

Alcohol Consumption in South African Universities: Prevalence and Factors at the University of Venda, Limpopo Province

Kwabena A. Kyei* and Mpho Ramagoma

*Department of Statistics, University of Venda, Private Bag X5050,
Thohoyandou 0950 South Africa*

**E-mail: Kyei61@gmail.com, Kwabena.kyei@univen.ac.za*

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ABSTRACT Substance abuse is prevalent in South African universities because students use drugs and alcohol for many reasons, including curing depression, imitating role models, getting relief from loneliness and/or self-doubt. There are no reliable data on substance use in South Africa except information from *ad hoc* cross-section research studies, occasional national surveys and information on police arrest seizures. This study reports on a survey conducted at the University of Venda on the use of alcohol on campus. From 209 students interviewed the results show that over 65% use alcohol of which 49% abuse it. Chi-square tests done showed that sex, age, religion, staying on campus, family monthly income and peer pressure were the factors affecting alcohol use, but the logistic regression identified only peer pressure and religion as the main factors. Staying on campus also affects alcohol use marginally.