

# Review of: "The Hidden Aspects of A Century of Substance Use Policymaking in Iran"

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The article offers interesting insights for the reader, but there are issues with its acceptance as a scholarly text. The title of the article is problematic, using the term "substance use", while the article exclusively focuses on opioids. Although there are brief mentions of other substances (in the context of a general approach to substances) later on, a title referencing opium would have been more appropriate. The article itself devotes much more attention to the historical period (i.e., 1909-1960) than to later times. The laws and penalties are often not sufficiently presented, and the article frequently focuses more on healthcare services rather than on legislation. This isn't necessarily an error, but it does overlook the article's focus on "policymaking." The information about the prevalence of HIV at the end of the results is not very relevant to the topic. If the authors wish to retain this section, it's crucial to introduce and justify the methodology of this information directly from Iran (given that the sources are global statistics). I would recommend focusing the article solely on opioids and describing each period primarily in terms of legislation, linking additional information on population prevalence and healthcare measures as a supplement to these legislative changes.