Parts of a Primary Research Article

Title and Author Information
The title provides the main idea of the article and authors are listed, along with their credentials.

Tweaking and Tweeting: Exploring Twitter for Nonmedical Use of a Psychostimulant Drug (Adderall) Among College Students

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Abstract

Background
Adderall is the most commonly abused prescription stimulant among college students. Social media provides a real-time avenue for monitoring public health, specifically for this population.

Objective
This study explores discussion of Adderall on Twitter to identify variations in volume around college exam periods, differences across sets of colleges and universities, and commonly mentioned side effects and co-ingested substances.
Introduction

The mixed salt amphetamine Adderall, commonly prescribed as a treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), is the most commonly abused prescription stimulant among college students [1]. Colleges, as well as medical and dental schools, report abuse rates of stimulant ADHD medications [2,3] ranging from a low of 8.1% to a high of 43% [4,5]. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4% of college students aged 18-22 abused Adderall in the past year [6]. Given high academic expectations and competition in college settings, some students turn to prescription stimulants like Adderall as a study aid to improve concentration and increase mental alertness [7-9]. Rates of nonmedical use or abuse of ADHD drugs tend to be higher at colleges and universities where admission standards are higher [10]. A contributing factor to abuse of ADHD drugs is attention difficulties and the notion that these drugs can help with academic success [11]. DeSantis confirmed this finding and reported a higher tendency toward abuse among fraternity members during periods of high academic stress [12].

Methods

Procedures

Twitter is a popular online social media website in which users post status updates, or “tweets,” that are limited to 140 characters. Public tweets are available and given without expectation of privacy. In addition, Twitter provides an Application Programming Interface (API), enabling programmatic consumption of the data. Specifically, the Twitter streaming API supplies tweets in real-time matching any given filter criteria. For example, using the keyword filter of “Adderall,” all tweets mentioning the substance are collected.
Results

Research findings are presented with results displayed using tables, charts, or figures along with a written explanation.

Note: A results section usually indicates that a study is original research and that the article is a primary source.

Discussion

This study demonstrated the use of Twitter posts (i.e., tweets) as a way to examine Adderall abuse among a sample of college students in the United States. More specifically, the study sought to determine: (1) When do Twitter users typically tweet about Adderall?, (2) To what extent do tweets about Adderall abuse differ among various college clusters in the United States?, (3) What, if any, substances do Twitter users tweet about commonly abusing in combination with Adderall?, and (4) What common side effects are mentioned?

References

