

Methodology: qualitative research for chapter on gender, age and synthetic drugs

The information presented in the chapter on Gender, age and synthetic drugs, draws on official and open-source data, and qualitative information from interviews with key informants across seven countries, a review of scientific literature, mostly from high-income countries but also from middle and low-income ones, and official reports. All of the information from these different sources was triangulated to present gender and, in places, age differences in the various dimensions of synthetic drugs discussed in the chapter.

The 92 interviews with key informants, who included officials from law enforcement agencies, health service providers (in both the private and public sectors), representatives of NGOs working with people who use drugs and people with lived experience of drug use, were part of qualitative research conducted over November and December 2023 (see table below for the list of interviewees).

The interviews were conducted by UNODC and in most instances were identified with the support of UNODC field offices and national counterparts in the countries. The key informants were purposively selected for their experience and knowledge of the drug phenomenon in their respective areas. The interviews, with an individual or a group of experts was based on an interview guide that listed the issues to be explored or discussed around the topic. The transcripts of the interviews were translated where required and analysed by grouping the responses according to the topics in the interview guides. In some instances, direct quotes from the respondents have been used in the text to emphasize a certain point.

The opinions expressed by the key informants may not necessarily represent the situation in their entire country, cannot be extrapolated to other countries and regions and have been used to illustrate the different manifestations of synthetic drugs in different regions and how they correlated with the finding from the published scientific literature.

Table: List of interviewees for the qualitative research by country, affiliation and area of expertise

Number	Country	Position	Area of Expertise
1	Nigeria	Member of the network of people who use drugs	Lived experience
2	Nigeria	Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Hospital	Demand Reduction
3	Nigeria	Director, Planning, Research and Statistics (national law enforcement agency)	Policy
4	Nigeria	Chief Medical Director, Psychiatric Hospital	Demand Reduction
5	Trinidad & Tobago	1) Manager, National Drug Council; 2) Forensic Science Centre; 3) Special Investigations Unit, Police Service; 4) National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme; 5) International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security; 6) International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security;	Demand Reduction (1), supply reduction(1), research(1) , policy (3)
6	Nigeria	Clinical Psychologist DDR director, (national law enforcement agency)	Demand Reduction
7	Chile	Director of drug treatment centre	Demand Reduction
8	Chile	Customs Service	Supply Reduction
9	Chile	National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use	Demand Reduction
10	Chile	Drugs Unit, National Prosecutor's Office	Supply Reduction
11	Chile	Colombo Plan	Policy
12	Chile	Diego Portales University	Research
13	Jordan	Anti-narcotics Department	Supply Reduction
14	Jordan	Female person who uses drugs	Lived experience
15	Jordan	Female person who uses drugs	Lived experience
16	Jordan	Female person who uses drugs	Lived experience
17	Jordan	Female person who uses drugs	Lived experience
18	Jordan	Head, Juvenile Rehabilitation and Correctional Centre	Demand Reduction
19	Jordan	Social worker, Juvenile Rehabilitation and Correctional Centre	Demand Reduction
20	Jordan	Student, University	Other
21	Jordan	Student, University	Other
22	Jordan	School teacher	Other
23	Kazakhstan	Psychiatry and addiction medicine	Research

Number	Country	Position	Area of Expertise
24	Kazakhstan	Head of Unit for statistics and methodological assistance	Research
25	Kazakhstan	Social worker, NGO	Demand Reduction
26	Kazakhstan	Peer consultant, NGO	Demand Reduction
27	Kazakhstan	Director of private treatment centre	Demand Reduction
28	Kazakhstan	Secretary, forum of people who use drugs	Lived experience
29	Kazakhstan	Prevention specialist, public foundation	Demand Reduction
30	Kazakhstan	Executive Director, Corporate Foundation	Demand Reduction
31	Kazakhstan	Prevention specialist, NGO Project	Demand Reduction
32	Kazakhstan	Secretary, forum of people who use drugs	Lived experience
33	Kazakhstan	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Supply Reduction
34	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
35	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
36	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
37	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
38	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
39	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
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45	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
46	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
47	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
48	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
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52	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
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56	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
57	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
58	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
59	Thailand	Head of the Drug Control Planning Unit	Policy
60	Thailand	Caregiver Nurse, Juvenile Observation and Protection Centre	Demand Reduction
61	Thailand	Clinical Psychologist, national drug control agency	Demand Reduction
62	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
63	Thailand	Person with lived experience of drug use	Lived experience
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Number	Country	Position	Area of Expertise
80	Senegal	Commander of regional drug police force	Supply Reduction
81	Senegal	Colonel, National Police	Supply Reduction
82	Senegal	Head of Mental Health Unit, Ministry of Health and Social Action	Policy
83	Senegal	Centre for Awareness and Information about Drugs	Research
84	Senegal	President of NGO for women	Demand Reduction
85	Senegal	1) Head and 2) Deputy Head of the Centre for Integrated Addiction Care	Demand Reduction
86	Senegal	Pharmaceutical Regulation Agency	Supply Reduction
87	Senegal	Coordinator, Inter-ministerial committee for the fight against drugs	Policy
88	Senegal	Head of the School Medical Control Division, Ministry of Education	Policy
89	Senegal	Member of the Senegalese Chamber of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Owner	Policy
90	Senegal	Coordinator of the network for the promotion of mental health	Policy
91	Senegal	Head of Joint Container Control Unit	Supply Reduction
92	Thailand	Director of News Analysis Division	Research