

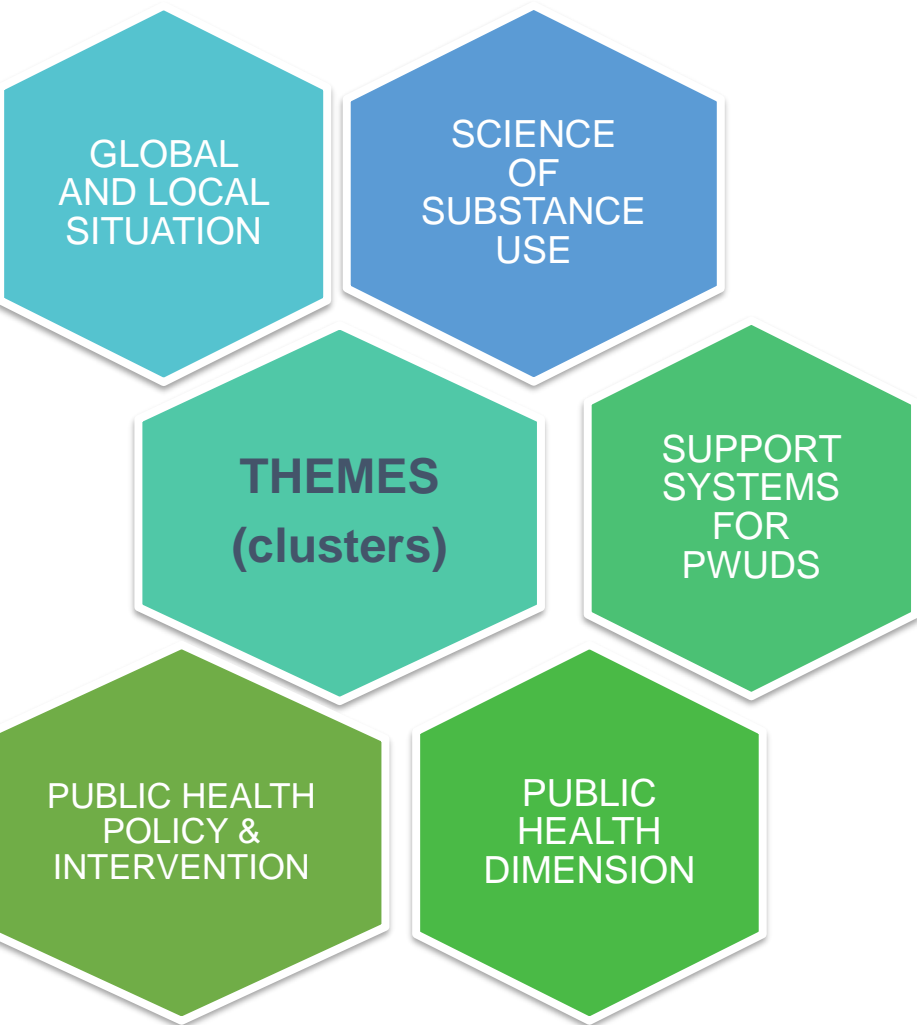
Summary of Research and Policy Recommendations

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NATIONAL SUBSTANCE USE SCIENCE POLICY AND INFORMATION FORUM

Substance Use in the Philippines: Governance, Research, and Practice



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- ❑ Expansion and increased sophistication of the global and regional drug market
- ❑ Changes in drug market operations (mobility, new technology, new substances, expansion of network, use of online-based facilities and legitimate establishments)
- ❑ Rising number of persons getting into drugs (especially the youth)
- ❑ Increased volume of people in jail leading to prison overcrowding which infringe on the right to life and health



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- ❑ Misconceptions and limited information on substance use
- ❑ Punitive approach to substance use based solely on criminal law enforcement
- ❑ Lack of studies and inadequate understanding on the root causes and drivers of substance use
- ❑ Limited preventive measures, poor treatment facilities and services, and weak reintegration programs
- ❑ Insufficient multi-sectoral collaboration

STRENGTHEN

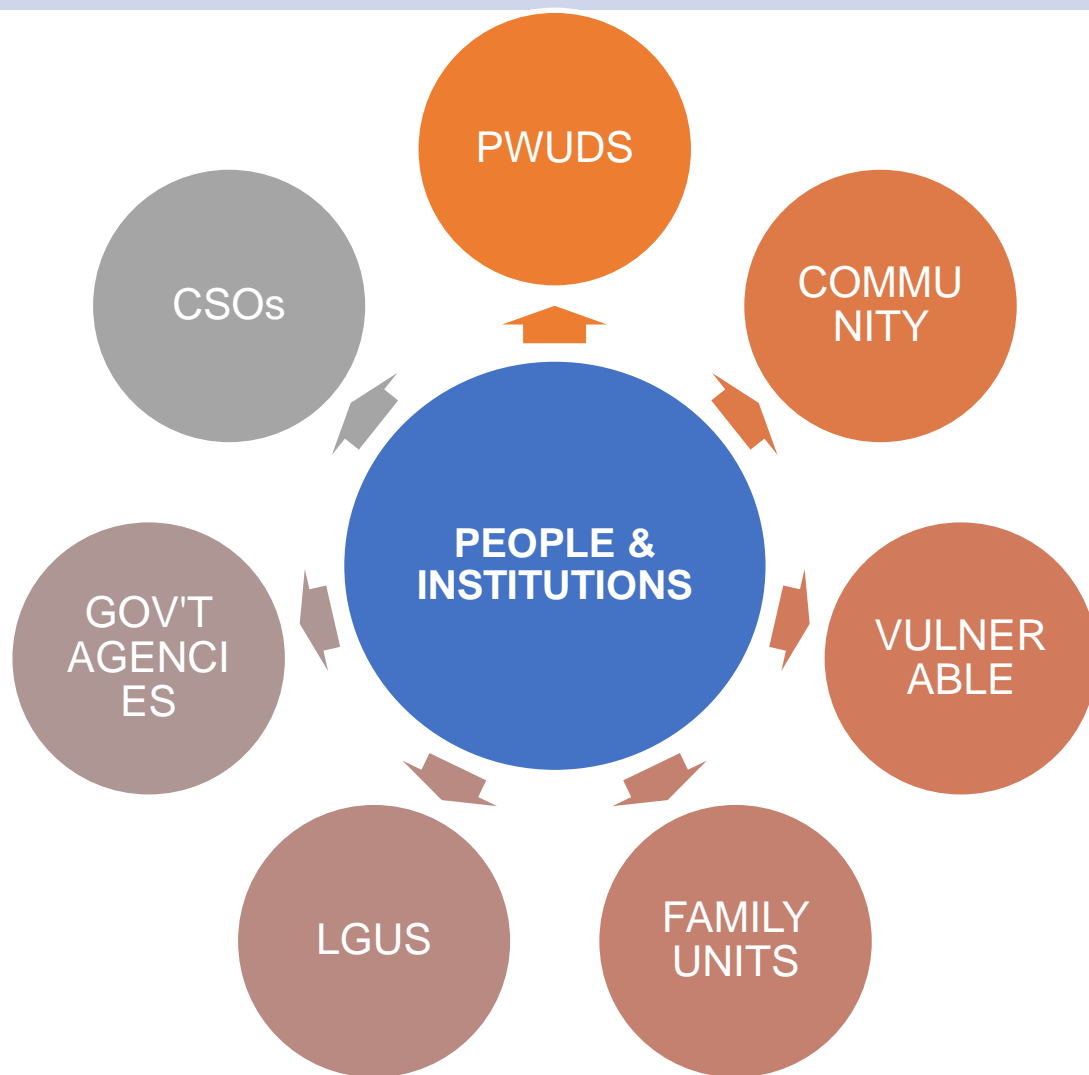
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

- Institutionalized people-centred and public health approaches to substance use
- Integration of holistic approaches and policies in the framework for responding to substance use
- Community rehabilitation programs and facilities.
- Programs that address economic and social realities connected to substance use (e.g. education, health, and employment programs)
- Access to economic activities to disincentivize participation in the drug trade and prevent substance use.

STRENGTHEN

ACTIONABLE POINTS

Enhancement of Existing Policies and Programs



STRENGTHEN

STAKEHOLDERS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Inter-governmental responses on drug-related concerns
- Multi-sectoral approach: collaboration with the PNP, DDB, DSWD, other social services sectors, LGUs, community organizations, civil society organizations, and faith-based groups
- Establishment of the community and family support system

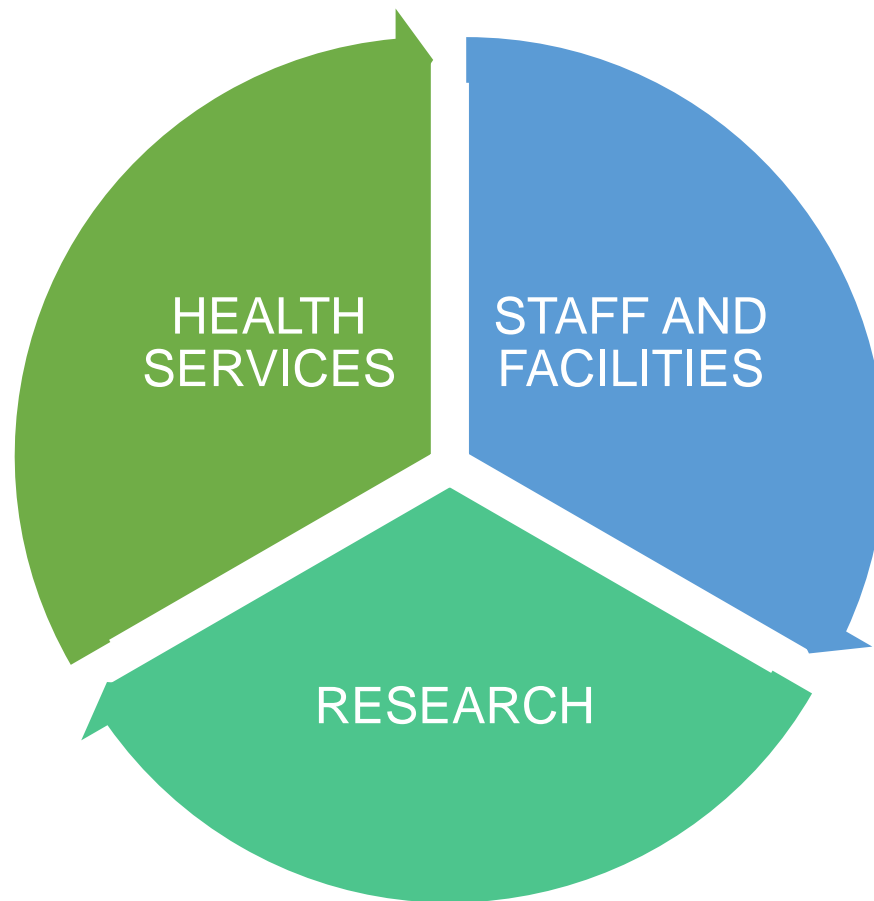
INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Role of the academic community in drug and substance use education
- Standard curriculum in drug awareness and prevention education in schools
- Development of drug recovery modules which helps in improving family and community support for persons who are recovering from substance use

ALLOCATE RESOURCES

ACTIONABLE POINTS

Enhancement of Existing Policies and Programs



ALLOCATE RESOURCES

ACTIONABLE POINTS

Enhancement of Existing Policies and Programs

HEALTH SERVICES

- Services / 'continuum of care' for persons who use drugs
- Health financing and social health insurance coverage for rehabilitation
- Educational programs that can help persons with substance dependency concerns.
- Expansion of online health services for concerns related to substance use (counselling, assessment, etc.)
- Monitoring of clients who completed treatment programs
- Social reintegration of persons who use drugs
- Economic opportunities for persons who use drugs

ALLOCATE RESOURCES

STAFF AND FACILITIES

- Repair and improvement programs for Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (TRCs) and Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation (CBDR) facilities.
- Increase capacity building activities for officials and staff

RESEARCH

- Ensure a sustainable research budget on substance use, its context, trends, effectiveness of the existing approaches, gaps and areas for improvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTIONABLE POINTS

CREATION OF NEW POLICIES

PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACH

- Ensure that policies reflect people's rights and needs.
 - Assessment of system compatibility to the needs of Persons Who Use Drugs (PWUDs) and their families
 - Substance dependency treatments must be categorized according to gender and age groups
 - Individual treatment program focused on the client's growth as a human being that enables their transition back to society
 - Adoption of 'compassionate pragmatism,' where PWUDs' human dignity are the core foundations

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTIONABLE POINTS

CREATION OF NEW POLICIES

POLICY

- Policies that foster restorative and transformative justice to substance use
- Clear policy mechanisms for building drug resilient individuals, families, and communities
- The rights of a person who use drugs under drug treatment must be articulated and clarified
- Special enabling policy for de-listing, de-stigmatization, and exemption from the criminal offense of those who went through proper treatment, rehabilitation, and after-care programs
- Comprehensive guidelines in implementing CBDRPs across the country
- Effective policy implementation by LGUs toward building drug-resistant and resilient communities

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTIONABLE POINTS

CREATION OF NEW POLICIES

PREVENTIVE, TREATMENT, RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS

- Proper management and treatment of PWUDs
- Coverage of services at the whole (substance use) continuum of care from out-patient including community-based programs to in-patient under existing health insurance system (PhilHealth)
- Holistic approach on patients: physical conditions, psychological and sociological well-being
- Provide supportive activities such as recovery connections and social support
- Focus on transitions through treatment, planning, drafting discharge reports and continuing care plans
- Inclusion of PWUDs, their families, communities, peers, local institutions, and other stakeholders

Policy Research Gaps

Multi-disciplinary, scientific, and evidence-based research to inform shifts in policy revisiting conventional approaches to substance use as follows:

GLOBAL AND LOCAL TRENDS ANALYSIS

- ❑ Global and regional developments in drug-related problems trends and impacts to local context
- ❑ Emerging trends on substance use and its public health implications
- ❑ Intersection of local context and developments in the drug market (e.g. money laundering, casinos, online gaming, corruption, etc.)
- ❑ Expand the analysis of drug supply and supply reduction strategies

CONTEXT AND PROFILE

- ❑ Analyze economic, social, cultural, political and other factors affecting substance use to enable responsive and appropriate interventions/solutions that work.
- ❑ Conduct further investigation on the effectiveness of psychological, social, and cultural nuances and environs of illicit substance intake.

Policy Research Gaps

INSTITUTIONS AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- ❑ Explore availability and gaps in "social support" in various settings: workplace, school, community, church, and other social institutions
- ❑ Evidence in the role of families in treatment and recoveries.
- ❑ Community-Based Rehabilitation Programs effects and improvement areas.
- ❑ Analysis of the authority, relationships, and functions of DOH, DDB, DSWD, and PDEA

TOOLS

- ❑ Develop standardized and validated tools to measure substance use prevalence and patterns
- ❑ More diversified sampling across treatment models and institutions.
- ❑ Develop methodology and tools to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of substance use prevention approaches and interventions

Policy Research Gaps

EFFECTIVENESS OF PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS

- ❑ Policy evaluation and scientific studies on dangerous drugs control measures
- ❑ Monitoring and evaluation of interventions both at the national and local levels including assessment of their cohesiveness and responsiveness
- ❑ Assessment of best practices on case handling, procedures, and management of PWUDs in different treatment settings
- ❑ Research on the effective preventive mechanisms on substance use
- ❑ Community-based rehabilitation program
- ❑ Studies on the aftercare services that lessens client's relapse
- ❑ Local and public health approach-based programs

CONCLUSION

We need stakeholder engagement and multisectoral collaboration, holistic and person-centered approaches, and evidence-based research that consider the root causes of substance use, in efforts to strengthen policy and governance mechanisms on prevention, treatment, recovery and reintegration of persons who use drugs.



Thank you!