Expert working group on improving drug statistics and strengthening the Annual Report Questionnaire
Vienna, 29-31 January 2018

Improving national drug statistical systems

Enrico Bisogno
Chief
Data Development and Dissemination Unit
Research and Trend Analysis Branch
Vision for a national statistical system on drugs

**DEMAND-RELATED TOPICS**
- **Use/consumption**
  - Drug use prevalence
  - Quantity consumed by people who use drugs
  - Frequency of drug use
  - etc...
- **Health consequences**
  - Mortality related to drugs
  - Morbidity associated to drug use
  - Prevalence of drug use disorders
  - etc...
- **Response**
  - Treatment and care for drug use disorders
  - Prevention of drug use
  - etc...

**SUPPLY-RELATED TOPICS**
- **Supply/availability**
  - Illicit cultivation
  - Illicit production/manufacture
  - Net availability within national borders, exports, imports
  - etc...
- **Accessibility/markets**
  - Price
  - Purity
- **Response**
  - Impact and implementation of alternative development programmes
  - etc...

**DRUG LAW OFFENCES**
- Arrestra, prosecutions, convictions, imprisonment on drug-related crime

**STATISTICAL SOURCES**
- Drug use surveys (among general, school and high-risk populations)
- Size estimates of key populations produced by indirect and other estimation methods (e.g. people who inject drugs)
- Treatment records
- Registers of drug-related users, morbidity and mortality
- Records of law enforcement operations
- Records of criminal justice process (arrests, prisons)
- Forensic laboratories
- Remote sensing surveys of areas under illicit crop cultivation
- Rural household surveys in illicit crop cultivation regions
- Early warning systems
- Estimation models based on multiple sources
- Wastewater analysis
- Health authorities records

**TOPICS RELATED TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DRUGS**
- Illegal economy related to drug production and trafficking
- Illicit financial flows related to drugs
- Crime attributable to drug use
- Violence and corruption associated with illicit drug supply chain
- etc...
Cross-cutting challenges

- Illicit activities about drugs remain hidden and difficult to measure
- Frequently-used data are derived from administrative registers
- Lack of resources/skills (e.g. forensic capacities)
- Coordination issues at national level
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
- Gender-relevant data
- Vulnerable groups (*leave no one behind*)
Challenges in measuring drug demand

- Measuring drug use is still challenging: reluctance to disclose drug use habits, difficult to reach/count drug user groups
  
  *A challenge within the challenge: measuring severe/high-risk use*

- Drug consumed: individual consumption patterns (incl. poly-drug use) and overall drug consumption

- Direct and indirect impact on health of drug users (e.g. drug related mortality)

- Treatment of drug use, typologies and coverage (Indicator SDG 3.5.1)
Challenges in measuring drug supply

• Drug production:
  for plant-based drugs, issues to translate cultivation into production synthetic drugs?

• Drug seizures: probably the most available drug indicator, but many challenges of completeness and comparability

• Price and purity: which methods and capacities to assess them

• NPS: Early warning systems, pre-requrement to produce data

• Alternative development: which metrics are relevant? How to evaluate its impact?
Challenges in measuring socio-economic impact of drugs

- Beyond health impact, what socio-economic consequences of drug use? *(e.g.: this dimension/group is ‘invisible’ in national socio-economic data)*

- Drug and criminal justice system beyond drug-related offences:
  - what about criminal justice response and its effectiveness?
  - what about the link between drug trafficking and OC?

- Drugs and the illegal economy: size and functioning of drug markets, money laundering and illicit financial flows
Methodological development and guidance

- drug use surveys
- Indirect approaches to estimate drug use (incl. severe drug use)
- conducting waste water analysis to produce drug use metrics
- SDG indicator 3.5.1 on treatment
- data on drug availability (market analysis)
- drug cultivation/production and factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation
- monitor impact of alternative development
- illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking

(.....)
Capacity building

Which topics?

......

......

Which activities?

E-learning training tools

Regional/national workshops

Support to national coordination mechanisms (observatories)

......
Needs for capacity building measures on drug demand data

- Prevalence of drug use
- Data on treatment for drug use disorders
- Data on drug-related mortality
- Data on drug-related morbidity

Better internal coordination mechanism
Technical assistance (including training)
Improved methodological standards at international level
Financial assistance
Needs for capacity building measures on drug supply data

- Better internal coordination mechanism
- Technical assistance (including training)
- Improved methodological standards at international level
- Financial assistance
Thank you

enrico.bisogno@un.org