

THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF SUBSTANCE USE AND DISORDERS IN NIGERIA: A THREAT TO ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF REDUCING THE LEVEL OF HEPATITIS INFECTIONS.

Authors:

Chia F¹, Zibs-Godwin F²

¹National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) ²Bayelsa State Drug Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation Committee (BADAPARC)

Background:

The growing level of substance use among youths in Nigeria has become one of the major public health issues of concern. This is more so as substance use disorders are also rising with the rising level of substance use. This might affect the control of hepatitis infection in the country.

Method:

This cross-sectional study investigated the epidemiology of substance use and disorders in Nigeria in view of the threat it posed to the goal of reducing the level of hepatitis infections in the country. Two hundred (200) youths selected from Tombia community participated in the study. A questionnaire titled Substance Use Assessment Scale (SUAS) was used for data collection.

Result:

Result of the study indicated that risky behaviors including use of drugs such as alcohol, tramadol, methamphetamine, heroin, cannabis, and diazepam is high among youths in Tombia community. Substance use disorders were also found to be very high.

Conclusion:

It was suggested that public education on the effects of substance use and life skill training programs should be intensified among youths in Tombia community. In addition, primary health care and drug treatment centers should include screening for hepatitis, linkages to care and low-threshold treatment for hepatitis infection as part of their treatment regimen.

No conflict of interest.