Attitudes Toward Illegal Drug Use

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1. How Other-Friends Use Drugs * Friends Drug Use Cross-Tabulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How Other-Friends Use Drugs</th>
<th>Friends Drug Use</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2 Times A Week</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 Times A Week</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Few Weeks</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once A Month</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Development

When researching attitudes toward illegal drug use, our group focused exclusively on freshmen and sophomores at SFA.

3. Objective

In order to understand how these students perceived illegal drugs, we examined what factors may contribute to how these views are formed, developed, or otherwise influenced by a variety of outside forces.

4. Findings

The surrounding circles contain summaries of what we found to be the most pertinent information for explaining the attitudes toward illegal drug use among freshmen and sophomores at SFA, and how those views are formed. Underlined are the four pieces of information that we found to be the most important findings of this study.

5. From the data, we can conclude that the majority still felt that they were not socially acceptable. Also, although respondents perceived prescription drugs as moderately to moderately high for addiction probability, only 5 of our 46 respondents believed prescription medication was the top reason for taking someone else’s prescription medication.

6. Cultural background has very little impact on how students feel about illegal drugs. Ethnicity, geographic location, and religion have some effect on a person’s beliefs, but based on our findings, none of these factors is not enough to be a big contributing factor.

7. From the data, we can conclude that females and those with a high GPA are more likely to want stricter laws than males and those with a low GPA.

8. Life at college doesn’t have a significant impact on changing freshmen and sophomores’ views of illegal drug use. But it does provide the opportunity to open their minds and help broaden their outlook. Views have already been established by the time they reach college, as they become more aware of those beliefs.

9. Although many students are ok with marijuana and believe it should be legalized, most of those same students still think of marijuana first when thinking about illegal drugs. Even though alcohol is considered illegal to those under the age of 21, it is incredibly popular and is found hard core drugs, such as cocaine, meth, and heroin, are not socially acceptable and very addictive. Unexpectedly, most of our respondents viewed marijuana much like they did tobacco. With students finding marijuana socially acceptable as well as less addictive than tobacco, we believe marijuana will continue to grow in popularity as time goes on.

10. Stress, fun, peer pressure, and to escape are the top reasons students believe people use drugs. As time goes on and students are finding hard core drugs, such as cocaine, meth, and heroin, are not socially acceptable and very addictive. Unexpectedly, most of our respondents viewed marijuana much like they did tobacco. With students finding marijuana socially acceptable as well as less addictive than tobacco, we believe marijuana will continue to grow in popularity as time goes on.

11. Although marijuana is the most used illegal drug, with a success rate of 71.1%, only 5 of our 46 respondents believed prescription medication was the top reason for taking someone else’s prescription medication.

12. Cultural background has very little impact on how students feel about illegal drugs. Ethnicity, geographic location, and religion have some effect on a person’s beliefs, but based on our findings, none of these factors is not enough to be a big contributing factor.

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