

European Update

EMCDDA

The latest edition of Drugnet Europe No. 53 has been published by the EMCDDA. It contains interesting items regarding drug related deaths, drug prevention and a database on health in prisons. In addition the European Early Warning System has identified a new psychoactive substance 1-(3-chlorophenyl) piperazine or mCPP being sold in recreational setting in most EU countries under the guise of the popular drug ecstasy. www.emcdda.eu.int

EDDRA (Exchange on drug demand action)

has produced its latest newsletter and indicates that 17 new entries have been added to the database, including an entry from Ireland describing a Parenting for Prevention project. Other new entries cover projects from Spain, Austria, Belgium France and Norway and relate to drug policy at schools, drug prevention in the workplace, high-risk groups and the socially disadvantaged.

<http://www.emcdda.eu.int/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.Content&nNodeID=2901&sLanguageISO=EN>

Ireland

A study examining trends in opioid-related deaths over a twenty year period (1980-1999) in the Republic of Ireland has been published in the European Journal of Public Health.

http://www.ndc.hrb.ie/directory/news_detail.php?cat_id=&news_id=2568&pointer=0

United Kingdom

A recent survey among young people revealed that in 2005:

- 19% of pupils had taken drugs in the last year, a similar proportion to 2004 (18%) and a decrease from 21% in 2003
- As in previous years, prevalence of drug taking increased with age: 6% of 11 year olds had taken drugs in the last year compared with 34% of 15 year olds.
- As in previous years, pupils were more likely to take cannabis than any other drug. Twelve percent of pupils aged 11-15 had taken cannabis in the last year, a similar proportion to 2004 (11%). Prevalence in both 2005 and 2004 was lower than in 2003 (13%).

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/drugsmokedrinkyoungeng2005>

United Kingdom

An interesting article on buprenorphine (Subutex) is published by the Substance Misuse Management in General Practice. The authors deal with the preparation by crushing and provides advice on such actions to medical practitioners.

<http://www.smmgp.org.uk/html/others/other049.php>

United Kingdom

Drug Trafficking in the Postal System. The Sunday Times newspaper highlights the increasing practice of trafficking illicit substances via the postal system to Britain, particularly using the Express Mail Systems where packages can be tracked by using the internet. It is worth noting that a UNODC/Interpol/UPU training programme on this topic has been implemented in a number of African countries during the past three years.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-2047367,00.html>

Southern Caucasus Update

SCAD Regional Report

The first regional report on drug for the Southern Caucasus region has been produced. The report covers the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and indicates an increase for drugs being trafficked through the region. Using the five Key Epidemiological Indicators of the EMCDDA as a base, this is the first attempt to describe both the drug phenomena in relation to supply and demand. The report is available at:

<http://www.scadgeorgia.org/newsletter/gfx/news/Kavkasia-Eng-2004.pdf>

Central Asia Region

The United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC) and the OPEC Fund for International Development are launching a four million dollar project to improve HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment among drug users and prisoners in five Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan.

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/press_release_2006-03-16.html

Turkmenistan

Recently, Turkmen border guards, seized a large amount of narcotic drugs. An attempt was stopped to smuggle into Turkmenistan 830 kg of opium and 203 kg of hashish, otherwise known as chars. The total weight of the seized drugs is 1,033 kg.

Source: Watan TV News 11th March 2006.

World Update

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) has adopted a resolution on international cooperation in the control of pseudoephedrine and other precursor chemicals used to make synthetic drugs. The resolution urges countries to provide to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) information on all shipments of PMK, pseudoephedrine, ephedrine, and P2P.

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/news/press06/031706.html>

World Health Organisation Afghanistan

A survey conducted by the UNODC has revealed that poppy cultivation has increased in 13 provinces in Afghanistan and remained unchanged in 16 others.

<http://www.e-ariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/04DBF68DFA29757A8725713B004A572D?OpenDocument>

Buprenorphine

In March, WHO will consider a proposal to move buprenorphine into the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. If this recommendation is made it may result on tighter restriction on the availability and use of buprenorphine in the treatment of opiate addiction.

<http://www.ihra.net/index.php?option=news&task=viewarticle&sid=302>

China

China's AIDS epidemic shows no signs of abating with an estimated 70,000 new HIV infections occurring in 2005, according to a report by the Chinese Ministry of Health, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization. The latest data indicate that 650,000 (range 540,000 to 760,000) people are now living with HIV in China and that overall HIV prevalence is now estimated at approximately 0.05 per cent.

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2006/china_hiv_aids/en/index.html

Colombia

Total support and a stronger commitment received Shared Responsibility campaign from the European ambassadors in Colombia. Ambassadors from Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Russia and the European Union agreed that is important to support this Colombian initiative by transmitting in their own countries the main Shared Responsibility's message to establish joint solutions, between producer and consumer countries, to combat the impact of illicit drugs.

<http://www.sharedresponsibility.gov.co/index.php?idcategoria=461&PHPSESSID=98c0b47885566beedddead71db942f83>

Colombia

The US, strengthens its co-responsibility in illegal drugs fight aware of its huge cocaine consumption problem, is giving support to Colombia. This help is represented in \$26 million dollars for coast and seas watching, as Colombia is the supplier of 90% of the cocaine consumed in the US.

<http://www.sharedresponsibility.gov.co/index.php?idcategoria=463&PHPSESSID=98c0b47885566beedddead71db942f83>

Colombia

The Colombian authorities seized a shipment of cocaine with a street value of \$540 million as part of a routine search on board a ship in the northern port of Cartagena.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4821614.stm>

India

Two Hyderabad NGOs have set up two de-addiction centres exclusively for women addicts. Women staff will run the centres and offer residential programmes for addicts for alcohol and drugs.

<http://www.andhracafe.com/index.php?m=show&id=4394>

South Africa

South Africa remains the largest producer of dagga in southern Africa, the number of illegal drug laboratories has risen sharply, in Cape Town the use of "tik" has soared, and South Africans are the world's biggest users of Mandrax.

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=14&click_id=125&art_id=vn20060301061732495C147129

USA

A research paper 'Determining Effective Methadone Doses for Individual Opioid-Dependent Patients' has been recently published. The study concludes that randomized clinical trials of methadone maintenance have found that on average high daily doses are more effective for reducing heroin use, and clinical practice guidelines recommend 60 mg/d as a minimum dosage. Nevertheless, many clinicians report that some patients can be stably maintained on lower methadone dosages to optimal effect, and clinic dosing practices vary substantially.

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10%2E1371%2Fjournal%2Epmid%2E0030080>

Drug Webwatch

DrugWorld Update is pleased to announce the launch of a new drug related website for professionals in all disciplines, whether involved in supply, demand or harm reduction. The site provides access to information on the world of illicit drugs. **DrugWorld** provides free access to information about illicit drugs, a news section, a chat forum and a comprehensive links page to relevant drug websites.

<http://www.drugworld.co.uk>

Have Your Say about any issues relating to drugs. This facility lets you discuss drug issues with colleagues around the world. <http://www.drugworld.co.uk/forum.html>

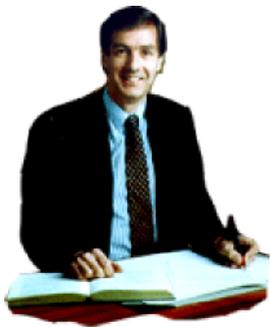
Also highlighted in this edition is a website for a South African NGO – **Faces and Voices of Recovery**. Working with individuals and families the group aim to assist people to recovery from addiction through education, early intervention, appropriate treatment, family involvement and community support. <http://www.favor.org.za/>

Future Issues

I would like to express thanks to those persons around the world who have contributed to this issue in particular to Jim Young at Substance Misuse. Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to paul.cook@lineone.net

If you feel the information in this newsletter is of interest to members of your national drug information network then please feel free to translate and circulate copies to them.

Paul Cook



www.drugworld.co.uk