

# **Prevalence and Associated Socio-Demographic Factors of Hazardous Alcohol Use among Urban Refugees in Mbarara Municipality, Uganda**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Dissemination Conference

22nd November 2019

Igongo Cultural Centre, Mbarara

**Ronald Bahati**<sup>1, 2\*</sup>, Herbert Elvis Ainamani<sup>1, 2</sup>, Cathy Denise Sigmund<sup>1, 3</sup>, Godfrey Zari Rukundo<sup>1</sup>

1 Mbarara University of Science and Technology

2 Bishop Stuart University

3 Geneva College Beaver Falls, PA, USA

## **Abstract**

There are global concerns on the increasing hazardous alcohol use amongst forcibly emigrant populations. This study determined the prevalence of hazardous alcohol use among refugees in Mbarara Municipality and identified the associated socio-demographic predictors of increased risk in order to better understand the appropriate interventions needed. We conducted a descriptive cross-sectional study among 343 refugees residing in Mbarara Municipality, southwestern Uganda. The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) was used to determine the prevalence of alcohol use in the past 12 months preceding the study. Data were entered into Epi data 3.1 and imported into Stata 15.0 for analysis. Binary logistic regressions were conducted. All the independent predictors with  $p < 0.05$  entered into a multivariate analysis model to control for confounding. We found out that the majority of the participants 57.4% reported that they did not or were low alcohol users, of these 31.8% were males and 25.7% were females. Similarly 18.1% were hazardous alcohol users of these 10.8% were males and 7.3% were females. 7.6% were harmful users of alcohol of these 5% were males and 2.6% were females lastly 16.9% were dependent users of alcohol and of these 10.2% were males and 6.7% were females. The overall prevalence of hazardous alcohol use (AUDIT score  $>8$ ) was 42.6% (n = 146) with a higher rate among males 25.94% than 16.61% females. The study also found that there were statistical differences in the prevalence of

alcohol use across all the socio-demographic characteristics ( $p < 0.05$ ) except for participants' length of time spent in Mbarara Municipality and gender ( $p = n.s$ ). The study findings revealed a high level of hazardous alcohol use and also showed that there was a significant positive relationship between the socio-demographic characteristics and the likelihood of hazardous alcohol use among urban refugees in Mbarara Municipality. This study adds to the limited literature on alcohol use among urban refugees, which is a growing global concern.

**Key words: Alcohol use, Municipality, Refugees, Urban**

**Reference:**

<https://www.must.ac.ug/downloads/2019/ARDC/15th%20MUST%20ARDC%20Book%20of%20Abstracts.pdf>