COVID and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities.
Cyberspace as an enabler: from darknet to social media

*Online trafficking trending upwards*

- Traditional actors evolving/adapting their business model
- COVID-19 acts as an accelerator
- Increased worldwide connectivity
- Several attractive features for criminals
  - Minimizes geographic impediments
  - Access to global markets
  - Pseudo-anonymous nature
  - Assumed lower detection rate
  - Low costs associated with online trafficking
- Cryptocurrency is the preferred method of payment
How drugs are sold online

Advertise on the Darknet; Clearnet

Order Online on the darknet; clearnet

Payment Through Cryptocurrencies

Deliver By post or drops

This method is applied to sale on darknet markets, Clearnet sites, social media platforms

Drug traffickers also use massagers services and forums to discuss and sell drugs.
Where drugs are sold online

**Social media platforms**
Vendors often use a variety of emojis, hashtags and slang to advertise their drugs on social media in messages, tweets or usernames.

**Darknet marketplaces**
Part of the World Wide Web which cannot be accessed using standard web browsers such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, Edge or Chrome. It operates inside specialized encrypted networks to provide anonymity.

**Messenger services**
Drug traffickers use different types of messenger with end-to-end encryption to advertise and sell their products as well as to communicate with buyers sharing geolocation data.

**Clearnet platforms**
The Clearnet hosts a number of websites, blogs, forums and marketplaces where a variety of synthetic drugs can be advertised.

https://thetgcrc.com/Buy-Opioids-Research-Chemicals
Payment through cryptocurrencies

Cryptocurrency is the preferred payment due to:

- Pseudo-anonymous nature
- Decentralized structure
- Large network of small dealers, ATMs, and exchange providers

NB! **Privacy coins** – offer greater anonymity – some darknet markets have stopped accepting bitcoin and only accept privacy coins i.e Monero
Capacity building

Training and mentoring

Threat analysis

Early warning system - darknet version

Training on cryptocurrency investigations

UN toolkit on synthetic drugs – cybercrime module
Cooperation

*It takes a network to defeat a network!*
UNODC responding to an urgent call for action

Resolution 61/8

Enhancing and strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the international threats posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids

Resolution 62/4

Advancing effective and innovative approaches, through national, regional and international action, to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic drugs, particularly synthetic opioids
The United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs
Cybercrime module

The Global Programme on CYBERCRIME
UNODC OPPID STRATEGY

#OpioidStrategy
#SyntheticDrugs

ASK THE EXPERT
Together we work to counter online trafficking!

The Global Programme on CYBERCRIME

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