

# Cannabis use among a nationally representative cross-sectional sample of smokers and non-smokers in The Netherlands: Results from the 2015 ITC Netherlands Gold Magic Survey

Fix, B.V., Smith, D., O'Connor, R.J., Heckman, B., Willemsen, M.C., Cummings, K.M., & Fong, G.T.

## **Abstract**

**Objectives:** Existing evidence shows that co-occurring use of tobacco and cannabis is widespread. Patterns of co-use of tobacco and cannabis may change as more jurisdictions legalise medicinal and/or recreational cannabis sales. This analysis examined predictors of current cannabis use and characterised methods of consumption among smokers and non-smokers in a context where cannabis use is legal.

**Setting:** The 2015 International Tobacco Control Netherlands—Gold Magic Survey conducted between July and August 2015.

**Participants:** Participants (n=1599; 1003 current smokers, 283 former smokers and 390 non-smokers) were asked to report their current (past 30-day) use of cigarettes and cannabis. Cigarette smokers reported whether they primarily used factory made or roll-your-own cigarettes. Those who reported any cannabis use in the last 30 days were asked about forms of cannabis used. X<sup>2</sup> and logistic regression analyses were used to assess relationships among combustible tobacco and cannabis use.

**Results:** Past 30-day cannabis use was somewhat higher among current tobacco (or cigarette) smokers (n=57/987=5.8%) than among former or never smokers (n=10/288=3.5% and n=6/316=1.9%, respectively). Joints were the most commonly used form of cannabis use for both current cigarette smokers (96.9%) and non-smokers (76.5%). Among those who smoked cannabis joints, 95% current smokers and 67% of non-smokers reported that they 'always' roll cannabis with tobacco.

**Conclusions:** In this Netherlands-based sample, most cannabis was reported to be consumed via smoking joints, most often mixed with tobacco. This behaviour may present unique health concerns for non-cigarette smoking cannabis users, since tobacco use could lead to nicotine dependence. Moreover, many non-cigarette smoking cannabis users appear to be misclassified as to their actual tobacco/nicotine exposure.

## **Recommended Citation**

Fix, B.V., Smith, D., O'Connor, R.J., Heckman, B., Willemsen, M.C., Cummings, K.M., Fong, G.T. (2019). Cannabis use among a nationally representative cross-sectional sample of smokers and non-smokers in The Netherlands: Results from the 2015 ITC Netherlands Gold Magic Survey. *BMJ Open*, 9(3), E024497-.

**Link To PDF:** <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/3/E024497.long>