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## **2021 International Juvenile Substance Abuse Prevention and Counseling Seminar Rounded off Successfully**

Greetings, distinguished guests,

With the support of Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, Ministry of Education, CCU Education Center of Substance Abuse Prevention and Taiwan Society of Substance Abuse Prevention hosted “2021 International Juvenile Substance Abuse Prevention and Counseling Seminar” both at Auditorium and in Room 336 of the Second Building of College of Education of National Chung Cheng University, on 11 and 12 November 2021 (Thursday and Friday), in response to the development of juvenile substance abuse problems.

This seminar mainly focused on “measurements of juvenile substance abuse prevention and counseling.” We were honored to invite Director General Lin-Hui Wu of Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, Ministry of Education, Chief Prosecutor Tai-Chao Hsing, Lead Prosecutor Kuei-Chang Chiang, and Prosecutor Hui-Chen Ku of Taiwan High Prosecutors Office, as well as other sophisticated experts with empirical experiences, and several scholars in the field of substance abuse and prevention in the country, to participate in the seminar, and to provide effective strategies towards juvenile substance abuse by sharing their experiences and encouraging their involvement in brainstorm sessions. In addition, the seminar also invited professors and scholars from Australia, Japan, US, and Germany, with the anticipation of a more thorough discussion about juvenile substance abuse in multiple perspectives, by having these honored overseas guests exchange their experiences and share the most up-to-date international knowledge on the topic. As a result, the government and fellow related public sectors may receive recommendations on policymaking to implement current strategies and measurements in both aspect of substance prevention and counseling.



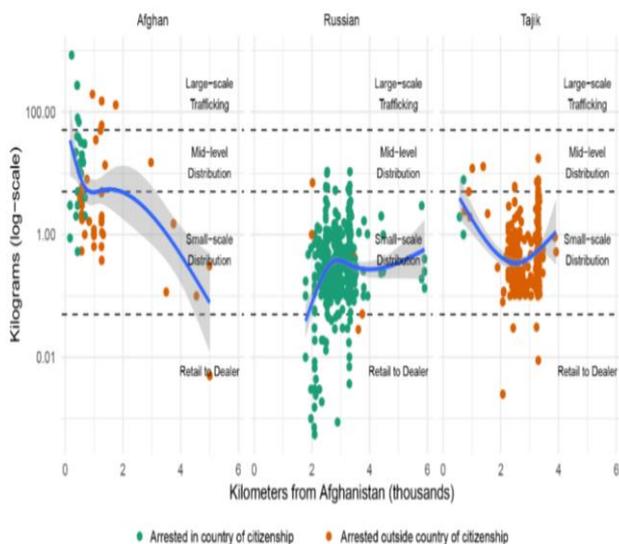
# UNODC Reports

## UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform Brief: The reach of nationally linked trafficking groups across Afghan opiate trafficking routes

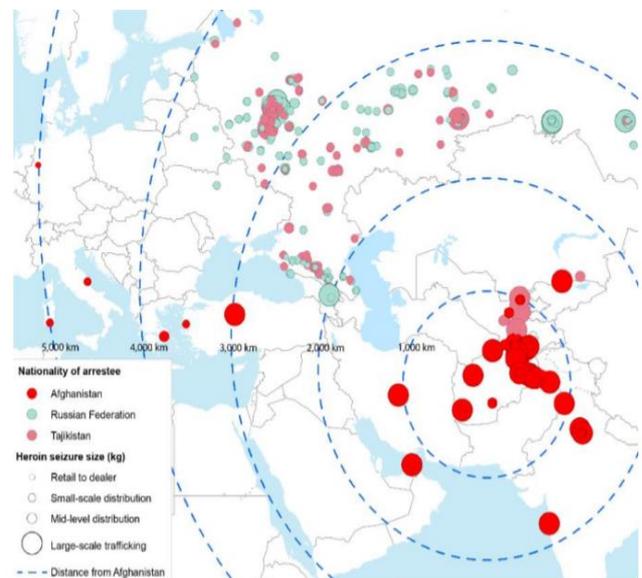
➤ Editorial Office

The majority of traffickers<sup>1</sup> operate within their own national borders or in neighboring countries, but some nationality groups stretch much further. Afghan traffickers are largely detected within Afghanistan or neighboring countries. Tajik traffickers are largely detected for small and mid-level trafficking outside of their country of citizenship but still within the region.

MOST COMMON TRAFFICKERS BY NATIONALITY INVOLVED IN INDIVIDUAL HEROIN SEIZURES CLOSEST TO AFGHANISTAN ACCORDING TO DISTANCE AND LEVEL OF SUPPLY, JANUARY 2018 - MARCH 2021



MOST COMMON TRAFFICKERS BY NATIONALITY INVOLVED IN INDIVIDUAL HEROIN SEIZURES CLOSEST TO AFGHANISTAN ACCORDING TO DISTANCE AND LEVEL OF SUPPLY, JANUARY 2018 - MARCH 2021

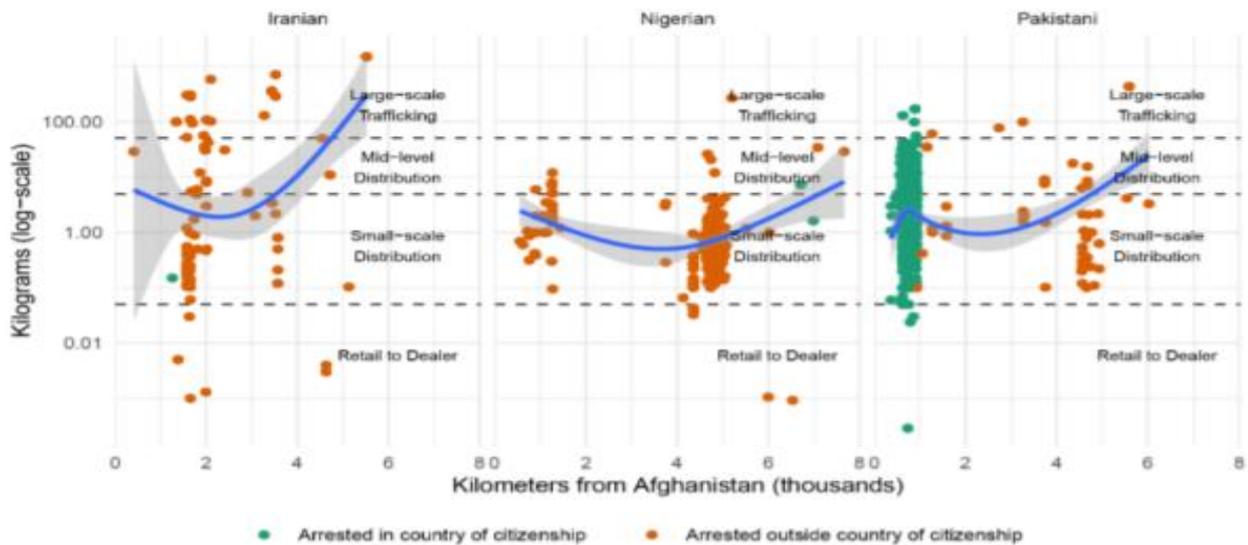


*Note: Fitted lines are smoothed to the data using a cubic polynomial. Standard errors are plotted in the shaded area. Based on seizure events involving Afghans, Russians and Tajiks as recorded in the DMP.*

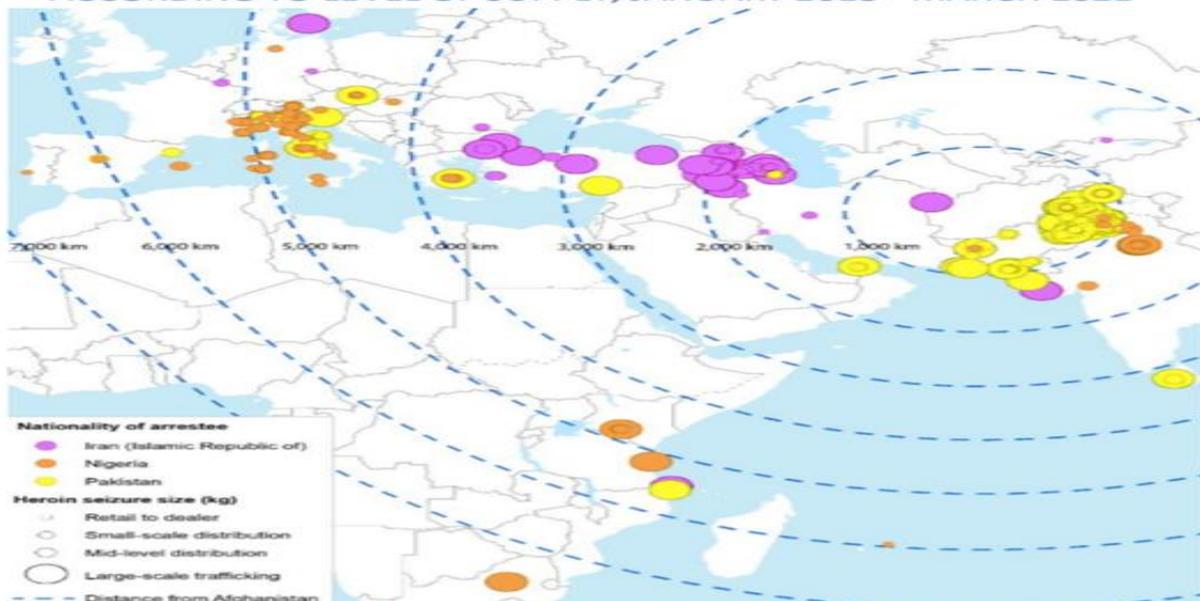


A small proportion of groups are detected a great distance from their country of origin. Iranian groups reach as far as East Africa and South-Eastern Europe, Pakistani groups to East Africa and Western and Central Europe, and Nigerian groups are involved across multiple continents.

**MOST COMMON TRAFFICKERS BY NATIONALITY INVOLVED IN INDIVIDUAL HEROIN SEIZURES RELATED TO LONG-DISTANCE TRAFFICKING FROM AFGHANISTAN ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF SUPPLY, JANUARY 2018 - MARCH 2021**



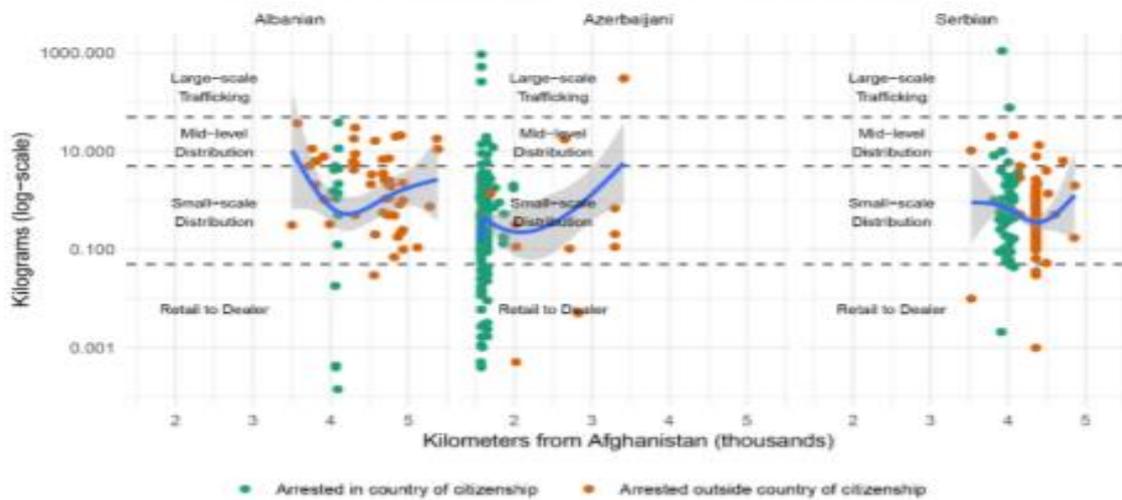
**MOST COMMON TRAFFICKERS BY NATIONALITY INVOLVED IN INDIVIDUAL HEROIN SEIZURES RELATED TO LONG-DISTANCE TRAFFICKING FROM AFGHANISTAN ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF SUPPLY, JANUARY 2018 - MARCH 2021**





Some nationals were detected for involvement in large-scale heroin trafficking, namely Afghans near to Afghanistan, and Iranians and Pakistanis across a larger stretch of territory. Azerbaijani traffickers have also been involved in large-scale trafficking together with small and mid-scale distribution but are concentrated close to Azerbaijan and neighboring countries. Albanian and Serbian groups emerge as foreign traffickers in Europe and appear to be predominantly involved in mid-level to small-scale distribution.

**MOST COMMON TRAFFICKERS BY NATIONALITY INVOLVED IN HEROIN SEIZURES ALONG THE BALKAN ROUTE ACCORDING TO DISTANCE FROM AFGHANISTAN AND LEVEL OF SUPPLY, JANUARY 2018 - MARCH 2021**



**MOST COMMON TRAFFICKERS BY NATIONALITY INVOLVED IN HEROIN SEIZURES ALONG THE BALKAN ROUTE ACCORDING TO DISTANCE FROM AFGHANISTAN AND LEVEL OF SUPPLY, JANUARY 2018 - MARCH 2021**



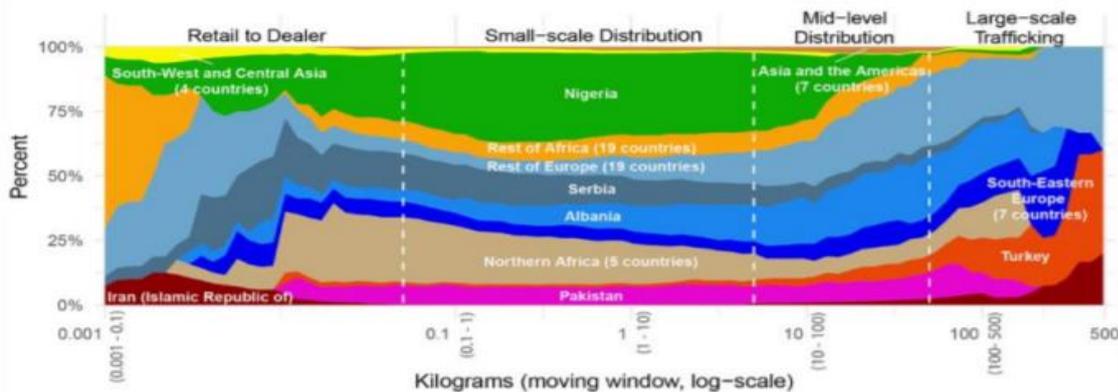


A diverse range of groups appear to play important distribution roles in the European heroin market. Traffickers engaged in largescale trafficking originate from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, South-Eastern and Western and Central Europe, while those from North and West Africa are involved in small-scale and retail trafficking.

This brief examines additional dimensions of seizure event data producing knowledge that can support law enforcement, other operational activities and policymakers.

This brief builds on earlier efforts of the UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform<sup>2</sup> by exploring new uses of seizure data, which include analysis of trafficking groups using country of nationality of traffickers arrested in Afghan opiate-related seizure events. This analysis is based on select countries situated along the southern route in East and South-East Africa and the Balkan, Caucasus and northern routes<sup>3</sup> with the specific intention of reflecting the platform’s attributes by focusing on trafficking in opiates from Afghanistan as it makes its way to developed and emerging markets. 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 aim to provide knowledge based on a constantly evolving and expanding dataset, bearing in mind several data caveats (see Scope and limitations of the data used in the analysis).

DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS ARRESTED IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE IN CONNECTION WITH INDIVIDUAL HEROIN SEIZURES, BY NATIONALITY, ACCORDING TO SIZE OF SEIZURE, JANUARY 2018 - MARCH 2021



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

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Afghanistan/trafficking\\_groups\\_afghan\\_opiate\\_trafficking\\_routes.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Afghanistan/trafficking_groups_afghan_opiate_trafficking_routes.pdf)



# NIDA Reports

## Treating Hepatitis C Virus and Opioid Use Disorder Together

### Benefits Patients

➤ **Publications**

This study found that:

- For people with hepatitis C virus (HCV) who inject drugs, offering buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder at the same location as HCV treatment resulted in high rates of buprenorphine initiation.
- People who started and maintained buprenorphine during HCV treatment experienced numerous clinical benefits compared with those who stopped or never initiated buprenorphine therapy.
- Ongoing drug use or imperfect treatment adherence did not significantly affect HCV cure rates.

Many people who inject drugs (PWID) also have hepatitis C virus (HCV); however, they often face significant challenges when seeking access to HCV treatment (i.e., treatment with antiviral medications). Many insurance companies continue to deny access to HCV treatment to people with substance use disorders unless they are abstinent or, in some cases, are engaged in a formal drug treatment program. Even if insurance companies are willing to cover treatment, providers are often reluctant to offer HCV treatment to PWID because they are concerned about non-adherence to the treatment regimen.

Dr. Elana S. Rosenthal from the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and colleagues from other institutions and organizations recently demonstrated, however, that offering treatment services for HCV and opioid use disorder (OUD) in the same facility can yield numerous clinical benefits for PWID. “In our clinical practice, we were seeing patients who had ongoing injection drug use but were very eager to access HCV treatment,” explains Dr. Rosenthal. She adds, “We believed that excluding them from treatment was unjust and discriminatory, and that denying HCV treatment to people who inject drugs would not only prevent them from getting potentially lifesaving



therapy but could also alienate them from engaging in further medical care.”

The team’s study, A Novel Model of Hepatitis C Treatment As an Anchor to Prevent HIV, Initiate Opioid Agonist Therapy, and Reduce Risky Behavior (ANCHOR), was designed to investigate whether HCV treatment could serve as an opportunity to improve engagement in care and enhance initiation of medication therapy for OUD in this patient population. The ANCHOR trial included 100 participants who had HCV and OUD and currently engaged in injection drug use. All participants received sofosbuvir-velpatasvir therapy for 12 weeks to treat their HCV and were also offered buprenorphine throughout the study.

### **Offering HCV and OUD Treatment Together Improves HCV and Opioid Use Outcomes**

Of participants who did not already use medication treatment for OUD when starting HCV therapy, 79 percent initiated opioid agonist therapy with buprenorphine. The researchers identified numerous benefits when HCV and buprenorphine treatment took place at the same location (see Figure). Compared with participants who never initiated buprenorphine or discontinued it during the study, those who started and remained on buprenorphine while receiving HCV therapy:

- Had significantly higher HCV cure rates.
- Had significantly greater declines in opioid-positive urine screens over the course of the study.
- Experienced significantly fewer overdoses over the study period.
- Showed significant reductions in HIV risk-taking behaviors over the study period.

The researchers also observed that neither ongoing drug use nor imperfect adherence to the daily treatment regimen significantly affected HCV cure rates. Therefore, Dr. Rosenthal concludes, “Ongoing drug use, or concerns about adherence, should not be used as a justification to deny patients access to HCV treatment.”

The study provides strong evidence that all people who use drugs should have access to HCV treatment, regardless of ongoing drug use. Treating and curing HCV in PWID is critical for interrupting HCV transmission and achieving HCV elimination. However, to optimize care in PWID, healthcare providers must address the underlying cause of HCV—the OUD—by offering medications for OUD,



such as buprenorphine. This can be facilitated by offering such therapy at the same locations as HCV treatment.

Dr. Rosenthal says, “The ANCHOR study demonstrates that a model of care collocating treatment of HCV and OUD results not only in high rates of HCV cure, but in uptake and retention of OUD treatment, as well. This model can be replicated in order to reduce HCV transmission and improve the overall health of people who use drugs.”



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**Reference:** Rosenthal, E.S., Silk, R., Mathur, P., et al. Concurrent initiation of hepatitis C and opioid use disorder treatment in people who inject drugs. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 71(7):1715–1722, 2020.

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

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2021/10/treating-hepatitis-c-virus-and-opioid-use-disorder-together-benefit>



# Taiwan Research News

## Examine the advocacy of drug abuse prevention from the perspective of the user

Shu-Lung Yang Shu-Ping Tzeng Yun-Man Wu Yu-Xuan Yang Zhi-Jia Tzeng

As a general overview, current substance abuse prevention policies are made in the perspective of adult's opinions. Prevention propagandas and strategies are mainly implemented in ways of seminars, graphic posters, or short films. Despite the lack of novelty and prompt response to effectively correspond to the diversity and characteristic of new drugs, these policies may also be unsuccessful to draw the motivation of learning for juveniles for failing to comprehend their needs. For the reason above, this study examines the status of current substance abuse prevention propaganda plans in the perspective of general juveniles and drug-using juveniles, with the method of purposive sampling, targeting a total of sixteen teenagers from New Taipei City, Taichung City, Kaohsiung City, and Chiayi area as a representative of urban-rural difference, eight with no drug-use history and eight with new drug-use history respectively, for a comprehension of their opinions on corresponding policies as well their suggestions for improvements, as a reference for future enhancement and policymaking in substance prevention. During the study, it appears that juveniles with drug-use history hold the following opinions on propaganda methods via traditional media: anti-drug slogans do not post any deterring effect, the usage rate of rehabilitation hotline is low, and there's controversy feedback on the anti-drug posters. They suggest that the propagandas in ways of seminar and morning exercise have very limited effectiveness; the design of anti-drug posters should be simple and easy for understanding and should be displayed in prominent locations; inviting celebrity figures to be anti-drug ambassadors would draw the willingness of learning for teenagers. Finally, this study proposes the suggestion of "separate dissemination between high-risk students with drug-use history and general students" in two main methods of "elevating attraction" and "increasing persuasiveness," including implementing VR games or inviting people with related personal experience as representatives, to achieve the function of effective substance abuse prevention propaganda.



# Differences in cognitive impulsivity and risk decision-making performance of amphetamine abusers of different genders

Chiao-Yun Chen

Females seem to fall into drug addiction easily because of having mates or a male companion with drug use. Meanwhile, there are sex difference in drug abuse, which make women more susceptible to drug effects and higher vulnerability after treatment. This study used the delayed discounting task (DDT) and the balloon analogue risk task (BART) to explore how the cognitive impulsivity and risk-taking behavior change in these amphetamines users as well as what differences are between male and female drug abusers. In DDT, the discounting rate means the subjective value discount for delayed rewards. We used the area under the curve (AUC) to represent the discounting rate. The smaller the AUC, the higher the discounting rate. It was found that, except for female drug abusers, male drug abusers, male controls and female controls showed significantly smaller AUC for the high amount reward than the low reward amount. Also, female drug abusers had significantly smaller AUC than both male and female controls for the high amount reward. From the results of the BART, we found that male drug abusers had significantly higher risky ratios than the other groups. According to these results, male drug abusers had higher risk-taking, but after using methamphetamine, female drug abusers showed more severe cognitive impulsivity changes than the other groups. These findings all implicate that there are sex differences in cognitive impulsivity and risk-taking behavior of those who are using drugs. It is hoped that, based on the data from this study, we can provide further assistance in the treatment and prevention of addiction for women who abuse drugs.



# Taiwan Events News

## Achievement Exhibition of Contact Offices in Counties and Cities of Ministry of Education

In the meantime, while National Chung Cheng University hosted International Juvenile Substance Abuse Prevention and Counseling Seminar on 11 November, the general assembly also invited off-campus contact offices in counties and cities of Ministry of Education to set up their booths to exhibit results of substance preventions activities. We would like to send special thanks to the following participants for making this event possible: Director General Lin-Hui Wu of Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, Ministry of Education for his presence and guidance, Nantou County Contact Office of Ministry of Education, Tainan City Contact Office, Chiayi Country Contact Office of Ministry of Education, Education Bureau and Off-Campus Counseling Office of Kaohsiung City Government, Miaoli County Contact Office, Chiayi City Off-Campus Counseling Office, Changhua County Contact Office, Yunlin County Contact Office, and Department of Health of Chiayi County for their supportive participations.





## 2021 Taipei City Anti-Drug Educational Exhibition



Taipei City Government and CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation are collaboratively hosting Taipei City Educational Exhibition “Liberate Addiction – Unlock the Distance Between You and Addiction” from 1 December 2021 to 28 January 2022. The exhibition evolves around the development of true stories, delivers accurate anti-drug knowledge to juveniles, and uses reality puzzle-solving games to give its audience an immersive experience of a lifestyle endangered by addiction through a series of collecting activities of game characters’ memories, in order to achieve the goal of keeping people from drugs as an effective propaganda.

There are five areas at the exhibition, as representations of a drug addict’s life stages. Audience turns themselves into a story character that helps a time traveler who lost his memory during an accident, to go on a journey to achieve mission packages, and participate in several puzzle solving activities on a ride of time machine looking for fragments that provide answers, and eventually gain his recollection back for the truth of the accident. The development of the true story leads the audience to a self-experienced trip of what it’s like to be an addict themselves, so they can have a deeper comprehension on the subject of “addiction.” The exhibition also gives multiple perspectives from social workers, family members, and people under rehabilitation treatment, for a more explicit picture of the impactions that the process of drug use and addiction may bring to life, to truly show the horror of drug use, and to keep people away from the temptation of drugs and the abyss of addiction.

*The information is from 2020 CTBC ANTI-DRUG EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION*

*<https://www.ctbcantidrug.org/EventList/touring>*



# Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
ACNP'S Annual Meeting	American College of Neuropsychopharmacology	December 05-08 2021	San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA Contact: acnp@acnp.org
AAAP's Annual Meeting	American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry	December 09-12 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: cmecpd@aaap.org
2021 International Conference	Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research (AASAR)	December 11-14 2021	University of Macau, Taipa, Macao, China Contact: aasar2021@aasar.asia
2022 CADCA Leadership Forum	Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)/National Leadership Forum	January 31-February 03 2022	National Harbor, Maryland, USA Contact: international@cadca.org
SRNT 28th Annual Meeting	Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT)	March 15-18 2022	Baltimore, Maryland Contact: info@srnt.org