

Challenges related to the availability of internationally controlled medicines

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

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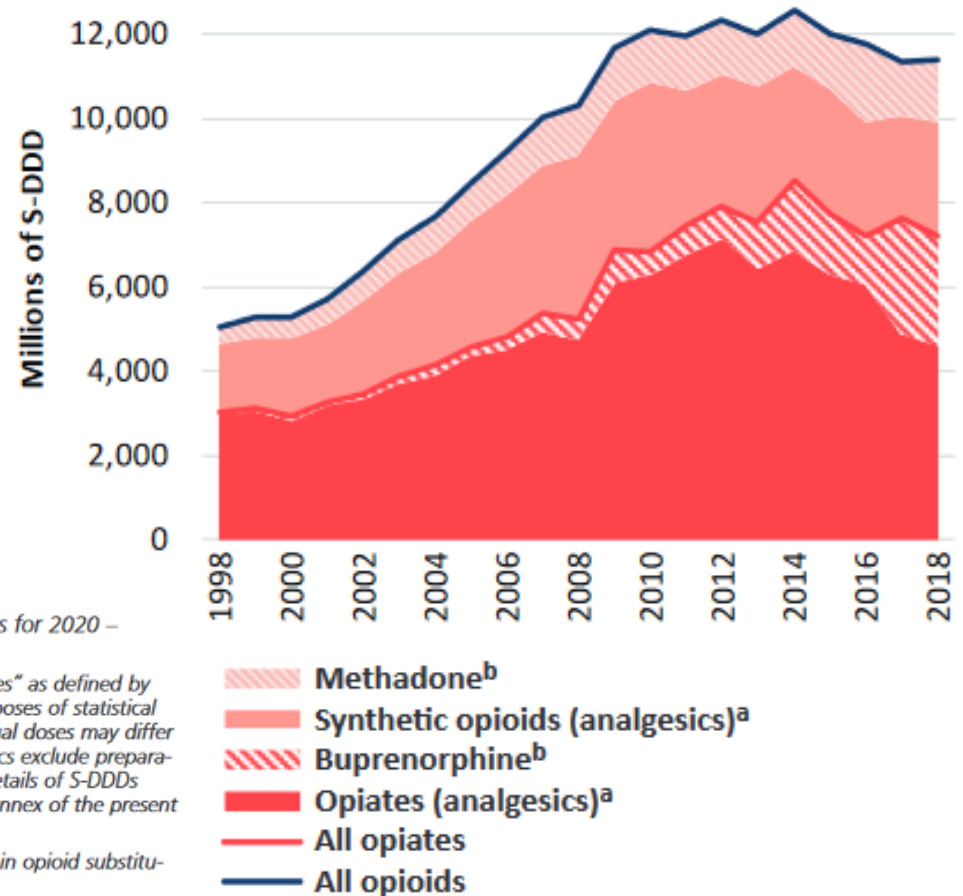
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Global amounts slightly decreasing after a steep rise

FIG. 1 Global amounts available for medical consumption of pharmaceutical opioids under international control, 1998–2018



Source: *Narcotic Drugs 2019: Estimated World Requirements for 2020 – Statistics for 2018* (E/INCB/2019/2).

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.

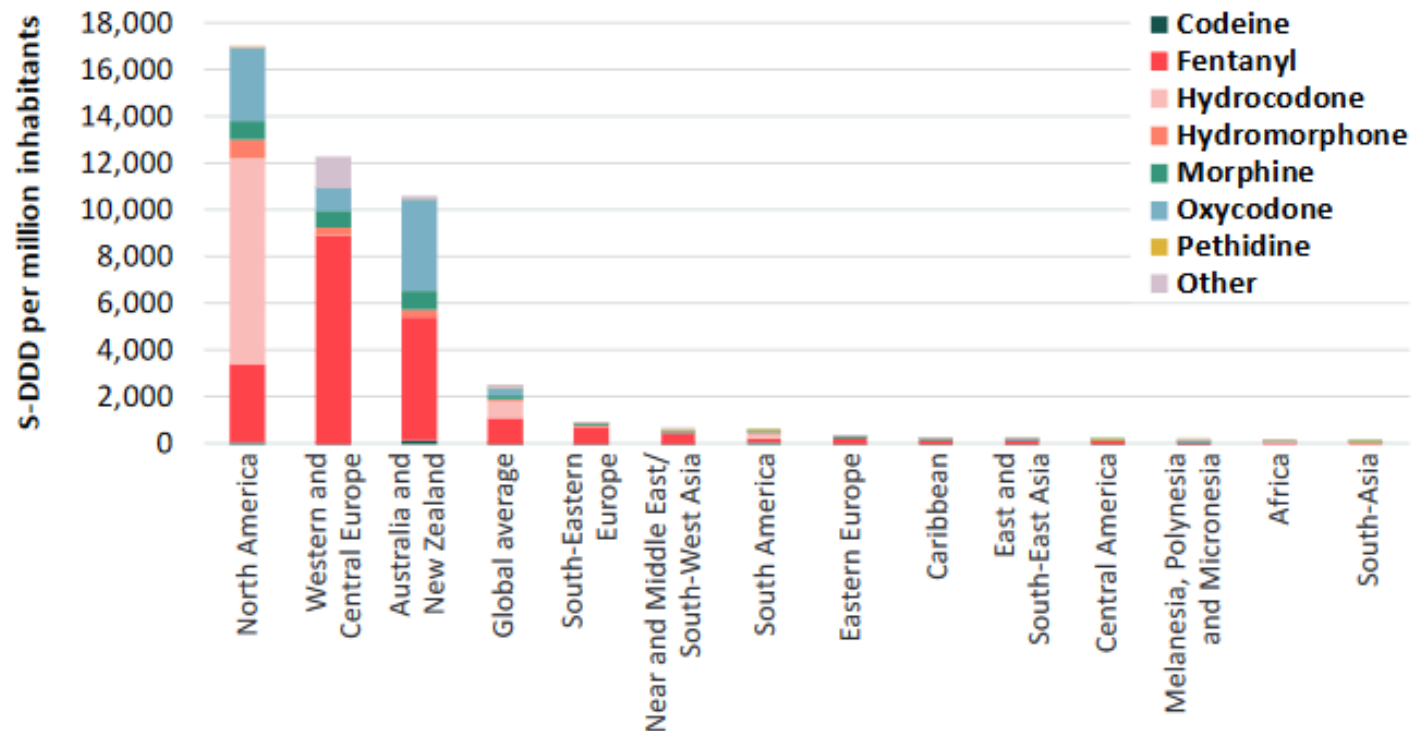
^a Substances used as analgesics, i.e., excluding substances used in opioid substitution treatment.

^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



Source: UNODC calculations based on *Narcotic Drugs 2019: Estimated World Requirements for 2020 – Statistics for 2018* (E/INCB/2019/2).

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.

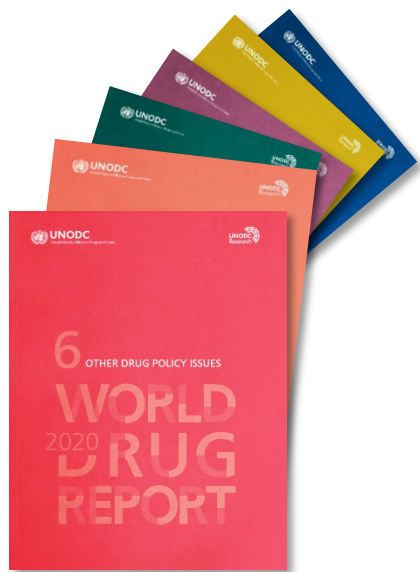
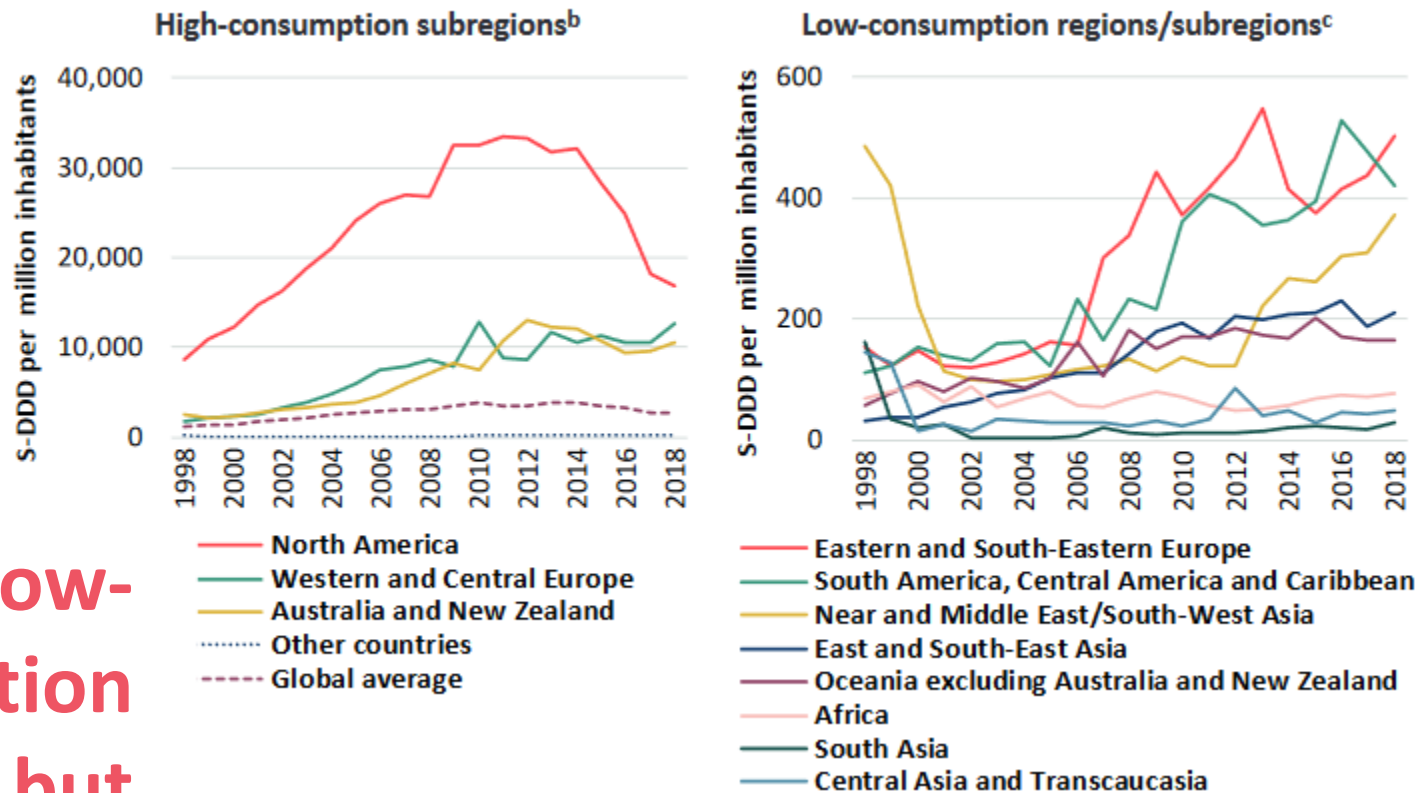


FIG. 7 Trends in availability of opioid analgesics for medical consumption, by region/subregion,^a 1998–2018



Increase in low-consumption regions, but availability still very low

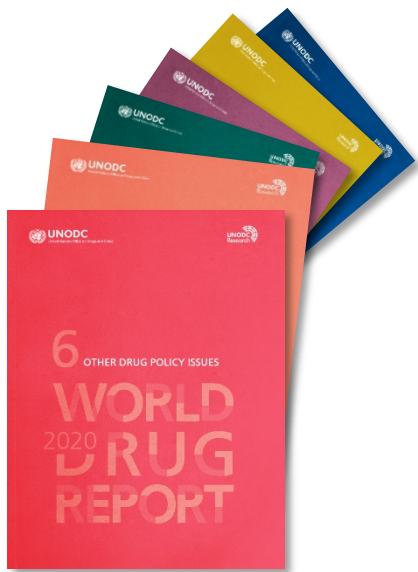
Source: UNODC calculations based on *Narcotic Drugs 2019: Estimated World Requirements for 2020 – Statistics for 2018* (EJ/INCB/2019/2) and previous years.

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 Subregions and regions according to the classification used by UNODC in the *World Drug Report*; subregions and regions as defined partly differ from those used by INCB in its publications; extrapolation techniques have been used in case of missing data.

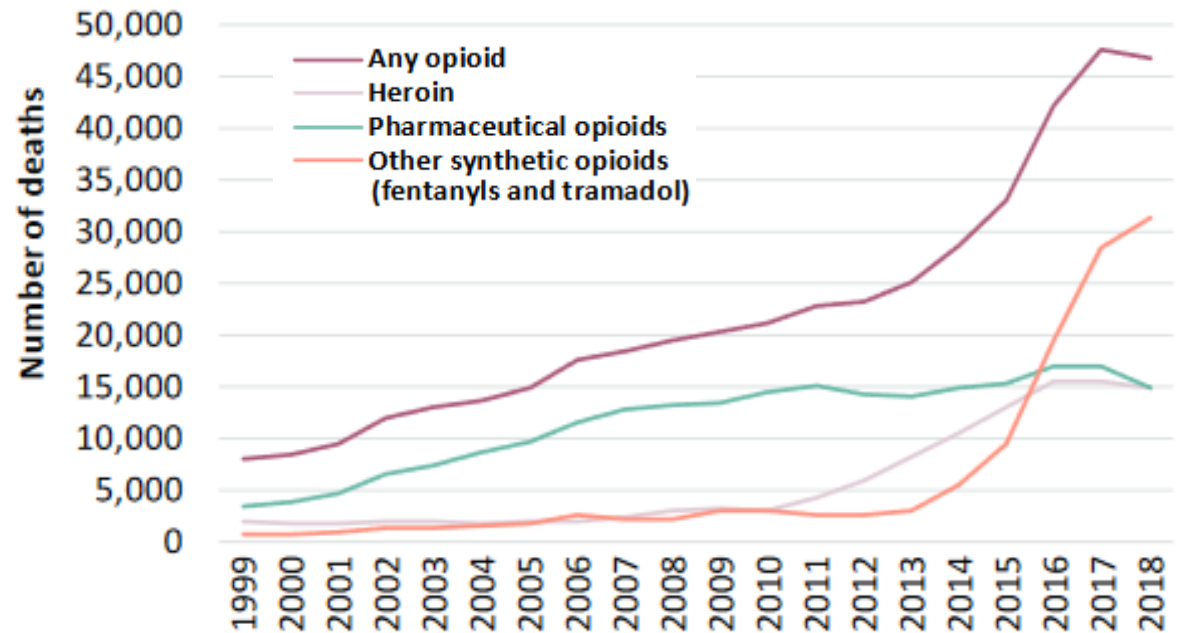
^b Includes subregions above the global average, i.e., North America, Western and Central Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

^c Includes regions and or subregions below the global average, i.e., Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, Central America and South America, as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, i.e., all regions and subregions except those of North America, Western and Central Europe, and Australia and New Zealand.



Striking the right balance

FIG. 27 Opioid overdose deaths in the United States, 1999–2018



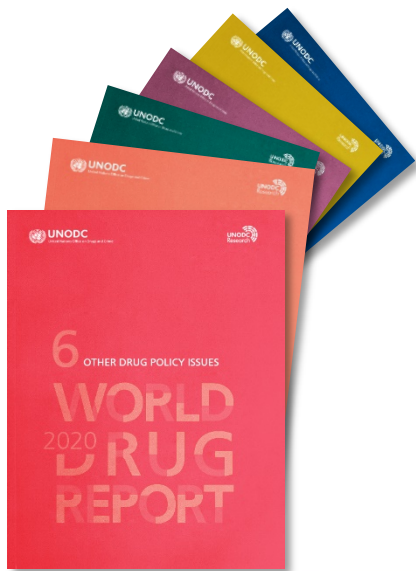
Wave 1: rise in pharmaceutical opioid overdose deaths

Wave 2: rise in heroin overdose deaths

Wave 3: rise in (other) synthetic opioid overdose deaths

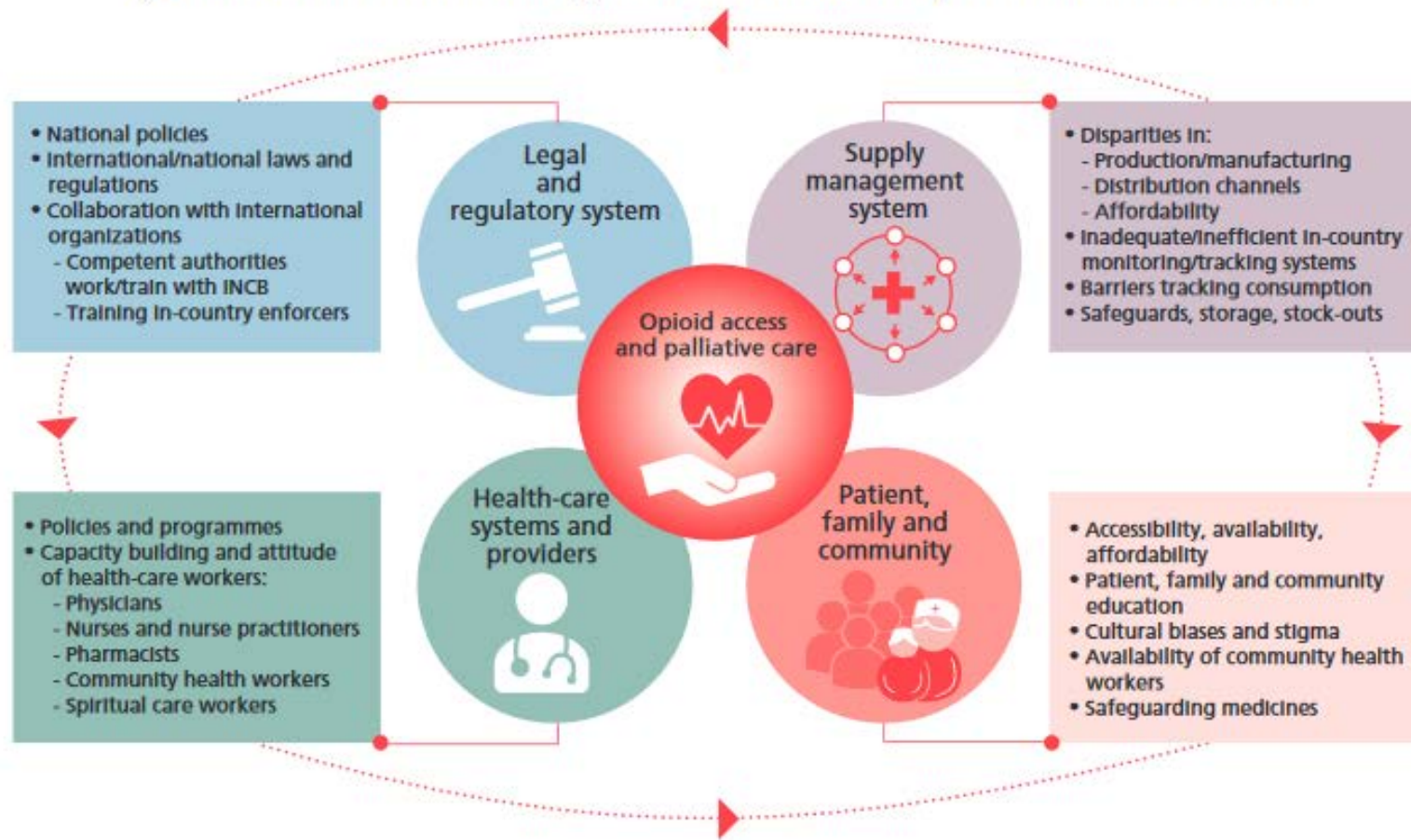
Source: United States, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (CDC WONDER), "Multiple cause of death 1999–2018".

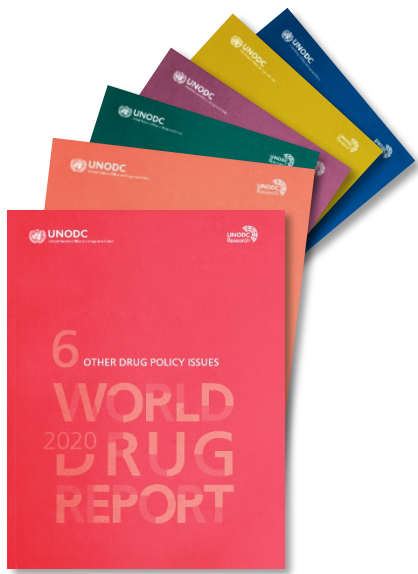
ensuring access to controlled medicines while preventing their non-medical use



Opportunities and challenges to the availability of controlled medicines

Systems and influences affecting access to and 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>

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