MULTICENTRIC PILOT STUDY ON “DRUGS, WOMEN AND VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS”
MULTICENTRIC PILOT STUDY ON “DRUGS, WOMEN AND VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS”

Preliminary Report

Washington DC, 2007

CICAD – Educational Development and Research Section
Justification

- Lack of scientific research on the topic;
- Need to manifest the problem’s importance to Latin women and its consequences to their family and society as a whole;
- Increase on the prevalence of drug abuse in Latin-American women;
- Limited legislation to protect women in Latin America;
- Social stigmatization makes Latin women do not seek help and legal protection;
- Need for comparative hemispheric studies.
Purpose

To explore the collective and individual experiences of Latin women on drug use and abuse, violence and partner
Objectives

- Identify the frequency of drug use, violence and domestic partners;
- To describe the collective and individual experiences and perceptions related to drug use, violence and domestic partners;
- To establish socio-demographic and cultural factors associated to drug use, violence and domestic partners;
- To compare the study results of 10 Spanish speaking countries, Brazil and United States (Latin women).
## Participant Countries and Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Univ. Nacional de Córdoba; Universidad Nacional de Rosario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Univ. Mayor de San Andrés</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasil</td>
<td>Univ. Federal de Santa Catarina; Univ. de São Paulo/Ribeirao Preto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Univ. Estadual do Rio de Janeiro; Univ. Federal do Rio de Janeiro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Univ. Fundação ABC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Univ. de Concepción</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Univ. Nacional de Colombia; Pontificia Universidad Javeriana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Univ. de Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Univ. de Guayaquil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEUU</td>
<td>Univ. of Maryland; Univ. of Miami; Univ. of Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Univ. Nacional Autónoma de Honduras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León; Univ. de Guanajuato; Univ. Autónoma de Querétaro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Univ. Peruana Cayetano Heredia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>Univ. de Carabobo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Critic-Holistic Conceptual Model applied to the Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas” (Wright, 2006)
Critic-Holistic Operational Model applied to the Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas” (Wright, 2006)
## Coordination, Execution and Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Coordination</th>
<th>CICAD/SENAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Execution Country Level:</td>
<td>22 Universities in 12 countries of the Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding:</td>
<td>CICAD – Government of USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SENAD/SENASP – Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Model:</td>
<td>Elaborated by Universities of Miami, Maryland and Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Model Translated:</td>
<td>To Spanish and Portuguese, and culturally adapted to be used by 19 Latin American Universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methodology</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Study:</strong></td>
<td>Transversal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approach:</strong></td>
<td>Qualitative/Quantitative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethical Committee Approval:</strong></td>
<td>Universities/Schools of Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample:</strong></td>
<td>Intentional - 889 women / 16-60 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Collection Technique:</strong></td>
<td>Focus Groups, Individual Interview, Questionnaires (validated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Collection:</strong></td>
<td>Low income communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recruitment:</strong></td>
<td>Leaflets, posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Analysis:</strong></td>
<td>Qualitative: Categories, Sub-Categories, Quantitative: Descriptive, Multivariate, Correlation, Regression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Products:</strong></td>
<td>Technical reports, scientific articles, thematic network of universities and researchers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multicentric Pilot Study Quantitative Results of 10 Spanish-Speaking Countries

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela
# Socio-Demographical Characteristics

(Continuous Variables)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population sample</th>
<th>420 cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>36 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level</td>
<td>On average 8.3 years (primary education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>3 children (average: 2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of partners in lifetime</td>
<td>2 partners (average: 2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>65.8% live with her partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor status</td>
<td>44.3% have a paid job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 39.5% service workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 4.8% in sales and office administrative work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fuente: CDP

$n = 420$
Depression Scale Range by Country
(Escala de Radloff, 1977)

\[ \chi^2 = 24.01, \ p = .004 \]

\[ n = 420 \]

No Depression  \( n = 143 \)
Possible Depression  \( n = 277 \)
Alcoholic Beverage Consumption by Country

(TWEAK – Cyr & McGarry, 2002)

$x^2 = 13.48, p = .142$

$n = 420$

$n_1$ (Consume alcohol) = 270

$n_2$ (Do not consume alcohol) = 250
# Psychoactive Drugs
(Sobell & Sobell, 2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Consumption</th>
<th>Type of Drugs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illicit Drugs</td>
<td>- Cannabis – 6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cocaine and Crack – 5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Heroine – 1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Inhalants – 1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Hallucinogens – 0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.8% of sample</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription Drugs</td>
<td>- Benzodiazepines - 14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Opiates (Morphine, Codeine) – 3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Amphetamines – 2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.7% of sample</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 420

n₁ (Consume drugs) = 123

n₂ (Do not consume drugs) = 297
Comparison Between Illicit Drug Use in Lifetime and Past Year by Country

- **Once in Lifetime** (n = 49)
  - Bolivia: 26.7
  - Chile: 20
  - Argentina: 20
  - Mexico: 13.3
  - Honduras: 12.2
  - Colombia: 10
  - Costa Rica: 10
  - Venezuela: 9.4
  - Peru: 6.7
  - Ecuador: 3.3
  - Average: 6.4

- **Past Year** (n = 27)
  - Bolivia: 10
  - Chile: 5
  - Argentina: 7.8
  - Mexico: 12.2
  - Honduras: 10
  - Colombia: 5
  - Costa Rica: 5
  - Venezuela: 3.3
  - Peru: 3.7
  - Ecuador: 3.3
  - Average: 6.4

\[ x^2 = 13.48, \ p = .142 \]
\[ x^2 = 14.84, \ p = .095 \]
Comparison Between Prescription Drugs Use in Lifetime and Past Year by Country

- **Bolivia**: 33.3% (Lifetime), 26.7% (Past Year)
- **Argentina**: 24.1% (Lifetime), 25% (Past Year)
- **Honduras**: 22% (Lifetime), 24.1% (Past Year)
- **Venezuela**: 20% (Lifetime), 23.3% (Past Year)
- **Mexico**: 21.1% (Lifetime), 16.7% (Past Year)
- **Peru**: 18.5% (Lifetime), 18.5% (Past Year)
- **Chile**: 20% (Lifetime), 13.3% (Past Year)
- **Ecuador**: 10% (Lifetime), 6.7% (Past Year)
- **Colombia**: 5% (Lifetime), 1.7% (Past Year)
- **Costa Rica**: 3.1% (Lifetime), 3.1% (Past Year)
- **Average**: 10.3% (Lifetime), 17.7% (Past Year)

**Chi-Square Test Results**
- **Lifetime**: $x^2 = 13.48, p = .142$
- **Past Year**: $x^2 = 14.84, p = .095$

$n = 420$

$n \text{ Use} = 117$
Victims of Physical Abuse by Country
(Violence Scale, Peragallo & González, 2006)

- **Peru**: 63 victims
- **Bolivia**: 43.3 victims
- **Costa Rica**: 46.7 victims
- **Mexico**: 37.5 victims
- **Colombia**: 35.6 victims
- **Ecuador**: 40 victims
- **Honduras**: 60 victims
- **Argentina**: 31 victims
- **Venezuela**: 53.3 victims
- **Chile**: 53.3 victims
- **Average**: 40.52 victims

**Before 18 years old**
- **n = 125**
- $x^2 = 29.38$, $p = .001$

**In Adult Hood**
- **n = 162**
- $x^2 = 21.22$, $p = .012$

$n$ Victims of Physical Abuse = 287
Victims of Sexual Abuse by Country
(Violence Scale, Peragallo & González, 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Before 18 years old</th>
<th>In Adulthood</th>
<th>Victims of Sexual Abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ x^2 = 13.93, \ p = .123 \]
\[ x^2 = 12.56, \ p = .183 \]

\( n = 420 \)
\( n \) Victims of Sexual Abuse = 147
Victims of Verbal Abuse by Country
(Violence Scale, Peragallo & González, 2006)

```
x^2 = 22.61, p = .007
n = 176

x^2 = 40.4, p < .001
n = 215

n Victims of Verbal Abuse = 391
```
Spearman Correlation Coefficient for the Study Variables and $p$ value

**Psychological Abuse (Tolman Scale)**

- **Costa Rica** $r_s = .645$, $p = .032$
- **Colombia** $r_s = .616$, $p < .000$
- **Venezuela** $r_s = .471$, $p = .015$
- **Ecuador** $r_s = .444$, $p = .038$

**Number of Partners**

- **Costa Rica** $r_s = .616$, $p <= .000$
- **Colombia** $r_s = .471$, $p = .015$
- **Ecuador** $r_s = .444$, $p = .038$

**Alcohol Consumption TWEAK**

- **Costa Rica** $r_s = .645$, $p = .032$
- **Colombia** $r_s = .616$, $p < .000$
- **Venezuela** $r_s = .471$, $p = .015$
- **Ecuador** $r_s = .444$, $p = .038$

**Depression**

- **Mexico** $r_s = -.251$, $p = .017$
- **Colombia** $r_s = -.346$, $p = .007$
- **Argentina** $r_s = -.279$, $p = .050$
- **Venezuela** $r_s = -.569$, $p = .001$

**Self-esteem**
Lineal Multiple Regression Model: Alcohol Consumption Predictors Variables (TWEAK) [Backward Procedure]

- **Honduras**
  - Age
    - $\beta = -2.31E-02, p = .000$
  - Drug Use in Lifetime
    - $\beta = .473, p = .003$

- **Peru**
  - Years of Education
    - $\beta = -7.41E-02, p = .003$
  - Psychological Abuse (Tolman Scale)
    - $\beta = -3.64E-02, p = .002$

- **Chile**
- **Argentina**
- **Ecuador**
- **Argentina**

$r^2 = 17.2\%$
$f = 10.30, p < .001$

Source: Instruments
$n = 420$
Multicentric Pilot Study Qualitative
Results of 10 Spanish-Speaking Countries

Argentina  Ecuador  
Bolivia  Honduras  
Chile  Mexico  
Colombia  Peru  
Costa Rica  Venezuela
Category: Drug Use

- Types of drugs
- Use frequency
- Drug effects and dependency
- People involved
- Context of use
- Attitudes towards drug use
- Perception of risky practice
- Perception of safe practice
- Need of prevention, education and attention
- Situation with partner
Category: Knowledge and Law Effectiveness

- Legal regulations
- Police role against domestic violence and drug abuse
- Police training to address domestic violence and drug related problems
- Mechanisms to apply regulations
Violence
Drug Use
Knowledge and Law Effectiveness
Violence
Situation with Partner

Qualitative Analysis
Partial Conclusions

Critic-Holistic Operational Model applied to the Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas” (Wright, 2006)

- **Verbal Abuse**: $p < 0.001$
- **Sexual Abuse**: $p < 0.01$
- **Psychological Violence**: $p < 0.05$

Self-esteem: $x = 30.49$

Depression: $x = 22.60$

Partner

Psychological Abuse

Drugs → Women → Violence

Illicits, Prescrip. Drugs & Alcohol → Alcohol

- Verbal Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Psychological Violence

Critic-Holistic Operational Model applied to the Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas” (Wright, 2006)
Multicentric Pilot Study
Quantitative Results of Brazil

Florianópolis /SC
Rio de Janeiro /RJ – UFRJ y UERJ
Ribeirão Preto /SP
São Bernardo do Campo /SP
# Socio-Demographical Characteristics

(Continuous Variables)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population sample</th>
<th>148 cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florianópolis-SC: n= 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio de Janeiro-RJ: UFRJ n= 29 / UERJ n= 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribeirão Preto-SP: USP n=30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>São Bernardo do Campo-SP: ABC n=30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average age</th>
<th>35 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education level</th>
<th>11 years on average (secondary education)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of children</th>
<th>1 child (average: 1,66)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of partners in lifetime</th>
<th>5 partners on average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status</th>
<th>52% live with partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor status</th>
<th>53% women have a paid job</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70% service work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other work as sales person or in offices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CDP

n = 148
Depression Scale Range by City
(Escala de Radloff, 1977)

n = 148

No differences between cities p>0.05
Alcoholic Beverage Consumption by City
(TWEAK – Cyr & McGarry, 2002)

No differences between cities \( p > 0.05 \)

- Flóianopolis: 0% Moderate, 13.8% Risk, 4.7% Probable
- UERJ/Rio de Janeiro: 6.9% Moderate, 24.1% Risk, 6.9% Probable
- UFRJ/Rio de Janeiro: 0% Moderate, 20.7% Risk, 11.5% Probable
- Ribeirão Preto: 0% Moderate, 19.7% Risk, 10.8% Probable
- São Bernardo do Campo: 0% Moderate, 10% Risk, 4.7% Probable
- Average: 0% Moderate, 13.8% Risk, 4.7% Probable

\( n = 148 \)
\( n_1 \) (Consumers alcohol) = 78
\( n_2 \) (No consumers alcohol) = 70
# Psychoactive Drugs
*(Sobell & Sobell, 2003)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Consumption</th>
<th>Type of Drug</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illicit Drugs</strong></td>
<td>• Cannabis (11,5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32,4% of sample</td>
<td>• Hallucinogens (3,4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Inhalants (3,4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cocaine and Crack (2,7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescription Drugs</strong></td>
<td>• Benzodiazepines (16,2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,7% of sample</td>
<td>• Amphetamines (6,8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Opiates (Morphine, Codeine) (5,4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sedatives / Barbiturics (4,1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$n = 148$
Comparison Between Illicit Drug Use in Lifetime and Past Year by City

No differences between cities $p>0.05$

$n = 148$

$n$ Use = 67
Comparison Between Prescription Drugs Use in Lifetime and Past Year by City

No differences between cities $p>0.05$

$n = 148$

$n$ Use = 19
Victims of Physical Abuse by City (Violence Scale, Peragallo & González, 2006)

In Adulthood: RP is different to SBC $p<0.05$

$n = 148$
$n$ Victims Physical Abuse = 68
Victims of Sexual Abuse by City
(Violence Scale, Peragallo & González, 2006)

Before 18 years old: RP is different to SBC $p<0.05$

$n$ Victims Sexual Abuse = 33
Victims of Verbal Abuse by City
(Violence Scale, Peragallo & González, 2006)

No differences between cities $p>0.05$

$n$ Victims Verbal Abuse = 132

$n = 148$
Variables Crosses: Drug Use - Alcohol

- Verbal Abuse: $p = 0.002$
- Physical Abuse: $p = 0.001$
- Depression: $p = 0.04$
- Sexual Abuse: $p = 0.02$
- Partner: $p = 0.006$
- Self-esteem: $p > 0.05$ NS
Variables Crosses: Drug Use - Cannabis

Drug Use - Cannabis

- Verbal Abuse
  $p > 0.05$  NS

- Physical Abuse
  $p > 0.05$  NS

- Depression
  $p > 0.05$  NS

- Sexual Abuse
  $p > 0.05$  NS

- Partner
  $p > 0.05$  NS

- Self-esteem
  $p > 0.05$  NS
Variables Crosses: Drug Use - Benzodiazepines

- Verbal Abuse: $p = 0.03$
- Physical Abuse: $p > 0.05$, NS
- Depression: $p > 0.05$, NS
- Sexual Abuse: $p = 0.05$, NS
- Self-esteem: $p > 0.05$, NS
- Partner: $p > 0.05$, NS
Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas”

Critic-Holistic Operational Model applied to the Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas” (Wright, 2006)
Partial Conclusions

Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas”

Drugs  Women  Violence

Self-esteem  Verbal Abuse

BDZ  Depression

Benzodiazepines Use  Partner

Critic-Holistic Operational Model applied to the Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas” (Wright, 2006)
Partial Conclusions

Critic-Holistic Operational Model applied to the Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas” (Wright, 2006)

Cannabis Use

Cannabis

Self-esteem

Depression

Partner

Sexual Abuse

Depression

Partner

Sexual Abuse

Self-esteem

Cannabis
Multicentric Pilot Study
Quantitative Results of USA

Spanish and English-Speaking Women*
in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties

*The sample with Portuguese-speaking \((n = 10)\) women is not completed yet
### Socio-Demographical Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population sample</th>
<th>82 cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>39 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level</td>
<td>14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>2 children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of partners in lifetime</td>
<td>3 partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with partner</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>57% married, 18% single, 9% divorced, 7% separated, 6% civil union, 3% widowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor status</td>
<td>40% have a paid job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman income (family income)</td>
<td>$505/month ($2,355/month)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Socio-Demographical Characteristics (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years living in USA (average)</th>
<th>9 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country of origin</strong></td>
<td>Colombia (48%), Venezuela (13%), Ecuador (8%), Caribbean (10%), Other Central America (10%), Other South America (9%), USA (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language Preference</strong></td>
<td>Spanish (96%), English (4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Acculturation** (Marín & Gamba Scale, 1995) | - American (high) 62%
  - Hispanic (high) 100%
  - High in both 38% |
Self-Esteem (Rosenberg, 1965) and Depression Scale (Radloff, 1977) Range

- Self-Esteem: 79%
- Depression: 40%
Alcoholic Beverage Consumption by Group (TWEAK, Cyr & McGarry, 2002)

- Moderate Consumption: 84%
- Risk of Alcoholism: 9%
- Probable Alcoholism: 7%
Psychoactive Drugs
(Sobell & Sobell, 2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Consumption</th>
<th>Type of Drug</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illicit Drugs</strong></td>
<td>- Cannabis (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cocaine and Crack (5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Heroin (1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Hallucinogens (1%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Inhalants (0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prescription Drugs</strong></td>
<td>- Benzodiazepines (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Opiates (Morphine, Codeine, etc.) (4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Amphetamines (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Sedatives / Barbiturics (0%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Comparison Between Illicit and Prescription Drug Use in Lifetime and Past Year

- **Canabis**
  - Once in Lifetime: 10%
  - Past Year: 6%

- **Cocaina/Crack**
  - Once in Lifetime: 5%
  - Past Year: 1%

- **Benzodiazepinas**
  - Once in Lifetime: 17%
  - Past Year: 17%
Victims of Violence by Type of Abuse (Violence Scale, Peragallo & González, 2006)
Multicentric Pilot Study
Qualitative Results of USA

Spanish and English-Speaking Women*
in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties

*The sample with Portuguese-speaking (n = 10) women is not completed yet
Central Themes

- “Living in the United States”
- “The Vicious Cycle of the Abuse”
- “Breaking the Silence”
Living in the United States

The impact on the family
- The need to work interferes with children's upbringing;
- Work stress destroys the marriage.

American liberal influences
- Violence, sex and drug abuse are normal to kids in US;
- Too much independence.

Keeping their own culture
- Send the children to their countries so they can learn good values;
- Keep customs and traditions;
- Balance between American and Hispanic culture.

Discrimination
- Not knowing how to speak Spanish;
- In the work place;
- Discrimination from Americans;
- Discrimination from other Hispanics.
“The Vicious Cycle of the Abuse”

**Types of violence**
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Intellectual abuse
- Control, manipulation, lack of support at home.

**Causes and risks of abuse**
- Women as the cause
- Machismo and gender inequalities
- Infidelity
- Transgenerational Transmission
- Immigration to US
- Age difference
- Drug and alcohol abuse

**Difficulties in getting help**
- Keeping the family together
- Economical dependency
- Fear
- Legal status
- Don’t want to be alone
- Lack of support and services
- Hope of change
- Wanting to protect the aggressor

**Self-esteem**
- The abuser prepares his territory by diminishing the victim self-esteem
- As a risk for abuse
- As a consequence of the abuse

**The cycle**
- Impact of the violence in the children
- Increase the magnitude over time
- Transmission of violence to community
- Victims become aggressors
“Breaking the Silence”

**Getting information**
- Rights in situation of abuse
- Services in the community

**Attention to oneself**
- Taking care of one’s appearance
- Following intuition
- Developing independence
- Having faith in God

**Partner Communication**
- About problems when they start
- Not allowing disrespect
- About things that you like and dislike

**Breaking cultural norms and taboos**
- Deciding to break the abuse pattern at home
- Do not raise “machista” children
- Teaching the children about violence and drugs
- Talking to friends about violence and drugs

**Support**
- Someone that makes you aware of the abuse and risks
- Someone that connects you with the services
- Having places and services to go
Partial Conclusions

Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas”

- Drugs
- Women
- Violence

Drug and Alcohol Use by the Partner

Self-esteem

Depression

Partner

Violence in the Adulthood (Physical Abuse)

Drug and Alcohol Use by the Partner

Critic-Holistic Operational Model applied to the Multicentric Study on “Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas” (Wright, 2006)
PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MULTICENTRIC PILOT STUDY ON “DRUG, WOMEN AND VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS”
## Preliminary Conclusions

### Violence and Drugs
- Violence and drugs are the biggest problem facing the studied women, specially in Latin America. This situation produces low self-esteem and high depression;
- Drug abuse increase psychological violence and physical and sexual abuse.

### Drug Problem
- Alcohol is a serious problem to Latin-American women, but not for Hispanic women living in US (Miami-Dade and Broward, Florida), even when they are affected by the partner’s alcohol abuse;
- The women studied acknowledge:
  - Type of drugs, frequency of drug abuse, involved people, context of drug abuse;
  - Conscience of drug abuse, risky situations, safe practices;
  - Need of prevention, education and support;
  - Difficulty to access social and health services and drug treatment.
Violence Problem

- Violence against women is a serious problem;
- Intra-familiar violence is evident in the studied sample;
- Licit and illicit drug abuse by men drives psychological violence, and physical and sexual abuse against women;
- Women acknowledge type and pattern of violence, problems related with reporting to police, and social support.

Knowledge and Effectiveness of Laws

- Women feel unprotected by the Judiciary System and the law in the 10 Latin American countries studied;
- The police is not fully prepared to deal with drug and violence problem against women in Latin America.
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MULTICENTRIC PILOT STUDY ON “DRUG, WOMEN AND VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS”
### Preliminary Recommendations

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>§ Support Latin American countries updating their laws on drug abuse</td>
<td>§ Disseminate the study results among governments, international and national organizations, and civil society.</td>
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<tr>
<td>§ and violence against women, like Brazil;</td>
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<td>§ Develop regional training programs to police on protection and</td>
<td>§ Establish in EDRS a specific research program on women protection against drugs and</td>
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<tr>
<td>§ treatment of drug-related problems and violence against women;</td>
<td>§ violence in Latin America;</td>
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<tr>
<td>§ Establish in EDRS a specific research program on women protection</td>
<td>§ Search for external funds to support the proposed research program and for the Final</td>
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<tr>
<td>§ against drugs and violence in Latin America;</td>
<td>§ Multicentric Study;</td>
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<tr>
<td>§ Search for external funds to support the proposed research program</td>
<td>§ Identify and invite research reference centers to participate in the proposed program.</td>
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<td>§ Disseminate the study results among OAS departments and secretariats.</td>
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Preliminary Recommendations

Countries

- Adapt and apply protection laws to women;
- Train the police locally on protection, drug treatment and violence against women;
- Improve the law procedures to protect women;
- Interventions to this group of women should:
  - Incorporate gender aspect in all programs;
  - Promote women’s independence and the condemnation of traditional gender roles that can increase risk of violence;
  - Develop communication and specific skills to handle couples conflicts;
  - Inform and advise women about their rights facing violence situation and how they can prevent the transmission of violence;
  - Help women to handle the stress of been between two cultures (sample of women in Miami-Dade and Broward, Florida).
Acknowledgement

Government of the United States

Government of Brazil

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD
Educational Development and Research Section – EDRS/CICAD

National Anti-Drug Secretariat of Brazil – SENAD
National Public Security Secretariat of Brazil – SENASP

Participant Universities

Participant Women