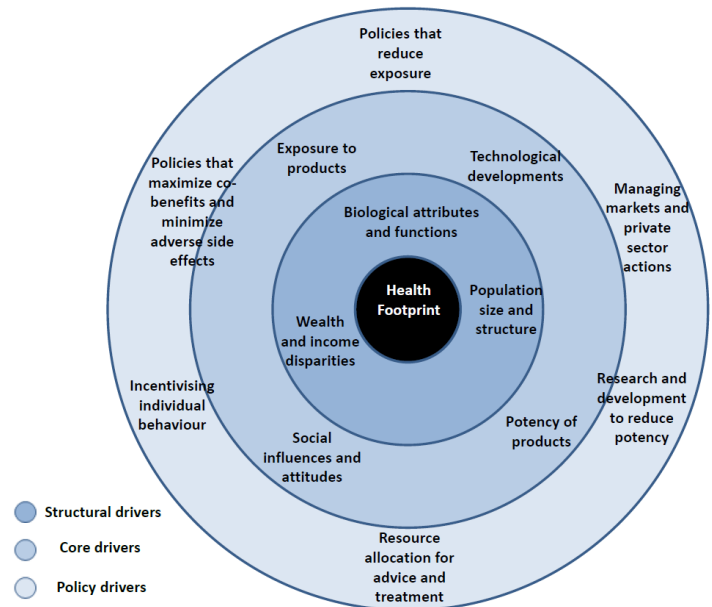


A health footprint can be used as an accountability tool to apportion the harm to health and premature death imposed by the different drivers of addictive drug use and behaviours

health footprint
addictive products
harm
accountability

Structural drivers of harm from the use of addictive products and behaviours include biological attributes and functions, population size and structure, and levels of wealth and income disparities within jurisdictions. Core drivers refer to the processes, mechanisms, and characteristics that influence harm, sometimes through the structural drivers, and sometimes not. Core drivers of harm include drug potency and drug exposure levels, the technological developments that might influence these, and social influences and attitudes, including social stigma and social exclusion. Included in the policy drivers level are measures that reduce drug exposure, actions that promote research and development to reduce drug potency, measures that maximize co-benefits and minimize adverse side-effects of policies and actions, incentives for healthy individual behaviour, and legislation aimed at managing markets, such as the definition and enforcement of rules of engagement of the private sector. Policies and measures affect the core drivers of harm. The structural and core drivers may, in turn, influence policies and measures.

Placed at the centre of the drivers is the Health Footprint, the accounting system for identifying the determinants of drug and addictive behaviour-related harm and the management tool to evaluate opportunities by the public and private sectors and civil society to reduce harm. Using the metric of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs), the Health Footprint can measure the impact of a range of structural and core drivers of impaired health and the policies and measures that impact upon them. The Health Footprint, thus, accounts for who and what causes the harm done by drugs and addictive behaviours. Drug and addictive behaviour-related health footprints could become standard components of annual reporting by relevant public and private sector bodies.



READ MORE

Anderson P, Braddick F, Conrod P, Gual A, Hellman M, Matrai S, Miller D, Nutt D, Rehm J, Reynolds J and Ysa T. (2016, In Press). The New Governance of Addictive Substances and Behaviours. Oxford: Oxford University Press