



Intersectionality of Alcohol, Mental Health, Crime, and Slum Environment: A Case of Slum Youth Living in Kampala Slums

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- This project appreciates TOPOWA Research Intervention, UNODC, UNICEF, Icelandic Church Aid/LWF, Bread for the World, CDC/Mildmay/DREAMS project, Plan International

- **This paper has no financial /social costs or otherwise associated with Alcohol industry.**

Background

Slum environments are characterized by poverty, overcrowding, and limited access to basic services, including healthcare and education.

Slum youth in Kampala are vulnerable to alcohol misuse, mental health issues, and crime, which can have severe consequences for their health, well-being, and future prospects.

Data seeks to answer: How do alcohol, mental health, crime, and slum environment intersect in the lives of slum youth living in Kampala slums?

Intersectionality

- **Intersectionality theory:** The intersection of multiple social determinants, including poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and limited access to healthcare, can exacerbate the risks associated with alcohol misuse, mental health issues, and crime.
- **Social determinants of health:** Slum environments are characterized by poor living conditions, inadequate sanitation, and limited access to healthcare, which can contribute to poor physical and mental health outcomes.
- **Ecological model:** The slum environment can be seen as an ecosystem that influences the behavior and well-being of its inhabitants, including slum youth.

Intersectionality of issues amongst youth slum youth served by UYDEL data for 2022-2024

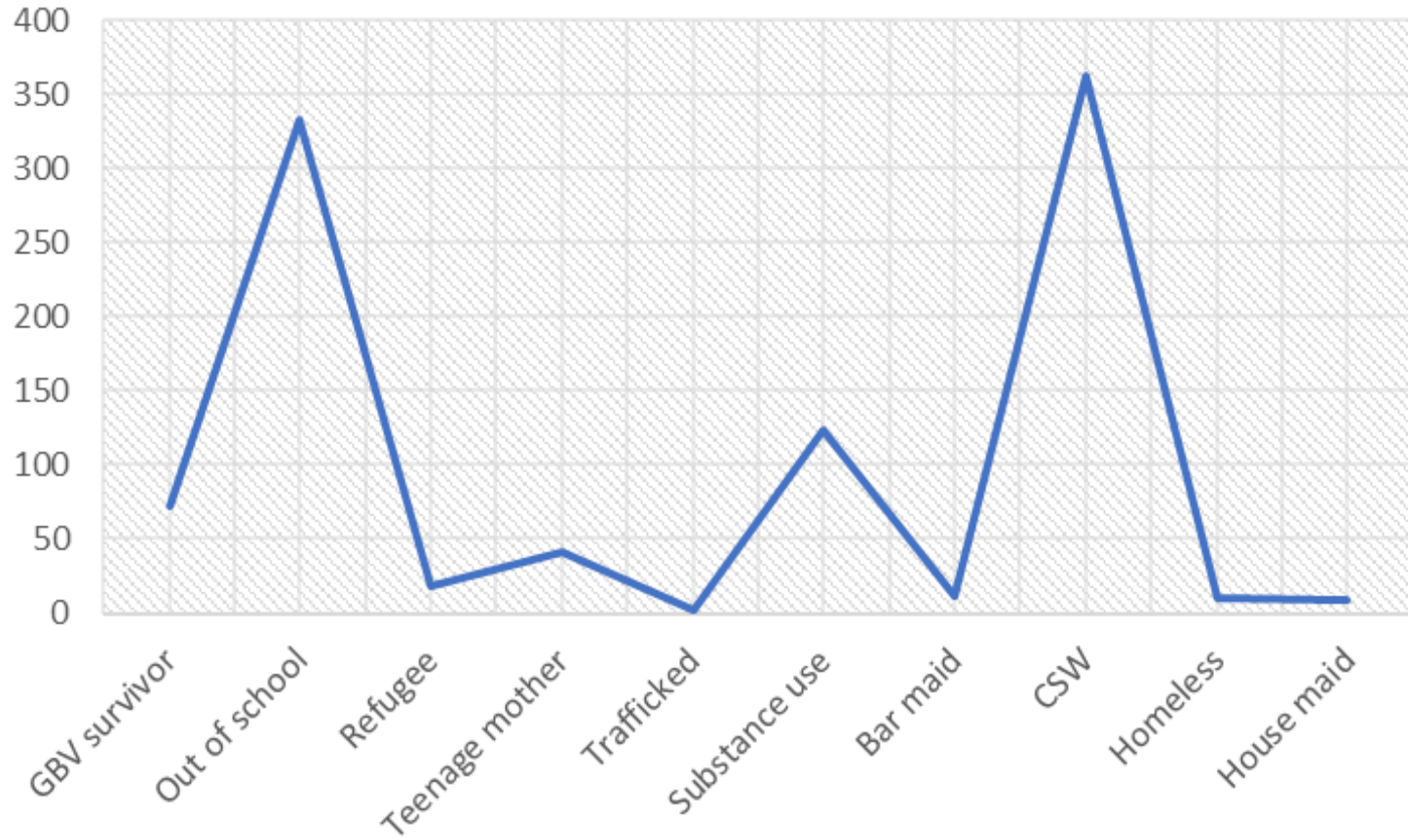
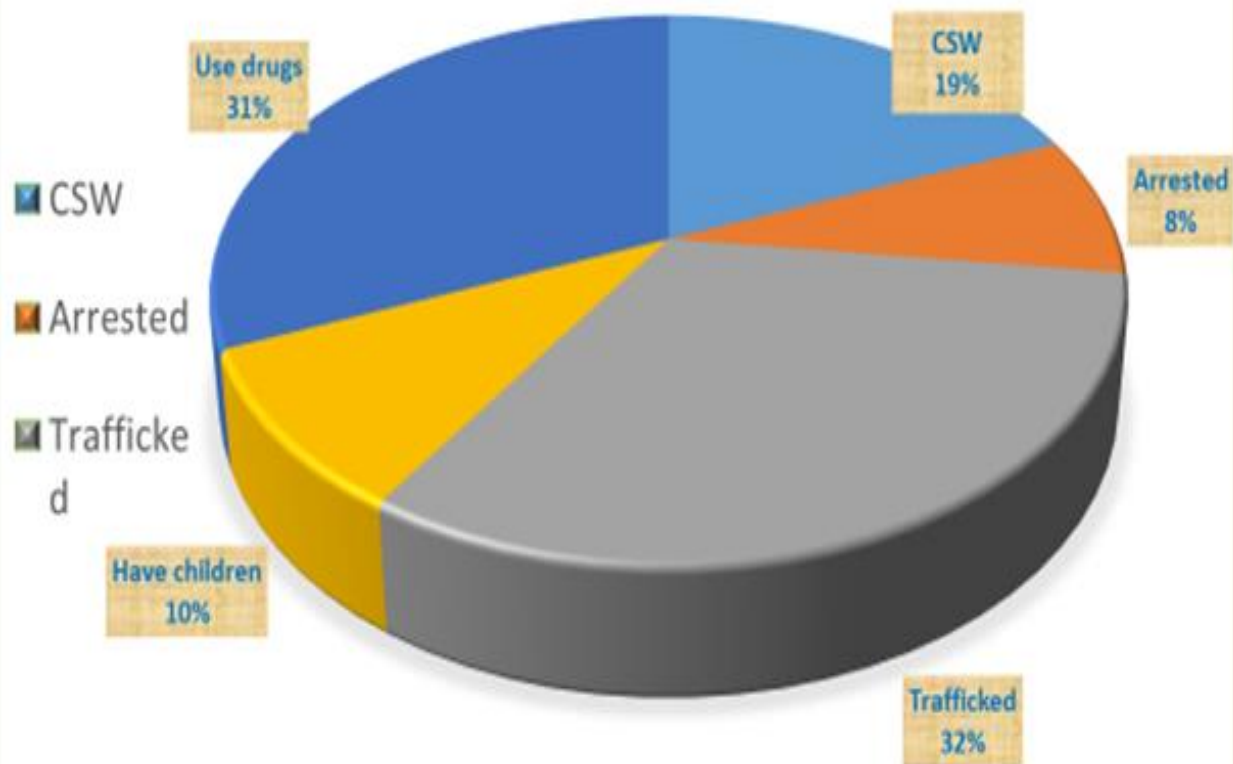


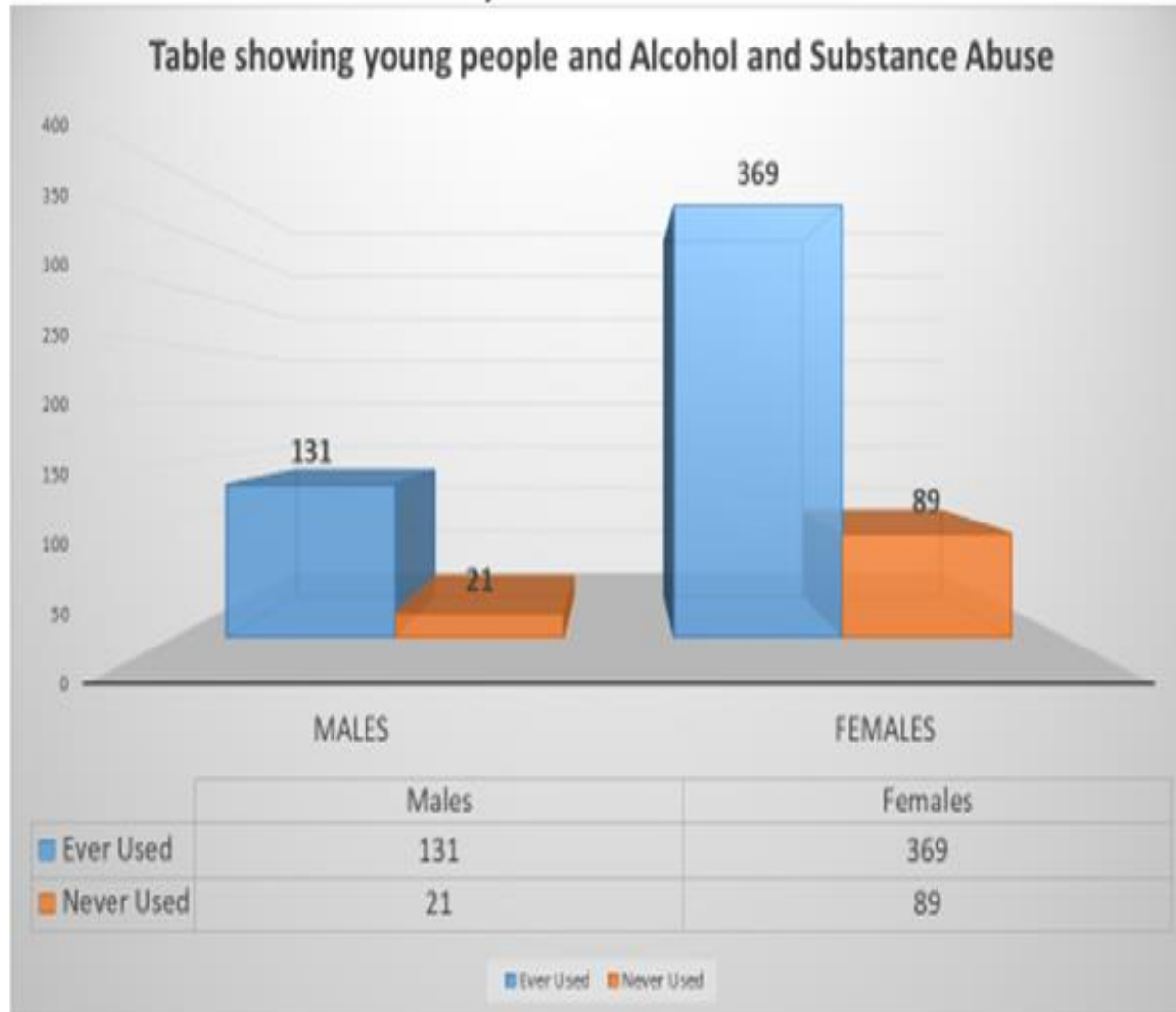
Table 2. Sociodemographic information of AGYW enrolled in UYDEL's DREAMS initiative

Baseline characteristics	Bukomansimbi (n = 1884)	Gomba (n = 3309)	Ssembabule (n = 3427)
Average age of AGYW at enrolment	16	15	16
Average education level	O-level (Senior 4)	Primary (Grade 7)	Primary (Grade 7)
Percent of enrolled AGYW who were mothers at the time of enrolment	66%	48%	32%
Percent reporting engaging in any transactional sex by age 15	78%	85%	90%
Average number of sexual partners at time of enrolment	3 partners	3 partners	3 partners
Reported frequent alcohol usage at time of enrolment, considered problematic	69.1% (n = 1302)	39.4% (n = 386)	28.9% (n = 992)
HIV testing (overall uptake of testing services)	68% (n = 1281)	85% (n = 2813)	80% (2742)
HIV testing (positive)	0.5% (n = 10)	0.7% (22)	1.1% (n = 36)

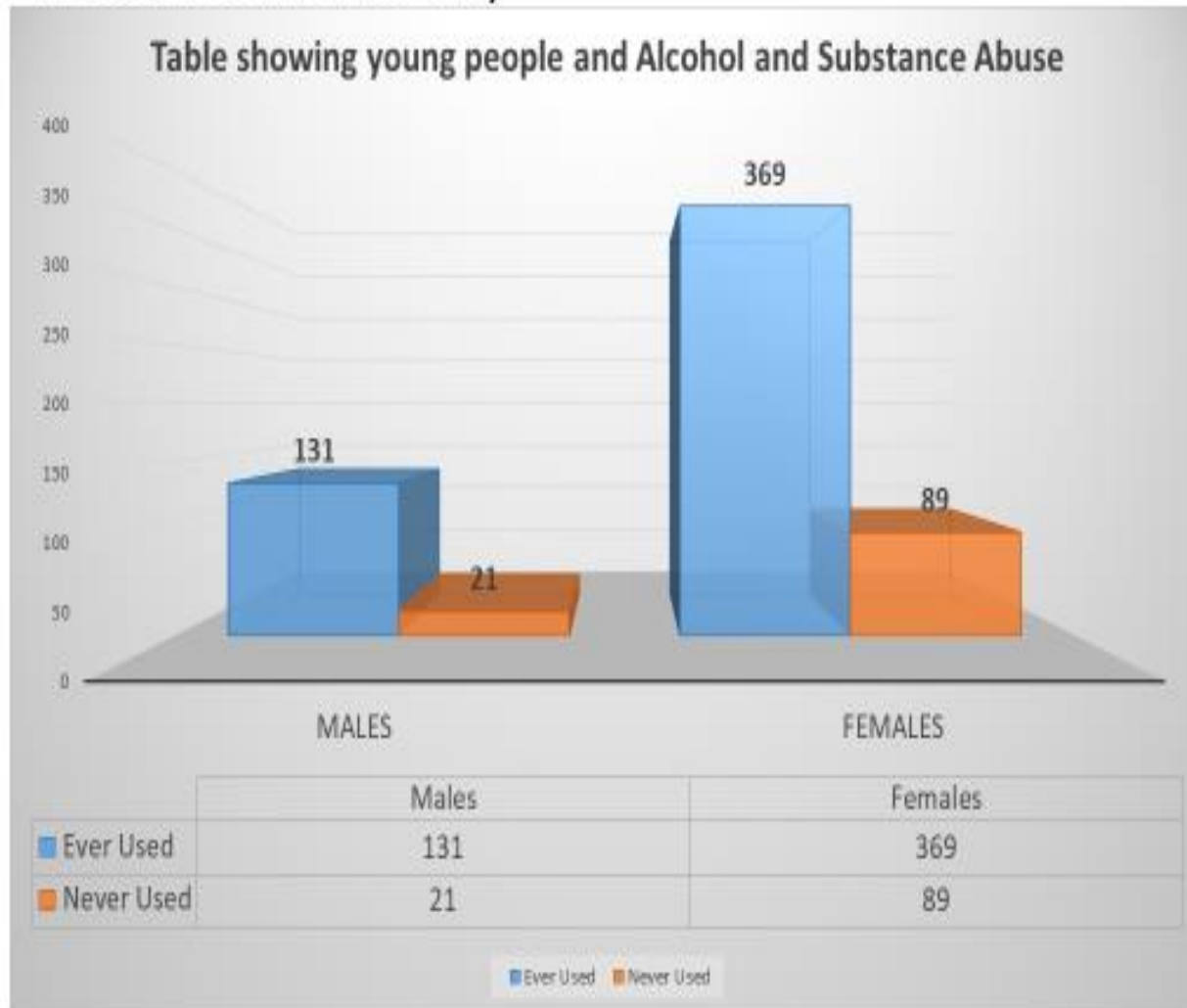
RISK CATEGORIES OF UYDEL BENEFICIARIES (1,529 YOUNG PEOPLE)



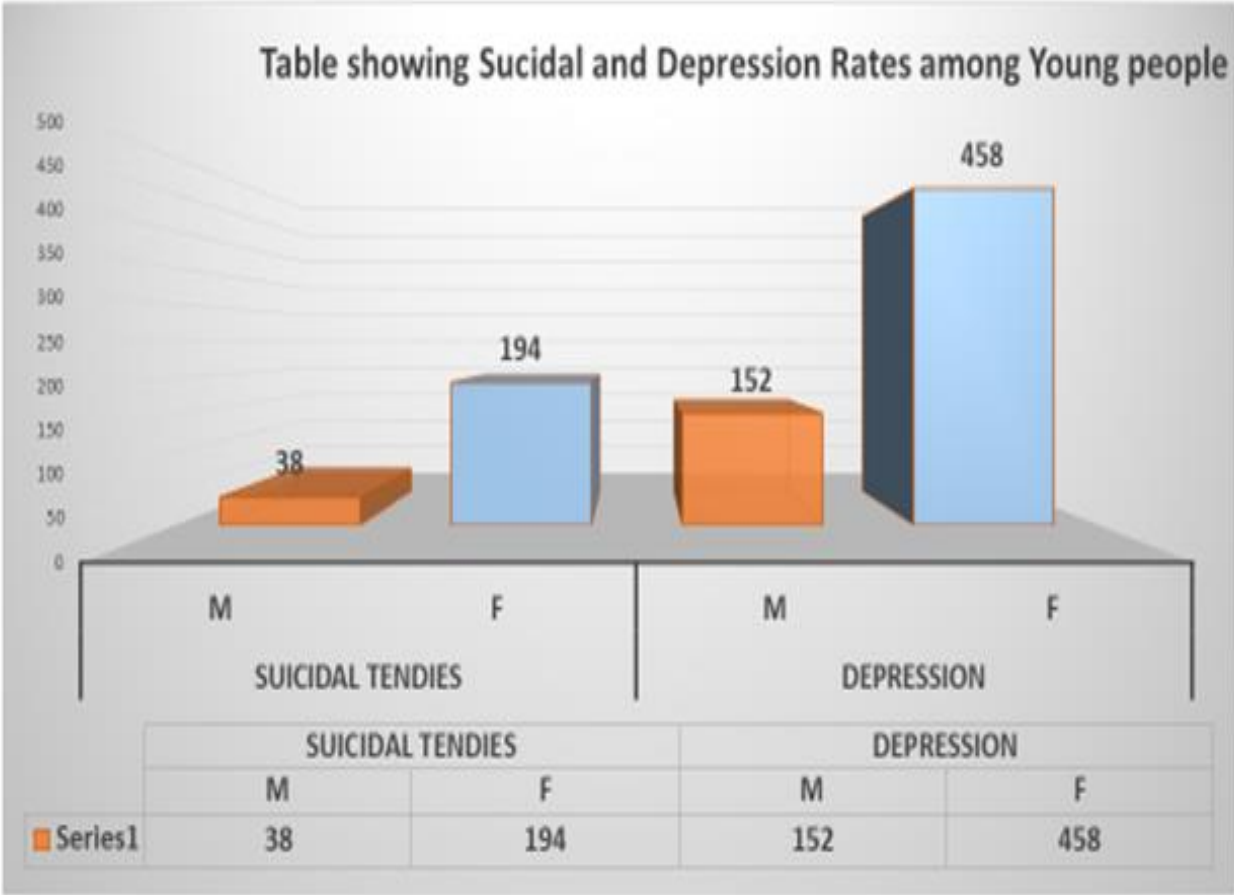
Alcohol and substance use amongst the youth we serve in the city



Alcohol and substance use amongst the youth we serve in the city



Suicidal and Depression



Results

- Slum youth reported that alcohol misuse was a coping mechanism for stress, poverty, and lack of opportunities.
- Community leaders reported that mental health issues were often stigmatized, and that slum youth lacked access to mental health services.
- Healthcare providers reported that crime was often linked to poverty, lack of education, and limited job opportunities.

Complex challenges: The intersection of alcohol, meth, mental health, crime, and slum life



Discussion

- Intersectionality of alcohol, mental health, crime, and slum environment: The findings suggest that these factors intersect in complex ways, exacerbating the risks associated with each factor.
- Policy and practice implications: The findings suggest that addressing the intersectionality of alcohol, mental health, crime, and slum environment requires **a comprehensive approach** that includes:
 - Increasing access to education, job training, and employment opportunities.
 - Improving access to mental health services, including counselling and therapy.
 - Implementing community-based programs to prevent alcohol misuse and crime.
 - Macro interventions (Norms, enforcement, taxation, production)

Conclusion

UYDEL data shows that slum youth in Kampala are vulnerable to alcohol misuse, mental health issues, and crime, **which intersect in complex ways.**

Policy actions requires actions geared at looking at **macro issues** which have been raised in the Intersection if we are ta make a difference.

Future studies should explore the intersectionality of alcohol, mental health, crime, and slum environment in other contexts, including urban and rural areas.

*Thank you
for Listening!*

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