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CICAD's FIVE-YEAR DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGY 2006-2010



CICAD's five-year demand reduction strategy 2006-2010

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CICAD's five-year goal

By 2010, governments will have in place a public policy on drug demand reduction, and long- and short-term plans & structures, with adequate resources.

CICAD will focus on the following priorities:

CICAD's Demand Reduction Strategy, 2006-2010

Leadership issues:

- Prevention is less costly than treatment
- Brief interventions with occasional users are effective
- Drug prevention and treatment are much less costly than law enforcement approaches

CICAD's Demand Reduction Strategy, 2006-2010

Leadership issues:

- National drug strategies should devote more resources to demand reduction
- Health promotion & prevention of substance abuse and other unhealthy behaviors is not optional
- All children are potentially at risk

Priorities in drug demand reduction

- School-based substance abuse prevention & violence prevention programs
- Integration of drug treatment, rehab. & aftercare into national health care system, with appropriate standards of care
- Evaluation of demand reduction programs
- Alternatives to prison for drug-dependent petty offenders
- Promote academic and skills training in DR
- Support the MEM and MEM and other assistance projects

Why focus on school-based drug abuse prevention?

- Majority of children in the hemisphere attend school between ages 6 and 14 – these are the formative years
- Schools for parents, PTAs & similar can promote dialogue about drugs & healthy behaviors
- Teacher-training colleges & other professional schools can incorporate health education and drug prevention into their curricula – multiplier effect

General goal of health promotion & substance abuse prevention in schools: reduce new cases (incidence) of use of any psychoactive substance

- Ages 6-14: discourage use of tobacco, & promote healthy behaviors
- Ages 10-15: discourage use of alcohol & tobacco, promote healthy behaviors, & promote respect for rules
- Ages 11-18: discourage use of illicit drugs, promote healthy behaviors, & promote civic responsibility and respect for the law

What is needed for successful school-based prevention?

- Commitment of Education Ministry, school principals, teachers, guidance counsellors to include prevention in the core curriculum
- Linkage of substance abuse prevention to overall health education policies (including HIV/AIDS, violence prevention, promotion of rule of law)
- Curriculum experts need to use research findings
- Ed. Ministry needs budget for teaching materials
- Teachers must be trained and monitored in their delivery of the program, to ensure best practices & effectiveness and impact of the program

What else is needed for successful school-based prevention?

National Drug Commission and Ed. Ministry need to enlist active support of:

- National Parliament/Congress, to secure budget & resources
- Non-State partners (NGOs, private business, Universities, community service groups such as Lions, Rotary, churches, etc.), to secure community support

CICAD's school-based prevention programs 2006-2008

- With support of Lions International, life skills programs in Belize, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Barbados, and other member states.
- With support of NSIC, culture of lawfulness programs in El Salvador, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama & Trinidad & Tobago.

Evaluation of youth prevention programs

- Work of Expert Group on logic model, indicators and evaluation tools, esp. qualitative
- Training workshops in evaluation in 2006
- Evaluations will be conducted of new CICAD prevention programs (Lions Quest & Culture of Lawfulness), with the cooperation of the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs
- Examine the concept of "at-risk" for drug abuse

Drug treatment, rehab. & aftercare

CICAD's goal = to help governments to:

- Develop and implement standards of care in drug treatment, including code of ethics, to assure quality of care
- Include drug treatment providers in national health care system
- Train treatment counsellors, social workers, physicians, public health officials
- Provide support services for aftercare, families (counselling, social services, job placement)

Why focus on drug treatment, rehab. & aftercare?

- Drug-dependent persons require competent health care by trained professionals
- Patients need to be matched to appropriate types of treatment at various stages of their recovery
- Currently, treatment of drug-dependents falls largely on voluntary organizations & NGOs, rather than on governments

CICAD's 2005-2008 programs in drug treatment

- Standards of care in drug treatment developed in all Central American countries, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Barbados, Bolivia, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago with support from PAHO & UNODC-Mexico. Tentative Uruguay and other Caribbean member states.
- New programs to integrate drug treatment into the national healthcare system in all Central American countries and other member states.
- Continue support for offender programming in the Caribbean and Central America.

CICAD's future programs in drug treatment

- Training for drug treatment counsellors
- National (provincial) accreditation boards for drug treatment programs
- Studies on the effectiveness of drug treatment modalities
- Other?

Incarceration: some alternatives for drug-dependent offenders

Drug-dependent prisoners who are not offered treatment or re-entry services will probably:

- Continue drug use in prison
- Relapse into drug use after release
- Commit another crime

Incarceration: some alternatives for drug-dependent offenders

- Court-supervised community service, accompanied by treatment for drug dependence
- Drug courts or other specialized bodies
- Treatment for drug dependence, job training & pre-release services while in prison
- Post-release social and health services (counselling, housing, job placement)

What is needed to make community service alternatives work?

- Legislation
- Social services & medical and psychological care in place
- Trained judges, treatment counsellors, parole officers
- A national system of referrals to drug treatment
- A stable budget

Academic and skills development: why is it so important?

- Substance abuse prevention & treatment are both highly technical fields, increasingly informed by advanced research
- Member states need appropriately trained professionals to be able to conduct national drug plan priority projects

Academic and skills development: current and future offerings

- International Online M.A. in Addictions Studies
www.unireddrogas.com
Registration for the third class of the M.A. (2006-200) is open until Jan. 31, 2006, with classes starting March 1, 2006, Please encourage drug council staff to enroll.
- Seeking funds to establish a sustainable on-line addictions studies program for the Caribbean & other English-speakers

How to make this plan work?

- Increasing use of horizontal cooperation & partnerships among countries
- National demand reduction plans should set priorities for outside funding
- Greater cooperation among international agencies to ensure countries' needs being met & no overlap

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