

Project Casado (Spain)

Dr. Arturo Casado, Universidad Internacional Isabel I de Castilla

Attitudes, intentions and behavior toward doping among athletics in Spain: a combination of quantitative and experimental studies.

Social science research of doping in sport allow us to understand why athletes dope and how they do it, hence it helps to improve educational and interventional anti-doping programs.

Researchers have explored through different theoretical models all the possible constructs that influences intentions, attitudes and behavior toward doping. To date, regarding quantitative studies there is no standard model and multiple scales of measurement and multiple questions items exist. The World Anti-doping Agency provides a Social Science Research Package with a useful guideline for measuring athletes' responses in each of the Sport Drug Control Model's (SDCM) domains that influence doping attitudes and behavior (Social Science Research Package, WADA, 2015). All the items used in the SDCM have shown validity and reliability, this model was extended to take into account broader social and cultural context (Jalleh G, 2013). However, it is necessary to analyze the model in other populations and other cultures.

Due to the intrinsic nature of doping in sport, a banned and socially rejected practice, the measurement of the prevalence of doping remains difficult, especially in competitive level, and there are no standard methods. However, the estimation of the prevalence of doping based on self-report survey (direct questioning) provide a higher rate of dopers than the official laboratory statistics, which reflects better what is happening in "the real world" of competitive sport. Also, prevalence figures provide a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of anti-doping policies (de Hon, 2015).

Furthermore, quantitative analysis, mainly carried out through self-report surveys, have established a large number of factors associated with the attitudes and intentions of doping but the pathway to doping is complex and heterogeneous relying not only on psychosocial factors but also athletes' entourage. Updated reviews of antidoping literature reveals a lack of qualitative studies or experimental designs that could provide insightful information and examine causality; the Institute for Sport, Physical Activity and Leisure of Leeds Beckett University encourage this qualitative research (Backhouse, 2016).

For all those reasons, in phase one of this project we will conduct a survey to a representative sample of track and field athletes with competitive level (from youth to senior), and their coaches, using the Sport Drug Control Model. The objectives of this phase will be (1) to examine for the first time the intentions and attitudes toward doping in track and field elite athletes and coaches in Spain and (2) determine the prevalence of self-reported doping. The standard questionnaire of the SDCM will be translate into Spanish. This adaptation could be used by WADA, Latin NADOS and stakeholders in further research.