



# Ramifications of Drug use Among Female Adolescents in Mission Location, Mngquma Municipality, Eastern Cape

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## Eastern Cape Symposium

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# Presentation content

- Introduction and literature
- Methods and Setting
- Findings
- Conclusion and recommendations



# Introduction

- Substance use among adolescents is an old problem which has been common on boys than girls (Observed increase of substance use among female(s) adolescents) (Litt, 2003).
- The problem of substance abuse has been gendered (Male/boys).
- This could have affected the interventions to deal with the challenge



# Introduction

- The problem capitalised and increased among female adolescents.
- Today females are competitively taking substances as much as their male counterparts.
- Disquieting substance use among adolescent girls call for research on gender-specific risk and protective factors for substance use (Schinke, Fang, & Cole, 2008).



# Introduction

- Disregarding gender divide, the preponderance of substance use by female adolescence just like the male adolescents has been associated with dire consequences.



# Study setting

- Semi-structure interviews were conducted adhering to group specific ethical conducts.
- Total participants of 26 comprised of:
  - 7 female adolescents using substances or ex users
  - 9 parents/guardians and community members
  - 2 SAPS members
  - 2 probation officers
  - 2 Educators.
  - 3 Social Workers
  - One community leader



# Findings

## Common ramifications

Just like the male adolescents substance use among female has been associated with increased

- Truancy,
- School drop-out;
- Being vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other diseases
- Multiple sexual partners
- Losing family attachment
- Psychological and emotional experiences as well as fatality risk associated with substances



# Findings

## Vulnerability to sexual predators

- Female adolescents who use substances become a “*prey*” for rape and other kinds of sex related abuses
- Elderly men with a financial ability taking advantage of tipsy female adolescents.
- Engaging in unplanned sexual endeavours that can result in unprotected sex.





# Findings: Gender specific Sexual Reproductive Health

## Unwanted pregnancies

- This includes not knowing the baby's real father.

## Unsafe abortions

- Going to illegal doctors
- Aborting before or after required period of pregnancy



# Findings

## “Unintentional” Demeaning of STD palliative services

- Substance use among female adolescents has severely affected medicinal interventions of STIs and HIV/AIDS (Department of Health, 2017).
- Female adolescents using Substances have been found visiting clinics to fetch antibiotics for STIs and STD than others.
- Disregard instructions pertaining to STIs treatments.
- They engage on sexual conduct before healing.



# Conclusion and recommendations

- The government need to spend a lot of resources in preventing and discouraging the behaviour other than investing heavily in substance abuse rehabilitation centres
- Strengthening research on substance abuse among female adolescents in rural areas
- Encourage more substance abuse NGOs in the rural areas
- Initiating anti-substance use clubs in schools



Questions?



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# REFERENCES

- ⦿ Litt, I. F. (2003). Drugs and adolescent girls. *Journal of adolescent health, 32*(1), 1-2.
- ⦿ Schinke, S. P., Fang, L., & Cole, K. C. (2008). Substance use among early adolescent girls: Risk and protective factors. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 43*(2), 191-194.