



Training Screening and Brief Interventions for Alcohol Problems in Central America

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Background

- Alcohol consumption is a matter of concern in most of the American countries.
- Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) for hazardous and harmful drinking has not been implemented in Central and South America
- The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has among its priorities the dissemination of SBI in those countries
- Some experiences have already been conducted in Brasil by Tom Babor and colleagues
- Commonalities in language and culture make it possible to share the spanish training experience with Central and South American countries
- We have adapted the materials from the Beveu Menys Program and from the Phepa Projeit in order to suit the needs of those countries
- Two pilot trainings have been delivered to PHC physicians and psychiatrists in Cuba and El Salvador.

Aim

- To introduce the basic concepts of SBI in the country
- To train opinion leaders in the use of SBI
- To provide a training the trainers experience in order to disseminate SBI in the country
- To provide ongoing support to the trainees



The experience in Cuba

Program

Day	Contents
Monday	Introduction. Basic concepts. The Cuban situation Identification of risky drinkers. Pros and cons in Cuba
Tuesday	Tools ad strategies to identify risky drinkers. Suitability Brief advice. Basic concepts and scientific evidence.
Wednesday	Essential components of brief advice. Motivational strategies Alcohol dependence syndrome. Diagnosis, referral & treatment
Thursday	Dissemination of SBI in Cuba strengths and weaknesses Training the trainers strategies. Overview of the Phepa project
Friday	Training the trainers: sessions 1-6 Conclusions

Participants

- 28 physicians from the Public Health System
- PHC physicians and psychiatrists
- Selected by the Mental Health Program of the Health Department
- Coming from all regions of the country



Taller sobre intervenciones breves para trastornos relacionados con el consumo y la dependencia del alcohol

[programa beveu menys]

Joan Colom
Antoni Gual

La Habana, Octubre 2004

Organ Tècnic de Dependències
Departament de Salut, Generalitat de Catalunya

The experience in El Salvador

Participants

- 22 physicians and nurses from the Public Health System
- PHC physicians, nurses and psychiatrists
- Selected by the Mental Health Program of the Health Department
- Coming from all regions of the country, mostly from San Salvador
- 3 days workshop
- Some participants missed part of the last day session because of an earthquake



Taller sobre intervenciones breves para trastornos relacionados con el consumo y la dependencia del alcohol

[programa beveu menys]

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El Salvador, Mayo 2005

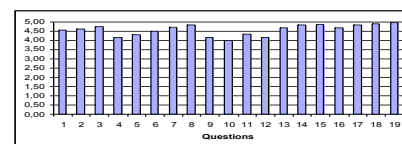
Evaluation

- At the end of the training all trainees filled anonymously an evaluation form
- All items were answered following a five points Lickert scale ranging from 5 (excellent) to 1 (very poor).
- There was also an open question for comments and suggestions

Evaluation form

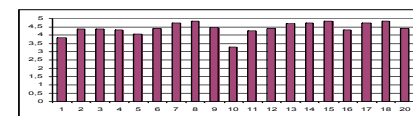
N	Spanish	English
1	Conozco el concepto de unidad de bebida estandar	I know the concept of Standard Drink Unit
2	Conozco el AUDIT	I know the AUDIT
3	Conozco los componentes básicos de una intervención breve	I know the conceptual concepts of a brief intervention
4	Conozco la técnica para realizar una desintoxicación alcohólica	I know how to conduct an alcohol detoxification
5	Puedo utilizar con mis pacientes la unidad de bebida estandar	I can use the SDU with my patients
6	Puedo utilizar con mis pacientes el AUDIT	I can use the AUDIT with my patients
7	Puedo utilizar con mis pacientes el AUDIT C	I can use the AUDIT C with my patients
8	No siento capacitado para realizar intervenciones breves con mis pacientes	I feel able to conduct brief interventions with my patients
9	No siento capacitado para diagnosticar estrictamente entornos dependientes del alcohol	I feel able to detect outpatient alcohol dependent people
10	Puedo enseñar a los profesionales de atención primaria las técnicas básicas de asesoramiento	I can teach PHC professionals basic counseling techniques
11	Puedo enseñar a los profesionales de atención primaria las técnicas básicas de asesoramiento	I can teach PHC professionals brief intervention techniques
12	Este taller ha consolidado mis conocimientos previos	This workshop has consolidated my previous knowledge
13	Este taller me ha aportado conocimientos nuevos	This workshop has given me new knowledge
14	Las habilidades entrenadas en este curso serán de utilidad para mi práctica clínica	The skills developed in this workshop will be useful in my clinical practice
15	Las habilidades entrenadas en este curso me permitirán formar a mis colegas de atención primaria	The skills developed in this workshop will allow me to train my PHC colleagues
16	Este curso ha aumentado mi interés por la prevención del alcohol	This workshop has increased my interest in alcohol prevention
17	Los medios técnicos han sido adecuados	The technical tools used have been appropriate
18	Comentarios y sugerencias	Comments and suggestions

Mean results. Cuba



Almost all participants scored all the questions between 4 (good) and 5 (excellent). Comments and suggestions were also very positive.

Mean results. El Salvador



Two participants were not able to fill the evaluation form because of the earthquake

Conclusions

- There's a high level of interest in SBI in Central American professionals
- Participants background allows them to acquire new skills very easily
- The concept of risky drinking fits well in their cultural conceptions.
- Commonalities with the spanish culture facilitate the training process
- Evaluation of training is rated very high
- Results of those pilot studies can't be generalized

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