**C3RN Veterans Survey Data Findings**

Between March 3rd, 2019 and January 1st, 2020 C3RN, UMass Dartmouth, and Veterans Alternative Healing (VAH) ran a **national citizen science cannabis consumer and patient survey**. The aim of the study to document veterans’ current health conditions, use of medication and of cannabis, access, stigma, VA and healthcare services feedback, education needs, service history and demographics. Study partners additionally include Revolutionary Clinics, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), BASK/AmeriCann, The Botanist, and The Healing Rose.

**565** national responses were collected and analyzed. **201 (36%)** of respondents reside in Massachusetts.

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| **Wars Served** | NAT N = 562 | MA N = 200 |  |
| War in Iraq: Operation Iraqi Freedom | 31.14% | 29.50% |  |
| None | 24.20% | 27.00% |  |
| Vietnam War | 21.00% | 26.00% |  |
| Persian Gulf War | 17.79% | 12.50% |  |
| Other (please specify) | 14.06% | 16.50% |  |
| War in Afghanistan: Operation New Dawn | 13.35% | 9.50% |  |
| War in Iraq: Operation New Dawn | 8.19% | 7.50% |  |
| Korean War | 0.36% | 0.00% |  |
| World War II | 0.18% | 0.00% |  |

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| **Age (Years)** | NAT N = 565 | MA N = 201 |
| 21-29 | 6.73% | 5.97% |
| 30-39 | 22.65% | 19.90% |
| 40-49 | 17.70% | 15.92% |
| 50-59 | 18.58% | 15.92% |
| 60-69 | 23.89% | 25.87% |
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| 70+ | 10.44% | 16.42% |

The following are selections of the most common health conditions faced by the veterans surveyed, along with the most common medications taken. The respondents’ average disability rating is **55.63%** (N=565), with Massachusetts participants registering an average of **53.94%** (N = 201)**.** Veterans spend on average **$98.40 per month** (N = 565) on prescription medications compared to an average of **$77.28** (N = 201). for Massachusetts residents. Veterans report taking an average of **4.1** (N = 565) medications while Massachusetts veterans report taking **4.3** medications (N = 201).

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| **Conditions** | NAT N = 565 | MA N = 201 |
| *Chronic pain* | 73.10% | 68.16% |
| *Anxiety* | 69.20% | 68.66% |
| *Depression* | 65.66% | 63.68% |
| *PTSD* | 56.64% | 52.24% |
| *Insomnia* | 41.24% | 38.81% |

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| **Medications Taken** | NAT N = 565 | MA N = 201 |
| *Over the counter* | 45.31% | 48.76% |
| *Antidepressants* | 32.74% | 35.32% |
| *Mood Stabilizers/Anticonvulsants* | 17.35% | 20.40% |
| *Benzodiazepines* | 13.81% | 14.93% |
| *Narcotics/opioids* | 12.92% | 12.44% |

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| **Conditions Cannabis Helps** | NAT N = 565 | MA N = 201 |
| *Chronic pain* | 69.56% | 63.68% |
| *Anxiety* | 63.54% | 62.69% |
| *Depression* | 56.99% | 54.23% |
| *PTSD* | 52.74% | 46.27% |
| *Insomnia* | 36.64% | 35.32% |

**30.27%** (N = 565) veterans nationally and **27.36%** (N = 201) from Massachusetts report having prescription medications in their house they don’t want to use and currently need to get rid of**.**

Cannabis helps treat five conditions many of the veterans surveyed suffer from.

**Condition & Symptom Relief, Medication Reduction, and Quality of Life Improvements**

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| **Medications**  **Cannabis Helps Reduce** | NAT N = 565 | MA N = 201 |
| *Over the counter* | 29.73% | 32.34% |
| *Antidepressants* | 26.02% | 26.37% |
| *Narcotics/opioids* | 17.35% | 17.91% |
| *Benzodiazepines* | 13.98% | 13.43% |
| *Mood Stabilizers/Anticonvulsants* | 11.15% | 13.43% |

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| **Cannabis Alleviates Symptoms** | NAT N = 565 | MA N = 201 |
| *Sleep/insomnia* | 56.64% | 50.25% |
| *Pain* | 55.75% | 50.75% |
| *Depression/mood* | 51.86% | 45.27% |
| *Anxiety/panic attacks* | 47.79% | 41.29% |

Data collected shows that veterans are using cannabis to treat conditions and alleviate symptoms often associated with PTSD.

**[Can we score #19 PTSD scales?]**

Veterans show improvement in quality of life metrics after using cannabis by **using less or much less tobacco (63%)** (N = 217), **alcohol (78%)** (N = 337), and **opioids (84%)** (N=169). Additionally, **55%** (N = 554) report having a much greater quality of life since beginning to use cannabis.

**For 50.80%** (N = 565)of veterans, **money to purchase products is a barrier to consuming cannabis.**

Although most veterans have health insurance, **58.54%** (N = 565) nationally do not know if their VA supports their cannabis use, and **28.98%** (N = 565). report that their VA does not know about their cannabis use. Only **26.10%** (N = 521) get information to make informed decisions about cannabis products from their clinicians or healthcare providers (N = 521).

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|  | NAT N = 565 | MA N = 201 |
| *Yes, I have VA provided Tricare* | 35.04% | 29.35% |
| *Yes, I have private health insurance* | 24.07% | 27.36% |
| *Yes, I have Medicare* | 18.94% | 25.87% |
| *No, I do not have health insurance* | 16.28% | 10.95% |
| *Yes, I have Medicaid* | 3.36% | 3.98% |
| *Medicare advantage or Part A, B, C, D* | 2.30% | 2.49% |

**[Change this to a 0-100 slider with Severity of Prescription Drug Side effects on left, and Severity of Cannabis side effects on right, 0 represents more severe prescription drug side effects, 100 represents more severe cannabis side effects]**

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| **$ per Month** | NAT N=565 | MA N=201 |
| *Medications* | $98.40 | $77.28 |
| *Cannabis* | $343.09 | $317.29 |

**80.71%** (N = 565) of veterans have prescription drug coverage and are **spending 3.5 times** (N = 565) **more** for cannabis than their prescription medications.

**99.82%** think the VA should be trained in medical cannabis and allowed to recommend it for veterans.

**98.23%** believe the VA should offer free/discounted medical cannabis to veterans who qualify for its use.

**93.81%** would choose medical cannabis if it was a federally legal treatment option.