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Title: MISUSE OF AMPHETAMINE-TYPE-STIMULANTS AMONG SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT IN JORDAN: A NATIONWIDE STUDY.

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Background: Misuse of amphetamine-type-stimulants (ATS) is an increasingly common phenomenon worldwide. Motivated by enhancing academic performance, peer pressure, and seeking pleasure, students in the Middle East are thought to be a high-risk population especially in times where political instability of the region facilitates production and trafficking of such substances

Objective: We conducted a nationwide survey to unveil the burden of ATS misuse among university and senior high-school students in Jordan.

Method: An online survey of university and senior high-school students in Jordan was conducted during the period of January to April 2022. Participants were asked to complete a questionnaire covering sociodemographic characteristics, history of ATS misuse, and motives for misuse among other correlates such as attitudes and perceived effects. Data were coded and entered into SPSS (version 26) for analysis. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression models were used to identify predictors of misuse, in addition to categorical comparisons.

Results: A total of 8,739 students completed the questionnaire with a mean age of 20.40 ± 2.45 years. Of the total respondents, 5.1% reported a lifetime misuse of ATS, whereas 2.1% and 1.3% reported past-year and past-month uses, respectively. Captagon was the most widely reported ATS (2.6%) to be used, followed by cocaine (2.3%). The strongest positive predictors of use included having a positive attitude towards nonmedical stimulant use, misuse of other specified substances, being diagnosed with a personality disorder and living in southern governorates. The most frequently reported motive for use was enhancing academic performance and prolonging studying time.



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Conclusion: This study highlights the prevalence of misuse of ATS among students in Jordan, identifying the characteristics and behaviors that predict students at an increased risk. Efforts should be directed towards raising awareness, increasing access to effective intervention, and implementing necessary policy changes.

Keywords: substance misuse, stimulant misuse, amphetamine-type-stimulants, students, prevalence, Jordan.



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