## PHYSICIANS POLARIZED ON RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

## How will legalization impact physicians' practice?

In June 2018, the Canadian Senate passed Bill C-46, legalizing recreational cannabis.

In October 2018, cannabis will be legal for recreational use Canada-wide.

MD Analytics asked 235 General Practitioners about their views on the legalization of recreational cannabis and anticipated impact on their practice.



**Support** legalization



**Oppose** legalization



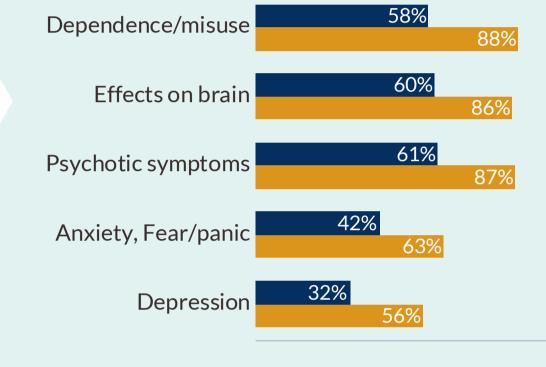


This split is consistent across all provinces.

Supporting and opposing physicians have differing views on how their practice will be impacted once recreational cannabis is legal:

As a result of increased use of recreational cannabis, opposing GPs are more likely to anticipate an increase in patient visits related to the following conditions:



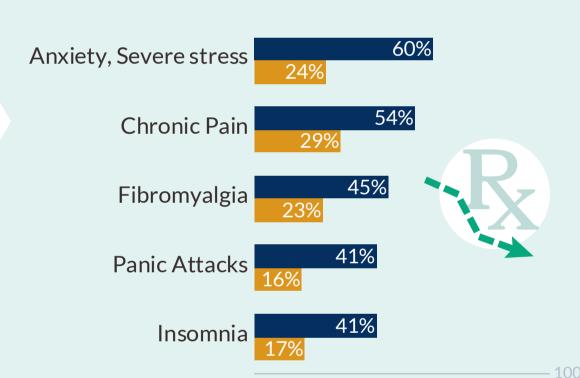




As recreational cannabis becomes easier to obtain, supporting GPs are more likely to anticipate a decline in patient visits related to prescriptions for the following conditions:

Notably, 57% of opposing GPs anticipate no decline in prescriptions sought for any condition.





Age and gender are not limiting factors.

Half of all GPs believe that both males and females over the age of 45 will be among those substituting prescription medications with recreational cannabis.





## Despite differing expectations,

When asked how recreational cannabis compares to medical cannabis, more than half of all GPs are unsure or neutral about differences in:



Out of pocket costs 63%



**Efficacy** 62%



Safety 51%

Early indications among GPs' perceptions suggest that the legalization of recreational cannabis may lead to some patient populations substituting their prescribed medications with recreational cannabis. In addition to an anticipated reduction in patients visits for

prescriptions of medications, particularly in conditions related to pain and mental well-being, there is also an anticipated increase in patient visits due to increased usage of recreational cannabis. This change is expected to have an impact on patients across all ages and genders.



