



Diverse roles of heterogeneous drugs in facilitating crime in East London. The input of East London community.

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# Presentation content

- Introduction and literature
- Methods and Setting
- Findings
- Conclusion and recommendations



# Introduction

- The strong connection between diverse drugs and criminal activities has long been confirmed by the research.
- Inter alia, the crimes associated are inclusive of rape, murder and theft.
- Different drugs have varying cognitive impact on users (National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)).
- Sometimes users of the same drug experience different impact on thinking process (Gould, 2010).
- Hence certain drugs can be associated with particular crimes.



# Introduction

- In the past decade and a half, new potent drugs have increased.
- Some being the augmentation of the old known drugs to make them more stronger.
- These new drugs facilitated increase of dangerous crimes and cruelty.
- This study dominantly focuses on the two drugs that have been found currently troubling South African street:
- Atypical heroin known as Nyaope/Whoonga and Crystal meth (referred to as tik).
- Have proved to be more potent and encouraging different bizarre crimes in South Africa



# Methods and Setting

Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were conducted on the following group of participants:

- 6 community members
- 10 from business entities
- 16 from government and non-governmental organizations,

# Findings

New drugs and increase of ungovernable lawlessness.

- The streets are not safe anytime of the day because drug abuse related crimes.
- Participants emphasised cruelty brought by new drugs such as nyaope and tik among users.
- For most participants, there was no hope to address the increase of drug abuse associated criminal activities
- The participants observed that SAPS is struggling to conquer the problem



# Findings

## Nyaope/whoonga drug continues to produce bizarre crimes

- Participants indicated that before nyaope, HIV/AIDS facilities and ARV patients were not robbed of their anti-retro-viral drugs which is common now to concoct nyaope.
- “Robbing needy people of their medical treatments is an immoral and strange criminal act”.



# Findings

Methamphetamine (tik) remained the major influence of criminal behaviour.

- *Tik* users become uncontrollable crime machines.
- The participants confirmed that tik users are called “ghosts” because they don’t sleep roaming around the streets day and night engaging in devious criminal activities.
- Users of this drug are unable to restrain themselves from stealing and literally pilfer anything





# Findings

East London business entities remained victims of crimes associated with drugs use

- Despite security surveillances, business entities have been victims of burglary.
- Tik users are paid by criminal masterminds to rob businesses.
- Several participants stated that “number of supermarket storage sites in East London have suffered from uncontrollable crimes by tik users”



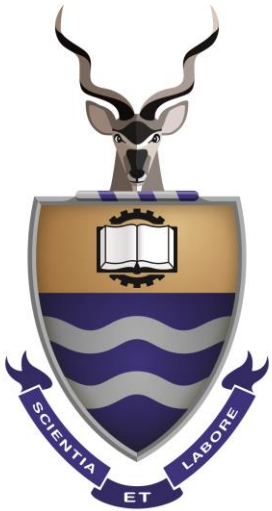
# Conclusion

Drug use perfidiously and perniciously affects business community and economy. Inopportunately, the phenomenon paints a bleak picture to the international community who contribute significantly to foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country.





Questions?



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# REFERENCES

- ⦿ Gould, T. J. (2010). Addiction and cognition. *Addiction science & clinical practice*, 5(2), 4.