

European Update

EMCDDA Annual report 2007

The report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe presents the EMCDDA's yearly overview of the drug phenomenon.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index419EN.html>

EMCDDA/EUROPOL

Early-warning system on new psychoactive substances
New Operating guidelines.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.AttachmentDownload&nNodeID=40271&slanguageISO=EN>

EMCDDA

Cocaine use in Europe: implications for service delivery. This paper addresses a number of important issues for the delivery of services for cocaine users.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.AttachmentDownload&nNodeID=40550&slanguageISO=EN>

Czech Republic

Czech drug epidemic threatens to spread through Europe. The methamphetamine epidemic has a powerful foothold in the heart of Central Europe.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/11/22/europe/meth.php>

Estonia

Estonian Central Criminal Police has arrested a large group of people suspected of operating a team of around 30 cocaine traffickers operating between Europe and South America.

<http://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/19160/>

Europe

The European Parliament is urging the Council to put forward a plan to the Afghan government which would include the possibility of a pilot project to turn part of the illicit poppy crop into legal opium-based analgesics.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/030-12347-295-10-43-903-20071024IPR12332-22-10-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

Gibraltar

Gibraltar is facing a substance abuse crisis of frightening proportions, with the abuse of alcohol, cigarettes and dangerous drugs is at an all time high.

http://www.vox.gi/Local/Gibraltar_Youth_Spiralling_Abuse_Problem-11112007.html

Norway

Police confiscate more cocaine and amphetamine than ever before. But the use of illegal drugs is likely even more widespread than the confiscations indicate, police officials say.

<http://www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article1922787.ece>

United Kingdom

UK drugs trade tops £7bn, study shows the astonishing scale of the drugs trade in Britain, although very rough, has led Home Office researchers to calculate that by value it represents about a third of the size of the tobacco market in Britain and two-fifths of the trade in alcohol.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr2007.pdf>

United Kingdom

The two-tier cocaine market sees dealers selling cheaper, more heavily cut cocaine to students, pub users and those on low incomes at around £30/gram, while targeting more affluent consumers with a higher quality drug at around £50/gram.

<http://drugeducationforum.wordpress.com/2007/09/13/drugscope-street-drug-trends-survey-2007-two-tier-cocaine-market-puts-drug-in-reach-of-more-users/>

United Kingdom

Risk, protective factors and resilience to drug use. The Home Office have published research on risk factors for drug misuse problems.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr0407.pdf>

United Kingdom

'Prisons and Drugs - A global view of incarceration, drug use and drug services.' Report 12 from the Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme which describes the high rates of drug problems in all prison systems, summarises the current state of global knowledge and research evidence, and provides a guide for policymakers on how to develop effective policies and programmes.

http://www.idpc.info/docs/Beckley_RPT12_Prisons_Drugs_EN.pdf

United Kingdom

National and regional estimates of the prevalence of opiate use and/or crack cocaine use 2005/06: a summary of findings.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr2107.pdf>

World Update

UNODC

UNODC's 2007 Annual Opium Survey showed the area under opium cultivation rose to 193,000 hectares from 165,000 in 2006. The total opium harvest will be 8,200 tonnes, up from 6,100 tonnes last year. The amount of Afghan land used for growing opium is now larger than the combined total under coca cultivation in Latin America - Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. No other country has produced narcotics on such a deadly scale since China in the 19th century.

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/press_release_2007_08_27.html

Afghanistan

If a narco-state can be defined as a nation where the production and export of illegal drugs comprises the equivalent of about 50 percent of that country's legitimate gross domestic product, then Afghanistan is a narco-state.

<http://www.e-ariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/347963AC1522EED587257331003EC325?OpenDocument>

Australia

Australian Customs officers have seized more illicit drugs in the past financial year than in the previous year.

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,22641881-662,00.html>

Australia

Drugs and driving. This research paper offers not only an indication of prevalence of drug driving on Australian roads but also drivers' attitudes towards, and experiences of drug driving including roadside testing.

http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/downloads/External_Reports/Drugs_and_Driving_in_Australia_summary.pdf

Australia

DrugInfo newsletter volume 5 number 4, focuses on the work that is being done by government, researchers and health services in prevention.

http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/newsletter.asp?ContainerID=prev_mental_health_substance_use

Burma/Myanmar

UNODC express alarm at the growth in Burma's opium production, though it all but absolved the country's military regime of any culpability for the increase.

<http://www.nysun.com/article/64378>

Cambodia

The Cambodian Government has announced plans to set up the country's first methadone clinic to support people who use opiate drugs.

<http://www.ihra.net/News#CambodiatoOpenFirstMethadoneClinic>

Canada

Just published a guidebook for parents of young teens on alcohol and drugs.

<http://carbc.ca/portals/0/resources/ParentGuide.pdf>

Canada

Ketamine is used by veterinarians, doctors and dentists as a dissociative anaesthetic and painkiller, but is appearing increasingly on the streets.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/drugs/ketamine.html>

Guinea-Bissau

Drug trafficking and organized crime are threatening to undermine the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to develop.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=24349&Cr=guinea&Cr1=bissau>

Kenya

Lower intravenous drug use, but HIV risks remain. The rapid spread of HIV through needle sharing put paid to the popularity of mainlining.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75445>

Mauritius

Air and sea connections to south and southeast Asia, Australia, Africa and Europe, combined with free ports and an offshore banking industry, have made Mauritius a drug trafficker's paradise.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75510>

New Zealand

Drug and alcohol nurses are to be stationed at two of New Zealand's busiest police stations by January.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10471718

Russia

Drug addiction kills 80,000 Russians each year according to a senior Russian anti-drugs official.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL0989750>

South Africa

Research by the Medical Research Council shows there has been an increase of 12% to 14% in teen heroin cases in the Western Cape province the past year.

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=3045&art_id=vn20071013084757369C469595

USA

The price for a pure gram of cocaine increased 47% since October 2006. The price of a pure gram of methamphetamine jumped 84%.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-11-07-cocaine_N.htm

USA

Substance use in the workplace negatively affects U.S. industry through lost productivity, workplace accidents and injuries, employee absenteeism, low morale, and increased illness.

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7/industry/worker.pdf>

West Africa

The world's newest drugs hub. For a while now, there have been signs that the drugs smuggling problem through West Africa is gaining in importance.

<http://www.radionetherlands.nl/currentaffairs/afr071011>

Drug Webwatch

UNODC

After months of research, planning and development, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is pleased to announce the re launch of its web site. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>

Internships

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announced the application period for summer research training opportunities at its Intramural Program (IRP) facility in Baltimore, Maryland. The internship program - now in its 21st year - is part of NIDA's commitment to introducing the science of addiction to some of the best and brightest young scientists in America. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/newsroom/07/NR11-15.html>

News items

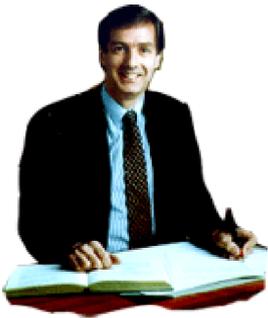
The news page is updated on a regular basis with items from all around the world. You can access it at www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php Add it to your Favourites or Bookmarks for ease of access.

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@paul-cook.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