

# **Substance Use in South-East Asia**

## **Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Opportunities for Intervention**

**Summary of baseline assessments in Thailand, the Philippines  
and Viet Nam**

**WHO/UNDCP Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of  
Substance Abuse "Global Initiative"**



World Health Organization  
Mental Health: Evidence and Research  
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## PREFACE

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In 1997, the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) jointly initiated a project on primary prevention of substance abuse among young people with the view of mobilizing communities and development of model projects for adaptation or replication in parts of South-East Asia and the world. Problems related to substance use are now a priority concern especially among young people and are linked to and often precipitated by adverse social economic factors. To date, most proven interventions remain underused and undervalued as often they may not necessarily be appropriate for developing countries.

Through the WHO/UNDCP Global Initiative local partners in the Philippines, Thailand and Viet nam are receiving support on planning and implementing evidence-based prevention strategies. The foundation of good primary prevention initiatives depends on a well thought out strategic project plan with monitoring and evaluation components. The baseline assessments carried out by local research institutions in each participating country provide reference points for impact assessments.

To permit easier access to information for a broad reader audience, only summaries of the findings are presented. However, detailed research information can be obtained from WHO. It is my sincere hope that the information presented in this document can contribute towards greater awareness and response to the problem of substance use among young people in these three countries.



Dr Shekhar Saxena  
Coordinator, Mental Health: Evidence and Research  
WHO, Geneva, Switzerland



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