

## Cannabis for Chronic Pain: Surveillance – October 2023

### Objective and Search Period

This document is based on the 2023 update (Surveillance Report 2) of a living systematic evidence report, *Living Systematic Review on Cannabis and Other Plant-Based Treatments for Chronic Pain*, by the Evidence-based Practice Center Program at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).<sup>1</sup>

The review authors sought to identify new eligible controlled clinical trials and observational studies with comparator groups examining the treatment of chronic pain with cannabis. The search was updated from **July 2023 through October 2023**.

### Surveillance Update

The review authors found one new eligible randomized controlled trial<sup>2</sup> during the surveillance period, but it was unlikely to change their conclusions. They also identified one additional observational study which is outside the scope of this report.

See the [updated report](#) for more details.

### References

1. Chou R, Ahmed AY, Bougatsos C, Morasco BJ, Dana T, Fu R. Living Systematic Review on Cannabis and Other Plant-Based Treatments for Chronic Pain: 2023 Update—Surveillance Report 2. (Prepared by the Pacific Northwest Evidence-based Practice Center under Contract No. 75Q80120D00006.) AHRQ Publication No. 24-EHC006. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; January 2024. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23970/AHRQEPCCER250.2023UPDATESR2>. Posted final reports are located on the Effective Health Care Program search page.
2. Hansen JS, Gustavsen S, Roshanisefat H, et al. Cannabis-based medicine for neuropathic pain and spasticity—a multicenter, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial. *Pharmaceuticals (Basel)*. 2023;16(8):1079. doi: <https://doi.org/10.3390/ph16081079>. PMID: 37630995.