



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Prevalence and determinants of substance use in a predominantly rural setting in Ghana: a cross-sectional study

Category:

Health promotion with nutrition and hygiene

Authors:

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Objectives:

Substance use significantly impacts individuals and societal health. While some studies have examined the prevalence and determinants of substance use in Ghana, there is limited evidence from predominantly rural settings. This study aims to investigate the prevalence and determinants of substance use in the middle belt of Ghana.

Method:

The community-based cross-sectional study included 2555 participants. Data was collected using the WHO STEPwise approach to chronic risk factor surveillance (Instrument v2.1) between October 2015 and December 2016. Data was entered, cleaned, coded, and analyzed using Stata version 14. The characteristics of the respondents were described descriptively. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression were conducted to identify factors associated with substance use, with statistical significance set at $p < 0.05$.

Results:

Prevalence of substance (alcohol and tobacco) use was 15.9% (407/2555), and predominant among males (84.3%, $n = 343/407$). Gender was the only significant predictor of substance use. People in the age group 40-59 (AOR = 1.12; 95% CI: 0.63, 1.98), having no education (AOR = 3.41; 95% CI: 1.09, 10.69), and living in rural areas (AOR = 1.47; 95% CI: 0.90, 2.38) had increased odds of substance use.

Conclusion:

A significant proportion of individuals in the study area engage in substance use, which has a significant impact on the health and well-being of Ghanaians living in a predominantly rural setting. The Ghana Health Service's health promotion unit should enhance education on the adverse health and socioeconomic impacts of substance use and provide information on available support services.

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