



**ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime**

**STATISTICS**

# **GLOBAL ILLICIT DRUG TRENDS 2000**

## 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. (General Assembly Resolution S-20/2 and S-20/3). 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.

However, reliable, systematic and comparable data to assess the drug problem, and to monitor progress in achieving the goals set by the General Assembly, is not readily available. The present report is based on data obtained primarily from the annual reports questionnaire (ARQ) sent by Governments to UNDCP in 1999, supplemented by other sources when necessary and where available. Two of the main limitations encountered by UNDCP in using ARQ and other sources are: (a) that ARQ reporting is not systematic enough, both in terms of number of countries responding and of content, and (b) that most countries lack the adequate monitoring systems required to produce reliable, comprehensive and internationally comparable data.

These limitations are particularly evident in the measurement of illicit crop production and drug abuse. As requested by States Members, in order to assist them with compiling data on these topics, UNDCP established a Global Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme and a Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse last year. Implementation of both programmes has now started and, provided they are given adequate support, they should contribute to more scientifically valid assessments of the drug problem.

United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)  
Vienna

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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	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
HNLP	Meeting of Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies - Asia and the Pacific
IDU	injecting drug use
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
INCSR	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
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNAIDS	Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
UNFO	UNDCP Field Office
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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## HIGHLIGHTS

### **AMPHETAMINE TYPE STIMULANTS : DRUGS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY?**

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- # Following dramatic increases in ATS abuse during the early 1990s, two of the three main ATS markets, Western Europe and North America, are now showing encouraging signs of stabilization, or even decline.
- # Globally, however, illicit ATS supply and demand are still showing upward trends.
- # In East and South-East Asia, illicit production, trafficking and abuse are rising. The region seems to be emerging as a prime source for both ATS end-products and their chemical precursors. The danger of spread to other parts of the world remains.

### **COCAINE TRENDS IN EUROPE**

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- # The possible worsening of the cocaine situation in Europe has been a matter of concern since the 1980s.
- # However, although cocaine use continues to grow in Europe, there are some limitations to the upward trend.
- # The main growth sector in European drug markets was synthetic drugs, and not cocaine, and heroin remained the main “problem drug” in the 1990s.

### **PRODUCTION**

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- # World cultivation and production are reportedly declining for coca.
- # Colombia was up to 67% of 1999 world potential cocaine output; Peru and Bolivia were down to 21% and 12% respectively.
- # World opium production showed some shifts from South-East to South-West Asia and increased by 33% to reach a record high in 1999.
- # Afghanistan’s output rose to reach 79% of global opium production in 1999; Myanmar’s was down to 15%.
- # Seizures suggest that global cultivation of cannabis is probably expanding.

## TRAFFICKING

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- # 1998 seizures increased for cocaine, heroin/morphine, cannabis resin and stimulants. They declined for opium and cannabis herb.
- # 1998 global interception rates (quantities seized/quantities produced) for opiates and cocaine increased to 17% and 46% respectively.
- # Trafficking of opiates from South-West Asia continues to be directed principally towards Europe. In 1998, Iran's seizures represented 88% of reported world opium seizures and 44% of world heroin/morphine seizures. Use of Central Asia as a transit region is reportedly increasing.
- # 78% of the cocaine seized in 1998 was in the Americas (31% in the USA, 28% in Colombia). Cocaine seizures declined in Europe (9% of world total).
- # 42% of all stimulants seized in 1998 were intercepted in East and South East Asia (22% in Thailand), 38% in Western Europe and 18% in North America.

## CONSUMPTION

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- # Abuse of opiates has become a global phenomenon. Almost two thirds of countries reporting trends to UNDCP in 1999 indicated rising consumption. Developing countries and countries in transition are notably affected. In developed countries, by contrast, opiate abuse is stable or even declining.
- # The main opiates markets are still in and/or close to the countries of production in Asia and the 'traditional' consumer markets of Europe, Australia and, to a lesser extent North America. Consumption in Latin America and in Africa, though rising, still appears to be comparatively low.
- # More than two thirds of all countries reporting abuse trends to UNDCP in 1999, witnessed an increase in cocaine consumption, most of the rest indicated a stabilization. Declines in cocaine abuse are reported by the USA, the world's largest cocaine market, and by a few countries in South-East Asia and Western Africa.
- # Abuse of cocaine is still concentrated in the Americas, though it has also started to spread more widely in Europe, Australia and Western and Southern Africa. In most parts of Asia, by contrast, it is still very limited.
- # Cannabis remains the most widespread drug of abuse and its consumption is reported to be increasing globally, although there are some recent reports of stabilization or declines (notably in North America, the Russian Federation, China and other Asian countries).
- # Abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants shows first signs of stabilization in Western Europe and North America but is increasing in East and South East Asia.
- # Diffusion of drug injecting to an increasing number of developing countries and the accompanying risk of HIV infection remains a serious global concern. Injecting drug use appears to be the main, or a major, mode of transmission for HIV infection in North Africa and the Middle East, East Asia & the Pacific, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Western Europe, and North America.

# ANALYSIS

## AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS: DRUGS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY?

In 1996, UNDCP warned that amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) could become the drugs of choice of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Does this still apply?

After the dramatic increases in ATS abuse they experienced in the early 1990s, two of the three main ATS markets, Western Europe and North America, now show encouraging signs of stabilization, or even decline. Globally, however, illicit ATS supply and demand are still showing upward trends. In the East and South-East Asia region, illicit production, trafficking and abuse are rising and there are indications that this region is increasingly emerging as a prime source for both ATS end products and their chemical precursors. There are also indications that traffickers in the region could be extending their operations to Europe and, possibly, to North America and other regions as well. As long as one large ATS market remains buoyant and not effectively contained, the danger of a spread to other parts of the world (including North America and Europe) remains.

### IDENTIFICATION OF A THREAT

Reports of abuse and trafficking of various amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) - from various regions - have been received since the 1950s. The phenomenon as such is thus not really new. However, the epidemics and trafficking activities described in these reports were usually considered to be local phenomena. ATS, i.e. the many substances related to the amphetamine molecule, are known in clandestine drug markets under a large number of street names<sup>1</sup>. In many countries, authorities often reported by street names, and were not aware of the precise chemical characteristics of the product<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, the broader link was not made, and the international dimension of the problem was not seen. As a consequence, ATS did not receive much attention at the international level.

This began to change when UNDCP started, in 1994, to investigate the various *Amphetamine-Type Stimulants*, which combine a large number of synthetic substances related to the amphetamine molecule, including amphetamine, methamphetamine, methcathinone and substances of the ecstasy group, so-called ring-substituted amphetamines (MDMA, MDA, MDEA). As a result, the existence of

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