

Full Length Research Paper

## Trafficking and consumption of hard drugs in Côte d'Ivoire from 1999 to 2007

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Accepted 15 April, 2013

Côte d'Ivoire, like other West African countries, is faced with the problem of drug trafficking and drug abuse in the last decade. During the period from 1991 to 1999, about 7,500 drug cases were handled by the Ivorian judiciary, with an average of 830 cases per year. This figure increases the magnitude of the problem in Côte d'Ivoire, considering the negative effect of drug addiction on the economy, and social aspects of the country, for example: unemployment, crimes, physical and moral violence, robbery, compromised health and well-being, etc. This phenomenon is very alarming as it concerns both the adolescents and adults of the population. In order to have a clear picture of the evolution of drug abuse in Côte d'Ivoire, a survey was conducted, with the assistance of the national police in the department of drug and narcotics law enforcement, that provide us with the data from the period of 1999 to 2007. During this period, 7737 people were charged to court for drug offenses under Ivorian law on drugs, of which 58.5% were Ivoirians, while 41.5% were foreigners. Women constituted 6.51% and minors were 2.1%, in the people included, all belonging to different varieties of social and professional circle. Moreover, drug seizures continued to increase steadily in an alarming rate with Indian hemp or *Cannabis sativa* (15.076.7 kg) leading, followed by cocaine (26.9 kg) and finally heroin (85.8 g). To examine the impact this problem has on education, a survey was conducted in high schools in different communities of Abidjan. Our survey revealed that in schools, 8 to 29% of students were involved in drug abuse. Smoking of Indian hemp is the most common and occurs between 17 and 20 years. The majority of these young consumers lives in the sub hub area of Abidjan and belonged to the middle class. It is therefore very important and urgent to strengthen the capacity of our law enforcement agents and the fight against drug trafficking in the country, and to develop awareness campaigns among youths in high schools and colleges to kick against drug abuse.

**Key words:** Hard drugs, addiction, smuggling, school survey.

### INTRODUCTION

From time immemorial, man takes natural or chemical substances to get relieved from pain to boost his physical, intellectual or religious capacity or escape from daily realities and forget his worries. However, some drugs can lead to physical or psychological dependence, which often induce physical or mental disturbances. In 1975, the World Health Organization (WHO) defined

addiction as “a physical or psychic state resulting from the interaction between a living organism and chemical substances, characterized by showing an attitude of compulsory dependence on the substances, by taking it on a regular or periodical basis, to feel its immediate effect or to avoid the discomfort of its absence” (Valleur and Matysiak, 2006). Drug addiction therefore deprived

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one of his freedoms since an addict's life depends on the drug.

In general, data related to drug abuse showed that it can specifically induce the risk of acute intoxication, coma associated with overdose, the risk of infectious diseases, like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis C, general complications like slimming with the impaired general health condition, psychiatric complications like depressive syndrome, complications such as social isolation, marginalization and judicial complications (Cavalcanti, 2011).

According to the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime Control (UNODC, 2007), controlled drugs affect at least one out of 200 people in the world, at an age group between 15 and 65 years, killing thousands of people every year and throwing millions more into poverty. Also, in its 2004 report, UNODC (2004) mentioned that about 3% of the world's population that was estimated to about 185 million people has used hard drugs. A small proportion used cocaine (13 million) or opiates (15 million); cannabis were by far the largest, with more than 150 million people. In addition, UNODC counted 38 million amphetamine users and 8 million ecstasy users during the same period (UNODC, 2004).

In addition, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB, 2008) states that 200 to 300 tons of cocaine is transported to Europe, via West Africa. The African continent has 7.6% of the world cocaine users, concentrated in Southern Africa and in the coastal region of North Africa. In addition, trafficking and abuse of heroin are steadily rising in several African countries.

In Côte d'Ivoire, drug consumption has become a major problem in the society. Abidjan with its large population of over 5 million people, good road network, rail, sea and air has facilitated the increasing drug consumption phenomenon in schools, among prostitutes and among homeless children. Also, socioeconomic and political crisis, which occurred in 2002 has aggravated the situation, increased armed robbery cases and assaults in the capital city, creating an atmosphere of insecurity.

The fight against illegal trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances is a constant concern for the Ivorian authorities, who have established a specialized body, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency since the early years of independence (1960), now replaced by the Police Directorate on Narcotics and Drugs, established by Decree 81-885 of 24 October 1981. The Inter-ministerial Committee for the Fight against Drugs (CILAD, 2007) reported that 11.7 kg of cocaine, 32.2 kg of heroin and 5.225 tons of cannabis were seized and 1,150 people, of whom 71% are Ivoirians, were arrested and detained.

According to the results of the study initiated by the laboratory of toxicology and food hygiene in 1991 and 2001, the rate of drug use in schools was between 1.94 and 16.75% in 1991 and 4.66 and 26% in 2001, respectively (El amine, 1993; Dano et al., 2003). In view of the social and political upheavals in recent years in the

country and the potential impact on the scourge of drug abuse in our society, our laboratory has undertaken a study in order to update the data originally recorded.

Two main objectives were assigned to our work. The first objective was to detect the evolution of drug trafficking in Côte D'Ivoire by analyzing data on seizures of narcotics and drugs for the period 1999 to 2007 and to compare it with that recorded during the between the period of 1991 and 1999. The second objective was to conduct a survey among the students to evaluate their drug consumption and notice any changes from previous surveys.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted in two stages as the following. The first stage, lasting for three months, involved the analysis of statistical data on drug seizures in Côte d'Ivoire provided by the Ivorian Police Force Department of Anti-drug and Narcotics. This is a retrospective study covering the period from 1999 to 2007. It focused on the following variables: the number of drug cases handled by the courts, people involved in trafficking (women arrested, minors arrested) the nationality of the accused person's as well as the nature and quantity of drugs seized.

The second stage of the study aimed to measure the prevalence of hard drug consumption among students. This survey was conducted from January to March, 2009 in schools within the ten municipalities of the city of Abidjan. These schools were selected based on their reputation and their size (number of students). The selected target population consisted of students of the years 3, 4, 5 and final year (aged 14 and above). The choice of the population was made on the basis of students' ability to make a decision. A study conducted by Manda et al. (2004) in the ten municipalities of Abidjan on drug addiction in schools gave a prevalence of 13.4%. To determine the sample size of the study, the following formula was used:  $N = E.P.Q/l^2$  ( $N$  = sample size,  $P$  = Prevalence: 13.4%,  $Q = 1$ ,  $P = 1 - 0.13 = 0.87$ ,  $E$  = error threshold = 1.96  $l$  = error risk = 5%). This study constituted 100 students per school thus 300 students in each municipality. This gave us a representative sample size of 3000 students. The questionnaire was self-administered anonymously. The main "items" covered in the questionnaire were: age, sex, and the municipality in which the school is located; social class of parents (students surveyed are most often from different social strata,  $F$  = favored class, high-income parents,  $M$  = medium class, middle-income parents, Lower class = low income parents), the type of drug used, the pattern of consumption, place of residence. After authorization from the administration of the various schools, the questionnaire was distributed and filled in classroom within 15 to 20 min.

Questionnaires were also given to certain groups of students in the school playground during recess. Then, data collected were processed using Excel software.

## RESULTS

The situation of cases handled by the Ivorian justice relating to drug trafficking is recorded in Table 1. On the average, 641 drug cases that were treated by the courts each year during the period of 1999 to 2007. An average, 1003 people were arrested of which 859 cases faced court trial. Among those tried in court, 56 women and 25 minors were involved, a rate of 6.51 and 2.91%,

**Table 1.** Drug cases handled in Côte d'Ivoire from 1999 to 2007.

Case	Year									Total	Average $\pm$ SD
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
Cases handled	892	673	849	604	565	484	465	628	615	5775	641.66 $\pm$ 9.95
Arrested	1157	885	1039	989	884	846	793	1102	1334	9029	1003.22 $\pm$ 5.17
Accused	1134	885	990	881	645	577	648	872	1105	7737	859.66 $\pm$ 5.82
Female accused	83	80	99	65	41	18	25	44	54	509	5655 $\pm$ 3.43
Minor accused	43	92	99	46	26	13	8	12	18	231	25.66 $\pm$ 6.96

**Table 2.** Nationality of accused person from 1999 to 2007.

Nationality	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average $\pm$ SD
Ivoirians (%)	670 (59)	519 (58)	585 (59)	486 (55)	412 (57.6)	377 (65.3)	407 (62.8)	576 (66.3)	806 (72.9)	537.5 $\pm$ 5.65
Foreigners (%)	564 (41)	366 (42)	405 (41)	395 (45)	233 (42.4)	200 (34.7)	241 (37.2)	292 (33.7)	299 (27.1)	380 $\pm$ 5.97

**Table 3.** Annual statistics on seizures of drugs and narcotics from 1999 to 2007.

Drug		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Héroïn (kg)		0.0018	0.0028	0.0103	0.034	0.0063	0.0042	0.0001	0.0021	0.0237	0.0858
Cocaïne (kg)		9.781	3.442	1.048	3.15	0	0.006	0.07	0.4489	9	26.9
Cannabis (kg)		751.2	1236.6	1876.6	3777.3	805	1848.7	1347.2	1821.7	1612	15076.7
Hashish (g)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0.1
Amphé-tamine	kg	9.219	0.2	0.124	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.543
	tb	0	0	910	0	2100	0	0	0	0	3010
Ephé-drine	kg	3.012	5.767	61.217	0	0	0	10	0	0	96.996
	tb	0	1462	13487	66373	52455	168813	146100	35465	20041	504196
Benzo-diaépine	kg	40.75	48.646	296.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	348.439
	tb	0	3901	0	247356	259794	128750	122604	170798	130584	1063787
Banned drugs	kg	7612.2	4792	9669.2	6013.4	4249.2	3323.2	5191	6821.2	12609	60280.92
	tb	0	17565	115558	0	0	0	0	0	0	133123

tb: Tablets.

respectively. These people were mostly of Ivorian nationality (58.5%) (Table 2). During the period of 1999 to 2007, several types of drugs and

narcotics were seized by the law enforcement agencies, and they are: heroin (0.0858 kg), cannabis (15,076.7 kg) ephedrine (96.996 kg),

cocaine (26.9 kg) benzodiazepines (348 kg), hashish (0.1 kg) and a large quantity of banned drugs (Table 3).

**Table 4.** Comparison table of drug seizures (\*Manda et al., 2004).

Drug	Average from 1991-1999*	Average from 1999-2007	Evolution 1991-1999/1999-2007 (%)
Héroïn (kg/year)	0.00319	0.00953	+ 198
Cocaïne (kg/year)	10.39	2.99	- 71.22
Cannabis (kg/year)	1250.1	1675.1	+ 34
Ephédrine (kg/year)	6.668	10.77	+ 61.62
Barbiturique (tb/year)	8316	00	- 100
Benzodiazépine (kg/year)	17.88	38.66	+ 116
Crack (kg/year)	0.42	00	- 100
Opium (kg/year)	1.42	00	- 100
Hashish (kg/year)	0.013	0.00001	- 99.99
Banned drugs (kg/year)	80.20	6697.88	+ 8251

**Table 5.** Drugs taking in schools according to age and sex of students.

Community	user	Age (years)				Sex	
		14-17	18-20	21-23	24-26	Boy	Girl
						Number	Number
Attécoubé (Atté)	87	18	51	15	3	69	18
Port-Bouet (Por)	66	9	30	21	6	42	24
Abobo (Abo)	66	21	36	9	0	48	18
Yopougon (Yop)	63	39	12	9	3	39	24
Adjamé (Adj)	54	3	36	12	3	40	14
Koumassi (Kou)	45	9	33	3	0	24	21
Treichville (Trei)	40	12	9	15	4	25	15
Marcory (Mar)	33	9	21	3	0	30	3
Cocody (Coc)	30	5	8	15	2	24	6
Plateau (Pla)	24	6	18	0	0	18	6
Total (%)	508 (16.93)	131 (26%)	254 (50%)	102 (20%)	21 (4%)	359 (70.66%)	149 (29.34%)

respectively. These people were mostly of Ivorian nationality (58.5%) (Table 2). During the period of 1999 to 2007, several types of drugs and narcotics were seized by the law enforcement agencies, and they are: heroin (0.0858 kg), cannabis (15,076.7 kg) ephedrine (96.996 kg), cocaine (26.9 kg) benzodiazepines (348 kg), hashish (0.1 kg) and a large quantity of banned drugs (Table 3).

The drug addiction survey among students was conducted in all the ten districts of Abidjan, in 30 secondary schools with 3,000 students. The results are shown in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7. Of the 3,000 students questioned, 508 have used banned drug at least once in their lifetime, a rate of 16.93%. Municipalities most affected by this scourge were: Attécoubé (87 students, 29%), Abobo-gare (66 students, 22%), Port-bouet (66 students, 22%) and Yopougon (63 students, 21%).

The rate of students who use drugs ranged from 8 to 29% depending on the municipality, which corresponds to an average of 51 students, or 17%. We noted a male predominance with a sex ratio of approximately 5:2 (70.66% boys and 29.34% girls). Half (50%) of consumers belonged

to the age group of 18 to 20 years (Table 5). 78.74% of the consumers lived in neighborhoods and belongs to the middle class (43.7% families. The reasons given for consuming drugs by students during our survey were multiple. The main reasons were peer pressure (44.06%), curiosity (44.1%) and family and school problems (9.84%) (Table 6).

## DISCUSSION

Addiction is a public health problem for decades in many countries. In 1912, International Convention of the Hague stressed the importance of the international fight against drug abuse and trafficking of opium and other narcotics. In Côte D'Ivoire, an average of 641 cases of drug abusers was handled each year by the courts during the period of 1999 to 2007. An average of 1003 people were arrested including 859 cases charged to court. Among those charged to court, 56 women and 25 minors were involved, rates of 6.51 and 2.91%, respectively (Table 1).

**Table 6.** Drugs taking by students according to their residence, social class of parents and motive of consumption.

Parameter		Community										User	
		Yop	Pla	Coc	Adj	Kou	Abo	Mar	Por	Trei	Atté	Nb	%
Residence	P	60	12	10	51	42	63	12	57	21	72	400	78.74
	M	0	9	8	0	3	0	21	9	16	9	75	14.7
	L	3	3	12	3	0	3	0	0	3	6	33	6.5
Sociale Class	F	12	12	12	3	12	9	12	24	6	27	129	25.4
	M	39	6	15	3	30	39	21	21	15	33	222	43.7
	D	12	6	3	48	3	18	0	21	19	27	157	30.9
Motive of consumption	C	33	9	7	18	30	36	9	39	13	30	224	44.1
	F	24	12	20	30	12	24	18	21	25	48	234	46.06
	P	6	3	3	6	3	6	6	6	2	9	50	9.84

Community: Yop (Yopougon); Pla (Plateau); Coc (Cocody); Adj (Adjamé); Kou (Koumassi); Abo (Abobo); Mar (Marcory); Por (Portbouet); Trei (Treichville); Atté (Attécoubé). Motive of consumption: P (family and school problems); C (Curiosity); F (Companionship). Social class: F (rich); M (medium class); D (poor). Residence: P (popular area); M (medium); L (reserved area).

courts over the same period, with a decrease of 23.12%. However, these authors indicated the indictment of 131 women and 52 children, a decrease of 56.9 and 51.37%. Moreover, concerning the nationality of the persons charged to court, the present survey recorded that 537 Ivorian corresponds to 58.5% against 598 Ivorian cited by Dano et al. (2003), with a decrease of 10.2% (Table 2).

Data collected during our study has enabled us to identify the progress being made by our police in their fight against drug trafficking. significant decrease was observed in the number of people involved in this drug trafficking; however, there was more participation of female gender and minors. Traffickers appear to adopt new strategies to sell their products, depending on the seducing capacity of women and the naivety of youths.

### Drug trafficking evolution

Abidjan, like most African capital cities has become a preferred transit for traffickers. Our survey shows that several types of drugs and narcotics were seized by the enforcement agencies, such as heroin, cannabis, ephedrine, cocaine, benzodiazepines, hashish and a large quantity of prohibited products (Table 3). Several years back, all these products have been the object of seizures as reported by studies conducted by EL Amine (1993) and Manda et al. (2003). However, a net decrease has been observed in the quantities of seized products, a net decrease compared to previous years. Also, some products such as opium, crack and barbiturates have not been reported seized for the period of 2001 to 2007.

Cannabis was the most widely consumed hard drugs in the clandestine market in Côte d'Ivoire. It is taken in the form of herbal cannabis, in the form of cigarettes leaves

or flowering tops. Resins and oils from cannabis were not used. Different names are given to it: "*Guedji, Ganja, Joint, Wausau.*" Official figures given by a law enforcement agency concerning seizure has been made, 751.2 kg in 1999 against 1612 kg in 2007 with a peak of 3777.3 kg in 2002 (Table 3), given an annual average of 1675.1 kg over the period of 1999 to 2007. Dano et al. (2003) had reported annual seizure of 1250.1 kg over the period of 1991 to 1999, an increase of 34%. Tigori-Sangare et al. (2011) in their study detected the psychoactive substances in the urine of users in the city of Abidjan, and showed that cannabis is the most consumed psychoactive substance, in fact that explains the vast trafficking of cannabis.

The presence of heroin in Côte d'Ivoire is directly related to a well organized international drug trafficking by some Africans who carry the drug from the place of production, the Southwest Asia (Pakistan, Afghanistan, India), to Europe and the United States via many African capital cities (Dano et al., 2003). The heroine is in the form of white or gray powder, 1.8 g were seized in 1999 against 23.7 g in 2007 with a peak of 34 g in 2002 (Table 3), an annual average of 9.53 g during the period of 1999 to 2007. The study, conducted over the period of 1991 to 1999 by Dano et al. (2003) reported an average of 3.19 g and increase of 198%. This figure indicates a significant increase in the trafficking.

Cocaine is in the form of white powder. 9.781 kg were seized in 1999 against 0.4484 kg in 2006, with a peak of 9.781 kg in 1999 (Table 3). The annual average over the period of 1999 to 2007 is 2.99 kg. These figures are in decline compared to those observed by Dano et al. (2003) who reported an average of 10.39 kg per year, a decrease of 71%.

Trafficking of benzodiazepine can be traced back to the 90s when the first seizures were made in Cote d'Ivoire,

**Table 7.** Drug consumption among students according to type of drug and social class of parents.

Type of drug	Community										Social class			User	
	Yop	Pla	Coc	Adj	Kou	Abo	Mar	Por	Trei	Atté	F	M	D	Nb	%
Héroïn	18	3	3	0	9	9	0	9	3	6	31	11	19	60	11.81
Cocaïne	3	3	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	9	12	3	9	24	4.72
Cannabis	42	18	27	51	36	54	33	39	34	66	87	202	111	400	78.74
benzodiazepine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	6	0	3	15	18	3.55
Amphéta-mine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	3	6	1.18

Community: Yop (Yopougou); Pla (Plateau); Coc (Cocody); Adj (Adjamé); Kou (Koumassi); Abo (Abobo); Mar (Marcory); Por (Portbouet); Trei (Treichville); Atté (Attécoubé). Social class: F (rich); M (medium class); D (poor). %: Percentage.

and since then the illegal business has continued to thrive. In 2003, Dano et al. (2003) reported seizures of 17.88 kg/year from 1991 to 1999 (Table 4); our study recorded seizures of 38.66 kg/year representing an increase of 116%. In 2009, Tigori-Sangare et al. (2011) showed that, like cannabis, benzodiazepines are highly consumed by users of psychoactive substances in the city of Abidjan.

Almost non-existent until 2005 when the first seizure of hashish was reported, an insignificant amount of 0.1 g was seized (Table 4). In general, a sharp decrease was observed in seizures from 2002 and a rise from 2005. The socio-political crisis which occurred in 2002 could be responsible for this increase in drug trafficking in Coted'ivoire.

### Addiction in schools

A survey carried out in school is the best method of collecting information about drug abuse among young people. They are cost effective and questionnaires get across easily.

A survey was carried out on all the ten municipalities of Abidjan, 30 schools representing 3,000 students were involved. Of the students questioned, 508 have taken banned drugs at least once in their lifetime, which give a rate of 16.93%. The municipalities most affected by this scourge were Attécoubé (87 students, 29%), Abobo-gare (66 students, 22%), Port-bouet (66 students, 22%) and Yopougou (63 students, 21%). The rate of students who use drugs varies from 8 to 29% depending on the municipalities, which corresponds to an average of 51 students, or 17% (Table 5).

Two studies on drug use in schools by El-Amine (1993) and Manda et al. (2004) for the periods of 1983 to 1991 and 1991 to 1999, indicating the levels of drug consumption in schools reported an average of 10.75 and 13.4%, respectively. These figures are much lower than those observed during the period of 1999 to 2007, reflecting the persistence and even the rising trend of drug use in Ivorian schools.

At the international level, results obtained in Cote

d'ivoire are higher than the survey report on adolescents in Tunis (Tunisia) by Amrani et al. (2002) who reported that 13% of students admitted have used hard drugs at least once in their lives. However, our figures are lower than those obtained in Algeria and Madagascar, where more than 19% of high school students have had contact with hard drug (UNODC, 2007; Forem, 2006). The Institute of Statistic of Quebec (2007) reported an even higher result about 30% of Quebec students admitted to have used drugs during the school year. Among students who used drugs, a male predominance was noticed with a sex ratio of approximately 5:2 (70.66% boys and 29.34% girls) (Table 5). In Madagascar, UNODC (2007) also reported a higher male predominance of 83%. In Tunisia, Amrani et al. (2002) reported the same observation with a slight male predominance of 51.6% for boys against 48.4% for girls.

Regarding distribution by age, the highest consumption was found in age group of 18 to 20 years which was about 50% of the cases (Table 5). In Madagascar, UNODC (2007) conducted a similar study and reported a peak at the age of 19 for boys (23%) and 18 for girls. According to Mabrouk et al. (2011), 63% of cannabis smokers in Tunis are youths of age 19 to 25 years. In 2007, the European School Survey on alcohol and other drugs reported that 31% of 16 years old admitted have smoked cannabis in life (Legleye et al., 2009).

Regarding the place of residence, 78.74% of students' consuming hard drugs live in neighborhoods where drugs are easily circulated (Table 6). This result is similar to other studies conducted earlier in Abidjan by Manda et al. (2004) and El Amine (1993).

In this study, variation was observed in drug consumption of students based on the kind of social. Students from all social classes reported to have used drugs. This consumption is higher among students belonging to both the middle class and the less privileged ones with rates of 43.7 and 30.9%, respectively (Table 6). Social class is not a limiting factor for drug use, as consumers are from all walks of life. Hard drugs are consumed by students from all social class. Cannabis remains the most widely consumed drug. Apart from Indian hemp, students find it difficult to have easy access to heroin and cocaine, which

which remain too expensive in the black market (Table 7).

Factors contributing to hard drug consumption are many: sorrow, grief, timid ness, emotional conflict or prolonged internal conflict. On the psychological level, the use of drugs is an expression of juvenile in search for three things: experience, identification and pleasure.

In this study, 46.06% of the student consumers said to have been influenced by friends, 44.1% wanted to experience the effects that drugs provides and for the 9.24% remaining (school and family) problems are the main cause of their drug addiction (Table 6). According to UNODC (2007), in Madagascar, among students who have already touched drugs, half of them said they did so to satisfy their curiosity (49%), others puts the blame on friends or peer influence (23%). The drug can also be seen by young people as a way to forget some of the concerns and problems of adolescents: personal difficulties (0.6%), dissension within the family (43%), and heartbreak (3.5% ). According to Mabrouk *et al.* (2011), the main reasons given by consumers of cannabis in Tunisia were: running away from problems (29.3%), searching for relaxation (20.2%), the need for experimentation (18.2%) and the search for pleasure (16.7%).

## Conclusion

The production and trafficking of narcotics, drugs and psychoactive substances affect a large number of African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire. Our investigation has revealed the trafficking situation and the use of drugs in Côte d'Ivoire. It appears that the use of hard drugs remains a concern as evidenced by the numerous seizures of narcotics and psychotropic substances, despite the increased repression against trafficking. The situation is even more alarming that the sale of various types of drugs to students, even within schools, continues to thrive. This plague is characterized by a strong preponderance of cannabis. Thus, it appears truly as an absolute necessity on one hand, to strengthen the control and repression, on the other hand, developing awareness campaigns and prevention to both adults and youths in order to enhance their knowledge "say no" and inform them of the risk involve in taking hard drugs. As for parents, they should be more vigilant to be able to detect any changes in behavior among young ones and encourage dialogue with their children.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors express their sincere gratitude to the Ivorian National Police Anti Drug and Narcotics Division for their cooperation in making available archives document.

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