

Knowledge, attitudes, practices and health effects after the liberalization of cannabis policy in Thailand

The government's marijuana liberalization policy increases Thai people's access to marijuana. Cannabis, on the other hand, can produce a wide range of adverse responses and medicine interactions in individuals. As a result, certain categories of patients, such as the elderly, chronically ill patients, and children, should consume marijuana with caution. The goals of this study are to learn about the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and health impacts of Thai people in Phayao Province.

People aged 18 years and over were surveyed using an online questionnaire that was validated. Samples were randomly recruited according to the proportion of people in each district throughout the province between November 2022-February 2023 and analyzed by descriptive statistics.

The findings revealed that 61 (12.82%) of the 476 respondents used marijuana. 78.78% were female. 47.69% were farmers and 39% had a history of drinking alcohol. The majority of responders had a moderate level of correct marijuana understanding (score 6.01 ± 3.15 out of 10 points) and attitude (score 2.71 ± 0.67 out of 5 points). Marijuana is commonly used to treat only minor ailments. In addition, among the cannabis users, most of the subjects were unaware of adverse effects from their use. Some of them (29.51%) experienced negative impacts from marijuana use and stated that marijuana contributed to societal and household economic problems.

About half of the whole responders has a correct understanding and attitude toward marijuana. They are also worried about the likelihood of undesirable side effects from cannabis use, as well as social and economic issues. As a result, I'd like the government to reexamine the proper usage policy and to

accelerate the development of accurate cannabis information and understanding in the country to provide meaningful value to the people.