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**National Chung Cheng University
Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse
Workshop on Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling for Juveniles will be
launched in June**

Hello, scholars, experts, and professionals:

The Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse was inaugurated in 2012. To strengthen domestic teachers' and relevant counselors' profession in the field of drug abuse prevention and control, the Education Center planned to hold several workshops on drug abuse prevention and counseling for juveniles, which were based on the experience in counseling and knowledge of drug prevention studied by experts and scholars recently, this year. In addition, the Education Center wanted to promote the strategies of drug abuse prevention and counseling for juveniles, then assist first-line practitioners to enhance the quality of drug abuse prevention and counseling for juveniles.

This year, workshops on drug abuse prevention and counseling for juveniles will be launched in June, divided into basic training and advanced training. There are three basic training sessions, namely the Yilan session (June 17, 18), Hsinchu session (August 12, 13), and Miaoli session (October 7, 8); there are two advanced training sessions, namely Kaohsiung session, Tainan session. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic prevention needs, the Education Center will follow the "Guidelines for large-scale public gatherings in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak" of the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC). The measures that must be implemented in each session include: wearing masks and prohibiting eating and drinking, arranging for staff to take participants' temperature, cleaning and disinfecting venues before the event, preparing epidemic prevention facilities and quarantine areas, creating clear paths for different purposes, and so on. Participants who do not wear masks or have a fever (ear thermometer reading of 38 degrees Celsius or higher; forehead thermometer reading of 37.5 degrees Celsius or higher) will be prohibited from entering the venue.

We sincerely invite student counselors, student affairs directors, military instructors, and teachers in all levels of school and case managers in the drug prevention centers of counties and cities to strengthen professional knowledge and improve overall counseling effectiveness. If you have any needs or questions, please write to us or call us.

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International Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment in Asia 2021 & Seventh Annual Conference of the Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research

Call for Papers

Drug problems, especially drug trafficking, drug use, and resulted public health and crime problems, are common concerns of nations in the world, including Asian countries. The recognition and understanding of past trends and future directions of substance abuse promote effective policies and practices to reduce drug problems and facilitate cross-regional, inter-organizational, and interagency cooperation. Through years of effort, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and scholars in Asia and across the world have developed many successful programs and policies to combat substance abuse. This knowledge and experiences contributed significantly to our understanding of substance abuse as a social problem and the strategies to deal with it.

The main purpose of this conference is to bring together government officials and policymakers, leading scholars, and substance abuse treatment providers of diverse backgrounds from Asian countries to discuss opportunities, strategies, and challenges in substance abuse research, prevention, and treatment. While it focuses on Asia, the conference also aims at fostering collaboration between Asian and non-Asian countries. We can learn much from the insights and experiences of scholars and professionals who are involved in substance abuse research and practices elsewhere in the world and from scientific evidence accumulated through research and program evaluations. Therefore, we will also welcome participants from other parts of the world who will bring international or comparative perspectives on substance abuse prevention and treatment or who will share information and ideas about developing effective policy responses to the problem of substance abuse.

For related information, please refer to: <https://aasar.asia/conference>





UNODC Reports

UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform Brief: Possible impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficking in opiates and methamphetamine originating in Afghanistan

➤ Editorial Office

INTRODUCTION

Within a span of 12 months, the ongoing COVID19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on the global economy, public health and daily life. Drug trafficking relies heavily on legal trade to camouflage its activities and on individuals being able to distribute drugs to consumers. Accordingly, measures implemented by Governments to counter the COVID-19 pandemic have the potential to affect illegal drug markets.

This brief is aimed at demonstrating the value of the UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform as an early warning tool for promptly shedding light on, identifying and anticipating possible emerging and ongoing trends, patterns and dynamics related to drug trafficking routes, in order to support law enforcement, other operational activities and policymakers. Based on a select number of illustrative country examples, the specific intention of this brief is to reflect the platform's attributes by focusing on trafficking in opiates and methamphetamine from Afghanistan against the backdrop of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. Unless otherwise indicated, the data comparison covers the time period March to December in both 2019 and 2020.

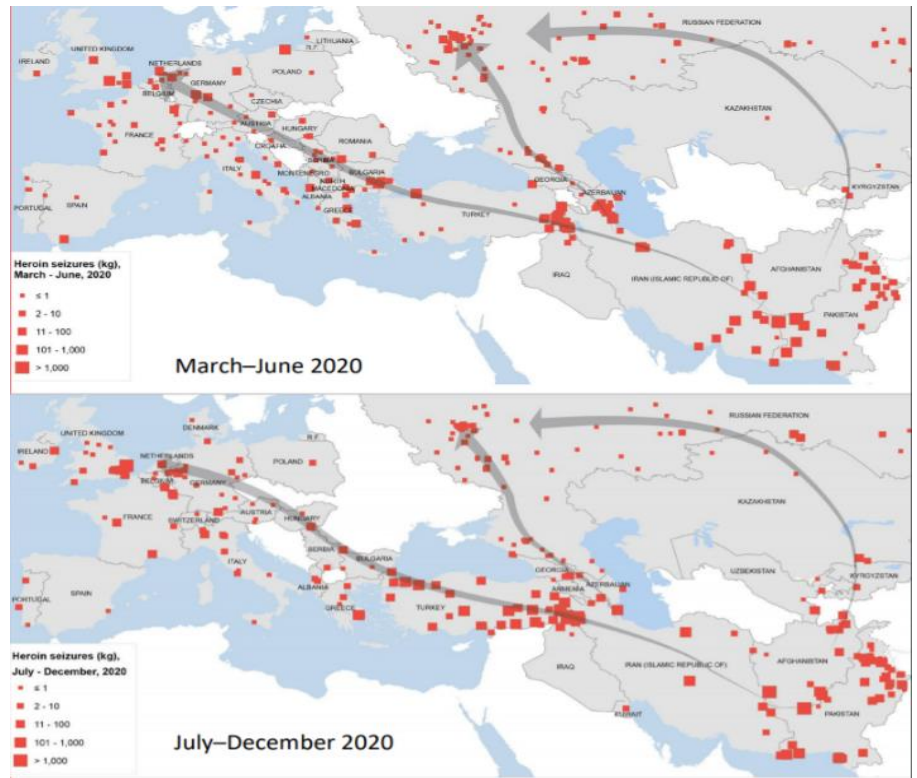
The analysis contained herein is based on a continually updated set of individual drug seizure data captured by the Drugs Monitoring Platform. The Drugs Monitoring Platform and its analytical outputs are



aimed at providing knowledge based on a constantly evolving and expanding dataset, bearing in mind that several data caveats should be taken into account (see Scope and limitations of the data used in the analysis).

SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUAL HEROIN SEIZURES ALONG THE BALKAN ROUTE AND THE NORTHERN ROUTE

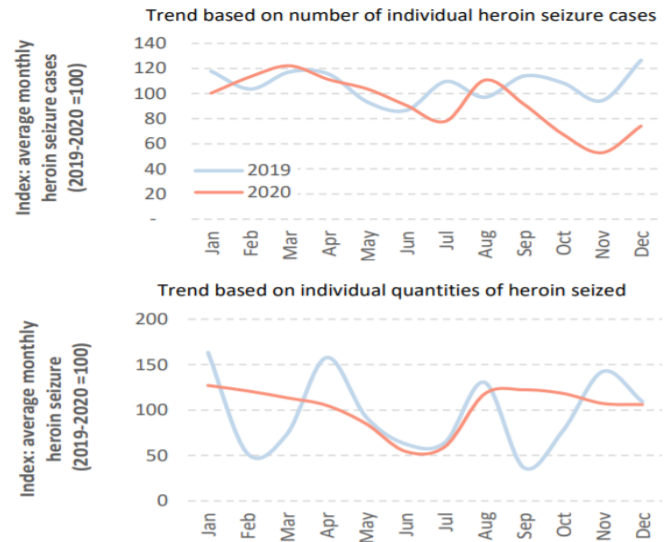
The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped the Balkan route from maintaining its status as the principal trafficking route for Afghan opiates. Nor does it seem to have prevented the Caucasus branch of the route from serving as a possible transit corridor for trafficking opiates to European markets.



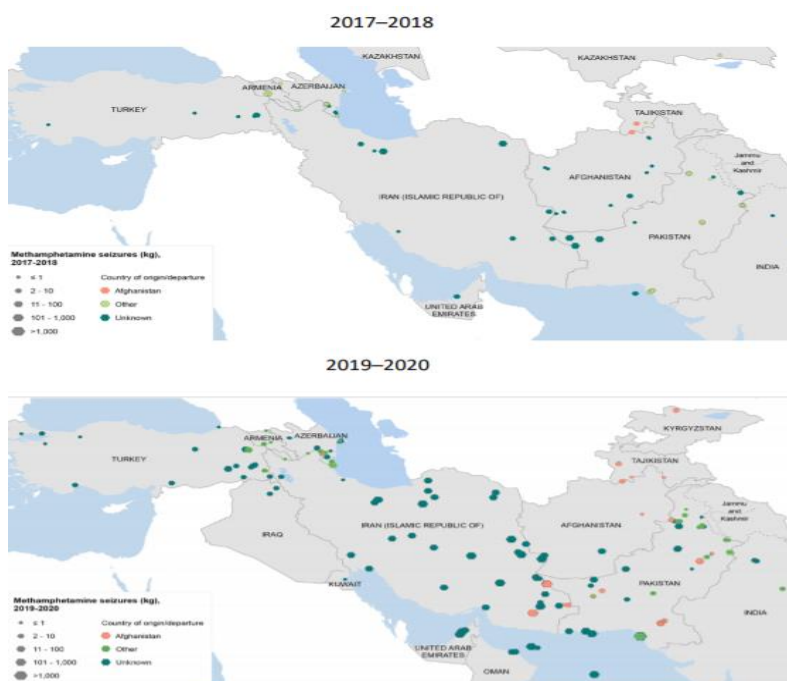


TREND ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL HEROIN SEIZURES LINKED TO AFGHAN OPIATE PRODUCTION, JANUARY 2019 TO DECEMBER 2020

Despite short-term fluctuations, perhaps resulting from waves of COVID-19-related restrictions in some countries, the large heroin seizures made during 2020 in countries other than Afghanistan suggest that large-scale opiate trafficking has continued throughout the pandemic, possibly by means of larger shipments than before it began.



SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES OF METHAMPHETAMINE IN SELECT COUNTRIES OF THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST/SOUTH-WEST ASIA, SOUTH ASIA, CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS AND TURKEY BY ORIGIN 2017 TO 2020



The pattern and origin of methamphetamine seizures in countries neighbouring Afghanistan suggest that the manufacture of the drug in Afghanistan has continued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/DMP_Brief_short.pdf



NIDA Reports

Younger age of first cannabis use or prescription drug misuse is associated with faster development of substance use disorders

NIH analysis measures the prevalence of nine substance use disorders after first substance use or misuse in young people

➤ Publications

A new study shows that in the time after first trying cannabis or first misusing prescription drugs, the percentages of young people who develop the corresponding substance use disorder are higher among adolescents (ages 12-17) than young adults (ages 18-25). In addition, 30% of young adults develop a heroin use disorder and 25% develop a methamphetamine use disorder a year after first using heroin or methamphetamine. These findings, published in *JAMA Pediatrics*, emphasize the vulnerability of young people to developing substance use disorders.



The study was led by researchers at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health.

“We know that young people are more vulnerable to developing substance use disorders, but knowledge is limited on how the prevalence of specific substance use disorders varies by time since first substance use or misuse among adolescents and young adults in the United States,” said Dr. Nora Volkow, M.D., NIDA Director and a lead author of the analysis. “Though not everyone who uses a drug will develop addiction, adolescents may develop addiction to substances faster than young adults. This study



provides further evidence that delaying substance exposure until the brain is more fully developed may lower risk for developing a substance use disorder.”

To conduct this study, NIDA researchers analyzed data from the nationally representative 2015 to 2018 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The researchers examined the proportion, or prevalence, of adolescents (ages 12-17) and young adults (ages 18-25) who had a substance use disorder in the past year (i.e., past-year substance use disorder) at various intervals since the first time they used or misused one of nine different drugs: tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and prescription drugs (opioids, stimulants, and tranquilizers used non-medically). The researchers evaluated past-year substance use disorders at four timepoints since first drug use: fewer than or equal to 12 months, more than 12 through 24 months, more than 24 through 36 months, and more than 36 months.

The researchers found that the prevalence of past-year cannabis use disorder was higher for adolescents than young adults at all examined time frames since first use of the drug. For example, within 12 months since first cannabis use, 10.7% of adolescents had cannabis use disorder versus 6.4% of young adults.

Similarly, for the non-medical use of prescription drugs (opioids, stimulants, and tranquilizers), the researchers found a greater prevalence of past-year substance use disorders among adolescents than young adults at all examined time frames since first use. For example, within 12 months since first misuse of prescription drugs:

- 11.2% of adolescents had prescription opioid use disorder versus 6.9% of young adults.
- 13.9% of adolescents had prescription stimulant use disorder versus 3.9% of young adults.
- 11.2% of adolescents had prescription tranquilizer use disorder versus 4.7% of young adults.

For alcohol and tobacco, adolescents and young adults had similar prevalence of past-year substance use disorders within 12 months of initiation, but that prevalence was higher for young adults in the subsequent time periods examined.



Estimates of cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin use among adolescents were too small to report. However, approximately one-third of young adults developed a heroin use disorder (30.9%) and one-quarter of young adults developed a methamphetamine use disorder (24.8%) within one year after trying that drug for the first time.

The data excluded individuals who were incarcerated and individuals experiencing homelessness who are not living in shelters, possibly underestimating the prevalence of substance use disorders across the findings, authors noted.

“Research has shown that brain development continues into a person’s 20s, and that age of drug initiation is a very important risk factor for developing addiction,” said Emily B. Einstein, Ph.D., chief of NIDA’s Science Policy Branch and a co-author of the study. “This underscores the importance of drug use prevention and screening for substance use or misuse among adolescents and young adults. Offering timely treatment and support to young people who need it must be a public health priority.”

Reference: ND Volkow, *et al.* Prevalence of Substance Use Disorders by Time Since First Substance Use Among Young People in the US(link is external). *JAMA Pediatrics* DOI: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2020.6981 (2021).

This paper is from : National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2021/03/younger-age-of-first-cannabis-use-or-prescription-drug-misuse-is-associated-with-faster-development-of-substance-use-disorders>



Taiwan Research News

Recovery from substance use and returning to society: An introduction to SAMHSA's concept of recovery and recovery support and a reflection on current clinical practices in Taiwan

**Tsung-Hsien Li, Chen-Fu Pei, Lien-Wen Su, Szu-Ying Wu, Yun-Ju Huang, Yu-En Lin, Yi-Chien
Ku and Tony Szu-Hsien Lee**

This paper aims to define the goals and indicators of recovery and social recovery when providing services to drug users. The concept of recovery and social recovery has been incorporated in antidrug policy and services related to drug use in Taiwan while there is a lack of consensus on its definition in current clinical practices. The concept of recovery and social recovery in a more proactive manner is same to the recovery proposed by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). According to SAMHSA, recovery and social recovery support involves four major dimensions, including health, home, purpose, and community, and ten principles that guide the work of recovery. Suggestions for services providers are as follows: (1) The providers should define their services and roles in the recovery process to monitor the outcomes and target the specific subpopulation that will be served; (2) To facilitate recovery, the providers should conduct a thorough case assessment and evaluation and offer efficacious services that are evidenced to meet the needs of the client; (3) Recovery is an ongoing and multifaceted process that requires a continuum of care and community resources to meet different needs in long-term recovery; (4) The services should be person-centered and be tailored to the context and clients' needs to promote self-directed life and help them reach their potentials in recovery; (5) Advocate for and develop a recovery-friendly society and communities that honor diversity and inclusivity.



Gender difference for drug using behaviors among drug inmate

Shu-Lung Yang, Shu-Ping Tzeng, Hung-Chih Lin, Chun-Lung Hsu

By adopting the secondary data collected in the study "The Analysis of Causes of Increased Cannabis Seizures and Dark Numbers of Marijuana and the Control Measures" sponsored by the High Prosecutors Office in 2019, this study attempts to examine the possible gender differences of illegal drug-using behaviors. In total, 348 males and 326 females inmates were sampled and surveyed. Independent-sample t-test and Chi-square test are utilized to explore possible gender differences in drug-using behaviors and cognition of drug inmates.

The findings show that the types of drug abuse were significantly higher among female inmates than male inmates, and both groups have the highest dependence on heroin. Additionally, the study obtains the following results:

1. The age of first-time use of heroin and amphetamine is significantly higher among females than in males.
2. Female inmates believe that the duration of ketamine's efficacy is significantly longer than males.
3. There are significantly more male inmates using marijuana and ketamine one year before entering the correctional facilities than females.
4. Female inmates show higher levels of heroin and amphetamine dependence cognition than males.
5. There are significant differences in the days of heroin and amphetamine use before entering the correctional facilities. Female inmates use heroin and amphetamine more days than males.
6. There are significant differences in the times of heroin and amphetamine sales before entering the correctional facilities. Females inmates use heroin and amphetamine more times than males.

Results of this research. Females use highly addictive drugs. The abuse, dependence, frequency of use, and trafficking are significantly higher than those of males.

It is recommended that the government's drug control policy, for females users of highly addictive drugs. More resources can be invested in medical treatment, psychological counseling, and employment counseling. Help females drug users to return to society as soon as possible and stay away from the temptation of drugs.



Taiwan Events News

Hope Seed Summer Camp

The hope of society lies in talents, and the cultivation of talents lies in education. Education is a project of hope. It is not only the hope of the family, school, and society, but also the hope of all mankind.

Drugs often spread along with people's curiosity and intentions; once addiction causes too much harm to individuals, families, and society, we can often see them in the media. However, campuses and communities are places where drugs are prone to spreading. There is an urgent need to promote the spread of correct prevention knowledge in campuses and communities so that everyone can be alert. To make our lives more colorful, we must work hard in our "Life Garden". Therefore, we hope that with the efforts of all of us, the big society will be a "non-toxic" world, and our next generation will have a classic life.



The Tzu Chi Teachers Association cooperates with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, the Food and Drug Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Keelung City Drug Abuse Prevention Center hoping to promote the public, especially parents and children, and educators, to understand the thoughts of drug users and their families. Protect the talents of the society, and work together to build a "drug-free home."



Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
CPPD Annual Meeting	College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPPD)	June 21-24 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: info@cpdd.org
The 31st Annual International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium on the Cannabinoids	International Cannabinoid Research Society (ICRS)	June 21-24 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: icrs@icrs.com
NIDA International Forum	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	June 22-24 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: nida_ip@iqsolutions.com
ISAM Annual Global Addictions Conference	International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM)	September 28-October 1 2021	Valletta, Malta Contact: isam.mdorozio@gmail.com
NIDA Mini Convention	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	November 12 2021	Chicago, IL Contact: nida_ip@iqsolutions.com