Community-based prevention as the axis of a prevention system

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Community-based Prevention

The community:
– Identifies its problems
– Gets organized
– Plans programmed and coherent actions that at the moment of execution, accomplish the common objectives that benefit the community.

Community participation

• Participation in socially valued tasks is the most critical protective factor in preventing social problems like substance abuse.
• Individuals who are given responsibilities during their childhood and are recognized and valued for it, develop a higher sense of responsibility, self care and care about others, including family and any other actor/space in the community. Therefore, they are less likely to engage in risky behaviors or substance abuse.
Risk and Protective Factors in the Community

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<th>RISK</th>
<th>PROTECTIVE</th>
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| • Deprived/poor and disorganized communities.  
• Population mobility.  
• Availability of substances  
• Social representation of risks  
• Laws and norms of the community  
• High criminality  
• Unstable communities  
• Low attachment to the community  
• Feeling unsafe  
• Socially and physically disorganized communities | • Bond with community resources ("Community Attachment")  
• Availability of social resources  
• Normative support related to drugs.  
• Stable and economically sustainable communities.  
• Health promotion and law enforcement  
• Positive social principles.  
• Possibility of reward because of pro social involvement/availability of community resources  
• High community expectations  
• Social Cohesion |

THE ACTUAL SITUATION

- Local/Governments/Social Services
- Community Leaders/NGO
- SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION
  - Family–Based Prevention
  - Workplace Prevention
- Special Population Prevention
- Students
- Workers
- Street and Socially Excluded Population
Identifications of actors and actions

- Rapid assessment over prevention efforts
  - Program “Census”
    - Who executes (planning, financing)
      - Government, Civil Society
    - Environments
    - What is evaluable
      - Impact
      - Sustainability
Find and integrate participation

- **What is working** – existing groups with outstanding and functional programs or with “good intentions”.
- **Participation channels** – Organization and commitment. Design and/or harmonization of objectives.
- **Evaluation and Decision Making**
- **Coordination** – it is not only the creation of new strategies, but the maximization of what already exists as well as the available resources.

“IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD”

THANK YOU