This study determined the status of the anti-drug abuse program in Laoag City and Ilocos Norte from 1997-2001.

This is a descriptive study which made use of secondary data from the files of the provincial office of the Philippine National Police of Ilocos Norte as source of data.

The annual drug addiction rate in Laoag City and Ilocos Norte from 1997-1999 was increasing ranging from 1.06%-1.54%. It dropped to 0.22% in 2000 but increased again to 1.59% in 2001.

Laoag City, San Nicolas and Batac sustained high drug addiction rates of 1.01% to 4.70%. Highest drug addiction rates was registered by the town of Burgos (7.14%).

During the period 1997-2001 a total of 2,847 pre-emption activities were implemented; 158 buy bust operations, 397 raids/search; 778 persons were arrested and 188 cases were filed in courts wherein 72.91% are on-going trial. Concerning counseling, 3,116 meeting were done and participated in by 17,341 participants. The number of drug abusers in rehabilitation centers increased totaling to 191 for five years.

There are differences in the average drug addiction rates in Laoag City And Ilocos Norte from 1997-2001. Highest drug addiction rate of 1.59% was registered in 2001.

The drug addiction rate in Laoag City and Ilocos Norte was negatively related to the pre-emption activities, raids/search conducted. The most effective strategy in curtailing drug abuse is arresting drug users, pushers and traffickers.

The average drug addiction rate in the province is increasing annually except in the year 2000 registering a low addiction of 0.22%.
Laoag City San Nicolas and Batac are places sustained that sustained high drug addiction rates.

The more drug pre-emption activities and buy bust, raids/search conducted, the lower the drug addiction rate in the province.
It is hereby recommended that adequate funds should be allocated by the government solely for effective anti-drug operations.

A combination of selected anti-drug abuse approaches should be undertaken by the government in order to come up with the most powerful sequence of strategies to combat the menace.

Continuing pre-emption activities to curtail drug addiction should be sustained by the LGUs to reduce drug addiction.

An integrated system of controlling drug addiction should be institutionalized where every party demonstrates political will to fight drug addiction.

Stiffer penalties for drug trafficking should be imposed by the government. The right to bail should be denied to habitual violators of anti-drug laws.

Social approaches to eradicate drug addiction should be saturated by the government to educate high risk groups toward drug addiction.

Judges should be more determined and cooperative in signing criminal charges against drug abusers.