

HLTH 1050 Research Paper Sample Topics

The list of sample topics below was culled from previous HLTH 1050 students' research papers. Many of these require you to select a particular drug. For instance, you could look at the medical or physical effects of drug use with any drug which interests you. Also, many of these topics require you to creatively include the international focus, perhaps by focusing on studies from other countries.

You certainly do not have to choose a topic from this list! This research paper is a great chance for you to explore a topic of your choice. This list is intended to help you brainstorm your topic.

Drug cartels, trafficking, or violence

- Pablo Escobar, the Medellin Cartel, and drug trafficking in Colombia
- Impact of drug cartels on their communities
- Women's roles in drug cartels and drug trafficking
- Drug trafficking between Mexico and the United States
- Drug cartel violence and organized crime

Harm reduction and drug rehabilitation

- Harm reduction strategies
- Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) to treat drug addiction (e.g., methadone)
- Effectiveness of traditional drug rehab programs
- Needle exchange programs and HIV

Drug laws

- Legalization of medical or recreational marijuana (look at laws in other countries)
- The decriminalization / legalization of narcotics in Switzerland
- Effects of legalizing drugs (select a particular drug) or decriminalizing possession of drugs

Drug production

- The global production of cocaine
- Opium production in Afghanistan

Drugs and psychology/mental illness

- The use of ketamine to treat PTSD or depression
- Micro-dosing with LSD or psilocybin to treat mood disorders
- Psychological role of alcohol dependency
- Drug use and suicide (select a particular drug AND a demographic (e.g., teenagers))
- Using drugs to self-medicate mental illnesses

Social/relational/cultural factors and drug use

- The intersections of race and drug use / impact of race on drug treatment
- Partner violence / domestic abuse among drug users
- Adverse childhood experiences and drug use
- Impact of alcoholism on families

- Is drug addiction a product of genetics or the environment?
- The stigma of drug addiction
- Psychedelic drug use and spirituality/religious customs
- Impact of cultural identity on drug use and acceptance (select a particular drug)

Physical effects of drug use

- Maternal drug use and its effect on infants (select a particular drug – e.g., impact of marijuana use by pregnant women on their infants)
- The physical impact of a particular drug on the body (e.g., impact of alcohol on the body)
- Impact of drug use on teenagers (select a particular drug AND focus on medical, developmental, or social impacts)
- The long-term effects of opioid abuse (physical, mental, or social)

Miscellaneous drug use and abuse

- Why prescription opioid abusers transition to heroin
- MDMA (aka. Molly or Ecstasy) and the EDM/rave/party scene
- Uses of medical marijuana
- Abuse of pharmaceutical drugs by the elderly
- The misuse/abuse of ADHD medications (Adderall, Ritalin)