

**Introduction:** This cross-sectional study sought to determine the health condition of the street children in Kampala by history taking and physical examination as well as identifying environmental, lifestyle and health access factors influencing their health.

**General Objective:** To identify health problems and factors influencing the health of street children in Kampala in the previous two months.

Specific Objectives;

1. To identify diseases street children in Kampala suffered from in the previous two months
2. To identify environmental factors influencing the health of street children in Kampala in the previous two months
3. To identify lifestyle factors influencing the health of street children in Kampala in the previous two months.
4. To identify health access factors influencing the health of street children in Kampala in the previous two months.

**Methodology:** Across-sectional study design was used to collect qualitative and qualitative data.

The study population was street children ranging from the age of 6 to 17. Data collection tools were pretested and ascent sought from respondents. Data was qualitatively collected using structured interview questionnaire to identify health related factors and an observational checklist by a nurse to identify the health condition. Analysis was done using a master sheet and SPSS 16.0 version Univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis was done. Confidence intervals and odds ratios were done to determine statistical significance.

**Results:** Study findings revealed that the disease most suffered by Kampala street children was malaria(43.3%) followed by fever(11.3%), Cough (10%), bleeding gum (7.3%) breathing problems(4.6%) diarrhea, scabies, flue, mouth sores, injuries and genital disease each at 3.3% wounds(3.2%) and toothache(1.2%) .Children within the age range of 6 to 10 were most associated with disease, at a p value of 0.041 followed by those within the range of 11 to 14 with a p value of 0.049 .Among the environmental factors sleeping on the streets and feeding from the rubbish pits were the most associated with disease at p values 0.045 and 0.040 respectively. Taking habit forming substances was the most significant lifestyle factor associated with disease with a p value of 0.005 .When they fall sick majority of Kampala`s street children buy themselves medicine. (38.7%) , 33.3% sleep of the illness and only 22.4% go to the hospital for treatment. Ironically those who got treatment from hospitals were more associated with disease at a p value of 0.04 at this is because they were more informed about their health status and could easily report about it.

**Conclusion:** Kampala street children mainly suffer from Malaria. Sleeping on the street and feeding from the rubbish pits are the factors that have been largely associated with disease as well as an age

range of 6 to 14.

**Recommendations:** Malaria prevention strategies should be made accessible to street children. Interventions to alleviate the health of street children should give priority on improving shelter and providing hygienic food to the children. Children in the range of 6 to 14 should be given priority in any health intervention.

**Area for further research**

Factors that cause children to join the street.

Factors influencing use of habit forming substance among street children.

Factors influencing Health seeking habits of street children.