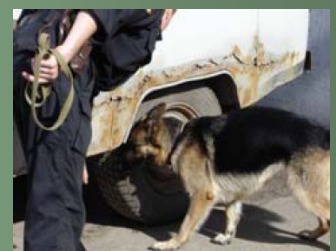




UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Office for Russia and Belarus

THE PARIS PACT INITIATIVE
A partnership to counter traffic in
and consumption of Afghan opiates

Illicit Drug Trends in the Russian Federation



April 2008

Acknowledgments

The Paris Pact Illicit Drug Trends Report for Russia and Belarus was prepared by the Paris Pact National Strategic Analyst of the UNODC Regional Office for Russia and Belarus and benefited from the work and expertise of officials from the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia.

In particular, the following UNODC officials contributed to the preparation of this report: Alexandre Schmidt, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office Russia and Belarus; Vladimir Ibragimov, Paris Pact National Strategic Analyst, Regional Office Russia and Belarus; and Hakan Demirboken, Regional Monitoring Expert for South-West Asia, Research and Analysis Section, Regional Office for Central Asia.

The Paris Pact is an international partnership to combat traffic in and abuse of Afghan opiates. At the first Ministerial Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris in May 2003, more than 60 countries and international organizations agreed to join forces in order to limit the flow of opiates from Afghanistan to and through all countries along the smuggling routes. At the second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan held in Moscow in June 2006 partners reiterated the need for enhanced and coordinated counter narcotics action to reduce opiates trafficking, consumption and related health problems in the region. UNODC is leading the follow-up to these Ministerial Conferences through the Paris Pact Initiative, a project that facilitates periodical consultations at the expert and policy level and also aims to strengthen data collection and analytical capacities in and around Afghanistan. This project also provides partners with the use of a secure, automated internet-based tool for the coordination of technical assistance in the field of counter narcotics (ADAM - www.paris-pact.net).

UNODC would like to thank the European Commission, as well as the Governments of Italy, Russian Federation, Turkey, France, Sweden, USA, Austria and Greece for their financial support to the Paris Pact Initiative in 2007.

This report is based primarily on open sources of information and statistics and briefs from our national Government counterparts, ministries and agencies involved in drug control related activities, to whom UNODC extends special thanks. Information provided by different civil society organizations has also been used in this report.

As the statistical information is often not available until the second half of the following year, this report includes data up to the end of 2006 only. For any questions related to this report, please contact the UNODC Regional Office for Russia and Belarus.

This report is not an official document of the United Nations and it has not been formally edited. The boundaries, names and designations used in this publication do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Acronyms

The following abbreviations have been used in this report:

ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulants. Amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine and related substances) and substances of the ecstasy group (ecstasy, MDMA, MDEA, MDA, etc.)
ARVT	Antiretroviral Therapy
BS	Border Service
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
EU	European Union
FCS	Federal Customs Service
FDCS	Federal Drug Control Service
FSS	Federal Security Service
g	Gram
IDU	Intravenous (Injecting) Drug Use
kg	Kilogram
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MT	Metric Tons
RORB	Regional Office for Russia and Belarus
RUR	Rouble
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
THC	Tetrahydrocannabinol
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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Summary

In terms of drug seizures and arrests, the Russian Federation experienced significant changes in overall drug trends in 2006. For example, the weight of heroin seizures increased by almost two times while the weight of seizures for opium has practically not changed. The weight of cocaine seizures however increased by almost six times and there is increasing concern among law enforcement agents that Russia could experience a dramatic increase in cocaine abuse in the next two years or so. At almost USD150 per gram, many more affluent young people (the so-called “golden youth”) will undoubtedly be drawn to this drug. As far as heroin is concerned, figures from medical institutes in charge of treatment of drug addicts and law enforcement agencies report the average price for 1 gram of heroin sold in the streets of Moscow at USD 40.

Russia now has a 1 percent HIV prevalence rate among its young people and the fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in the world. While the epidemic is still predominantly fuelled by injecting drug users and confined to their ranks, there are clear signs that the epidemic continues to spread to the general population, especially the youth.

Drug abuse prevalence rates, although decreasing according to official statistics, appear to be higher than those in European countries.

Drug trafficking remains one of the most profitable criminal activities and ensnares a growing number of young people. Their involvement can be attributed to the high numbers of people living in impoverished conditions and the climate of economic uncertainty. The number of women and young people prosecuted for drug crimes continues to increase – 15.9 percent and 3.5 percent respectively for 2006.

Drug trafficking networks continue to exploit porous borders and their activities are often facilitated by corrupt officials - many of whom are law enforcement agents. Worryingly, there is good intelligence to show that drug trafficking networks, whether wittingly or unwittingly, are ready to work with individuals and groups linked to international terrorism.

Unsurprisingly, the trafficking in opium and heroin from Afghanistan through the Central Asian states remains the main cause for concern among Russian officials. However, the Russian authorities are becoming increasingly concerned about the rise in trafficking of synthetic drugs, particularly the amphetamine type, from the Baltic States, the Netherlands, Germany and a number of Eastern European countries. Overall, there is good intelligence to suggest that drug trafficking networks are becoming more resilient to law enforcement tactics and that they are increasing their geographical coverage. As in other countries, drug traffickers have no qualms about exploiting poor and otherwise vulnerable people to act as couriers. Foreign nationals, facing acute financial hardship, are often recruited by drug traffickers. In 2006 for example, the Russian law enforcement agencies arrested more than 3,000 foreign nationals (mostly from Tajikistan, Ukraine and Azerbaijan) suspected of drug trafficking crimes in Russia. There is a risk that the arrest of large numbers of foreign nationals for drug trafficking fuels nationalistic fervour and spawns racism.

The Russian law enforcement agencies, whilst continuing to improve their detection capabilities, reflected in the increasing number of covert drug operations, arrests and significant drug seizures, are confronted with a certain level corruption and inter-agency rivalry. Some lack of coordination between the Russian Law Enforcement Agencies (Federal Drug Control Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federal Security Service and the Federal Customs Service), can hamper the implementation of efficient, comprehensive and integrated counter narcotics law enforcement efforts. In addition, there is still evidence of some reluctance among the key law enforcement agencies to exploit new technologies.

Some minor changes to the 1996 Criminal Code introduced in 2006 sought to place more emphasis on the pursuit of drug traffickers rather than drug users. However, it remains to be seen if these changes influence operational practices.

A welcome change to the law relating to drug propaganda, introduced in 2004, which is intended to support HIV prevention efforts, is in the process of being strengthened by the introduction of Federal Instructions and it is pleasing to report that the Federal Drug Control Service (FDCS) has asked Regional Office for Russia and Belarus (RORB) to help draft the Instructions. Russia continues to maintain its active position vis-à-vis international efforts to counter drug trafficking and takes a leading role in the Paris Pact meetings, Central Asia Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) conference, and other initiatives.

In terms of policy development, while Russia developed a Federal targeted programme to counter drug abuse, a comprehensive and well resourced national plan against drug abuse, drug trafficking and crime is still pending. Furthermore, the lack of effective coordination between law enforcement and social agencies, and the lack of complex and multi-disciplinary approaches, especially to drug demand reduction, treatment and rehabilitation and HIV/AIDS prevention, still needs to be addressed.

Finally, countering drug trafficking is a common interest and requires regional cooperation to address a major global problem that damages health, prosperity and security. The relationship between Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, and in particular with the Central Asian States, remains essential for combating drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism. Russia continues to maintain an active position vis-à-vis international efforts to counter drug trafficking and takes a leading role in the Paris Pact process. In the same context, UNODC's Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) initiative to improve information sharing and law enforcement cooperation among the countries of the region, represents a significant tool in the struggle against trafficking of drugs and precursor chemicals. Russia becoming a signatory to the CARICC agreement would contribute to enhanced and effective synergy of efforts for the setting-up of internationally accepted standards in the region for the exchange of strategic and tactical information among all concerned participants.

Heroin/Opium

Seizure/Trafficking

The illicit trafficking and abuse of opiates are matters of immense concern to the Russian government. Indeed, many law enforcement officers hold the view that both traffickers in opiates and opiate addicts pose a major threat to state security.

In every region of Russia, opiates are readily available at a relatively low cost. It is estimated that more than 90 percent of opiates are smuggled to Russia from Afghanistan and other Central Asian States. Availability and accessibility of opiates are determined by the following:

- porous borders (particularly the Russian-Kazakh border);
- the massive increase in cargo and passenger traffic means border guards are overwhelmed
- high levels of poverty affecting people in Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries mean that traffickers have no difficulty in recruiting couriers;
- the fact that traffickers hold the view that the Russian heroin market is far from the point of saturation;
- traffickers operating in Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries recognize the fact that the Russian market is more lucrative than local ones – the price of heroin in Russia is 15 – 20 times higher than in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and;
- heroin trafficking is further fuelled by organized crime groups and terrorists networks bartering “heroin for weapons”.

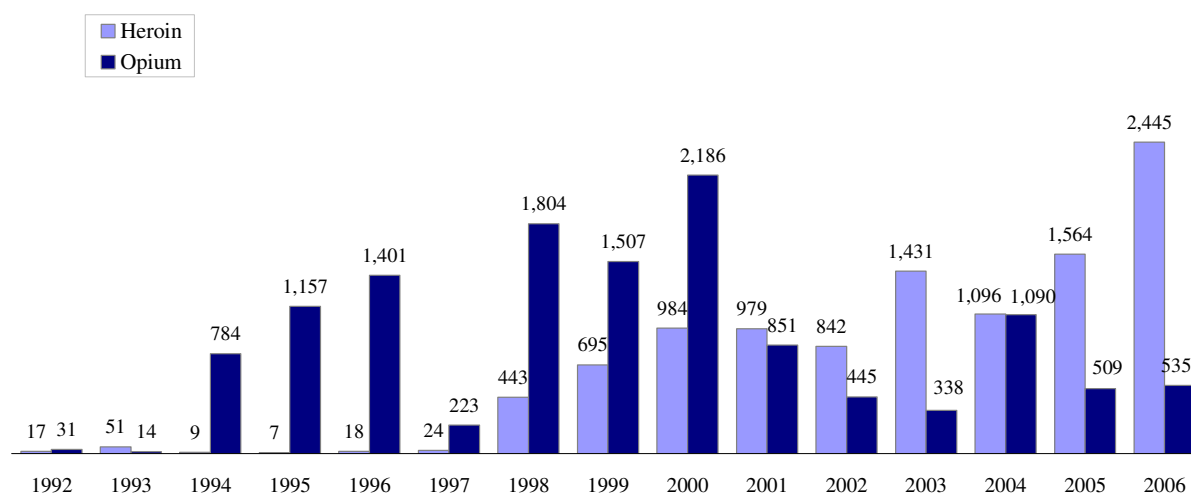
The trafficking in opiates, especially heroin, remains highly profitable and attracts an ever-increasing number of criminals prepared to turn their hand to this trade.

As a rule these groups are very difficult to infiltrate given that many are made up of family and extended family members. Language barriers also make it difficult for covert agents to infiltrate these groups. The major trafficking groups comprise Tajiks and Azeri nationals. Russian gypsies are also dominant in many Russian cities. Russian organized crime groups provide protection to drug trafficking networks in exchange for a share of the proceeds.

One of the major concerns is the continuing deterioration of security on the Tajik-Afghan border following the withdrawal of the Russian border guards from the region. The situation on the Russian-Kazakh border also gives rise to concern given the fact that the major trafficking routes of Afghan heroin go through the Russian-Kazakh border - and the number of border guards is insufficient to counter the activities of such traffickers.

The proportion of heroin and opium seizures has increased every year since 1999 and seizures of these two drugs increased from 38 percent in 2005 to 67 percent in 2006. At the same time, the number of significant heroin and opium seizures (according to UNODC classification) has also increased.

1992-2006: Opiates Seizures in the Russian Federation (kg)



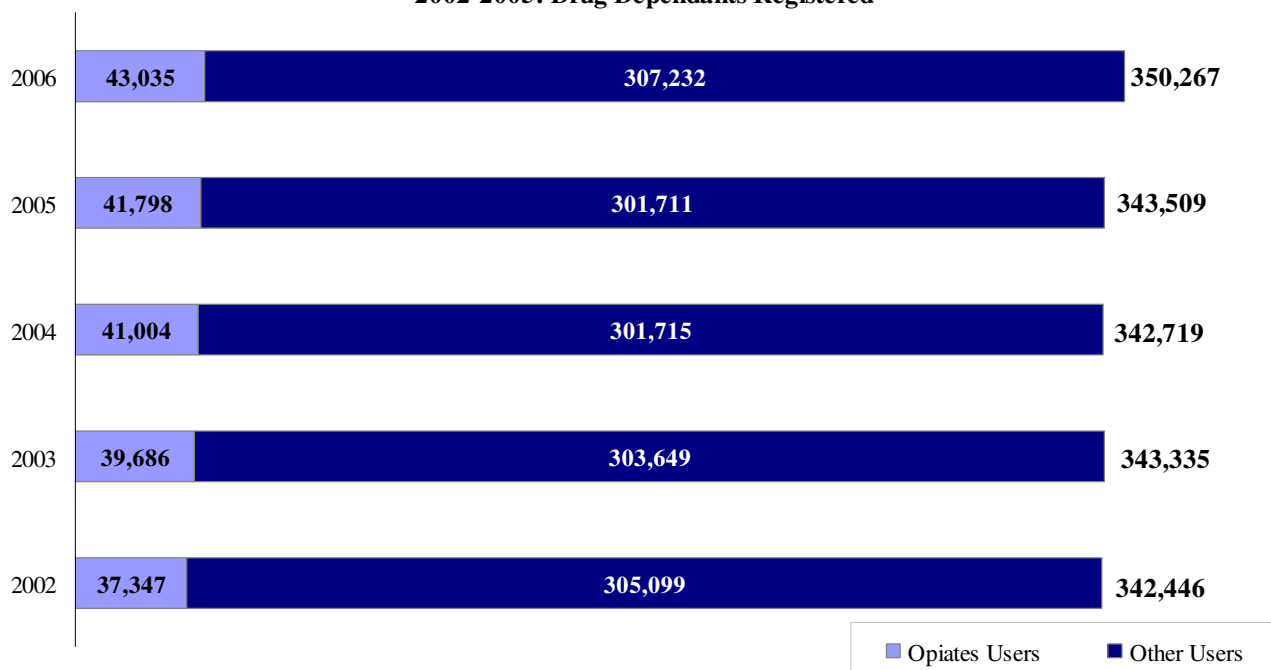
Source: UNODC

In the last few years, some regions in Russia (Voronezh, Krasnodar and Sakhalin) have witnessed an increase in the abuse of poppy seed concoctions derived from market poppy seeds used in bakery and confectionary.

Abuse

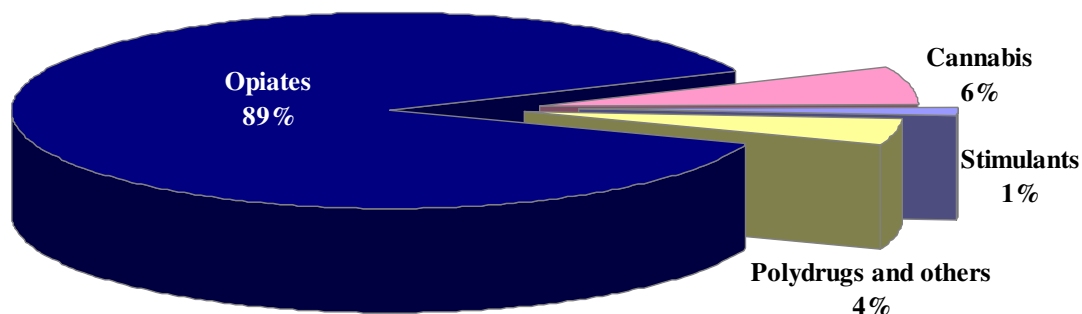
The level of drug abuse in the Russian Federation remains high and according to official statistics of the Russian Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development, the number of registered users of illicit drugs is more than half a million (517,389), including 350,267 (67 percent) registered with medical establishments as drug dependants. The majority of registered drug users are opiate abusers and is estimated at over 300,000 people.

2002-2005: Drug Dependants Registered



Some Experts from the Ministry of Internal Affairs believe that around 4 million people are using illicit drugs. Some of these experts also believe that most abusers are using opiates, however population data suggests that cannabis is the most prevalent drug. According to the experts' estimates the number of drug addicts in Russia during the last decade has increased by more than 9 times.

2006: Drug Users Registered (by Drug Type)



The growing number of young people abusing drugs is a serious concern. Worryingly, the overwhelming majority of drug addicts are between 18 – 30 years old. Many of them are unemployed, have a chronic history of offending and commit a large number of crimes to finance their addiction. As is the case in many other countries, the so-called 'dark figure' of crime – the mismatch between crime estimates produced by victimization surveys and those recorded by the police - is a well-known

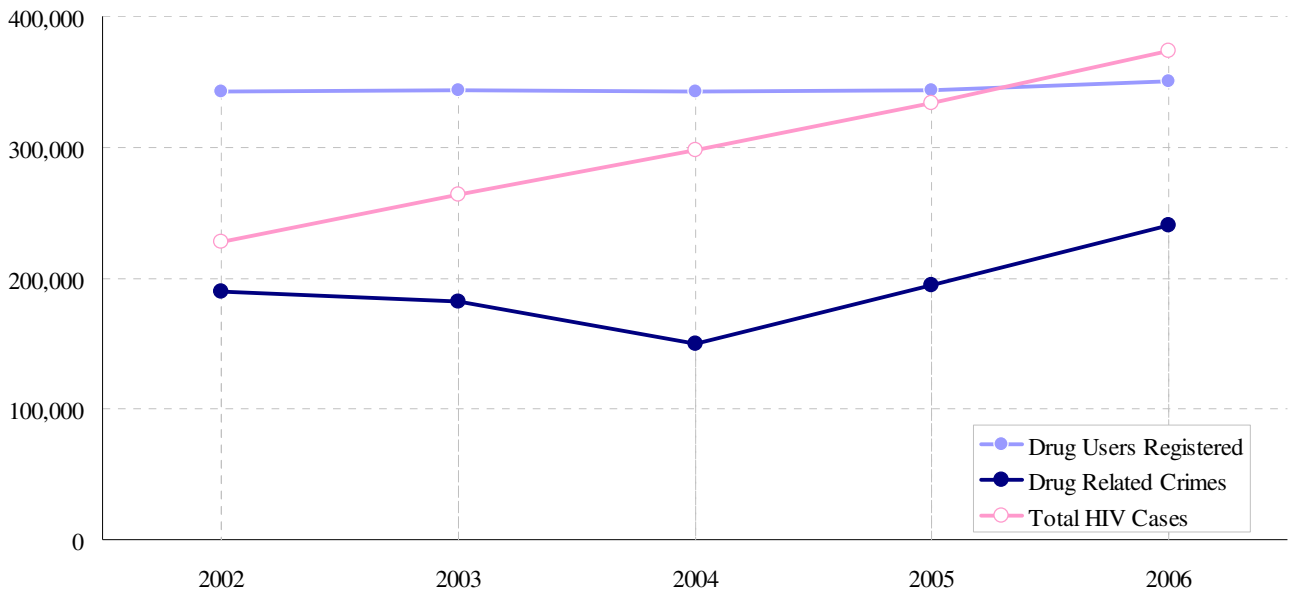
concept in Russia and most commentators agree that a relatively small number of opiate addicts are responsible for a staggering amount of acquisitive and violent crime. In this context it is worth noting that the Russian police registered around 12,000 crimes (of which 63 percent were rated as serious or extremely serious) which had been committed by offenders whilst they were suffering drug intoxication.

The increase in drug abuse amongst otherwise law-abiding people, particularly adolescents, is causing a good deal of concern. Over the last few years, more and more young people have become ensnared in the cycle of drug abuse and crime. In 2006, more than 3,000 adolescents committed drug related crimes. Of these, some 845 cases involved the distribution of drugs. Young people's increasing willingness to abuse drugs which too often leads to addiction, prostitution and homelessness, poses a real threat to community safety.

Over the past decade, the average age of "first use" dropped from 17 to 14 years. In recent surveys, conducted amongst young drug abusers, the majority of respondents (over 80 percent) cite the following factors as influencing their decision to first use drugs: curiosity, peer pressure/acceptance, "brotherhood", poor parental control, and a belief that parents and/or teachers fail to pay them sufficient attention. There is also a noticeable change in the social profile of young drug abusers - more and more of them come from well-to-do families.

In response to these disturbing trends, the Mayor of Moscow has recently called for the introduction of mandatory drug testing of all school and university students. Whether one applauds or rejects his suggestions depends very much on how such programmes would work in practice. Certainly, programmes of this nature are costly, intrusive, and legally complex. Moreover, in the Russian context, such programmes could easily trigger corrupt practices amongst students, parents and staff in schools and universities.

2002-2006: Drug Related Crime, Drug Abuse and HIV Trends

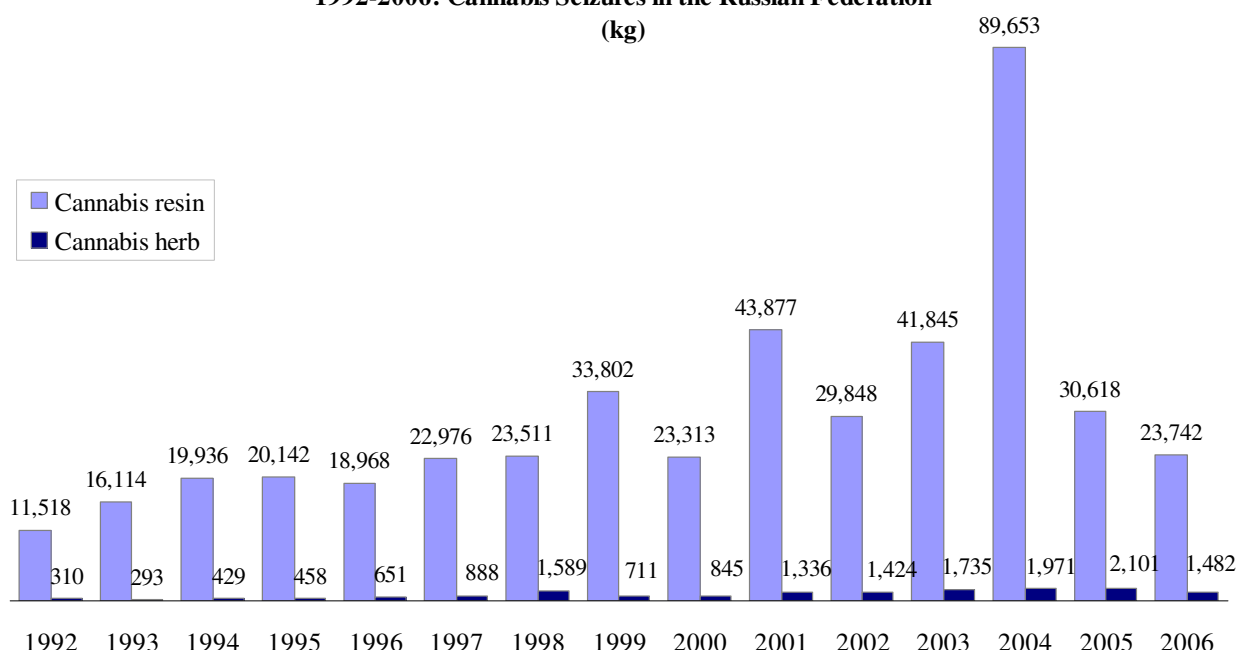


Cannabis

Seizure/Trafficking

The widespread trafficking of cannabis continues unabated. The trafficking is fuelled by the fact that cannabis grows wild in a number of regions in Russia and so is readily available. Indeed, the Russian Federation and neighbouring Kazakhstan contain the world's largest areas of wild cannabis and the Russian authorities estimate that production of wild cannabis in Russia is around one million (1,000,000) hectares. Depending on the climate conditions, one hectare of cannabis may produce up to 1 million seeds with 5-8 years of reproduction cycle. The THC content of cannabis differs in different regions but tends not to exceed 5 percent. Since 1992, cannabis seizures steadily increased 8 times and reached 89.7 tons in 2004. However, seizures sharply decreased almost threefold in 2005 (30.6 tons) and continued to decrease in 2006 (23.7 tons).

1992-2006: Cannabis Seizures in the Russian Federation (kg)



Abuse

In keeping with global trends, cannabis abuse still remains the “drug of choice” for the majority of abusers and seizures of cannabis rank first among the total volume of seized illicit drugs in Russia (more than 70 percent).

Cannabis is abused by many people regardless of their income, education and social standing. Since 2002 the number of Cannabis abusers (19,211) has remained more or less stable and constitutes 22,528 addicts in 2006. There is an increase in the number of cases of cannabis cultivation in domestic green houses.

The growing abuse of cannabis is at least in part fuelled by publications, films and internet sites which often promote the drug as “safe” or “soft”.

Synthetic drugs

The illicit manufacturing of synthetic drugs remains one of the major concerns. A thriving chemical industry, often lacking sufficient regulatory control, means that precursor chemicals are easily obtained by Russian criminals and are used in the production of synthetic drugs for both the domestic and foreign markets. The current trend seems to be that precursors used in the production of ATS are trafficked to European countries whilst precursors used in the production of heroin, are trafficked to Asia.

In terms of domestic production, so-called “kitchen labs”, still prevail. The majority of these laboratories produce relatively small amounts of pervitine (ATS) for local consumption. This drug is widely abused and in terms of injecting users, is second only to heroin and other opiates.

In 2006, there were 1,486 registered cases of illicit production of drugs (+14 percent compared to 2005). The main types of drugs illicitly produced in clandestine labs are amphetamines, methamphetamines, 3-methylfentanyl, and phencyclidine. It is rather reassuring to report that there are very few cases when illicit synthetic drugs were produced in laboratories at industrial facilities and most of the clandestine laboratories are either the “kitchen labs”, described above, or otherwise small scale, rudimentary enterprises.

The increase in the spread of ATS in Russia is determined by the following factors:

- relatively low prices;
- strong and rapid-acting stimulating effect;
- “recreational” character;
- long-term intoxication;
- easy to consume;
- signs of intoxication difficult to detect;
- if taken intranasal, the risks of HIV infection and other infectious diseases is markedly reduced;
- some types are easily manufactured in “kitchen labs”.

All these factors help to explain the popularity and prevalence of ATS among young people. Most illicit ATS users do not have any criminal records or convictions.

The types of ATS that are most commonly used are: ecstasy (MDMA, MDEA, MDA), methamphetamines, amphetamines, phencyclidine, fentanyl and 3-methylfentanyl. There are also some other types of so-called designer drugs that do not always fall under officially accepted drug classification.

Unlike in the 1990s when the majority of ATS seizures occurred in Moscow and St. Petersburg and a couple of other large cities, nowadays around half of the regions of the Russian Federation have thriving ATS drug markets. Taking into account the current situation and trends one can predict a sharp increase of ATS spreading throughout Russia.

Special concern is caused by such dangerous synthetic drugs as 3-methylfentanyl, also known as “China White” or “Crocodile”, which is a derivative of fentanyl and is about 300 times stronger than heroin. The cities mostly affected by “China White” are St. Petersburg, Archangelsk, Murmansk, Novgorod, Pskov, Moscow, Bryansk, Ivanovo, Kostroma, Ryazan, Smolensk, Tier, Tula, Yaroslavl, and Nizhny Novgorod.

Major Drug and Precursor Trafficking Roads

One of the peculiar features of the current situation in the Russian Federation is an increasing trend of illicit drug trafficking from abroad. International drug trafficking networks are becoming more audacious and active and while increasing numbers of traffickers operating at the retail level are arrested and convicted, the major players continue to elude arrest.

Most of the traditional trafficking routes remain the same. Opiates originating in Afghanistan are smuggled to the Russian domestic market and then on to Europe via the Central Asian states. In general, the transportation of illicit drugs is split into several phases. First, one group controls the transportation of drugs from Afghanistan to Tajikistan from where the consignment is sold to a wholesale buyer – a member of a local drug trafficking group. This group will have strong ties with Russian organized crime groups or drug trafficking networks. Second, the consignment is loaded on to different trucks and is usually concealed among legitimate cargo, such as fruits or vegetables. The trucks then head for Russia via the Kazakh-Russian border. Third, once the consignment has reached Russian territory, it is reloaded onto different trucks and the manifests are destroyed or altered in an effort to disguise the origin of the goods or produce which would attract the suspicions of Russian law enforcement agencies.

While check points staffed with border guards, police and customs officers operate at official entry points at the Kazakh-Russia border, the length of the border and the limited number of law enforcement agents available does not allow for an effective control over the numerous illegal entry points and makes the Kazakh-Russia border porous. This situation is fully exploited by the drug traffickers whose activities are often facilitated by corrupt officials, many of whom are law enforcement agents.

Recently, drug traffickers have adopted more sophisticated methods of concealment: sliding double walls in containers and trucks, as well as false floors and roofs in trucks. These false compartments which are often operated by remote control are installed by specialist vehicle repairers.

It is also worth noting that after the withdrawal of the Russian Border Guards from Tajikistan in 2005, the seizures of opiates have dramatically decreased in all Central Asian States.

Given the huge increase in opium production in Afghanistan, the so-called Silk Route is becoming more and more attractive for the drug traffickers.

Major heroin trafficking routes from Central Asia lead to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Saratov, Yekaterinburg, as well as the other large cities of Volga Region and Siberia. These locations are not only destination points but also serve as a transshipment point for further shipments to other destinations in Russia and in Europe.

Map: Drug Trafficking Routes from Central Asia to the Russian Federation: Air Routes



Map: Drug Trafficking Routes from Central Asia to the Russian Federation: Rail Roads



Map: Drug Trafficking Routes from Central Asia to the Russian Federation: Automobile Roads



Trafficking routes to the Far East are becoming more active, as evidenced by the recent increasing detection rates of heroin consignments. Given the improvement in transportation systems in general and the near-completion of the Trans-Siberian motorway in particular, as well as the recent fall in the price of heroin in this region, there is every reason to believe heroin markets in the Far East will continue to flourish.

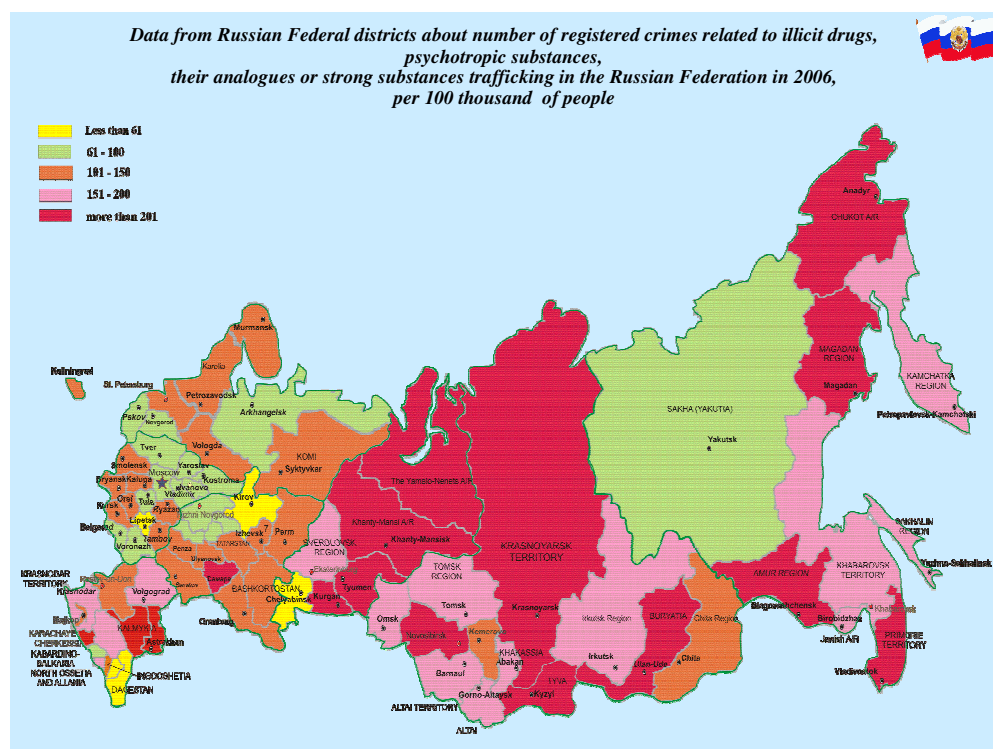
Drug related crimes/offences

There were more than 240,000 drug crimes (acquisition, sale, manufacture etc.) registered by the Russian law enforcement agencies in 2006 - a 23 percent increase over 2005.

Most of the crimes were committed in the large cities and industrial centres such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Krasnodar, Kemerovo, Samara and Rostov. All these regions are located along the major drug trafficking routes.

The number of crimes classified as “serious” and “extremely serious” has increased by 13 percent (from 134,988 cases in 2005 to 152,824 cases in 2006), although the overall number of drug crimes dropped by 5 percent (from 77 percent in 2005 to 72 percent in 2006). However, the definition of an “extremely serious crime” includes those cases where the offender has been arrested for possession of more than 2.5 grams of heroin.

Map: Number of registered crimes relate illicit drugs in Russian Federation, 2006



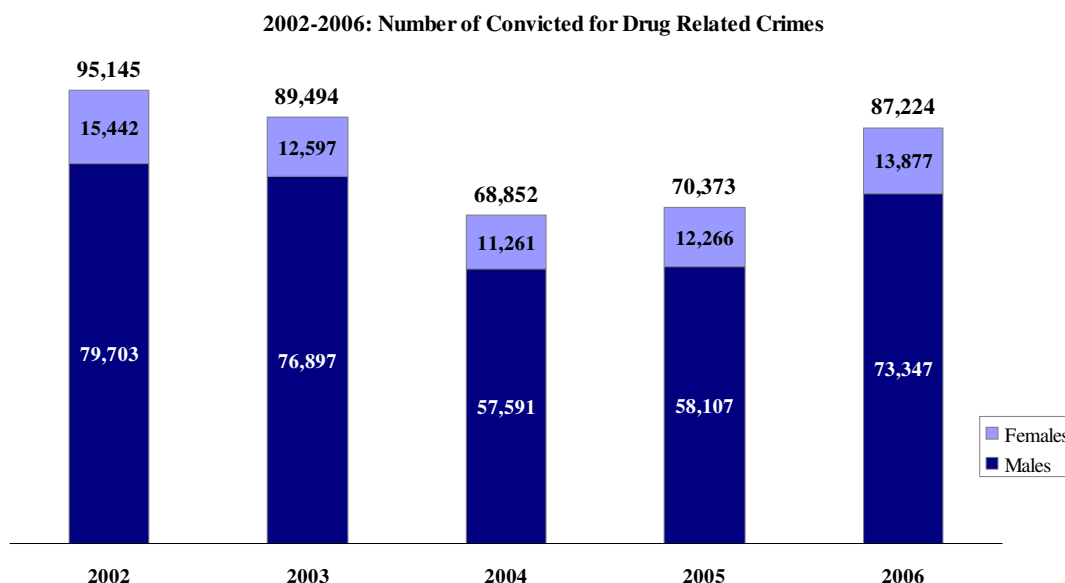
A similar trend is observed in drug trafficking cases where the number of these crimes increased by 12 percent in 2006 (100,000 cases in 2005 to 123,000 cases in 2006). However, in the context of all drug crimes, the proportion of drug trafficking cases actually declined by 5 percent (from 63 percent in 2005 to 58 percent in 2006).

Organized criminal groups have become more dominant in drug trafficking and Tajik and Azeri criminals, together with Russian gypsies, continue to play a leading role in controlling drug markets at both wholesale and retail levels. In general, organized crime groups are well-resourced in terms of finances and staff, use sophisticated technical communication systems, employ counter-surveillance methods and invest a lot of time and money in intelligence-gathering activities. For their part, drug

trafficking groups are actively involved in the gathering and exchange of information pertaining to the production of synthetic drugs. In this respect, they are increasingly gleaning information from internet sites.

In 2006, Russian law enforcement agents investigated a number of cases where drug traffickers used on-line banking to procure precursor chemicals and manufacturing equipment. Fortunately, agents were able to arrest those involved before they had the chance to manufacture and distribute illicit drugs.

Eighty-seven thousand people were arrested for drug related crimes in 2006 – an increase of 24 percent over 2005.

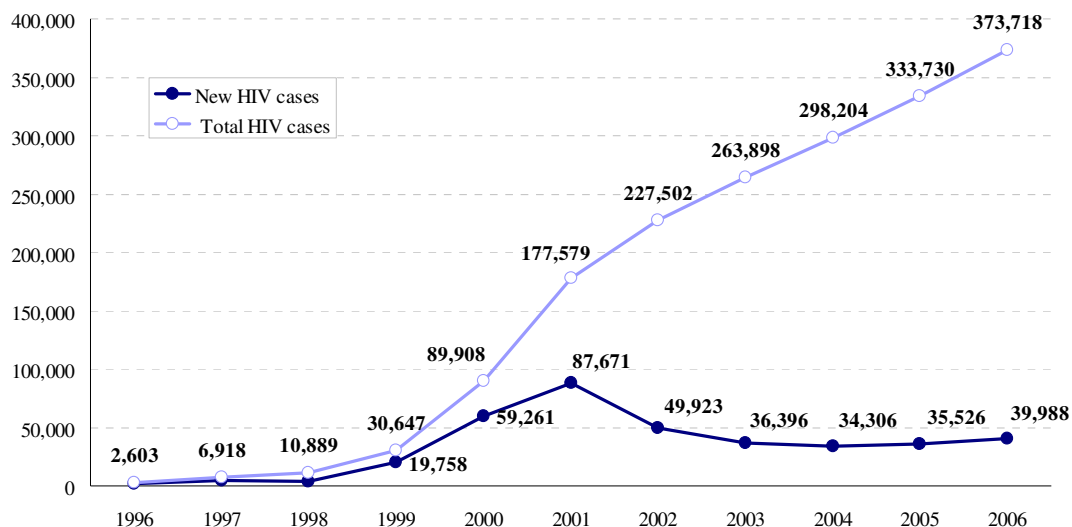


The increase in arrests and the fact that more traffickers are being prosecuted suggests that the Russian law enforcement agencies are becoming more effective. It is certainly the case that they are carrying out more covert operations directed against organized criminal groups and drug trafficking networks.

HIV/AIDS

The HIV epidemic in the Russian Federation continues to grow. Almost 40,000 new HIV cases were reported in 2006 bringing to nearly 373 718 the total number of infections documented since the epidemic began.

1006-2006: New and Total HIV cases



Young people between the age of 15-24 are particularly affected, forming 55 percent of all registered HIV cases and demonstrating HIV prevalence rate of 1 percent. However, the Federal AIDS Centre estimates the total number of HIV cases at about one million. Despite the fact that the (hetero)sexual transmission of HIV has increased steadily over the past five years, the epidemic is still predominantly attributable to injecting drug use (66 percent of the registered cases in 2006). According to the Federal Penitentiary Service, about 10 percent of all people living with HIV in Russia are prison inmates; they in turn form 4.7 percent of all prison populations in the country. Global research shows that Russia is confronted with the fastest growing epidemic in the world.

According to the Ministry of Health and Social Development, 14,433 people living with HIV received treatment.

Results

Taking into account of recent seizure and arrest data and intelligence reports from Russian law enforcement agencies, drug trafficking continues to pose significant problems for the Russian government. These problems are compounded by the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan which is making it almost impossible for law enforcement agencies operating in that country to bring about significant reductions in the production of opium. Bumper harvests of opium in recent years have meant that cheap heroin is readily available in all regions in Russia. In turn, the availability of cheap heroin has swelled the ranks of injecting drug users in Russia many of whom have contracted HIV or other life-threatening infectious diseases. The availability of cheap heroin has also contributed to an increase in the number of registered violent and property crimes.

The ongoing problems in Afghanistan have had a knock-on effect in the Central Asian States, where the abuse and trafficking of relatively cheap heroin is destabilizing communities.

Against this backdrop, it is difficult to be anything other than pessimistic when it comes to forecasting what the future holds for Russia vis-à-vis heroin abuse and trafficking.

Certainly, within the next two to three years Russia is likely to see an upsurge in the number of heroin addicts and the number of young people infected with HIV. In addition, the country is likely to experience the following:

1. An increase in the proportion of adolescent heroin addicts;
2. An increase in the number of young people using cocaine and other stimulants;
3. An increase in the rate of acquisitive crimes committed by young heroin and cocaine addicts;
4. More vociferous calls from Members of Parliament and regional administrations for the introduction of harsh criminal justice measures e.g. increased police powers, longer prison sentences, police crackdowns directed against organized drug trafficking ethnic groups, the introduction of mandatory drug testing for pupils and students, and compulsory drug treatment;
5. A growth in the number of ethnic organized crime groups and drug trafficking networks operating in major cities. These groups and networks will have interregional and international connections;
6. An increase in the number of drug traffickers with the capacity and willingness to exploit the latest communication technologies, on-line banking facilities, to employ sophisticated counter-intelligence tactics (including the infiltration of law enforcement agencies), and to try to corrupt ever-increasing numbers of officials as a means for acquiring protection from arrest and prosecution;
7. An increase in the number of those people with low level incomes (students, jobless youth in the cities and unemployed workers in small towns and rural areas, conscripts etc.) in "street level" drug trafficking;
8. An increase in the number of companies legally established by drug trafficking groups with the aim of financing drug trafficking operations and laundering the proceeds;
9. An increase in the number of clandestine laboratories producing synthetic drugs;
10. An increase in the number of cocaine and ATS seizures;
11. An increase in the seizures of drugs transiting Russia from Central Asia to Europe.
12. Growing violent rivalry among international drug cartels for the burgeoning drug markets in Russia and other CIS countries.
13. A slow down of the implementation of effective control measures at the borders with CIS countries due to bureaucratic procedures and over-complicated regulations pertaining to the creation of CIS Customs Union.



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