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# NEWS / ISSUP

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## ◆ INTRODUCTION

The International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) is a membership organisation that connects, unites, and provides knowledge to the global substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support workforce. ISSUP currently has over 30,000 members in more than 190 nations and territories worldwide. ISSUP connects and supports individuals working in the field of drug demand reduction across the world.

The opportunity for ISSUP to build a partnership with Addictology and develop a strong connection to Charles University in Prague, contains great potential. It is our ambition to provide a unique contribution to the field of drug demand reduction that will present real value to researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

By serving this audience and developing an international journal devoted to publishing peer-reviewed interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary scientific research on psychoactive substance use, ISSUP seeks to become a significant provider of evidence, insight and knowledge to the workforce.

Each edition of the Journal has a section from ISSUP to keep readers informed about its events, scientific contributions, conferences, trainings, news, membership, and National Chapters.

ISSUP thanks the Addictology team and everyone who has made this collaboration possible. We also thank our readers and hope you will find the material presented here relevant, accessible, and informative.

For further information about ISSUP please visit [www.issup.net](http://www.issup.net)

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### ◆ ISSUP POSTER FOR LISBON ADDICTIONS 2022: STUDY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND THE ROLE OF FAMILIES IN KAZAKHSTAN, PAKISTAN AND UKRAINE

The fourth European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies took place in Lisbon from 23–25 November 2022.

Under the overarching theme of Global Addictions, LxAddictions22 showcased cutting-edge research to help characterise, understand and respond to addiction and addictive behaviours today.

ISSUP Team participated in an oral poster highlighting the lessons learned from a Study on substance use and the role of families in three different countries.

In partnership with its National Chapters in Pakistan, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine, ISSUP undertook a research project on substance use and the role of families at the beginning of 2021. Research has shown that families can play a critical role in influencing individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs). There are a variety of evidence-based approaches that support and strengthen family functioning, but these are not extensively used in low- and middle-income countries.

Convenience sampling was used to identify the involvement of families in the treatment and recovery process of an individual using substances.

Two online surveys were created:

- ◆ The first survey focused on the family members of individuals who were using psychoactive substances.
- ◆ The second survey on individuals with SUDs.

The survey results showed that family therapy was not accessible and available. The majority of family members across the three countries viewed isolation of the individual using substances as the best way to treat SUDs. The survey highlighted that stigmatisation and a feeling of shame among both families and individuals using substances were prevalent in the majority of the responses. Not only substance use professionals can support service users, our research indicates that individuals with a substance use disorder themselves highly appreciated the significant influence of relatives and family on their successful treatment and recovery.

Here, you can view the poster entitled: „Substance Use and the Role of Families: Results of a Cross-Country Study in Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine“.

<https://www.issup.net/files/2023-01/Poster-Families-issup-Final.pdf>

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23–25 November Lisbon, Portugal lisbonaddictions.eu #LxAddictions22



## Substance Use and the Role of Families: Results of a Cross-Country Study in Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine

Lee, J., Myshakivska, O., Filimonova, N., Pinchuk, I., Yachnik, Y., Chumak, S., Altynbekov, K., Muzafarov, R., Cherchenko, N., Asghar, S., Ali, S. A., Alyana, S. I.



Presented by: Rasha Abi Hana

### Background

The International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) is a non-governmental membership organisation that connects and provides knowledge to the global substance use prevention, treatment and recovery support workforce. ISSUP aims to promote high quality, evidence-based and ethical policy and practice. In partnership with its National Chapters in Pakistan, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine, ISSUP undertook a research project on substance use and the role of families at the beginning of 2021. Research has shown that families can play a critical role in influencing individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs). There are a variety of evidence-based approaches that support and strengthen family functioning, but these are not extensively used in low- and middle-income countries.

### Methods

Convenience sampling was used to identify the involvement of families in the treatment and recovery process of an individual using substances.

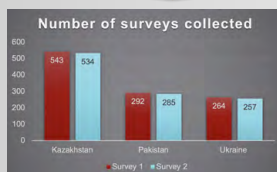
Two online surveys were created:

- The first survey focused on the family members of individuals who were using psychoactive substances.
- The second survey on individuals with SUDs.

### Aims

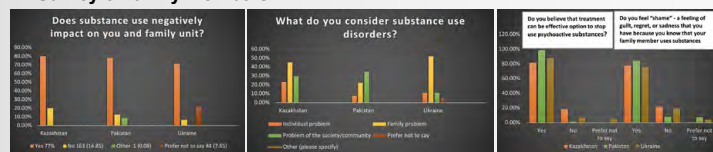
- To provide new data from different countries
- To measure the impact of substance use on the family
- To identify family needs
- To obtain information about family attitudes towards the treatment of SUDs
- To evaluate if and what types of interventions are conducted

## Results

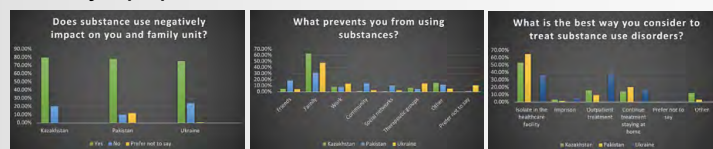


In total, 47% of the relatives indicated that they did not receive treatment interventions, and 87% believed that treatment could be an effective option to address the use of substances. 69% of family members across the three countries viewed isolation of the individual with SUDs as the best way to treat SUDs.

### A. Survey of family members



### B. Survey of people who use substances



63%–76% of all responses to Survey B described the family's main role as preventing them from using substances and supporting their treatment and recovery.

## Conclusion

The family plays a very important role in the treatment and recovery of those with substance use disorders. The survey results showed that family therapy was not accessible and available. The majority of family members across the three countries viewed isolation of the individual using substances as the best way to treat SUDs. The survey highlighted that stigmatisation and a feeling of shame among both families and individuals using substances were prevalent in the majority of the responses. Not only substance use professionals can support service users, our research indicates that individuals with a substance use disorder themselves highly appreciated the significant influence of relatives and family on their successful treatment and recovery.

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## ◆ BECOME AN ISSUP MEMBER

ISSUP represents a thriving international network of professionals and practitioners, from a wide variety of backgrounds, undertaking and promoting high-quality, evidence based, and ethical practice.

### Why join ISSUP?

ISSUP is free to join, and we have grades of membership to suit everyone from experienced prevention, treatment, and recovery support professionals and researchers to students, volunteers, or anyone with an active interest in this field.

We are always refining our services and adding to the wide range of benefits available to our members. ISSUP membership enables you to:

- ◆ Take courses (face-to-face and online) developed by our partners and gain qualifications through the ISSUP Professional Development Hub.
- ◆ Create your own member profile and share your work, projects, and events via our website.
- ◆ Join regional and topic focused discussion groups.
- ◆ Receive our twice monthly Newsletter and get regular event notifications.
- ◆ Find national and international networking opportunities.
- ◆ Attend annual ISSUP workshops with benefits for members.
- ◆ Contact other members using the ISSUP Member Directory.
- ◆ Sign up to a code of ethics.
- ◆ Receive information and resources for students and early career professionals.

### Individual Membership Categories

We offer a choice of four categories of membership:

#### Drug Demand Reduction Professional Membership

for those who have specific qualifications, expertise and experience directly linked to the drug demand reduction field.

#### Professional Membership

for those that are undertaking a role that contributes to the drug demand reduction field, even if not necessarily a specialist.

#### Regular Membership

for interested, non-professional applicants (can include volunteers, family members or non-accredited community members).

#### Student Membership

for those attending an educational institution or attending training (in any field) containing a drug demand reduction component.

### Apply Online

For more information and to submit an online application please see our [membership page](#).