

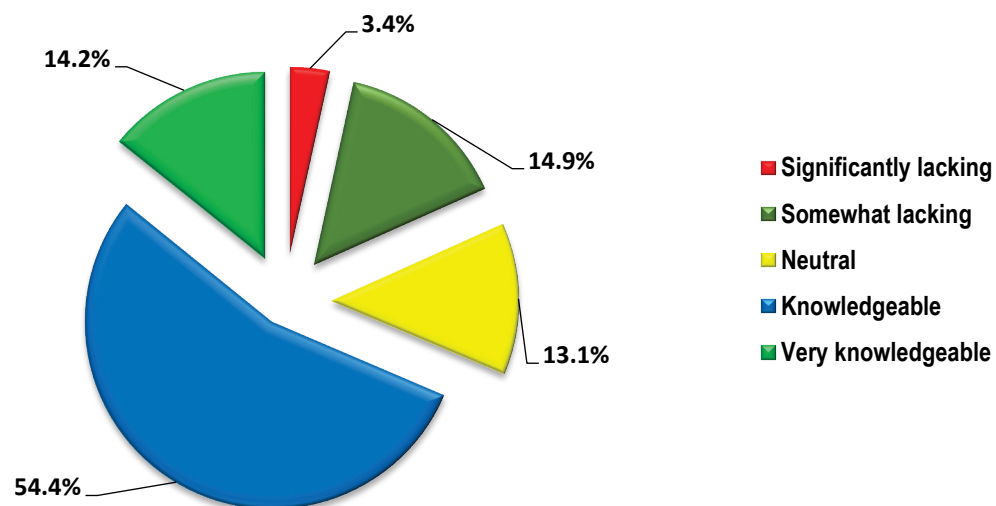
ONTARIO NURSES' KNOWLEDGE OF NON-MEDICAL CANNABIS USE

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. Ontario-specific results will inform CNA's response to the provincial government's proposed cannabis law, shape CNA's development of resources and advocacy work, and provide guidance to Ontario's health ministry.

Ontario highlights

- ▶ 54.4% 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 (32.7%) and health risks associated with methods of consumption (27%). This evidence supports the need for an education intervention targeted in these areas.

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



Ontario 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	6.1%	10.4%	23.6%	42.2%	17.6%
Cannabis use during pregnancy	11.1%	21.6%	26.4%	26.4%	14.5%
Cannabis use and addictions	3.0%	10.4%	28.3%	36.8%	21.3%
Cannabis use and mental health risk factors	2.0%	9.5%	28.3%	36.1%	24.2%
Health risks based on methods of consumption	8.1%	18.9%	28.1%	30.1%	14.9%

CNA conducted its survey in 2017 and received responses from 296 nurses in Ontario.