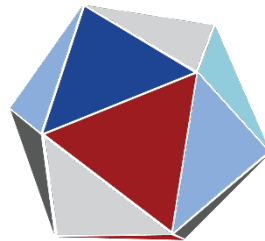


*USERS OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS RESIDING IN
THE METROPOLITAN REGION OF SÃO PAULO:
BASIS FOR THE PLANNING OF A TREATMENT SYSTEM*

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Brazilian Context

- Why develop a needs-based planning model for the area of alcohol and drugs in Brazil?
- The psychiatric reform has not been concluded.
- The system for the treatment of alcohol and drug users was only included in public policies 16 years ago.
- Services have been provided by Non-Governmental Organizations, linked to religious groups, called Therapeutic Communities.
- The lack of assistance for the treatment of alcohol and drug users is immense, especially considering human rights.
- But, we have still not developed studies to measure this gap.

Tiered Framework

Tier 1: Promotional and preventive actions that involve the general population and the low-risk population.

Tier 2: Early identification and intervention with users at risk and/or suffering from moderate harm associated with substance use.

Tier 3: Care aimed at users at high risk and harm from substance use, but do not require more intensive support.

Tier 4: Specialised out-patient support which is structured to treat users with chronic health issues and who are more seriously affected than category 3 users.

Tier 5: Specialised support focussed on users with more complex and serious needs, such as comorbid mental health issues.

The main concepts:

- **Needs:** the concept of needs is multi-dimensional and may be constructed from the most objective criteria, like diagnostic criteria, and from more subjective perspectives, such as the personal perception on the need for care.
- **Potential Demand for the Use of Services:** what proportion of the population would like to obtain professional help.

Objectives

Based on the tiered framework and aiming to obtain estimates for planning of a support network for users of alcohol and other drugs in the metropolitan region of São Paulo, this study has two objectives:

- Obtain estimates for service needs regarding alcohol and other drug use;
- Obtain estimates for the Potential Demand for the Use of Services for the population with these needs.

São Paulo Metropolitan Region



Archive: São Paulo Landsat

Method

- The Metropolitan Region of São Paulo is made up of the city of São Paulo as well as 38 municipalities. Its population of 19.8 million people represents 10% of the population of Brazil.
- Despite being the richest most industrialised region in Brazil, social inequality is severe.
- Data from this study were collected from the Sao Paulo Megacity Study. It was a transversal-cut study, using interviews to evaluate mental health problems in general population of the area.
- It was part of a multi-centre study carried out in 28 countries – the World Mental Health Survey Initiative, coordinated by the WHO.

Method

- The survey instrument was Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI).
- For this study, we created two classifications systems.
- First, for the evaluation of the need for services, the population surveyed in the São Paulo Megacity Study was classified into five tiers of the tiered model.
- The second classification system was entitled the “Potential Demand for the Use of Services”, in which the proportion of the population that had needs and wanted professional help was estimated.
- The questions chosen were based on the last 12 months.

Results

Table 1: Estimates of alcohol and other drug use over the last 12 months

Tiers	%	SE*	Estimate in the metropolitan area of São Paulo
Tier 1 – Abstainers or low-risk users	86,5	0,8	10.405.488
Tier 2 – Users at risk and/or harmed	8,9	0,5	1.070.280
Tier 3 – Dependent individuals	2,2	0,2	264.576
Tier 4 – Severely dependent individuals	1,2	0,2	148.349
Tier 5 – Severely dependente individuals / Comorbidities	0,09	0,03	11.096

*Standard Error

Table2: Potential Demand for the Use of Services over the last 12 months

Tiers	%¹	%²	SE*	Estimate in the metropolitan area of São Paulo
Tier 2 – Users at risk and/or hamed	7,2	0,6	0,09	77.793
Tier 3 – Dependent individuals	25,5	0,5	0,1	67.466
Tier 4 – Severely dependente individuals	51,1	0,6	0,1	75.821

¹ Based on the n of each tier.

² Based on the n of the entire sample (2.942 individuals).

*Standard Error

Table 3: Variables related to the Potential Demand for the Use of Services

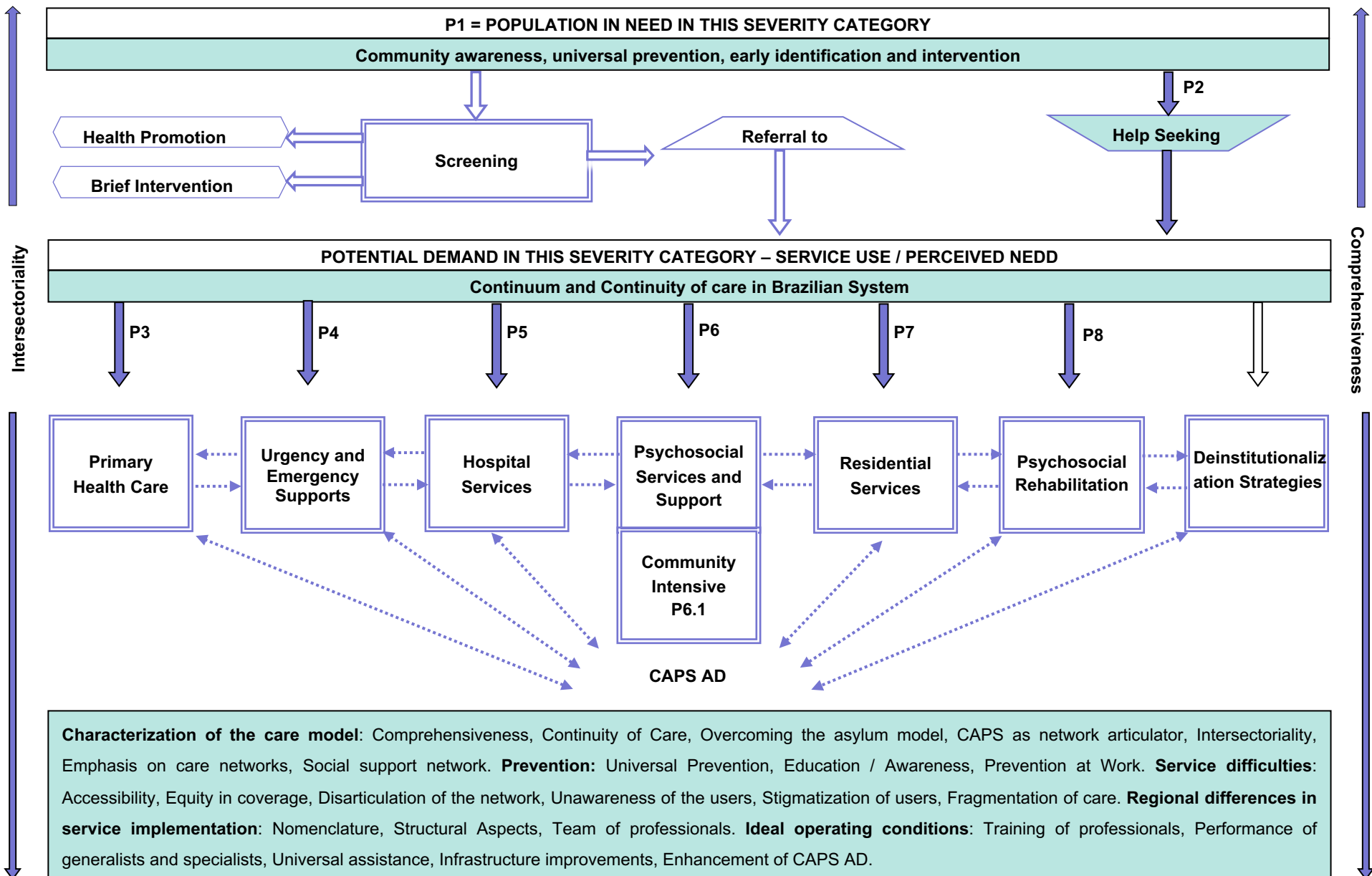
Variables	Tier 2		Tier 3		Tier 4		Estimate
	Users at risk and/or hamed		Dependent individuals		Severely dependent individuals		
	%	EP	%	EP	%	EP	
Use of Services							
Professional treatment	0,07	0,05	0	0	0,3	0,01	46.163
Use of hospitals	0,07	0,03	0,08	0,04	0,2	0,08	49.409
Psychiatrists	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,1	0,05	16.734
Physicians	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,1	0,05	17.624
Psychologists	0,1	0,06	0,02	0,02	0,1	0,06	35.344
Social workers	0	0	0,03	0,03	0	0	4.556
Other mental health professionals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other general health professionals	0	0	0	0	0,01	0,01	2.199
Perceived Need							
Professional help	0,4	0,1	0,4	0,1	0,2	0,13	150.104

*Standard Error

Discussion

- This present study has been the first to propose a classification of various levels of severity for Service Needs for alcohol and other drug users in Brazil.
- CIDI instrument was designed to measure simultaneously Use of Services or Perceived Need for mental health problems and for problems related to the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- The tiered framework, based on a continuum of risks and damage associated with substance abuse, requires fine-tuning and testing to be representative of the country's social complexity.

Schematic Diagram of the Needs-Based Planning Model / Brazil



* Data analysis found in workshop with Sao Paulo professionals.

Thanks!

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