



【39th Edition】

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2020 Youth Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling Seminar

Came to a Successful Close

Scholars and experts:

Under the support of the Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, Ministry of Education (MOE), the National Chung Cheng University (NCCU) Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse and the Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse Research (TSSAR) held the “Youth Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling Seminar” on October 20 and 21, 2020 (Tuesday and Wednesday) at the NCCU International Conference Hall in response to the development of youth drug abuse issues.

This international seminar mainly focuses on “youth drug abuse prevention measures and guidance practices.” Political Deputy Minister Tsai, Ching-Hwa of the Ministry of Education (MOE); Administrative Deputy Minister Chang, Tou-Hui of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Director Cheng, Nai-Wen of the Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, Ministry of Education (MOE); and Head Prosecutor Tu, Ta-Jen and Prosecutor Ku, Hui-Chen of the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office were specially invited to lecture and provide instructions on the site. Additionally, youth drug abuse and drug prevention experts and scholars from different parts of Taiwan were extensively invited to participate. Through brainstorming and experience sharing at the meeting, effective youth drug abuse prevention strategies were provided to reduce drug hazards. At the seminar, many domestic scholars and substantive specialists from the field of drug abuse prevention were also invited to hold comprehensive group discussions. Hopefully, youth drug abuse issues can be explored from multiple perspectives, thereby serving as references for relevant domestic government sectors and improving existing coping measures.



UNODC Reports

The 2019 UNODC monitoring report shows an increase in coca cultivation in Bolivia

➤ Editorial Office

La Paz/Vienna, 29 July 2020 – In 2019, coca cultivation in Bolivia has increased by 10 per cent compared to 2018, according to the latest Coca Cultivation Monitoring Report, developed with funding from the European Union, presented today in La Paz by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The area under cultivation has effectively increased by 2,400 hectares (ha) from 23,100 ha in 2018 to 25,500 ha in 2019.



According to the Report, the regions of the Yungas of La Paz, the Tropics of Cochabamba (which includes producing areas in Santa Cruz and Beni) and the North of La Paz represented 64, 34 and two per cent of the coca growing areas in the country, respectively.

Combining the use of satellite images complemented with information collected through field work, UNODC detected an increase in the area under coca cultivation in all the three producing regions: in the Yungas region of La Paz an increase of 9 per cent reaching 16,296 ha has been detected; in the



Cochabamba Tropics, an increase of 13 per cent was registered, reaching 8,769 ha; whereas, in the region of the North of La Paz, the cultivated areas increased by 44 per cent reaching 468 ha of coca crops.

The highest increase of coca cultivation in the Yungas of La Paz was detected in the province of Sud Yungas, with an increase of 597 ha, reaching 10,374 ha of coca cultivation in 2019. In the Tropics of Cochabamba, the province of Carrasco registered an increase of 720 ha of coca cultivation, reaching a total of 3,842 ha of coca cultivation in 2019.

The Bolivian Government reported a decrease in the rationed/eradicated area between 2018 and 2019, from 11,174 to 9,205 ha. In 2019, 79 per cent of the rationed/eradicated area is located in the Tropics of Cochabamba, 16 per cent in Yungas and the North of La Paz, and 5 per cent in the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni.

Starting in 2019, UNODC is validating the rationed/eradication data on coca cultivation in Bolivia provided by the government. Out of a total of 8,121 ha of rationed/eradicated coca cultivation reported to UNODC by the Bolivian Government, a sample of 1,598 ha was validated, of which 88 per cent was performed through the identification on satellite images, eight percent through field missions (after governmental field intervention) and four per cent through concurrent field inspections.



The Report also indicated the presence of coca cultivation in six of the 22 protected areas at the national level. In these areas, a total of 315 ha of coca cultivation were identified located within the three producing regions. The national park most affected due to coca cultivation was Madidi, followed by Amboró, Apolobamba and Cotapata; the only national park to register a reduction was Carrasco. Also,



1,843 ha of coca cultivation have been identified in areas meant for agricultural activities within the National Parks of Isiboro Secure and Carrasco.

These figures reflect the main findings of the latest Coca Cultivation Monitoring Report in Bolivia, carried out within the framework of the UNODC Support Programme, funded by the European Union, for the Implementation of the Action Plan of the Strategy to Fight Drug Trafficking and Reduce Surplus Coca Crops of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

According to Government data, the volume of coca leaf traded in the two authorized markets (Villa Fatima in the Department of La Paz and Sacaba in the Department of Cochabamba) was 23,877 metric tons in 2019. Ninety per cent of the legally traded coca leaf comes from the Villa Fatima market, whereas the remaining 10 per cent comes from the Sacaba market. In 2019, the weighted average price of coca leaf in these authorized markets was US\$12.5 per kg.

Thierry Rostan, UNODC Representative for Bolivia, also highlighted some recommendations to improve the control of coca crops, including

1. The need to increase the control measures to avoid the expansion of coca cultivation to non-authorized areas such as those surrounding the limits of the province of Ayopaya in the department of Cochabamba and the provinces of Sud Yungas and Inquisivi in the department of La Paz.
2. Continuing to strengthen the processes of rationing/eradication, community control of licit cultivation and impact mitigation, promoting the integral development in the coca producing areas, to thus avoid the expansion of surplus production of coca crops.

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

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/press/releases/2020/July/the-2019-unodc-monitoring-report-shows-an-increase-in-coca-cultivation-in-bolivia.html>



NIDA Reports

Drugs, Brains, and Behavior: The Science of Addiction

➤ Publications

People with addiction often have one or more associated health issues, which could include lung or heart disease, stroke, cancer, or mental health conditions. Imaging scans, chest X-rays, and blood tests can show the damaging effects of long-term drug use throughout the body.

For example, it is now well-known that tobacco smoke can cause many cancers, methamphetamine can cause severe dental problems, known as meth mouth, and that opioids can lead to overdose and death. In addition, some drugs, such as inhalants, may damage or destroy nerve cells, either in the brain or the peripheral nervous system (the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord).

Addiction and HIV/AIDS are intertwined epidemics.

Drug use can also increase the risk of contracting infections. HIV and hepatitis C (a serious liver disease) can occur from sharing injection equipment or from unsafe practices such as condom-less sex. Infection of the heart and its valves (endocarditis) and skin infection (cellulitis) can occur after exposure to bacteria by injection drug use.

Does drug use cause other mental disorders, or vice versa?

Drug use and other mental illness often co-exist. In some cases, mental disorders such as anxiety, depression, or schizophrenia may come before addiction. In other cases, drug use may trigger or worsen those mental health conditions, particularly in people with specific vulnerabilities.



Some people with disorders like anxiety or depression may use drugs in an attempt to alleviate psychiatric symptoms. This may exacerbate their mental disorder in the long run, as well as increase the risk of developing addiction. Treatment for all conditions should happen concurrently.

How can addiction harm other people?

- Cardiovascular disease
- Stroke
- Cancer
- HIV/AIDS
- Hepatitis B and C
- Lung disease
- Mental disorders

Beyond the harmful consequences for the person with the addiction, drug use can cause serious health problems for others. Some of the more severe consequences of addiction are:

■ Negative effects of drug use while pregnant or breastfeeding:

A mother's substance or medication use during pregnancy can cause her baby to go into withdrawal after it's born, which is called neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). Symptoms will differ depending on the substance used, but may include tremors, problems with sleeping and feeding, and even seizures. Some drug-exposed children will have developmental problems with behavior, attention, and thinking. Ongoing research is exploring if these effects on the brain and behavior extend into the teen years, causing continued developmental problems. In addition, some substances can make their way into a mother's breast milk. Scientists are still learning about long-term effects on a child who is exposed to drugs through breastfeeding.

■ Negative effects of secondhand smoke:

Secondhand tobacco smoke exposes bystanders to at least 250 chemicals that are known to be harmful, particularly to children. Involuntary exposure to





secondhand smoke increases the risks of heart disease and lung cancer in people who have never smoked. Additionally, the known health risks of secondhand exposure to tobacco smoke raise questions about whether secondhand exposure to marijuana smoke poses similar risks. At this point, little research on this question has been conducted. However, a study found that some nonsmoking participants exposed for an hour to high-THC marijuana in an unventilated room reported mild effects of the drug, and another study showed positive urine tests in the hours directly following exposure. If you inhale secondhand marijuana smoke, it's unlikely you would fail a drug test, but it is possible.

■ **Increased spread of infectious diseases:**

Injection of drugs accounts for 1 in 10 of cases of HIV. Injection drug use is also a major factor in the spread of hepatitis C, and can be the cause of endocarditis and cellulitis. Injection drug use is not the only way that drug use contributes to the spread of infectious diseases. Drugs that are misused can cause intoxication, which hinders judgment and increases the chance of risky sexual behaviors, such as condom-less sex.

■ **Increased risk of motor vehicle accidents:**

Use of illicit drugs or misuse of prescription drugs can make driving a car unsafe—just like driving after drinking alcohol. Drugged driving puts the driver, passengers, and others who share the road at risk. In 2016, almost 12 million people ages 16 or older reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs, including marijuana. After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often linked to impaired driving. Research studies have shown negative effects of marijuana on drivers, including an increase in lane weaving, poor reaction time, and altered attention to the road.

This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugs-brains-behavior-science-addiction/addiction-health>



Taiwan Research News

A Study on Cannabis Administration Characteristics, Processes, and Market Transactions

Shih-Lung Yang, Chih-Heng Li, Shu-Ping Tseng, Hung-Chih Lin, Chun-Lung Hsu

In the investigation and seizure of cannabis, the number of people arrested, and the quantity of cannabis have shown inconsistency. Clearly, in investigating and detaining cannabis users, a considerable dark figure is yet to be exposed. In view of this, in-depth interviews were conducted targeting eight cannabis traffickers or growers and eight cannabis users. This gave an insight into the current situation and trend of the cannabis trading market, causes of using cannabis, awareness of cannabis use, and attitude towards it. Related recommendations were proposed, hoping to overcome investigation and seizure plights and improve cannabis prevention policies. Results: The current cannabis popularization trend and heated discussion in Taiwan are showing signs of a yearly rise. The main regions of its popularization are the metropolitan areas in Northern Taiwan. Users are mostly young people, from the white-collar class, and those that have achieved a certain social status. The main reasons contributing to first-time cannabis use include curiosity and the recommendation of friends. Cannabis is usually not mixed with other drug types; it is usually used at home and in secluded residential houses. Most hold positive and supportive views towards cannabis. The smuggling pipelines are varied, the transaction routes are more closed, and the mode of trading by class is presented. Most trade and transfer the possession of cannabis among acquaintances, but most do not reject the idea of trading in public places. Based on the above research results, the following recommendations were put forward targeting Taiwan's cannabis prevention and control policies: (1) Strengthened education, policy, and regulation advocacy; (2) Grouped by age, strengthen the intensity of hazard advocacy; (3) Strengthen trading market monitoring and investigation and seizure; and (4) Conduct advocacy on anti-cannabis legalization arguments.



The impact of early juvenile drug abusers to desistance or persistence of crime

Pi-Tsui Yeh

The purpose of this study is by using the longitudinal study with 22 years of tracking, to observe phenomena and features of juvenile drug abusers and juvenile crime offenders under 18 to compare the crime development and change of juvenile drug abusers and juvenile crime offenders in order to find out the significant factors of the discontinuance or continuance of crime. The study discovered that (1) with reference to the frequency of arrests by the police over the past 22 years regarding the criminal career of 175 juvenile drug abusers, and 75 (42.9%) of them were persistent offenders. Regarding the 217 juvenile crime offenders, and 42 (19.4%) of them were persistent offenders. The ratio of persistent offenders of juvenile drug abusers is higher than that of juvenile crime offenders. Juvenile with early drug abusing experience has significant impact on subsequent crime development. (2) When compared with juvenile drug abusers, juvenile crime offenders show to have stronger school adherence. Regarding juvenile drug abusers, they tend to have more deviant peers, self-reports of early deviant and criminal behaviors, and a higher criminal offense rate in official records than juvenile crime offenders. It is obvious that there are lesser protecting factors for juvenile drug abusers in the discontinuance of crime. (3) Comparing juvenile drug abusers and juvenile crime offenders, even although they became drug abusers at an early age, with better family and school control, they became crime desisting. According to data analysis, suggestions are proposed regarding the policymaking in the prevention of juvenile drug abuse and crime offenses.



Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
ACNP Annual Meeting 2020	The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP)	December 6-9 2020	Virtual Meeting Contact: acnp@acnp.org
AAAP Annual Meeting & Symposium 2020	American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP)	December 10-13 2020	Virtual Meeting Contact: https://www.aaap.org/about/contact/
Cannabis, Cannabinoids, and Cancer Research Symposium	The National Cancer Institute (NCI)	December 15-18 2020	Webex Contact: ncicccrw@mail.nih.gov
SRNT 27th Annual Meeting	Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT)	February 24-27 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: info@srnt.org.
ASAM 51th Annual Medical-Scientific Conference	The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)	April 22-24 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: email@ASAM.org
CPPD Annual Meeting	College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPPD)	June 21-23 2021	Montreal, Quebec, CA Contact: info@cpdd.org