



**【23<sup>th</sup> Edition】**

Publish date : December 01, 2016

Chief editor :Shu-Lung Yang

Executive editor :Hua-Fu Hsu

Vice executive editor : Yueh-Chung Ma

Document editor : Nien-I Chen, Yueh-Hsing Chang

Executive department :Crime Research Center,  
National Chung Cheng University

Phone number :+886-5-2720411#26305

Website :<http://deptcrc.ccu.edu.tw/index.php/news/>

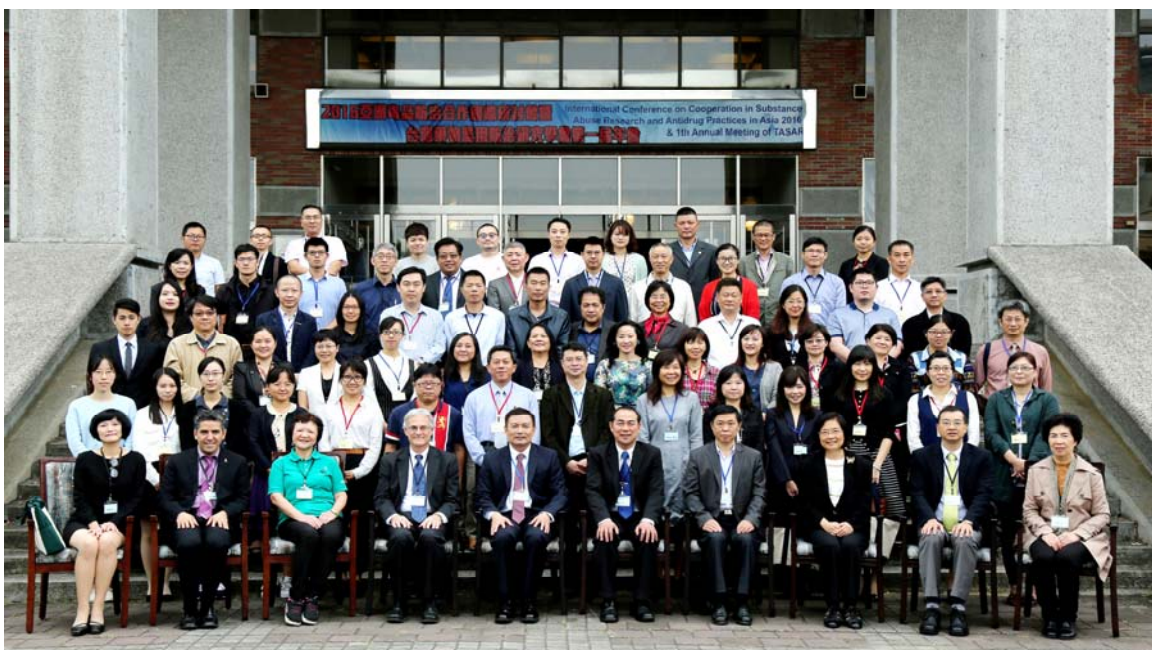
◎UNODC and NIDA Reports

◎Taiwan Research News

◎Recent International Academic

Conference

The Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse Research (TSSAR) and the National Cheng Kung University Crime Research Center jointly conducted the “International Seminar on Drug Prevention Cooperation in Asia” organized by the TSSAR as well as the first annual TSSAR meeting. This international seminar has a diverse theme covering anti-drug advocacy, drug crackdown, addiction treatment, anti-drug policy, and other areas. Other than Taiwan, nearly 200 experts and scholars from the United States, India, Philippines, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mainland China, Macau, and more have attended the seminar and have produced fruitful results.





# UNODC Reports

## UNODC/ECOWAS jointly launch efforts to support West Africa against drugs and crime

➤ Editorial Office



At a special event held on the margins of the 71st General Assembly yesterday, the Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov, said action against drugs and crime was helping to build a safer, healthier, more secure and more prosperous future for West Africa. But Mr. Fedotov also acknowledged the damaging influence of transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, terrorism, corruption, money laundering as well as HIV and drug abuse in the region. He said: "These challenges are a growing threat to development, peace and stability in West Africa, gradually crumbling the foundations of the rule of law, challenging progress in good governance and jeopardizing the economic and social development of the sub-region."

The UNODC Chief was speaking at a joint event for the launch of UNODC's Regional Programme for West Africa (2016-20) and the Economic Community for West African States' (ECOWAS) Plan of Action to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2016-20).

The joint launch strengthens collective action already taken by countries in West Africa to confront



governance, security and health issues. Together the ECOWAS and UNODC plans are designed to complement each other and to offer a firm foundation for linking the country, regional and international efforts against drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism.

Mr. Fedotov ended his remarks by stating that the Regional Programme, which has the endorsement of the Mauritanian government, would "contribute to the efforts of West Africa to achieve targets under the Sustainable Development Goals, as set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

He said that, through their close cooperation, UNODC and ECOWAS were contributing to building a brighter future for the people and communities of West Africa. ECOWAS and UNODC also signed a letter of cooperation to renew their commitment to cooperate as part of the overall work to be undertaken beneath the umbrella of the new Regional Programme. In opening the special event, Mr. Fedotov was joined by ECOWAS Commission President Marcel A. de Souza and the Secretary General's Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa Mohammed Ibn Chambas.

*This paper is from: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2016/September/unodc-ecowas-jointly-launch-efforts-to-support-west-africa-against-drugs-and-crime.html>



## NIDA Reports

# Multi agency funding announcement to assist with opioid crisis in rural U.S. regions

### ➤ Editorial Office

A new federal funding opportunity was announced today to help find solutions to the opioid use and overdose crisis in the nation's rural regions. It includes a focus on coal-impacted counties within Appalachia, as well as rural communities in other parts of the country. This initiative will support comprehensive, integrated approaches to prevent opioid injection and its consequences, including substance use disorder, overdose, HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, along with associated conditions, such as hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and sexually transmitted diseases. These projects will work with state and local communities to develop best practice responses to opioid injection epidemics that can be implemented by public health systems in the Nation's rural communities.

The Request for Funding (RFA) titled, "HIV, HCV and Related Comorbidities in Rural Communities Affected by Opioid Injection Drug Epidemics in the United States: Building Systems for Prevention, Treatment and Control (UG3/UH3)," is being funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIDA/NIH), in collaboration with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a federal-state partnership; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

An accompanying RFA, co-funded by NIDA and CDC, titled "Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Advanced Molecular Detection in Support of Systems for Prevention, Treatment and Control of HIV, HCV and



Related Comorbidities in Rural Communities Affected by Opioid Injection Drug Epidemics in the United States," will support a Center for HCV next-generation sequencing using Global Hepatitis Outbreak and Surveillance Technology.

Rising overdose deaths and substance use disorder treatment rates in many rural communities indicate sharp increases in opioid use, resulting in high rates of opioid use disorder, injection drug use, and unmet needs for treatment services in these locales. These dramatic increases have led to high rates of opioid overdoses, as well as large increases in acute HCV infections and the potential for localized HIV and continued HCV transmission. Rural communities face special challenges in implementing services to prevent and control substance use and these related conditions. Low population densities and limited public transportation mean that access to public health services and treatment are limited. State-level public health surveillance systems often have difficulty detecting infectious disease outbreaks in rural areas and may lack field staff experienced with health care networks in these regions.

In an effort to improve research-driven interventions that can address critical public health threats in rural Appalachia, four awards were issued earlier this year in response to a separate NIDA/ARC funding opportunity: "Services" (RFA-DA-16-015). Those grants are designed to help develop an epidemiologic understanding of opioid injection drug use, HIV and HCV infection risk, and other adverse health consequences of drug use in the Appalachia states.

*This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse*

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2016/10/multi-agency-funding-announcement-to-assist-opioid-crisis-in-rural-us-regions>



# Taiwan Research News

## I. Treating Drugs Users and Criminal Offenders in China: A Global Perspective

Spencer D. Li, PhD

**President of Asian Association of Substance Abuse Research**

Drug use and crime are closely related antisocial behaviors. Prior research has shown that drug users and criminal offenders are often the same kind of people. This knowledge, however, has had a limited influence in the Chinese criminal justice system, which still classifies drug users and criminals as two distinctive categories of offenders and places them in two different types of institutions. This dominant paradigm has created a highly punitive system that relies on incarceration in the treatment of drug users, resulting in sky-high cost and widespread failure in addressing the most pressing criminogenic needs of drug addicts, including psychological disorder, weak social bond, low life skills, unemployment, and lack of social support.

Through the analysis of data collected from several compulsory drug detoxification centers in China, this study found a high rate of prevalence of criminal offending among people receiving supervision and treatment for drug addiction. Further, the needs of drug users for relapse prevention significantly overlapped with those of criminal offenders for community reentry. The evidence suggests that criminal justice system should consider placing drug users and criminal offenders with similar levels of risk in comparable correctional settings and providing them with similar types of supervision and treatment. Moreover, research evidence shows that community corrections might be a more cost-effective alternative to incarceration in promoting rehabilitation and reintegration among drug users and low-to-moderate risk criminal offenders. This talk reviews these and related policy issues in the global context of justice reinvestment.



## **II. Arguments on Why Drug Decriminalization Proves Effective**

**Lin Ming-Chieh**

**Professor of Department of Criminology, National Chung Cheng University/Counseling**

**Psychologist/Social Worker**

### **1. Introduction: Why Anti-drug Policies Have Been Ineffective**

Taiwan's drug policy transitioned from deeming drug addicts as prisoner in the "Narcotics Elimination Act" in 1955 to deeming drug addicts as patients in the "Against Narcotics Act" in 1998. Why is it that instead of placing the problem under control, it has worsened over the years? This drew the curiosity of the author who specialized in sexual abuse and domestic violence inflictor mentality and counseling.

According to a TVBS report (2016/03/31), from 2009 to 2013, over 10,000 additional drug addicts were imprisoned every year, 185,450 persons in total. This raises the question of whether or not a country has succeeded. The author came across a speech by TED called "John Hally: Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong" half a year ago.

### **2. Drug Decriminalization Program and Effectiveness**

In response to heroin deterioration, Switzerland and the Netherlands switched to Heroin-assisted treatment, HAT in 1990. The government provided free high-purity heroin to be administered to drug users in a safe and clean environment, with the prescription and monitor of medical personnel in order to slowly reduce dependency. With the government's free heroin provision, drug trade became unprofitable, and the drug market shrank rapidly. With the medical care and social workers' assistance, the drug user infection problem was prevented, and drug users no longer needed to rob others or resort



to prostitution for money to buy drugs, and they received help on finding a place to live, getting a job, returning to the society, the motivation to quit drugs. By the late 2000s, the Netherlands's new drug users had fallen down to near zero (FOLLAW, 2016). Portugal implemented a similar program in 1999, which led to a significant decrease in the number of drug addicts (Chiang Jing-Lin, 2015; 2015; Hughes & Stevens, 2010)

### 3. Why Drug Decriminalization Proves to be Effective

Why is it that harsh punishments and imprisonment have proven ineffective while decriminalization has been proven effective? Based on the author's empirical research and counseling case experience, the following logical deduction is drawn:

#### (1) Alexandra's Mouse Experiment:

Canadian psychologist Alexandra (1978) questions the deduction "Heroin is addictive because lonely mice took drugs until they died" in previous studies. In previous studies, only one mouse was placed in a cage, and drug-containing water and regular water were administered. The mouse likely died of loneliness rather than drug addiction. Therefore, he re-designed a mouse paradise equipped with balls and wheels and placed several male and female mice in it. He found that not a single mouse drank the drug-containing water to death. Instead, the mice mostly drank regular water, thus validating "The lonely mice died of loneliness". The mice in the paradise had much fun playing without the desire to try drugs". The study was not taken seriously over the decade that followed, and it was even rejected many times.

#### (2) "Happy Drug Addicts, Altered Feelings" Theory Proposed by Lin Ming-Chieh (2011)

The author once asked drug addicts on parole during community counseling and drug users during a research interview why it is hard to kick the heroin habit. Most of them said, "It was wonderful beyond description". One of the drug users was asked to give an example of a metaphor. The drug user said, "If I were given a choice between ten naked super models and two pounds of heroin, I would still choose





heroin". This notion seemed like a reminder that drugs were several times more pleasurable than sex. After asking questions during counseling, some of the heaviest heroin addicts said heroin was three to ten times more pleasurable than sex.

4. Six Arguments: Dayu's flood control involves channeling based on his understanding of the nature of water. But do humans understand human nature, toxicity, or poisoning of human nature?

Argument 1: It is the nature of water to flow downwards. Dayu's flood control is based on his knowledge of the nature of water.

Three thousand years ago, Yun Gun engaged in flood control and prevention, but failed to take the nature of water into consideration. In fact, he only thought of "human nature". It is human nature to fear flood and beasts, so the direct response was to block it. When Yu finally calmed down to think about how water flowed downwards, he realized the problem could be solved by channeling water to the sea.

Therefore, in order to solve the drug abuse problem, knowledge of human nature, toxicity, and poisoning of human nature is critical.

Argument 2: It is human nature for people to climb up.

A proverb in ancient times says, "Water flows downwards, people climb up", which is to encourage people to strive for success. Although the process of achieving success may be painful, a sense of accomplishment is a kind of pleasure. Therefore, the pursuit of pleasure is human nature.

Argument 3: "No other waters could impress me for I've seen the vast seas." is human nature. People just won't stop looking for sensations.

A verse in a poem from the Tang Dynasty says, "No other waters could impress me for I've seen the vast seas." It means once you have experienced something that gave you a pleasant feeling, you won't settle for second best. "The same applies for drugs. Drugs get people high and keep people coming back for more".



Argument 4: The punishment for drug users takes away their bond with others and agonizes them to the point they need drugs to anaesthetize themselves.

This is a true-to-life situation. After drug users are arrested for drug abuse, the society despises them and friends and relatives fear them, leaving them only drugs to turn to the next time they need immediate happiness. It is no wonder there are more and more drug addicts, and such a high recidivism rate makes non-drug users panic.

Argument 5: Although drugs get people really high, the freedom to play and interpersonal links get people even more high than drugs.

This finding is supported by the mice in the paradise and the fact that only 5% of Vietnam War soldiers who returned to their homeland after the war ended continued to take drugs (Alexander, 1987). If drug users can be decriminalized or be given two years to make improvement during deferred prosecution period, they will be able to establish proper links with friends and relatives and at work with the assistance of social workers and policies. By allowing drug users to “freely choose” between links with drugs or family, naturally, the threat of drugs can be reduced, as most people will choose to work freely link with family. Even people that want to take drugs will be given free drugs without having to rob others or resort to prostitution for money.

Argument 6: Imprisonment is naturally in effective as it deprives drug users of their freedom and links by force, and the pain will prompt them to take drugs to relieve the pain and find pleasure.

“Poisoning of human nature” is rather complex. After drugs enter the body, the user will feel like taking it again due to the great pleasure derived. Human nature here must be taken into consideration. Although drug addiction produces great pleasure, the kind of pleasure is still relatively low if freedom and bonding with relatives and friends are at stake. If a program designed (such as the current program in Taiwan) only involves imprisoning drug users and make them despised by the society, they will only



resort to drugs that give them great happiness after they get out of jail. Therefore, given a choice, drug users will choose freedom and links over drugs.

5. Conclusion: After drugs enter the body, drug users are left with the choice between “getting naturally high” and “getting high from drugs”.

Real-life therapist Glasser once said, “Only a positive addiction can eradicate a negative addiction”. A positive addiction refers to indulging in legitimate pleasure that helps one grow, add fun to life, increase one’s confidence, creativity, happiness, and a sense of achievement, and achieve better physical and mental health (Glasser, 1975). Obviously, Glasser believes that to derive at the same level of happiness, a positive addiction leads to a sense of accomplishment, while a negative addiction leads to heavier addiction and greater loneliness, away from the pleasure of normal family and work links. He also believes that punishment is of little use, which also seems to echo the above argument.

Hence, the drug policy should be changed into: Promoting “Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life” to non-drug users and decriminalizing drug users”. In view of the direction of helping drug users regain happiness and links, medical, psychological, and social services shall be planned. It is recommended that the law in Taiwan be amended as soon as possible in order to improve the worsening situation of drug abuse at present.



# Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry - Annual Meeting & Symposium	American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry	December 8-11 2016	Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa, Bonita Springs, FL Contact: <a href="https://www.drugabuse.gov/web-site-disclaimer">https://www.drugabuse.gov/web-site-disclaimer</a>
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	National Institute on Drug Abuse National Institutes of Health, DHHS	February 15 2017	Neuroscience Center, Conference Rooms C & D, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20852 Contact: <a href="https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/advisory-boards-groups/national-advisory-council-drug-abuse-nacda/meeting-dates">https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/advisory-boards-groups/national-advisory-council-drug-abuse-nacda/meeting-dates</a>
American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT)	American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT)	March 15-18 2017	Washington, DC Contact : <a href="http://www.ascpt.org/ASCPT-2017-Annual-Meeting/Future-Annual-Meetings">http://www.ascpt.org/ASCPT-2017-Annual-Meeting/Future-Annual-Meetings</a>
The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 48th Annual Medical-Scientific Conference	The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)	April 6-9 2017	Hilton New Orleans Riverside New Orleans, LA Contact: <a href="http://www.asam.org/education/live-online-cme/the-asam-annual-conference">http://www.asam.org/education/live-online-cme/the-asam-annual-conference</a>
The Forum on Cross-strait Drug and Crime Prevention	National Chung Cheng University Crime Research Center	scheduled for late May 2017	No.168, Sec. 1, University Rd., Min-Hsiung Township, Chia-yi County 621, Taiwan (R.O.C.)