

TRACING THE PATH OF SUBSTANCE USE AMONG STUDENTS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.

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- **Abstract:** This study focused on substance use and abuse among students of tertiary institutions in Lagos State, Nigeria. A sample of 700 students belonging to different levels of studies was taken from the various higher institutions in the State using proportional allocation. Initial descriptive statistics show that the median and modal ages of respondents are 23 years and 20 years respectively with the mean age of 24 years. Factors relating to Cigarette smoking, Alcoholic consumption, Sniffing, heroin consumption, marijuana and Sedatives shows that age, gender, level of study, economic class are somewhat important in the uses or abuse of the substances. It was found that those who smoke marijuana are also likely to drink alcohol. The canonical correlation showed very strong association between the socio-economic background of students and their use or abuse of substance. Use of marijuana, heroin, sedatives and snuff are not significant in building the canonical model, Young male students were found to consume alcohol regularly with less side effect while those of them from low income family are less likely to start cigarette smoking at an early age and are not likely to use alcohol regularly. The study indicated that lower level students from low income earning family are like to take alcohol regularly, suffer from hang over and smoke heavily though are not likely to start these habits at an early age. Moreover, older female students on part time programme are not likely to start smoking early but are highly likely to smoke heavily, consume alcohol excessively, and suffers from side effect of smoking and taking cigarettes.
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