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Abstract (600 word limits)

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Sparkles Ransom, LCSW

Clark Atlanta University, GA 30314, USA

The legalization of marijuana has been an extensively discussed topic for a decade. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) world drug report (2016), over a billion-people aged 15-64 years have indulged in at least one drug in 2014. It is estimated that over 220 million people which represents over 4 percent of the population used marijuana in 2012 (UNODC, 2014). The National Institute on Drug Abuse (2018) reported that within a month over 22 million people had used marijuana being the most common drug used. People have been indulging in some form of drugs dating back to before Christ B.C. with wine. Later, marijuana was used for medicinal use (Brown, 1981). Cannabis, also known as marijuana, the name given by Mexicans is one of the oldest agricultural produce being grown for 5,000 years (Song, 2015). The debate of medicinal vs. recreational use of marijuana and whether the drug is beneficial or harmful is dated back the 1600's. It was in 1996 when California became the first state nationally to legalize medical marijuana, that there was a vast increase of support for medicinal use of marijuana (Song, 2015). As more states attempt to legalize marijuana for both medicinal and recreational purposes, how does that impact policing, state- level revenue, and labour laws?

This review of literature seeks to evaluate and discuss research to understand the impact of the legalization of marijuana. Specifically, it will examine the history of the legalization of marijuana and its significant impact on policing, state-level revenue, and labour laws. The following areas will be discussed, the historical perspective of marijuana; historical policy, medicinal vs. recreational and its state-level economic impact, custody vs. citation, and labour laws

Biography (200 word limit)

Sparkles is currently working on her PhD in Social Work at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA. She is an Emergency Room Social Work Supervisor at Grady Health System. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with years of experience in the field.

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