

To support countries in addressing the ongoing synthetic opioids crisis affecting mainly North America, with fentanyl and its analogues, and parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East with tramadol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched an integrated strategy in June 2018.

The UNODC Opioid Strategy is a five-pillar, integrated, inter-agency response to the global opioid crisis. Led by UNODC, the Strategy integrates the unique expertise housed within the Office with complimentary specialized knowledge across the UN system.



## Pillar 1 - Early warning and trend analysis

The first pillar of the UNODC Opioid Strategy brings together its main research activities to generate evidence in support of effective policy decisions and operational responses.

Current trends on synthetic drugs, including opioids, are monitored, analysed and reported on through the Global Synthetic Monitoring Analysis Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme and the UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on new psychoactive substances (NPS). Additionally, the annual UNODC flagship World Drug Report provides comprehensive research and summaries on the nature and extent of the non-medical use of opioids.

To enhance the understanding of the threats posed by fentanyl and its analogues as well as other synthetic drugs, UNODC is releasing a biannual publication, the Global SMART Update. Organizations such as the World Health Organization, International Narcotics Control Board and World Customs Organization have arrangements for data sharing with UNODC.

Moreover, the UNODC Early Warning Advisory on NPS, an online tool developed in collaboration with The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) collects data on toxicology and harm related to the use of NPS at a global level and publishes situation analysis reports on NPS twice a year.



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