

## **D. Drug policy and health issues**

### **Reference**

M.G. Monteiro, 'A World Health Organization Perspective on Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use and Health', in *European Addiction Research*, 2001, 7, p. 98 – 103.

### **Commentary**

Doctor Monteiro is WHO expert on substance dependence and mental health and coordinator of the Management of Substance Abuse Dependence of the WHO.

The journal *European Addiction Research* contains articles on all aspects of addiction research, reflecting the importance of a comprehensive approach to resolving the problems of substance abuse in Europe. Coverage ranges from clinical and research advances in the fields of psychiatry, biology, pharmacology and epidemiology to the social and legal implications of policy decisions. The goal of the journal is to facilitate open discussion among those interested in the scientific and clinical aspects of prevention, diagnosis and therapy as well as in legal issues.

More information on the *European Addiction Research* can be found at URL: [karger.ch/journals/ear/ear\\_jh.htm](http://karger.ch/journals/ear/ear_jh.htm)

Interesting in this respect, is the journal *Addiction Abstracts* as well. It is an international current awareness journal published in conjunction with the National Addiction Centre in London. It regularly scans all journals relevant to the field of addictive behaviours and provides abstracts on the scanned articles. More information on this journal can be found at URL: [tandf.co.uk/addiction-abs](http://tandf.co.uk/addiction-abs).

### **Abstract**

The article outlines the World Health Organization's perspective that alcohol and illicit drug use and poor health are intertwined.

Drug use is a global, multidimensional and complex phenomenon, which occurs in a context of difficult social, environmental and economic conditions. Moreover, drug use can serve as a paradigm to understand and analyse inequalities and inequities in health.

Since supply control alone cannot solve the problem, the author strongly advocates the need for more investments in demand reduction and the need for comprehensive strategies to prevent, treat and reduce the harms associated with drug use.