

Review of: "Factors Influencing Youth Drug Abuse: A Review Study"

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Bunu et al. explore factors that influence youth drug use. This group used a narrative review to identify themes that are associated with using drugs in adolescence. Furthermore, they grouped their findings from this review in an easy-to-read format. They found several different factors that might influence youth drug use, including but not limited to, peer drug use, familiar drug use, externalizing behavioral disorders, and hereditary factors. This is a paper that will be of use to those looking for a quick, easy-to-read resource on factors that influence youth drug use. It is well-written; however, it is lacking in depth. I have some comments outlined below:

1. Which key actors were identified? List these in Methods section.
2. The authors did not discuss the scientific validity of the studies they reviewed, or if the factors they identified had been empirically studied.
3. The authors discuss factors without delving sufficiently into them. For example, they describe "heredity" as a risk factor for drug use. However, they do not mention which genes, or any genes, have been identified.
4. There is no mention of the neuroscience of drug use. Youth have underdeveloped prefrontal cortices, which has been shown to influence risky decisions and increase predisposition to using drugs.
5. There are some overlapping topics. For example, "peer influences" and "presence of drugs in school".
6. Define "NGO".