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Title: *Assessment of Student Knowledge of Medical Cannabis in Illinois*

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine what areas of need are in cannabis education.

Methods: This study was comprised of two surveys. The initial survey was provided to students who attended an educational seminar with the second survey given after. The surveys were 28 and 29 questions respectively evaluating students' knowledge and confidence in various topics surrounding medical cannabis. The surveys looked at student demographics, knowledge of federal and Illinois law, knowledge of common and adverse effects related to cannabis, pharmacology confidence levels, and opinions on various topics all in relation to cannabis. The post-seminar questionnaire also surveyed students on their preferred method of learning about cannabis education.

Results: 45 students took the pre-survey and 37 completed the post-survey. The survey retention rate was 82%. Students answered the question regarding federal and Illinois law correctly and confidently 71% and 24% of the time and saw a 26% and 61% increase in their post-survey results respectively. Knowledge of qualifying conditions and adverse reactions were correctly and confidently identified 44% and 39% of the time with a 22% and 38% increase in their post-survey results respectively. Students' confidence in speaking about pharmacology topics were rated as confident 13% of the time and saw a 68% increase in their post-survey results. The surveys found student opinions regarding medical cannabis saw little change from pre to post-seminar survey results. The majority of students felt that a required course was the best way to educate future students about medical cannabis is via a required course in pharmacy school.

Conclusion: Educational seminars showed an increase in the overall knowledge and confidence levels students feel in regards to cannabis with little to no impact on their personal opinions. Future research should be conducted to more accurately determine which areas individualized areas of medical cannabis education should be focused on.