

Modeling the latent structure of cannabis use disorders: Evidence from an Australian population sample



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INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannabis Use Disorders (CUDs) are clinically heterogeneous¹. This variation between cases may hamper efforts to identify risk factors, evaluate treatment and predict prognosis Latent variable analyses can help to identify homogeneous groups of people Past focus has been on identifying optimal numbers of latent factors <i>or</i> latent classes with conflicting results^{2., 3.} Newer techniques (factor mixture modeling^{4.}) examine the fit of meaningful combinations of factors and classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factor mixture modeling was carried out on self-reported symptoms of CUDs Data came from the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, a large epidemiological survey of psychiatric disorders in the adult population^{5.} (n=8841, aged 16-85) Symptoms were collected with the World Mental Health version of the Composite International Diagnostic Interview A sub-sample of lifetime cannabis users were analyzed (n=1639) 10 different models were fit (see below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the two factor (abuse dependence) FA model fit best the correlation between factors was extremely high (0.921) The three class LCA fit best with classes defined largely by different rates (<i>but not</i> patterns) of symptom endorsement There was inconsistency in the evidence for the best fitting FMM model Some fit indices pointed to the FMM model with three classes and a single (severity) factor within each class Others pointed to the model with one zero class and a single (severity) factor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When comparing all models together a simple unidimensional model was the best fit to the data Mixture models did not provide a superior conceptualization However, mixture models mean researchers are no longer forced to choose between purely dimensional and purely categorical models <p>1. McBride, O. et al. (in press). <i>Journal of Studies in Alcohol and Drugs</i> 2. Blanco et al. (2007). <i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i> 3. Compton et al., (2009). <i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i> 4. Lubke, G. & Muthén, B. (2005). <i>Psychological Methods</i> 5. Slade, T. et al. (2009). <i>Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psych</i> 6. Masyn, K. et al. (2010). <i>Sociological Development</i></p>

