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# **Prevention's strategy of psychoactive substance use in the Adolescent Criminal Responsibility System (SRPA): the experience from Colombia**

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# BACKGROUND



1.

Teens and young people associated with the Criminal Responsibility System (SRPA), in a large percentage, have a history of domestic violence, dysfunctional families, sexual abuse and exploitation.

In 2017, the ODC carried out the National Study of the Use of Psychoactive Substances in Adolescents in Conflict with the Law, which produced estimates of the aforementioned relationship **between drug use and criminal behavior**.

85% of these teens and young people have some form of use of psychoactive substances, according to the results of different studies.

2.



3.

There is evidence of an increase in the participation of teens and young people in criminal activities and their high relationship with the consumption of psychoactive substances.

# BACKGROUND

The **Ministerio de Justicia y del Derecho**, within the framework of “**Ruta Futuro**”: **Comprehensive Policy to Address the Drug Problem**, specifically in Pillar I, Reducing Drug Use and its Impact, is leading the development of practical tools to reduce drug use in the most vulnerable populations, including adolescents and young people in conflict with criminal law.

4.



5.

Moving towards the design of comprehensive responses that can have an impact on the reduction of consumption and recidivism of crime, in partnership with ICBF and UNODC, a Guide is developed seeking the design and implementation of evidence-based strategies for the prevention of psychoactive substances use.

## SCOPE AND RECIPIENTS

This document **provides conceptual and methodological elements for the formulation, implementation and follow-up** of initiatives and strategies for prevention of the consumption of psychoactive substances **for SRPA operators.**

The development of practical tools is part of a capacity-building process: **Technical Assistance** to accompany operators prioritized by the ICBF in the formulation of prevention strategies, on the basis of the technical and methodological considerations proposed in the "Guide for the Formulation of Strategies for the Prevention of the Use of SPA in Adolescents and Youth of the SRPA".





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# GUIDE'S CONTENT

## A reflection on:

1

2

3

4

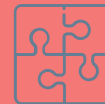
¿With whom is the prevention done in the SRPA? and ¿who does it?



¿What are the factors associated with the use of SPA and criminal behavior in adolescents?



¿What are the bases for the implementation of evidence-based preventive programs in the SRPA?



Recommendations, iatrogenesis and implementation team





## ¿HOW TO STRUCTURE A PREVENTION STRATEGY?

1. Anthropological understanding and the foundations that support the proposal.

- What kind of human being we work with?



2. Identify risk and protective factors.

- Establish the baseline regarding the situation you want to work on at the individual, family and/or group level.



3. Identification of working domains.

- Personal
- Contextual
- Familial
- Group



4. Definition of the objectives of the prevention programme/strategy

- Depending on the identified risk and protective factors, as well as the domains/levels, which ones are workable?



## ¿HOW TO STRUCTURE A PREVENTION STRATEGY?

5. Definition of preventive modalities in line with the objectives of the programme/strategy

- Specific
- Non-specific



6. Definition of preventive action lines for each selected prevention level

- ⑩ ¿What pedagogical elements?
- ⑩ ¿What specific knowledge needs to be researched?
- ⑩ ¿What methodologies will you use?



7. Implementation of preventive actions with evaluation schedules.


Take corrective action on the progress of the programme, ensuring that improvements are continuous and that the programme can meet the objectives for which it was designed.



8. Evaluation and formulation of new proposals.

Based on the results of the programme, what adjustments or changes should be made?





# PROGRAMME FOR PREVENTION OF THE USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

UNDER THE SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
ADOLESCENTS



ASOCIACIÓN CRISTIANA DE JÓVENES ACJ/YMCA  
BOGOTÁ - COLOMBIA  
2019 – 2020

**YMCA**

# WHO WE ARE?

YMCA BOGOTÁ



**In Colombia  
since 1964**



**41.086  
Permanent  
Participants**

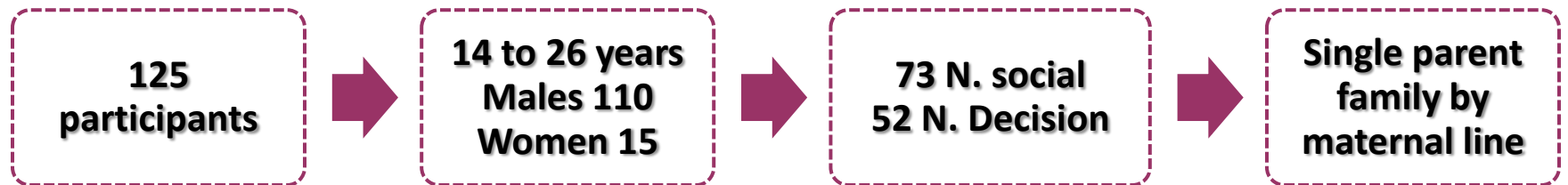
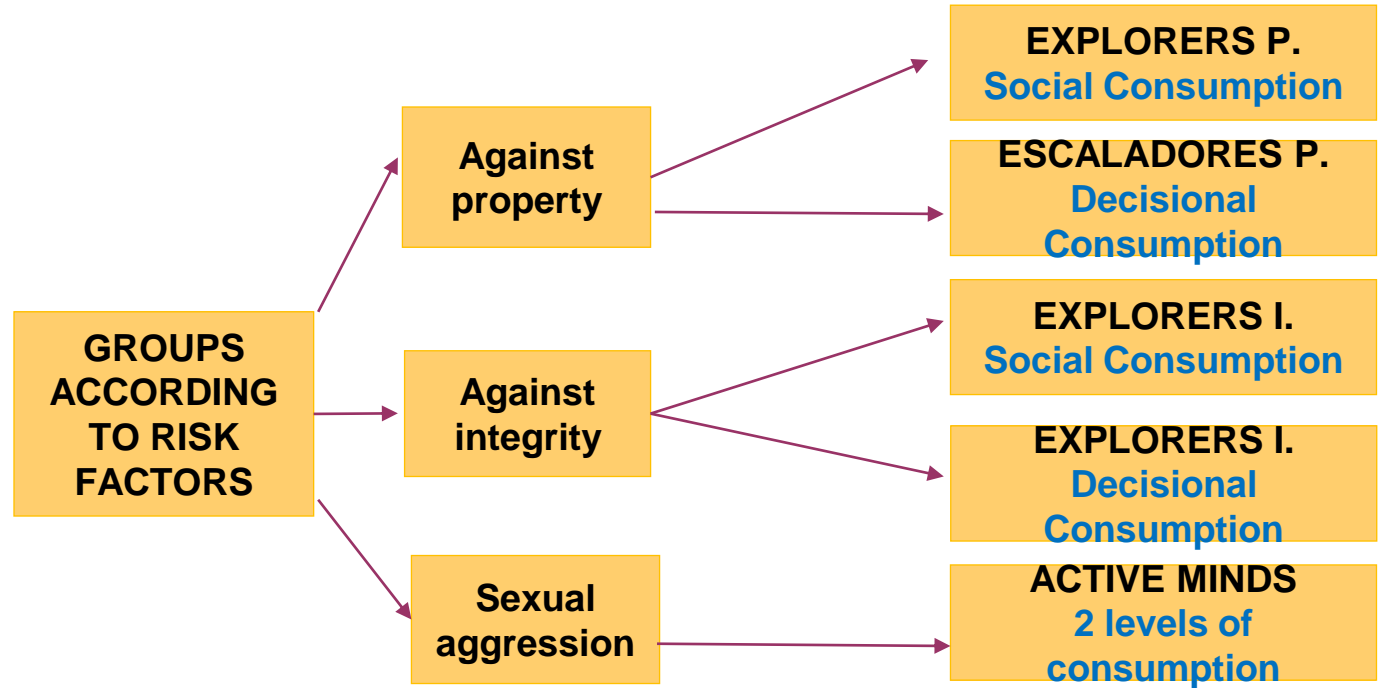


**Impact on the most  
vulnerable places  
in Bogota. 9  
locations in  
Bogota and 26  
municipalities.**

**Implementation"Guide for  
the Development of  
Strategies for the  
Prevention of the Use of  
Psychoactive Substances in  
Adolescents and Youth of  
the Criminal Responsibility  
System - SRPA Colombia"**

**Design of the  
strategy**

**ACJ Criminal Accountability Programs: Probation  
and Community Service Delivery**



# DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS

## Youth and Preventers Perspective



LEVEL	RISK FACTORS	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
<b>Individual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Curiosity</li><li>▪ Loneliness</li><li>▪ Low perception of risk</li><li>▪ Consumption experience by a close member</li><li>▪ Low level of resilience</li><li>▪ Dropout</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Pressure resistance capacity of the group</li><li>▪ Risk perception</li><li>▪ Alternative activities</li><li>▪ Strengthened self-schemes</li></ul>
<b>Familiar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Family conflicts</li><li>▪ Permissiveness to consumption</li><li>▪ Domestic violence</li><li>▪ Few spaces for dialogue and recreation</li><li>▪ Expulsion from the home</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Communication and positive discipline</li><li>▪ Consistent values</li><li>▪ Clear roles and functions</li><li>▪ Affection and support</li></ul>

## OBJECTIVES PREVENTION STRATEGY

## MEASUREMENT TOOLS

GENERAL / Decrease in the use of coping strategies that increase the level of risk of drug consumption in adolescents and young people of the SRPA belonging to the ACJ

Inventory of Coping Responses CRI-A

Provide tools that contribute to the definition of the **meaning of life** of adolescents and young people

Autosen questionnaire

Support adolescents and young people in strengthening **self-schemes** that allow them to mitigate the risk of spa consumption..

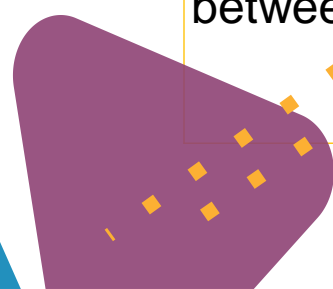
Autosen questionnaire

Promote the use of **parenting and socialization tools** by families of adolescents at risk of spa consumption.

Baseline of the Family Process with Parenting and Socialization Axis.

Provide tools that contribute to the strengthening of **affective bonds** between family members.

Baseline of the Family Process with Axis of Parenting and Socialization, Emotional Education, Conflict Transformation and Family Projection.



# Baseline Strategy

## CRI - Coping strategies

Avoidance  
Emotional Discharge 51.2%  
Reward Search 51%

## Family Process

Parenting and Socialization 30%

Family Projection 27%

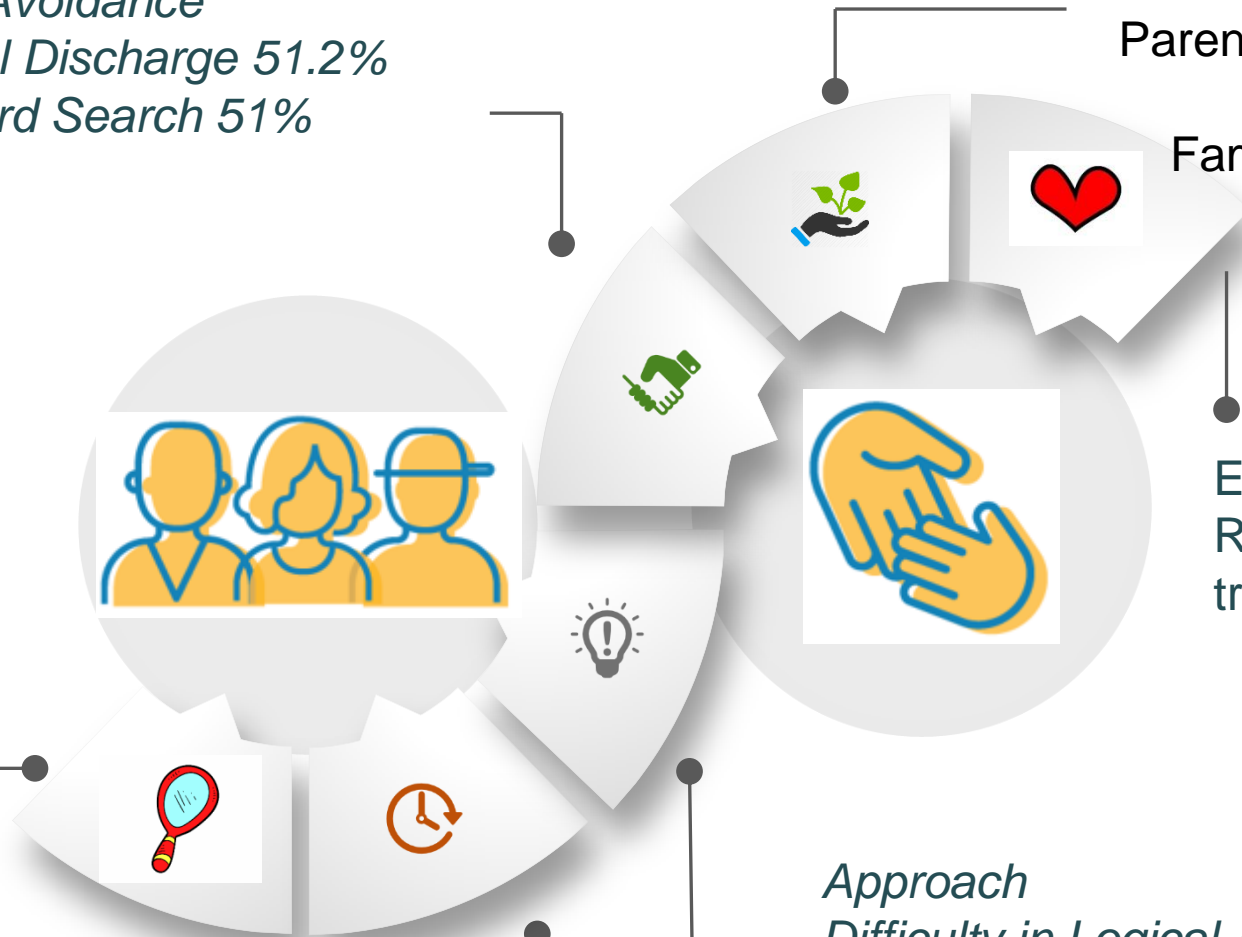
Emotional Education 32%  
Resilience - Conflict transformation 19%

## Autosen

Self-knowledge 16%  
Self-efficacy 11%  
Self-esteem 9%

Decision Making 37%  
Life Project 15%  
Sense of life 12%

Approach  
Difficulty in Logical Analysis 58.4%  
Problem solving 43.2%



# Evidence-Based Prevention

## Modality

Mixed  
(Specific and nonspecific)

## Type

Selective  
Indicated



## Intervention of the prevention strategy based on the findings

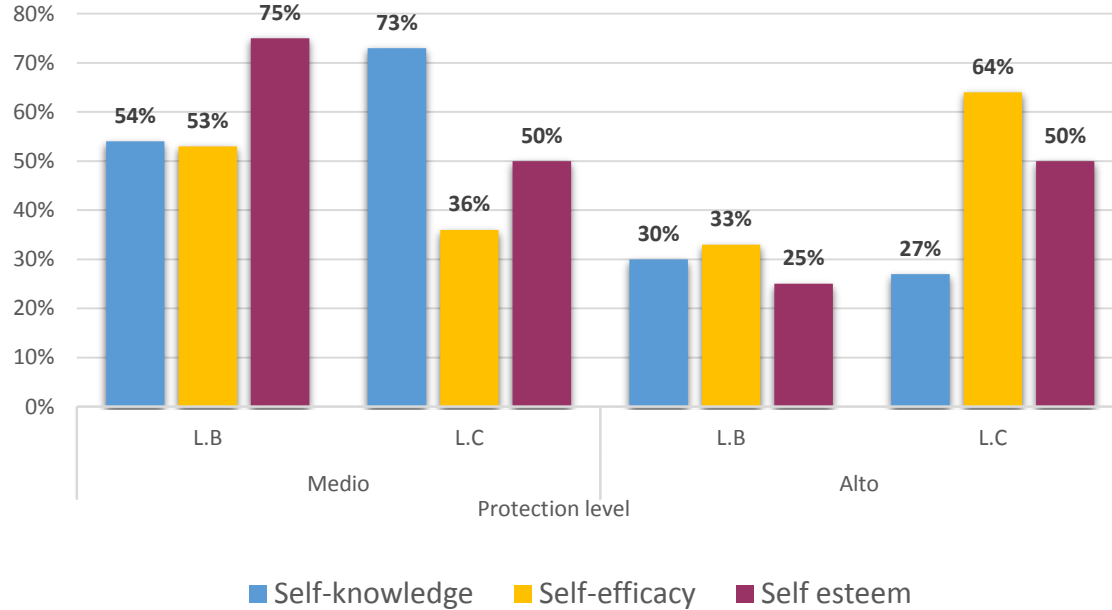


LEVEL	LINE RESULTS BASE	INTERVENTION ON WEAKER TOOLS	ACTIVITIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Individual</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coping strategies by approximation (below average)</p>	Positive reassessment	Autoschemas Sense of life Life project	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Individual intervention</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unconventional group sessions</b></p>
	Logical analysis	Decision making	
	Search for Guide and support	Family, personal and institutional support network	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Individual Development Camp</b></p>
	<b>ACCORDING TO CONSUMPTION LEVEL</b>		
	TY Exploratory Consumption	Problem solving	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Observation career with case studies</b></p>
	TY Decision Consumption	Positive reassessment	
	Both Levels	Logical analysis	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implementation of the artistic module for the enhancement of skills</b></p>



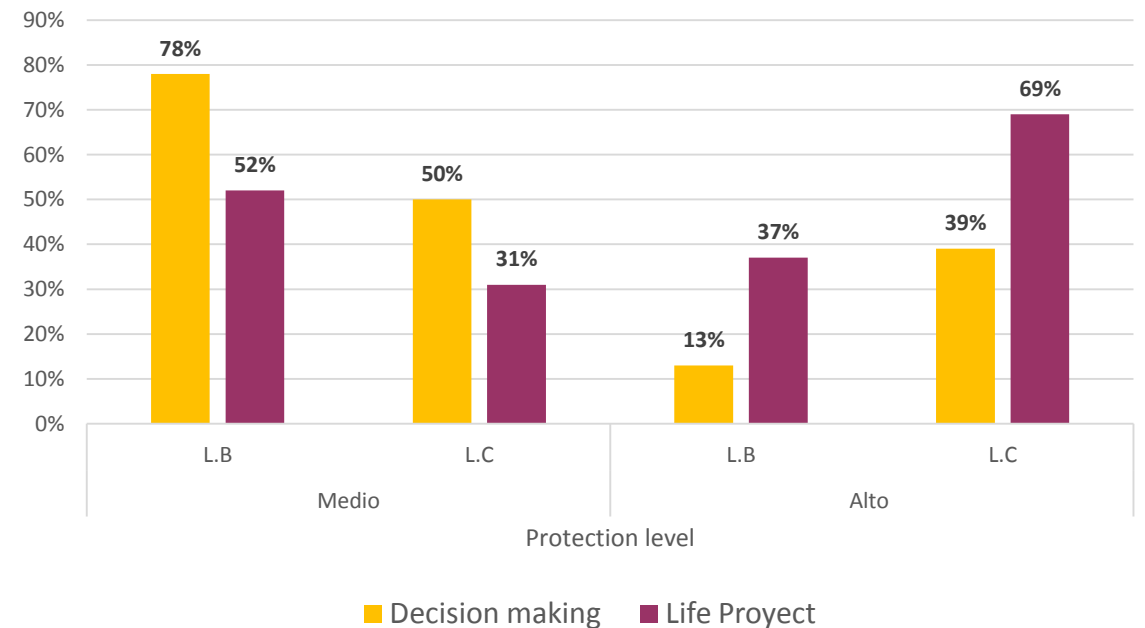
# INDIVIDUAL LEVEL RESULTS

## SELF-SCHEMES



*"Remain judicious, stop consumption and be a psychologist" (Young, 21).*

*"I achieved to recognize the things that I am good at, now I know that I can use them to be someone better." (Teen, 16 years old)*



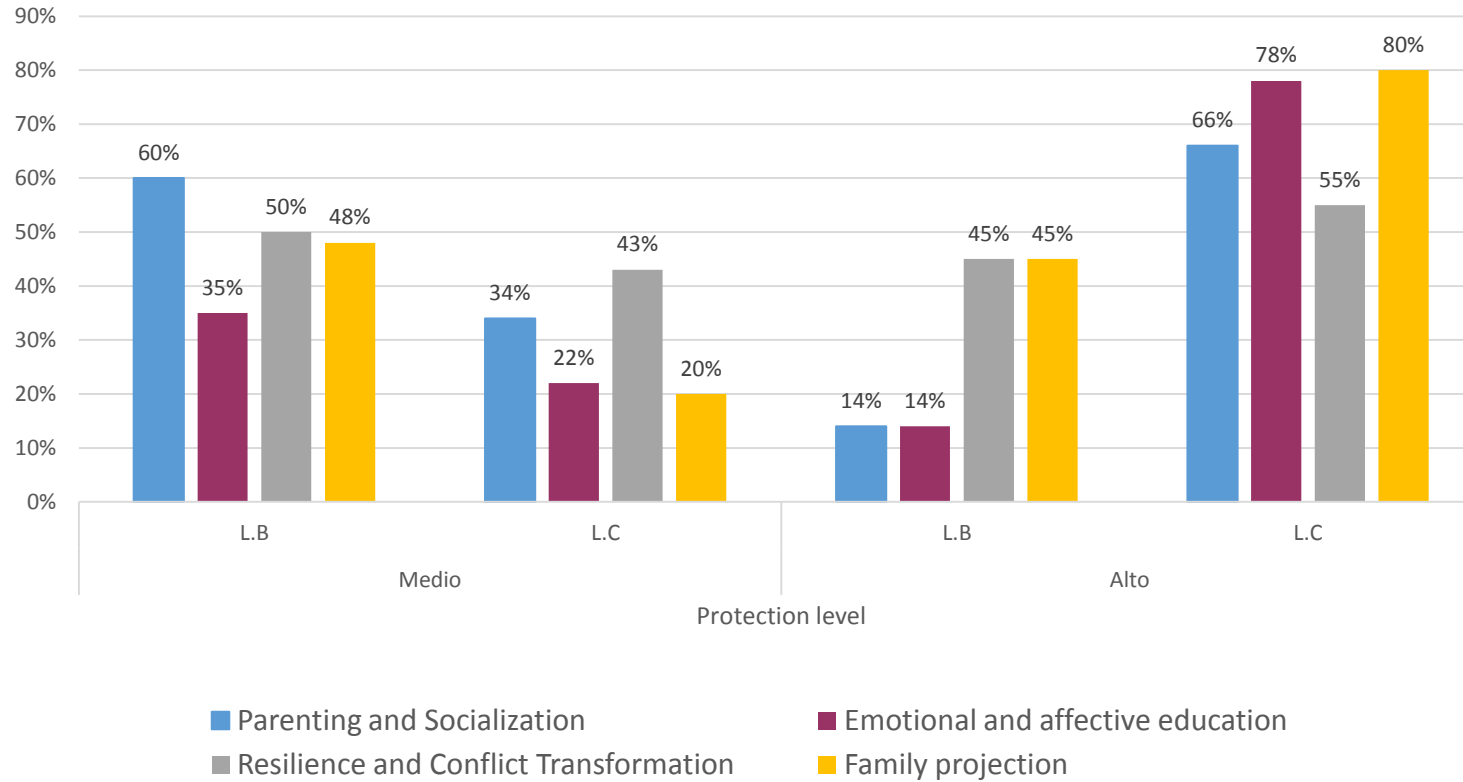
# Family Intervention



LEVEL	LINE RESULTS BASE	INTERVENTION ON WEAKER TOOLS	ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Family risk axes</b></p>	<p>Parenting and Socialization Axis</p>	<p>Communication strategies</p>	<p><b>Intra-family intervention (one family)</b>  <b>Interfamily intervention (groups of families) with application of the Huellas Model</b>  <b>Family strengthening camp</b></p>
		<p>Roles and functions</p>	
		<p>Affective bonds</p>	
	<p>Axis of emotional and affective education</p>	<p>Expression of feelings</p>	

# RESULTS FAMILY LEVEL

Family axis



*"I have been a mom and a dad, good and bad things have happened to me, but I have learned that family love is the best thing in life to face adversity in the best way" (mother, 47).*

*"I will strive to promote authority with respect and fulfillment of roles" (mother, 42).*

# Sustainability of the strategy in the SRPA

## Data for the last year

- 80.2% T/Y strengthen self-esteem by referring greater self-esteem.
- 77.3% of T/Y increase self-efficacy, identifying personal growth capabilities and goals.
- 79% of T/Y progress in decision-making evaluating consequences. Regarding the consumption of SPA there are oriented to the avoidance of contexts and situations of risk.
- 85.5% of T/Y develop approach coping strategies focused on action and on facing reality in an assertive way, with withdrawal from the consumption of SPA.
- 77.4% of families improved their emotional and affective practices, generating a supportive relationship with the T/Y.
- 87% of families increase their projection to present and future including T/Y

## Strategies

- Inclusion of instruments and measurement time in the Quality Management System.
- Recording and analysis of information.
- Inclusion of improvement actions in the process with young people and families.
- Ongoing training for preventers in the strategy.
- Apply learning from systematized experience.



## Learned lessons and recommendations

### Lessons

- Participatory and rigorous diagnosis.
- Instructions for the application and interpretation of instruments.
- Development of targeted intervention by risk axis.

### Strategies

- Use of innovative methodological strategies (Games of skill and mental development, motor skills, creativity and skill exercise)
- Intervention in non-conventional spaces
- Construction and development of databases for the recording of information

### Recommendations

- Measurement and management of permanent information
- Contextualized prevention strategies
- Build on the road map for the formulation of strategies
- Participants' involvement in sustainability for the strategy
- Strategies p. selective in SRPA older than 6 months.



**Thank you**

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