

## IMPACT OF THE POLICY OF DRUG CRIMINALIZATION IN THE TREATMENT OF ILLICIT DRUG DEPENDENTS: THE OPTICS OF NURSES AND USERS OF CAPS AD.

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### Abstract

**Objective:** To understand from the perspective of nurses and users of illicit drugs of CAPS Ad the impact of the Brazilian Criminalization Policy on the treatment of chemical dependents. **Method:** Qualitative research with nurses and users of illicit drugs of CAPS Ad. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, recorded and analyzed by the Content Analysis Technique. **Results:** The categories that emerged in the nurses' speech were "Criminalization as a controlling and prohibitionist policy"; "Moralism and stigmatization in the health area"; "Criminalization as a hindrance or not of treatment" and in the users speech were "The attentive look in the health area", "Marginalization of the drug user", "Criminalization as difficult or not treatment." **Final Considerations:** This study made it possible to give voice to illicit drug users and nurses, promoting reflections on prejudice and stigma still present in today's society.

### Key words:

*Delivery of Health Care, Drug Users, Nurses, Public Police, Street Drugs. .*

### Introduction

The use, abuse and dependence of alcohol, crack and other drugs is considered a serious public health problem in contemporary Society and has become the center of several Brazilian public policies, demanding actions and services properly organized, articulated and resolute in face of this problem, especially the Unified Health System (SUS)<sup>1</sup> (Varela et al., 2016). In Brazil, drug use is linked to social exclusion and the marginalization of those who use it, since it is a country in which they are closely related to crime<sup>2</sup>.

In this sense, this study aimed to understand from the perspective of nurses and illicit drug users of the CAPS AD in the city of Campinas, the impact of the Brazilian Criminalization Policy on the treatment of chemical dependents in the country.

### Results and Discussion

This is a qualitative research carried out with nurses and illicit drug users who were being treated at the Psychosocial Care Center (CAPS) III Ad Reviver during the month of February, 2018. Data collection was performed by semi-structured interviews and recorded by the researcher of the study. Recorded individual interviews were carried out through the sequence contained in the steps of the semistructured instrument developed by the researchers. Data were collected with two groups, nurses (E) and illicit drug users (Group U) at the CAPS.

The categories that emerged in the nurses' speech were "Criminalization as a Controlling and Prohibitionist Policy"; "Moralism and stigmatization in the health area"; "Criminalization as a hindrance or not of treatment" and in the speeches of the users were "The attentive look in the health area", "The marginalization of the user of drugs", "The criminalization of drugs".

The results of the study made it possible to know in a more comprehensive way the reflex of the policy of criminalization of drugs from the perspective of nurses and users of CAPS Ad from a large city in the interior of the state of São Paulo. Both positions, understood as unique and exclusive, are insufficient to explain the choices that

each makes during their life course, which would imply for public health not to ignore social situations and factors that contradict hegemonic ideas such as criminalizing or not using drugs, abstinence or harm reduction, which corroborates with the National Policy on Health Promotion<sup>3</sup> (PNPS, 2014), which recognizes the subjectivity not only of collectives, but also of people in the process of attention and care in defense of health and life as solidarity, happiness, ethics, respect for diversity, humanization, co-responsibility, justice and social inclusion as foundational values in the process of its implementation.

### Conclusions

It is concluded that drug policies should not focus only on their use or on the attempt to eliminate their production as it directs prohibitionist politics, but rather on investing in education with clear information about its effects so that subjects can use drugs without causing greater damage to their lives, and for those who use harmful, access to care is guaranteed in the model of psychosocial care, based on the premise of Harm Reduction.

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