Use of the Hepatology Drug Interaction Checker for Interactions with Recreational Drugs in Africa

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Background

💊 The Liverpool Hepatology Drug Interaction checker is a free website and app for checking drug-drug interactions (DDIs) with medications for viral hepatitis.

💻 Usage data from the website can give an interesting insight into global drug use.

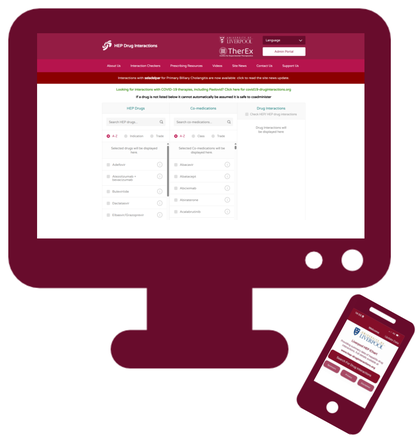
🌎 The website is extensively used in North America and Europe, but we wanted to see how the website is used in Africa.

Methods

🔍 Search history was recorded by country (IP address) and comedication.

📊 We extracted…
- Number of interactions searched
- Number of interactions searched in Africa
- Comedications searched for in Africa & South Africa

🗓️ Global data are 1/1/24 - 31/12/24
African data are 1/10/20 - 24/2/25



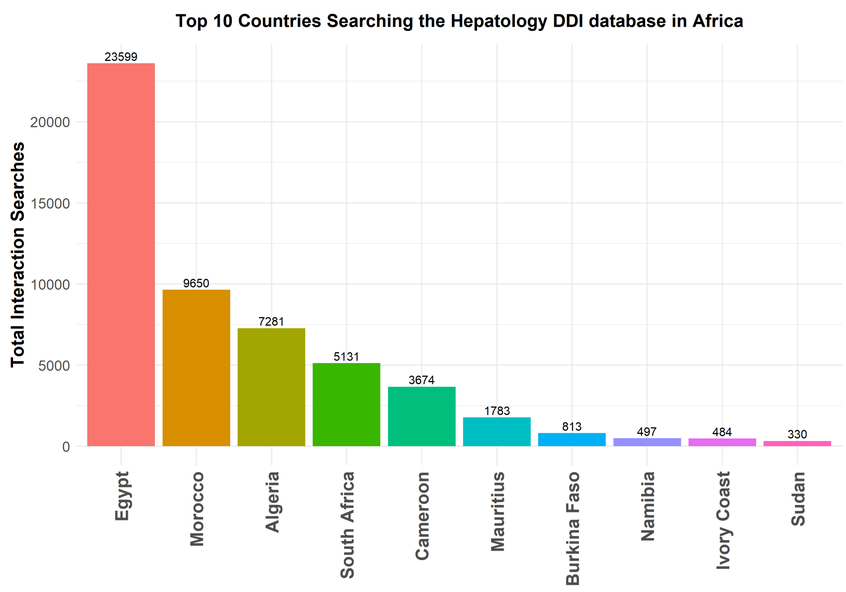
Results

2024

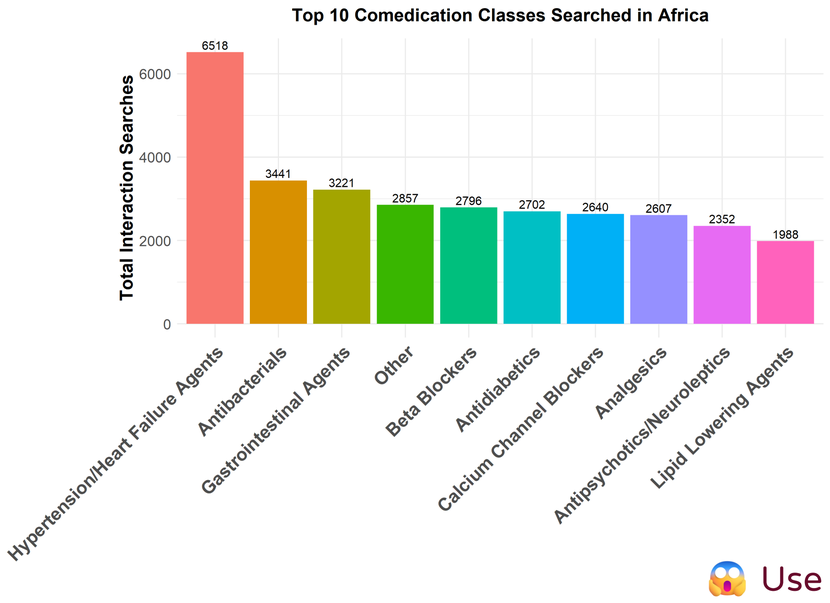
3,788,994 DDI checks made,

👇 10,808 (0.29 %) from Africa.

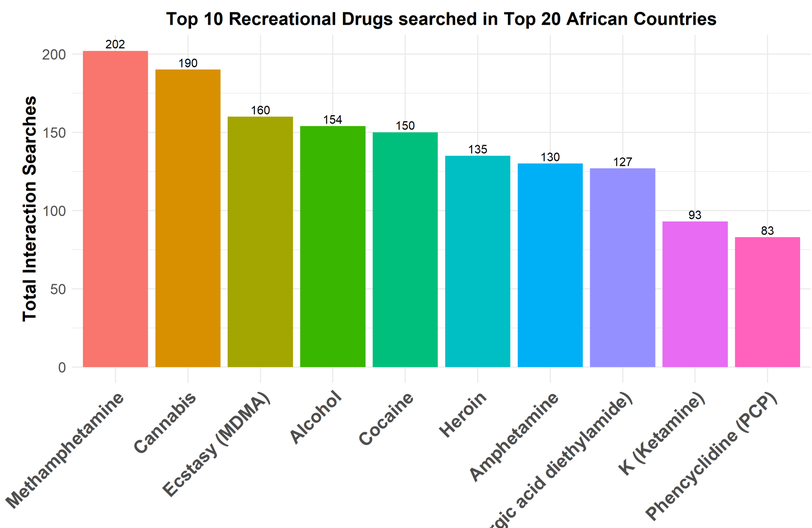
1. The top five countries using the website in Africa were Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, South Africa, & Cameroon.



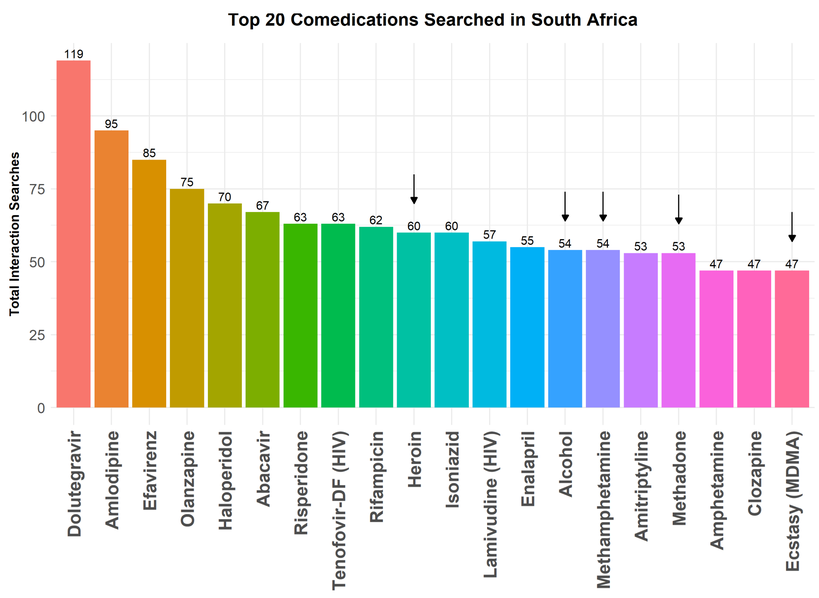
2. The top five comedication classes were hypertension/heart failure agents, antibacterials, gastrointestinal agents, other, and beta blockers.



3. The top five recreational drugs were methamphetamine, cannabis, ecstasy, alcohol, and cocaine.



4. The top five comedications in South Africa were dolutegravir, amlodipine, efavirenz, olanzapine, and haloperidol.



The top five recreational drugs were heroin, alcohol, methamphetamine, methadone, and ecstasy (indicated by arrows).

Conclusion

😱 Use of our checker in Africa is low at 0.29 % of interactions searched. Most popular in Egypt.

💊 Searches for DDIs with antibacterials were more popular in Africa compared with searches globally.

🦠 In South Africa, searches for HIV antiretrovirals and recreational drugs were common.

💉 Methamphetamine was the most searched recreational drug in Africa.

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www.hep-druginteractions.org