

Systematic review and meta-analysis of the level of cannabis use in the Sub-Saharan region

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Introduction and Aims: The prevalence of cannabis use varies across the world while limited data is available in the Sub-Saharan region. Therefore, the aim of this systematic review is to assess the level of cannabis use in Sub-Saharan countries from 2010 onwards.

Design and Methods: Searches and databases; The search string was built by using "MeSH" terms & keywords for cannabis use and Sub-Saharan countries (PROSPERO protocol CRD42021271813). We use PubMed, EMBASE, PsycINFO, & AJOL databases in addition to GBD data reports & grey literature.

Key Findings: We screened 3743 titles, 830 abstracts, and finally, included 55 studies. Currently, we extracted data from 22 articles (preliminary result) & the response rate of these studies ranges from 71% in South Africa to 100% in Nigeria. The prevalence of cannabis use ranges from 0.4% (Nigeria) to 32.1% (South Africa). Most of the included studies (82%, 18/22) were school surveys.

Discussions and Conclusions: The range of prevalence of substance use is wide and that needs to be addressed in Sub-Sahara, a region where poor substance use prevention and intervention takes place.

Implications for Practice or Policy: The high frequent report of cannabis use in school-based studies gives us a highlight to pay attention to a young population in which adolescents contribute to 90% of the world population who reside in low and middle-income countries.

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