

*Assessing Knowledge of Peer and Demographic Correlates of
Psychoactive Substance Consumption among Secondary
School Adolescents in a Remote District of Buhweju, Uganda*

By

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Conflict of interest statement

- ❖ I hereby declare that I have no financial, personal, or professional conflicts of interest related to the content of this presentation.
- ❖ I also confirm that I have not received any funding, sponsorship, or support from the alcohol industry or related organizations.
- ❖ My views and recommendations are based solely on available evidence and are intended to advance the understanding and prevention of alcohol-related harm

Introduction

- ❖ Globally, use of psychoactive substances, has been recognized as a pervasive issue among adolescents, impacting their ability to function cognitively, academically and overall well-being (Lund et al., 2010).
- ❖ While consumption of these substances is be deeply ingrained in cultural, social, or traditional practices. (Ssewanyana, et al., 2020). Like consumption of alcohol and smoking of tobacco having their own historical and cultural significances (Westermeyer, 2005),

Introduction...

- ❖ Consumption of psychoactive substances among adolescents has been recognized as a significant global public health phenomenon, posing potential threats to their normal psychological, physiological, and social functioning (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2020).
- ❖ The purpose of the study was to establish the relationship between socio-demographic characteristics and psychoactive drug use in Buhweju District.

Objective

To establish the association between socio-demographic characteristics and psychoactive drug use

Methodology

Paradigm	Positivism (relies on objective and quantifiable observation of activity, action or reaction (Park et al., 2020).
Research approach	Quantitative
Research design	Cross-sectional design
Sampling	N=3862 students in 12 schools, n=350 students in 08 schools Proportionate sampling , Simple random sampling
Data generation methods	Questionnaire(adopt a standardized questionnaire)
Data analysis	Both Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics Logistic regression & Chi-square
Ethical Consideration	Ethical clearance from the MUST-REC Reference no. MUST-2023-1286 Permission from the DEO Buhweju to access school premises Seeking consent from participants. Assuring participants confidentiality & anonymity of their personal information

Findings

Characteristics of respondents (N=343)

Characteristics		Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	193	56.3
	Female	150	43.7
Age (years)	13-15	32	9.3
	16-18	254	74.1
	19-21	48	14.0
	≥22	9	2.6
Class of study	Senior 2	126	36.7
	Senior 3	149	43.4
	Senior 4	55	16.0
	Senior 5	2	0.6
	Senior 6	11	3.2
Religion	Catholic	204	59.5
	Protestant	133	38.8
	Islam	6	1.7
Peer psychoactive drug use observation	Yes	216	63.0
	No	127	37.0

Findings (Bivalent analysis)...

The association between socio-demographic characteristics and psychoactive drug use N=343

Characteristics		PDU (N = 343)		COR (95%CI)	P	AOR (95%CI)	p
		No, 195 (56.9)	Yes, 148 (43.1)				
Religion	Catholic	125 (64.1)	79 (53.4)	1			
	Anglican	67 (34.4)	66 (44.6)	1.6 (1.00-2.4)	0.049*	1.7(1.1-2.7)	0.026*
	Islam	3 (1.5)	3 (2.0)	1.6 (0.31-8.0)	0.580	1.5(0.3-8.2)	0.63
Peer Observation of PDU	Yes	135 (69.2)	81 (54.7)	1			
	No	60 (30.8)	67 (45.3)	1.9 (1.19-2.9)	0.006**	2.1(1.3-3.4)	0.002**

*p <0.05. **p<0.01.

Conclusion

- ❖ Students of the Anglican dominion exhibit higher odds of psychoactive drug use compared to Roman Catholics.
- ❖ Students who reported not observing peers consume psychoactive substances showed elevated odds of engaging in psychoactive drug use

Recommendations

- ❖ Collaboration of schools with religious leaders.
- ❖ Implementation of peer education programs in schools
- ❖ Introduction of early signs identification training programs on of PSU to teachers (MoES)

**THANK
YOU**

