



【46th Edition】

Publish date: September 01, 2022

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Conference

2022 International Symposium on Prevention and Counseling of Drug Abuse for Juvenile

Dear scholars and experts:

With the support of the Ministry of Education, the National Chung Cheng University of Crime Research Center held the “International Symposium on Prevention and Counseling of Drug Abuse for Juvenile” at the National Chung Cheng University International Conference Hall on November 2nd and 3rd.

Many experts and scholars from Japan, Germany, Thailand, Canada, North Europe and Taiwan have been invited to publish papers on juvenile substance abuse, preventive and counseling strategies, the effectiveness of implementation and future directions in their respective countries. An insight into new strategies adopted by advanced countries to prevent substance abuse will aid Taiwan in keeping pace with the times in substance abuse prevention, establishing good and forward-looking preventive practices and effectively reducing the increasingly serious substance abuse problem. Additionally, the ministers of the central government ministries, experts and scholars from the academia, the drug prevention and control centers of the cities and counties and off-campus student life counseling committee supervisors, instructors, student well-being personnel, security personnel and other representatives committed to drug problems and prevention have also been invited. New research reports and practical recommendations focusing on juvenile substance issues are expected to be proposed in order to improve the current juvenile drug abuse problems and propose feasible suggestions for reference by the government.

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UNODC Reports

UNODC World Drug Report 2022 highlights trends on cannabis post-legalization, environmental impacts of illicit drugs, and drug use among women and youth

➤ **Editorial Office**

Vienna, 27 June 2022-Cannabis legalization in parts of the world appears to have accelerated daily use and related health impacts, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s World Drug Report 2022. Released today, the report also details record rises in the manufacturing of cocaine, the expansion of synthetic drugs to new markets, and continued gaps in the availability of drug treatments, especially for women.

According to the report, around 284 million people aged 15-64 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26 per cent increase over the previous decade. Young people are using more drugs, with use levels today in many countries higher than with the previous generation. In Africa and Latin America, people under 35 represent the majority of people being treated for drug use disorders.

Globally, the report estimates that 11.2 million people worldwide were injecting drugs. Around half of this number were living with hepatitis C, 1.4 million were living with HIV, and 1.2 million were living with both.

Reacting to these findings, UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly stated: “Numbers for the manufacturing and seizures of many illicit drugs are hitting record highs, even as global emergencies are deepening vulnerabilities. At the same time, misperceptions regarding the magnitude of the problem and the associated harms are depriving people of care and treatment and driving young people towards harmful behaviours. We need to devote the necessary resources and attention to addressing every aspect of the world



drug problem, including the provision of evidence-based care to all who need it, and we need to improve the knowledge base on how illicit drugs relate to other urgent challenges, such as conflicts and environmental degradation.”

The report further emphasizes the importance of galvanizing the international community, governments, civil society and all stakeholders to take urgent action to protect people, including by strengthening drug use prevention and treatment and by tackling illicit drug supply.

Early indications and effects of cannabis legalization

Cannabis legalization in North America appears to have increased daily cannabis use, especially potent cannabis products and particularly among young adults. Associated increases in people with psychiatric disorders, suicides and hospitalizations have also been reported. Legalization has also increased tax revenues and generally reduced arrest rates for cannabis possession.

Continued growth in drug production and trafficking

Cocaine manufacture was at a record high in 2020, growing 11 per cent from 2019 to 1,982 tons. Cocaine seizures also increased, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, to a record 1,424 tons in 2020. Nearly 90 per cent of cocaine seized globally in 2021 was trafficked in containers and/or by sea. Seizure data suggest that cocaine trafficking is expanding to other regions outside the main markets of North America and Europe, with increased levels of trafficking to Africa and Asia.

Trafficking of methamphetamine continues to expand geographically, with 117 countries reporting seizures of methamphetamine in 2016–2020 versus 84 in 2006–2010. Meanwhile, the quantities of methamphetamine seized grew five-fold between 2010 and 2020.

Opium production worldwide grew seven per cent between 2020 and 2021 to 7,930 tons – predominantly due to an increase in production in Afghanistan. However, the global area under opium poppy cultivation fell by 16 per cent to 246,800 ha in the same period.



Key drug trends broken down by region

In many countries in Africa and South and Central America, the largest proportion of people in treatment for drug use disorders are there primarily for cannabis use disorders. In Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and in Central Asia, people are most often in treatment for opioid use disorders.

In the United States and Canada, overdose deaths, predominantly driven by an epidemic of the non-medical use of fentanyl, continue to break records. Preliminary estimates in the United States point to more than 107,000 drug overdose deaths in 2021, up from nearly 92,000 in 2020.

In the two largest markets for methamphetamine, seizures have been increasing – they rose by seven per cent in North America from the previous year, while in South-East Asia they increased by 30 per cent from the previous year, record highs in both regions. A record high was also reported for methamphetamine seizures reported from South-West Asia, increasing by 50 per cent in 2020 from 2019.

Great inequality remains in the availability of pharmaceutical opioids for medical consumption. In 2020, there were 7,500 more doses per 1 million inhabitants of controlled pain medication in North America than in West and Central Africa.

Conflict zones as magnets for synthetic drug production

This year's report also highlights that illicit drug economies can flourish in situations of conflict and where the rule of law is weak, and in turn can prolong or fuel conflict.

Information from the Middle East and South-East Asia suggest that conflict situations can act as a magnet for the manufacture of synthetic drugs, which can be produced anywhere. This effect may be greater when the conflict area is close to large consumer markets.

Historically, parties to conflict have used drugs to finance conflict and generate income. The 2022 World Drug Report also reveals that conflicts may also disrupt and shift drug trafficking routes, as has happened in the Balkans and more recently in Ukraine.



A possible growing capacity to manufacture amphetamine in Ukraine if the conflict persists

There was a significant increase in the number of reported clandestine laboratories in Ukraine, skyrocketing from 17 dismantled laboratories in 2019 to 79 in 2020. 67 out of these laboratories were producing amphetamines, up from five in 2019 – the highest number of dismantled laboratories reported in any given country in 2020.

The environmental impacts of drug markets

Illicit drug markets, according to the 2022 World Drug Report, can have local, community or individual-level impacts on the environment. Key findings include that the carbon footprint of indoor cannabis is between 16 and 100 times more than outdoor cannabis on average and that the footprint of 1 kilogram of cocaine is 30 times greater than that of cocoa beans.

Other environmental impacts include substantial deforestation associated with illicit coca cultivation, waste generated during synthetic drug manufacture that can be 5-30 times the volume of the end product, and the dumping of waste which can affect soil, water and air directly, as well as organisms, animals and the food chain indirectly.

Ongoing gender treatment gap and disparities in drug use and treatment

Women remain in the minority of drug users globally yet tend to increase their rate of drug consumption and progress to drug use disorders more rapidly than men do. Women now represent an



estimated 45-49 per cent of users of amphetamines and non-medical users of pharmaceutical stimulants, pharmaceutical opioids, sedatives, and tranquilizers.

The treatment gap remains large for women globally. Although women represent almost one in two amphetamines users, they constitute only one in five people in treatment for amphetamine use disorders.

The World Drug Report 2022 also spotlights the wide range of roles fulfilled by women in the global cocaine economy, including cultivating coca, transporting small quantities of drugs, selling to consumers, and smuggling into prisons.

The 2022 World Drug Report provides a global overview of the supply and demand of opiates, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances (NPS), as well as their impact on health.

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

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/press/releases/2022/June/unodc-world-drug-report-2022-highlights-trends-on-cannabis-post-legalization--environmental-impacts-of-illicit-drugs--and-drug-use-among-women-and-youth.html>



NIDA Reports

Percentage of overdose deaths involving methadone declined between January 2019 and August 2021

➤ **Editorial Office**

July 13, 2022-The percentage of methadone-involved overdose deaths relative to all drug overdose deaths declined from January 2019 to August 2021, according to a new study. Access to methadone, a medication to treat opioid use disorder, was expanded at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to allow more patients to take home doses, rather than visit a clinic daily. These data indicate that broader access to treatment was not associated with harms. While drug overdose deaths both with and without methadone increased in the month of March 2020, overdose deaths that did not involve methadone continued to increase in the months after the policy changes, while overdose deaths involving methadone held steady.

Published today in JAMA Psychiatry, this study was a collaborative effort led by researchers at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health, and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2021, provisional data from CDC estimate more than 107,000 people died of a drug overdose, with 75% of those deaths involving an opioid. The overall rise in overdose deaths is largely attributable to the proliferation in the drug supply of illicit fentanyl, a highly potent synthetic opioid. A key component of the federal government response to the overdose crisis is expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder. However, only 18% of people with opioid use disorder receive medication as treatment. Though the benefits of providing safe and effective medication for opioid use disorder are well-known, decades of stigma against treating substance use disorders with medication has contributed to minimal reach.

“Treatment is an essential tool to stop the addiction and overdose crises, but it is vastly underused,” said NIDA Director and senior author, Nora Volkow, M.D. “This evidence adds significant weight to the



argument that effective treatment for substance use disorders should be offered in an accessible and practical way that works for people who need it.”

In the United States, methadone for the treatment for opioid use disorder can only be provided through federally certified opioid treatment programs, where most patients are required to visit a clinic in-person, on a daily basis, in order to get their medication. For decades, this requirement has been identified as an often-insurmountable barrier to access and retention for this treatment, particularly for people trying to balance employment, childcare, and other needs. The requirement presented unique challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, as accessing in-person treatment became limited due to concerns about exposure to COVID-19. In order to ensure continuity of care for individuals receiving methadone treatment, on March 16, 2020, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) allowed states to request exceptions to provide up to 28 days and 14 days of take-home methadone for stable and less stable patients, respectively.

To assess the impact and potential harms of these policy changes, investigators used data from January 2019 through August 2021 from the CDC’s National Vital Statistics System, a national mortality database. Researchers calculated monthly drug overdose deaths without methadone, monthly drug overdose deaths involving methadone, and the percentage of overall overdose deaths involving methadone. They then assessed whether there was a shift in outcomes before and after the methadone take-home policy change in March 2020. They did this through interrupted time series analyses, a method of evaluation for large scale public health interventions with well-defined starting points.

Researchers found that non-methadone-involved overdose deaths increased by an average of 78 more deaths each month before March 2020, increased by 1,078 deaths during March 2020, and then continued to increase by an average of 69 more deaths each month after March 2020. Methadone-involved overdose deaths experienced a similar increase in March 2020 (increased by 94 deaths). However, the trend in number of deaths per month before and after this initial uptick remained stable, and the percentage of overdose deaths involving methadone declined at similar rates before and after the take-home policy change, declining from 4.5% of overdose deaths in January of 2019 to 3.2% in August 2021.



Taken together, these findings indicate that the modest increase in methadone-involved overdose deaths in March 2020 was likely a reflection of the overall spike in overdose deaths driven by illicitly produced fentanyl and not an outcome of the take-home policy change. Mirroring findings from smaller studies, these national data provide evidence that the expanded opioid treatment program take-home methadone policy change established in March 2020 was not associated with increases in methadone-involved overdose deaths, despite marked increases in overall overdose deaths during the study period. Coupled with other studies that have demonstrated positive benefits related to these policies, the authors note that these findings can inform decisions about permanently expanding take-home methadone from opioid treatment programs.

“The goal of health policy should be to promote health and reduce harm, and our goal in conducting studies like this is to ensure that those policies are based on the best available scientific evidence,” said lead author Christopher M. Jones, Pharm. D., Dr. P. H., acting director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC. “Projects like this also underscore the important findings that can emerge when we collaborate across agencies under a common mission, as we continue to work together to address the overdose crisis.”

For more information on substance and mental health treatment programs in your area, call the free and confidential National Helpline *1-800-662-HELP (4357)* or visit *www.FindTreatment.gov*.

Reference:

Jones CM, Compton WM, Han B, Baldwin G, Volkow ND (2022). Methadone-Involved Overdose Deaths in the United States Before and After Federal Policy Changes Expanding Take-Home Methadone Doses from Opioid Treatment Programs. *JAMA Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2022.1776> (2022).

This paper is from : National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://nida.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/2022/07/percentage-of-overdose-deaths-involving-methadone-declined-between-january-2019-august-2021>



Taiwan Research News

The Application of Positive Psychology to Correctional Interventions

Doris C. Chu

Negative emotions, stress, and the lack of positive stress-coping skills have been found to be related to illicit drug use and relapse. Empirical studies reveal that the elements in positive psychology interventions—e.g., recalling three good things per day, and developing self-strength and self-efficacy—can enhance one’s mental health and resiliency. In recent years, clinicians and researchers have started to incorporate positive psychology principles into treatment programs to help rehabilitate ex-offenders and ex-drug users.

Research has shown that the traditional deficit-based model focusing on fixing bad behaviors has not been successful in reducing recidivism. Recently, researchers have considered an alternative rehabilitation approach, one that shifts from the deficit-based to a strength-based model, with emphasis on promoting an individual’s positive character and strength (Reitzel & Carbonell, 2006; Wormith et al., 2007; Woldgabreal et al., 2014).

Strength-based model, focusing on improving self-efficacy and promoting positive emotions, may provide a promising avenue for drug abusers’ or ex-offenders’ rehabilitation (Woldgabreal et al., 2014). Previous studies dealing with clients seeking treatment for substance abuse have found motivation to change and self-efficacy are important determinants to generate positive outcomes (e.g., Sherman et al., 2016; Welsh & McGrain, 2008).

In recent years, correction agencies around the globe have developed interests in strength-based model and started to incorporate the principles of positive psychology into rehabilitation programs (Wormith et al., 2007). The Washington State Corrections Facility has initiated a treatment program, entitled “Positive



Re-Entry in Corrections Program (PRCP),” tailored to improving inmates’ resilience and mental health (Huynh et al., 2015).

Mindfulness related programs have also demonstrated effectiveness on gambling treatment (Witkiewitz et al., 2014), smoking cessation (Bowen & Martin, 2011), and relapse of addictive behavior (Witkiewitz et al., 2014). Mindfulness practices aim to decrease the likelihood of relapse by increasing one’s self-awareness, in which the person can recognize in the moment when substance use prompts (Witkiewitz et al., 2014).

The application of positive psychology and related concepts (e.g., mindfulness, Yoga, and good lives model) to substance abuse treatment and offender rehabilitation is still in its initial stages. Systematic studies with longitudinal data are not sufficient. Most of the existing studies have been conducted in Western countries, and empirical studies in Asian countries are rare. Currently, there is no standard operation and practice in positive psychology interventions. Moreover, there are no guidelines in terms of course design. Thus, from case to case, the length and content of the related courses may vary. There is a need for more studies that examine how program design in positive psychology intervention can benefit the treatment of drug abusers (Chu, 2019)



A Research on the Job Performance of Juvenile Drug Enforcement in Tainan City

Chun-Hui Lai¹ Kuang-Fu Huang²

The usage of juvenile drug has been a specific issue of the judicial, educational, and health-related organizations. The research purpose is to examine the relationship between police job involvement, professional capability, and job performance. It is going to examine the association, differences and prediction of police officers' job involvement, professional capability and job performance. Finally, the research will provide favorable recommendations for police policies to juvenile drug enforcement. About 350 questionnaires were sent out and 293 (83.7%) of them were valid. The research found that:

(1) police officers' job involvement was the highest in terms of job evaluation, professional capability was the highest in terms of professional work attitude, and work performance was the highest in terms of work quality and performance.

(2) there were significant differences among job involvement, professional capability, and job performance in different backgrounds.

(3) there is a positive and significant correlation between job involvement, professional capability and job performance.

(4) there is a positive prediction between job involvement, professional capability and job performance.

The study concludes with the recommendation that the authorities should enhance the cooperation between the police and the public and be able to improve the reputation and dignity of the police position. Through social media, the professionalism and dedicated police officers should be promoted, and the positive effects of work commitment should be reinforced through various incentive and reward systems. Police officers should receive regular annual legal training and continuously improve their professional

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competence. To strengthen the cooperation mechanism with the campus, high care youth notification, special personnel list, establish real-time information communication channel with schools, school drug prevention promotion activities, etc., in order to improve the performance of police officers to achieve the work objectives of youth drug prevention.



Taiwan Events News

Draw Your Anti-Drug Story

2022FunPark Creative Story-Telling Digital Picture Book Creation Contest

To encourage elementary school students to actively gain anti-drug knowledge and cultivate the principle of saying no to drugs, the Ministry of Education and Chunghwa Telecom collaborated to organize the 2022FunPark Creative Story-Telling Digital Picture Book Creation Contest, with the special addition of the Anti-Drug Creation Group which is open for the participation of 2~6 people from every grade in elementary school, with at least 1 school teacher or parent leading the team, thereby allowing the teachers and students participating in the contest to gradually cultivate the correct anti-drug skills, to understand the drug hazards and to further say no to drugs throughout the creation process.

The FunPark Creative Story-Telling Digital Picture Book Creation Contest has reached its 10th year now and is known as the Nobel Laureates in Literature for Children. The organizer sets up the online creation platform, and provides the participating students with abundant and diversified digital picture book materials, allowing children to fully utilize their imagination and creativity, to create their unique original story picture books. The teams nominated for the finals will receive the opportunity to actually perform the story. This is a grand stage capable for one to present their expressive ability and the influential power of the story.

Please go to the [FunPark] official website for the relevant information on the contest:

<https://story.funpark.com.tw/2022/index.do>

★ Registration Deadline: 11:59:59 pm on September 25, 2022 (Sun.).

★ Registration Method: Register online on the event's official website

<https://story.funpark.com.tw/2022/index.do>



Crime Research Center – CCU

★ Registration Qualification: Grade 1~6 students from elementary schools nationwide

★ Notes: There is no restriction to the creative elements, but the content must be based mainly on the Anti-Drug theme. The composition of the participating teams can be collaborations among different schools, different classes and different grades, but the same story cannot be registered by different groups. The number of works delivered by each team is not limited, but each participating team is restricted to enter the finals with the work obtaining the highest score.

The information source is from the Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, MOE

<https://enc.moe.edu.tw/New/Info/2481>



Latest Conferences Information

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
Annual ISAM Conference	International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM)	October 4-7 2022	Valletta, Malta Contact: admin@isamweb.org
NAADAC 2022 Annual Conference & 50th Anniversary Celebration	National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC)	October 7-12 2022	Indianapolis, IN, at the JW Marriott Indianapolis Contact: 703.741.7698
2022 NIDA-NIAAA Frontiers in Addiction Research Mini-Convention	The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) And The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	November 1-2 2022	Virtual Contact: stsai@nih.gov
2022 International Symposium on Prevention and Counseling of Drug Abuse for Juvenile	The National Chung Cheng University of Crime Research Center	November 2-3 2022	Chiayi, Taiwan Contact: deptcrcc@ccu.edu.tw
APHA 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo	American Public Health Association (APHA)	November 6-9 2022	Boston, USA Contact: Annualmeeting@apha.org