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### **Illicit Drug Use Among Afghan Refugees in Iran**

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**Background and Aim:** Iran is hosting the second largest refugee population worldwide. Afghans flee to Iran from the country which is the main producer of opium in the country with the highest number of users. We seek to explore the indicators contributing to illicit drug use within the Afghan households residing in Iran. Using the collected data in 2011 through interview with the heads of the Afghan households residing in the five most refugee populated provinces in Iran. We reviewed, income poverty, education poverty, gender of the head of the household and his/her marital status also household dimensions against the claim of the head of the household regarding illicit drug use of at least one of the household members in the past one month. Statistical calculation proved that education level of the head of the household is a significant and meaningful indicator contributing to drug use in the household. We conclude that integration of awareness raising and educational programs in specific literacy training in drug prevention programs for the leaders of the at risk families in specific refugees and immigrants is essential.

**Methods:** Data of this study has been collected through a survey conducted between August and November 2011 through interview with 2,070 heads of Afghan households from a geographically distributed sampling within five most refugee-populated provinces in Iran. The sample was collected from capital cities and the outskirts of these cities in provinces of Tehran, Khorasan-Razavi, Kerman, Isfahan and Fars. In this study the effect of the education level of the head of household, residency area, gender of the head of the household and income on illicit drug use in the household was reviewed through a Logic model.



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**Results:** Conducted analysis demonstrates a meaningful effect of the education level of the head of the household, residency area and gender of the head of the household on illicit drug use within the Afghan households while rejecting any relation between the level of income and illicit drug use among Afghan households.

**Conclusion:** The study recommend integration of education programs into prevention activities and highlight the importance of the social safety network in preventing illicit drug use.

**Keywords:** Illicit drug use, Afghan Refugees