

ANALYSIS OF THE NEXUS BETWEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN SOKOTO METROPOLIS, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated the nexus between substance abuse and criminal activities in Sokoto Metropolis, Nigeria, highlighting the significant role of drug abuse in fueling crimes such as murder, thuggery, kidnapping, prostitution, and theft. Utilizing a cross-sectional mixed-methods design, data were collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with stakeholders, including law enforcement, health professionals, and community members, supplemented by secondary data from official records. Findings reveal that drugs like Tramadol, Diazepam, Exol 5, Ice, and marijuana are commonly used to enhance confidence and aggression during criminal acts, with a strong positive correlation (Pearson coefficients: 0.595, 0.730, 0.741) between drug use, crime types, and drug sources. Unauthorized dealers, joints, and social networks serve as primary drug sources, exacerbating criminality in areas like Raymond Village and Kwannawa. The study underscores the interplay of socio-economic factors, such as unemployment and poverty, in perpetuating this cycle. It emphasizes the urgent need for targeted interventions, including stricter drug control, rehabilitation programs, and community awareness, to address the intertwined challenges of drug abuse and crime for enhanced public safety and urban governance in Sokoto Metropolis.

Keywords: Substance Abuse, Criminal Activities, Sokoto Metropolis, Drug Sources, Crime Prevention