carter EB, Tuuli MG, et al. Maternal cannabis use and neonatal morbidity. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2015;213:422.e1-4.
2. Baker T, Datta P, Rewers-Felkins K, Thompson H, Kalleem RR, Hale TW. Transfer of Inhaled Cannabis Into Human Breast Milk. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 2018;131(5):783-788. doi: 10.1097/aog.0000000000002575
3. <https://www.infantrisk.com>

