

CHRD 2024: Abstract Submission Form

Presenter Name

Zina Zaslowski

Presenter Status

Non-Trainee

Role in the project

Design

Analyze Data

Write Abstract

Research Category

Community Health / Policy

Title

Exploring Cannabis-Associated Presentations to Canadian Pediatric Emergency Departments: A Cross Sectional Study

Background

Recreational cannabis was legalized for Canadian adults by the federal government in October 2018. Since legalization, the rates of cannabis use among 16–19-year-olds has considerably increased. Recent studies also found that since October 2018, emergency department (ED) presentations among children under 18 increases. Though knowledge about cannabis exposure in children is increasing, it remains important to determine how emergency physicians are currently diagnosing and treating these children in Canada.

Objective

Our objectives were (1) to understand Canadian pediatric emergency medicine (PEM) providers' training and knowledge of clinical presentation associated with cannabis exposure in children, and (2) to describe pediatric ED presentations related to cannabis exposure across Canada following legalization in 2018.

Methods

In 2021, 230 Pediatric Emergency Research Canada (PERC) network PEM physicians were invited to share about their knowledge, training, and experience with patients presenting with cannabis-associated emergencies. We completed a cross-sectional study using an anonymized online survey administered through REDCap.

Results

Of the 230 physicians invited, 84 (36.5%) completed the survey. Nearly 70% of PEM physicians reported an increase in cannabis-related ED visits since legalization. Over 90% of respondents indicated average or higher knowledge of cannabis-related pediatric emergencies. More than half (57%, n=48) expressed interest in additional training, favoring formal opportunities. The most common ED presentations were decreased consciousness, accidental ingestion, and vomiting. More tests were ordered when cannabis use was unknown during the initial assessment, but treatment plans remained unchanged whether cannabis use was known or not.

Conclusion

Most PEM physicians are managing an increasing number of cannabis-associated ED presentations. PEM providers should improve communication with caregivers around household cannabis use. When caregivers feel comfortable disclosing cannabis presence at home, it can help prevent unnecessary tests and interventions for their children if they present to ED.

Do you have a table/figure to upload?

No

Authors

Name	Email	Role	Profession
Zina Zaslawski	zina.zaslawski@umanitoba.ca	Presenting Author	
Stevi Golden-Plotnik	goldenpl@ualberta.ca	Co Author	
Jessica Steer	jessica.steer@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	
Lynne Warda	lwarda@hsc.mb.ca	Co Author	
Lauren Kelly	lauren.kelly@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	