

## INFLUENCE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON POLITICAL THUGGERY AMONGST YOUTH IN JOS NORTH L.G.A. PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*This study evaluated the influence of un-conventional (local) substance (Latrine sniffing, Solution, fuel, lizard faeces, zakami, Tom-Tom in Lecasera, Gutter Water) abuse on Political Thuggery among Youths in Jos-North L.G.A. Plateau State. Seventy (70) Youths were sampled for this study within the age bracket of 16-30 years. The research design employed for this study is the survey method. While primary and secondary methods were employed for data collection, qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis were used. Data were edited on the field daily and entered into Statistical Package for Social Sciences (Version 21.0)12 for analyses. Data were presented using tables. Chi-square test was used to compare categorical variables and level of statistical significance set at  $p < 0.05$ . The participants were Youths who are still searching for admission or out of school doing menial jobs. Substance use scale was developed to assess the prevalence of substance use and possible reasons as to why they indulge in the use and abuse of substance. The mean for the frequency of substance abuse was 2.48 with a standard deviation of 3.696. The result showed that political thuggery amongst Youth in Jos North L.G.A. was largely connected to substance abuse, with level of significance  $0.395 \geq 0.5$ . The study found out that painful experience, economic conditions, low level of literacy, selfish attitude of Politicians towards the Youths indulge them to substance use, making them ready tools of terror in the hands of selfish Politicians. It was recommended that government; non-Governmental Organizations and individuals interested in substance abuse should focus on the youths as they are at greater risk to indulge in political thuggery.*

**Keywords:** Influence, Substance abuse, Political Thuggery, Youth, Jos North LGA.

## **Introduction**

Substance abuse has continued to be one of the primary concerns globally. The harmful use of alcohol alone has been estimated to result in 3.3 million deaths each year and at least 15.3 million persons worldwide have been documented to be suffering from drug use disorders (World Health Organization, 2014). Over 155 to 250 million people all over the world were estimated to have used psychoactive substances with cannabis being the most commonly abused substance, with an estimated 0.7% global burden of diseases and with the social cost of illicit substance use being in the region of 2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in those countries which have measured it (WHO, 2012; 2014).

More than 2.6 million young people aged 10 to 24 die each year in the world. These deaths are mostly due to preventable causes such as substance abuse. In fact, not less than 14% of adolescent girls and 18% of boys aged 13–15 years in low- and middle-income countries are reported to have been taking abusing drugs. This problem is even more serious in some countries in the Western Pacific region as more than 50% of girls aged 10–19 and more than 80% of boys aged 10–19 had ever abused drugs (WHO, 2012).

This precarious situation is also prevalent in Nigeria as previous studies had revealed high burden of substance abuse among youths. For instance, Ogunsola and Fatusi reported that about two thirds of in-school adolescents in Nigeria had used substances in both rural (65.7%) and urban areas (66.0%) respectively (Ogunsola & Fatusi, 2016). Complications of substance abuse by young people are grave including: increased odds of engaging in risky sexual behaviour, personality disorders, sexual violence, criminal tendencies and drug dependence among others.

The menace associated with substance use manifest with enormous effects in; complicated health consequences, heavy financial implications on drug related treatment, a truncated society's productivity, drop in output/man power, risky sexual behaviour, personality disorders, sexual violence, and drug dependence among others. The cost associated with drug-related crime are quite enormous and the subsequent loss of lives as the extreme manifestation of the harmful effects of substance use. Economic costs of substance abuse to individuals and to society escalated to an estimate of \$180.8 billion by 2002 with subsequent increase till date (Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2004).

These estimated economic costs do not measure the cost of alcohol abuse. However, the monetary amounts alone are enough to warrant concerted efforts to identify useful prevention and early intervention efforts. One important component of these efforts is the need to understand the relationship between political thuggery and Substance abuse with the aim to proffer practical solutions.

In recent times, political thuggery has become an integral part of politics in Nigeria. The Political sphere has become characterized with incessant intimidation, assault and in some cases bloodshed by warring thugs... (Gboyega, 2004). Most alarming about the situation is that, youths who should be rational and confident of their future prospects are now experiencing a dirge of certainty about their future and the future of Nigeria. Thugs are young, violent and dangerous individuals Therefore thuggery implies the dangerous behaviour of

thugs. Frank and Wagnalls, states that the term 'thug' or 'thuggery' was coined from the Hindu word THAG or THAGI which implies 'murderer or swindler, an assassin, a cut throat or Rufian' (Frank & Wagnalls, 1975).

Abikhuale & Tor-Anyin, (2013), suggests that to achieve their targets and set goals as expected by their master, thugs can eliminate any human or otherwise obstacle in their way, without any feelings of remorse. Youths are usually full of excessive energy, embolden by substances. This has posed enormous threat to our democracy because most of the activities of thuggery occur in the electoral process of the three levels of governments in Nigeria (federal, state and local) where ballot boxes are snatched, kidnapping and sometimes killing political opponents for election victory to their principle. Although the electoral act of 2010 (as amended) spells out stiffer punishment on electoral offences which also includes political thuggery, yet they continued to operate during elections with impunity. It is against this background that this paper has emerged. It examines influence of substance abuse on political thuggery amongst Youth in Jos North L.G.A. Plateau State, Nigeria.

### **Clarification of Concept**

#### **Political Thuggery**

It is well documented that, the youthful days of a man are the days when he can exercise energy and declares that the older years will come when a man can no longer find such energy. In line with the above, political thuggery can therefore be defined as any negative behaviour associated with violence, hooliganism, kidnapping, murder, assassination, gang action and trouble 'shooting', that is connected or related to any political process. Political thugs are often criminals or social delinquents. They are strongly instrumental in distorting electoral results, snatching of ballot boxes, alteration of election results, elimination of political opponents, under the influence of substances... (Ortese, 2004). They are constantly involved in organized acts of violence, intimidation and blackmail, directed against a political opponent to achieve political objectives (Ortese 2004).

After the independence of Nigeria, thuggery has been an integral part of the Nigerian political and (in particular) electoral process. Samuel (2013) pointed out that the fact about the existence of thuggery activities in Nigeria before, during and after election is not in dispute. He mentioned the following examples: the political tussle between Akintola and Awolowo in the first republic (1960-1969) both of whom made use of the services of thugs that resulted in threats, assassinations, violence and the breakdown of law and order in Yoruba land (Isichei, 1984). Similarly, the use of the *yan daba* youths in Kano by the Northern People's Congress (NPC) to intercept the victory of Northern Element Progressive Union (NEPU), also in the first republic and the snatching of ballot boxes by gunmen at polling stations which characterized the 2007 and subsequently, the 2012 elections. Again, the report of the National Human Rights Commission that monitored the conduct of security personnel in each of the six (6) geopolitical zones that involved eighteen (18) states of the federation and the federal capital territory in the 2007 April elections revealed that a number of state security personnel were over-powered by thugs who snatched ballot boxes in the same polling stations (National Human Rights, 2007).

The Human Rights Watch also reported that, less than three hundred (300) Nigerians were killed in violence linked to 2007 elections. The 2015 and 2019 election held in April was not an exception, in particular, the governorship elections. Though some accredited observers registered the elections as free and fair, it has also been reported to be marred by widespread violence, snatching of ballot boxes as well as killings in some states and massive rigging involving security agents and officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in many of the states (Uche-Okobi, 2019). These states include, Anambra, Enugu, and Delta. The group also observed that, in Akwa-Ibom, and especially River State, it was reported that the 2015 elections witnessed widespread violence with massive hijacking of election materials by armed thugs and killings by suspected political thugs (Uche – Okobi, 2015). Similar cases of killings and assassinations by party rival thugs (some of whom also lost their lives or were caught by security personnel) characterized the election.

Kushee, (2000), notes that the services of thugs are engaged during elections by party stalwarts or opponents and that in some instances employees, permanent secretaries and commissioners are mobilized in large numbers to work for the party and are mandated to deliver their wards, constituencies or local governments as the case may be, they hire the services of political thugs. Again it has been observed that rival groups within political parties also use violence during contest and thugs play vital roles such as stifling and snatching ballot boxes (Collier and Vincent, 2008). The political patronage by the Nigerian elites since after independence ushered in and has continued to retain, political thuggery. These elites have political and material base but most importantly, they have their traditional rulers and ethnic groups as a base. They also have access to state power and resources (Karl, 1968, Isa 2008, Anucha, 2011).

For example, the Oba of Lagos, Rilwan Akiolu was reported to have been so angry when it was said that the easterners voted for the People's Democratic Party (PDP) during the elections of March 2015 that he urged the Ibos to cast their votes for Ambode of the All Progressive Congress or perish inside the lagoon (Uche – Obi, 2015) As a result, the elites have continued to present themselves as the ambassadors for Nigerians as well as the owners of leadership, at every point in time. The youths therefore are to continue to be their tools and stooge with a bleak or no hope of becoming leaders themselves in the future.

### **Substances Abuse**

Substance abuse continues to be a problem in Nigeria. The devastating impact of substance abuse on our society is so high. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. Asante, Meyer-Weitz and Petersen (2014), noted that 'on-street children and youth Population are at high risk for substance use. These persons living on the street indulge in the use of many psychoactive drugs including alcohol, Nicotine, Opioids, Hypos datives, Cannabis, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Stimulants (Reddy, Kumar and Raju, 2014).

Qudiz, (2005) in Osa-Edoh& Ayano, (2012), reported that alcohol and drug dependency are factors among several reasons for crimes, hence the probable growing incidence and influx of Political Thuggery in many political processes in Nigeria (Qudiz, 2005). The study further

argues that, the prevalence of substance abuse for young people may be as high as 60% compared with 8% to 10% in the general population. Particularly, high incidence has been reported in persons with traumatic brain injuries, mental disorder and among those with learning and visual impairments (Western Center for Drug Free School and Community, 1990).

In Nigeria, Substance abuse is prevalent and common among 'on-street' persons in most urban areas. There are a large number of child laborers within the streets of Nigerian cities, who were more vulnerable to crime, alcoholism, rape, trafficking, drug use, due to poverty, volatile environment, and delusory satisfaction as well as means of livelihood, are contributing factors propelling drug abuse, with peer pressure as the major factor of influence in substance use (UNICEF report on Nigerian children, 1991; Reddy et al., 2014).

### **Theoretical Framework**

The social developmental Theory developed by Hawkins and Weis, (2002), suggests that individuals develop bonds to groups and organizations when they experience opportunities for involvement, possess necessary skills for involvement, and receive positive feedback regarding their involvement (Hawkins and Weis, 2002). Once an individual bonds to a context they are more likely to behave according to the group's norms and beliefs. The Social Development Model highlights the steps to developing programs that promote bonding and positive behavior development (Hawkins and Weis, 2002)

The following points provide specific programming guidelines. Youth will tend to form groups that engage in similar activities, those using drugs will be able to identify with each other since they are more comfortable with the same group hence the influence will be equal in the entire group (Hawkins and Weis, 2002) propose that substance use and deviant behaviors emerge from interactions with the primary socialization sources-the family, the school, and peer clusters. The theory further postulates that the individual's personal characteristics and personality traits do not directly relate to substance use and deviance, but, in nearly all cases, influence those outcomes only when they affect the interactions between the individual and the primary socialization sources (Hawkins and Weis, 2002).

Interpretation of research results from the point of view of primary socialization theory suggests the following: Characteristics such as depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem are related to substance use and deviance only when they have strong effects on the primary socialization process among younger children (Grant, 2003). Traits such as anger, aggression, and sensation seeking are related to drug use and deviance because these traits are more likely to influence the primary socialization process at all ages (Grant, 2003). The psychopathologies that are least likely to interfere with bonding with prosocial socialization sources, the anxieties and most of the affective disorders, are less likely to have comorbidity drug dependence (Hawkins and Weis, 2002).

### **Methodology**

#### **Study location**

The study was conducted in Jos North Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State, Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the city center of Jos. It has an area of 291 km<sup>2</sup> and a population

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of 429,300 (National Population commission, 2006). The ethnic groups found in this area as original owners are Afizere, Anaguta and Beroms (PIDAN, 2010). But other tribes such as Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, Fulani and other ethnic groups settled in the area due to tin and columbine mining activities of the early 1900s.

### **Participants**

Research participants were recruited from Jos North. All who were from 18 years or older with substance abuse related history and who were either street boys were eligible for the study. 70 participants were selected based on their willingness to volunteer in the study, 66 males and 4 females.

### **Study design**

Cross-sectional study design was employed.

### **Sample size calculation**

The required sample size was calculated using Leslie Kish formula for single proportions. Based on findings from similar studies conducted in Jos-North Plateau State, Nigeria (Onoja, 2010), 20% of our respondents were assumed to have engaged in substance abuse. A response rate of 90% (0.9) was envisaged among the respondents and the margin of error was set at 5%. Thus a minimum sample size of 70 respondents was estimated for the study but 100 questionnaires were administered.

### **Inclusion criteria**

Respondents who gave their assent/consent to participate in the study were recruited into it and there after appreciated with two sachets Milk each for their cooperation.

### **Exclusion criteria**

Students with significant physical or mental handicap, which could affect their ability to respond validly to the study instrument, were excluded from the study.

### **Sampling technique**

The study used convenient sampling where by the respondents were carefully selected and served with questionnaires (Oso & Onen 2005:58). The study population purposively consisted of people selected from Jos, precisely *Tudun Wada* slump where it has a good number of Youths with the history of substance abuse. Seventy respondents were carefully selected and served with questionnaires and five respondents were selected and interviewed by two rehabilitated persons who volunteered to do the work.

The aim was to collect multiple sources of evidence that would validate common findings and exclude any one-sided bias that might arise (Berg 1989: 37).

### **Data collection method and instrument**

The study used both Primary and secondary data procedures to collect data. These include information generated mainly through questionnaires, and key informant interviews (KII). the use of secondary data afforded the study access to information already processed and thought out, which includes: printed and recorded materials, published information (books, journal articles, government publications, statistical records, newspapers, magazines,

conference proceedings, annual reports and archival data) and electronic sources (online databases, the internet, and CD-ROMs). These data will be accessed from libraries, books and the internet to further enrich the understanding of the context, impacts and objectives of the study. The primary data which include the KII and Questionnaire availed the study information about the demographic characteristics such as age, education, status, qualification of respondents and other questions relevant to the study. The advantage of using questionnaire in this study is that, it allows respondents to express themselves freely, it is less expensive to use and allows the confidentiality of respondents, while interview was used on five selected respondents to corroborate and strengthen the questionnaire. It should be said that all of the methods of data collection overlap with each other in line with our method of triangulating data sources which allows us to gather all relevant data.

### 3.4.3 Administration of Research Instrument

Copies of questionnaire were administered by the researchers using hand held iPad where the questions were structured and installed. The computer software also included an audio version of the questionnaire for those who cannot read and was interpreted both in Hausa and English languages respectively. This method proved to be helpful as it curtailed the misplacement of questionnaires by respondents, and the stress of going back to collect completed questionnaires from respondents.

### Statistical analysis

Data were edited on the field daily and entered into Statistical Package for Social Sciences (Version 21.0)<sup>12</sup> for analyses. Data were presented using tables. Chi-square test was used to compare categorical variables and level of statistical significance set at  $p < 0.05$ .

### Socio-demographic Characteristics of Participants

**Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Participants**

	F r e q u e n c y	P e r c e n t	%
<b>G e n d e r</b>			
M a l e	6	94	3
F e m a l e	4	57	7
<b>R e l i g i o n</b>			
C h r i s t i a n i t y	6	85	7
I s l a m	7	100	0
O t h e r s	3	43	3
<b>M a r i t a l S t a t u s</b>			
S i n g l e	4	87	6
M a r r i e d	1	42	9
D i v o r c e d	1	14	4
S e p a r a t e d	4	57	7
<b>P o s i t i o n i n t h e F a m i l y</b>			
F i r s t b o r n	2	33	3
M i d d l e b o r n	2	43	5
L a s t b o r n	2	02	9
O n l y c h i l d	1	14	5
<b>H i g h e s t E d u c a t i o n a l L e v e l</b>			



P r i m a r y	1	2	1	7	4
S e c o n d a r y	4	4	6	3	8
T e r t i a r y	1	1	1	5	9
N o n f o r m a l	2		2		9
<b>Have been employed in the past</b>					
N	o	3	1	4	5
Y	e	s	3	7	5
				4	4

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of participants. The Table revealed that 66 (94.3%) of the participants were males; and 4 (5.7%) females. the majority 60 (85.7%) were affiliated to the Christian religion. Regarding the marital status of participants, the majority 48 (71.6%) were single, and 14 (10%) were married. Furthermore, 23 (33.8%) of the participants were first born as regards their birth position in their family, 24 (35.3%) were middle born, 20 (29.4%) were last born, and one participant was an only child. Data on the highest educational level of participants revealed that majority 44 (63.8%) of the participants had secondary education, while a small 2 (2.9%) had no formal education. Regarding employment, 37 (54.4%) of the participants indicated that they were employed before now, while 31 (45.6%) indicated that they were not employed.

**Table 2: Unconventional (Local) Substance Use of Participants**

D r u g s	N		O n c e		T w i c e		S e v e r a l l y		T o t a l					
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	F	%				
G o s k o l o	2	1	30.9	9	13.2	4	5.9	3	4	50.0	6	8	100.0	
Cannabis (Herb or Resin)	2	8	40.6	5	7.2	8	11.6	2	8	40.6	6	9	100.0	
Latrine sniffing	5	8	82.9	4	5.7	5	7.1	3		4.3	7	0	100.0	
s o l u t i o n	5	7	81.4	2	2.9	5	7.1	6		8.6	7	0	100.0	
F u e l	5	7	81.4	3	4.3	1	1.4	9		12.9	7	0	100.0	
Lizard faeces	5	6	80.0	5	7.1	5	7.1	4		5.7	7	0	100.0	
Z a k a m i	6	3	90.0	2	2.9	2	2.9	3		4.3	7	0	100.0	
Tom-tom in Lacasera	6	4	91.4	1	1.4	1	1.4	4		5.7	7	0	100.0	
Gutter-water(cannabis, tramadol cough syrup, zobo)	6	1	87.1	2	2.9	6	8.6	1		1.4	7	0	100.0	
Dawa ka zo (guskolo and burkutu)	5	9	84.3	5	7.1	3	4.3	3		4.3	7	0	100.0	
Human/animal urine	6	2	88.6	2	2.9	2	2.9	4		5.7	7	0	100.0	
Solvents/Inhalants (Glue)	5	5	78.6	3	4.3	4	5.7	8		11.4	7	0	100.0	
Cough Syrup	3	9	55.7	4	5.7	1	0	14.3	1	7	24.3	7	0	100.0

Table 2 shows the frequency of variant drug use by participants. The Table revealed that 34 (50%) of the participants use guskolo severally, 28 (40.6%) use cannabis severally, 3 (4.3%) use latrine sniffing, 6 (8.6%) use solution severally, 9 (12.9%) use fuel severally, 4 (5.7%) use lizard faeces severally, 3 (4.3%) had used zakami severally, 4 (5.7%) had used tom-tom in lacasera severally, one participant indicated having used Gutter-water(cannabis, tramadol cough syrup, zobo)severally, 3 (4.3%) had used Dawa ka zo (guskolo and burkutu) severally, 4 (5.7%) had used Human/animal urine severally, while 8 (11.4%) of the participants had used solvents/inhalants (glue) severally, 17 (24.3%) had used cough syrup severally.

**Table 3: Relationship between Political Thuggery and Substance Use of Participants**

Drugs	Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ )	df	p-value
Cannabis (Herb or Resin), Latrine sniffing and Human/animal urine solution, Fuel, Lizard faeces, and Zakami	12.323	3	0.006
guskolo, Tom-tom in Lacasera, Gutter-water (cannabis, tramadol cough syrup, zobo), Dawa ka zo (guskolo and burkutu) and Cough Syrup	12.712	3	0.005
	13.899	3	0.003

Table 3 shows the relationship between participants Substance use and Political Thuggery of variant drugs. Results revealed that there was a significant relationship between Political thuggery and Cannabis (Herb or Resin), Latrine sniffing and Human/animal urine ( $\chi^2 = 12.323$ ,  $p = 0.006$ ), solution, Fuel, Lizard faeces, and Zakami use ( $\chi^2 = 12.712$ ,  $p = 0.005$ ), and guskolo, Tom-tom in Lacasera, Gutter-water (cannabis, tramadol cough syrup, zobo), Dawa ka zo (guskolo and burkutu) and Cough Syrup ( $\chi^2 = 13.899$ ,  $p = 0.003$ ).

**Table 4: Level of Substance Use and Crime Type**

Crime type	Level of substance Use				Total	Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ )	p-value
	Low n	Moderate %	High n	Total %			
Possession of drugs	3 (4.3)	7 (10.0)	16 (22.6)	26 (37.1)			
Violent offense (arm robbery & Homicide)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	14 (20.0)	14 (20.0)			
Property offense (Burglary & Theft)	2 (2.9)	3 (4.3)	4 (5.7)	9 (12.9)	16.824	0.010	
Miscellaneous (Rape, Arson etc)	5 (7.1)	6 (8.6)	10 (14.3)	21 (30.0)			
<b>T o t a l</b>	10 (14.3)	16 (22.9)	44 (62.9)	100 (100.0)			

### Content Analysis

#### Substance use Influence the Increase of political thuggery amongst youths

Results of qualitative analysis of the data collected identified some factors that encouraged the use of substances by the participants. Reasons identified for substance use include: peer influence, sensation seeking, source of energy, socio-economic, and culture.

#### Peer Influence

The findings showed that peer influence was a factor that influenced substance use among the youths. This is typified by statements such as; "I started following my friends again to take drugs", and "I enjoyed so much, I enjoyed it with my friends". Common statements such as these show the key role that peer influence and norm have on individual involvement in the use of substances for thuggery activities

### ***Sensation Seeking***

Sensation seeking was further identified as a factor that influenced substance use among participants to involve in political thuggery. The pleasurable sensation derived from substances that take away fear was a major factor in the uses and increased substance use.

### ***Energizer/Motivation***

The reason for the increase in substance was attributed to some of the psychoactive effect these substances have on the individual. Some common reasons for continued and increased use were identified as the physical energy and motivational feeling gotten from these substances of abuse.

### ***Coping Mechanism***

The use of substances as a coping mechanism was also found to be a factor. Participants stated that these substances help them to cope with stressful life events and circumstances, more so, acting as a source of motivation or inspiration for enhancing skills or some behavioural display.

### ***Socio-economic***

The participants further identified socio-economic reasons as a factor that enhanced the increased use of substance use. The results revealed that participants indicated that the selling of substances brought financial gains; however many of such dealers were also dealers of the substances. Lack of job and idleness were also identified. The following statements attest to these.

### ***Discussion***

Half (50%) of our respondents had admitted consuming local alcohol gskolo. Previous studies have implicated alcohol as one of the most commonly abused substances among Nigerian youths. For example, Igwe, Ojinnaka, Ejiofor, Emechebe & Ibe (2009) revealed that 31.6% of secondary school students who were substance abusers in Enugu, Nigeria had consumed alcohol. Alex-Hart, Opara & Okagua (2015) also reported a figure of 30.6% as the proportion of secondary school students in Port Harcourt, Nigeria who had taken alcoholic drinks before the survey. In all 31(26.3%) of the respondents satisfied the criteria used in defining substance abuse in this study. The prevalence of substance abuse in the study location was consistent with findings from previous studies. For instance, Onoja (2016), Yisa, Lawoyin, Fatiregun, & Emelumadu (2009), revealed that alcohol has being the most commonly abused substance and a gate way to other drugs. Contrariwise, other studies had reported higher figures compared to the finding from the current study.

The prevalence of local substance abuse in Tudun Wada Jos was Tudung 69.3% among young thugs agreeing with Yisa et al. (Yisa, et al., 2009) The fact that the study was urban based could have accounted for the lowest figure; but had the highest figure, because the local psychoactive substances like gskolo and other substances mentioned in table 2 found in rural area easily are also accessed in the urban Centers of the state which constituted the highest proportion of substances abused in the study.

### **Conclusion**

Political thuggery influenced by substance use is among the major risks that our democratic process in Nigeria faces. This allows us not only to explore drug use patterns, but also to note and reflect on what differences there may be looking at drug type and crimes committed with their use. Worthy of note was the high representation of participant who admitted idleness before they found themselves in the situations they were in. Although some described active ways of coping such as avoiding friends and bad company, using refusal techniques and drawing closer to God amongst other, but the decent Jobs were nowhere to be found, living them with no options but to continue in this acts and drugs remains to be the dependable partner, as one of them openly remarked that; 'this job no be for good boys if you want survive' you must take all manner of things to give you courage to act. This however agrees with UNODC (2012) on Substance Abuse and Mental health report on Africa that the most prevalent substance of abuse was cannabis/Amphetamine type stimulants. Alcohol being a gateway drug had high prevalence rates as revealed by this study, which was consistent with Makanjuola, (2014) findings as revealed in the New York Times daily that alcohol use was linked to death rates hence resulting to the high prevalence of heinous crime by the young people.

This study, despite its sampling limitations, has shown the influence of substance use on political thuggery, justifying the nexus between substance use, and crime perpetration (Political thuggery). It is believed that the findings will help draw the attention of relevant authorities on curtailing access to these substances used in perpetrating all kinds of crimes in our society.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the following findings from the study, the following recommendation was made: Relevant authorities such as government; non-Governmental Organizations and individuals interested in the curbing of substance abuse should focus on the youths as they are at greater risks of indulging in self-harm and political thuggery.

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