

Opinion: Why is pot still a Schedule I drug?

By Nathaniel P. Morris, Scientific American

On Aug. 11, the Drug Enforcement Administration announced its decision to keep marijuana classified as a Schedule I drug. The federal government has historically referred to this category as the “most dangerous” group of substances, including drugs like heroin and bath salts.

As a resident physician specializing in mental health, I can't make much sense of this.

Every day, I talk to patients about substance abuse. Whether evaluating patients in clinic, in the emergency department, or on inpatient units, my colleagues and I screen patients for substance use. It's a vital component of any clinical interview, particularly in mental health care, and helps us understand patients' habits and their risks for medical complications.

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