

# GLOBAL OVERVIEW: DRUG DEMAND DRUG SUPPLY

W O R L D 2  
D R U G 0  
R E P O R T 2  
1

© United Nations, June 2021. All rights reserved worldwide.

ISBN: 9789211483611

eISBN: 9789210058032

United Nations publication, Sales No. E.21.XI.8

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part and in any form for educational or non-profit purposes without special permission from the copyright holder, provided acknowledgement of the source is made. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source.

Suggested citation:

*World Drug Report 2021* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.21.XI.8).

No use of this publication may be made for resale or any other commercial purpose whatsoever without prior permission in writing from UNODC. Applications for such permission, with a statement of purpose and intent of the reproduction, should be addressed to the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC.

#### DISCLAIMER

The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of UNODC or contributory organizations, nor does it imply any endorsement.

Comments on the report are welcome and can be sent to:

Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

PO Box 500

1400 Vienna

Austria

Tel: (+43) 1 26060 0

Fax: (+43) 1 26060 5827

E-mail: [wdr@un.org](mailto:wdr@un.org)

Website: [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wdr2021.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wdr2021.html)

# PREFACE

Drugs cost lives.

In an age when the speed of information can often outstrip the speed of verification, the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that it is crucial to cut through the noise and focus on facts, a lesson that we must heed in order to protect societies from the impact of drugs.

Drug use killed almost half a million people in 2019, while drug use disorders resulted in 18 million years of healthy life lost, mostly due to opioids. Serious and often lethal illnesses are more common among drug users, particularly those who inject drugs, many of whom are living with HIV and Hepatitis C.

The illicit drug trade also continues to hold back economic and social development, while disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable and marginalized, and it constitutes a fundamental threat to security and stability in some parts of the world.

Despite the proven dangers, drug use persists and, in some contexts, proliferates. Over the past year, around 275 million people have used drugs, up by 22 per cent from 2010. By 2030, demographic factors project the number of people using drugs to rise by 11 per cent around the world, and as much as 40 per cent in Africa alone.

There is often a substantial disconnect between real risks and public perception. In some parts of the world for example, cannabis products have almost quadrupled in potency, and yet the percentage of adolescents who perceive cannabis as harmful has dropped by as much as 40 per cent, despite the evidence linking regular use to health problems, particularly in young people, and despite the correlation between potency and harm.

New psychoactive substances also continue to be a challenge, as markets witness the introduction of new drugs that are unpredictable and poorly understood. Regulatory and legislative steps have been successful in stemming the tide globally, but in low-income countries the problem is on the rise; between 2015 and 2019, South and Central America recorded a fivefold rise in the amount of new synthetic psychoactive substances seized, while seizures in Africa increased from minor to substantial amounts. Strong increases were also reported in South and Southwest Asia as well as the Near and Middle East.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 crisis has pushed more than 100 million people into extreme poverty, and has greatly exacerbated

unemployment and inequalities, as the world lost 114 million jobs in 2020. In doing so it has created conditions that leave more people susceptible to drug use and to engaging in illicit crop cultivation.

Furthermore, disparities in access to essential controlled medicines around the world continue to deny relief to patients in severe pain. In 2019, four standard doses of controlled pain medication were available every day for every one million inhabitants in West and Central Africa, in comparison to 32,000 doses in North America.

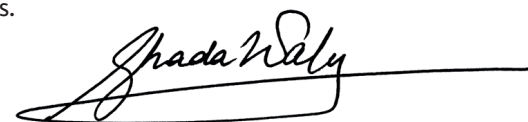
In parallel, drug traffickers have quickly recovered from the initial setback caused by lockdown restrictions and are operating at pre-pandemic levels once again. Access to drugs has also become simpler than ever with online sales, and major drug markets on the dark web are now worth some \$315 million annually. Contactless drug transactions, such as through the mail, are also on the rise, a trend possibly accelerated by the pandemic.

Communicating facts about drugs and promoting science-based interventions is an absolute necessity if we are to reduce demand and supply of drugs, while also facilitating access to controlled medicines for those in need. It is also the surest path to eliminating stigmatization and discrimination and providing adequate treatment, as seven in eight people who suffer from drug use disorders remain without appropriate care.

At the UN Office on Drugs and Crime we are dedicated to pursuing and promoting fact-driven, human rights-based approaches to drug control and treatment.

I am proud to present to you this World Drug Report, which embodies our commitment to raising awareness and combating misinformation.

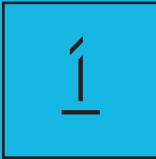
It is my hope that this report will inform policymakers, practitioners, and the general public on the facts of the world drug problem, and provide them with a powerful tool to share evidence and information, and in doing so help save and preserve lives.



Ghada Waly, Executive Director  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# WORLD DRUG REPORT 2021

BOOKLET



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
POLICY IMPLICATIONS

BOOKLET



GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF DRUG DEMAND  
AND DRUG SUPPLY

BOOKLET



DRUG MARKET TRENDS:  
CANNABIS, OPIOIDS

BOOKLET



DRUG MARKET TRENDS:  
COCAINE, AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

BOOKLET



COVID-19 AND DRUGS:  
IMPACT AND OUTLOOK

# CONTENTS

<b>PREFACE</b>	3
<b>EXPLANATORY NOTES</b>	7
<b>SCOPE OF THE BOOKLET</b>	9
<b>DRUG DEMAND</b>	11
Looking towards 2030: how will demographic changes impact drug use?	11
Impact of drug use on the health of the user and on public health	19
Extent of drug use	19
Health consequences of drug use	32
<b>DRUG SUPPLY</b>	51
Drug production and trafficking	51
Drug trafficking over the Internet	65
Drug trafficking over the clear web: the example of substances supplying synthetic drugs markets	66
Drug trafficking over the dark web	75
<b>ANNEX</b>	91
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	105
<b>REGIONAL GROUPINGS</b>	107

## Acknowledgements

The *World Drug Report 2021* was prepared by the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under the supervision of Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director of the Division, and Angela Me, Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, and the coordination of Chloé Carpentier, Chief of the Drug Research Section.

### Content overview

Chloé Carpentier  
Angela Me

### Analysis and drafting

Nicole Cook  
Philip Davis  
Michael Lohmuller  
Kamran Niaz  
Thomas Pietschmann  
Barbara Remberg (INCB Secretariat)

### Data management and estimate production

Monika Barratt (RMIT University)  
Enrico Bisogno  
Diana Camerini  
Conor Crean  
Hernan Epstein  
Natalia Ivanova  
Sabrina Levissianos  
Virginia Macdonald (WHO)  
Bradley Mathers (WHO)  
Andrea Oterová  
Martin Raithelhuber  
Umidjon Rakhmonberdiev  
Francesca Rosa  
Ali Saadeddin  
Keith Sabin (UNAIDS)  
Tun Nay Soe

### Editing

Jonathan Gibbons

### Graphic design and production

Anja Korenblik  
Suzanne Kunnen  
Kristina Kuttinig  
Maria Moser  
Lorenz Perszyk

### Administrative support

Andrada-Maria Filip  
Iulia Lazar

## Review and comments

The *World Drug Report 2021* benefited from the expertise of and invaluable contributions from UNODC colleagues in all divisions and from the INCB Secretariat.

The Research and Trend Analysis Branch acknowledges the invaluable contributions and advice provided by the *World Drug Report* Scientific Advisory Committee:

Jonathan Caulkins	Afarin Rahimi-Movaghar
Paul Griffiths	Peter Reuter
Marya Hynes	Alison Ritter
Vicknasingam B. Kasinather	Francisco Thoumi
Charles Parry	

The analysis on the global situation on hepatitis C in Booklet 2 benefited from a contribution from the Department of Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes of WHO.

The analysis on purchases of drugs on the dark web in Booklet 2 is based on original data graciously shared by the *Global Drug Survey* team.

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the *World Drug Report* do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Countries and areas are referred to by the names that were in official use at the time the relevant data were collected.

Since there is some scientific and legal ambiguity about the distinctions between “drug use”, “drug misuse” and “drug abuse”, the neutral term “drug use” is used in the *World Drug Report*. The term “misuse” is used only to denote the non-medical use of prescription drugs.

All uses of the word “drug” and the term “drug use” in the *World Drug Report* refer to substances controlled under the international drug control conventions, and their non-medical use.

All analysis contained in the *World Drug Report* is based on the official data submitted by Member States to the UNODC through the annual report questionnaire unless indicated otherwise.

The data on population used in the *World Drug Report* are taken from: *World Population Prospects: The 2019 Revision* (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division).

References to dollars (\$) are to United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

References to tons are to metric tons, unless otherwise stated.

The following abbreviations have been used in the present booklet:

**ASEAN** Association of Southeast Asian Nations

**ATS** amphetamine-type stimulants

**CBD** cannabidiol

**COVID-19** coronavirus disease

**DALYs** disability-adjusted life years

**DMT** dimethyltryptamine

**Δ-9-THC** *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol

**EMCDDA** European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

**Europol** European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation

**GBL** *gamma*-butyrolactone

**GHB** *gamma*-hydroxybutyric acid

**INCB** International Narcotics Control Board

**LSD** lysergic acid diethylamide

**MDMA** 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine

**MPDV** 3,4-methylenedioxypropylvalerone

**NPS** new psychoactive substances

**PWID** people who inject drugs

**RMIT** Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

**S-DDD** defined daily doses for statistical purposes

**UNAIDS** Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**WHO** World Health Organization

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_11274](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_11274)

