INTRODUCTION

Drug use disorders are multifaceted health disorders, associated with negative outcomes such as crime and violence and social exclusion. According to the World Drug Report 2022, globally, 280 million people used illegal drugs and 190 million used licit drugs at least once in the past year. The majority of people using drugs are young, often under age 24, and highly educated. They seek to engage in behavior that reduces stress or pain, improves mood, or helps them cope with physical or emotional problems.

BACKGROUND

People with drug use disorders are often in contact with the criminal justice system or in contact with the criminal justice system for various reasons. Communities around the world have a history of drug use disorders and have implemented policies and measures to address these issues. The UNODC published a handbook in 2019 to promote the use of alternatives to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system.

A GLOBAL MAPPING OF ALTERNATIVES TO CONVICTION OR PUNISHMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DRUG USE DISORDERS IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

To understand better the global availability of different alternatives to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system, UNODC and WHO, in consultation with the Member States, conducted a survey of penal systems and policies in 2021. The survey was conducted through a questionnaire that was sent to Member States, and the results were compiled into a report.

MAPPING AVAILABLE ON HEALTH AND JUSTICE COORDINATION EFFORTS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DRUG USE DISORDERS IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

To understand better the global availability of different alternatives to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system, UNODC and WHO, in consultation with the Member States, conducted a survey of penal systems and policies in 2021. The survey was conducted through a questionnaire that was sent to Member States, and the results were compiled into a report.

CONCLUSION

People with drug use disorders may be more likely to access care and treatment programs if they are provided with a range of services, including access to community-based treatment programs, medication-assisted treatment, and case management services. UNODC and WHO, in consultation with the Member States, conducted a survey of penal systems and policies in 2021. The survey was conducted through a questionnaire that was sent to Member States, and the results were compiled into a report.

This document contains information on the global availability of different alternatives to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system. It includes an introduction to the issue, a background on the topic, and a conclusion with recommendations for future research.

Health and justice coordination for increased access to health and social services for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system

Many countries reported on efforts to increase the use of alternatives to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system. UNODC and WHO, in consultation with the Member States, conducted a survey of penal systems and policies in 2021. The survey was conducted through a questionnaire that was sent to Member States, and the results were compiled into a report.