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Office on Drugs and Crime

GLOBAL ILLICIT DRUG TRENDS

2003



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Sandeep Chawla
Thibault le Pichon
Thomas Pietschmann
Patrick Seramy
Aruna Nathwani
Johny Thomas
Ali Saadedin

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PREFACE

At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in 1998, States Members agreed to make significant progress towards the control of supply and demand for illicit drugs by the year 2008. They noted that this objective could only be achieved by means of the 'balanced approach' (giving demand as much attention as supply), and on the basis of regular assessments of the drug problem. The aim of the present report is to contribute to such assessments by presenting supply and demand statistics and analysis on the evolution of the global illicit drug problem.

Reliable and systematic data to assess the drug problem, and to monitor progress in achieving the goals set by the General Assembly, however, is not readily available. The present report is based on data obtained primarily from the annual reports questionnaire (ARQ) sent by Governments to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2002, supplemented by other sources. Two of the main data limitations are that: (a) these annual questionnaires are not systematic enough, both in terms of the number of countries responding and of content; and (b) most countries lack the monitoring systems required to produce reliable, comprehensive and internationally comparable data. There have been some recent improvements. National illicit coca and opium monitoring systems, supported by UNODC, are now providing annual cultivation estimates for the main producing countries. However, data on other links in the drug chain, particularly on the demand side, are progressively weaker.

This report tries to overcome the data limitations by presenting, annually, estimates and analysis of illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption. The first section deals with Trends in illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption. The second section provides the Statistics on which the globally aggregated estimates and trends are based.

The difficulties of measuring an illicit activity are well known. Although they impose obvious limitations on data, it is possible to make reasonable order-of-magnitude estimates. It is also highly desirable to do so, because such estimates encourage transparency, stimulate discussion and build knowledge. Empirical evidence is the only realistic basis for policy-making. This report, by presenting what we know, and by showing what we do not know, contributes to building the knowledge base for better policy. It also sets the basis for more focussed action to achieve the goals set in 1998 and reiterated at the Ministerial segment of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in April 2003.



Antonio Maria Costa
Executive Director
United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime*

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The following abbreviations have been used in this report:

ARQ	annual reports questionnaire
ATS	amphetamine-type stimulants
CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
DEA	United States of America, Drug Enforcement Administration
DMT	N,N - dimethyltryptamine
DOB	brofamfetamine
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
ESPAD	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs
F.O.	UNODC Field Office
ICMP	UNODC Global Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme
IDU	Injecting drug use
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
INCSR	United States of America, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report
Interpol/ICPO	International Criminal Police Organization
LSD	lysergic acid diethylamide
NAPOL	National Police
ODCCP	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
PCP	phencyclidine
UNAIDS	Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNODC	United Nations <i>Office on Drugs and Crime</i>
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
Govt.	Government
u.	Unit
lt.	Litre
kg	Kilogram
ha	Hectare
mt	Metric ton



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