



E. AHAMED MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE INDIA 2025

Unity Transcending Boundaries: Patching Together the Global Mosaic

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Agenda:

*"Combating Organized Crime and Drug Distribution:
Tackling Evolving Threats and their Impact on Youth"*

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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About the Committee

The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** is a specialised agency within the United Nations that focuses on **addressing issues related to drugs, crime, and terrorism**. Formed in 1997 by combining the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC has a crucial role in promoting international cooperation and implementing effective strategies to tackle these challenges.



Headquartered in **Vienna**, UNODC operates through numerous field offices globally, partnering with member states to develop programs aimed at enhancing justice, security, and health. Its initiatives are based on international treaties and conventions, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Mission and Mandate-

UNODC's mission is broad and impactful, focusing on promoting the rule of law, protecting human rights, and strengthening criminal justice systems. The organisation works to reduce the supply and demand for illicit drugs, fight human trafficking, address cybercrime, and implement effective crime prevention measures.



Collaborative Efforts and Global Impact

UNODC collaborates with governments, international bodies, civil society, and the private sector to develop and implement policies that address the root causes and effects of crime and drug-related problems. It provides technical assistance, conducts research, and promotes international standards and best practices.

UNODC's comprehensive approach includes supporting law enforcement, enhancing judicial and prosecutorial capabilities, and promoting community-based interventions. It also highlights the importance of public health strategies in addressing drug dependence and advocates for alternative development programs in regions affected by illegal crop cultivation.

Key Initiatives and Programs

UNODC's work is organised into several key areas:

1. **Countering Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking:** Targeting criminal networks involved in drug trafficking, human trafficking, and smuggling of migrants.
2. **Preventing Terrorism:** Supporting member states with legislative and capacity-building initiatives to prevent and counter-terrorism.
3. **Addressing Corruption:** Enhancing transparency, accountability, and integrity in both public and private sectors.
4. **Justice Reform and Crime Prevention:** Strengthening legal frameworks and institutions to improve justice delivery and crime prevention.
5. **Health and Alternative Development:** Tackling the health impacts of drug abuse and supporting sustainable development in regions affected by illegal drug cultivation.



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

E.A.HAMED
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FREEDOM FROM FEAR

INTRODUCTION

Organized crime and drug distribution have posed serious threats to global peace and security. Transnational organized crime and conflict promote one another, weakening the legitimacy and efficacy of state institutions, weakening the rule of law, and upending law enforcement systems. These growing threats represent serious challenges to the stability of society and economic expansion, and especially the welfare of the younger generation.

One of the most profitable and widespread activities of organized crime groups is the trafficking of illegal drugs. The large and dynamic nature of the global drug market is characterized by the way that production, distribution, and consumption patterns change in response to economic reasons, law enforcement actions, and market demand. They are produced in large quantities in regions like Oceania, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.



Drug distribution feeds the cycle of violence and corruption in addition to providing funding for illegal activities. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have highlighted how corruption causes poverty by discouraging foreign investment and increasing the level of income inequality, which in turn is known to encourage drug consumption and fuel more corruption and instability.



Organized crime was primarily a domestic process in the late 1960s, a shift took place in the early 1990s. A newly globalized global economy, a changed geopolitical environment, softer borders between nations and technological advancements all contributed to the transformation of crime groups from domestic, hierarchically structured entities into global, transnational

"organizations" that networked with other groups. This led to the transformation of organized crime into a global issue. Criminal organizations started to appear in several nations in an effort to increase their wealth, influence, and power. They network across continents and even with one another, taking advantage of global criminal and illicit marketplaces for fresh possibilities to effectively avoid detection. led to the transformation of organized crime into a global issue. Criminal organizations started to appear in several nations in an effort to increase their wealth, influence, and power. They network across continents and even with one another, taking advantage of global criminal and illicit marketplaces for fresh possibilities to effectively avoid detection.

1. The Nexus of Organised Crime

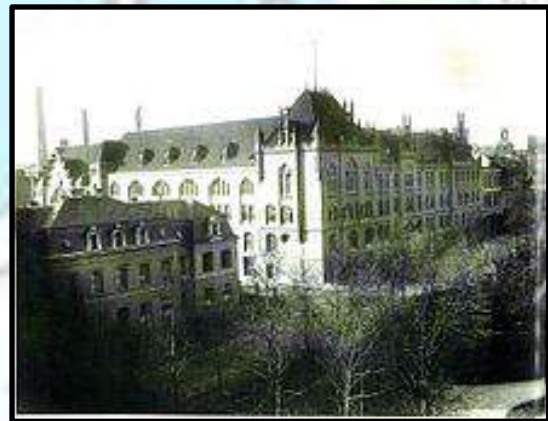
Organized crime are a sophisticated and adaptable network of illegal activities. Key activities include drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, organized crime and arms smuggling. The economic and social impacts are profound, affecting government revenues, business environments, public health, community safety. Drug distribution represents one of the most lucrative and complex aspects of organized crime.

1. Cartels and Syndicates:

Mexican Cartels: Groups like the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels dominate the trade, controlling vast production and distribution networks.

Colombian Cartels: They continue to play a crucial role in cocaine production and distribution.

Asian Syndicates: Organizations like the Triads and Yakuza are involved in the manufacture and distribution of synthetic drugs.



2. Corrupt Officials: Bribery of customs officials, law enforcement, and politicians is common, allowing for smoother transportation and distribution.

3. Cross Border Operations: Utilization of global networks to transport drugs, firearms, and people across borders, exploiting differences and loopholes in legal systems.

4. Financial System: Exploitation of global financial systems to launder profits from illegal activities and reinvest them in illegitimate enterprises.

5. Poverty, Inequality and unemployment: Exploiting socioeconomic disparities and unemployment to recruit members and create a market for illegal goods and services.



Challenges in Combatting Drug Distribution

1. Jurisdictional Problems: International nature of drug trafficking and organized crime complicates law enforcement efforts, requiring extensive coordination between countries.

2. International Operations: Organized crime syndicates often operate across different countries, creating jurisdictional complexities and loopholes. Different legal systems and levels of law enforcement cooperation can hinder effective action.

3. Encrypted Communication: Use of encrypted communication networks (such as the dark web) to coordinate activities securely and anonymously making their activities unidentifiable.

4. Multi-faceted Activities: Engaging in a wide range of illegal activities, from drug trafficking to cybercrime makes it harder to target all facets of their operations simultaneously.

5. Coordination and Collaboration Issues among International Partners: Different priorities and capabilities among international partners can hinder joint operations and information sharing.



Economic and Social Impact

1. Crime and Violence: Competition between rival gangs and cartels, as well as enforcement actions, often result in significant violence.

2. Economic Cost: The financial burden of addressing drug addiction, healthcare costs, and law enforcement efforts is substantial.



3. Aftereffects to legitimate Businesses:

Legitimate businesses suffer from extortion, theft, and unfair competition. For instance, counterfeit goods can undermine legitimate companies, reducing their market share and profitability.

4. Recruitment and Exploitation:

Young people, especially in poverty-stricken areas, are often recruited into organized crime due to lack of opportunities, leading to cycles of crime and incarceration.

5. Loss of Potential: Youth involvement in crime diverting them from education and employment prospects, contributing to long-term socio-economic issues.

Strategies to Combat Drug Distribution

1. International Cooperation: Joint operations and intelligence sharing among countries and international bodies like Interpol and the United Nations are crucial.

2. Technological Advancements: Utilizing advanced surveillance, forensic tools, and data analytics to detect and dismantle drug networks.

3. Community Engagement and raising awareness: Promoting community resilience through education, social service, and support for the youth at risk to prevent recruitment into organized crime or drug distribution.



Understanding the intricacies of drug distribution within organized crime syndicates highlights the need for comprehensive and multifaceted strategies to effectively combat this pervasive issue.



2. The Transnational Reach of Organised Crime

In this day and age, Organised crime is a universal problem, it is not specific to any country. Crime organisations and syndicates exist in a cooperative system and form alliances to secure more power. Their reach does not recognise the boundaries of nations and hence pose a threat to the whole world. It is a multifaceted problem.

Organised crime is responsible for the trading and manufacture of illegal goods and their distribution. It constantly evolves and changes its system and method of operation to evade authorities worldwide and traffic these goods across borders by strategic planning

In 2009, organised crime made \$320 Billion in profit from the trade of drugs alone. Its network spans from country to country, procuring raw materials in one, manufacturing in another and distributing to smaller criminal units worldwide, making a complex system that is very difficult to tackle for authorities worldwide.



Vast sums of money are commanded by organised crime. It is used to influence governance and procure a variety of resources in a way that harms the general public. Big ranges of forests are illegally farmed for wood and land. In Brazil, hundreds or acres of rainforests have been illegally logged for profit. Many illicit financial practices are performed via this money that can

compromise legitimate businesses and undermine bureaucracy and due processes. It also generates massive amounts of black money which hurts the general public in terms of reduced tax returns.

The current system for tackling such problems is insufficient. Worldwide, there is a lack of unified response to such activities due to many reasons. This is an issue, as these organisations span over many countries at a time and require coordination from all parties to effectively deal with. So far many attempts have been made to organise intelligence sharing and joint patrol and exercises, but they have been unfruitful due to the disconnect between regional law enforcement and international organisations. Besides this, organised crime continues to change and evolve, integrating more and more technology into their method of operation and making it continually more difficult to counter. Due to this, the global assault against organised crime has been largely unfruitful.

3. Digital Drug Trafficking on the Dark Web

I. What is the Dark Web?

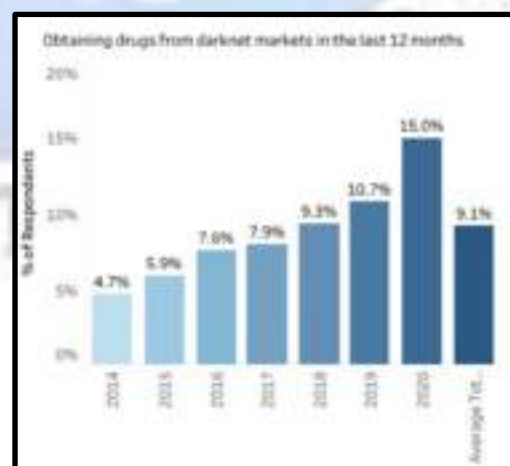
The term "dark web" describes encrypted online information that enables users to conceal their location and identity from prying eyes. Content on the dark web is not indexed by traditional search engines. Users must install a private browser and make sure their machine is safe and secure in order to access the dark web. Many people believe that the dark web is a location where illicit activities such as drug marketplaces and data exchanges for stolen information take place because of its anonymity. That being said, there might be some other valid reasons for people to use the dark web, such as political dissidents or people who wish to keep some information hidden.



II. Effect of dark web on illegal drug trade

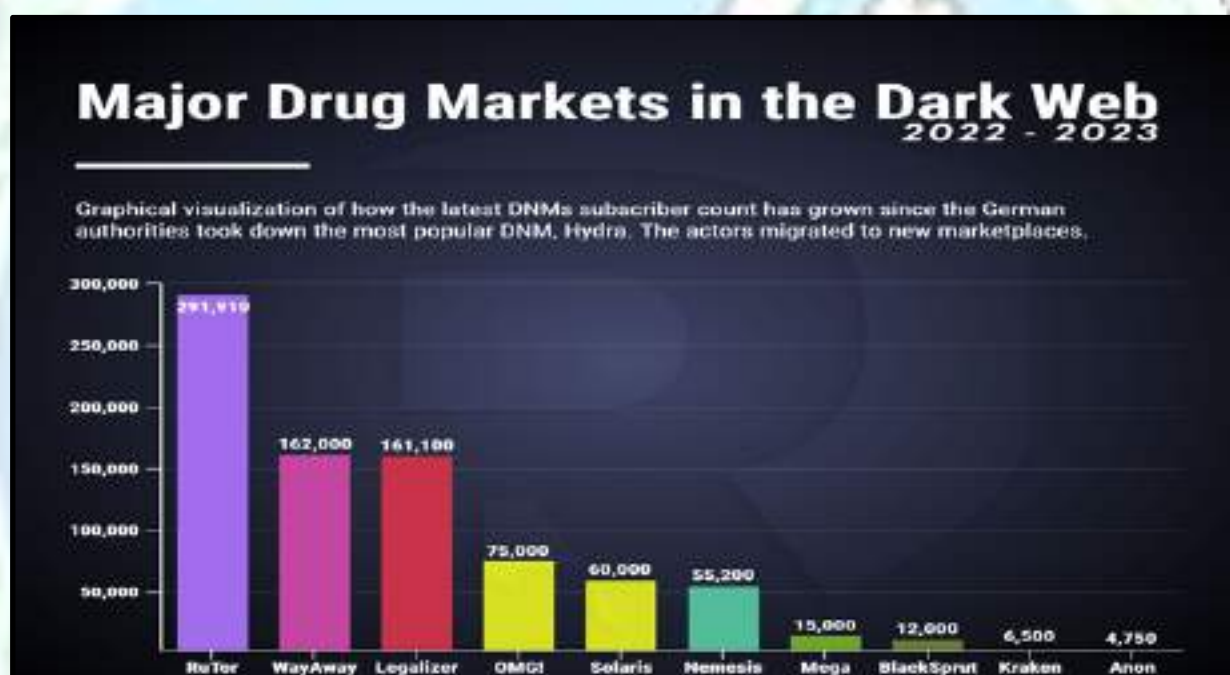
While individual cryptocurrency marketplaces sometimes don't last long, the industry as a whole has persevered through several obstacles, including takedowns by law authorities and exit scams. Concurrently, since the removal of Silk Road, revenues have doubled and transactions have tripled, despite the fact that the magnitude of the drug trade via cryptocurrency exchanges is still relatively small in comparison

to offline trading. While lowering many of the risks associated with offline markets (such as violence) and adding new concerns (such as postal interceptions and frauds), the Internet has given drug entrepreneurs the chance to develop new business models and reach a new customer base. The complete effect of the drug trade made possible by the Internet on the world market for illegal substances is yet unknown and inconclusive. More research is needed to completely grasp the extent to which people who purchase drugs online are also distributing them offline, although there is evidence that suggests cryptocurrency markets are driving offline markets for illicit narcotics. Lastly, there are differing viewpoints regarding how the cryptocurrency markets will affect society. One possible advantage is that they may lessen violence in the drug supply chain, as some have claimed. Others, on the other hand, think that cryptocurrency marketplaces have primarily negative effects since they provide a new, frequently young, user base with easy access to drug markets.



III. *Who are the vendors and buyers?*

Though there is little data, it appears that both sellers and consumers are young, male, well educated, enterprising individuals from Western European or English-speaking nations who possess great IT abilities. Vendors appear to be a mixture of "newbies" who had only previously sold drugs to friends and seasoned drug traffickers with strong ties to manufacturing who view Internet sales as an extra source of income. Most purchasers appear to be recreational drug users who have already consumed narcotics. They are drawn to the cryptocurrency marketplaces to buy medications because to the convenience and speed of delivery, better quality and variety, and perceived increase in safety. In order to evade detection, vendors have cleverly modified their actions, such as by altering their shipment procedures. Single-vendor markets, or online stores with just one vendor, have become more prevalent on the so-called "dark web."



IV. *Where activity has been spotted frequently.*

Vendors from the Western Pacific, Eastern Atlantic, Northern Arctic, and Western European regions seemed to predominate in cryptomarkets. The largest drug market share (35.9% of total drug revenues) belonged to vendors who identified themselves as working in the Western Pacific and Eastern area. These vendors were closely followed by those from Northwestern Europe (16.1%) and Oceania (10.6%). Compared to the central European region, the revenue share of the Western European region was significantly lower at 7.1%.



4. Youth Vulnerability To Drug Use

Adolescence is considered a period of susceptibility to develop addictions and form a habit of substance abuse, particularly during the age of rebellion, due to neural vulnerabilities that contribute to substance use initiation. Underage alcohol and drug use is considered to be the leading public health and social issue among adolescents.

Understanding the factors that contribute to the initiation of substance use, particularly concerning adolescent neurodevelopment, is important for developing targeted, effective prevention and intervention efforts to help avoid further negative consequences associated with adolescent substance use.



I. Exploration



There are a variety of reasons as to why youngsters explore substance use:

The most prominent reason that stems from curiosity about substance use is peer pressure. When drug use is accepted and encouraged among a group of friends, there is a greater chance of participation. The constant need to be accepted and valued is often fulfilled by resorting to a detrimental habit, especially at times when self-esteem is at an all-time low.

Some adolescents may turn to certain drugs, like prescription stimulants because they believe that those substances will enhance their academic abilities. Others may indulge in drugs to numb any physical or emotional pain associated with trauma. Conflict at home and rebellion against parents go hand in hand, ultimately leading to the use of substances by children, who view it as an escape.

II. Consequences

When it comes to the consequences, not only are the young individuals affected but also their family members, the community, and the entire society.

Consistent substance abusers among adolescents can face a variety of challenges, such as bad peer connections, mental health disorders, health problems, and participation in the juvenile prison system.

Research shows a correlation between low educational commitment, higher truancy rates, and substance use among adolescents. Academic performance and peer relationships can be negatively impacted by cognitive and behavioural problems in young people who use drugs and alcohol. Health-related consequences of teenage substance abuse include injuries from accidents, physical disabilities, diseases, and the effects of overdoses.



Young individuals who indulge in an excessive amount of alcohol and other drugs are at a higher risk of dying from illnesses, suicides, and homicides. Substance abuse not only affects the individual but also their entire family, causing problems and dysfunction. A family member's substance misuse has a major impact on parents and siblings and can drain the family's emotional and financial resources.

5. Drug Distribution Networks

There are a variety of aspects as to why drug distribution networks are spreading

One of the most important reasons is the ease of global travel, communication and technological advancements such as online marketplaces like the dark web, which have made it simpler for drug traffickers to operate across countries thus leading to a more interconnected and efficient distribution network for drugs

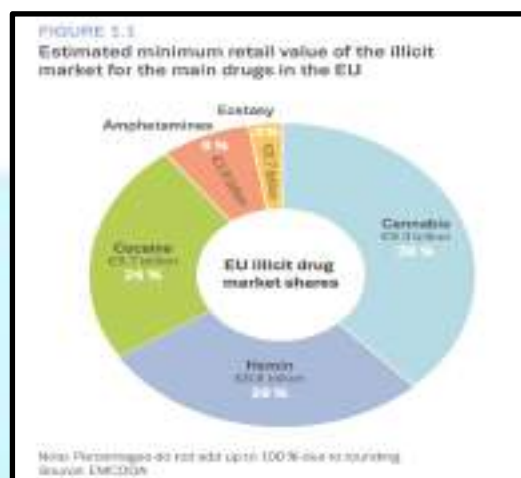
Corruption and weak law enforcement in some areas also allow drug trafficking to flourish as there are weak frameworks and inadequate enforcements to prevent the rise of drug distribution networks. Another variable is the high profit margins which help people in areas with limited economic opportunities earn money, the rising demand of drugs has also been of importance as due to aspects such as stress, mental health issues etc have made access to drugs in cities easier.



Consequences of Expanding Drug Distribution Networks:

The widespread availability of drugs has led to higher rates of addiction, overdose, criminal activity, including violence, gang conflicts, and money laundering. This has placed a significant burden on healthcare systems.

Families and communities have been torn apart by the effects of drug addiction and associated criminal activities, the influx of drug money corrupts public officials and institutions, undermining the rule of law and governance. This has led to a breakdown in social cohesion, trust within communities and political instability



Efforts to combat the expansion of drug distribution networks require a multifaceted approach, including stronger international

Addressing the Issue

Efforts to combat the expansion of drug distribution networks require a comprehensive approach.

Enhanced collaboration between countries to share intelligence and coordinate enforcement efforts along with developing and implementing advanced tactics to detect and disrupt drug trafficking operations can help in combating the rising amount of drug distribution networks

Providing support for addiction treatment and prevention/rehabilitation programs to reduce demand, while addressing the root causes of drug trafficking such as lack of economic opportunities and social conditions and working on improving them.

6. Rehabilitation Services: **Reintegration of Youth affected by Organized Crime**

About Youth-Specific Treatment Services-

Youth-specific services help vulnerable young people up to the age of 25 to address alcohol and other drug use issues. This is achieved through a family-based approach integrated with other services including mental health, education, health, housing and child protection. Youth-specific treatment services include youth outreach and support, youth residential withdrawal, youth residential rehabilitation etc.

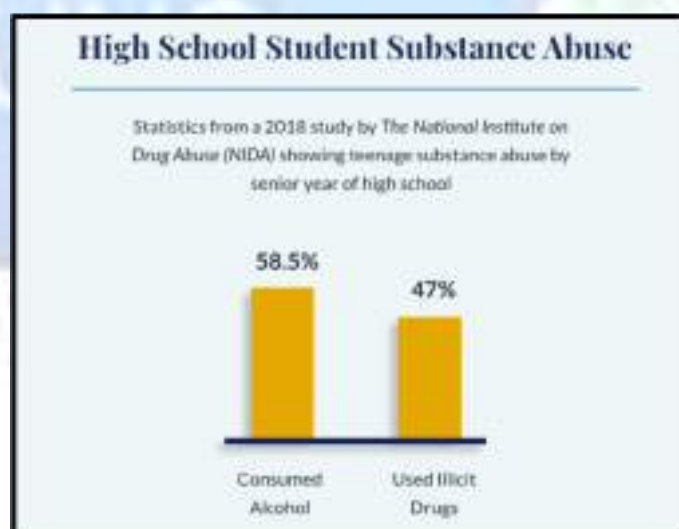


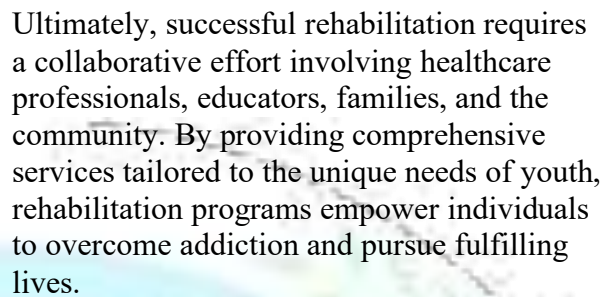
Moreover, educational programs equip youth with knowledge about the dangers of substance abuse and life skills necessary for maintaining sobriety. Vocational training and employment assistance are also integral components, fostering independence and a sense of purpose. Peer support groups provide a platform for sharing experiences and building a supportive network. Community involvement through volunteer opportunities and recreational activities promotes healthy lifestyles and reduces the likelihood of relapse.

Importance of Rehabilitation facilities on Youth-

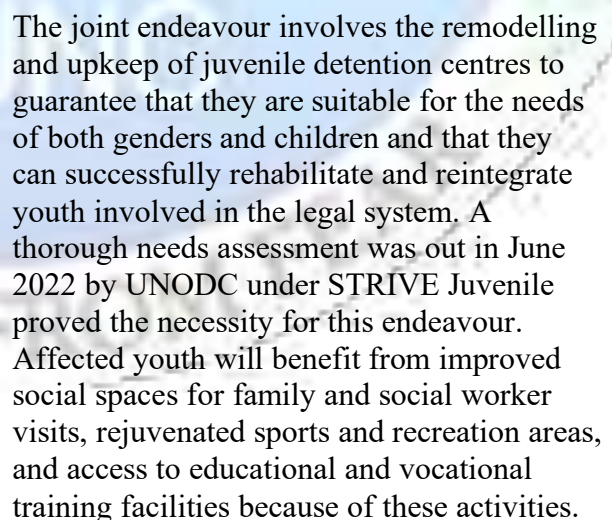
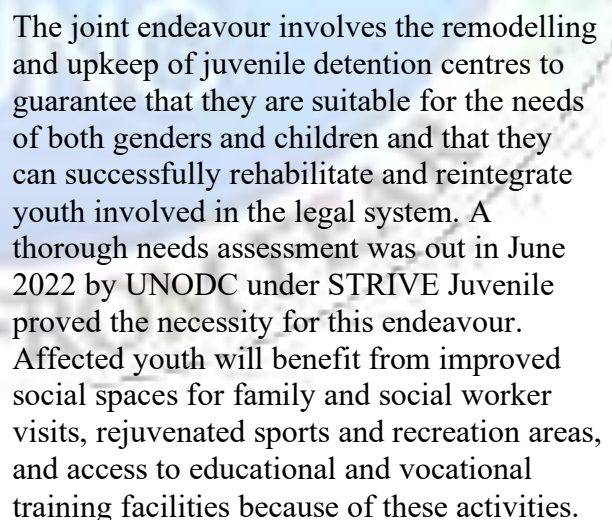
Rehabilitation services for youth drug addicts play a crucial role in addressing substance abuse issues and facilitating their reintegration into society. These services encompass a holistic approach, addressing physical, psychological, and social aspects of addiction.

Firstly, medical interventions such as detoxification help manage withdrawal symptoms safely. This is followed by counselling and therapy sessions, which aim to identify underlying issues contributing to addiction and develop coping mechanisms





UN-Habitat has a great deal of experience especially in the case of Iraq. The UN-Habitat has been tasked by the UN General Assembly with promoting sustainable towns and cities. Through citizen participation, technical know-how in housing and urban planning, and building local authorities' capacity, UN-Habitat has successfully addressed several issues. UNODC has a broad mandate and is well-versed in counterterrorism, child justice, and crimes against children.



Conclusion-

Rehabilitation services are essential for the reintegration of youth affected by organized crime, offering a pathway to break free from the cycle of violence and criminality. Youth involved in organized crime often face multifaceted challenges, including trauma, social stigma, and limited opportunities for lawful employment. Rehabilitation services aim to address these underlying issues and provide support for holistic rehabilitation.



By fostering positive relationships with family, peers, and mentors, youth are provided with a supportive network that encourages prosocial behaviour and discourages involvement in criminal activities. Rehabilitation services must also address the systemic factors that contribute to youth involvement in organized crime, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunities.

Advocacy efforts aimed at policy change and community development initiatives can help create an environment conducive to positive youth development.

Finally, rehabilitation services are instrumental in facilitating the reintegration of youth affected by organized crime. By addressing the complex needs of these individuals and providing them with the support and resources they need to succeed, rehabilitation programs play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of violence and criminality.



Iraqi youth turn an ISIL prison into a space of healing

7. Opioids & Synthetic Drugs Crisis

I. Addressing the Global Opioid Crisis and Combating the Synthetic Drugs Crisis

Medical texts from Ancient Egypt first introduced a particular flower as a remedy to the world almost 3,000 years ago. It is believed that at the same time, across the Mediterranean, the ancient Minoans found ways to use the same flower for its characteristic euphoric effects. The particular flower that both these civilizations relished is the **poppy**. Bleeding an extract from this poppy—opium—incites pleasure, alleviates pain, and has addicted thousands, leading to their demise from a life of addiction and the search for a quick fix. This began a chapter of substances derived from the poppy known as opioids: **morphine, heroin, codeine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and fentanyl**.

A. Evolution of the Opioid Crisis

First Wave (1990s): This crisis started in the early 1990 rising opioids deaths was the first, fuelled by the boosted prescription opioids for the management of pain.

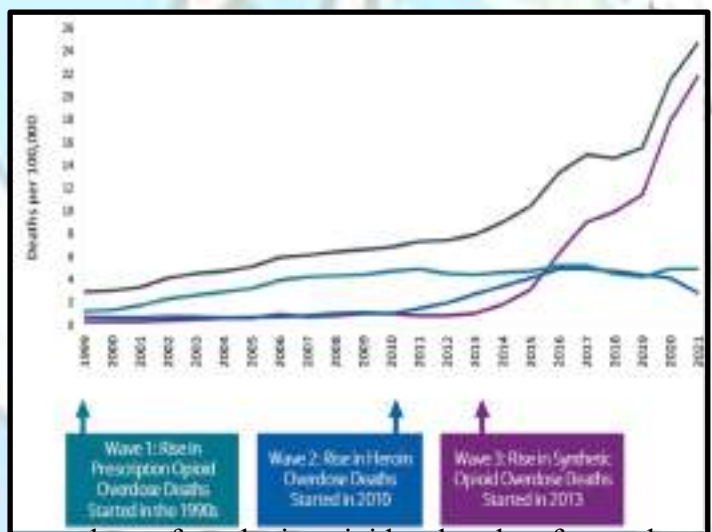
Second Wave (2010 – 2013): Identified around 2010 which saw an upsurge in the fatalities principally caused by heroin.

Third Wave (2013 – Present):

The current wave characterizes itself with a steep slope of synthetic opioids other than fentanyl analogues and tramadol mortality beginning from 2013. Synthetic opioids were found to be concerning as a sizeable share of opioid-related deaths.

Navigating the Shift Towards Synthetic Drugs

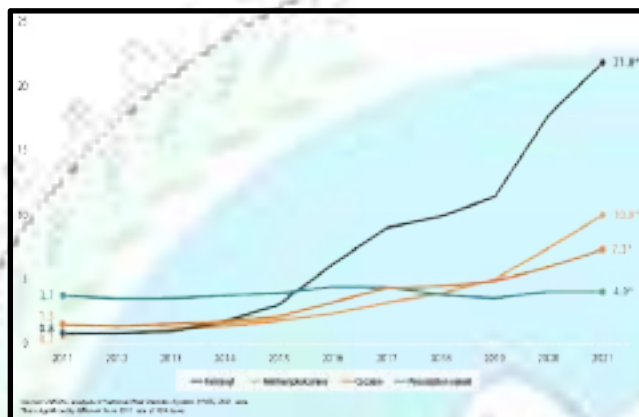
The Agenda highlights the ongoing evolution of drug threats, such an example is that of the **corrosive transition to synthetic drugs**. In the course of the twentieth century, natural opiates were replaced by pharmaceutical companies with synthesized substances such as **heroin, hydrocodone, oxycodone, and fentanyl**.



While the prescription opioids were falling out of favor due to the law and policy changes, heroin use became popular. However, it appeared that a far more abrasive change took place at some point approximately in 2013. The new synthetic opioids and **fentanyl**, in particular, entered the black market due to their illicit production. Fentanyl is drastically stronger than heroin, it is frequently cut with other drugs or realized as counterfeit pills that enhance the prospect and endangering severity of an overdose.

II. Case Study: Opioid crisis and the synthetic crisis during Covid:

1. **Disruptions in Supply Chains:** The COVID-19 related measures exposed disruptions of drug and especially synthetic opioids like fentanyl supply chains
2. **Increased Stress and Mental Health Challenges**



3. **Overdose Risks and Harm Reduction:** Public restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic limited opportunities to apply effective varieties of harm reduction strategies, including safe injections and naloxone distribution facilities
4. **Digital Shift in Drug Markets:** Restrictions on face-to-face contact caused a paradigm shift towards online drug markets (people could purchase drugs anonymously,

B. International Drug Control Regime and the (Lost) War on Drugs

International drug control has been a cornerstone that comprises the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961); Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971); and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs 1988 (Trafficking Convention).

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) is an electronic database that keeps track of state-level prescriptions of drugs. It helps health authorities respond quickly by effectively giving them up-to-date information on practices that could fuel another global epidemic.



C. Understanding the Roots of the Opioid Synthetics Crisis and



1. Healthcare System Failures: Pharmacies and other drug makers heavily advertised these opioid-enhanced painkillers as safe and non-narcotic. They concealed the probability that people can become addicted to the substance, funding ambiguous studies as well as rewarding physicians for prescribing opioids.

A seminal National Academy of Sciences report states that: ‘overprescribing was not the sole cause of the problem. While increased opioid prescribing for chronic pain has been a vector of the opioid epidemic, researchers agree that such **structural factors** as lack of economic opportunity, poor working conditions, and eroded social capital in depressed communities, accompanied by hopelessness and despair, are root causes of the misuse of opioids and other substances.’

- 2. Regulatory and Enforcement Challenges:** The early years of legislation, regulatory authorities (FDA, DEA) held minimal scrutiny leading to overprescribing and overdosing across the population.
- 3. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Limitations:** The first generation PDMPs were not mandatory for prescribers thus limiting their utility in monitoring cases of improper prescriptions.
- 4. Stigma and Access to Treatment:** The stigma surrounding the idea of drug addicts and the societal degradation of them causes many struggling with drug addiction that require immediate attention are hesitant to seek help.
- 5. Criminalization Over Rehabilitation:** Legal systems respectively took the route of a punitive justice system and not one that supports the drug users.
- 6. Delayed Response and Adaptation:** Measures taken in initial times were protective (dealing with manifestations of the crisis) than working out efficient preventive measures.

III. Case Study: Understanding Opioid Addiction: The Body's Response to Opioids

Opioids exert their effects by interacting with opioid receptors which are located in the brain and help to modulate pain impulses: endorphins naturally produced by the body are prescribed to these receptors; opioids are prescribed to these receptors far more tightly and for a longer time.

The resulting effect is the release of dopamine, a chemical, which gives one pleasure or feelings of well-being. Hence, opioids are more efficient in the treatment of severe patients' pain in contrast with endorphins.

Tolerance is a phenomenon whereby the body gradually becomes unresponsive to the effects of opioids, due to fewer receptors. To achieve the same euphoric effects, the use of these drugs have to be in large quantities and this results in physical dependence and addiction.

Tapering off opioids knocks the balance of this cycle, thus raising the levels of noradrenaline and resultant withdrawal symptoms such as muscle pain, fever and vomiting among others. **Hence, many find themselves ensnared in a cycle of drug use, withdrawal, pain and suffering which they comfort through drug consumption.**



IV. Combatting Synthetic Drug Crisis



A drug known as **naloxone** is currently our best defence against overdose.

Naloxone binds to opioid receptors but doesn't turn them on. It blocks other opioids from binding to the receptors, and even knocks them off the receptors to reverse an overdose.

International efforts by organizations like UNODC and WHO have been pivotal. Early in 2017, the UNODC

decided to control globally the key substances for the production of fentanyl hence reducing its illicit production. Moreover, the monitoring system of UNODC on illegal cultivation of crops in Mexico has helped much in controlling heroin production due to pinpointing satellite images of cultivation sites.

UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy

Four spheres of action:

Sphere 1: Multilateralism and International Cooperation:

- Facilitate scientifically informed multilateral discussions through platforms like the CND to identify system-wide synergies.
- Prioritize the most harmful substances for international action and promote coherence on synthetic drug science through proactive consultations with relevant bodies.



Sphere 2: Early Warning on Emerging Synthetic Drug Threats:

- Enable early detection and rapid responses to emerging synthetic drug threats by national institutions leveraging initiatives such as the SMART Programme and UNODC EWA.
- Enhance data collection and analysis to bolster evidence-based responses, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations (Research dissemination, such as seen in the World Drug Report, provides valuable insights into the patterns of non-medical opioid use)



Sphere 3: Promote Science-Informed Health Responses:

- Non-stigmatizing attitudes, particularly toward gender and marginalized communities should be promoted for equitable access to health, care, and social services.

Sphere 4: Strengthen Counter Narcotic Capacity and Support International Operations:

- Facilitate the sharing of scientific best practices and knowledge on responding to emerging synthetic drug threats, including toxic adulterants and the use of pharmaceuticals in drug production.

8. Marijuana Legalisation

Examining the Health Effects of Marijuana Legalization

The legalization of marijuana has had mixed effects on public health. While there are potential medicinal benefits, such as the use of Cannabidiol (CBD) for seizures and Tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) for nausea and appetite stimulation in cancer patients, the evidence is still developing and varies widely by condition.

Studies indicate that marijuana can improve quality of life for individuals dealing with chronic pain, anxiety, PTSD, and insomnia, though more rigorous research is needed to fully substantiate these claims. Questions arise about how this shift in policy affects adolescent behavior, perceptions, and health



The Impact of Marijuana on Adolescents



One area of focus is the relationship between marijuana legislation and adolescent marijuana use. Some studies suggest that legalisation may lead to increased access and normalisation of marijuana, potentially resulting in higher rates of use among adolescents. However, other research presents conflicting findings, indicating that legalisation may not necessarily correlate with increased adolescent marijuana use.

Adolescence is a critical period for brain development, and marijuana use during this time can interfere with this process. The brain's reward system and frontal lobe, which are essential for executive functions like planning, problem-solving, and impulse control, are particularly susceptible to THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

Rises and Responses

Another important aspect to consider is the impact of marijuana legislation on adolescent perceptions of risk associated with marijuana use. Studies have shown that adolescent marijuana use is associated with poorer academic performance, as well as an increased risk of engaging in abnormal behaviors and having difficulties in maintaining relationships. The regular use of marijuana can lead to permanent damage to the structure of the brain, increasing the risk of developing anxiety, depression and psychosis.



Legalisation may lead to changes in enforcement policies, treatment approaches, and support services for adolescents struggling with marijuana use disorders. Therefore, it is essential to closely monitor these changes and ensure that adequate resources are available to address the evolving needs of adolescents in a legalised marijuana landscape.

Post the legalisation of marijuana in various countries globally, studies have shown that there has been an increase in the number of young people seeking treatment for cannabis-related issues, including addiction and concurrent disorders.

The impact of marijuana legislation on adolescents is a complex and evolving issue that requires ongoing research, policy evaluation, and community engagement. By understanding the potential risks and benefits of marijuana legalisation, policymakers, healthcare professionals, and educators can work together to develop evidence-based strategies to support the health and well-being of adolescents in the context of changing drug policies.

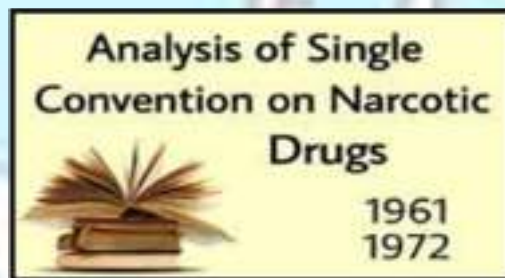


9. International Legal Frameworks and Conventions

I. Global Drug Control Conventions

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)- International Narcotics Control Board

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, established in 1961 and amended in 1972, regulates the cultivation, production, supply, trade, and transport of certain narcotic drugs internationally. It also provides a framework for licensing, treatment, and research, focusing on these substances' medical and scientific use. Moreover, it founded the International Narcotics Control Board to oversee these activities.



186 countries have ratified the treaty. Complemented by the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, it aims to address drug-related issues globally.

Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)- International Narcotics Control Board

The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances aims to prevent the abuse of certain drugs like stimulants, sedatives, and hallucinogens.

Countries must:

1. Restrict these drugs to medical and scientific use.
2. Ensure their availability for these purposes.

Governments report production, import, and export statistics to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and provide additional information as the Economic and Social Council recommends.

These controls have significantly reduced drug diversion, and the INCB publishes annual reports on the legal movement of these substances.



United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)- International Narcotics Control Board

The 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances establishes a framework for international control of precursors. It includes measures to combat drug addressing issues such as money laundering and precursor chemical diversion. The convention promotes international cooperation through mechanisms like extradition of drug traffickers, controlled deliveries, and transfer of legal proceedings.



II. Regional Conventions on Organized Crime

1) European Union Framework

EU Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (2000)-EUR-Lex



The convention endeavours to promote and streamline mutual assistance among judicial, police, and customs authorities regarding criminal matters, enhancing the efficiency and expediency of judicial cooperation. It complements the 1959 Council of Europe Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and its 1978 Protocol.

2) African Union Framework

African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC)

Adopted on July 11, 2003, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) focuses on eradicating political corruption across Africa. It calls for measures in prevention, criminalization, international cooperation, and asset recovery within both public and private sectors. The convention targets offences such as bribery, diversion of property, influence trading, illicit enrichment, money laundering, and concealment of property, and mandates open investigations. However, some critics argue that it may neglect rule of law principles, including data protection and the presumption of innocence.



III) Interpol's Role in International Crime Prevention-Interpol

Interpol is crucial in preventing international crime by fostering cooperation among law enforcement agencies worldwide. It operates the secure I-24/7 communication system for sharing information on criminal activities and maintains extensive databases on crimes like terrorism, human trafficking, and cybercrime. Interpol issues color-coded notices, such as Red Notices, to inform member countries about criminals and threats. It also deploys Incident Response Teams (IRTs) to assist with disaster response, investigations, and special operations.

In addition, Interpol provides training and technical support to improve the capabilities of law enforcement agencies. Its analysts examine crime patterns and emerging threats to aid in strategic decision-making. Interpol promotes global collaboration, intelligence sharing, and operational support to combat international crime by ensuring adherence to international law and human rights standards.



CASE STUDIES

1. Venezuela

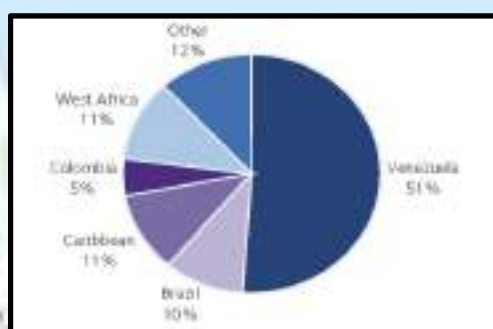
Introduction

Venezuela, rich in natural resources and cultural heritage, faces severe challenges due to organised crime and drug distribution. These issues significantly impact the nation's youth, affecting their health, safety, and future opportunities. This case study examines the evolution of these threats and the measures being implemented to address them.

Venezuela's geographical position makes it a key transit point for drug trafficking from South America to North America and Europe. Over the past two decades, organised crime syndicates, often linked to international drug cartels, have become deeply entrenched in the country. Economic crisis and political instability have further exacerbated the situation, creating conditions where criminal activities can thrive.



Departure locations of identified drug trafficking shipments by sea from South



The Evolving Threats

1. Drug Trafficking and Distribution

- Venezuela has become a major hub for the distribution of cocaine, heroin, and other illicit drugs. The Colombian cartels, along with local criminal organisations known as "pranes," control vast networks that manage the production, transportation, and distribution of these substances.

- The involvement of state officials and military personnel in drug trafficking operations, often referred to as the "Cartel of the Suns," has been reported, complicating efforts to combat these activities.

2. Violence and Insecurity

- Organised crime has fuelled a rise in violent crime rates, with homicides, kidnappings, and extortion becoming commonplace. The youth, often caught in the crossfire, face physical and psychological trauma.

- The breakdown of law and order has led to a culture of impunity, where young people see crime as a viable path to survival and success.

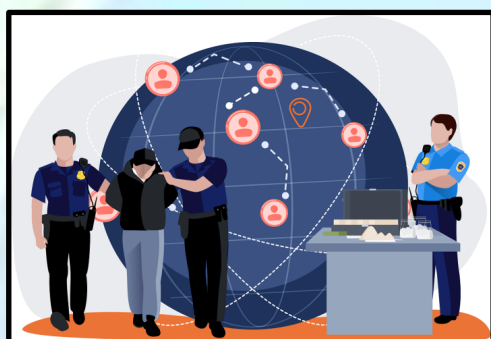
Measures to Combat Organized Crime and Drug Distribution

1. Government Initiatives

- The Venezuelan government has launched several initiatives aimed at curbing drug trafficking and organised crime. These include enhanced border security measures, crackdowns on criminal organisations, and anti-corruption campaigns targeting complicit officials.

- Efforts to strengthen the judicial system and law enforcement agencies have been implemented, although these measures are often hampered by limited resources and pervasive corruption.

2. International Cooperation



- Venezuela has engaged with international bodies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and regional organisations to enhance cooperation in combating drug trafficking.

- Bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries like Colombia and Brazil aim to improve intelligence sharing and joint operations against transnational criminal networks.

3. Community-Based Programs

- NGOs and community organisations play a crucial role in providing support and rehabilitation services to young people affected by drug abuse and violence. Programs focused on education, vocational training, and psychological counselling help to reintegrate at-risk youth into society.

- Initiatives such as sports and arts programs offer alternative avenues for young people to channel their energy and talents, keeping them away from the lure of drugs and crime.

Challenges and Future Directions

Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain in effectively tackling organised crime and drug distribution in Venezuela. The deep-rooted corruption, economic instability, and ongoing political crisis hinder progress. To make a lasting impact, a multifaceted approach is necessary:



1. Strengthening Institutions

- Continued efforts to reform and strengthen law enforcement and judicial institutions are essential. This includes ensuring adequate funding, training, and anti-corruption measures to build public trust and effectiveness.



2. Economic and Social Development

- Addressing the underlying socio-economic conditions that drive youth toward crime is crucial. Investment in education, healthcare, and job creation will provide young people with viable alternatives to the criminal lifestyle.

3. Enhanced International Support

- Increased international support and cooperation can bolster Venezuela's capacity to combat organised crime. This includes technical assistance, funding for anti-drug programs, and diplomatic efforts to isolate and pressure criminal networks.

Conclusion

The battle against organised crime and drug distribution in Venezuela is complex and multifaceted, with significant implications for the country's youth. While progress has been made through government initiatives, international cooperation, and community-based programs, ongoing challenges require sustained and comprehensive efforts. By addressing both the immediate threats and the root causes, Venezuela can move toward a future where its young people can thrive free from the shadows of crime and addiction.

2. CANADA

Introduction

Canada, a country famous for its scenery and maple syrup is also well known because it has made **recreational cannabis legal since 2018**. The country has seen a significant decline in the crime rate but despite this people have worries about.



The idea of immense profits has always driven individuals and organized crime groups to engage in drug trafficking in Canada, despite the enforcement of required laws. To prevent young individuals from having easy access to drugs, the Government of Canada legalized and strictly regulated the production, distribution, sale, import and export, and possession of cannabis for adults of legal age- the Cannabis Act (the Act) of October 17, 2018. In order to control young individuals from having easy access to drugs, the Government of Canada legalized and strictly regulated the production, distribution, sale, import and export, and possession of cannabis for adults of legal age- the Cannabis Act (the Act) of October 17, 2018.

Drug trafficking and distribution



Canada has without any intention become a crucial link for the distribution and transportation of illegal drugs, both within its borders and as a gateway to other nations. The money that comes into the country this way not only boosts criminal syndicates but also adds to a growing crisis of drug addiction and related criminal activities across the nation. The global issue of money laundering and corruption has also been emphasized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as it is also a topic of major concern.

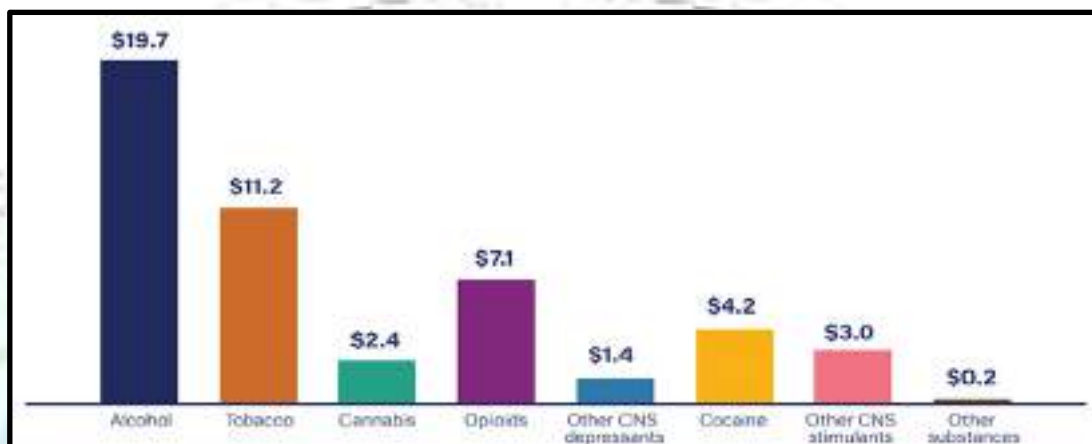
Impact on Youth

In Canada drug abuse among young people is a serious issue. A significant number of children have begun to consume harmful substances before high school. According to a survey conducted by Health Canada, **Canadians aged 15-19** reportedly consume drugs.

One simple method to keep control of this issue is to focus our efforts on children in middle school and during their teenage years. This is a crucial yet so simple step that we all can take to have a brighter future.

Violence and Insecurity

It is well known that crime and violence go hand-in-hand with drug abuse. There are forms of crime and violence associated with international cartels and individual drug abusers in which innocent individuals get caught.



Government Initiatives

The Canadian Government has taken several steps to control the crime rate and consumption of Drugs.

The [Control Drugs and Substances Act \(CDSA\)](#) is one such act that tells us about all the offences, definitions, and punishments an individual faces if gets into any illegal drug-related activity.

The Canadian Drugs and Substance Strategy is another step taken by the federal government as a comprehensive response to substance use-related harms and the overdose crisis in Canada. The goal of the CDSS is to improve the health and safety of all Canadians by minimizing substance-related harm to individuals, families, and communities. of all Canadians by minimizing substance-related harms for individuals, families, and communities.



Conclusion

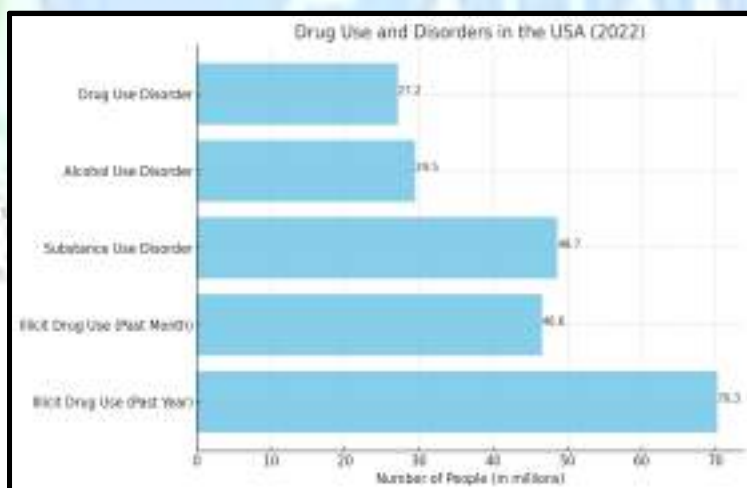
Overall, the country of Canada is taking significant steps to control crime and the consumption of drugs. This will surely help the country to progress and overcome the current battles so that the citizens get a better future.

3. USA

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. is a country of 50 states covering a vast swath of North America, with Alaska in the northwest and Hawaii extending the nation's presence into the Pacific Ocean. With over 330 million people, the USA is a melting pot of cultures, ethnicities, and religions, known for its cultural diversity and inclusiveness. The USA has the largest economy in the world, driven by a mix of natural resources, manufacturing, and a highly developed service sector. It is a founding member of the United Nations and NATO, and it has a significant influence on global affairs.

Organized crime has a long and notorious history in North America. Today, organized crime in America is carried out by a diverse number of groups which have become increasingly transnational and have assumed a critical role in the most profitable criminal activities. Organized crime has become entrenched in many societies throughout the world, and in doing so it has amassed financial power, sophistication and an internationalization which dwarfs any previous incarnation.



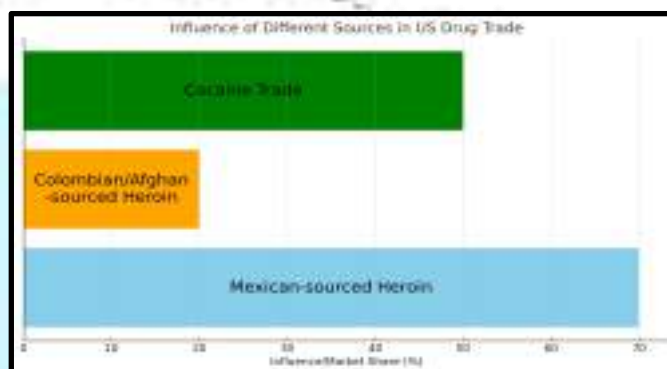
In North America, the group is often called the Italian Mafia or Italian Mob. Members refer to it as Cosa Nostra, and the U.S. government calls it La Cosa Nostra (LCN). The Italian American Mafia collaborates with other Italian crime groups like the Sicilian Mafia, Camorra, and 'Ndrangheta in various illegal activities. It is most active

in the Northeastern U.S., especially in cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, and also has a strong presence in Chicago and other Midwestern cities. Additionally, the Mafia operates in Florida, Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles. The five main Mafia families in New York City are Gambino, Lucchese, Genovese, Bonanno, and Colombo. The Italian American Mafia has historically been a dominant force in U.S. organized crime.

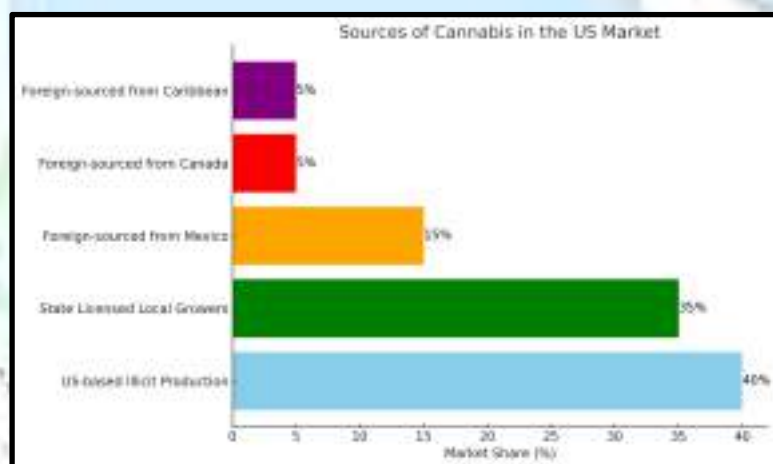
Transnational Organized Crime in Central America and the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment

Central America and the Caribbean, particularly countries in the Northern Triangle, face extreme violence inflamed by transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. According to UNODC's studies, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras now have some of the highest homicide rates in the world.

The heroin trade is pervasive in the US, and closely connected to fentanyl, which had led to an increase in opioid addictions and a major public health crisis. Mexican mafia-style groups have a significant influence over the market, controlling smuggling routes and collaborating with US-based criminal networks to transport heroin throughout the country.



Although Mexican-sourced heroin dominates the market, heroin from Colombia and Afghanistan also enters the country via sea and air. The US heroin trade also fuels territorial violence, has been linked to an increase in children in foster care programmes, and contributes to the transmission of diseases such as Hepatitis C and HIV through shared syringes. Despite a decrease in identified heroin trafficking offenders and heroin seizures, opioid-related deaths in the US have increased in recent years. The US has a large and consolidated cocaine trade that is dominated by Colombian criminal groups for supply, Mexican networks for transportation, and US-based gangs for retail distribution.

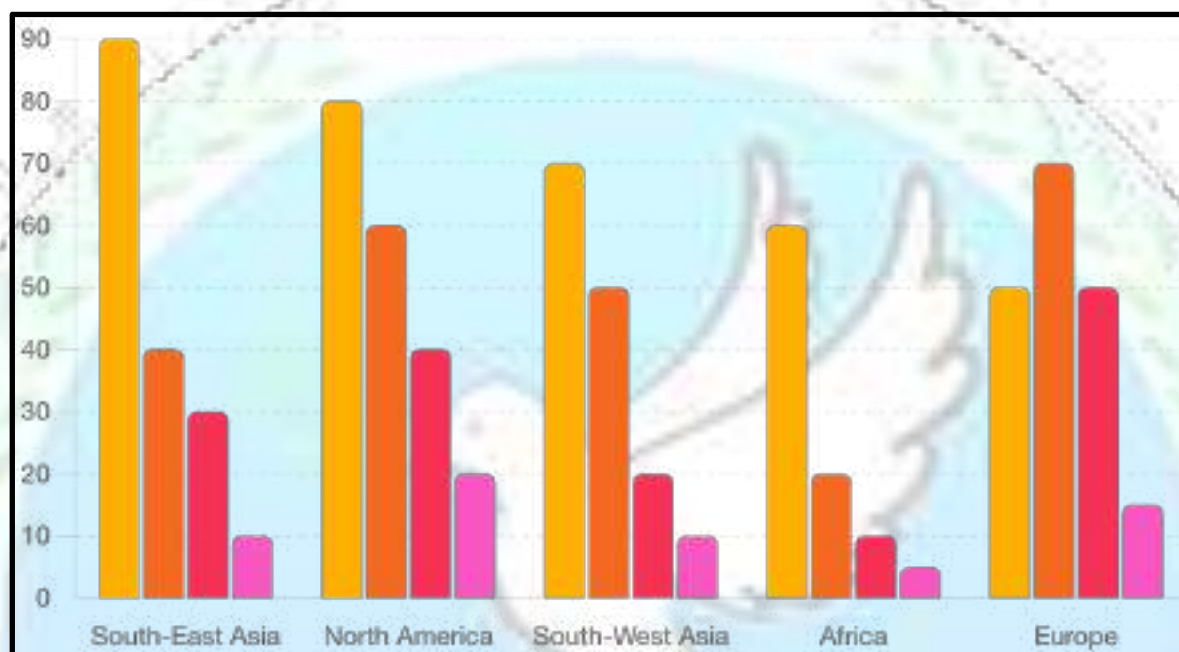


The cannabis trade in the US is among the top 10 worldwide, but its legality varies across state lines, making it difficult to assess the market's criminality. While some states permit both the medical and personal use of cannabis, others only allow medical use or prohibit it entirely, resulting in a fragmented and developing legal framework that engenders uncertainty for law

enforcement officials and hinders state initiatives to combat cannabis-related crime. The majority of domestically circulating cannabis is illicitly produced by US-based drug trafficking organizations and state licensed local growers, while foreign-sourced marijuana is also trafficked into the US from Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean.

Drug use continues to be high worldwide. In 2021, 1 in every 17 people aged 15–64 in the world had used a drug in the past 12 months. Use of the drug is increasing and although globally cannabis users are mostly men (about 70 per cent), the gender divide is reducing in some subregions; women account for 42 per cent of cannabis users in North America. It is estimated that in 2021, 36 million people had used amphetamines, 22 million had used cocaine and 20 million had used “ecstasy”-type substances in the past year.

Synthetic drugs have proliferated in drug markets in the last decade. However, only a few synthetic drugs – mainly ATS, in particular methamphetamine and MDMA – have established robust global markets. Methamphetamine is probably the most widely used and supplied synthetic drug worldwide, and its manufacture and use continue to expand in South-East Asia, North America, South-West Asia, Africa and Europe.⁴ Synthetic cannabinoids encompass a wide class of ever-changing compounds, which continue to be found in drug markets across the globe.



Methamphetamine ■ MDMA ■ Synthetic Cannabinoids ■ Other Synthetic Drugs ■

Markets for other synthetic drugs are concentrated regionally, including synthetic opioids such as fentanyl in North America and tramadol in North and West Africa and parts of Central Asia. Meanwhile, drug markets in South America have witnessed the growing distribution of synthetic drugs, including ketamine and other NPS stimulants and hallucinogens. In some opioid markets in North America, an increasing share of drug seizures contain mixtures of fentanyl with unapproved benzodiazepines, xylazine or veterinary tranquillizers.

While drugs sold on illegal markets often contain other adulterants or diluents, suppliers had a narrower range of choices in earlier years. Long-term analysis of impurities in heroin and cocaine sold in Europe and North America shows increasing variety in additives.

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POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

Format:

Font: Times New Roman

Font Size: 12

Position Paper Page Limit: One page (excluding bibliography)

Page One

Delegate Name: _____

Country: _____

Institution: _____

Topic: _____

‘A quote is preferred, not compulsory’

Paragraph one:

Introduction to the topic and steps taken by the UN on the topic at hand.

Paragraph two:

Elaboration on the country’s laws and policies regarding the topic, how it is affected by the topic at hand, and measures incorporated by the country to combat the problem. Statistical Data is preferred.

Paragraph three:

Unique solutions suggested by the delegate to combat the problem.

Page Two

Bibliography

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