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Methodologies for Statistical Analysis of the Effects of Drug Use on Hidden Populations.

Drug users and their children are predominantly a hidden population, for which accurate prevalence estimates have to be computed with indirect methods, such as capture-recapture models and rely on multiple data sources that often do not align. Therefore, finding these children and any negative health outcomes is a multi-layer issue. Potential data sources are intrinsically related to the data sources of their parents and carry at least the same complexities. The main focus of this work is on the need for such types of research given the lack of evidence, the proposed methods that may be used, and types of data sources countries may have in general. Such a study has been commissioned by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol in Ireland and results will be forthcoming next year. (Received September 17, 2014)