
Alcohol and Child Health in Gesoni Location, Kisii County, Kenya

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Abstract

Alcoholism is a major global problem. According to WHO 2015 data, 2 billion people worldwide consume alcoholic beverages and 76.3 million are diagnosed with alcohol use disorders, with alcohol the most prevalent psychoactive substance used globally. In Kenya, a high rate of alcohol abuse has been identified by multiple studies.³⁻⁶ According to the most recent 2015 WHO data, the prevalence of heavy episodic drinking among the general Kenyan population aged 15 years and above is 5.2%.⁴ In Kisii County, Kenya, the statistics are even more concerning. This study created and piloted a CHAAT (The Child Health and Alcohol use Assessment Tool) survey to assess the prevalence of alcohol use and its effects on children in Gesoni, a sub-community of Kisii County. The study found that 46% of Gesoni's adults use alcohol and 80% of these meet criteria for hazardous drinking. 9% of children reported using alcohol. Children were more likely to report being injured, ill, having missed a meal, or missed school days if their parents drank alcohol. The issue of alcoholism was explored within Kisii County and its sub location Gesoni through a mixed methodology, using quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection that included a household listing market survey, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, case studies, and ethnographic mapping. Indeed the results indicate there is alcohol abuse and the problem with the Kisii child that requires quick public health attention.

Keywords: alcoholism, Child health, Kisii County

