

ABSTRACT

AN EXAMINATION OF THE ALCOHOL DRINKING PATTERNS OF STUDENTS LIVING ON THE HALLS OF RESIDENCE AT THE UWI MONA CAMPUS

Donnahae Doreene Rhoden-Salmon

Alcohol use among students has been a concern for many persons in authority on many campuses worldwide throughout the years. This research paper aims to: To determine the prevalence, reasons and consequence of alcohol use among students living on the halls of residence at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus.

Methods

A cross sectional survey was conducted among students living on the halls of the UWI Mona campus using a self administered questionnaire. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted among key informants to explore the practice of alcohol use among students.

Results

Two hundred and eighty seven persons participated in the study. Ninety-four percent of the respondents admitted to drinking alcohol at some point in their lives. 56.8% stated that they had drunk an average of one or more drink in a day. The problems associated with alcohol use were mainly drunkenness as 49.7% of the students who admitted to drinking one or more drink of alcohol had

experienced this effect of alcohol use while 45.2% reported to having hangovers. Nearly twenty-eight percent of those same students reported that they had been involved in unplanned sexual activity after drinking alcohol. Over seventy percent of the students stated that their parents influence their attitudes towards alcohol use.

Conclusion

There are some moderate levels of alcohol use among students living on the halls of residence at the UWI Mona campus. Although this practice is not at danger levels there needs to be some measures instituted to curtail the use of alcohol on campus.

Key words: Donnahae D. Rhoden-Salmon, Alcohol use