



Marijuana and Healthcare

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Abstract

The study focuses on the medical effects of marijuana. Brain issues, addiction, cancer, chronic pain, and mental health are some of the matters discussed in the paper. Similarly, the medicinal benefit of marijuana is highlighted, although the research is still in progress [1]. The location of interest is North America, and the participants involve people who have recovered from marijuana addiction, doctors, caregivers, and family members to the individuals suffering from the medical effects of marijuana. Another issue discussed is the hypothesis that once one starts using marijuana, he or she becomes prone to abusing other types of drugs. The study is exhaustive and covers different aspects of the therapeutic effect of marijuana. The conclusion affirms the conformation of the hypotheses, thus making the research a success.

Keywords: Marijuana; Mental health; Addiction; Medical practitioners and rehabilitation.

1. Introduction

Marijuana is one of the drugs abused not only in the United States but also in other parts of the globe. The therapeutic effect of the drugs can be associated with the behavior portrayed by the stoners, where at some points, they might appear to be exceptionally mellow. Impulsive behavior and hostile traits are some of the conducts associated with marijuana use. Brain damage, cancer, addiction, and lung problem are some of the issues related to marijuana use [2]. The research majors on the medical effects of marijuana and the target location are the North American region.

1.1. Hypotheses

1. The use of marijuana causes addiction and brain damage.
2. The abuse of marijuana leads to lung problems and cancer.
3. Chronic pain and the use of other drugs are also the medical effects of marijuana.

2. Methods

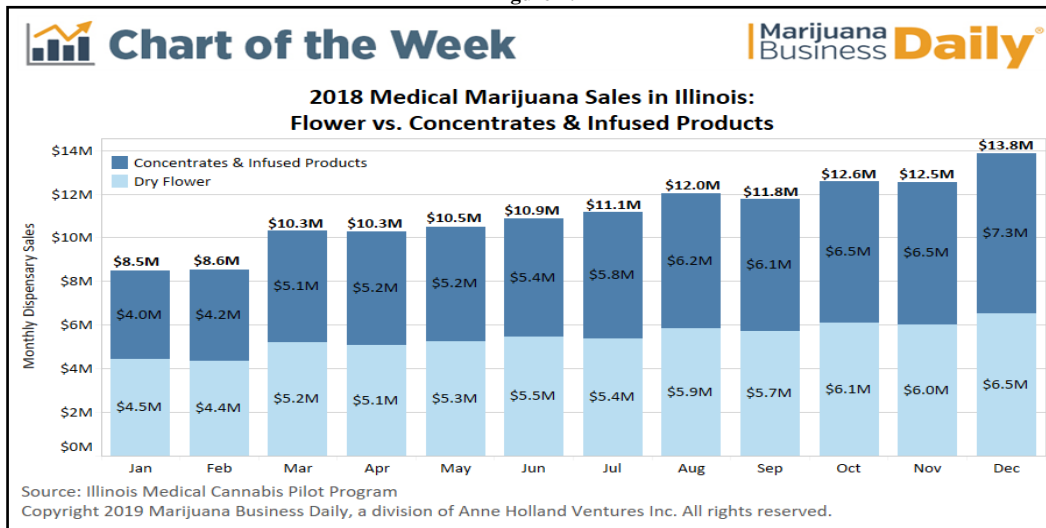
The data collection methods used entailed the use of questionnaires. They provided an excellent means of recording responses without interfering with the work of the individuals participating in the activity. The information was collected from the answers given by medical practitioners, who gave data on the number of victims recorded over the years, and the health effects associated with abusing the drug [3]. Random sampling technique was applied to ensure that the results attained would reflect the reality of the condition of people using marijuana in North America. It was quantitative research, with several hypotheses being tested. The observation technique was also applied after visiting the rehabilitation centers. At the institutions, interviews with the caregivers and family members to the victims helped gather information concerning the topic. The majority of people at the rehab places were victims of marijuana use. The target was to record responses from a total of 200 people, both parents, caregivers, and medical practitioners from both hospitals and rehab centers. Interviews were used to communicate with former marijuana addicts who got a chance to explain the medical effects of the drug. A total of 14 volunteers were willing to share their stories. Different types of data collection methods like the use of questionnaires, interviews, and observation were used in the study to assist in gathering reliable information.

3. Results

According to the information gathered from the healthcare institutions in the state of Illinois, there was a progressive increase in the number of patients with medical illnesses and disorders associated with the use of marijuana [4]. It is due to the constant rise in the level of sales. The chart was used to summarize the idea and make conclusions.

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Figure-1.



Similarly, the medical practitioners were willing to share the information concerning the therapeutic effects of marijuana through answering the questionnaires. The data was transferred into the excel sheet that helped in the analysis of the data. Thus, 70% of the participants indicated that marijuana use affects the brain and causes mental issues. Similarly, 90% of the caregivers and family members in rehab centers admitted that marijuana affected the brain of the victims. They also termed the drug as dangerous due to its irresistible nature once one starts to use, thus leading to addiction. Consequently, 15 doctors admitted to having faced patients with lung problems and cancer, which resulted from the use of marijuana [2]. On the same note, chronic pain was authenticated by eight doctors to be one of the therapeutic effects of marijuana. They confirmed to have dealt with the issue, where the victims complained of prolonged pain despite having undergone the necessary treatment [5]. The matter was also confirmed by 18 caregivers, who affirmed that the victims regularly complained of constant chronic pain.

The persons who agreed to volunteer in the study claimed that they all suffered from addiction. Out of the 14 individuals, ten indicated that their lungs got damaged and suffered from cancer, which was luckily discovered in its early stage [6]. They also used other drugs apart from marijuana. The persons also confirmed that they suffered from mental challenges and sometimes could behave weirdly and not according to the expectations of the public.

4. Discussion

The chart of the week above contains data on marijuana use in the state of Illinois in 2018. The sales of concentrated and infused products rose from \$8.5 million to \$13.8 million between January and December 2018. The chart shows a constant rise in the level of sales. It indicates that the level at which marijuana is used in the state of Illinois, and generally North America, has been increasing over the years [4]. Thus, it can be associated with the rise in the number of people who visit hospitals and rehab centers seeking help from the medical effects of the drug.

According to the data collected, 70% of the medical practitioners confirmed that victims of marijuana use suffered from brain and mental challenges. The drug damages the parts of the brain concerned with memory, attention, learning, decision-making together with emotions [7]. Therefore, the short-term effect of marijuana on the brain includes loss of memory and concentration, especially for individuals who are schooling. On the other hand, there are long-term problems associated with marijuana use. The first one to consider is poor brain development. It is experienced when the person starts abusing marijuana at an early age. During the development process, the connection is lost, and the brain does not develop according to the expectations. Thus, the individual might experience the issue for a long period of time or it could even become a lifetime challenge. According to the fact that emotions, responses, and decision-making skills are affected, the persons are likely to behave in a weird manner.

Therefore, the information given by 90% of the caregivers and family members to the victims interviewed during the process showed that constant use of the drug could damage the brain. It is the reason why most of the victims acted contrary to the expectations of the public [8]. The same applies to addiction. The doctors termed it as one of the medical effects of marijuana. It is one of the most abused drugs in the United States, including the states in the North American region. It is a situation where the victim is unable to act normally without using the product [9]. Thus, the majority of the participants in the survey, including 14 volunteers, affirmed that addiction is a medical effect of marijuana. It can be associated with a situation where the individuals understand the dangers of abusing the drug, but still use it to satisfy the wants of the body.

A total of eight doctors admitted to having dealt with patients suffering from chronic pains that were as a result of using marijuana. People suffering from chronic pain, even marijuana users, hardly benefitted from the medical use of the drug [10]. The research on the benefits is still underway, and at the moment, it is not confirmed that marijuana has a therapeutic benefit in the treatment of chronic pain [5]. The doctors and caregivers indicated that the victims complained of chronic pain, even after taking the drug to relieve themselves from the situation [11].

Out of the 14 volunteers who were ex-addicts of marijuana, 10 confirmed that their lungs suffered from the abuse of the drug, and got cancer. Marijuana leads to lung problems as the active chemical, cannabinoids, enters into the body together with the smoke (Martinašek). Thus, it affects not only the central nervous system of the body but

also vital organs like the lungs. The smoke also interferes with the alveoli making the victims experience difficulties in breathing. On the same note, the cannabinoids are associated with testicular cancer [12]. Although there are claims that the two are related, scientists still work hard to prove that cancer is associated with smoking marijuana. Similarly, the use of the drug in cancer treatment by depositing cannabinoids into the body system is still a debatable matter [13].

In general, although marijuana is legalized in most parts of North America, it still has a medical effect on the people. Most college students are unable to continue with their studies once they start using the drug [14]. It negatively affects the brain in the areas of learning ability, memory retention, and attentiveness. As a result, the students lose interest in learning and focus on other irrelevant matters. Others suffered from dependence and addiction, which limits their ability to comprehend concepts in class. Memory loss leads to difficulties in reading, as the persons are unable to remember what they read, or the ideas taught in class [13]. Thus, they record poor results after examinations and opt to drop out of school.

The decision-making ability of the victims of marijuana abuse is affected. It is one of the mental issues associated with the abuse of the drug. The doctors affirmed that 70% of the individuals using the medicine suffered from psychological problems that deny them the ability to behave normally [12]. They always act contrary to societal expectations. They might face rejection and even judged by the community when the conduct of the drug abusers is beyond the tolerable level. The fact that marijuana users also abuse other drugs can be explained through the lack of control. The victims are said to have poor decision-making skills. Thus, the majority opt for drugs as a remedy for different situations.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the hypotheses were proved. Brain damage and addiction are some of the medical effects of marijuana. Similarly, the study has demonstrated that lung damage and cancer are also some of the challenges faced by marijuana users. Lastly, chronic pain and the use of other drugs is seen as an effect of marijuana abuse. Marijuana is a dangerous drug that has many disadvantages on the body compared to the few benefits. The society should embrace drug addicts and help them get the necessary help. They should also be taken to rehabilitation centers where they can learn and be able to stop using marijuana.

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