



Virtual Conference  
16 Sept - 10 Nov 2020

**Drug Demand  
Reduction in Africa:**  
Prevention, Treatment  
and Epidemiology



**#ISSUPAfricaConf2020**

## **Plenary 4: Epidemiology and Its Role in Drug Demand Reduction October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Dr. Roberto Canay Mg. Ph.D.**



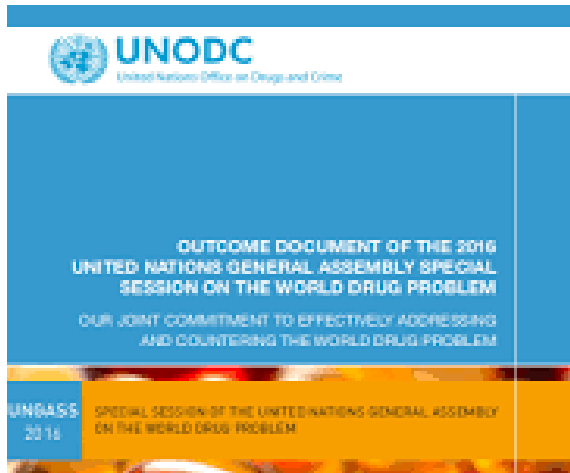
## Difference between “evidence” and “scientific evidence”

### □ Evidence

It is information that exists, regardless of the method by which it was obtained. It is common to give more credit to whom makes the assertion than to its content.

### □ Scientific Evidence

It is information obtained through *objective and validated methods* which incorporates to the assertion a degree of measurable certainty. It places more weight on the methodology than on the person that is making the claim. It allows the possibility of subjecting these claims to criticism and evaluation.



**PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE: UNODC SUPPORT FOR UNGASS 2016 ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM**



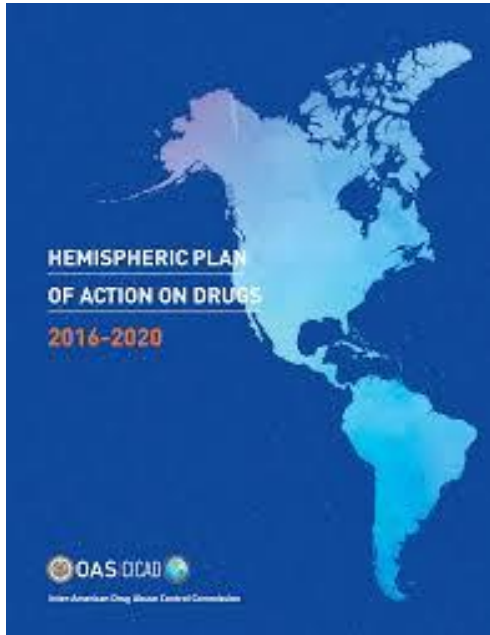
Balance supply and demand reduction

Human Rights

Public Health

Gender Perspective



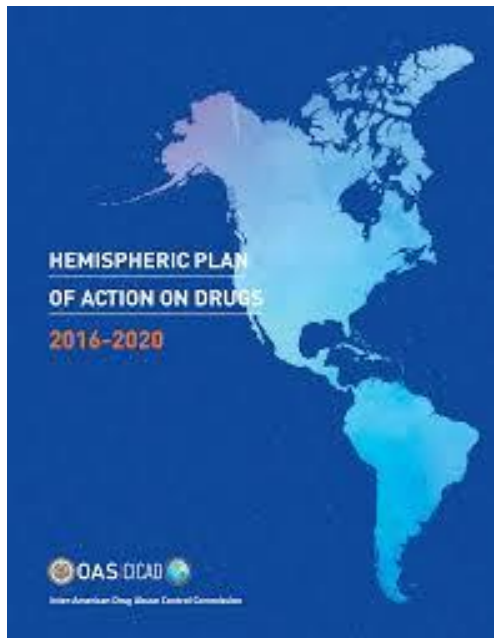


## Objectives

- 1.** Establish demand reduction policies with a public health focus that are evidence-based, multidisciplinary, multisectoral and respectful of human rights, considering the guidelines and/or recommendations of specialized international organizations.

## Priority actions

- 1.1** Establishment and/or update of programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration, taking into account gender, age and cultural relevance, as appropriate.
- 1.2** Creation and/or strengthening of dissemination and access mechanisms for drug use related information and evidence and, on the prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration services, for the general public and different target populations, with the participation of universities and research centers.
- 1.3** Carry out processes and results-based evaluations of demand reduction programs.
- 1.4** Implementation, as appropriate, of coordination mechanisms with civil society and other social actors, academic and research institutions for the development and implementation of demand reduction programs.



**4.** Establish and/or strengthen national observatories on drugs (or similar technical offices) for the development of national drug information systems and fostering scientific research in this area.

**4.1** Provision of the national observatory on drugs (or similar technical office) with training, and financial, human and technological resources.

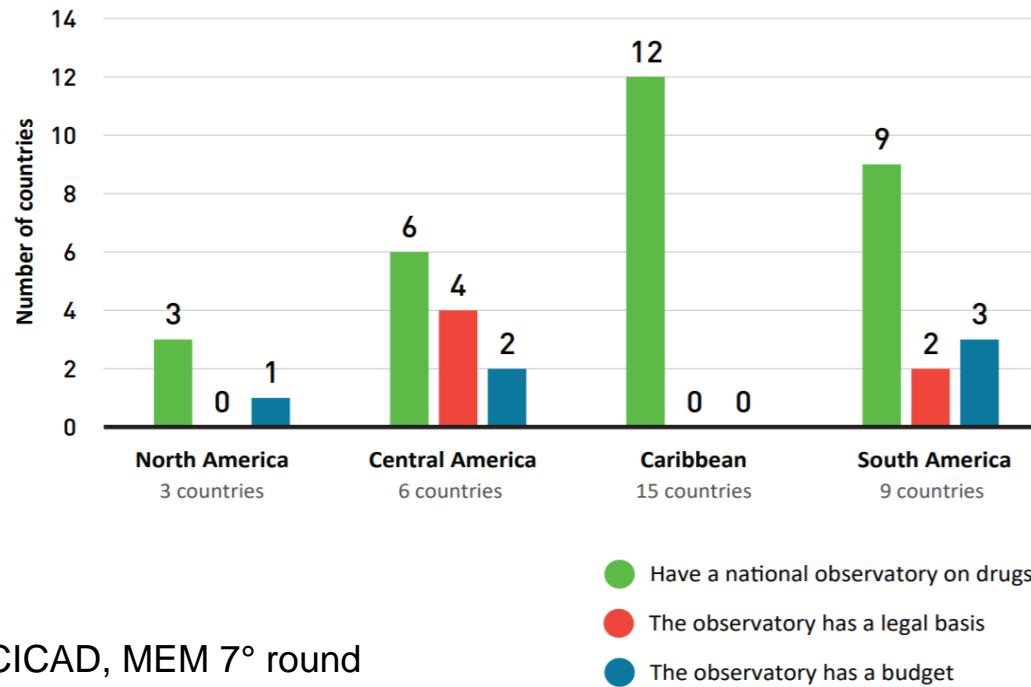
**4.2** Development, as appropriate, of national drug information systems in the areas of demand and supply reduction, as well as, related crimes.

**4.3** Development of national and/or regional drug studies and research on the drug problem on general, specific and hidden populations by the observatory and/or other similar technical institutions, encouraging disaggregation by gender and age, among others.

**4.4** Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of drug programs and/or interventions, through results and impact indicators, and tools for evidence-based analysis, in the areas of drug demand and supply reduction.



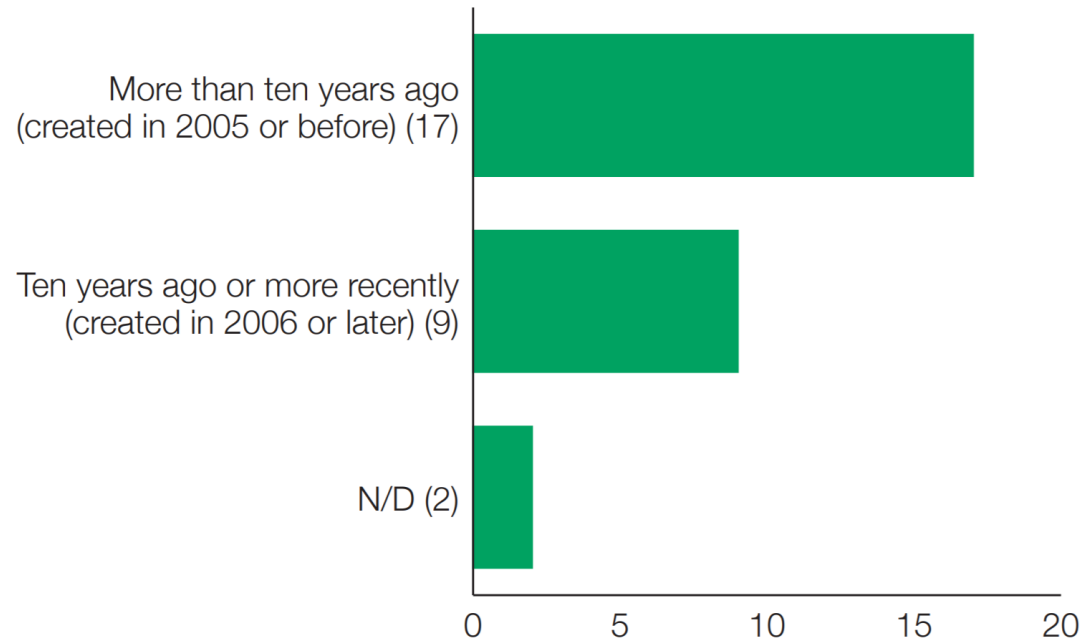
### Strengthening of national observatories on drugs



Source: CICAD, MEM 7° round



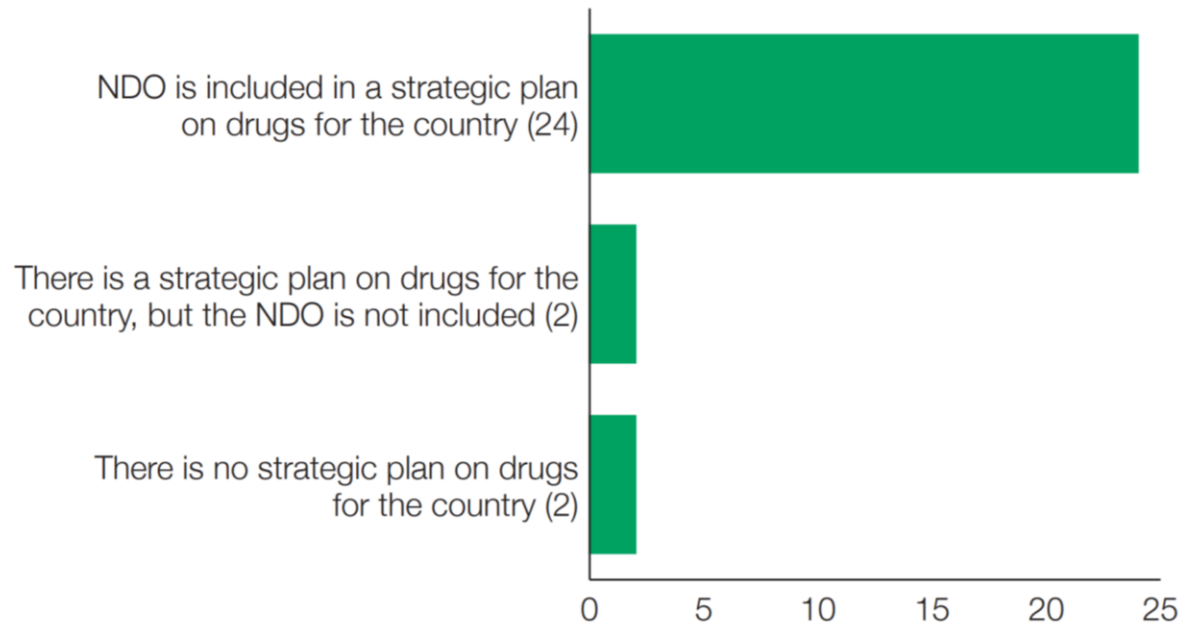
**Graph 2. Year the NDO was established (N = 28 NDOs)**



Source: NDO COPOLAD II 2016.



**Graph 4. Inclusion of the NDO in a National Strategic or Action Plan  
(N = 28 NDOs)**

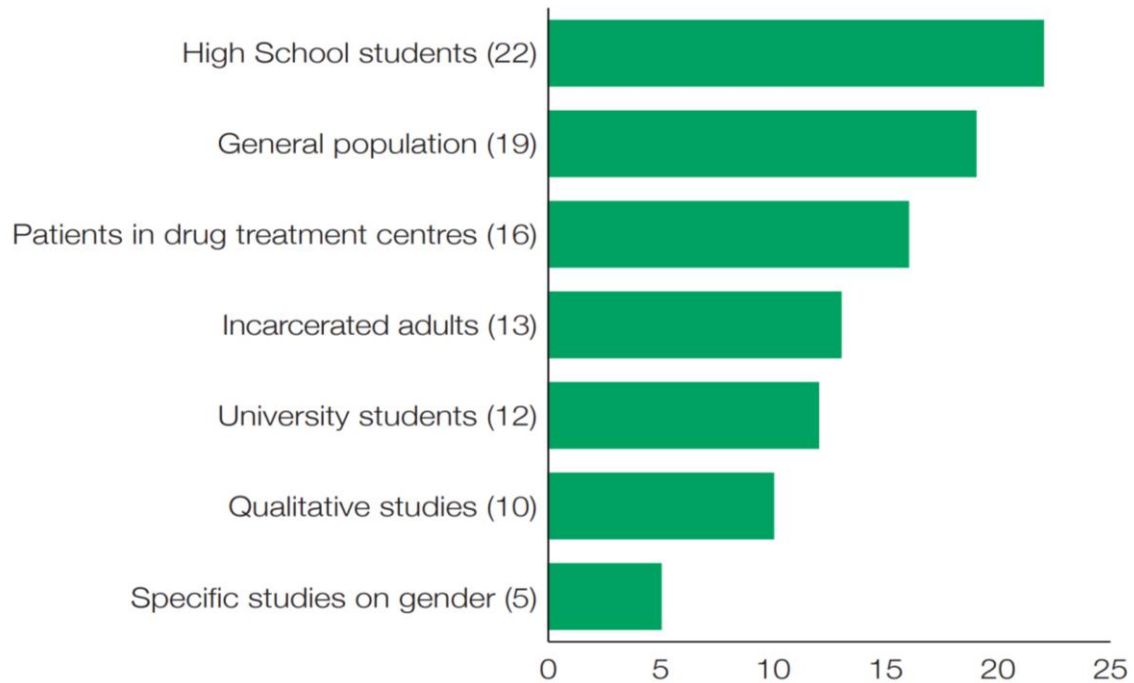


Source: NDO COPOLAD II 2016.





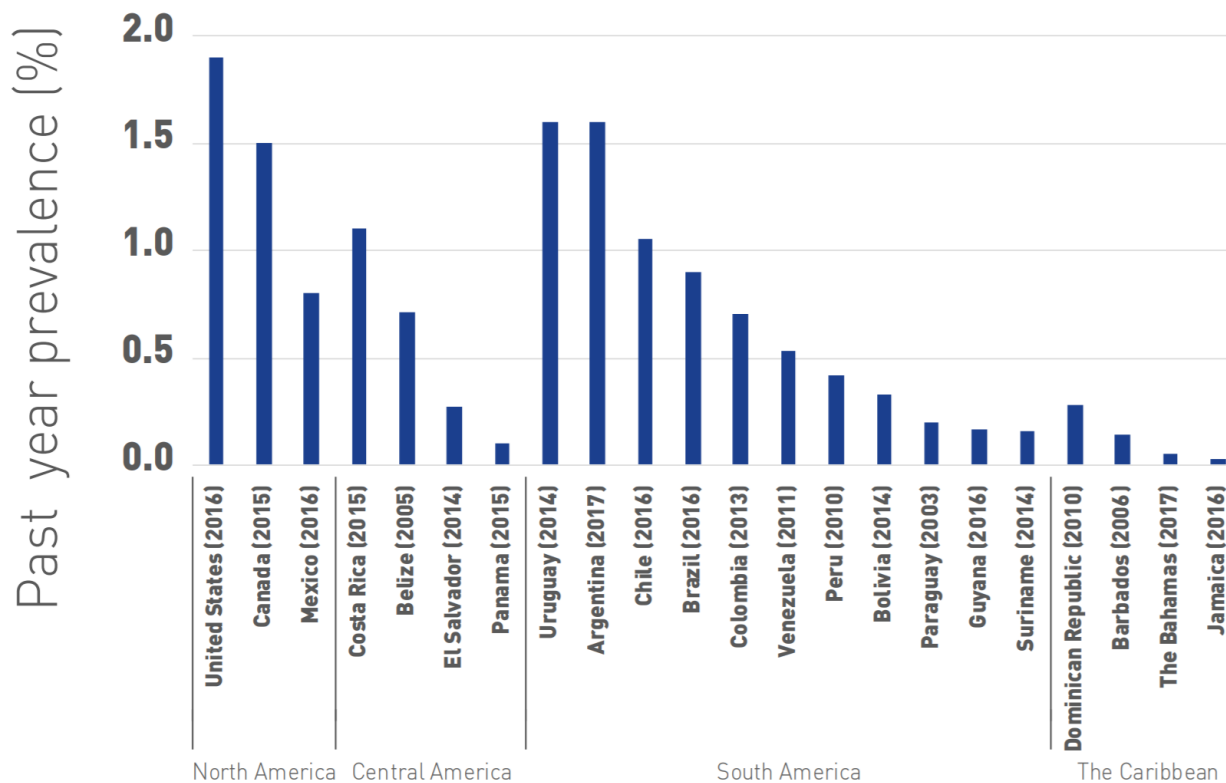
**Graph 10. Number of NDOs that conduct specific studies  
(N = 28 NDOs)**



Source: NDO COPOLAD II 2016.



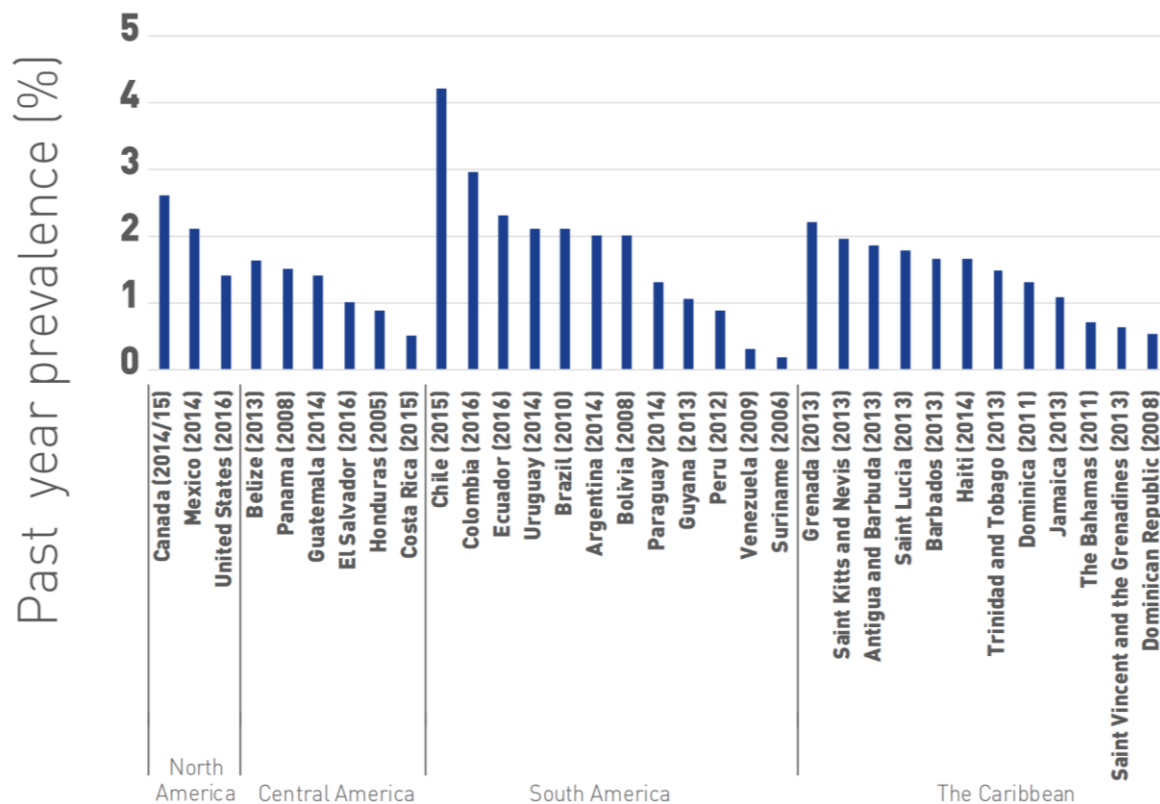
## Past year prevalence of cocaine use in the general population, by country and subregion



Source: ODA, CICAD , 2019



## Past year prevalence of cocaine use among secondary school students, by country and subregion



Source: OID, CICAD , 2019



## **Local diagnosis and epidemiological windows**

The “epidemiological window” strategy recovers the experience and knowledge of the people from the community, and from key local institutions, such as emergency rooms, treatment centers or schools



Life prevalence of CBP (smokable cocaine) use. General population, 2017.



Argentina  
0,5%



Bs.As. Province  
1%



Neighborhood of  
Bs.As. Province 13%



Neighborhood with 15,000 people.  
The Basic Needs Index is 15.5% in 0.49 km surface.



- It is important to have evidence not just at the national level but also at the local level and at drug-prevention and treatment programs level.
- At the program or local level, it is not necessary that all the technical workers or volunteers become researchers. But it is essential to give them the necessary tools to allow them to systematize their own practices and reformulate each of their preventive and assistance programs.





## Ethics and evidence

“The professional must know that, in this historical moment, we have a clear notion of what constitutes scientific evidence, and so he or she must assume that being guide by scientific evidence, especially when working with people, is an unavoidable ethical obligation.”

“¿Que es la evidencia científica?”,  
Domingo Comas, 2014





# Thank You !

## Q & A

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