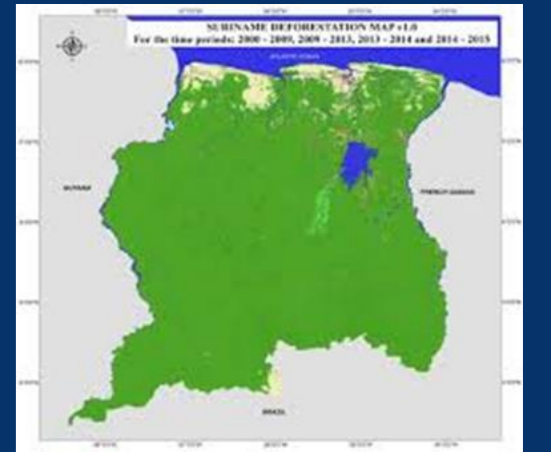


Socio-demographic factors associated with cannabis use among treatment seekers in Suriname

Sabrina Rootharam, MSPH

The National Anti-drug Council of the Directorate of National Security and the Ministry of Health in Suriname



Introduction

- Harmful use of cannabis and the number of people seeking treatment for cannabis related problems are rising in Suriname; a National Household Survey done in 2013 have also shown cannabis to be among the most used drugs.
- A better understanding of the association between cannabis use and socio-demographic factors will provide for more targeted early interventions.

Methods

- Secondary de-identified patient data from 2017-2018 were retrieved from five treatment centers (N=565).
- Binomial logistic regression analyses were done to identify the socio-demographic factors associated with cannabis use among treatment seeking cannabis users (n=342) compared to treatment seeking non users of cannabis (n=223).

Results

- The calculated prevalence of the socio-demographic factors sex, age, educational level and marital status was used to calculate the binomial analysis for significance (Graph I).
- Sex (OR=2.656; 95% CI: 1.045,6.749; p=0.040), age (OR 7.733; 95% CI: 4.802,12.452; p=0.001), educational level (OR=3.117; 95% CI: 1.855, 5.235; p=0.001), and marital status (OR=2.023; 95% CI: 1.240,3.298; p=0.005) were independently associated with cannabis use among the treatment seeking cannabis users compared to treatment seeking non users of cannabis.

Conclusion

- Treatment seeking cannabis users were more than two times more likely to be males, seven times more likely to be in the age category 15-35 years, two times more likely to be single and three times more likely to have no to a lower educational level compared to patients seeking treatment for other harmful substance use.
- These findings will inform the development of an improved prevention program considering the statistical significance of socio-demographic factors associated with cannabis use in this study.

Graph I. Socio-demographic factors of treatment seeking cannabis and non cannabis users (N=565)

