
Substance-Use Attitudes, Behaviors, Education and Prevention in Colleges of Pharmacy

Samah AL-Shatnawi

Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan

Among healthcare professionals, substance-use behaviors and disorders greatly affect the provision of healthcare services (e.g. pharmaceutical services). Pharmacists play a central role in medical care and are medication experts, however, they are considered as highly vulnerable to substance-use disorders. Thus, pharmacy practice and patients' health might be threatened. As compared to general college students, research suggests that healthcare professional students are at higher risk for problematic substance-use behaviors. However, less research has examined substance-use among student pharmacists in comparison to other healthcare professional students. This study represents a literature review that describes and summarizes student pharmacists' substance-use behavior in the United States. The purposes of literature review were: to highlight what is known about substance-use behaviors among student pharmacists, and to identify factors that might influence problematic substance-use behaviors among them. This review includes studies completed within US colleges and universities identified through multiple databases. Articles on student pharmacists' substance-use behaviors focusing on substance-use rates or levels, motives for any substance-use, and substance-use related problems were included. The literature search identified 16 studies. Current literature indicates that there are problems with alcohol and other drug use among student pharmacists. Although researchers have found variations in the type and rate of reported substance-use, significant proportions of student pharmacists were identified as being at high risk for substance-use disorders. Findings suggest that pharmacy schools should encourage and stimulate more research in order to implement effective screening and early intervention programs in an effort to address this important student health issue.

Biography:

Dr. Samah AL-Shatnawi Ph.D, is an assistant professor at the Clinical Pharmacy department, Jordan University of Science and Technology. Her research interests span over several areas related administrative pharmacy fields, including pharmaceutical behaviors, behavioral substance use, substance use disorders, and health outcomes. Within Pharmacy Practice, substance-use behaviors and disorders among healthcare professionals (pharmacists and student pharmacists) is one of her favorite research topics.

Samah AL-Shatnawi earned Pharm.D degree from Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Jordan in 2009. Immediately after graduation, she worked as a researcher and teaching assistant at JUST and she was awarded JUST Clinical Pharmacy Research Scholarship (2012-2015) for pursuing her Ph.D. degree. For Ph.D. dissertation, she applied theoretical models and utilized quantitative research methods to study Alcohol Use Behaviors and Outcomes in Professional Student Pharmacists. During her graduation study period, she co-authored articles and several presentations as a primary and secondary author. Currently she is supervising many master-degree students to conduct prospective (primary data) and retrospective (secondary data) research within the field of pharmacy practice.