

Selected Personality Traits of Long-term and Regular Cannabis Users



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BACKGROUND: Personality characteristics most commonly associated with marijuana use referred to in the literature include openness to new experience, nonconformity, low conscientiousness, lability and impulsivity. Some papers provided evidence of anxiety and problems with interpersonal relationships. Other studies identified regular marijuana smokers as extrovert, creative, empathetic and socially efficient people. **AIMS:** In this study, we tried to establish the cannabis users' personality profile and compare it with professionals' observations and experience. **METHODS:** Personal characteristics were obtained using the NEO-PI-R self-report inventory and experience of experts in two focus groups. **SAMPLE:** The N_1 sample consisted of 99 long-term and regular cannabis users, 76 men

and 23 women, with an average age of 22.6 years. The N_2 sample was composed of 35 professionals, including 23 school prevention workers and 12 practitioners from low-threshold services. **RESULTS:** The key characteristics identified among cannabis users from our sample included increased extraversion, increased openness to experience and decreased conscientiousness. **CONCLUSIONS:** The results of the quantitative and qualitative parts are mutually consistent and largely agree with theoretical sources.

KEY WORDS: CANNABIS USERS – NEO-PI-R – PERSONALITY TRAITS – MARIJUANA – EDUCATIONAL STAFF – LOW-THRESHOLD WORKERS

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