



Current Marijuana Usage By MS Status and Disability in the NARCOMS Registry

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Disease Management, Mechanisms, and Treatment

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Disclosures



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- NARCOMS is a project of the CMSC & the Foundation of the CMSC
- Drs. Cofield, Cutter, Marrie, Fox and Salter have received fees/support for for consulting, DMSB service, and/or grant related activities. See CMSC program for complete disclosures.
- Dr. Tyry and Ms. McNeal have nothing to disclose.
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Medical Marijuana

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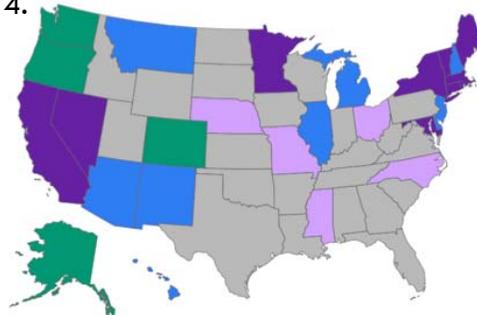
- Recent research suggests that cannabinoids can help alleviate some symptoms of multiple sclerosis (MS).
- Individual state and US laws are changing regarding marijuana and medical marijuana.
- In April 2014, AAN issued “Findings on Use of Medical Marijuana in Treatment of Certain Brain Diseases,” including MS¹.
- Evidence indicating “use of specific oral and oromucosal forms of cannabis to improve some symptoms in patients with MS” – symptoms such as tremor and spasticity.

1: Yadav V, Bever C Jr, Bowen J, Bowling A, Weinstock-Guttman B, Cameron M, Bourdette D, Gronseth GS, and Narayanaswami P. Summary of evidence-based guideline: Complementary and alternative medicine in multiple sclerosis. Report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Neurology 2014; 82:1083-1092

Marijuana in US

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- In December 2014, the US government ended restrictions on the use of medical marijuana in those states where it had been legal before May 2014.
- 26 states and the District of Columbia with laws allowing, at a minimum, medical marijuana usage.



Medical: marijuana legal for medical use only, with prescription

No Jail Personal Use: no jail time for possession under a certain weight, varies by state

NARCOMS Survey

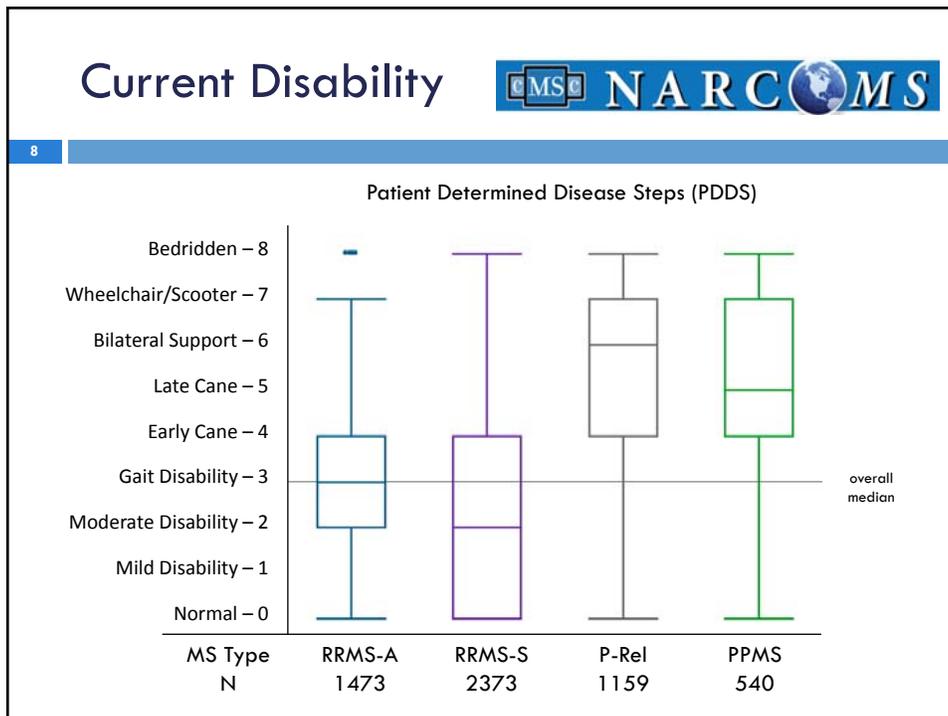
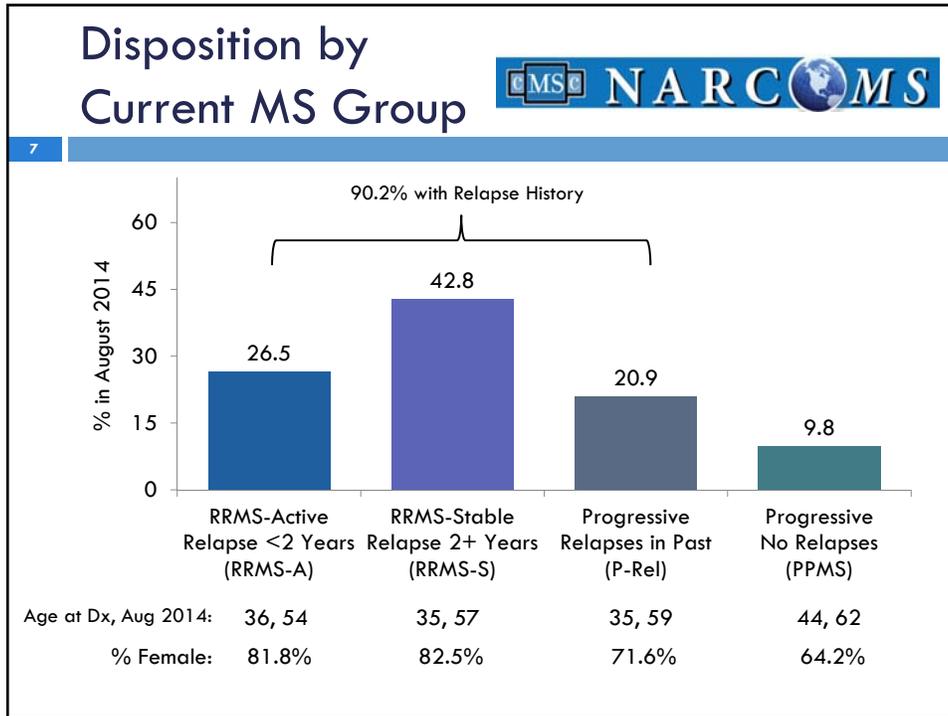
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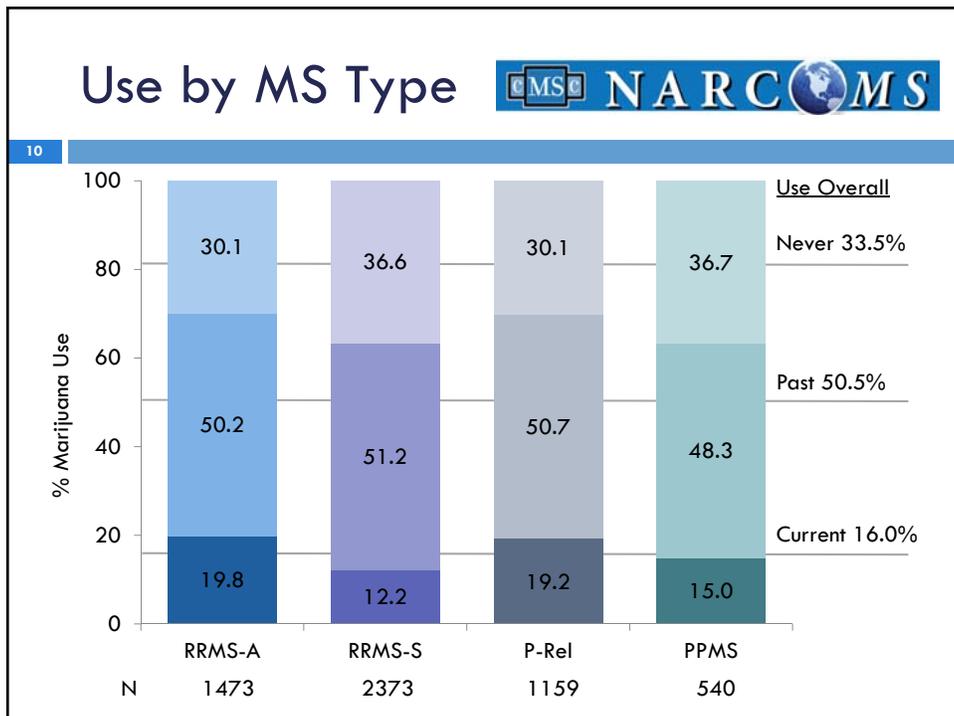
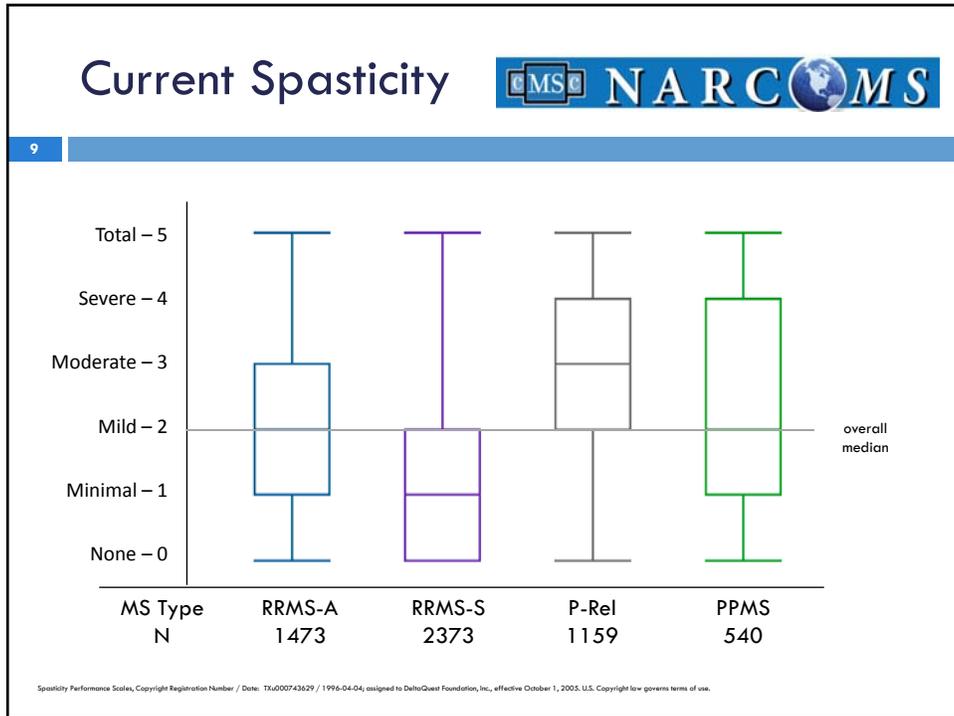
- In August 2014, all active NARCOMS participants were invited to complete a one-time, anonymous survey
 - Marijuana referred to smoking, ingesting, or other controlled substance derived from marijuana or synthetic marijuana.
- Goals of survey:
 - Characterize marijuana usage: past and current behaviors and attitudes on usage and legality
 - Determine if participants have spoken to their doctor about marijuana
 - Characterize MS disease status & current disability according to marijuana usage

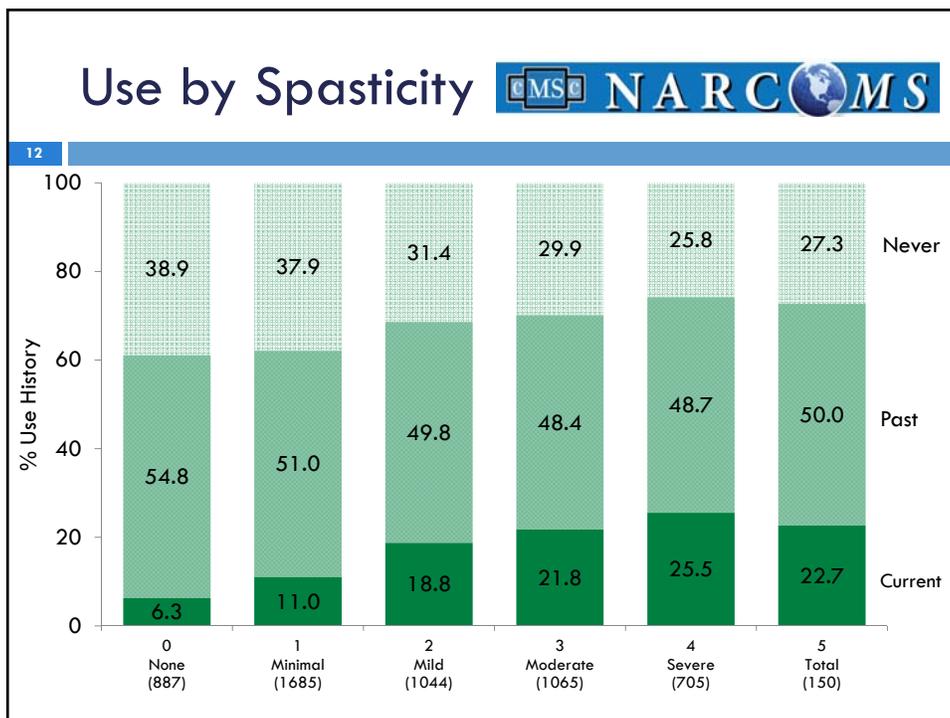
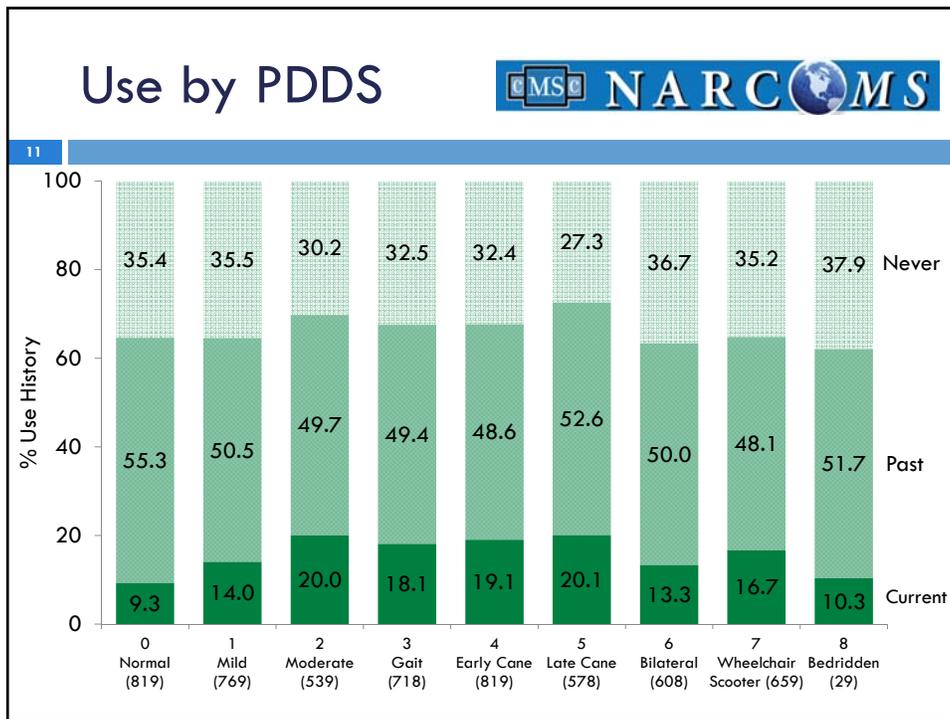
Survey Response

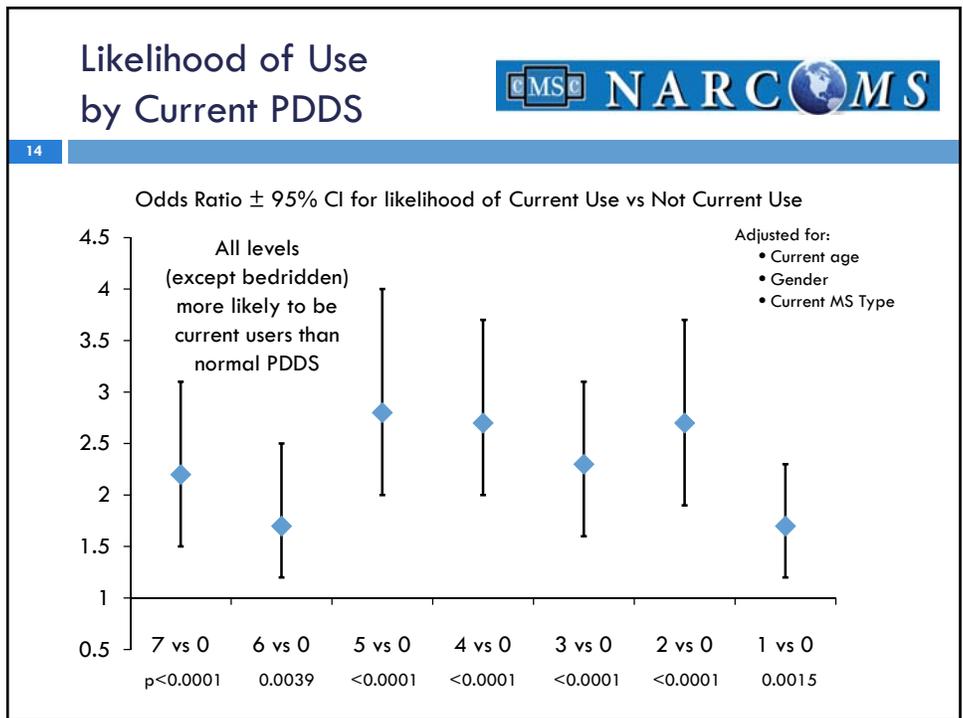
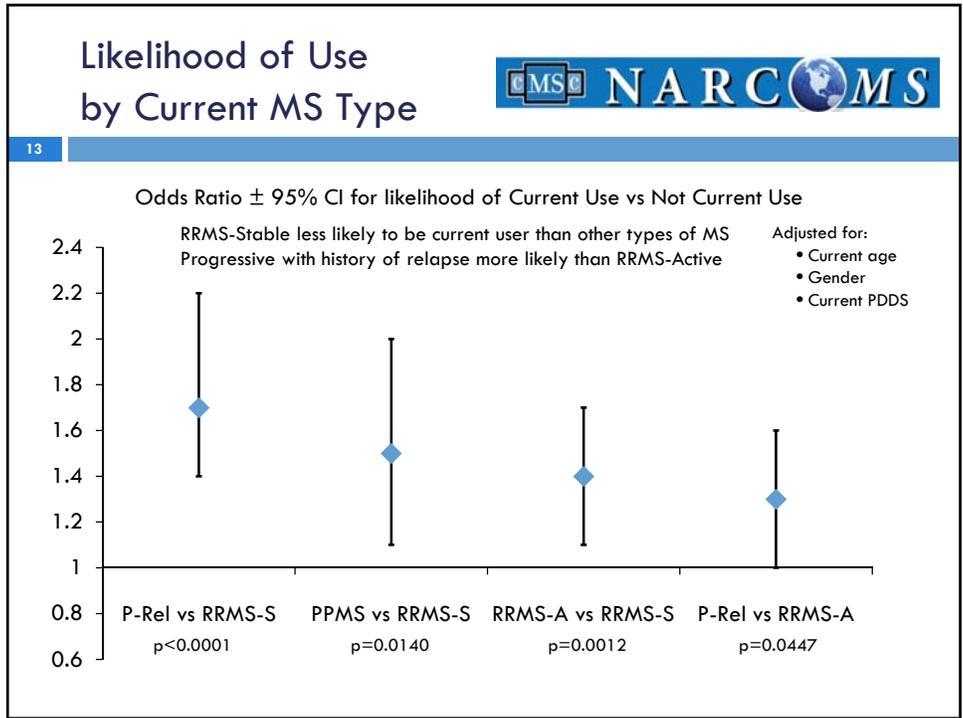
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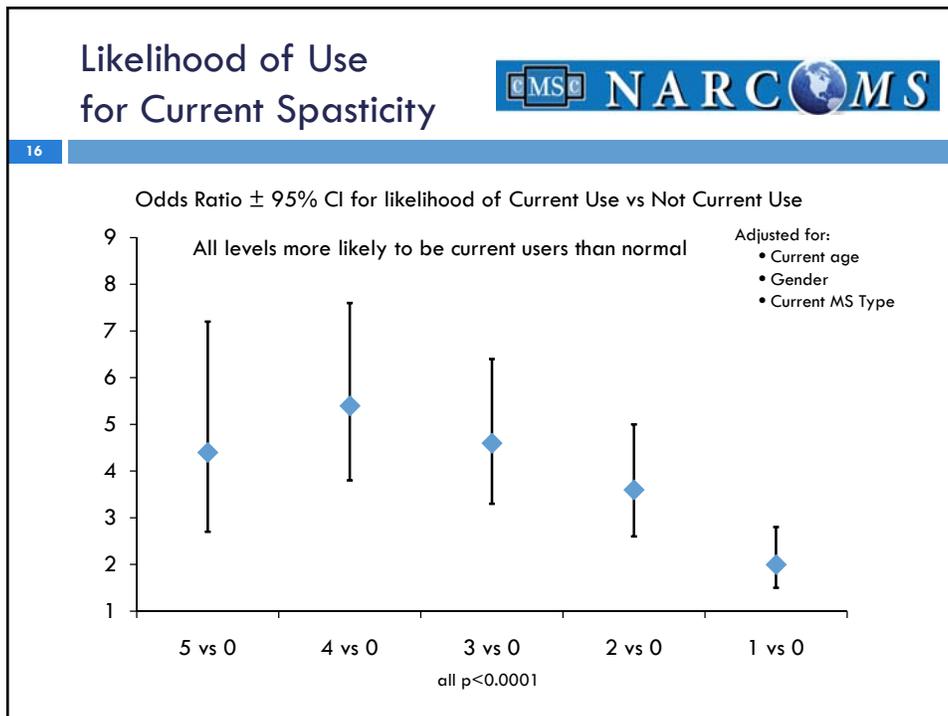
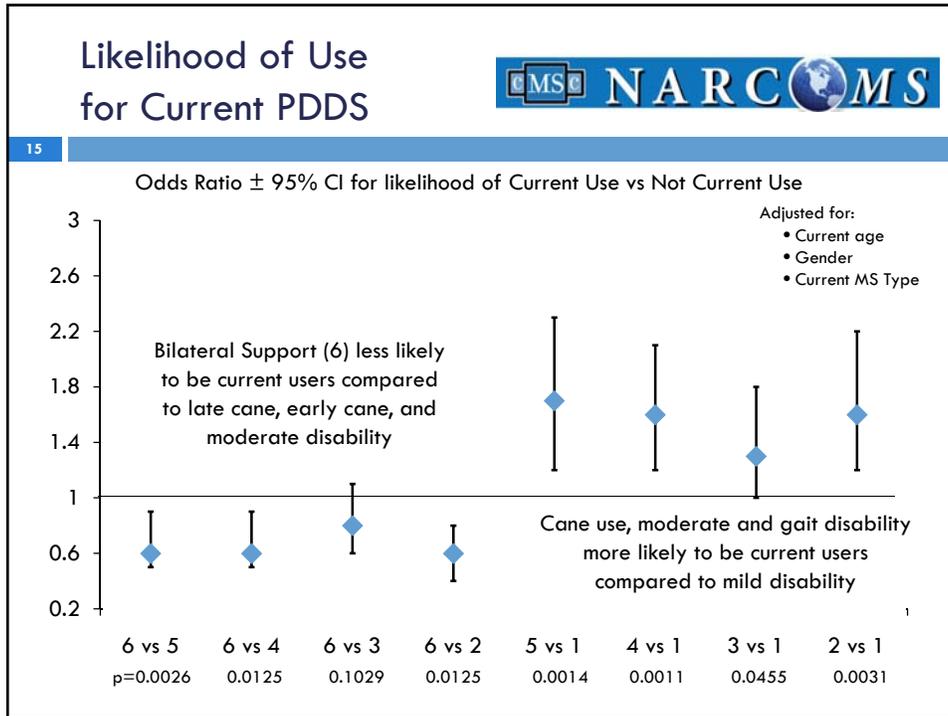
- 5665 respondents
- 46.2% of invitees
- 49.5% live where marijuana is legal in some form
 - 1.1% outside of the US
- 84% reported not currently using marijuana:
 - 34% Never
 - 41% Past use Prior to MS (No MS Use)
 - 10% Past use for MS
- 16% Current use for MS:
 - median days of use in past 30 days: 20 (IQR: 5-30)

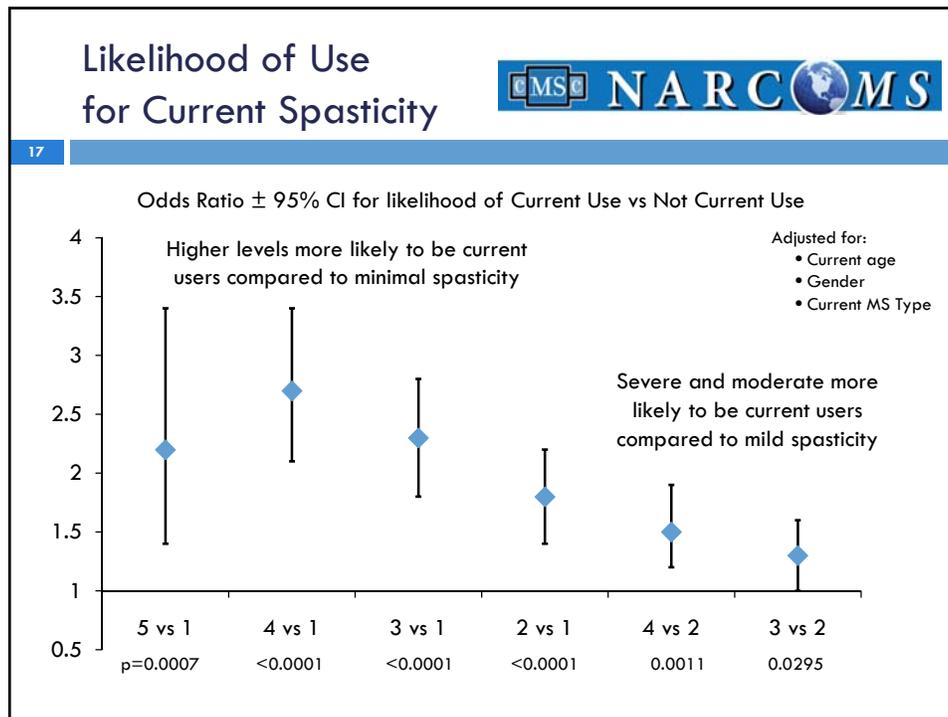












- ## Summary
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- 5600+ responses indicate those living with MS are willing to answer questions about the topic
 - Limitation: cross-sectional, anonymous
 - >50% have used marijuana
 - 16% current users
 - Likelihood of use lower for:
 - RRMS-Stable 2+ years
 - Lower PDDS disability levels
 - Lower Spasticity levels