



A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of the Adolescent Marijuana Delinquent Act Citation (DAC) Program in Hillsborough County

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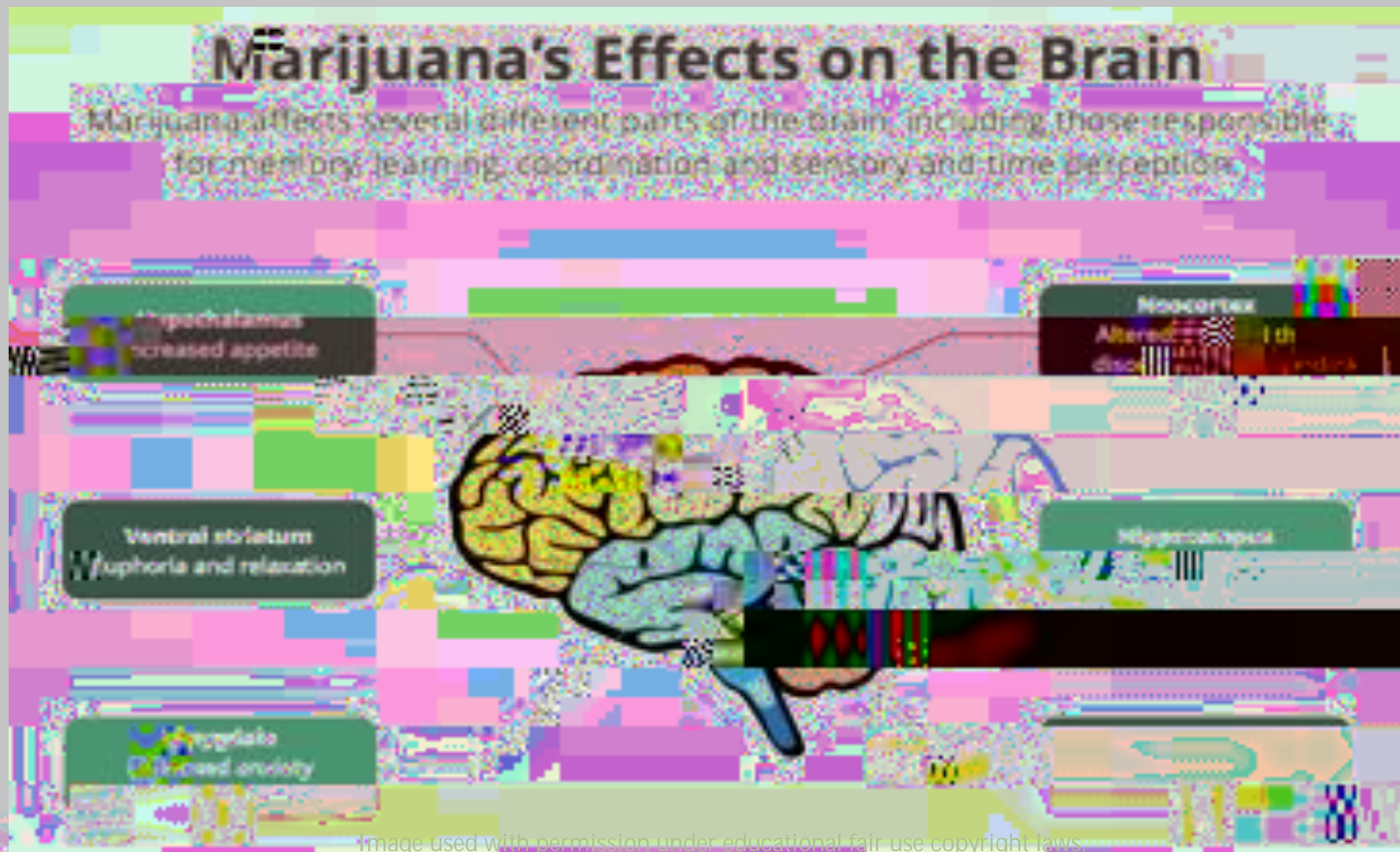
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- ! Purpose of the DAC program
- ! How the DAC program works
- ! Our evaluation of the DAC program
- ! Descriptive statistics of the DAC program and its participants
- ! Strengths of the DAC program
- ! Opportunities for the DAC program going forward
- ! Suggestions and Recommendations
- ! Implications for Adolescent Behavioral Health
- ! Acknowledgements, questions

PURPOSE OF DAC

- ! To provide adolescents with the treatment they need and avoid arrest.
- ! Educate adolescents & families about the harms of marijuana in adolescence.



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HOW DAC WORKS

Law Enforcement

- ! Adolescent is caught and eligibility is determined.
- ! Parental consent is collected in person.
- ! Adolescent is referred to

Adolescent is caught with marijuana or paraphernalia.

Eligibility is determined.

"At that point, the deputy also has to do a little bit of homework as far as whether the child has had a criminal arrest prior to this contact. That would eliminate them from the diversional opportunity."

Parental consent is obtained.

"So, there's the child and the parent or guardian has to agree to participate in the diversion program, and that's part of the

Adolescent is referred to DAC program.

Paperwork must be submitted to JDP by end of officer's shift.

Adolescent must report to
Juvenile Diversion offices
within 24 hours of referral.

Adolescent must report to treatment within 48 hours of court assessment.

Pre-test is given, along with intake assessment.

Level of treatment is determined.

Intervention Services
Education

Outpatient (OP)
Up to 9 hours per week

Intensive Outpatient
(IOP)
Mandatory
9 hours per week

Lasting typically
3-6 months,
dependent
on level.

"We assess them for how they're doing in school, how they're behaving at home or outside of school. We do a medical history, a developmental history. We actually do a substa-1 (hi)J ET Q 2856csf [(Up. (hi)J)c134a-1 (hi1 (of) 1 Q q 0.3



EVALUATION





EVALUATION

- ! Collected pre- and post-tests from adolescent DAC participants
 - " Assessments given during first & final meeting with treatment respectively
 - " Created using subscales from GAIN Q & TCU Adolescent Forms
 - " Assessments are de-identified by treatment staff before being returned
- ! Conducted 17 Key Informant interviews

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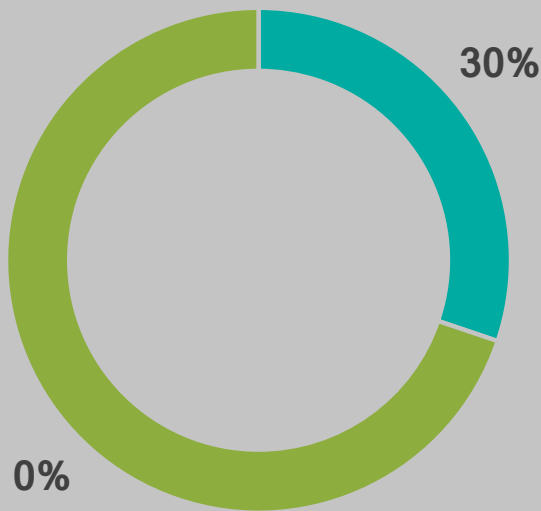
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DESCRIPTIVES

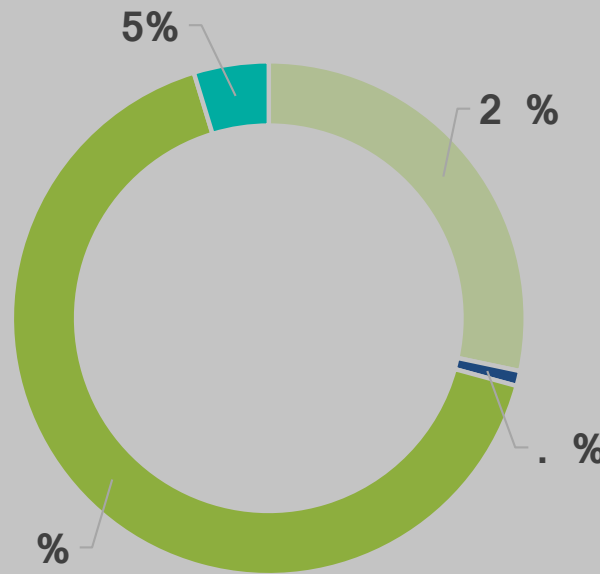
- ! August, 2016 – January, 2017
- ! 106 total cases referred to DAC program

By Gender



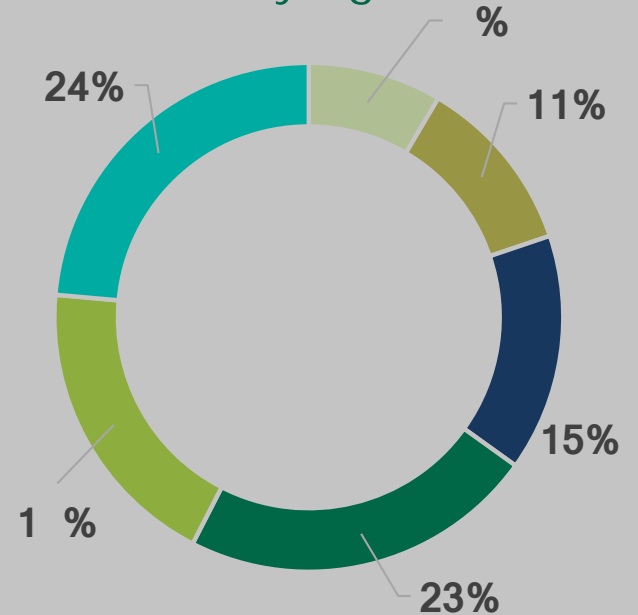
- Female
- Male

By Race



- African American/Black
- Asian
- Caucasian/White
- Other

By Age

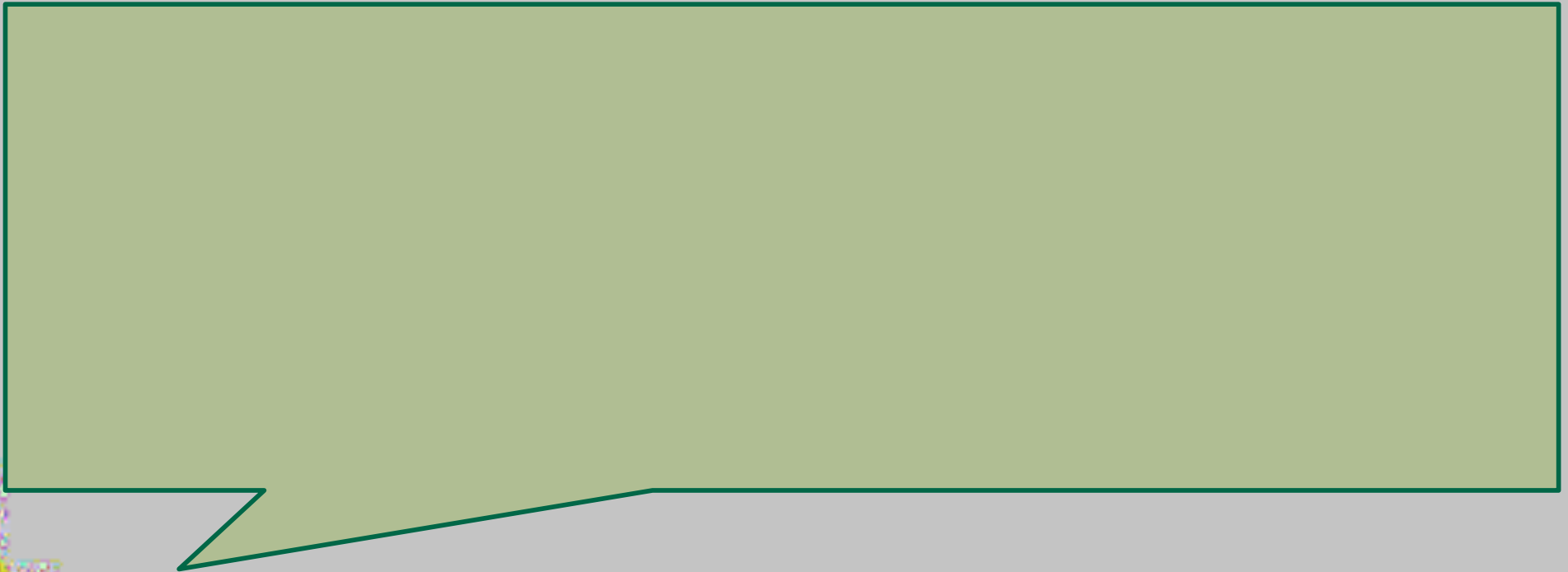


- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17

- ! Opportunity to receive proper treatment quickly without an arrest record.
- ! Determines underlying issues.
- ! Improved collaboration between stakeholders.
- ! Effective communication between court personnel and treatment providers.

DAC STRENGTHS

- ! Underlying issues may be revealed when adolescents are assessed for treatment (e.g., mental health issues, family problems, academic problems, bullying, etc.).



DAC STRENGTHS

- ! Interview respondents commented on the “road blocks” and “working out the kinks” of the DAC program, but progress has been made and level of communication has improved.

“If there’s any issue, or any problems, we were having or anything good, we can communicate back and forth and that actually was something that changed already with this collaboration between other agencies, law enforcement agencies, and everyone involved in it...”

“The ability to be flexible and receptive to feedback, it’s critical, and what I’ve seen so far is that it’s working. In other words, all the



DAC STRENGTHS

"I feel like we have good communication between the Juvenile Diversion and the Juvenile Drug Court Programs about how clients are doing in treatment and what their legal sanctions are and what needs to be completed in order for them to



DAC OPPORTUNITIES

! Easing of restrictive time constraints.

!



DAC OPPORTUNITIES

Time Constraints

- ! Parents and families have 24 hours from the time of referral to report to court for assessment, and 48 hours from the time of assessment to report to treatment.

11



DAC OPPORTUNITIES

Financial Constraints

- ! Parents and families have been unable to choose a provider covered by insurance.





DAC OPPORTUNITIES

Parents and Families

! Knowledge Base

- " DAC overall

- " Options if a family declines to participate in the DAC program.

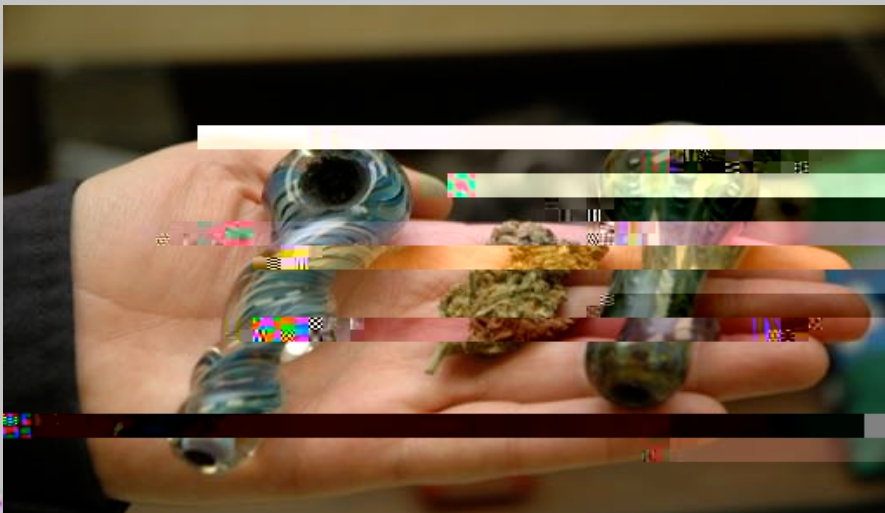
- "

Discretion

! Law Enforcement

" Possession or paraphernalia?

" Eligibility policies for the DAC program prohibit "stacking charges".



Discretion

! Treatment

- " Does the adolescent really need treatment or would in-school prevention and education curriculum be more appropriate?
 - " No "exceptions" after interaction with law enforcement.
- " What is best for the adolescent and their family?

"They're gonna spend at least an hour or 45 minutes there and back, that's two hours, and then two hours in group (therapy).



DAC OPPORTUNITIES

Participation

! Referrals

- " The number of referrals being made to the legal system overall has significantly decreased in recent years.
 - " The number of referrals made to the DAC program is much lower than initially expected.

"



SUGGESTIONS

1. Increase age range for DAC participants up to 25 to address marijuana use on college campuses.

2. Create better communication pathways with schools themselves.

3. Standardize the discretionary power of law enforcement and treatment providers.

4. Provide an "opt out" for

5. Remove the voluntary nature of participation within the DAC program.

REMOVE VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN THE DAC PROGRAM



% More similar to the 9 existing civil citations

% Parents may view lack of discretion favorably

% Ensures adolescents who need treatment receive treatment



& May increase perception of coercion

& May decrease buy-in from families

& May remove desired discretionary authority from stakeholders



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue the DAC program beyond pilot year.

- ! DAC is likely to continue beyond 1-year pilot
 - " Extend reach without net-widening
 - " Engagement with parents and families
- ! Short- and long-term outcomes
 - " Cost-effectiveness of DAC vs. other juvenile justice
 - " Cost-benefit analysis
 - " Recidivism rates
 - " Program efficacy
- ! Future Research
 - " Compare data with similar programs elsewhere (e.g., Miami-Dade County)



REFERENCES

Comprehensive Accountability Report: Delinquency Intake 2014-2015

2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

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Journal

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Institute
for Transitional
Research
in Adolescent Behavioral Health

DACE

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Price House
Living Above Addiction

