

Observatorios de Drogas frente a nuevos retos globales

*National Drug Observatories facing new global
challenges*

Ciudad de México

11 y 12 de septiembre de 2025



The NDO facing a
complex reality

*Mexico City
From 11-12 September 2025*

COPOLAD III es un consorcio formado por:



Socios colaboradores:



Challenges for the NDO influenced by social, technological, and regulatory factors

Emerging Substances: New synthetic drugs are continually being developed, often evading existing regulations. These substances can have unpredictable effects and pose significant health risks, such as cannabis products in various delivery methods (edibles, oils), which complicates understanding of usage patterns and health impacts.

Digital Influence: The internet facilitates the sale of drugs through web platforms, making them more accessible and harder to regulate. **Social Media** platforms can normalize drug use and promote trends, particularly among younger populations.

Public Health Concerns: Increasingly, individuals are using multiple substances simultaneously, complicating treatment and increasing overdose risks. **Mental Health:** The link between drug use and mental health issues, require more integrated treatment approaches.

Regulatory Challenges: Policies and regulations are not adapted to new developments regarding drug use and possession, creating enforcement challenges.

Stigma and Education: Persistent stigma around drug use can hinder individuals from seeking help or accessing resources. **Education Gaps:** There is a need for updated educational programs that address current drug trends and their risks effectively.

Desafíos para el OND
influenciados por
factores sociales,
tecnológicos y
regulatorios

Sustancias emergentes: en
diversas formas y patrones de
uso

Influencia digital: la venta de
drogas a través de
plataformas web

Redes sociales
Problemas de salud pública:
policonsumo de sustancias

Salud mental: enfoques de
tratamiento más integrados.

Desafíos regulatorios: las
regulaciones no se adaptan a
los nuevos desarrollos

Estigma: el estigma en torno
al consumo de drogas puede
impedir que las personas
busquen ayuda
Brechas educativas



Development of the Research agenda



- Members of the Research network identified: University researchers from the departments of Environmental and Occupational Health, Physiology, Public Health, Sociologists, Anthropologist from the Women's Rights Center, Researcher from the Ministry of Justice and Police (7 researchers willing to dedicate their time to this work)
- Network's formation: a participatory workshop was organized with stakeholders from prevention, treatment, policy makers and researchers to discuss the existing knowledge and gaps for future research
- Obstacles identified: • Lack of adequate human resources for research regarding the drug problem; • Lack of sufficient funding for in depth research; • Lack of coordination between researchers and policymakers, with regard to the application of research findings to decision-making, and • Lack of adequate data-sharing between institutions
- Considerations for collaborations • Create collaborative research networks for increased funding opportunities and access to expertise and publications; • Build research collaboration through shared research interests and goals; • Meet on a regular basis with decision-makers as well as the private sector to communicate research findings; • Apply technology and the social media to disseminate research information for audiences other than scholars and decision-makers;

Miembros de la red de investigación identificados: Investigadores universitarios de los departamentos de Salud Ambiental y Ocupacional, Fisiología, Salud Pública, Sociólogos, Antropóloga del Centro de Derechos de la Mujer, Investigadora del Ministerio de Justicia y Policía (7 investigadoras dispuestas a dedicar su tiempo a este trabajo)

Formación de la red: se organizó un taller participativo con las partes interesadas de la prevención, el tratamiento, los responsables políticos y los investigadores para discutir el conocimiento existente y las brechas para futuras investigaciones

Obstáculos identificados: • Falta de recursos humanos adecuados para la investigación sobre el problema de las drogas; • Falta de fondos suficientes para una investigación en profundidad; • Falta de coordinación entre los investigadores y los responsables de la formulación de políticas, con respecto a la aplicación de los resultados de la investigación a la toma de decisiones, y • Falta de intercambio adecuado de datos entre instituciones

Consideraciones para las colaboraciones • Crear redes de investigación colaborativas para aumentar las oportunidades de financiación y el acceso a conocimientos especializados y publicaciones; • Construir la colaboración en investigación a través de intereses y objetivos de investigación compartidos; • Reunirse periódicamente con los responsables de la toma de decisiones, así como con el sector privado, para comunicar los resultados de la investigación; • Aplicar la tecnología y las redes sociales para difundir información de investigación para audiencias distintas de los académicos y los tomadores de decisiones;

Main lines of research established with the National Research Agenda

Identifying patterns of use in the youth, men, women, LGBT community, sex workers, the homeless, urban and rural communities, migrant populations and socially marginalized populations over time

Investigate gender inequalities in drug use, access and treatment, as well as their relationship with violence and discrimination

Review law enforcement strategies, drug policies, alcohol regulations, and their effectiveness in reducing substance abuse

Investigate accessibility of programs and services, treatment outcomes, relapse rates in relation to specific populations

Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of prevention and treatment services

Impact of substance abuse on Public Health, including physical, mental, and social outcomes, and impact on healthcare system

