

To support countries in addressing the ongoing synthetic opioids crisis affecting mainly North America, with fentanyl and its analogues, and parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East with tramadol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched an integrated strategy in June 2018.

The UNODC Opioid Strategy is a five-pillar, integrated, inter-agency response to the global opioid crisis. Led by UNODC, the Strategy integrates the unique expertise housed within the Office with complimentary specialized knowledge across the UN system.



## Pillar 2 - Rational Prescribing and Access to Opioids for Medical and Scientific Use

The second pillar of the UNODC Opioid Strategy focuses on promoting interagency cooperation to address the non-medical use of opioids, and curbing the supply for their non-medical use.

UNODC has partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to better target medical education and improve regulations on prescribing opioids and non-opioid analgesics.

Multilateral action is also key to reducing the supply of opioids for non-medical use by:

- placing harmful opioid substances under international control;

- enhancing the capacity of frontline law enforcement and forensic personnel to identify these substances; and
- disrupting the supply chain by conducting high-impact operations.

Decisions must be based on the evaluation of harmful substances. UNODC and WHO are using information from the UNODC Early Warning Advisory to provide the most accurate evidence base for decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the central drug policy-making body within the United Nations system.

