Forced treatment for crack addicts in Sao Paulo

January 21 2013

About 50 Brazilian health officials and law enforcement agents are rounding up crack addicts in the city of Sao Paulo and forcibly putting them in treatment if deemed necessary.

The measure comes as many Brazilian cities face a crack epidemic like that the U.S. saw in the 1990s.

Sao Paulo authorities must conduct a simple health examination of addicts during Monday's sweep, and then get a judge's approval to force somebody into treatment.

Similar action has already taken place in Rio de Janeiro, which like Sao Paulo has seen areas of the city turned into chaotic "cracklands" where addicts roam the streets and use the drug night and day.

By early afternoon, Sao Paulo health officials had yet to say if they had forced anyone into treatment.

Copyright 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Forced treatment for crack addicts in Sao Paulo (2013, January 21) retrieved 25 April 2024 from https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-01-treatment-addicts-sao-paulo.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.