Aims
• Investigate whether there are differences in effort-based decision making on the Effort Expenditure for Rewards Task (EEfRT) in frequent adult cannabis users and healthy controls
• Determine whether frequent cannabis users and healthy controls differ in self-reported apathy
• Examine whether behavioral performance on the EEfRT is correlated to self-reported apathy

Methods
• Abstinence from substance use 12 hours prior to the study
• Breathalyzer/urine toxicology screen
• Repeated measures Analysis of Covariance, controlling for depressive symptoms and alcohol use; Spearman’s correlation

Results

Participants
• 30 cannabis users and 30 controls, matched on age, sex, race, ethnicity, income, and education level
• Average age: 22.6 years old

Exclusionary Criteria
• Pregnancy
• Neurological or serious medical conditions requiring treatment
• Current use of prescription psychotropic or steroid medication
• Self-reported medical diagnosis of any psychiatric disorder
• Prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs

Cannabis Users
• Cannabis use on ≥3 days/week in the past year; less than 15 lifetime illicit substance use occasions

Controls
• ≤1 day/month of cannabis use in the past year
• No past month cannabis use, heavy drinking, or lifetime illicit substance use occasions

Summary and Discussion
• Findings do not support amotivational syndrome
• Cannabis users consistently selected high-effort trials across all trial types
• Results suggest cannabis users may have difficulty integrating decision making information or exhibit atypical reward processing
• Self-reported apathy was no longer significantly different between groups after controlling for depressive symptoms and alcohol use, nor was it related to task performance