

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR OUTCOMES AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN KAMPALA AREA.

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INTRODUCTION

- The Uganda police has recorded more than 85,000 juvenile crimes between 2010 and 2014, 79% of which are attached to alcohol and substance abuse by the young people (UPF, 2016).
- There has also been a recorded increase in juvenile crime in 2018 countrywide 2018 (Uganda Police Force Annual Report, 2018).

INTRODUCTION

- More than 50% of young people detained in Kampiringisa Juvenile Detention facility accused of committing crime due to alcohol and substance abuse, of which 29% were linked to psychoactive substance abuse (UPF, 2018).
- Just in only one month of January 2019, police in Kampala have recorded more than 1,000 cases of drug-related offences, particularly involving teenagers and youth aged between 13 and 24 years (UPF, 2018).

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- To determine the level of substance abuse among adolescents in kampala area.
- To determine the level of criminal behaviour outcomes associated with adolescents in kampala area.
- To establish the relationship between substance abuse and criminal behaviour outcomes among adolescents in kampala.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

- Descriptive and correlational research designs guided by quantitative and qualitative data collection approaches were used.
- The sample size of the study was 106 respondents and 6 Key Informants. Data was collected randomly using a questionnaire. Data was analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Findings of objective one indicated a high grand mean of 2.81 which implies that the level of psychoactive substance abuse among adolescents in Kampala area was high.
- Findings of objective two indicated a high grand mean of 2.67 which implies that the level and level of criminal behaviour outcomes associated with adolescents in Kampala area was high.
- Findings of objective three results indicated that there was a weak positive relationship between substance abuse and criminal activity levels among adolescents in Kampala area at a correlational coefficient $r = 0.260^{**}$ or $(0.260 * 0.260 = 0.0676 * 100 = 6.8\%)$.
- However, since the P value was less than the Alpha value ($P 0.008 < \text{Alpha of } 0.01$), the null hypothesis was rejected and its alternative positive hypothesis considered.

CONCLUSION

- The study concluded that there is high level of subsistence abuse among adolescents in Kampala area which relates with high levels of criminal behavior outcomes associated with adolescents in Kampala area.

INTERPRETATION

- This means that there are high cases theft/stealing, fights, violence, aggressiveness and sexual abuse by the adolescents exposed to psychoactive substances. Finally, it was concluded that there was a weak positive relationship between substance abuse and criminal activity levels among adolescents in Kampala area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The study recommended that government through ministry of health in conjunction with Uganda Police force should crackdown all drug dealers especially those selling opium, mairungi, alcohol and other prohibited drugs like cocaine in Kampala are.