



【19th Edition】

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Conference



Call for membership of Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse Research (TSSAR)

Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse Research (TSSAR) was registered in Ministry of the Interior, R.O.C. (Taiwan) and set on November 6th, 2015. The preparatory meeting has already been held by the founders.

Qualification for membership

The members of AASAR should be qualified as following:

1. Work on relevant areas of substance abuse;
2. Engage in relevant jobs such as justice, policing, education, public hygiene, social work, counselling and correction;
3. Support the purpose of TSSAR.

Application for membership

1. Application submission
Submit a copy of application form.
2. Qualification assessment
Candidate's qualification is assessed by the Board Meeting.
3. Membership fees
 - 1) Entrance fee: NTD 500 per person;
 - 2) Annual member: NTD 1,000 per person;
 - 3) Life time member: NTD 10,000 per person (being paid once).

Member Benefits

1. To vote and be voted in Board members;
2. To participate in the academic conference held by TSSAR;
3. To receive TSSAR's e-news and journals of substance abuse research on a regular time schedule.

The application affairs and application form for the membership of TSSAR, please contact Mr. Yueh-Hsing Chang
[Tel:05-2724151](tel:05-2724151) e-mail:deptcrc@ccu.edu.tw



UNODC Reports

UNODC, OSCE develop strategies to reduce drug demand and drug supply to youth

➤ Editorial Office



10 September 2015 - UNODC, through its Deputy Executive Director, addressed a high-level conference aimed at enhancing the mechanisms to stem the increasing spread of illicit drugs amongst young people, organized under the Serbian Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The two-day event was held at the Hofburg palace in Vienna, bringing together

practitioners from national administrations, representatives from youth initiatives and civil society organizations (CSOs) as well as international and regional organizations.

The objective of the conference was to provide a platform for representatives of both OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation to discuss ways in which non-law enforcement agencies and CSOs can collaborate with law enforcement services in their efforts to address the links between young people and illicit drugs. Furthermore, the conference sought to identify measures that can be taken to protect children and young people from the illicit use of narcotics; to enhance and streamline international cooperation in the prevention of illicit drug supply to youth; to raise the awareness of drug problems among youth in the OSCE area; to support the delay in the age at which illicit drugs are first used; and to review other practical aspects of drug demand reduction. The high-level meeting also reviewed a potential OSCE engagement in the preparation of the UN General Assembly Special Session world drug problem (UNGASS) in 2016.



In the UNODC statement at the opening of the conference, scientific evidence-based approaches to addressing drug demand reduction challenges were highlighted, along with the notion that substance abuse should not be seen only as a security threat, but rather as a consequence of a compromised security at the individual level as well as a social, public, developmental and economic challenge. In this context, it was noted that, for UNODC, it is always important to focus on the human dimension of the drug problem: namely, the men, women and children affected in many ways by drug use and dependence including all its negative health and social consequences. Participants were briefed on UNODC's efforts to promote a health-centred, rights-based approach, rooted in the international drug control conventions, as well as the value of evidence based prevention and treatment. UNODC Executive Director, Also Lale-Demoz, further stressed that a health-oriented approach focused on supporting the healthy and safe development of children and youth, ensuring they would grow into adulthood as productive members of our society. The UNODC representative also spoke about the UNODC-OSCE work in Central Asia, as well as the achievements under the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe.

The conference is in line with the Joint Action Plan between UNODC and the OSCE and contributes to the active ongoing cooperation between the two Organizations, based on the complementarity of their mandates, whereby the OSCE is primarily a political forum and UNODC a practical supporter of countries in building their capacities. In their partnership, UNODC and the OSCE are applying coherent and complementary approaches to assist the countries in the OSCE area.

This photot is from: 世界和平婦女會台灣總會

<http://wfwptaiwan.pixnet.net/blog>

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

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2015/September/unodc-and-osce-develop-strategic-approaches-to-reduce-drug-demand-and-drug-supply-to-youth.html>



NIDA Reports

Teen Foster Care Program Reduces Drug Use in Early Adulthood

➤ Editorial Office

Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) has demonstrated advantages over group residential placement for teen girls who are mandated to out-of-home care by the juvenile justice system (see Program Reduces Girls' Delinquent Behavior). New findings from a follow-up to a NIDA-supported trial indicate that those benefits extend to a reduction in illegal drug use in young adulthood.

Researchers re-contacted 153 young women who as teenagers had participated in a randomized controlled trial of MTFC in the State of Oregon. In the trial, half of the girls had been placed into MTFC at 22 state-supervised homes with highly trained foster parents, and half had been assigned to 35 community-based programs, consisting mostly of group-care facilities. The girls were 13 to 17 years old when placed, and spent roughly 5 to 6 months, on average, in their placements. In interviews that were scheduled every 6 months during a 2-year period that began 7 to 9 years after the start of the trial, women reported on their own and their romantic partners' use of illegal drugs, excluding marijuana, over the past 6 months.

The women who had been placed in MTFC and those who had been in group care both reported low levels of drug use, ranging between “never” and “once or twice.” However, those who had been in MTFC reported declining drug use over the course of the five assessments, while those who had been in group care reported stable drug use (see Figure). MTFC exerted small to medium beneficial effects both on the change in drug use over the 2-year period (effect size of 0.39) and on the use at the final follow-up (effect size of 0.45).

Dr. Kimberly Rhoades, of the University of Oregon and Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC), says that the trajectory of drug use reported by the women in the MTFC group



conforms to the norm for the general population, in which use tends to rise in adolescence, peak at ages 18 to 20, and then fall.

Dr. Rhoades says, “We saw a normative decline of drug use in the young women who had been in MTFC. Their use therefore more closely resembled what you would expect to see in a community population with lower to average risk for drug use.” She adds that MTFC may provide teenagers with the tools to make healthy decisions when they reach young adulthood.

“In a high-risk group of adolescent girls, the intensive intervention provided by MTFC can mitigate some of the risk for drug use in the young adult period,” concludes Dr. Rhoades, who conducted the study with colleagues at OSLC and the University of Sussex, United Kingdom.

The MTFC program places teens in homes with foster parents who are trained to use positive reinforcement and encouragement. The program provides intensive supervision and guidance, including:

- Daily phone calls to foster parents to monitor the girls’ progress
- Weekly group meetings for the foster parents
- Daily in-home behavior management program for the girls
- Regular monitoring of the girls’ school attendance, performance, and homework completion
- Family therapy for the aftercare placement family (usually the biological family) focused on parent management strategies

The teenagers typically continue to attend their local high school, and MTFC teaches them to understand expectations and consequences, manage their emotions, and develop refusal skills to avoid high-risk behaviors, including drug use and risky sexual activity.

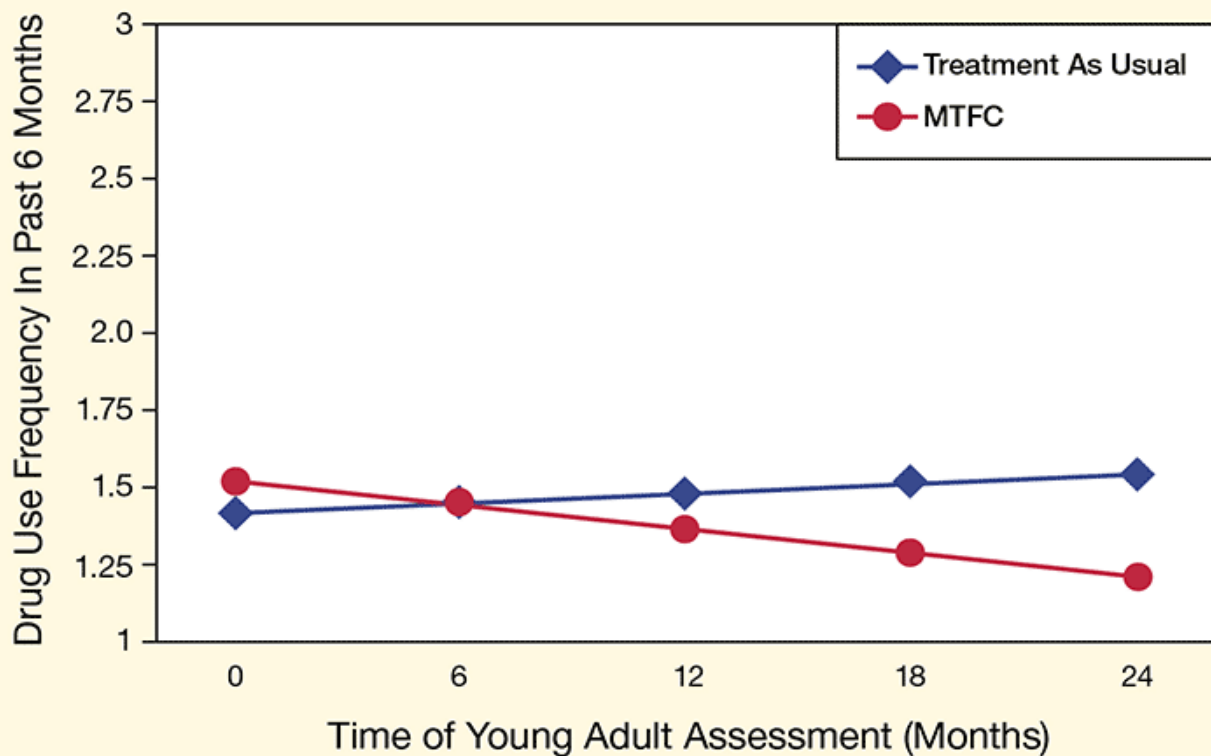


Figure. A Foster Care Program for Girls Who Had Shown Delinquent Behavior Reduces Drug Use 7 to 9 Years Later Drug use declined during the 2-year study period among young women who had been court mandated to out-of-home care as teens and had received Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care, but not among those who had been assigned to group care. The women self-reported drug use in the past 6 months on a scale ranging from “never” (1) to “one or more times per day” (5).

Text Description of Graphic

This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2015/09/teen-foster-care-program-reduces-drug-use-in-early-adulthood>



Taiwan Research News

I . A Survey of Prevalence of illegal drug use among Juveniles in Taiwan

Shu-Lung Yang , Sheng-Feng Dai, Shu-Ping Tzeng, Yi-Chien Ku, Fan-Yu Zhang,

Crime Research Center, National Chung Cheng University

Purpose: This study aims at investigating the prevalence of illegal drug use by juveniles in Taiwan, including current students and juvenile detainees. A comparison of differences in illegal drug use between these two juvenile groups is also conducted.

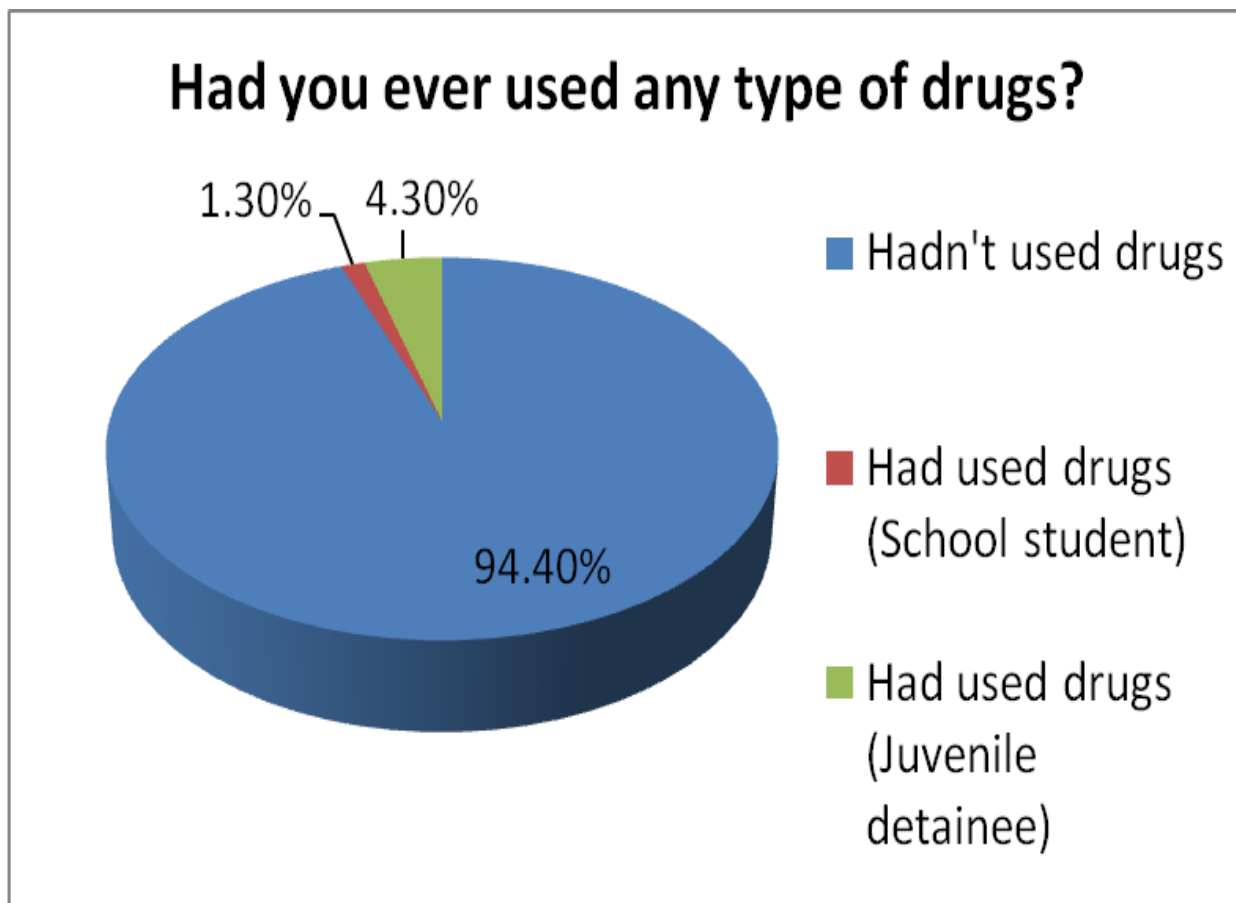
Method: Stratifying sampling of schools in the major cities in Taiwan, including New Taipei City, Taichung City and Kaohsiung City, is utilized. The students of sampled schools are included as respondents. In total, 2,116 valid questionnaires are collected. The sampling error is $\pm 2.16\%$ with the confidence level of 95%. Regarding juvenile detainee, based on the current juvenile detainees in Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung Detention Houses, 147 respondents are surveyed.

Results: The data show that 1.8% of current students and 4.2% of juvenile detainee had ever possessed at least one type of drugs, and 1.3% of current students and 4.3% of juvenile detainee had ever used at least one type of drugs. Among all types of drugs, ketamine is the most popular drug that juveniles would have (possession: 27.8%; use: 30.57%). The age for juveniles used ketamine and Amphetamines for the first time is around 13-15 years old (3.1%) and 16-18 years old (4.2%) respectively. In the past 12 months, 2%



and 3.7% of the juveniles had used Amphetamines and ketamine correspondingly. In terms of the past 24 hours before being arrested or surveyed, 1.1% and 1.2% of the juveniles had used Amphetamines and ketamine respectively. Moreover, in total, 4.83% of the juvenile respondents had used ketamine (juvenile detainee: 4.06%; current students: 0.77%). The results of logistic regression analysis indicate that smoking, chewing betel nuts, low levels of attention that primary caregivers have on juveniles' schoolwork are the main risk factors for juvenile illicit drugs use.

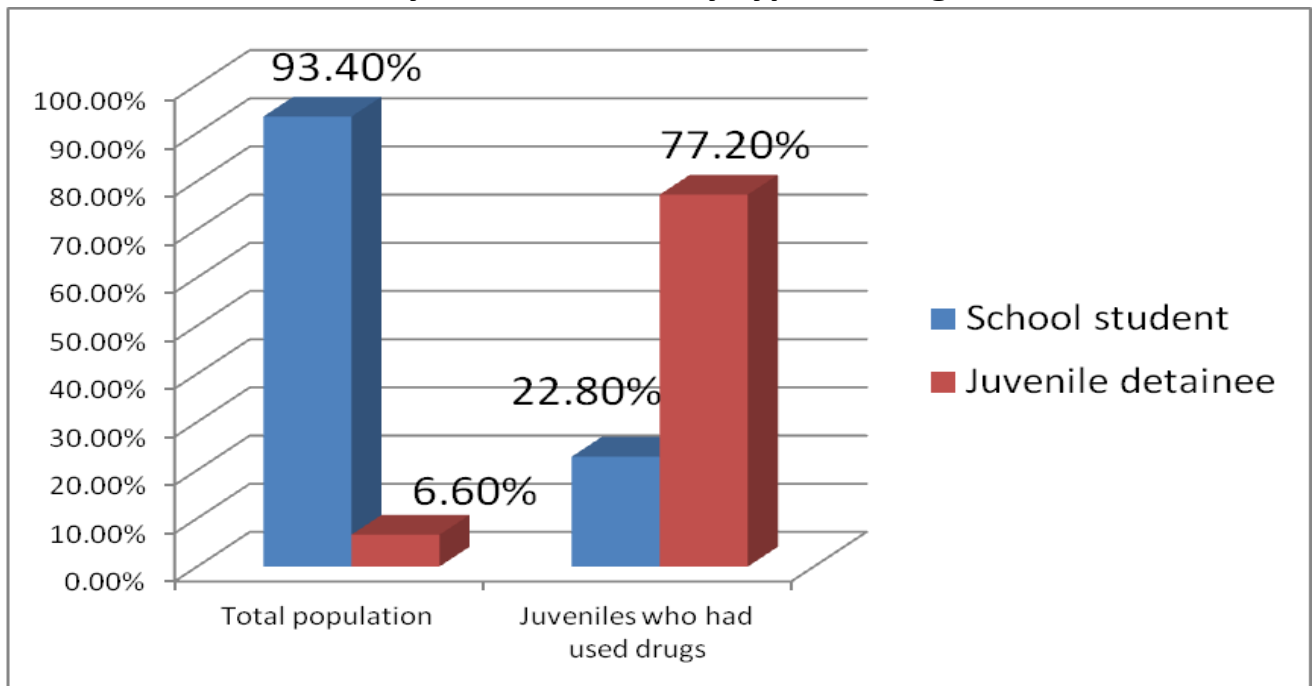
Had you ever used any type of drugs?



There are statistically significant differences between students and juvenile detainees ($X^2=1046.101, p<.001$).

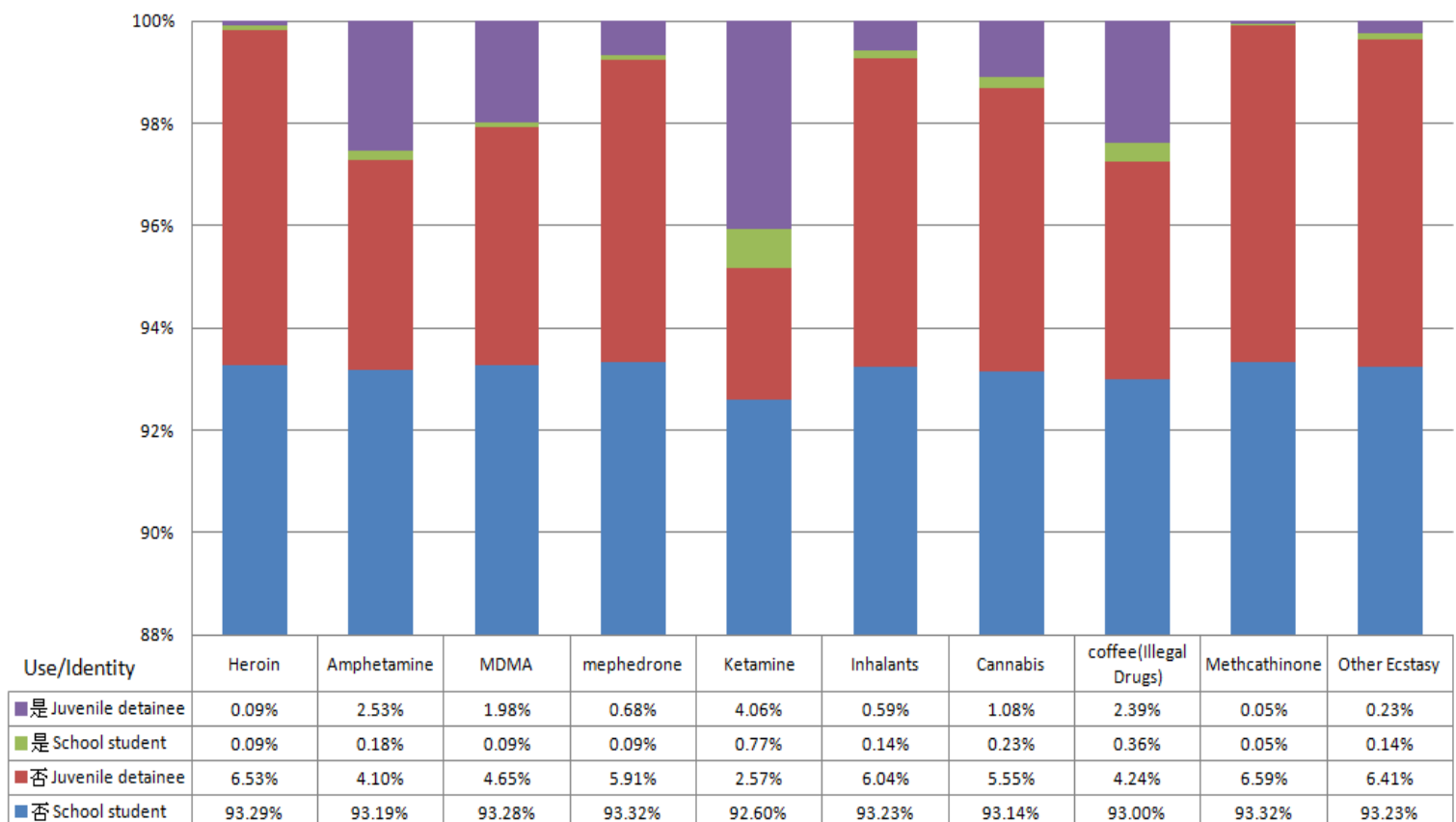


Had you ever used any type of drugs ?



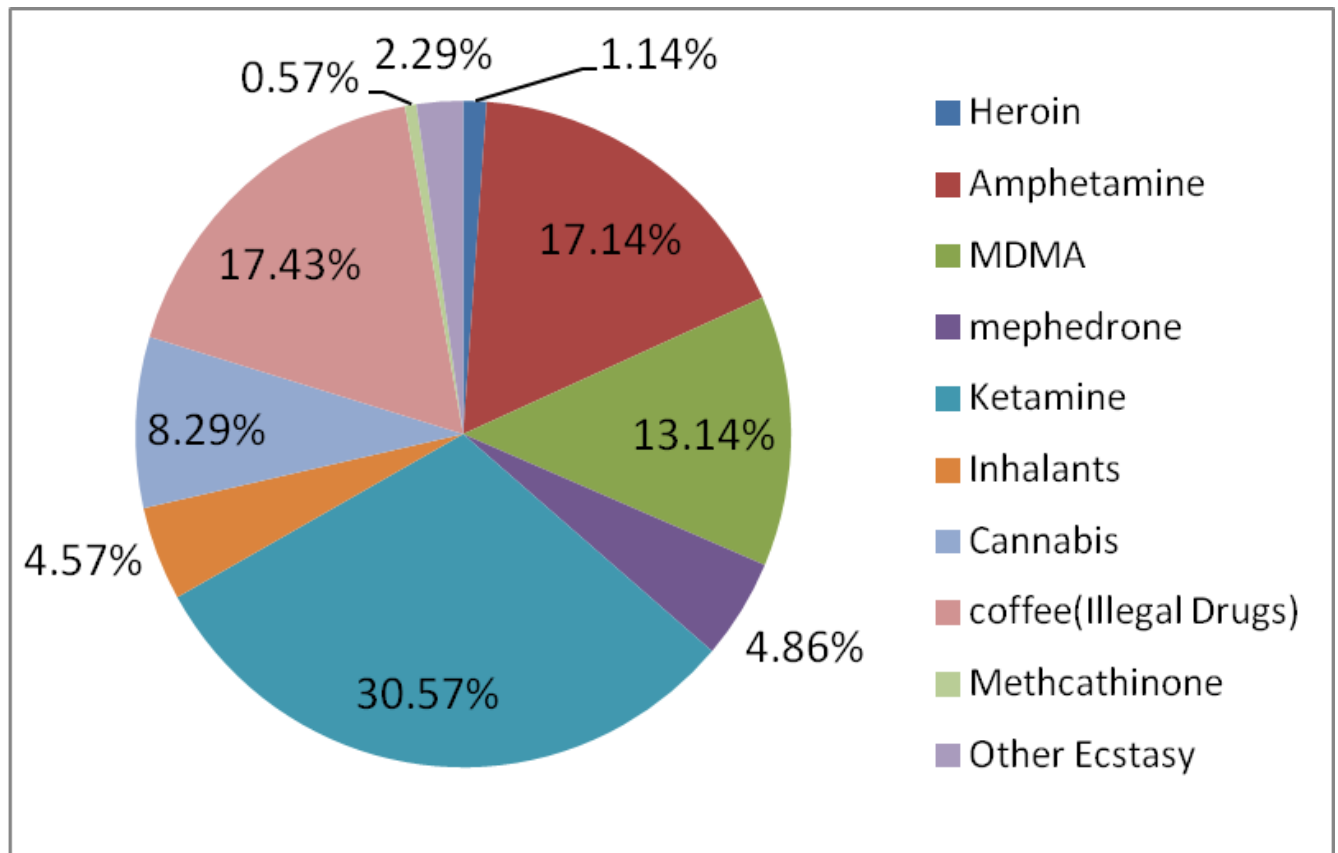
Among all samples, juvenile detainees accounted for 6.6%. Among all samples who had used any type of drugs, they accounted for 77.2%.

The prevalence of all types of drug use





The percentage of all types of drug use



Conclusion: Compared with current students, juvenile detainee have more experience either in possession or in use of ketamine. In other words, juvenile detainee are the high-risk group of illegal drug use. Further analysis on related risk factors of their illegal drug use is suggested. In addition, the survey on illegal drug use is fairly basic and essential epidemiological research. In order to propose timely solutions for prevention and control of illegal drug use and help with developing related policy, it is recommended that a long-term and stable survey model should be established in the future.



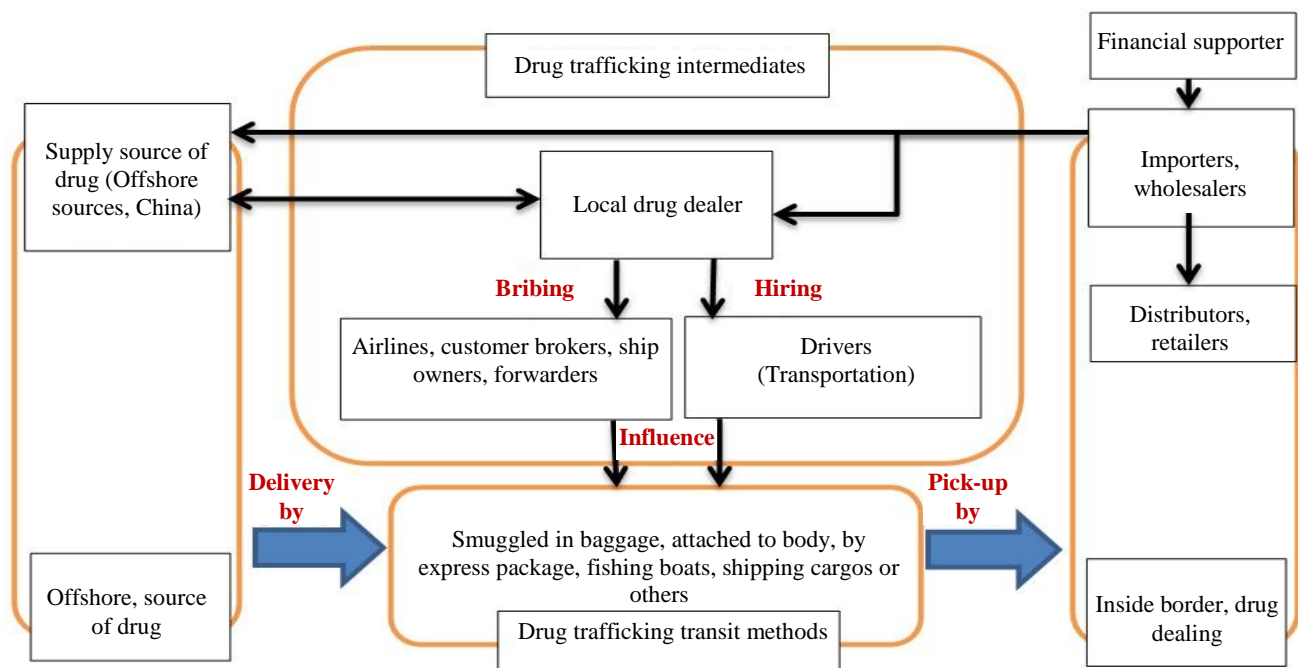
II .A Study of Conducting Situational Crime Prevention on Cross-border Drugs Trafficking

Wei-The Mon, Jian-Li Weng

Department of Foreign Affairs Police, Central Police University

According to R.O.C.'s 2014 Anti-Drug Report, from the aspect of quantity of seized drugs of which ketamine covers 65.5%, ketamine has become a kind of dominate drugs in Taiwan, and over 70% of it comes from the mainland China. Meanwhile, according to media reports, over 10 tons of ketamine which is worth 4 billion NT dollars on the retail market has been trafficking from the mainland China each year, accounting for more than 90% of Taiwan's ketamine market. The issue of cross-border drug trafficking has become a security worries with more and more developments of interactions and exchanges between the Taiwan Strait, and how to effectively curb it has become an important priority.

The study is based on environmental criminological conceptions. By analyzing total 361 guilty convictions of cross-border drugs trafficking between the Taiwan Strait collected from every Taiwan's local courts within recent 6 years, the authors try to understand the favorable factors (chances and conditions) which trigger drugs trafficking from the aspects of three parallel processes constituting organized crimes, constructing the cross-border drugs trafficking crime scripts. Eventually, the authors, from the starter view point, try to construct situational crime prevention strategies of drugs trafficking between Taiwan and the mainland China, hoping to enhance the effectiveness of cross-strait cooperation in the fight against drug crimes.





III. 2015 Crime Issues and Strategies Seminar

➤ Editorial Office

Crime incidents took place one after another in 2015. In addition to food safety issues and prison administration problems, several cases of random mass murder took place, especially incidences of murder for love that occurred one after another in the last few months. How to prevent or even put a stop to similar crime incidents remains an imminent issue at hand for the government. In addition, in continuation to the Sunflower Movement and senior high school curriculum disputes last year, social opposition remains unresolved, and protests continue to go on, which affect the development of the nation as a whole.

Moreover, crime issues are cross-regional, with no distinction between regions. Therefore, the anti-crime issue is an issue that requires the joint efforts of all members around the globe. How to combine crime scholars, criminal policy experts, and criminal law experts to cope with crimes without borders and set up coordinated anti-measures is a future goal.

In view of this, the Department and Graduate Institute of Criminology National Chung Cheng University (CHU), coupled with the CHU Crime Research Center, Protection Division, Ministry of Law, Academy for the Judiciary, Ministry of Law, Chinese Society of Criminology, Chinese Correctional Association, Chinese Correctional Association Tainan Branch, Taiwan Society of Delinquency Research and Prevention, and Society of Taiwan Buddhism Psychological Guidance have jointed co-organized the “2015 Crime Issues and Strategies Seminar” which is named after the theme. Scholars and experts long been committed to crime prevention, judicial protection, police administration and law reinforcement, and victim research and crime correction were also invited to jointly present papers. Through the occasion, it is expected that anti-crime issues currently of major social concern can be targeted to derive feasible solutions for government agencies.



IV. Ketamine Abuse Prevention Seminar

➤ Editorial Office

The current situation of adolescent ketamine abuse in Taiwan is serious, which has seriously impacted the Taiwan society. National Chung Cheng University Crime Research Center held the “Ketamine Abuse Prevention Seminar” on November 24th, 2015 in its Taipei office. At the seminar, in addition to the moderator Vice President Yang Shih-Lung, Division Director Tsai Wen-Ying of Food and drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Division Director Kao Chih-Chang of Student Affairs and Special Education Office, Director Wu Yung-Ta of Crime Prevention Research Center, Academy for the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Professor Li Jih-Heng of Kaohsiung Medical University, School of Pharmacy, Director Kuo Jong-Long and Professor Lee Szu-Hsien of Department of Health Promotion and Health Education, Dr. Shu Lian-Wen of Taipei City Hospital Division of Addiction Prevention, Director Yang Shei Dei of Taipei Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation, and other experts and scholars attended the conference. The conference targeted the prevalence of ketamine and the physiological, psychological, and social harm of ketamine abuse. The current situation of the ketamine control related penalties and disposal as well as recommendations for ketamine abuse prevention were discussed, four directions in all. The many experts and scholars in the conference proposed their latest research results and views on Taiwan’s current ketamine abuse problem.

In terms of the current prevalence of ketamine, the scholars who attended the seminar pointed out that the pure net weight of ketamine cracked down still ranks in the top. However, the abuse prevalence for community residents aged 12-64 years old has declined, from 0.54% in 2009 to 0.39% in 2014. Furthermore, the number of ketamine related hospital admissions increased from 99 people in 2006 to 1,626 people in 2014,



while the number of people tested positive in urine screening increased from 1,317 people in 2006 to 25,183 people in 2014, a substantial increase. For adolescents, it was found based on the survey results of the major counties and cities that the prevalence of students' ketamine abuse is about 0.8%. As for types of drugs taken by adolescents, ketamine accounts for 80% of all the drug types, while amphetamine accounts for about 10%. For the offenders, drug crimes rank number in crime recidivism rates among crime types. Up to 90% of inmates are drug convictions, and drug abuse short-term sentencing for one year accounts for 80%. Finally, most scholars believe it to be difficult to estimate prevalence rates and that an integrated monitoring system should be available to carry out grouping observation, coupled with various statistical methods and figures to derive effective estimations.

In terms of the harms of ketamine abuse, clinicians have pointed out ketamine abuse is likely to lead to irreversible harm on the kidneys and liver as well as nasal perforation. In terms of the psychology aspect, some cases showed postpartum depression. Clinical observations show that at least 400 cases of urinary bladder damage due to ketamine abuse occurred in Taiwan, more than 50 people underwent major surgery due to ketamine abuse, and two had to undergo dialysis. However, some scholars cited a part of the studies carried out by Yale University and pointed out that ketamine is actually helpful for treating severe depression. In the United States, the issue of legal use of ketamine in medical treatment is still under discussion, and this viewpoint may have implications for Taiwan. In addition, scholars also believe Taiwan should strengthen studies on the impact of ketamine on the physiological aspects, such as the brain and liver, as a clearer conclusion has not yet been drawn so far.

In terms of the current situation of ketamine control related penalties and disposal, according to the conference outcome, it was pointed out that the existing penalty for ketamine use alone is mostly only to attend several hours of lectures on drug hazards, and



the current lectures are mostly instruction-based. Most counties and cities do not separate repeated users and first-time users and a suitable mode of lecture content and approach has not been developed. Most attendants lack the willingness to take initiatives to learn. Hence, the existing lecture system fails to effectively achieve the purpose of education. As far as punishment is concerned, the lecture attendance rates are low, and lectures fail to perform the function of putting a stop to abuses altogether. Experts believe that the current lectures do not conform to the original intention of having lectures as an education plan. It is suggested that the government avoid the punishment-based lecturing approach instead in the future and supplement voluntary physical check-up assessment to provide ketamine users' health checkup reports based on actual data as warning, which will more likely be more effective. In addition, in terms of penalties, the experts pointed out that the ketamine abusers aged 18-30 years old comprise 7%, which means that motivated by entertainment reasons those who took ketamine after reaching adulthood accounted for the majority. However, the fine has not reached the administrative enforcement amount, thus lacking reinforcement and intimidation strengths. It is suggested that the fine be adjusted to over NTD50,000 to reach the administrative enforcement custody threshold and achieve better punishment effectiveness. In terms of criminal responsibility, the experts also believe that the current practice of Hong Kong should serve as a reference: reduce the net weight of ketamine in possession in grams as the threshold for determining drug trafficking (20 grams at present) in order to achieve better deterrent effect and increase drug traffickers' criminal liability.

As for recommendations for ketamine abuse prevention, most experts believe even if ketamine were upgraded to Class II drugs, other emerging drugs would still replace ketamine. Moreover, incrimination may lead to prison over-sentencing and worsen crime problems. Therefore, increasing criminal liability is not the root solution to the problem. As for drug crackdown, experts believe that drug supply, sales and profits should be the



starting points to reduce profits and cut off drugs at the sources. In terms of anti-drug education, early prevention and intensive undertakings should be two concepts emphasized and focused. In addition, multimedia interaction, game classes, and group discussions should be introduced to keep adolescents interested with better effectiveness. For drug abstinence, the exhibiting National Health Insurance does not cover people with an addiction. Therefore, there are no better intervention measures. It is recommended that drug hazard seminars increase physical check-up plans. During the course, avoid mandatory penalties; instead, provide the welfare of accepting assessment and lecturers. This way, people will have access to health information entitled to them and their willingness to quit the addiction can be enhanced. Furthermore, experts also suggested that, targeting the drug abusers, health care resources be introduced, health services be added, and medical resources be provided to reduce drug abusers' complications and facilitate more effective overall drug control.

The seminar conclusions point out that to achieve drug prevention in Taiwan, in-depth interdepartmental cooperation should continue to be carried out, practices of foreign countries should be learned, and Executive Yuan-level of assigned drug prevention operating units (such as drug Prevention Office) should be set up to allocate adequate manpower and resources to handle interdepartmental coordination problems and input adequate resources to establish anti-drug foundations and commission experts and scholars to conduct studies, and produce effective policies and recommendations based on empirical results, thereby effectively preventing the drug abuse problem.



Latest Conferences Information

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry Annual Meeting and Symposium	American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry	December 3-6 2015	Huntington Beach, California Contact: http://www.aaap.org/
ASCB 55th Annual Meeting	The American Society for Cell Biology	December 12-15 2015	San Diego, CA Contact: http://www.ascb.org/meetings/
Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)	Society for Social Work and Research	January 13-17 2016	Washington, DC, USA Contact: http://secure.sswr.org/future-conferences/
National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse	National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse	February 10-11 2016	Executive Boulevard, Rockville Contact : https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/advisory-boards-groups/national-advisory-council-drug-abuse-nacda
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	American Association for the Advancement of Science	February 12-15 2016	Washington, DC, USA Contact : http://www.aaas.org/annual-meeting/future
8th Annual Mississippi Addiction Conference	PROFESSIONALS HEALTH NETWORK, INC	February 10-12 2016	Jackson, Mississippi Contact : http://www.professionalshealthnetwork.com/