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At the end of the apartheid era, South African research relating to the nature and extent of use of drugs (other than alcohol and tobacco) among the general adult population in South Africa was practically non-existent.

In South Africa alcohol and drug abuse was spoken of by former President Nelson Mandela in his opening address to Parliament in 1994 as a problem among social issues that needed to be combated.

By February 1999, the South African Drug Advisory Board hailed an unacceptable increase in substance abuse and its associated problems.

This problem has been identified by the National Drug Master Plan, as a fuel for crime, poverty, reduced productivity, unemployment, dysfunctional family life, political instability the escalation of chronic diseases, such as AIDS and TB, injury and premature death (Drug Advisory Board, 1999).

The Anti Drug Alliance of South Africa is committed to giving the public the truth about drugs and addiction in South Africa.

With this in mind, five years back, we started using the information we received from those people contacting us to put out statistics. We started contacting treatment facilities and many shared information such as which drugs were most abused by those receiving treatment in their facilities.

We started talking with the Police, and now and then got some information, but quickly found their statistics unrealistic and unreliable, simply because they are working from a legal perspective, and numbers of arrests and convictions only scratch the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

We spoke with paramedics, finding out how often they got called out to drug related cases.

We spoke to as many role players we could, and slowly it began to happen - a very clear picture started to emerge about the reality of drug use in South Africa.

“The picture was a very different one to what we expected.”

It showed us as a nation under siege. Through the media, many hundreds of emails and phone calls, we called on Government to do something. We had a very real picture of drugs in this country, and yet, it seemed that no matter how many successes were lauded in the media, the problem seemed to worsen.
Meetings with those in “the know”, seemed to point to one very scary conclusion. The reality is that everyone seemed to be saying the war against drugs was lost, that South Africa had been hit by a drug tsunami, and that fighting the problem was ineffective to say the least.

“Today, we take a very different stance.”

It is clear that the war against drugs is lost. We see on a daily basis that more and more dealers are on the streets.

The obvious reaction would be to say, "Arrest them! Put them behind bars!"

Sadly, there would not be so many drug dealers if there were not so many drug users. Speaking to drug dealers, we have found it a clear situation of these people supplying a demand.

We could have the great which came first, the chicken or the egg debate, but right now that would be too little too late. The fact is that we have lost the war, and all that government is doing is spending billions on catching a few criminals who are trafficking large amounts of drugs.

A drug dealer supplies a demand, and by taking a few out of the equation the problem is not solved. They are simply replaced by other dealers who learn by their predecessors' mistakes and now take longer to get caught.

The fact is that we simply have to look at legalization and or decriminalization as a very real solution to the problem.

Speaking to the role players on the street, the policemen, the social workers, the counsellors and even the prosecutors and magistrates, (many of them fearful of reprimand) agree with us with hushed tones or behind closed doors.

This year's survey included a question about this very topic. Should we look at legalization or decriminalization as an option? Last year, less than 10% of respondents answered yes. This year, over a third answered yes.

“South Africa is no longer the third world country at the bottom of the world.”

We have become a global player in many industries, we are the financial and industrial powerhouse of Africa, and our country boasts the most progressive constitution in the world. Yet, we suffer from archaic prohibitionist belief systems, and foolishly believe that we can stop drug use in our country.
It is time that we woke up and realized that this viewpoint will not carry us anymore. Ours is truly a country of wonderful and dramatic change, but at the same time, ours is a country that is floating high on a cloud of marijuana smoke and a cornucopia of other drugs.

It is time we looked at change. Start questioning who is actually in control of the drug war, and you will see that it is time we changed strategy and looked at changing for the greater good of our children.

This year, we used a number of portals to gather the information that we have used in this annual report.

Our national helpline, together with thousands of emails and submissions to our websites and social media contact points accounts for roughly half of the data, whereas the annual survey, which was completed by over 35000 respondents accounts for the other half. Our online survey did have a number of responses from many overseas countries; however, we used special filters on the online platform to ensure that those were ignored.

Our data comes from 35433 respondents to the online survey, as well as 22376 emails, telephone calls, submissions to our websites and social media portals.

This gives us a total of 57809 points of information that we can base our statistics on, which as far as we know is the largest private research that has ever been done in South Africa on the subject.

As you read through each of the pages, please remember – these figures represent real people, real situations and real lives. These are not just numbers, these are voices. Together we have a voice, and this voice needs to call on government to look at real change, not just big talk and show of force. The latter is easy, but real change takes commitment to the people government represents.

We thank you, South Africa, for speaking with us. Thank you for each and every email you send us. Thank you for every phone call to tell us where dealers hang out and sell drugs.

Thank you to the men and women out there making a difference on the streets – the policemen, paramedics, counsellors, social workers, prosecutors, magistrates, NGO's, treatment facilities and those I have not mentioned.

Most importantly, thank you for sharing our sentiment for change. Our only prayer is that one day you can speak out about your beliefs without recrimination or fear of reprimand for daring to think about change.

It is only with your help that we can make sure that South Africa hears the real truth about drugs and addiction in our country.

Quintin van Kerken
Chief Executive Officer
Anti Drug Alliance South Africa
Our data was retrieved from a number of sources.

We receive an average of 1800 contacts on a monthly basis. This is via our social media pages, our website submission forms, direct emails, face to face meetings and other contact points such as text messages (through various channels such as SMS, BBM, and WhatsApp).

We use the information from these contacts to answer a number of questions which we believe to be most pertinent with regards to our annual report. Questions asked (amongst others) include:

- Age;
- Income;
- Expenditure on drugs;
- What drugs are used;
- And lifestyle (amongst others).

These questions help form a picture of drugs and addiction in South Africa. The information we receive is confidential.

*We cannot and will never give names, or any other information out that may challenge the privacy of the person that is furnishing us with the information.*

The reality is that although addiction is a health issue, many substances that fuel addiction are illegal, and also most people suffer severe embarrassment about their addictions.

We also do a direct survey, which is filled out by the public via an online form. We use our various social media sites, websites and contacts in the media to request the public to fill out the survey.
No personal information about the respondent is captured, however, we do have a filter on the form to ensure that only forms filled out within South Africa are saved. Anyone outside of our borders may fill the form in, however the information that is captured on these forms is auto deleted on submission.

We believe this anonymity offers the respondent the chance to be completely truthful regarding their thoughts on drugs and addiction.

There are obviously checks and balances when we check the numbers. We already have an idea (based on previous statistics) what the numbers should be. We know that there is a growth rate, and we account for that as well. At the end of the day, we are able to supply the statistics in a balanced and unbiased manner.

We do not ask too many questions. Experience has taught us what to ask, and generally people do not like to answer too many questions. We ask what we need to know, and that is all. No other information is necessary.

We have rounded off percentages to the nearest tenth of a percent for ease of use.
The Results

Following is the graphical view of the results. We have rounded off the results to the nearest tenth of a percent for ease of use.

We will discuss the results in the following section.

(Please note the numbers on the pie chart represent the percentage of respondents.)
What province do you live in?

What age group do you fall into?
What is your work status?

How much alcohol do you consume?
Do you use drugs, and if so, when last did you use?
What drugs do you use?

What do you spend on drugs on a monthly basis?
What do you earn?

Do you have any tattoos or piercings, other than ear piercings?

Do you smoke cigarettes?
Do you view porn on a regular basis?

Have you gambled in the last 30 days?
Have you attended rehabilitation for an addiction?

If you have attended rehabilitation for an addiction, how many times have you been?
Do you believe your city or town has a drug problem?

- Yes: 80.4%
- No: 19.6%

Do you believe South Africa as a whole has a drug problem?

- Yes: 10.9%
- No: 89.1%
Do you believe that addiction is a criminal or health problem?

Do you believe the government is doing enough to combat drugs?
Do you think that a possible solution to the drug problem we face would be to legalise / decriminalise certain drugs?
Results of other channels

The results of the other channels all but mimic the results of the online survey (in the adult segment). There are insignificant differences in the results of each question, so much so that we found that it would be unrealistic to literally duplicate results in chart format.

In this part of the document we will discuss other findings over and above the results of the online survey, and will speak of the results of the teen segment.

Let us begin with the teen segment results.

Teen Segment Results

As mentioned previously, we found that the teen segment that answered the online survey was very unreliable. After much investigation and debate, it was concluded that teens simply did not see the seriousness of the survey questionnaire, and found it boring and uninteresting.

Our best results came from personal interaction with teens. This interaction allowed us to ask questions more pertinent to the individual, and helped us gain an overall picture of this segment.

Our information came from 2512 teens that ADA-SA representatives interacted with at various engagements at schools and functions throughout the past year. Questions were asked informally and responses were recorded by hand. Please note that we have rounded of percentages to the closest percent for ease of use.

Does peer pressure play a role with you wanting to use / experiment with drugs?

51% Yes 49% No

Are drugs available to buy at your school?

69% Yes 22% No 9% Prefer not to say / Do not know

Have you personally used drugs in the past? (This included any type of illegal drug)

34% In the last 6 months
32% In the last 3 months
32% In the last 30 days
27% In the last 7 days

What is the most available drug in your school?

Marijuana 88% Cat 5% Tik 2% Cocaine 2% Other drugs combined 3%
Have you been sexually active in the past 30 days?
Yes 29%  No 68%  Prefer not to say 3%

How much pocket money do you get?

- 9% received no pocket money at all.
- 91% received an average of R450 per month (Highest amount R3000, lowest R50 per month)

This result varies somewhat. We have found typical middle-class children average out at R850, whereas children in high income areas and more exclusive schools average R1500.

Other highlights:

- The average 14 year old owned a cellphone
- BBM and WhatsApp were the most common ways of communicating, with only a handful of children using sms (about 3%).
- Over 80% of teens knew how to use the Internet
- Over 60% of teens aged 16 had already consumed alcohol with consent of their parents
- The average age of first experimentation with drugs was 15.

Although the greatest care was taken whilst compiling the figures for teens, we cannot verify the complete accuracy of the figures, as these figures were taken from personal notes of ADA-SA staff / representatives. With this having been said, we used previous years’ statistics to cross reference the numbers. Once this was done, we found that the figures compared relatively well to previous survey results. Those figures we found discrepancies of greater than 7% were not published.
Discussing the Results

Overall, we were very happy with results of the 2012 survey. Below, we will list the questions of the survey once again, and discuss the results.

1. What province do you live in?
2. What age group do you fall into?
3. What is your work status?
4. How much alcohol do you consume?
5. Do you use drugs?
6. If you use drugs, when last did you use?
7. What drugs do you use?
8. What do you spend on drugs on a monthly basis?
9. What do you earn?
10. Do you have any tattoos or piercings, other than ear piercings?
11. Do you smoke cigarettes?
12. Do you view porn on a regular basis?
13. Have you gambled in the last 30 days?
14. Have you attended rehabilitation for an addiction?
15. If you have attended rehabilitation, how many have you attended?
16. Do you believe your city or town has a drug problem?
17. Do you believe South Africa has a drug problem?
18. Do you believe that addiction is a criminal or health issue?
19. Do you believe government is doing enough to combat drugs in South Africa?
20. Do you believe that legalisation / decriminalisation could be a possible solution to the drug problem?

1. The largest percentage of respondents came from Gauteng province. As Gauteng is the most densely populated province with the highest amount of internet users, we found that this result was satisfactory.
2. As we were most interested in the adult population, we were satisfied with the results. We did not include the results of the under 18 respondents to the online survey. We found that this age group simply did not take the survey seriously, and the answers we received were in stark contrast to the answers we had from the other channels, hence we negated these results completely.
3. The response to the work status question was satisfactory. Respondents to this survey would have to have an internet connection or smart phone to access the questionnaire; hence we show a high employment rate within the respondents to the survey.
4. On alcohol consumption, we were satisfied with the results, as they correlated to various other alcohol related surveys.
5. In previous surveys, we have found that roughly a third of respondents use drugs, and the results of this survey were no different. It is now a fact that 1 in 3 adults in South Africa uses drugs on a regular basis. This is in stark contrast to numbers the United Nations’ numbers (http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-
which state that roughly only 5% of the world adult population uses drugs. We believe that this is an interesting anomaly, as the UN document is more geared to those addicted to illicit drugs. Our survey asked about use (and not necessarily abuse) of substances, which brought in a wider response. It is a clear indication that use and addiction numbers are very different. We find similar figures with alcohol use versus alcohol addiction, with many openly admitting alcohol consumption, with a very small minority actually admitting alcoholism.

6. The response to this question shows that many use the drug recreationally, compared to the amount of users that are dependent on drugs.

7. These results were in line with our projections. Marijuana use is up by 11% on last year's figures, and Nyope is up by 8.46%. Methamphetamine usage (Cat and Tik) is growing exponentially. Tik usage has nearly doubled in the last year (up 88%), and Cat has seen similar growth (82%). The age groups using these drugs are across the board, but the biggest growth rate is in the 22 – 35 groups. Cocaine and crack cocaine usage remained relatively static, however we have seen many addicts migrating from cocaine to Cat, and a small percentage from Crack to Tik. This could be attributed to cost, as cocaine’s prices have seen an increase in price per gram, whereas Cat and Tik’s prices per gram have remained roughly the same for the past 8 years. Marijuana remains the single biggest drug consumed out of all drugs in South Africa, with roughly a third of all drug users using this drug regularly. Interestingly, Magic Mushrooms have surged in popularity, as well as LSD. We see their popularity fluctuate, and find that the greatest number of users fall into the 18 – 25 age groups, and then the 36 – 45 age groups. We find an increase in use of these drugs in summer, mainly attributed to dance festivals, and an increase in the number of dance parties at clubs etc. Ecstasy remains a "party" drug. Most users of this or MDMA will use it occasionally, and not exclusively. The bulk of addicts these days prefer to use a drug which will allow them to be able to "function normally" (sic).

8. The responses to this question were in line with previous results and with our projections. The average (recreational) drug user will spend roughly R200 per month on drugs, whereas the extreme addicts can spend extremely excessive amounts on drugs.

9. With respondents’ earnings, we found the bulk of respondents fell into the LSM 4 to 8 ranges (Lower middle class to Upper Middle Class). This question helped us answer a lot more than income. Based on the spread of income, it is clear that we covered from the very poor to the very wealthy with regards to respondents. It also shows that drugs use is not limited to certain classes, yet is across the board.

10. Body art has seen an increase over the last few years, and this year is no different. We projected a 7% increase on last year’s numbers, and were not far off with an increase of 7.31%

11. Cigarette smoking has increased in the 18 – 25 age groups by 18%, but is down in the older groups by an average of 4%.

12. Viewing of porn increased by 8%, which is less than the projected 11%.

13. Gambling is down dramatically (24.67%), but we feel that this can be directly attributed to a weaker economy. This figure constantly fluctuates, and although this survey may show a downturn, we can expect fluctuations throughout the year. This figure is always a bit of a mystery, as many people see gambling as something one
does strictly in a casino, and other forms of gambling such as Lotto or Horse Racing are not seen as gambling per se.

14. The response to this question was in line with our projections and has seen an increase of 17.2%.

15. The rehabilitation sector is seeing massive growth. In an informal poll, we polled 50 centres nationwide and asked if they had seen growth in numbers in the last year. Most told us that they had seen an average growth of 25%. This coincides very well with our figures. Numbers of people attending rehab is up by 26.33%. This is a good thing as more people are admitting addiction; however, what is alarming us is return business. It is clear the current rehabilitation system is failing somewhere if there are figures of people returning to rehabilitation up to 9 times before finding recovery. This is definitely something we plan to investigate further.

16. We found that the percentage of people answering no came from provinces such as the Northern Cape and North West, where proliferation of hard drugs is much less.

17. In previous surveys, we found that there has always been a rough 50/50 split between yes and no. However, it is clear people are seeing that SA definitely has a massive proliferation of drugs, more so than ever before.

18. We were very surprised by this response. This was a question that we have not asked before in a formal survey, and we believe the answer is very progressive for South Africa. South Africans are generally very conservative when making statements of this regard. This result also shows us that people are now making cognitive differentiation between the condition of addiction and the offenses an addict may commit to pay for their addiction. A minor percentage of people were undecided on this subject, and in cross referencing, we found that the 45 and up age groups made up the bulk of the percentage. This can be attributed to old fashioned and uninformed ways of looking at addiction.

19. This conclusively shows that our nation is fed up with the way the government is handling drugs and addiction in South Africa. The results of this question should make the government sit up and pay attention.

20. We believe that the questions 19 and 20 are at the core of the survey. It is clear that many people are seeing that the so called war on drugs is lost. Looking back a decade ago in the United States, Gallup Polls showed that roughly a third of people were saying that that country should look at legalization. Looking at our results, most interesting is the undecided figures in the question of legalization. Yes, over 36% of people are saying it is a possible solution, but over 9% are saying that more information is necessary, and that they would like to know more before they commit to an answer. In South Africa we have a very prohibitionist viewpoint on drugs such as marijuana. Unfortunately, many people believe the propaganda that is disseminated about the drug. We believe however the tide is turning. Looking at the above results, it is clear that many people are beginning to question the status quo and are realizing that there is a lot more involved here. As we compile this report, CANSA has come out strongly against marijuana, stating that Morphine is a cheaper and more beneficial alternative. Yes they state that perhaps we can look at synthetic cannabinoids, however, it is as an afterthought. We will speak of this later in the document. We simply ask the public to start questioning and looking at reality. In the question asking whether the government is doing enough, a massive 81.9% of respondents are sending a clear message. NO. We grouped these questions together
for a reason. It clearly shows we are a nation that is experiencing a paradigm shift. We have no confidence in the war on drugs, and at the same time are beginning to question the motives of the war, as well as seeing the futility of it. Mainstream media is beginning to speak about these issues. The Police remain tight lipped, however we cannot blame them. They have to enforce the laws of the land, which currently means that drug addicts are many times criminalized for their addictions. We are seeing a trend with the legal system which shows the courts more often than not letting possession cases (of small amounts for personal use) off with a warning, as it simply does not make sense to criminalize a person who suffers from an addiction, or uses drugs for recreational purposes.

Pricing of Drugs

Herewith we include a list of prices of various illicit narcotics in South Africa. We polled numerous users in major cities in South Africa, and have included on the major drugs of abuse.

1. Cocaine – An average price of R250 per gram is charged by dealers, with some charging up to R300 per gram, depending on purity.
2. Crack cocaine – A rock (roughly 5mm in diameter) sells for around R120. A half moon (roughly 40mm long) sells for around R1500, and a golf ball (slightly smaller than an actual golf ball) sells for between R2500 and R3000.
3. Cat – Pricing on this drug varies between R150 and R200 per gram.
4. Tik (Crystal Meth) – A straw (a piece of plastic straw roughly 50mm in length) sells for between R30 and R50. A gram sells for around R200, up to R350, depending on location.
5. Ecstasy – Prices here vary between R10 and R80 per pill.
6. Marijuana – The greatest differences in pricing lie in this drug. Depending on type of cannabis, a “banky” (plastic bank bag) is sold for anywhere between R50 and R500. A matchbox varies between R10 and R50.
7. LSD – Prices here are roughly R50 per “square”, and roughly R300 for 5ml of liquid LSD.
8. Magic Mushrooms – Prices vary between R100 and R300 for a banky.
9. Heroin – A “baggy” (about 1/5 to 1/8 of a gram) goes for around R30, with a full gram for around R200.
Where to from here?

The only constant we can be assured of in South Africa is change.

Several years back, had you asked our organization what our viewpoint on legalization was, we would point at our name. The **Anti Drug Alliance**.

We have undergone many changes. Working so closely with addicts, treatment facilities, counsellors and the legal system, we have seen that the system as it currently stands is simply not working.

The public rehabilitation system is overflowing and is failing. Proof of this is the number of times addicts have to return to rehabilitation. We have reports of some people returning up to 14 times to a rehabilitation centre, and still continue to use.

Private rehabilitation still remains out of reach for many South Africans, as they simply cannot afford it. Pricing here can be anywhere between R2500 per month, up to R180 000 for six weeks.

Many seeking treatment are now looking at inpatient rehabilitation as a last resort, preferring outpatient based programs which allow the person to stay in work or school whilst they undergo treatment.

The legal system is looking at drugs differently, and although there may not be anything in black and white, it is blatantly obvious that possession (of soft drugs such as marijuana) is now seen as nothing more than a time waster in court, and these cases simply get a warning and are let go. A three strike rule seems to be the norm.

More South Africans are using drugs than ever before. We have to ask whether this the fault of those dealing drugs, as they are really only supplying an existing (and growing) demand for their product? Or is it a deep rooted societal problem?

Police are spending more and more on combating drugs, and although they are very quick to publicize big busts in the media, what about the fish that keep getting away?

ADA-SA are in the opinion that the Police are maybe stopping 5 -10% of the drugs flowing in the country, if that. A big bust does not stop the supply, only one supplier - one supplier of many.

We can never, and will never stop drugs in South Africa; even thinking that is naive and pointless.

Thinking in a prohibitionist way is simply not logical. America proved with Prohibition that it does not stop the demand, and that it simply gives more power to organized crime.
The 2012 survey has shown that South Africa is a country of contrasting beliefs especially when it comes to drugs and addiction. Our older citizens have firm, (somewhat) unshakable beliefs that seem to be holding back change.

Although we have a massively progressive constitution, those pages were written by the few, and often cultural and religious beliefs and systems are in stark contrast to the reality we actually find ourselves in.

Change needs to happen.

Propaganda tells us drugs are bad. A progressive younger generation, who have information at the click of a button, and drugs at their beck and call, are now beginning to question the status quo. On one side we see the devastation of addiction, on the other side we see a massive amount of people who use drugs recreationally, yet escape addiction.

The reality is that many are starting to see the fact that we need to re-visit the law, and bring it into line with the changing times, thoughts and beliefs. New laws are made, old laws are scrapped and many laws are amended as time passes. South Africa is the epitome of change, and yet, why is it we do not see that the current prohibitionist laws are overloading the justice system?

The playing field has changed dramatically in South Africa. We are no longer the little sheltered colony at the edge of the world. We are a global player, we are recognized in many fields as pioneers and leaders, and yet, with the most advanced constitution in the world, we cannot see the reality that we will spend billions on fighting a war that is long lost.

Obviously we are not saying that we should legalize drugs tomorrow and let people go wild, as that makes no sense at all.

We are saying that we need to look at a way that we can regulate the industry, put standards and checks and balances into place, and allow people to make their own choices. There are many models that could be followed for regulation, and these must be looked at.

Fiscally, the country can only benefit. Take the billions spent on a lost war, funnel it into a health system that provides help for those that have found themselves addicted. Tax money derived from the sale of marijuana alone could ensure a health system that is properly funded and works.

Casinos need to pay toward a fund that helps treat people with gambling problems. Why is it that the alcohol producers do not have to do the same?

Alcohol has accounted for more deaths in this country than all the wars we have ever had and all the drugs related deaths COMBINED.

When gambling was legalized in this country, there was a massive outcry by the conservative quarter. Yet the law was passed. The industry has created thousands of jobs, and is a big contributor to GDP. Still, there are many thousands whose lives have been ruined by
gambling. Yet a standard disclaimer in adverts and outside the casino seems to indemnify the industry against the devastation it has brought on countless families. Winners know when to stop. If they actually understood that addiction is a condition that affects the brain on a cellular level, they would pull that slogan immediately, because an addict who is winning does not know when to stop.

Alcohol sales grow exponentially year on year. Producers line their pockets and laugh all the way to the bank. The industry employs many thousands of people, contributes to the GDP handsomely, and yet has ruined hundreds and thousands of lives due to alcoholism, and alcohol related crimes and accidents. Yet they continue to produce alcohol.

These companies shrug their shoulders and think that putting a warning on a beer or on the wall outside of a casino indemnifies them from those who become addicted to their products.

Just as this makes no sense, keeping certain drugs illegal makes no sense either. Regulating the industry would ensure purity of product, with no added extras like rat poison or drain cleaner. Regulating the industry would ensure that the poor black farmer in the mountains that grows a crop of marijuana and sells a ton of it for a few hundred rand (so that he can feed his family) is no longer exploited by organized crime, but can make a fair living.

Regulating the industry would mean that SARS gets their fair share, and that those people who have become addicts are no longer marginalized and cast out, but can get the help that they need, from a health system that is well funded and geared to helping the addict.

Regulation does not stop addiction, which is a fact. If it did, there would be no gambling addicts and no alcoholics, and people would only smoke cigarettes socially.

The only time government will "see the light" is when someone clever enough is able to convince them that legalization of drugs would "benefit the country" the same way the alcohol, gambling and tobacco industries do.

Below are some statistics on alcohol we got from www.alcohol.co.za/statistics.htm

- 67% of domestic violence in the Cape Metropolitan area was alcohol related (MRC).
- In a study of women abused by their spouses, 69% identified alcohol/drug abuse as the main cause of conflict leading to the abuse (MRC).
- 76% of domestic violence in rural areas in the South-Western Cape was found to be alcohol related (MRC).
- Six out of ten drivers that die in accidents have dangerously high alcohol levels in their blood. http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/alcohol_abuse%20in%20SA.htm
- 3000 Adult pedestrians are killed in motor accidents per year. 70% of them are drunk when killed. http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/alcohol_abuse%20in%20SA.htm
- Half of all murders were the result of drunkenness (MRC).
- Over 50% of non-natural deaths received at state mortuaries in Cape Town had high levels of blood alcohol concentrations. http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/alcohol_abuse%20in%20SA.htm
58% of people fatally injured in train related trauma (who either fell from or walked in front of trains) in Cape Town had high blood alcohol concentrations. [http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/alcohol_abuse%20in%20SA.htm](http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/alcohol_abuse%20in%20SA.htm)

Over 50% of those who had died by drowning in greater Cape Town, over a ten year period, were found to have high concentrations of alcohol in their blood stream. [http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/alcohol_abuse%20in%20SA.htm](http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/alcohol_abuse%20in%20SA.htm)

"More than three-quarters of homicides perpetrated with a sharp object are alcohol related" - The National Injury Surveillance System in its "Profile of Fatal and Non-fatal Injuries in South Africa" of May 2000.

Approximately 40% of firearm and 58% of blunt instrument homicide victims have consumed alcohol prior to their fatal injury. Not only are those perpetrating the crimes likely to be under the influence of alcohol, but the victims also tend to have much higher alcohol levels as well - The National Injury Surveillance System in its "Profile of Fatal and Non-fatal Injuries in South Africa" of May 2000.

In the meantime, drug money bribes policemen everyday to look away and drug money oils the machine of organized crime.

We often hear the words, “Look at the devastation drugs cause!”

Well, look at the devastation ADDICTION causes.

Does the substance or action really matter?

At the end of the day, whether you drink, gamble or do drugs, the end results of the addiction are the same. You lose your dignity, self respect, money, friends, family, freedom, and ultimately your life.

Gambling addicts also steal to support their habit, prescription medication addicts also lie to their families, and alcoholics also pawn or sell their belongings to buy alcohol.

What is the difference between them and a person who prefers to smoke a plant that grows in the wild?

They say drugs contribute to family violence. We say alcohol does so even more. So does gambling addiction. So does porn addiction. So does sex addiction. We say addiction as a whole causes a whole lot of problems, at the end of the day, does the substance really matter?
This 2012 survey has changed the way I think in many aspects.

In 2010 I read an article proposing legalization of Marijuana in the United States. The article stirred up something inside of me. My emotions told me that it was just wrong, morally reprehensible, and it angered me.

Yet the part of me, the part that questions everything, started questioning the status quo. What followed were many late nights on the Internet, many emails sent and received, and many meetings behind closed doors with anyone who had an opinion on legalization.

The theme used to report the findings of this survey changed somewhat as we started to put everything together. Once we saw the figures on what people thought about legalization, it just made sense to take things in that direction.

Had we spoken of this issue sooner, perhaps it might have been considered professional suicide, after all our organization is named the *Anti Drug Alliance*. Yet, we find that addiction is a greater threat than drugs. Alcohol accounts for countless shattered lives, gambling has destroyed thousands of families, prescription medication addiction has done significant damage, and even something as porn addiction can wreak havoc in the lives of family members. If addiction is the symptom of a deeper rooted problem, it is clear South Africa is in trouble.

It’s time for change. We simply cannot go on like this anymore. We ask you to think. We ask you to question. We ask you to get all the information you can, and make a rational and factually based decision.

The way things have been working simply does not work anymore.

“*They say drugs contribute to family violence. We say alcohol does so even more. So does gambling addiction. So does porn addiction. So does sex addiction. We say addiction as a whole causes a whole lot of problems, at the end of the day, does the substance really matter?”*
References / Research material

ADA-SA used the following research documents and / or websites and / or books (amongst many others) to compile this document.

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