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Andorra: Alcohol and Substance Abuse

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ANDORRA

-- Marissa Catalano -- PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEF (PUBH 100) --



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About The Nation

Name: Andorra

Location: Andorra is located in Europe. More specifically, it is a small principality between France and Spain while also being in the Pyrenees Mountains (CIA, 2018).

Population: There are currently 77,965 people (CIA, 2018). Most of population is between 25-54 years (CIA, 2018). Most people in Andorra are of the Spanish, French, or Portuguese ethnicities (CIA, 2018). Also, people in Andorra speak the official language of Catalan (CIA, 2018). Religiously speaking, most Andorrans are Roman Catholic (CIA, 2018).

Political Structure: In Andorra, the political framework is a parliamentary constitutional diarchy and a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by government. The Prime Minister is Antoni Martí. Elections are handled in a democratic manner where two people from each of the seven parishes are elected based on a national vote (OSCE, 2015).

Challenges: Internal: A major problem within Andorra refers to economics. Budget cuts and other economic crisis factors have affected “vulnerable” groups such as children. This causes an increase in criminal acts as well which is another one of Andorra’s major challenges. -External: This major economic crisis in Andorra poses an internal issue but also an external issue as well. Due to low income and poverty with the country as a whole, there are debts with other neighboring countries that have not been paid causing feuds (Standards & Poor, 2011).

Issue: The main health issue found in Andorra is alcohol and drug abuse. This issue mostly affects ages 15-44 years and even more specifically, males (CIA, 2018). This health problem is very common especially during those years of age. Alcohol and drug abuse has one of the highest mortality rates within Andorra with a 38.9 rate per 100,000 people (OSCE, 2015).

Epidemiology: When discussing alcohol and drug abuse in Andorra, the most affected group are within the ages of 15-44 years of age. Some of the risk factors include addiction, long term health issues with the liver and spleen, complications with relationships and jobs and then economic problems in regards to lack of income or a sustainable career (Rehm et al 2005).

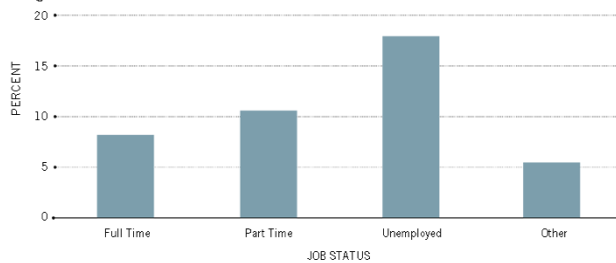
Problem Identified: The problem of alcohol and drug abuse was identified through the results of an increase in mortality rates like said previously. The mortality rate is 38.9 rate and has increased over the years (OSCE, 2015).

Types of Interventions: For this issue, the treatment consists of rehab centers; however, these centers are not everywhere and cost a lot not to mention work/money lost while in rehab (Carmona et al 2013).

Addressing The Issue: When addressing this specific issue, there are challenges such as lack of education on the matter, not a lot of compliance when trying to address it and escalation in the rebellious desires, alcohol and drugs, of young people who are the main demographic affected by this disease (Rehm et al 2005).

Suggestion: I think putting a system in place that addresses the economic problem would be able to create a higher employment rate and higher income that could lead to a more sustainable lifestyle that has proven to lead to less alcohol and drug abuse (Rehm et al 2005).

Percent of the Population 18 and Older, by Employment Status, Reporting Consumption of Any Illegal Substance in the Previous Month (2005-2011)



<https://goo.gl/images/9z2H3M>

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