



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

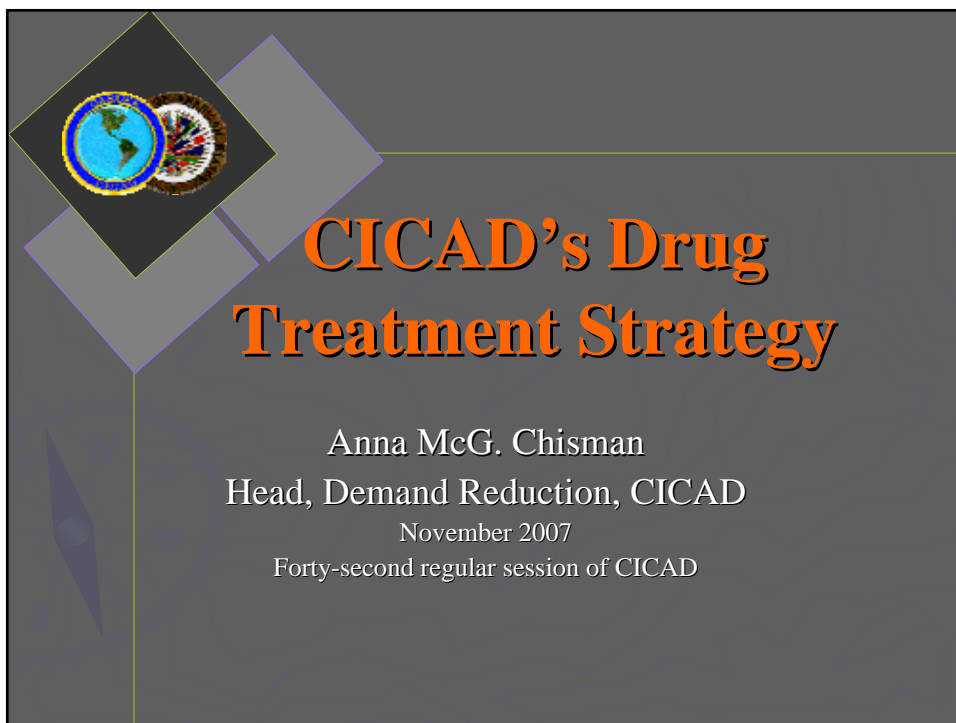
cicad

FORTY SECOND REGULAR SESSION
November 27 - 30, 2007
Santa Marta, Colombia

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CICAD'S DRUG TREATMENT STRATEGY

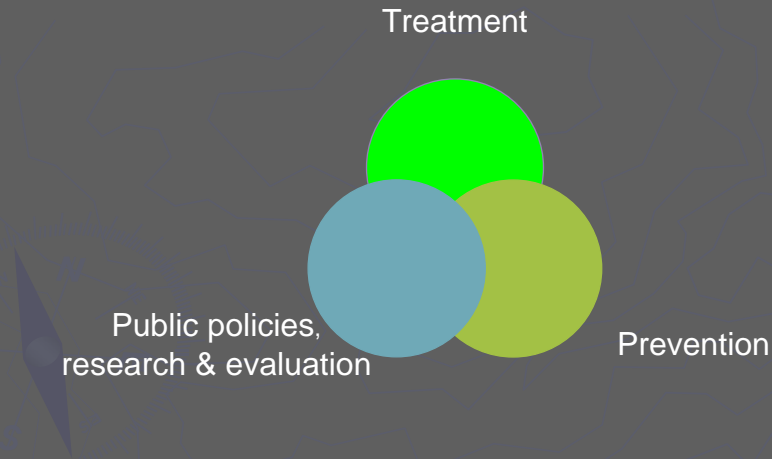
GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006



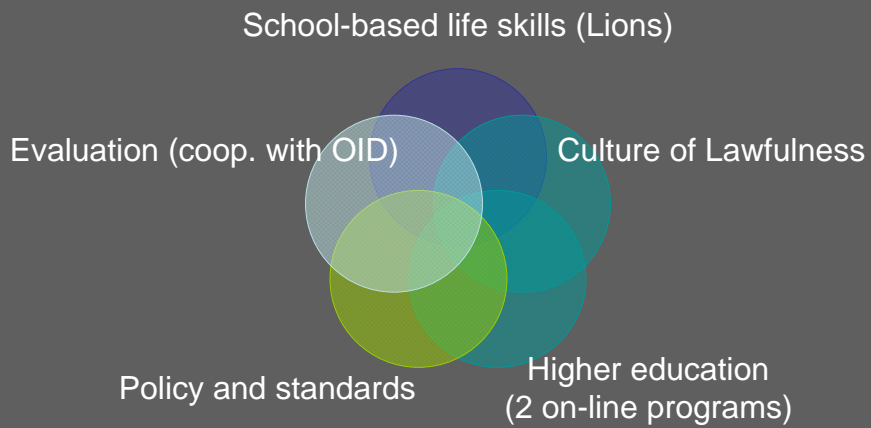
CICAD's Drug Treatment Strategy

Anna McG. Chisman
Head, Demand Reduction, CICAD
November 2007
Forty-second regular session of CICAD

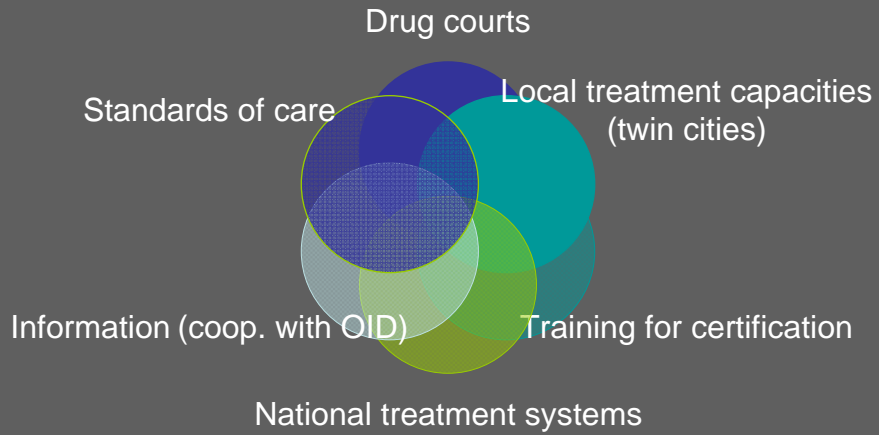
Demand Reduction



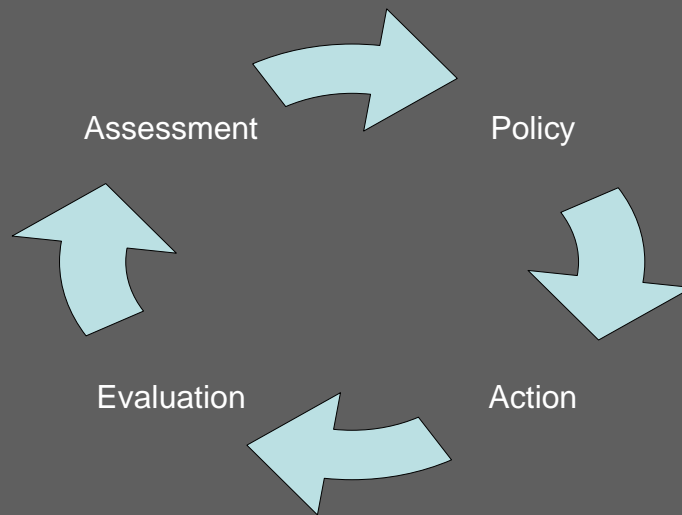
CICAD priorities in drug prevention



CICAD priorities in drug treatment



CICAD's drug treatment strategy



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 OI) – 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 (OI, EMCDDA, MEM indicator)

Assessment (information, research findings, contd.)

- Treatment outcomes
- Cost of investing in drug treatment and cost of failure to invest (OI 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

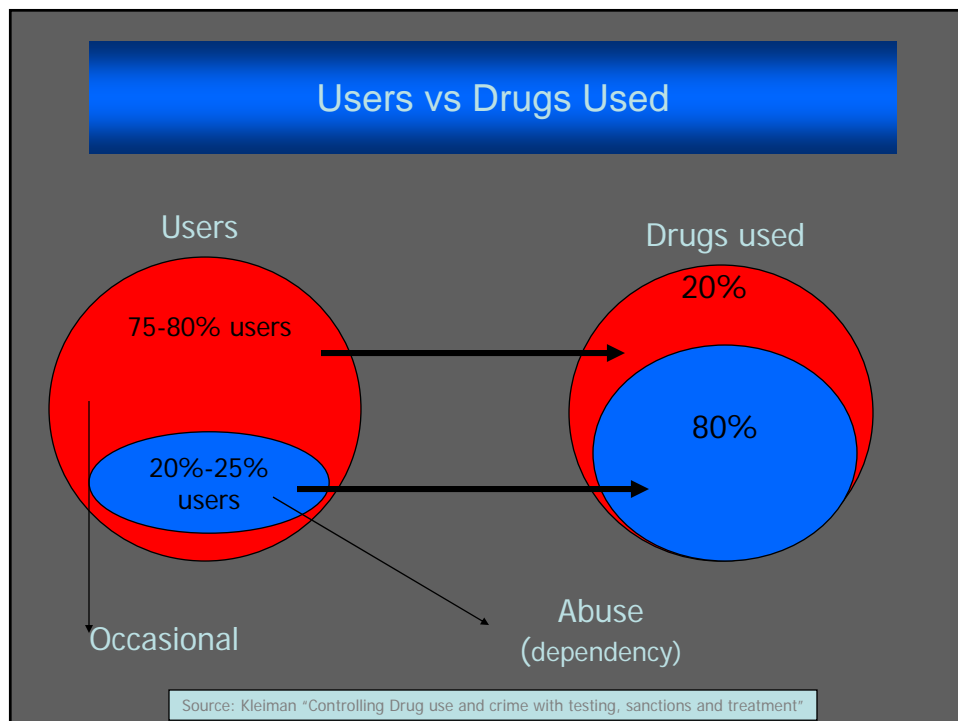
CICAD action (contd.)

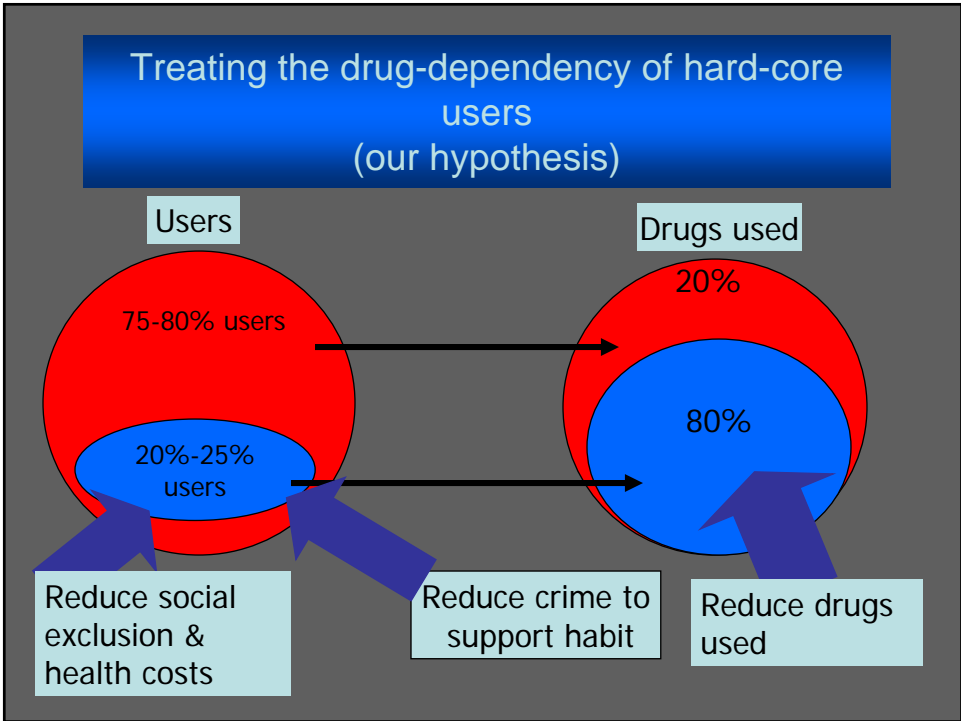
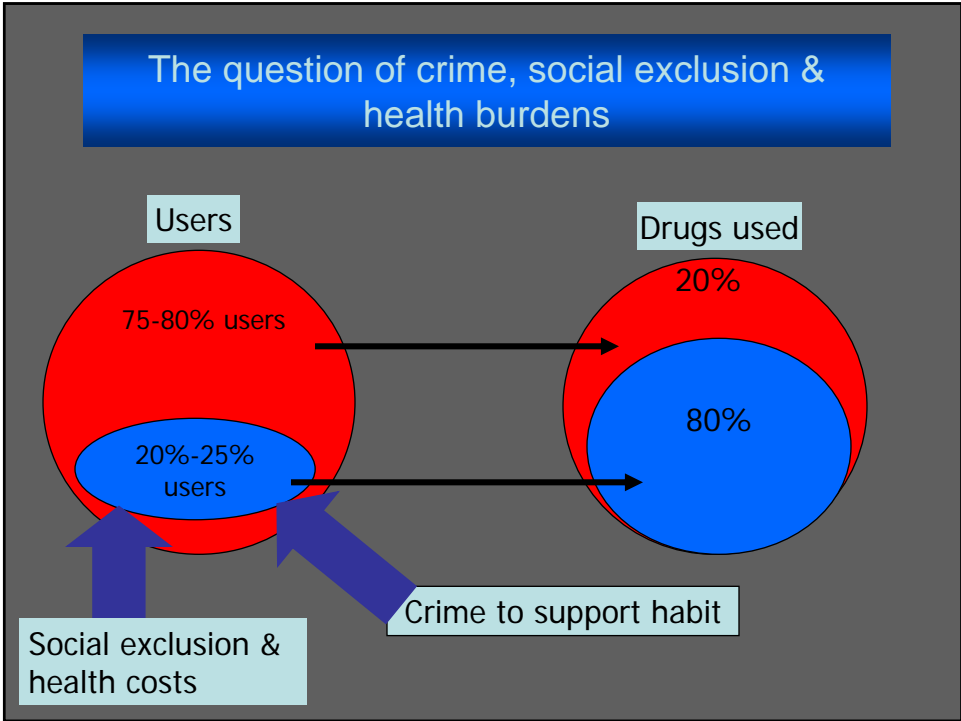
- Manuals and guidelines on different types of drug treatment
- Support existing networks of treatment providers (e.g., Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities -FLACT)
- Promote court-supervised treatment for drug dependent offenders (drug courts)

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)





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

A CICAD project funded by the European Commission
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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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