



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
United States of America

Organization of American States

P. 202.458.3000
www.oas.org

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION
November 2 - 4, 2011
Buenos Aires, Argentina

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.50
CICAD/doc.1908/11
2 November 2011
Original: Español

CURRENT SITUATION OF DRUG USE
IN THE AMERICAS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

FRANCISCO CUMSILLE, CICAD

FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION
CICAD

Current Situation of Drug Use
in the Americas and Future Challenges

FRANCISCO CUMSILLE, Dr. P.H.
IOD Coordinator
CICAD/SMS/OAS

Buenos Aires, Argentina
November 2 to 4, 2011



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

Contents



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- *OVERVIEW OF DRUG USE*
- *FUTURE CHALLENGES*

Overview



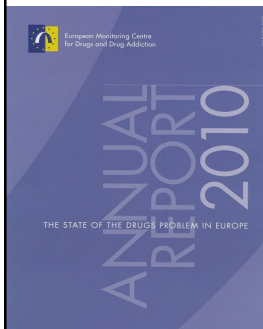
Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- **HIGHLY VARIABLE REALITY:**
 - SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS
 - VARIABLE CONSUMPTION
 - VARIABLE SUPPLY
- HETEROGENEITY AMONG COUNTRIES
- HETEROGENEITY WITHIN COUNTRIES
 - DISCOVER THE VARIOUS REALITIES IN A COUNTRY
 - LOCAL POLICIES?

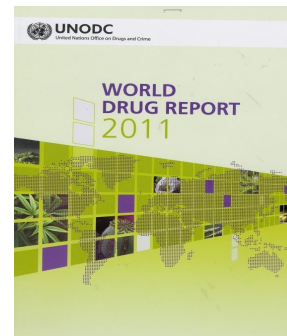
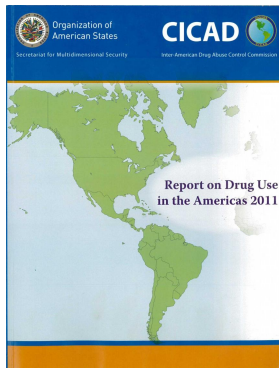


HIGH LEVEL OF HETEROGENEITY

- **POPULATION**
 - Slightly over 50,000 inhabitants
 - More than 300 million inhabitants
- **WEALTH (gross domestic product per capita)**
 - Over US\$ 46,000
 - Below US\$ 2,000
- **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**
 - Higher than 0.9
 - Lower than 0.4
- **INEQUALITY (GINI index, %)**
 - Over 55 (poor distribution)
 - Below 35 (moderate distribution)



Information from the countries





HIGH LEVEL OF HETEROGENEITY

- Differences between countries
 - By drug
 - By volume
- Differences within countries
 - By drug
 - By volume



- Use of any illicit drug during previous year:
150 - 270 m (3.3% - 6.1%)

1. Marijuana: 125 - 203 m (2.8% - 4.5%)
2. Amphetamines group: 14 - 56 m }
Ecstasy: 11 - 28 m } ATS
3. Cocaine: 14 - 20 m

Source: United Nations Report, 2011

Marijuana



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

Prevalence previous year, 15 - 64 years

World	2.8% - 4.5%	Range/countries
Americas	7%	<1% - 14%
Europe (Central, Western)	6.8%	<1% - 15%

North America: 10.7% (13.7% in USA, 12.6% in Canada)

Central America: 2.2% - 2.4%

Caribbean: 1.6% - 7.6%

South America: 2.9% - 3%

Sources: United Nations Report, 2011; European Observatory Report 2010, OID/CICAD (2011)

Marijuana



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

Number of users in previous year and percentage,
population aged 15 to 64

World	125 - 203 m	%
Americas	42 m	22% - 29%
Europe (Central, Western)	23 m	15% - 20%

**In the Americas, 75% of users are in North America
(countries representing 50% of the region's population)**

Sources: United Nations Report, 2011; Observatory European Report, 2010

Marijuana (school children)



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- Life-time usage prevalence above 20% in 9 of 33 countries.
- 14 years and younger, life-time usage prevalence above 10% in 12 countries.
- 17 years and older, life-time usage prevalence of 30% or more in 11 countries.

- Little difference between men and women in high-consumption countries.

Sources: OID/CICAD (2011) and countries

Cocaine



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- WORLD: 14 to 21 million (at least once over the past year)
 - Prevalence previous year = 0.3 - 0.5%

- AMERICAS: 8.3 to 8.5 million, **Approx=50%**
 - Prevalence previous year = 1.4% (0.1% - 2.4%)

- EUROPE: 4 million, **Approx=25%**
 - Prevalence previous year = 1.3% (0.1% - 3%)

Source: United Nations Report, 2011; EMCDDA 2010

Cocaine



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- Of total users in the hemisphere (8.4 million):
 - 68% in North America (5.7 million)
 - (50% of the population of the hemisphere)
 - 29% in South America (2.4 million)
 - (42% of the population of the hemisphere)
 - 3% in Central America & Caribbean (0.5 million)
 - (8% of the population of the hemisphere)

Source: United Nations Report, 2011; OID/CICAD

Cocaine



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- Significant levels of use are also found among school-age children.
- 2.0% or more (previous year prevalence) in:
 - Argentina (2009)
 - Bolivia (2008)
 - Chile (2009)
 - United States (2009)
 - Guyana (2007)
 - Jamaica (2006)
 - Uruguay (2009)

Sources: OID/CICAD (2011) and countries

Internal variations within countries



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

General population, prev. year;
minimum-maximum by region/state (national averages)

- **Cocaine**
 - United States (2008/9, 12 years and above): 1.1% - 3.9% (2.0%)
 - Colombia (2008, 12 to 64 years): 0.1% - 2.1% (0.7%)
 - Chile (2010, 12 to 64 years): 0.0% - 2.0% (0.7%)
 - Argentina (2010, 12 to 65 years): 0.2% - 1.5% (0.8%)
- **Marijuana**
 - United States (2008/9, 12 years and above): 7.2% - 16.3% (10.8%)
 - Colombia (2008, 12 to 64 years): 0.1% - 5.3% (2.3%)
 - Chile (2010, 12 to 64 years): 2.2% - 7.5% (4.6%)
 - Argentina (2010, 12 to 65 years): 0.6% - 4.9% (3.2%)

Source: Country reports

Future challenges



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- **CONSUMPTION**
 - ALCOHOL
 - MARIJUANA
 - SYNTHETIC DRUGS
 - ADULTERATION
 - BASE PASTE / PACO / BASUCO
 - MEDICINES
- **POLICIES: USE OF EVIDENCE.**
- **INFORMATION: MORE AND BETTER**



ALCOHOL



- **USE IN SCHOOL POPULATION**
- **13 to 17 years**
 - Previous month prevalence above 50% in several countries (Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Dominica, Uruguay, Saint Lucia).
- **14 years and younger**
 - Previous month prevalence above 40% (Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Saint Lucia).

Sources: OID/CICAD (2011) and countries



- **EXCESSIVE USE AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN**

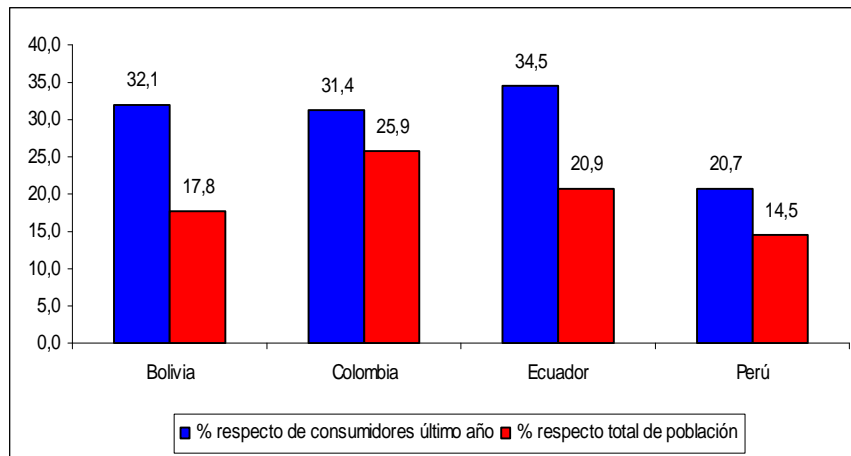
- ***BINGE DRINKING***: *In the previous two weeks, how many times have you drunk five or more alcoholic beverages on a single occasion?*
(among those reporting previous-month consumption)
- Range between 31% and 65% of students, with several countries reporting figures above 50%.

Sources: OID/CICAD (2011) and countries



University students, CAN countries

Alcohol: Risky or harmful consumption (positive AUDIT)



Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD

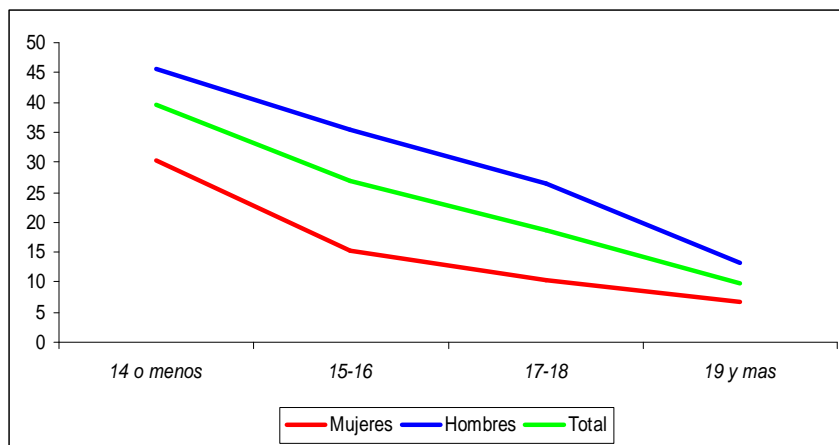


- **IMPACT OF ALCOHOL FIRST-USE AGE
ON ILLICIT DRUG USE AND
ON ALCOHOL DEPENDENCY**

University students, CAN countries



Percentage of students with **positive AUDIT** (risky/harmful consumption), according to alcohol first-use age, by sex, total countries (n=20,000 students).



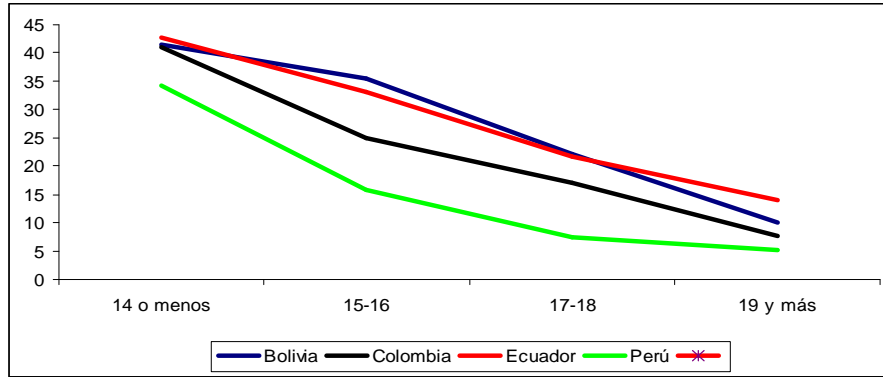
Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD

University students, CAN countries



Organización de los Estados Americanos

Percentage of students with positive AUDIT (measurement of problem use), according to alcohol first-use age, by country.



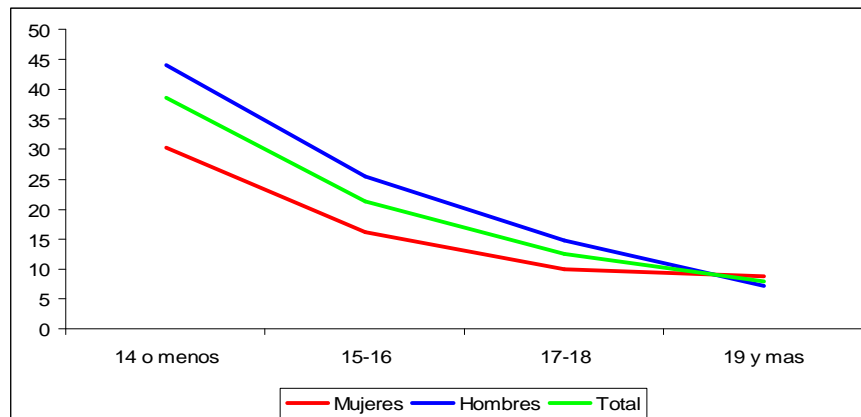
Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD

University students, CAN countries



Organización de los Estados Americanos

Lifetime prevalence of any illegal drug, according to alcohol first-use age, by sex, total countries.



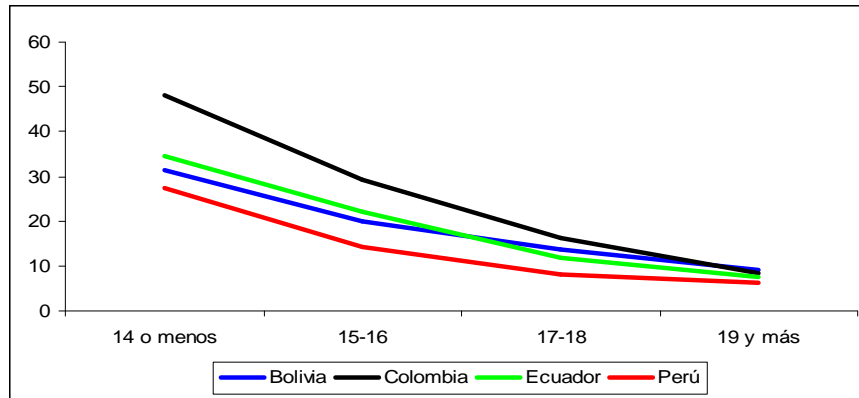
Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD

University students, CAN countries



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

Lifetime prevalence of any illicit drug,
according to alcohol first-use age, by country.



Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD

Future challenges



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

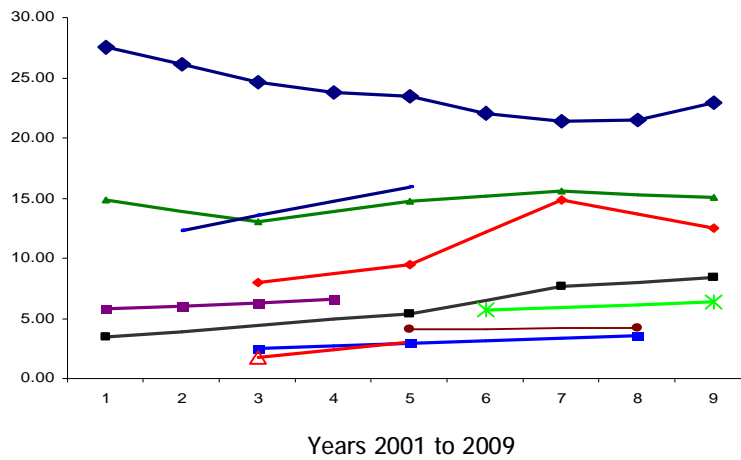
MARIJUANA

Year prevalence, marijuana, school children



Organización de los Estados Americanos

Country trends



Sources: OID/CICAD, Countries

Marijuana as first drug



Organización de los Estados Americanos

Country	%	Year
Argentina	23.3	2007
Chile	13.1	2010
Costa Rica	11.1	2007
Dominican Rep.	5.9	2008
Ecuador	5.4	2007
Mexico	12.1	2007
Panama	23.0	2008
Peru	20.4	2008
Suriname	3.0	2008
USA	31.0	2009

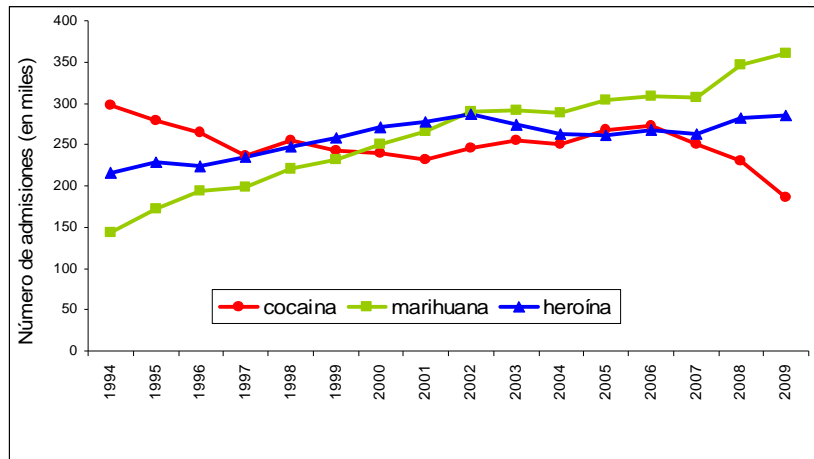
Sources: OID/CICAD, Countries

Admission to treatment centers



Organización de los Estados Americanos

Admissions to treatment, by primary drug, USA



Sources: SAMSHA/TEDS;

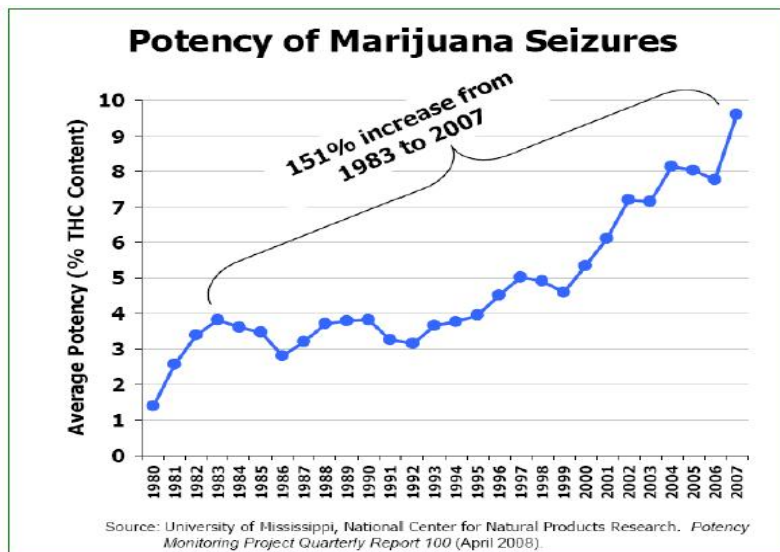
www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/tedsweb/tab_year.choose_year_web_table?t_state

THC content (%)



Organización de los Estados Americanos

Potency of Marijuana Seizures





SYNTHETIC DRUGS



Synthetic Drugs

- SECOND MOST COMMONLY CONSUMED SUBSTANCE IN THE WORLD
- EASY TO PRODUCE
- CAN BE PRODUCED ANYWHERE
- HIGH PENETRATION
- WIDE VARIETY OF SUBSTANCES
- DELAY IN DETECTION AND INCLUSION ON SCHEDULES
- MORE THAN 40 NEW SUBSTANCES DETECTED IN EUROPE
- NEED FOR AN EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM
- MORE RESEARCH



Organización de los
Estados Americanos



The implementation of a joint program to
address the problem of synthetic drugs in
Latin America and the Caribbean

UNODC – CICAD

The Global S.M.A.R.T. Program

Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting, and Trends)

*The actions of the SMART Program in Latin America are made possible
by financial support from Canada.*



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

The Global S.M.A.R.T. Program

Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting, and Trends)

- Objective: Member states will be able to make effective, evidence-based decisions to tackle the problem of synthetic drugs.
- Outcome 1: Create and manage information on ATS.
- Outcome 2: Drug information analyzed at the national, regional, and world levels.
- Outcome 3: ATS information is used by the countries to design evidence-based policies and strategic interventions.



PROGRESS OF THE GLOBAL SMART PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICA

- § The Global SMART Program began its expansion into Latin America in January 2011. In March 2011, first working meeting with three pilot countries was held in South America; those countries – Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay – are already reporting information.
- § In July 2011, the Program was presented at the meeting of CICAD's Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, held in Quito, Ecuador.
- § At the meeting of September 13 to 16, 2011, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the Global SMART Program was presented to all the countries at the fourth biannual meeting of the National Drugs Observatories of the Caribbean countries.
- On September 20 to 22, the first regional meeting of the Global SMART Program – Latin America was held in Lima, Peru. The 14 participating countries were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
- Agreements were reached with them for transfers of information on synthetic drugs and on the annual completion of the DAINLAC questionnaire to draw up an annual report on synthetic drugs in the nations of Latin America.

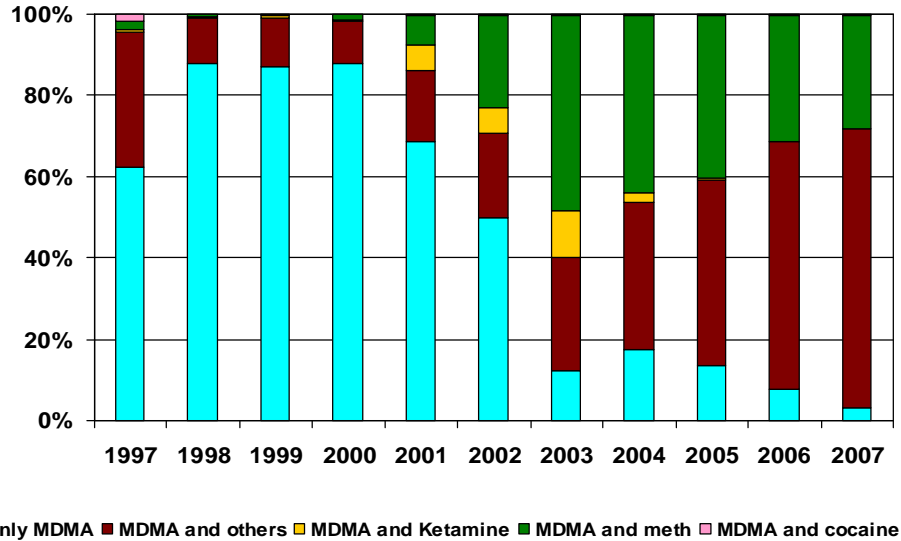


ADULTERATION

Canada: Ecstasy (MDMA)



Organización de los
Estados Americanos



Colombia: Ecstasy (MDMA)



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- Colombia, Bogotá, 2009
- Study of more than 300 samples of ecstasy
- Very few samples with low % of MDMA
- Almost all contain caffeine
- Mixtures with cocaine, methamphetamine
- Mixtures with ketamine (animal anesthetic)
- Many samples were diclofenac mixed with industrial colorants
- On average, five different components, where there was only supposed to be one

Source: Colombian Drugs Observatory



BASE PASTE, COCA PASTE, BASUCO



- Significant usage in some countries
- Highly addictive
- Demand for treatment
- Associated with respiratory and infectious diseases
- Most vulnerable groups
- Micro-trafficking
- Associated with crime
- High presence of adulterants (caffeine)



**POLICIES.
USE OF EVIDENCE:
INFORMATION FOR ACTION**

Public policies



SET OF OBJECTIVES, DECISIONS, AND ACTIONS

PURSUED BY A GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE

THOSE PROBLEMS THAT, AT A GIVEN TIME,

THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT

DEEM TO BE A PRIORITY.



If we do not clearly understand
the problem,
we have little chance
of dealing with it successfully.



- Create the evidence
 - National Drugs Observatory
 - Universities
 - Other institutions

Policies



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- Diagnostic assessment (identify the problem)
 - Information on the factors to be addressed.
- Intervention. Based on the diagnostic assessment, create a series of actions (policies) in order to change the status of the problem.
- Monitoring and Evaluation (adherence, results, impact).

Summary



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

- Complex consumption situation
- Pay greater attention to licit drugs
- Improve indicators for medicine use
- Strengthen information and research
- Create more and better, updated information
- Use the information in the formulation (creation) of policies
- "If we do not clearly understand the problem, we have little chance of dealing with it successfully."



THANK YOU!

fcumsille@oas.org

**INTER-AMERICAN OBSERVATORY
ON DRUGS
CICAD-OAS**