

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

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is a good overall panorama on the factors associated with drug use in young populations. However, from my point of view, there are a number of limitations to it that, if addressed, could improve the manuscript's quality. My comments and questions are the following:

## Major limitations

1. In the first line of paragraph one in the Introduction section, I suggest that you define what you mean by "Drug abuse". Is it as defined in the DSM? or is it the ICD? or are you defining it in any other way? Further in the results section, you also mention "drug addiction", is it referring to drug dependence?
2. The method section is loosely reported. You did state that the review process was not systematic, but I think you could explain the process in more depth. For example, I believe that "youth" should be more specifically defined. Is it people from 12 to 18 years old? or is it anyone from 0 to 21? What is it? What was your criteria when you were selecting articles for the review? Are the included studies from any country in the world?
3. The structure of the results section is odd. What is the difference between section 3.1 and 3.2? What is the difference between sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3? It is not very clear, the headings in these sections are not clearly differentiated from each other. It appears that you are using the terms "drug abuse" and "drug addiction" interchangeably. If this is the case, then it should be clear from the beginning of the manuscript. If it is not the case, in my opinion, "drug abuse" is a very specific outcome which might be influenced by factors other than those that affect drug addiction (or drug dependence). In this sense, I suggest that the manuscript would be benefited from making a section for the risk factors for drug abuse and another for drug dependence.

## Minor limitations

1. Acronyms should be defined the first time they are used in the manuscript. For example: (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2014).
2. In the first paragraph of the introduction section you wrote "[...] nearly one in every 20 individuals between the ages of 15 and 64 worldwide were confirmed drug users [...]". If your subjects of inclusion are young people, I think this argument should be replaced or followed by a statistic that include specifically young people.

3. In section 3.1, I suggest you include references for each of the factors, not just curiosity and thrill-seeking.
4. You included “ethnicity” in the biology factors in section 3.2. Ethnicity is not a biological factor; it is a cultural factor. Maybe that word could be replaced by “race” in the manuscript.
5. In section 3.2.2 I noticed that the head of this sub-section is named Personal Factors Influencing *Addiction*, but then in the end of the first paragraph of this section you wrote “[...] certain factors can increase the likelihood of drug *abuse* [...]”. This is why I suggest that you could make a section for risk factors for drug addiction (or dependence), and another for risk factors for drug abuse.