



【40th Edition】

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Chief editor: Shu-Lung Yang

Executive editor: Hua-Fu Hsu

Vice executive editor: Chiao-Yun Chen, Yueh-Chung Ma

Document editor: Yu-Xuan Yang

Executive department: Crime Research Center,

National Chung Cheng University

Phone number: +886-5-2720411#26305

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National Chung Cheng University Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse plans to add online guides for public visits

Hello, Scholars and experts:

The Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse was inaugurated in 2012 to raise domestic students' awareness of drug abuse and enable them to understand the causes and serious consequences of drug abuse, so as to exert the effect of vigilance, shock, and prevention. In order to help young students understand the dangers of drugs and learn to reject the temptation of drugs, the education center took the promotion of anti-drug education activities as the main focus, applied multiple audio-visual interactive games as the tools of propaganda, and normalized the visits of school students to the Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse. The center, from the educational standpoint, combined with relevant resources of government agencies, then dedicated resources to preventing drug abuse problems of juveniles.

However, to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, the traditional on-site guided tour should be adjusted because social contact will easily increase the risk of disease transmission. Due to the need for epidemic prevention and the concepts of publicizing anti-drug education, the center planned to provide visitors with rubbing alcohol and thermometers to sanitize their hands and have their temperature taken. In addition, the center planned to shoot an online tour video this year. We look forward to utilizing the online tour video to break through time and space restrictions and continuing to propagate anti-drug education activities.

If you have any needs or questions about the relevant information of this center, please write to us or call us.

Contact person: Assistant Mandy Wu, Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse, NCCU

Phone: 05-2720411#26305

Mailbox: deptcrc@ccu.edu.tw



UNODC Reports

UNODC World Drug Report 2020: Global drug use rising; while COVID-19 has far reaching impact on global drug markets

➤ Editorial Office

VIENNA, 25 June 2020 – Around 269 million people used drugs worldwide in 2018, which is 30 per cent more than in 2009, while over 35 million people suffer from drug use disorders, according to the latest World Drug Report, released today by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The



Report also analyses the impact of COVID-19 on the drug markets, and while its effects are not yet fully known, border and other restrictions linked to the pandemic have already caused shortages of drugs on the street, leading to increased prices and reduced purity.

Rising unemployment and reduced opportunities caused by the pandemic are also likely to disproportionately affect the poorest, making them more vulnerable to drug use and also to drug trafficking and cultivation in order to earn money, the Report says.

“Vulnerable and marginalized groups, youth, women and the poor pay the price for the world drug problem. The COVID-19 crisis and economic downturn threaten to compound drug dangers further still, when our health and social systems have been brought to the brink and our societies are struggling to cope,” said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly. “We need all governments to show greater



solidarity and provide support, to developing countries most of all, to tackle illicit drug trafficking and offer evidence-based services for drug use disorders and related diseases, so we can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, promote justice and leave no one behind.”

Due to COVID-19, traffickers may have to find new routes and methods, and trafficking activities via the darknet and shipments by mail may increase, despite the international postal supply chain being disrupted. The pandemic has also led to opioid shortages, which in turn may result in people seeking out more readily available substances such as alcohol, benzodiazepines or mixing with synthetic drugs. More harmful patterns of use may emerge as some users switch to injecting, or more frequent injecting.

Looking at further effects of the current pandemic, the Report says that if governments react the same way as they did to the economic crisis in 2008, when they reduced drug-related budgets, then interventions such as prevention of drug use and related risk behaviours, drug treatment services, the provision of naloxone for management and reversal of opioid overdose could be hard hit. Interception operations and international cooperation may also become less of a priority, making it easier for traffickers to operate.

Trends in drug use

Cannabis was the most used substance worldwide in 2018, with an estimated 192 million people using it worldwide. Opioids, however, remain the most harmful, as over the past decade, the total number of deaths due to opioid use disorders went up 71 per cent, with a 92 per cent increase among women compared with 63 per cent among men.

Drug use increased far more rapidly among developing countries over the 2000-2018 period than in developed countries. Adolescents and young adults account for the largest share of those using drugs, while young people are also the most vulnerable to the effects of drugs because they use the most and their brains are still developing.



Cannabis trends

While the impact of laws that have legalized cannabis in some jurisdictions is still hard to assess, it is noteworthy that frequent use of cannabis has increased in all of these jurisdictions after legalization. In some of these jurisdictions, more potent cannabis products are also more common in the market.

Cannabis also remains the main drug that brings people into contact with the criminal justice system, accounting for more than half of drug law offences cases, based on data from 69 countries covering the period between 2014 and 2018.

Availability of pharmaceutical opioids for medical consumption varies across the globe

The Report also points out that low-income countries still suffer a critical shortage of pharmaceutical opioids for pain management and palliative care. More than 90 per cent of all pharmaceutical opioids available for medical consumption were in high-income countries in 2018 comprising around 12 per cent of the global population, while the low and middle-income countries comprising 88 per cent of the global population are estimated to consume less than 10 percent of pharmaceutical opioids. Access to pharmaceutical opioids depend on several factors including legislation, culture, health systems and prescribing practices.

Socio-economically disadvantaged face greater risk from drug use disorders

Poverty, limited education and social marginalization remain major factors increasing the risk of drug use disorders and vulnerable and marginalized groups may also face barriers to getting treatment services due to discrimination and stigma.

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

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/press/releases/2020/June/media-advisory---global-launch-of-the-2020-world-drug-report.html>



NIDA Reports

Methamphetamine overdose deaths rise sharply nationwide

NIH-supported study finds biggest increase among American Indians and Alaska Natives

➤ **Publications**

Methamphetamine overdose deaths surged in an eight-year period in the United States, according to a study published today (link is external) in JAMA Psychiatry. The analysis revealed rapid rises across all racial and ethnic groups, but American Indians and Alaska Natives had the highest death rates overall. The research was conducted at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health.

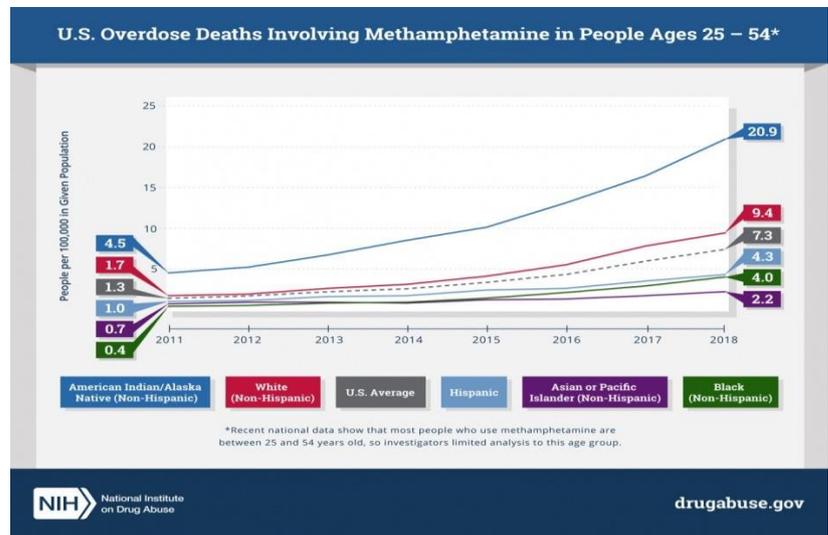
Deaths involving methamphetamines more than quadrupled among non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives from 2011-2018 (from 4.5 to 20.9 per 100,000 people) overall, with sharp increases for both men (from 5.6 to 26.4 per 100,000 from 2011-2018) and women (from 3.6 to 15.6 per 100,000 from 2012-2018) in that group. The findings highlight the urgent need to develop culturally tailored, gender-specific prevention and treatment strategies for methamphetamine use disorder to meet the unique needs of those who are most vulnerable to the growing overdose crisis. Long-term decreased access to education, high rates of poverty and discrimination in the delivery of health services are among factors thought to contribute to health disparities for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“While much attention is focused on the opioid crisis, a methamphetamine crisis has been quietly, but actively, gaining steam—particularly among American Indians and Alaska Natives, who are disproportionately affected by a number of health conditions,” said Nora D. Volkow, M.D., NIDA director and a senior author of the study. “American Indian and Alaska Native populations experience



structural disadvantages but have cultural strengths that can be leveraged to prevent methamphetamine use and improve health outcomes for those living with addiction.”

Shared decision-making between patient and health care provider and a holistic approach to wellness are deeply rooted traditions among some American Indian and Alaska Native groups and exist in the Indian health care system. Traditional practices, such as talking circles, in which all



members of a group can provide an uninterrupted perspective, and ceremonies, such as smudging, have been integrated into the health practices of many Tribal communities. Leveraging traditions may offer a unique and culturally resonant way to promote resilience to help prevent drug use among young people. Development and implementation of other culturally appropriate and community-based prevention; targeting youth and families with positive early intervention strategies; and provider and community education may also aid prevention efforts among this population.

The study found markedly high death rates among non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives, as well as a pattern of higher overdose death rates in men compared to women within each racial/ethnic group. However, non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native women had higher rates than non-Hispanic Black, Asian, or Hispanic men during 2012-2018, underscoring the exceptionally high overdose rates in American Indian and Alaska Native populations. The results also revealed that non-Hispanic Blacks had the sharpest increases in overdose death rates during 2011-2018. This represents a worrying trend in a group that had previously experienced very low rates of methamphetamine overdose deaths.

Methamphetamine use is linked to a range of serious health risks, including overdose deaths. Unlike for opioids, there are currently no FDA-approved medications for treating methamphetamine use disorder



or reversing overdoses. However, behavioral therapies such as contingency management therapy can be effective in reducing harms associated with use of the drug, and a recent clinical trial reported significant therapeutic benefits with the combination of naltrexone with bupropion in patients with methamphetamine use disorders.

NIDA investigators led by Beth Han, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., obtained data used in the analysis from the 2011-2018 Multiple Cause-of-Death records from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Vital Statistics System, the nation's most complete database of births and deaths.

Recent national data show that most people who use methamphetamine are between 25 and 54 years old, so the investigators limited their analysis to this age group. When they examined data from this population as a whole, they found a surge in overdose deaths. Deaths involving methamphetamines rose from 1.8 to 10.1 per 100,000 men, and from 0.8 to 4.5 per 100,000 women. This represents a more than five-fold increase from 2011 to 2018.

“Identifying populations that have a higher rate of methamphetamine overdose is a crucial step toward curbing the underlying methamphetamine crisis,” said Dr. Han. “By focusing on the unique needs of individuals and developing culturally tailored interventions, we can begin to move away from one-size-fits-all approaches and toward more effective, tailored interventions.”

This work was supported by The National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Han B, et al. Methamphetamine overdose deaths in the United States: Sex and racial/ethnic differences(link is external). JAMA Psychiatry DOI: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2020.4321 (2021).

This paper is from : National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2021/01/methamphetamine-overdose-deaths-rise-sharply-nationwide>



Taiwan Research News

Effects of family, peers, and their related factors on adolescents' substance abuse behaviors.

Yi-Fong Chen, Chih-Yu Tung

Adolescent substance abuse is often influenced by family and peers. This study aims to examine the impacts of family and peers on adolescents' substance abuse by exploring their social networks and parental influences. This study from April to June 2018, 12 adolescents who used drugs in a juvenile counseling institution in New Taipei City were invited as interviewees. Their narrative wordings have been recorded, copied, and coded for further analysis. The findings indicated that parental teaching attitudes or providing strong emotional support, or family environment of tolerating substance use, could affect adolescents' substance use behavior. Regarding their decision of stopping using drug, the key factor is their own will. However, for the reasons of using drugs again, they indicate that habituation, peer influence, and their own mood conditions are the main causes. This study recommends to have a better understanding of adolescents' stressors, explore their important attachment, and enhance their family supervision functions. Moreover, from the words of adolescents, instead of preaching, the anti-drug education should be more close to their needs.



Exploring the Implementation of Family Skills Training Programmes for Drug Use Prevention in Taiwan Communities

Yuan-Hao Cheng, Yung-Ta Wu, Tung-Hui Li, Chia-I Chiu

This research follows UNODC’s 12 basic principles from “Guide to implementing family skills training programmes for drug abuse prevention.” The goal is to improve family functions and reduce chances of adolescents contacting illegal drugs. This research lays down of UNODC’s selective family as research objects. Outsourcing program material design, cultivate talents, and group experiment; supplementing by focus group and in-depth interview to adjust research direction. Research methods use qualitative questionnaires and third-party observations for program evaluation.

Our results showed that program planning should include advantage perspective and follow the de-labeling principle, to reduce program professional threshold. Material designing should connect with the goal of drug use prevention, included family life experience or various media materials. Cultivating professionals should set the performance evaluation and the selection standard. Recruiting participants should allow motivation change, focus on the family with potential drug use risk. Maintaining participants wise should lower participate threshold, also increase participate incentive. Effectiveness evaluation should focus on qualitative research design, in-depth discuss the connection between family and group performance. Overall, few patricidal suggestions concluded as the following:

- a. Creating incentives for continued participation of group members
- b. Establishment of make-up program
- c. Providing group leaders with necessary resources and assistance
- d. Increasing interactive courses to allow participants to practice family skills
- e. Setting up a monitoring mechanism
- f. Matching service users with available resources for counseling
- g. Establishment of family consultant system



Taiwan Events News

2021 Drug Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Seminar

Hello, scholars and experts:

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Justice, the Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse will host the " Drug Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Seminar " on June 1, 2021 (Tuesday) in the auditorium of the School of Continuing Education at the National Taiwan Normal University Library Campus.

The goal of this seminar is that drug abuse continues to be an important issue that all sectors of society need to face together. Not only drug enforcement and drug abuse prevention at the front end, but also drug treatment and social reintegration to normal life for drug abusers at the back end are important issues concerned by academics and practitioners. However, the number of recidivism by criminals who use drugs is still high. Although scientific empirical drug rehabilitation programs have shown initial results in recent years, drug policies still need to be continuously revised to obtain better and immediate results. In addition, when drug abusers return to society after treatment, they often need the help and care from others the most. If they can have the support of family and relatives, it will be a great help for them to return to a normal life.

This seminar intends to invite a number of domestic experts and scholars to publish papers. Also, officials in the Corrections Department, the Ministry of Justice, probation officers in charge of community correction, experts in the field of drug rehabilitation and social reintegration, and first-line practitioners who dedicated their efforts to drug issues such as drug abuse, prevention, treatment, and social reintegration for drug abusers will be invited to attend this seminar. In this seminar, all attendees and representatives of experts can conduct in-depth research, extensive discussion, and effective ideas exchanges on the two major issues of drug rehabilitation and social rehabilitation, so as to develop more sophisticated drug policies.

Contact person: Jun-long Hsu, Secretary of Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse

Phone: 05-2720411 #26305, 26304

Mailbox: taiwanasar@gmail.com or deptcrc@ccu.edu.tw

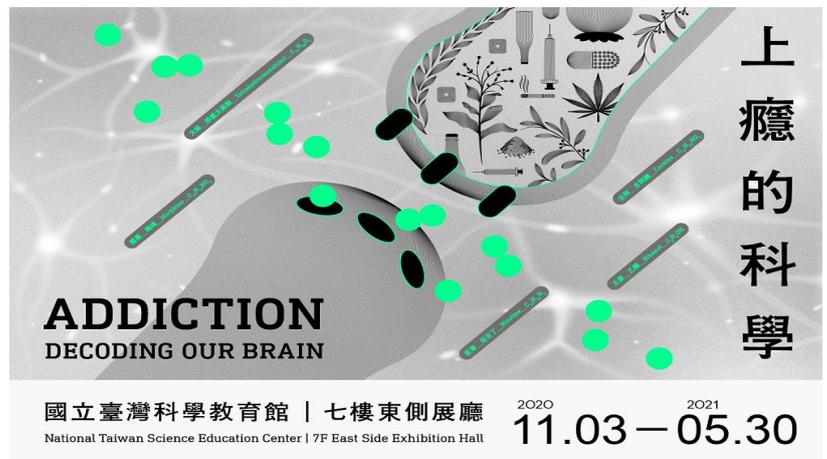


Unraveling the veil of addiction –

The National Taiwan Science Education Center "Addiction: Decoding Our Brain" special exhibition made its debut

That warm mug of coffee in the morning, the decadent piece of chocolate when you feel the sugar craving, and a tumbler of whiskey before bedtime...the presence of all these rewarding stimuli adds more color to our life; yet they can also be the predecessor to impaired control.

Addiction is not a behavioral phenomenon unique to humans. Rather, it's a survival mechanism ingrained in the brain circuitry of all creatures, and what makes addictions so challenging to manage. We need to start from the brain if we were to explore the root cause of addiction: what are the keys, and how



does the brain interact with addictive substances? By studying the correlation between addictive substances and the brain, scientists also recognize neurobiological functions of the brain.

“Addiction: Decoding Our Brain” is a fascinating exhibition of known facts and unknowns to break down the science of addiction to understand the brain functions and ourselves as humans. The exhibition is divided into four districts, Laboratory, Neuroscience Center, Exhibition Room, and Research Room. Visitors can learn about addictive substances and understand the mechanism of addictive substances affecting the brain, and further have more awareness of addiction through interactive games, physical products, exquisite pictures, and explanatory texts. “Addiction: Decoding Our Brain” was launched on November 3, 2020, and lasted until May 30, 2021. The exhibition is on Floor 7, East Side Exhibition Hall of the National Taiwan Science Education Center. Welcome people to come and visit.

This information is from : The National Taiwan Science Education Center

<https://www.ntsec.gov.tw/user/Article.aspx?a=3905>



Latest Conferences Information

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Editorial Office Location
ASCPT 2021 Annual Meeting: An Online Experience	American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT)	March 8-12 & 15-17 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: info@ascpt.org
ASAM 51th Annual Medical-Scientific Conference	The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)	April 22-24 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: email@ASAM.org
NADCP Annual Training Conference	National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)	May 12-15 2021	National Harbor, Maryland Contact: registration@allrise.org
CPPD Annual Meeting	College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPPD)	June 19-23 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: info@cpdd.org
ISAM Annual Global Addictions Conference	International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM)	September 28-October 1 2021	Valletta, Malta Contact: isam.mdorozio@gmail.com
NIDA Mini Convention	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	November 12 2021	Chicago, IL Contact: nida_ip@iqsolutions.com