

# Treatment and care for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system

## Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



## Disclaimer

Draft pre-launch publication for initial circulation.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, March 2018.

World Health Organization, March 2018

This publication has not been formally edited.

# Outline

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## Acknowledgements

This publication has been jointly developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNODC staff from the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the Justice Section jointly with colleagues from the WHO Management of Substance Abuse team took the lead in drafting this document. Under the overall guidance and leadership of (in alphabetical order) Giovanna Campello, Gilberto Gerra, Valérie Lebaux and Vladimir Poznyak, the following staff in particular contributed to the development of this document (in alphabetical order): Gabriele Aiello, Anja Busse, Nicolas Clark, Celso Coracini, Jee Aei (Jamie) Lee, Ana Maria Marin Delgado, Sven Pfeiffer and Elizabeth Saenz. Additional review and comments were provided by UNODC staff from the Division of Treaty Affairs, in particular John Brandolino, Xiahong Li and Catherine Muganga; and Giovanni Gallo from the Office of the Executive Director.

UNODC and WHO would like to acknowledge the following for their invaluable contribution to the process of drafting this publication:

- All Member States that have responded to a note verbale issued by UNODC and shared information about their approach to treatment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system as an alternative to conviction or punishment.
- The Organization of American States/Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD), the African Union (AU) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).
- Charlotte Colman supported the development of this publication both as an expert and as a consultant and developed an earlier draft of this publication.
- All national, regional and civil society experts that participated in the meetings in October 2016 and October 2017 and provided valuable input to this publication (in alphabetical order): Uju Agomoh, Sharifa Al-Emadi, Doaa Ahmed A. Al-Fayadh, Amro Ali Al-Humaidi, Mubark Salem Al-Jamani, Nanda Aung Wan, Vicknasingnam Balasingam, David Basangwa, Richard Baum, Farid Benavides, Štěpán Bolf, Evgeny Bryun, Pietro Canuzzi, Giuseppe Carrá, Souleymane Coulibaly, Hector Diaz , Catalina Drogelmann, David Farabee, Ravindra Fernando, Gabriele Fischer, Carson Fox, Gregoire Gansou, Rommel Garcia, Dan-Bogdan Gheorghe, Tatiana Grechanaya, Kanna Hayashi, Rebecca Jesseman, Mira Kovacevic, Sarah Larney, Zhimin Liu, Antonio Lomba, Nasser Loza, Marcella Marletta, Timothy McSweeney, Rommel Moreno Manjarréz, Abdul

Mubin Sultankhil, Duc Cuu Nguyen, Pitak Obsuwan, Jane Marie Ong'olo, Merve Özcan, Bancha Panburana, Jason Payne, Roger Peters, Pamela Rodriguez, Fathia Shabo, Rehab Shabo, Nicola Singleton, Ana Sofia dos Santos Silva, Sonia Specchia, Heino Stöver, Abou Sy, Margaret Trottier, Liesbeth Vandam, Homer Venters, Alessandra Viviano, Pattarawadee Waiyapat, Vladimir Yakushev, Mana Yamamoto. In addition, the following experts participated as observers to the meetings: Abdulaziz Othman Alabdulrahman, Mohammed Ayal Al-Shammari, Ahmad Al-Zaabi, Elizabeth Ferrel Alvarez, Ricardo Martinez Covarrubias, Joseph Debono, Scott Harris, Jonathan Engerer, Yulia Kalinina, Anna Nazarova and William Wasson.

- UNODC and WHO staff in the field offices and substantive sections in headquarters as well as experts globally for providing substantive inputs.

## Introduction

This initiative is developed, *inter alia*, considering resolution 58/5 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) entitled “Supporting the collaboration of public health and justice authorities in pursuing alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug related offences of a minor nature”. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs invited UNODC - in consultation with States and, as appropriate, other relevant international and regional organizations - to “provide guidelines or tools on the collaboration of justice and health authorities on alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature”.<sup>1</sup>

In response to this, UNODC and the World Health Organization (WHO), launched the initiative “Treatment and Care of People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment” at the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2016. This initiative aims to enhance the knowledge, understanding, scope and potential for alternative measures to conviction or punishment. In line with the international drug control conventions<sup>2</sup> and other relevant international instruments, including human rights treaties and UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,<sup>3</sup> it explores options to divert people with drug use disorders who are in contact with the criminal justice system to treatment.

As part of this initiative, UNODC and WHO developed this publication on treatment of drug use disorders as alternatives to conviction or punishment.

This publication is intended to serve as an introductory reference, outlining the options available to States that are in line with the international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments. The focus of the publication is on practical information for policy makers and justice.

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