COMMUNITY-BASED PREVENTION AS THE AXIS OF A PREVENTION SYSTEM
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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

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

- Local/Governments/Social Services
- Community Leaders/NGO
- Students
- Workers
- Street and Socially Excluded population
THE IDEAL SITUATION

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