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

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Disclosures:
None
• **Kratom** (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a 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.


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.

• **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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kratom users</th>
<th>Non-kratom users</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean)</td>
<td>36 years</td>
<td>47 years</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>63.7% (95% CI 57.2-70.2)</td>
<td>48.5% (95% CI 47.9-49.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare professional</td>
<td>8.8% (95% CI 5.5-12.1)</td>
<td>4.7% (95% CI 4.4-4.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current student</td>
<td>12.4% (95% CI 8.3-16.6)</td>
<td>7.7% (95% CI 7.3-8.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• 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.