

WORLD DRUG REPORT 2024

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USE

DRUG USE REMAINS HIGH

People who use drugs, 2022 (in million)

292

million people

↑ 20%
over 10 years



228

cannabis



60

opioids
(of which 30 opiates)



30

amphetamines



23.5

cocaine



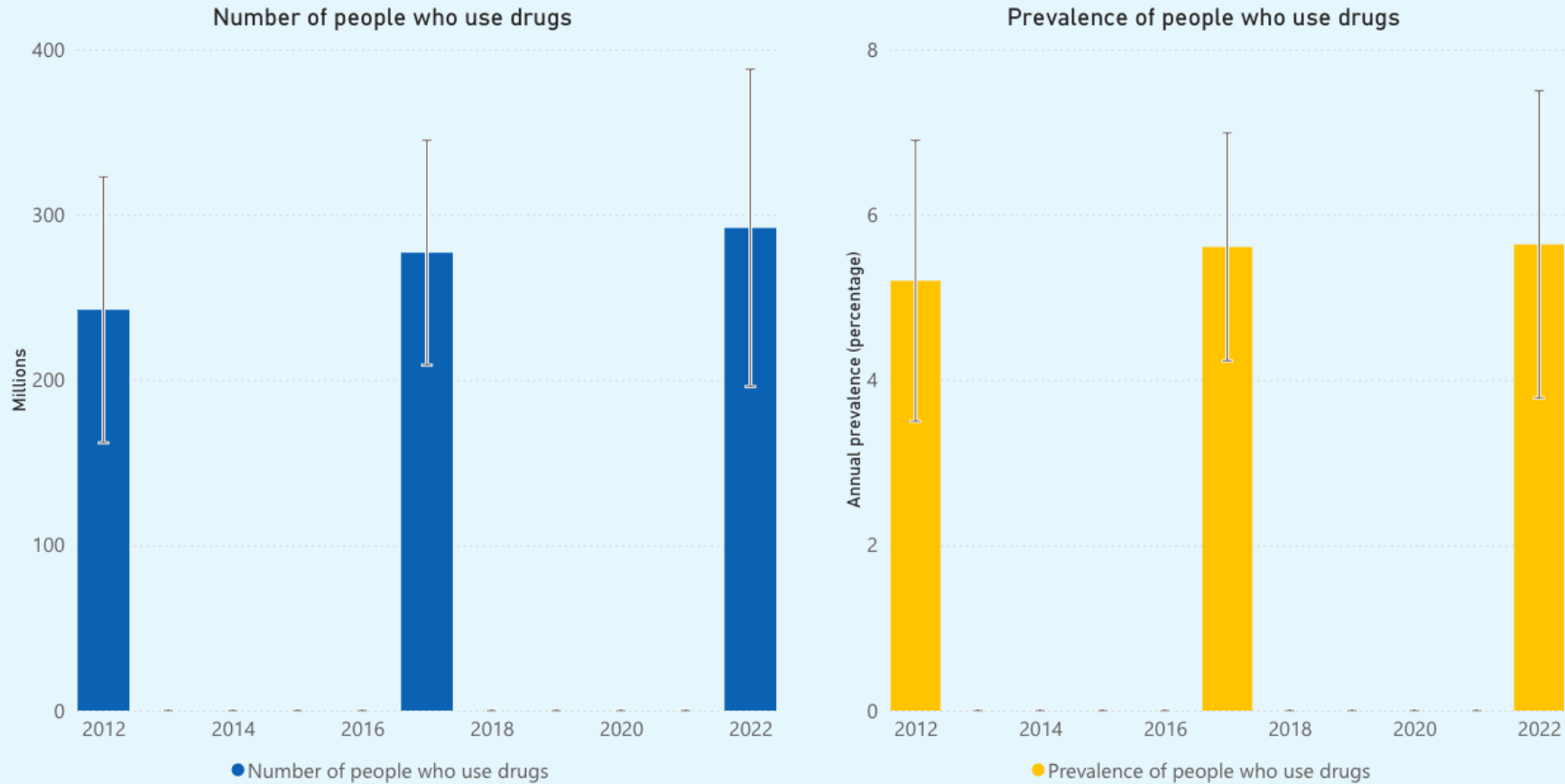
20

"ecstasy"

The 20% increase over the past decade is from a larger part attributable to **global population growth** (58% of all growth).

DRUG USE REMAINS HIGH

Global number of people who use drugs and prevalence of drug use, 2012, 2017, and 2022

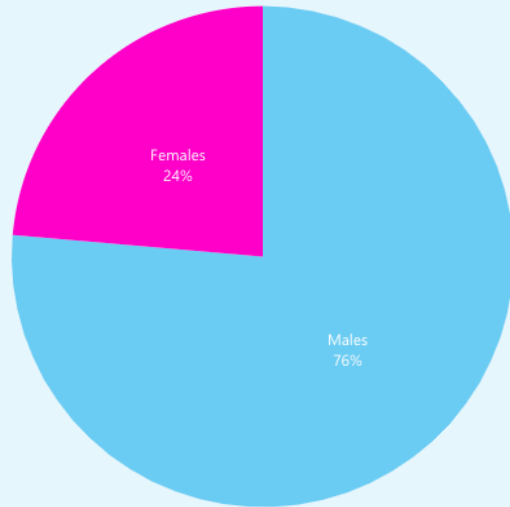


Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

... but the estimated prevalence of drug use has also increased moderately from **5.2 to 5.6%**.

MEN ARE IN GENERAL MORE LIKELY TO USE DRUGS THAN WOMEN

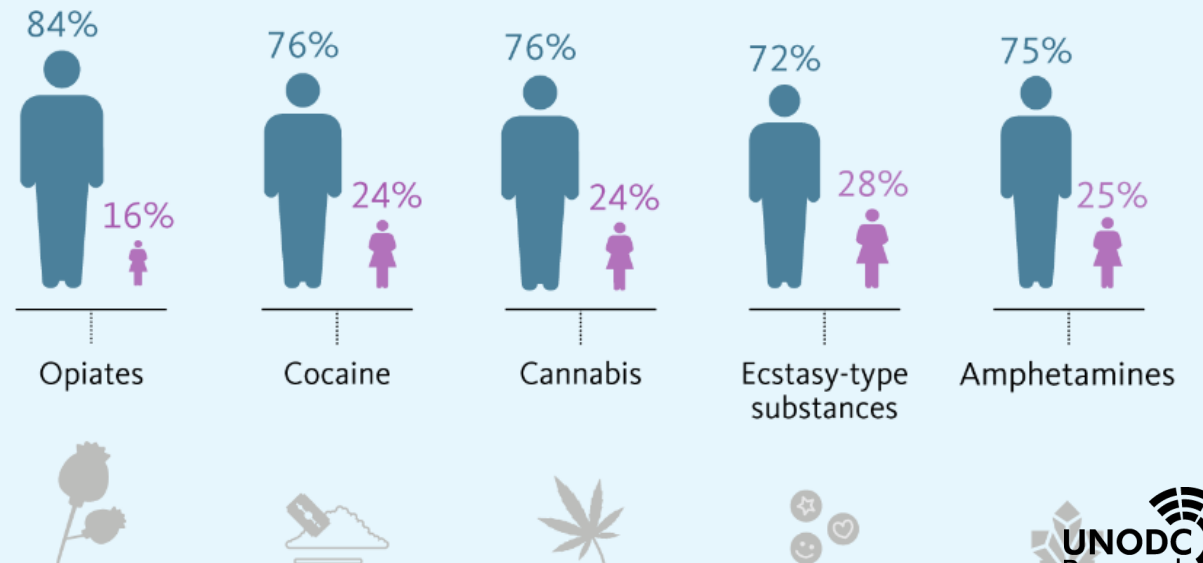
Estimated percentage of users of any drug, by sex, 2022 or the most recent year for which data were available



- **1 in 4** persons who have used any drug in the past year is a **woman**.

- Men make up more than three quarters of people who use drugs at the global level. They use more drugs than women globally, and this is especially true for drugs like **cannabis, amphetamines, opiates and cocaine**.

Global estimates of the distribution of users of selected drug groups by sex



WOMEN USE ALMOST AS MANY PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS AS MEN

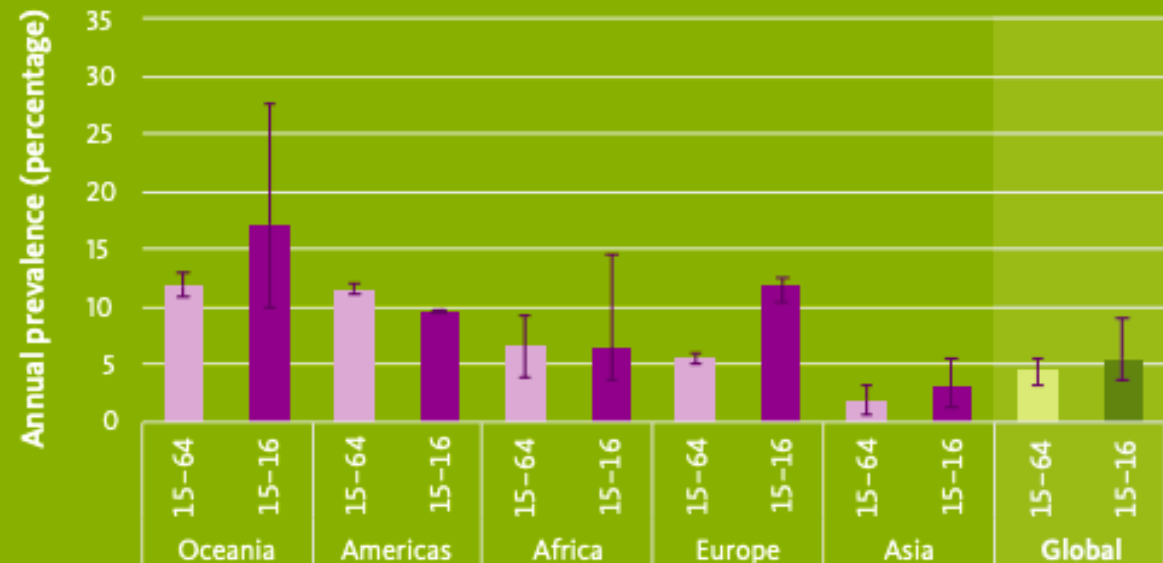


- The share of women is nearly equal to men when it comes to the **non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs**.

DRUG USE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IS HIGHER THAN ADULTS

- Prevalence of cannabis use among adolescents (15-16) in the past year is higher than that of adults globally (**5.5 per cent compared with 4.4 per cent**, respectively), and in particular in **Oceania and Europe**.
- The cannabis use disorders among adolescents remain a concern in many regions.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL USE OF CANNABIS AMONG PEOPLE AGED 15 AND 16 AND AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION AGED 15 TO 64, 2022 OR THE LATEST YEAR FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire; and other government reports.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF USE

AN INCREASE IN DRUG USE DISORDERS

People with drug use disorders, 2022 (in million)

64
million people

↑ 3%
over 5 years, 2018-2022

The harmful use of drugs can lead to drug use disorders, and **64 million people worldwide were suffering from a drug use disorder in 2022**, an increase of **3** per cent compared with 2018.

13,9 MILLION PEOPLE INJECT DRUGS WORLDWIDE

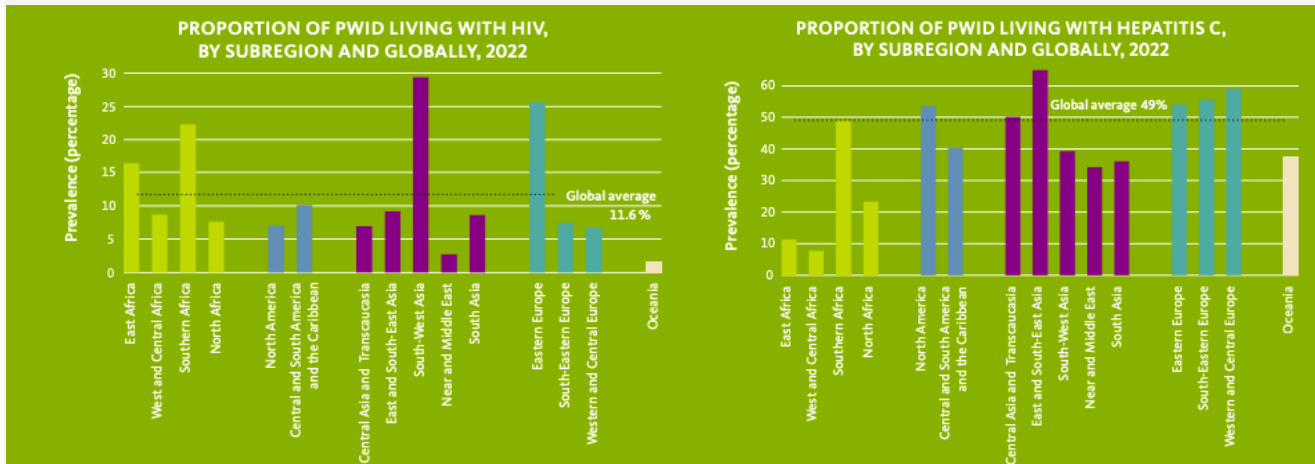
People who inject drugs, 2022

13.9
million people who inject drugs

6.8 million living with hepatitis C

1.6 million living with HIV

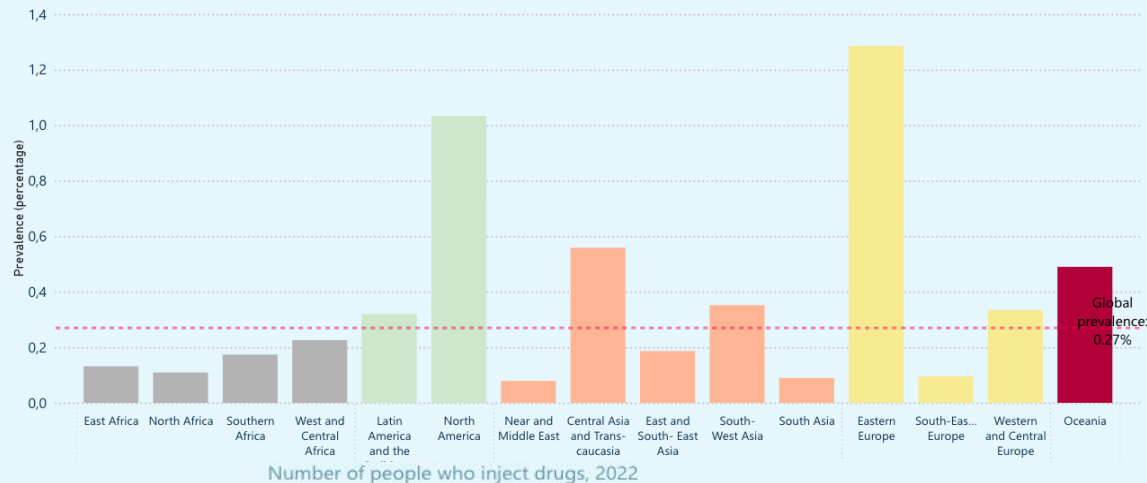
1.4 million living with HIV and hepatitis C



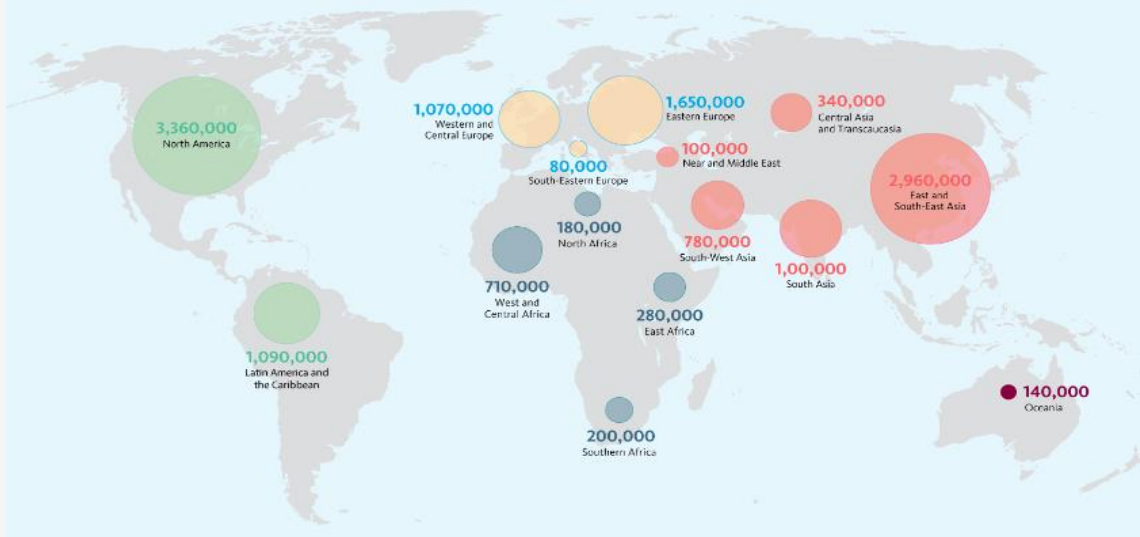
- The relative risk of acquiring HIV is **14** times higher for those who inject drugs than in the wider population globally.
- **1 in 5** PWID is a woman.
- **1 in 8** PWID were living with HIV in 2022.
- Nearly every second person injecting drugs is living with hepatitis C.
- Liver diseases attributed to hepatitis C account for more than half the deaths attributed to the use of drugs.

13,9 MILLION PEOPLE INJECT DRUGS WORLDWIDE

Prevalence of people who inject drugs, 2022



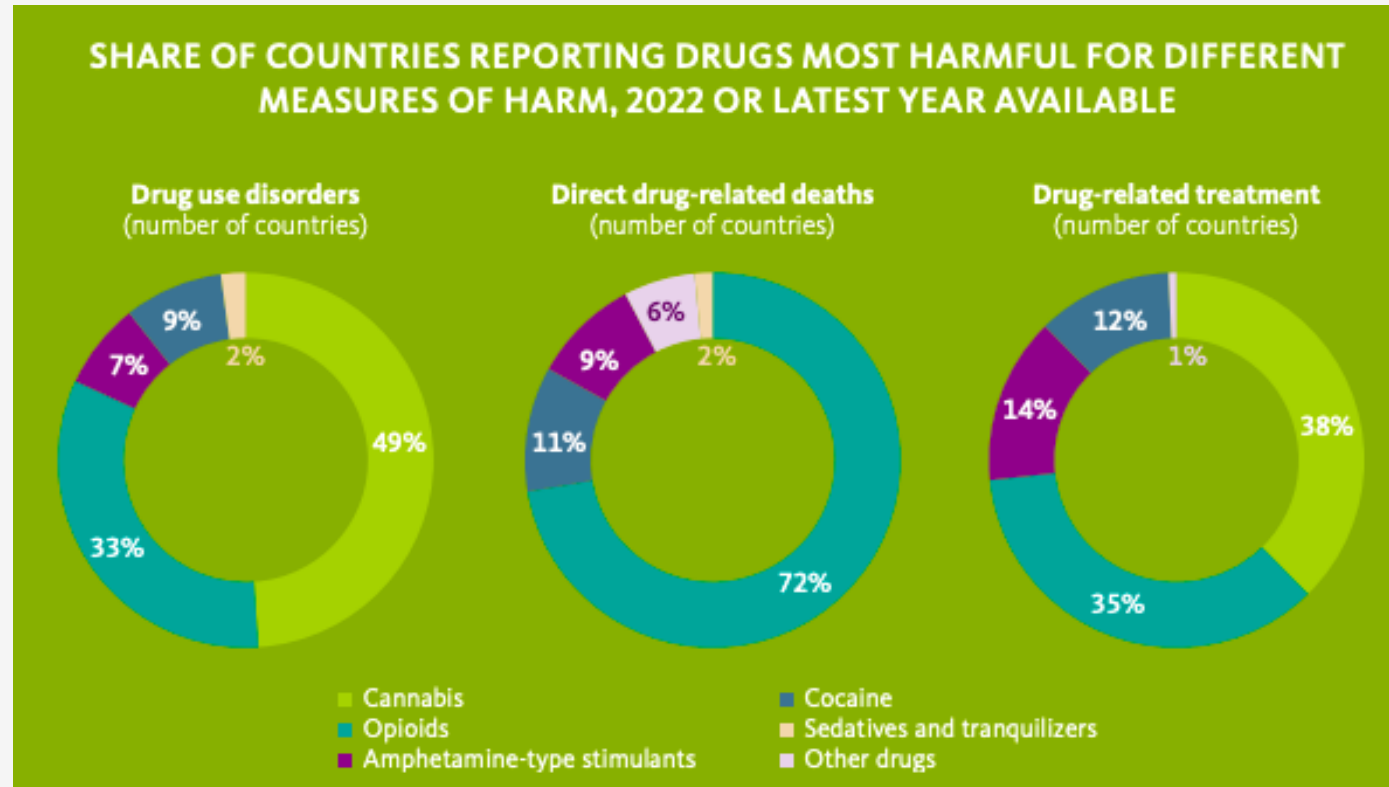
The **highest prevalences** of people who inject drugs remain in **Eastern Europe and North America**.



Absolute numbers:

Nearly half of the estimated global number reside in North America and East and South-East Asia.

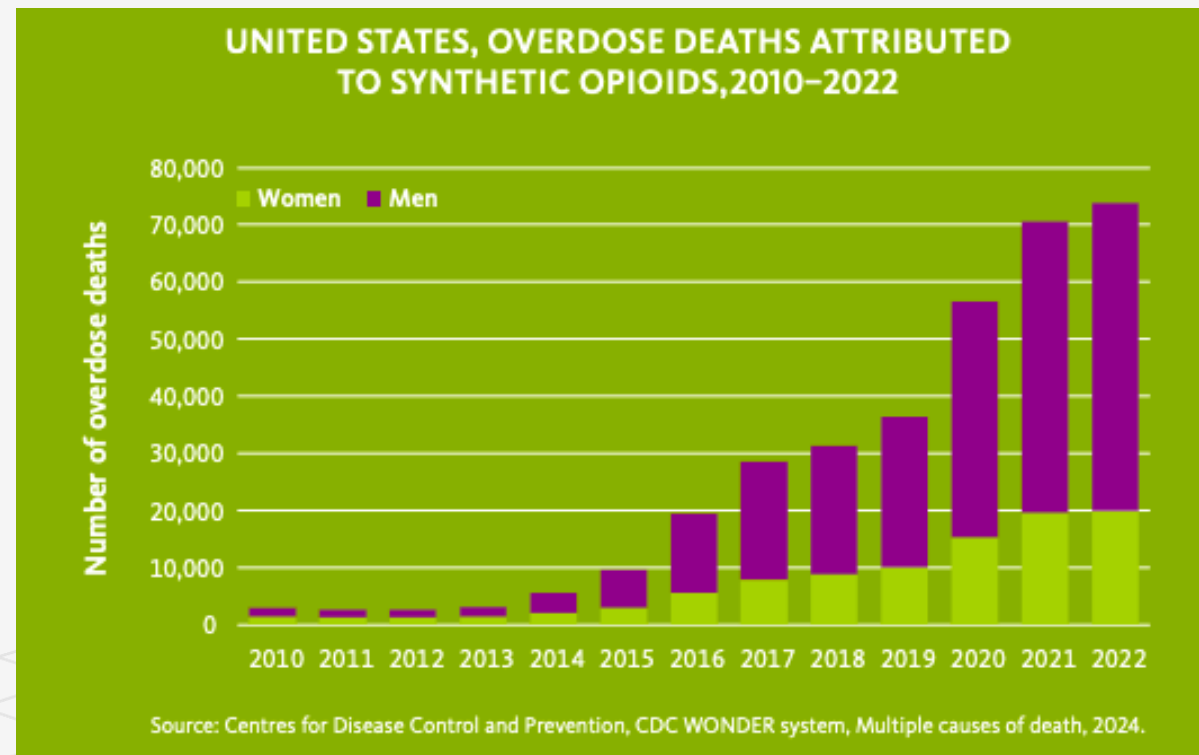
DIFFERENT DRUGS ARE ASSOCIATED TO DIFFERENT HARMS



Opioids continue to be the most associated to **drug-related deaths**, but in half of the reporting countries, **cannabis is the drug that most often leads to drug use disorders.**

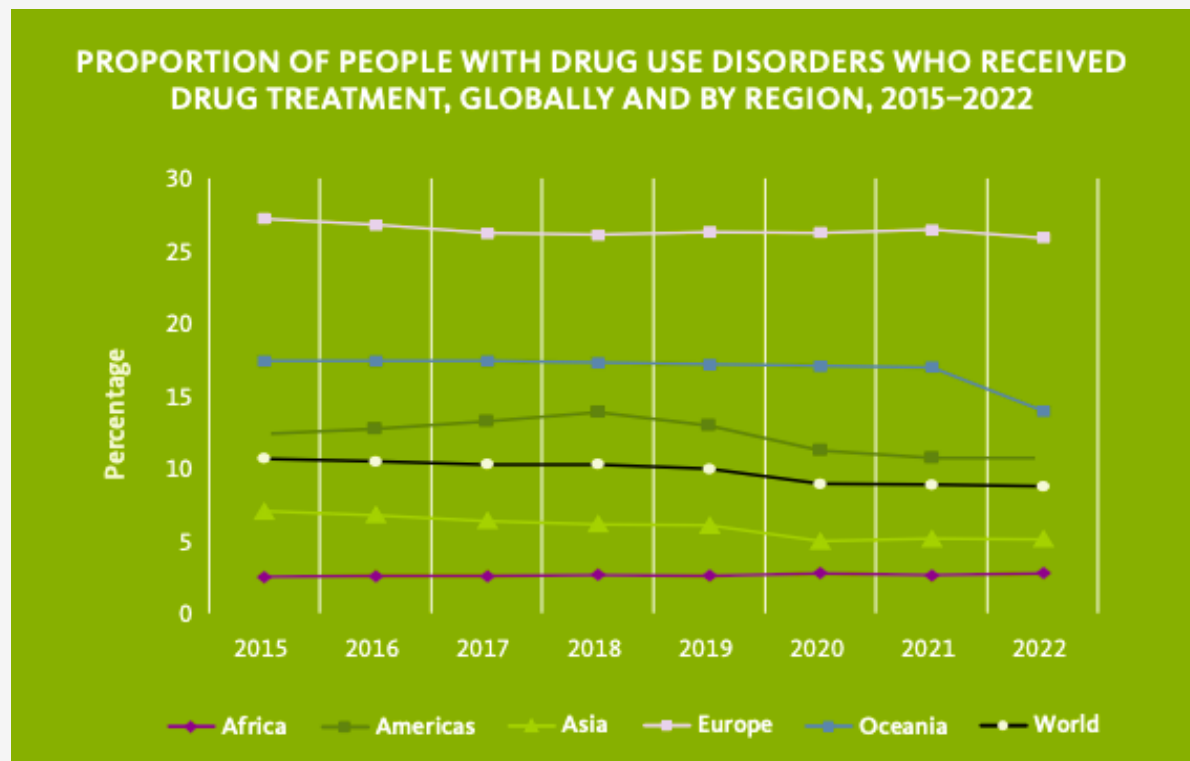
HARM ASSOCIATED WITH SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

Fentanyl and other potent synthetic opioids continue to be associated with the **high levels of drug-related mortality in North America.**



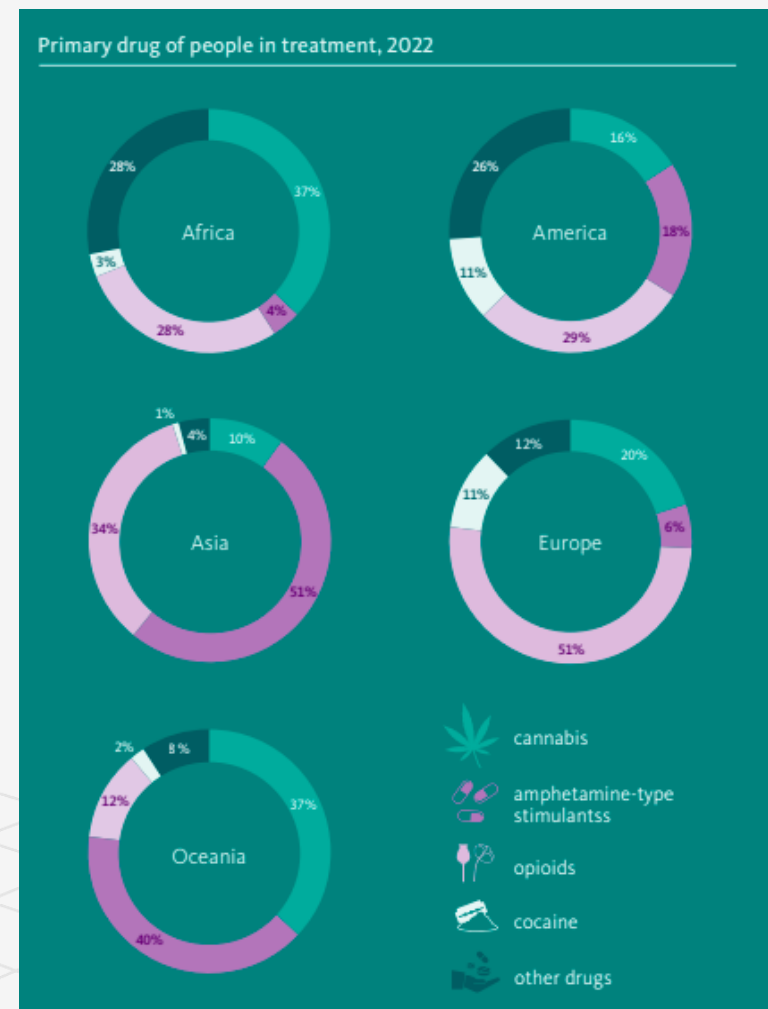
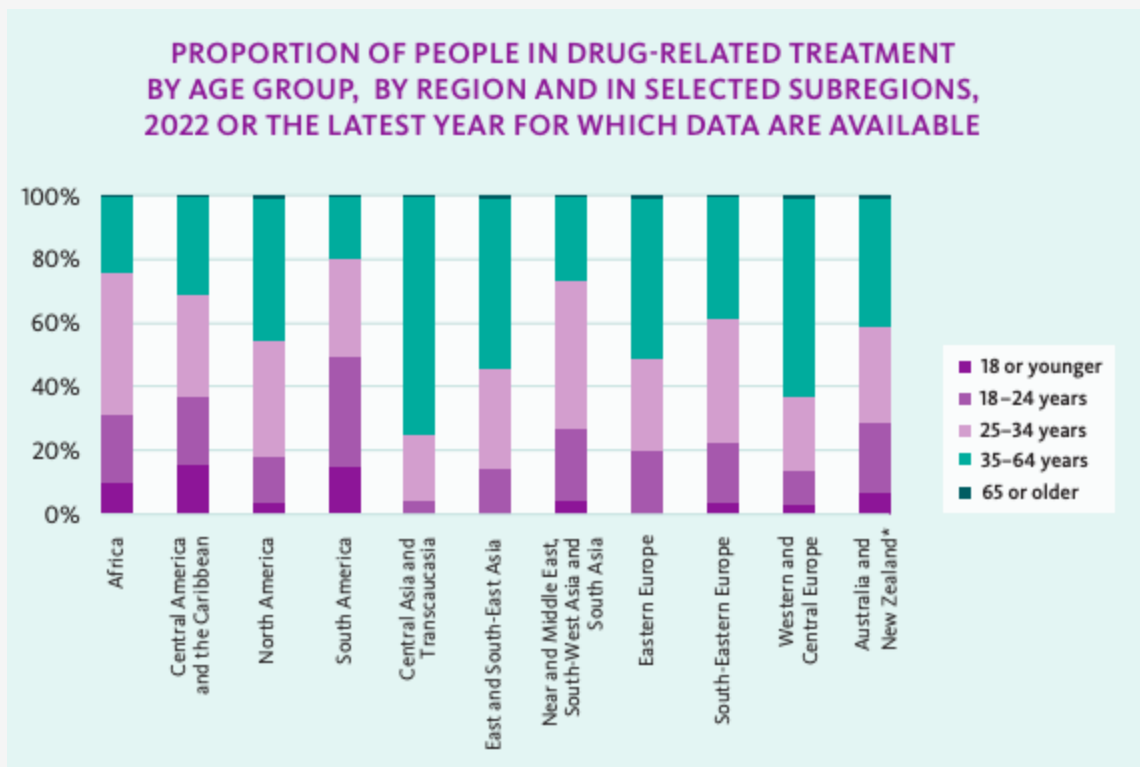
SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS AND PEOPLE WITH DRUG USE DISORDERS

(WHILE GLOBAL CONSUMPTION IS INCREASING), THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING TREATMENT IS DECREASING



The percentage of people in treatment decreased from **11% in 2015** to **<9% in 2022**.

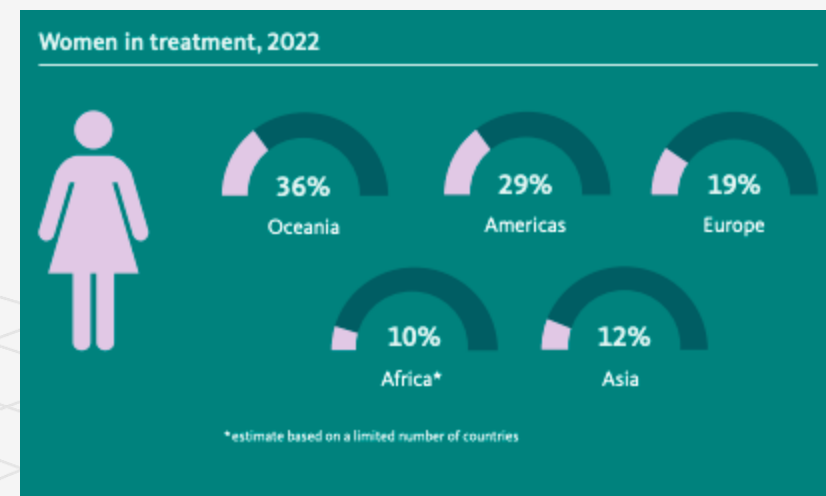
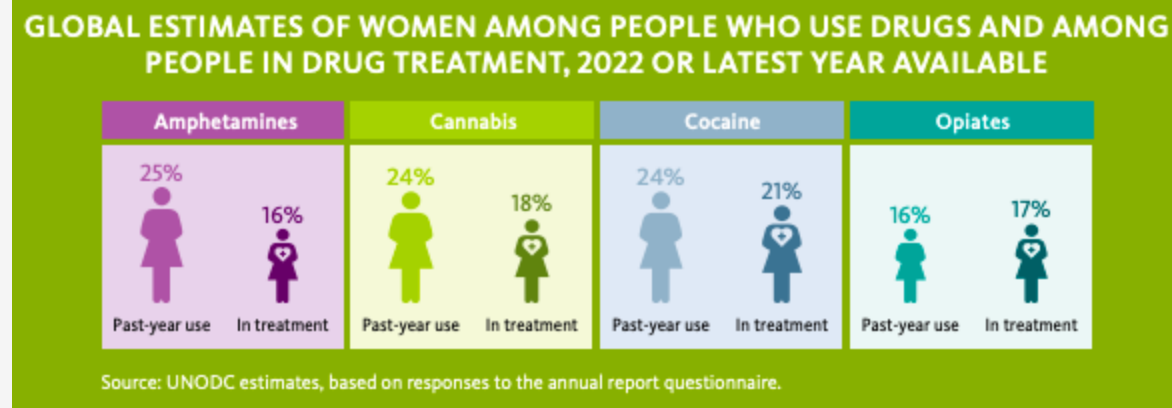
THE GAP IN TREATMENT IS WIDENING



- Only about **1 in 11** people with drug use disorders received drug treatment globally in 2022.
- The treatment gap is widest in **Africa and Asia**, where drug treatment coverage was **2.8** per cent and **5.1** per cent respectively in 2022.

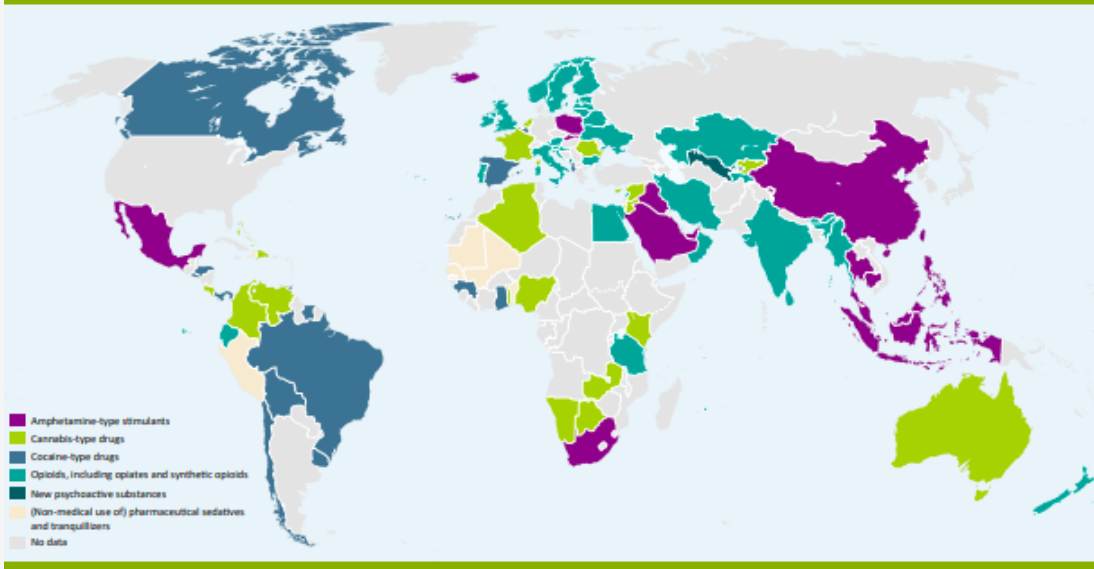
THERE IS A GENDER GAP IN TREATMENT

- Drug-related treatment coverage is **lower among women** than among men in all five global regions.
- In 2022, women constituted only about **1 in 5** persons who were treated for drug use disorders, while 1 in 4 persons who used drugs was a woman.
- Some **1 in 18** women with drug use disorders received treatment globally in 2022 (vs. 1 in 7 for men).
- This gap exists at the global level for almost all drugs but is **most acute for women who use ATS**.

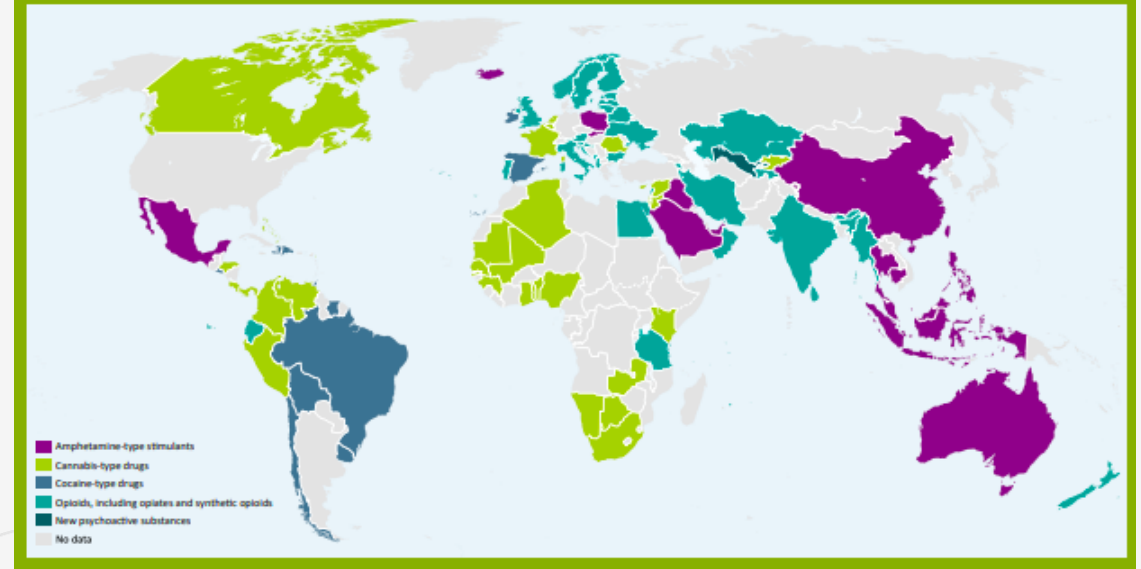


WOMEN ARE MORE TREATED FOR THE NON-MEDICAL USE OF PHARMACEUTICAL SEDATIVES AND TRANQUILIZERS THAN MEN

MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED DRUG GROUP FOR WHICH TREATMENT IS SOUGHT AMONG WOMEN, 2022 OR LATEST YEAR AVAILABLE

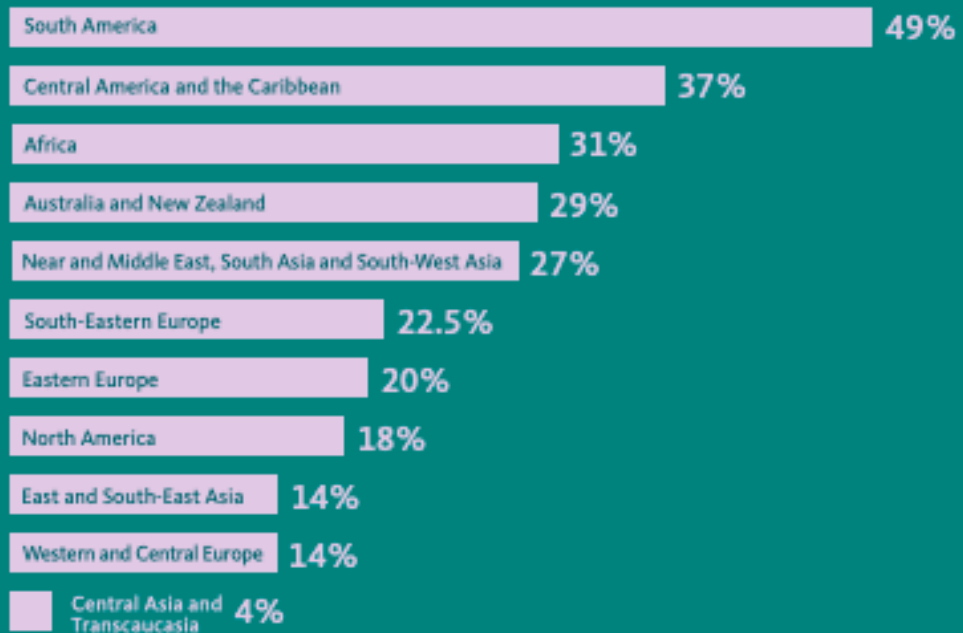


MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED DRUG GROUP FOR WHICH TREATMENT IS SOUGHT AMONG MEN, 2022 OR LATEST YEAR AVAILABLE



YOUNG PEOPLE IN TREATMENT

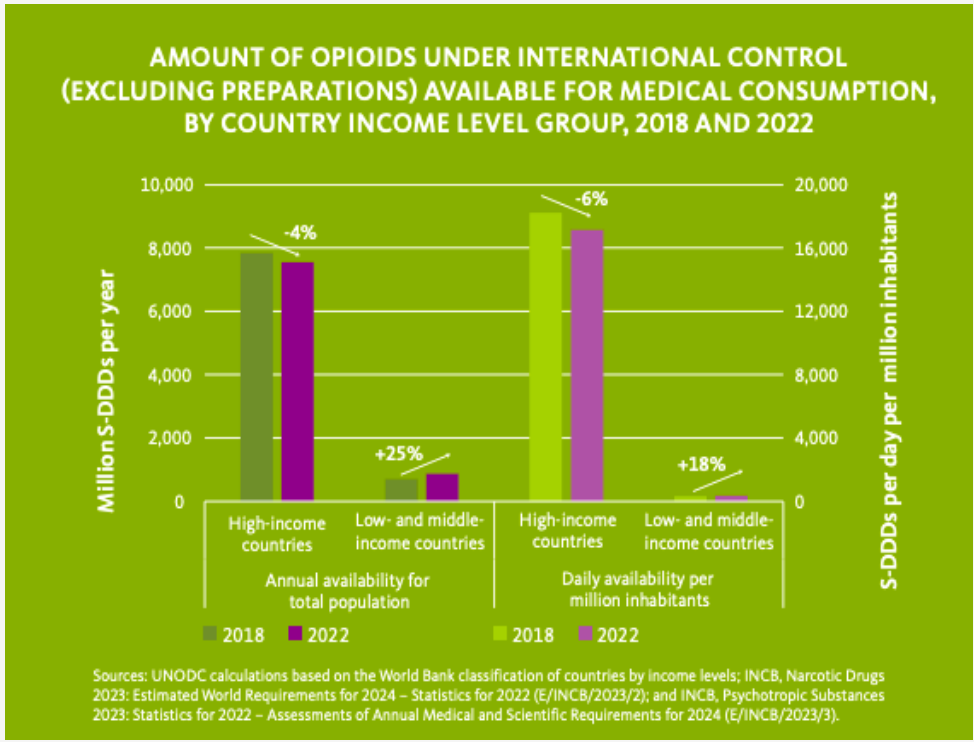
People under 25 years old in treatment, 2022



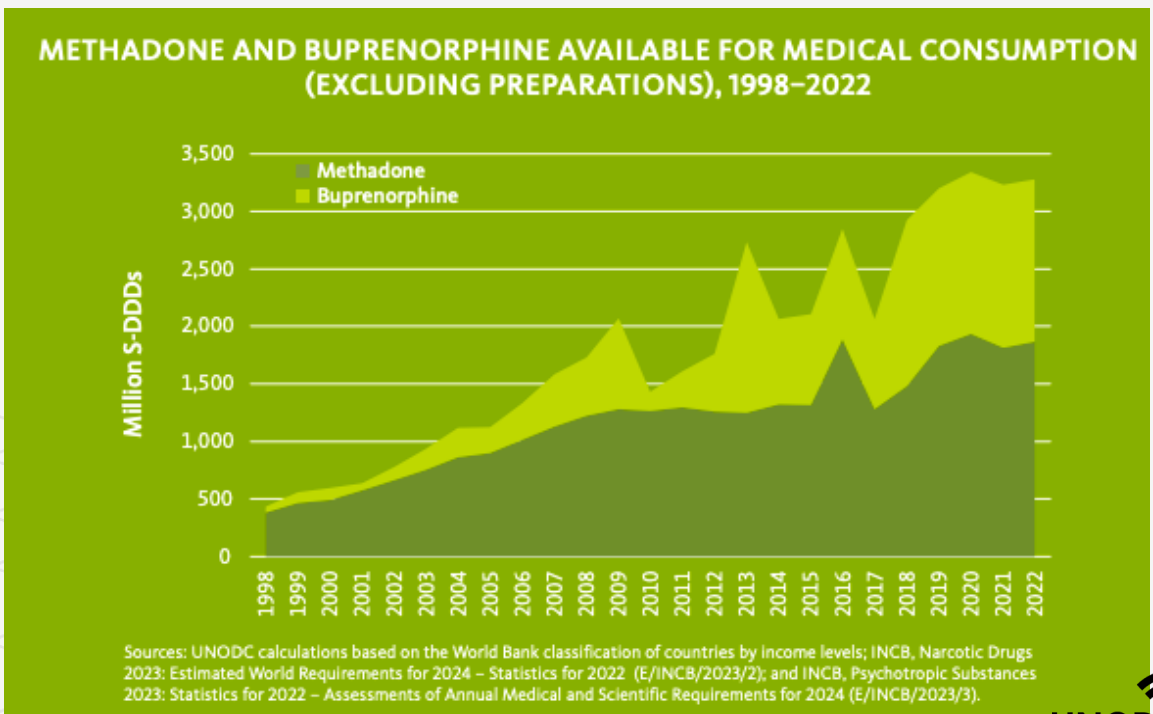
Africa, Central America and the Caribbean and South America have the largest proportions of young people in drug treatment.

ACCESS TO CONTROLLED MEDICINES

LARGE INEQUALITIES REMAIN IN THE AVAILABILITY OF PHARMACEUTICAL OPIOIDS FOR MEDICAL CONSUMPTION



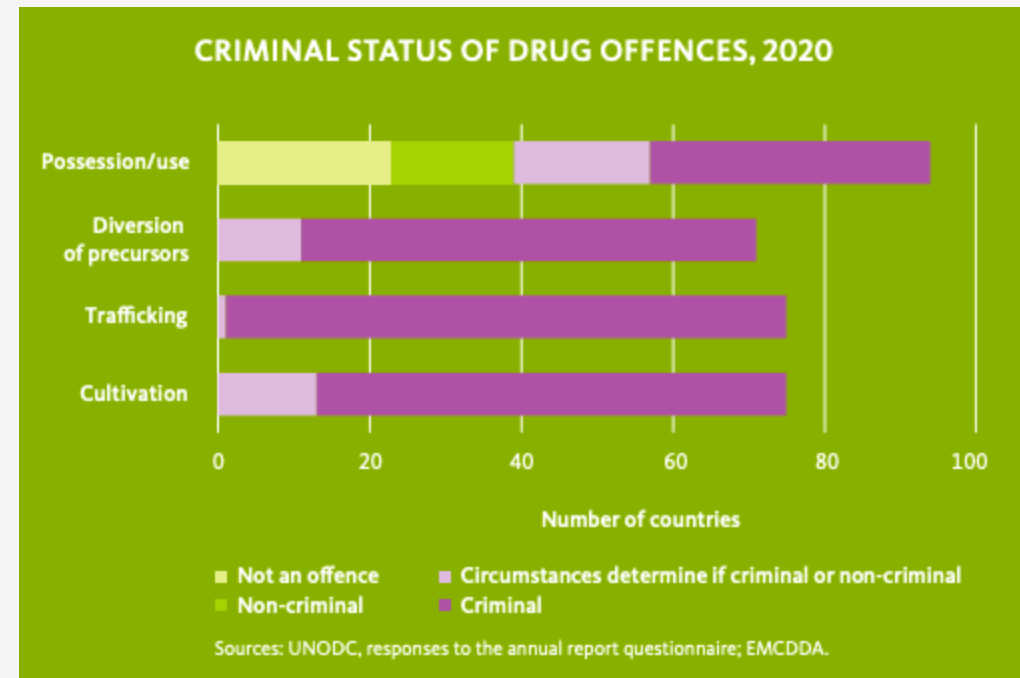
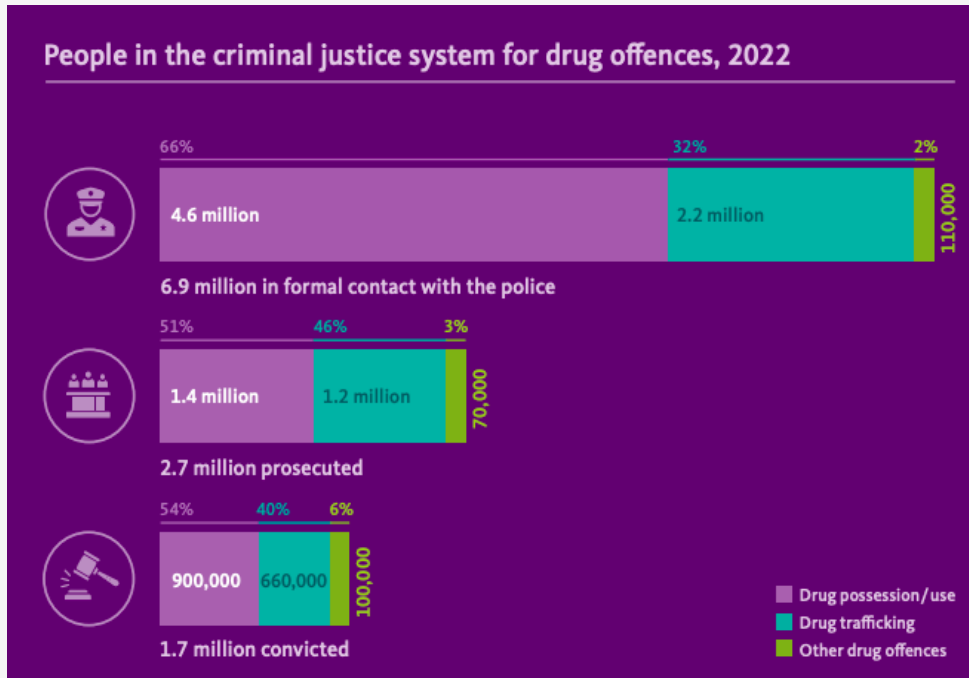
- **87 per cent** of the world’s population live without adequate access to pharmaceutical opioids for pain relief and palliative care.



- Still a large (46-fold) difference in the availability of opioids per capita for pain management and palliative care between high-income and low- and middle-income countries in 2022.

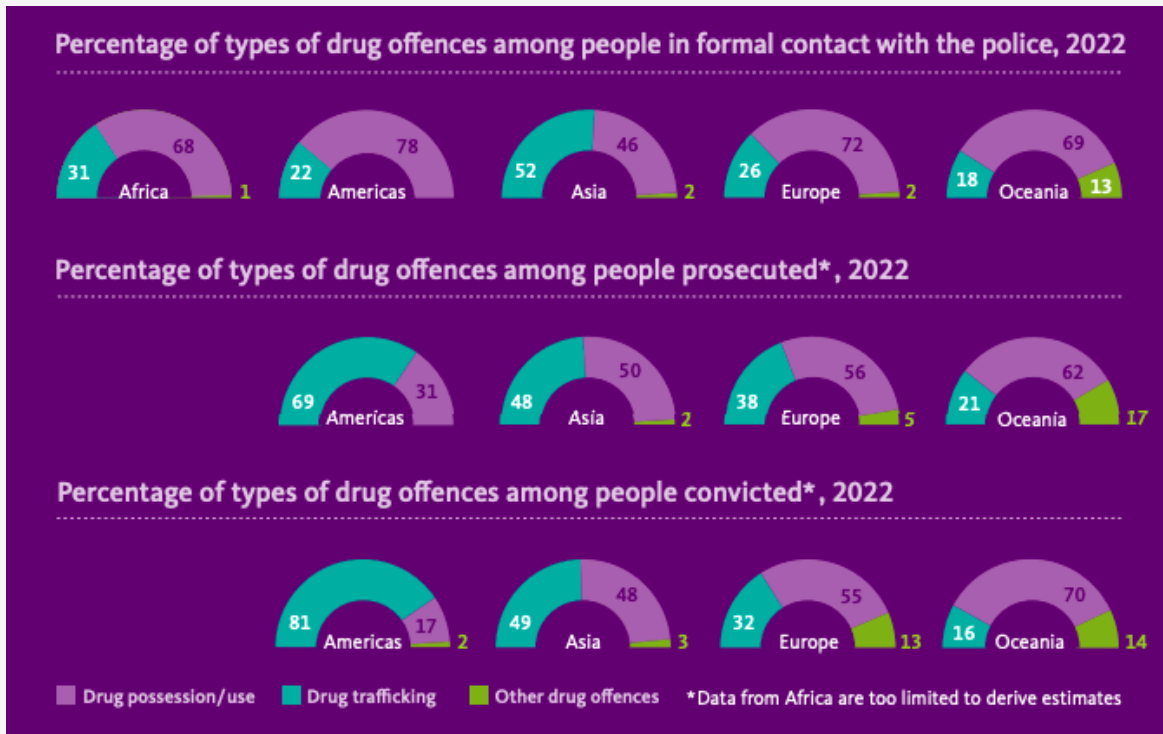
PEOPLE IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

DRUG USE OR POSSESSION IS THE TYPE OF DRUG OFFENCE WITH THE HIGHEST SHARE OF PEOPLE ARRESTED, PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED GLOBALLY



- In 2022, **7 million people** were in formal contact with the police (arrests, cautions and warnings) for drug offences at the global level, with about **two thirds of this total being due to drug use or possession for use**.
- **2.7 million** people were prosecuted for drug offences and over **1.6 million** were convicted globally, with slightly more people prosecuted and convicted for drug use or possession offences than for drug trafficking.

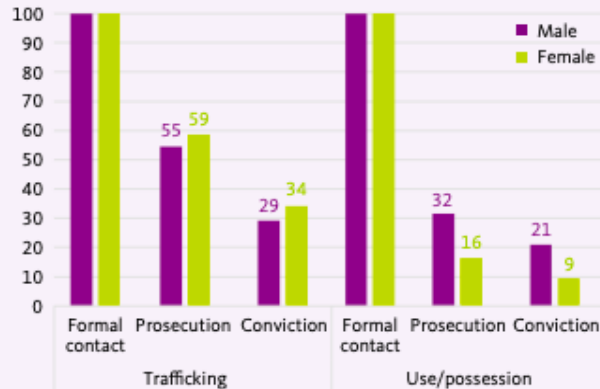
THE AMERICAS: LOWEST CONVICTION RATE FOR DRUG USE OR POSSESSION AND HIGHEST CONVICTION RATE FOR TRAFFICKING



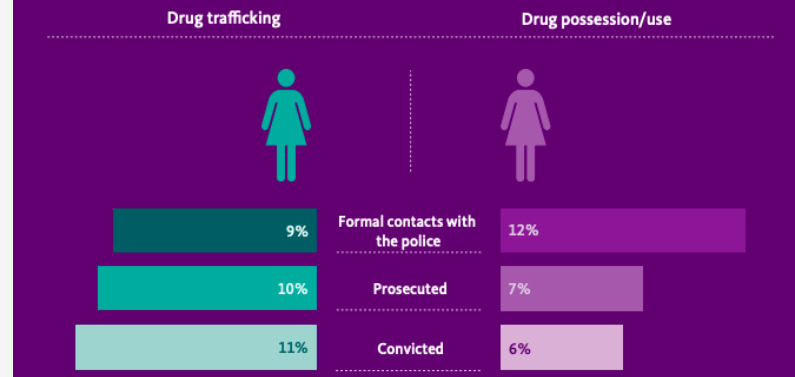
- The Americas: the lowest conviction rate for drug use or possession, with only 2.7 convictions per 100,000 population.

WOMEN ARE MORE PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED FOR DRUG OFFENCES

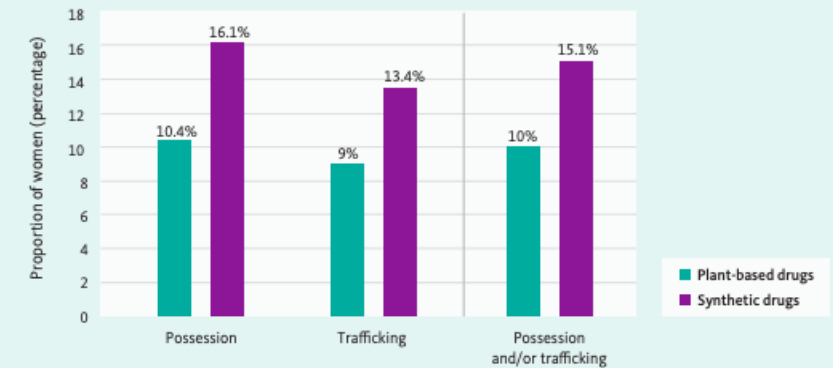
GLOBAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED FOR DRUG OFFENCES FOR EVERY 100 PERSONS ARRESTED, BY SEX, 2022



Women in the criminal justice system for drug offences, 2022



PROPORTION OF WOMEN AMONG PEOPLE WHO HAD FORMAL CONTACT WITH THE POLICE FOR DRUG LAW OFFENCES, BY DRUG OFFENCE CATEGORY, 2015–2019



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Note: Information based on data reported in the period 2015–2019 by 64 countries and territories, including 13 in Africa, 15 in Asia, 15 in the Americas, 19 in Europe and 2 in Oceania.

- Interestingly, women in formal contact with the police for drug offences is higher overall in the case of **synthetic drugs** (15.1 per cent in the period 2015–2019) than of plant-based drugs (10 per cent in the same period).

TRENDS IN SUPPLY

TRENDS IN SUPPLY: DRASTIC CONTRACTION OF THE AFGHAN OPIATE MARKET WITH POSSIBLE DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES IN THE COUNTRY AND BEYOND

FIG. 3 Opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan, 1994–2023

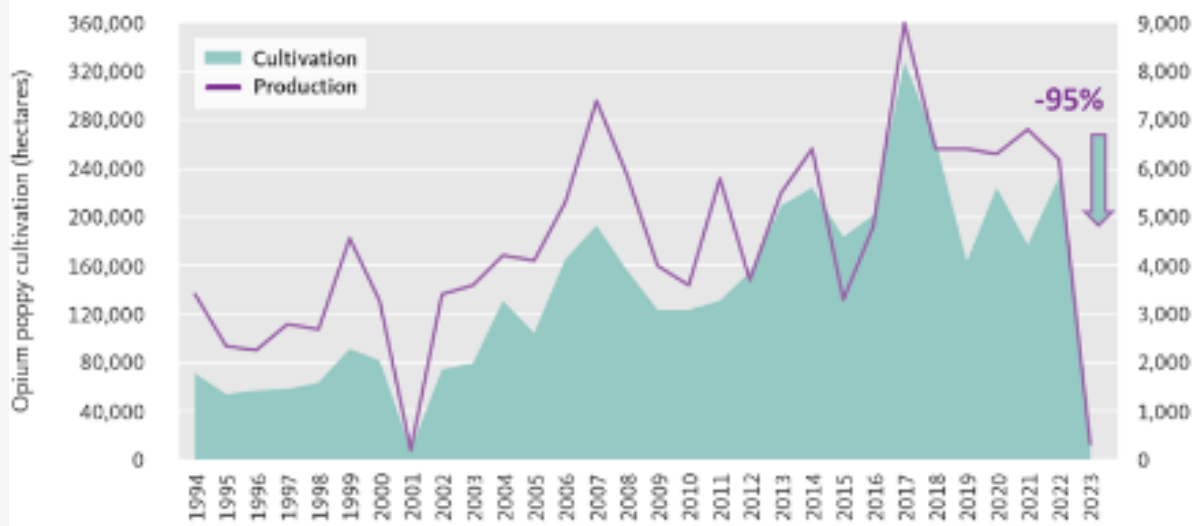
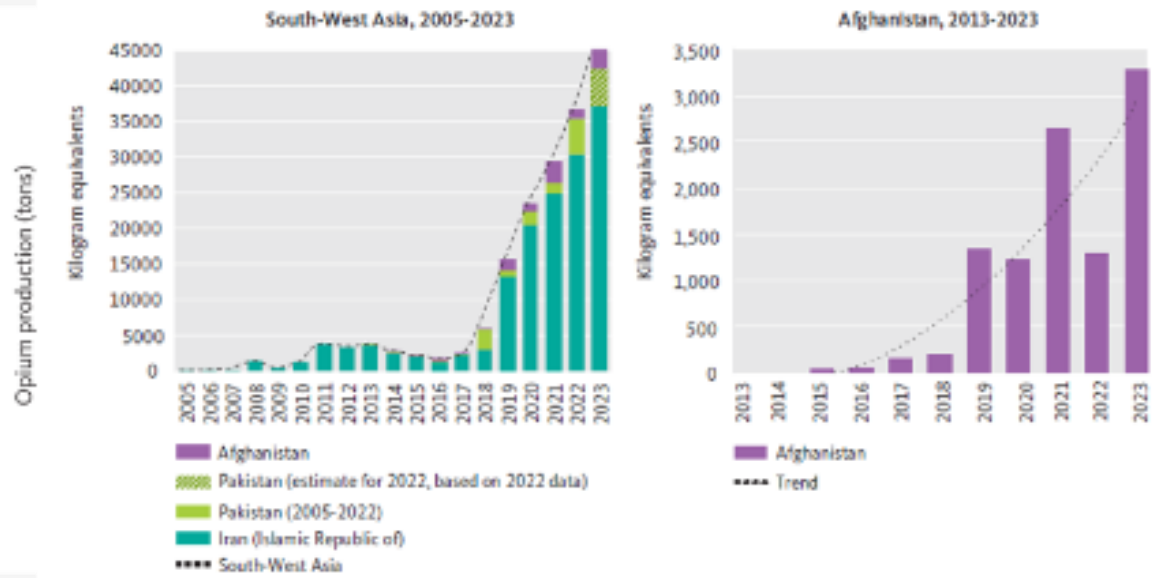


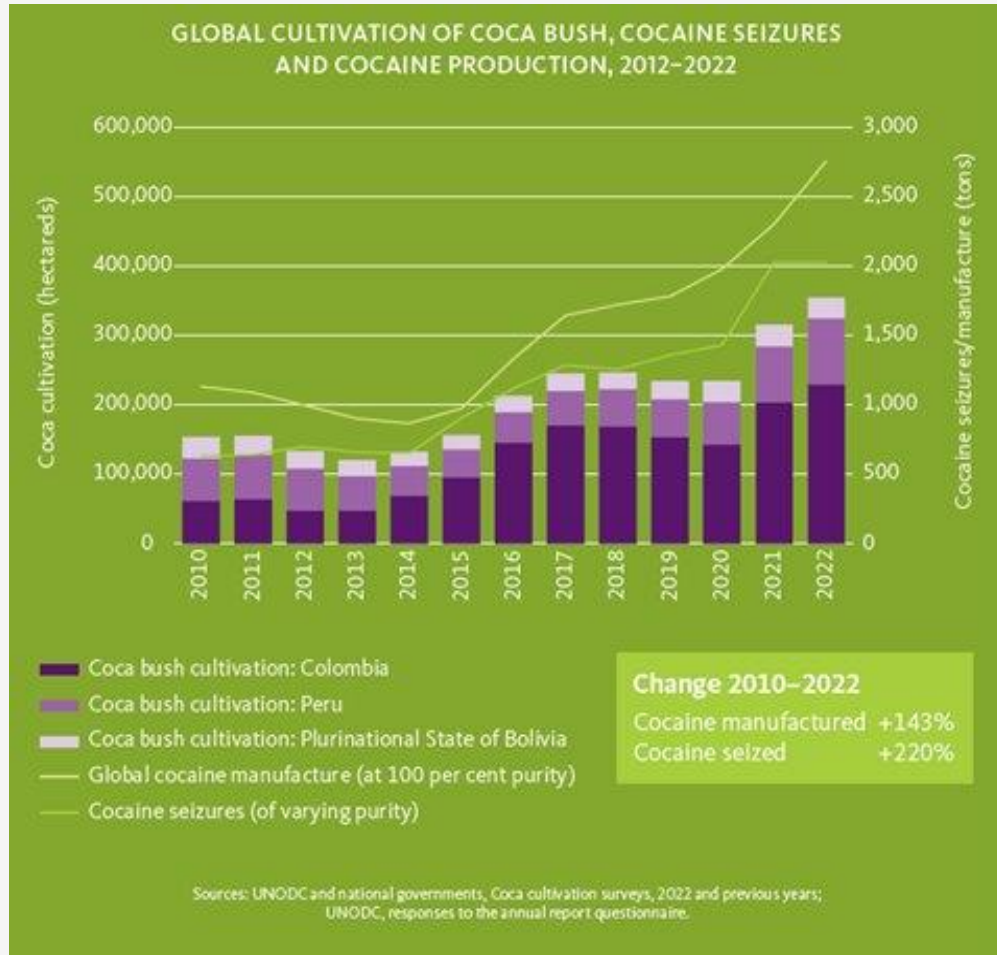
FIG. 5 Quantities of methamphetamine seized in South-West Asia, 2005–2023



Source: UNODC, Afghanistan Opium Survey 2023, August 2023.

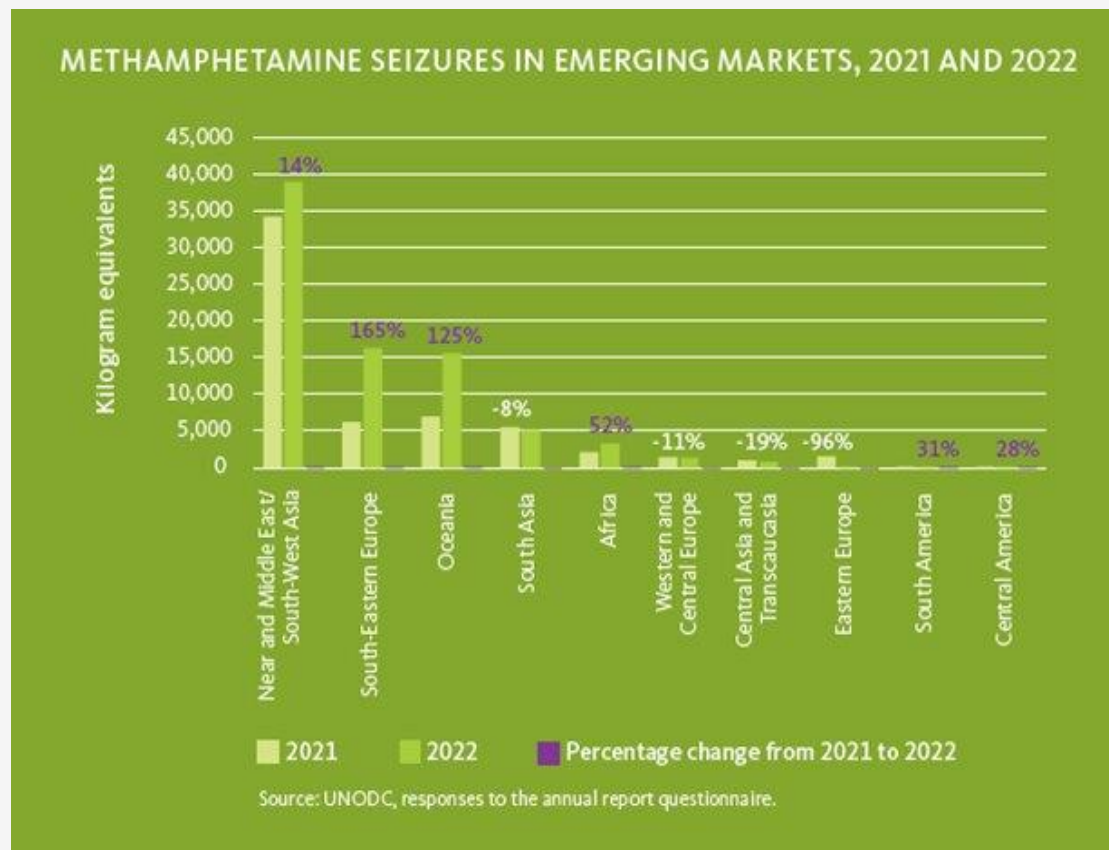
- Implications of the decline in the Afghan opium production: opium and heroin prices skyrocketed in Afghanistan in 2023; the income of opium farmers declined by 92 per cent.
- Impact reflected in rural areas; Opiate users may look for alternatives; Afghan drug economy may switch to methamphetamine.

TRENDS IN SUPPLY: COCAINE SUPPLY REACHED A RECORD



Cocaine supply reached a record high in 2022, with more than **2,700 tons of cocaine manufactured** – 20 per cent more than a year earlier and three times the amount manufactured in 2013 and in 2014.

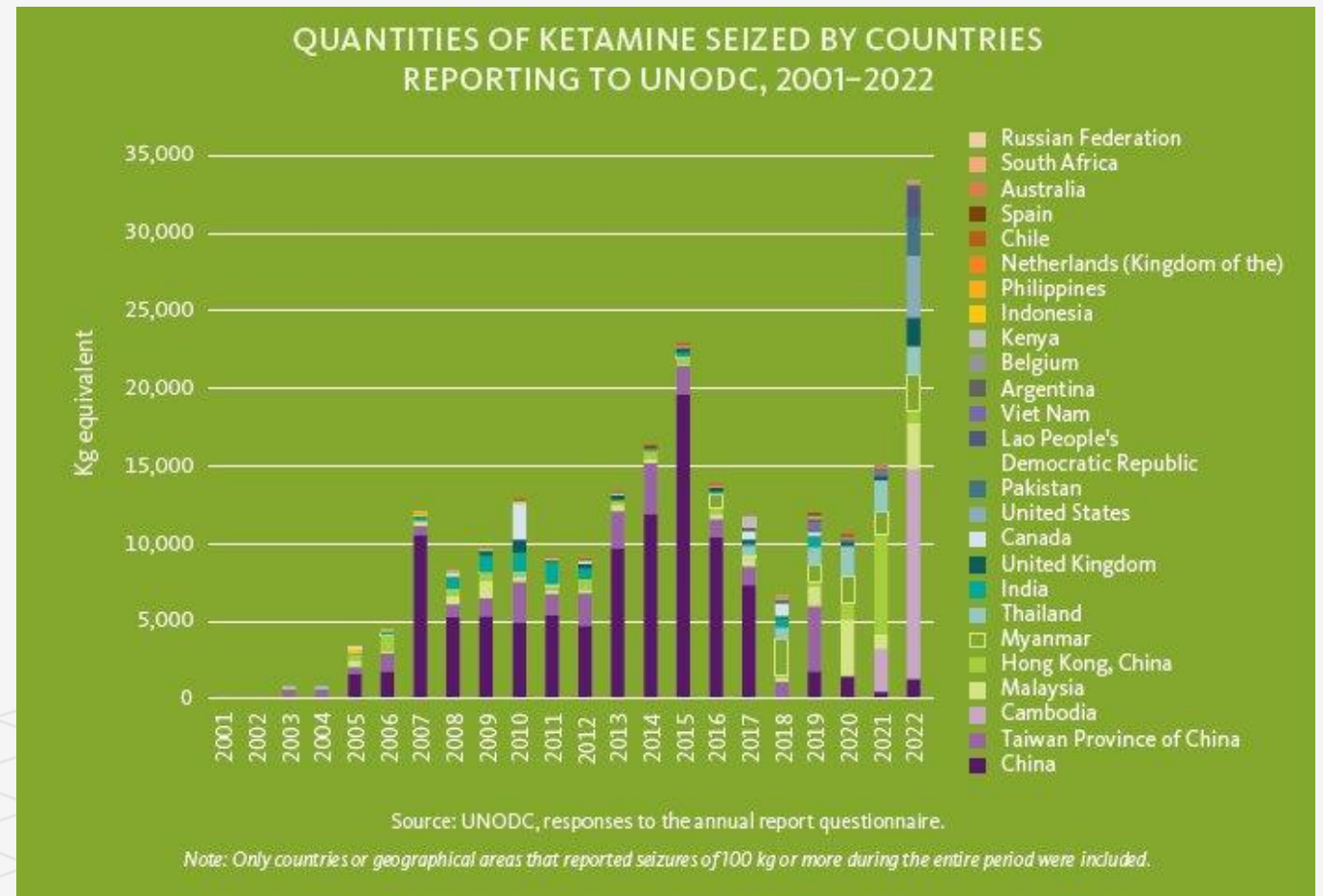
TRENDS IN SUPPLY: SEIZURES OF AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS REMAIN HIGH



Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) remain at **historically high levels**, as markets in the Near and Middle East and in South-West Asia continue to grow.

TRENDS IN SUPPLY: THE EXPANSION OF THE KETAMINE MARKET

- Global seizures of amphetamine-type Emergence of new synthetic opioids poses **lethal risks**, particularly nitazenes, a group of synthetic opioids.
- Countries in Africa are increasingly affected by drug trafficking and the use of new and dangerous drug “cocktails”.
- The market for ketamine is rapidly expanding into new geographical areas.



OTHER INTERESTING ANALYSIS

UPHOLDING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN ADDRESSING DRUGS

MULTIDIMENSIONS OF RIGHT TO HEALTH IN DRUG USE

Ensuring access to internationally controlled drugs for medical use, including for pain management and palliative care.

1



4



Making available accessible, acceptable, and quality age- and gender-appropriate drug prevention interventions, including addressing the underlying (social and commercial) determinants of health.

2



5



Making available accessible, acceptable, quality, age- and gender-appropriate, scientific evidence-based drug treatment and care services, including measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug use.

3



Ensuring equity and non-discrimination in the realization of the right to health.

Ensuring meaningful participation in all health-related decisions to address the problems related to drug use.

- For the first time, the report also includes a chapter on the right to health and drug use.
- Viewing drug use through a right-to health lens entails the **responsibility to provide services, avoid discrimination and ensure participation in health decision-making**, including for people who use drugs and for those affected by their drug use.

IN ADDITION THE USUAL ANALYSIS OF JURISDICTIONS WHERE THE NON-MEDICAL USE OF CANNABIS HAS BEEN LEGALIZED, AN ANALYSIS OF ACCESS TO PSYCHEDELIC SUBSTANCES FOR MEDICAL USE

PSYCHEDELIC "RENAISSANCE"



- Recent changes in policies have facilitated access to psychedelic substances for medical use in Australia and in jurisdictions of Canada and the United States.
- Australia is now the first country where the medical use of psilocybin and MDMA is allowed.

Our collective work in promoting evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and recovery support is more relevant than ever.

Let's get better at advocacy!

Thank you!

*Ms. Giovanna Campello
Chief, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section*

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