Abstract

The National Addiction Surveys conducted between 1988 and 1998 demonstrate that marihuana is among the most consumed illicit drugs in Mexico, not only among the general population but also among both sexes and all age groups. The prevalence of the consumption of this drug has increased significantly from 2.9% in 1988 to 4.7% in 1998, which reveals that the number of people reporting having used marihuana at least once in their life increased to slightly over 2 million in 1998. To evaluate drug consumption, multiple epidemiologic indicators were used taking into account several characteristics of this phenomenon, such as the magnitude of its use, its behavioral tendencies, and the geographic extension of its use. One of these indicators is the “rate” of its continued use, which describes the percentage of those that, after having initiated drug use, continued using it, and also of those who increased its use. This unique opportunity to use data gathered in three of the national surveys (ENA 88, 93, and 98) provides the possibility of analyzing the behavior of marihuana consumption in Mexico, evaluating the main factors that contribute to the initiation and continuation of this practice, and comparing the number of users of this drug in terms of the general population size...

Keywords

Drug use, prevalence, marihuana, surveys.