Challenges related to the availability of internationally controlled medicines

Chloé Carpentier
UNODC Drug Research Section, Chief

Thematic sessions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, 19-21 October 2020
Global amounts slightly decreasing after a steep rise


Note: S-DDD refers to “defined daily doses for statistical purposes” as defined by INCB. S-DDDs are “technical units of measurement” for the purposes of statistical analysis and are not recommended daily prescription doses; actual doses may differ based on treatments required and medical practices. The statistics exclude preparations of opioids listed in Schedule III of the 1961 Convention. Details of S-DDDs used for these calculations are provided in the methodological annex of the present report.

a Substances used as analgesics, i.e., excluding substances used in opioid substitution treatment.

b Substances used in opioid substitution treatment and as analgesics.
Low to non-existent availability in all but three subregions

**Fig. 6**

Amounts available for medical consumption of codeine, fentanyl, morphine, pethidine and other opioids, by region and subregion, \(^a\) 2018


Note: S-DDD refers to “defined daily doses for statistical purposes” as defined by INCB. S-DDDs are “technical units of measurement” for the purposes of statistical analysis and are not recommended daily prescription doses; actual doses may differ based on treatments required and medical practices. Details of S-DDDs used for these calculations are provided in the methodological annex of the present report.

\(^a\) The regions and subregions are those designated by UNODC in the World Drug Report; they may partly differ from those used by INCB in its publications.
Increase in low-consumption regions, but availability still very low.
Striking the right balance in ensuring access to controlled medicines while preventing their non-medical use.
Opportunities and challenges to the availability of controlled medicines
For discussion

Data on use of controlled medicines

Data on needs for controlled medicines

Importance of prescription management

Importance of addressing the barriers to adequate availability and access to controlled medicines for pain management
Thank you for your listening!

https://wdr.unodc.org/wdr2020

Thematic sessions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, 19-21 October 2020