UNRECORDED ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION PROJECT

This project attempts to measure more accurately the level of alcohol consumption in different societies by factoring in the amount of unrecorded consumption. Unrecorded production of alcoholic beverages contributes significantly to overall alcohol availability, especially in developing countries and countries in the former Soviet Union. In some countries production in the informal sector is as high as 80% of total production.

Data from this project can be used for more precise estimates of per capita alcohol use and the burden associated with alcohol. As the consumption of home brews and other forms of non-commercial beverages is a problem in many countries, it is important to determine the extent of this form of alcohol use and its public health impact.

The WHO Project on Unrecorded Alcohol Consumption was conducted in four mega-countries: Brazil, China, India and Nigeria. Data collection has been completed in all countries and analysis of data is currently taking place.

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

Globally, there is a severe shortage and neglect of mental health resources in countries. These crucial resources are often-times disproportionately low compared to the burden caused by mental and behavioural disorders in both developing and developed countries.

There is increasing evidence that countries may be unprepared to cope with the predicted worldwide rise in mental and behavioural disorders because of a lack of policies, programmes and resources.

In view of this, the World Health Organization's ATLAS project seeks to map mental health resources around the world. The project was designed to provide policy-makers and WHO with data to help prioritize needs and design programmes. While considerable information exists on the prevalence and burden of mental disorders, not enough is known about the resources that exist to reduce this burden. The ATLAS project aims to fill this gap in knowledge and help countries target specific mental health care needs.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ATLAS-SU STUDY

The ATLAS-Substance Use (ATLAS-SU) project was developed in the tradition of the above-mentioned mental health ATLAS project. The objective of this initiative is to collect basic information from WHO Member States on the following areas of substance use prevention and treatment:

- estimates of persons in treatment
- treatment administration
- treatment data and services
- injection drug use
- drug law and policy
- financing of treatment
- human resources available
- prevention services

To date, data from more than 100 countries have been collected and a report on the analysis of data received will be prepared and disseminated this year.

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