

World Drug Report 2021



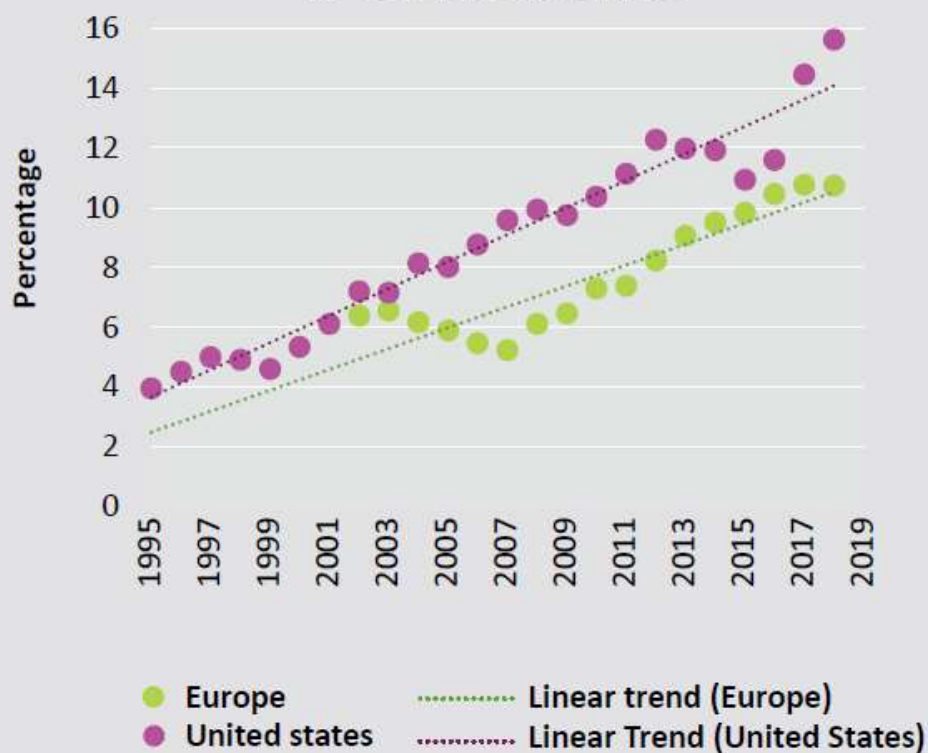
Presentation of main findings

Chloé Carpentier, Chief of Drug Research Section

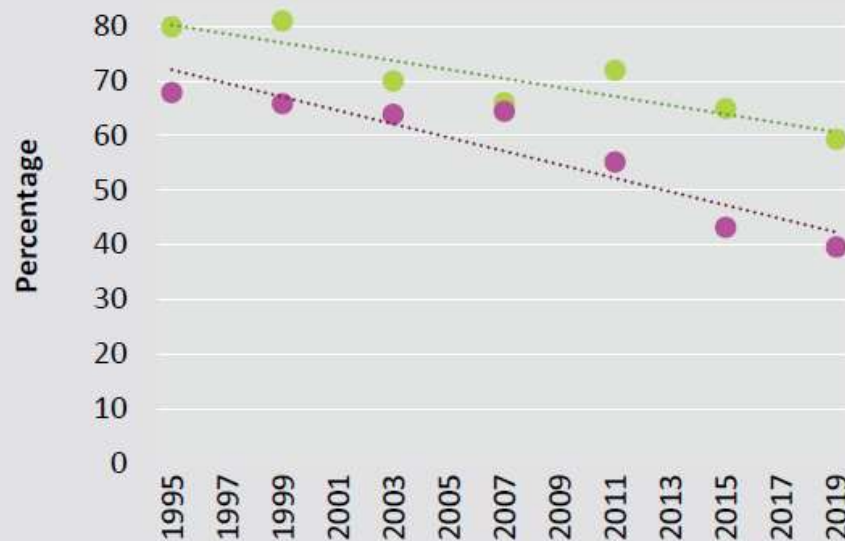
Cannabis more potent but fewer young people see its regular use as harmful

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CANNABIS POTENCY ($\Delta 9$ -THC CONTENT) IN CANNABIS HERB



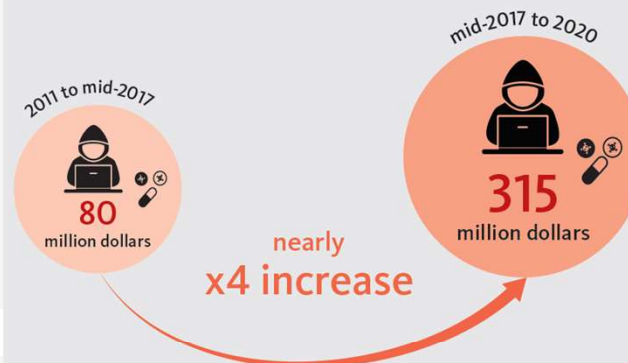
PERCEPTION AMONG ADOLESCENTS OF RISK/HARM OF SMOKING CANNABIS REGULARLY



Dark web markets come and go, but sales of drugs are rising

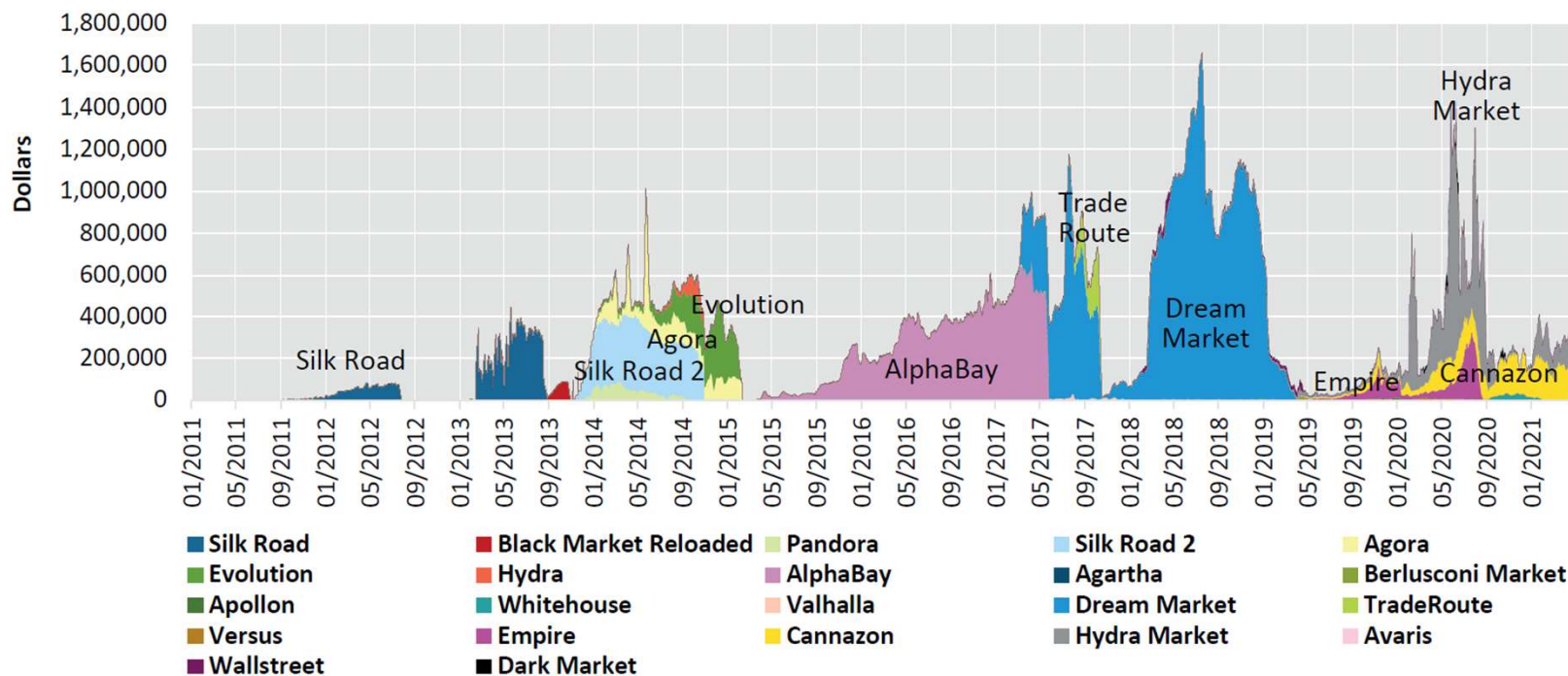
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INCREASE IN DRUG SALES OVER THE DARK WEB



Source: UNODC analysis and estimates, based on data from Hikari Labs.

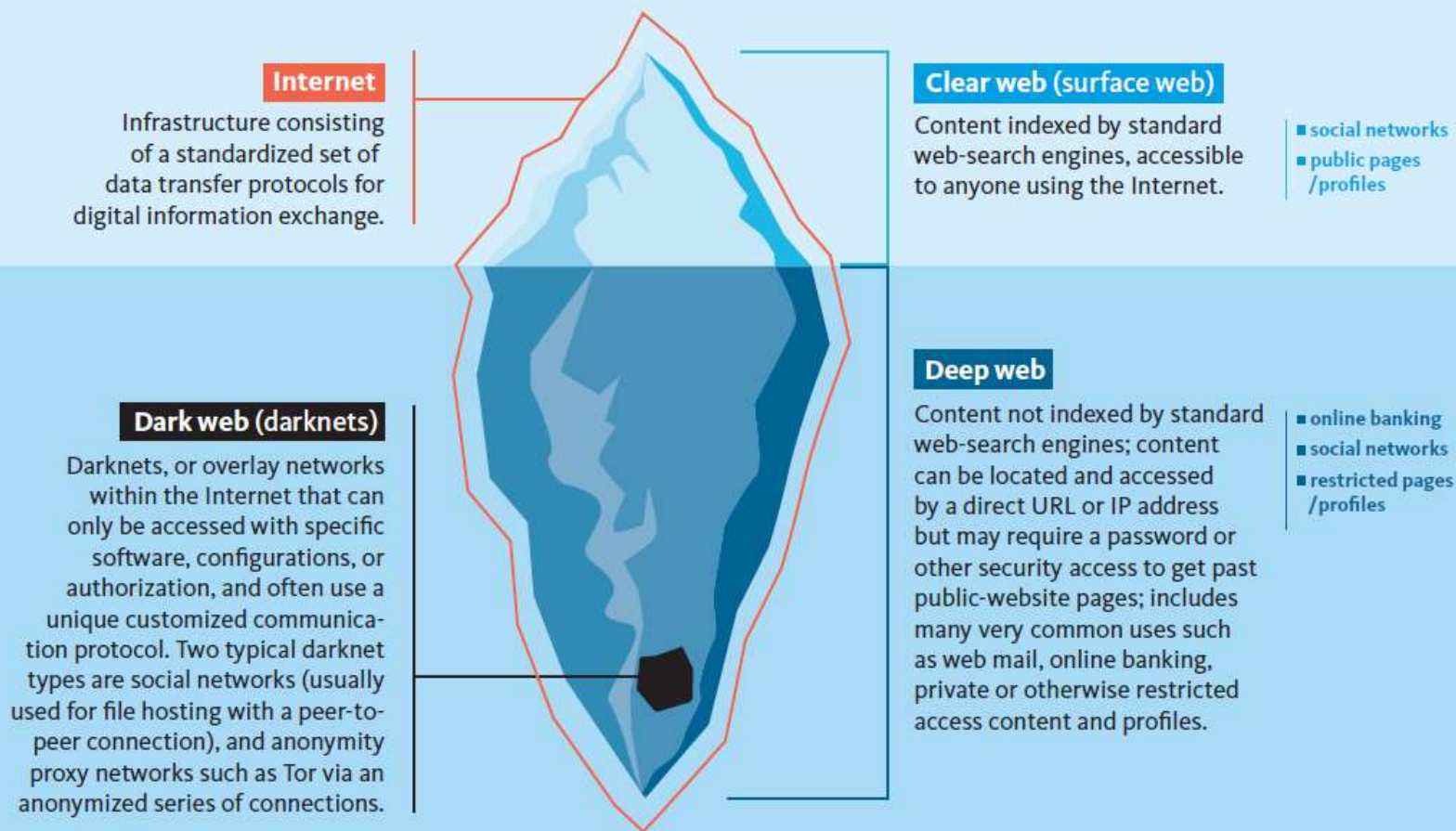
Daily drug sales (minimum) on major darknet markets, 2011–April 2021



Online sales of drugs on the clear web, the deep web and the dark web

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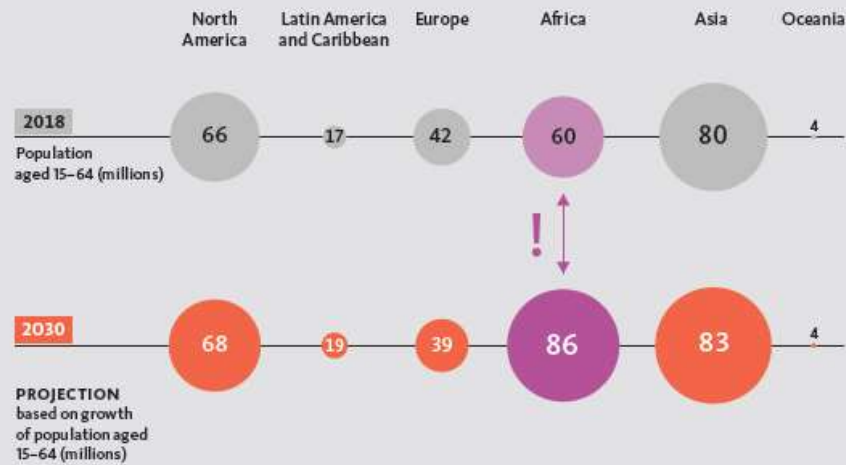
THE INTERNET: CLEAR WEB, DEEP WEB AND DARK WEB



Projection 11% increase in global number of drug users by 2030 due to population growth alone

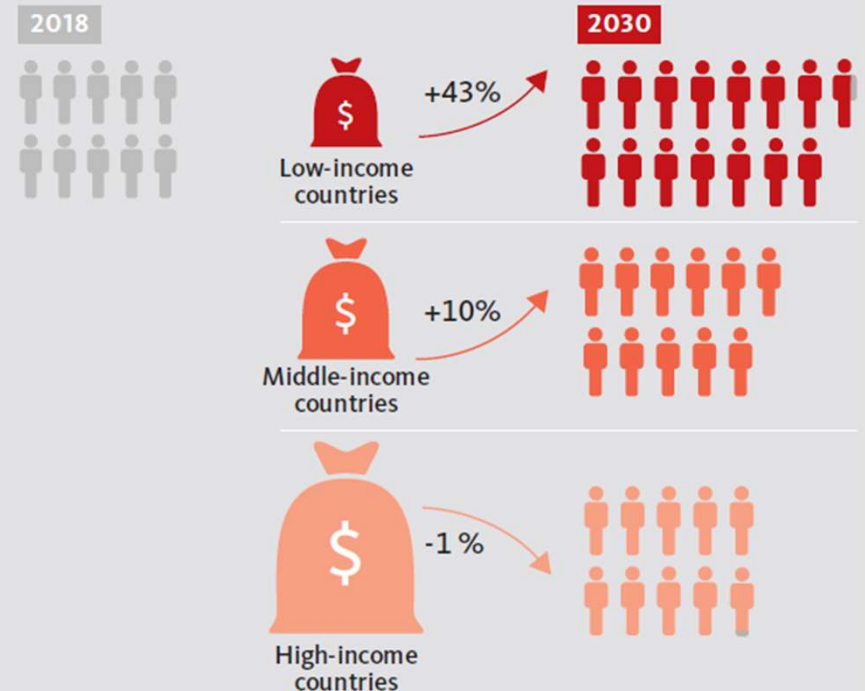
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ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS



40% GROWTH
IN THE NUMBER
OF PEOPLE
WHO USE DRUGS
IN AFRICA

INCREASE IN POPULATION AT MOST RISK OF DRUG USE IS HIGHEST IN COUNTRIES WITH LOW LEVEL OF INCOME

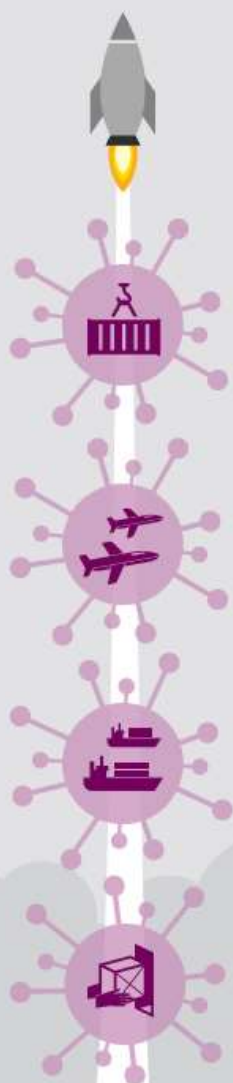


Impact of COVID-19 resilience and adaptation of drug traffickers

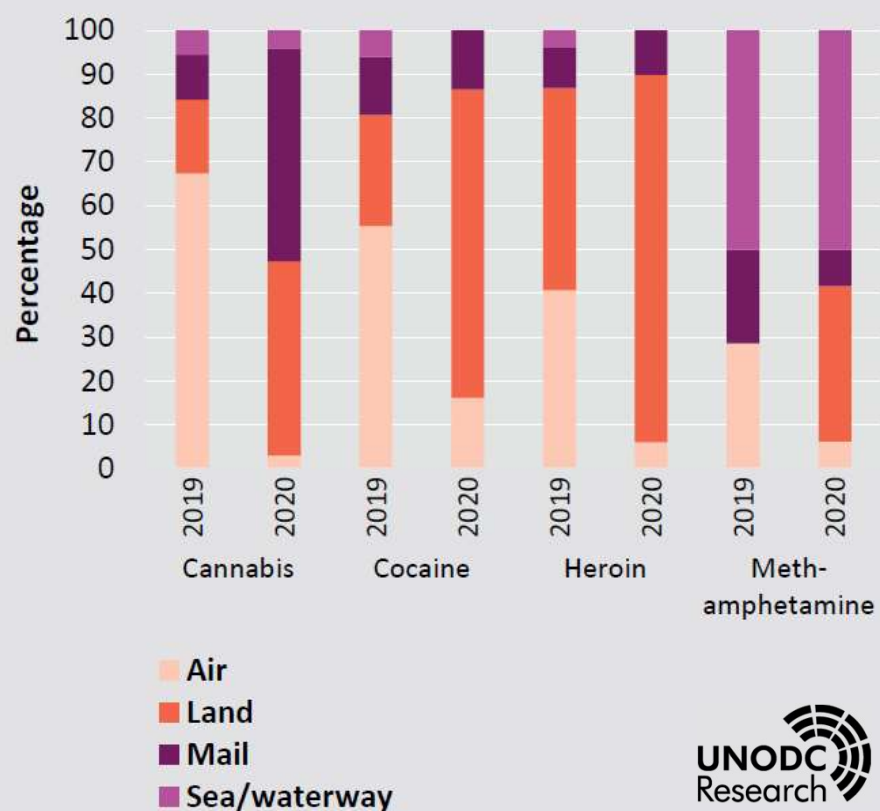
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COVID HAS ACCELERATED SOME DRUG TRAFFICKING PATTERNS

- Larger shipment size
- Increased use of private aircraft
- Increased use of waterway routes
- Contactless methods to deliver drugs to end-consumers



DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THERE HAS BEEN A CLEAR CHANGE IN THE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION OF SMALL-SCALE DRUG SEIZURES

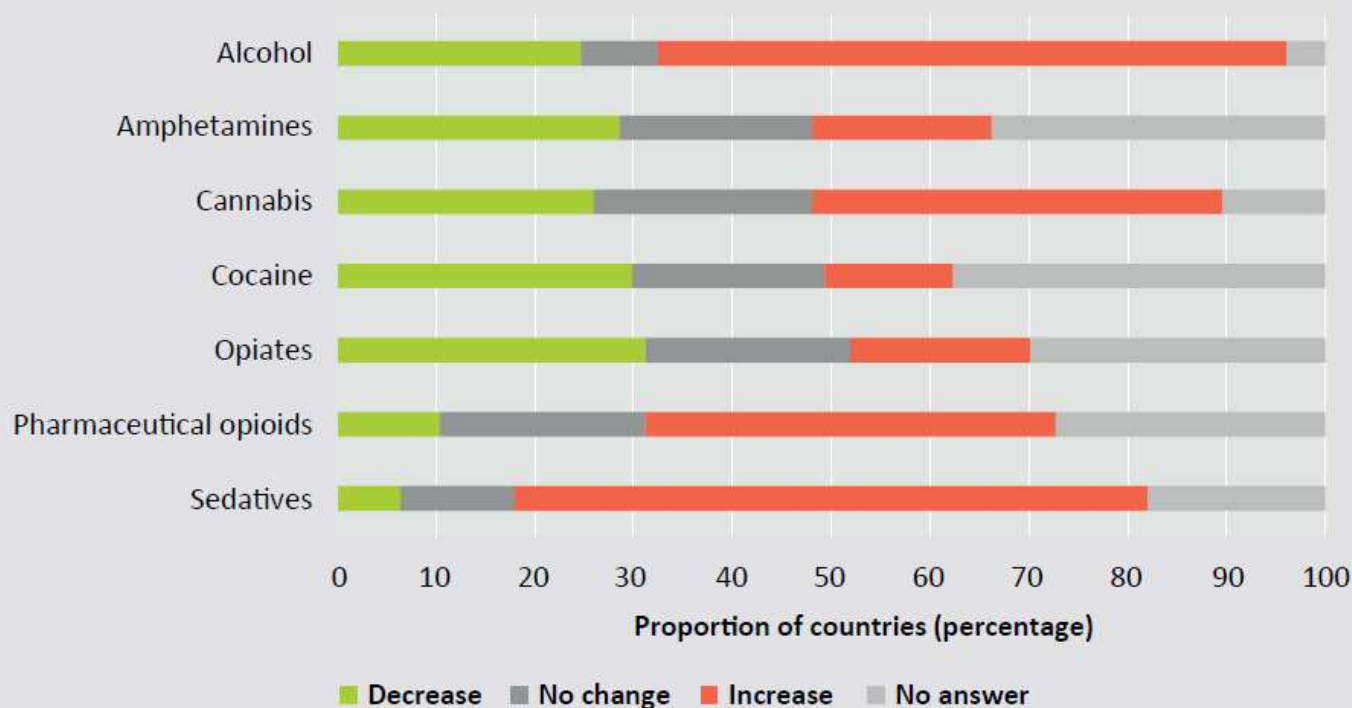


Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform.

Impact of COVID-19 increase in non-medical use of cannabis, pharm. drugs

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2021

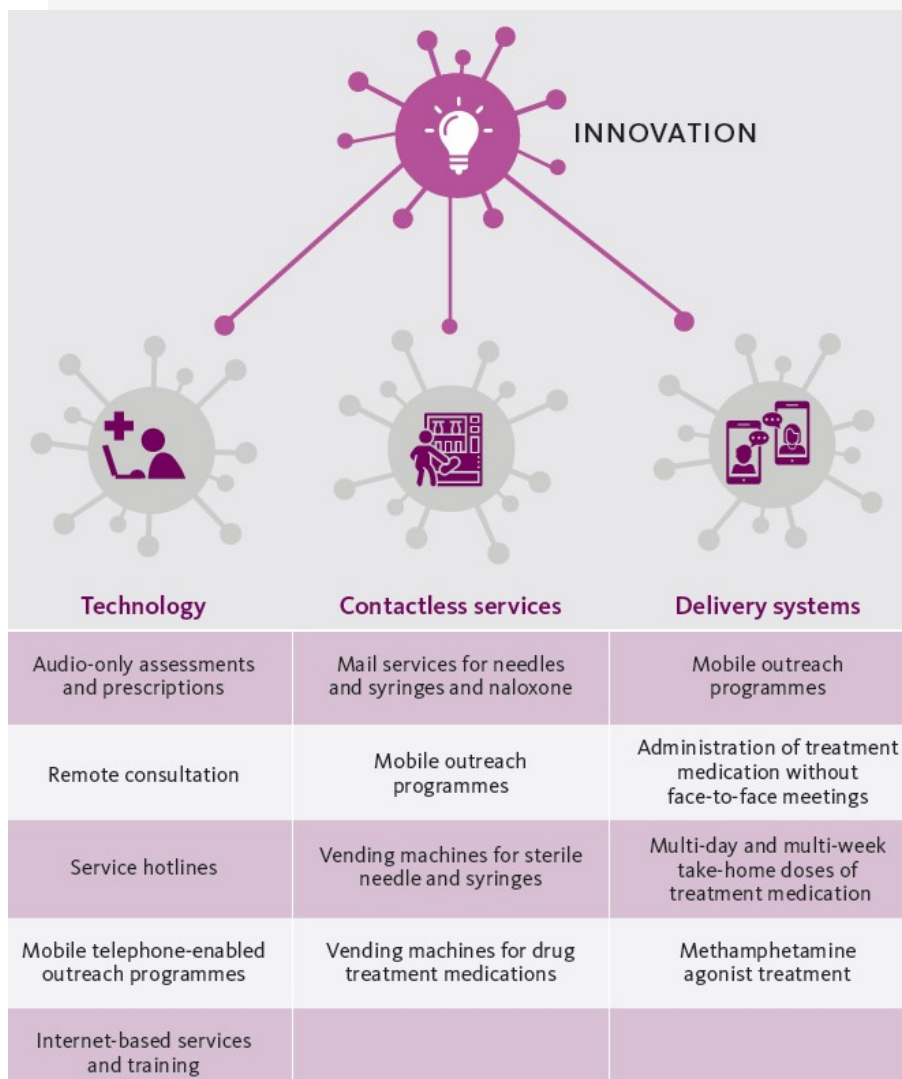
ADDICTION MEDICINE PROFESSIONALS PERCEIVED IN MOST COUNTRIES AN INCREASE IN THE USE OF CANNABIS AND NON-MEDICAL USE OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PANDEMIC



Source: Ali Farhoudian and others, "A global survey on changes in the supply, price and use of illicit drugs and alcohol, and related complications during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic", *MedRxiv* (2020).

Impact of COVID-19 innovation in drug use prevention and treatment services

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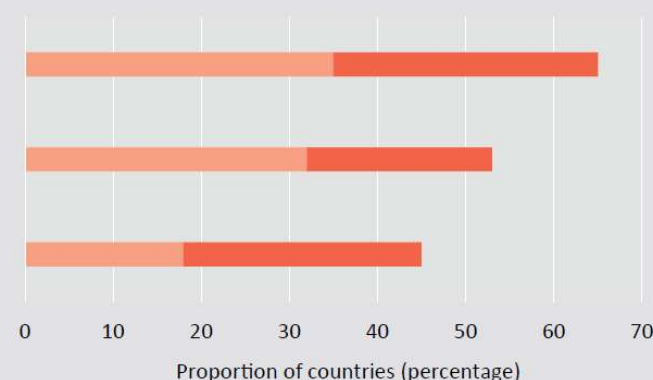


MANY COUNTRIES EXPERIENCED DISRUPTIONS TO DRUG USE SERVICES DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Critical services for the prevention of adverse health consequences

Overdose prevention and management

Opioid agonist treatment programmes



Partially disrupted Completely disrupted

Source: WHO. *The Impact of COVID-19 on Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Services: Results of a Rapid Assessment* (Geneva, 2020).

Impact of COVID-19 likely to be felt in drug markets for years to come

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POST-COVID ECONOMIC CRISIS WILL HAVE GREATEST IMPACT ON DRUG MARKETS

Expanding drug cultivation and trafficking

food insecurity may intensify
illicit drug cultivation
and production



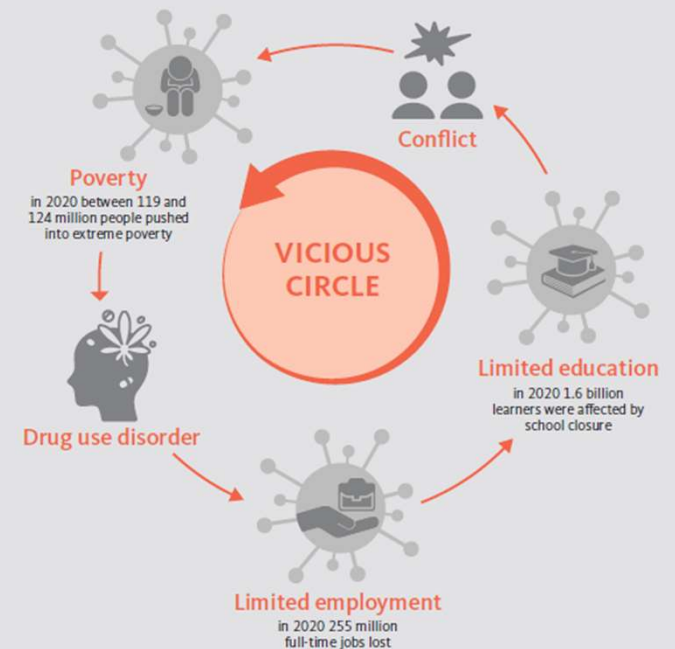
More drug use

a protracted economic crisis
may accelerate progression
to drug use disorders



ECONOMIC
CRISIS
predicted

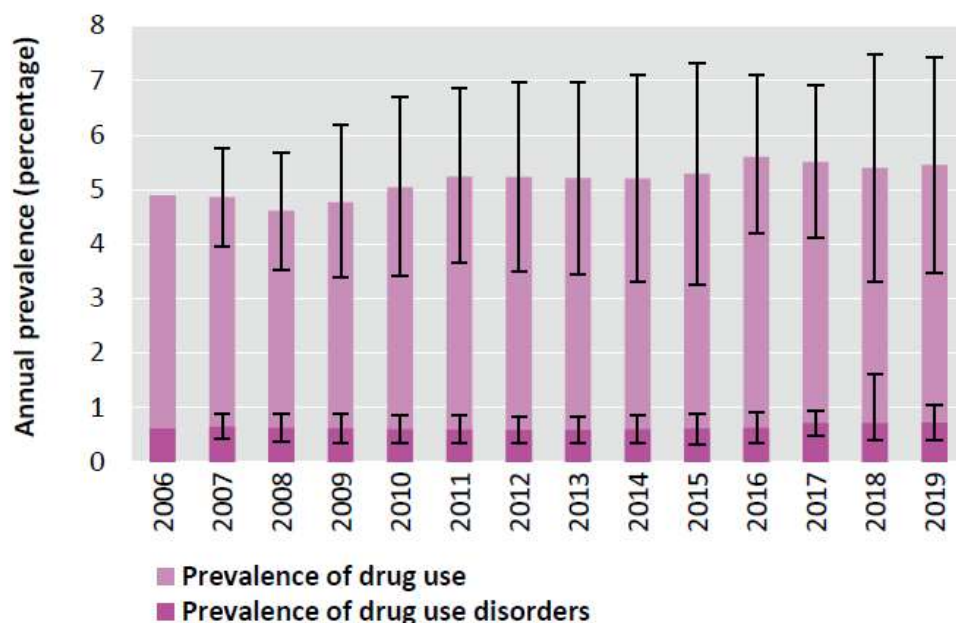
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS EXACERBATED THE FACTORS THAT FUEL THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY AND DRUG USE DISORDERS



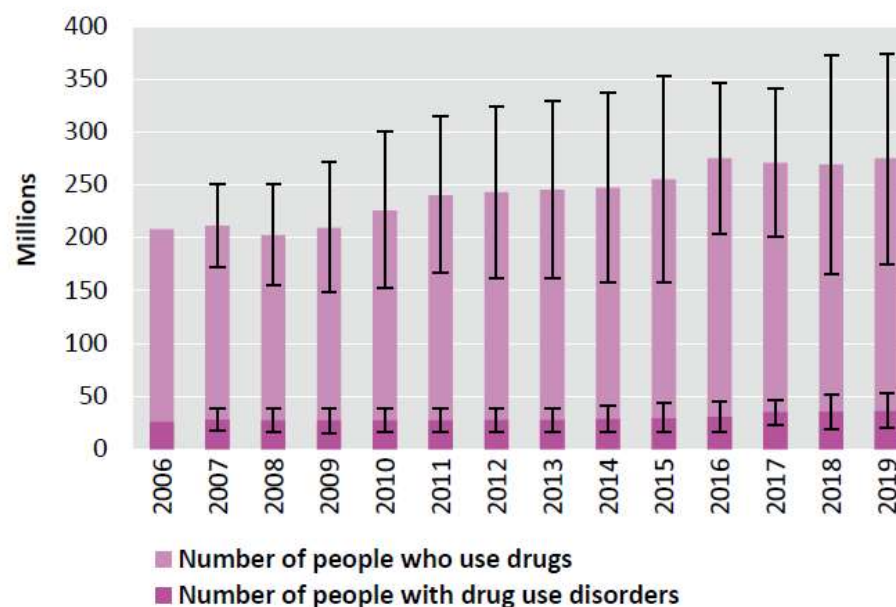
Number of people using drugs rising 22% in last decade to 275 million

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Global prevalence of drug use and drug use disorders, 2006–2019



Global number of people who use drugs and people with drug use disorders, 2006–2019

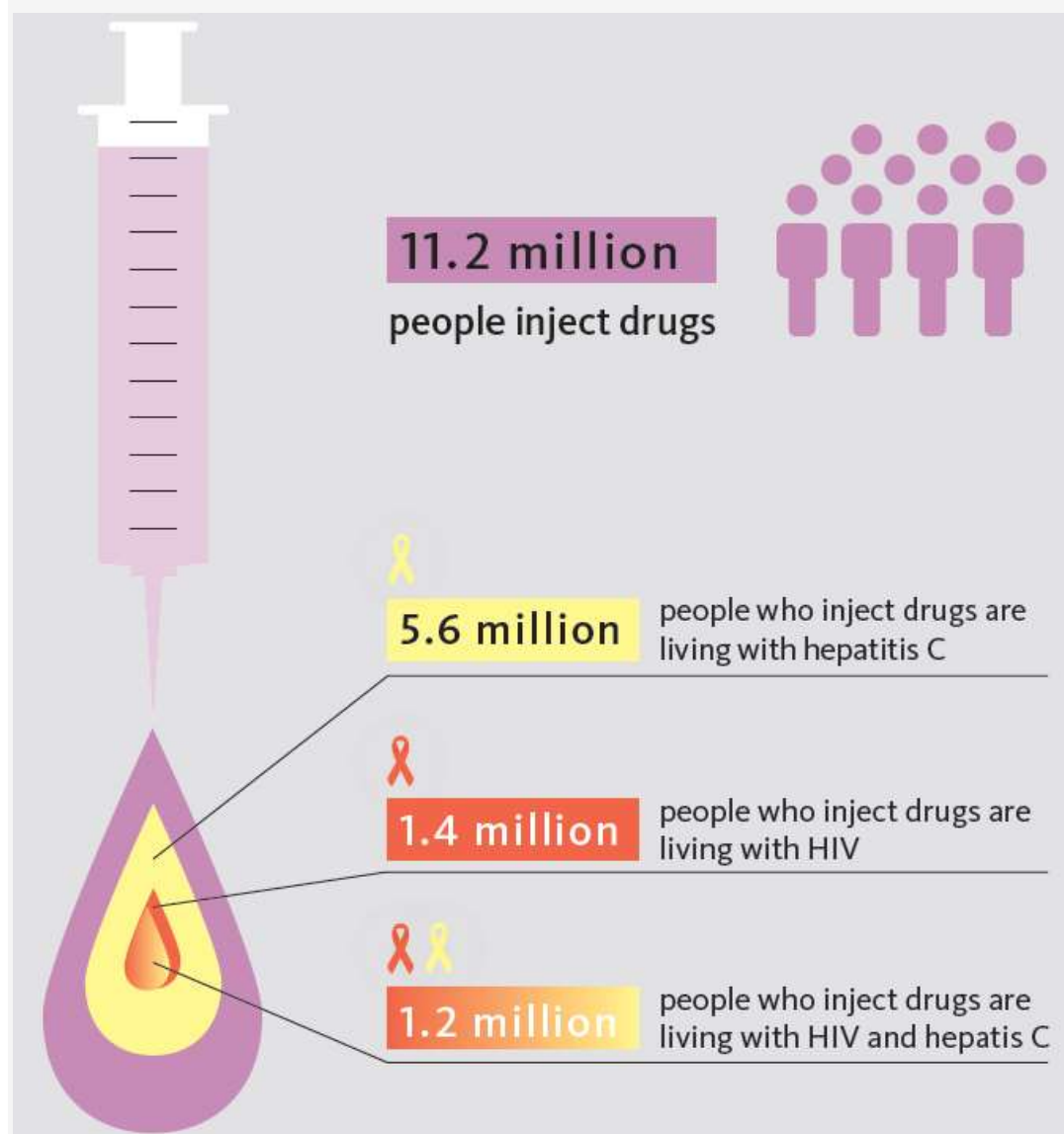


Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

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Burden of disease remains high among people who use drugs

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Global burden of disease due to drug use increasing

494,000 deaths

31 million years of healthy life lost

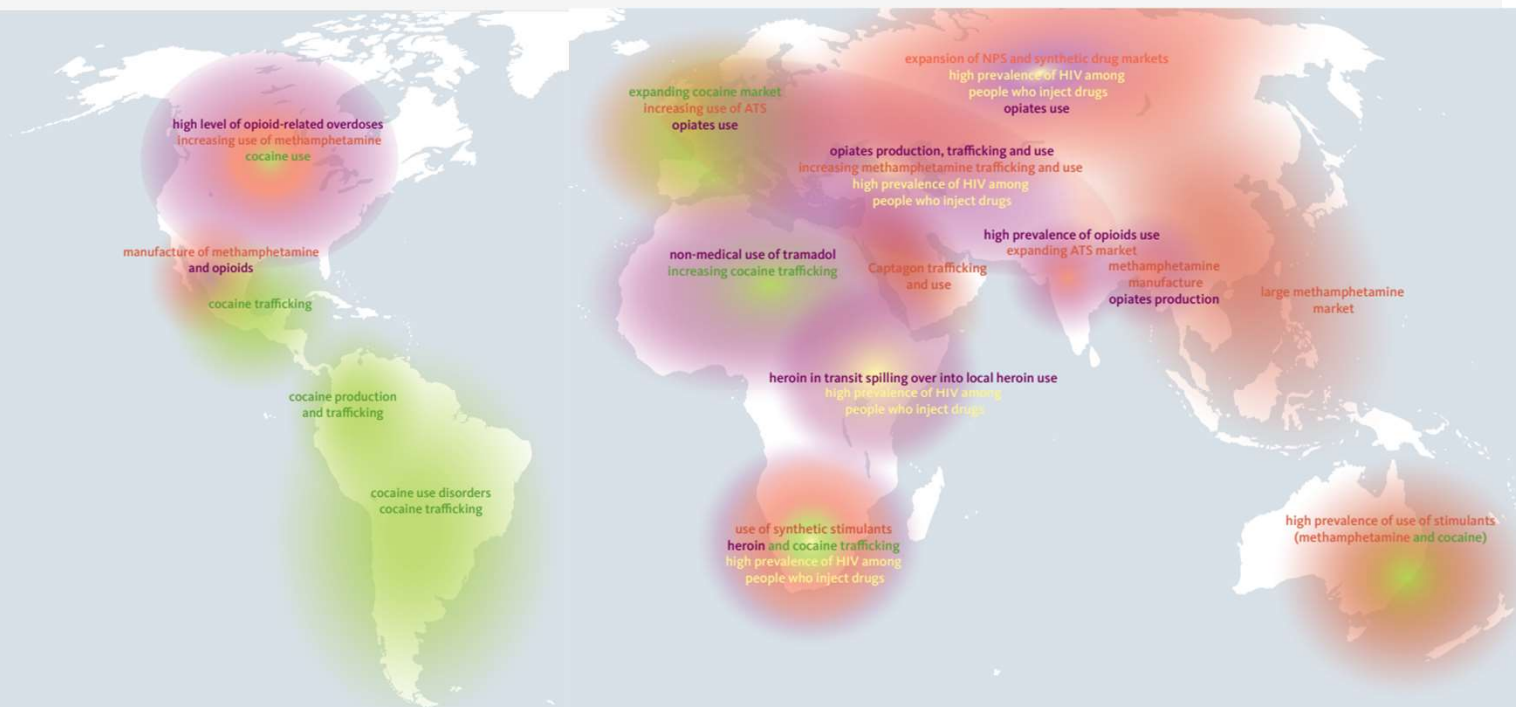
mostly attributed to opioid use disorders

The world drug problem: common challenge, local dynamics

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While cannabis trafficking and use affect all regions worldwide, other drug issues pose additional threats in different geographical locations.

- Cocaine
- Opioids/Opiates
- Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)
- HIV among PWID



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Thank you for your listening!

<https://wdr.unodc.org/>