



Canadian Centre
on Substance Use
and Addiction

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Request for Proposals

Closing More Gaps in Cannabis Research: Population Surveys

Issue Date: September 30, 2021

Submission Date: October 29, 2021

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Since the legalization and regulation of cannabis for non-medical purposes in October 2018, the ways in which Canadians use cannabis have increased and diversified. While some data are being collected to measure the impact of the legalization of non-medical cannabis on public health and safety, knowledge gaps remain. In 2020, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) launched the *Closing the Gaps in Cannabis Research* initiative, which resulted in 19 funded projects. Alongside the rapidly expanding knowledge, however, there remain further opportunities to explore and understand areas of policy and practice impacted by legalization, including those anticipated to be addressed in the upcoming legislative review of the [Cannabis Act](#).

Measuring the impacts of cannabis regulation requires valid and reliable data collection. Multiple data collection instruments gather information about cannabis use in multiple ways. Surveys may ask respondents about use in the past week, month, three months or year. They may define frequent use as daily, near-daily, more than twice a week or weekly. And they may ask for estimates of consumption based on weight, cost or volume of the product. Many surveys do not reflect the increasing variety of cannabis products and methods of consumption available. Agreement to one universal set of measures for all data collection about cannabis use may be an impossible goal, but understanding the variety of measures available and how they have been used is an important step toward increasing comparability among the data being collected.

1.2 About CCSA

CCSA is Canada's only agency with a legislated national mandate to reduce the harms of alcohol and other drugs on Canadians. CCSA was created by an Act of Parliament to provide national leadership to address substance use in Canada. A trusted counsel, CCSA provides guidance to decision makers by harnessing the power of research, curating knowledge and bringing together diverse perspectives. CCSA's strategic core functions include providing leadership, building strategic partnerships, advancing research and mobilizing knowledge. Together with our partners, we help mobilize individual and collective efforts to achieve impact on the major health and social issue of substance use.

1.3 Project Objectives

CCSA is seeking a contractor to conduct an international scan of population surveys that measure patterns of cannabis use and related behaviours (e.g., polysubstance use, driving after cannabis use). The scan will inform the development of a menu of questions for measuring key indicators that will be publicly available. The project deliverable is a report that provides:

- A list of surveys reviewed with information about country and language or languages, sample, frequency and method, including whether the survey is nationally representative; and
- A list of questions categorized and in table form, and indicating the survey or surveys in which they appear.

Proposals must clearly indicate how they respond to the project requirements, the data sources that will be used and how data will be accessed. Proposals should indicate anticipated data gaps or barriers to access and how these will be addressed. Proposals should also include a knowledge mobilization component that provides a plan for disseminating findings.



Note that CCSA requires all proposals to consider the impact of sex, gender, age, equity and diversity in their research.

2.0 Guidelines

2.1 Eligibility

This RFP is an open call to academics, researchers, health practitioners, universities and other stakeholders in the field of substance use and addiction to provide a comprehensive proposal to address the priority areas of cannabis research identified above. Applicants must demonstrate an understanding of cannabis policy and have experience in research methodologies using relevant data sources to conduct evidence-based work.

Successful applicants will be required to complete and submit a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form in order to confirm eligibility for funding.

2.2 Funding

Contract funding will be determined based on project scope, budget and area of focus. To avoid duplication of effort, multiple applicants may be asked to collaborate if proposals are aligned.

CCSA reserves the right to not award funding.

2.3 Proposal Requirements

Proposals should use the structure outlined below.

Cover page (maximum 1 page)

- Project title
- Team member names, titles, affiliations and contact information

Project proposal (maximum 5 pages)

- Background
- Objectives
- Methods
- Timelines
- Key deliverables
- Project impact and significance (maximum 500 words)

Appendices:

- Proposal references (APA format)
- Budget and justification



- Résumés for each member of the project team, indicating relevant experience in cannabis and policy-related research
- A paragraph (maximum 200 words) on how the project will consider sex, gender, age, equity and diversity. CCSA requires all proposals to consider sex, gender, age, equity and diversity as part of their research in order to create more useful and specific evidence, guidance and perspectives for different groups of Canadians. For more information on how to integrate this kind of analysis in research, see [Sex, Gender and Equity Analysis](#).

2.4 Timelines and Responsibilities

Proposals will be reviewed on submission.

- Deadline for submission of proposals: October 29, 2021
- Selection of proposals: November 9, 2021

Preference will be given to proposals with completion dates before March 31, 2022.

3.0 Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Intended impact and significance of the proposed research project
2. Experience, qualifications, relevant subject-matter expertise and research capability of the bidder and the proposed team, if applicable
3. Understanding by the bidder of the project requirements (the research question must align with priority areas and contribute to the objectives outlined in this RFP)
4. Reasonable budget request and justification
5. Proposed methodology, including feasibility and comprehensiveness
6. Suitability and feasibility of project timelines and proposed deliverables
7. Considerations of sex, gender, age, equity and diversity are included in the research plan
8. Overall clarity and presentation of proposal and adherence to the outlined proposal structure

4.0 Submission Process

Application deadline: October 29, 2021

All proposals must be submitted as attachments in digital format through email and received on or before 3:00 p.m. (EDT), Friday, October 29, 2021, by:

Jennifer Noseworthy, Project Coordinator
Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
E-mail: JNoseworthy@ccsa.ca

Bidders are encouraged to indicate to Jennifer Noseworthy their intention to apply prior to submitting their proposals. Bidders are responsible for costs related to developing and submitting proposals, which will not be covered by CCSA.



Please address any questions about this RFP to Jennifer Noseworthy (jnoseworthy@ccsa.ca). CCSA will respond to questions within two business days of receipt. All submitted questions and answers will be circulated to all bidders who have submitted notification of their intention to apply.



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