SUMMARY

The study evaluated the problem of drug abuse among a community of refugees from mainly West African countries at Oru camp near Ago-Iwoye, Ogun state, South-West Nigeria. It specifically assessed the prevalence of drug abuse although it also looked at the pattern of drug use and the variables associated with drug use and abuse among the refugees.

One hundred and five (105) subjects were recruited for this study using simple random sampling method, from a total population of one thousand and five refugees. Assessment was carried out with the use of a sociodemographic questionnaire, the 30-item GHQ screening instrument for psychological well being and a clinical interview using the substance use section of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Disorders (SCID).

The results showed that 75.2% were refugees from Liberia, 64 (60.9%) were males, while 41 (39.1%) were females with age range 15-40 years mean 26.63 SD ± 6.87 years. They were mostly single (63.8%), with secondary school education (73.3%).

The prevalence of overall drug use was 46.7%. The prevalence of alcohol use, cannabis use, and nicotine use were 24.7%, 6.7% and 15.2% respectively while the prevalence of drug abuse for alcohol, cannabis and nicotine were 17.1%, 6.7% and 14.3% respectively.

The prevalence of multiple substance use was 14.3%.

Positive correlations were found between alcohol use and age, as well as with marital status such that the older the age of the refugee the more the chances of using alcohol. So also was alcohol use more associated with the married and divorced.

Older age, male gender and not being in employment were also positively correlated with nicotine and cannabis as the older, male, and unemployed refugees abuse nicotine and cannabis more