

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION

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TITLE: The Implication of Excessive Illicit Drug and Alcohol use on the Liver and a Possible Link to the Rising Incidence of HCV Infection in Farmington, New Mexico

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ABSTRACT

This cross-sectional study reveals how patients engaged in substance abuse are prone to getting infected with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). This is commonest in drug or alcohol-dependent individuals with excessive Illicit Drug Use (IDU); and heavy consumption of alcohol, leading to more severe liver injury, promoting disease progression to cirrhosis and increasing the risk for liver cancer. Fifty four people with evidence of disease sequelae participated in the study cutting across all race and ethnic groups. Age range is between 18 and 70-year-old and show a significant number of males, 38 (70.4%) engaged more in substance abuse, tested positive more for HCV and are more prone to liver damage; as against 16 female participants, (29.6%) with reduced susceptibility to the sequel. Racial distribution shows a predominance of cases of substance abuse among the Hispanic/Latinos at M-16.7% and F-7.4%, closely followed by White, non-Hispanics at M-13.0% and F-5.6%. Alcoholic beverages commonly implicated in liver damage are the distilled spirits comprising of vodka, whiskey, rum, brandy and gin, followed by the regular beer. Excess consumption refers to four drinks or more in a day or 15 drinks or more in a week in men; and 3 drinks or more in a day, or 8 drinks or more in a week in women.

Cocaine. heroin. methamphetamines and marijuana are among the most commonly abused and hence implicated in HCV infection and subsequent liver damage.

These findings strongly corroborate submission that illicit drug users, regardless of age, gender or race, are prone to HCV infection especially in prolonged and injudicious usage. This is also in line with a national survey conducted in 2018 and published in a 2018 edition of the American Journal of Public Health where it was stated that the national increase in acute HCV infection is related to the country's opioid epidemic and associated increases in IDU.

BIOGRAPHY

Adebayo is a 53-year-old physician/rheumatologist- a Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. With his MPH and MS in Health Services Administration from Mississippi College, he is currently the Senior Clinical Administrator/ Research coordinator at Lifted Clinical Practice in Santa Fe, NM. He has a couple of other papers published both by local and international journals. He is a prolific writer and writes on other issues apart from his prowess in academic publications.





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