

Addiction characteristics and dual diagnosis among young people in Oran: a descriptive study

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Introduction : Addiction to psychoactive substances affect young people in Algeria as in the world. The aim of the study was to describe the sociodemographic, clinical characteristics and mental health disorders related to substance use disorders in order to target the population at risk.

Materials and Methods: Data were collected in Oran Psychiatry- Addictology service West Algeria, from 1st January 2019 to 31 July 2021. Clinical diagnosis was established according DSM-5 diagnosis criteria and addictive data were collected using the WHO "ASSIST" V 3.0 french version questionnaire.

Results: A total of 292 cases of drug use disorders were identified. The average age of patients was 19 years old, 98% men and 87% patients with cannabis and psychotropic association. Almost 78% of patients experienced their first consumption between 10-11 years old. The most frequently associated mental disorders are depression and anti-social personality.

Conclusion: Psychotropic medications illicit use is a real public health problem among adolescent in Algeria, because of its frequency and its sanitary consequences. Here, the comorbid presence of psychiatric disorders are consistent with the data of different results of the comorbidity surveys carried out in the world. Identification of these populations at risk in periods of childhood and pre-adolescence is an important step to succeed in prevention strategies against addictions.