

Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

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No. Item	Guide questions/description	Reported on Page #
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity		
<i>Personal Characteristics</i>		
1. Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	6
2. Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? E.g. PhD, MD	6
3. Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	6
4. Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	6
5. Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	6
<i>Relationship with participants</i>		
6. Relationship established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	6
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research	5-6
8. Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic	6
Domain 2: study design		
<i>Theoretical framework</i>		
9. Methodological orientation and Theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis	7-8
<i>Participant selection</i>		
10. Sampling	How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball	5
11. Method of approach	How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email	5
12. Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	9 & Table 1
13. Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	n/a
<i>Setting</i>		
14. Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace	6
15. Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	6
16. Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date	Tables 1 & 2
<i>Data collection</i>		
17. Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	Supplemental material
18. Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	6
19. Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	6
20. Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?	6
21. Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?	6

22. Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	6
23. Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	6
Domain 3: analysis and findings		
<i>Data analysis</i>		
24. Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	8
25. Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	Represented in Tables 3-6
26. Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	8
27. Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	8
28. Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	<i>Occurred within the interview</i>
<i>Reporting</i>		
29. Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number	Tables 3-6 & in text pages 9-12
30. Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Tables 3-6 & in text pages 9-12
31. Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Tables 3-6 & in text pages 9-12
32. Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Tables 3-6 & in text pages 9-12

Key Informant Interview Guide

Session Information

Interview Date:

Interview Team Member:

Participant Information

Participant Study ID:

Introduction

“Thank you for agreeing to be a part of our research study. The purpose of this study is to understand and learn more about emerging adults’ (age 18-25) experiences using cannabis (aka ‘marijuana’).

Participation in this research study is totally voluntary, and you may skip any questions that make you uncomfortable. You can also stop participation at any time. The interview will take about one hour. I will ask questions about your reasons for using cannabis, your beliefs and perceptions about using cannabis and about other peoples’ use and reasons for use, your knowledge of cannabis and its effects, and any other information you feel comfortable sharing about what has contributed to your use of cannabis. We want to better understand your experiences, so there really are no right or wrong answers.

I will be audio recording our conversation so that I can later review this interview along with the interviews we will conduct with other participants like yourself. However, your name will not be linked with the recording. As I have already mentioned when we were talking about the details of your participation today, there is a small chance of a loss of confidentiality due to participating in this research study, but several measures have been put in place to protect your privacy.

Do you have any questions? If you don’t have any additional questions, I will start the audio recorder now for the interview:

Begin recording.

1. Defining Cannabis and Marijuana

“First, I want to take a moment to define ‘cannabis’ and ‘marijuana.’ This will help us to have a common language throughout our conversation today, so that we each have a clear idea what the other is talking about.

“For this conversation, ‘cannabis’ refers to all products derived from the plant *cannabis sativa*. Other cannabis plant species, such as *cannabis indica* and *cannabis ruderalis*, are included under *cannabis sativa*. “Cannabis” includes products with THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), THC and CBD (cannabidiol), or only CBD.

‘Marijuana’ refers to parts of or products from the *cannabis sativa* plant that contain substantial amounts of THC, specifically. THC is the substance that is primarily responsible for the effects that marijuana has on a person’s mental state. Products of the plant with substantial THC amounts include “flower” (used in joints, blunts, spliffs, bowls, bong, vaporizers; mixed into food to make edibles or brewed to make tea), and resins or “extracts” (such as hash oil, honey oil, wax, budder, shatter).

- What products derived from the *cannabis sativa* plant do you use? *Prompts: THC products only? THC and CBD?*
- What term or terms do you use to refer to these products?
- What term would you prefer to use throughout our conversation today?

2. Participant’s Cannabis Use History

“Great, thank you. Now I’d like to ask a few questions about your [cannabis] use.

- When did you first try [cannabis]? How old were you?
- Why do you think you decided try it?
- Tell me how your use has changed over time.

- Why do you think it has/hasn't changed?

3. Participant's Beliefs about Why People Use Cannabis

"Thank you for sharing your experiences with cannabis use. In this same line of thinking, my next questions ask about why you and other people use [cannabis].

- First, why do you think people, emerging adults specifically (18–25-year-olds), use [cannabis]?
- Next, I'd like to show/read you a list of reasons (See Item 1 below following the interview) for using [cannabis] that research studies have found. Take a minute to look through this list, and feel free to share any thoughts you have about this list. *Prompt: Do you think people/emerging adults use cannabis for any of these reasons?*
 - *If Yes,*
 - *Which reasons do you hear/see most often?*
 - *Why do you think [they] use for this reason?*
 - *Which reasons do you hear/see least often?*
 - *Why do you think people do not often use for this reason?*
 - *If No,*
 - *What is missing from this list of reasons that someone might use cannabis?*
 - *What is a reason you often hear/see that is not included on this list?*
- Reasons for cannabis use can be unique to a person. Can you tell me why you use cannabis? *If the participant uses different methods of cannabis (i.e., joints, bowls, bong, edibles, wax), ask:*
 - Why do you use [method A]? How do you use [method A]? In other words, in what situations would you use [method A] vs. [method B, C, etc.]/[other methods]?

4. Participant's Perspective on Alcohol Relative to Cannabis

"Great, thank you. Now I'd like to ask you about your perspectives on alcohol use compared to [cannabis] use.

- How would you compare using [cannabis] to drinking alcohol? *Reasons for using different? Situations in which one is preferred over the other? Frequency? Quantity/amount? Consequences?*

5. Participant's Perceptions about the Consequences/Effects of Using Cannabis

"Thank you for telling me more about why people use [cannabis]. Now I'd like to ask about the experiences that you or other people might have after using [cannabis], or things that happen as a result of using [cannabis].

- In general, what do you think are the consequences of using [cannabis]?
- How would you describe these consequences? *Are they good? Bad? Positive? Negative? Expected? Desired? Unexpected? Unwanted?*
- Next, I am going to show/read you another list. (See Item 2 below following the interview) This is a list of things that research studies have found can happen as a result of using [cannabis]. Please take a minute to look through this list and tell me your reactions as you read through it.
 - How would you describe these consequences of [cannabis] use? *Prompt: Generally negative? Generally positive? A mix of negative and positive?*
 - *For each considered to be "negative" or "unwanted," ask, "How severe would you say this consequence is?" Provide 0-10 scale if needed.*
 - Would you consider any of these to be "positive" or "desired" consequences of [cannabis] use?
 - Would other emerging adults consider any of these to be "positive" or "desired" consequences of [cannabis] use?

6. Participant's Perceptions about Safe, Acceptable, Problematic, and Harmful/Dangerous Cannabis Use

"Great, thank you. I'd like to continue talking about consequences of [cannabis] use, but I'd like to get your perspective on how we as researchers describe [cannabis] use.

- How would you describe "safe" [cannabis] use? How do you think someone would use cannabis "safely?"

- How would you describe, or how would you define, “acceptable” [cannabis] use? What do you consider to be “socially acceptable” [cannabis] use? *Definition if needed: Socially acceptable refers to behaviors or actions that are viewed by others as being appropriate to engage in, whether in the presence of other people or not.*
- How would you describe “unsafe” [cannabis] use? What about “harmful” use? Or “dangerous” use? *Prompt: Do you think there is such a thing as “unsafe,” “harmful,” or “dangerous” cannabis use?*
- At what point do you think people your age (other 18-25 year olds) would say that someone’s [cannabis] use has become “problematic?” *Prompts: Does it have to do with how frequently they use? How much they use? Certain types of methods or the number of different methods? What about their reasons for why they use? Is it something else?*

7. Participant’s Beliefs about How or Why Cannabis Use Patterns Change

“Thank you, your responses are really helpful. Next, I’d like to ask about your beliefs about how and why someone’s [cannabis] use might change.

- Why do you think someone might change how they use [cannabis]?
- Can you describe a situation in which you have known someone who wanted to cut down or quit using [cannabis]? What did the person say their reasons were for making this decision? If they didn’t say, what do you think their reasons were?
- Why do you think someone might decide to reduce their use or stop altogether?

8. Participant’s Perspective on Normative Feedback

“Thank you for sharing your thoughts. Next, I want to ask a couple of questions about your thoughts on something called “normative feedback.” Normative feedback is a tool that is sometimes used in counseling or therapy to bring attention to how a person compares to their peers on some behavior or belief. Here is an example of normative feedback (See item 3 below following the interview) and what someone receiving this information might see.

Make clear and re-iterate as needed that this is not feedback specific to the participant. It is an example and the figures do not represent their use.

- How do you think someone your age would respond if they saw this feedback or someone (like a counselor, physician, nurse, therapist) told them that they used [cannabis] more frequently than 96% of 18-25 year olds? *Would this be surprising?*
- If someone your age were told that their use was greater than 96% of 18-25 year olds, do you think that would influence how they use [cannabis]? *Why or why not? If yes, how do you think it would influence how they use [cannabis]?*

9. Participant’s Perception of their Knowledge of Cannabis

“Thank you so much for sharing all your thoughts and perspectives about [cannabis] use with me. My last question before we wrap up today is related to your knowledge of [cannabis].

- How knowledgeable do you consider yourself to be about [cannabis]/things related to [cannabis]? *Relative to others your age who use cannabis? Relative to anyone your age regardless of [cannabis] use? Relative to the general population?*
- Where or from whom do you think you learned the most about [cannabis] or things related to [cannabis]?

10. Participant’s Perception of Providing the Saliva Sample for Cannabinoid Testing

“I really appreciate you sharing this insight with. The final thing we’ll do today is the saliva sample. I am going to ask you to use this kit to collect a sample of saliva from the inside of your mouth. This sample will be used to test for THC, CBD, and other substances found in the cannabis plant.”

- Tell me in your own words what this experience is like for you.
- In addition to how easy or difficult it is to do this, how does it feel to provide this sample?
- How would you compare providing a saliva sample to be tested for [cannabis] vs. providing a urine sample?

End Interview.

Thank you so much for participating in this interview. I appreciate you sharing your experiences and providing your thoughts and feedback. Before we stop the recording and end the interview, is there anything that you feel we should know about your experiences that we did not ask about or discuss?

If yes, continue recording and asking prompts/taking field notes as needed.

If no, thank the participant and end the recording.

1. List of reasons for use

- To enjoy the effects of it
- Because you didn't want to be the only one not doing it
- To be cool
- To forget your problems
- Because you want to alter your perspective
- To allow you to think differently
- Because you were depressed
- Because you were curious about marijuana
- To see what it felt like
- Because you had nothing better to do
- To feel good
- Because you felt pressure from others who do it
- To relieve boredom
- Because you wanted something to do
- Because you were drunk
- Because it is readily available
- Because it is fun
- Because you can get it for free
- Because you were under the influence of alcohol
- Because you had gotten drunk and weren't thinking about what you were doing
- To celebrate
- To escape from your life
- Because you were experimenting
- Because it was a special day
- Because it makes you more comfortable in an unfamiliar situation
- To make you feel more confident
- Because it relaxes you when you are in an insecure situation
- Because it is safer than drinking alcohol
- Because it is not a dangerous drug
- Because there are low health risks
- To help you sleep
- Because it helps make napping easier and enjoyable
- Because you are having problems sleeping
- Because it was a special occasion
- So you can look at the world differently
- Because it is there

2. List of consequences

- Not able to do your homework or study for a test/ quality of your work or schoolwork suffered
- Got into fights, acted bad, or did mean things/ Became very rude, obnoxious, or insulting after using marijuana
- Missed out on other things because you spent too much money on marijuana / Financial difficulties
- Went to work or school high or stoned
- Caused shame or embarrassment to someone
- Neglected your responsibilities/ Spent too much time using
- Relatives avoided you
- Felt that you needed more marijuana than you used to use in order to get the same effect
- Tried to control your marijuana use by trying to smoke marijuana only certain times of day or certain places
- Had withdrawal symptoms, that is, felt sick because you stopped or cut down on smoking marijuana
- Had trouble sleeping after stopping or cutting down on marijuana use.
- Felt anxious, irritable, lost my appetite or had stomach pains after stopping or cutting down
- Noticed a change in your personality
- Have done impulsive things that you regretted later
- Felt that you had a problem with school/ Received a lower grade on an exam or paper than I ordinarily could have
- Missed a day (or part of a day) of school or work/ lost a job
- Tried to cut down on smoking marijuana/ Tried to quit using marijuana because I thought I was using too much/ Often have thought about needing to cut down or to stop using marijuana
- Suddenly found yourself in a place that you could not remember getting to
- Passed out or fainted suddenly
- Medical problems
- Had a fight, argument, or bad feelings with a friend/ Problems between you and your friends/ Problems between you and your partner
- Had a fight, argument or bad feelings with a family member/ Problems in your family / neglected your family
- Kept smoking marijuana when you promised yourself not to
- Felt you were going crazy
- Had a bad time

- Blackouts or flashbacks / awakened the day after using marijuana and found you could not remember a part of the evening before
- Felt physically or physiologically dependent on marijuana/ Felt like I needed a hit of marijuana after I'd gotten up
- Was told by a friend or neighbor to stop or cut down your marijuana use
- Driven a car while high
- Felt bad about your use / Been unhappy because of your marijuana use
- Lowered self-esteem/ lacked self-confidence
- Felt paranoid or overly nervous in everyday life
- Felt unmotivated to do things you needed to do in your everyday life / Have lost motivation to do things/ Procrastinated
- Had lower productivity
- Lost interest in things you once enjoyed
- Been overweight because of your marijuana use
- Noticed that your memory was not as good as it used to be/ had memory loss
- Lost some physical coordination in everyday activities
- Had lower energy level / Have had less energy or felt tired
- Been less physically active
- Had trouble thinking clearly in everyday activities/ Haven't been as sharp mentally
- Felt in a fog, sluggish, tired, or dazed the morning after using marijuana
- Difficulty sleeping
- Legal problems

3. Example of Personalized Normative Feedback

Personal Feedback for “Doug”

The information provided below is intended to help you evaluate your cannabis use behavior and whether or not you wish to change it. The information is based on your responses to the questionnaires you completed.

Your Beliefs about Cannabis Use

	Frequency	Quantity per day	Total Quantity Per Week
Your estimated norm	X days per week	XX amount	XXX amount
Actual emerging adult norms	Y days per week	YY amount	YYY amount

Your Cannabis Use Pattern

According to your responses to the questionnaires, you use cannabis **X** days a week, and consume about **X** grams a week. In comparison to other emerging adults, your percentile rank is almost **96%**. **This means that you currently use cannabis more than 96% of emerging adults.** In other words, about **4% of emerging adults** use cannabis more than you.