

Factors Influencing Substance Abuse among Senior Secondary Students Attending Public Schools, Owerri, Imo State

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Substance abuse among adolescents is a problem of public health importance across the world. It is a risk factor to juvenile delinquencies in society today. Senior secondary students are most vulnerable to substance abuse at this transformative stage of their lives and are prone to dangers associated with substance abuse. This study determined the factors influencing substance abuse among Senior Secondary Students attending Public Schools in Owerri, Imo State. **Materials and Methods:** The study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive research design. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select 397 students from thirteen public senior secondary schools in Owerri Senatorial Zone, Imo State. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire and this was used after being validated and its reliability tested. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentage, Chi-square (χ^2) statistics were used to test the relationship at $P \leq 0.05$ significance level. **Results:** The result showed that age 115 (55.3%) is a significant factor influencing substance abuse among students at $P = 0.021$ and gender 129 (65.8%) was also a significant factor influencing substance abuse among students at $P < 0.001$. The result also showed that peer group factor such as the students ever been coerced or lobbied into using substance of abuse 124 (61.1%) was also a factor influencing substance abuse among students at $P = 0.043$. Accessibility to substance of abuse was also found to be a factor influencing substance abuse in which location of the students 211 (55.7%) at $P = 0.005$, availability of substance of abuse 16 (50.0%) at $P = 0.017$ and vendor of substance of abuse 114 (58.8%) at $P = 0.004$ all showed a significant relationship with substance abuse among students. **Conclusion:** Findings from this study showed peer influence as a factor that influences substance abuse as students who have friends who use substance of abuse tends to join their friends when coerced. The study also revealed that substances of abuse are easily accessible to the students, thus measures have to be taken to ensure that drug is less available to and accessible by the students. The researcher recommended that parents should always endeavor to monitor and keep a close check on their children, so they do not engage in substance abuse and also try as much as possible to know the type of friends their children keep. Drug-free clubs should be established in all secondary schools where drug/substance-related topics will be discussed which will enlighten and discourage students from substance abuse. The researcher also recommended that teachers should familiarize themselves with their students, so they are able to discover any anti-social behavior among the students and provide immediate solutions to it.

Key words: Factors influencing, substance abuse, senior secondary students, Owerri, Imo state

INTRODUCTION

Substance abuse is one of the reasons why many youths have been incarcerated and also a source of health problems and crime in our society today. The use of

substance among adolescents is a public health concern and has been studied across the world.^[1] Senior Secondary Students are most vulnerable to substance abuse at this transformative stage of their lives and are often prone to dangers associated with a lack of awareness of substance

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abuse.^[2] Several studies revealed that teenagers involve in substance use at an early age, approximately between 11 and 14 years.^[3]

Substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs.^[4] Substance abuse which can also be referred to as drug abuse is the patterned use of a substance in which the user consumes the substance in amounts or with methods which are harmful to themselves or others.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,^[5] about 200 million people make use of one type of substance or another. Data from the^[6] show large-scale seizures of cocaine, heroin, cannabis, and amphetamine-type stimulants in different parts of the world. Availability of cocaine, heroin, and cannabis depends on the level of cultivation in source countries and on the success or failure of trafficking organizations. However, even with increased levels of law enforcement activities, there always seems to be enough substance available to users.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive research design to determine the factors which influence substance abuse among senior secondary students attending public schools in Owerri, Imo State. The study recruited 397 senior secondary students from thirteen public schools in Owerri Senatorial Zone, Imo State.

A structured questionnaire was used for data collection after being validated and its reliability tested. The questionnaire was designed as open-ended and close-ended questionnaire with seven sections. The sections were made up of the following; sociodemographic characteristics of the students, socioeconomic characteristics of the parents, knowledge of substance abuse among the students, peer influence on substance abuse among the students, parental influence on substances abuse among the students, accessibility of substances of abuse among the students, and affordability of substances of abuse among the students.

The questionnaire was administered after explaining the purpose of the study to the students and their oral consent obtained. Confidentiality of information was maintained throughout the study. Data collected were entered into the computer and analyzed using SPSS Version 21.0. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages; Chi-square (χ^2) statistics were used to test the relationship between factors influencing substance abuse among senior secondary students. $P \leq 0.05$ were considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents

The variables of interest in this section, as shown in Table 1, are age, gender, class, religion, and denomination in Christianity. With regards to the age of the respondents, of the total 397 responses recorded, 208 (52.4%) belong to the age interval of 14–15 years, 93 (23.4%) belong to the age interval of 12–13 years, and 74 (18.6%) belong to the age interval of 16–17 years, then the least which is 22 (5.5%) fell under the age interval of 18–19 years [Table 1].

With regards to gender, 196 (49.4%) were male and 201 (50.6%) were female [Table 1]. Regarding the class of the respondents, 152 (38.3%) students were SSS2 class, 134 (33.8%) were in SSS3 class, while 111 (28%) respondents

Table 1: Sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Frequency (n = 397)	Percentage
Age		
14–15	208	52.4
12–13	93	23.4
16–17	74	18.6
18–19	22	5.5
Total	397	100
Gender		
Female	201	50.6
Male	196	49.4
Total	397	100
Class		
SSS2	152	38.3
SSS3	134	33.8
SSS1	111	28.0
Total	397	100
Religion		
Christianity	396	99.7
Traditional African religion	1	0.3
Total	397	100
Christian denomination		
Pentecostal	187	47.1
Catholic	128	32.2
Anglican	76	19.1
Protestant	5	1.3
Others	1	0.3
Total	397	100

were in SSS1 class [Table 1]. Religious affiliation of the respondents showed that 396 (99.7%) of the respondents practiced Christianity, while 1 (0.3%) practice Traditional African Religion [Table 1]. With regards to the Christian denomination of the respondents, 187 (47.1%) are Pentecostal, 128 (32.2%) of the respondents were Catholics, 76 (19.1%) were Anglicans, and 5 (1.3%) were Protestants, while 1 (0.3%) indicated others as Christian denomination [Table 1].

Relationship between peer influence on substance abuse and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents

With regards to do you have friends who use substance of abuse, among 283 students who agree they have friends who use substance of abuse, 157 (55.5%) used substance of abuse, while 126 (44.5%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 114 respondents who said they do not have friends who use substance of abuse, 58 (50.9%) used substance of abuse, while 56 (49.1%) did not use substance of abuse. The result showed no significant relationship between having friends who use substance of abuse and substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 0.693$, $P = 0.405$, $CI = 95\%$) [Table 2].

With regards to if yes, which of them shows that among 80 respondents who said their friends use alcohol, 45 (56.3%) used substance of abuse, while 35 (43.8%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 78 respondents who said their friends use coffee, 41 (52.6%) used substance of abuse, while 37 (47.4%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 26 respondents who said their friends use kola nut, 15 (57.7%) did not use substance of abuse, while 11 (42.3%) used substance of abuse. Among 26 respondents who said their friends use cough syrup, 16 (61.5%) did not use substance of abuse, while 10 (38.5%) used substance of abuse. Among 20 respondents who said their friends use cigarette, 14 (70.0%) used substance of abuse, while 6 (30.0%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 19 respondents who said their friends use tramadol, 15 (78.9%) used substance of abuse, while 4 (21.1%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 19 respondents who said their friends use marijuana, 12 (63.2%) used substance of abuse, while 7 (36.8%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 15 respondents who said their friends use tobacco (snuff), 8 (53.5%) used substance of abuse, while 7 (46.7%) did not use substance of abuse.

The result showed no significant relationship between if yes, which of them and substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 11.885$, $P = 0.156$, $CI = 95\%$) [Table 2].

With regards to where do students use substance of abuse, among 299 respondents who said it is inside the bush, 159 (53.2%) used substance of abuse, while 140 (46.8%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 54 respondents who

said it is used at home, 34 (63.0%) used substance of abuse, while 20 (37.0%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 44 respondents who said it is within school premises, 22 (50.0%) used substance of abuse, while 22 (50.0%) did not use substance of abuse. The result showed no significant relationship between if yes, which of them and substance abuse among the senior respondents ($\chi^2 = 2.108$, $P = 0.348$, $CI = 95\%$) [Table 2].

With regards to do you have friends who supply substance of abuse, among 370 who said no, 199 (53.8%) used substance of abuse, while 171 (46.2%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 27 respondents who said yes, 16 (59.3%) used substance of abuse, while 11 (40.7%) did not use substance of abuse.

The result showed no significant relationship between have friends who supply substance of abuse and substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 0.304$, $P = 0.581$, $CI = 95\%$) [Table 2].

With regards to if yes, how often do you meet them, among 371 students who said occasionally, 199 (53.6%) used substance of abuse, while 172 (46.4%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 10 students who said monthly, 5 (50.0%) used substance of abuse, while 5 (50.0%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 8 respondents who said daily, 4 (50.0%) used substance of abuse, while 4 (50.0%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 4 respondents who said weekly, 3 (75.0%) used substance of abuse, while 1 (25.0%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 4 respondents who said twice a month, 4 (100.0%) used substance of abuse.

The result showed no significant relationship between if yes, how often do you meet with them and substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 4.251$, $P = 0.373$, $CI = 95\%$) [Table 2].

With regards to ever been coerced or lobbied into using substance of abuse, among 203 respondents who said no, 124 (61.1%) used substance of abuse, while 79 (38.9%) did not use substance of abuse, among 194 respondents who said yes, 103 (53.1%) did not use substance of abuse, while 91 (46.9%) used substance of abuse. The result showed that there is a significant relationship between if yes, which of them and substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 8.030$, $P = 0.005$, $CI = 95\%$) [Table 2].

With regards to if ever been coerced, what was your reaction, among 109 students who said they declined and walked away, 57 (52.3%) did not use substance of abuse, while 52 (47.7%) used substance of abuse. Among 49 respondents who said they accepted and joined them, 27 (55.1%) did not use substance of abuse, while 22 (44.9%) used substance

Table 2: Relationship between peer influence on substance abuse and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents

Friends use substance of abuse	Use of substance of abuse			Chi square	P-Value
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)		
Yes	157 (55.5)	126 (44.5)	283 (100.0)	0.693	0.405
No	58 (50.9)	56 (49.1)	114 (100.0)		
Total	215	182	397		
If yes, which of them					
Alcohol	45 (56.3)	35 (43.8)	80 (100.0)	11.885	0.156
Coffee	41 (52.6)	37 (47.4)	78 (100.0)		
Cough syrup	10 (38.5)	16 (61.5)	26 (100.0)		
Kola nut	11 (42.3)	15 (57.7)	26 (100.0)		
Cigarette	14 (70.0)	6 (30.0)	20 (100.0)		
Tramadol	15 (78.9)	4 (21.1)	19 (100.0)		
Marijuana	12 (63.2)	7 (36.8)	19 (100.0)		
Tobacco (snuff)	8 (53.5)	7 (46.7)	15 (100.0)		
Total	156	127	283		
Where students use substance					
Inside the bush	159 (53.2)	140 (46.8)	299 (100.0)	2.108	0.348
At home	34 (63.0)	20 (37.0)	54 (100.0)		
Within school premises	22 (50.0)	22 (50.0)	44 (100.0)		
Total	215	182	397		
Have friends who supply substance					
No	199 (53.8)	171 (46.2)	370 (100.0)	0.304	0.581
Yes	16 (59.3)	11 (40.7)	27 (100.0)		
Total	215	182	397		
If yes, how often do you meet them					
Occasionally	199 (53.6)	172 (46.4)	371 (100.0)	4.251	0.373
Monthly	5 (50.0)	5 (50.0)	10 (100.0)		
Daily	4 (50.0)	4 (50.0)	8 (100.0)		
Weekly	3 (75.0)	1 (25.0)	4 (100.0)		
Twice a month	4 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (100.0)		
Total	215	182	397		
Ever been coerced into using substance					
No	124 (61.1)	79 (38.9)	203 (100.0)	8.030	0.005
Yes	91 (46.9)	103 (53.1)	194 (100.0)		
Total	215	182	397		
If ever been coerced, what's your reaction					
Declined and walked away	52 (47.7)	57 (52.3)	109 (100.0)	8.139	0.043
Accepted and joined them	22 (44.9)	27 (55.1)	49 (100.0)		
Declined and observed	17 (47.2)	19 (52.8)	36 (100.0)		
Total	91	103	194		

of abuse. Among 36 students who said they declined and observed, 19 (52.8%) did not use substance of abuse, while 17 (47.2%) used substance of abuse. The result showed that

there is a significant relationship between if yes, which of them and substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 8.139$, $P = 0.043$, CI = 95%) [Table 2].

Relationship between accessibility of substance abuse and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents

With regards to substance of abuse sold in your area, among 379 respondents who agreed that substance of abuse is sold in their area, 211 (55.7%) used substance of abuse, while 168 (44.3%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 18 students who did not agree that substance of abuse is sold in their area, 14 (77.8%) did not use substance of abuse, while 4 (22.2%) used substance of abuse.

The result showed a significant relationship between any substance of abuse sold in your area and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 7.745, P = 0.005, CI = 95\%$) [Table 3].

With regards to if yes, who sells it, among 245 respondents who said it is sold by local shop operators, 114 (58.8%) used substance of abuse, while 101 (41.2%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 106 respondents who said it sold by drug peddler, 54 (50.9%) did not use substance of abuse, while 52 (49.1%) used substance of abuse. Among 22 respondents who said they do not know who sells substance of abuse, 16 (72.7%) did not use substance of abuse, while 6 (27.3%) used substance of abuse. Among 15 respondents who said it sold by themselves (self), 11 (73.3%) used substance of abuse, while 4 (26.7%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 9 respondents who said it is sold by friends, 7 (77.8%) did not use substance of abuse, while 2 (22.2%) used substance of abuse.

Table 3: Relationship between accessibility of substance of abuse and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents

Any substance sold in your area	Use of substance of abuse			Chi-square	P-value
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)		
Yes	211 (55.7)	168 (44.3)	379 (100)	7.745	0.005
No	4 (22.2)	14 (77.8)	18 (100)		
Total	215	182	397		
If yes, who sells it					
Local shop operators	114 (58.8)	101 (41.2)	245 (100)	15.539	0.004
Drug peddler	52 (49.1)	54 (50.9)	106 (100)		
Do not know	6 (27.3)	16 (72.7)	22 (100)		
Self	11 (73.3)	4 (26.7)	15 (100)		
Friends	2 (22.2)	7 (77.8)	9 (100)		
Total	185	182	367		
How often are substance of abuse available					
Always available	11 (57.9)	85 (42.1)	202 (100)	10.140	0.017
Available on demand	77 (54.6)	64 (45.4)	141 (100)		
Rarely available	16 (50.0)	16 (50.0)	32 (100)		
Do not know	5 (22.7)	17 (77.3)	22 (100)		
Total	109	182	291		
How is substance of abuse sold in your area					
Openly	107 (56.3)	83 (43.7)	190 (100)	9.915	0.007
Secretly	104 (55.6)	83 (44.4)	187 (100)		
Do not know	4 (20.0)	16 (80.0)	20 (100)		
Total	215	182	397		
Category of people substance of abuse sold to					
Adults	124 (53.7)	107 (46.3)	231 (100)	1.878	0.598
All of the above	76 (52.8)	68 (42.7)	144 (100)		
Teenagers	13 (68.4)	6 (31.6)	19 (100)		
Children	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)	3 (100)		
Total	215	182	397		

The result showed a significant relationship between if yes, who sells it and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 15.539$, $P = 0.004$, CI = 95%) [Table 3].

With regards to how often are substances of abuse available in your area, among 202 respondents who said it always available, 85 (42.1%) did not use substance of abuse, while 11 (5.9%) used substance of abuse. Among 141 respondents who said it available on demand, 77 (54.6%) used substance of abuse, while 64 (45.4%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 32 respondents who said it rarely available, 16 (50.0%) used substance of abuse, while 16 (50.0%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 22 respondents who said they do not know, 16 (72.7%) did not use substance of abuse, while 6 (27.3%) used substance of abuse.

The result showed a significant relationship between how often are substance of abuse available and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 10.140$, $P = 0.017$, CI = 95%) [Table 3].

With regards to how is substance of abuse sold in your area, among 190 respondents who said it is sold openly, 107 (56.3%) used substance of abuse, while 83 (43.7%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 187 respondents who said it sold secretly, 104 (55.6%) used substance of abuse, while 83 (44.4%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 20 respondents who said they do not know, 16 (80.0%) did not use substance of abuse, while 4 (20.0%) used substance of abuse.

The result showed a significant relationship between how is substance of abuse sold in your area and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 9.915$ $P = 0.007$, CI = 95%) [Table 3].

With regards to the category of people substance of abuse is sold to in your area, among 231 respondents who said it is sold to adults, 124 (53.7%) used substance of abuse, while 107 (46.3%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 144 respondents who said it is sold to all of the above (adult, teenager, and children), 76 (52.8%) used substance of abuse, while 68 (47.2%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 19 respondents who said it is sold to teenagers, 13 (68.4%) used substance of abuse, while 6 (31.6%) did not use substance of abuse. Among 3 students who said it is sold to children, 2 (66.7%) used substance of abuse, while 1 (33.3%) did not use substance of abuse.

The result showed no significant relationship between the category of people substance of abuse is sold to in your area and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents ($\chi^2 = 1.878$ $P = 0.598$, CI = 95%) [Table 3].

DISCUSSION

Relationship between sociodemographic characteristics of the students and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents

In this study, the age of the students showed a significant relationship with factors influencing substance abuse among students at $P = 0.021$. Majority of the students within the age group of 14–15 years (55.3%) used substance of abuse more than students in other age groups, this was in line with Agwogie (2010), IN Mahfuz (2015) who posited that substance abuse may be initiated by students at any age, but most often initiated at adolescent age (11–18 years).^[7,8] However, this study has also given the specification to the age group that most frequently uses substance of abuse.

Gender of the students also showed a significant relationship with factors influencing substance abuse at $P < 0.001$; of the 397 students, 196 (49.4%) were male and 201 (50.6%) were female. More male students 129 (65.8%) used substance of abuse than female students 86 (42.8%), which is also in agreement with Agwogie,^[7] who posited that more males used substance of abuse than females also male students have higher consumption level than females, this could be due to social factor whereby women who indulge in the use of substance are in most cases seen as doing what is socially reserved for men. The findings also supported,^[9] whose findings revealed that there is a significant difference among male and female students on factors influencing substance abuse.

Going further, findings from this study showed that there is no significant relationship between the class of the students and factors influencing substance abuse at $P = 0.104$, majority of the respondents 152 (38.3%) were in SSS2 class, 134 (33.8%) were in SSS3 class, while 111 (28.0%) were in SSS1 class. Findings from this study also showed that there is no significant relationship between religion $P = 0.357$ and substance abuse among the students which gives credence to Yusuf^[9] who did a study on factors influencing substance abuse among undergraduates in Osun state. This could have resulted from the fact that most students behave in the same way and have similar thoughts, not minding their religion. Furthermore, this study shows that there is no significant relationship between Christian denomination and substance abuse among the students at $P = 0.517$.

Relationship between peer influence on substance abuse and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents

Results presented in Table 3 shows no significant relationship between having friends who use substance of abuse and substance abuse among the students at $P = 0.693$. Among the students, 283 (71.3%) have friend(s) who use substance of

abuse, while 114 (28.7%) does not have a friend who uses substance of abuse, this is in contrast with Holly *et al.*,^[10] which posited that the behavior of an adolescent's friend is significantly associated with the behavior of the adolescent, such that having a friend who uses substance of abuse increases the probability of the adolescent doing the same by 32%. This discordance with this study may be due to geographic location or the type of parental upbringing among the students in the area of study.

Findings also showed that there is no significant relationship between the type of substance of abuse used by friends and substance abuse among the students at $P = 0.156$, majority of the students who agreed that their friends use substance of abuse indicated that friends use alcohol which could be a reason why alcohol 80 (20.2%) is more consumed among the students.

Findings from this study showed a significant relationship between ever been coerced or lobbied into using substance of abuse and substance abuse among students at $P = 0.043$, this agrees with Afuwai^[11] on drug abuse on socio-emotional behavior among secondary school students in Kaduna state, Nigeria, which posited that peer pressure is one of the leading factors that influence drug abuse secondary school students in Kaduna.

Relationship between accessibility to substance abuse and factors influencing substance abuse among the respondents

In this study, accessibility to substance of abuse showed a significant relationship with substance abuse among students. Having substance of abuse sold in the area where students live showed a significant relationship with substance abuse among students $P = 0.005$ which corresponds with Eneh and Stanley,^[12] which states that among students who used drugs (alcohol, kola nut, and tobacco/cigarettes), availability of these substances is a major significant factor that necessitated the use of the substance of abuse.

Findings from this study also showed a significant relationship between how often substance of abuse is available and substance abuse among students at $P = 0.017$. This is in line with King'endo,^[13] who carried out a study on incidence and extent of substance abuse among secondary school students in Nairobi province, Kenya, he stated that availability is a precondition for drug abuse and a person cannot become a drug abuser unless a drug is physically available. The findings also showed a significant relationship between who sells a substance of abuse and substance abuse among the students at $P = 0.004$.

CONCLUSION

The findings from this study showed that substance abuse is widespread among the students and spells danger not only

for the students but also for society at large. The substances commonly used by the students are alcohol, cigarette, coffee, and kola nut. The study showed a relationship between some factors that influence substance abuse among Senior Secondary Students attending Public Schools in Owerri Senatorial Zone, Imo State. The result from this study showed that more male students used substance of abuse more than their female counterparts which could have resulted from societal factor whereby women who use drug are seen as doing what is socially reserved for men. The study showed a significant relationship between parental influence and substance abuse which is an indication that involvement of parents in fostering behavioural change for students who use substance of abuse and abstinence for students have not used substance of abuse is very necessary. Parents have a huge role to play in terms of disciplining and leading by example since children learn by modeling and at such imitate their parents behaviour and as also bask in their parents permissiveness of practices which they should have been restricted from, thus parental supervision is necessary. Findings from this study showed peer influence as a factor that influences substance abuse as students who have friends who use substance of abuse tends to join their friends when coerced. The study also revealed that substances of abuse are easily accessible to the students, thus, measures have to be taken to ensure that substance availability and accessibility to secondary school students is almost impossible.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the researcher made the following recommendations;

1. Parents should always endeavor to monitor and keep a close check on their children, so they do not engage in substance abuse and also try as much as possible to know the type of friends their children keep give and also provide moral, spiritual, psychological, and financial support to their children
2. Parents should endeavor to show a good example to their children by not using substance of abuse in their presence which could encourage them to start using substance of abuse
3. Drug-free clubs should be established in all secondary schools where drug/substance-related topics will be discussed which will enlighten and discourage students from substance abuse
4. Teachers should familiarize themselves with their students, so they are able to discover any anti-social behavior among the students and provide immediate solutions to it
5. Government should put restrictions to the category of people alcohol and cigarettes can be sold to base on age so as to reduce the accessibility of children to them.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Nzeh, Chibuikwe W. conceived the study, designed the questionnaire, and performed data collection. Nwufo C. R. supervised the work and contributed in drafting the manuscript. Ebirim, C.I.C co-supervised the work and also critically validated the statistical analysis. Ibe, S.N.O participated in reviewing of related literature and critical review of the instrument for data collection. Iwuoha Gregory participated in reviewing of related literature and review of the instrument for data collection. Nwachukwu, C.C. performed the statistical analysis.

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