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Quantitative indicators on consume public practices for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the new Uruguayan policy on the regulation of Cannabis on public health and drug use in the border area between Brazil and Uruguay

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An observational, cross-sectional and descriptive study aimed at establishing quantitative indicators to help monitor and evaluate the effects of the new Uruguayan policy of regulating the Cannabis market on aspects of drug use practices in 9 municipalities in the Brazilian border zone with Uruguay. The urban area of each municipality was divided into seven strata for which routes were defined to be covered for seven days, in the morning, afternoon and evening shifts. Between January and March 2016, the data were collected through a semi-structured instrument of observation of consumer practices, which sought to ascertain the profile of the places where the consumption was carried out, as well as the characteristics of the users observed. Data collection was complemented with the application of georeferencing and photographic registration. A total of 667 users of Cannabis were observed, most of whom were young people aged 15 to 25 (84.1%), male (91.7%) and white (65.8%). With predominant use in the night shift (64.2%), being 91.4% the use of shared type. At the time of use it was observed that 21.2% used alcohol and 27.8% tobacco. For a faithful portrayal of patterns of drug use in the border area and possible changes resulting from the new Uruguayan law on Cannabis, annual monitoring of the indicators raised in this study is necessary. This is a part of report on the results obtained from the qualitative-quantitative research entitled "Identification of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the new Uruguayan policy on the regulation of Cannabis on public health and drug use in the border area between Brazil And Uruguay, developed by the Faculty of Nursing (FEn) of the Federal University of Pelotas (UFPEL).

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