USE OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS.

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Country profile

- 28,000 square km
- Population: 623,281 (2017 est.)
- Annual growth rate of 2.8%
- 42% less than 14 years of age
- Life expectancy – male: 67 years, female: 70 years
Solomon Islands

- Literacy rate < 30%
- 90 dialects
- 93% Melanesian, 5% Polynesian, rest Asian and Caucasian
- Prone to natural disasters – cyclones, tsunamis, etc.

- Least developed economy – natural resource export driven
- Ethnic tension
- 2000 – 2003 (RAMSI intervention)
- RAMSI left in 2017
- Now normalcy and business as usual
INTRODUCTION

▪ Increasing trend in use of Tobacco, Alcohol and Marijuana in High schools, especially in developing in countries.
▪ Substance use associated with serious social, health, mental health, legal, academic problems.
▪ Increasing substance use and anti-social behaviours, particularly among youth are major concerns for community leaders in the Solomon Islands.

▪ No past studies published on the use of these substances among the high schools in the country.
▪ On literature review very limited formal published studies performed in the Pacific island nations noted.
▪ This study aims to fill the gaps in the knowledge of the use of Tobacco, Alcohol and Marijuana in the Solomon Islands by seeking to determine the prevalence of Tobacco, Alcohol and Marijuana and to identify the factors associated with their use in Solomon Islands.
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the life time prevalence of Cigarette /Tobacco, Alcohol and Cannabis use among High School students in Honiara?

2. What factors associated with the use of cigarette/Tobacco, Alcohol and Cannabis among High School students in Honiara?

Methodology

- Randomised Cross-sectional School based Survey
- Questionnaire – Adapted from WHO Drug Abuse questionnaire (2000).
- Ethics committee approval
- Students was given questionnaire
- Excluded form 3 (grade 9) and 5 (Grade 11) students who were having their Exams
- Total - 1411 students participated from 15 schools from 4 school systems
1. What is the lifetime prevalence of Cigarette and Tobacco use among High School students in Honiara?

- General Prevalence of Smoking – 33.10%
- Gender: Male – 37.80% and Female – 28.35%
- Age at Onset – started at 7 years, Peak 15 years
- Age group – 11-12 yrs - 23.53% to 21 yrs+ – 52.38%
- Educational System – Provincial 41.88% - National 26.06%
- Educational Level
  - Form 1 (Grade 7) – 25.85%
  - Form 2 (Grade 8) – 27.16%
  - Form 4 (Grade 10) – 40.64%
  - Form 6 (Grade 12) – 45.19%

2. What factors associated with the use of cigarette and tobacco among High School students in Honiara?

- Friends Smoking (P<0.001)
  - 75% reported that friends gave the first smoke.
- Sibling Smoking (P<0.05)
- No Family Member smoking (P<0.05) Protective factor
- Female students, F1 & F2 are light smokers compared to F4s & 6s
- Students who smoke & those whose friends were smoking were likely to say that smoking was not bad.
- Smokers had 4.4% risk of Alcohol use & 8.7% risk of cannabis use
3. What is the lifetime prevalence of Alcohol use among High School students in Honiara?

- General Prevalence of drinking Alcohol – 38.34%
- Gender: Male – 47.36% and Female – 29.20%
- Age at Onset – started at 7 years, Peak 15 years
- Age group – 11-12 yrs -17.65% to 21 yrs - 71.43%
- Educational System: Provincial 61.54% to Mission Run 35.90%
- Educational Level
  - Form 1(Grade 7) – 26.09%
  - Form 2 (Grade 8) -29.09%
  - Form 4(Grade 10) – 48.83%
  - Form 6(Grade 12) – 60.67%

4. What factors associated with the use of Alcohol among High School students in Honiara?

- Friends drinking (P<0.001)
  - 77% reported that friends gave the first Alcohol.
  - Drink with friends
  - Alcohol use – manufactured, home brew & two or more types
- Sibling drinking (P<0.05)
- Two or more family member drinking (P<0.001)
- No Family Member drinking (P<0.001) Protective factor
- 79% of students were light drinkers
- Students drinkers & those whose friends were drinkers were likely to say that Alcohol was not bad.
5. What is the lifetime prevalence of Cannabis use among High School students in Honiara?

- General Prevalence of cannabis use – 20.55%
- Gender: Male – 28.77% and Female – 12.25%
- Age at Onset – started at 8 years, Peak 15 years
- Age group – 11-12 yrs -11.76% to 21yrs+-42.86%
- Educational System: Provincial High schools 29.91% to Mission Run High schools -18.21%
- Educational Level
  - Form 1(Grade 7) – 15.70%
  - Form 2 (Grade 8) -15.38%
  - Form 4(Grade 10) – 25.73%
  - Form 6(Grade 12) – 30.54%

2. What factors associated with the use of cannabis among High School students in Honiara?

- 79% of students reported that friends gave the first cannabis.

- Majority smoked cannabis outside of school

- Students who smoked cannabis & those whose friends were smoking cannabis were likely to say that smoking cannabis was not bad.
Limitation of the study

▪ The study sample population s could not reflect much of the same age population in the community.

▪ The study missed out of two of the high schools and all the forms 3 and 5 students as they were sitting exams.

▪ This study was restricted to high schools in Honiara, so the results cannot be generalized to the whole of Solomon Islands.

▪ This study only focused on specific factors like friends’ and family members’ use of substances, but did not address the socio-environmental factors, for example media and advertisements that could influence substance use.

CONCLUSION

▪ Baseline study
▪ Tobacco smoking 33.10%
▪ Alcohol 38.34%
▪ Cannabis 28%
▪ Influential factors – Friends, siblings and two or more family members doing it.
▪ Non family member using substance – protective factor
▪ Students using drugs and friends using drugs over rides students knowledge of drugs harmful effects.
RECOMMENDATION

- FURTHER RESEARCH
- POLICY LEVEL ACTIONS
- IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL RESPONSES
Thank You