

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Mexican Ministry of Health, International Press Office: +525552862625

**THE MEXICAN STATE OF SONORA AND
ARIZONA FIGHT TOGETHER AGAINST
ADDICTIONS**

- **The strategy is a result of the cooperation between the Department of Health Services of Arizona and the Ministry of Health of Sonora, a state that forms part of the Mexican Republic.**
- **The National Commission Against Addictions (abbreviated to CONADIC in Spanish) will strengthen the infrastructure and the staff's training.**

The Health Ministry of Sonora has implemented a permanent campaign to prevent illegal drugs for which the infrastructure of medical attention is strengthened; orientation about prevention and treatment to the student community are provided, and informative capsules are broadcast through the mass media.

This was informed by the National Commissioner against Addictions in Mexico, Dr. Fernando Cano Valle, who witnessed the signature of the Declaration of Cooperation signed by the Ministry of Health of Sonora and the Department of Health Services of Arizona. This Declaration makes it possible for the campaign to occur simultaneously in both states.

He said that the Federal Government, through the CONADIC, participates in the strengthening of infrastructure. 16 million Mexican pesos were destined to build six Centers of Primary Attention for Addictions in the north of the State, where most of the consumption of illegal and legal drugs occurs.

Currently, there are five Centers of Primary Attention for Addictions. Six are being built and will begin operating this year. Thus, Sonora will count with 11 medical units specialized in prevention and treatment of addictions.

He said that one of the other areas where CONADIC participates actively is in training the staff that forms part of the health system in the State.

He pointed out that most of the Centers of Primary Attention for Addictions that are being built will be located in the regions where ethnic groups such as the Yaquis,



Mayos and Seris live. The reason is that it has been detected that there is important alcohol consumption in these communities.

Dr. Cano Valle said that health staff will visit these communities in order to inform, in the language of the ethnic group, the risks of consuming drugs and the alternatives of treatment that they have. At the same time, the government of the State will have a campaign in radio and TV.

Scholar centers of primary and tertiary education will be visited in order to take this message of prevention and treatment.

During the last 50 years, Sonora and Arizona have developed bilateral cooperation because of their closeness. They have worked through the Commission Sonora-Arizona in different areas of social development, but for the first time they have signed an agreement to fight against addiction.

Highlights:

- The National Commission against Addictions (abbreviated to CONADIC in Spanish) forms part of the structure of the Mexican Health Ministry.
- Sonora is the second largest State of the Mexican Republic.

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