



2016 National Drug Prevalence Survey – Policy Implications & the Way Forward

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Drug Policy Landscape

- National Drug policies and strategies have evolved with the adoption of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles on Drug Demand Reduction and Measures to Enhance International Cooperation to counter the World Drug Problem
- Significant effort to attain a balanced approach between demand reduction and supply reduction, each reinforcing the other, in an integrated approach



Guiding Principles for Policy Development

Comprehensive & Integrated Strategies

- Recognize the multi-dimensional context of substance use
- Need for comprehensive and integrated strategies that address demand reduction, supply reduction, national and international control measures and needs of individuals in a holistic fashion

Evidence-Based Approaches

- Evidence must guide the development, review and re-development of Policy
- Periodic situational analysis of the current drug problem must be undertaken
- Objective policy reviews should exist

Public Health Approach

- Focus on health promotion, prevention of disease or injury, and reducing disability and premature mortality
- Incorporates individual and societal health protection measures

National Concerns

- Must address the most immediate concerns to citizens re principal harms of drug use and abuse—serious crimes/violent crimes, public nuisances, drug-related violence, physical and mental health problems, prostitution, social and societal costs and community degradation.

Guiding Principles (contd.)

Partnerships

- Advocate a 'whole-of-government' approach to addressing the national drug problem
- Commit to working in partnership with like-minded organizations in government and in the non-government community (NGO) and business sectors to realize goals

Rights

- Respect human rights (in the context of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights), local judicial norms and our divergent cultural attitudes to alcohol and drug use

Policy Implications of the Findings

- ❑ Prevalence indicates the need for targeted intervention for male substance users
- ❑ Prevention initiatives must be strengthened in order to increase the age of initiation of drug use
- ❑ Steady increase in ganja use compared to use of other main drugs – need for continued surveillance, public education on legal landscape

Policy Implications of the Findings

- Build awareness substance on treatment options
- Include drug treatment under health insurance plans
- Regeneration of Drug Information Network
- Enforcement of laws regarding underage drug use
- Scale-up efforts to enforce laws against driving under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs

Next Steps – Knowledge Translation

- Publication/dissemination of Report
- Media engagement
- Widespread local dissemination (key sectors' conferences, meetings)
- Stakeholder policy meetings (health, education, law enforcement etc)
- Establish working group to precipitate and guide drug prevention policy process
- Establish clear vision and mission for policy responses
- Submission of recommendations to policy makers