

Differential effects of urgency and sensation seeking on cannabis use and related problems via motives

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INTRODUCTION

- Impulsivity is a multidimensional construct in which existing evidence indicates that specific facets demonstrate differential associations with aspects of substance use
- However, work examining facets and their relation to cannabis use is more limited
- Motivational models suggest that motives are amongst the most proximal predictors of substance use and serve as the mediator through which other variables influence use and related behaviors
- The current study assessed the relation between three facets of impulsivity that have demonstrated compelling associations with cannabis use: positive urgency (PU), negative urgency (NU), and sensation seeking (SS), and their association with frequency of cannabis use and related consequences via motives

METHOD

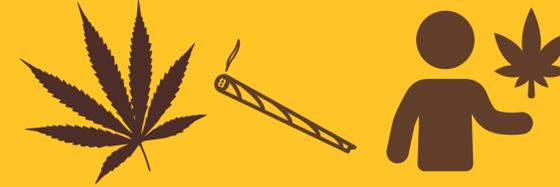
- College students ($N= 652$; 72.2% female; $M_{age}=19.58$) reporting past-month cannabis use were recruited from seven universities across the U.S.
- Online data was collected assessing frequency of past-month cannabis use (Marijuana Use Grid), number of cannabis use-related problems (Brief Marijuana Consequences Questionnaire; BMACQ), facets of impulsivity (UPPSP Impulsive Behavior Scale; UPPSP), and cannabis use motives (Comprehensive Marijuana Motives Questionnaire; CMMQ)

RESULTS

- A bootstrapped path analysis was conducted in which NU, PU, and SS were examined as simultaneous predictors of pastmonth cannabis-related problems via parallel mediators of enjoyment, coping, and social anxiety motives, and via past month cannabis use
 - Three indirect effects each were found for PU and NU
 - Social anxiety motives positively mediated the association between urgency and frequency of pastmonth cannabis use
 - Coping motives positively mediated the association between urgency and cannabis-related problems
 - A serial mediation effect such that urgency was positively associated with anxiety motives, which in turn were associated with higher frequency of past month use, which was associated with greater cannabis-related problems
- Two indirect effects were found for SS
 - Enjoyment motives positively mediated the association between SS and frequency of past-month use
 - A serial mediation effect such that SS was positively associated with enjoyment motives, which in turn were associated with higher frequency of past month use, which was associated with greater cannabis-related problems

DISCUSSION

- Individuals high in urgency who endorse using cannabis to reduce or avoid feelings of negative affect may be at greater risk for cannabis-related problems
 - Cannabis use as a means of improving one's emotional experience may prevent an individual from engaging in beneficial strategies
- The potential positive effects of cannabis use may be a particularly salient motivation for those high in SS as they tend to seek out more thrilling experiences
- Overall findings suggests that the specific relations between distinct facets of impulsivity and certain use motives may be an important determinant in the development of problematic cannabis use



Distinct facets of impulsivity differentially relate to specific cannabis-use motives and potential for related consequences



Figure 1
Path Model of the Effects of Impulsivity Facet on Cannabis-Related Problems via Motives and Past-Month Cannabis Use

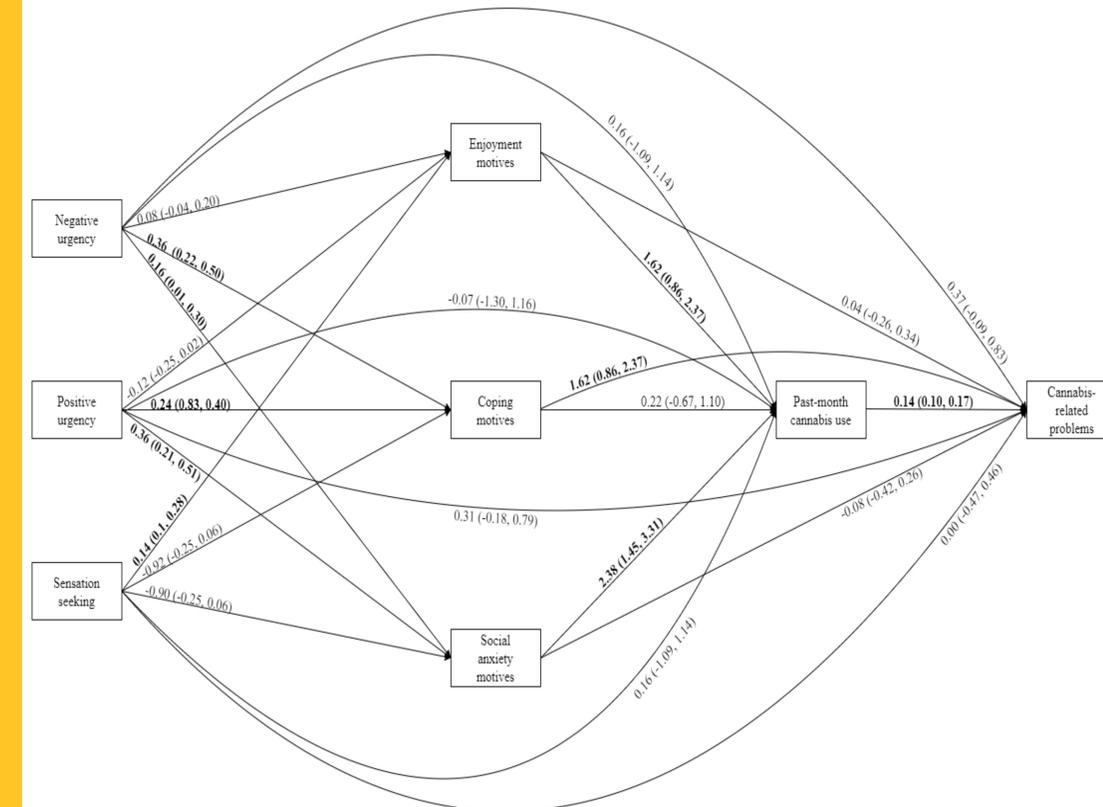


Table 1
Summary of Direct and Indirect Effects of Impulsivity Facet on Cannabis-Related Problems via Motives and Past-Month Cannabis Use

Predictor: Negative Urgency	β	95% CI
Outcome: Cannabis-Related Problems		
Direct	0.37	-0.09, 0.83
Total indirect	0.60	0.33, 0.89
Enjoyment motives	0.00	-0.02, 0.05
Coping motives	0.48	0.30, 0.70
Social anxiety motives	-0.01	-0.10, 0.03
Past-month use	0.05	-0.10, 0.21
Enjoyment motives – Past-month use	0.02	-0.01, 0.05
Coping motives – Past-month use	0.01	-0.01, 0.54
Social anxiety motives – Past-month use	0.05	0.01, 0.12
Predictor: Positive Urgency	β	95% CI
Outcome: Cannabis-Related Problems		
Direct	0.31	-0.20, 0.80
Total indirect	0.40	0.06, 0.70
Enjoyment motives	-0.00	-0.06, 0.03
Coping motives	0.31	0.11, 0.55
Social anxiety motives	-0.03	-0.16, 0.10
Past-month use	-0.10	-0.20, 0.17
Enjoyment motives – Past-month use	-0.03	-0.08, 0.00
Coping motives – Past-month use	0.01	-0.02, 0.04
Social anxiety motives – Past-month use	0.12	0.60, 0.21
Predictor: Sensation Seeking	β	95% CI
Outcome: Cannabis-Related Problems		
Direct	-0.00	-0.47, 0.46
Total indirect	-0.09	-0.40, 0.21
Enjoyment motives	0.01	-0.04, 0.10
Coping motives	-0.12	-0.33, 0.10
Social anxiety motives	0.01	-0.02, 0.07
Past-month use	0.02	-0.15, 0.20
Enjoyment motives – Past-month use	0.03	0.01, 0.10
Coping motives – Past-month use	-0.00	-0.03, 0.01
Social anxiety motives – Past-month use	-0.03	-0.09, 0.02