

# Factors influencing knowledge of synthetic cannabinoids – study conducted among future healthcare professionals

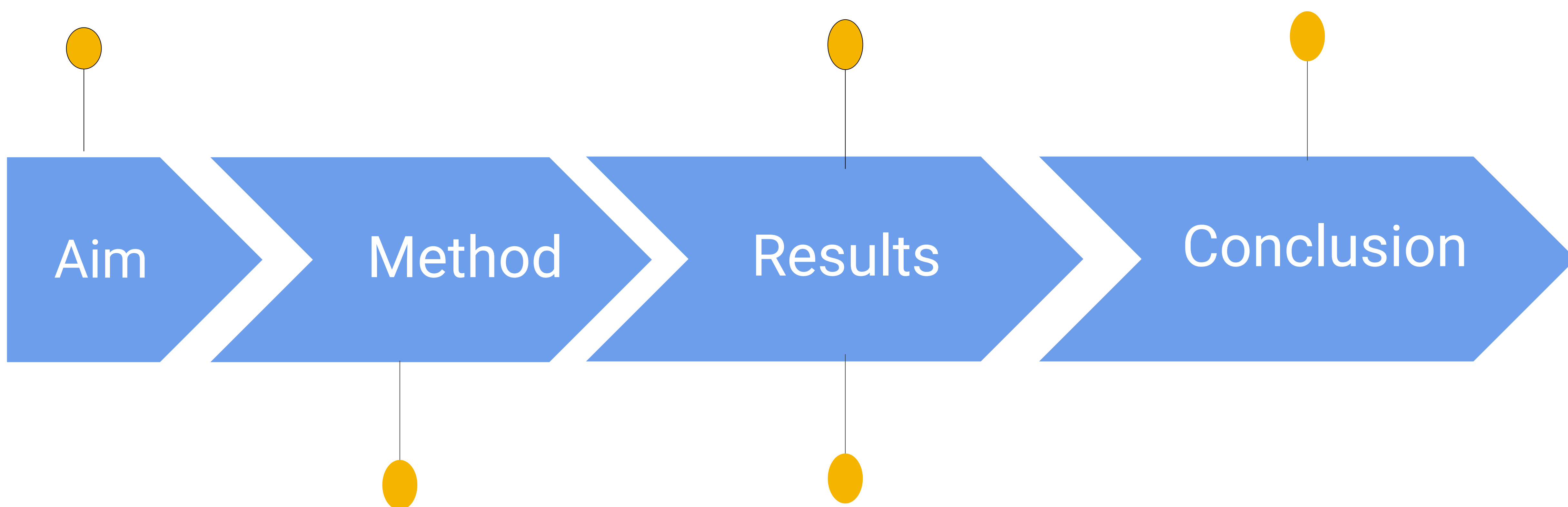
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The aim of this study is to reveal the knowledge of students of healthcare professions regarding SCs and examine factors which influence such expertise.

Forty-nine percent of students answered positively to the question if they knew what SCs were, whereas when they were offered three definitions regarding SCs - 92.2% gave the correct answer, where males knew better than females ( $p=0.014$ ).

Superficiality in students' knowledge and insufficiency of formal education speaks in favor of the necessity for revising curriculum regarding SCs for future health care professionals.



A cross-sectional study among 510 students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy was conducted at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad, Serbia, during 2017 by using a structured questionnaire.

The pharmacy students showed better previous knowledge about SCs in comparison with students of other courses ( $p=0.000$ ) as well as the final year students when compared to those from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study ( $p=0.000$ ).

The repetition of a year level did not affect students knowledge ( $p=0.616$ ).

Students with experience in alcohol usage showed better previous knowledge of SCs in comparison with alcohol non-users ( $p=0.008$ ).

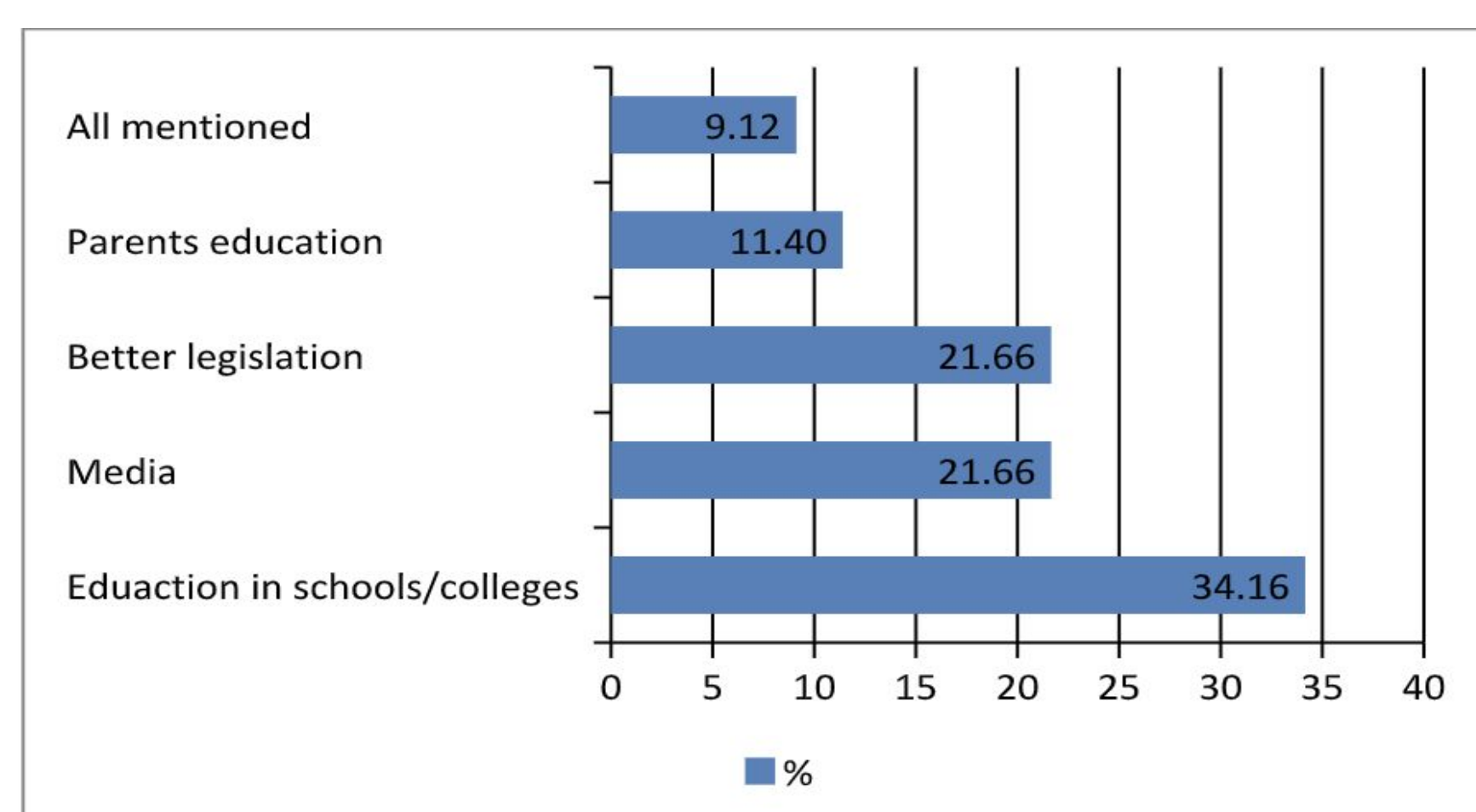


Figure 1. Opinion on the best way how to protect vulnerable populations from the use of SCs.