

European Update

EMCDDA

Drugs in Focus no .18. Substance use is generally associated with young people, but such problems have no age limits', says the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA). In the latest edition of its Drugs in focus series, entitled 'Substance use among older adults: a neglected problem', it says: 'forecasts for the coming years are troubling'.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index439EN.html>

EMCDDA

Concerns are increasing in the EU about the use of chemicals employed in the manufacture of the recreational drug GHB and its precursor GBL: an emerging trend case study, is published as part of a project to track new patterns of drug use in Europe.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index875EN.html>

EMCDDA

Over the past 10 years, there has been a rise in the number of reports of drugs and alcohol being used to immobilise victims for the purpose of sexual assault. Population surveys carried out in six EU countries suggest that up to 20% of women experience some form of sexual assault in their adult lifetime. Technical paper at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index7291EN.html>

EMCDDA

Drugs in Focus 18. Substance use is generally associated with youth, but such problems have no age limits.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index439EN.html>

Europe

New drug BZP to be placed under control across the EU Europe has responded today to concerns over the use of the stimulant drug BZP by subjecting it to 'control measures and criminal provisions' across the EU Member States.

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_49695_EN_BZPDecision2008FinalEN.pdf

Czech Republic

The Supreme Court recently ruled in favour of a woman who had grown cannabis for medicinal purposes and who had been previously found guilty of illegal production and possession of drugs by a lower court.

<http://cannazine.co.uk/cannabis-news/europe/supreme-court-rules-in-favour-of-cannabis-grower.html>

Ireland

National Drugs Strategy 2001 – 2008 a review. In developing a new strategy for the next seven years, the Review Group recognised that while much remains to be done, there are encouraging signs of progress in recent years which suggests that the current approach to tackling the drug problem is proving to be effective.

<http://www.pobail.ie/en/NationalDrugsStrategy/NationalDrugsStrategyOverview/file.2229.en.pdf>

Ireland

Publication 'Domestic Violence and Abuse experienced by Children and Young People living in Families with Alcohol Problems: Results from a Cross-European Study'

http://www.encare.ie/projects_activities.htm

Sweden

The Swedish action plan on narcotic drugs 2006–2010 states that long-term preventive work to achieve a drug-free society must continue. The work at local level is crucial to achieving successful results. At the same time cooperation within the EU and internationally must increase, as almost all illegal drugs consumed come from outside Sweden.

<http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/09/88/53/49c4a92e.pdf>

United Kingdom

Drug Deaths in Fife, Scotland (2005 -2007) Report on the findings of the Fife Drug Deaths Monitoring and Prevention Group(Fife Drug and Alcohol Action Team).

http://www.nhsfife.scot.nhs.uk/publications/Fife%20DD_report_compiled%20Final%20with%20foreword.pdf

United Kingdom

Working Together to Reduce Harm' is the Welsh Assembly Government's 10 year strategy for tackling the harms associated with the misuse of alcohol,drugs and other substances in Wales.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultation/dsjlg/2008/workingtogether/finaldocumente.pdf?lang=en>

United Kingdom

.UK Sport announced details of its most comprehensive pre-Games drug testing and education programme. Over 1,500 tests will be carried out on British athletes competing in Beijing at this summer's Olympic Games, with the aim of testing every single athlete selected for Team GB at least once in the run-up to the Games

http://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/largest_anti-doping_programme_ever_for_britains_beijing_bound_at_hletes/

World Update

International Narcotics Control Board

Annual report for 2007 including regional highlights.

<http://www.incb.org/pdf/annual-report/2007/en/press-kit.pdf>

UNODC

The year was marked by two major developments: record levels of opium poppy production in Afghanistan and the emergence of West Africa as a transshipment point for cocaine traffickers bound for Europe. These disturbing trends are covered in the UNODC Annual Report 2008.

http://www.unodc.org/documents/about-unodc/AR08_WEB.pdf

The international Mentor Prevention Awards 2008 will be presented at the St Tropez Polo Club, France, on June 28, 2008. These Awards will recognise and celebrate promise and achievement in drug abuse prevention globally. Awards are open to all organisations working in the field of drug abuse prevention. Further information at: http://www.mentorfoundation.org/awards_2008.php

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is ready to launch a "name and shame" campaign against high-level corruption and drug trafficking if it gets international backing. <http://www.eariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/8BBC512FAE262A84872574100020E2FF?OpenDocument>

Australia

ANCD research paper 16 - Drug testing in schools : evidence, impacts and alternatives.

http://www.ncnd.org.au/publications/pdf/rp16_drug_testing_in_schools.pdf

Australia

Senior police have drawn up a hit list of officers to be drug-tested as soon as a new law is passed in June, will allow Police to test employees if they have been involved in a "critical incident", such as a shooting or high-speed chase resulting in an injury, or if there is a reasonable suspicion that they have been abusing drugs.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/police-hit-list-drawn-up-to-catch-drug-using-officers/2008/03/13/1205126111225.html>

Brazil

A publication aimed at helping family members and friends of individuals who struggle with dependence, "Anônimos" ("Anonymous"), was launched this week in Brazil with UNODC support.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/brazils-first-magazine-on-drug-dependence.html>

Egypt

A new anti-drug campaign spearheaded by superstar preacher Amir Khaled has raised questions over why addiction is mushrooming.

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2008/890/fo1.htm>

India

In what could put India in an embarrassing situation, the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) — the country's apex body that supervises licenced opium poppy cultivation — has revealed that the country's illicit production of opium poppy is more than its licenced production.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Illicit_opium_trade_thriving_in_India_Narcotics_bureau/rssarticleshow/2843858.cms

Israel

Israeli Anti-Drug Ads Say Marijuana Smokers Aid Terrorists. If you're smoking marijuana in Israel you are helping terrorists like Hezbollah who want to destroy the Jewish state, according to a new ad campaign.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2008/israeli-anti-drug-ads.html>

New Zealand

A new generation of party pills much stronger than those soon to be banned is being developed to get around the new law. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/4440101a6160.html>

Peru

Peru sees cocaine making a comeback. After a lull, production is rising, feeding demand in Brazil, Europe and East Asia. With cartel men replaced by a piecemeal network, the trafficking is harder to combat.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-fg-coca23mar23.1.2943687.story>

USA

Scientists Say Methadone-Like Treatment for Cocaine Addiction Possible. Cocaine addicts could be treated with less-addictive amphetamines, similar to using methadone to treat opiate addiction.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/scientists-say-methadone-like.html>

Uzbekistan

Law enforcement officers recently intercepted a large amount of heroin being smuggled through Uzbekistan. The investigation uncovered one of the biggest drug smuggling cases in the country. Almost 570 kilograms of heroin were seized in a joint operation.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/uzbek-officers-put-unodc-training-to-good-use.html>

Venezuela

The Venezuelan air force bombed a landing strip used to bring cocaine across the border from Colombia on Friday, several weeks after the United States criticized President Hugo Chavez's drug-fighting record.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/reuters/2008/03/29/america/OUKWD-UK-VENEZUELA-DRUGS.php>

Drug Webwatch

Pharmaceutical Press An interesting web site for professionals in a number of fields including healthcare professionals who encounter drug abuse, forensic and crime laboratories, toxicologists, clinical pharmacology departments, poison information centres, pathologists, clinical toxicologists, hospital pharmacists and analytical chemists. A range of publications are available including the second edition of *Drugs of Abuse* which has been comprehensively revised since the first edition, and includes new chapters on gamma hydroxybutyrate and the internet as an information resource. Also covered are the prevalence of drug use, a detailed assessment of side effects, and interactions between illicit drugs and conventional medicines. Also available online is *Clarke's Analysis of Drugs and Poisons* a practical manual and standard reference work that provides the definitive source of analytical data for drugs and poisons. It is intended for use primarily by scientists faced with identifying and quantifying these substances in body fluids, tissue samples and pharmaceutical and industrial products.

<http://www.pharmpress.com/shop/default.asp>

Conferences

Drugs, Alcohol and Criminal Justice - 17th and 18th July at Warwick University, UK. Harm Reduction - what does it mean? How does it apply to different fields of work? How can it be practically implemented? Full details at:

<http://www.conferenceconsortium.org>

5th UK/European Symposium on Addictive Disorders - 8-10 May in London, UK. Europe's largest conference on addiction treatment. Full details at: <http://www.ukesad.org>

Drugs in the Culture of the City Youth - ECAD 15th Mayors' Conference, Warsaw, Poland 28-29 May, 2008. Full details at: <http://www.ecad.net>

News items

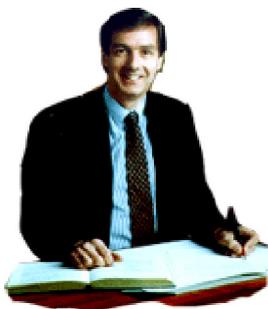
The news page *DrugWorld* is updated on a regular basis with items from all around the world. You can access it at www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php Add it to your Favourites or Bookmarks for ease of access.

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



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



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