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SUBSTANCE USE BY STUDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA,
- TANZANIA AND ZIMBABWE

Alan J. Flisher¹

University of Cape Town. Cape Town. Republic of South Africa

Teckla Butau

University of Zimbabwe. Harare, Zimbabwe

Jessie Mbwambo, Sylvia I. Kaaya, and Gad P. Kilonzo

University of Dar es Salaam. Dar es Salaam. Tanzania

Leif Edvard Aars and Arne B. Eide

University of Bergen, Bergen. Norway

Carl Lombard, Martie Muller, and Charles D. H. Parry

Medical Research Council. Cape Town. Republic of South Africa

Knut-Inge Klepp

University of Oslo, Oslo. Norway

The study aimed to compare substance use of students in South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Multistage sampling produced samples of 2946, 2491 and 183

... Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Professor A. J. Flisher, Department of Psychiatry, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory 7925, Republic of South Africa. Electronic mail may be sent via Internet to afliijhcr@iuric.Uct.ac.za. Teckla Butau is now at the Regional Office for Africa, World Health Organization and Arne H. Eide is now at SINTEF Unimed, Norway.

students aged 13-14 In Cape Town, Dar es Salaam (DAR) and Harare respectively. Questionnaires were administered in classrooms. High prevalence rates of tobacco, alcohol and solvent use and site differences were noted - among males in the previous year, 23.5% in Cape Town had smoked cigarettes, 15.2% in DAR had inhaled solvents and 29.5% in Harare had drunk alcohol. Lifetime prevalence rates for cannabis were low. Except for solvents, rates were lowest in DAR. Gender differences were noted in Harare and DAR for certain substances. The importance of transnational research using comparable methodologies and analytical designs is emphasized.

KEY WORDS: Students, adolescents, substance use, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe