Cannabis Use Screening in Student Health Primary Care

Objective: To conduct a systematic review of screening for cannabis use with college-aged

individuals in student health primary care. College students have the highest rates of cannabis

use. Methods: Via PRISMA guidelines, four databases were searched, as well as references,

between 2012-2022. Results: There were no high-quality studies of screening within the

university setting; all were single-setting specific. Three themes emerged from analysis. The

Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) dominated as the

screening instrument used. Both clinician-structured and non-clinician structured formats were

efficacious for this population and setting. Screening and brief interventions were deemed

feasible but research on brief interventions for cannabis use were mixed. Conclusions: The

ASSIST was the most frequently incorporated instrument. More research is needed to test

efficacy of short-term brief interventions (SBI) for cannabis use in college health, including what

factors contribute to, or are predictive of, response to SBI.

Keywords: cannabis; screen; student health; primary care; ASSIST