

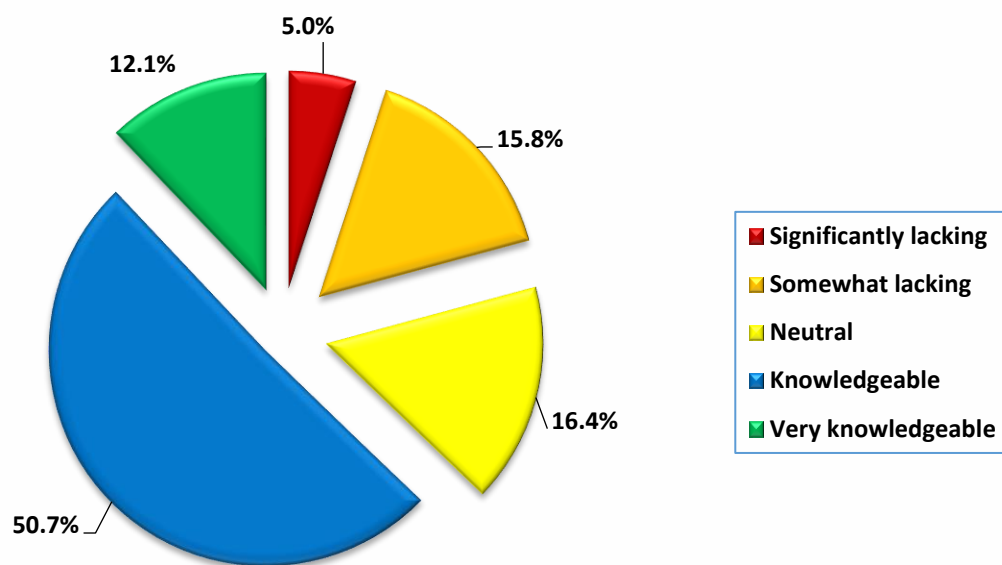
NURSES' KNOWLEDGE OF NON-MEDICAL CANNABIS USE

To advance its policy work on the legalization of non-medical cannabis, CNA conducted a national survey to assess the knowledge level of registered nurses, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists. The results will inform CNA's response to the federal government's proposed cannabis law, shape CNA's development of resources and provide guidance to Health Canada.

Highlights

- ▶ 62.8% of nurses report they are knowledgeable of the risks and harms associated with non-medical cannabis use.
- ▶ Nurses said feelings of stigma and bias on the part of patients and care providers were the biggest barriers to initiating conversations about the health and safety risk of non-medical cannabis use. Addressing this stigma will help nurses educate patients on the risks and harms of cannabis.
- ▶ Nurses said their biggest gaps in knowledge were around the risks and harms of cannabis use during pregnancy (35.9%) and health risks associated with methods of consumption (27%). This evidence supports the need for an education intervention targeted in these areas.

Nurses' overall knowledge about the health and safety risks of non-medical cannabis use



Nurses' knowledge about specific health and safety risks of non-medical cannabis use

Health risks	Significantly lacking	Somewhat lacking	Neutral	Knowledgeable	Very knowledgeable
Cannabis use and the developing brain	5.4%	12.0%	28.2%	40.2%	14.2%
Cannabis use during pregnancy	13.6%	22.3%	26.0%	27.1%	11.1%
Cannabis use and addictions	3.2%	12.0%	28.3%	37.7%	18.7%
Cannabis use and mental health risk factors	2.9%	10.5%	28.0%	38.9%	19.8%
Health risks based on methods of consumption	8.1%	18.9%	29.5%	30.3%	13.1%

CNA conducted its survey in 2017 and received responses from 840 nurse representing each province and territory.