



Knowledge, attitudes and behaviours on tobacco, alcohol and drugs among Nigerian secondary school students: differences by geopolitical zones

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Background

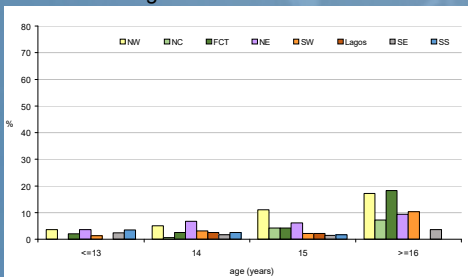
Nigeria includes six geopolitical zones and one Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The zones differ from each other in many characteristics including health indicators of adult and child population. Substance use among adolescents is a public health concern. However, the available data do not allow a comparison of substance use prevalence and related factors by zone. This study aims to describe knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, risk perceptions, skills and substance use behaviours among Nigerian secondary school students, underlining differences by zones.



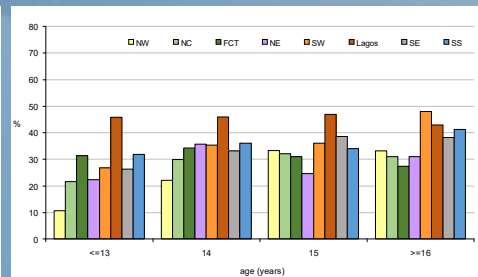
Methods

32 schools were invited and participated: NW (6), NE (4), NC (4), FCT (2), SW (8), SE (4), SS (4). A self-completed anonymous questionnaire was created ad hoc for the survey. The questionnaire investigated characteristics of the social environment, substance use, knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes about substances, the perception of peers and friends use, skills and school climate.

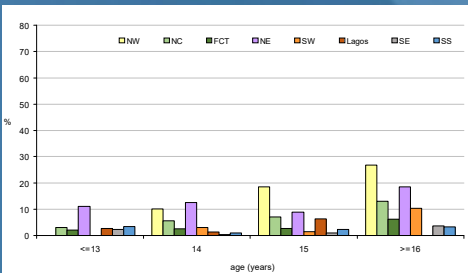
Ever cigarettes use



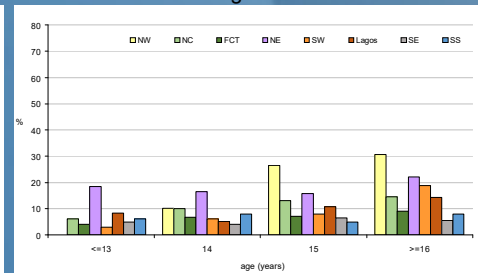
Ever alcohol use



Ever cannabis use



Ever drugs use



Results

4,078 adolescents (mean age 14.7 years, 66.4% males) participated in the survey. The highest rate of alcohol use was observed in Lagos and Southern zones, whilst the prevalence of cigarettes, cannabis and other drug use was higher in Northern zones. Knowledge on tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana use were quite low across all zones. Self-esteem, decision-making and refusal skills, risk perceptions and beliefs were lower in students of Northern zones.

Characteristics

	NW n=665	NE n=509	NC n=533	FCT n=275	SW n=716	Lagos n=287	SE n=564	SS n=529	Total N=4078
Cigarettes									
Positive beliefs (High)	36.2	32.6	21.4	17.5	16.4	12.9	12.9	16.3	21.6
Negative beliefs (Low)	44.2	46.9	32.9	28.0	21.5	8.2	23.9	31.5	30.9
Risk perceptions: smoke one/more packs a day (No risk)	11.1	3.5	3.2	1.4	1.5	0.3	0.9	0.8	3.3
Alcohol									
Positive beliefs (High)	33.8	28.1	21.9	17.7	18.8	14.3	13.4	18.5	21.5
Negative beliefs (Low)	41.8	43.9	30.5	26.6	20.9	14.2	23.8	32.5	30.2
Risk perceptions: drink alcohol every day (No risk)	13.1	5.1	3.9	1.1	1.5	1.0	0.2	2.8	4.1
Marijuana/drugs									
Positive beliefs (High)	33.3	28.3	21.3	18.0	17.2	12.9	15.8	18.7	21.4
Negative beliefs (Low)	42.7	42.7	30.2	23.4	17.9	7.1	21.2	30.1	28.2
Risk perceptions: smoke marijuana regularly (No risk)	12.0	5.1	2.8	0.4	1.4	0.3	0.9	1.1	3.5
Risk perceptions: use other drugs occasionally (No risk)	17.0	9.6	5.1	1.4	5.6	4.9	4.1	5.1	7.3
Attitudes towards illegal drugs									
Positive indicator (High)	15.2	4.9	4.6	4.1	4.3	2.1	3.0	3.5	5.7
Negative indicator (Low)	14.7	7.6	6.8	2.2	2.7	2.1	2.0	3.5	5.7

Conclusions

The prevalence of adolescent alcohol and substance use in Nigeria is not radically different from that of developed countries. Prevention activities among adolescents could help to reduce the burden of disease related to cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs in adult ages, and should be adopted across the country.

Response to Drugs and Related Organised Crime in Nigeria (FED/2012/306-744) (NGAV16)

This project is funded by the European Union