



**【50<sup>th</sup> Edition】**

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**Conference**

**National Chung Cheng University Department of Criminology:**

**2023 Seminar on Crime Issues and Countermeasures**

Academics and experts, greetings:

On November 3, 2023 (Friday), the National Chung Cheng University Department of Criminology & Crime Research Center will host the “2023 Seminar on Crime Problems and Strategies” in the 2nd Conference Room of Zhuozhang International Hall, College of Education and Rm 135 of the 2nd Hall, College of Education. It is anticipated that the latest research trends and countermeasures for various crimes and issues in corrective practice will be presented. In turn, this will promote the development of crime prevention and control research in order to establish a fair and just criminal justice system.

Many domestic experts and academics, as well as those from Germany and Japan, will be invited to this seminar to present papers on crime types and criminal justice in their respective countries. In addition, national scholars, experts, and practitioners from the fields of criminology, criminal justice, crime correction, judicial protection, education and social work guidance, juvenile justice, victimology research, police investigation, and other relevant units will be invited. They will conduct research on a wide range of topics with the intent of amassing research results that can serve as references for government and private agencies and units. In turn, Taiwan can increase its momentum in overall crime prevention, control, and prison reform.

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# UNODC Reports

## Thailand: Moving from punishment to treatment of people who use drugs

➤ Editorial Office

Bangkok (Thailand), 25 June 2023 - “I first started taking drugs when I was 15,” says 49-year-old Prapat Sukkeaw. “I smoked marijuana, but it was laced with heroin. I felt like I was floating, and it meant that I could forget about all the problems that I faced as a teenager. It was a beautiful feeling.”

Prapat Sukkeaw is one of an estimated 57,000 people who currently injects drugs in Thailand. His drugs of choice, marijuana and heroin, reflect a period in Thailand’s recent history when both illegal



narcotics were the main stimulants being trafficked out of the storied Golden Triangle, a remote and somewhat inaccessible region which includes northern Thailand as well as Myanmar and Laos.

*UN News/Daniel Dickinson*

The Ozone Foundation is based in a suburb of the Thai capital, Bangkok.

Employed by a non-governmental organization (NGO), he has on occasion wanted to give up heroin due to pressure from family and friends. Now, he has recognized that, even if he admits to being addicted, taking drugs “is my preference and my right”. He has now started taking the synthetic drug methamphetamine, as heroin has become progressively more expensive.

His focus has moved from abstaining from drugs to living with the side effects and managing the potential harm of their prolonged use, for example by not sharing needles.



Like all Thai citizens, Mr. Sukkeaw has access to universal health care, but he found that as a person



*UN News/Daniel Dickinson*

49-year-old Prapat Sukkeaw has used drugs since the age of 15.

who uses drugs, he was stigmatized and discriminated against by health care workers. He was referred to Ozone, an NGO based in a suburb of the Thai capital, Bangkok.

Ozone’s goal is to reduce the health and social impacts of drug addiction, promoting abstinence, but also supporting clients who want to carry on using and ensuring that they have access to the health services they require.

“Our clients who travel from around Thailand to Ozone welcome our non-judgmental approach,” said Ngammee Verapun, the centre’s director, himself a person who uses multiple



*UN News/Daniel Dickinson*

A hepatitis C test is prepared for a client at Ozone.

drugs on a regular basis. “We are a community which values all people. We are client-centred and offer peer support treating everyone equally, no matter their background.”

Ozone offers a variety of services including needle exchanges and HIV testing as well as PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) which reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex or injecting drugs. It also partners with Dreamlopmnts, a hepatitis C service provider which offers integrated healthcare free of charge. Hepatitis C is a viral liver infection spread by sharing needles. Its activities are supported by UNODC, although a funding shortfall has meant that the centre has had to close many of its outreach services in other parts of Thailand.



## FROM PUNITIVE TO PROGRESSIVE DRUG LAWS

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*UN News/Daniel Dickinson*  
Karen Peters, UNODC.

Historically, Thailand has severely punished people who have broken strict drug laws. However, since a change in the law in 2021, the legal system has shifted towards rehabilitation for people who use drugs.

Speaking ahead of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, marked annually 26 June, Karen Peters, UNODC’s Bangkok-based regional drugs and health focal point, said: “Now people are allowed alternatives. It is not an ideal choice, but they are given the choice to attend a treatment facility or go to prison.”

The law is progressive in other ways, as harm reduction is specifically highlighted as an objective, which, according to Karen Peters, allows organizations like Ozone “to function within the confines of the legal and justice system”.

It is also helping to shift “the narrative around people who use drugs in Thailand from being socially marginalized”, she said.

## TACKLING STIGMATIZATION

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The stigmatization of people who take drugs nevertheless continues, but according to Dr. Phattarapol Jungsomjatepaisal, the director of the National Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Committee in the Ministry of Public Health, the new legislation means that more “health service providers are being trained to act in a non-stigmatizing manner”.



He says that the reaction from people who use drugs has been “good” as there is a recognition that ultimately, they should receive better care in hospitals and health centres under Thailand’s universal health coverage system, while continuing to have the option to access services in community-led centres like Ozone.

## HIV AND HEPATITIS C



*UN News/Daniel Dickinson*

One major concern remains the high prevalence of HIV and hepatitis C amongst people who inject drugs in a country where HIV rates are otherwise decreasing. In Thailand, an estimated eight per cent of drug users have HIV, approximately 3,800 people.

The rate of hepatitis C, at 42 per cent, is “very frightening”, according to Dr. Patchara Benjarattanaporn, the country director of UNAIDS, the UN agency leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Despite ongoing concerns about the health outcomes for people who use drugs, Dr. Benjarattanaporn believes that Thailand could become a model for the region’s countries facing similar challenges.

“The new narcotic law and the community-led aspect of treatment for drug users gives hope that Thailand can control cases, and this is a development that other countries are watching,” he said.

Back at Ozone, one client is receiving counseling about PrEP and HIV prevention, and another is undergoing a hepatitis test. The peer support remains a key element in attracting people to use its services, and it is now hoped that the new legislation will lead to less discrimination and will enable others to access similar services through more government health facilities.



# NIDA Reports

## Men died of overdose at 2-3 times greater a rate than women in the U.S. in 2020-2021

National data show need for more research into the factors underlying differences in sex-based vulnerability to drug use

➤ Editorial Office

Men were significantly more vulnerable than women to overdose deaths involving opioid and stimulant drugs in 2020-2021, according to a new study analyzing death records data from across the United States. The study found that men had a 2–3 times greater rate of overdose mortality from opioids



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(like fentanyl and heroin) and psychostimulants (like methamphetamine and cocaine). While it has been known that men use drugs at higher rates than women, the researchers found that this alone does not explain the gap in overdose deaths, noting that biological, behavioral, and social factors likely combined to increase the mortality risk for men.

The study, published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*, was led by investigators at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health.



“Though men and women are being exposed to the modern, fentanyl-contaminated drug supply, something is leading men to die at significantly higher rates. It may be that men use drugs more frequently or in greater doses, which could increase their risk of death, or there may be protective factors among women that reduce their risk of death compared to men,” said Nora Volkow, M.D., director of NIDA and one of the co-authors on the study. “Understanding the biological, behavioral, and social factors that impact drug use and our bodies’ responses is critical to develop tailored tools to protect people from fatal overdose and other harms of drug use.”

In 2021, nearly 107,000 people died of a drug overdose, largely driven by potent, illicit fentanyl which now contaminates the drug supply. Data have consistently shown that the rate of drug overdose deaths is significantly higher for men than women. In addition, data suggest that men are more likely than women to use almost all types of illicit drugs. Building on these data, researchers sought to determine the extent to which this known sex difference in overdose mortality varies by drug, state, and age, and to investigate whether the increased rate of overdose death among men held true when controlling for higher rates of drug misuse among men compared to women.

To do so, researchers conducted a state-by-state analysis of nationally representative epidemiological data on overdose mortality among people aged 15–74 from 2020-2021 in the U.S., using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (CDC WONDER) platform. The scientists also used state-level, nationally representative data from the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) to estimate and control for rates of drug misuse (taking drugs in a way not recommended by a health care provider) among men compared to women. The NSDUH is conducted annually by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



For specific drugs, and after controlling for the sex-specific rate of drug misuse, the researchers found that the overall rates of drug overdose death by sex from 2020-2021 were:

- **Synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl):** 29.0 deaths per 100,000 people for men, compared to 11.1 for women
- **Heroin:** 5.5 deaths per 100,000 people for men, compared to 2.0 for women
- **Psychostimulants (e.g., methamphetamine):** 13.0 deaths per 100,000 people for men, compared to 5.6 for women
- **Cocaine:** 10.6 deaths per 100,000 people for men, compared to 4.2 for women

The higher overdose death rate in men was observed across the lifespan (ages 15-74 overall) and was consistent across states, even after accounting for other demographic factors such as household net worth. In addition, when the authors analyzed the data by 10-year age groups, they found that for overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl, men had greater rates than women across each group within the entire 15-74 age range measured in the study. For the three other drug categories assessed, men also had greater overdose mortality rates compared to women across the lifespan, with few exceptions. Due to limited data, for heroin, the youngest and oldest age groups (age ranges 15-24 and 65-74) were excluded from analysis; for psychostimulants and cocaine, the oldest age group (age range 65-74) was excluded from analysis.

While researchers also found that men reported misusing drugs more than women, the magnitude of difference recorded for overdose mortality between men and women was substantially greater than the difference of reported drug misuse. For example, by comparing the data from CDC WONDER and NSDUH, the researchers found that men had a 2.8 greater rate of cocaine overdose mortality compared to women, though men only had a 1.9 greater rate of cocaine misuse compared to women.



The authors hypothesize that it is a combination of biological (e.g., men may have a greater vulnerability to the toxicity of drugs than women), behavioral (e.g. men may use these drugs in a riskier way than women), as well as other social- and gender-related factors.

“These data emphasize the importance of looking at the differences between men and women in a multilayered way,” said Eduardo R. Butelman Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and a lead author on the study. “Moving forward, it will be important for researchers to continue to investigate how biology, social factors, and behaviors intersect with sex and gender factors, and how all of these can impact addictive drug misuse and overdose deaths.”

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](http://www.FindTreatment.gov).

Reference: E. Butelman, et al. Overdose mortality rates for opioids and stimulant drugs are substantially higher in men than in women: State-level analysis. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. DOI: 10.1038/s41386-023-01601-8 (2023).

*This paper is from : National Institute on Drug Abuse*

*<https://nida.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/2023/06/men-died-of-overdose-at-2-3-times-greater-a-rate-than-women-in-the-us-in-2020-2021>*



# Taiwan Research News

## Innovative Drug Abuse Prevention and Propaganda Practices: From the Perspective of Drug Users

Yang, Shu-Lung<sup>1</sup> & Tzeng Shu-Ping<sup>2</sup>

According to the World Drug Report, 2023, there will be approximately 296 million drug users aged 15 to 64 in 2021, a 23 percent increase over the previous decade. The objective of Taiwan's anti-drug initiatives, which have entered phase 2 of the Next-generation Anti-drug Strategy Plan, is to reduce drug supply, drug demand, and drug-related harm. Among them, "Drug abuse prevention and control-related preventive propaganda work is the primary area of concentration." According to domestic and international research findings, the effectiveness of traditional prevention and propaganda strategies is limited. In light of this, the purpose of this study is to further investigate the efficacy of drug abuse prevention, control, and advocacy plans through interviews with drug users, investigative research, and the consumer's point of view. It is anticipated that effective resource utilization and ongoing plan refinement and improvement will be realized, thereby achieving the goal of reducing drug abuse.

From June to August 2022, this study sampled 16 individuals with a history of drug use (Schedule I, II, III, and IV) from the northern, central, southern, and eastern regions of Taiwan. The views of drug users on anti-drug propaganda plans were examined from the perspective of subjects with drug use experience. The research reveals that respondents paid less attention to the content of anti-drug propaganda and held

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widely divergent opinions regarding the influence of the content of anti-drug propaganda. In addition, they believed that anti-drug propaganda courses had little impact and that anti-drug activities on campus were entertaining but difficult to recall. The respondents suggested displaying anti-drug slogans in areas where drug transactions and use occur frequently and where large crowds congregate, and inviting those who have successfully quit drugs to share their stories.

In addition, the research teams of Yang Shih-Lung and Lin Ying-Rong (2023) utilized semi-structured interviews and purposive sampling. From August to October 2022, 254 questionnaires were collected from Schedule I-IV drug users in the Kaohsiung area for statistical analysis. The results of a survey of drug users' opinions indicate that, despite the high visibility of printed propaganda materials, their effectiveness remains unfavorable, as dynamic and narrative-based propaganda techniques are more likely to leave a lasting impression. They also stated that the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS) and the propagation of the government's various service programs must be strengthened. In general, they consider religious support and refusal skills to be ineffective anti-drug propaganda content.

Yang Shih-Lung and Tseng Shu-Ping plan to conduct a questionnaire survey of 800 to 1,200 Schedule I-IV drug users from northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan between July and September of 2023. A comprehensive examination of the preventive effectiveness will be conducted using a large sample size, which will serve as a guide for the government and schools in planning preventive propaganda with specific actions taken.



# **An Examination of Counselors' Self-regulation and Coping Strategies in Substance Abuse Counseling during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Yen-Kai Chiu<sup>1</sup>, Ko-Wei Chang<sup>2</sup>, & Doris C. Chu<sup>3</sup>**

This study explores the status of the counselors who invest in the field of addiction recovery regarding their self-adjustment and coping strategies. It aims to understand the pressure that affects counselors in the intervention and to investigate their self-regulation and coping. This study adopts purposeful sampling; semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with 5 counselors. Interview data were interpreted through thematic analysis. The study found that the belief transformation of counselors can enhance self-regulation ability; safety considerations of equipment and environment, professional ability improvement, and coping strategy become more important in the field of addiction counseling during the Covid-19. Therefore, it is recommended that professionals strengthen their recognition of professional values and beliefs under the balance of practical work and self-care. It is important to ensure that work space has the possibility of confidentiality and flexible adjustment. It is also important for professionals to retain professional autonomy and implement adequate epidemic prevention strategies.

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walk into the “floor stickers of hallucinogenic drug area” to experience the dizziness and uncontrollable null gravity associated with drug use.

The visiting public can use augmented reality (AR) to learn about drug addiction and drugs, as well as the dangers of making drug addict friends. It is possible to gain a profound understanding of the dangers of drugs through literature and art exhibitions. Through the visual experience of the illusional floor stickers of hallucinogens and the visual experience mirror, the dangers of drugs can be perceived. In addition, the 3D exhibition makes it possible to intuitively comprehend the negative effects on the mental and physical health of individuals as well as on society as a whole.

Exhibition period: From June 1, 2023 to March 3, 2024.

Visit the “National Museum of Natural Science” website for additional details.



# 2023 “Anti-drug Anti-fraud Hand in Hand Happy GO” National Trekking Event

To promote the “Next-generation Anti-drug Strategy Program for Action” (Phase 2), the Ministry of Education and the Tainan City Government organized a national trekking event in Lin Mo Niang Park and its surrounding areas in Tainan. Beginning today, registration will be accepted. The registration deadline is achieved when the quota of 2,000 people is reached.



This event is free of charge. The registration procedure is as follows:

(I) Group registration (10 people and more): Registration is open to agencies interested in attending. The registration gift is redeemable on the day of the event (registration website: <http://reurl.cc/LAZ2zX>).

(II) Personal registration: Registration is open to anyone interested in attending. (registration website: <http://reurl.cc/aV7XYI>).

Those who register will receive an exquisite registration gift. Those who complete the trekking and a pass in the games will receive raffle tickets and a surprise

gift for completing the games. A raffle will be held on the stage during the event. There are 100 prizes in total, ranging from electric bicycles to Apple Watch SEs and AirPods 3.

Visit the activity website: <https://antidrug.moj.gov.tw/cp-4-8408-1.html> for additional details.

★ Registration period: Registration is open now until August 31, 2023, or until the quota is filled.

*This information is sourced from the Ministry of Education.*

<https://antidrug.moj.gov.tw/cp-4-8408-1.html>



# Latest Conferences Information

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
Contemporary Drug Problems Conference	Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS)	September 6-8 2023	Paris, France Contact: <a href="mailto:cdpconference@latrobe.edu.au">cdpconference@latrobe.edu.au</a>
Working Group on International Cooperation, 14th Session	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	September 11-12 2023	Vienna, Austria Contact: <a href="mailto:unodc@un.org">unodc (at) un.org</a>
NAADAC 2023 Annual Conference	National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC)	October 6-12 2023	Colorado, USA Contact: 703.741.7698
Addiction Health Services Research Conference	Addiction Health Services Research (AHSR)	October 18-20 2023	New York, USA Contact: <a href="mailto:ahsrconference@gmail.com">ahsrconference@gmail.com</a>
CSAM-SMCA 2023 Scientific Conference	Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM-SMCA)	October 19-21 2023	Columbia, Canada Contact: <a href="mailto:Conference@csam-smca.org">Conference@csam-smca.org</a>
2023 Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting	Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research (AASAR)	October 20-22 2023	Macao, China Contact: <a href="mailto:info@aasar.asia">info@aasar.asia</a>



## Crime Research Center – CCU

<b>X International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances 2023</b>	<b>European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)</b>	<b>November 6-8 2023</b>	<b>Abu Dhabi. UAE Contact: press@emcdda.europa.eu</b>
<b>NIDA-NIAAA Mini-Convention: Frontiers in Addiction Research</b>	<b>National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)</b>	<b>November 7 2023</b>	<b>Virtual Meeting Contact: <a href="https://nida.nih.gov/">https://nida.nih.gov/</a></b>
<b>16th European Public Health Conference 2023</b>	<b>European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and European Public health Conference (EPH)</b>	<b>November 8-11 2023</b>	<b>Dublin, Ireland Contact: ephconference.eu</b>
<b>SSA Annual Conference 2023</b>	<b>Society for the Study of Addiction (SSA)</b>	<b>November 9-10 2023</b>	<b>NE1 3SA,UK Contact: +44 (0) 1535 664 673</b>