

European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

European Drug Report

Trends and Developments

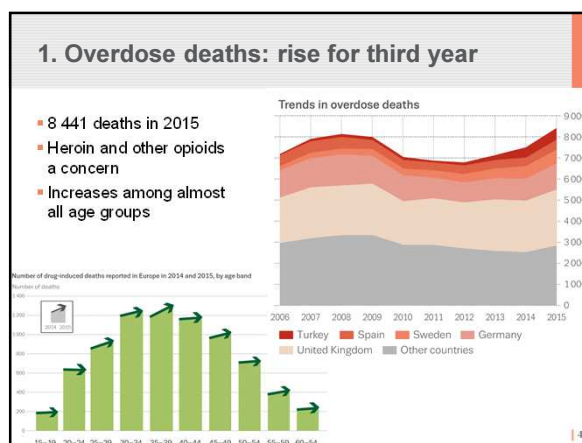
6 June 2017

European Drug Report (EDR) package

The diagram illustrates the components of the European Drug Report (EDR) package. It includes a central 'European Drug Report 2017' document, a 'Statistical Bulletin' with a pie chart, and 'Country Drug Reports' for various European countries. The package is presented as a collection of reports and data visualizations.

Highlights from the European Drug Report 2017

- **Overdose deaths** — rise for third year in a row
- **New synthetic opioids** — a growing health threat
- **NPS** — fewer new detections, but availability high and problems continue
- **Cocaine** — first signs of increasing availability?
- **Cannabis trends** — EU and US student substance use compared



Preventing drug overdose deaths

- Opioid substitution treatment (OST) — sound evidence...
- Importance of reducing diversion of OST medications
- Naloxone schemes: 10 countries
- Drug consumption rooms: 7 countries

The photograph shows the interior of a drug consumption room (DCR). It features several blue partitions and tables, providing a safe and supervised environment for drug use.

2. New synthetic opioids — a growing health threat

- 25 new synthetic opioids detected between 2009 and 2016
- Highly potent, also found in other products
- Intoxication risk to users and to those accidentally exposed

The photograph shows a spoon with white powder, a syringe, and several white pills on a dark surface, illustrating the presence of synthetic opioids.

Two fentanils risk assessed in 2017

8 new fentanils reported to EU Early Warning System (EWS) in 2016

Acryloylfentanyl and furanylfentanyl assessed

- Multiple deaths associated
- Being considered for control in EU

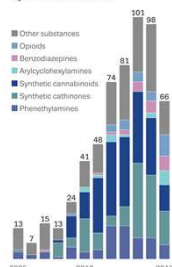
Three new fentanils under investigation



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3. NPS: drop in new detections but availability still high

Number and categories of new psychoactive substances notified to the EU Early Warning System for the first time



- 66 new substances detected in 2016
- Decline from 2014 peak
- Impact of regulation in EU and China?
- 620+ substances monitored by EWS
- Deaths and acute intoxications still a problem



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NPS: high-risk use in marginalised populations

Low use in general population but problems for some groups:

- cathinone injection by opioid users, MSM
- synthetic cannabinoids among homeless
- use in prison a growing concern

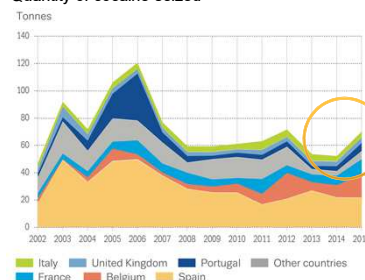
New report published:
High-risk drug use and new psychoactive substances



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4. First signs of rising cocaine availability?

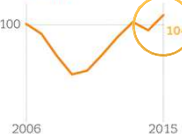
Quantity of cocaine seized



Purity

Indexed trends:

Purity



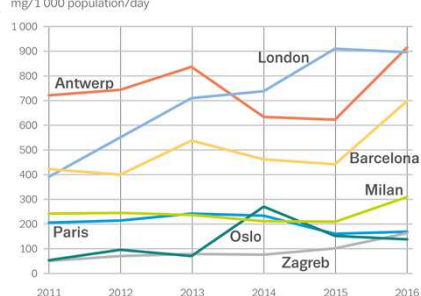
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Cocaine: increases in wastewater analysis

Cocaine residues ↑

in 22/33 cities between 2015-2016

Cocaine residues in wastewater in selected European cities: trends
mg/1 000 population/day

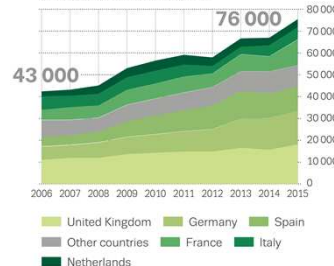


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5. Cannabis use and problems

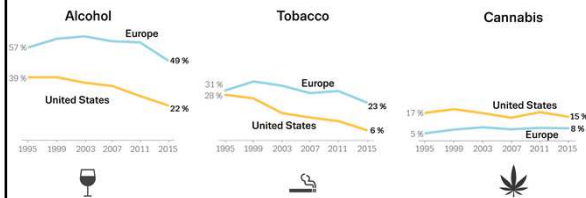
- 87.7 million European adults have tried cannabis
- 1% adults daily users
- National diversity in prevalence and trends
- Increasing treatment demand — 45% of new entrants

Trends in first-time entrants



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EU and US students: last-month substance use compared



- EU cannabis use **half** levels found in US (stable)
- But alcohol use **2x** and tobacco **4x** higher in Europe (declining)
- Success for tobacco and alcohol transferable?



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Conclusions...

Drug-related deaths

- Need to develop and share effective responses
- Challenge of monitoring and responding to an evolving and complex problem

New psychoactive substances

- Remain a policy challenge
- New problems seen in marginalised communities and particular settings
- More interplay with the illicit drug market

Cocaine

- Possible emerging problem, need for vigilance



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