

Prediction of Drug Use in Servicemen

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OBJECTIVES: For a description of the objectives of this study see the Annual Report, date: April 1971—March 1972.

PROGRESS: During this year the first phase of the project was completed. Two hundred and ten soldiers were interviewed. Each filled out the 1200 item questionnaire. From this questionnaire 59 questions were selected which were answered the most differently by the drug user and non-user. Drug user in terms of this report is any individual who has used a drug besides marijuana 25 times or more, or who has used marijuana daily for at least 30 days with some experimentation with other drugs. All other individuals were considered "non-users."

A discriminant analysis based on the response patterns of the two groups indicates that with a *post hoc* classification 92% of individuals can be correctly classified as drug users or non-users. Of the 88 drug users 80 were correctly identified, and of the 95 non-users 87 were correctly classified.

The discriminant weights derived from this analysis will now be applied to scores on the 59 variables, which will have been obtained from naive subjects. The naive subjects will be the first 450 individuals entering USARSUPTHAI starting in the Spring of 1973. Classifications will be made (user or non-user) and after one year of following the troops through personal interview and urinalysis tests, each individual's actual classification will be compared with his predicted classification. This will allow an empirical decision to be made as to the efficacy of this procedure in predicting drug use.

SUMMARY: The first phase of the soldier study has been completed. Fifty-nine variables which separate the user from the non-user of drugs have been isolated. A discriminant analysis based on these variables correctly classifies 92% of subjects (*post hoc*). These discriminant weights will now be applied to a new naive sample of soldiers and the mathematical classification will be compared to the clinical classification.

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