PREDICT. PREVENT. PROTECT.

UNODC Opioid Strategy and UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs

Dr. Justice Tettey
Chief, Laboratory & Scientific Section
UNODC Opioid Strategy

The 61st Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) called for action to tackle this threat.

Tweets by @UN_OPIOIDS

UNODC Opioid Strategy

@UN_OPIOIDS

@unodc_lab for your support and collaboration advancing the #UNODC #OpioidStrategy by building lab and forensic capacity to strengthen integrated responses to the #OpioidCrisis. @jhe_levey @JohnBrandolino @MvwaKatsaEmpower

The Strategy

1. Early Warning and Trend Analysis
   - Generating evidence in support of effective policy decisions and operational responses

2. Rationale Prescribing and Access to Opioids for Medical and Scientific Use
   - Expand programmes with WHO and INCB on access to pain medication

3. Prevention and Treatment Programmes
   - Strengthening and supporting prevention and treatment programmes related to opioids

4. International LE Operations to Disrupt Trafficking
   - Enhancing operational activities to prevent diversion and trafficking of synthetic opioids

5. Strengthening National and International Counternarcotic Capacity
   - Raising awareness, sharing best practices and promoting international cooperation

Website: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/opioids-crisis
Twitter: UNODC Opioid Strategy
Email: unodc.opioid.strategy@un.org
Recent years have seen a sharp rise globally in opioid overdose deaths. Currently, the majority of the world burden of disease caused by drug use disorders is attributable to opioid use. In this regard, UNODC launched a five-pillar strategy to support countries grappling with the opioid crisis.

It focuses on:
- **Pillar 1** → early warning and trend analysis
- **Pillar 2** → medical and scientific use of opioids
- **Pillar 3** → prevention and treatment of opioid use disorders
- **Pillar 4** → international law enforcement operations to disrupt illicit trafficking of opioids
- **Pillar 5** → strengthening national and international counter-narcotics capacity

**JUNE**
Vienna
Pillar 1: 2018 World Drug Report describes the nature and extent of the crisis now affecting mainly North America and parts of Africa and Middle East, but threatens to spread more widely.

**JULY**
Montevideo
Pillar 1 and Pillar 4: Activities to support the development of Early Warning Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean in partnership with the Organization of American States (OAS).

**AUGUST**
Abuja
Pillar 2: Supporting authorities in West Africa to ensure access to opioids for medical use while preventing abuse.

**SEPTEMBER**
Geneva
Pillar 5: Addressing the challenges of non-medical use of opioids at the Fifth UNODC/WHO Expert Consultation New Psychoactive Substances.

**OCTOBER**
Panama
Pillar 2 & 3: Improving access to controlled medicines is key for pain management. Healthcare providers like nurses, physicians and pharmacists participated in a multi-day training and exchanged information on how to increase access to controlled medicines.

**NOVEMBER**
Panama
Pillar 1 & 4: Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officers and forensic scientists from 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries to identify and detect drugs using modern technology.

**DECEMBER**
Vienna
Pillar 5: Intergovernmental expert group meeting on international challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids.

**Highlights**
- Launch of the five-pillar UNODC Opioid Strategy to deal with the deadly global opioid crisis.
- Introducing the UNODC Opioid Strategy and its new branding in Geneva and via social media → over 1,200 views and with a reach of over 6,200 people.
- Total social media reach in September: 28,000 (Facebook and Twitter).
- Total social media reach in October: 23,000 (Facebook and Twitter).
- Promoting the work of UNODC in response to the opioid crisis via social media. Total reach in November: 56,000 (Facebook and Twitter).
- Promoting the intergovernmental meeting via social media (videos) and web page (web story and newsletter summarizing the highlights of the meeting).

**UNODC**
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs
Forensics Module developed by UNODC

- Do I have the forensic capacity to detect and identify NPS?
- Is there access to equipment, training or human resources?
- How reliable are the results of my analysis?

- Drug Identification
- Quality Assurance
- Overview of this Module
- Other resources

- Precursors
- Early Warning
- International Drug Control Conventions

- What are NPS?
- Have NPS emerged in my country?
- What substances are under international control?
- What are the Conventions?
Forensic Module
Presumptive or preliminary testing

UNODC drug and precursor test kits

These are kits containing necessary reagents, tools and easy step-by-step instructions to conduct approximately 200 rapid and simple colour tests for the preliminary field identification of drugs and precursors most commonly encountered in the illicit traffic. A range of presumptive test kits of this type is also available from commercial sources.


Information about how to access these kits is available at the following: https://bit.ly/2GVib71

Information about experimental procedures for rapid testing of drugs of abuse can be found at: https://bit.ly/2V4hXhH
Handheld devices for presumptive testing

A practical guide to the use of Raman handheld devices for field identification of drugs, precursors, essential chemicals and cutting agents by front-line law enforcement officers and forensic drug analysts. The guidelines highlights its strength as a rapid and non-destructive device which enables samples to be analyzed directly through transparent or translucent containers. The limitations of the device along with safety precautions are also outlined. In addition, the guidelines specifically provides step-by-step instructions on the use of one type of Raman handheld device.
United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs
United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs
This module of the toolkit provides information about drug precursors and the international precursors control system, as well as the two key elements critical to prevent chemicals from reaching clandestine laboratories for the illicit manufacture of drugs:

- monitoring of legitimate international trade, and
- investigations into suspicious shipments, attempted diversions and seizures of precursors.
United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs

TOOLKIT DEVELOPMENT!
Thank you!

UNODC - Making the world safer from drugs and crime

Email
unodc-lab@un.org
unodc.opioid.strategy@un.org

Twitter
@unodc_lab
@un_opioids

Websites
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/