Mistrust and Miscommunication; Experiences of Health Providers and Black and Latina Patients in Using **Cannabis During** Pregnancy

Erin Gould, MPH and Rachel Carmen Ceasar, PhD

Introduction

- Rates of cannabis use are increasing among pregnant individuals, especially in legalized states
- Pregnant individuals see cannabis as safe and use it for pregnancy symptoms, but healthcare organizations advise against use
- Data shows that patients with marginalized identities face more consequences for disclosing cannabis use to providers
- We set out to understand perceptions of cannabis use during pregnancy for pregnant individuals and maternal health providers

Methods

- Semi-structured, remote interviews with 7 people who used cannabis during pregnancy and 10 maternal healthcare providers
- Transcribed interviews were analyzed by the team
- Constructivist grounded theory methodology was used to identify themes

Discussion

- More data is needed on patient and provider self-education; both are lacking information, but providers can do harm to patients (via increased CPS reporting and termination of parental custody) due to their authority status within healthcare.
- Both groups need accurate, socioculturally sensitive information about maternal cannabis use via a **harm reduction lens**.
- Healthcare institutions and health communicators should expand focus to both maternal and fetal well-being for improved maternal engagement

Patients and providers seek differing and incomplete sources of perinatal cannabis use information and experience miscommunication, mistrust, and judgment within care.

Result 1: Providers experienced caregiving challenges with patients due to historical and ongoing medical judgment exacerbated by cannabis use

"[Patients are] not going to tell their doctor they're using cannabis... because we can occasionally be judgmental, or we have a history of being judgmental." Meadow*, Provider

"[I]t's definitely a bias among the other providers that women with money don't have these issues and they don't have these struggles. And so when I was at the low income clinic... they would just run a drug panel on everybody in every pregnancy... in private practice, the doctors just figure that oh women with money know better, so they don't do it." Paisley, Provider

Result 2: Patients and providers described a disconnect between how cannabis is viewed and which sources of information to trust (fetusfocused science vs self-identified maternal needs)

"[W]e have our unseen patient, which is our baby, that we're responsible for. The mom can be responsible for herself, but we are responsible for that baby... I'm not there to judge. It's not really for me to judge. It's really for me to educate. And I follow the science." Lark, Provider

" [Providers should] listen to their patients about why they use it while they're pregnant. I know they're concerned about the baby... but if it helps them in the first weeks of their pregnancy, as to morning sickness or they can't sleep... they should be allowed to use it at a certain point." Lucky, Patient

Result 3: Both patients and providers felt the need to seek out information about maternal cannabis use, either online or via interpersonal networks

"My home girls told me..., 'Hey, I used it. Don't trip, it's fine. I know the doctor will try to scare you, but my mom's done it.'" *River, Patient*

"[S]omebody will quote a study ... so I've gone and searched for that. But then at the same time, there's another study that says [the opposite] ... point me into directions and I'll look it up, but it hasn't really changed anything, just because there's not a lot of great data out there." Ziggy, Provider

*all names are pseudonyms to protect participant anonymity





Keck School of Medicine of USC

Participan

Participan

Age2.224 (3.39)humble parte3.422,85%) 3.422,85%) 3.422,85%) 3.422,85%)humble parte2.228,57%)humble parte2.228,57%)humble parte2.228,57%)humble parte2.228,57%)humble parte2.228,57%)humble parte2.228,57%)humble parte2.228,57%)humble parte10humble parte10humble parte1humble parte1 </th <th>Participant Characteristics (Patients)</th> <th>Mean (SD) / Frequency (%)</th> <th></th> <th></th>	Participant Characteristics (Patients)	Mean (SD) / Frequency (%)		
Non-Hispanc3 H2 28%) Silve 28% Pereige dom Hispanc3 H2 28%) Silve 28% Silve 28% Silve 28%Excation Compitted grade 12 (high school) Silve 28% Compitted sque 12 (high school) Silve 28% Silve 21857%)2 (257%)Excation Compitted sque 21 (high school) Silve 28% Silve 21857%)2 (257%)Excation Less than 35,000 Less than 35,000 Silve 28%2 (257%)Perferec Language English1 (L129%)Higgan Ethin city No No1 (42 80%) 4 (57.14%)Higgan Chinachy No No No Silve 21857%11 (00%)Perferec Language English1 (42 80%) 4 (57.14%)Perferec Language English1 (42 80%) 4 (57.14%)Perferec Language English1 (10%)Perferec Language English1 (10%	Age	27.24 (3.39)		
Campieled grade 12 (high scheen)2 (28 579)Campieled 4 years of college2 (28 579)Dor't fixew2 (28 579)Dor't fixew2 (28 579)Dor't fixew2 (28 579)S15.000 520.9992 (28 579)S15.000 520.9992 (28 579)Preferred Language2 (28 579)Engish7 (100%)Higanic thinity3 (42 68%)Nu3 (42 68%)Nu3 (42 68%)Nu3 (42 68%)Nu3 (42 68%)Nu3 (42 68%)Pack categories / Thinity10Wes3 (42 68%)Pack categories / Chinity10Back, non-rispanic3 (42 68%)Pack and thing pregnancy9Pack and thing pregnancy10Pack and thing pregnancy10 <td< td=""><td>Non-Hispanic US-Born Hispanic</td><td>3 (42.86%)</td><td></td><td></td></td<>	Non-Hispanic US-Born Hispanic	3 (42.86%)		
Damb tow 2 (28, 57%) Star band Stable 2 (28, 57%) Stable 2 (28, 57%) Stable 2 (28, 57%) Preferred Language 2 (28, 57%) Baynic Ethnicity 2 (28, 57%) New 2 (28, 57%) Preferred Language 2 (28, 57%) Baynic Ethnicity 2 (28, 57%) New Caregories / Ethnicity 3 (22, 50%) New Caregories / Ethnicity 3 (22, 50%) Baynic Ethnicity 3 (22, 50%) Precipent Characteristics (Provider) n Precipe who use canable during pregnancy 10 100% People who use canable during pregnancy 9 90% Pople who use canable during pregnancy 10 10% Precipe who use canable during pregnancy 10 10% Precipe who use canable during pregnancy 10 10% Pople who use canable during pregnancy 10 10% Cartified Narse Midwife 1 10% Precipe who use canable during pregnancy 2 20% Cartified Narse Midwife 1 10% Precipe who use canable during pregnancy </td <td>Completed grade 12 (high school) Some college or technical school</td> <td>3 (42.86%)</td> <td></td> <td></td>	Completed grade 12 (high school) Some college or technical school	3 (42.86%)		
Engleh 7 (100%) Hapanic Ethnicity Nes 3 (42.86%) 4 (57.14%) NH Race Categories / Ethnicity Black, non-Hispanic 3 (42.86%) 4 (57.14%) Patheter Characteristics (Providers) Articipant Characteristics (Providers) Articipant Characteristics (Providers) People who use cannabls during pregnancy 9 0,000 People who use cannable durin	Don't know Less than \$15,000 \$15,000 to \$29,999	1 (14.29%) 2 (28.57%)		
No. 3 (42.86%) 4 (57.14%) NH Race Categories / Ethnicity Black, non-Hispanic (1990) 3 (42.86%) 4 (57.14%) Participant Characteristics (Providers) n n (n%) Partified Nurse Midwife <td></td> <td>7 (100%)</td> <td></td> <td></td>		7 (100%)		
Black, non-Hispanic 3 (42.8 m) Hispanic 10 Participant Characteristics (Providers) 10 Participant Characteristics (Providers) 10 People who use cannabis during pregnancy 10 People who use cannabis direr pregnancy 10 People who use cannabis after pregnancy 10 People who use cannabis after pregnancy 10 People who use cannabis after pregnancy 10 Maternal Health Role: 1 Doula/Lactation Consultant 1 Oay (GYN) 9 Posperative 2 Oay (GYN) 9 Iabor and delivery 2 Posperative 1 Oula 1 Idwitery 1	No			
Cares for: 10 10% People who use cannabis during pregnancy 9 90% People who use alcohol or other substances during pregnancy 9 90% People who use cannabis after pregnancy 0 100% Maternal Health Role: 1 10% Doula/Lactation Consultant 1 10% Physician 8 80% Specialty: 2 20% Doula/Lactation Consultant 1 10% Physician 8 80% Specialty: 2 20% postpartum 2 20% community health 1 10% Doula 1 10% Doula 1 10% Doula 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns 1 10% Mite 2 20% 1 10% Miternal Health Provider's Pronouns 2 20% 20% She/her 2 20% 20% 20% She/he	Black, non-Hispanic			
People who use cannabis during pregnancy 9 100 People who use cannabis after pregnancy 9 900 Maternal Health Role: 1 100 Doula/Lactation Consultant 1 100 Certified Nurse Midwife 1 100 Physician 8 800 Speciatly: 2 200 Obly CyrN 9 900 jabor and delivery 2 200 postpartum 2 200 nounmunity health 1 100 Doula 1 100 Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity 1 100 Mitel 7 700 Mitel Race 1 100 Mitel Race 1 100 Mitel Race 1 100 Mitel Race 1 100 Mitel Race 1	Participant Characteristics (Providers)		n	(n%)
People who use alcohol or other substances during pregnancy 9 90% People who use cannabis after pregnancy 10 10% Maternal Health Role: 1 10% Doula/Lactation Consultant 1 10% Physician 8 80% Specialty: 9 90% Dølf Alle Marker Midwife 1 10% Physician 8 80% Specialty: 2 20% postpartum 2 20% community health 1 10% Doula 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity 1 10% Mixed Race 1 10% 10% Mixed R	Cares for:			
People who use cannabis after pregnancy 10 10% Maternal Health Role: 1 10% Doula/Lactation Consultant 1 10% Certified Nurse Midwife 1 10% Physician 8 80% Specialty: 0 9 90% OB/GYN 9 90% 10% postpartum 2 20% 20% postpartum 2 20% 10% Doula 1 10% 10% Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity 1 10% Mixed Race 1 10% Mixed Race 1 10% Mixed Race 1 10% she/her 7 70% declined to disclose 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Age 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Age	People who use cannabis during pregnancy		10	100%
Maternal Health Role: 1 10% Doula/Lactation Consultant 1 10% Certified Nurse Midwife 1 10% Physician 8 80% Specialty: 0 9 90% OB/GYN 9 90% 90% postpartum 2 20% 20% community health 1 10% 10% Doula 1 10% 10% Lactation Consultant 1 10% 10% Back or African American 2 20% 20% Mitee 7 70% 10% Miteed Race 1 10% 10% Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns 2 20% he/him 2 20% 20% sie/her 3 10% Gelined to disclose 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Age 1 10% 0-39 3 30% 30%	People who use alcohol or other substances during pr	egnancy	9	90%
Doula/Lactation Consultant110%Certified Nurse Midwife110%Physician880%Specialty:990%Dabor and delivery220%postpartum220%postpartum110%midwifery110%Dula110%Dula110%Ectation Consultant110%Matemal Health Provider's Racial Identity110%Mited Race770%Mited Race110%he/him220%she/her220%odictiose110%Matemal Health Provider's Pronouns110%Indernal Health Provider's Age110%Matemal Health Provider's Age220%ongoing220%10%Joyne330%Joyne330%Joyne330%Joyne330%Joyne330%	People who use cannabis after pregnancy		10	100%
Certified Nurse Midwife1110%Physician880%Specialty:990%Dol/GVN990%labor and delivery220%postpartum220%community health110%midwifery110%Dula110%Lactation Consultant110%Miter770%Miked Race110%Miked Race110%Miked Race120%he/her220%odinde to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age110%Miter 30220%0-39330%40-49330%	Maternal Health Role:			
Physician8880Specialty:990Ob/GVN990labor and delivery220%postpartum220%community health110%midwifery110%Dola110%Lactation Consultant110%Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity110%Mited Race220%Mited Race110%He/hrin220%sie/her220%dictioned is close110%Maternal Health Provider's Age110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%alor, African American220%of alor, African American220%Miternal Health Provider's Pronouns110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%alor, 30330%40-49330%	Doula/Lactation Consultant		1	10%
Specially:OB/GVN990%labor and delivery220%opstpartum220%community health110%midwifery110%Doula110%Lactation Consultant110%Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity110%Miked Race220%Miked Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%she/her220%dictioned to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%Jong Jang220%Jong Jang220%Jong Jang220%Jong Jang220%Jong Jang220%Jong Jang220%Jong Jang220%Jong Jang220%Jong Jang330%Jong Jang330%Jong Jang330%	Certified Nurse Midwife		1	10%
OB/GYN999labor and delivery220%postpartum220%community health110%midwifery110%Doula110%Lactation Consultant110%Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity220%White770%Mixed Race110%Identified American220%Mixed Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronous110%Identified Identified American220%She/her220%she/her110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronous110%Identified Identified Iden	Physician		8	80%
labor and delivery220%postpartum220%community health110%midwifery110%Dola110%Catation Consultant110%Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity120%White770%Mixed Race110%he/hrin220%she/her770%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age120%she/her220%she/her220%she/her220%she/her220%she/her220%she/her220%she/her220%she/her330%4049330%	Specialty:			
postpartum220%community health110%midwifery110%Doula110%Auternal Health Provider's Racial Identity110%Black or African American220%White770%Mixed Race110%He/him220%she/her220%dictioned to disclose110%Muternal Health Provider's Age110%under 30220%30-39330%4-049330%	OB/GYN		9	90%
community health110%midwifery110%Doula110%Lactation Consultant110%Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity110%Black or African American220%White770%Mixed Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns110%he/him220%she/her770%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age110%under 30220%30-39330%40-49330%	labor and delivery		2	20%
nidwifery110Dola110%Lactation Consultant110%Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity120%Black or African American220%White770%Mixed Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%she/her220%she/her110%Maternal Health Provider's Age110%under 30220%30-3930%30%	postpartum		2	20%
Doula110%Lactation Consultant110%Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity220%White220%White770%Mixed Race110%Meternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%she/her220%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%under 30220%30-3930%30%	community health		1	10%
Lactation Consultant110%Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity220%Black or African American220%White770%Mixed Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%she/her220%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%under 30220%30-39330%	midwifery		1	10%
Atternal Health Provider's Racial Identity220%Black or African American270%White770%Mixed Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%she/her220%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%under 30220%30-39330%	Doula		1	10%
Black or African American220%White770%Mixed Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%he/him220%she/her770%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%under 30220%30-39330%40-49330%	Lactation Consultant		1	10%
White770%Mixed Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%he/him220%she/her770%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%under 30220%30-39330%40-49330%	Maternal Health Provider's Racial Identity			
Mixed Race110%Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%he/him220%she/her770%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age120%under 30220%30-39330%40-49330%	Black or African American		2	20%
Maternal Health Provider's Pronouns220%he/him220%she/her770%declined to disclose110%Maternal Health Provider's Age220%under 30220%30-39330%40-49330%	White		7	70%
he/hm 2 20% she/her 7 70% declined to disclose 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Age 2 20% 10-39 2 20% 40-49 3 30%			1	10%
she/her 7 declined to disclose 1 Maternal Health Provider's Age 1 under 30 2 30-39 3 40-49 3				
declined to disclose 1 10% Maternal Health Provider's Age 2 20% under 30 2 30% 30-39 3 30% 40-49 3 30%				
Maternal Health Provider's Age 2 20% under 30 2 20% 30-39 3 30% 40-49 3 30%				
under 30 2 20% 30-39 3 30% 40-49 3 30%			1	10%
30-39 3 30% 40-49 3 30%			2	2001
40-49 30%				
JU-JY 20%	50-59		2	20%