

## Acknowledgements

- ◆ Initially, I would like to thank the LORD almighty for giving me the strength and opportunity to continue with my studies
  
- ◆ A warm appreciation is given to my whole family, including my baby's father Simon, who is doing a wonderful job by taking care of my baby while I continue with my studies
  
- ◆ I would also like to thank the promoter of this study, Ms. Singh for putting so much effort in assisting me to complete this paper
  
- ◆ Finally, I would also like to thank my lecturers and my classmates for their support and containment.



**Factors influencing substance abuse and risk for HIV  
infection among Black adolescents**

By

Antoinette Lindi Rikhotso

Mini-dissertation

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

**MAGISTER IN PSYCHOLOGY**



**RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY**

Promoter: Ms. J. Singh

2002

## **Abstract**

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a major nemesis in South Africa. The rates of infection among adolescents is increasing at an alarming rate and one of the key factors identified as increasing risk for infection is substance abuse. This paper is aimed at reviewing studies that have been conducted on international and national levels, regarding the theories and factors that increase risk for substance abuse and HIV infection. Although the review by Parry et al (2002) documents the incidence and trends of substance abuse in South Africa, this paper was predominantly quantitative in nature and is indicative of the dire need for intervention and prevention strategies. A qualitative analysis however would guide prevention and intervention programs. Thus it is imperative to explore those factors that increase risk for substance abuse and HIV infection among adolescents. Moving beyond this there is even greater need to investigate these factors among Black adolescents since Rocha- Silva (1998) has reported that heavy drug use has spread to poor, rural, disadvantaged communities and most local studies have focused on White adolescents.

