

Background

- Marijuana concentrates can contain up to 80% THC,^{1,2} whereas plant-based marijuana averages around 12% THC.²



shatter



wax/budder



oil

- Consumed through vaporization; colloquially called **dabbing**

- Produces a quicker, more intense "high"



use with blow torch



rig

- Users report experiencing increased tolerance and withdrawal symptoms, which could have implications for addiction.³

Purpose of the current study

- To examine dabbing-related content on Twitter and gain insights into the effects experienced after engaging in this behavior.

Methods

- Collected 206,854 tweets containing dabbing-related keywords from January 1 to January 31, 2015 using GNIP (Table 1); randomly choose 5,000 for qualitative analysis.

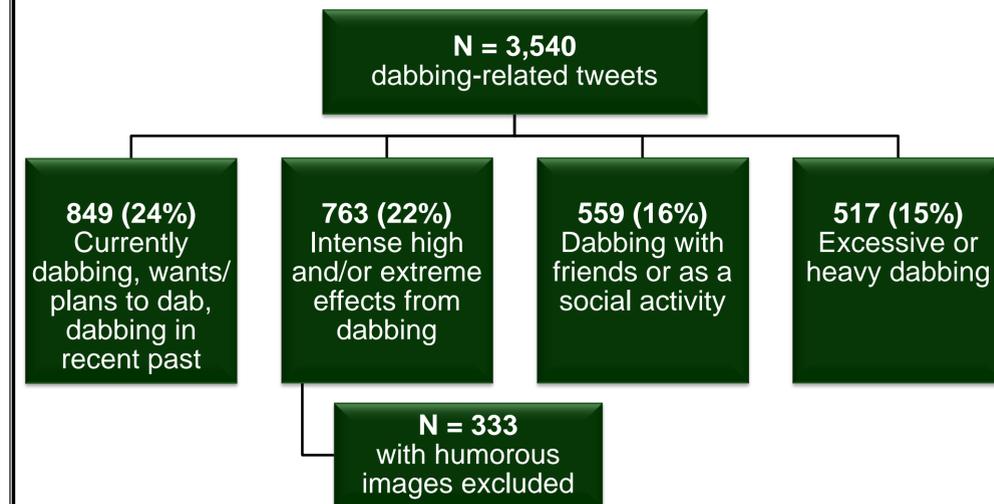
Table 1. Dabbing-related keywords

dab or #dab	"hash oil" or #hashoil
dabs or #dabs	"THC oil"
dabbing or #dabbing	#710
dabbin or #dabbin	shatter or #shatter
dabber or #dabber or dabbers or #dabbers	wax
"dab life" or #dablif	concentrates or #concentrates
oil	shatterday or #shatterday
"honey oil" or #honeyoil	e-nail or #enail

- Tweets unrelated to dabbing marijuana concentrates were removed, resulting in 3,540 tweets to be analyzed for themes developed by the research team

Results

Top dabbing-related themes



Sub-analysis of specific extreme effects from dabbing

Physiological effects n = 124/333 (37%)

Passed out or loss of consciousness
n = 46/333 (14%)



Respiratory effects
n = 30/333 (9%)



Cognitive / Psychological effects n = 55/333 (17%)

Confusion or distorted reality
n = 37/333 (11%)



Memory loss/ forgetfulness
n = 5/333 (2%)



Limitations

- Tweets examined over a one-month period
- Limited keyword list
- Cannot determine if effects are adverse or unwanted versus expected and/or enjoyed
- Unable to determine the extent to which the tweets reflect accurate dabbing use behaviors and effects from dabbing

Conclusions

- Dabbing marijuana concentrates is a popular method of ingesting marijuana, and scientific research is sparse.
- Tweets about heavy and successive dabbing sessions signal tendencies that could align with symptoms of misuse and tolerance.
- Tweets depict numerous physical and mental effects following dabbing, which appear intense in contrast to the milder effects of more traditional forms of marijuana.^{4,5}
- Both the short and long-term health effects of dabbing marijuana concentrates remains widely unknown.
- Future research is needed to pinpoint these more extreme effects and investigate the potential severity of health consequences associated with consuming these highly concentrated forms of marijuana.

References

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