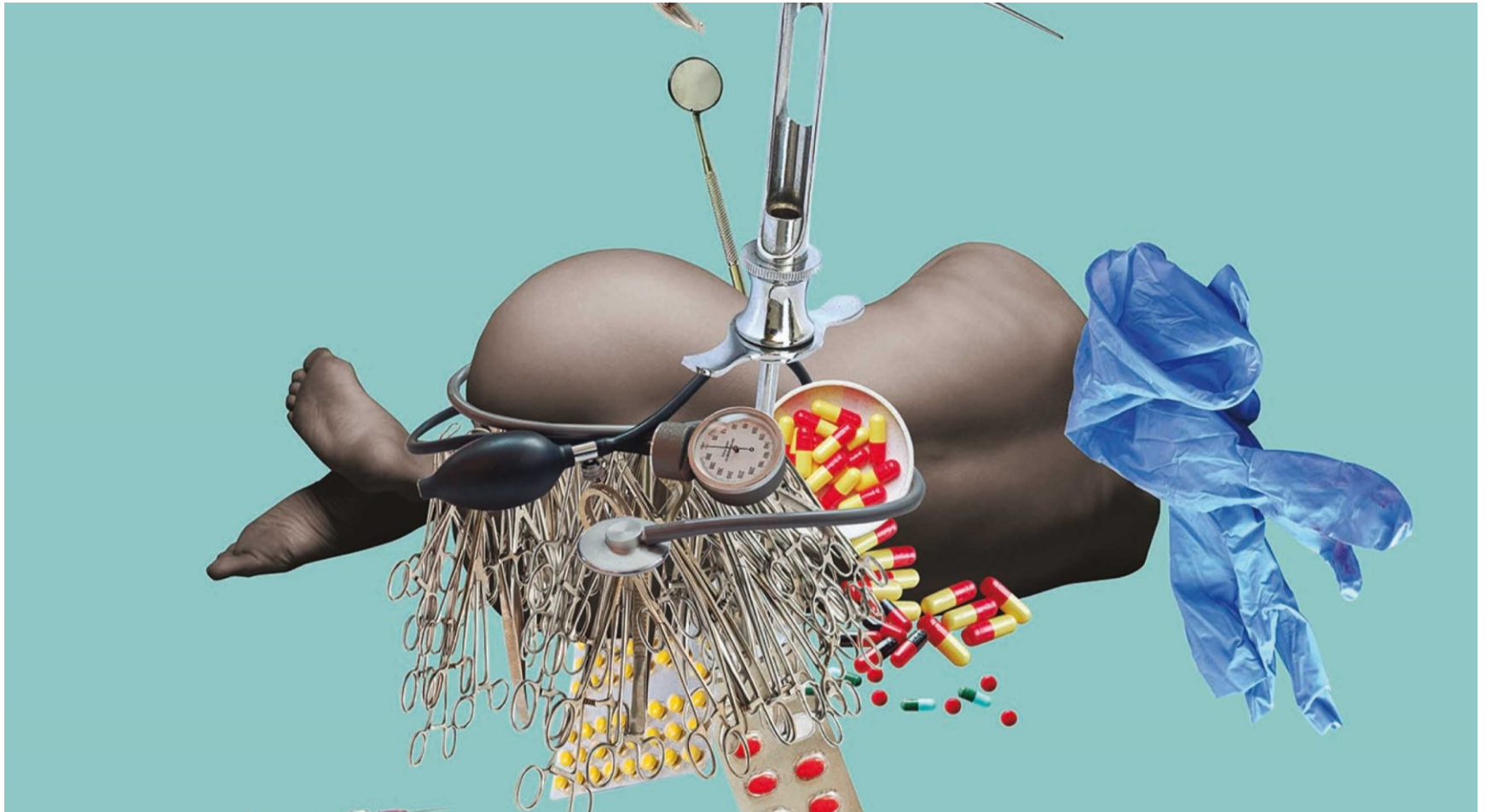


Gender approach to drugs abuse:

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Imagine...

Imagine a day like any other, when you leave home or work, and you cross paths with a person under the effects of having used some drugs:

- Would your thoughts be the same if the person was identified as a male or a female?

Invisible

- Women have been **Invisible** in the world of drug addiction.
- To make them visible implies to look at a **Social Construction** that generates inequality there is the **Gender**.

What drugs do women use?

- The overall trend is that "males use more drugs than women and in greater numbers."
- This global trend occurs in different countries, but it does not mean that women "do not use drugs", but that they often lean towards the use of "Legal trade" substances.

- When women use drugs they break the limits of gender norms. It is common for sexuality to appear as a central element. Vulnerability increases because they are women who have fractured the gender system, their gender mandate and are no longer "Good women".

Vulnerabilities. Violence.

- Violence suffered in the context of a couples relationship.
- Violence associated with the use of drugs or prostitution.
- Violence experienced in protective institutions where women live with guilt, even in treatment centres where women are passive subjects without recognition or consideration of their capacities.
- Social and cultural violence that maintains the situation of inequality and dependence on women and generates inequality in access to work or public life.

Violence and drug trafficking

- ... The key point for debate and reflection in relation to the impact of gender in drug addictions has to do with the visibility of women in the world of drug trafficking and its use in the lower sectors of drugs. We know that the rate of incarceration for women's drug offences has surpassed that of males.
- A decade ago, organizations such as the Open Society reported that the female prison population in Latin America had doubled. The vast majority were serving sentences for misdemeanours related to drug trafficking, mainly because they are "mules", one of the most vulnerable links of the long narco-chain that makes a very few millionaires...

Imagine...

- Teenage girl who has not used any drugs, or perhaps is thinking of trying some....
- Do preventive policies serve the same measure for girls and boys?

Prevention

- Biological, psychological and cultural differences in sexuality require that strategies and activities to prevent abusive use of psychoactive substances are adapted to them.
- When it has tried to address the inclusion of the gender perspective in the drug programs in Latin America in a global way the result is diverse and non-specific, showing how there are no uniform tendencies in a region full of cultural inequalities, Social, economic or political.

Universal preventive programmes should take into account the gender perspective, affecting the **Risk Factors**.



The programmes should be designed specifically for women for their **Differences in Aetiology** of uses, their patterns of drug use and their consequences.



Intervention



What epidemiological information is used?



Are there specific data disaggregated by sex?



Are there data on the influence of gender on drug use patterns of the target population?

Gender-age-ethnicity: intersectional



Prevention cannot be addressed, decontextualizing gender from age.



The **Generation factor** conditions the roles in which men and women have been socialized, establishing differences in the motivations and patterns of drug use.



The **Adaptation of the prevention programmes** to the gender perspective involves implementing programs for young boys and girls, and for adult men and women.

Deconstruct...

- Is it sensitive?
- Is it specific?
- Is it useful?
- Is it reliable?

Yorkshire Police

NOT THE USUAL SUSPECTS

#NotTheUsualSuspects





02:19^{AM}

**SHE DIDN'T
WANT TO
DO IT, BUT
SHE COULDN'T
SAY NO.**

WHEN YOUR FRIENDS DRINK, THEY CAN
END UP MAKING BAD DECISIONS. LIKE GOING
HOME WITH SOMEONE THEY DON'T KNOW
VERY WELL.

DECISIONS LIKE THAT LEAVE THEM
VULNERABLE TO DANGERS LIKE DATE RAPE.
HELP YOUR FRIENDS STAY IN CONTROL AND
STAY SAFE.

CONTROLTONIGHT.COM



El 68,2% de los menores de edad ha consumido alcohol en el último mes.
Tras su consumo, se constata un mayor número de relaciones sexuales sin protección o no consentidas.

Pero tranquila,
tu hija
seguro que no
bebe
¿verdad?



MENORES SIN ALCOHOL
EDUCAR - INFORMAR - PREVENIR



El 68,2% de los menores de edad ha consumido alcohol en el último mes.
Su consumo continuado ocasiona daños físicos y genera conflictos familiares.

Pero tranquila,
tu hijo
seguro que no
bebe
¿verdad?



MENORES SIN ALCOHOL
EDUCAR - INFORMAR - PREVENIR



DRINKING IS NOT A CRIME. RAPE IS.



It doesn't matter what she's wearing, how much she's had to drink or whether you've kissed... sex without consent is rape. If she's too drunk to consent, assume she hasn't given it.

#NoConsentNoSex





EVEN IF I'VE HAD
A DRINK,
I KNOW ANYTHING
LESS THAN A YES IS A NO.

**I DON'T
CROSS
THE LINE**

CROSS THE LINE AND IT'S

RAPE.

Call Hampshire Constabulary on **101**

In an emergency always call **999**

For more information visit www.dontcrosstheline.co.uk



Imagine...

- When they have an addiction problem....
- Do you think you could solve your abuse-related problems in the same way depending on your sexual identification?

Treatment

- Women who have problems with substance abuse are often excluded or limited in access to effective treatment that takes into account their specific needs and the circumstances of their problem.

Treatment

- Legal substances//private matter.
- They generate less social problems than when they are males.
- Knowledge about the pharmacological reaction of drugs on women is more limited than on males.
- The field of research on addictions has focused in the beginnings on the substances and very later on the characteristics of the users (ethnicity, age, sex, sexual orientation, etc.), being mainly white males the model and the standard for comparison.

Challenges...

- **Information Systems**

- Disaggregation of information according to sex
- Incorporation of variables sensitive to gender inequalities.

- **Boost research**

- Better understand vulnerability and resilience factors in women.
- Gender inequalities are social, cultural and political.
- Analyse which components of programs are effective for women.