

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND
TREATMENT:
LEBANON EXPERIENCE

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LEBANON (1)

- Capital : Beirut
- Frontiers : Syria and Palestine/Israël
- Estimated population : 4 millions
- Birth rate : 18.8 / 1000



LEBANON (2)

- Languages : Arabic, English, French
- Population who can read and write : 87%
- Unemployment : 20%
- Major resources :
 - services : 67%
 - industry : 21%
 - agriculture : 12%

RELIGIONS

- Muslim : 60 %
- Christian : 39 %
- Others : 1 %

➡ 18 religious communities

HISTORY AND MILESTONES

- 1947 : Antinarcotic legislation
- 1975 : Beginning of lebanese war; increase of illicit cultivation and increase of substance abuse among militias
- 1990 : End of war; decision of lebanese government to eradicate illicit cultivations
- 1998 : Amendment of 1947 law
- 1999 : Ecstasy introduced to lebanon
- 2002 : Application of the law concerning BZD

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SEVERITY

- Heroin, Cannabis, Cocaine, Tobacco, BZD, Ecstasy, Alcohol ++/+++
- Prescription drugs (Opioids, Trihexyphenidyl ..) ++/+++
- Inhalants, Amphetamines, +/++

Substance abuse related problems

- Living with HIV/AIDS : 2700
 - HIV/AIDS related deaths : 200
- (Ministry of health,2003)

Major issues : - psychiatric co-morbidity
- adolescents

TREATMENT FUNDS

- In treatment ??
- Self Paid : 75%
- Government : 20%
- Faith/Religious organizations : 5%
- Private insurance : 0%

AVAILABLE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

- Inpatient detoxification
- Physician counseling
- Outpatient counseling
- Psychotherapy
- Residential rehabilitation
- Buprenorphine ??
- Other pharmaceuticals therapies : disulfiram, naltrexone, nicotine replacement

FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Implementation of a national healthcare system related to substance abuse treatment
- Campaigns of awareness and education (adolescents ++)
- Necessity of substitution treatment