

# **UNOV-UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018-2021)**

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# UNODC strategy



- Goal A: Strengthen delivery of global results on gender equality and the empowerment of women through the activities of UNOV/ UNODC
- Goal B: Strengthen UNOV/ UNODC institutional capacity and effectiveness to do so.

# UNODC strategy



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- Goal B: Strengthen UNOV/ UNODC institutional capacity and effectiveness to do so.

# Sustainable Development Goals (3,5,16)

## The Sustainable Development Goals

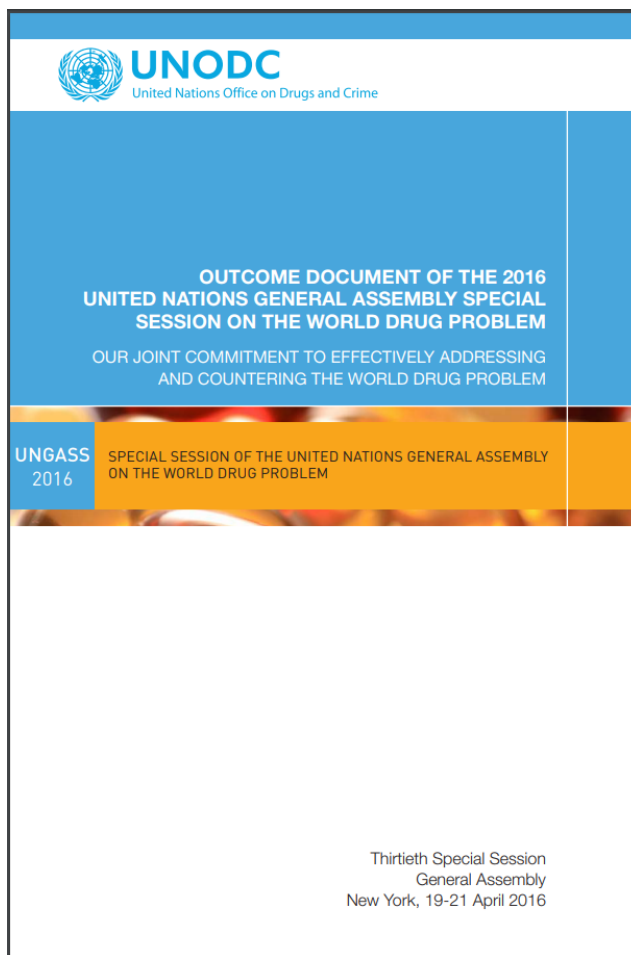




**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, April 2016



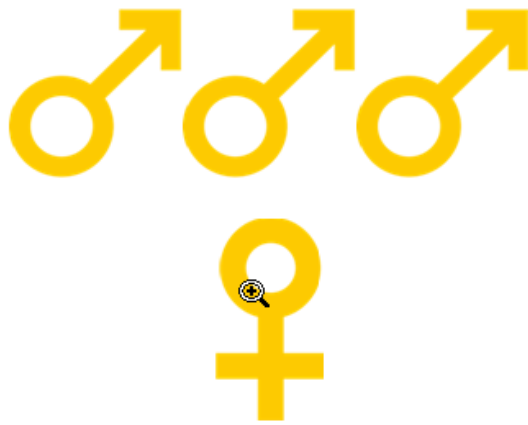
# OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE UNGASS 2016

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- At the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, the importance of incorporating gender perspectives into drug-related policies and programmes was highlighted. Focusing on drug abuse among women in its four main aspects (epidemiology, consequences, special populations and treatment).
- “(...)Promote and strengthen regional and international cooperation in developing and implementing treatment-related initiatives, enhance technical assistance and capacity-building and ensure non-discriminatory access to a broad range of interventions, including psychosocial, behavioural and medication-assisted treatment, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, as well as to rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery-support programmes, including access to such services in prisons and after imprisonment, **giving special attention to the specific needs of women**, children and youth in this regard;
- Ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, which are to be on a level equal to those available in the community, **and ensure that women, including detained women**, have access to adequate health services and counselling, including those particularly needed during pregnancy”.

# Gender differences on the use of selected substances – World Drug Report 2016

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Cannabis,  
cocaine, ATS



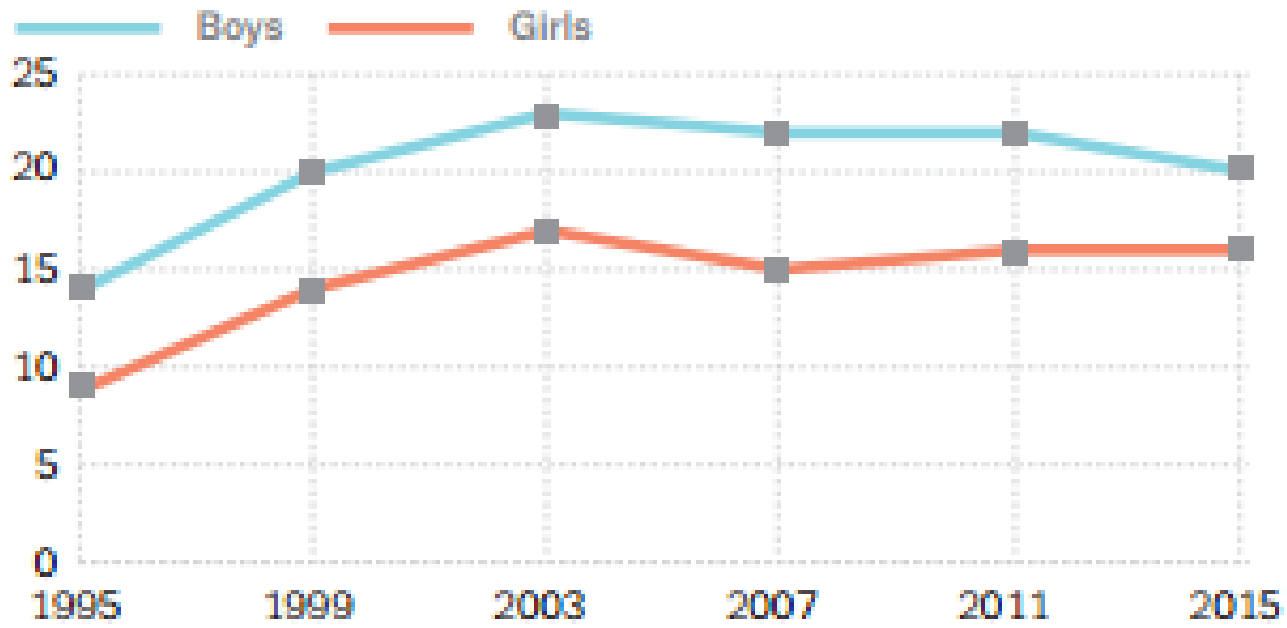
Tranquilizers



Prescription  
opioids

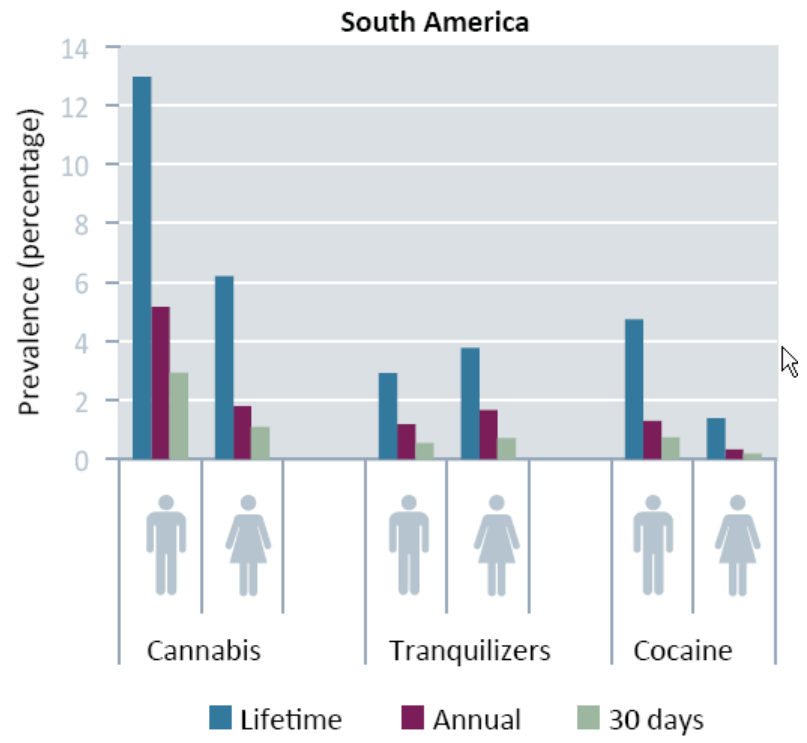
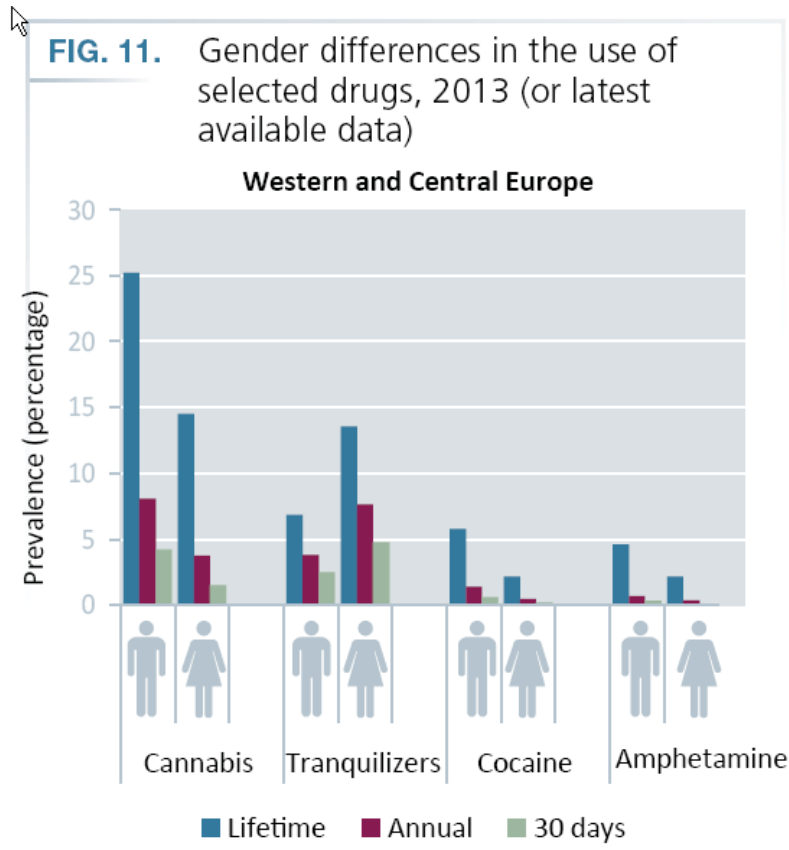
# Lifetime use of illicit drugs by gender: 25 – country trend 1995-2005.

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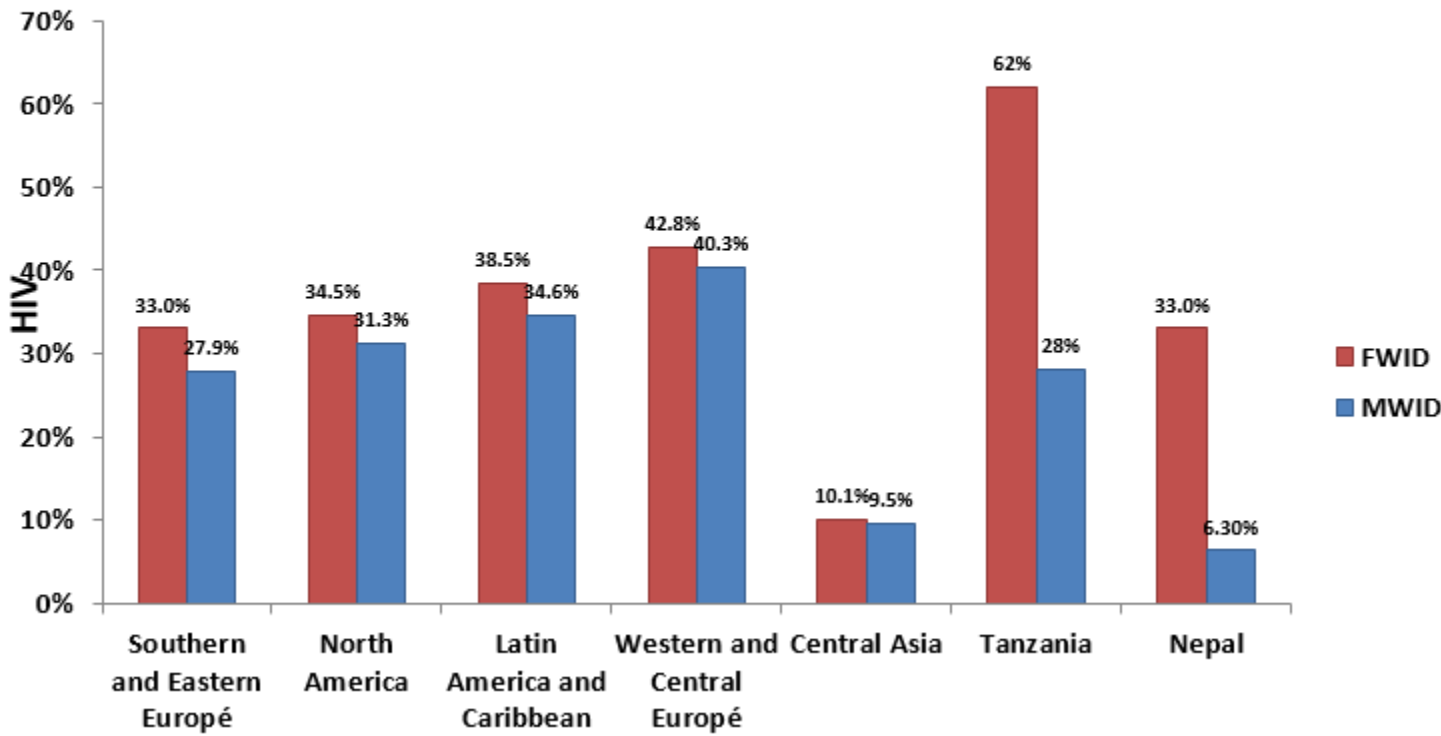


# Examples of gender differences by region – World Drug Report 2015





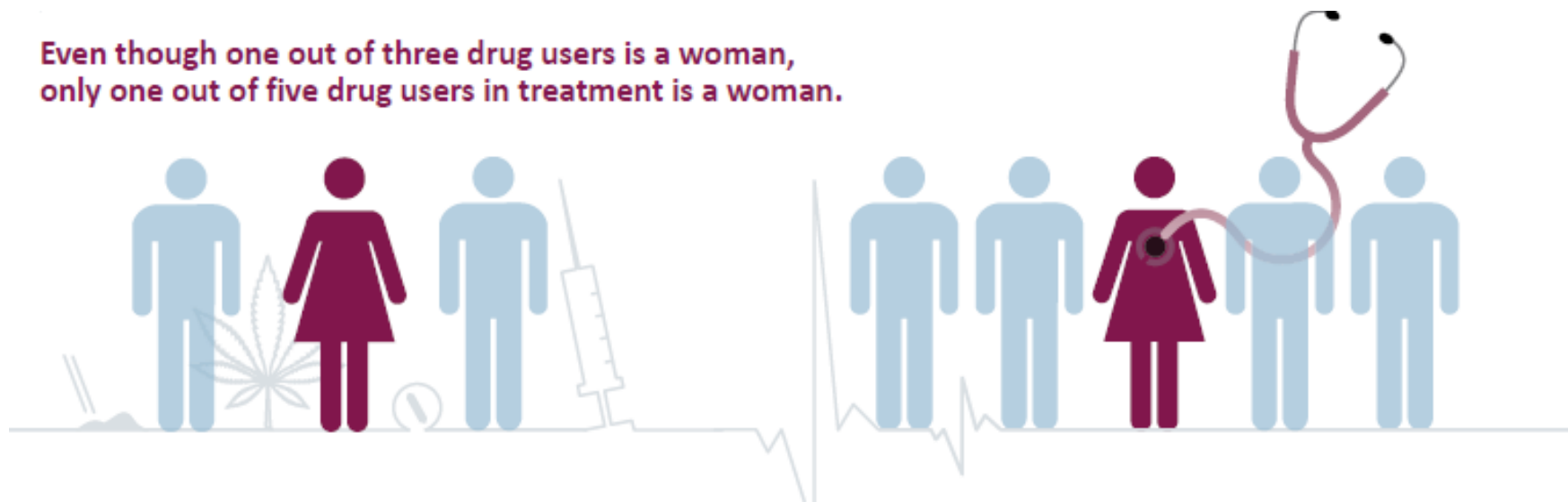
## FACTS: HIV prevalence is higher among women who use drugs around the world





# Availability and accessibility of services is a problem!

Even though one out of three drug users is a woman, only one out of five drug users in treatment is a woman.





# What about prevention?

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Coverage of boys/ girls



% of studies disaggregating by gender

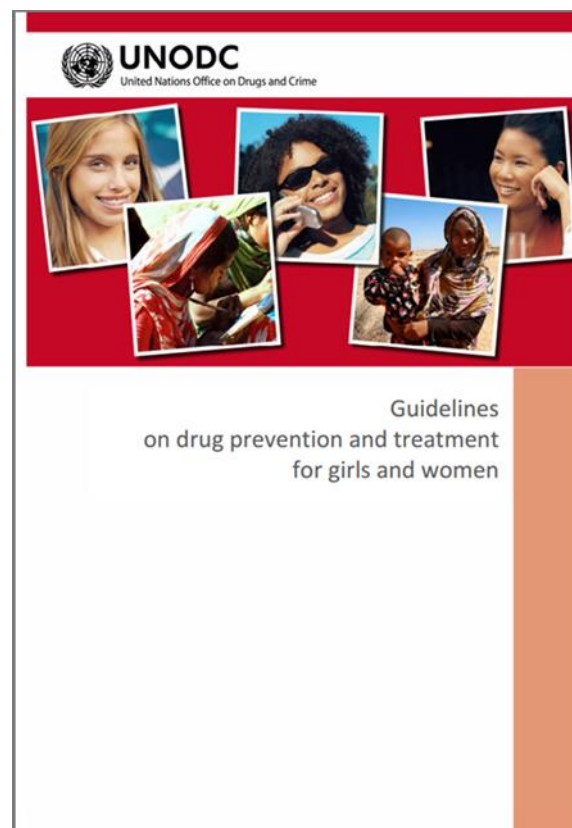
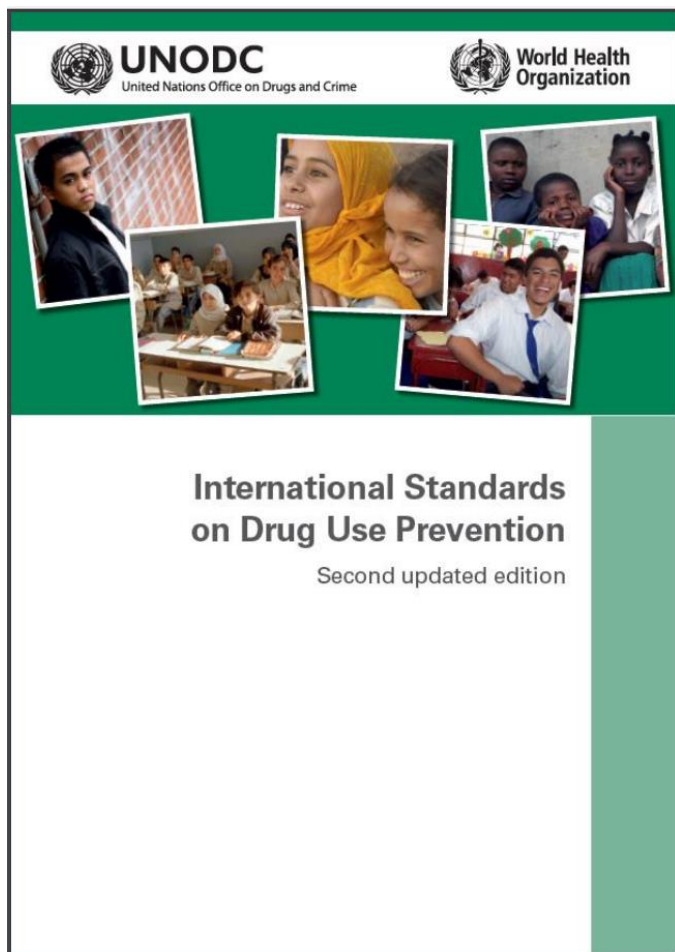




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# Drug prevention

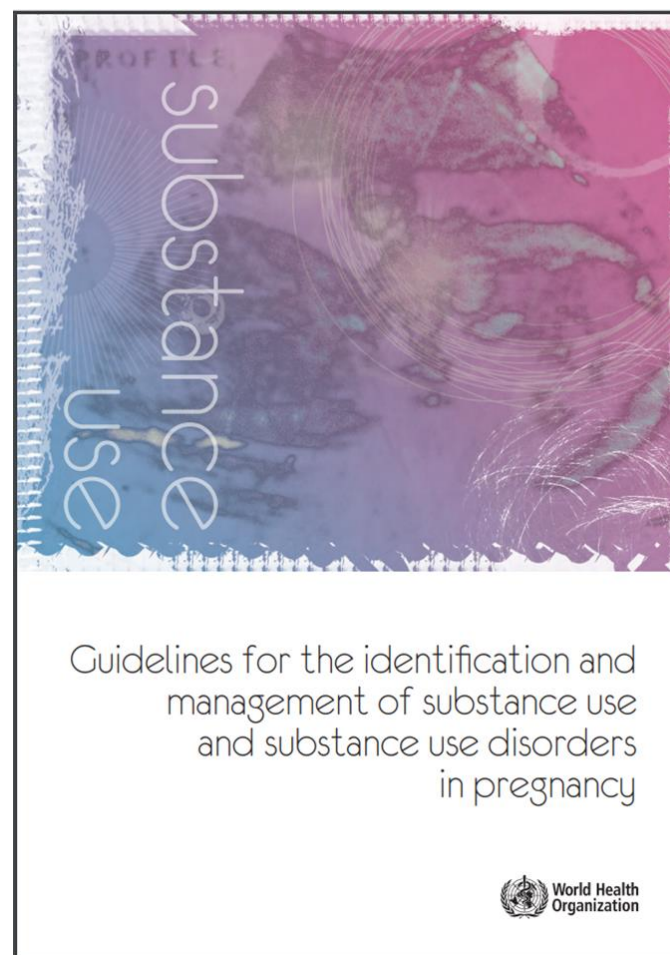
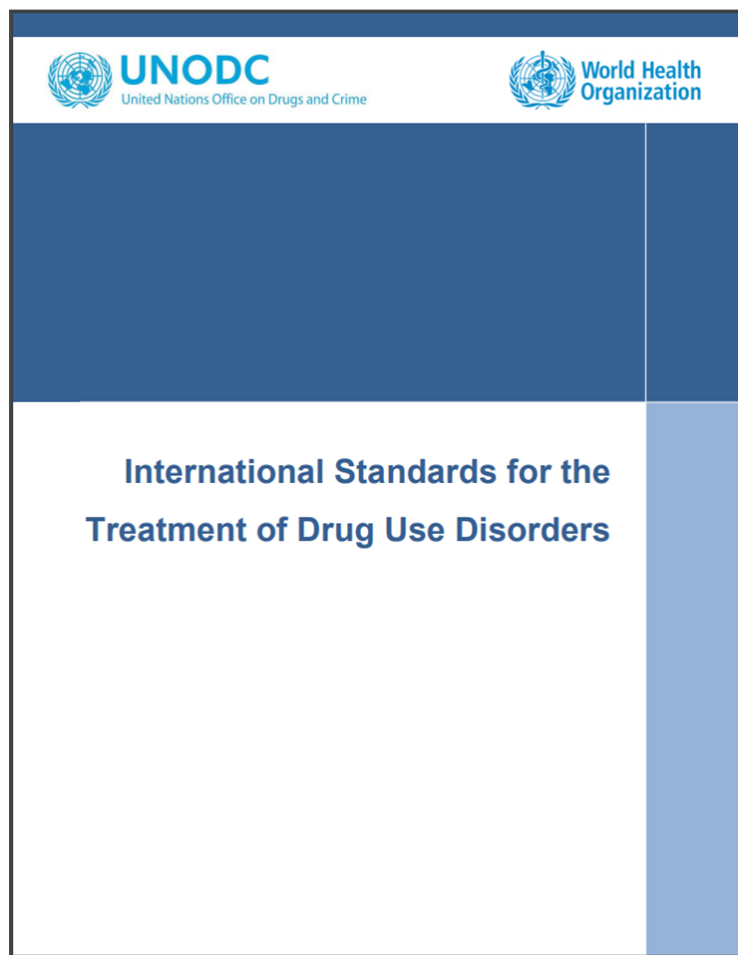




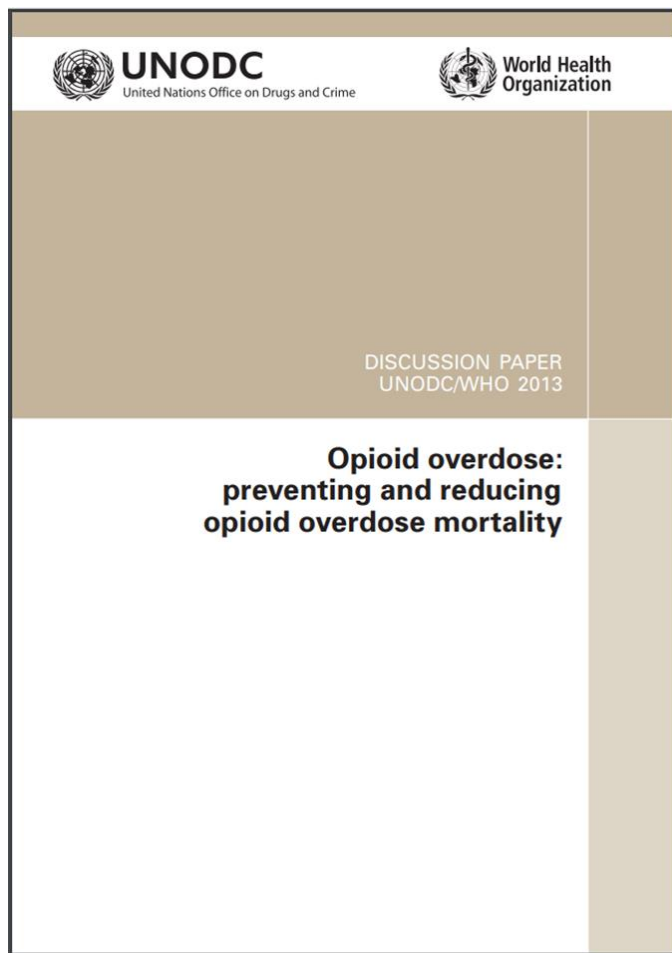
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# Treatment of drug use disorders



# Overdose prevention & treatment as an alternative to imprisonment





# All available on [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)



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### Stories from UNODC

## UNODC technical consultation on family therapy for adolescents with drug use disorders



Adolescence is a critical window of vulnerability for the onset of substance use disorders, and the family environment can be both a protective and a risk factor. Communities and families affected by drug use disorders all around the world are facing grave challenges as they often find themselves without appropriate support and without access to evidence-based drug use disorder treatment. [\[Read More\]](#)

## At least 2.5 million migrants were smuggled in 2016, first UN global study shows



At least 2.5 million migrants were smuggled worldwide in 2016, says UNODC study. The world, generated an income of up to \$7 billion - equivalent to the amount the United States spends on Eurozone bailouts - in the maritime sector last year - according to the UN agency that fights drugs and crime. [\[Read More\]](#)

### Press Releases

**13/06/18** - At least 2.5 million migrants smuggled worldwide in 2016, says UNODC study

**06/06/18** - UNODC and INTERPOL reinforce joint action to counter crime, terrorism

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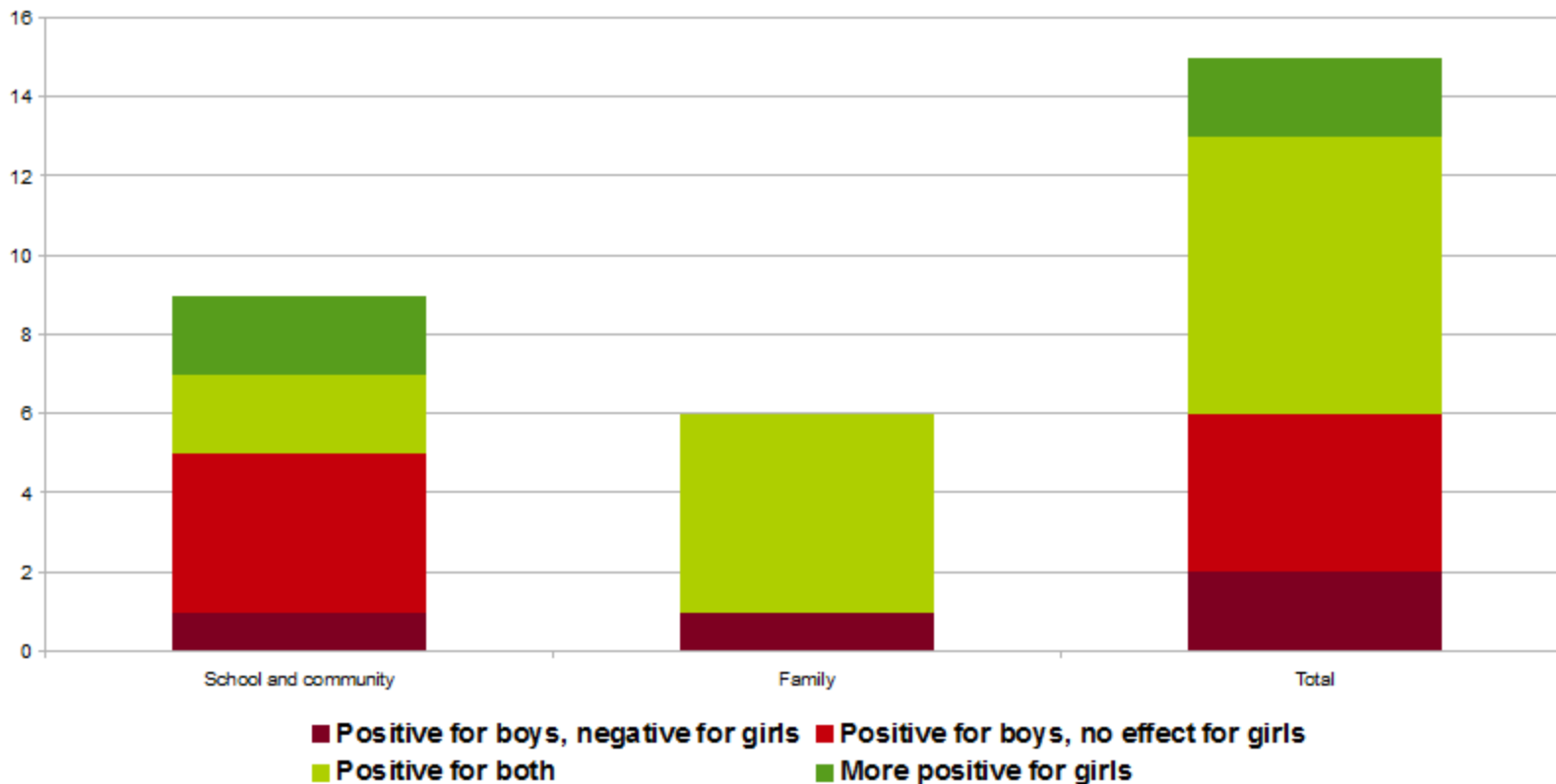
# **Vulnerabilities that are specific to girls and women (UNODC, 2015)**

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- Low-self esteem
- Concerns with body image
- Family bonding and supervision
- Influence of peers as powerful, but expressed differently
- Sexual abuse



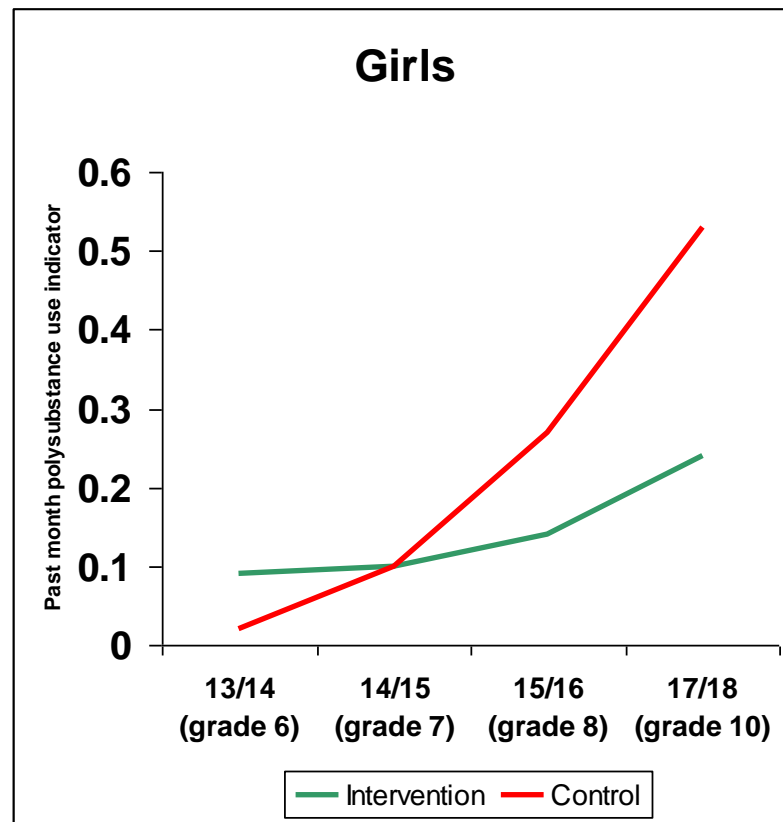
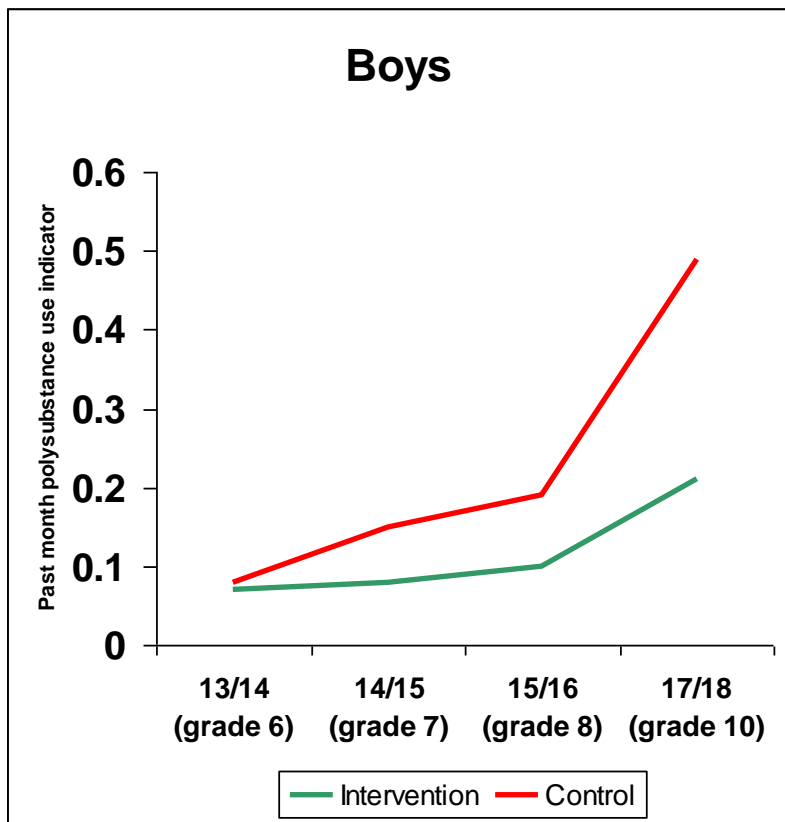
# Family based prevention might be a good bet





# Example family-based intervention

*(adapted from World Drug Report 2015)*





# Suggestions for drug prevention for girls and women (1/2)

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- Don't presume
  - Evaluate the impact of drug prevention interventions, disaggregating results by sex
- Go for parenting skills
  - The limited evidence points to family-skills training as being the programmes that are more consistently benefiting both girls and boys. This in turn is consistent with the etiology

# Suggestions for drug prevention for girls and women (2/2)

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- Respond to the unique vulnerabilities of girls
  - Low self esteem
  - Concerns with body image
  - Influence of significant others
  - Girls developing early
  - Victims of sexual abuse

# Family-based prevention – 21 countries

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# New suite of programmes for low-resource settings, including displaced populations

## *The Strong Families Programme*

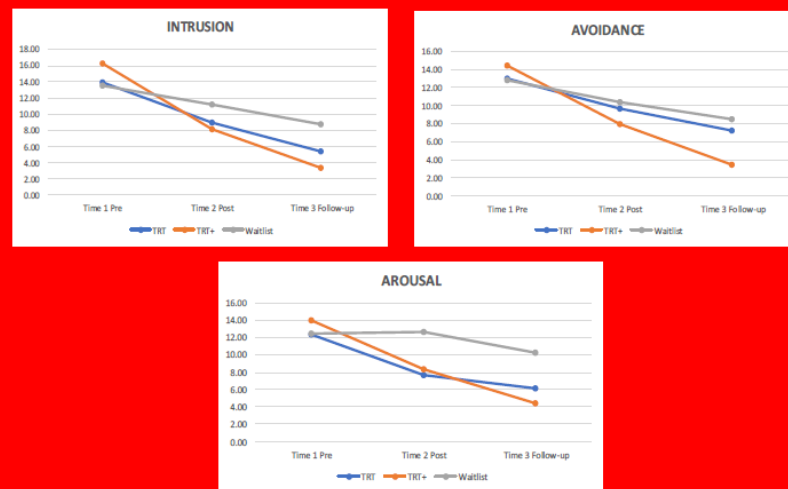


### Level 4 (Teaching Recovery Technique / TRT + Parenting)

For children exposed to trauma. The University of Manchester adapted TRT an evidence-based child trauma recovery programme from the Children & War Foundation called (TRT) used in multiple humanitarian settings. The adaptation added new parenting skills components (+Parenting) to TRT.

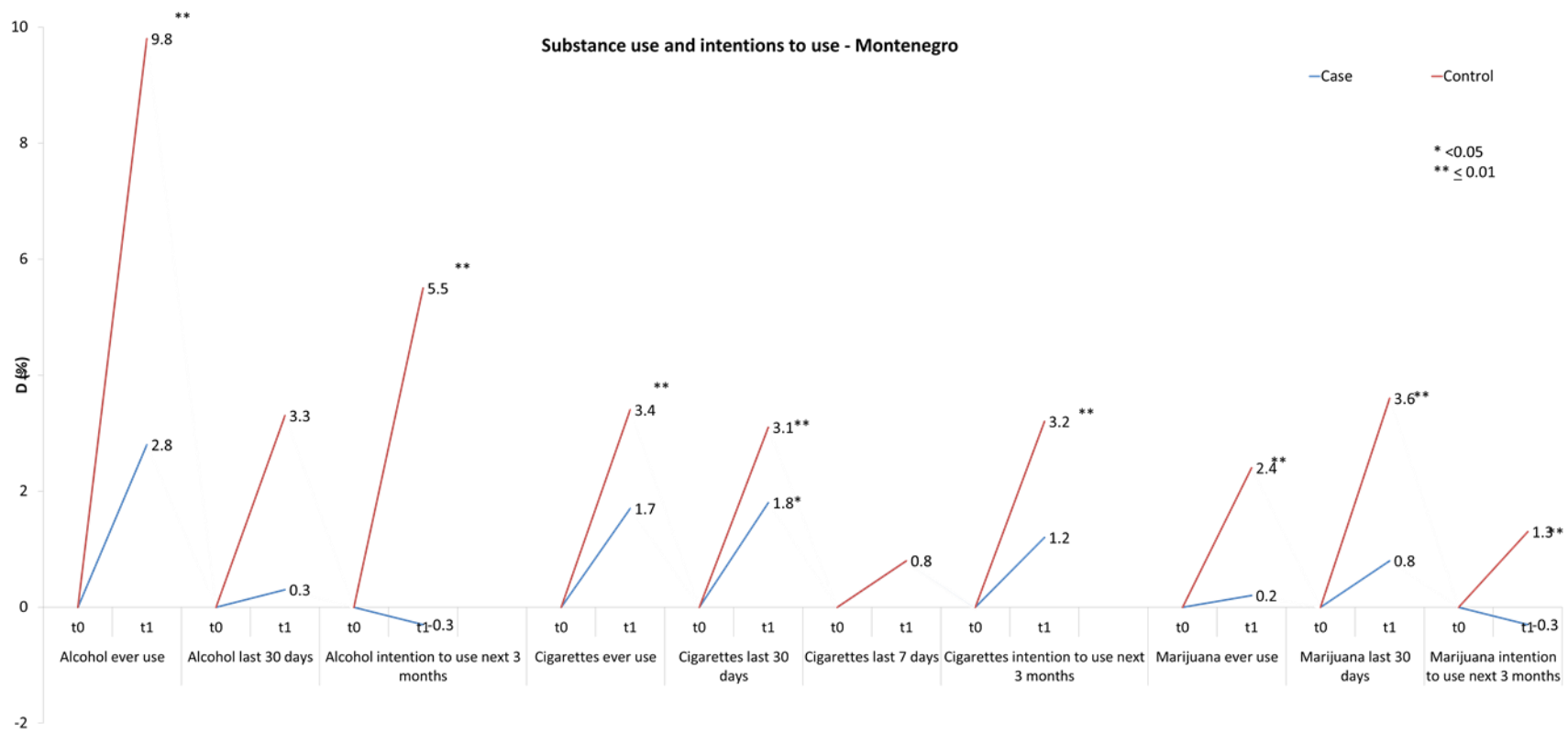
After a successful pilot on Syrian refugees in Turkey, a 3 arm clinical trial (waitlist vs. TRT vs. TRT+) was undertaken on Syrian refugees in the Bekaa plain in Lebanon. Preliminary results below, on three aspects of child stress post trauma: Intrusion, avoidance and arousal per the Children Revised Impact of Event Scale (CRIES) reflect greater effect for TRT+ for CRIES measure. This positive effect was also on other measures in this study.

**[Fig. 4] Children Revised Impact of Event Scale (CRIES)**





# School-based prevention Research is ongoing!





# Women and Substance Use Disorders

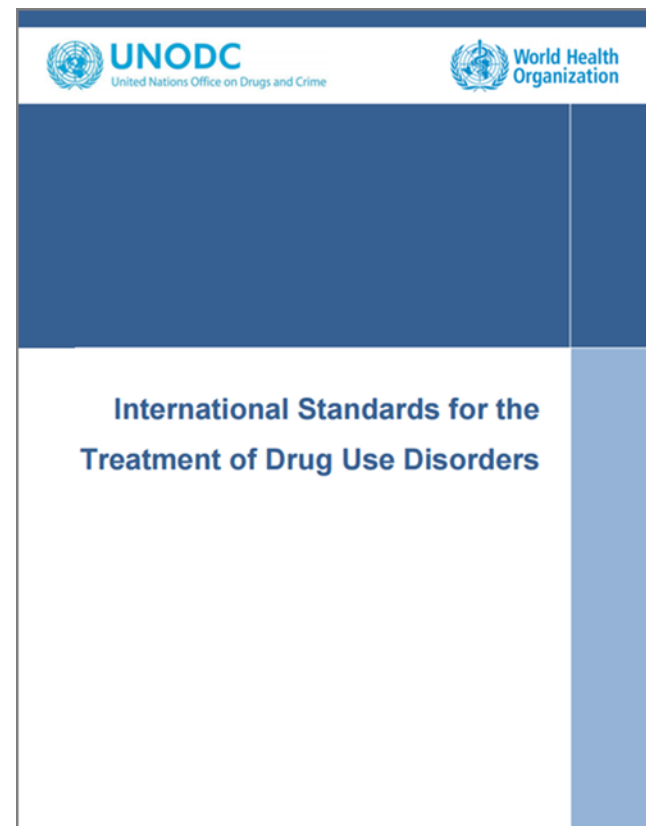
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- More likely to have children and other caregiver responsibilities
- 2 times more likely to suffer from trauma and PTSD
- More likely to blame themselves for traumatic event or experience

# Gender-specific treatment, care & rehabilitation

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- **Women can recover as well as men.**
- Gender-responsive services address:
  - Accessibility
  - Child care responsibilities and parenting skills
  - Trauma and safety
  - Co-occurring mental health disorders
  - Socio-economic marginalisation



# Women and Trauma: Treatment Implications

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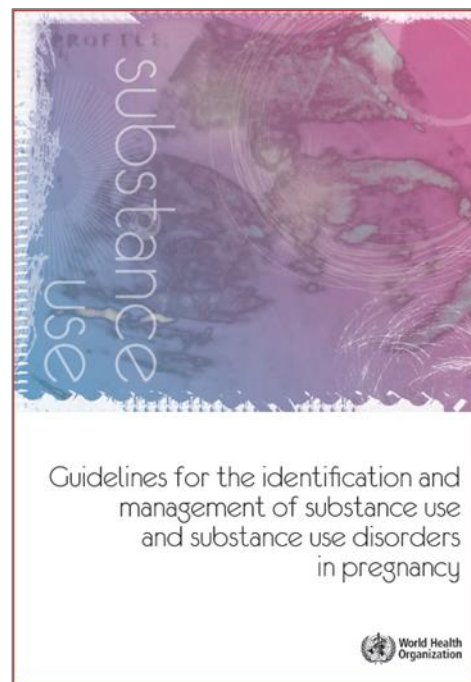
- Prioritize safety and a safe environment
- Build capacity of all staff to recognize reactions to trauma – health professionals, drivers, counselors
  - Persons who have suffered trauma often have challenges with memory and flashbacks – hippocampus and amygdala
- Be prepared for longer duration and more intense psychosocial services



# Pregnant women

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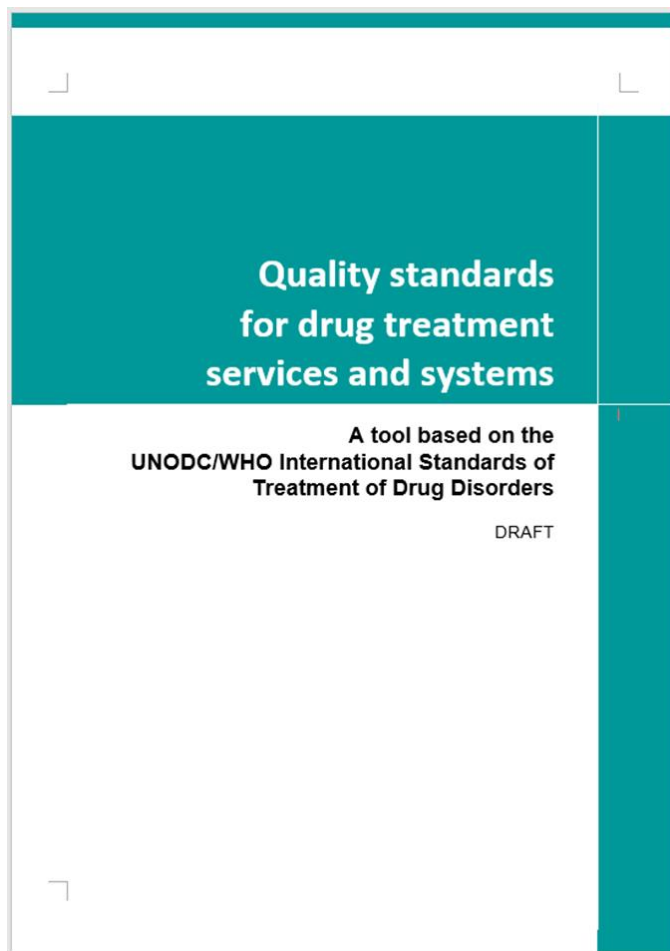
- Gender-specific and non-judgmental services, PLUS
  - Pharmacological interventions especially for opioid use disorders to avoid withdrawal
  - Breastfeeding evaluated case by case
  - Parenting skills





# UNODC-WHO Programme – 20+ countries

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- Training on treatment services for pregnant women with substance use disorders

# Treatment for children and their families

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# Still a lot to be done ...

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- We can do it!

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**THANK YOU!**