

Dear readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce the latest issue of the Rwanda Public Health Bulletin (RPHB), highlighting the concerning topic of drug and substance abuse among Rwandan adolescents and other health problems.

Adolescence is a critical stage in human development, marked by physical, psychological, and social changes that can make young people vulnerable to risky behaviors, including drug and substance abuse. In Rwanda, the prevalence of drug and substance abuse among adolescents has been on the rise, posing a significant public health challenge that requires urgent attention. Drug and substance abuse is a significant public health problem in Rwanda, with devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to this problem, as they navigate the complex challenges of adolescence, including peer pressure, stress, and the need for acceptance and belonging.

This issue of the RPHB provides valuable insights into the various dimensions of drug and substance abuse among Rwandan adolescents, including contributing factors, consequences, and potential solutions. It also highlights the need for a multifaceted approach to addressing drug and substance abuse among Rwandan adolescents, one that involves not only healthcare providers and policy-makers but also parents, schools, and communities.

Through this issue, you will also learn about in-hospital neonatal mortality among the preterm infants, notification and testing among partners of HIV-positive patients, and the national health insurance scheme in Zambia, the latter indicating that the RPHB is gaining recognition even outside Rwanda's borders. The information presented in this issue will serve as a valuable resource for all those working to improve healthcare in Rwanda, and will inspire new strategies and initiatives aimed at preventing and addressing health problems presented.

I would like to thank all authors for considering the RPHB, and our readers for their continued interest in the RPHB. I am confident that the insights and recommendations presented in this issue will have a significant impact on efforts to promote the health of Rwandans both now and in the future.

Sincerely,



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