

Table 1 Changes in perceptions and experiences regarding drug use between baseline and follow-up assessments among community representatives (n = 160) in Kabul, Afghanistan

Variable	Baseline		Follow-up		P-value ^a
	No.	%	No.	%	
<i>Encountered a drug user in last 2 years</i>	135	84.4	111	69.4	< 0.01
<i>Have a drug user in the family</i>	17	10.6	13	8.1	0.54
<i>Most common drug used in Afghanistan</i>					
Tobacco	27	16.9	93	58.1	< 0.01
Marijuana/hashish	73	45.6	31	19.4	< 0.01
Opium/heroin	44	27.5	27	16.9	0.01
Alcohol	13	8.0	9	5.6	0.39
<i>Group at greatest risk for drug use</i>					
Unemployed	139	86.9	82	51.3	< 0.01
Prisoners	2	1.3	27	16.9	< 0.01
Heroin processing facility workers	5	3.1	14	8.8	0.06
Former/current soldiers	2	1.3	13	8.0	< 0.01
Street children	11	6.9	17	10.6	0.34
<i>Most common perceived reason for initiating drug use (multiple responses allowed)</i>					
Peer pressure	48	30.0	85	53.1	< 0.01
Frustration over unemployment	105	65.6	82	51.3	< 0.01
Sadness over loss of family/home	39	24.4	69	43.1	< 0.01
Enjoyment of the drug's effect	59	36.9	42	26.3	0.04
Improve work output	25	15.6	33	20.6	0.23
<i>Perceived greatest harms associated with drug use</i>					
Family disapproval	80	50.0	135	84.4	< 0.01
Imprisonment	24	15.0	102	63.8	< 0.01
Overdose	77	48.1	53	33.1	< 0.01
Infections (e.g. hepatitis)	49	30.6	22	13.8	< 0.01
Withdrawal	76	47.5	20	12.5	< 0.01
Violence from dealers/other users	22	13.8	17	10.6	0.47
<i>Types of treatment available for drug dependency (n = 132)</i>					
Detoxification	12	9.1	21	15.9	0.09
Inpatient hospital stay	124	93.9	125	94.7	1.00
Medicines from pharmacy	32	24.2	12	9.1	< 0.01
Counselling programmes	42	31.8	85	64.4	< 0.01
Religious instruction	32	24.2	28	21.2	0.53
<i>Measures perceived as most important to reduce harm to drug users</i>					
Increased availability of dependency treatment	146	91.3	141	88.1	0.47
Improved quality of dependency treatment	55	34.4	74	46.3	0.02
Provision of vocational training	129	80.6	127	79.4	0.77
Provision of condoms and counselling and testing for infections	18	11.3	72	45.0	< 0.01
Increased imprisonment/sentences for drug users	10	6.3	16	10.0	0.29
Increased number of police in areas where drug users congregate	22	13.8	15	9.4	0.26
Provision of needles and syringes to those who inject	18	11.3	31	19.4	0.03
Increased Islamic teaching about drug use	83	51.9	68	42.5	0.08

^aMcNemar or exact McNemar chi-squared test.