Trends in the demand for drugs
Global trends in drug use

31% increase in global number of people using drugs
12% increase in the number of problem drug users
11% increase in global population aged 15-64 years
18% increase in the annual prevalence rate of any drug use
Stable trend in the prevalence rate of problem drug use
Understanding trends in drug use

• Best estimate for a given year
• Global and regional trends in drug use are estimated from nationally representative surveys
  • each country has its own cycle of surveys
• Many countries, e.g., in Africa and Asia do not conduct drug use surveys
  • Estimates from limited number of countries where data are available are used to compute regional and global estimates (new data points from 20-30 countries)
• Changes may be misleading if updated information is available only in countries with large populations
  • drug-use data weighted by population size in the calculation of the estimates
• Trend calculated with existing data, may mask variations that are happening in large countries for which data are not available
• Estimated number of drug users is further influenced by changes in the global population aged 15-64
Changes in prevalence of individual drugs

Globally annual prevalence has increased by 18%

Mainly reflects an increase in use of opioids (9%), opiates (12%) and cannabis use 8%

The use of other substances has remained rather stable (within a 5% margin)

The extent of problem drug use as percentage of the global population has also remained stable
Trends in drug use by region

Increase in opioids use in Asia, Europe and North America contribute most to the global increase.
Despite the major change in opioid market in Oceania (Australia)

Increase in cannabis use is more in the North and South America and Asia
Global trends in cannabis use

Trends in the number of annual cannabis users and cannabis use perception index, 2009–2016

Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Trends in cannabis use perception index, by region (2010 = 100)

Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.
Trends in cannabis use in selected countries

Annual prevalence of cannabis use in the United States, the European Union, and Australia and at global level 2009-2015

- United States: prevalence among the population aged 12 and older
- European Union: prevalence among the population aged 15-64
- Australia: prevalence among the population aged 14 and older
- Global: prevalence among the population age 15-64

Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire, SAMHSA, EMCDDA and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Changes in cannabis use in the United States, 2006-2016

Source: United States, SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, (Rockville, Maryland, September 2017).
People who inject drugs and HIV among this group, 2011 and 2016

Real decline or due to methodological changes?

Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire; progress reports of UNAIDS on the global AIDS response (various years); the former Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and Injecting Drug Use; and published peer-reviewed articles and government reports.
Direct deaths attributable to the use of drugs, 2009-2016

Increase in number of deaths attributable to drug use disorders of 16%

Direct and indirect deaths attributable to the use of drugs, 2010 & 2016

- Total drug related deaths increased by 9%
- Deaths from drug use disorders increased by 15%
- Indirect deaths increased by 6%

Leading causes of deaths attributable to the use of drugs, 2010 & 2016

- Opioid use disorders
- Cocaine use disorders
- Amphetamine use disorders
- Other drug use disorders
- Hepatitis C, liver cancer
- Hepatitis C, cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases
- HIV/AIDS resulting in other diseases
- HIV/AIDS - Tuberculosis
- Self-harm
- Other

“Healthy” years of life lost (DALYs) attributable to the use of drugs, 2016 (vs. 2010)

Disability-adjusted life years (millions)

- HIV/AIDS—tuberculosis: -32.6
- HIV/AIDS resulting in other diseases: -22.2
- Hepatitis C: 14.2
- Liver cancer resulting from hepatitis C: 30.1
- Cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases resulting from hepatitis C: 13.4
- Opioid use disorders: 8.9
- Cocaine use disorders: 4.0
- Amphetamine use disorders: 2.2
- Cannabis use disorders: 2.2
- Other drug use disorders: 4.8
- Self-harm: 0.1

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

For more information:
http://www.unodc.org/