OPIOIDS

Opiates

Pharmaceutical opioids
- tramadol
- fentanyl and its analogues

Synthetic opioids
- methadone, pethidine, pentazocine, fentanyl, etc.

Research opioids

UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL
Availability of pharmaceutical opioids for medical use (in defined daily doses per million inhabitants), average over 2015–2017


Note: Consumption is measured in terms of reported wholesale sales to medical doctors, pharmacies and hospitals. For the purposes of the 1961 Convention, a drug is regarded as “consumed” when it has been supplied to any person or enterprise for retail distribution, medical use or scientific research.
DRUG RELATED DEATHS

Hepatitis C and opioid use disorders are responsible for most of the deaths and disability attributed to the use of drugs

585,000 deaths (2017)

42 million years of "healthy" life lost (2017)

Use of opioids and opiates, by region, 2017
Percentage of new admissions for treatment at the clinic of the Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies, Tehran, by drug type, 2010–2018

Source: Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies.

Note: Opioids include opium, opium concentrate and residue, heroin, morphine and methadone. It does not include tramadol. Clients are also admitted for dependency on other drugs, including alcohol, so the percentages do not add up to 100 in some years. In addition, some clients are dependent on more than one type of substance, leading to a total over 100 per cent in other years due to the recording of polydrug use.
Drug use among secondary school students in Egypt, 2016

In Nigeria, 4.6 million persons non-medical annual users of opioids (mainly tramadol)
Heroin overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, United States of America 2014-2017

Source: The Future of Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, 2019 RAND corporation
Trends in fentanyl overdose deaths in Estonia, 2008-2017

Source: Estonian causes of death registry

Opioid overdose deaths in Sweden, 2014-2017

Source: “Swedish National Threat Assessment on fentanyl analogues and other synthetic opioids” (October 2018).
Fentanyl(s) (or other opioids) has replaced heroin

- Estonia
- Finland (buprenorphine)
- Latvia (increasingly replaced)
- Canada British Colombia, Alberta, Ontario)
- US (East)

Fentanyl(s) alongside heroin

- Sweden
- Canada
- US
Tramadol crisis

- Cheap for users (and traffickers)
- May increase use
- A market by itself
- Supply-induced, but supply driven now?
- Illegal/informal markets
- A “traditional” epidemic?

Fentanyl crisis

- Cheap solution for traffickers
- Does not increase number of users but number of deaths
- Not a market by itself (yet?)
- Supply driven market, not demand-driven
- Illegal market
- Not a “traditional” epidemic

**Tramadol price**

Average cost per day for drug users in Nigeria

- Heroin: USD 10
- Tramadol: USD 0.6-1

**Fentanyl price**

Price before entering the US in terms of Morphine Equivalent dose (MED)

- 50% pure Heroin: USD 10,000
- 95% pure Fentanyl: USD 100

Source: UNODC, Drug Use in Nigeria 2018; The Future of Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, 2019 RAND corporation
Tramadol crisis

- Controlling supply through keeping high price may be effective

- “traditional” prevention effective, although difficult to keep the balance between accessibility to medications and non medical use

Fentanyl crisis

- Controlling supply through price not effective

- “traditional” prevention not effective because users do not want to take fentanyl