## Chapter organization

### SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTRODUCTION</th>
<th>HEMISPHERIC SITUATION</th>
<th>POLICIES AND PROGRAMS</th>
<th>RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conceptual Framework</td>
<td>The context</td>
<td>Demand reduction</td>
<td>Available human resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>The extent of the problem</td>
<td>Prevention Children and youth</td>
<td>Infrastructure Treatment/recovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social determinants of health</td>
<td>Social factors</td>
<td>Family, school, community and environmental interventions</td>
<td>Capacity for Research and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug effects</td>
<td>Risk and protective factors</td>
<td>Adaptation and evaluation</td>
<td>ANNEX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do drugs work?</td>
<td>Impact of Drug Use on Health</td>
<td>Screening and brief intervention</td>
<td>Drugs: classification and effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of adulterants</td>
<td>Impact of Drug Use on Society</td>
<td>Harm reduction</td>
<td>Prevention Programs and Pharmacological treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterns of use</td>
<td>Treatment Efficacy/programs</td>
<td>Prevention Programs and Resources to address the problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conceptual framework

**Public Health** approach

- Broad interventions designed to change both the environment and individual behavior. This is complemented by the concept of human security, which seeks to protect and ensure three basic freedoms for individuals and communities: freedom from fear, freedom to live without unmet needs, and freedom to live in dignity.
- Ensure that **drug control interventions do not cause more harm than the substances themselves.**

- Requires updated information, in good quantity and quality. Few countries invest enough resources on this.
  - It is necessary to:
    - **strengthen information systems** in order to allow for proper monitoring
    - **fund research** to address the problem more effectively and
    - **invest in human capital and infrastructure**
Can be modified using the proper interventions

Persons with substance dependence exhibit dysfunction in brain regions that are critical to making decisions, learning, memory and behavior control.

It is not a voluntary behavior

Adolescents face higher risk
Patterns of use

Non-users

Exposure to opportunity

Prevention

Universal promotion

Selective

Indicated

Brief interven.

Treatment

Long-term treatment engagement

Rehabilitation

Abuser/dependent

MINORITY

User/regular user

Experimenting users

Underage drinking and consumption among youth (men and women) are the main concerns.

Concern about use among teenagers because of brain development process.

Harmful use of alcohol is the main problem.

Among illegal drugs, marijuana is the most consumed, and consumption is increasing.

Cocaine average consumption are similar to Western and Central Europe.

Heroine consumption is low in the majority of countries, and methamphetamine use is more common.

Pharmaceuticals abuse is a problem in US; Latin-america and the Caribbean have lower levels.

Drug use is different between countries, both in terms of the magnitude of consumption, and the type of substance – a single problem/program?

GBD: The global burden of disease for alcohol and drugs in all regions of the Americas is above worldwide average.
Violence is influenced by factors such as: availability of weapons and drugs, police strategies, lack of educational, work and recreational opportunities, and because of social acceptance of violence to resolve conflicts.

There are programs that can reduce risk of violence and prevent it.

School-based programs to prevent drug use must go hand in hand with other measures that regulate availability, involve families, and tie in with community policies.

This strategy must be prioritized, allocating the necessary resources for proper implementation and evaluation.

The most successful and well studied interventions will have a limited impact if applied in isolation or for a short period of time.
Which treatment options are effective? (example)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment with gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB)</td>
<td>Meta – analysis 13 controlled clinical trials (1).</td>
<td>Withdrawal syndrome during detoxification</td>
<td>More effective than naloxone and disulfiram to maintain abstinence.</td>
<td>Although is an effective treatment, it is used with caution due to the risk of abuse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 ✓ We face a chronic disease that should be treated as such, with full commitment of health systems and respect for the rights of patients.

DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS:
Political support, a strong legal framework, enough resources and adequate budget to sustain policies are required to reduce social consequences of drug use.

Policies and Programs

➢ Two thirds of the countries have official guidelines for specialized drug abuse treatment centers.
➢ Quality and effectiveness evaluation of treatment is not common and healthcare provided is fragmented.

 ✓ Harm reduction models are useful strategies that seek to minimize or modify the consequences, instead of consumption. This complements prevention and treatment interventions.

Guidelines CICAD/OPS/OMS/ONUDD strategies

  ✓ Integration of treatment into the general health care system
  ✓ Strengthening of primary care, brief and community-based interventions
  ✓ Effective, evidence-based, and systematically evaluated treatment protocols
  ✓ Interventions in the framework of human rights protection, and priority access to services for the most vulnerable populations
  ✓ Strengthen human resources

Human resources and infrastructure are not enough to address the problem

THANK YOU