Annual report 2011: the state of the drugs problem in Europe

Deborah Olszewski, 16 November 2011
The annual report package

drug situation > publications

Annual report

Selected issues
- Cost and financing of drug treatment services in Europe
- Guidelines for the treatment of drug dependence: a European perspective
- Mortality related to drug use in Europe: public health implications

Statistical bulletin

Drugnet Europe

Country overviews

emcdda.europa.eu/events/2011/annual-report
Europe’s biggest drug problem

Even larger problem in some neighbouring countries
Problem opioid users (mainly heroin)

About 1.3 million:
0.4 % of adults in the EU and Norway

Overall stable

Qualitative changes:
ageing cohort, polydrug use, reduction in injecting
Between 10 000 and 20 000 opioid users die each year

Main causes: overdose, infectious disease, trauma, suicide

About 7 600 reported overdose deaths in 2009 (stable) — mainly opioids, males, polydrug use

Overall decrease in new HIV infections
Trends in newly reported HIV infections

drug situation > heroin and injecting > harms

In five EU Member States reporting highest rates of infection
Trends in mean age of overdose deaths

drug situation > heroin and injecting > harms
Estimated number of heroin seizures and quantities seized

Drug situation > Heroin and injecting > Seizures

- Quantity seized by the EU, Croatia & Norway
- Quantity seized by Turkey
- Number of seizures in Europe

Year: 2001 to 2009

Kg

Z

25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
0
10,000
20,000
30,000
40,000
50,000
60,000
70,000
14.5 million Europeans have ever used cocaine (4.3 %)

4 million during the past year (1.2 %)

3 million are between 15 and 34 years old
Main stimulant drug situation > cocaine

North and Eastern Europe  South and Western Europe
Trends in last year cocaine use among young adults

drug situation > cocaine

Countries with three surveys or more

UK (E&W), Spain, Denmark, Italy, Germany, Norway, Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Sweden, Greece, Finland, France, Hungary
Trends in specialist treatment entries

drug situation > cocaine > treatment

Clients by primary drug

- Heroin
- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Other stimulants

Ecstasy and amphetamines

Ecstasy
2 million young adults (1.4 %) have used ecstasy in the last year

Amphetamines
1.5 million young adults (1.1 %) have used amphetamines in the last year
Trend – decline in MDMA seizures, prices, purity and drug law offences

Tablets often contain amphetamines and $m$CPP

New (pre)precursors, e.g. safrole rather than PMK

Still very popular in some nightlife settings
Trend in last year ecstasy use among young adults

drug situation > ecstasy

Countries with at least three surveys

United Kingdom
Czech Republic
Netherlands
Slovakia
Estonia
Spain
Bulgaria
Finland
Germany
France
Italy
Hungary
Denmark
Norway
Sweden
(Meth-)amphetamines

Prevalence mostly stable

Increase in number and quantity of methamphetamine seizures

Northern Europe – methamphetamine replacing amphetamine on some markets

Problem (meth-)amphetamine use reported by a limited number of countries
78 million Europeans have ever used cannabis: 23.2 %

22.5 million in the past year: 6.7 %

16 million are between 15 and 34 years old
Trends in last year prevalence among young adults

drug situation > cannabis

Countries with three surveys or more

- Finland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Bulgaria
- Hungary
- Greece

- Slovakia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Germany
- Netherlands

- Czech Republic
- Italy
- Spain
- France
- United Kingdom
Trends in last year prevalence by age group

drug situation > cannabis

United Kingdom
Daily cannabis use among young adults by gender

drug situation > cannabis
Seizures

About 584 tonnes of cannabis resin and 57 tonnes of cannabis herb seized in 2009 in the EU and Norway

Domestic cultivation reported in all European countries
Detecting new drugs

Record number of new substances reported to the European early-warning system

Growing popularity of synthetic cathinones, including mephedrone

New synthetic cannabinoids
Monitoring the Internet

drug situation > new drugs > Internet

Expansion of online shops (600+)

Selling psychoactive substances/‘legal highs’

Rapid adaptation to control measures
Universal prevention – overall small shift towards evidence-based approaches

But also increase in interventions not proven to be effective, e.g. information provision

Increase of interventions for vulnerable groups: young offenders and pupils with academic problems

Indicated prevention still very limited
At least 1.1 million Europeans undergo drug treatment every year

Over half undergo opioid substitution treatment

Estimated coverage rate for opioid substitution treatment in the EU: 50 %
Opioid substitution treatment

responses > treatment

Diagram showing the number of clients in substitution treatment (thousands) from 2003 to 2009. The chart indicates an increase in clients over time, with a notable rise after 2005. Two lines are presented: one for 12 newer Member States and another for 15 pre-2004 Member States.
Harm reduction

Over 50 million syringes distributed through specialised programmes

Overdose training with ‘take-home’ doses of naloxone in some countries

Joint guidelines on prevention of infections
Conclusions

Europe now has a more stable drug use situation, but some qualitative changes

Many changes in drug markets — new drugs, new trafficking routes, replacement of precursors, heroin shortage, etc.

Important investment in treatment, harm reduction but still room for progress in prevention, social reintegration, prisons

Recession – impact on Europe’s drug problems and responses?
Dėkoju už dėmesį