



【48th Edition】

Publish date: March 01, 2023

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Conference

Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse : Please add us on “Line”!

Dear scholars and experts:

With the impact of COVID-19 since 2019, online platforms that accommodate the next generation of social interaction have set a trend. Additionally, in the era of information explosion, anti-drug knowledge related advocacies provided through physical entities alone are very limited in strength. Traditional physical tours can no longer compete with digitalization trends, while the Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse (CPDA) is confronted by the challenges of having to undergo transformation. In response to the online to offline (O2O) trend and increase the reach of anti-drug propaganda, the CPDA created an official line account last year (2022). Based on the latest government policy and tendency to substance abuse, related information is delivered to users from time to time, in order to enhance public knowledge and continue to bring anti-drug promotion into full play.



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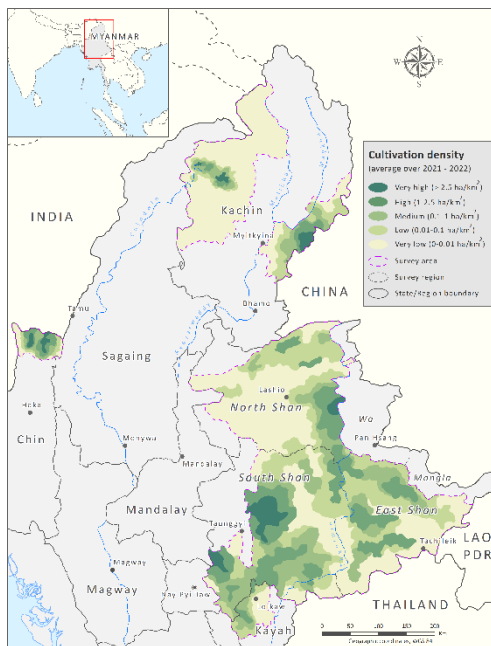


UNODC Reports

UNODC Report – major opium economy expansion is underway in Myanmar

➤ Editorial Office

Bangkok (Thailand), 26 January 2023 – The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) opium survey for Myanmar has found that cultivation has increased significantly, reversing the downward trend of 2014 to 2020.



Opium poppy cultivation density in Myanmar

The report announced today “Myanmar Opium Survey 2022: Cultivation, Production and Implications” has analysed data collected during the first full growing season since the military takeover, showing an increase of 33% in cultivation area to 40,100 hectares, and an 88% increase in potential yield to 790 metric tonnes. Following a moderate increase in cultivation area of 2% and yield of 4% during the 2021 season, the 2022 results confirm a significant expansion is underway of Myanmar’s opium economy.

UNODC Regional Representative Jeremy Douglas remarked, “economic, security and governance disruptions that followed the military takeover of February 2021 have converged, and farmers in remote



often conflict prone areas in northern Shan and border states have had little option but to move back to opium.”



UNODC Regional Representative Jeremy Douglas responds to questions on the main drivers behind the expansion of the opium economy



Illicit Drugs Analyst Inshik Sim discusses the latest data

The most significant increases were registered in Shan State where cultivation went up 39%, followed by Chin and Kayah states which increased 14% and 11%, while cultivation in Kachin rose a moderate 3%. The average estimated opium yield also increased by 41% to 19.8 kg/ha – the highest value since UNODC started measuring it in 2002 – pointing to increasingly sophisticated farming practices and availability of fertilizers.

The average price paid to farmers increased by 69% in 2022 to about US\$280/kg even as the supply surged, demonstrating the attractiveness of opium as a crop and commodity, and strong expanding demand as the Golden Triangle opium and heroin trade appears to be reconnecting to the global market. Combined with higher production, farmers earned more than twice as much from opium as in the previous year, although the jump in income did not necessarily translate directly into purchasing power as the country has experienced soaring inflation, a devalued currency, and increasing costs of fertilizers and fuel.

The increase in opium has taken place at the same time that the production of synthetic drugs has continued to expand, with the drug economy in the country and surrounding region generating substantial



profits. The value of opium in Myanmar ranges up to US\$2 billion, with the regional heroin trade valued at approximately US\$10 billion.

Representative Douglas added, “the growth we are witnessing in the drug business is directly connected to the crisis the country is facing. The impact on the region is profound, and the country’s neighbours need to assess and candidly address the situation, and they will need to consider some difficult options.”

Solutions need to take into account the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by people living in traditional opium-cultivating areas, including isolation and conflict. UNODC works with these realities in mind, supporting communities and farmers to strengthen local livelihoods that can compete with the opium economy.

“At the end of the day, opium cultivation is really about economics, and it cannot be resolved by destroying crops which only escalates vulnerabilities,” commented Benedikt Hofmann, UNODC Country Manager for Myanmar. He added, “Without alternatives and economic stability it is likely that opium cultivation and production will continue to expand.”



Well organized poppy fields in a hot spot area in South Shan



Lancing stage of healthy poppy capsules in Kachin State

This paper is from : UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

<https://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/myanmar/2023/01/myanmar-opium-survey-report/story.html>



NIDA Reports

Pregnant People With Substance Use Disorders Need Treatment, Not Criminalization

➤ **Editorial Office**

February 15, 2023 – Though it may be hard for many to fathom, even pregnant people and new parents can have active substance use disorders. They need support, not criminalization.

The addiction and overdose crisis, which now claims more than 100,000 lives a year, shows little sign of abating, and emerging data highlight its startling impact on pregnant people: Overdose is now a leading cause of death during or shortly after pregnancy.

Columbia University researchers recently reported that drug overdose deaths among pregnant and postpartum people increased by 81% between 2017 and 2020. In September 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released data showing that deaths related to mental health conditions, including substance use disorders (SUDs), account for 23% of deaths during pregnancy or in the year following it. This outstrips excessive bleeding, cardiovascular conditions, or other well-known complications of pregnancy.

These stunning data highlight just how important it is to ensure access to substance use disorder treatment for pregnant and postpartum people, including the need to eliminate barriers that interfere with this treatment.

In the United States, quality addiction treatment is notoriously hard to come by, especially in rural areas and especially for people from some racial and ethnic groups. Even for those with health insurance,



addiction treatment is not covered equitably, so getting care may be expensive. And fewer than half of addiction treatment programs prescribe effective medications like buprenorphine for opioid use disorder.

People seeking treatment for addictions face additional obstacles, especially if they have children. Only a small minority of treatment facilities provide child care, creating yet another obstacle on top of securing transportation, housing, food, and other necessities, all of which can be more difficult for people who are also supporting children.

The barriers get even higher for pregnant people. In one recent study using a “secret shopper” approach, callers to addiction treatment providers in 10 states were 17% less likely to receive an appointment if they said they were pregnant. Pregnant Black and Hispanic people experience even greater challenges accessing addiction treatment, including being less likely to receive medication for opioid use disorder, a proven and cost-effective treatment.

Fear of criminal punishment deters many pregnant people from seeking help for drug or alcohol problems. Many U.S. states have punitive policies in place related to substance use in pregnancy, which may include regarding it as potential child abuse, or grounds for commitment or being charged with a criminal act. Penalties for substance use in pregnancy can include fines, loss of custody, involuntary commitment, or incarceration.

Between 2011 and 2017, the number of infants placed in foster care grew by 10,000 each year; at least half of those placements were associated with parental substance use. Children in states with punitive policies are less likely to be reunited with their parents than those in other states. Moreover, there are considerable inequalities within the child welfare system. Pregnant Black people are more likely to be referred to child welfare and less likely to be reunited with their infants than pregnant white people, and Black and American Indian/Alaska Native children are overrepresented in this system.



It's no surprise that punitive policies cause pregnant people to fear disclosing their substance use to their health care providers or to avoid seeking treatment for a substance use disorder. These policies may also cause them to avoid or delay getting obstetric care.

Decades of research show that addiction is a chronic but treatable condition that drives people to use substances even if it harms their health, careers, and relationships. Punitive policies are not effective at addressing substance use disorder and, if anything, only exacerbate its societal risk factors, including worsening of racial health disparities. Punitive approaches also lead to more negative outcomes for parents and their children.

In states more likely to criminalize pregnant people with opioid use disorder, fewer receive medications for it. A 2022 analysis found that women living in states with punitive policies for substance use in pregnancy had a lower likelihood of receiving timely or quality care, both before and after pregnancy. In states with such policies, or which require doctors to report their patients' substance use, prenatal care tends to be sought later in pregnancy. States with punitive policies toward pregnant people with substance use disorders have higher rates of infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome.

In addition to increasing a mother's risk of overdose, untreated opioid use disorder during pregnancy can cause fetal growth restriction, placental abruption (separation of the placenta from the uterus), preterm labor, and other problems, and sometimes even the death of the fetus. Treatment with methadone or buprenorphine reduces the rates of preterm delivery, low birth weight, and placental abruption. Treatment also helps people with substance use disorders stay employed, take care of their children, and engage with their families and communities.

Like other medical conditions, substance use disorders require effective treatment. Science is poised to help as ongoing research develops more safe and effective interventions, as well as better implementation models tailored to the needs of those seeking substance use disorder treatment during pregnancy.



Punitive policies toward substance use reflect the entrenched attitude that addiction is a deviant choice rather than a medical disorder. A shift away from criminalization will require a shift of societal understanding of addiction as a chronic, treatable condition from which people recover, underscoring the urgency to treat and not punish it.

Having a substance use disorder during pregnancy is not itself child abuse or neglect. Pregnant people with substance use disorders should be encouraged to get the care and support they need — and be able to access it — without fear of going to jail or losing their children. Anything short of that is harmful to individuals living with these disorders and to the health of their future babies. It is also detrimental to their families and communities, and contributes to the high rates of deaths from drug overdose in our country.

This paper is from : National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://nida.nih.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2023/02/pregnant-people-substance-use-disorders-need-treatment-not-criminalization>



Taiwan Research News

The Neural Mechanism of Risk Decision in Amphetamine Users

Chen, Chiao-Yun¹

Not only does drug abuse endanger people's health, it imposes substantial social costs. Individual risk decisions may play a role in the development of substance abuse. This study used the Balloon Analogue Risk Task (BART) to further comprehend the neural mechanisms associated with substance abuse. In this study, feedback related negativity (FRN) after BART result feedback and P3 were used as electrophysiological indicators of risk decision-making. This study included 19 amphetamine abusers (experimental group) and 29 healthy adults (control group) as subjects. The behavioral results of the Balloon Analogue Risk Task (BART) have revealed that, when the probability of balloon bursting was greater, amphetamine abusers made more high-risk decisions than the control group. EEG findings have shown that the amphetamine abusers' P3 difference wave amplitude after result feedback was significantly lower than that of the control group, suggesting that the experimental group is less sensitive to risk and feedback responses, neural activation to negative feedback is weaker, and high-risk behaviors are more likely to be adopted.

¹ Professor, Department of Criminology, National Chung Cheng University



Exploring the experience of drug use among gay men from the perspective of life course

Yang, Chun-Chi¹

In the context of traditional Chinese society where heterosexuality is a universal value, gay people are usually hidden or disguised in social relations. Under multiple social pressures and stigmas for a long time, they often bear unimaginable psychological burdens. Gay men The incidents of drug use among ethnic groups are not uncommon. However, under the appearance of dangerous drug use, it is worth understanding and exploring the causes of drug use among this group. This study adopts qualitative research and takes narrative inquiry as the research orientation. In-depth interviews are conducted with three men of biological sex who have used drugs, consciously tend to be homosexual or bisexual, and have had sexual relations with the same biological sex. Through the definition And explore the important events and processes of their lives, clarify the situation before and after the interviewees use drugs, try to explain the correlation between drug use by gay men and their life experience, and explore the subjective feelings of gay men and the changes and influences of social culture and interaction with gay men .

The study found that the interviewees had different degrees of adversity experience in childhood, and adopted concealment and avoidance to cope with their own sexual orientation, and felt the frustration of socialization and the loss of emotional needs in the process of growing up. Factors affecting gay men's initial drug use include emotional depression, lack of drug awareness, and dangerous situations; factors affecting drug discontinuation include family members' perceptions, self-reflection and awareness, and the impact of judicial decisions; relapse factors include drug peers, dangerous situations, Ambiguous change motives and insufficient attachment links. Based on the findings and analysis of the above research, suggestions are made from the perspective of three-level prevention, and effective coping strategies are extended to give full play to the effectiveness of crime prevention.

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Taiwan Events News

Anti-drug Drama “Saving Little Faust ” – Paper Windmill Entering Elementary School Campus for the First Time



The Ministry of Education and the Paperwindmill Cultural Foundation organized the Paper Windmill Youth Anti-drug Drama Engineering-Saving Faust Project junior high school campus anti-drug stage play tour to continue anti-drug education efforts on campus and expand the audience for education and publicity. "Saving Little Faust" was added as a new primary school performance theme in 2023, and the first performance took place on February 21. Minister Pan Wen-chung of the Ministry of Education, Director Lin Chi-Hui of the Ministry of Justice, Chairman Li Yuan of the Paperwindmill Cultural Foundation, and ministerial representatives all attended the school's anti-drug oath-taking ceremony alongside teachers and students.

This year, the Paper Windmill Theatre made specific script modifications. By depicting Faust's childhood in the play, students gain a clear understanding of the Internet's inherent dangers. The appearances and methods of application of drugs are also more difficult to detect, such as electronic cigarettes and e-liquids containing drug ingredients, or marijuana and *Catha Edulis* Forsk that resemble dried leaves. "Saving Little Faust" uses this as the basis for anti-drug education in primary schools, reminding students of all ages to be able to identify drug information on the Internet, such as "Coffee(6-methoxy methylone)", "Smoking(marijuana)," and "Ballon(N₂O; nitrous oxide)", and other special terms, and even emoticons that may be used as code words during drug trafficking, thereby preventing them from being tempted by drugs or accidentally falling into drug trafficking traps.

The information source is from Ministry of Education

https://www.edu.tw/News_Content.aspx?n=9E7AC85F1954DDA8&s=7FF078EA391B68DB



2023 Changhua County Anti-Drug Educational Exhibition



Changhua County Government and CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation are collaboratively hosting Changhua County Educational Exhibition “Liberate Addiction – Unlock the Distance Between You and Addiction” from 16 March 2023 to 22 April. The exhibition evolves around the development of true stories, delivers accurate anti-drug knowledge to juveniles, and uses reality puzzle-solving games to give its audience an immersive experience of a lifestyle endangered by addiction through a series of collecting activities of game characters’ memories, in order to achieve the goal of keeping people from drugs as an effective propaganda.

There are five areas at the exhibition, as representations of a drug addict’s life stages. Audience turns themselves into a story character that helps a time traveler who lost his memory during an accident, to go on a journey to achieve mission packages, and participate in several puzzle solving activities on a ride of time machine looking for fragments that provide answers, and eventually gain his recollection back for the truth of the accident. The development of the true story leads the audience to a self-experienced trip of what it’s like to be an addict themselves, so they can have a deeper comprehension on the subject of “addiction.” The exhibition also gives multiple perspectives from social workers, family members, and people under rehabilitation treatment, for a more explicit picture of the impacts that the process of drug use and addiction may bring to life, to truly show the horror of drug use, and to keep people away from the temptation of drugs and the abyss of addiction.

The information is from CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation & Yuanlin Performance Hall

<https://www.ctbcantidrug.org/AntidrugContent/exhibition/52>

https://performance.bocach.gov.tw/News_Content.aspx?n=1043&s=45578



2023 Cathay Anti-drug Hero Competition x PaGamO National Academic E-sports Open

Not only do drugs negatively affect individual health, but also social security. The government and people of Taiwan attach great importance to this social issue. To protect children and adolescents from the dangers of drugs, we hope to begin by educating young students to have a correct understanding of drugs and to resist their temptation, as well as by fostering their ability to innovate and think independently.

Cathay Financial Holdings Co., Ltd. sponsors the PaGamO online learning platform to integrate drug prevention and academic competitions into e-sports competitions. During the activity, students will participate in their preferred e-sports games in order to enhance their "subject knowledge" and "drug prevention perception." This activity has three competition systems: "student group," "co-learning group," and "inter-school competition group." Through friendly competition among peers, parents and children, and teachers and students, drug prevention at home and at school, as well as parent-child co-learning, can be enhanced.



For further information, please refer to the official website of [Cathay Anti-drug Hero Competition]

★Time: February 7, 2023 to May 9, 2023

The information source is from PaGamO

<https://www.esportsopen.pagamo.org/2023cathay-anti-drug>



Latest Conferences Information

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
SRNT 29th Annual Meeting	Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT)	March 1-4 2023	San Antonio, Texas, USA Contact: info@srnt.org
ASCPT 2023 Annual Meeting	American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT)	March 22-24 2023	Atlanta, Georgia, USA Online Meeting Contact: meetings@ascpt.org
The ASAM 54th Annual Conference	American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)	April 13-16 2023	Washington, DC, USA Contact: meetings@ASAM.org
Buenos Aires 2023	International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP)	April 17-22 2023	Buenos Aires, Argentina Contact: info@issup.net
2023 Annual Meeting	Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM)	April 26-29 2023	Phoenix, Arizona, USA Contact: info@sbm.org
Third International Forum On Drug Policy	China Narcotics Control Foundation (CNCF) & Shanghai University	June 6-8 2023	Shanghai, China Contact: icdpsforum@163.com