

The past twenty years has seen an increase in the prevalence of substance abuse among young people in South Africa (Moodley, Matjila, & Moosa, 2012) but the situation has been worsened by an introduction and increase in the use of a novel/designer/cocktail drug called *nyaope*, also commonly known as whoonga in other areas of the country (Ho, 2013; Grelotti et al., 2014), which is sold in powder form, rolled with cannabis, and smoked. Nyaope was only classified illegal in March of 2014 although it has been used since the year 2000. There is dearth of formal studies on nyaope and most of what is known was reported by both local and international media, including television documentaries in the UK and USA.

Nyaope is unique to South Africa and is mostly prevalent among young and unemployed black people who live in socio-economically depressed areas (Venter, 2014). It is highly and uniquely addictive and withdrawal symptoms include painful stomach cramps which the users describe as similar to an 'explosion' in the local language (Tuwani, 2013; Ephraim, 2014). The use of nyaope takes over the lives of the users because they drop out of school or lose their jobs

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