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Capacity-building in Drugs Demand Reduction

Online training courses for the CELAC

COPOLAD II- Component 2

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First course: Use of Alcohol and other Drugs: Evidence-Based Prevention

Description: This course is focused on training in the development of evidence-based alcohol and drug prevention strategies in order to increase the effectiveness of preventive interventions, to provide key theoretical and practical concepts for professional practice in drug abuse prevention, and to train in the design, application and evaluation of effective and quality preventive interventions.

Addressed to: Professionals from the public sector with technical responsibilities in decision-making in the field of drug prevention policies and programs, at the national, regional or local level.

Content:

Topic	Title	Content	Author
1	Epidemiology of drugs in Latin America and the Caribbean: prevalence and use trends	Prevalence by type of substance use; main drugs used; patterns of use and meanings associated with the use; new emerging uses; new substances available; territorial displacements in use; and the need for prevention.	Orlando Scoppetta, MSc
2	Drug addiction: The neurobiological roots of risk and protective factors	Neurobiological fundaments of the brain; epigenetic as an adaptation mechanism; from the biology of the brain to the influence of the environment.	Rubén D. Baler, PhD
3	Psychosocial risk and protection factors associated with the use of psychoactive substances	Basic concepts about risk and protection factors of a psychosocial nature; contributions of epidemiology; experimental designs applied to the evaluation of different preventive models; challenges for research on risk and protection factors.	Gabriela Olivera, MSc
4	Foundations and objectives of preventive activity	Reasons supporting the need for prevention; principles and basic evidence-based quality criteria to make good prevention; cost-efficiency of prevention; case-study; review of evidence-based quality criteria agreed within the framework of COPOLAD.	Elisardo Becoña Iglesias, PhD
5	Evolution of research on theoretical models of prevention	Aetiological model underlying drug prevention; main theories and explaining models of drug use; informative models; affective models; bio-psycho-social model: screening, diagnosis and applicability, advantages and disadvantages; the most adequate models for prevention based on the current evidence.	Elisardo Becoña Iglesias, PhD
6	Levels of preventive Interventions	Historical evolution of the preventive model: limitations of the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention model; environmental, universal, selective and indicated prevention; implication of these levels for work with populations in different situations of vulnerability; and case study –example of a	Milton Rojas Valero, MSc



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		universal programme: <i>activa tu desarrollo</i> (activate your development).	
7	Area of preventive intervention: review of the effectiveness in each area	Preventive interventions at the communitarian, family, educative and occupational level; penitentiary environments; and case study – example of a school programme: <i>a tiempo</i> (on time)	Milton Rojas Valero, MSc
8	Needs assessment, selection of the population, objectives and estimation of feasibility	Gathering relevant data, diagnoses and information; main sources of information; problem tree; definition of target populations; vulnerability criteria; focalisation of supply; and evaluation of available resources: internal and external, which allow formulating achievable objectives.	Juan Carlos Mansilla MSc
9	Formulation of objectives and indicators	Formulation of achievable, measurable and verifiable objectives; and construction of indicators, processes, product, result.	Juan Carlos Mansilla, MSc
10	Selection of the theoretical model and design of a strategy for working with customers	Adoption or approach to the theoretical model to start from for the intervention; design and selection of specific intervention strategies with the target populations: intervention plan	Augusto Pérez Gómez, PhD
11	Monitoring system, instruments for evaluation and presentation of results	Design of monitoring mechanisms and control of the implementation of the programme or projects; types of evaluations: process, implementation, results and impact; evaluation instruments; presentation and dissemination of results.	Augusto Pérez Gómez, PhD
12	The future of drug dependence prevention	Explanation of the need to unite research and preventive practices; and efficiency and sustainability of prevention.	Elisardo Becoña Iglesias, PhD



Second course: Comprehensive and integrated drug related socio-sanitary system at primary care

Description: This The course facilitates the strengthening, dissemination and implementation of the Public Health approach, taking into consideration the respect for Human Rights, and addressing problems related to the consumption of alcohol and other psychoactive substances.

It highlights the relevance of the Primary Care services and their coordination in reducing the negative impact of drug use in the general population.

Addressed to: Professionals of the public sector with responsibilities in planning, decision making and management of the socio-health services of primary care that include among their responsibilities the care for people with problems related to drug use.

Contents:

Topic	Title	Content	Author
1	Health processes and their determinants in relation to the use of psychoactive substances	Interrelation among the different biological, social, cultural and environmental factors in determining the different use patterns; origin and worsening of problems derived, considering individual and collective aspects, as well as the relations with other social, political, ideological and historical processes; actors involved in these processes; different biological and environmental aspects surrounding this topic; and how to coordinate strategies and programs of an interdisciplinary nature that are effective for reducing the associated medical and social problems.	Maria Lucía O. S. Formigoni, PhD Ana Paula Leal Carneiro, MSc
2	The right to health and integrity of psychoactive substance users	The user's right to health; social concepts and representations; the stigma associated with discrimination attitudes and practices; situation of vulnerability of people using psychoactive substances; structural analysis of the vulnerability of these populations; relation of the drug control system with the lack of human rights; explanation of the need to converge both the drug control systems and human rights; identification of international organisms working against situations of abuse.	Graciela Touzé, MSc
3	The public health approach applied to addressing the problems caused by the use of alcohol and other psychoactive substances	Perspective of a manager responsible for the general health or the mental health component –of a country, region or territory; how to design and implement a healthcare plan for people affected by disorders associated with the use of psychoactive substances; the responsibilities of the organisms, programs or facilities that provide healthcare to the populations in a territory (country, region, commune); health insurance, labor mutual insurance; general concepts and principles that can have more value and applicability	Alfredo Pemjean, MD, PhD Marcela Lara Orellana, MSc



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		in other geographical areas, with different forms of organization and diverse cultural contexts.	
4	Organization of a comprehensive and integrated socio-sanitary care system for the problems caused by the use of alcohol and other substances	Construction of comprehensive care systems for different levels of care and forms of treatment; characteristics of these systems; elements that must be part of them, how can they be constructed, which conceptual models exist and what progress is there in the knowledge about the strengths and weaknesses of comprehensive systems.	Marcela Tiburcio Sainz, PhD Shoshana Berenzon Gorn, PhD
5	Primary care as the cornerstone of the socio-sanitary care system for problems caused by the use of alcohol and other psychoactive substances	General principles of primary healthcare and community-based actions; experiences and research in primary care; most used methods: <i>Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT)</i> , <i>Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)</i> ;	Telmo M. Ronzani, PhD
6	Harm reduction strategies	Historical and theoretical characterization of harm reduction; proposal for harm reduction as a strategy that must be incorporated in health services; demonstration of its practical development, in relation to illegal as well as legal drugs, injectable, ingested, inhaled/snorted and/or smoked.	Marcelo Sodelli, PhD
7	General principles of treatment and rehabilitation: modalities of intervention	Effectiveness of treatments: Associated factors; first interview and patient's motivations; role of the therapist during the personal rehabilitation process; initial comprehensive evaluation incorporating the psychological, family-related, social and occupational aspects; bio-psycho-social diagnosis for the therapeutic plan; development of a therapeutic plan; factors determining the success of the treatment; implementation of the treatment within the care structure; and "stepped care" model.	Antoni Gual, PhD
8	Specific populations in high vulnerability situations	Critical review of the recent bibliography in relation to "added vulnerability" in its interrelation with abusive/dependent alcohol consumption, in the context of different socio-demographic, behavioral, and socio-cultural variables; understanding in an integrated way; broad educational actions for health promotion, integrated social development, in addition to preventive, curative and social reintegration actions focused on the abusive/dependent use of alcohol and drugs.	Francisco Bastos, MD, PhD
9	Role of information and research in socio-sanitary care to problems caused by the use of alcohol and other drugs	General and systematic review of the generation, management and application of relevant information for the socio-sanitary approach to problems associated to the use of psychoactive substances from the perspective of primary care; information and research systems, clinical as well as public health-focused, applied to this problematic, especially from the Primary Care Strategy; gathering the	Carlos Cachay, MD, MPH



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		fundamental ideas for the study, analysis, decision-making and evaluation of socio-sanitary care in the area of psychoactive substance use; core principles of healthcare at the local, national or regional level; validated and scientifically accepted international experience, making systematic use of current instruments and methodologies for managing information and research on socio-sanitary care.	
10	Strategies for advocacy and promotion of community participation	Strategies for advocacy to increase the topic's visibility, reducing stigma and exclusion; concept of political incidence; concept of governability; mechanisms, processes and institutions; planning proposal of a political incidence Project; limits and obstacles in the structural vulnerability conditions, the stigma, the discrimination and the criminalization suffered by drug users; ethical-political positioning aiming at recognizing the people who use psychoactive substances as subjects of rights, with, among others, the make themselves heard.	Pablo Cymerman, MSc Agostina Chiodi, MSc Paula Goltzman, MSc
11	Changing paradigms and thinking of the future Cambiando paradigmas y pensando el futuro	Current context of policies on the use of alcohol and other psychoactive substances; scientific evidence as basis for the process of construction, implementation and evaluation of drugs policies; considerations on the impact that this health and rights perspective has on the users and on the health systems, especially in what relates to the supply and demand of care services; advancements and predominant tendencies in the region; implicit challenges for those responsible for health and drug control policies.	Luis Alfonzo, MD



Third course: The Public Health Approach in Drugs Policies

Description: This course focuses on strengthening the competencies of the National Agencies responsible for drug policies to facilitate the adoption of the Public Health approach. Policies whose formulation takes into account criteria of evidence and efficiency, timely technical evaluation, criteria of equity, respect for the health and human rights, community participation and a gender vision.

Addressed to: Professionals from the public sector responsible for the National Drug Agencies, drug policy planners and responsible for the elaboration of these Drug Policies.

Content:

Topic	Title	Content	Author
1	Drugs Policies and Public Health: A comprehensive approach	Beyond the "supply reduction and demand reduction" dichotomy, deepening into the implications of the public health perspective in the approach to the use of psychoactive substances and its consequences. Importance of the bio-medical, psycho-social and socio-cultural approaches in the design of drugs policies.	María Elena Medina-Mora, PhD
2	Evidence as base for decision-making	The role and importance of the Inter-American Drugs Observatory and of the national observatories in the generation, processing and analysis of the scientific evidence. Tools for the analysis of key indicators related to drug use (access and availability for use, socio-sanitary impact of use and other relevant indicators), the impact on others (traffic accidents, work accidents, domestic and gender violence, among others) and other social problems (such as human trafficking and social vulnerability), as well as other ones relevant to the definition of the problem and programs to address it). Tools and methods for the analysis of the formulation, implementation and evaluation processes of public drugs policies.	Francisco Cumsille, PhD Marya Hynes, MPH
3	Analysis of efficacy, efficiency, equity and sustainability of public policies in health	The health system. Indicators of efficacy and efficiency. Good practices promoting equity in care in the health sector. Generation of financial and institutional strengths to achieve the sustainability of health policies and programs to address drug users. Project management and process management in public health. Cost-effectiveness analysis. Optimization of the health system and of its human and material resources.	Marino González, PhD



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4	The state of the art in the field of health promotion and prevention of drug use	Information, education and empowerment of people and communities in relation to drugs. Normative frameworks and development of policies promoting individual and collective health.	Juan Carlos Mansilla, MSc
5	The state of the art in the field of successful interventions in the treatment of different types and different levels of drug use, and social reintegration of the people assisted	Evaluation of the efficacy, accessibility and quality of the services: What Works and what does not work? What success to expect? Intentional, legal, financial, and organizational requirements to guarantee its quality, adequacy and efficient use. Provision of public care services.	Gabriel Rossi, MD Luis Gonzáles, MSc
6	Diagnosis and research of drug-related problems. (1) Quantitative methods	Collection and analysis of statistical data applied to public health and the use of psychoactive substances. Primary and secondary sources. Validity and reliability of measures. The meaning and importance of periodical sample and census-based studies. Introduction to descriptive analysis and statistical inference. Correlation, regression and causality. How to create and interpret a report with statistical data.	Novie Younguer-Coleman, PhD
7	(2): Qualitative techniques	Collection and analysis of qualitative information for the formulation, permanent monitoring and evaluation of health policies on the use of psychoactive substances. Documentary analysis, deep interviews, ethnographic interviews, social network analysis and use of information technologies to promote drugs policies and programs.	Iria Puyosa, PhD
8	Equity, Human Rights and Drug-Related Health Policy	The promotion and protection of all the rights for all drug users. Current challenges in inclusion and diversity of drugs policies. The importance of the gender perspective in drugs policies. The specific protection of the right to health as a fundamental right of the whole population, independently of their relation with drugs. Drug use and health problems of populations with specific needs and/or in high-risk situations: people in deprivation of liberty, sex workers, minors, senior adults and people in street situation.	Demaluí Amighetti, MSc Eugenia Mata, Msc
9	Legal framework of drugs policies and public health	Comparative studies and current trends. Differences and relations between the concepts of prohibition, criminalization, penalization, decriminalization, legalization, and de-regulation of substance use. Their effects on the right to health of people using drugs and the general population.	Christian Espinoza, PhD



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10	Analysis of the social pertinence and political and legal viability of Drug-Related Health Policies	The necessary consensuses for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public health and drugs policies and programs. Analysis of the normative, cultural, political and legal, dimensions of the approach to drug use as a public health program. Stakeholder identification techniques. Social and State stakeholders. International, national and local stakeholders. When a stakeholder becomes an interested part. Determination of influences and relative power of the interested parts. Negotiation and agreement techniques. Mechanisms of conflict management and generation of consensuses.	Ángel E. Alvarez, PhD
11	Strategies for advocacy in public health and drugs	Importance and defense of public health –with emphasis on mass media- in the advancement of the objectives of public health in relation to drugs and promotion of advocacy skills in the community as a way of supporting the progress of public policies, normative changes and resource-allocation. Theory and practice of the elaboration of discourses and news in social networks and mass media.	Gloria Perdomo, PhD
12	Synthesis: Current state of the formulation of drug-related public health policies	Different trends in the region. Towards the search for consensuses and flexibility in the formulation of drug use-specific policies, focused on health and human rights.	Luis Alfonzo, MD
13	The role of civil society	The role of non-governmental organizations (NGO) in the channeling of social involvement in the definition, formulation and evaluation of drugs policies. Consensuses and dissensions among NGOs regarding the social aspect of drugs and how to address it. Balance of the regional incidence of NGOs in drugs policies. Role of NGOs in the prevention, treatment, social reintegration and defense of human rights of the users of psychoactive substances. Recommendations on good practices of NGOs focused on the drug problem.	Margarita Sánchez, MSc Silverio Espinal, MSc Josep Rovira, MSc



Fourth course: Comprehensive approach to prevent and reduce adverse consequences of drug use in highly vulnerable populations: a public health strategy

Description: This course addresses, from a comprehensive Public Health perspective, the type of assistance and care appropriate for people maintaining problematic use of drugs, with emphasis on population groups that are in conditions of high vulnerability from the health and social point of view. It presents the pillars for the interventions -especially community-based ones- aimed at mitigating the adverse consequences of substance use.

Addressed to: Public sector professionals with responsibilities in planning, decision making and service management, and comprehensive care programs for problematic drug users.

Contents

Topic	Title	Content	Author
1	Implementation of care to people with problematic substance use in high-vulnerability contexts: analysis of social and health barriers in access to services	Concept of "vulnerability" in the health and social field; relation of vulnerability (sanitary and social) with drug use; stigma and vulnerability situation of drug users; current challenges to comprehensive treatment of drug use by population groups in situation of high vulnerability; barriers and gaps in the provision of services; social perception about drug use in different social strata; and analysis of equity, gender approach and ethnicity in the differential access to care services.	Andrés Felipe Tirado Otálvaro, MPH
2	Social vulnerability and problematic drug use: analysis of the situation in the CELAC countries	Epidemiological panorama of drug use; identification of risk contexts and vulnerable groups in the CELAC countries (homeless, inhabitants of regions at risk of extreme poverty, deprivation of liberty, rural population, indigenous population, inhabitants of production areas and people involved in illicit drug trafficking).	Nadja Porcell, PhD
3	Challenges in the organization of psychosocial care services to reduce the socio-sanitary impact on psychoactive substance users	Organization and network articulation of services for the care of problematic drug users in situation of vulnerability; principles and general fundamentals of the services; levels of care; intersectoral coordination (in public health, in social assistance, in education, in public safety and in justice); role of the "third sector".	Mauricio Sepúlveda, PhD
4	General principles of long-term management of problematic drug use. Harm reduction	Harm reduction in the context of public health; comprehensiveness and broad scope of care, protection of human rights; principles and bases of the harm reduction model; lines of action; adverse positions on the harm reduction	Paula Goltzman, MSc



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	model and healthcare model for chronic conditions	model (advocacy of drug use, lack of evidence, harm reduction versus abstinence, etc.); theoretical influences of the harm reduction model in the context of Latin America (popular education, collective health, etc.); harm reduction interventions: ethical-political dimension and instrumental dimension; current debates within the harm reduction model.	
5	Evidence of effectiveness of harm reduction interventions: the European experience	Analysis of the evidence and of the effectiveness of harm reduction programs in Europe; and the impact on morbidity-mortality (by overdose, by infectious diseases, by mental disorders, by suicide, by accidents, by violence (trauma) and crime).	Teresa Brugal, PhD
6	The community approach to problematic substance use in contexts of social and health vulnerability. Challenges for the CELAC countries	Characteristics of the community approach to the socio-sanitary problematic associated with drug use; approaching strategies; usefulness of harm reduction programs; current and future challenges for CELAC countries and of problems associated with drug use.	Efrem Milanese, PhD Raquel Barros, PhD
7	Usefulness of harm reduction programs in the prevention and management of infectious co-morbidity in problematic drug users	Relationship between problematic drug use and infectious diseases (HIV-AIDS, hepatitis, TBC and other infectious diseases); usefulness of harm reduction programs in infectious comorbidity; public health interventions to reduce the sanitary burden of infectious diseases associated with consumption; and approach in contexts of high socio-sanitary vulnerability.	Helen Lane, PhD
8	Gender and diversity factors in the management of problematic drug use in high-vulnerability contexts	General aspects of the gender and diversity approach in addressing problematic drug use from public health, especially in high-vulnerability contexts; specificities in the assistance to women, pregnant adolescents, girls/adolescents from the street, sex workers, LGBT community; masculinity and situation of vulnerability for problematic drug use.	Martha Romero Mendoza, PhD
9	Public health management of problematic drug use in the liberty-deprived population	Analysis of health conditions and situations of social vulnerability in the liberty-deprived population; successful experiences on harm reduction programs in deprivation of liberty.	Not defined
10	Harm reduction programs in management of problematic use in the infant-juvenile population	Adolescence and risk behaviors in context of high social vulnerability; analysis of experiences in harm reduction programs for the management of problematic drug use in the infant-juvenile population; application in the context of the CELAC.	Not defined
11	Prevention of suicidal behavior and management of psychiatric comorbidity	Description of the concurrence of substance use disorders and other mental disorders; importance of considering psychiatric comorbidities in the therapeutic approach to drug users; presentation and management of the main psychiatric	Elisabet Arribas-Ibar, PhD



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	among substance users in high vulnerability contexts	comorbidities; prevention and management of suicidal behavior in drug users.	
12	Perspectives and challenges for harm reduction in contexts of high social vulnerability in the Americas	Review of good practices in harm reduction programs in the CELAC region; advances and challenges of the region in the management of problematic drug use for populations in situations of high socio-sanitary vulnerability.	Not defined