



## IMPULSIVITY IN COCAINE/CRACK USERS IN THE CITY OF ARAPIRACA IN ALAGOAS

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Currently drug use is as a major problem of global public health, given the diversity of aspects involved in drug abuse, psychoactive substances exert impacts on users, families and community, contributing to damage to the physical and mental health, as well as the socio-economic vulnerability and legal problems. **Objective:** Analyze the degree of cocaine / crack users behavior in Cozy Communities and the Reference Center for Population Homeless (POP Center) located in Arapiraca city in Alagoas. **Methodology:** This is a research with a quantitative approach, performed in Cozy Communities and POP Center, which are distributed in the city of Arapiraca. The instrument used for the production of data was made by means of structured interviews conducted in the period May to July 2018, in its physical space of the institutions, listing the sociodemographic profile and Impulsiveness Scale - BIS 11. For impulsive behavior grade analysis was used to impulsiveness scale - 11 BIS, based on "Ernst Barratt model, which is considered as one of the most important in impulsive behavior explanation". **Results:** The results obtained, the overall score obtained an average of 2.38 were found for each partial average score of the three subdomains impulsiveness, the resulting average motor impulsivity: 2.24 to attentional impulsivity: 2.51 and impulsivity not planning: 2.34. **Conclusion:** This study shows the importance of impulsivity associated with the pattern of use of psychoactive substances.

**Keywords:** Cocaine/crack, behavior, nursing.

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## INTRODUCTION

Before the Fiocruz study commissioned by the National Policy on Drugs, crack consumption and the like in the Brazilian capital, the indirect household survey carried out in 2012, it is estimated that there are in this year's survey, about 370,000 regular users (over 25 days of use in the past 6 months) would represent 0.81% of the total population residing in these districts. Within this number, 370,000 crack users and their counterparts in the Brazilian capital, the northeast region emerges with the largest number of users, 148 thousand about 38.7%, the macro-northeast is just behind the Southeast with 113 000 or 29.6% of drug users in this region<sup>1</sup>.

To think in broader form of drugs, it is characterized as any substance not produced in the body with property changes of mental functions. Be changes in mood, behavior, judgment, perception etc<sup>2</sup>. But in particular, the use of cocaine / crack carries features that clash with its effects on many other drugs, for its high potential for addiction because of the intense craving by stimulating the repetitive and overuse, leaving the user in risky behavior intended the search of the drug, causing social and personal impacts<sup>3</sup>. Therefore the levels of crime and violence by drug addicts, are generally associated with the use of crack and its consequences<sup>4</sup>.

Currently drug use is as a major problem of global public health, given the diversity of aspects involved in drug abuse, psychoactive substances exert impacts on users, families and community, contributing to damage to the physical and mental health, as also the socioeconomic vulnerability and legal problems. The addict is affected by the type of drug and nature of violent behavior, compromising their interaction with the world<sup>5</sup>.

Impulsivity becomes one of the aspects of personality for expressions of violent behavior, it is characterized as a self-inability of the individual, who does not control his actions and behavior, acting unthinkingly, without

measuring the consequences, and this refers to various spheres of your life (personal, social, professional) and may be associated with mental health problems, substance use, problems in relationships and manifestations of acts violent<sup>5</sup>.

Although studies show that the impulsivity is positively associated with violence<sup>6</sup>, not postulate that there is a causal relationship in dependence on cocaine / crack next to impulsivity factors and violence, we believe that in addition to the use of these psychoactive substances, there are also factors such as life history, culture, personality, occupational perspectives that also influence impulsiveness and violent behavior<sup>7</sup>.

There is a complexity to study the relationship between drug use and impulsivity, with respect to the field of violence in the consumption of psychoactive substances such problematic inserted in modern society have plagued families, local, national and international communities, forcing authorities and researchers to give effective responses to such demand<sup>8</sup>.

## OBJECTIVE

Analyze the degree of impulsive behavior from the Impulsiveness Scale - BIS 11, based on Ernst Barratt model of cocaine/crack users in Cozy Communities and the Reference Center for Population Homeless (POP Center) located in the municipality Arapiraca in Alagoas.

## METHODS

This summary refers to a study based on extension project actions: "Health Interventions Of Cocaine Users / Crack In Cozy Communities; Promoting Community Circles ". This is a research with a quantitative approach, performed in Cozy Communities and Specialized Reference Center for Population Homeless (POP Center) which are distributed in the city of Arapiraca, namely Casa Dona Paula, Home Sow and Center Reference for Population Homeless (POP Center), which have as main objectives the rehabilitation and

reintegration of drug addicts. The summary used 25 users for samples, welcomed in institutions. The instrument used for the production of data was made by means of structured interviews conducted in the period May to July 2018.

For the analysis of the degree impulsive behavior was used Impulsiveness Scale - 11 BIS, based on "Ernst Barratt model, which is considered one of the most important in impulsive behavior explanation"<sup>9</sup>. The manifestations of impulsivity are arranged in 30 items that are answered according to the categorization, as follows: 1 = rarely or never; 2 = Occasionally; 3 = frequently; 4 = almost always / always. The score of the scale ranges from 30 to 120 points, and high scores indicate the presence of impulsive behaviors. In addition an overall score, BIS-11 allows the calculation of partial scores relating to three subdomains impulsivity, namely motor impulsivity (Items 2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30 \*), attentional (items 6, 5, 9 \*, 11, 20 \*, 24, 26, 28) and non planning (items 1 \*, 7 \*, 8 \*, 10 \*, 12 \*, 13 \*, 14, 15 \*, 18, 27, 29 \*). Items marked with \* receive the signal inverse score for the calculation of partial and full score (4,3,2,1)<sup>10</sup>.

The inclusion criteria for sample participation, were the participants have a history of cocaine / crack in the last 12 months and who wished to participate. The exclusion criteria, were excluded users who used cocaine / crack for over 12 months and users who were using substances that do not match the purpose of the study. Data analysis was performed using descriptive statistics in Microsoft Excel, version in 2010. The questions were separated according to the scale of impulsiveness subdomains BIS 11. In the partial results for each question, added to all response participants, obtaining therefore its average. The average of each sub-domain was obtained by calculating the average of the questions for each subdomain.

All research bolstered by the ethical conduct, and the research project approved by the

Research Ethics Committee and the Federal University of Alagoas (UFAL) under CAAE No 67643417.3.0000.5013. For participants, the Term of Informed Consent Form (ICF) was introduced, it was arranged in two copies, one copy to the participant and the other held by the researcher. The IC features options including the choice whether or not you need a new consent every future research or waiver of this.

## RESULTS

The study of the impulsive behavior had a sample of 25 subjects, 24 of these (92%) were male and 02 (8%) women. The average age of the population 32.4 (SD 10.3), with a minimum of 18 and maximum of 55 years. Considering the institution that welcomes drug users to treatment 11 (44%) belong to the subject POP center and 14 (56%) subjects in host communities. With respect to location area 21 (84%) participants are in the urban area, and only 4 (16%) reside in rural areas.

The results obtained, the overall score obtained an average of 2.38 were found for each partial average score of the three subdomains impulsiveness, the resulting average motor impulsivity: 2.24 to attentional impulsivity: 2.51 and impulsivity not planning: 2.34.

According to the profile of the participants, we note that all are multiple drug users where cocaine / crack is their drug of choice. The association of multiple psychoactive substances is associated with higher scores impulsivity<sup>11</sup>. The impulsive behavior of the user of the drug effect can be explained by the association between the use of crack and criminality<sup>12</sup>.

All participants are users of cocaine / crack and make or have made use of other psychoactive substance, and marijuana (92%), alcohol (88%), inhalants (48%), benzodiazepines and inhalants (both 24%), amphetamine and opioids (both 4%), whereas all participants are users multiple drugs.

American studies dealing impulsiveness in marijuana users, psychoactive substance used

by 92% of the sample, relates to the amount of drug used per month and targeted interventions impulsivity are necessary to reduce the problematic use this drug<sup>13</sup>. As for users of alcohol, corresponding to 88% of the participants, impulsiveness is also related to the

amount of drug used, and factors such as age who initiated the use, frequency and excessive consumption<sup>14</sup>.

No studies were found involving the pattern of drug use with impulsivity.

**Table 1 - drug use patterns.**

Variables	N = 25 (100%)
Use multidrug	25 (100)
Drug that has already made use	
Cocaine / crack	25 (100)
Marijuana	23 (92)
Alcohol	22 (88)
Inhalant	12 (48)
benzodiazepine	6 (24)
LSD	6 (24)
Amphetamine	1 (4)
Opioid	1 (4)
Forms of use of cocaine / crack	
Smoked crack mixed with marijuana	15 (60)
Smoked crack with pipe	13 (52)
Crack smoked tobacco	12 (48)
Smoked crack on soft drinks / beer can	8 (32)
Crack smoked plastic cup	2 (8)
Cocaine / crack associated with alcohol	2 (8)
Cocaine suctioned	2 (8)

Source: Author, 2018.

## CONCLUSION

The present study shows the importance of impulsivity associated with the pattern of use of psychoactive substances. In addition to the level of dependency, these substances have a direct influence on impulsive behavior and can lead those users crime.

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