Abstract Information

Presentation Preference: SNRS Podium Presentation

Abstract Categories:
- Interest Group: Community/Public Health
- Thematic Areas: Interdisciplinary Research

Introduction:
Historically, Jordan has been a trade route juncture for the commerce in the Middle East. Unfortunately, Jordan is also geographically located between economically deprived drug producing countries. Very little is known about the knowledge, attitudes and beliefs regarding substance abuse among Jordanian adolescents. Experts in the field state that normative beliefs about drug use and drug related behavior have a crucial role in developing effective school-based drug education programs. Therefore, the purpose of this study of Jordanian adolescents was to answer the following questions: 1. What do these adolescents know about substance abuse? 2. What do they believe about the consequences of substance abuse? 3. What are their attitudes about substance abuse?

Method(s):
A descriptive research design was conducted using self-administrated 30 items Arabic language questionnaire to collect the data from 400 high school students (boys and girls) in Irbid city district. Multi stage stratified random sample was obtained by first selecting the educational directorate located in the city of Irbid, which is located in the north of Jordan. Then individual schools were selected. After that individual classes of students were selected.

Results:
The results showed that the students were knowledgeable about the different aspects of substance abuse among study participants of both sexes, including its harmful effects on the body and society. The majority of subjects perceived substance abuse as a problem. In addition, the study showed that the participants believed that occasional and frequent use of cigarette, alcohol, and other drugs is extremely harmful. Furthermore, results revealed some gaps in students' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs. However, the adolescents consistently refer to Islamic principles and Mosques as potential resources for help with substance abuse.

Discussion:

Policy makers, health workers and Islamic religious leaders must collaborate to build structured educational programs for adolescents to assist them to face the temptation of abusing illicit substances.

Research Completed: Yes
Abstract History: NA
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Submitted By: lhaddad2@vcu.edu