

## **Implementing programs aiming to prevent substance misuse in Brazil**

**Authors:** Andrea Leite Ribeiro Valerio, Carolina Coutinho, Francisco Inácio Bastos.

**Key words:** Prevention, drug use, education

The Brazilian government, via its Office on Drug Policy (SENAD) in partnership with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) to develop and implement programs aiming to prevent substance use & misuse in different Brazilian municipalities. The Brazilian initiatives were based on international programs, tailored to the cultural and social specificities of the country and are listed as follows: “Elos” (based on the Good Behavior Game – AIR); “#Tamojunto” (based on Unplugged –EU-DAP); & “Famílias Fortes” (based on Strengthening Families Programme – Oxford Brookes University). The cross-cultural validation and careful implementation of prevention programs is key to their acceptability and potential impact in real-life situations. Unfortunately, the comprehensive assessment of such programs has been scarce and uneven in Brazil.

This abstract summarizes the process of implementation of these 3 programs, in Rio Grande do Norte state, Brazilian Northeast, currently affected by the highest homicide rate all over the country. The program was anchored on a partnership between the state governor’s office, the attorney general’s state office and the mayors of three municipalities (Natal, Parnamirim e Mossoró) and comprised 3 phases:

- 1) Agreement between the partners;
- 2) Preparation; &
- 3) Implementation.

The agreement between partners begins with formal presentation of programs followed by the meeting to establishment political consensus among managers. Preparation phase includes activities related to territory network. In this stage is carried out territorial diagnosis, which lets you scale how many people will be formed in each program and how many groups will be reached.

The last phase is the staff training, seeking to have those enabled actors for the implementation of the program in schools and communities and organization of monitoring. Currently, perspective to reach in each program is: 2321 students with “Elos”, 1549 teenagers with “Tamojunto” and 72 families with “Famílias Fortes”. The process is phase 3 of implementation.