

## **Patient reported substance use and comorbidities associated with Cannabis use among clients receiving Opioid Agonist Treatment**

Laila Parvaresh<sup>1,2</sup>, Llewellyn Mills<sup>1,2</sup>, Nicholas Lintzeris<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Drug and Alcohol Services, <sup>2</sup> University of Sydney, School of Medicine and Health, <sup>3</sup> NSW Drug and Alcohol Clinical Research Improvement Network (DACRIN)

Presenter's email: [laila.parvaresh@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:laila.parvaresh@health.nsw.gov.au)

**Introduction and Aims:** Cannabis use is common among people receiving Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) for opioid dependence, yet the prevalence, patterns, and correlation of cannabis use among Australian treatment seekers have not yet been described in detail in recent years. Considering changing patterns of cannabis use in Australia and internationally, it is paramount to re-examine cannabis use in Australian clients receiving OAT.

**Design and Methods:** Analyses were conducted on routinely collected data at treatment entry from the Australian Treatment Outcomes Profile and the NSW Minimum Data Set, capturing demographics, past month substance use, and reported health and social outcomes for 4997 OAT clients attending public sector drug and alcohol treatment services in six local health districts across New South Wales between 2016 and 2019.

**Results:** From 4997 clients starting OAT, 1913 (38.3%) reported past month cannabis use with 1017(20.4%) reporting using cannabis more than 3 days in a week. Cannabis use in OAT clients was associated with significantly higher alcohol ( $p=0.039$ ), amphetamine ( $p=0.001$ ), benzodiazepine ( $p<0.001$ ), and heroin ( $p<0.001$ ) use, and poorer psychological health ( $p<0.001$ ), physical health ( $p=0.005$ ), and quality of life ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Discussions and Conclusions:** Similar to earlier Australian and contemporary American studies, cannabis use is very common in OAT clients, with significant association between cannabis use and other substance use and poorer health and social outcomes. Further research by our team will investigate motivations of use among OAT clients and, importantly, the implication of addressing cannabis use in OAT clients.

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