

MALTREATMENT
DURING CHILDHOOD
AND ITS
RELATIONSHIP WITH
LATER DRUG USE /
ABUSE



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Introduction

- It is widely recognized that the consumption of alcohol and other licit and illicit drugs is an international public health problem, and should be approached from two different and yet complementary perspectives.
 1. Supply Reduction
 2. Demand Reduction
- This study is aimed at facilitating demand reduction

Introduction (cont'd)

- Research has identified that an exposure to childhood maltreatment is a risk factor for drug use.

(Kilpatrick et al, 2000; Gilbert, 2009).

- However, there is a paucity of research in this area from Latin America and the Caribbean.

- In Latin America and the Caribbean 40 million children under the age 15 years, suffer from violence, abuse and neglect within the family.

(UNO, ECLAC & UNICEF, 2009).

Introduction (cont'd)

- The culture of this region increases the risk of child maltreatment.
- Traditionally, macho culture, with its coercive and authoritarian aspects, views children as inferior beings and the property of adults.
- In the region, over 50% of adults consider it normal to maltreat minors as a form of education, discipline and punishment (UNO, ECLAC & UNICEF, 2009).

Introduction (cont'd)

- The purpose of this research is to determine the relationship between being maltreated during childhood and then later drug use among university students.
- The results will help to inform childhood maltreatment preventative programs within Latin America and Jamaica.



Justification

- Drug-related problems impact not only individuals (health problems) but also society (generating violence, social disintegration, family and financial problems).
- Latin America and the Caribbean are not simply producers but are also consumers of alcohol and other licit and illicit drugs.

Justification (cont'd)

- A recent survey conducted by CAMH & CICAD/OAS in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted the high prevalence of illicit and licit drug consumption among university students

(CICAD-CAMH, unpublished manuscript).

Justification (cont'd)

- In one Latin American university, 68% of the students reported drug use within the last 12 months.
- This population is of significant importance, as they are the future leaders of society.

Justification (cont'd)

- This has brought to the forefront the need to identify the risk factors associated with drug use in Latin America and the Caribbean University Students.



Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse

- Drug use is the use of any psychoactive substance, whether licit or illicit.
- Drug abuse is the recurrent use of a substance, over a 12 month period, that results in one or more of the following:
 - an individual being unable to meet their obligations at work, home or school;
 - repeated use in hazardous situations;
 - repeated use resulting in legal problems; and
 - repeated use despite it causing or exacerbating social problems.(DSM-IV TR, 2000)

Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse

(cont'd)

Drug use and abuse has been found to be influenced by:

1. Personal Characteristics,
2. Environmental Factors &
3. Social Relationships (Family)

Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

3. Social Relationships (Family)

- The family acts as both a protective and risk factor for drug usage.



(Matthew & Pilon, 2004).

Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

Family Protective Factors

- Living within a two parent household.
- Presence of a cohesive and nurturing family.

(Munoz & Grana, 2001)

- Parental monitoring of adolescents.

(Barnes, Hoffman, Welte, Farrell, and Dintcheff, 2006)

Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

Family Risk Factors

- Having a dysfunctional family, especially if abuse occurred within the family.



(Min, et al., 2007).

Literature Review : Child Maltreatment

“Any acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that result in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child, even if harm is not the intended result”

(Gilbert et al., 2009).

- The types of maltreatment of interest:
 - ▣ Physical abuse
 - ▣ Sexual abuse
 - ▣ Emotional abuse
 - ▣ Neglect (physical and emotional)

Research Objectives

General Objective

To examine the relationship between drug use/ abuse and childhood maltreatment among students from seven universities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Specific Research Objectives

1. To estimate the prevalence of licit and illicit drug use among selected university students.
2. To estimate in the frequency of students who have experienced child maltreatment.
3. To determine the relationship between drug use /abuse and maltreatment during childhood among selected university students.

Methodology

Research design: Cross-sectional survey design

Sample recruitment

- ❑ *Target population* : entire university
- ❑ *non-probability sampling* techniques.



Methodology: Sample Size calculation

- The sample size was calculated using the known percentage of drug consumption in the participating universities. This data were obtained from previous research that was conducted in some of the participating universities (CICAD-CAMH, unpublished manuscript).

Methodology

Inclusion Criteria

- ❑ Must be at least eighteen years old.
- ❑ Registered in the participating university

Exclusion criteria

- ❑ Students who have previously completed the research questionnaire.



Measurements and Instruments

- The research questionnaire → 60 questions; 20 minutes to complete.

- Four main instruments :
 1. *Adverse Childhood Experiences questionnaire (ACE)* (CDC, 2010)
 2. *Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10)* (Kessler, 2003)
 3. Selected questions from the *CICAD drug use questionnaire*.
 4. Socio-demographic questions.

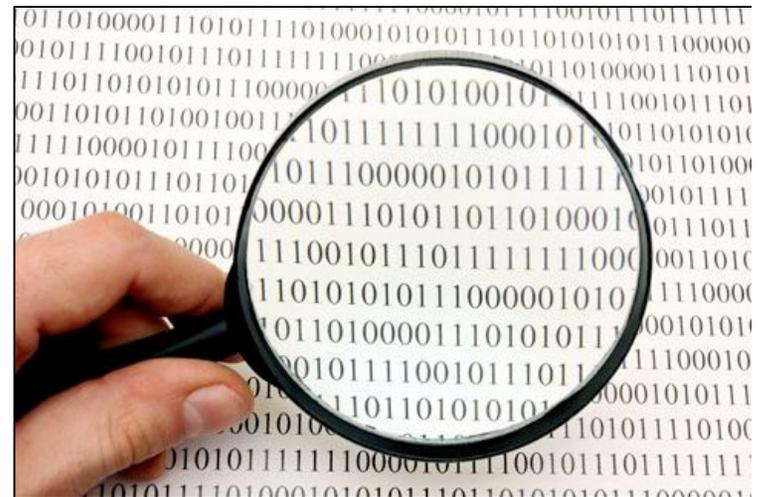
Data Analysis

- Data was entered into a SPSS Database.
- A sample of 10% of the questionnaires were entered twice, to determine possible inconsistencies.

Data Analysis

Data analyses consisted of :

- Descriptive statistics
- Bivariate tests (Chi-square)



Results:- Sample

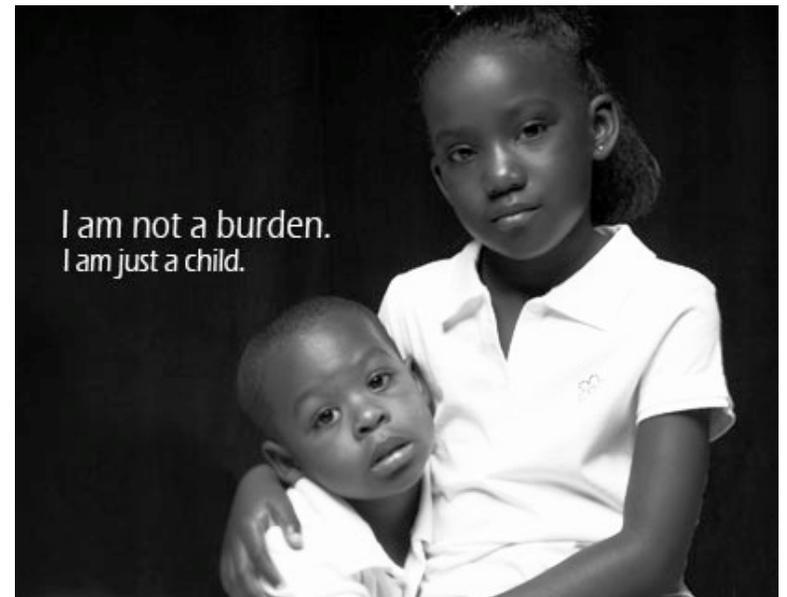
Country	Frequency	Percent
Colombia	616	26.9
Jamaica	382	16.7
Nicaragua	360	15.8
Panama	377	16.5
El Salvador	269	11.8
Uruguay	281	12.3
Total	2285	100.0

Results: - Jamaican Sample

- 382 university students between the ages 18-48 years.
- 73% female and 27% Male
- 61.6% reported urban origins while
- 38.4 % reported rural origins.

Results :- Jamaican Sample

- Only 33.5 % believed they were maltreated, however 80.2% of the sample met the criteria of being maltreated.



Results: -Maltreatment by Gender

Types of Maltreatment	Males		Females		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Sexual Abuse	4	1	47	12.3	51	13.4
Physical Abuse	61	16	175	45.8	236	61.8
Verbal Abuse	62	16.2	185	48.4	247	64.7
Neglect (emotional & physical)	32	8.5	75	19.8	107	28.3
Any Maltreatment	81	21.4	222	58.7	303	80.2

Results:- Psychoactive Substance Use

Type of Substance	Past 12 mths <i>f</i> (%)	Past 30 days <i>f</i> (%)
Cannabis	39 (10.3)	18 (4.7)
Tobacco / cigarettes	34 (8.9)	24 (6.3)
Alcohol	142 (37.4)	92 (24.2)
Cocaine	3 (0.8)	3 (0.8)
Ecstasy	4 (1.1)	3 (0.8)
Heroin	3 (0.8)	3 (0.8)
Inhalants	7 (1.8)	5 (1.3)
Unprescribed prescription drug use	13 (3.4)	7 (1.9)

Results:- Maltreatment during Childhood and Psychoactive Substance Use

	N	<i>df</i>	X^2	<i>p</i>
Sexual Abuse	380	1	.781	0.377
Physical Abuse	380	1	.287	0.592
Emotional Abuse	380	1	.069	0.793
Neglect	376	1	.002	0.969

Results:- Maltreatment during Childhood and Substance Abuse

	N	<i>df</i>	X^2	<i>p</i>
Sexual Abuse	382	1	.726	0.394
Physical Abuse	382	1	5.846	.016 *
Emotional Abuse	382	1	6.836	.009 *
Neglect	378	1	4.811	.028 *

Results: - Psychological Distress

- 28.8% of those who were maltreated experienced moderate-severe psychological distress even though they culturally didn't consider themselves to have been abused.



Limitations

- Non-probability sampling techniques were used, therefore the results cannot be generalised.
- The students provided retrospective data about events that occurred in childhood.
- There may be a tendency to under-report or over-report maltreatment and drug use problems.

Discussion & Conclusion

- Many students were not aware that they were maltreated.
- Students who were maltreated during childhood reported higher levels of psychological distress during adulthood.

Discussion & Conclusion

- Physical abuse, emotional abuse and overall neglect were found to associated with later substance abuse.

Recommendation

- The prevention of child maltreatment should be approached from a cultural and legal perspective, as a demand reduction strategy to reduce substance abuse in Jamaica.



*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION*

Dr. Samantha Longman-Mills

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