

Cannabis Science Education: Meeting the Need for Cannabis Care Competencies

- **Research Presented by**

Carey S. Clark, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, RYT, FAAN

- **Disclosure:** Professor of Nursing, Medical Cannabis Certificate Program at Pacific College of Health & Science. Immediate Past President American Cannabis Nurses Association.

- cclark@pacificcollege.edu

- drcareyclark@gmail.com

1

National Council of State Boards of Nursing

NCSBN GUIDELINES FOR THE NURSING CARE OF Patients Using Marijuana

Part 1: Findings

Current Legislation
Literature Review
Nursing Implications

Part 2: Guidelines

Nursing Care
Pre-Licensure Students
APRN Students
Certifying APRNs

Six Principles

- State & Federal Law
- Jurisdiction/Rules
- Physiology/ECS
- Pharmacology/Research
- Safety
- Non-Judgmental

National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2018). The NCSBN national nursing guidelines for medical marijuana. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 9(2), S1-S60. <https://www.ncsbn.org/marijuana-guidelines.htm>

2

Nursing Students' Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes Regarding Medicinal Cannabis Care

Knowledge, Skills, & Attitudes
Guided by NCSBN's Essential Principles

IRB: Exempt UMA
 Mixed-Methods
 Non-Interventional
 Open Survey
 Descriptive Statistics
 SPSS Version 27

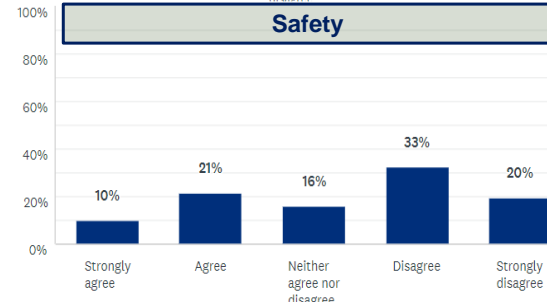
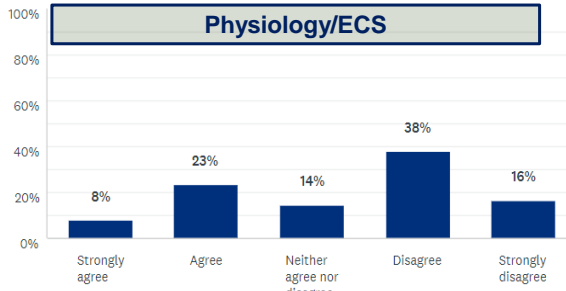
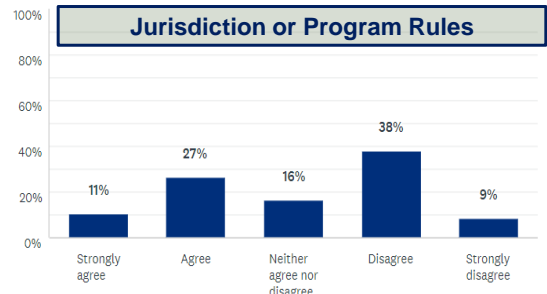
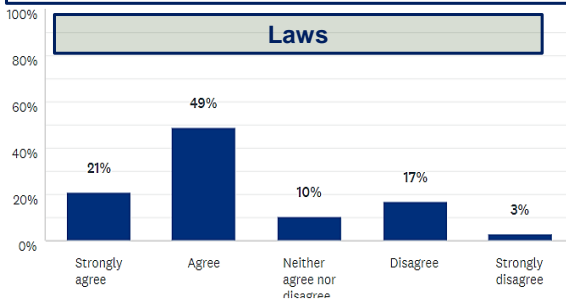
Nursing Students Nationwide
August 2019 – March 2020

Participants:
 1,594

 Complete
 Responses:
1,346

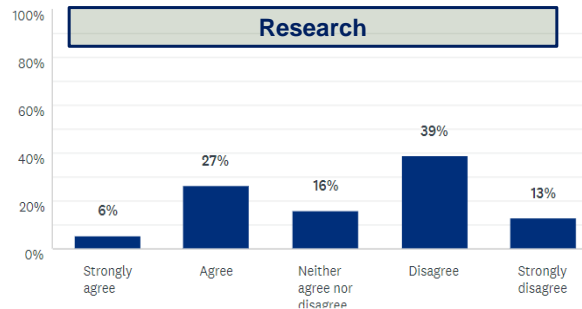
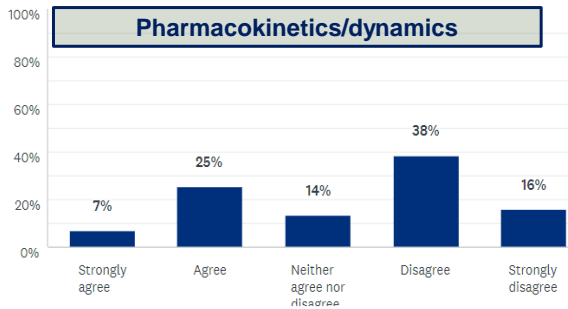
3

Knowledge Related to the NCSBN's Six Principles



4

Knowledge Related to the NCSBN's Principles

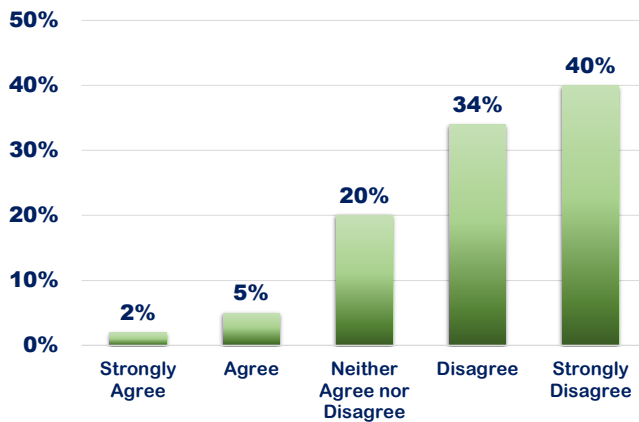


Pharmacology and Research are separated for clarity purposes

The last principle related to approach is discussed in more detail

(Clark & Parmelee, 2021)

Cannabis in Nursing Programs

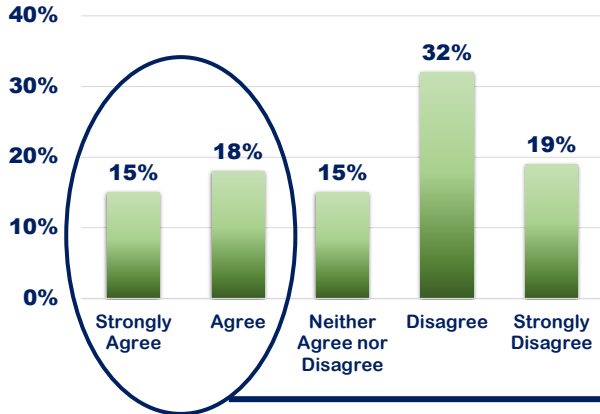


Top 5 states for those receiving education:

Colorado	31% 27
Oregon	14% 12
California	8% 7
Pennsylvania	7% 6
Minnesota	6% 5

(Clark & Parmelee, 2021)

Comfortable Educating and Coaching



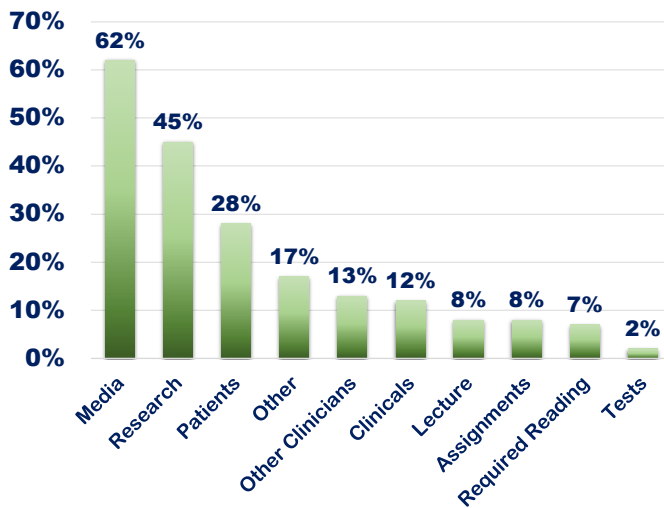
Cannabis Dosing
Adverse/Side Effects
Drug Interactions
Restrictions
Administration
Routes
Safe Storage

11% Formal Education

(Clark & Parmelee, 2021)

7

Source of Cannabis Education



With School Involvement (N – 86)

Class Discussion	63%
Assignments	62%
Research Articles	62%

No School Involvement (N – 994)

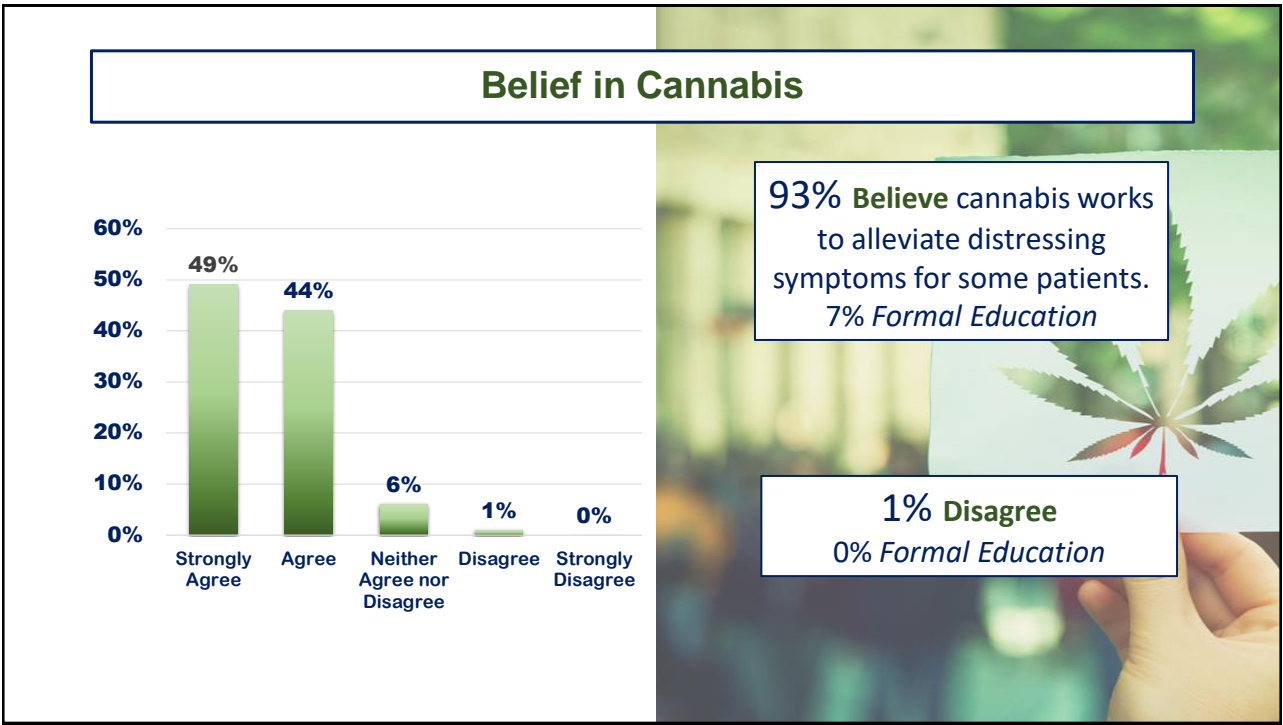
Media/ News/ Internet	66%
Research Articles	44%
Patients	29%

(Clark & Parmelee, 2021)

8



“The nursing student shall approach the patient without judgment regarding the patient’s choice of treatment or preferences in managing pain and other distressing symptoms” (NCSBN, 2018, p. S30).



Qualitative Themes

Is there anything you like to add in regard to your experience as a nursing student and learning about medicinal cannabis?

- Desire/ "wish" for it to be included in curriculum (#1)
- Topic stigmatized by faculty, biases, discouraged, uncomfortable
- Never/rarely mentioned vs mentioned as schedule I, abuse but not therapeutically
- State legality doesn't matter: legal vs illegal
- Specific areas of practice: oncology, hospice, PTSD, pain, holistic
- Need more evidence
- Personal use concerns

11

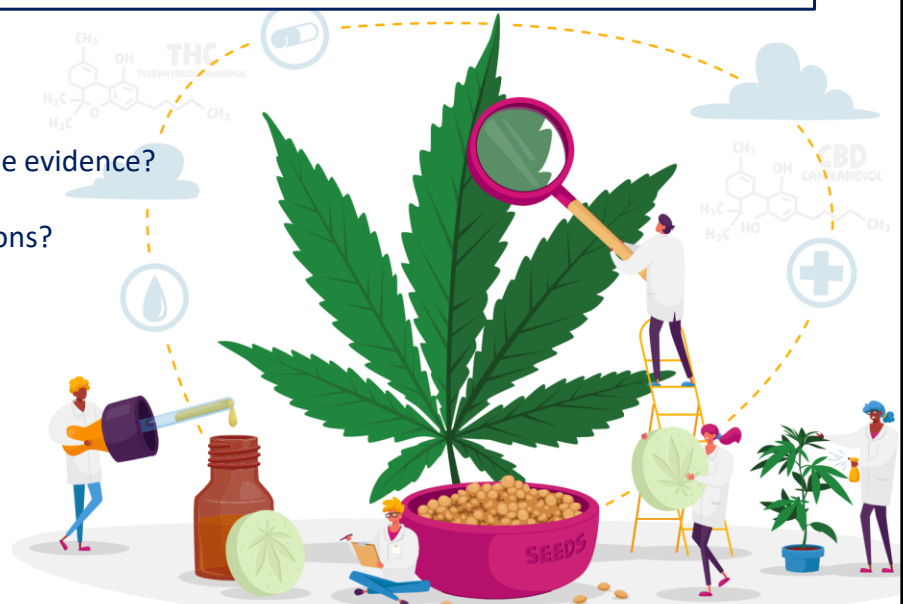
Main Take-Aways

How does it add to the evidence?

What are the limitations?

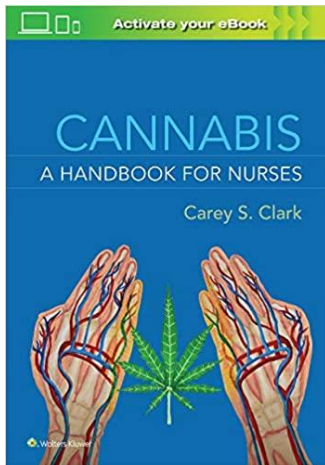
Main take-aways?

Future research?



12

Next Steps: Tools For Educators



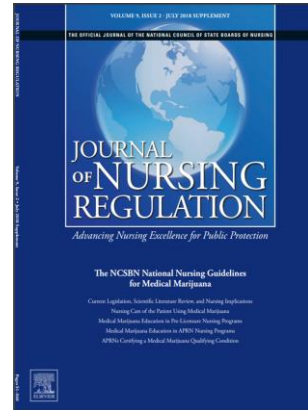
START LOW GO SLOW

(MacCallum & Russo, 2018)

Moderate to high quality evidence:

- Cachexia
- Nausea and vomiting
- Pain
- Chronic pain
- Neuropathies
- Spasticity

(NASEM, 2017)



AMERICAN CANNABIS
NURSES ASSOCIATION



13

Next Steps: Nursing Academia

Incorporate endocannabinoid system in A/P and pathophysiology classes.

Incorporate cannabinoid therapeutics in pharmacology classes.

Thread cannabis care content, the role of the nurse, advocacy for cannabis patients throughout curricula.

Ethical and legal concerns.

NCSBN/ NCLEX questions.

14

Thank you



15

References and Resources

- American Cannabis Nurses Association. (2019). *Cannabis nurses' scope and standards of practice*. <https://cannabisnurses.org/Scope-of-Practice-for-Cannabis-Nurses>
- American Nurses Association. (2016). *Therapeutic use of marijuana and related cannabinoids*.
<https://www.nursingworld.org/~49a8c8/globalassets/practiceandpolicy/ethics/therapeutic-use-of-marijuana-and-related-cannabinoids-position-statement.pdf>
- CannaKeys.com. *CannaKeys 360*. <https://cannakeys.com/>
- Clark, C. S. (2021). *Cannabis: Handbook for Nurses*. Wolter's Kluwer.
- Clark, C. S., & Parmelee, R. A. (2021). *Nursing students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding medicinal cannabis care*. [Pre-publication].
- MacCallum, C. A., & Russo, E. B. (2018). Practical considerations in medical cannabis administration and dosing. *European Journal of Internal Medicine*, 49, 12–19.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejim.2018.01.004>
- Minnesota Hospital Association. (2015). *Medical Cannabis Template Policy*.
<https://www.mnhospitals.org/Portals/0/Documents/patientsafety/MedCannabis/Medical%20Cannabis%20Documentation.pdf>
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2017). *The health effects of cannabis and cannabinoids: The current state of evidence and recommendations for research*. The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/24625>.
- National Conference of State Legislatures. (2021, Jan. 11). *State medical marijuana laws*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-medical-marijuana-laws.aspx>
- National Conference of State Legislatures. (2021, Mar. 8). *Cannabis & Employment Laws*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/cannabis-employment-laws.aspx>
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2017). *Report of findings from the 2017 RN nursing knowledge survey*. <https://www.ncsbn.org/12254.htm>
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2018). The NCSBN national nursing guidelines for medical marijuana. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 9(2), S5-S46.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2155-8256\(18\)30098-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2155-8256(18)30098-X)

16