Drug Dependency Prevention: Standardizing Practices in a Spanish Context

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Introduction
Drug dependency has increased in Spain, particularly after the Franco dictatorship. There are no universal, scientifically based approaches to drug dependency prevention available and current initiatives are disorganized and inefficient.

Objective of Internship
- Adapt an American drug dependency prevention curriculum to a Spanish context
- Restructure the current prevention practices throughout universities and organizations
- Discover the impacts of drug dependency on the elderly in the Baleares

Research Team Profile
- Address social and socio-educational needs and problems of the Spanish community
- Research fields include families, education, aging, gender perspectives, childhood and youth, and social policies

Universal Prevention Curriculum
- Created by a US-based organization to restructure the content that is imparted to future prevention field workers
- The curriculum is founded on evidence-based principles regarding prevention practices
- Must first understand the demands of future and current prevention practitioners in Spain
- Conducted focus groups with students, professors, and leaders in the healthcare field in order to analyze the current issues with prevention training
- Transcribed and translated the focus group meetings while creating reports of the demands and concerns of those involved in prevention practices
- Wrote a scholarly article on impacts of drug dependency on the elderly that did not receive prevention intervention

Prevalence of cocaine use at least once during past year

Questions
- How can the success of the prevention curriculum be measured?
- How can a holistic educational approach be adopted to impart prevention practices to future workers in the prevention field?

Conclusion
I have gained greater perspective on approaches to prevention practices in a European context. Regardless of the fact that the US is suffering from a similar issue, the manner in which the problems are approached must be unique to the cultural context of each country.

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