

Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse

[51th Edition]

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O UNODC and NIDA Reports

 Taiwan Research News

Recent International Academic

Conference

Seminar on the Physical, Mental, and Social Hazards of Cannabis

In recent years, certain countries have embraced the legalization of cannabis, impacting the domestic interest in the matter of cannabis legalization. However, cannabis carries a certain level of potential for addictiveness and abuse and causes irreversible damage to the human body. The reduced cognitive and physical responsiveness following cannabis consumption may also pose risks to road safety. More sophisticated theories suggest that cannabis frequently serves as a contributing factor to the use of more hard drugs, underscoring the harms associated with cannabis use that cannot be overlooked.

In light of this concern, the Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse at National Chung Cheng University is hosting the Seminar on the Physical, Mental, and Social Hazards of Cannabis. Renowned medical experts, scholars, and representatives from government agencies have been invited to come together and discuss the potential dangers of cannabis on individual health and its societal consequences. Through the exchange of professional insights and diverse opinions, the seminar aims to furnish participants with a more thorough grasp of the subject, enabling them to navigate this growing social concern with greater discernment.

Seminar Information:

Date: December 14, 2023 (Thursday)

Time: 12:30-15:00

Venue: National Chung Cheng University, College of Education Building 2, 3rd Floor, Room 336

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UNODC Reports

East and Southeast Asian drug experts meet to discuss responses to emerging synthetic drug threats

Editorial Office

Manila (Philippines), 31 August 2023 - The synthetic drug market in East and Southeast Asia has expanded and diversified in recent years. While methamphetamine supply remains high, with nearly 151 tons seized in 2022, the market for other synthetic drugs, such as ketamine, has also grown significantly. A record 27.4 tons was seized in the region in 2022, an increase of 167 per cent from the previous year.



Md. Masud Hossain, Director in the Bangladesh Department of Narcotics Control(on the right side of the picture), provided information on drugs seized in Bangladesh that were trafficked from Southeast Asia

To respond to the ongoing challenge and evolution in the regional synthetic drug market, the UNODC SMART Forensics

Programme held a regional meeting gather experts from law enforcement, public health, and drug forensics from ASEAN member states and the East Asia, including China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, and the World Customs Organization's Regional

Intelligence Liaison Office Asia Pacific to share latest developments and discuss strategies to address the drug situation. Representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, India, and the United States also participated as countries that are impacted by the drug situation in East and Southeast Asia.





Participants discussed forensic drug analysis

"The drug situation in the Philippines has exacerbated in recent years and our law enforcement agencies have seized increasing amounts of methamphetamine year on year, predominantly produced from the Golden Triangle. We also have drugs entering the local market from other regions as

well, impacting drug use in our country," remarked Secretary Catalino S. Cuy, Chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) of the Philippines. "This means that regional and interregional cooperation are more important than ever, as we work together to take the drug problem. Supply reduction has to go hand in hand with prevention and demand reduction."

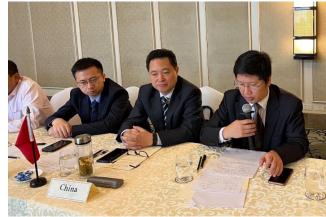
The emergence of new synthetic drug products, such as 'happy water', which contain multiple substances, and varied synthetic drug tablets containing new psychoactive substances (NPS) have also added complexity to the situation as these multi-substance products pose significant danger to the health and safety of communities. Early warning mechanisms are necessary at the national and regional level so that countries in the region are informed of emerging drug threats and can respond in a timely manner.

"NPS remain a concern in the region with new NPS continuing to emerge despite legal responses, including the recent class scheduling of synthetic cannabinoids in China," noted Meng Xin. "It is important

to quickly share information on these new substances, as well as share identification methods, to help build the capacity of drug analysis laboratories in the region."

Tackling the regional drug problem requires a multidimensional approach, including developing early warning mechanisms, health responses, counternarcotic interventions, and international cooperation throughout East and Southeast Asia.

" UNODC, through the SMART Forensics Programme, will work together with countries in the region to address the drug problem by providing science-led capacity building, including drug detection, analysis, early warning, and chemical disposal, as well as more rapidly communicate emerging global and



Meng Xin, Deputy Director, Drug Analysis Division I, of the Chinese National Narcotics Laboratory and Drug Intelligence and Forensic Center (on the right side of the picture) shared information on newly identified new

regional drug-related threats," said Tun Nae Soe, Interregional Coordinator of the SMART Forensics Programme with UNODC.

Source: UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

https://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/philippines/2023/08/east-southeast-asia-synthetic-drug-meeting/story.html

Date of Access: 2023/11/03



NIDA Reports

Marijuana and hallucinogen use, binge drinking reached historic highs among adults 35 to 50

NIH-funded study also shows younger adults reported marijuana, vaping, and hallucinogen use at or near historically high levels

Editorial Office

Past-year use of marijuana and hallucinogens by adults 35 to 50 years old continued a long-term upward trajectory to reach all-time highs in 2022, according to the Monitoring the Future (MTF) panel study, an annual survey of substance use behaviors and attitudes of adults 19 to 60 years old. Among younger adults aged 19 to 30, reports of past-year marijuana and hallucinogen use as well as marijuana and nicotine vaping significantly increased in the past five years, with marijuana use and vaping at their highest historic levels for this age group in 2022. The MTF study is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health, and is conducted by scientists at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor.

While binge drinking has generally declined for the past 10 years among younger adults, adults aged 35 to 50 in 2022 reported the highest prevalence of binge drinking ever recorded for this age group, which also represents a significant past-year, five-year, and 10-year increase.



© Getty Images/Jacob Ammentorp Lund

"Substance use is not limited to teens and young adults, and these data help us understand how people use drugs across the lifespan," said NIDA director, Nora Volkow, M.D. "Understanding these trends is a first step, and it is crucial that research continues to illuminate how substance use and related health impacts may change over time. We want to ensure that people from the earliest to the latest stages in adulthood are equipped with up-to-date knowledge to help inform decisions related to substance use."

Since 1975, the MTF study has annually surveyed substance use behaviors and attitudes among nationally representative samples of eighth, 10th, and 12th graders. The MTF longitudinal panel study conducts follow-up surveys on a subset of the participants after the 12th grade to track their drug use through adulthood. After high school, the participants are followed every other year through age 30, then every five years afterward, with the oldest participants now in their 60s.

Data for the 2022 survey of adults were collected via online and paper surveys from April 2022 through October 2022. Researchers divided the data into two age groups to conduct trend analyses: 19 to 30 years old and 35 to 50 years old. Key findings include:

Marijuana Use: For adults aged 19 to 30, the percentages of those reporting past-year marijuana use and daily marijuana use reached their highest levels ever reported by the study. Past-year use was reported by approximately 44% of those surveyed in 2022, an increase from five years ago (35% in 2017) and 10 years ago (28% in 2012). Daily marijuana use also reached its highest level reported in 2022 (11%), which was greater than five years (8% in 2017) and 10 years ago (6% in 2012).

Reports of past-year marijuana use among adults aged 35 to 50 also reached an all-time high in 2022 (28%). This had increased from the previous year (25% in 2021) and five years ago (17% in 2017), and more than doubled compared to 10 years ago (13% in 2012).

Vaping: Past-year marijuana vaping was reported by 21% of adults 19 to 30 years old in 2022, the highest levels reported since the measure was first added in 2017 (12%), as well as a notable increase from the past year (19% in 2021) and five years ago (12% in 2017). Past-year nicotine vaping among this younger adult group also reached a historic high in 2022 (24%), nearly double the rate reported five years ago in 2017 (14%), when the measure was first added.

Among adults aged 35 to 50, reports of past-year marijuana vaping remained at similar levels (9% in 2022) since 2019, when these measures were first available in this age group. Prevalence of past-year nicotine vaping has also remained steady in this age group since it has been reported, with 7% reporting in 2022.

Hallucinogen Use: Among adults aged 19 to 30, 8% reported past-year use of hallucinogens, significantly higher than five years ago (5% in 2017) and 10 years ago (3% in 2012). Types of hallucinogens reported by participants included LSD, MDMA, mescaline, peyote, shrooms or psilocybin, and PCP. Most of past-year use in 2022 reported by adults in this age group involved hallucinogens other than LSD (7% in 2022).

Past-year hallucinogen use reached historically high prevalence among adults 35 to 50 years old, reported by 4% in 2022. The prevalence reported in 2022 was also a substantial increase compared to the year before (2% in 2021) and five and 10 years ago (no greater than 1% in both 2017 and 2012).

Alcohol Use: Over the past decade, rates of alcohol use – including past-month use, daily drinking, and binge drinking – have shown an overall downward trend for adults 19 to 30 years old. Past-year drinking slightly increased for this age group in 2022 (84%) compared to five years ago (82% in 2017).

Alcohol use among adults aged 35 to 50 has shown a gradual increase over the past 10 years, with past-year drinking increasing from 83% in 2012 to 85% in 2022. Binge drinking in this older group reached

its highest levels (29% in 2022), and increased over the past year, five years, and 10 years (26% in 2021;

25% in 2017; 23% in 2012).

The study also showed that past-year use of cigarettes, sedatives, and non-medical use of opioid

medications ("narcotics other than heroin") showed a 10-year decline for both adult age groups. Reports of

past-year amphetamine use continued a 10-year decrease among 19- to 30-year-olds and a 10-year increase

among 35 to 50 year-olds. Drug use trends among college and non-college young adults, demographic

subgroups, and other additional data are also included in the report.

"The value of surveys such as MTF is to show us how drug use trends evolve over decades and across

development – from adolescence through adulthood," said Megan Patrick, Ph.D., a research professor at

the University of Michigan and principal investigator of the MTF panel study. "Behaviors and public

perception of drug use can shift rapidly, based on drug availability and other factors. It's important to track

this so that public health professionals and communities can be prepared to respond."

Results from the related 2022 MTF study of substance use behaviors and related attitudes among teens

in the United States was released in December 2022, and 2023 results are upcoming in December 2023.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

https://nida.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/2023/08/marijuana-and-hallucinogen-use-binge-drinking-reached-historic-

highs-among-adults-35-to-50

Date of Acces: 2023/11/03



Taiwan Research News

Stress and craving monitoring for Class 1 and Class 2
drug addiction patients with Deferred prosecution order
attached to a medical institution for addiction
rehabilitation and recidivism prevention program

Shu-Lung Yang¹, Chun-Lung Hsu²& Lin-Jung Lo³

For drug users, most advanced countries now view them as patients rather than as simple criminals, as was the case in the past. The Taiwan government implemented the Drug Hazard Prevention Regulations in May 1998. This means that, in addition to expanding the scope of drug control and implementing hierarchical management in accordance with United Nations regulations, the basic principal of drug policy has also undergone major changes. For drug users, "treatment is better than punishment", in line with the concept of "medical treatment before justice" (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Department of Health, 2006) this identifies drug users as "patients" who have the dual characteristics of "patients" and "criminals". Recently, the new anti-drug 2.0 approach has also included social acceptance as an important social policy goal, hoping that through the identification of patients, society can further allow drug users to be re-accepted so that they can smoothly return to society and return to normal life.

According to Article 23 and Item 4 of Article 24 of the Regulations on the Prevention and Control of Drug Hazards, prosecutors may suspend the prosecution of Class 1 and Class 2 drug offenders and send

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them to medical institutions for detoxification. In addition, according to the implementation measures of drug addiction treatment and the completion of the treatment identification standards, the content of the fifth item of the drug addiction treatment and the fifth item 'Other measures that can avoid the deterioration of the disease or improve the ability to prevent relapse', deferring the prosecution of drug addiction cases is in line with the concept of medical and social acceptance and inclusion of drug addicts.

This study plans to cooperate with the District Prosecutor's Offices and NGO. The study will be carried out on 100 deferred prosecution patients. This study intends to use smart wearable devices developed recently to detect personal stress and drug cravings for Class 1 and Class 2 drug deferred prosecutions by District Prosecutor's Offices. When the detection index exceeds the standard, the online counselor or social worker will be notified. This will provide appropriate or urgent counseling and other treatment for addicts, so as to reduce the motivation of addicts to use drugs again, and prevent them from falling into the cycle of drug use due to pressure or craving for drug use, to make up for the gaps that may exist when there are sudden stressful events, and when drug addiction cravings occur either in the day or during the night during the period of deferred prosecution and addiction treatment.

Key words: Deferred prosecution, addiction rehabilitation, pressure, craving, smart wearable devices, recidivism prevention

A Study on the Predicament of Interdiction and Strategies for Prevention of NPS Mix

Hung-Chih LIN¹

The proliferation of the New Psychoactive Substance Mix (NPS Mix) in Taiwan has given rise to a escalating number in criminality. The informations gathered from the investigations indicate that such substance has make itself the drug of the choice among the youths. This issue has transcended the aspect of public health, morphing into a major threat to the public security due to the criminal behaviors NPS has and would further engender. To prevent and mitigate the spread and danger of the NPS Mix, it is necessary to engage a profound study on both of the current flow of the drugs and the mires which attend on the processes during the investigations.

This research aims to elucidate the possible reason for the prevalence of the NPS Mix and the current investigation and apprehending situation. The research is conducted in in-depth interview with six frontline personnel, six NPS Mix consumers and dealers, and through forming a focus group of five experts ranging from the realms of drug detection, drug identification, pharmacology, so that the following ends could be achieved: 1.Get a grasp of the overall structure of the current development of the NPS Mix in Taiwan.

2.Discuss what are the potential cause for its rudeness. 3.Understand the challenges and predicament countered by the frontline personnel while haunting down the drug. 4.Propose specific suggestions to improve and establish new legislations of the current policies on containing the NPS Mix.

It has been found in the research that the nature and the trading pattern of the NPS Mix are wholly different from the traditional ones. Owning to its features of being inexpensive, easy-to-use, and easy accessibility, the NPS Mix has gone fairly out of control. As a consequence of the reasons above, multifaceted challenges are encountered during the pursuit and investigation related to NPS Mix, e.g.

¹ Ph.D. in Criminology from National Chung Cheng University, Director of the GWG Social Charity Foundation

practice, system, and law.

Seven policies are proposed to preclude the negative impacts the NPS Mix would impose on public

safety:

1. Establish a correct awareness and understanding on the hazard related to drug via age-based

propaganda.

2. Enhance the awareness and knowledge of law enforcement personnel on the NPS Mix.

3. Revise the existing laws and establish new legal acts which accommodate with the characteristics

of new drag to intimidate criminal activities.

4. Uplift the capacity of testing and analysis drugs, and re-examine the cultivation of expertise in the

field.

5. Reevaluate the source of law on technological surveillance, and increase the capacity of drug

detection.

6. Integrate resources and specialize drug detection, and establish new departments specifically

responsible for hunting down drugs.

7. Re-examine the current performance evaluation system to put spur to the police officers, so that

they would engage drug detection more proactively.

Keywords: New Psychoactive Substance (NPS), NPS Mix, Drug coffee,

Predicament in drug detection, Deterrent strategy



Taiwan Events News

2023 Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research (AASAR) 9th Annual Meeting



Group photo of members of the Drug Abuse Prevention Association in Taiwan with faculty members and students from the Department of Criminology, Chung Cheng University at the Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention in Asia and the Meeting of the Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research (AASAR).

Professor Shu-Lung Yang, Honorary Chairman of the Drug Abuse Prevention Association in Taiwan, Professor Chiao-Yun Chen, and Professor Shu-Ping Tzeng of the Department of Criminology, National Chung Cheng University, along with Professor Chung-Lung Kuo from National Taiwan Normal University and Director Yung-Ta Wu from the Crime Prevention Research Center, Academy for the Judiciary, accompanied by doctoral students from CCU's Department of Criminology, participated in the 2023 Conference Substance Abuse and Addiction by the Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research 9th Annual Meeting. The conference took place from October 20 to 21, 2023, providing an opportunity for academic exchange between experts and scholars.

The conference concentrated on practical advancements, community treatment and preventive policies for substance abuse. About 200 scholars and practitioners specializing in substance abuse research, representing countries including China, India, the Philippines, and Taiwan, participated in the conference, during which Director Yao-Ta Cheng of the Department of Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling and Drug Dependence, Social Welfare Bureau, Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region, presented the latest reports on Macao's substance abuse and relevant prevention efforts. Director Shu-

Lung Yang of the center was invited to deliver the conference's keynote speech. Collaborating with Professor Shu-Ping Tzeng, their presentation focused on Improvement of Drug Abuse Prevention Advocacy: From the Perspectives of Drug Users. They emphasized that, when it comes to anti-drug awareness campaigns, using audio-visual materials proves to be the most memorable and effective approach, with the most convincing impact achieved by having individuals who have successfully overcome drug addiction serve as advocates.

Regarding addiction treatment, Professor Chiao-Yun Chen from CCU's Department of Criminology and Professor Neil Muggleton presented a study titled The Impact of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation on Inhibitory Control in Methamphetamine Users. The study involved administering transcranial direct current stimulation to individuals recently undergoing methamphetamine withdrawal and utilized a dot-probe task with neutral and drug-related images as cues to measure the P300 amplitude before and after stimulation. The findings indicate that, compared to the control group (non-methamphetamine users), methamphetamine users incurred higher resource costs when faced with invalid cues during the pretest. However, after transcranial direct current stimulation, these resource costs were reduced. The stimulation resulted in an increased amplitude of P300, particularly in response to neutral cues. This suggests a promising basis for further exploring the effectiveness of transcranial direct current stimulation in cognitive regulation among addiction groups and probing the impact of modulating P300 components on reducing cravings.

Doctoral students from CCU's Department of Criminology seized the moment to present their studies on substance abuse. Notably, Exploring the Relationship between Substance Abuse and Aggressive Behavior in Domestic Violence Offenders presented by Lin-Jung Lo, Exploring the Impact of Cannabis Use and Attitudes Towards Legalization among College Students presented by Chun-Lung Hsu, and The Impact of Electronic Cigarettes on Junior High School Students - A Case Study of Junior High School Students in Chiayi County, Taiwan presented by Guang-Yu Wu were recognized with the distinctions of second place, third place, and honorable mention, respectively, for outstanding papers. The conference witnessed lively interaction among participants, sparking innovative thinking and discussions by sharing diverse experiences and perspectives, and providing valuable insights for all involved.

Under the guidance of Director Yao-Ta Cheng of the Department of Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling and Drug Dependence in Macao, faculty members and students from CCU's Department of Criminology visited the Healthy Life Education Centre on the 19th. The centre, operating under the Social Welfare Bureau, Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region, is a novel and well-designed establishment focused on providing substance abuse prevention education. It began its operations gradually in 2016. Through diverse forms of artistic and cultural activities, the centre aims to raise awareness of health and drug prevention, with a particular emphasis on reaching Macao residents, including children, teenagers, and parents, in order to foster a drug-free society.

Following the conference, we continued our visit to substance abuse prevention agencies in Macau. On the 20th, we toured the Ka Ho Integrated Service Center, ARTM. Based in Macao since 1993, ARTM is a nonreligious, nonprofit and nongovernmental drug treatment provider. Through the integration of the therapeutic community (TC) model, ARTM provides residential treatment services aimed at promoting drug detoxification, social and psychological rehabilitation, and community reintegration.

CCU's faculty members and students visited the Organic Youth, Young Men's Christian Association of Macau. Organic Youth adheres to the concept of "no harmful chemicals, natural and healthy growth." Viewing adolescents as seeds, Organic Youth offers diverse services to accompany them through their growth journey. The aim is to assist adolescents with high developmental needs at an early stage, enhancing their resilience against temptations and establishing

a healthy lifestyle.



Group photo with Director Yao-Ta Cheng at the Healthy Life Education Centre.

We then engaged in an in-depth visit to the Smart-Youth, Christian New Fellowship in Macau. The organization added a department titled "Smart-Youth" in 2003, and officially adopted the name Smart-Youth in March 2009. Smart-Youth is dedicated to assisting and counseling adolescents who abuse or are dependent on drugs, helping them overcome their addictions. Smart-Youth aims not only to help them understand the effects of drug use on their bodies but also to guide them in seeking the meaning of life. During this trip, we explored the treatment models and prevention efforts that aid in the social reintegration of individuals



Group photo taken at the entrance of the Ka Ho Integrated Service Center.

battling drug addiction in terms of the frontline services they offer by visiting substance abuse prevention agencies in Macao. This experience has broadened our comprehension of both substance abuse issues and detoxification services in Macao, particularly.



2023 New Generation Anti-Drug Street Dance Competition



In an era where emerging drugs are rampant, the Anti-Drug Promotion Committee of District 300A 3 Lions International, in alignment with the four key strategies of government anti-drug policies: detection, testing, rehabilitation, and awareness, has organized a youth street dance competition, with the aims of motivating youths to participate in proper activities, raising awareness about the dangers of emerging drugs, and ensuring a comprehension of societal, familial, and personal harm caused by drug abuse.

The event will place on December 30, 2023 (Saturday), from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM at the Minsheng Community Center - Assembly Hall

(4F., No. 163-1, Sec. 5, Minsheng E. Rd., Songshan Dist., Taipei City). There are two categories for the competition: Group A, open to junior high schools (with a maximum of 2 teams per school and a limit of 20 teams in total), and Group B, for senior high schools and senior vocational high schools (with a maximum of 2 teams per school and a limit of 20 teams in total). Certificates will be sent to the top five teams in each group, and cash prizes will be awarded to the top three teams in each group!

Source: District 300A 3 Lions International

Latest Conferences Information

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
Second intersessional Meeting - Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)	United Nations Office on Drugs	December	Vienna, Austria
	and Crime	4-6	Contact:
	(UNODC)	2023	unodc (at) un.org
Reconvened	United Nations Office on Drugs	December	Vienna, Austria
Sixty-sixth	and Crime	7-8	Contact:
session	(UNODC)	2023	unodc (at) un.org
34rd Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium	American Academy of Addiction	December	San Diego, CA
	Psychiatry	7-10	Contact:
	(AAAP)	2023	(401)524-3076
16th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health	National Institutes of Health (NIH) And AcademyHealth	December 10-13 2023	Arlington, VA Contact: @AcademyHealth #DIScience22
NASPA	National Association of Student	January	San Francisco, CA
Strategies	Personnel Administrators	18-20	Contact:
Conferences	(NASPA)	2024	office@naspa.org
5th Annual NIH HEAL Initiative Investigator Meeting	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	February 7-8 2024	Bethesda, Maryland Contact: HEALInvestigatorMeeti ng@iqsolutions.com
17th Annual ISSDP Conference	International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP)	June 19-21 2024	Montréal, Canada Contact: info@issup.net