**ABSTRACT**

Introduction: Drug addiction is a mental or physical disorder caused by a defect in certain centers of the brain that results in the illegal dependence on medicine. Aims: To assess the drug addiction among people in Baghdad for two years and, to identify any relation between the variables. Method: A retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted at the Life Statistics Center of the Iraqi Ministry of Health within 6 months to obtain the required information according to a questionnaire prepared in advance including gender / date of entry / inpatient in the hospital and outpatient. Information was collected from the records in the same center. The statistical analysis program (STATA) software version 13.0 was used to analyze the data and find any relationship between the variables. Result: Out of 1851 addicted person, in which 66.1% (1223/1851) were male cases and 33.9% (628/1851) were female case. The addicted cases were higher percentage 72.0% (1226/1851) in 2016 more than the cases 30.0% (430+88/1851) in 2017. Conclusion: The male case was more addictive than female case during the study period. There is a statistically signification have been found between the gender and drug addiction among inpatient and outpatient cases the p-value is < 0.00001.

KEYWORD: Addicted, inpatient, Baghdad, gender, year.

**INTRODUCTION**

Drug addiction is a mental or physical disorder caused by a defect in certain centers of the brain that results in the illegal dependence on medicine, although it does not need to be therapeutic, so that the patient feels the urgent need to take these drugs and becomes unable to live without taking these drugs.[1,2]

Despite, the harmful effects that may arise from the addiction of these drugs.[3] Drugs are chemicals that influencing the nerve cells and may lead to dysfunction and have many undesirable side effects.[4] As it is known, the conditions surrounding the person may help addiction, and from these circumstances the material situation, family differences, and that the comrades have a significant role in the spread of addiction among them.[5]

Drugs are chemicals that may bind to brain receptors, rather than neurotransmitters (chemicals that carry nerve orders from the brain to the rest of the body), thus causing neurological dysfunction, feeling of pleasure and addiction.[6] Complications vary according to the drug that the patient is addicted to, but the complications are usually as follows: Addiction may lead to many health and mental problems in the short and long term, as many diseases may arise in the lung, heart and psychological neurological problems that lead to suicide.[7] Some deaths may be due to excessive addiction.[8] Adolescent addiction results in many social, educational and psychological problems.[9] This study aimed to assess the drug addiction among people in Baghdad for two years and, to identify any relation between variables.

**METHODOLOGY**

A retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted at the Life Statistics Center of the Iraqi Ministry of Health within 6 months to obtain the required information according to a questionnaire prepared in advance including gender / date of entry / inpatient in the hospital & outpatient. Information was collected from the records in the same center. If there is a mistake in registration or lack of information, it is excluded from the study. If the data was entered to Excel sheet. The statistical analysis program (STATA) software version 13.0 was used to analyze the data and find any relationship between the variables.

**RESULTS**

Out of 1851 addicted person, in which 66.1% (1223/1851) were male cases and 33.9% (628/1851) were female case. The addicted cases were higher percentage 72.0% (1226/1851) in 2016 more than the cases 30.0% (430+88/1851) in 2017 [Table 1]. There is a statistically signification have been found between the gender and drug addiction the p-value is < 0.00001 [Table1].
Regarding inpatient and outpatient cases, the registration of the outpatient case was higher than inpatient during the study period [Figure 1].

The male addicted were higher than female cases during the study period [Figure 2].

Table 1: Distribution of drug addiction by gender and years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Drug addiction</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F. %</td>
<td>F. %</td>
<td>F. %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td>750</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td>476</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1226</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The p-value is < 0.00001. The result is significant at p < .05.

Figure 1: Distribution of drug addiction among inpatient and outpatient cases by years.

Figure 2: Distribution of drug addiction by gender and year.
DISCUSSION
In our study, we found that the male case was 66.1% are more addictive than female case 33.9%. Compared with others study in US[5] and in Iran[10], the authors found that the both (male and female) had an addictive history and this may be due to the lifestyle in each country, in addition to as a pressure and depression on them.

Also, the addicted cases were higher percentage 72.0% in 2016 more than the cases 30.0%) in 2017. This may be there is not monitoring on boarder between Iraq and other countries and this allows traders to exploit the country's precarious conditions and import various drugs that have an impact on young people. Other studies in Iran.[10,12,13] The authors found the incidence of addictive people was high during the study period and this due to the Iran was nearest with the boarder of Afghanistan which is the source of addictive.

In addition, in this study, we found that the registration of the outpatient case was higher than inpatient during the study period. compared with a study in Iran[10], the authors reported the inpatient was more than outpatient. The fact that the addiction is common among people, especially young people and school students. This explains the lack of control between the border with the neighboring countries in addition to take the medicine in case of shocking by them and this effects on their body in future.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
The male case was more addictive than female case during the study period. There is a statistically signification have been found between the gender and drug addiction among inpatient and outpatient cases the p-value is < 0.00001. To put the prevention programs which is working to boost protective factors and eliminate or reduce risk factors for drug use among various ages and can be used in individual or group settings, such as the school and home.

REFERENCES