



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## High Level Political Forum

*side event 11 July 2023*

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# Lessons learnt from Covid

## Crime and drugs threats are resilient

- Some initial disruptions
- Criminal groups exploited the situation and strengthened their territorial control
- Illicit markets recovered quickly

## The response suffered

- Lower crime reporting to authorities
- Slow down of the criminal justice system

## Crisis triggered innovation

- Use of big data to quickly understand the crisis
- Innovative ways to respond to the crime and drug problem

# Crime and drugs threats are resilient



The impact varied across countries and type of crime. Any significant changes were short-lived and pre-pandemic dynamics soon returned.

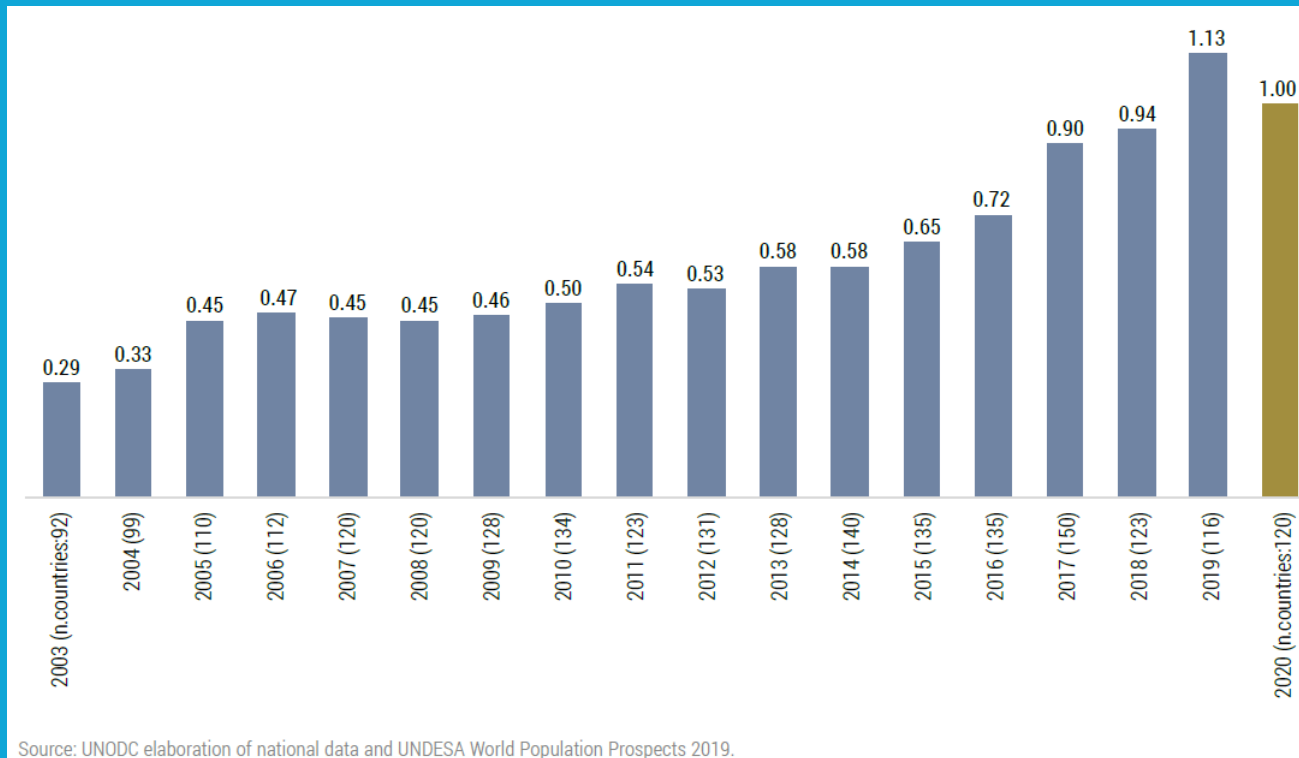
**Cocaine market reasserts itself after COVID-19 bump**

## THE COVID-19 CRISIS BRINGS TO ORGANIZED CRIME

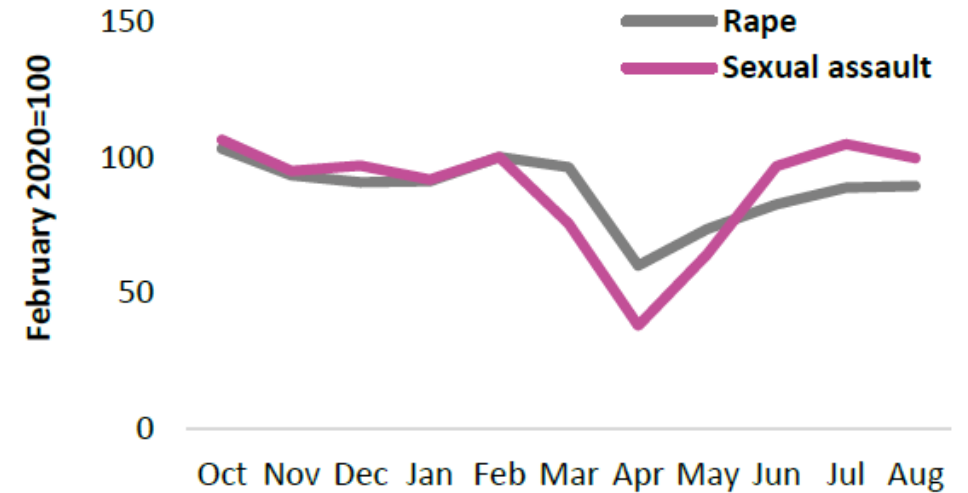
OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
INFILTRATION INTO THE LEGAL ECONOMY BY INVESTING IN SECTORS UNDER DISTRESS	LOCKDOWN MEASURES DISTRUPT DRUG TRAFFICKING CHAINS
INFILTRATION INTO SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY THAT BECOME LUCRATIVE AS THE PANDEMIC EVOLVES	CHANGES IN THE DYNAMIC OF DEMAND, SUPPLY AND PRICES OF ILLICIT DRUGS IN THE MARKET
BOOST STANDING IN COMMUNITIES AND ENHANCE CONTROL OVER TERRITORIES	DIFFICULTIES TO SMUGGLE DRUGS AND ILLICIT GOODS THROUGH TRADITIONAL ROUTES
PROVIDE AID PACKAGES TO STRUGGLING BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE	CONSTRAINED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS



# The response suffered

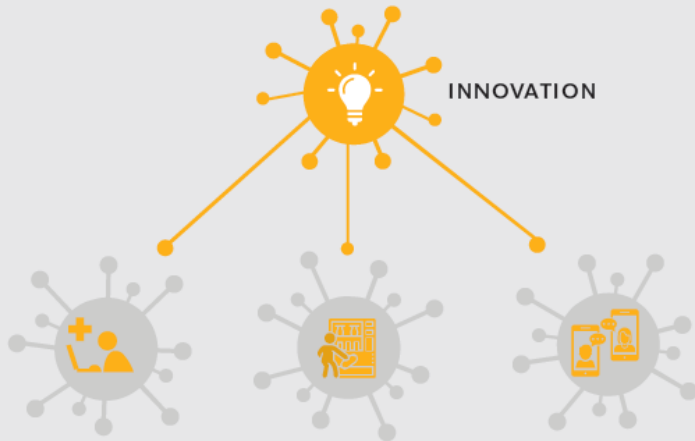


**FIGURE 1** Trends in the number of rapes and sexual assaults recorded by national authorities, October 2019–August 2020



# Crisis triggered innovation

COVID-19 HAS TRIGGERED INNOVATION IN DRUG PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES



Technology

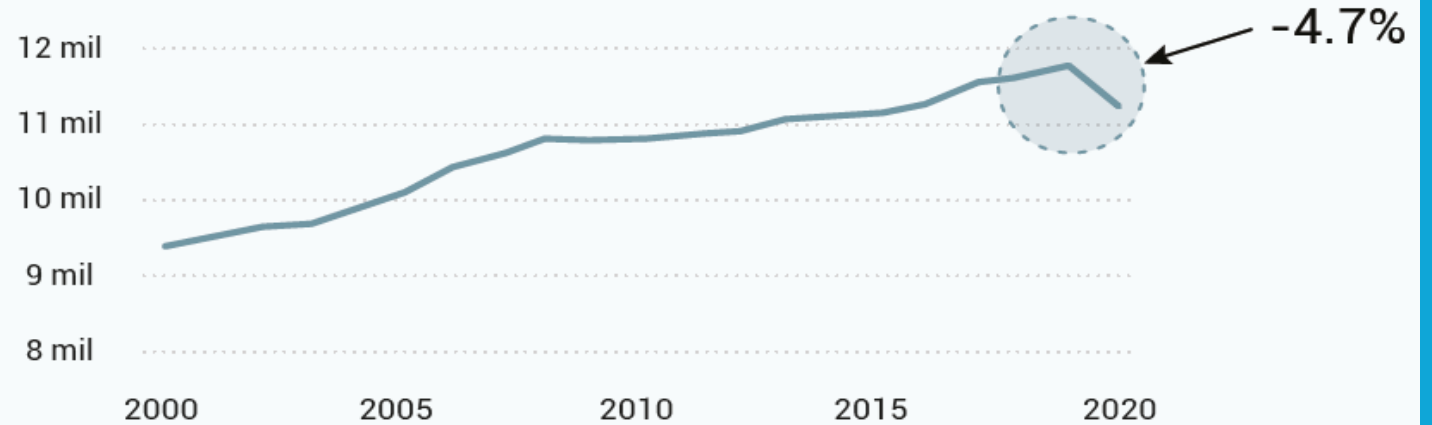
Contactless services

Delivery systems

Audio-only assessments and prescriptions	Mail services for needles and syringes and naloxone	Mobile outreach programmes
Remote consultation	Mobile outreach programmes	Administration of treatment medication without face-to-face meetings
Service hotlines	Vending machines for sterile needle and syringes	Multi-day and multi-week take-home doses of treatment medication
Mobile telephone-enabled outreach programmes	Vending machines for drug treatment medications	Methamphetamine agonist treatment
Internet-based services and training		

Trend in the global prison population

2000-2020





# Has the Covid-19 pandemic brought long-term impacts?

