

**THE EFFECTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON CRIME RATES: A CASE STUDY
OF BUSIA MUNICIPALITY**

ALEX OCHIENG

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
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DECLARATION

I hereby certify that the research paper I've written is entirely original to me. To the best of my knowledge, no portion of it has been used for academic purposes for another degree at this university or any other.

OCHIENG ALEX

Signature: 

Date: 31/08/2024

APPROVAL

This research Report by OCHIENG ALEX under the Topic Effect of Drug Abuse on Crime Rates. A Case Study Busia Municipality has been under my supervision and is ready for submission to UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Komo', written in a cursive style.

Signature

MR. KOMO RICHARD
RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

DEDICATION

With great pleasure I dedicate this research work to my father, my sister and brothers, students, Lecturers at large for their initiative, ideas, training, principles, financial support and guidance they offered to me during my academic year.

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ABSTRACT

The study looked at a number of issues related to substance abuse and the rise in crime in Busia Municipality. This study examines the effect substance abuse on crime rates, the consequences of substance abuse, and the ways in which different agencies and stakeholders can work together to address the issue of substance abuse in Busia Municipality. The study also looked at the different kinds of drugs that the people in Busia Municipality were consuming, including cocaine, tobacco, and hard liquor. Additionally, a number of characteristics that lead Busia Municipality residents to engage in substance misuse were examined, with the primary ones being stress, peer pressure, drug accessibility, and addiction are a few more. After examining the causes, the study looked at how drug usage affected young people's health, including brain deformities and HIV/AIDS. A number of approaches to addressing the issue of substance misuse were also presented, including developing appropriate programs that encourage people to participate and stay active rather than sit about. The findings showed that materials that are indicative of alcohol include beers and hard liquors such coffee spirit and torero. The most mistreated were Sanyuka, Empire, and magnificence, among others. After that came cocaine, oris, and tobacco. With regard to all of these drugs, several strategies for handling substance abuse were described. Even though the researcher had to deal with a number of obstacles, suggestions were made, like conducting a similar study in which parents are interviewed as some may be the cause of the youth's involvement in substance addiction. When respondents refused to provide information, the researcher attempted to get information by using tactful and convincing language while also assuring them that the study was conducted for academic interests.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

MOH	Ministry of Health
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus
WHO	World Health Organization
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
IV	Independent Variable
DV	Dependent Variable
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Center For Drugs And Drug Addiction
N.LD.A	Netherlands Defense Academy
(UN)	United Nations
UNO	United Nations Organization
CADCA	Community Anti-drug Coalition of America
UYDEL	Uganda Youth Development Link
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
ANOVA	Analysis Of Variance
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
AR	Academic Registrar

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter includes background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives, research questions, significance, and scope conceptual framework.

1.1 Background of the Study

Substance abuse is a major public health concern in the United States, with widespread implications for individuals, families, and communities. Not only does substance abuse often lead to negative health outcomes, such as addiction and overdose, but it is also closely associated with criminal behavior and high crime rates.

Numerous studies have documented the links between substance abuse and criminal behavior. For example, a study by Gottfredson et al. (2018) found that individuals who engaged in heavy substance abuse were more likely to commit crimes, including violent offenses, compared to those who did not abuse substances. The researchers concluded that substance abuse significantly increased the risk of criminal involvement. In a similar vein, research by Belenko (2018) highlighted the complex interplay between substance abuse, mental health issues, and crime. Belenko found that individuals with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders were more likely to engage in criminal behavior, with substance abuse serving as a key contributing factor. The study underscored the importance of addressing substance abuse in the context of mental health treatment to mitigate its impact on crime rates. A study by Reingle Gonzalez et al. (2018) estimated that substance abuse-related crimes cost the US criminal justice system billions of dollars each year in expenses related to law enforcement, court proceedings, and incarceration. The researchers argued that investing in prevention and treatment programs for substance abuse could reduce the burden on the criminal justice system and ultimately lower crime rates.

Another study by Witbrodt et al. (2018) focused on the role of alcohol abuse in intimate partner violence (IPV) and its implications for crime rates. The researchers found that individuals with alcohol abuse issues were more likely to perpetrate IPV, which in turn contributed to higher rates of domestic violence-related crimes. The study emphasized the need for targeted interventions to address alcohol abuse and its connection to violent behavior. Study by Cerdá et al. (2018)

examined the impact of prescription opioid misuse on crime rates in the USA. The researchers found that areas with higher rates of prescription opioid misuse experienced elevated levels of property crime, such as theft and burglary. The study highlighted the challenges posed by the opioid epidemic and the need for comprehensive strategies to address both substance abuse and associated criminal behaviors.

Research on the effects of substance abuse on crime rates in Africa is important in understanding the link between drug use and criminal behavior in the continent. One study by Oyeyemi et al. (2019) investigated the impact of substance abuse on criminal behavior among Nigerian youth. The researchers found that a significant proportion of youth involved in criminal activities reported using drugs, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address substance abuse and its link to crime among this population. Another study by Ahmed et al. (2020) explored the relationship between substance abuse and violent crimes in Nigeria. The researchers found that individuals with substance abuse issues were more likely to engage in violent behavior, leading to higher rates of violent crimes in communities where drug abuse was prevalent. The study emphasized the importance of addressing substance abuse as a key strategy for reducing violent crime in the country. Research by Akindele et al. (2022) focused on the impact of substance abuse on property crimes in Nigeria. The researchers found that individuals with substance abuse problems were more likely to commit property crimes, such as theft and burglary, leading to increased rates of property-related offenses in communities affected by drug abuse. The study underscored the need for comprehensive approaches to address substance abuse and its associated criminal behaviors.

Another study by Adebowale et al. (2021) focused on the correlation between substance abuse and organized crime in Nigeria. The researchers found that drug trafficking and other illicit activities were closely linked to organized crime networks in the country, leading to increased rates of violent crimes and corruption. The study highlighted the need for enhanced law enforcement efforts and international cooperation to combat organized crime activities driven by substance abuse. Furthermore, a study by Oladipo et al. (2023) examined the impact of substance abuse on recidivism rates among individuals involved in the criminal justice system in Nigeria. The researchers found that individuals with a history of substance abuse were more likely to reoffend and engage in criminal behavior after release from prison, underscoring the need for

integrated treatment programs for substance abuse and rehabilitation to reduce recidivism rates in the country.

Substance abuse is a significant public health concern in Uganda, with implications for crime rates and societal well-being. A study by Namakula et al. (2020) investigated the relationship between substance abuse and criminal behavior in Uganda. The researchers found that individuals with a history of substance abuse were significantly more likely to engage in criminal activities, highlighting the strong association between drug use and crime rates in the country. The study emphasized the need for targeted interventions to address substance abuse and its impact on criminal behavior to promote community safety. Okwir et al. (2021) conducted a study on the prevalence of substance abuse among inmates in Ugandan prisons and its implications for recidivism rates. The researchers found a high prevalence of drug and alcohol dependence among incarcerated individuals, with substance abuse significantly linked to a higher risk of reoffending. The study suggested the implementation of substance abuse treatment programs within the correctional system to reduce recidivism and promote rehabilitation among offenders. Kakooza et al. (2023) explored the socio-economic determinants of substance abuse and crime rates in Uganda. The researchers identified poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education as key factors contributing to substance abuse and criminal behavior in Ugandan communities. The study underscored the importance of addressing these socio-economic disparities to prevent substance abuse and reduce crime rates effectively.

A study by Kiwanuka et al. (2022) examined the patterns of substance abuse and crime among youth in Uganda. The researchers found that substance abuse, particularly alcohol and marijuana, was prevalent among young individuals involved in criminal activities. The study highlighted the need for early prevention and intervention initiatives targeting youth to address substance abuse and reduce the likelihood of involvement in criminal behavior. Mugisha et al. (2019) conducted a longitudinal study on the impact of substance abuse on intimate partner violence (IPV) in Uganda. The researchers found a strong association between alcohol and drug use and perpetration of IPV among individuals in romantic relationships. The study emphasized the importance of addressing substance abuse as a risk factor for interpersonal violence to promote healthy relationships and reduce crime rates related to domestic violence in Ugandan communities. Nalugoda et al. (2023) investigated the role of substance abuse in contributing to

the spread of HIV/AIDS in Uganda and its implications for criminal behavior. The researchers found that drug and alcohol use were associated with risky sexual behaviors and increased vulnerability to HIV infection among individuals engaging in criminal activities. The study highlighted the need for integrated approaches addressing substance abuse, HIV prevention, and crime reduction to promote public health and community safety.

The municipality of Busia in Uganda faces various social challenges related to substance abuse and crime rates. Substance abuse, particularly alcohol and drug use, is a prevalent issue among individuals in Busia, contributing to a range of negative consequences, including increased criminal activities and public safety concerns.

Okello et al. (2018) conducted a study on the patterns of substance abuse and criminal behavior among youth in Busia municipality. The researchers found a significant association between drug and alcohol use and the involvement of young individuals in criminal activities, highlighting the need for targeted prevention and intervention programs to address substance abuse and reduce crime rates among the youth population. Mukasa and Namayanja (2019) explored the impact of substance abuse on domestic violence and crime trends in Busia municipality. The researchers identified a strong link between alcohol consumption and intimate partner violence, as well as other forms of criminal behavior within households. The study emphasized the importance of addressing substance abuse as a risk factor for crime and violence in domestic settings to enhance community safety and well-being. A policy analysis by Asuman (2020) examined the existing drug control and crime prevention strategies implemented in Busia municipality. The author highlighted gaps in the current policies and interventions addressing substance abuse and criminal activities, emphasizing the need for evidence-based approaches and collaboration among stakeholders to effectively combat drug-related crimes. The policy analysis called for the development of comprehensive strategies to reduce substance abuse and crime rates in Busia.

The study by Balaba et al. (2022) investigated the relationship between substance abuse and HIV/AIDS transmission among individuals involved in criminal activities in Busia municipality. The researchers found that drug and alcohol use were significant risk factors for engaging in risky sexual behaviors and increasing vulnerability to HIV infection, highlighting the interconnected nature of substance abuse, crime, and public health issues in the region. A

systematic review by Kavuma et al. (2023) summarized the existing evidence on the effects of substance abuse on crime rates in Uganda, with a focus on studies conducted in Busia municipality. The review highlighted the complex relationships between drug use, criminal behavior, and societal factors, underscoring the need for integrated approaches to address substance abuse and reduce crime rates in the region effectively. The authors called for further research and policy efforts to develop targeted interventions that promote community safety and well-being in Busia.

1.2 Problem Statement:

Teenagers living in the Busia Municipality currently have easy access to drugs and other substances. Some of these drugs include tobacco, aspirin, cannabis, valium, and coffee. Other substances that are used in the area include waragi packets, cigarettes, alcohol, khat, and mairungi. According to the MOH's 2016 Annual Health Sector Performance Report, teenagers in Busia Municipality who take drugs and other substances tend to be undernourished, hail from low-income homes, particularly those headed by pregnant teenage mothers and their alcoholic children, and there is discord within the family.

Adolescents are expected to perform less work at home based on their age and gender, according to WHO (2015). However, a lot of teenagers commit crimes, flee from their homes, abuse drugs and other substances, and so pass away too young. In a conversation with Busia Police Station on December 5, 2016, the New Vision revealed that four teenagers in Busia Municipality had passed away from drug and alcohol contamination (Anguyo, 2012).

Drug and substance abuse, among other things, has been linked to school dropout, unemployment, poverty, adolescent pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, other STDs, child abuse, psychosis, physical altercations, motor vehicle crashes, crime, homicide, and suicide, all of which have a significant negative influence on people living in slums.

In order to lessen the impacts of drugs and other substances on teenagers living in Busia Municipality, this study aims to determine the causes of drug and substance addiction among the residents and how it may be examined.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to investigate the relationship between substance abuse and criminal activities in Busia Municipality

1.4 Specific objectives

The study aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- i) To find out the effect of substance abuse among the population in Busia municipality, specifically focusing on the types of substances commonly abused, the frequency of use, and the demographic characteristics of individuals most affected.
- ii) To assess the relationship between substance abuse and various forms of criminal behavior in Busia municipality, including the types of crimes committed, the extent of substance abuse-related criminal activities, and the relationship between substance abuse and crime rates.
- iii) To explore the underlying factors contributing to substance abuse and its impact on crime rates in Busia municipality, with a focus on social, economic, cultural, and environmental determinants that influence substance abuse behaviors and criminal activities.

1.5 Major objective

To examine the correlation between substance abuse and criminal behavior in Busia municipality, including the types of crimes associated with substance abuse, the frequency of criminal activities related to substance abuse, and the impact on community safety.

1.6 Research questions

- i) What is the prevalence of substance abuse in Busia municipality, and what are the common types of substances abused?
- ii) How does substance abuse contribute to different forms of criminal behavior in Busia municipality?
- iii) What demographic factors are associated with both substance abuse and criminal activities in Busia municipality?

1.7 Hypothesis

H0: There is a significant positive relationship between substance abuse and crime rates in Busia municipality at the Kenyan borders, with higher levels of substance abuse leading to an increase in criminal activities.

H1: Certain demographic factors, such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status, are associated with both substance abuse and criminal behavior in Busia municipality, contributing to the overall impact on crime rates.

H2: The lack of effective prevention and intervention programs to address substance abuse in Busia municipality is directly correlated with higher crime rates, as individuals struggling with addiction are more likely to engage in criminal activities.

H3: Law enforcement and justice system responses play a crucial role in addressing substance abuse-related crimes in Busia municipality, with proactive measures leading to a decrease in criminal incidents linked to substance abuse.

1.8 Significance

The significance of a study on the effects of substance abuse on crime rates in Busia Municipality can be far-reaching and impactful in various ways.

Policy Implications: Understanding the relationship between substance abuse and crime rates can influence the development of targeted policies and interventions aimed at reducing both substance abuse and crime in the municipality. This research can provide valuable insights for policymakers to design effective strategies for addressing these issues.

Public Health Impact: Substance abuse is often linked to various public health problems, including mental health issues, infectious diseases, and other social problems. By investigating how substance abuse contributes to crime rates, this research can help in developing comprehensive public health initiatives to address these interconnected issues.

Resource Allocation: Insights from this study can inform resource allocation decisions by local authorities and organizations working in Busia Municipality. By understanding the extent of the problem and its implications for crime rates, resources can be allocated more efficiently to tackle both substance abuse and crime.

Community Awareness and Education: Research findings can contribute to raising awareness about the negative effects of substance abuse on crime rates and public safety within the community. This can lead to increased education and prevention efforts targeting substance abuse, which in turn can help in reducing crime rates.

Legal and Judicial System: Understanding the relationship between substance abuse and crime rates can have implications for the legal and judicial system in Busia Municipality. This research can shed light on the root causes of criminal behavior related to substance abuse, potentially leading to more informed decisions in the legal system, such as alternative sentencing options or diversion programs for individuals struggling with substance abuse issues.

1.9 Scope of the study

1.9.1 Content scope

The study focused on impacts of substance abuse on crime rates in Busia Municipality. The independent variable is impacts. The dependent variable is Crimes rates

1.9.2 Geographical scope

The study was carried out in Busia Municipality located in Busia District in Eastern Uganda at the Uganda Kenya Boarder which is one of the best suburbs in Uganda well known for having a high number of people both youths and adults who a good number of them use drugs ..

1.9.3 Time Scope

The study was limited to events of 9 years from 2016-2024. This period was considered because it is within this period for reference and in which it is taken as more common issue to the society.

1.10 Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework for a study on the effects of substance abuse on crime rates in Busia Municipality would typically be grounded in criminology, sociology, psychology, and public health.

Social Learning Theory: According to this theory, individuals learn and model behavior, particularly in relation to deviant or criminal activities, through observation, imitation, and reinforcement. Substance abuse could be seen as a behavior that is learned and reinforced through social interactions, leading to an increased likelihood of engaging in criminal activities.

Strain Theory: This theory posits that individuals engage in deviant behavior, such as substance abuse, when they experience strain or pressure that they cannot cope with effectively. Economic deprivation, lack of opportunities, and social disorganization can create strain that drives individuals to substance abuse and potentially criminal behavior as a way to cope with or escape from their circumstances.

Routine Activities Theory: This theory focuses on the convergence of motivated offenders, suitable targets, and the absence of capable guardians as factors that contribute to the commission of crimes. Substance abuse could serve as a motivating factor that increases the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities in the absence of capable guardians or deterrents.

Bio-Psycho-Social Model: This model takes into account biological, psychological, and social factors that contribute to substance abuse and criminal behaviors. Biological predispositions, psychological stressors, and social influences could interact in complex ways to lead individuals to both substance abuse and criminal activities.

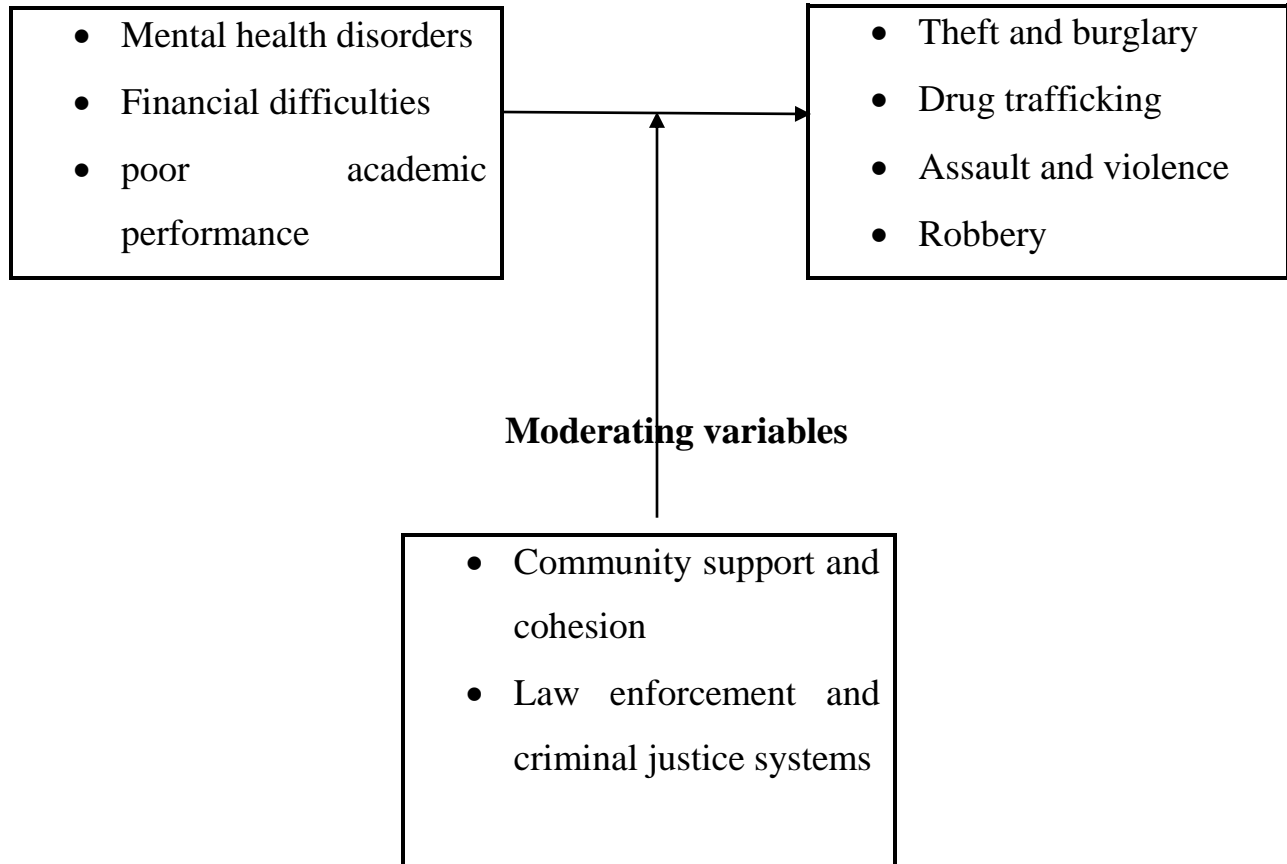
Public Health Perspective: From a public health standpoint, substance abuse can be seen as a public health issue that has consequences for individual and community well-being. Understanding the relationship between substance abuse and crime rates in Busia Municipality from a public health perspective can help identify effective interventions and policies to address these issues.

Community Structure and Social Disorganization: Factors such as poverty, unemployment, lack of social cohesion, and limited access to resources could contribute to both substance abuse and crime rates in Busia Municipality. Analyzing the community structure and levels of social disorganization can provide insights into how these factors influence the relationship between substance abuse and crime.

1.11 Conceptual framework

(IV) Impacts Of Substance Abuse

(DV) Crimes in Busia Municipality



(Source: researcher's conceptualization 2024)

1.11.1 Explanation of the Conceptual Framework;

This model is comprised of three variables i.e. independent, dependent variables and moderating variable. The independent variable in this relationship are the impacts of substance abuse; mental health issues, financial difficulties, work and academic challenges, legal issues i.e. arrests, fines. The dependent variable is crimes in Busia Municipality; theft and burglary, drug trafficking, assault and violence, robbery community support and cohesion law enforcement and criminal justice system

Adopted from the study literature and modified by the researcher (2024) 22 data sources.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Adolescence is a developmental stage often characterised by various kinds of risk-taking, such as experimentation with alcohol, drugs, sexuality and criminal activities. Most people commit minor offences at one time or another in their youth (Bäckman, Estrada, Nilsson, & Shannon, 2014). Half of Busia municipality young population report having committed some kind of crime at some point (the annual crime report, Uganda police force 2021), while an equal percentage has also been victims of crime.

2.1 The relationship between substance and various forms of criminal behaviors

A substantial percentage of youth crime is related to substance use (Egnell et al. 2019; Pedersen & Skardhamar 2010) and there is a well-known and strong correlation between these sets of problems (Chassin 2008; D'Amico, Edelen, Miles, & Morral, 2008; Tripodi & Bender 2011). A large percentage of young people who begin treatment for problematic drug use have committed crimes (Mitchell, Kutin, Daley, Best, & Bruun, 2016)..

The connection between criminality and drug use is obvious by virtue of the fact that drug use is illegal in many countries, but the relationship can be complex and manifested in various ways. As well, it is often difficult to determine which of the two problems came first (Mulvey 2010). The connection may also manifest in different ways in different phases of the course of a substance use problem. Crimes and drugs are rarely related to each other in occasional or experimental drug users, while long-term drug use promotes criminality (Bennett & Holloway 2005; Simpson 2003). The linking between cannabis use and crime mainly constitutes drug-related criminality (Green, Doherty, Stuart, & Ensminger, 2010) and is weaker for offences such as assault and theft (Pedersen & Skardhamar 2010). The connection with non-drug-related crime, however, becomes stronger in relation to more serious cannabis use (Grigorenko, Edwards, & Chapman, 2015) or use of drugs such as amphetamines and opiates (Ford 2005; Kinlock, Battjes, & Gordon, 2004). The connection between drunkenness and violent crime is clearer (Brunelle, Tremblay, Blanchette-Martin, Gendron, & Tessier, 2013). Many young people cease offending

when they become adults, but lingering high drug use can delay this development (Mulvey 2010; Sullivan & Hamilton 2007).

The crimes with the highest incidences among drug users are drug offences, shoplifting and theft (Bennett & Holloway 2005). An American study showed that 83% of the included young people had committed offences apart from drug possession or drug use (Dennis et al. 2004). The types of offences were distributed as follows: property crimes (e.g. vandalism, forgery, shoplifting, theft, robbery and auto theft) 55%, crimes against persons (e.g. assault, rape, murder and arson) 45% and drug-related offences (e.g. driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs and manufacturing or dealing drugs) 65%. Boys and young men offend more often than do girls and young women (McAra & McVie 2010). This pattern also applies to young people receiving substance abuse treatment (Hsieh & Hollister 2004; Mitchell et al. 2016).

Drug use and crime are factors that limit individuals' ability to participate in society and may lead to social exclusion (EMCDDA 2003; March, Oviedo-Joekes, & Romero, 2006; Millar 2007). The concept of social exclusion includes various dimensions such as education, economy, housing, social relations, norms and values, but also societal interventions and legal sanctions that in themselves can be stigmatising. It is dynamic and cumulative, that is, deficiencies in one area can negatively affect other life domains and the exclusion process is increased by accumulating several problems (Kronauer 1998).

2.2 The effect of substance abuse among the population

N.L.D.A.,(2000) states that marijuana decreases neuron activity in the hippocampus (Limbic system) which affects the memory. The main ingredient in marijuana interrupts nerve impulse in the cerebellum which affects muscle movement and coordination. Marijuana also affects receptors in the brain areas and structures responsible for sensory perception. Marijuana interferes with the receiving of sensory messages in the cerebral cortex. University of Houston states that drugs are chemicals.

Different drugs, because of their chemical structures, can affect the body in different ways. In fact, some drugs can even change a person's body and brain in ways that last long after the person has stopped taking drugs, maybe even permanently. Depending on the drug, it can enter

the human body in a number of ways, including injection, inhalation, and ingestion. The method of how it enters the body impacts on how the drug affects the person. For example, injection takes the drug directly in the blood streams, providing more immediate effects, while ingestion requires the drug to pass through the digestive system, delaying the effects. Most abused drugs directly or indirectly target the brain's reward system by flooding the circuit with dopamine. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter present in regions of the brain that regulate movement, emotion, cognition, motivation, and feelings of pleasure. When drugs enter the brain, they can actually change how the brain performs its jobs. These changes are what lead to compulsive drug use, the hallmark of addiction.

Tinimy (2004) states that drug abuse is the excessive, maladaptive, or addictive use of drugs for non-medicinal purposes. It also defines a state, emotional and sometimes physical, characterized by a compulsion to take drugs on a constant basis in order to experience its mental effects. Drug abuse gives rise to dependence both physical and psychological. Dependence gives rise to mental, emotional, biological or physical, social and economic instability. The effects of drug abuse on an individual therefore form the basis for its cumulative effects on the society. This is the major danger of drug abuse.

Youths in any society occupy a delicate and sensitive position within the population structure for several reasons. The Nigerian law for example recognizes that an individual below the age of seven is incapable of committing a crime and an individual between seven and twelve 9 years should be able to know what he ought not to do that is if it can be proved he doesn't know and he also isn't criminally responsible for his acts. Between the ages of twelve and seventeen, a person is regarded as a juvenile, and while he may be held responsible for his acts or omissions, he is treated specially under the law by the Children and Young Persons Act instead of the Criminal Procedure Act. Statistics have shown that drug barons prefer recruiting their traffickers from the ages of 15 to 35 years, most of whom are either unskilled, unschooled or students or the unemployed. There are several factors which can influence the abuse of drugs among the youths. The major ones are; peer pressure, weak parental control, child abuse, imitation, emotional stress, truancy among students, and the availability of the drugs and the ineffectiveness of the laws on

drug trafficking. However, the researcher established more effects of drug abuse in Busia Municipality.

2.3 The underlying factors contributing to substance abuse and its effects on crime rates

Jill Nicholson (2003) states that everybody knows bad things can happen to drug users. They become addicted. They can have serious or even fatal health problems. They can ruin their personal, social and professional lives. They may even end up in jail. But why do young people start taking drugs in the first place?

Casa Palmera (2012) states that there are many reasons as to why teens abuse illegal or prescription drugs. Past studies used to point "having fun" as the number one reason teens used drugs, but more recent studies show that teens are using drugs to solve problems. This is important for parents to understand because most parents severely under estimate the impact of stress on their teens. By understanding what motivates your teen to use drugs, you can hopefully step in to help them find better ways to cope with their problems using some of the causes below;

A recent study by the Partnership for Drug-Free America showed that 73% of teens report the number one reason for using drugs is to deal with pressure and stress of school. Surprisingly, only 7% of parents believe that teens might use drugs to cope with stress, showing parents severely under estimate the impact of stress on the their teens' decision to use drugs. Social acceptance and! low self esteem: A 2007 PATS Teens study reported 65% of teens say they use drugs to "feel cool". Teens' self-worth depends on the approval of others and their desire for social acceptance to engage in destructive behaviors even if they know it could harm them. The same study found that 60% of teens use drugs to "feel better about themselves". Teens that have a low self-esteem are more likely to seek acceptance from the wrong crowd by using drugs. Self-medication: The teen years are rough, and many teens 11 who are unhappy don't know how to find a healthy outlet for their frustration. These pent up emotions that can take an emotional toll and can even lead to depression or anxiety.

A 2009 study reported an estimated 70% of teens 18 suffer from undiagnosed clinical depression at some point in their life. Many teens are unaware that they have an underlying mental or mood disorder that is causing them to use illegal or prescription drugs to self-medicate and cope with their symptoms. Misinformation: Studies show that teens are widely misinformed about the dangers of drugs. Did you know that 40% of teens don't perceive any major risk with trying heroine once or twice? While abuse of serious drugs is steadily declining among teens, their intentional abuse of prescription and over the counter medications remains a serious concern. Many teens, 41% to be exact, mistakenly believe that its safer to abuse a prescription drug than it is to use illegal drugs. Nearly 1 in 5 teens have already abused a prescription medication or prescription pain killer in order to get high or deal with stress.

Easy Access: one reason teens use drugs is simply because they're easy to get. Nearly 50% of the teens report that it's easy for them to get marijuana; 17% say it's easy to get meth; 14.4% say it's easy to get heroin; and more than a half of the teens say that prescription drugs are easier to get than illegal drugs. However, the study addresses more reasons why the youths in Uganda take drugs and the measures that can be taken to curb this problem of drug abuse. Cooperman, (2003) states that peer groups are a form of society influence on the affected youths for example; a friend can be greatly influenced to be a drug addict if allowed to interact with drug addicts young and old. He can be tempted on one fateful day to join the bandwagon of drug addicts, thereby gradually ruining his career in life. Getting hooked to a particular drug is like a gradual process that will reach the climax. However, the research determined more causes of drug abuse among the youths and established measures that can be undertaken or used to curb drug abuse among the youths.

Criminality and drug abuse share common risk factors (Fleming, Catalano, Haggerty, & Abbott, 2010; Hawkins 2006; Mulvey 2010).

Longitudinal studies that follow young people from an early age to adulthood have identified several risk factors related to the community, family, school and peers as well as to the individuals, factors that in turn increase the probability of future criminality and substance use problems. Although the risk factors for criminality and drug use are similar for both genders, the genders may be affected by these risk factors in different ways (Herrera & Boxer 2019; Bright et al. 2017). Both criminality and drug use are higher in communities and neighbourhoods

characterised by poverty, segregation and social exclusion (Casswell, Pledger, & Hooper, 2003; Stone, Becker, Huber, & Catalano, 2012). People from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas are also arrested by the police and charged with crimes to a much greater extent (McAra & McVie 2012; National Council for Crime Prevention 2018).

School failure is a particularly influential risk factor for the development of criminality and of alcohol and drug abuse, while a strong connection to school and good academic outcomes are related to reduced risk of these problems in young adulthood (Bäckman et al. 2014; Fleming et al. 2010; Gauffin, Vinnerljung, Fridell, Hesse, & Hjern, 2013, Gauffin, Vinnerljung, & Hjern, 2015; Merline, Jager, & Schulenberg, 2008). There is also strong evidence that a childhood rife with family conflict, criminality and/or substance abuse problems in parents or siblings often leads to criminality and drug use among young people (Cheng & Lo 2011; Stone et al. 2012).

Young people with a history of physical or sexual abuse are also at higher risk of developing problems with both criminality and drugs (Brunelle et al. 2014; Nooner et al. 2012). Involvement with peers who have been convicted of offences and often use illegal drugs is one of the most significant factors for both problems (Aston, 2015; Hoeben, Meldrum, Walker, & Young, 2016). Non-participation in structured recreational activities with prosocial peers seem to increase the risk of later drug use (Stone et al. 2012). Individual factors such as poor self-control, thrill-seeking and externalising behaviours pose a risk for later criminality and drug abuse (Cleveland, Feinberg, Bontempo, & Greenberg, 2008; Mulvey 2010). It is common for young people who have problems in one area to have difficulties in other areas as well. When several risk factors co-exist, a cumulative negative effect may arise (Spooner 1999). As in the case of drug use, an accumulation of various risk factors leads to increased risk of offending (Hawkins 1995, 2006; Hussong, Curran, Moffitt, Caspi, & Carrig 2004).

2.4 The remedies of substance abuse

Drug abuse and other substances such as alcohol, khati, drugs and tobacco) continues to pose a serious challenge to health, social and economic well-being of young people in Uganda. Anecdotal evidence continues to reveal that the trend in substance abuse has since changed and may have increased both in terms of proportion, population and also in regions. Uganda has

never developed a semblance of a substance abuse status report to date. Pockets of 12 research and data collection on substance abuse also appear in forms of baseline surveys and needs assessments.

Lack of a national commitment normally expressed in policy frame work interventions and Laws can be a challenge in addressing substance abuse and other Narcotics. Uganda signed and ratified the United Nations (UN) Narcotic Convention 19613. Today Uganda has a narcotic law passed in April 2015, but not operationalized to show commitment and compliance in combating substance abuse. Most services are haphazard and uncoordinated, which has been a recipe for poor delivery and increased substance abuse among young people in particular. There has been no progressive national report has been undertaken to provide a detailed picture of what is happening on the ground in terms of substance abuse. Such a law needs to reflect the needs of the local realities as well the emerging new technology to address substance abuse. There have been some interventions to address drug abuse in the country. Most of these have concentrated in law enforcement less in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. Many of these are located in urban centers mainly in Kampala city, largely uncoordinated, underfunded and NGO driven.

Aggressive extinction of all sources of these hard drugs including the farms where they are planted by a joint force of the UNO. Parents should monitor the kind of friends of children and guide against bad company. Rehabilitation of the affected persons. Teaching the bad effects of drug abuse in schools. Continuous campaign against the use of hard drugs at the federal, state and local levels. Consent of a doctor should be sought before a prolong taking of a particular soft drug. Stiff penalty should be meted out to anybody found dealing in hard drugs. Several measures involving innovative changes in enforcement, legal and judicial systems have been brought into effect. The introduction of death penalty for drug-related offences has been a major deterrent

There is a need to Support, facilitate and cause community member network to underage drinking as a Task Force to deliver prevention education programs and Carry out division hall meetings and explore strategies to help increase information; carry out alcohol mystery compliance checks. Support youth vocational skills, Develop resources. Provide drugs and

alcohol-free alternatives for youth and facilitate active enforcement of drugs and alcohol laws. Promote initiative via media. Engage youth life skills sessions. Conduct seminars for alcohol retailers Enterprise setting. With training from Colombo Plan about prevention interventions and Community Anti-drug Coalition of America (CADCA) there is need to develop capacities on how to expand and role out effective and practical primary prevention measures that would protect youth and in particular children and youth, from drug use initiation. We have witnessed an increase in number of community members receiving alcohol and drug prevention messages through village meetings, and social media platforms. This is being done by community based organizations trained by UYDEL on how to incorporate alcohol messages into their programming and activities.

Sports for a healthier body and healthy society and significance for the use of sports. With the above trend we need to harness the power of sport to help keep young people out of trouble. Many people have it that economic vulnerability is one of the cause of youth crime in the country but we believe that when equipped with the life skills they can be able to control themselves even in situations of impoverishment and be able to avoid engaging in criminality behavior. Organized sports that help to equip young people with life skills proves to be an interesting construct with regards to resisting engagement in mal adaptive behavior such as alcohol and drug abuse, violence and crime dealing with offenders not incarceration. There is need for a balanced approach of dealing with youth offenders. Though some may need to be incarcerated, but many more need to be engaged in community programs that build character, increase self-esteem and develop life skills Millie et al (2005). Andrews et al, (1990) suggested that social development programs that provide youth with positive peer interaction, opportunities to develop problem solving skills and a supportive adult help reduce the risk factors associated with crimes.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the research design, area of the study, study population, sampling techniques, variables and indicators. It also looks at the data collection instruments, quality control and data processing and analysis

3.1 Research design

The study used a cross-sectional study design using a descriptive research approach, focusing on a case study of Busia Municipality. The problem's scope and rate will be determined using both quantitative and qualitative methods. The gathering of data from Busia, Uganda, where many young people were involved in drug peddling, was emphasized. Therefore, in order to get information from the particular respondents in various parish settings, questionnaires and interview guides were used.

3.2 Study population

Using the Morgan table, the researcher filtered a population of 60 respondents into a 52-person sample size by focusing on several demographic groups.

3.3 Sample size

The research primarily relied on two ways of sampling. Among these are basic random sampling and cluster sampling. Using basic random selection, six clusters (sub-parishes) were chosen from the eight sub parishes. Samples from each cluster were chosen using simple random sampling, and each sampling unit in the cluster population had an equal chance of being chosen.

Table 1: Distribution of the study population and sampling techniques

Category	population	Population size	Sampling techniques
Individuals incarcerated			Snowball sampling
Individuals in substance abuse treatment			Random sampling
Law enforcement officers			Purposive sampling
Health care officials			Stratified sampling
Community members			Random sampling
Total			

3.3.1 Sample size determination

The sample size of respondents is as calculated using Neumann (2000) formula as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

Where: n =sample, N =target population, e = level of significance = e = 0.05 =e² = (0.05)² =0.0025

$$n = \frac{60}{1 + 60(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{60}{1 + 60(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{60}{1 + 0.15}$$

$$n = \frac{60}{1.15}$$

$$n = 52$$

3.4 Research methods

In the study by Leedy, P.D. & Ormrod, J.E. (2015) on the impacts of substance abuse on crime rates, a mixed-methods approach will be used to gather comprehensive data in Busia municipality and analyze the relationship between substance abuse and crime rates.

3.4.1 Quantitative Research

Surveys will be conducted with individuals involved in substance abuse and crime in Busia municipality to gather information on their demographics, substance use patterns, criminal activities, and perceptions of the relationship between substance abuse and crime. Denscombe, M. (2014)

3.4.2 Qualitative Research

Interviews: In-depth interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders, including individuals in treatment programs, law enforcement officers, healthcare professionals, and community members, to explore their perspectives on the impacts of substance abuse on crime rates in the municipality. Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y.S. (Eds.). (2018)

3.4.3 Observational Research:

Observational studies may be conducted to observe and document the behaviors and interactions of individuals engaged in substance abuse and criminal activities in the community. This can provide valuable real-time insights into the dynamics of substance abuse-related crimes in Busia municipality. Petticrew, M. & Roberts, H. (2008)

3.5 Research instruments

3.5.1 Surveys:

Questionnaires: Kothari, (2004), Structured questionnaires can be used to collect quantitative data on substance use patterns, criminal activities, and perceptions of the relationship between substance abuse and crime from individuals involved in substance abuse and crime in Busia municipality.

Self-administered surveys: Individuals can complete surveys independently, providing confidential responses on sensitive topics related to substance abuse and crime.

3.5.2 Interviews:

Semi-structured interviews: Kothari, (2004), Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, such as individuals in treatment programs, law enforcement officers, healthcare professionals, and community members, can be conducted to gather in-depth qualitative data on their perspectives and experiences.

In-depth interviews: In-depth interviews can be used to explore personal stories, motivations, and challenges related to substance abuse and criminal behaviors.

3.5.3 Observation:

Observation checklist: Observational studies may involve using an observation checklist to systematically record behaviors, interactions, and environmental factors related to substance abuse and crime in the community.

3.6 Data analysis

3.6.1 Quantitative data analysis

Prior to data collection process, tentative themes and code categories were developed during the research design stage as guided by the research questions. Coding was undertaken to organize and group data into thematic concerns of the study before commencing the process of analysis. The data was edited to ensure completeness, uniformity and accuracy. Quantitative data from the Questionnaires were entered and analyzed using the program Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) to establish relationships between the variables. This included descriptive to measure central tendencies and dispersion for mainly background data, correlation analysis to establish relationships between the dependent variable and independent variables. The direction and strength of the relationships between the variables will be analyzed by inferential statistics by using regression analysis and thereafter generate ANOVA tables.

3.6.2 Quantitative data analysis

The researcher read through the information received from interviews and FGDs to acquaint himself with the trends and themes of the responses. Emerging themes were identified and they formed the basis for analysis of data, using content analysis and finally produce a report of findings. Qualitative data responses were transcribed into themes and categories, in order to support the hypotheses tested. Detailed information was collected, analyzed and presented in

form of paraphrases or quoted up on permission of the respondents to illustrate and augment findings

3.6.3 Data Collection Procedures

This being an academic research, the researcher looked for a supportive letter explaining the objectives of the research signed by the school Academic Registrar(AR) before distributing the self administered questionnaires, interview guides and focus group 27 discussions to the respondents. Respondents were asked to present their data confidentially and anonymously.

3.7 Validity and Reliability of Instruments

The validity and reliability of the research instruments are important considerations when conducting research. Hopkins (2000) defines validity as how well a variable measures what it is supposed to measure; while reliability tells one how reproducible measures are in a retest. (Edwards and Talbot, 2004) suggest that the validity of information is based on the extent to which the methods measure what they are expected to.

3.7.1 Validity

The validity of the instruments was determined by ensuring that questions conformed to the designed research topic. The researcher used judgment by consulting with the supervisor and colleagues to ensure relevance, wording and clarity of questions in the instrument and their relevant comments on all items found unsuitable were removed.

3.7.2 Reliability

Reliability refers to the degree to which a measurement technique can be depended upon to secure consistent results upon repeated application. The easiest way to determine the reliability of measurements is by the retest method in which the same test is given to the same people after a period of time. The reliability of the test (instrument) was estimated by examining the consistency of the responses between the two tests. The study employed the coefficient alpha, also known as the cronbach Alpha.

3.8 Data Processing

Data processing was done through different stages. The data collected from different questionnaires and interviews was organized so that order was created. Editing and cross checking was done so that errors could be detected and corrections made. This helped to find out completeness in the questionnaires. After editing the data, coding followed. This involved assigning of symbols to answers so that data could be categorized for example by age, level of education and job title. Quantitative data was summarized and presented in frequency tables to generate descriptive statistics. These aim at enabling quick reading and understanding of the data.

Consent: The study also used assent to directly ask individuals who were between the ages of 18 and 19 for their consent. Assent: The statement of agreement or consent, usually directed at people younger than eighteen. Confidentiality: All information obtained during data collection will be kept private, with the exception of the respondents' names and age being recorded only. Information was kept in a locked safety box that could only be opened by the investigators and faculty members who were in charge of maintaining tight confidentiality, keeping out outsiders. Respect: Each respondent was entitled to voice their opinions, and their appearance, mannerisms, and actions were all signs of respect. (Avoid undermining others

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

The study's results are given, examined, and explained in this chapter. The results contain the respondents' response rate and their demographic details. The findings were analyzed and interpreted objectively by objective. Which consist of the following:

- iv) What is the prevalence of substance abuse among the population in Busia municipality?
- v) What is the relationship between substance abuse and various forms of criminal behavior in Busia municipality?
- vi) What are the underlying factors contributing to substance abuse and its impact on crime rates in Busia municipality?

4.1 Response Rate of the Respondents

The researcher reached all the 52 respondents and their response rate is indicated table below.

Table 2: respondents and their response rate per parish

Category	Population	Sample	Percentage	Valid percentage
Three parishes less urbanized	09	07	77.8%	13.4%
Three parishes minimal urbanized	23	20	89%	38.5%
Two parishes town center	28	25	89.3%	48.1%
Total	60	52	86.7%	100%

(Source primary data)

The above table and graph showed the response rate of respondents. It shows that all the respondents took part in the study which gave a response rate of 86.7%. This was because the researcher approached the targeted respondents and convinced them to take part in the study and explained that it was for academic purposes only. Description in parish selection included 10 school children, 10 community leaders 10 police officers 10 care givers 6 activists and 6 social workers.)

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section presented the demographic characteristics of the respondents who participated in the study. The information got is presented and analyzed below.

4.3.1 Gender of the Respondents

In this section, the researcher asked the respondents to indicate their gender. The table below summarized the respondents' gender characteristics.

Table 3: Gender of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Valid Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Male	28	53.8	53.8
Female	24	46.2	100.0
Total	52	100.0	

(Source: primary data 2024)

Table 3 above indicates that majority of the respondents 28 (53.8%) were males while the least 24 (46.2%). This means that there are many males respondents had detailed information regarding drug abuse in communities.

4.3.2: Age of the Respondents

In this section, the researcher interviewed the respondents and asked them to indicate their age group. Their responses are presented in table 3 below.

Table 4: Showing Age of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
10-25	18	34.6	34.6
26-34	14	27.0	61.6
35-45	13	25.0	86.6
46 and above	07	13.4	100.0
Total	52	100	

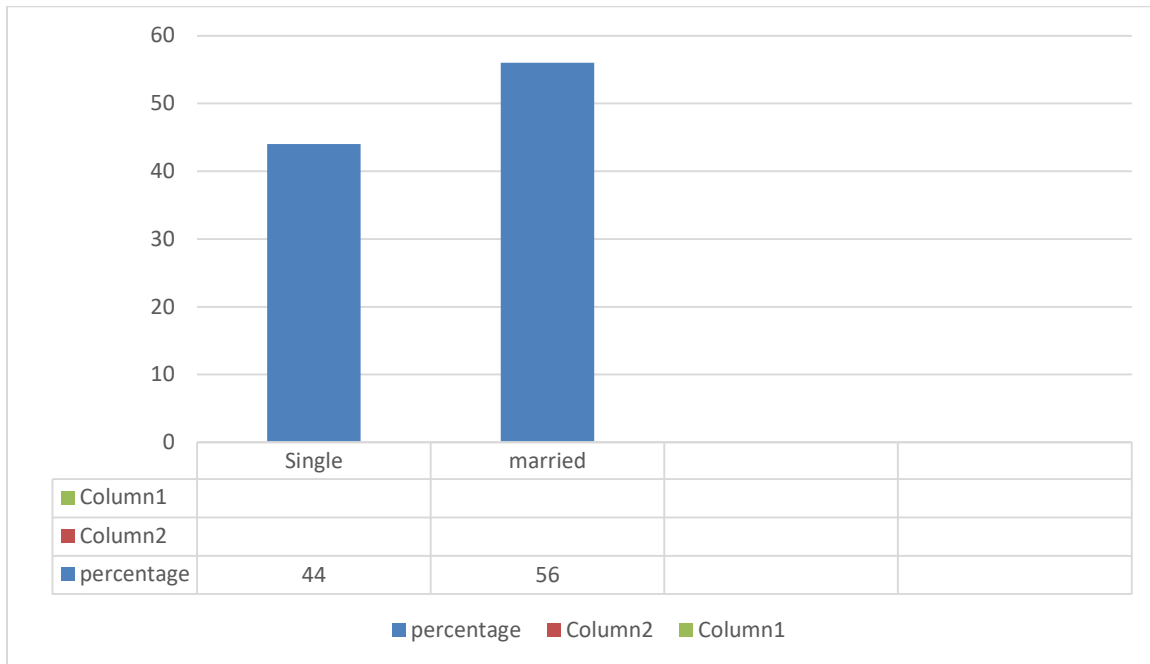
(Source: primary data 2024)

Table 4 and graph above indicated that the majority of the respondents 18 (34.6%) were aged between 13-25 years while the minority were between 46 years and above with the frequency of 07 giving 13.4%. This means that most of the respondents are inclusive of age categories were observant and thoughtful of decision they should take. In addition, they were mostly contacted because they were fit enough to offer the information needed about the experience of drug abuse in community setting.

4.3.3 Marital Status

Respondents were asked to identify their marital status and results were presented in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Marital status of the respondents



Findings in figure 2 indicate that the majority of the respondents were married (56%) while the minority (44%) were single. This implies that most of the respondents were fit for the purpose for this kind of study who have witnessed drug abuse take effect in families and unity at large

4.3.4 Education level of respondents

Table 5: showing level of education

Level of education	Frequency	Valid Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Tertiary certificate	05	9.6	9.6
Diploma	17	32.7	42.3
Undergraduate	24	46.2	88.5
None of the above	06	11.5	100.0
Total	52	100	

(Source: primary data 2024)

Basing on the objective;

e) How has drug abuse affected the juveniles in Busia Municipality.?

f) What are the causes of drug abuse among juveniles in Busia Municipality?

f) What are the remedies of drug abuse in Busia Municipality?

4.4 The effect of substance abuse

Table 6 showing the effect of drug abuse

Extent	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Very high extent	20	38.5	38.5
High extent	20	38.5	77.0
Low extent	7	13.5	90.5
Very low extent	5	9.5	100.0
Total	52	100.0	

(Source: primary data 2024)

Figure 5 above showed the extent of involvement in drug abuse in Busia Municipality Busia District and the findings reveal that; 38.5% (20/52) of the respondents noted that the level of the youths' involvement in drug abuse was very high/ high extent in Busia Municipality. The respondents noted that many youths are involved in drug consumptions like alcohol, marijuana and other illicit drugs. On the other hand, minority 13.5% (7/52) of the respondents noted that drug consumption among the youths of Busia Municipality was low Only 9.5% (5/52) of the respondents said that level of drug consumption among the youths is very low.

4.5 Factors contributing to substance abuse

Table 7 showing the factors contributing to substance abuse

Factors	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Genetics	13	13
Stress	20	33
Peer pressure	35	68
Loneness	10	78
Easy access	22	100

(Source: primary data)

The primary causes of drug misuse as reported by the respondents are depicted in figure 6 above. The respondents stated that since they were all offspring of their parents, drug abuse was a genetic or inherited condition. Roughly 13% of the participants stated that “*the likelihood of developing an addiction was higher if one's parents struggled with addiction*”. Drug misuse was therefore more prevalent in some families than in others. It was stated that the likelihood of a child smoking increases if their parents smoke. This also holds true for alcohol usage. Consequently, drug abuse in Busia Municipality can be passed down from one generation to the next.

Furthermore, 20% of the participants mentioned that stress is yet another cause of drug abuse in Busia Municipality. The respondents here noted that sometimes youths needed some help coping

with life. Everyday life becomes a struggle and simple things became too much to handle. Drugs were used to deal with it. Peer pressure Easy access Loneliness 29 were not talking about the use of medication, under the care and observation of a doctor. Youths who had been clinically diagnosed with stress could lead a very good life. We're talking here about people who just needed to escape. Their preferred substance makes that getaway easier. Along with the previously mentioned factors, peer pressure was identified as the main contributor to drug misuse among young people in Busia Municipality.

Merely 35% of the participants acknowledged that people are inevitably involved in relationships, and occasionally these relationships compel individuals to make concessions that they would not have otherwise in order to keep the relationship going. It was observed that most of the time, taking drugs starts out as a social behavior taking them to fit in and be accepted by the group.

It was also observed that another element contributing to the drug misuse problem in Busia Municipality with 10% of the population is easy availability to drugs. "One won't have to look far to get drugs because they are everywhere in the sub-county, with high school students being the main suppliers," the respondents stated. People who sold drugs to the most vulnerable group, especially young people, did so as a result of drug misuse.

In Busia municipality, loneliness was cited as a contributing factor to drug misuse by 22% of the respondents. According to the answers, young people want to feel good both mentally and physically. In certain cases, drug use replaces a healthy upbringing due to the peer groups that one associates with. The individual sought to numb the agony since they were in it. The respondent mentioned that "The drug dulled the pain, making them feel better for a brief period of time." The person needs to escape the pain of the life experience, and for a short while, the drug took them away and they felt "better"

4.6 Objective three

"What is the relationship between substance abuse and crime in Busia Municipality

The researcher also aimed to identify potential relationship between substance abuse and crime rates; these were also closed related to poverty measures in order to improve the socioeconomic wellbeing of youths. The responses offered a variety of approaches, including neighborhood

watch, community policing, urban or physical design, comprehensive and multidisciplinary efforts, as shown in the table below;

Table 8 showing possible solutions to the problem of drug abuse

Approach	Rate
Neighborhood watch	8
Community policing	7
Urban or physical design	6
Comprehensive and multidisciplinary efforts	7
Strict laws on production of drugs	7
Community sensitization and medical care limitations	5
Counselling	8

(Source: primary data)

Based on the above table and graph Based on both oral and documentary results, the ratings were completed, and the ranks were assigned a score card ranging from 1 to 10. Each has its limitations. Beats was ranked in third place for urban design (6/10), neighborhood watch and counseling were ranked highly (8/10), community policing and efforts of the community and stringent legal legislation followed the rating with 7/10, and community sensitization was ranked lowest (5/10). Retrack (2013) conducted a similar study and came to the conclusion that these tactics should be considered with humanity and as a service to the Almighty God who created humans.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

In accordance with the study objectives, this chapter included a discussion, summary, and conclusion of the study's findings and suggestions.

5.1 An overview of the study's conclusions

Drug abuse is defined as "a state of periodic or chronic intoxication, detrimental to the individual and society, of a drug." The primary sign of drug addiction is the insatiable need to take drugs at all costs. Physical dependence appears when drug intake is reduced or stopped, leading to withdrawal syndrome, which can be a very distressing experience. Psychological dependence arises when an abuser depends on a drug to produce a feeling of well-being. For these reasons, it's critical to emphasize the risks associated with drug abuse in general and among young people involved.

5.2 Analysis and conclusions

The Ministry of Health (MOH, Report, 2006) reports that drug consumption, which is thought to be a result of the country's growing number of slum areas, is to blame for the significant decline in social conduct among roughly 70% of Uganda's youth. The three most often used and misused drugs are alcohol, cocaine, and cigarettes. These drugs have had a significant impact on young people's social behavior and have led to crimes including rape, murder, and robbery. This study will be conducted using Ugandan data that is currently available, particularly from Busia Municipality. Given the figures of the findings, the vice of substance abuse among the residents Busia Municipality is growing is faster and this was attributed to factors like peer group influence, poverty, easy accessibility to these drugs and the influence of the internet whereby some youths are influenced by peers who misuse the social media for such things like "*how to become sober using marijuana*",

In other instances, this study established that youths are usually idle (unemployed) and this provokes them to look for quicker means of getting money whereby in the processes, Despite the Ugandan government's prohibition on the cultivation, sale, and consumption of drugs like marijuana and cocaine, the respondents stated that young people use drugs to feel good about themselves both physically and emotionally. In most cases, it was noted that the desire to "*feel cool*" was the reason behind the use of drugs. The person needs to have fun and escape the stress and feelings lonely, for a short while, the drug took them away and they felt "better." Youths confirmed this when they said that it began as a social action, to take the drugs to be a part of the group, to be accepted. It was not just teenagers, as peer pressure took so many different forms. There was social etiquette, for example, to take a drink during a party. In a similar vein, research results indicated that drug misuse was inherited or genetic, supporting the notion that children of addicts were more likely to experience addiction than not. For instance, some children of alcohol-using parents would likely follow suit and use the drug in a similar manner. It is possible for drug usage to be passed down from one generation to the next.

The interviewees mentioned that young people occasionally required assistance managing life. Simple things become too difficult to handle in daily life, and occasionally people turn to drugs to cope. This is one more aspect contributing to the drug usage issue in Busia municipality. According to the respondents, finding drugs is not difficult as they are widely available throughout the town. Students in high school can attest to this. People that were abusing drugs started selling narcotics to children, who are the most susceptible group. The traditional impoverished areas of the inner city were not the only places where drugs were abundant. For an instant, the agony was dulled by the medicine, making them feel better. The medicine temporarily removed the person's yearning to flee the suffering of their life experience, making them feel "better."

In line with this study, it was highlighted that neighborhood watch programs, which involve closely monitoring neighbors in order to detect drug sales and usage and take prompt action, can effectively prevent drug addiction. To address the issue, community sensitization may also be beneficial. This is an additional method to lower drug use, such as marijuana intake. cocaine and fuel sniffing in the area of study. If people are sensitized on drug abuse and its associated effects, and also sensitize them on how to be creative, they will eventually get involved in productive a

venture which does not require a lot of capital like brick laying and farming, hence they will start earning from these projects and eventually lead to socio-economic growth. Last but not least, it was suggested that implementation of strict laws on production of drugs can help to reduce crimes and there should be community sensitization and neighborhood watch in addition to regulation of strict laws on production and consumption of drugs. Nevertheless police officers involved in corruption should be dealt with because at times culprits are released after giving in some money before even justice is served. However, counseling sessions could be conducted to the youths addicted to drug abuse through education, treatment, and self-help support projects.

Drug abuse was a major cause for concern and has a negative effect on society at large. Though youths constituted a large segment of drug abusers, adults also are involved, The level of consumption or abuse of drugs was discovered to be growing at a high rate. This has resulted into an increase in the spread of diseases, health illnesses like cancer which was not even heard of many decades back. There is also an increase in family breakdown due to abuse of drugs and all these are implications of socio-economic challenges youths are continuing to face. It seemed possible that many addicts would function normally if given a steady supply of good-quality drugs. The real harm to users was that they presently tended to become social dropouts, in that the illegal status of the drug causes them to spend all their time obtaining and using it.

This study established that there seemed to be little doubt that, if it were not for the fear of crime and the spread of drugs within the sub county, most people would not be seriously worried and concerned about drugs addiction. Within the last five years there had been a substantial increase in the use of illegal drugs, particularly among the youths and high school students and the prevalent drugs of abuse for this group were marijuana, alcohol and cocaine. The economic challenges youths face included productivity loss as many youths are unemployed but cannot even use opportunities around them like farming, cattle rearing and or brick-laying, they increase opt for drug abuse and betting with hope that they will get quick money. Additionally, the healthy implications of drug abuse included easy spread of diseases which makes youths weak and unproductive yet healthcare costs are very high. In a similar manner, the criminal costs are increasing because many have been jailed for committing crimes like adultery, theft, rape among others.

5.3 Recommendations

The researcher came out with the following recommendations;

Government

The government should stop drug trafficking and penalize drug traffickers so as to limit the level of drugs entering the country. In addition, anybody caught in farming, distribution and selling of illegal drugs should be dealt with without mercy. Furthermore, the researcher recommends that the government should construct rehabilitation centers so that the youths helped in terms of counseling especially to those who are already addicted to drugs.

Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health also ought to join the fight of drug abuse in the municipality so that the youths can be redeemed from the vice. This can be done through sensitization campaigns by facilitation of social workers and other development practitioners. There should be sensitization programs designed to help the youths cope up with life in the area. The programs should be designed to help both the parents and other stakeholders portray the effects of drug abuse in the municipality.

Busia municipality and Eastern division

The researcher also recommended that the district should implement self-help projects geared towards creation of jobs for the youths at division level so that the youth can get involved in development activities.

Local community.

The community through local council authorities needs to introduce neighborhood watch as a form of community policing whereby keeping a close eye on neighbors who sell or farm illegal drugs.

5.4. Areas recommended for further research

Further research should be conducted on the following areas

- i. The dangers of drug trafficking and health of citizens

- ii. How can governments combat drug abuse
- iii. Who are drug traffickers and in which market

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

PARTICIPANT CONSCENT FORM

Introduction:

My name is **Ochieng Alex**, a student of Uganda Christian University; I am carrying out a research entitled;

“Effects of Substance Abuse on Crime Rates in: A Case Study of Busia Municipality”.

Participation in the study

Your participation in this study is voluntary, there is no payment gained in filling the questionnaire, any information collected will highly be treated with confidentiality and will strictly be used for the study purpose. You are therefore required to provide information to the best of your knowledge. Please tick in the right box of the corresponding answer that you feel it's right;

Thank you for your participation

OCHIENG ALEX

Student

Instructions:

Please answer the following questions based on your observations and knowledge. Your responses will remain confidential.

Section 1: Demographic Information

1. Age:

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55 and older

2. Gender:

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

3. Occupation:

- Student
- Business Owner
- Government Employee
- Law Enforcement
- Health Professional
- Other (please specify): _____

4. How long have you lived in Busia Municipality?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years

- 6-10 years
- More than 10 years

Section 2: Substance Abuse

5. How would you rate the prevalence of substance abuse in Busia Municipality?

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

6. Which substances are most commonly abused in Busia Municipality? (Select all that apply)

- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Prescription Drugs
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Other (please specify): _____

7. Have you noticed any recent changes in substance abuse patterns?

- Significant Increase
- Moderate Increase
- No Change
- Decrease
- Not Sure

Section 3: Crime and Substance Abuse

8. Do you believe there is a link between substance abuse and crime rates in Busia Municipality?

- Yes

- No
- Not Sure

9. Which types of crime do you think are most associated with substance abuse? (Select all that apply)

- Theft
- Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Drug-related Offenses
- Vandalism
- Other (please specify): _____

10. How has substance abuse affected law enforcement efforts in your opinion?

- Significantly Increased Workload
- Moderately Increased Workload
- No Effect
- Decreased Workload
- Not Sure

Section 4: Community Impact and Recommendations

11. What role do local community services play in addressing substance abuse?

- Very Effective
- Somewhat Effective
- Neutral
- Ineffective
- Not Sure

12. What improvements or additional measures do you think are needed to better address substance abuse and its impact on crime?

.....
.....
.....

13. How can the community better support efforts to reduce substance abuse and related crime?

.....
.....
.....

Conclusion:

14. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions related to substance abuse and crime in Busia Municipality?

.....
.....

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your input is valuable and will contribute to understanding and addressing the issues of substance abuse and crime in Busia Municipality.

.....
.....

This questionnaire aims to collect clear and actionable data while remaining user-friendly. Feel free to adjust questions based on specific research needs or feedback from initial trials.

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS GUIDE

1. Date
2. Title
3. Location
4. Duration: start end

- 1) what do you understand by the term drugs and other substances?
- 2) What are some of the drugs and other substances commonly in your area?
- 3) Do you think that there some drugs and other substances abused in your area?
- 4) What are the media influences towards drugs and other substances abuse by adolescents?
- 5) Do the parents and guardians of the adolescents influence their behavior towards drugs and other substances abuse?
- 6) What do you think are the factors influencing abuse of drug and other substances by adolescents? Individual socio-economic environmental
- 7) What suggestions can you propose to control consumption of drugs and other substances by adolescents in your environmental?

APPENDICES III: LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Distribution of the study population and sampling techniques

Table 2: respondents and their response rate per parish

Table 3: Gender of the Respondents

Table 4: Showing Age of the Respondents

Table 5: showing level of education

Table 6 showing the effect of drug abuse

Table 7 showing the factors contributing to substance abuse

Table 8 showing possible solutions to the problem of drug abuse

APPENDIX III: PLACEMENT LETTER



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

Office of the Academic Registrar

To THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Academic Research

Christian greetings!

We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss. OCHIENG ALEX
Of Registration Number J22/MUC/BSW/1074 pursuing a Masters' Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree
SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION

He/ she is required to carry out academic research on the topic
EFFECT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON CRIME RATES: A CASE STUDY OF BUCIA MUNICIPALITY (two weeks)
and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for undergraduate and three (BLACK)copies for Postgraduate students as a university requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he / she is pursuing.

We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.
Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Akampurira Timothy
Academic Registrar



A Complete Education for a Complete Person

P.O Box, Mbale, Uganda, email: academicregistrar@mbale.ucu.ac.ug

APPENDIX IV: SKETCH MAP OF BUSIA DISTRICT



Research area