

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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TUFH 2021 ABSTRACTS

Title	THE CURRENT CANNABIS AND ALCOHOL REALITIES IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND THE INFLUENCE ON ORGANISATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Innovative Ways for Community Mobilization and Engagement of Stakeholders</i>
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Abstract N ^o	TUFH662
Content	<p>The new cannabis law in South Africa allows the growth, possession and consumption of dagga by an adult. It also allows a previous conviction for dagga use and consumption to be expunged from the criminal record. A review of SA studies on dagga concludes that legalisation of dagga brought a range of negative consequences, including increased use of dagga and negative social and mental health effects in communities. Globally, South Africa and the Western Cape in SA is at the high end of alcohol abuse statistics. South Africa ranked the third biggest drinking nation in Africa and 19th biggest drinking nation globally (WHO, 2016). This paper argues that sustained and successful interventions against harmful use of cannabis and alcohol need to include affected communities that play a central role in developing strategies to combat cannabis and alcohol abuse. The research was based on a literature review, determining the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices with regards to cannabis and alcohol by using pre and post questionnaire, training and class discussions, structured written reflections on their experience of impact of cannabis and alcohol on their communities and the development of case studies, which culminated in a co-created manual to facilitate the interventions community leaders in their work and organisational environments. The preliminary findings show that the lockdown increased the use of cannabis and though alcohol was banned it leads to the use of illegally produced alcohol, increase the use of illegal substances, which impacted negatively on the mental health of clients.</p>