CONNECTION LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEMS
HUB-WIDE DATA SNAPSHOT

DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF SUBSTANCE USE PROBLEMS BETWEEN PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS

Substance use is common in first episode psychosis (FEP) and has been associated with poorer symptom, functioning, and recovery outcomes. This manuscript sought to determine patient and provider views of substance use, and whether it is a problem. The Connection Learning Healthcare System (CLHS), a hub of the Early Psychosis Intervention Network (EPINET), collects data from 23+ Coordinated Specialty Care programs in Maryland and Pennsylvania. This snapshot uses data from 464 patients across the hub reporting substance use.

Patient Demographics

Substances used by patients

33.2% used alcohol

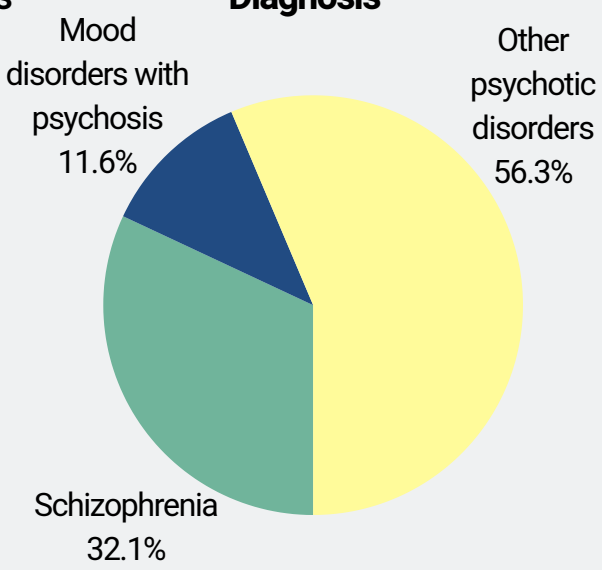
31.5% smoked cigarettes

25.2% vaped nicotine

61.4% used cannabis

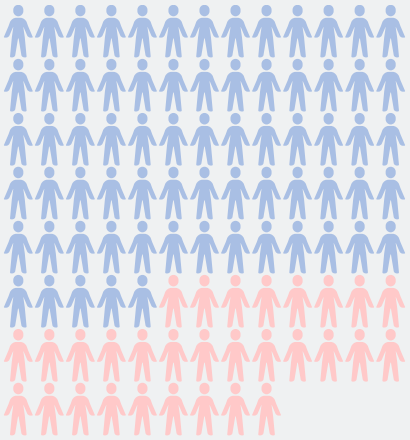
3.7% used other drugs

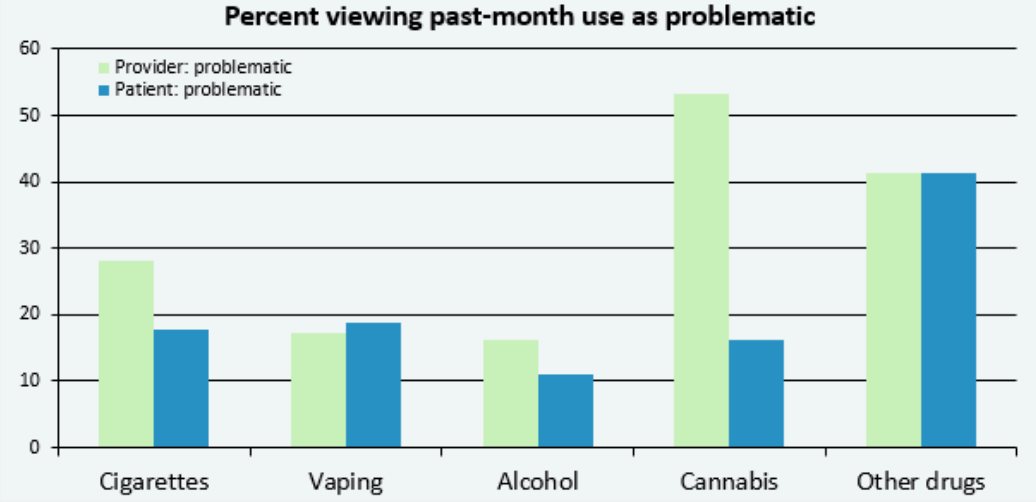
Diagnosis



Gender

71.1% Male
28.9% Female





According to analyses, **cannabis use** showed the **greatest perception gap**, with providers viewing it as much more problematic than patients. There was **less disagreement** between providers and patients in terms of **cigarettes, vaping, and alcohol**. The most agreement was in terms of other various drugs.

Cannabis use requires particular attention due to patient's not feeling it is problematic. Conversely, providers did not find smoking or vaping as problematic, which could lead to lack of early intervention. These findings show that provider-patient alignment matters; substance-use conversations should begin early and in the context of recovery goals.

