

**IMPACT OF DRUG ABUSE ON THE PREVALENCE OF YOUTHS CRIME IN  
NORTHERN DIVISION, MBALE CITY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL  
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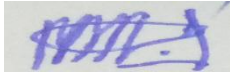
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## DECLARATION

**I, Muduwa Joy Rebecca** hereby declare that this research report entitled “**impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youths crime in northern division, Mbale City** ” is my original work and to the best of my knowledge has never been submitted to any other institution of higher learning for any academic award.

**Sign:**



**Date: 26/6/2025**

## APPROVAL

This research was carried out under my supervision on the topic “**impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youth’s crime in northern division, Mbale City**” and it is now ready for submission as a partial fulfillment for the requirements of the award of a bachelor’s degree of social work and social administration of Uganda Christian University.

Signature:



Date: 28/6/2025

Mr. Komo Richard Samson

**Supervisor**

## **DEDICATION**

This research report is a special dedication to my beloved family members and relatives who have in one way or another supported me till the completion of my course. May the Almighty God bless them all abundantly

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I acknowledge God the Alpha and Omega, for the precious gift of life, strength, knowledge and wisdom which have enabled me carry out this research successfully.

I acknowledge my research supervisor Mr. Komo Richard Samson for his tireless efforts and guidance till the completion of this research report may God the Alpha and Omega bless the work of his hands abundantly.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

EU	:	European Union
EAC	:	East Africa Corruption
DEO	:	District Education Officer
AFDB	:	African Development Bank
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
US	:	United States
CVI	:	Content Validity Index
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences

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## ABSTRACT

The study concentrated on the impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youth crime in Northern Division, Mbale City and it concentrated on the specific objectives of: To find out factors responsible for drug abuse among the youths in Northern Division, Mbale City, to establish the relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crime in Northern Division, Mbale City and lastly to find out measures of containing drug abuse so as to prevent youth crimes in Northern Division, Mbale City. The study used a descriptive research design and it considered a sample size of 86 respondents. Study findings concluded that: Findings concluded that Poor influence is one of the reasons as to why youths get involved in drug abuse, that Ready availability of substances is also a factor contributing to drug abuse, that youth get involved in drug abuse, that if youths who get involved in drug abuse become violent in nature and do not want to associate with others, that there is a relationship between drug abuse and other criminal acts including violent crime, The findings of the study revealed that Providing good quality and advice on the dangers of drug abuse may work as a strategy to reduce drug abuse among the youth, the study findings show that providing family based drug abuse treatment can help solve the problem of drug abuse

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents information about the background to the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, AND conceptual frame work and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background to the study

Drug abuse has become a global phenomenon and its intensity varies depending on the country in question. World over, about 15.3 million individuals experience a minimum of one drug abused related disorder (Abbo, Okello & Ovuga (2021). In the year 2012, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimated that about 183,000 drug related deaths occurred globally; with around 162- 324 million people, aged between 15 and 64, reported using abusing drug at least once yearly. There is an increase of about 26% in the crime burden of drug abuse among youth, compare d to the past decade (WHO, 2021). Drug abuse is considered as a pattern that is maladaptive due to sustained use, despite awareness of developing a repeated or persistent social, professional, psychological, or physical challenge as a result of recurrent use in circumstances that are physically harmful (WHO, 2021).

The term “abuse” is often used informally to mean any utilization of illicit drugs. Due to its double standard, the name is used strictly on non-dependence drugs case. Drug abuse during adolescence and early adulthood has become a serious public health problem with several consequential impacts on them (Bhui & Warfa, 2017). The Impact of drug abuse on youth crime is a global phenomenon. Drug abuse contributes to the rise in youth violence, poverty, unemployment, and crime among others. Youth abused drugs for a variety of reasons, which includes fun, alertness, performance, satisfying hunger, and weight management among others, ignoring its consequential morbidity and mortality effects. In this regard, drug-related fatalities are estimated to be 187,100 people annually as of 2013, with an intolerable number of drug abusers dying before their time, with approximately 400, 000 deaths per year in the 2020s, worldwide (Bhui & Warfa, 2017). It is difficult to combat the impact of drug abuse without political commitment. The needed commitment demand putting in place a strategic drug abuse management technique, with particular attention on the youth.

The crimes with the highest incidences among drug users are drug offences, shoplifting and theft (Bennett & Holloway 2005). 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). Drug use and crime are factors that limit individuals' ability to participate in society and may lead to social exclusion (WHO, 2020)

Despite the public health significance, little progress has been made to address the issue of substance use among conflict-displaced populations. Standards for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders in general have been outlined in the International Standards for Treatment of Drug Use Disorders (UNODC & WHO, 2021) and the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention (UNODC & WHO, 2021). There is also emerging guidance for the provision of mental health and substance use disorder treatment in resource limited settings such as the WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) (WHO, 2010). However, these guidelines are yet to be implemented at scale. The evidence base for effective treatment and prevention of substance use disorder amongst displaced populations is scant. As substance use and related harms is context-specific, intervention design must be guided by local assessment.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, about 28 million people are drug abusers and about 37,000 people in Africa die annually from diseases associated with drug abuse. A study by Bhui & Warfa, (2017) revealed that Nigeria has the highest drug prevalence rate among the youth at 20.9% and followed by South Africa at 15%. Further, based on a sample of 143,201 youths with a mean age of 17.5 years, established that the prevalence of drug abuse among youths in Sub-Saharan Africa was 41.6%. The drugs consumed by the youth in this study included; caffeine products (41.2%) but this was only in the West African countries. This was followed by alcohol (32.8%), tobacco products (23.5%), khat (22.0%), cannabis (15.9%), depressants (11.3%), amphetamines (9.4%), the heroine (4.0%) and cocaine (3.9%) (Abbo, Okello & Ovuga (2021).

In Uganda, the burden of illicit drug and alcohol use is high among school-going individuals, fisher folk, slum-dwelling adolescents and young women involved in high risk sexual

behaviors yet this population remains under studied (MoH, 2022). Unregulated marketing and availability of cheap drugs, alcohol and alcohol branded merchandise to adolescents has increased access to these substances (). In Uganda, the prevalence of drug abuse among youths aged 15-24 years is 70.1% (Okiraia and Okiidi et al., 2022). Of these 39.1% use drugs regularly and the common drugs consumed include: alcohol (23.3%), kuber (10.8%), khat (10.5%), aviation fuel (10.1%), Cannabis (9.2%), and cigarettes (5.9%). However, the occurrence of drug abuse in males was twice as much as in females who are usually initiated at a later stage. In addition, traditional cultural values influence youths' attitudes and beliefs, which in turn influence their health risk behaviours hence abuse of drugs (MoH, 2022).

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 2012. Today Uganda has a narcotic law passed in April 2015, but not operationalized to show commitment and compliance in combating substance and drug abuse particularly among the youth. 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.

In Northern Division, Mbale City, alcohol caused approximately 90,000 of youth crimes. Alcohol or drug use is involved in 40-60% of youth crimes. More than half of youths who abuse their elder parents (age 60 or older) are dependent on alcohol or drugs. Each year, about 350 victims of violent assaults report that their attackers were youth under the influence of alcohol.

There is no comprehensive single author survey of the effect of drug abuse on rates of crimes among youth in Northern Division and this created a research opportunity for this study. Even current evidence about the development of drug use and offending is constrained by design flaws in published studies, particularly the absence of suitable control groups (eg., Hayhurst et al., 2017) highlighted that research has focused on comparing offending that occurs prior to the initiation of drug use with offending that occurs thereafter. Designs of many past studies have failed to separate the effects of initiation from the effects of other factors which might also be related to offending, in particular, age, which correlates strongly with offending. This study

therefore explored the impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youth crime in Northern Division, Mbale City

## **1.2 Problem statement**

The power of youth cannot be underestimated. They bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and a deep understanding of the issues that directly affect their communities. The youth play an important role in nation building and economic development as they are the future leaders of the country (Kisakye, 2019). They have the potential to bring about positive change and make a significant contribution to society is to provide fresh perspectives and energy to help drive economic development and social progress. As the future leaders of the country, they have a responsibility to contribute to making society better for everyone. In practical terms, this means getting involved in activities that create positive change (Annan & Brier, 2018). However, preliminary results in Northern Division of Mbale City show that estimated 200 youth homicides occur among young people between 15–29 years of age each year, making it the third leading cause of death for people in this age group. Firearm attacks end are common, assaults that involve fists, feet, knives and blunt objects by youth are also often registered at Nakaloke police station. Sexual violence also affects a significant proportion of youth. Physical fighting and bullying are also common among young people (Police Report, 2023).

Northern Division situational report (2023) also shows that an average of 42% of boys and 37% of girls are exposed to youth bullying. Youth crime and fatal violence not only contribute greatly to the burden of premature death in Northern Division, injury and disability, but also have a serious, often lifelong, impact on a person's psychological and social functioning. Despite of interventions by government and civil society, the rates of youth crimes have continued to rise uninterrupted. If the situation is not arrested through using strong strategies, victims' families, friends and communities will be affected and there will be increased costs of health, welfare and criminal justice services and reduced productivity and deaths. The public have observed that drug abuse could be the factor behind increasing rates of crimes among the youth. Preliminary results also reveal that there is there is no single comprehensive author survey regarding the impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youth crime in Northern Division, Mbale City and this has resulted into limitations and distortions in literature, a gap this study seek to address

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to analyze the impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youth crime in Northern Division, Mbale City

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

- I. To find out factors responsible for drug abuse among the youths in Northern Division, Mbale City
- II. To establish the relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crime in Northern Division, Mbale City
- III. To find out measures of containing drug abuse so as to prevent youth crimes in Northern Division, Mbale City

### **1.5 Research questions**

- I. Explain the factors responsible for drug abuse among the youths in Northern Division, Mbale City
- II. What is the relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crime in Northern Division, Mbale City
- III. What measures are in place for containing drug abuse in Northern Division, Mbale City?

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study scope was categorized into geographical, content and time scope as follows:

#### **1.6.1 Geographical Scope**

The study was conducted in Northern Division, Mbale City. It was done in selected wards of the division. Northern Division, Mbale City was chosen as case study because of the prevalence of high rates of youth crime (Northern Division Situational Analysis Report, 2024).

#### **1.6.2 Content scope**

The study will contain information about the impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youth crime in Northern Division, Mbale City. Specifically, the study looked at the factors responsible for drug abuse among the youths and establish the relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes in Northern Division, Mbale City. The study also found out measures of containing drug abuse so as to prevent youth crimes in Northern Division, Mbale City. Through this content scope, the researcher was able to collect adequate and relevant information that helped to attain study objectives.

### **1.6.3 Time Scope**

The research study considered the period between 2021 and 2024. This period was considered because it is during this time that the prevalence of youth crime in northern division of Mbale City was more pronounced (Northern Division Situational Report, 2024)

### **1.7 Significance of the study**

The study findings may benefit the following categories of people:

The study may provide information for government and stakeholders on the primary determinants of crimes committed by the youths

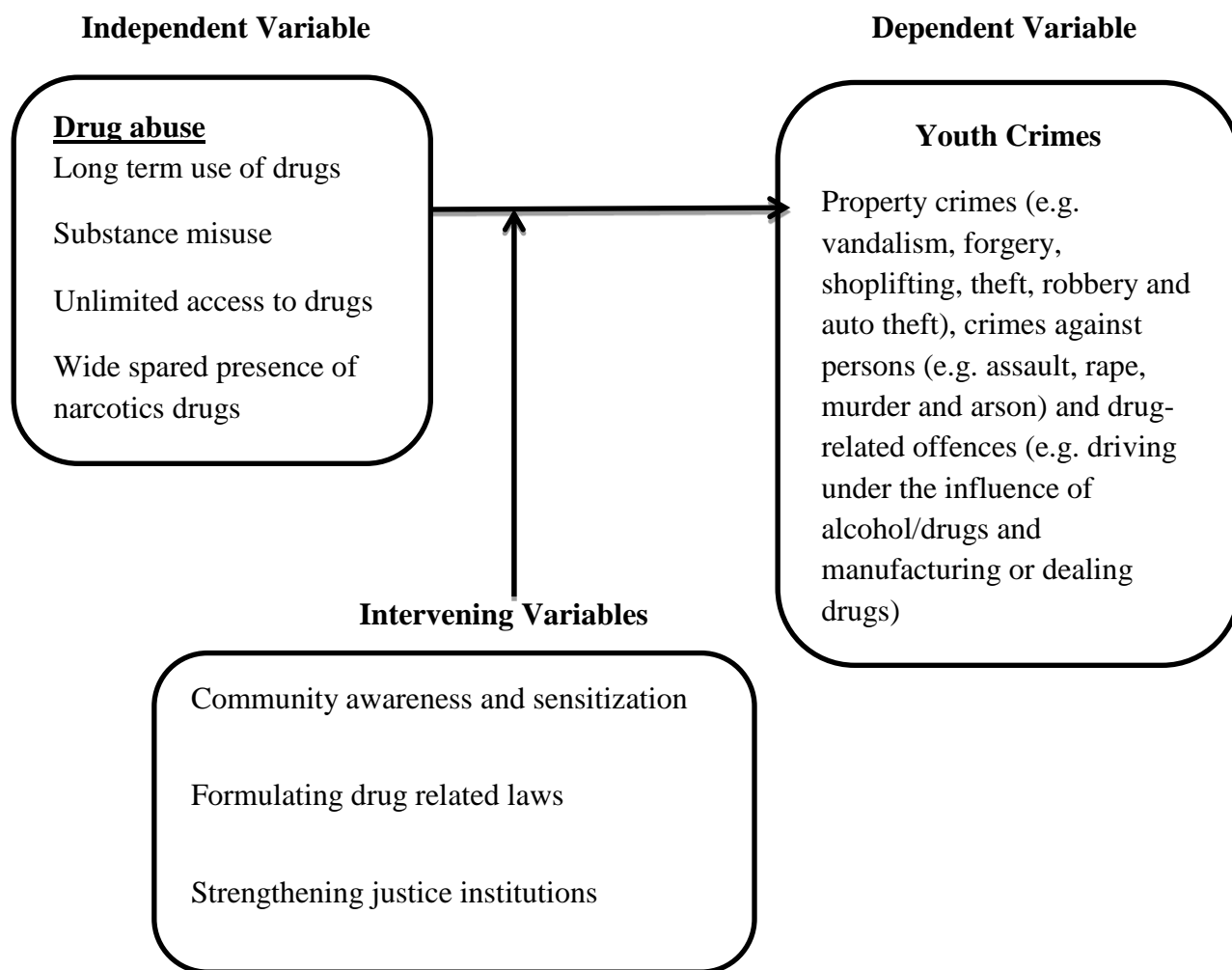
It may also assist law enforcement institutions in understanding the impact of drug abuse on youth crimes

This study may provide data to inform policy thinking on how to address the problem of drug abuse and its more often significant relationship to youth crimes

The study may in addition provide accorded opportunity of testing the validity and explanatory powers of the existing theories on drug abuse on youth crimes

The findings may benefit future researcher who intend to carry out similar a study by acting as a source of information.

## 1.9 Conceptual Frame work



**Figure 1.1: Conceptual framework**

**Source: Adapted from Mugenda and Muganda (2004): Conceptual Frameworks**

The above conceptual framework shows the relationship between variables. Drug abuse as independent variable is characterized by long term use of drugs, substance misuse unlimited access to drugs and wide spared presence of narcotics drugs. While dependent variable in this case is youth crimes with parameters of property crimes (e.g. vandalism, forgery, shoplifting, theft, robbery and auto theft), crimes against persons (e.g. assault, rape, murder and arson) and drug-related offences (e.g. driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs and manufacturing or dealing drugs). The conceptual framework has been drawn on the assumption that if drug abuse is controlled, youth crime could be prevented and the reverse is undoubtedly true. Nevertheless, this may not be automatic as other factors may come into play. These may

include community awareness and sensitization, formulating drug related laws and strengthening justice institutions. These factors have been dully coined as intervening variables by the study and are being isolated to avoid making wrong conclusions.

#### **1.10 Definition of key terms**

**Drug abuse:** The use of illegal drugs or the use of prescription or over-the-counter drugs for purposes other than those for which they are meant to be used, or in excessive amounts. Drug abuse may lead to social, physical, emotional, and job-related problem (WHO, 2021)

**Crime:** the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited, and punishable under criminal law (Mnade et al., 2022)

**Youth:** Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence. That's why, as a category, youth is more fluid than other fixed age-groups. Yet, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment, because 'youth' is often referred to a person between the ages of leaving compulsory education, and finding their first job (Kemugisha, 2021)

#### **1.11 Limitations and delimitation**

Some respondent refused to give information due to fear of victimizations. Here the respondent assured them of confidentiality.

Some respondents were not present on the day of data collection. To overcome this, the research followed up by comeback for data collection

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter shows the various sources of related literature to the topic of the research. The sources include; review of scholarly journals, government documents, text books, Internet and Newspapers, it also presents theoretical review, actual review on the effect of drug abuse on increase in rates of crimes among the youths. This literature review has been done objective by objective.

#### 2.1. Factors contributing to drug abuse among youths

Peer influence is one of the first reasons as to why the youths get involved in substance abuse (Sullivan, 2021). The youths see lots of people consuming various substances, they see other adults drinking alcohol smoking and trying other substances. Therefore, the youths gain morale of drinking and using these illicit drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, shisha among others. Sometimes friends urge one another to have a drink or smoke pot, but it is just common for the youth to start trying these substances because they are readily available and they see all their friends enjoying them. In their minds, they see drug use as part of the normal youth experience. According to Morrel et al., (2020) “teenagers seem to have more problems with peer pressure because they are just beginning to learn about whom they are and what their belief systems are

Research by Johnson (2016) revealed that most youths also get involved in substance abuse because of depression. Most youths who get involved in drug abuse are students who are packed with schedules of advanced classes and extra-curricular activities. Depression is a common mental health diagnosis among the youth and it is notoriously difficult to treat. Therefore, most youth seek to alcohol as the only option thus leading to substance abuse. On top of that, many people who struggle with depression do not get proper treatment or diagnosis of what they are suffering from. This makes sense that those struggling with depression tend to self-medicate to handle symptoms of depression with alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and other mind-altering substances.

Most youths also get involved in substance abuse because of curiosity. Curiosity is a natural part of life and teenagers are not immune to the urge. Many youths begin experimenting with drugs and alcohol simply because they are curious and want to know what it feels like (Bhui & Warfa, 2017). Even if the youths know that drugs are bad, they don't believe that anything bad

can actually happen to them such as bad health due to alcohol intake. Therefore, the urge to know how one feels like after taking alcohol forces many of the youth to get involved in substances abuse and at the end resulting to criminal behaviour such as fights, robbery among others.

Abbo, Okello & Ovuga (2021) found that availability and easy access are one of the most important factors as to why youths start using drugs. Nowadays, schools have become hunting grounds for drug vendors so as to catch the victims. Due to pleasure seeking and experimental techniques, young boys and girls try to experience these drugs especially students. Some do it just to prove to friends that they are brave enough to do it. The availability of drugs will vary across communities, partly related to the laws of the geographic region and the social norms of that area regarding drug use. In general, the more available drugs are in a given community, the more likely it is that the youths will report using them (Newcomb, & Bentler, 2018). For example, data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provide estimates that more than 50% of adolescent's ages 12 to 17 years consider marijuana fairly or very easy to acquire in their communities

Substance abuse among the youths is also caused due to the environment in which one lives (Johnson, 2016). Traditionally there has been more of a focus on the behavior of the substance abuser rather than looking at their environment. There is little doubt though, that coming from certain environments does predispose people to alcohol and drug abuse. Those who grew up in dysfunctional households are more likely to turn to this type of activity. Even Bhui & Warfa (2017) found that those individuals who are from impoverished neighborhoods can turn to drugs as a response to the lack of opportunity in their life. Some inner city areas experience a lot of crime, and people living there may turn to addiction as a means to deal with the stress of this.

Most youths also get involved in substance abuse because they have become addicted and they cannot do without alcohol (Abbo, Okello, & Ovuga (2021). The youths do not use alcohol or drugs with the intent of becoming addicted. Most parents, teachers and concerned people have always talked to most youths on the dangers of alcohol and drugs but they have failed to leave. Most parents have talked to their children with unconditional love, genuine concern, understanding, and heartfelt compassion, recognizing the challenges and temptations that are so insidious and prevalent at that age but they have failed to adjust and leave alcohol. Most youths are vulnerable and easily influenced by others when they see them taking and hence being addicted.

## **2.2 Relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes**

Youths who get involved in substance abuse tend to become violent in nature and do not want to associate with other people in society (Marvin et al., 2019). Alcohol or other drug abuse problems combined with poor adherence to medication may signal a higher risk of violent behaviour among the youths who get involved in substance abuse and this has become an increasing focus of concern among the policy makers and the general public. This has been so because of the result of tragic, albeit uncommon events that occur in a society such as unnecessary fights, increased gender based violence in families among others

Abbo, Okello, & Ovuga (2021) argued that a relationship between drug abuse and other criminal offences, including violent crime, can be found in various studies. Case studies of offenders who have committed violent crimes such as homicide and robbery indicate that drug abuse is often a critical factor. In turn, some evidence suggests that higher rates of violence are associated with more frequent drug abuse. At the same time, while some drug abusers engage in violent offending, other drug abusers are neither criminal nor violent.

Johnson (2016) observed that crime related to drug abuse is mostly non-violent and often petty. Economic-compulsive crime to obtain drugs, such as theft and burglary, is more common than violent drug-induced assault. However, the impact of illicit drugs, crime and violence is highly damaging to local communities at the micro-social level, as members of those communities have to live in the midst of illicit drug markets, where crime and violence, and the threat of crime and violence, are ever present.

According to Bhui & Warfa (2017), the macro-level impact of drugs, crime and violence, in relation to organized crime, drug trafficking and transnational criminal networks, is different from, but closely related to, locally committed crime. The Board recognizes the importance of efforts to deal with the problems of macro-level drug trafficking and transnational criminal networks, as well as criminal justice efforts, at the national and international levels, to combat those problems; however, the focus of the present chapter is on the equally important localized and targeted interventions with respect to groups engaging in or at risk of violent drug-related crime and on the affected communities.

Ihunwo, Kayanja, & Amadi-Ihunwo (2018) found that disciplines based on the individual interpret drug abuse primarily as the outward symbol of internal disorder. In comparison, disciplines offering explanations centred on sociological and culturally situated studies focus on social interaction, norms of conduct, sanctions and the setting of events as the main

explanatory factors in the relationship between drugs and crime; these constitute the focus of the present chapter. Explanations of drug abuse, crime and violence are multifactorial; therefore, a range of disciplinary explanations can be utilized in an attempt to understand this relationship.

While Kafuko and Bukuluki (2018) opined that focusing on one discipline in the vast literature on drug abuse and aggression, psychopharmacological studies have found that illicit and licit drugs, including alcohol, can be associated with aggression but that some have no such association. There is a wealth of evidence to support the assertion that alcohol consumption, under certain conditions, stimulates violence. In comparison, the ingestion of opiates, under certain conditions, has been found to inhibit aggression, but withdrawal from long-term abuse of these and related substances has been found to result in irritability and hostility. Further, Kafuko and Bukuluki (2018) observed that frequency of cocaine abuse, and amphetamine abuse, has been associated with increased likelihood of involvement as a perpetrator in violent crime. Also, the use of barbiturates appears to be related to aggressive behavior

While biologically and psychologically based explanations of the drugs/crime nexus provide a wealth of interesting insights, they do not account for subcultural and cross-cultural variations in actual experiences of drug abuse and its social consequences (Ihunwo, Kayanja, & Amadi-Ihunwo, 2018). The impact of illicit cocaine consumption and trafficking on affluent social groups, as opposed to poorer communities, cannot be accounted for in laboratory-controlled tests on drug abuse. In comparison, explanations focusing on social and cultural factors are grounded in “real-life” examples of communities that either experience or avoid problems associated with drug abuse, crime and violence.

Historical evidence of birth cohort differences in drug abuse and resultant violent and non-violent behavior reveals the influence of different drugs and illicit drug markets and different social norms on youth crime (Ihunwo, Kayanja, & Amadi-Ihunwo, 2018). However, what data on this subject cannot clarify is whether conduct norms are causal factors in the decline in drug-related crime and violence or whether non-violent and non-criminal conduct norms are simply a consequence of declining levels of drug-related violence. Moreover, the impact of drug-related crime and violence has not been interpreted beyond the immediate impact that it has on drug abusers and illicit drug trafficking, in order to take into consideration the insecurity experienced by members of communities whose daily lives are affected by changing drug cultures.

Bhui & Warfa (2017) argued that drugs and violence are related in three separate and distinct ways (the tripartite model): (a) psychopharmacological, suggesting that violence is the result of the acute effect of a psychoactive drug on the abuser; (b) economic compulsive, suggesting that violence is committed instrumentally to generate money to purchase drugs; and (c) systemic, suggesting that violence is associated with the marketing of illicit drugs. Studies have generally revealed that psychopharmacological violence, including homicide, is most often associated with alcohol abuse (Johnson, 2016)). In comparison, economic compulsive violence related to drugs is a rare event, but economic-compulsive crime to obtain drugs is frequent. Systemic violence is closely related to “turf” battles over illicit drug markets.

### **2.3 Measures of containing drug abuse among the youth**

Providing good quality drug education and advice to help people resist substance misuse. This is to be delivered primarily by drug education in schools and through the help of parents. Parents can actively support their child and engage with him or her during the treatment and recovery process (Botvin et al 2021). Apart from providing moral and emotional support, parents can also play a crucial role in supporting the practical aspects of treatment, such as scheduling and making appointments, as well as providing needed structure and supervision through household rules and monitoring. Also, several evidence-based treatments for the youths specifically address drug abuse within the family context. Family-based drug abuse treatment can help improve communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution within the household (National Institute of Drug Abuse; 2018).

The government is coming up with measures of regulating alcohol in the country through forming laws towards alcohol. This can be exemplified by the New Bill of 2016 which was drafted by a small committee chaired by Betty Nambooze, a member of parliament. With this, alcohol was seen as a massive obstacle to development in Uganda. In March 2016, Uganda was ranked 8th in the world and first on the African continent in liquor intake. Therefore this bill was passed to minimize alcohol intake (Kasirye, 2019) Drug use by people involved in the criminal justice system is to be tackled through continuing to support Drug Rehabilitation Requirements, which allow courts to require people to seek drug treatment, and the Drug Interventions Programme, which aims to involve offenders in drug treatment. The strategy also states that ‘drug recovery wings’ will be piloted in prisons, integrating drug recovery services into prison wings.

Ihunwo, Kayanja, & Amadi-Ihunwo (2018) suggested that media campaigns work can also help to create awareness about the negative effects of drug abuse. Any country that intends to

reduce drug abuse among its youth should dedicate resources to project consistent anti-drug messages out to their youth through the media. All over the world, parents, teachers, religious leaders, and others are struggling to compete with the volume of misleading messages and negative influences that young people are exposed to through the media, especially when it comes to drug use. Antidrug media campaigns, properly executed, will reduce drug use. In the United States, the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign of 2019 has sought to turn youth attitudes against drug use and encouraged increased parental engagement through national paid advertising and public communications outreach. The intent is to deliver clear, consistent, credible, and sustained anti-drug messages and this inspires young people to reject drug use by appealing to their sense of individuality and independence.

Youth engagement in various activities plays an important role in preventing substance abuse among youth. Youth engagement is perceived as the sustained and meaningful involvement of youth in an activity focusing outside him or her (Pentz, 2017). A broad range of activities are effective in engaging youth; including but not limited to school or community volunteering, sports, the arts, music and politics. Most youths according to Kafuko and Bukuluki (2018) should be involved in making important decisions that can affect their lives, youths who are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential and youths who receive mutual respect from adults, parents, educators and peers are more likely to live a healthy lifestyle.

Treatment and rehabilitation are essential components of demand reduction. They should be seen as a means to help persons overcome addiction and not a form of punishment. Treatment which is carried out under proper conditions changes the behaviour of various individuals (Hawkins et al., 2018). Treatment provides a necessary foundation for rehabilitation and community reintegration. The setting in which it occurs; community-based, clinic, workplace, prison or others may be less important than the skills of persons involved, the processes used and the type of treatment (Kafuko and Bukuluki, 2018). However, successful programmes require qualified staff, constant management, adequate resources and the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

Bhui & Warfa (2017) argued that since resources for specialized assistance for persons with drug problems are often not available in many countries such as Uganda, existing primary health care settings and networks may have to be adapted to care for drug abusers. The majority of persons in rural areas have no easy access to specialized health care but primary health care networks can provide a contact point and a means of intervention (Kafuko and Bukuluki, 2018). Therefore, this means that general health workers should receive training to

deal with alcohol and drug problems, especially in such subjects as rapid assessment, counseling and crisis management of early phases of cases of substance abuse disorders in any given society

According to Muck et al., (2017), substance abuse can also be tackled through building a sense of trust and understanding early in the relationship by persuading the individual to leave drugs (Sanchez, 2020). This will help to reduce the adolescent's resistance to talking about his or her substance use. One particular strategy is to initiate a discussion with the adolescent about what will be done with the information discussed in treatment. For example, many youths will be apprehensive about discussing their drug use history because they fear that the information will be given to other people such as parents, probation officers and teachers. In most cases, the youths with substance abuse problems are referred to counselors by juvenile justice courts, schools, parents, or some other entity

## **2.4 Conclusions**

The substantial variability among drug use patterns and drug enforcement laws across the world created significant hurdles for past studies on vulnerable population of drug users. However, given the substantial contribution of substance misuse to individual and societal harm, it is essential that researchers continue to study the multiple aspects of substance use and misuse. Past substance use research raises a unique set of ethical challenges that can interfere with the efforts of researchers to study illicit drug users but past studies (eg., Kafuko and Bukuluki (2018) have not acknowledge these challenges and failed to develop novel methods and designs to protect vulnerable populations participating in research. Worst still, most past studies reviewed (eg., Muck et al., (2017) did an inclusion of illicit drug users, often considered vulnerable participants, and yet this presents several increased risks that they failed to address in study protocols and this study which will analyze the effect of drug abuse on increase in rates of crimes among the youths in Kabwangasi Sub County, Butebo District will address these gaps.

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents; research design, study population, sample size, sample selection, sampling techniques and procedures, data collection methods and techniques, validity and reliability of instruments, procedure for data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations.

#### 3.1 Research Design

The study employed a mixed research design using both descriptive statics and calculations. By collecting and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data in the same study, the researcher was able to draw more meaningful conclusions.

#### 3.2 Sample size

The population comprised 90 politicians, 8 Town agents and 02 Town clerks. using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) methods of determining sample size from the population the researcher arrived at a sample size of 80 respondents.

#### Summary of Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Participants	Study Population (N)	Sample Size (n)	Sampling Technique
Residents	90	70	Simple random sampling
Local leaders	8	6	Purposive sampling
Police administrators	12	10	Purposive sampling
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>86</b>	

*Source: researcher (2025)*

#### 3.4 Sampling Techniques

##### 3.4.1 Purposive Sampling

This technique was used to select local leaders and police administrators because they were of this category and they provided qualitative data which is best suited for this method.

### **3.4.3 Simple Random for Quantitative Data**

The study employed simple random sampling to select participants from the population. Simple random sampling was used to select 90 residents. Before picking the units within a population, the researcher determined how many to select. The goal of simple random was to give every respondent a chance to participate in the study. Each member of the accessible population was assigned a number, which was then placed in the container, and a random number was chosen.

## **3.5 Research Instruments**

### **3.5.1 Questionnaire**

The researcher used a self-administered questionnaire as a research tool to collect data from the 70 residents. The researcher got a list of politicians selected through purposive sampling to which the questionnaires were administered.

The nature of the questions were in form of structured and close ended questions where by a 5 Likert scale of measurement was used on close ended questions based on a scale of strongly agree (5), agree (4), unsure (3), disagree (2), strongly disagree (1). A questionnaire was used because it allows respondents to provide first hand information which was free of bias and which was easy to use.

### **3.5.2 Interviews**

Other data was collected using interviews with the help of interview guide. An interview guide is a research instrument that contains a set of questions on defined issues under study that are put to respondents on face to face basis (Saunders, et al, 2007). The interview guide was used on local leaders and police administrators because this category of respondents was assumed to have in-depth knowledge and firsthand information that cannot be fully captured using questionnaires.

## **3.6 Data quality control**

### **3.6.1 Validity**

The validity of an instrument was defined as the ability of an instrument to measure what it is intended to measure. To establish the validity of the instruments, the researcher used expert judgement as recommended by Gay (1997) as the best method for ensuring validity. Thus the researcher ensured that the instrument is clear, relevant, specific and logically arranged. The

validity of the questionnaire was tested using the content validity test (CVI). To arrive at the relevancy of the questionnaire, the researcher designed the instruments that yielded content – valid data by first specifying the domain of indicators that were relevant to the concept being measured.

$$CVI = \frac{R}{R+N+IR}$$

Where, Relevant (R), Neutral (N), to Irrelevant (IR).

### **3.6.2 Reliability**

The reliability of the instruments was tested using the test re-test method of reliability and Cronbach alpha tests to determine the reliability index with the help of SPSS. Data was collected from 10 resident's notes among those in the sample. The principle of reliability as far as research instruments are concerned is clearly put forward by Amin (2005) that an instrument is reliable if it produces the same results wherever it is repeatedly used to measure a trait or a concept from the same population and under similar circumstances. In the case of reliability, Cronbach Alpha coefficient method of internal consistency was used to calculate the reliability co-efficient of the questionnaire.

## **3.7 Data Processing and Analysis**

### **3.7.1 Quantitative data analysis**

Data processing was done through editing of the data which was coded for further data analysis. After data processing, quantitative data analysis was carried out by simple frequency tabulation using a Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Data was presented using different methods such as simple frequency tables which will ultimately helped to measure the study variables.

### **3.7.3 Qualitative data analysis**

#### **Thematic analysis**

The analysis of qualitative data involved identifying themes or patterns coding and classifying data, usually textual, according to themes; and interpreting the resulting thematic structures by seeking commonalties, relationships, overarching patterns, theoretical constructs, or explanatory principles. The analysis of data in this study involved organizing data into meaningful themes and categories.

The themes that emerged from each data set was presented and discussed separately to establish recurring ones. The findings were discussed, interpreted and supported through cross-referencing relevant sections in the literature review and the theoretical framework. First, interview data was also organized according to individual responses and was analyzed by grouping answers together across respondents.

### **3.8 Data collection procedure**

The researcher selected and presented a research topic to the University which was approved. Thereafter the researcher developed a research proposal. After approval of the research proposal, the researcher obtained an introductory letter from Uganda Christian University which was presented to the relevant authorities in the study area for data collection.

### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

#### **3.9.1 Informed consent and voluntary participation**

The researcher sought consent from the respondents to be involved in the research study not just forcing them to participate. The respondents participating in the study were made aware of what the study is about; it's purpose, usage of the data, and any consequences that could arise from it (Fleming, 2018). The researcher furnished the respondents with information on the reason for the research and the procedure of collecting data where the respondents had enough time to ask questions and have any concerns addressed. The respondents exercised free will in deciding whether to participate in research activity or not and all people to be involved in the research were given written informed acceptance.

#### **3.9.2 Confidentiality**

During the study, information collected from subjects was kept strictly confidential and was not disclosed to third parties without the respondent's approval. During the study, individuals' identities were kept anonymous and anonymized through the use of numbers or pseudonyms.

#### **3.9.3 Anonymity**

Anonymity was employed by the researcher and it involved concealing the identities of research respondents. The researcher ensured that all respondents are anonymous, meaning that their identities are unknown and not relevant to the study. Withholding respondents' identities ensured that their claims are authentic (Taylor, 2015).

#### **3.6.4 Plagiarism**

The researcher ensured that all written work is original and without any borrowed and manipulated texts, results or even expressions. The researcher made sure that, all words and publications of the author are given their due acknowledgement (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The researcher subjected the written works to a plagiarism software and make sure it is 10% or less compliant of plagiarism material.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study. it is detailed with demographic characteristics of respondents and interpretation and discussion of study findings.

#### 4.1 Demographic characteristics of participants

**Table 4.1: Distribution of participants by their selected demographic characteristics**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Female	56	76
Male	30	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
18-25	20	20
26-33	20	20
34 above	46	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Education level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Primary	10	10
Secondary	60	74
Post-Secondary	16	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Married	66	80%
Un married	20	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Primary Data, 2025**

#### Gender of respondents

Respondents were asked to reveal their gender with the researcher wanting to know the number of women and men who participated in the study and findings showed that 76% of

the respondents were females and 24% of the respondents were males. Though females were the majority, study findings show that all sex was well represented.

### **Age group of respondents**

Though majority of the respondents were in the age brackets of 34 above which was represented with 60%, all the respondents were above the age of 18 and therefore they easily understand different research questions and they took enough time to think before responding as mature persons are associated with this.

### **Educational level of respondents**

Respondents were asked to reveal their levels of education and 10% of the respondents had ended at primary level, 74% at secondary level and lastly 16% at post-secondary. Findings show that all respondents had attained some level of education therefore they could easily read and interpret what was in questionnaires and interview guides.

### **Marital status of respondents**

Findings show that 80% of the respondents were married and 20% were not married. This finding show that majority of the respondents were married and therefore had enough experience on drug abuse among youth in their communities as they were also parent who might encountered the problem with their children thus their responses were trusted.

## 4.2 . Factors contributing to drug abuse among youths

**Table 4.2.1: Descriptive Statistics**

	<b>N</b>	<b>1 (SD)</b>	<b>2 (D)</b>	<b>3 (U)</b>	<b>4 (A)</b>	<b>5 (SA)</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. D</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Poor influence is one of the reasons as to why youths get involved in drug abuse	86	5 (3.6%)	5 (3.6%)	10 (15.8%)	46 (50%)	20 (27%)	3.82	1.022	<b>High</b>
Ready availability of substances is also a factor contributing to drug abuse	86	0 (0%)	3 (3.5%)	3 (7%)	66 (63.4%)	15 (26.1%)	3.96	0.815	<b>High</b>
Youth get involved in drug abuse because of depression	86	5 (5%)	5 (5%)	0 (0%)	56 (67.0%)	20 (23%)	4.14	0.600	<b>Very High</b>
Most youth get involved in substance abuse because of curiosity	86	10 (12.5%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	54 (51.1%)	32 (28.4%)	4.01	0.905	<b>High</b>
Valid N (list wise)	80								
<b>Overall Mean &amp; Standard Deviation</b>							<b>4.00</b>	<b>0.824</b>	<b>High</b>

*0.00-1.00 Very Low, 1.10-2.00 Low, 2.10-3.00 Moderate, 3.10-4.00 High, 4.10-5.00 Very High*

The first objective of the study was about factors contributing to drug abuse among youths and responses in line with it were as follows:

Respondents were asked to reveal if Poor influence is one of the reasons as to why youths get involved in drug abuse and 27% of the respondents strongly agreed with this item, 50% of the respondents agreed, and 15.8% of the respondents were undecided, 3.6% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 3.6% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 3.82 indicated that Poor influence is one of the reasons as to why youths get involved in drug abuse. This study finding was in line with that Johnson et al, (2023) who conducted a research

study from the USA and noted that most of the drug abusers were influenced by bad peer pressure.

Responses on if ready availability of substances is also a factor contributing to drug abuse showed that 26.1% of the respondents strongly agreed, 63.4% of the respondents agreed, 7% of the respondents were undecided, 3.5% of the respondents disagreed, and lastly none of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 3.96 indicated that Ready availability of substances is also a factor contributing to drug abuse. This finding was in line with that of Opondo (2022) who asserted that ready availability of substance in Uganda is one big factor that has increased abuse of drugs at different levels within the country.

Responses on if youth get involved in drug abuse because of depression showed that 23% of the respondents strongly agreed, 67% of the respondents agreed, none of the respondents were un decided, 5% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed. A very high mean of 4.01 indicated that youth get involved in drug abuse because of depression. This study finding was in line with that Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) which asserted that depression has resulted in number of drug abuses among country men and women.

Responses on if most youth get involved in substance abuse because of curiosity, 51.1% of the respondents agreed, 4% of the respondents were undecided and disagreed, and lastly 12.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 4.01 indicated that most youth get involved in substance abuse because of curiosity. This study finding was in line with that of Muganda (2021) who asserted that because wanting to know the experience, most youth have become drug abusers.

A high overall mean of 4.00 indicated that there are a number of factors contributing to drug abuse among youths

### 4.3. Relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes

**Table 4.3.1: Descriptive Statistics**

	N	1 (SD)	2 (D)	3 (U)	4 (A)	5 (SA)	Mean	Std.D	Comm ents
Youths get involved d in drug abuse become violent in nature and do not want to associate with others	86	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	4 (6%)	31 (30%)	50 (62%)	4.0	1.020	<b>High</b>
There is a relationship between drug abuse and other criminal others including violent crime	86	0 (0%)	5 (3%)	10 (7%)	51 (54%)	20 (36%)	4.4	0.700	<b>Very High</b>
The impact of drugs is highly damaging to local communities at the micro and social level	86	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (10.2%)	61 (67.0%)	20 (22.7%)	4.2	0.800	<b>Very High</b>
Drug abuse affects the disciplinary aspects of a person	86	2 (1%)	3 (3%)	0 (0%)	30 (38%)	51 (58%)	4.50	0.706	<b>Very High</b>
Valid N (list wise)	86								
<b>Overall Mean &amp; Standard Deviation</b>							<b>4.21</b>	<b>0.812</b>	<b>Very High</b>

*0.00-1.00 Very Low, 1.10-2.00 Low, 2.10-3.00 Moderate, 3.10-4.00 High, 4.10-5.00 Very High*

The second objective of the study was about the relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes and responses in line with this objective were as follows

Respondents were asked to reveal if youths who get involved in drug abuse become violent in nature and do not want to associate with others and 62% of the respondents strongly agreed with this item, 30% agreed, 6% were undecided, none of the respondents disagreed and lastly 2% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 4.0 indicated that if youths who get involved in drug abuse become violent in nature and do not

want to associate with others. This study finding was in line with that of Oburu (2019) who conducted a research study in Togo and noted that 90% of the youths who get involved in drug abuse are always violent.

Respondents were also asked to reveal if there is a relationship between drug abuse and other criminal acts including violent crime and 36% of the respondents strongly agreed, 54% of the respondents agreed, 7% of the respondents were undecided and lastly none of the respondents strongly disagreed. A very high mean of 4.4 suggested that there is a relationship between drug abuse and other criminal acts including violent crime. This study finding was similar to that of James (2022) which noted that there is a very big relationship between drug abuse and criminal; acts.

Responses on if the impact of drugs is highly damaging to local communities at the micro and social level showed that 22.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 67% of the respondents agreed, none of the respondents were undecided, 3% of the respondents disagreed, and lastly 1% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A very high mean of 4.2 indicated that the impact of drugs is highly damaging to local communities at the micro and social level. This was in line with a study conducted in Uganda by Opio et al, (2017) who found out that that any disruptive behaviour in family or communities is due to youth drug abuse.

Responses in line with if drug abuse affects the disciplinary aspects of a person showed that, 38% of the respondents agreed, none of the respondents were undecided, 3% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 1% of the respondents strongly disagreed. Respondents YYY2 assured that almost all drug abusers don't respect elders and have issues with their disciplinary aspect. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Otega (2021) from Nigeria who asserted that there is a relationship between drug abuse and poor discipline.

A very high overall mean of 4.21 indicated that there is a relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes

#### **4.4. Measures of containing drug abuse among the youth**

Respondents were asked to mention the interventions that can be taken to their responses included: Providing good quality and advice on the dangers of drug abuse, providing family based drug abuse treatment can help solve the problem of drug abuse, the government can come up with measures of regulating drug abuse by forming strict laws and lastly that Media campaigns can help create awareness s on the dangers of drug abuse.

The findings of the study revealed that Providing good quality and advice on the dangers of drug abuse may work as a strategy to reduce drug abuse among the youth even respondents K23 And K30 asserted that good quality advice can help such drug abusers reduce on the abuse . This revelation was in line with the findings of Elkin, Handle and Chris et al, (2020) who argued that providing life skills and raising awareness of the issue of drug abuse is an intervention that can help solve the problem of drug abuse.

Besides the above, the study finding show that providing family based drug abuse treatment can help solve the problem of drug abuse. In support of this finding, MoES (2020) pointed out that there should be widespread existence of family based drug abuse treatment to help solve the challenge of drug abuse effectively.

Further, findings show that the government can come up with measures of regulating drug abuse by forming strict laws .This finding is in agreement with Devis et al, (2022) who also said that that there is need to put in place laws that are strict to help scare offer drug abusers and those who wish to become abusers

Study findings further show that Media campaigns can help create awareness s on the dangers of drug abuse.. This is in line with the findings of UNECIF (2023) study which reported that include using media that most youth always watch and listen to elaborate the dangers of drug abuse can work as a strategy to reduce on the problem.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the discussion of study findings' conclusions and recommendations revealed about the topic under study.

#### **5.1 Discussion of Findings**

##### **5.1.1 Factors contributing to drug abuse among youths**

Findings indicated that Poor influence is one of the reasons as to why youths get involved in drug abuse, that Ready availability of substances is also a factor contributing to drug abuse, that youth get involved in drug abuse because of depression and lastly that most youth get involved in substance abuse because of curiosity.

##### **5.1.2. Relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes**

Findings revealed that if youths who get involved in drug abuse become violent in nature and do not want to associate with others, that there is a relationship between drug abuse and other criminal acts including violent crime, that the impact of drugs is highly damaging to local communities at the micro and social level.

##### **5.1.3 Measures of containing drug abuse among the youth**

The findings of the study revealed that Providing good quality and advice on the dangers of drug abuse may work as a strategy to reduce drug abuse among the youth, the study finding show that providing family based drug abuse treatment can help solve the problem of drug abuse, that the government can come up with measures of regulating drug abuse by forming strict laws and lastly that Media campaigns can help create awareness on the dangers of drug abuse.

#### **5.2 Conclusions**

Findings concluded that Poor influence is one of the reasons as to why youths get involved in drug abuse, that Ready availability of substances is also a factor contributing to drug abuse, that youth get involved in drug abuse, that if youths who get involved in drug abuse become violent in nature and do not want to associate with others, that there is a relationship between drug abuse and other criminal acts including violent crime, The findings

of the study revealed that Providing good quality and advice on the dangers of drug abuse may work as a strategy to reduce drug abuse among the youth , the study finding show that providing family based drug abuse treatment can help solve the problem of drug abuse

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Basing on the discussion of the study findings and conclusions of this report, the study recommends the following to different stakeholders.

There should be more investments by different Governments in a number of strategies to ensure youths don't abuse drugs.

There is need to sensitize the community and people about the major causes of drug abuse

### **5.4 Suggested areas for further research**

**Basing on the study findings, the researcher recommends further research on the following research topics:**

Role of Government in prevention of drug abuse

Relationship between drug abuse and crime

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Consent Letter

Dear Respondents

#### **Re. Request to Complete Research Questionnaire**

I am **Muduwa Joy Rebecca** a student of Uganda Christian University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree of social work and social administration and am currently undertaking a research on a topic '**Impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youth's crime in northern division, Mbale City**'. You are kindly requested to participate in this research study and your selection to this effect has been based on random basis. Please feel free as you respond to the study questions.

Thank you

.....

**(RESAERCHER)**

**Appendices II: Questionnaire Guide**

**SECTION A: REpondent's BIO – DATA**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

*Please fill in the blank spaces or tick (✓) in the boxes provided where necessary.*

1. Name: (optional)

.....

2. Age: 15 – 30     31 – 45     46 – 60     60 +

3. Sex: Male                       Female

4. Marital status: Single     Married     Divorced     Separated     Widowed

5. Location:

Cell ..... Parish .....

Sub – County .....

6. Levels of education:

None     Primary     Secondary     Tertiary and above

Other (please specify) .....

.....

.....

**Appendix III:**

For each of the sections you are required to tick (✓) on a response option ranging from the levels below.

Levels: 1 = strongly disagree (SD), 2 = disagree (D), 3 = Not sure (N S), 4 = agree (A) and 5 = strongly agree (SA)

	<b>Factors contributing to drug abuse among youths</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>
1	Poor influence is one of the reasons as to why youths get involved in drug abuse					

2	Ready availability of substances is also a factor contributing to drug abuse					
3	Youth get involved in drug abuse because of depression					
4	Most youth get involved in substance abuse because of curiosity					
	<b>Relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes</b>					
1	Youths get involved in drug abuse become violent in nature and do not want to associate with others					
2	There is a relationship between drug abuse and other criminal others including violent crime					
3	The impact of drugs is highly damaging to local communities at the micro and social level					
4	Drug abuse affects the disciplinary aspects of a person					
	<b>Measures of containing drug abuse among the youth</b>					
1	Providing good quality and advice on the dangers of drug abuse					
2	Providing family based drug abuse treatment can help solve the problem of drug abuse					
3	The government can come up with measures of regulating drug abuse by forming strict laws					
4	Media campaigns can help create awareness on the dangers of drug abuse					

**Appendix IV: Interview Guide**

Dear respondent, I am **Muduwa Joy Rebecca** a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing a Bachelors Degree of social work and social administration. I am carrying out a study on the **“Impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of youth’s crime in Northern City Division, Mbale City”**. The information you provide will only be used for the purpose of this study and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your participation in this study is highly valued and welcome

**(A). Factors contributing to drug abuse among youths**

- 1. There are a number of factors contributing to drug abuse among youth’s.  
a.) Yes      b) No

- 2. If yes, what are the factors contributing to drug abuse among youth?

.....  
.....

**(B). Relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes**

- 5. There is a relationship between drug abuse and prevalence of youth crimes?  
a.) Yes      b) No

- 6. If yes, mention the relationship between drug abuse and youth crimes?

.....

**(C). Measures of containing drug abuse among the youth**

- 7. There are a number of measures for containing youth abuse among the youth?  
a.) Yes                      b) No

- 8. If yes, what are the measures for containing drug abuse among the youth?

.....  
.....

**Thank you for your Participation**

Appendix V: Data collection letter



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa  
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Office of the Academic Registrar

To TOWN CLERK  
NORTHERN CITY DIVISION



Dear Sir/Madam,  
Re: Academic Research  
Christian greetings!

We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss. MUNDUNA JOY REBECCA  
Of Registration Number; 5023/MUC/BSM/045 pursuing a Masters'  
Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree

He/ she is required to carry out an academic research on the topic  
Impact of drug abuse on the prevalence of  
youths crime in Northern division Mballo City

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

