

# WHO:

## World Health Organization

Topic: Prevent Teenage Addiction to Drugs  
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Sánchez



# Letter to Delegates:

Dear delegates, welcome to SPISMUN 2024. My name is Camila González, and I will be your moderator in this debate. I introduce your director Daniel Sánchez, with whom we are together as the chair of the WHO committee.

As every member of the school chair, we expect to reach a resolution based on your thoughts and research. Your dedication and commitment are appreciated, and your voice will never be forbidden. Remember there are no incorrect possible solutions, and if it's your first experience in MUN as a delegate, don't be afraid of committing errors. Each of us had experienced arduous challenges, but we learned methods to support our points and observed other delegates' performances to improve ours. So we are sure this is an opportunity for all of you. Remember we are at your service, so if you have a question, I will be glad to answer via email. We know this new edition will be a learning and challenging experience for each one of you. So once more, welcome to SPISMUN 2024.

As your chair, we hope this information becomes useful for your research. Both of us are excited about the upcoming conference this year, and our impatience for the new model of the World Health Organization is growing at high levels. If the information for your investigation is complex to understand or search, you can count on your moderator and director, and suggestions and advice will be given. We know this year will be better for all of us! See you soon delegates, and good luck!

Sincerely,  
WHO Chair



# History of the Committee:

The history of the World Health Organization committee began when diplomats formed the UN in 1945, where they discussed setting up a global health organization. During the conference, the representatives of Brazil and China proposed to establish one organization to take care of health issues and made another conference to create its constitution.

Finally, held in Paris from the 18 March to the 5 April of 1946, and in New York City on the 19th of June and 22 of July of that same year, a Technical Preparatory Committee came up with the proposals for the constitution, and based with this proposals, the conference adopted the name of the World Health Organization, signed the 22 of July by representatives of 51 members who belonged to the UN, and 10 delegates of other nations.

Also, an Interim Commission to carry out certain activities with the existing health institutions until the entry of the WHO constitution. Article 80 provides that the constitution can't be put into force until 26 members of the UN approve it. In the end, the constitution was passed on the 7th of April of 1948, and the first Health Assembly was opened 17 days after in Geneva, in June of that same year, with delegations from 53 member states.

During the assembly, WHO established malaria, tuberculosis, nutrition, sanitary engineering, and other diseases as priorities for the UN organization. It was involved in wide-ranging disease prevention and worked on control efforts like mass campaigns against yaws, endemic syphilis, leprosy, and trachoma.

In 1958, the USSR proposed a smallpox eradication program, and by 1977, the last case confirmed was identified in Somalia. Finally, in 1980, the Global Commission for Certification of Smallpox Eradication recommended a routine for smallpox immunization using vaccination.

Another activity promoted by the organization was the launch of the Expanded Program on Immunization, whose proposal was to vaccinate children worldwide against tetanus, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and other diseases. Its goal remains unachieved but now is followed by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization.

Now WHO organizations focus on health care to improve access to essential services, health products, and medicines.



# History of the Topic:

Drug addiction is a crisis that causes vulnerable situations and even death throughout the world.

The first drugs arose when different plants, animals, and mineral substances were tried, and humans realized the specific effects of their experiments.

Drug abuse began around the 1930s as a drug named Benzedrine. During World War II, amphetamines were distributed in big quantities to soldiers to combat fatigue and improve mood and endurance, after the war this drug was used to fight depression.

As legal usage of amphetamines increased, a black market emerged. Common users of this drug were truck drivers on long commutes and athletes looking for better performance. The increased popularity of certain drugs is often driven by social influence, media exposure, and greater availability. Stress, mental health issues, and the normalization of drug use in pop culture also contribute. As drugs become more accessible and perceptions of their harm decrease, especially with the legalization of substances like cannabis



# Introduction of the Topic:

Teens' addiction to drugs has become a social issue in the last few years, causing 50% of teenagers to misuse drugs. Neurological development and mental health problems can be a result of substance addiction, and its abuse affects academic performance, financial situations, and family relationships.

Drug addiction, also known as substance use disorder, is a disease that affects the brain and behavior that leads to an inability to control. When a person is addicted, the use of illegal or legal drugs will continue despite the harm it causes.

Addiction to these substances can start with social situations, and many teenagers consider drugs and alcohol to be an important part of growing up, without taking into mind the risks and the disastrous consequences.

1 in 5 teens admitted to abusing drugs, and most of them consume these substances to relieve stress, find a balance between responsibilities, explore their curiosity, and the easy availability they are exposed to. Some of them are introduced to drugs through friends or become curious after listening to a drug abuse song, or at least find a relationship. Teenagers will steal after discovering the substances in the cabinets of the teen's parents.

Drug dependence can create dangerous and damaging complications. Teens who depend on the substances have the probability of acquiring infectious diseases, like HIV because of unsafe sex or by sharing needles for tattoos. Accidents by driving vehicles are more perceived, and teens are affected in academic performance and possess a motivation to avoid school.

Legal issues are common for drug users. Teenagers steal to buy illegal drugs and support addiction. Financial problems are generated when money is spent on drugs instead of other important needs. Spending on substances could lead to debt and illegal and unethical behaviors.



# Key Players:

**Mexico:** Mexico is a country affected by drugs in every aspect: it is a drug-producing country of heroin, marihuana, and methamphetamines, mainly for external markets but also for their population, it is a transit country for cocaine that has found its way through the Central American and Mexican corridor on its way. Also, the drug cartels affect Mexico. The cartels and the drug trade fuel rampant corruption and violence in Mexico, contributing to tens of thousands of homicides in the country each year.

**United States:** Even more Americans in the United States now die each year from drug abuse than accidents caused by motor vehicle accidents, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states. 9% percent of people age 12 were illicit drug users, and 9.5 percent is for whites, will black people be equivalent to 10.5%? Three-quarters of the US population considers the serious problem of drug abuse in its country. Americans with black skin are more likely to view this extremely seriously than white people, even though, are more likely to consume drugs due to societal factors. The United States is in fourth place as the country that faces the worst drug problems. Being behind Russia, and before Great Britain.

**Iran:** Iran seized more than 500 tons of illicit drugs being trafficked through the country in 2014. The spillover effect has resulted in Iran having more than 1,325,000 drug users and more than 3000 people have died annually due to drug-related causes in the previous years, however, Iran has many successful drug treatments and HIV prevention programs. It is a leading country in the region providing harm reduction services to many needy persons. There are over 750,000 persons receiving treatment.

**Afghanistan:** The 'forgotten crisis' of the country is exposing more young Afghans to mental health problems and drug abuse is increasing among young people. Since the Taliban, (Who is being affected.) imposed a drug ban in April 2022, opium poppy cultivation has dropped around 95%, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (UNODC) Even though, WHO estimates that 2.9 million people abuse drugs in Afghanistan, nine million have mental health problems. Is estimated that 23.7 million Afghan people will need humanitarian assistance as conditions in Afghanistan deteriorate. Street children are vulnerable, and of 70,000 drug addicts in Herat, 5,500 are children.

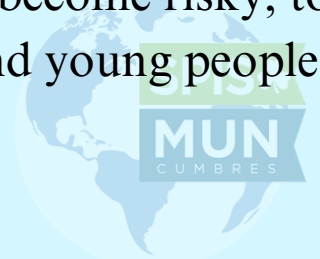
**Russia:** Four million Russian teenagers have been discovered by the drug administration. Addiction rates in young people are 2.5 times higher than in the adult population. Now Russia is home to 700,000 orphans since the Second World War. The country's poorly funded antismoking campaigns are not having a real effect. Alexander Chuchalin, director of the Russian Institute of Pulmonology, warned of the large number of children smoking since 8 years old. Viable models in the medical profession cause a negative impact on the campaigns. The World Health Organization shows 60% of Russian doctors smoke, 10% of schoolboys, 5% of girls, and 30% of all children in the country's big cities.

# UN Actions:

WHO established in 1997 the Prevention of Substance Abuse Among Young People in Central and Eastern Europe project, collaborating with the Substance Abuse Department, (SAB) to develop a comprehensive response for the prevention of drug abuse in seven different countries in Central and Eastern Europe. This project seeks to build networks to exchange information, and have support from the empowerment of their local resources.

UNOCD's Children Program was developed to treat drug dependence, facilitate a positive integration into the community, and address the health and social consequences of administering these substances. The program reached 10 different countries Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. The program tries to reduce the risks of the disorders that were developed by the drugs and includes the involvement of government ministries, members of civil society, academics, media, and high-ranking people. The foundation of UNOCD's project is based on the policy statements in support of children. The organization has been mandated by UNGA to identify the best practices or strategies in areas of demand reduction for their development.

In April 2016, the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly created the International Standards for Drug Use Prevention based on recent scientific evidence. The document was enriched by WHO recommendations for the use of any interventions and policies to prevent drug addiction, and other behaviors that can become risky, to promote healthy development for children and young people.



# Current Status:

Nowadays, drug addiction among teens continues to be a concerning health issue all over the world. 20% of the prevalence is caused by Marijuana, 30% by alcohol, 10% percent by prescription drugs, and 15% having vaping factors.

Socioeconomic conditions, cultural influences, law enforcement, and other factors influence young people to become addicted to drugs or any kind of substance.

Regions with higher poverty could experience elevated addiction levels due to the scarce resources for prevention and treatment. According to statistics, low-income populations have a percentage of 22.5% of prevalent use, while high-income people have lower rates of prevalence of drugs. Males have a high probability of developing drug activities by influencing peer pressure. To control or reduce depression and anxiety, female adolescents consume these substances, even though health problems among girls rise.

Social media platforms have become an important need for social interactions and behaviors between teens. The attractive posts of substances by influencers and activities shown in a positive light could normalize risky behaviors that could affect teenagers in the future. Videos, images, and messages can highlight drugs in an illustrative way, becoming an important factor for drug addiction development.

Education and awareness programs have been raised to inform teens about the dangers and consequences of drug addiction, and family discussions among sons and parents provide support about substance use. Counseling services and sessions for therapy for teens struggling with addiction are being offered, while community organizations from local locations collaborate to create a plan against drugs. Systems supported by peers help encourage other positive choices where teenagers can make better decisions.

The popularity of vaping has surpassed normal cigarettes, and drug production and trafficking are increasing, making the situation worse. Around 64 million people worldwide struggle with drug disorders, and only 11 receive treatment, and its access is more limited for women than men. Reports show the increasing number of organized criminal groups as a result of drug trafficking.





# Guiding Questions:

1. How do these drugs reach teenagers?
2. Why are these drugs getting popular among teens?
3. Does Social Media and the Internet make teenagers get close to drugs?
4. What role does family support play in preventing drug use?
5. How can schools and communities help prevent teenage drug addiction?



# Quorum:

1. United States
2. Mexico
3. Russia
4. United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland
5. Afghanistan
6. Iran
7. China
8. France
9. Italy
10. Brazil
11. Philippines
12. Colombia
13. India
14. Haiti
15. Dominican Republic
16. Jamaica
17. Nicaragua
18. Cuba
19. Republic of Korea
20. Sweden



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