

CHAPTER IV :FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

This chapter describes the analyses of the data collected from Police officers and drug addicts in the Kuala Lumpur area from a questionnaire. A total of 168 valid and usable data were analyzed. It starts with the demographic characteristics of the respondents. After that, the Means comparison and Mann-Whitney U Test. Finally, the analysis of the result is presented.

4.0 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARATERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

This section includes information obtained from respondents' Sociodemographic, socioeconomic and lifestyle profiles. The information contained in these three profiles is gender, race, academic background, employment status and smoking and alcohol lifestyle. A detailed overview of the demographic profiles of the respondents is presented in Table 4.1.

Based on the sample collected through the distribution of questionnaires, 165 (98.21%) respondents were male, and only three (1.79%) were female. For the breakdown of ethnic group, 146 (86.9%) respondents are Malay, 13 (7.74%) are other races, seven (4.17%) respondents are Indian, and two (1.19%) respondents are Chinese. The majority of the respondents have SPM/ STPM/ Matriculation/ Diploma as their highest educational qualification achieved 60 (35.71%). 70 (41.67%) respondents were government employees, and 98 (58.33%) were unemployed.

Table 4.1*The Demographic Profiles of the Respondents.*

		Frequency, n	Percentage, %
Gender	Male	165	98.21
	Female	3	1.79
	Total	168	100
Race	Malay	146	86.90
	Other races	13	7.74
	Indian	7	4.17
	Chinese	2	1.19
	Total	168	100
Higher Qualification	Primary School	0	0
	Secondary School	31	18.45
	SPM/ STPM/ Matriculation/ Diploma	60	35.71
	First Degree	59	35.1
	Second and Third Degree	18	10.71
	Total	168	100
Status	Government Servant	70	41.67
	Working with Private Company	0	0
	Self-employed	0	0
	Unemployed	98	58.33
	Total	168	100

Note: Sample size of $N = 168$.

For smoking and alcohol lifestyle, 116 (69.04%) respondents have an experience with smoking, while 52 (30.96%) do not smoke. Of those smoking, 90 (77.58%) had stopped smoking, and 26 (22.24%) respondents were still smoking, with 23 (88.46%) of them admitting to actively smoking during the 30 days of the study while 3 (11.53%) respondents admitted not smoking during that same period. While 108 (64.29%) respondents have an experience with alcohol, and 98 (90.74%) of that already stop taking alcohol. Of the remaining 10 (9.26%) who still consume alcohol, 9 (90%) admit to having consumed alcohol within 30 days of the survey.

4.1 DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

Prior to analysis, the normality test was conducted. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test is one of the most widely used tests for assessing normality (Oztuna et al., 2006). A Kolmogorov-Smirnov test indicates that the data is not normally distributed ($p < .001$).

The mean of the perceived risk of medical marijuana and acceptance level towards decriminalization of medical marijuana in Malaysia, tested according to each variable, are presented in Table 4.2. All items in perception of medical marijuana use have a mean score of 5.00 to 7.11, with an overall mean is 18.86 ($SD = 8.560$). This indicates that most of the 168 respondents were unsure of the perceived risk of medical marijuana. While the mean score for the decriminalization of medical marijuana is 13.86 ($SD = 4.010$), this indicates that the majority of the 168 respondents agree with decriminalizing medical marijuana in Malaysia.

Table 4.2

Summary of the mean of perception risk of medical marijuana uses and acceptance level towards decriminalization of medical marijuana in Malaysia.

	Mean	Std. Deviation
Perception of Medical Marijuana Use	7.11	3.697
Risk Perception of Medical Marijuana Use	5.72	3.050
Perceptions of Acceptance of Medical Marijuana Use	6.08	3.075
Overall Score Perception Risk of Medical Marijuana Use	18.86	8.560
Acceptance Level Towards Decriminalization of Medical Marijuana	13.86	4.010

Note: Sample size of $N = 168$

4.2 COMPARE MEAN ANALYSIS

Compare mean analysis is done on both groups to see the level of acceptance towards decriminalizing medical marijuana in Malaysia by a group. The mean score for police officers is 13.41 (SD = 3.946), while the mean score for the group of substance abusers is slightly higher (M = 14.18, SD = 4.044). For Compare, the means of the perceived risk of medical marijuana is shown differently, with the mean for police officers (M = 20.97, SD = 7.620) being slightly higher than for substance abusers (M = 17.40, SD = 8.902). The summary of compare mean analysis is detailed in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3

Summary of the compare means of perception risk of medical marijuana uses and acceptance level towards decriminalization of medical marijuana in Malaysia.

		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Perception of Medical Marijuana Use	Substance Abusers	6.50	3.899	.394
	Police Officers	7.97	3.230	.386
Risk Perception of Medical Marijuana Use	Substance Abusers	6.28	2.681	.325
	Police Officers	6.28	2.681	.325
Perceptions of Acceptance of Medical Cannabis Use	Substance Abusers	5.56	3.022	.305
	Police Officers	6.81	3.018	.361
Overall Score of Perception Risk of Medical Marijuana Use	Substance Abusers	17.40	8.902	.899
	Police Officers	20.97	7.620	.924
Acceptance Level Towards Decriminalization of Medical Marijuana	Substance Abusers	14.18	4.044	.409
	Police Officers	13.41	3.946	.475

4.3 MANN-WHITNEY U TEST

A Mann-Whitney U test was conducted to assess whether there is a difference between police officers and substance abusers regarding the acceptance level towards decriminalization of medical marijuana in Malaysia. The results show H1= retains the null hypothesis that there is a significant difference between police officers and substance abusers regarding the acceptance level towards decriminalization of medical marijuana in Malaysia, $z = (-1.728)$, $p = (.084)$. While different results for the perception risk of medical marijuana use where H2 = reject the null hypothesis where there is no significant difference between police officers and substance abusers regarding the perception risk of medical marijuana use, $z = (-2.361)$, $p = (.018)$. The result is presented on Table 4.4.

Table 4.4

Summary of the Mann-Whitney U test of perception risk of medical marijuana uses and acceptance level towards decriminalization of medical marijuana in Malaysia.

	Mann-Whitney U	Wilcoxon W	z	p
Perceptions of Acceptance of Medical Cannabis Use	2571.500	7422.500	-2.795	.005
Perception of Medical Marijuana Use	2631.500	7482.500	-2.593	.010
Risk Perception of Medical Marijuana Use	2611.500	7462.500	-2.597	.015
Overall Score of Perception Risk of Medical Marijuana Use	2615.000	7466.000	-2.361	.018

Acceptance level towards Decriminalization of Medical Marijuana	2854.000	5269.000	-1.728	.084
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Note: Sample size of $N = 168$, $p < 0.05$

4.4 CONCLUSION

A total of 168 respondents consisting of police officers and substance abusers in Kuala Lumpur, answered the questionnaire. The Mann-Whitney U Test has shown a significant difference between police officers and substance abusers regarding the acceptance level towards decriminalizing medical marijuana in Malaysia but no difference between the perception of police officers and substance abusers on the perception risk of medical marijuana use. At the same time, the mean results show no significant score gap between these two groups regarding the level of acceptance towards the decriminalization of medical marijuana in Malaysia, where the level of acceptance for substance abusers is slightly higher than for police officers. In contrast, the perception risk of medical marijuana shows that police officers have a higher risk perception than substance abuse.