Abstract

Over the last several years, many European countries have seen an increase in treatment requests from the public for cannabis use. From 1996 to 2002 demand for treatment has increased by 20%. Although several outside factors have contributed to the trend (reorganizations and changes within health care and treatment systems), a real increase in the number of persons requesting treatment, due to heavy cannabis use has been noted. Those in need are primarily men, young and often students whose cannabis use falls into several distinct patterns of use frequency and in combination with other drugs. In fact, it is possible to distinguish two primary groups of users: the occasional user who is often sent to the treatment facility by law enforcement or family pressure and the intensive user (frequency more than once weekly or daily use) who report to treatment services spontaneously and often have multiple drug use problems. The article shows a comparative analysis of European available data using temporal series and profiles and patterns of use for clients requesting treatment for cannabis use.

Keywords: Treatment Demand, Cannabis, Epidemiology, Trends