World Drug Report

Prevalence of drug use and trafficking flow maps

Data Development and Dissemination Section
Research and Trends Analysis Branch
UNODC

OUTLINE

- **Prevalence of drug use**
  - Main indicators
  - Data sources
  - UNODC work
  - Main challenges and solutions

- **Trafficking flow maps**
  - Key data and indicators
  - National and subregional flow maps
  - Available information and challenges

Prevalence of drug use – Main indicators, data sources and UNODC work

One of the main epidemiological indicators to measure drug use is the **prevalence of drug use among the general population (current use: past 12 months)**.

Prevalence of drug use -> estimated by Member States national institutions, academic institutions or specialized agencies, using:

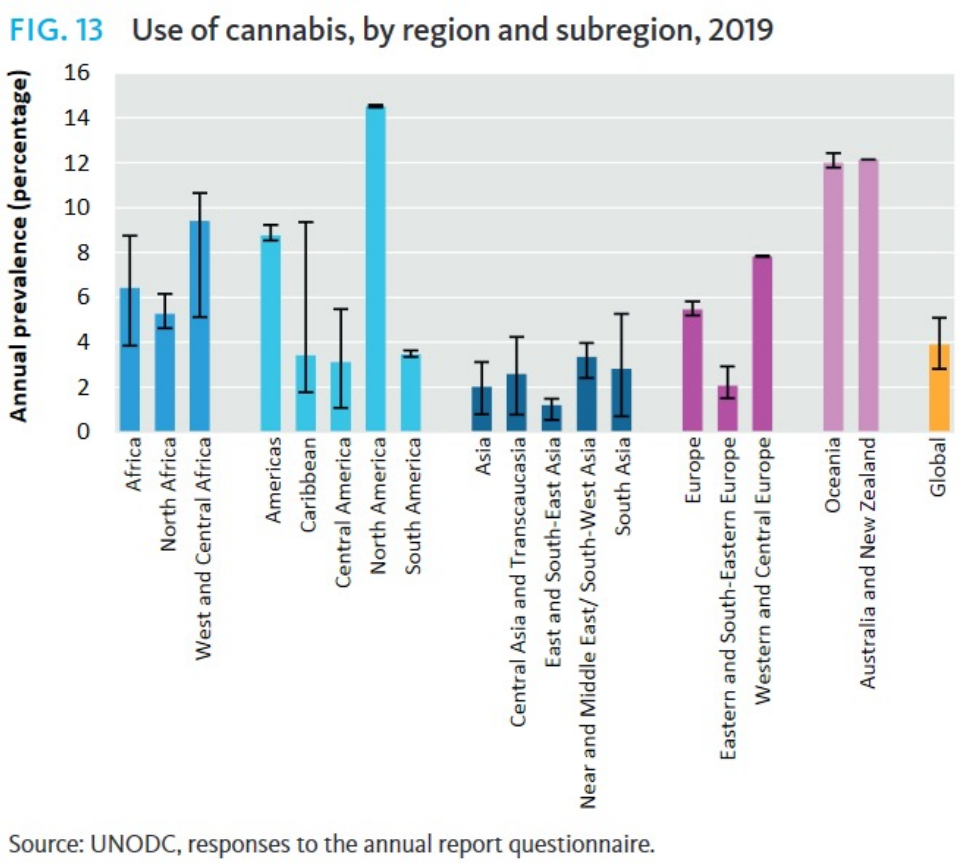
- Household surveys data
- School surveys data
- Indirect methods (capture-recapture, benchmark methods…)

➢ **UNODC work**

Based on data provided by Member States in the ARQ and external data search, UNODC produces:

- Tables on national data on prevalence of drug use
- Regional estimates of prevalence of drug use
- Global estimates of prevalence of drug use
- Global estimates of problematic drug use (PDUs)

Prevalence of drug use – UNODC work



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Regional and global estimates:

- Integrated with new data each year (20-40 new estimates available each year)
- Available estimates cover over 60% of global population, for the past 5-10 years
- Uncertainty due to limited data availability: UNODC publishes min and max estimates ranges

Main challenges and possible solutions

➢ Data production:

Challenges:
- Limited countries capacity to conduct nation-wide household surveys on a regular basis
- Limited use of other methods to estimate drug use.

Solutions:
- Develop and implement alternative methods to estimate drug use
- Provide technical assistance and financial support
- Raise broad/public awareness about importance of drugs data for policy making

➢ Data collection:

Challenges: available data are not always shared (nationally or internationally)

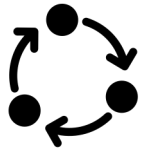
Solutions: Improved outreach activities, establishment of national networks/communities, appointment of ARQ Focal Points

Trafficking flow maps – outputs, indicators and data sources

➢ **UNODC work**

Based on data on seizures from ARQ, IDS and other official documents, UNODC produces trafficking flow maps:

- At **national level** -> main source/transit and destination of cocaine products and heroin
- At **subregional level** -> flow maps



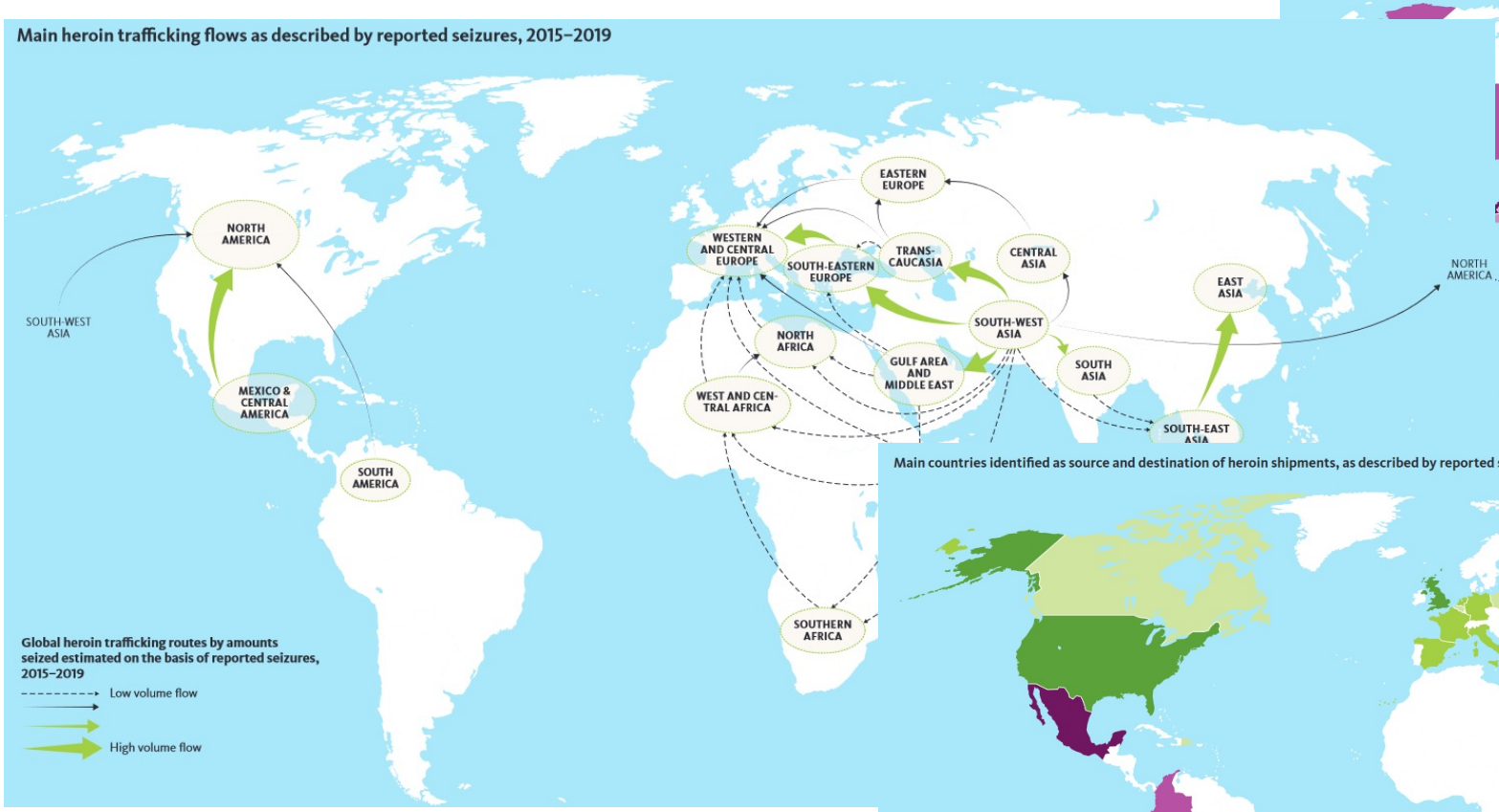
UNODC: compiles origin-destination matrices by assembling a variety of complex inputs

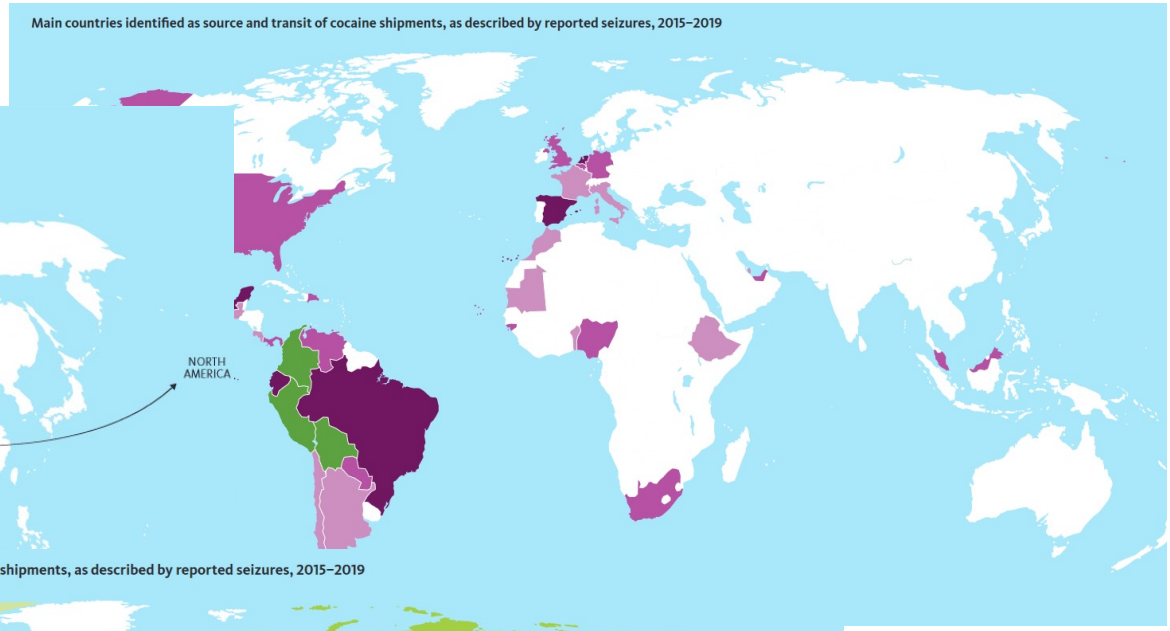
Data inputs used:

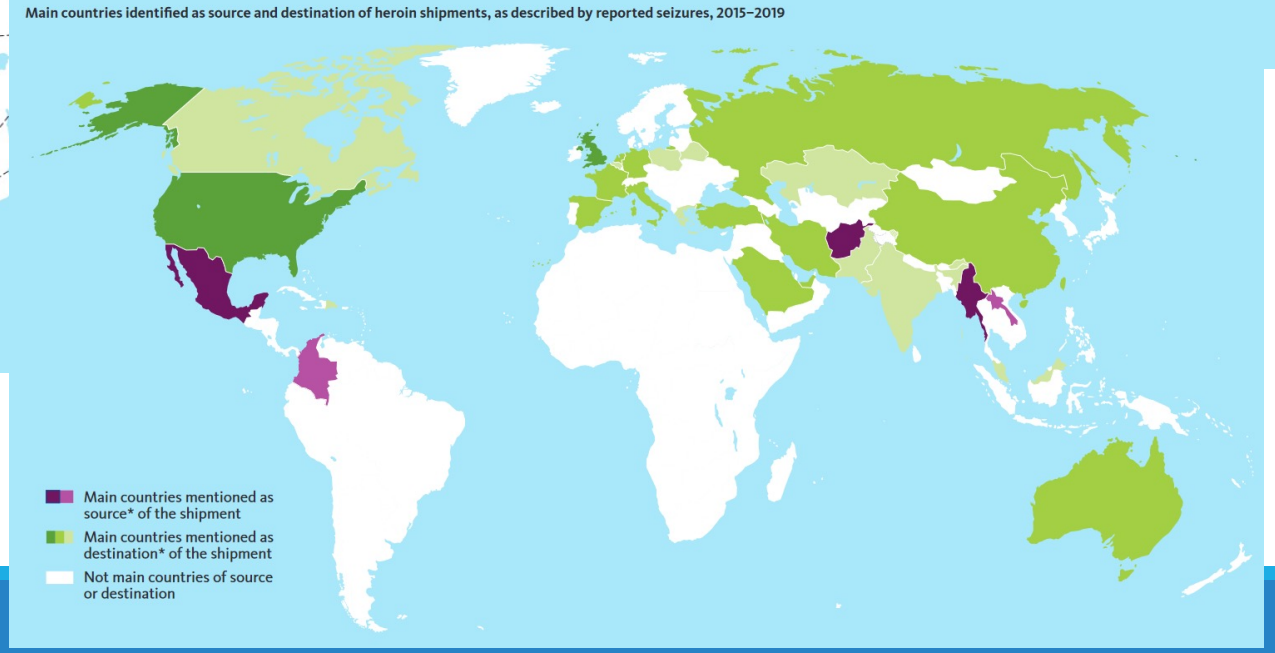
- Trafficking routes (% distribution countries of departure, transit, destination)
- Amounts of drugs seized
- Individual drug seizures
- Other official data sources (country reports from specialized agencies…)

-> information used: self-reported and reported by other countries (data triangulation)

Trafficking flow maps







Trafficking flow maps – Available information and challenges

- Better data availability on drug supply (seizures) then drug demand
- Countries qualitative assessments integrate seizures data on routes

Current coverage:

 Cocaine: seizure data available for 141 countries (2016-2020*)

 Heroin: seizure data available for 130 countries (2016-2020*)

➢ Main challenges

- Availability of timely data
- Trafficking routes data complex to produce and not always available
- Based on detected flows, not undetected -> depend on LEA efforts
- Limited capacity to identify provenance and destination on seizure

Thank you for your attention