

UNODC OPIOID STRATEGY

Recent years have seen a sharp rise globally in opioid overdose deaths. Currently, the majority of the world burden of disease caused by drug use disorders is attributable to opioid use. In this regard, UNODC launched a five-pillar strategy to support countries grappling with the opioid crisis.

It focuses on:

Pillar 1 → early warning and trend analysis

Pillar 2 → medical and scientific use of opioids

Pillar 3 → prevention and treatment of opioid use disorders

Pillar 4 → international law enforcement operations to disrupt illicit trafficking of opioids

Pillar 5 → strengthening national and international counter-narcotics capacity

Highlights

JUNE Vienna

Pillar 1: 2018 World Drug Report describes the nature and extent of the crisis now affecting mainly North America and parts of Africa and Middle East, but threatens to spread more widely.

 **Launch** of the five-pillar UNODC Opioid Strategy to deal with the deadly global opioid crisis.

JULY Montevideo

Pillar 1 and Pillar 4: Activities to support the development of Early Warning Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean in partnership with the Organization of American States (OAS).

AUGUST Abuja

Pillar 2: Supporting authorities in West Africa to ensure access to opioids for medical use while preventing abuse.

 **Branding** the Opioid Strategy: Logo and Slogan.

SEPTEMBER Geneva

Pillar 5: Addressing the challenges of non-medical use of opioids at the Fifth UNODC WHO Expert Consultation New Psychoactive Substances.

 **Introducing** the UNODC Opioid Strategy and its new branding in Geneva and via social media → over **1,200** views and with a reach of over **6,200** people. Total social media reach in September: **28,000** (Facebook and Twitter).

OCTOBER Panama

Pillar 2 & 3: Improving access to controlled medicines is key for pain management. Health-care providers like nurses, physicians and pharmacists participated in a multi-day training and exchanged information on how to increase access to controlled medicines.

 **Promoting** the branding of the UNODC Opioid Strategy via social media and on the corporate website. Total social media reach in October: **23,000** (Facebook and Twitter).

NOVEMBER Panama

Pillar 1 & 4: Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officers and forensic scientists from 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries to identify and detect drugs using modern technology.

 **Promoting** the work of UNODC in response to the opioid crisis via social media. Total reach in November: **55,000** (Facebook and Twitter).

DECEMBER Vienna

Pillar 5: Intergovernmental expert group meeting on international challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids.

 **Promoting** the intergovernmental meeting via social media (videos) and web page (web story and newsletter summarizing the highlights of the meeting).

PREDICT
PREVENT
PROTECT