

9-2021

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Recommended Citation

Cappa, Jennifer I., "Medicinal & Recreational Marijuana in The United States of America Research" (2021).
Sociology Undergraduate Work. 2.
https://digitalshowcase.oru.edu/soc_undergrad_work/2

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Medicinal & Recreational Marijuana in The United States of America Research
Medicinal & Recreational Marijuana in The United States of America Research, Presented to

Dean Calvin Easterling & Doctor Nathan French, Graduate
Institutional Research Department Oral Roberts University

In Partial Fulfillment
of The Requirements For The Research Practicum THE 398 — Research Practicum

by Jennifer I. Cappa

September 2021

I. Introduction:

This academic article is written on behalf of Dean Calvin Easterling of the Sociology as well as Institutional Effectiveness Department of Research by his teacher's assistant Jennifer Isabella Cappa.

The purpose of this article is to compare and to contrast the recently legalized drug of Marijuana, which has been a subject of controversy since its initial discovery and introduction to the United States.

II. Synthetic Canaboids; A Risky Alternative¹

To begin a cheaper alternative discovered by Doctor Jonathon William Huffman, an organic chemist of Clemson University, is a synthetic alternative. This alternative to recreational marijuana is synthetic canaboids as they are inexpensive, easily obtained, and are not traced in urine tests. Many users are highly likely to take the synthetic as well as regular marijuana after using the synthetic as synthetic canaboids have a similar chemical composition to regular cannabis and cannabis based products. These vary in that synthetics have a larger risk for the user as they may result in; kidney damage, heart failure, psychosis and death.

This may be prevented by looking for signs of depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, violent behavior, and general mental instability. This should be searched for specifically in adolescents as the main users of this are teenagers with mental illnesses who are depressed and

¹ Medical Risks of Marijuana, edited by Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) American, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2017. ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/oru-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5439447> Created from oru-ebooks on 2021-09-08 16:16:58.

suicidal (those who are considering suicide and those who have attempted). As this drug also inhibits behaviors and emotions there has been an increase in violent and depressive behavior in users, “Our findings indicate that prevention and intervention efforts may benefit from targeting depressive symptoms and alcohol and marijuana use to potentially reduce adolescent use of SCs. Given our findings that marijuana is temporally predictive of SC use, but not vice versa...”

III. A Brief History of The Legal Complexities²

Although it had been discovered in thirteen twenty Ethiopia by cannabis based substance and was first introduced to the United States of America in the nineteen tens after the Mexican Revolution, it had later become popularized by the “beat generation” of the nineteen fifties who had implemented the beliefs of recreational drugs specializing in marijuana as well as hemp, they had focused on the implementation of the “Bohemian” culture becoming assimilated into the United States’ culture.

This had been done illegally for the most part (it was illegal in twenty nine out of the fifty states) following the ban as well as prohibition in the nineteen thirties which had undergone nullification and revocation after the great depression which had endured from August nineteen twenty nine until March of nineteen thirty three. Whereas the drug had been undergoing bans until the famous Marijuana Tax Act of October first in nineteen thirty seven.

IV. Legalization in 19/50 States

² McNearney, Allison. “The Complicated History of Cannabis in the US.” *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, April 20, 2018. Last modified April 20, 2018. Accessed September 15, 2021. <https://www.history.com/news/marijuana-criminalization-reefer-madness-history-flashback>

To begin, marijuana in the United States has been legalized moreover for recreational as well as medicinal use. This drug has been legalized in nineteen of the fifty states; those states are as follows (1) Colorado, (2) Alaska, (3) Washington, (4) Oregon, (5) Washington D.C., (6) California, (7) Maine, (8) Massachusetts, (9) Nevada, (10) Michigan, (11) Vermont, (12) Connecticut, (13) Illinois, (14) Arizona, (15) Montana, (16) New Jersey, (17) New York, (18) Virginia, (19) New Mexico, and in the U.S. governed country of Guam.³

V. Financial Prohibitors & Benefactors:

According to *Economics and Marijuana : Consumption, Pricing and Legalisation* by Kenneth W. Clements , and Xueyan Zhao published by the Cambridge University Press. Factors that may affect the popularity of marijuana in the United States is the profitable and taxable income for legalized marijuana. As the drug when used recreationally can enable addictive behaviors, patterns, the marketability for marijuana is high, and is predicted to be in high demand. With the knowledge that the Cannabis psychoactive compound of THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) contains three to five times more times than the original. Additionally the dab pens that have been modernized contain roughly eighty percent THC.

Factors that also come into play are “The nature of consumers of the product and how the consumption of marijuana and other drugs are interrelated. Intriguing patterns in prices, including quantity discounts, regional disparities in prices and the extent to which marijuana

³ Hansen, Claire, and Horus Alas. *Where Is Marijuana Legal? A Guide to Marijuana Legalization*. U.S News & World Depot, June 6, 2021. Last modified June 6, 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/where-is-marijuana-legal-a-guide-to-marijuana-legalization>

prices have fallen over time. The likely size of the industry. The price sensitivity of consumption of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, beer, wine, spirits and tobacco. The possible implications of decriminalising or legalising marijuana, including the amount of revenue that the government could raise by subjecting it to taxation in a manner similar to that for tobacco and alcohol.”⁴

VI. Health Benefits According To CREDO⁵

A. General Benefits:

Since 2014 medicinal marijuana has been implemented in hospitals and ICU’s, although up until 2013, until then the only way to receive medicinal marijuana was from illegal compounds, as eighty seven percent (as of 2013) of medical schools did not have ECS in their curriculum. Many doctors are uncertain of how to distribute medical marijuana as it is a newer recreational drug with little academic research on legalized affects, best methods, approaches, and certainties as to whether medical marijuana should be recommended. According to pharmacist Jean Antonucci there is specific uncertainty as to, “whether marijuana is the right

⁴ Clements, Kenneth W., and Xueyan Zhao. *Economics and Marijuana : Consumption, Pricing and Legalisation*, Cambridge University Press, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/oru-ebooks/detail.action?docID=471997>

⁵ Overview of the endocannabinoid system. (2021). In G. L. Smith, K. F. Smith, & N. Wright, *Fast facts (Springer Publishing Company: Fast facts about medical cannabis and opioids: minimizing opioid use through cannabis*. Springer Publishing Company. Credo Reference: https://oralroberts.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/spffamcao/overview_of_the_endocannabinoid_system/0?institutionId=5550

way to treat an ailment, what amount is an appropriate dose, or whether a patient should smoke it, eat it, rub it through an oil or vaporize it”⁶

Medicinal Marijuana has been used in place of opioids to minimize pain during medical procedures. Additional positive affects are to work with; movement, emotions, memory, pain, pleasure, and reproduction. To do so and avoid creating hostile responses and emphasizing negative characteristics and behavioral patterns in users, scientists and doctors must regulate the subjects’ reactions. They view their; neuroprotection, aversive memory extinction, hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis modulation, immunomodulation, wake and sleep cycles, blood pressure, bone density, inflammation, tumor surveillance, and reproduction.

B. Specific Treatments:

Seizure control, anxiety reduction (specifically with PTSD victims), asthma or bronchodilation, gastrointestinal disorders.

VII. Health Defects:

Marijuana has been found to have a significant amount of medical defects or consequences that affect users not only in the short term but in the long term as well. Its affects is also subject to the user’s medical history, previous and current drug usage.

⁶ Luthra, S. (2019). As states OK medical marijuana laws, doctors struggle with knowledge gap. In J. J. Gonzalez III, & M. P. McGee (Eds.), *Legal marijuana: perspectives on public benefits, risks and policy approaches*. McFarland. Credo Reference: https://oralroberts.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/mcflegal/as_states_ok_medical_marijuana_laws_doctors_struggle_with_knowledge_gap/0?institutionId=5550

According to the C.D.C. the negative effects as the drug is composed primarily of the same components as tobacco has a risk of scarring lung tissue as well as damaging smaller blood vessels. The main defects are bronchitis, cough, and phlegm production. This is not limited to the main categories of “addiction, brain health, cancer, chronic pain, heart health, lung health, mental health, and poisoning.”⁷

“A recent study, however, found that marijuana-related ED and urgent care (UC) visits to a tertiary care children's hospital system in Colorado increased significantly over a 10-year period among adolescents, “most notably” in the years after the state legalized medical marijuana in 2009 and recreational marijuana in 2014....In the retrospective study, the investigators looked at ED/UC visits from 2005 to 2015 by patients ages 13 through 20 years that were determined to be related to marijuana based on diagnostic codes or positive urine drug screens. There were 4,202 such visits during this period and, in 67%, a behavioral health evaluation was also conducted.”⁸

According to an Oxford study called *The Science of Marijuana*, by Leslie L. Iversen, the negative results of recreational marijuana are the plausibility of while getting stoned, individuals may experience immobility, sleep, hallucinations where the positive or negative experience rely completely on the user's environment. Meaning that the user's personality, mood, and emotional

⁷ “Health Effects of Marijuana.” *Credo Reference*. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention , June 2, 2021. Last modified June 2, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects/index.html>

⁸ Mechcatie, Elizabeth MA, BSN The Impact of Legalization of Medical and Recreational Marijuana, AJN, American Journal of Nursing: July 2018 - Volume 118 - Issue 7 - p 16 doi: 10.1097/01.NAJ.0000541420.13348.d8 https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2018/07000/The_Impact_of_Legalization_of_Medical_and.9.aspx

response to their environment will alter their subjectivity to extreme experiences. Although these effects are common when using marijuana recreationally, there is a low risk of overdosing.⁹

⁹ Iversen, Leslie L.. Science of Marijuana, Oxford University Press, Incorporated, 2001. ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/oru-ebooks/detail.action?docID=430969>

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