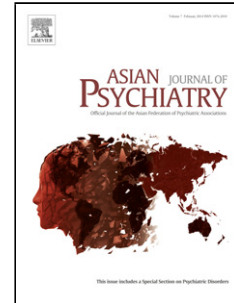


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Estimating the Size of Substance Using Street children in Delhi Using Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS)

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The street children represent a vulnerable population of adolescents.
- There is a lack of studies assessing the burden and size of street children using substance by a representative sampling methodology.
- The study estimates the prevalence and size of various psychoactive substance among the representative sample of street children in the state of Delhi, by successfully implementing the RDS methodology.
- Tobacco (31.1%), alcohol (13.5%) and inhalants (11.3%) were the most prevalent substances used during the last one year in with size estimated respectively as 21,770; 9,450 and 5,600. It was also found that respectively 23,240 and 15,470 streets children use substance along with tobacco or without tobacco, in the state of Delhi.
- More studies on these lines are needed so that one can plan specific intervention for ameliorating the conditions of street children in Delhi.

Abstract

Street children as a population sub-group exist in significant numbers in the developing world and have been reported to be vulnerable to adverse health and risk behaviours that include physical and sexual risk behaviour. However, the estimation of prevalence for various psychoactive substances among the street children in a representative sample has not been attempted in the developing country

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