



【30th Edition】

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◎UNODC and NIDA Reports

◎Taiwan Research News

◎Recent International Academic

Conference

The Seminar of Scientific Drug Treatment in Taiwan

The Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse Research, the Department and Graduate Institute of Criminology, and Crime Research Center of National Chung Cheng University will hold the “The Seminar of Drug Treatment in Scientific Positivism” on December 7, 2018 (Friday) at National Chung Cheng University International Hall under the support of the Correction Agency of the Ministry of Justice.

This Seminar was designed in response to the serious social harm caused by drug abuse in the recent years. According to a survey by the Ministry of Justice in 2016, recidivism rate for the drug offenders released from prisons was as high as 58.4%, and about half of the inmates were rearrested after leaving the facilities. The high recidivism rate has undoubtedly posed a significant challenge to the progress of the overall substance abstinence program. The Correction Agency of the Ministry of Justice cited the 13 principles of drug treatment by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) on October 25, 2017, and officially announced the promotion of the “Drug Offenders Treatment Patterns in Scientific Positivism” programs in seven major aspects as of January 1, 2018. The correctional system and the health administration, social administration, and labor administration have formed a four-way network, and are preparing to support the community-based treatment when the drug offenders are returning to society after rehabilitation. Therefore, the goal of this conference to reduce the harms of drugs, the brainstorming process and exchange of experience in the meeting will boost the context and strategy of treating drug addiction.

The conference start calling for submissions on the topic of “the treatment of drug addictions in criminal correctional institutes.” Experts, scholars, and researchers are welcomed to submit their papers. Please send your abstract in 300 Chinese characters to the Society and the Center by August 15, 2018. The result will be notified by September 20. The submission deadline for the full-text articles will be October 31. For this conference, scheduled shuttle services to and from the THSR Chiayi Station, Chiayi Train Station, and Chung Cheng University will be available and for free. Lodging and other transportation will be on the participant’s cost. Please visit the Society’s website for relevant information about registration and paper submission:
<http://tasar.ccu.edu.tw>

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UNODC Reports

Early Warning Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean address health risks of drug use

➤ Editorial Office

7 August 2018 - The seizure of a multi-kilogram shipment of "ecstasy" (MDMA) in powder form earlier this year was unusual for Uruguay, but it did not yet ring alarm bells for the Early Warning System in Montevideo.

However, "When reports of young people suffering from an "ecstasy" overdose kept coming in from hospitals, we got really worried," said Héctor Suarez, who coordinates the system in Uruguay

Young people who are familiar with "ecstasy" sold as pills are at risk of overdosing crystalline and potentially higher potency MDMA, which has come into the country in comparatively large quantities in 2018.

With a view to countering this challenge in Latin America and the Caribbean, a drug policy workshop was recently held in Montevideo, Uruguay. Speaking at the event organized by COPOLAD (Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies), Mr. Suarez said: "It was at this point when we decided to go public to make sure this information reaches all relevant people and institutions, and helps to minimize the risk of further overdoses."

Participating in the event were drug experts from Antigua y Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. Participants from Czechia, Poland, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and



Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shared their experiences in early warning.

Speaking on behalf of the Office, Martin Raithelhuber said: "UNODC supports laboratories in Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure health-relevant information is available for early warning on drugs. This directly contributes to reducing health risks."

In November 2018, UNODC will conduct a forensic capacity building workshop for 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will receive modern handheld electronic field testing devices to detect new psychoactive substances posing a threat



for public health. The data generated with the help of these devices would be useful for law enforcement, border control and laboratories, as well as for national early warning systems, which will receive faster and more detailed information about changes in the drug market.

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

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2018/August/early-warning-systems-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-address-health-risks-of-drug-use.html?ref=fs1>



NIDA Reports

NIH research confirms effective treatments for opioid use disorder are underutilized

➤ Editorial Office

A National Institutes of Health-funded study found that treatment of opioid use disorder with either methadone or buprenorphine following a nonfatal opioid overdose is associated with significant reductions in opioid related mortality. The research, published today in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, was co-funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, both parts of NIH.

Study authors analyzed data from 17,568 adults in Massachusetts who survived an opioid overdose between 2012 and 2014. Compared to those not receiving medication assisted treatment, opioid overdose deaths decreased by 59 percent for those receiving methadone and 38 percent for those receiving buprenorphine over the 12 month follow-up period. The authors were unable to draw conclusions about the impact of naltrexone due to small sample size, noting that further work is needed with larger samples. Buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone are three FDA-approved medications used to treat opioid use disorder (OUD).

The study, the first to look at the association between using medication to treat OUD and mortality among patients experiencing a nonfatal opioid overdose, confirms previous research on the role



methadone and buprenorphine can play to effectively treat OUD and prevent future deaths from overdose.

Despite compelling evidence that medication assisted treatment can help many people recover from opioid addiction, these proven medications remain greatly underutilized. The study also found that in the first year following an overdose, less than one third of patients were provided any medication for OUD, including methadone (11 percent); buprenorphine (17 percent); and naltrexone (6 percent), with 5 percent receiving more than one medication.

In an editorial commenting on the study, Dr. Nora Volkow, director of NIDA, said, "A great part of the tragedy of this opioid crisis is that, unlike in previous such crises America has seen, we now possess effective treatment strategies that could address it and save many lives, yet tens of thousands of people die each year because they have not received these treatments.

Ending the crisis will require changing policies to make these medications more accessible and educating primary



care and emergency providers, among others, that opioid addiction is a medical illness that must be treated aggressively with the effective tools that are available." The editorial was co-authored by NIDA scientist Dr. Eric Wargo.

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die each year because they have not received these treatments. Ending the crisis will require changing policies to make these medications more accessible and educating primary care and emergency providers, among others, that opioid addiction is a medical illness that must be treated aggressively with the effective tools that are available." The editorial was co-authored by NIDA scientist Dr. Eric Wargo.

Another alarming study finding was that despite having had an opioid overdose, 34 percent of people who experienced an overdose were subsequently prescribed one or more prescriptions for opioid painkillers over the next 12 months, and 26 percent were prescribed benzodiazepines.

"Nonfatal opioid overdose is a missed opportunity to engage individuals at high risk of death," said Marc Larochelle, M.D., the study's lead investigator at Boston Medical Center's Grayken Center for Addiction and Boston University School of Medicine. "We need to better understand barriers to treatment access and implement policy and practice reforms to improve both engagement and retention in effective treatment."

The authors conclude that a nonfatal opioid overdose treated in the emergency department is a critical time to identify people with OUD, and an opportunity to offer patients access to treatment interventions, providing linkage to care following their discharge, and making improvements in treatment retention.

This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2018/06/methadone-buprenorphine-reduce-risk-death-after-opioid-overdose>



Taiwan Research News

I. Illegal drugs Use among adolescents in Taiwan Metropolitan Cities, 2014-2017

Yang, Shu-lung, Tseng, Shu-ping, Dai, Shen-feng, Chen, Rei-min, Lin, Shi-ji, Cheng, Yuan-hao

Crime Research Center, National Chung Cheng University

In order to explore the epidemiological characteristics and differences of the adolescent drug, stratified proportional sampling and convenience sampling were conducted to investigate the current patterns of adolescent illegal drug use survey among students in campus and juveniles in the detention facilities in New Taipei City, Taichung City, and Kaohsiung City from 2014 to 2017. Each year, 2,190 were valid and the response rate was 87% on average. The sampling error is controlled within $\pm 1.9\%$ -2.2% at a 95% confidence level.

This three-year study found that prevalence rate of drug use among junior school students were lower than one percent from 2014 to 2017; within senior school students, prevalence rate of drug use were 1.31 percent in 2015-2016 and increased to 3 percent in 2016-2017. The prevalence rate of drug use among students were 1.5 percent on average in 2014 to 2017. Regarding the drugs ever used, Ketamine kept the 1st position and the prevalence rate stably increased in the successive three years, so was the prevalence rate of coffee-milk tea mixed drink. Also, this study found that prevalence rate of drug use detained juveniles was 64.6 percent, 71.6 percent, and 62.7 percent in 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 respectively. Among the drugs that were ever used by detained juveniles, Ketamine had the highest use rate, and coffee-milk tea mixed drink and amphetamine were in the second and third place.

This study argues that a comprehensive national prevalence survey could not only be an effective method to monitor the juvenile illicit drug use, but is useful to design the follow-up program of tracking, counseling, prevention. In addition, the findings revealed that Ketamine and coffee-milk tea mixed drink were the top two drugs most popularly used among Taiwanese adolescents. This calls attention on enhancing control and counseling strategies of the third and fourth degree of New Psychoactive Substance as well as strengthening the efficiency of fine and anti-drug education in order to establish effectively deterrent actions to reduce the risk of drug use.



II. Research on GIS area image, market transaction of emerging drug mixtures, and testing issues

Yang, Shu-lung, Hsu, Hua-fu, Dai, Shen-feng, Cheng, Zhong-yu

Department of Criminology & Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

National Chung Cheng University

In recent years, Taiwanese media have been reporting that prosecutors, police, and other enforcement departments have successfully hunted down several people possessing drugs mixed into coffee and milk tea in various cities. The mixtures were packaged delicately with logos depicting terms in modern dramas, such as smiley half-step, little devil, combining various two- and three-degree drug components, even with milk powder, fertilizer additives added in. The mixtures are popular in places where teenagers gather, and have even become the top choice for parties. The author had conducted the stratified sampling in junior high schools, high schools and vocational schools in the main cities in Taiwan (New Taipei City, Taichung City, Kaohsiung City) for three consecutive years from 2014 to 2017. For each year, about 2,190 student samples were obtained. The research results showed that the percentage of use of drug-mixed coffee and milk tea has been increasing year by year, from 2.28% in 2015 to 4.71% in 2017. One thing worth noticing is that the government currently focuses on sweep search and investigations, rather than separating the drug-mixed coffee and milk tea. Therefore, more researches and discussions are required regarding the allocation images in major Taiwanese cities, market transaction, and relevant testing issues and challenges of drug-mixed coffee and milk tea as mentioned above.

To strengthen the prevention of the foregoing drug-mixed coffee and milk tea, this research under the support from Ministry of Science plans to invite domestic scholars and experts of sociology, criminal justice/criminology, psychology, and testing and forensic for preliminary cross-area integrated planning and research based on their respective professional fields to reduce the harms. The research will focus on three aspects: First, the research plans to understand the allocation images of the foregoing drug-mixed coffee and milk tea in major Taiwanese cities to confirm its locations and geographical features. Second, the research will explore the crime patterns regarding circulation of market transactions, and sources of the dealers, recipients, and marketing to fully understand its criminal characteristics. Third, the study explores the motif of drug abuse, psychological and personality characteristics of teenagers who have used drugs before, and relevant risk factors. Finally, this research will study the hardship and challenge of testing emerging drugs, and provide a comprehensive prevention policy for reference.



III. Survey and Research on Satisfaction of Taiwanese People regarding Justice and Criminal Prevention for the First Half of 2017

Yang, Shu-lung, Cheng, Jui-lung, Hsu, Hua-fu, Wong, Freya Hsu, Yin-chu

Department And Graduate Institute Of Criminology, National Chung Cheng University

Crime Research Center of National Chung Cheng University has conducted the telephone surveys regarding the critical social security issues for the first half of 2018. The project investigator is the Distinguished Research Professor of Department of Criminology and the Director of the Crime Research Center, Professor Yang, Shu-lung. The deputy investigators are the professor of Department of Criminology and the Dean of Student Affairs, Professor Cheng, Jui-lung, and the professor of the Department of Criminology and the Dean for International Affairs, Professor Hsu, Hua-fu. This survey asked 1,844 people in Taiwan from July 7 to July 9, 2018. After the completion of the survey and relevant analysis, the survey results are published in the presentation of “Survey and Research on Satisfaction of Taiwanese People regarding Justice and Criminal Prevention for the First Half of 2018” in Taipei on August 14, 2018.

When the new generation of anti-drug strategy was first implemented in May 2017, it is expected to “hunt down ultimate drug dealers one by one, eliminate existence of drugs in quantity and quantity.” The Center conducted the survey and asked people whether they are satisfied with the “government’s action in drug enforcement.” The result showed that 39.2% were satisfied, while sixty percent of people were unsatisfied. This might be related to the increasing success of sweep searches by the government more recently as well as constant media reports.

With respect to the decriminalization of drug use, the survey result showed that 62.2% of the people did not agree on treating drug users as patient. The result has significantly varied from the survey in 2015



(57.3% → 62.2%), indicating that people have become less willing to treat drug users as patients than in 2015.

According to the results of the public poll of “Satisfaction over 2018 Government Anti-Drug Action” for the first quarter as published by the Ministry of Justice, 68 per cent of the overall respondents expressed their recognition of the government’s efforts in drug enforcement, prevention, refusal, and rehabilitation. The discrepancy between the result of this survey and the overall satisfaction might result from the adoption of a single aspect “drug enforcement” when the Center was designing the questionnaire. Drug prevention requires long-term progression, and its achievement will only become obvious over time. In particular, since drug enforcement is often carried out by the prosecutorial, police, and investigation agencies, the general public does not easily notice those efforts. However, the statistics still suggest that the government shall continue to make improvements on this topic.

Moreover, in response to the discussion of decriminalizing the use of drugs that has become an international trend and in the past National Conference on Judicial Reform, this survey result found that more than sixty percent of people (62.2%) did not agree to treat drug users as patients. The percentage point has increased 4.9% comparing to the nationwide survey results in 2015.



Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

| Conference | Host Organization | Date | Location |
|--|---|----------------------------|--|
| The 18 th Annual Conference | Society for Research in Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) | September 06-09 2018 | Munich, Germany Contact: https://www.srnt-e-munich.com/ |
| ENCP CONGRESS | European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) | October 06-09 2018 | Barcelona, Spain Contact: https://www.ecnp.eu/ecnpcongress/congresses.aspx |
| Ending Gender Inequalities: Evidence to Impact Conference | RTI Global Gender Center | October 08-09 2018 | Cape Town, South Africa Contact: https://www.rti.org/event/ending-gender-inequalities-2018 |
| 20 th International Society of Addiction Medicine Annual Meeting | International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) | November 03-06 2018 | Busan, Korea Contact: http://www.isamweb.org/annual-meetings/ |
| International Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment in Asia & 2018 AASAR Annual Conference | European Society of Criminology | November 07-12 2018 | Nanning, Guangxi, China Contact: http://www.aasar.asia/index.php/news/view/58 |