



ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime

STATISTICS

GLOBAL ILLICIT DRUG TRENDS 1999



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Preface

The present report is based on data obtained primarily from the annual reports questionnaires (ARQ) received by UNDCP up to February 1999. Such reports hitherto presented only the supply side data from the ARQ. The present report now contains a statistical summary of the demand side data obtained from the ARQ, and is meant to show one of the several ways in which UNDCP is trying to put the “balanced approach” (putting demand on par with supply) into practice.

While the supply side dimensions of the international drug problem have been recognized for decades, the demand side has traditionally been considered a domestic issue, not conducive to international assessment. Thus, data on supply side indicators such as illicit drug cultivation, production and seizures, has been systematically collected and published for most of this century. Indicators to measure the demand for illicit drugs, such as the extent and incidence of abuse, or the treatment and prevention of it, have not received commensurate attention at the international level.

In adopting a Political Declaration, as well as a Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, the General Assembly at its twentieth special session not only reiterated the importance of the “balanced approach” but also noted that effective demand reduction activities could only develop on the basis of regular, objective and scientifically valid assessments of the drug problem. (General Assembly resolution S-20/2 and S-20/3, annex).

The present report thus contains two parts, the first dealing with the supply side, and the second dealing with the demand side of the drug problem. Data, statistical summaries and some analysis are provided, not only in the hope of making such a compilation internationally accessible, but also of ensuring that States Members may benefit from, and continue to contribute to, the information contained in the ARQ.

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