

#### Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

he above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

#### This report looks at the following areas:

- The impact of COVID-19 on consumer behavior and the recreational cannabis market
- Cannabis format consumption trends
- How brands can satisfy the needs of both high- and low-frequency users
- What consumers want from cannabis products and why

The stress of 2020 directly benefited the recreational cannabis market as both consumption incidence and use frequency increased from one year ago, as did the share of cannabis consumers who say they use cannabis for stress relief. Cannabis companies have the opportunity to increase category engagement with low-dose products for low-frequency consumers and create new accessories that cater to the needs of high-frequency users. Reasons for cannabis use vary among users, yet an interest in using cannabis for sleep and relaxation is shared among virtually all cannabis users, indicating opportunities for products and marketing messages that closely connect cannabis with sleep.

66

"The pandemic upended many industries yet largely benefited the relatively nascent recreational cannabis market as stressed out consumers locked down with cannabis products. Brands have the opportunity to create products that solve the needs of various cannabis users, ranging from first-time to experienced users." – Caleb Bryant, Associate

Director of Food and Drink Reports

| Buy this report now        |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Visit                      | store.mintel.com     |
| EMEA                       | +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 |
| Brazil                     | 0800 095 9094        |
| Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 |                      |
| China                      | +86 (21) 6032 7300   |
| APAC                       | +61 (0) 2 8284 8100  |

#### Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **OVERVIEW**

- What you need to know
- Key issues covered in this Report
- Definition
- COVID-19: market context

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Top takeaways
- Impact of COVID-19 on recreational cannabis Figure 1: Short-, medium- and long-term impact of COVID-19 on recreational cannabis, February 2021
- Challenges
- Inhalable usage slips as respiratory concerns grow
  Figure 2: Trended cannabis format usage, have used in the past three months, 2019 vs 2020, October 2019; November 2020
- **Negative product experiences dissuade experimentation** Figure 3: Cannabis product frustrations, by cannabis consumption frequency, November 2020
- Market growth is hindered by restrictions
- Opportunities
- Pandemic results in a unexpected market boon as stress levels rise

Figure 4: Trended reasons for using cannabis, 2019 vs 2020, October 2019; November 2020

- Non-cannabis brands can capitalize on the growing market Figure 5: Activities after consuming cannabis, November 2020
- **Products should promote explicit mood claims** Figure 6: Product attribute importance, by cannabis consumption frequency, November 2020
- Create products for an aging population
  Figure 7: Consumption motivators among non-users who are open to use, by age, November 2020
- Sleep is a near-universal reason for cannabis use Figure 8: reasons for using cannabis, by age, November 2020

#### THE MARKET - KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Cannabis users fit into a profile but are not a stereotype
- Pandemic supercharges the market
- Inhalables face an image problem
- Positive outlook for cannabis reform

#### What's included

**Executive Summary** 

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

| Visit    | store.mintel.com     |
|----------|----------------------|
| emea     | +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 |
| Brazil   | 0800 095 9094        |
| Americas | +1 (312) 943 5250    |
| China    | +86 (21) 6032 7300   |
| APAC     | +61 (0) 2 8284 8100  |



#### Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

#### CANNABIS CONSUMER DEMOGRAPHICS AND INTERESTS

#### • Cannabis consumers are young, techies and foodies

Figure 9: Cannabis consumers, recreational cannabis consumers and medicinal cannabis consumers, demographic profiles indexed against general population of states with recreational cannabis, November 2020 Figure 10: Cannabis consumers, recreational cannabis consumers, and medicinal cannabis consumers, interests and beliefs, indexed against general population of states with recreational cannabis, November 2020

#### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

Figure 11: Short-, medium- and long-term impact of COVID-19 on recreational cannabis, February 2021

- Lockdown
- Reemergence
- Recovery
- COVID-19: US context

#### **MARKET FACTORS**

• Pandemic leads to market boom as stress levels run high Figure 12: Mental health experiences in the past year, May 2020

Figure 13: Factors contributing to stress, lack of sleep, by generation, May 2020

- Respiratory health concerns dissuade use of inhalables
- Miracle drug or just a lot of smoke?
- Aging population offers opportunities Figure 14: Population by age, 2020-25
- Shifting attitudes toward alcohol may benefit cannabis Figure 15: Cannabis attitudes among non-users, by age, November 2020
- Nascent industry goes through its first recession

#### MARKET FACTORS – THE STATE OF LEGALIZATION

- One in three Americans have access to recreational cannabis as legalization expands
- House passes monumental cannabis bills; federal changes are on the horizon

#### MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

 Make pens and vaporizers approachable for low-frequency users

#### What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

| Visit    | store.mintel.com     |
|----------|----------------------|
| emea     | +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 |
| Brazil   | 0800 095 9094        |
| Americas | +1 (312) 943 5250    |
| China    | +86 (21) 6032 7300   |
| APAC     | +61 (0) 2 8284 8100  |



#### Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

- Flower brands must highlight story, cultivation, and ethical claims
- **Market moods to ease consumers into the category** Figure 16: Product attribute importance, by cannabis consumption frequency, November 2020
- Pandemic forces dispensaries to master online retail

#### COMPANIES AND BRANDS - KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Beverage brands bet on drinkables
- Topicals are ideal for older consumers
- Gadgets solve issues for cannabis users

#### **COMPETITIVE STRATEGIES**

- Cannabis companies toast to drinkables
- Skin in the game: topicals and transdermals can offer consumers relief
- High tech high
- Products offer ease for canna-cooks

#### THE CONSUMER – KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Cannabis use increases as consumers opt for edibles
- Consumers use cannabis for both recreational and medicinal purposes
- New users need simplicity and low-dose products
- Non-cannabis brands can connect with cannabis users
- Medicinal products can bring new consumers into the market

#### TRENDED CANNABIS USE AND FREQUENCY

Stressors of 2020 result in increased substance use
 Figure 17: Trended substance use, 2019 vs 2020, October 2019; November 2020
 Figure 18: Trended cannabis use frequency, 2019 vs 2020, October 2019; November 2020

 Younger consumers are driving the cannabis market forward

Figure 19: Trended substance use, by age, 2019 vs 2020, October 2019; November 2020

#### TRENDED INTEREST IN CANNABIS TRIAL

Openness to use increases, but barriers remain
 Figure 20: Trended cannabis use and openness to use, 2019
 vs 2020, October 2019; November 2020

#### What's included

**Executive Summary** 

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

| Visit    | store.mintel.com     |
|----------|----------------------|
| EMEA     | +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 |
| Brazil   | 0800 095 9094        |
| Americas | +1 (312) 943 5250    |
| China    | +86 (21) 6032 7300   |
| APAC     | +61 (0) 2 8284 8100  |



#### Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 21: Cannabis use and openness to use, by age, November 2020

#### TRENDED REASONS FOR USING CANNABIS

- High stress levels benefit the cannabis market
  Figure 22: Trended reasons for using cannabis, 2019 vs 2020,
  October 2019; November 2020
- Cannabis is a respite for recreational users and a quality of life enhancer for medicinal users
   Figure 23: Reasons for using cannabis, by recreational and

medicinal consumers, November 2020 Products with a medicinal purpose appeal to Hispanics

- Figure 24: Reasons for using cannabis, by race/ethnicity, November 2020
- Younger consumers seek stress relief and recreational benefits

Figure 25: reasons for using cannabis, by age, November 2020

#### TRENDED CANNABIS FORMAT USAGE

- Respiratory health concerns benefit edibles
  Figure 26: Trended cannabis format usage, have used in the past three months, 2019 vs 2020, October 2019; November 2020
- Recreational consumers prefer traditional formats
  Figure 27: Cannabis format usage, have used in the past three months, by recreational and medicinal consumers, November 2020
- High-frequency consumers drive the flower and concentrate markets

Figure 28: Cannabis format usage, have used in the past three months, by cannabis consumption frequency, November 2020

• Drinkables and topicals/transdermals are white-space formats

Figure 29: Format interest, have not used but interested in using, by cannabis consumption frequency, November 2020

#### TYPICAL INGESTIBLE DOSAGE

 Lack of dosage knowledge indicates a need for brands to educate consumers

Figure 30: Typical ingestible dosage, among edible or drinkable users, November 2020

#### What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

| Visit    | store.mintel.com     |
|----------|----------------------|
| emea     | +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 |
| Brazil   | 0800 095 9094        |
| Americas | +1 (312) 943 5250    |
| China    | +86 (21) 6032 7300   |
| APAC     | +61 (0) 2 8284 8100  |



#### Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 31: Typical ingestible dosage, among edible or drinkable users, by cannabis format users, November 2020

#### Medicinal consumers go big

Figure 32: Typical ingestible dosage, among edible or drinkable users, by recreational and medicinal consumers, November 2020

#### **PRODUCT ATTRIBUTE IMPORTANCE**

 Consumers want to know what to expect from a cannabis product

Figure 33: Product attribute importance, November 2020

Market moods to low-use consumers
 Figure 34: Product attribute importance, by cannabis consumption frequency, November 2020
 Figure 35: Product attribute importance, by cannabis format users, November 2020

#### **PRODUCT FRUSTRATIONS**

- Consumers are largely satisfied by current products Figure 36: Cannabis product frustrations, November 2020
- Low-dose products are necessary for new consumers Figure 37: Cannabis product frustrations, by cannabis consumption frequency, November 2020

#### PURCHASING FRUSTRATIONS

Price constraints will ease as the market matures
 Figure 38: Cannabis purchasing/retail frustrations, November 2020

#### CANNABIS CONSUMPTION ACTIVITIES

Tune in

Figure 39: Activities after consuming cannabis, November 2020

• Non-cannabis brands can find ways to connect with cannabis users

Figure 40: Activities after consuming cannabis, by age, November 2020

Figure 41: Activities after consuming cannabis, by age and gender, November 2020

 A desire for sleep is shared among cannabis connoisseurs and newbies alike

Figure 42: Activities after consuming cannabis, by cannabis consumption frequency, November 2020

#### What's included

**Executive Summary** 

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

| Visit    | store.mintel.com     |
|----------|----------------------|
| EMEA     | +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 |
| Brazil   | 0800 095 9094        |
| Americas | +1 (312) 943 5250    |
| China    | +86 (21) 6032 7300   |
| APAC     | +61 (0) 2 8284 8100  |



#### Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

 Brands have an opportunity to market to Black cannabis users

Figure 43: Activities after consuming cannabis, by race/ ethnicity, November 2020

#### CONSUMPTION MOTIVATORS AMONG NON-USERS

Better science can dramatically expand the market
 Figure 44: Consumption motivators among non-users who are open to use, November 2020
 Figure 45: Consumption motivators among non-users who are open to us, by age, November 2020

#### CANNABIS ATTITUDES AMONG NON-USERS

 Public is generally cannabis-positive
 Figure 46: Cannabis attitudes among non-users, by openness to cannabis use, November 2020

#### **APPENDIX – DATA SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS**

- Data sources
- Consumer survey data
- Abbreviations and terms
- Abbreviations

#### **APPENDIX – SUBSTANCE CROSS-UTILIZATION**

• Substance cross-utilization Figure 47: Substance cross utilization, November 2020

#### What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

### Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

| store.mintel.com     |
|----------------------|
| +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 |
| 0800 095 9094        |
| +1 (312) 943 5250    |
| +86 (21) 6032 7300   |
| +61 (0) 2 8284 8100  |
|                      |





## **About Mintel**

Mintel is the **expert in what consumers want and why.** As the world's leading market intelligence agency, our analysis of consumers, markets, product innovation and competitive landscapes provides a unique perspective on global and local economies. Since 1972, our predictive analytics and expert recommendations have enabled our clients to make better business decisions faster

Our purpose is to help businesses and people grow. To find out how we do that, visit **mintel.com**.