CICAD’S DRUG TREATMENT STRATEGY

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Demand Reduction

- Treatment
- Public policies, research & evaluation
- Prevention

CICAD priorities in drug prevention

- School-based life skills (Lions)
- Evaluation (coop. with OID)
- Culture of Lawfulness
- Policy and standards
- Higher education (2 on-line programs)
CICAD priorities in drug treatment

- Drug courts
- Standards of care
- Local treatment capacities (twin cities)
- Information (coop. with OID)
- Training for certification
- National treatment systems

CICAD’s drug treatment strategy

- Assessment
- Policy
- Evaluation
- Action
Assessment (information, research)

• Directories (mapping) of available drug treatment programs (EC project) – is there enough treatment capacity?
• Surveys of drug use among prisoners, juvenile offenders, patients in treatment (with OID) – how big is the problem of drug-dependence in different populations?
• Profiles of drug treatment providers (Central America)
• Patient intake assessment & clinical history
• Estimating demand for treatment (OID, EMCDDA, MEM indicator)

Assessment (information, research findings, contd.)

• Treatment outcomes
• Cost of investing in drug treatment and cost of failure to invest (OID Cost Program)
• Drug-related morbidity and mortality data
CICAD action

• Public advocacy for quality drug treatment and access to treatment
• Expand national (municipal) capacity to meet drug treatment needs, and diversify types of programs available
• Agree and monitor standards of care for drug treatment facilities
• Provide training leading to certification of drug treatment personnel

CICAD action (contd.)

• Manuals and guidelines on different types of drug treatment
• Support existing networks of treatment providers (e.g., Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities - FLACT)
• Promote court-supervised treatment for drug dependent offenders (drug courts)
Policy issues

• Drug-dependency is a matter of public health ("addiction is a disease of the brain") \(^1\)
• Therefore, treatment of drug-dependency should properly be within the national health care system – but how can this be financed?
• Treatment also addresses crimes committed by hard-core users to finance their habit

1. U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Users vs Drugs Used

- 75-80% users
- 20%-25% users
- Occasional
- Abuse (dependency)

20%

80%

Users

Drugs used

Source: Kleiman "Controlling Drug use and crime with testing, sanctions and treatment"
The question of crime, social exclusion & health burdens

Users

75-80% users

20%-25% users

Drugs used

20%

80%

Social exclusion & health costs

Crime to support habit

Treating the drug-dependency of hard-core users (our hypothesis)

Users

75-80% users

20%-25% users

Drugs used

20%

80%

Reduce social exclusion & health costs

Reduce crime to support habit

Reduce drugs used
Summing up

• Drug treatment provided by trained personnel in a well-regulated environment lessens the health risk to individuals and their families
• The biggest cost of drugs to society is loss of productivity (OID, US, Canadian, Chilean and other studies)
• Treatment of hard-core users may shrink the market for drugs, with a supply-side effect
• Treatment for drug-dependent persons is a better long-term investment than the alternatives: incarceration for drug-related offenses, continued hospitalization for drug-related disorders, drug & alcohol-related accidents, etc.

These are the broad CICAD priorities in drug treatment. This is the context for our project financed by the European Commission:
EU-LAC Drug Treatment City Partnerships

The project offers:

• A platform for advocacy of drug treatment in cities on two continents
• Exchange visits to enable mayors and health professionals to pool their knowledge
• Opportunities for better research and assessment in the treatment field
EU-LAC Drug Treatment City Partnerships

First Inter-regional Forum
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
April 2-5, 2008

• Technical panels and keynote speeches
• City partnerships will be agreed
• Action plans for city exchanges developed

More information on line at:
http://www.cicad.oas.org/reduccion_demanda/eng/eu-cicad/principal.asp

Drug treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare are critical elements in Government health and social policy.

CICAD is working to make a difference, and we invite you to work for policy change
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