

Andrew Leroux
Tokiea Fitzgerald
Benjamin Weiss
Nelson Mongaali

Topic: Does using marijuana prevent an individual from doing well in life?

A. With the growing debate of legalizing marijuana for medical purposes, we find ourselves interested in the validity of claims made by the department of education and various other organizations are true.

Claims including, but not limited to, a decrease in motivation, learning capacity and overall intelligence and so forth, that seem to have little in the way of exhaustive studies to support such claims.

There are several potential clients for such a survey, including organizations such as NORML (a non profit marijuana advocacy group) or even congressional committees that are researching whether the benefits from legalization would outweigh the costs to society.

B. The main question we are proposing to study is the question under "Topic." A brief answer could take the form "while it has been well established that the use of marijuana causes short term memory loss, the percentage of students who admit to using marijuana is not significantly different from the overall population. This implies that there may be other underlying factors that contribute to marijuana users being less successful in school apart from marijuana use, and that perhaps may not sufficiently explain the relative scholastic success of these individuals.

C. There has been a concerted effort in the US for quite some time to monitor the prevalence of drug usage in high schools, however data on institutions of higher education, specifically at prestigious universities like CMU, is lacking. However, there is certainly enough data out there for us to make comparisons of data from CMU to that of the overall population.