

ATLAS-SU: RESOURCES FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Background

Globally, there is a severe shortage and neglect of resources for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. These crucial resources are often-times disproportionately low compared to the burden caused by substance use disorders in both developing and developed countries. Countries may be unprepared to cope with a rise in the burden of substance use disorders because of a lack of policies, programmes and resources. In view of this, the World Health Organization's ATLAS-SU project seeks to map those resources on the national, regional and global level to highlight the distribution of resources available for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. As such it represents an essential tool for public health policy and practice as it provides data to assess the priority of needs and helps to improve the quality of care for people with substance use disorders.

Objective

The objective of the ATLAS-SU project is to collect, compile and disseminate basic information from WHO Member States on the following resources and assets required for substance use treatment and prevention:

- Administrative and financial resources,
- Health service resources,
- Human resources,
- Policy and legislative resources,
- Resources for the prevention of substance use disorders,
- Information resources.



Procedure

The instrument used in the data collection is a questionnaire designed specifically for this purpose. The project has been conceptualized as a collaborative project involving staff at WHO headquarters, WHO regional and country offices. Data is presented in a published report and will be available in a searchable online database on the web site of the WHO Management of Substance Abuse programme. This will enable more detailed analyses to be conducted.

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