

URUGUAY

PREFACE

Today there is widespread recognition among Member States and United Nations entities that drugs, together with organized crime, jeopardize the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It is increasingly clear that drug control must become an essential element of our joint efforts to achieve peace, security and development. At the same time, we must reinforce our commitment to shared responsibility and the basic principles of health and human rights.

The *World Drug Report* documents developments in global drug markets and tries to explain the factors that drive them. Its analysis of trends and emerging challenges informs national and international drug and crime priorities and policies, and provides a solid foundation of evidence for counternarcotics interventions.

Drug markets and drug use patterns change rapidly, so measures to stop them must also be quick to adapt. Thus the more comprehensive the drug data we collect and the stronger our capacity to analyze the problem, the better prepared the international community will be to respond to new challenges.

Recent trends

Despite increased attention to drug demand reduction in recent years, drug use continues to take a heavy toll. Globally, some 210 million people use illicit drugs each year, and almost 200,000 of them die from drugs. There continues to be an enormous unmet need for drug use prevention, treatment, care and support, particularly in developing countries.

Drug use affects not only individual users, but also their families, friends, co-workers and communities. Children whose parents take drugs are themselves at greater risk of drug use and other risky behaviors. Drugs generate crime, street violence and other social problems that harm communities. In some regions, illicit drug use is contributing to the rapid spread of infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis.

Heroin consumption has stabilized in Europe and cocaine consumption has declined in North America – the most lucrative markets for these drugs. But these gains have been offset by several counter-trends: a large increase in cocaine use in Europe and South America over the last decade; the recent expansion of heroin use to Africa; and increased abuse of synthetic ‘designer drugs’ and prescription medications in some regions.

Meanwhile, new drug use profiles are also emerging: consumption of combinations of drugs rather than just one illicit substance is becoming more common, and this increases the risk of death or serious health consequences. On the supply side, illicit cultivation of opium poppy and coca bush is now limited to a few countries, but heroin and cocaine production levels remain high.

Although 2010 saw a significant decrease in opium production, this was largely due to a plant disease that affected opium poppies in the major growing regions of Afghanistan. Yet between 1998 and 2009, global production of opium rose almost 80 per cent, which makes the 2010 production decline less significant over the last decade. Meanwhile, the market for cocaine has not shrunk substantially, it has simply experienced geographical shifts in supply and demand. Just a decade ago, the North American market for cocaine was four times larger than that of Europe, but now we are witnessing a complete

rebalancing. Today the estimated value of the European cocaine market (\$33 billion) is almost equivalent to that of the North American market (\$37 billion).

Drug trafficking, the critical link between supply and demand, is fuelling a global criminal enterprise valued in the hundreds of billions of dollars that poses a growing challenge to stability and security. Drug traffickers and organized criminals are forming transnational networks, sourcing drugs on one continent, trafficking them across another, and marketing them in a third. In some countries and regions, the value of the illicit drug trade far exceeds the size of the legitimate economy. Given the enormous amounts of money controlled by drug traffickers, they have the capacity to corrupt officials. In recent years we have seen several such cases in which ministers and heads of national law enforcement agencies have been implicated in drug-related corruption. We are also witnessing more and more acts of violence, conflicts and terrorist activities fuelled by drug trafficking and organized crime.

A stronger multilateral response to illicit drugs

In the face of such diverse and complex challenges, we must improve the performance of our global response to illicit drugs.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the keystone of the international drug control system: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Its provisions remain sound and highly relevant, as does its central focus on the protection of health. The international community must make more effective use of all three Drug Conventions as well as the Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption. Mobilizing these powerful international legal instruments, together with existing law enforcement and judicial networks, can strengthen transnational cooperation in investigating and prosecuting drug traffickers, combating money-laundering, and identifying, freezing and confiscating criminal assets.

A comprehensive and integrated approach can also help us to confront the global threat from drugs more effectively. We must build new partnerships. Governments and civil society must work together. States have to join forces in promoting regional cooperation. This strategy is already having some success against drugs originating in Afghanistan. The Paris Pact unites more than 50 States and international organizations to counter traffic in and consumption of Afghan opiates.

Regional counternarcotics information-sharing and joint cooperation initiatives like the Triangular Initiative (involving Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan), the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and Operation TARCET (initiative to prevent the smuggling of precursors to Afghanistan) have intercepted and seized tons of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals. Building on the lessons of the Paris Pact, the Group of Eight, under the leadership of the French Presidency, recently launched an initiative to create a unified response to tackle the global cocaine market.

We also must ensure that supply and demand reduction efforts work together rather than in parallel. On the supply side, if we are to make real progress against heroin and cocaine, we must address illicit cultivation in a more meaningful and coordinated way. We have many tools at our disposal, including alternative livelihoods. Governments and aid agencies must invest more in development, productive employment and increased security. Crop eradication can also play a role, as a national responsibility with international support and assistance and in combination with programmes that help farmers shift to the cultivation of licit crops. We must also develop new strategies for preventing the diversion of chemicals that are used to make synthetic 'designer drugs' and to turn coca bush and opium poppies into cocaine and heroin.

On the demand side, there is growing recognition that we must draw a line between *criminals* (drug traffickers) and their *victims* (drug users), and that treatment for drug use offers a far more effective cure than punishment.

We are seeing progress in drug use prevention through family skills training, and more attention is being paid to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care. As an essential part of demand reduction

efforts, we also need to more vigorously raise public awareness about illicit drugs, and facilitate healthy and fulfilling alternatives to drug use, which must not be accepted as a way of life.

Better data and analysis to enrich policy

A lack of comprehensive data continues to obstruct our full understanding of the markets for illicit drugs. The gaps are more prominent in some regions, such as Africa and Asia, and also around new drugs and evolving consumption patterns.

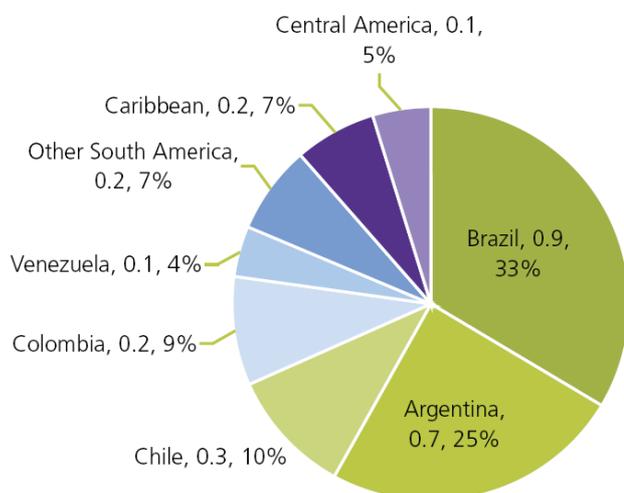
More comprehensive data collection allows for more and better analysis, which in turn enriches our response to the world drug challenge. I urge countries to strengthen their efforts to collect data on illicit drugs, and I encourage donors to support those countries that need assistance in these efforts.

If we can strengthen our research and analysis, we can better understand the drug phenomenon and pinpoint areas where interventions are most likely to achieve positive results.

I would like to thank the teams of skilled surveyors who gather data on cultivation and production levels of illicit crops in the world's major drug-producing regions. The information they collect is of strategic importance to the efforts of both the Governments concerned and the international community to make our societies safer from drugs and organized crime. In addition, their data forms the core of this report. These brave individuals work in challenging and sometimes dangerous conditions. Sadly, in May 2011 a team of UNODC crop surveyors in the Plurinational State of Bolivia lost their lives while on the job. I would like to pay tribute to their courage and commitment, and dedicate this report to their memory.

Fig. 55: Cocaine use in South and Central American and Caribbean countries, in million persons and % of total (N = 2.7 million in 2009)

Source: UNODC ARQ.



from South and Central America (including the Caribbean) is reportedly for cocaine use, while cocaine is also ranked as the number one substance causing drug-induced or related deaths in the subregion.

There is no update on the extent of cocaine use in South and Central America. Argentina (2.6%), Chile (2.4%) and Uruguay (1.4%) remain countries with high prevalence of cocaine use among the general population in these subregions. The three Southern Cone countries, Brazil, Argentina and Chile, together account for more than two thirds of all cocaine users of South America, Central America and the Caribbean. The Caribbean countries account for 7% of the total and Central America for 5%. **(pag. 91)**

REFERENCES TO URUGUAY

COCA/COCAINE MARKET

3.2 Consumption

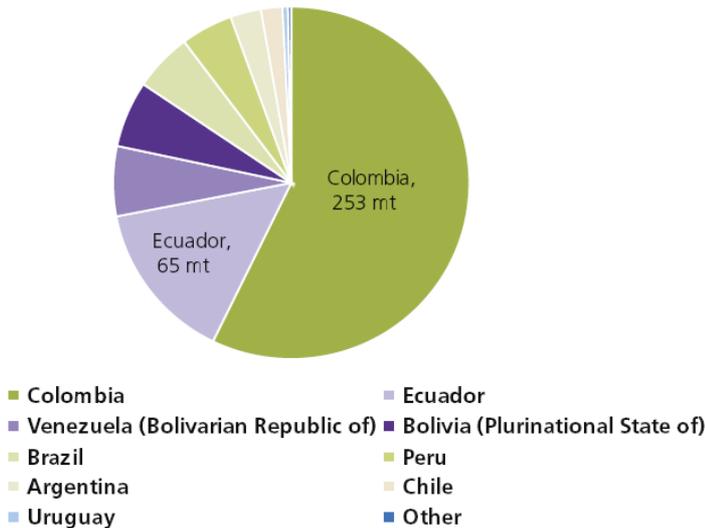
Cocaine use is now generally perceived to be stable in South and Central America

The estimated number of annual cocaine users in South and Central America and the Caribbean ranges between 2.6 and 2.9 million people aged 15-64. Cocaine use in South and Central America remains at levels higher than increases, experts from most of the other South and Central American countries perceived stable trends. Nearly 50% of all treatment demand reported

3.4 Trafficking

Fig. 73: Cocaine seizures in South America, by country, 2009

Source: UNODC DELTA.



cooperation, notably with law enforcement authorities of key countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Spain (Pág. 109)

Americas

In 2008 and 2009, the Americas accounted for more than 90% of global seizures of cocaine, with seizures amounting to 656 mt in 2008 and 673 mt in 2009. The largest seizures continued to be made by Colombia and the United States. Large quantities of cocaine continue to be trafficked from South America to the United States, with Mexico being the key transit country. Over the 2002-2006 period, Colombia and the United States seized similar quantities of cocaine; however, the seizure totals started to diverge in 2007, with Colombia seizing more than twice that seized in the US in 2008 and 2009. This can be attributed to intensified efforts by the Colombian authorities to fight cocaine trafficking and to improved international

Fig. 98: Annual prevalence of amphetamines-group substances use in South America among the population aged 15-64, latest year available

Source: UNODC ARQ.



people in that age group who had used these substances in the previous year. Compared to 2008, most of the countries reporting from the region perceive trends of amphetamine and methamphetamine use as being stable in 2009. Brazil, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and

The ATS Market

4.2 Consumption

Amphetamines-group substance use in South America appears to remain stable

There is no updated information on the prevalence of amphetamines-group substance use in South America. Existing information shows that the annual prevalence of amphetamines-group substance use in South America remains close to the world average, with estimates ranging between 0.5% and 0.7% of the population aged 15-64 or between 1.34 and 1.89 million

Argentina remain countries with a high prevalence and absolute number of users of amphetamine and methamphetamine in South America. (Pag. 133)

In Central and South America, ‘ecstasy’ use remains low in the general population but higher among youth.

There is no update on ‘ecstasy’ use in Central and South America. Available information suggests, however, that the annual prevalence among the general population remains much lower in these subregions than the world average, ranging between 0.1% in Chile and 0.5% in Argentina. El Salvador, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago reported a perceived increase in ‘ecstasy’ use over the past year. As in other countries, information on ‘ecstasy’ use among school children in South and Central America shows much higher prevalence rates than for the general population. The latest information (2008 or 2009) on lifetime prevalence of ‘ecstasy’ shows the prevalence rates ranging from 0.5% in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to 3.7% in Chile. (Pag.142)

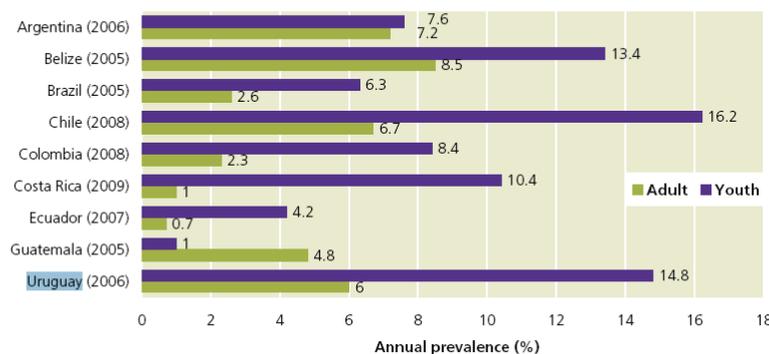
5. THE CANNABIS MARKET

5.2 Consumption

Fig. 146: Annual prevalence of cannabis use among adult and youth* populations in selected countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America

* Youth: Argentina and Uruguay 13-17 years; Belize ages 13,15 and 17; Brazil, Chile and Colombia 15-16 years; Costa Rica grade 10; Ecuador 12-17 years; Guatemala 12-19 years.

Source: UNODC ARQ.



Some countries in South and Central America report increases in cannabis use. Cannabis use patterns and trends in the Caribbean, South and Central America remain unchanged, with the prevalence of cannabis use at comparable levels in these subregions. One third of the countries that reported expert opinions on trends of drug use considered that cannabis

use in their countries had increased. Countries with high prevalence of cannabis use among the adult population in these regions include Argentina, Belize, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile and Guatemala. (pag.181)