



Prevalence and description of kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) use in the United States

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Disclosures:

None

Background

- **Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*)** is tree with opioid compounds.
- DEA declared intent for Schedule I in 2016, postponed.
- Increasing kratom call volume at U.S. poison centers.¹
- Prior user survey describes select demographic and use characteristics - limited generalizability.²
- Unknown prevalence and patterns of kratom use in U.S.

¹Post S, Spiller HA, Chounthirath T, Smith GA. Kratom exposures reported to United States poison control centers: 2011-2017. *Clinical toxicology*. 2019;57(10):847-854

²Grundmann O. Patterns of Kratom use and health impact in the US-Results from an online survey. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2017;176:63-70

Methods

- Data from **NMURx (Survey of Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs) Program**, 2018 Q3.
 - Part of RADARS[®] (Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance)
 - Cross-sectional, non-probability online survey of drug use in U.S. adults.³

NMURx

- *Collects:*
 - Demographics, illicit drug use, non-medical Rx/OTC use.
- *Represents general population:*
 - Survey panels, calibration weighting via raking.
- *Validity optimized:*
 - Anonymous interface, randomization, skip logic, and careless/inattentive response exclusions.

Results

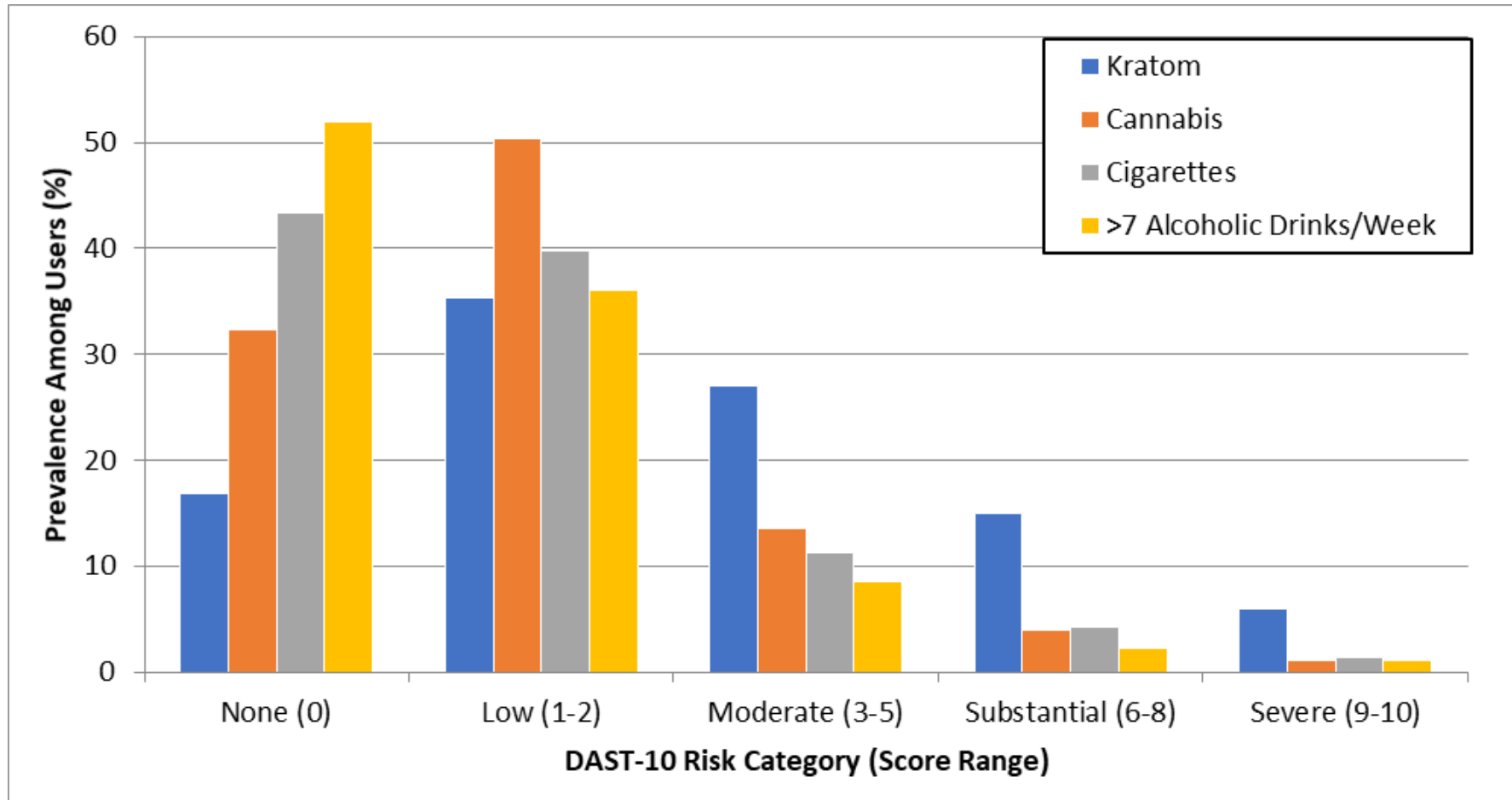
- **Prevalence** of kratom use in past 12 months
 - 0.8% (95%CI 0.7-1.0) = 2,138,148 adults.
- **Lifetime prevalence** of kratom use
 - 1.4% (95%CI 1.2-1.5) = 3,450,995 adults.
- Kratom users: younger, more likely male, healthcare professionals, students.

	Kratom users	Non-kratom users	P value
Age (mean)	36 years	47 years	<0.01
Male	63.7% (95% CI 57.2-70.2)	48.5% (95% CI 47.9-49.2)	<0.01
Healthcare professional	8.8% (95% CI 5.5-12.1)	4.7% (95% CI 4.4-4.9)	<0.01
Current student	12.4% (95% CI 8.3-16.6)	7.7% (95% CI 7.3-8.0)	<0.01

- Kratom users in past 12 months also used:
 - 37.7% (95% CI 31.4-44.0%) non-medically used Rx opioid.
 - 17.8% (95% CI 13.6-22.0%) illicit opioid.
 - 72.6% (95% CI 66.7-78.5) cannabis.
 - 54.8% (95% CI 48.2-61.4%) illicit drug (non-opioid, non-cannabis).

Results

- 21% of kratom users had DAST-10 substantial or severe, vs. 1% of non-kratom users.



Conclusions

- This is first description of kratom use at national level.
- National U.S. prevalence of kratom use in past 12 months is 0.8% (2,138,148 adults).
- Kratom users have high rates of concomitant drug use, and higher scores on a drug abuse screening tool.

