How beneficial and accessible will medical marijuana be, as opposed to recreational marijuana?

Cannabis in The C.N.M.I

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“Northern Marijuana Islands.” As of September 21, 2018, Governor Ralph Torres has passed Bill 20-62 which legalizes the recreational and medical use of Marijuana in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).This essay proposes a study that looks at the benefits and accessibility of medical marijuana and recreational marijuana. The student researcher also proposes the study of looking into companies that are willing, or interested, in distributing cannabis, as well as the study of the requirements that must be met in order to purchase or acquire cannabis. This is important because the discussion of marijuana legalization is quite an arguable topic amongst the community and within all age ranges, especially the topic of selling marijuana for medicinal purposes.

The student researcher has found 4 non-academic and 3 academic literature sources that provide background on the legalization of marijuana, as well as the medical and recreational use of this substance. The four academic literature sources provide reliable information on cannabis, whether it be recreational use or medicinal use, and also provides information on the pros and cons of using marijuana. The four non-academic sources found includes an article on Bill 20-62 and some sources that provide information on the economic impact of legalized marijuana in other places, such as the United States. With the use of these literature sources, the student researcher has obtained useful and reliable information that will provide the support that this research needs. Other than literature, the student researcher has developed other ways of collecting data through different methodologies.

Non- Academic References

Bridgeman, M. B., & Abazia, D. T. (2018, August 17). Medicinal Cannabis: History, Pharmacology, And Implications for the Acute Care Setting. Retrieved from https://www.ptcommunity.com/journal/article/full/2017/3/180/medicinal-cannabis-history-pharmacology-and-implications-acute-care

Encinares, E. (2018, August 08). Marijuana bill passes House. Retrieved from https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/marijuana-bill-passes-house/

Volkow, N. D., Baler, R. D., Compton, W. M., & Weiss, S. R. (2014, June 05). Adverse Health Effects of Marijuana Use. Retrieved from https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4827335/

Grinspoon, P. (2018, January 09). Medical marijuana. Retrieved from https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/medical-marijuana-2018011513085

National Institute on Drug Abuse. (n.d.). Marijuana as Medicine. Retrieved from https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana-medicine

What is Recreational Marijuana? - Definition from Maxyield. (n.d.). Retrieved October 3, 2018, from https://www.maximumyield.com/definition/4370/recreational-marijuana

Academic References

Vasquez, M. (2016). *Marijuana : Medical Uses, Regulations and Legal Issues*. Hauppauge, New York: Nova Science Publishers, Inc. Retrieved from http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1226236&site=ehost-live

Compton, M. T. (2016). *Marijuana and Mental Health* (Vol. First edition). Arlington, Virginia: American Psychiatric Publishing. Retrieved from http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1610189&site=ehost-live

Johnson, A. T., & United States. (2009). *Medical Marijuana and Marijuana Use*. New York, N.Y.: Nova Science Publishers, Inc. Retrieved from http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=410222&site=ehost-live

The student researcher has developed various methods that will help to obtain data needed for this research study. The first method to collecting data would be through surveys given to students from both Northern Marianas College and Saipan Southern High School. A different survey will be given to the high school students due to the fact that this topic may be inappropriate, and/or administration may not approve of the subject of the survey. The second method will be through interviews to both government officials and one certified doctor. The government officials will be interviewed about the verification processes, as well as purchases made at places other than dispensaries like local stores , that will be done through email due to availability and schedule changes.. Below you will find a tentative schedule for conducting the interviews and sending out the surveys, as well as reading and writing.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **TIME** | **METHODS** | **LOCATION** |
| October 7-11  Reading |  |  | N.M.C |
| *pending* | *pending* | Student/Teacher  Survey | Northern Marianas College |
| *pending* | pending | Interview(email)  With Gov. Officials | N/a |
| *Pending* | *Pending* | Student survey | Saipan Southern High School |

The schedule is subject to change due to any personal change in schedule of the student researcher, as well as the availability of the interviewees. The highschool survey is pending due to the fact that first semester is coming to an end, and teachers need quizzes/exams to go out, as well as grades to be submitted. The schedule is most likely to be finalized once permission is given from both the college and the high school, along with the survey being reviewed and approved by an advisor. The student researcher will also modify the schedule to fit within the 7 week time frame for which the study is to be completed.

The student researcher will be able to complete this study within 7-8 weeks with regards to schedule changes or personal needs. With permission from N.M.C and the government officials, surveys will be given out as soon as possible within a flexible time frame for both students, officials, and the student researcher as well.The literature sources gathered will provide useful information that can be used to either to persuade or inform the audience about this study, and what it is capable of or provide information on where it stands in the community. The study should be approved because this is definitely an arguable topic in the C.N.M.I, as well as a controversial topic. By looking into this the student researcher may gain feedback from the community, hear their concerns, and hopefully provide more ways or methods to which certain conflicts may be resolved if ever there was to be one in the future.