WHO'S WORK TOWARDS UNGASS FOR ADDRESSING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

VIENNA, 24 SEPT 2015

World Health Organization

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- UN specialized agency for health (1948)
- The directing and coordinating authority on international health work
- 194 Member States
- Director-General: Dr Margaret Chan

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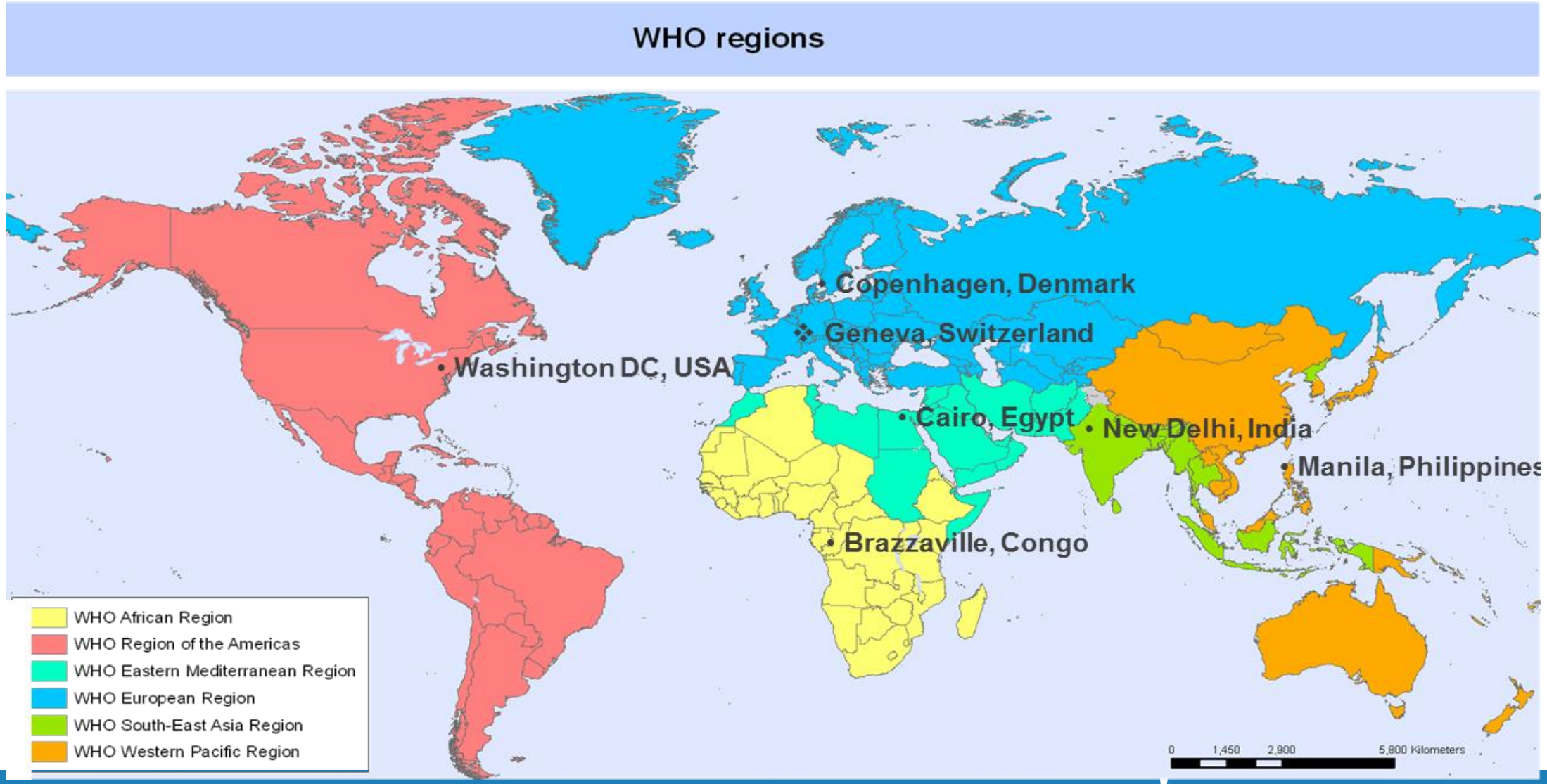
WHO six regional offices and 147 country offices



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Why is a public health approach needed?

- Implementing public health oriented policies and interventions
- Monitoring drug exposure and impact of drug use on population's health
- Ensuring access to controlled medicine
- Prevention and treatment of blood-borne infections associated with drug use
- Preventing and managing drug use related problems including dependence

Member states are asking for strengthened public health approach.

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WHO MANDATE WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, DECLARATIONS AND WHA RESOLUTIONS

- 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (Article 3)
- 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances (Article 2)
- 1984 and 1986 Resolution WHA37.23 and WHA39.26 Abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances
- 1998 UNGA Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction
- 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 1989 Resolution WHA42.20 Prevention and control of drug and alcohol abuse
- 1990 Resolution WHA 43.11 Reduction of demand for illicit drugs
- 2002 Resolution WHA 55.10 Mental Health: Responding to the call for action
- 2005 Resolution WHA 58.22 Cancer prevention and control (treating pain with opioid analgesics)
- 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balances Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem
- Resolution WHA 63.19 Development of the Global Health Sector Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2011-2015)
- 2012 Resolution 65.4 Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020
- 2014 Resolution WHA 67.6 Viral hepatitis
- 2014 Resolution WHA 67.22 Access to essential medicines
- 2014 Resolution WHA 67.19 Strengthening of palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course
- 2015 Resolution WHA68.15 Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anesthesia as a component of Universal Health Coverage

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL CONVENTIONS' FOCUS ON ACCESS, PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

- The International Drug Conventions (1961 and 1971) request WHO to evaluate the risks of dependence and harm (through the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence), evaluate the therapeutic usefulness of substances and provide recommendations for international control to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

- The International Drug Conventions (1961 and 1971) recognize that medical use of narcotic drugs/psychotropic substances is indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering ….and that their availability should be ensured/not be restricted

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL CONVENTIONS' FOCUS ON ACCESS, PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

The Joint Ministerial Statement of the High-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on the World Drug Problem reaffirms/calls for:

- Continued cooperation between MS, the International Narcotics Control Board and WHO to ensure adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion into illicit channels…
- Promote and strengthen effective national drug control strategies based on evidence, with components for drug demand reduction that include primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration… and measures aimed at minimizing the health and social consequences of drug abuse…
- Strengthen public health systems, particularly in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as part of a comprehensive and balanced approach to demand reduction based on scientific evidence…

MILESTONES ON INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY IN THE UN SYSTEM

1998

Political Declaration "Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and Measures to Enhance International Cooperation to Counter the World Drug Problem

2009

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem with target date set at 2019

2012

The UN General Assembly decided to convene in early 2016 a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress and challenges.

2014

High Level Review of implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action

2016

UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, 19-21 April 2016

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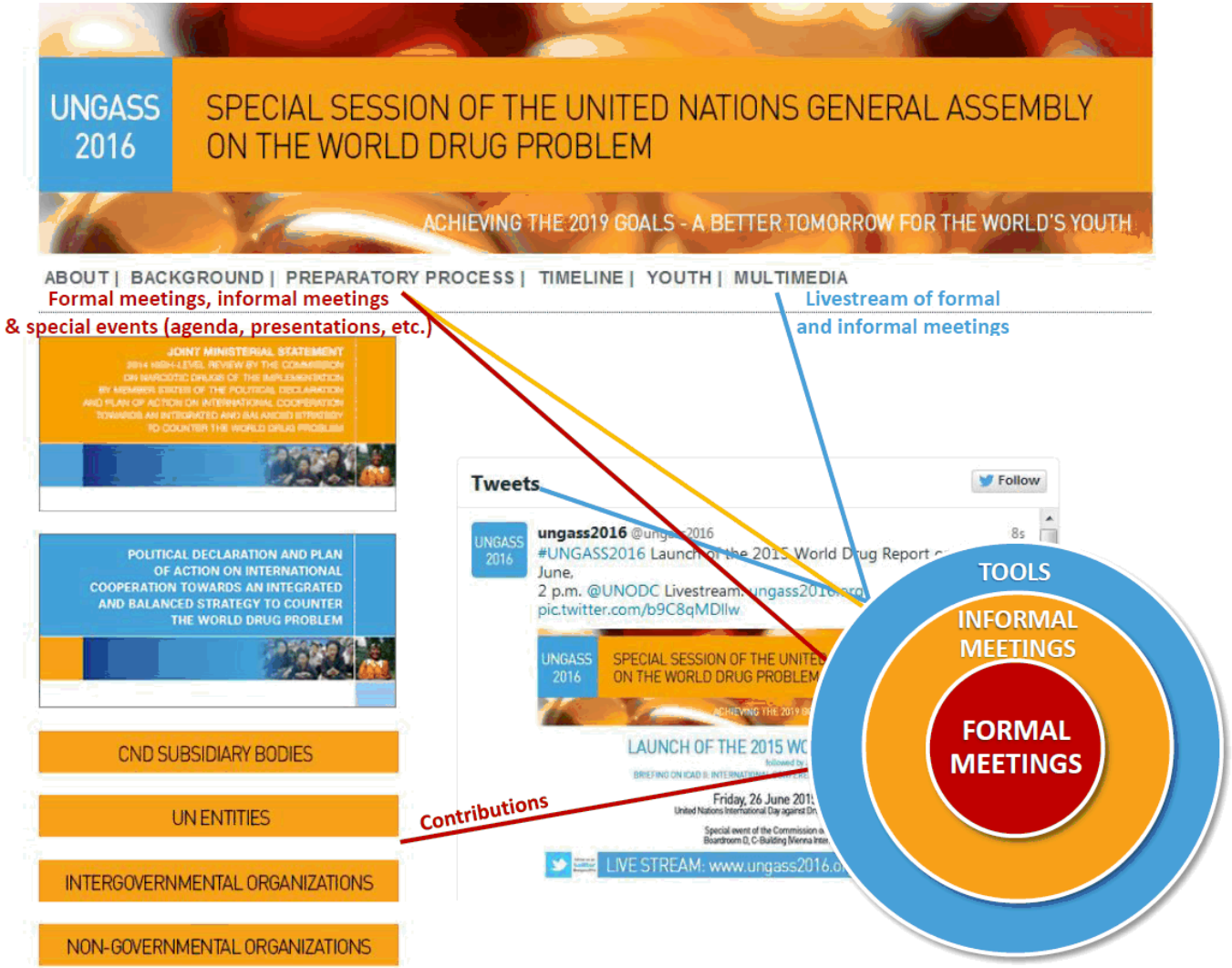
PREPARATORY EVENTS
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM
19-21 APRIL 2016

- Deadline for regional groups and MS to submit comments on UNGASS zero draft, 11 September 2015
- 5th Inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 24 September 2015, Vienna
- Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, 25-27 September 2015, New York
- Human Rights Council: High-level Panel on Human Rights and Drug Policy, 28 September, Geneva
- 3rd Committee Meeting of the 69th General Assembly, October 2015, New York
- High-level briefing to MS on UN system support to UNGASS preparations, November 2015, New York
- Interactive Civil Society Hearing in October/November 2015, New York
- Reconvened 58th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, December 2015, Vienna
- 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, March 2016, Vienna
- UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, 19-26 April 2015, New York

INFORMATION ON UNGASS 2016

https://www.unodc.org/ungass2016/en/about.html



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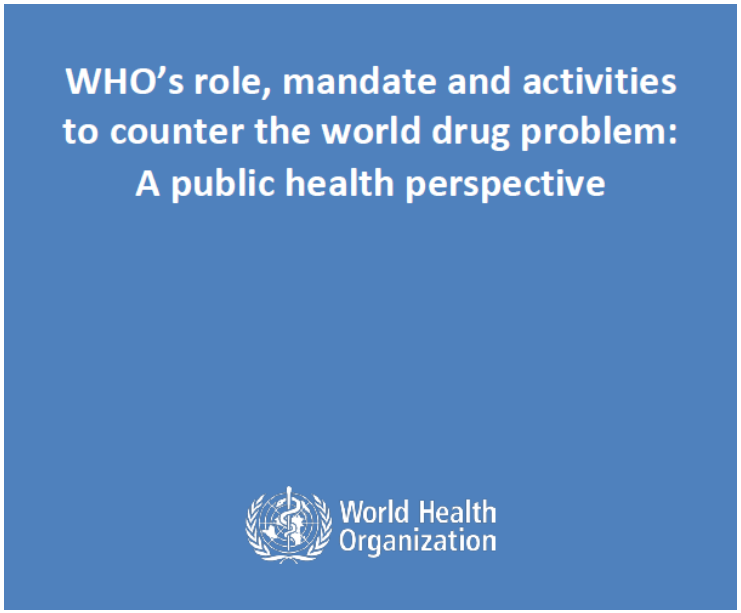
WHO'S ROLE, MANDATE AND ACTIVITIES TO COUNTER THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

- Prevention of drug use and treatment of drug use disorders
- Prevention and treatment of blood-borne infections including HIV/AIDS
- Improved access to controlled medicines



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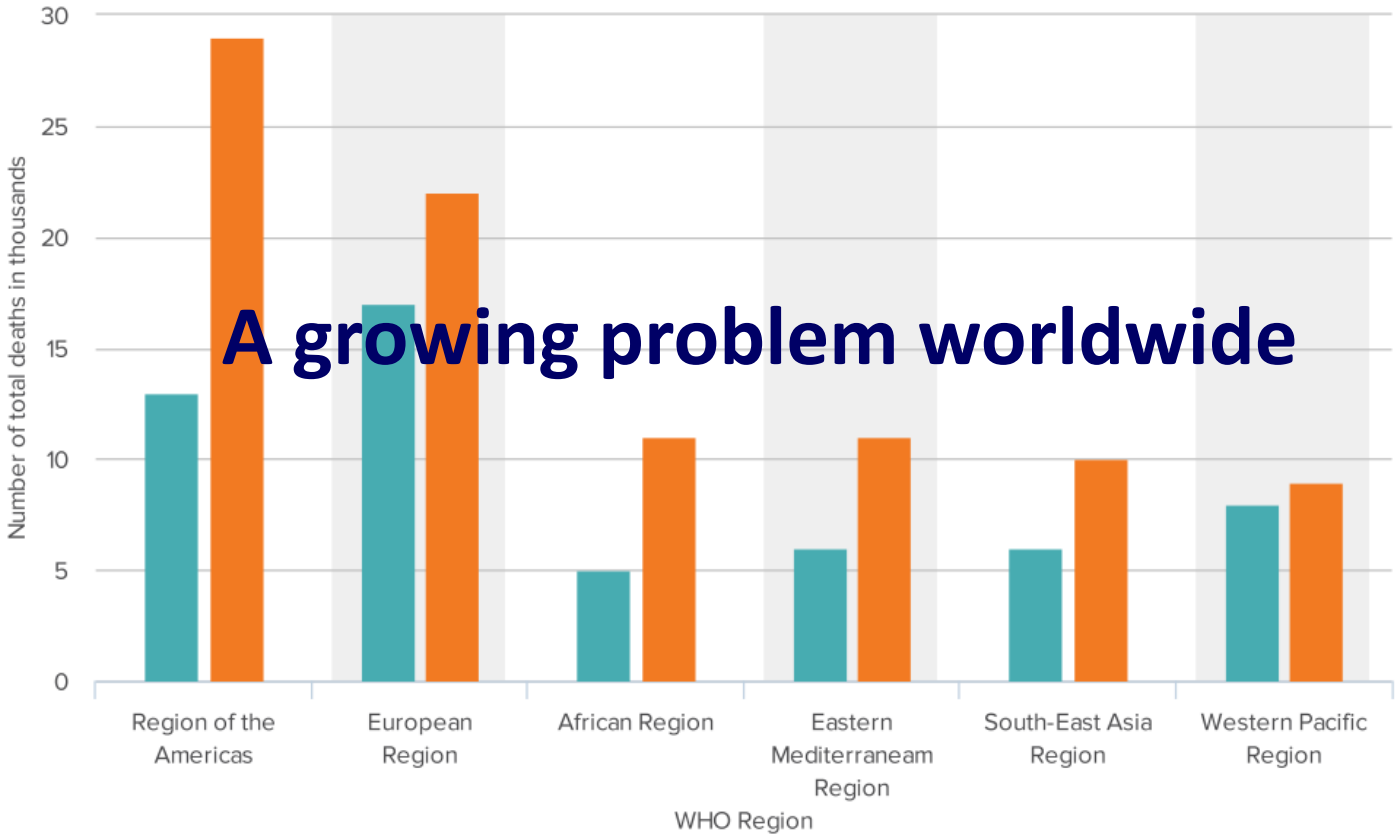
Estimated number of deaths due to drug use disorders (2000 and 2012)

(Source: WHO Global health estimates 2014)



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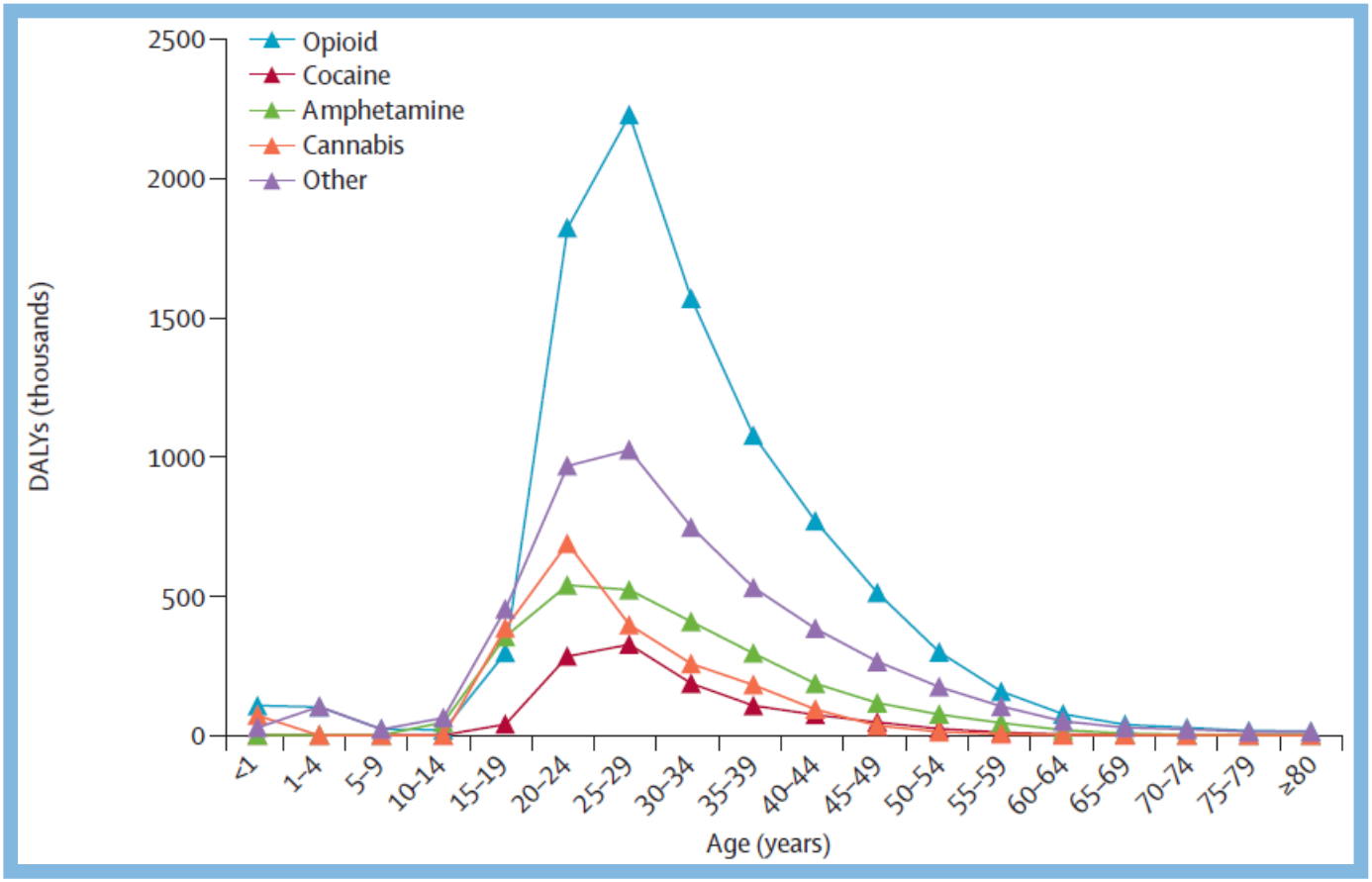
Disease burden attributable to drug use

disorders by age (Degenhardt et al, 2013)



Other burdens

-HIV, Hepatitis

-Other infectious Conditions

-Burden due to lack of access to medicines

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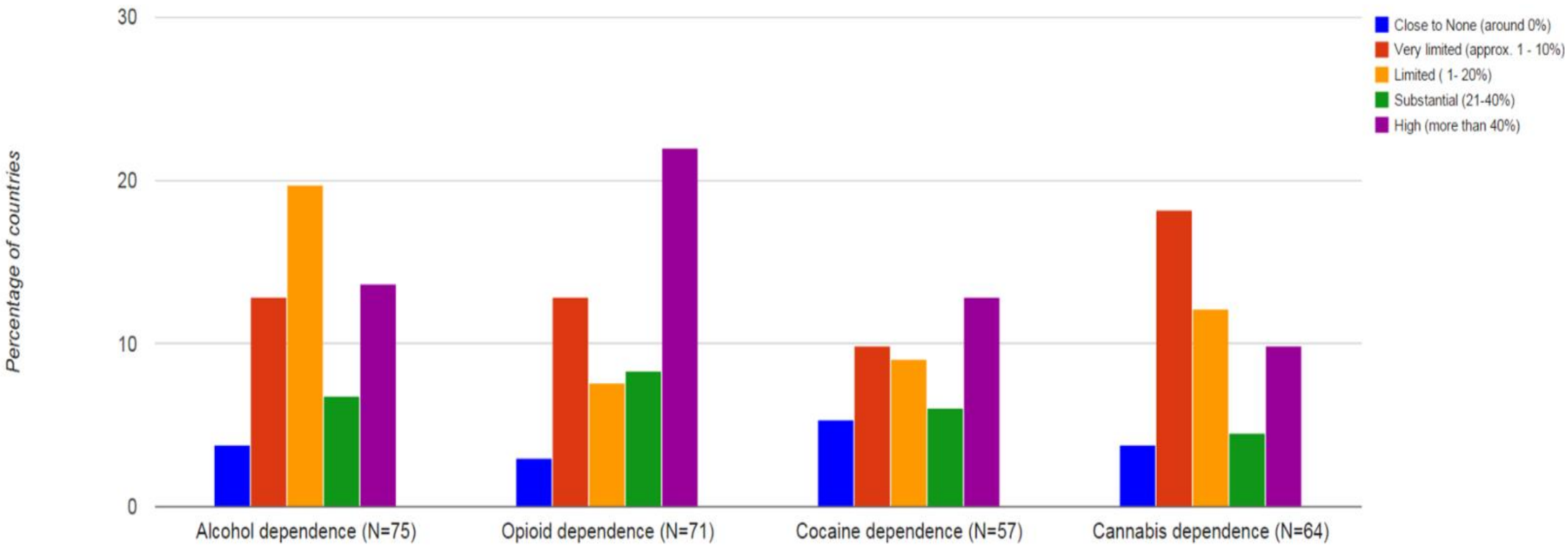
Treatment coverage for substance dependence



Source: WHO Atlas survey 2014

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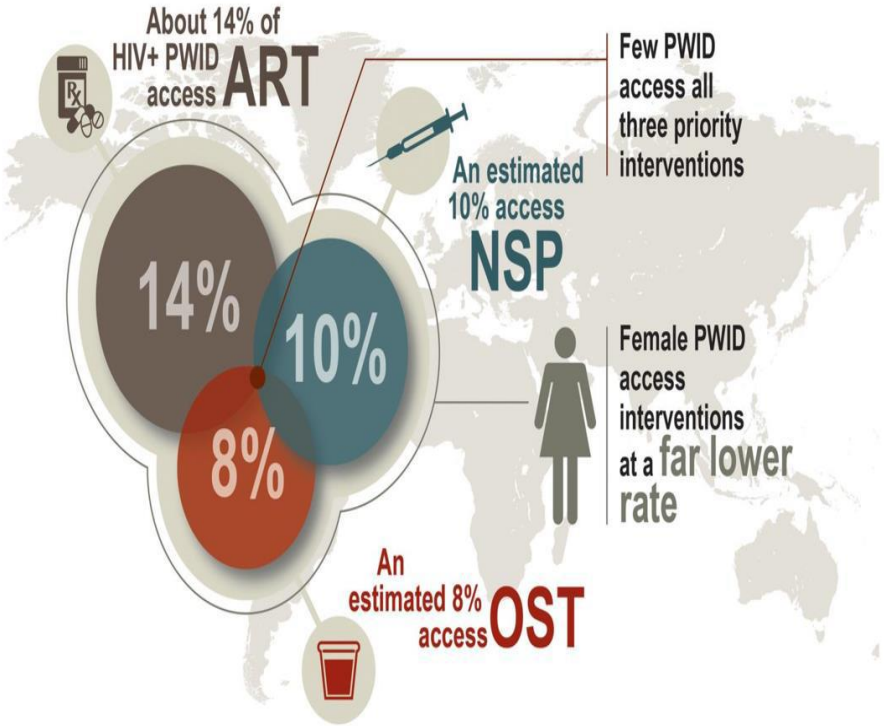
HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT COVERAGE

Coverage of HIV prevention and treatment is low in many countries and insufficient to control HIV

	NSP	OST	ART
Eastern Europe	LOW	LOW	LOW
- Russian Federation	LOW	NIL	LOW
East and South East Asia	LOW	LOW	LOW
- China	LOW	LOW	LOW
North America	LOW	MID	-
- United States	LOW	LOW	-
Central Asia	LOW	LOW	LOW
South Asia	LOW	LOW	LOW
Middle East & North Africa	LOW	LOW	-
Sub-Saharan Africa	LOW	LOW	LOW
Latin America & the Caribbean	LOW	-	LOW
Oceania	HIGH	MID	LOW
Western Europe	LOW	HIGH	HIGH

What is the global coverage of harm reduction services?



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Prevention of Substance Abuse
Risk factors

- High availability of substance abuse in the environment
- Substance use/dependence among family members and friends
- Low parental supervision and family relations
- Low perception of harm in the society, especially among young people
- Individual risks factors: mental disorders, conduct disorder, aggressive behaviour, academic failure

PREVENTION OF DRUGS USE AND TREATMENT OF DRUGS USE DISORDERS
ACTIVITIES / RESOURCES / TOOLS

- New ATLAS Report on Resources for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders (December 2015)
  - Global information system integrated with the Global Health Observatory
- Report on health and social effects of non-medical cannabis use (end 2015)
- Implementation of the WHO-UNODC Program on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care
  - Information document on interaction of health and law enforcement sectors (end 2015)
- WHO estimates of drug-attributable disease burden for 2012 and 2015 (end 2015)
- Neurobiology of substance use and dependence: update (end 2015)
- Policy brief on drug use and road safety (in collaboration with road safety colleagues)
- Information product on drug policy options and public health
- Collaborative activity with UNESCO, UNODC and others on drug prevention in school settings
- Second WHO meeting on drug-driving in preparation (December 2015)

PREVENTION OF DRUGS USE AND TREATMENT OF DRUGS USE DISORDERS
FUTURE WORK

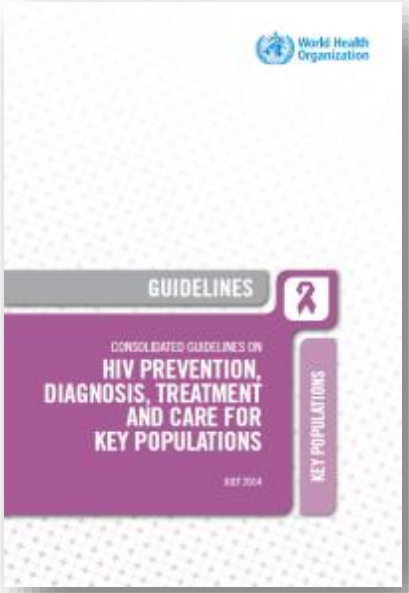
- Strengthen the evidence-base for drug policy options and interventions
  - Policy evaluation research
  - Impact of drug use on health and social well-being
  - Development and dissemination of information products on public health aspects of drug policy
- Normative guidance and technical support on prevention and management of substance use and substance use disorders in health systems (linked to alcohol, tobacco and other substances)
- Capacity-building in the public health sector to address drug problems
- Increase the coverage and quality of prevention and treatment interventions for substance sue disorders (linked to Sustainable Development Goal target 3.5)
- Monitoring, surveillance and reporting - using WHO platforms and tools (STELPS, GHSS, ATLAS…)

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES INCLUDING HIV AND HEPATITIS

ACTIVITIES / RESOURCES / TOOLS

Global strategies for HIV and for viral hepatitis (including B and C)

- Reiterating the need for implementing a public health approach to drug use and dependence through harm reduction



World Hepatitis Summit, September 2015, Glasgow, Scotland

- WHO co-host
- Sessions on drug policy and harm reduction

Tool for countries to set and monitor targets for HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations (WHO, 2015)

- Set of harmonized indicators, including for an 'enabling environment' –
- New metrics to measure impact of drugs presented at a consultation of the Global Commission–
- Guidance on setting national targets–

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PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES INCLUDING HIV AND HEPATITIS

THE PACKAGE

- Condom programming
- Harm reduction interventions
- Behavioural interventions
- HIV testing and counselling
- HIV treatment and care + pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Prevention and management of viral hep, TB and mental health conditions
- Sexual and reproductive health interventions

Health interventions

- **Supportive legislation, policy and funding**
- **Addressing stigma and discrimination**
- **Community empowerment**
- **Addressing violence**

Structural interventions

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IMPROVED ACCESS TO CONTROLLED MEDICINES
WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON DRUG DEPENDENCE

- 37th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, 16-20 November 2015 - 15 experts confirmed
- Expert Committee website and agenda: http://www.who.int/medicines/access/controlled-substances/ecdd/en/
- 9 substances listed for review – different categories:

  opioids / cathinones / phenethylamines / benzodiazepines / arylcyclohexylamines
- Additional substances under surveillance from last Expert Committee on Drug Dependence in June 2014
- Updates on ketamine and medical use of cannabis
- Questionnaires (pdf) now available on website for countries to prepare/collect information on use, harm to health, status of national control and potential impact of international control for each substance under evaluation

ADRESSING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

THANK YOU !

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