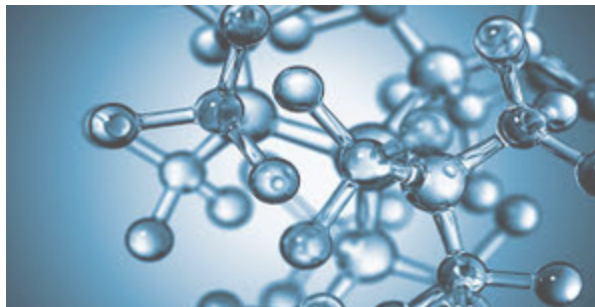


Results of Drug Abuse Survey

Taylor Blackburn



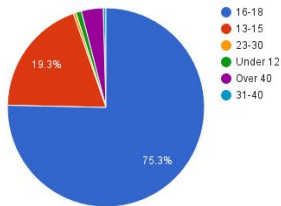
Overall Purpose

I hoped to investigate the large problem in the pharmaceutical industry of drug abuse found in my local community. As an anonymous survey, I received responses from those who could accurately describe their encounters with drug abuse. This survey was intended for the purpose of discovering the accessibility of drugs and what people's experience and opinions are on various topics within drug abuse. I thought it would be interesting to discover how adults and teenagers view that issue in Frisco and if they pursue drug abuse and if they know the harmful effects that are tied to it. I want to discover why people feel the need to stop taking a prescription halfway through their advised dosage or the ties between taking a prescription not medically prescribed by a doctor. I aim to use the research that I have completed to not only enhance my knowledge of drug abuse, but improve my community's understanding of the prevalence and accessibility of drug abuse.

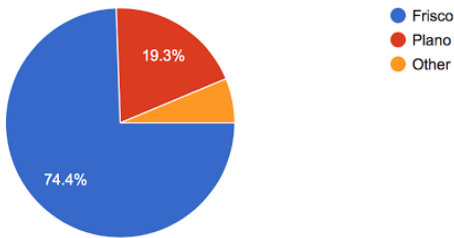
Through the information in my survey and the help of my mentor, I gained a better understanding into drug abuse and its ties into pharmacy that showed the technicalities of hard work and innovation.

Results of Data

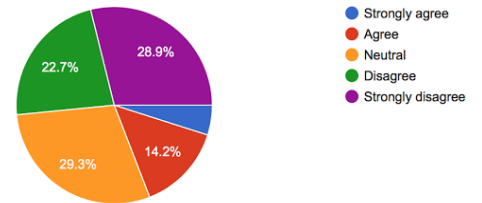
How old are you?



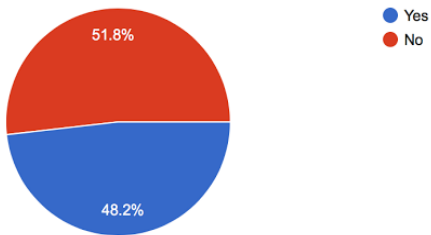
What city do you live in? (223 responses)



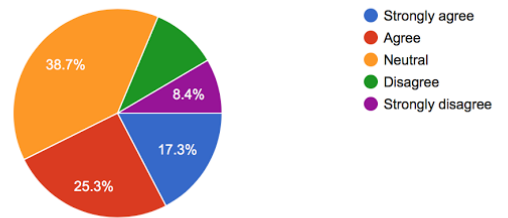
In your opinion, recreational drugs should be legal. (225 responses)



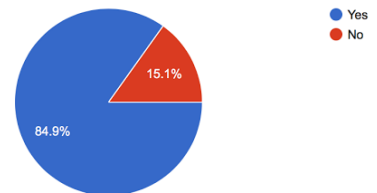
Do you know anyone in your life (family, friends, yourself) who abuses drugs? (224 responses)



In your opinion, medical marijuana should be legal. (225 responses)



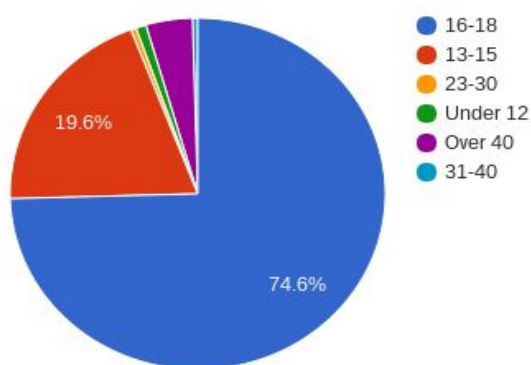
Has a teacher, family member, or other person explained the harmful effects of drug abuse to you? (225 responses)



Analysis of Data

I attained 225 responses from my survey. Most of my total responses were from the ages of 16-18 (75%), so it was beneficial to get the viewpoint from my peers and what they view drug abuse to be and how it affects their lives.

Count of How old are you?



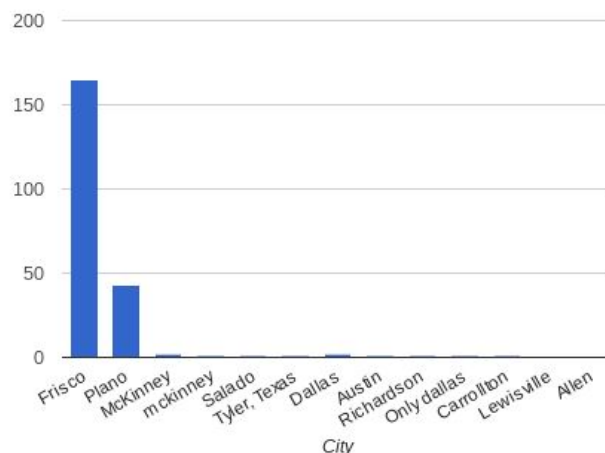
I originally sent out my survey with the intentions of discovering a varied responses from different age groups, but with advice from my mentor I shifted my focus to discovering the accessibility and the qualities of drug abuse in my local area of Frisco.

Approximately 75% were ages 16-18, and 75% respondents lived in Frisco, I was able to conclude that 60% of people found that it was either extremely accessible and accessible to access drugs in North Texas. I found this interesting because according to a Columbia University study, "40 million Americans age 12 and over meet the clinical criteria for addiction involving nicotine, alcohol or other drugs." An estimated additional 80 million people in America are

"risky substance users," meaning that while not addicted, they "use tobacco, alcohol and other drugs in ways that threaten public health and safety."

Because the national population in 2015 was 320,090,857, that means that approximately 37.5% of people were "risky substance abusers." In my drug abuse survey of the 225 respondents, 48% of them said that they knew someone in their life to be involved in drug abuse, whether it be family, friends, or even themselves. This was surprising to me that this was about a 10% jump from the guesstimated national average. There could be some discrepancies between some participants knowing the same people who

What city do you live in?



were involved in drug abuse. Of those that did know someone, 43% said that the most prominent age of the people that they knew that practiced drug abuse was 16-18. Therefore, this suggests that because many of responses were older teens, their peers seemed to be involved in drug abuse. This was further concluded when 60% of respondents said that it was extremely accessible or accessible to obtain drugs in their community.

One of my valuable responses was seeing how people defined drug abuse based upon what their parents taught them and how they interacted with drugs. One of my participants defined it as "when a person uses drugs in excessive amounts and is to the point

where they are no longer in control of their addiction." This definition is from the point of view of a teenager from Frisco which gives a lot of insight of

how they view drug abuse in their community. The quote above was taken from my question in my survey- "Define what you know to be drug abuse." It represents the emotional interpretation offered by those who took this survey. Those who answered in this way think of the effects on others instead of those that just rely on the hard facts of logical thinking. The quote below suggests a more methodical thinking and statistical approach of

"Addiction to the point it is affecting your health and relationships with others or misuse."

"Drug abuse is taking a dosage of drugs that is unhealthy- prescription or recreational drugs. Drug abuse can involve taking prescription drugs that are not yours, or also taking more prescription drugs than you are required to take."

thinking about the points of drug abuse. These responses tended to have qualities of the symptoms of being addicted to drugs or possible causes that led to the occurrence of drug abuse.

With this information I was able to discover from my survey, I hope to make further advances in my research is seeing if this accessibility comes from prescription abuse or a source of recreational drugs in my community. I hope to add more specificity to my data from here on out to generate more pertinent results and further my study into other topics concerning pharmacy and drug abuse.

Sources

Sederer, Lloyd. "A Blind Eye to Addiction." U.S. News & World Report, 1 June 2015. Web. 18 Jan. 2017.

Smith, Kayla. "Addiction Statistics." *Facts on Drug and Alcohol Addiction*. AddictionCenter, 21 Jan. 2016. Web. 20 Jan. 2017.