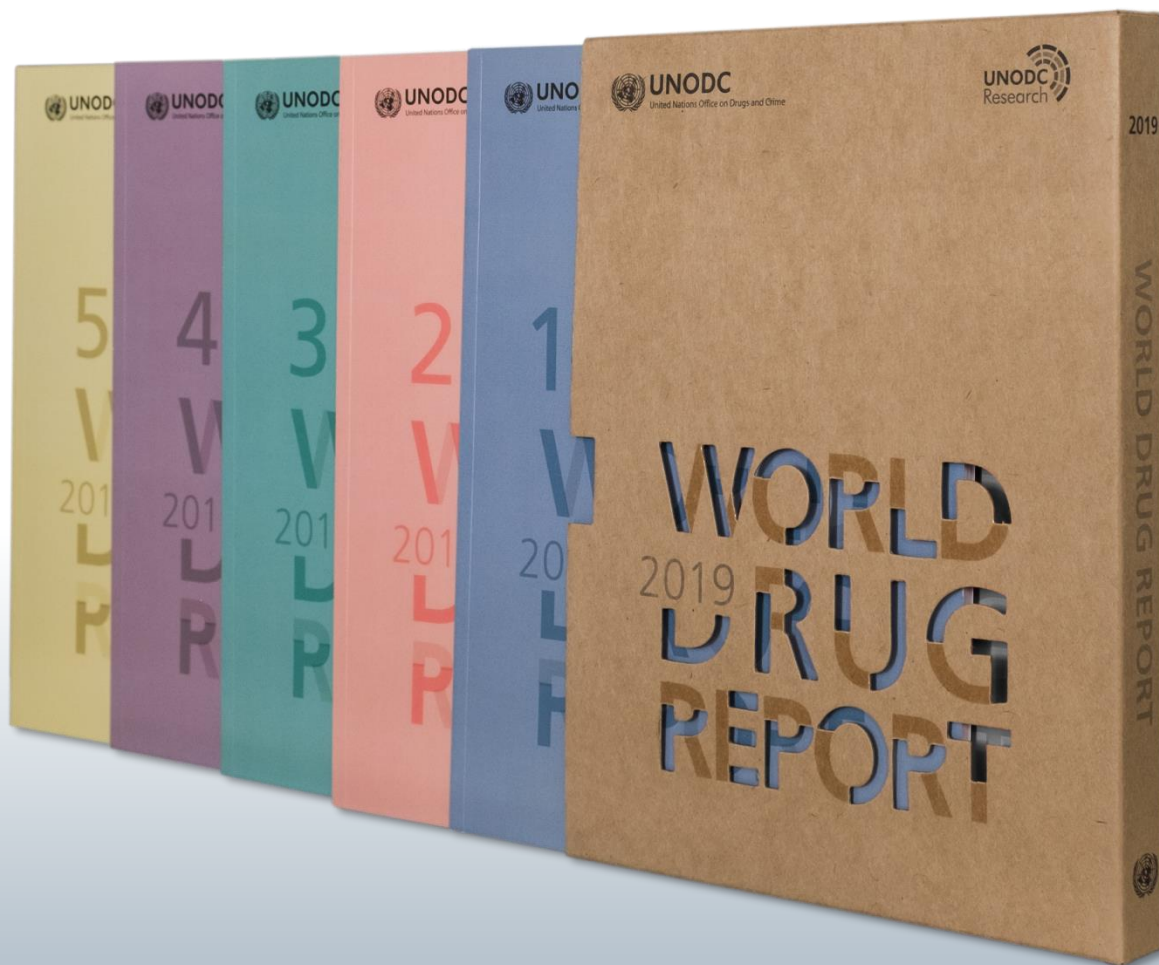




UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



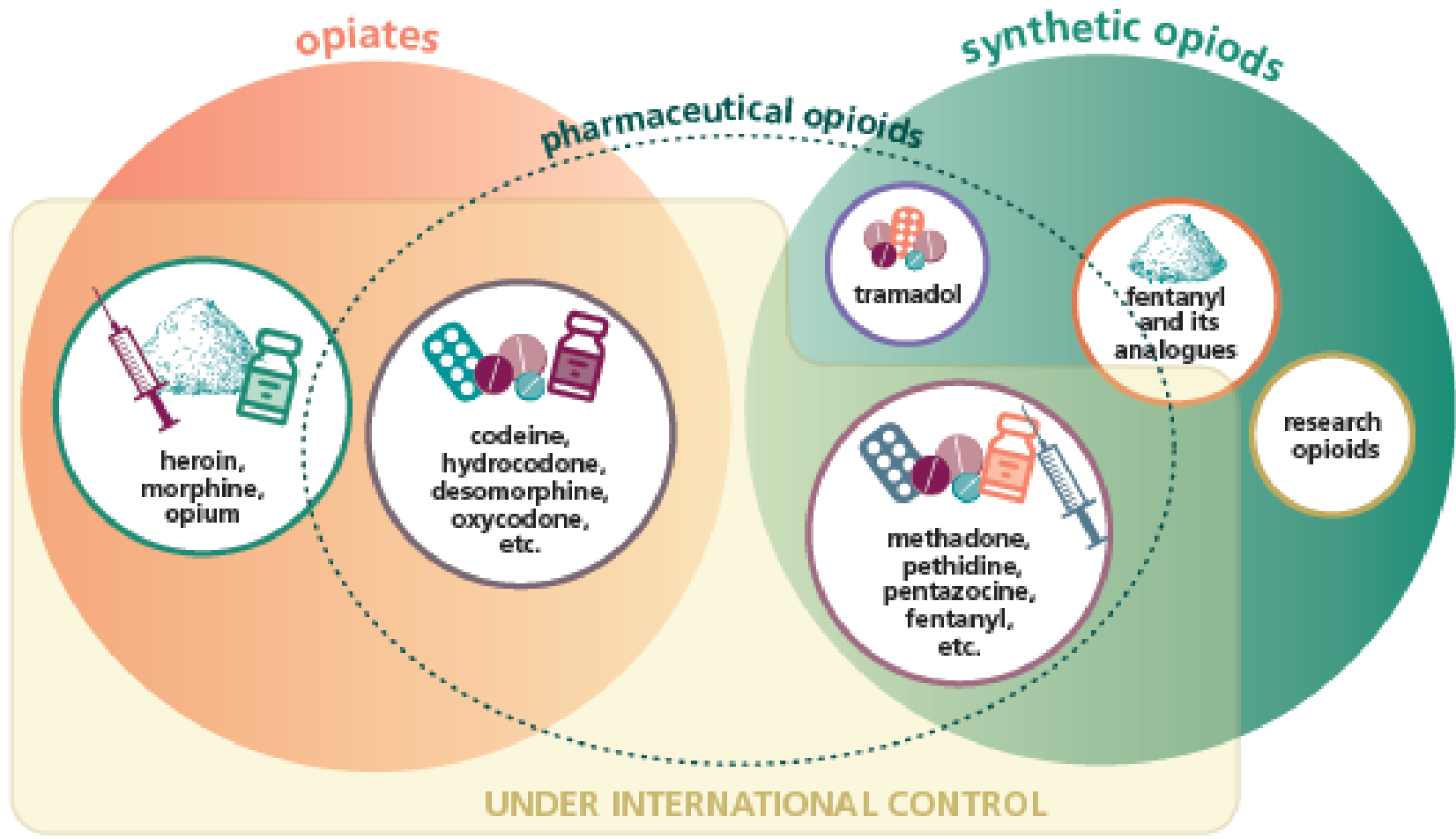
Research and Trend Analysis Branch
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Vienna, October 2019



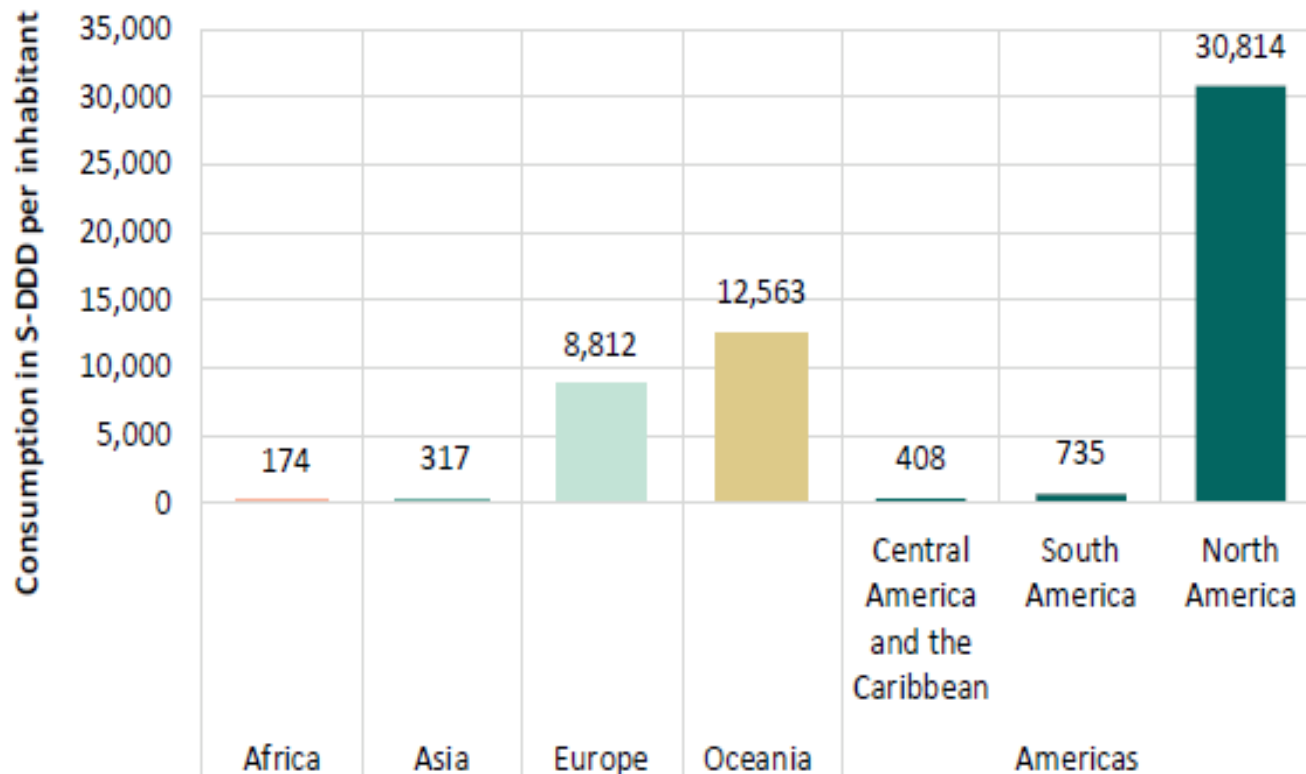
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CONCLUSIONS AND
POLICY REPLICATIONS
2019
**WORLD
DRUG
REPORT**

OPIOIDS



UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

Availability of pharmaceutical opioids for medical use (in defined daily doses per million inhabitants), average over 2015–2017



Source: INCB, *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2019 – Statistics for 2017* (E/INCB/2018/2).

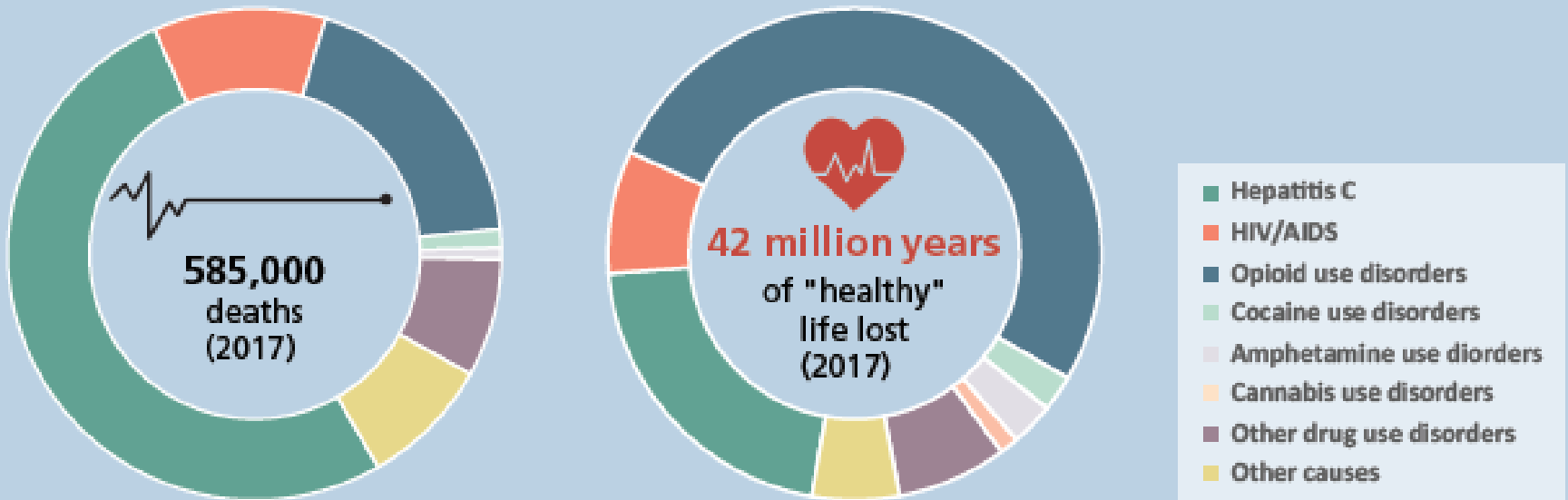
Note: Consumption is measured in terms of reported wholesale sales to medical doctors, pharmacies and hospitals. For the purposes of the 1961 Convention, a drug is regarded as “consumed” when it has been supplied to any person or enterprise for retail distribution, medical use or scientific research.





DRUG RELATED DEATHS

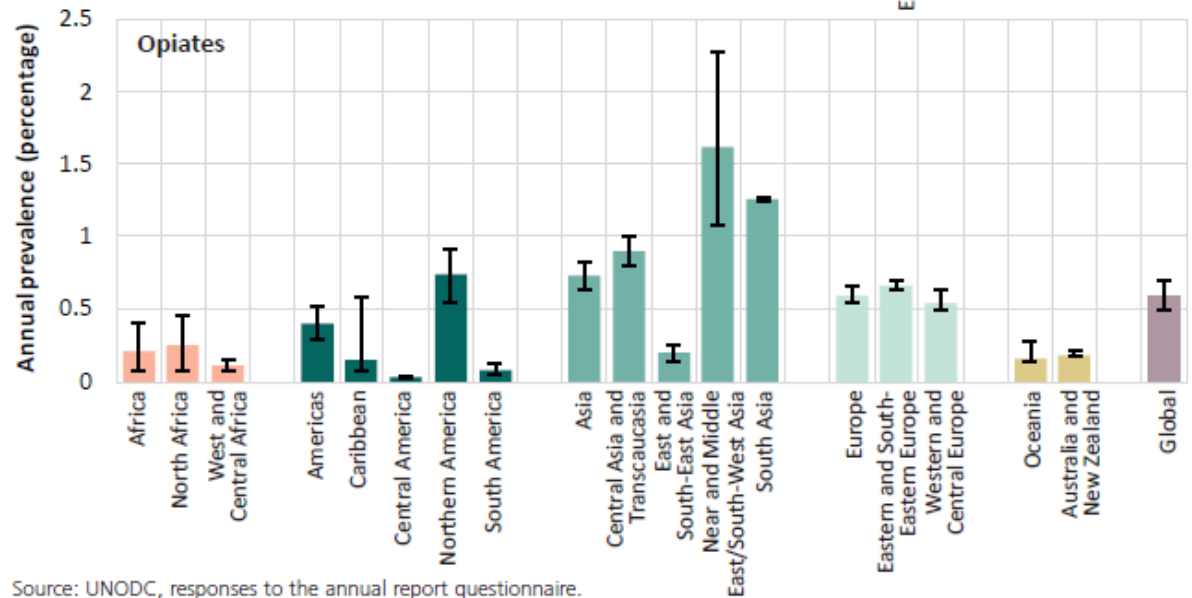
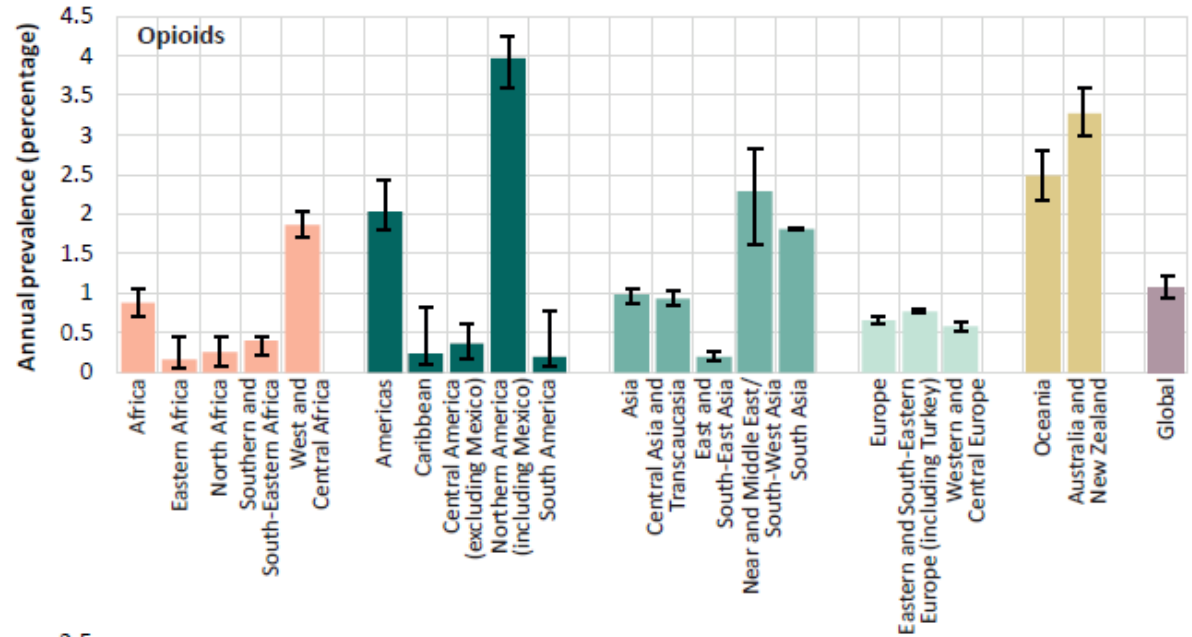
Hepatitis C and opioid use disorders are responsible for most of the deaths and disability attributed to the use of drugs



Sources: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, "Global Burden of Disease Study 2017", Global Health Data Exchange

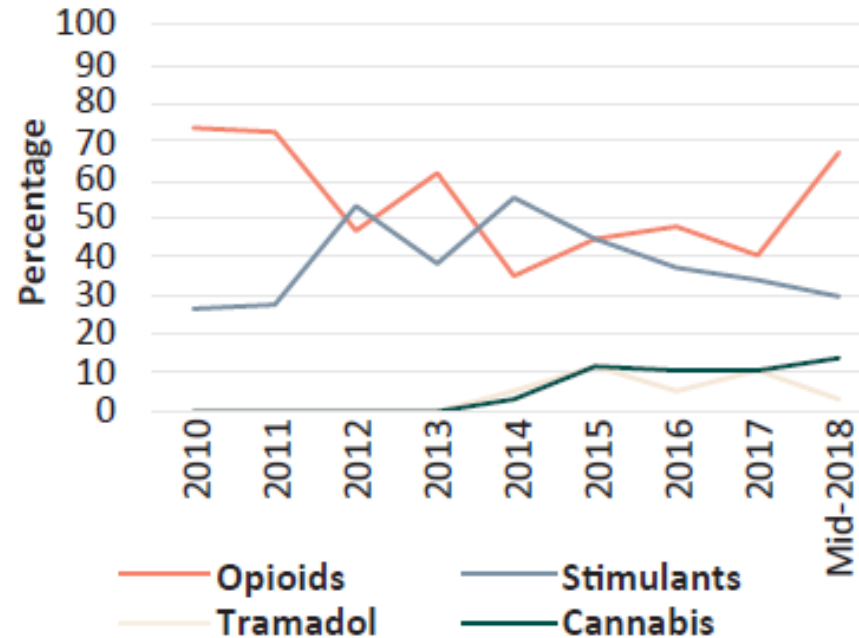


Use of opioids and opiates, by region, 2017



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Percentage of new admissions for treatment at the clinic of the Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies, Tehran, by drug type, 2010–2018

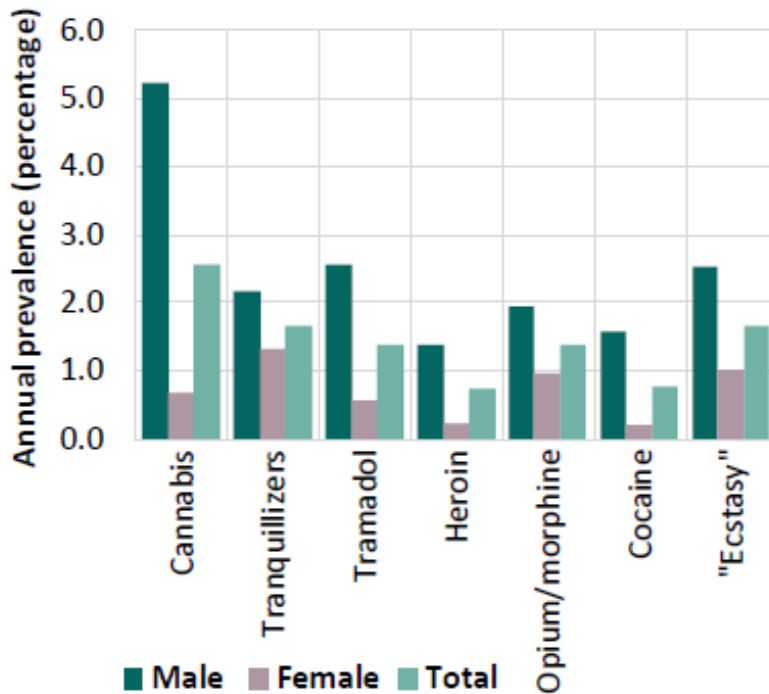


Source: Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies.

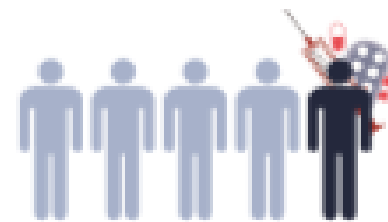
Note: Opioids include opium, opium concentrate and residue, heroin, morphine and methadone. It does not include tramadol. Clients are also admitted for dependency on other drugs, including alcohol, so the percentages do not add up to 100 in some years. In addition, some clients are dependent on more than one type of substance, leading to a total over 100 per cent in other years due to the recording of polydrug use.



Drug use among secondary school students in Egypt, 2016



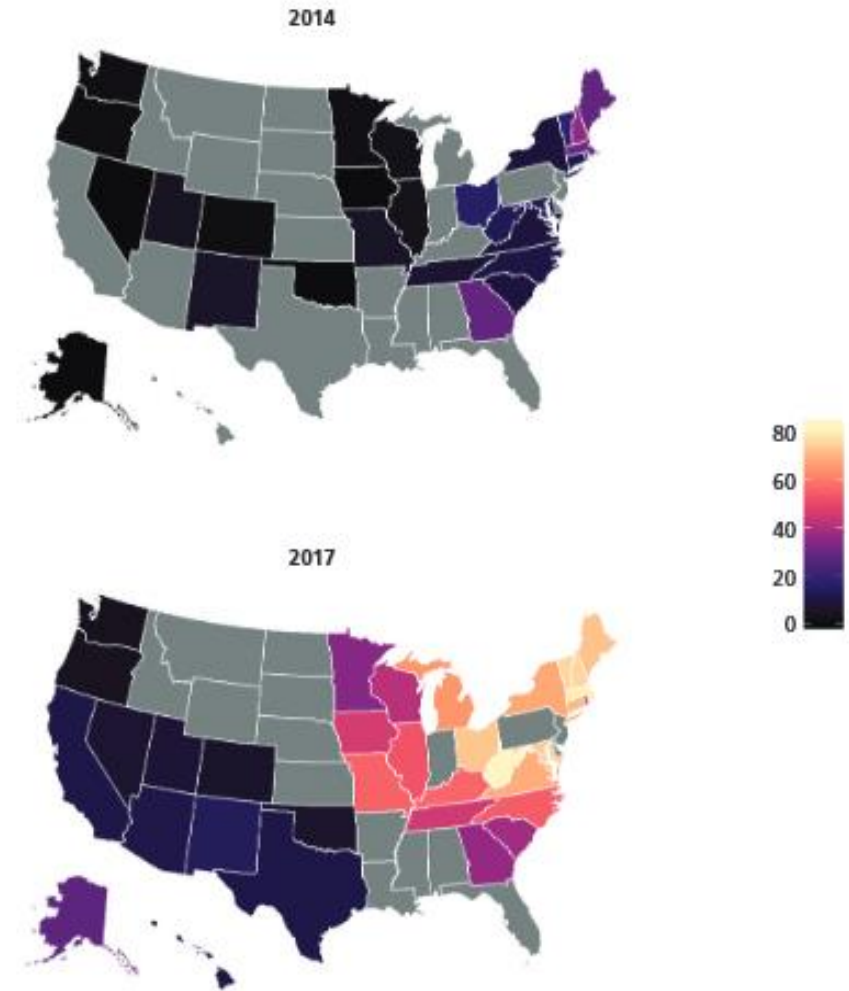
In Nigeria, 4.6 ml persons non-medical annual users of opioids (mainly tramadol)



1 in 5 pharmaceutical opioid users is dependent



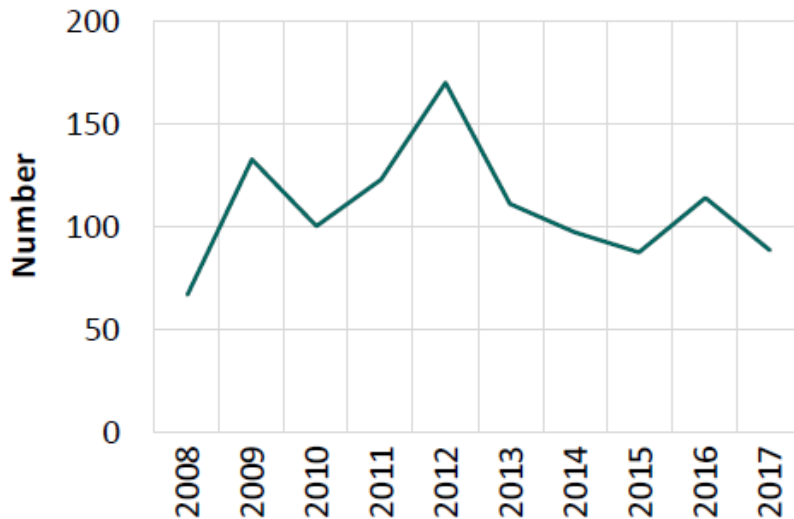
Heroin overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, United States of America 2014-2017



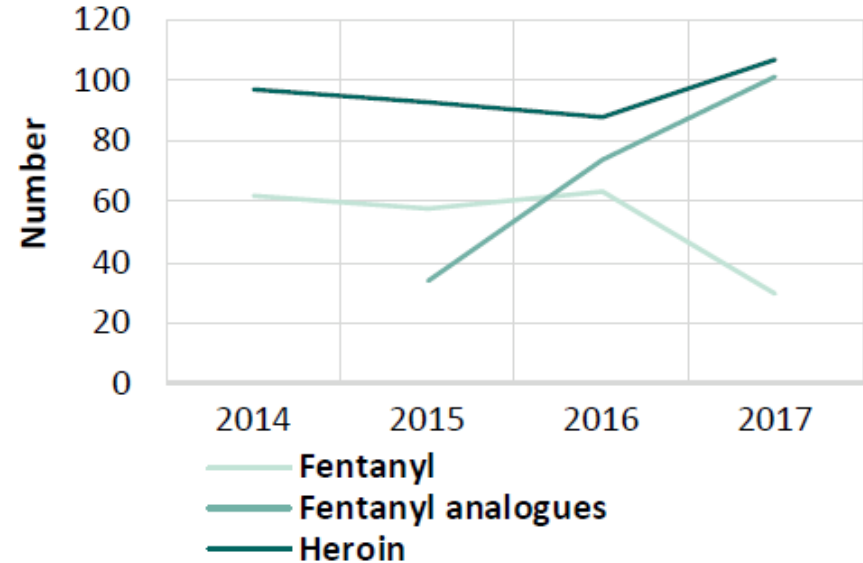
Source: The Future of Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, 2019 RAND corporation

Trends in fentanyl overdose deaths in Estonia, 2008-2017

Opioid overdose deaths in Sweden, 2014-2017



Source: Estonian causes of death registry



Source: "Swedish National Threat Assessment on fentanyl analogues and other synthetic opioids" (October 2018).



Fentanyl(s) (or other opioids) has replaced heroin

- Estonia
- Finland
- Latvia (increasingly replaced)
- Canada British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario)
- US (East)

Fentanyl(s) alongside heroin

- Sweden
- Canada
- US



Tramadol crisis

- Cheap for users (and traffickers)
- May increase use
- A market by itself
- Supply-induced, but supply driven now?
- Illegal/informal markets
- A “traditional” epidemic?

Fentanyl crisis

- Cheap solution for traffickers
- Does not increase number of users but number of deaths
- Not a market by itself (yet?)
- Supply driven market, not demand-driven
- Illegal market
- Not a “traditional” epidemic

Fast spread. Open question: why? Why now? And why there?



Tramadol price

Average cost per day for drug users in Nigeria

Heroin: USD 10

Tramadol: USD 0.6-1

Fentanyl price

Price before entering the US in terms of Morphine Equivalent dose (MED)

50% pure Heroin: USD 10,000

95% pure Fentanyl: USD 100

Source: UNODC, Drug Use in Nigeria 2018; The Future of Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, 2019 RAND corporation



Tramadol crisis

- Controlling supply through keeping high price may be effective
- “traditional” prevention effective, although difficult to keep the balance between accessibility to medications and non medical use

Fentanyl crisis

- Controlling supply through price not effective
- “traditional” prevention not effective because users do not want to take fentanyl