CURRENT SITUATION OF DRUG USE
IN THE AMERICAS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

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- FUTURE CHALLENGES

Overview

- HIGHLY VARIABLE REALITY:
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  - VARIABLE SUPPLY

- HETEROGENEITY AMONG COUNTRIES
- HETEROGENEITY WITHIN COUNTRIES
  - DISCOVER THE VARIOUS REALITIES IN A COUNTRY
  - LOCAL POLICIES?
Overview

HIGH LEVEL OF HETEROGENEITY

- **POPULATION**
  - Slightly over 50,000 inhabitants
  - More than 300 million inhabitants

- **WEALTH (gross domestic product per capita)**
  - Over US$ 46,000
  - Below US$ 2,000

- **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**
  - Higher than 0.9
  - Lower than 0.4

- **INEQUALITY (GINI index, %)**
  - Over 55 (poor distribution)
  - Below 35 (moderate distribution)

Consumption: Data sources

Information from the countries
Drug use

HIGH LEVEL OF HETEROGENEITY

• Differences between countries
  • By drug
  • By volume

• Differences within countries
  • By drug
  • By volume

Use of any illicit drug during previous year:
150 - 270 m (3.3% - 6.1%)

1. Marijuana: 125 - 203 m (2.8% - 4.5%)
2. Amphetamines group: 14 - 56 m
   Ecstasy: 11 - 28 m
3. Cocaine: 14 - 20 m

### Marijuana

#### Prevalence previous year, 15 - 64 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2.8% - 4.5%</th>
<th>Range/countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>&lt;1% - 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe (Central, Western)</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>&lt;1% - 15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **North America:** 10.7% (13.7% in USA, 12.6% in Canada)
- **Central America:** 2.2% - 2.4%
- **Caribbean:** 1.6% - 7.6%
- **South America:** 2.9% - 3%


#### Number of users in previous year and percentage, population aged 15 to 64

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>125 - 203 m</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>42 m</td>
<td>22% - 29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe (Central, Western)</td>
<td>23 m</td>
<td>15% - 20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Americas, 75% of users are in North America (countries representing 50% of the region's population)

Sources: United Nations Report, 2011; Observatory European Report, 2010
Marijuana (school children)

- Life-time usage prevalence above 20% in 9 of 33 countries.
- 14 years and younger, life-time usage prevalence above 10% in 12 countries.
- 17 years and older, life-time usage prevalence of 30% or more in 11 countries.

- Little difference between men and women in high-consumption countries.

Sources: OID/CICAD (2011) and countries

Cocaine

- **WORLD**: 14 to 21 million (at least once over the past year)
  - Prevalence previous year = 0.3 - 0.5%

- **AMERICAS**: 8.3 to 8.5 million, **Approx=50%**
  - Prevalence previous year = 1.4% (0.1% - 2.4%)

- **EUROPE**: 4 million, **Approx=25%**
  - Prevalence previous year = 1.3% (0.1% - 3%)

Cocaine

- Of total users in the hemisphere (8.4 million):
  - 68% in North America (5.7 million)
    - (50% of the population of the hemisphere)
  - 29% in South America (2.4 million)
    - (42% of the population of the hemisphere)
  - 3% in Central America & Caribbean (0.5 million)
    - (8% of the population of the hemisphere)

Source: United Nations Report, 2011; OID/CICAD

Cocaine

- Significant levels of use are also found among school-age children.
- 2.0% or more (previous year prevalence) in:
  - Argentina (2009)
  - Bolívia (2008)
  - Chile (2009)
  - United States (2009)
  - Guyana (2007)
  - Jamaica (2006)
  - Uruguay (2009)

Sources: OID/CICAD (2011) and countries
### Internal variations within countries

General population, prev. year; minimum-maximum by region/state (national averages)

- **Cocaine**
  - United States (2008/9, 12 years and above): 1.1% - 3.9% (2.0%)
  - Colombia (2008, 12 to 64 years): 0.1% - 2.1% (0.7%)
  - Chile (2010, 12 to 64 years): 0.0% - 2.0% (0.7%)
  - Argentina (2010, 12 to 65 years): 0.2% - 1.5% (0.8%)

- **Marijuana**
  - United States (2008/9, 12 years and above): 7.2% - 16.3% (10.8%)
  - Colombia (2008, 12 to 64 years): 0.1% - 5.3% (2.3%)
  - Chile (2010, 12 to 64 years): 2.2% - 7.5% (4.6%)
  - Argentina (2010, 12 to 65 years): 0.6% - 4.9% (3.2%)

Source: Country reports

### Future challenges

- **CONSUMPTION**
  - ALCOHOL
  - MARIJUANA
  - SYNTHETIC DRUGS
  - ADULTERATION
  - BASE PASTE / PACO / BASUCO
  - MEDICINES

- **POLICIES**: USE OF EVIDENCE.

- **INFORMATION**: MORE AND BETTER
• **USE IN SCHOOL POPULATION**
  
  13 to 17 years
  - Previous month prevalence above 50% in several countries (Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Dominica, Uruguay, Saint Lucia).
  
  14 years and younger
  - Previous month prevalence above 40% (Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Saint Lucia).

Sources: OID/CICAD (2011) and countries
• **EXCESSIVE USE AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN**

  - **BINGE DRINKING:** *In the previous two weeks, how many times have you drunk five or more alcoholic beverages on a single occasion? (among those reporting previous-month consumption)*

  - Range between 31% and 65% of students, with several countries reporting figures above 50%.

Sources: OID/CICAD (2011) and countries

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**University students, CAN countries**

Alcohol: Risky or harmful consumption (positive AUDIT)

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% respecto de consumidores último año</th>
<th>% respecto total de población</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perú</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD
- **IMPACT OF ALCOHOL FIRST-USE AGE ON ILLICIT DRUG USE AND ON ALCOHOL DEPENDENCY**

University students, CAN countries

Percentage of students with **positive AUDIT** (risky/harmful consumption), according to alcohol first-use age, by sex, total countries (n=20,000 students).

Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD
University students, CAN countries

Percentage of students with positive AUDIT (measurement of problem use), according to alcohol first-use age, by country.

Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD

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University students, CAN countries

Lifetime prevalence of any illegal drug, according to alcohol first-use age, by sex, total countries.

Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD
Lifetime prevalence of any illicit drug, according to alcohol first-use age, by country.

Sources: CAN/EU – OID/CICAD

Future challenges

MARIJUANA
**Year prevalence, marijuana, school children**

*Years 2001 to 2009*

Country trends

Sources: OID/CICAD, Countries

**Marijuana as first drug**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Rep.</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: OID/CICAD, Countries
Admissions to treatment, by primary drug, USA

Sources: SAMSHA/TEDS; wwwdasis.samhsa.gov/webt/tedsweb/tab_year.choose_year_web_table?t_state

THC content (%)

SYNYTHETIC DRUGS

- SECOND MOST COMMONLY CONSUMED SUBSTANCE IN THE WORLD
- EASY TO PRODUCE
- CAN BE PRODUCED ANYWHERE
- HIGH PENETRATION
- WIDE VARIETY OF SUBSTANCES
- DELAY IN DETECTION AND INCLUSION ON SCHEDULES
- MORE THAN 40 NEW SUBSTANCES DETECTED IN EUROPE
- NEED FOR AN EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM
- MORE RESEARCH
The implementation of a joint program to address the problem of synthetic drugs in Latin America and the Caribbean

UNODC – CICAD
The Global S.M.A.R.T. Program

Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting, and Trends)

The actions of the SMART Program in Latin America are made possible by financial support from Canada.

The Global S.M.A.R.T. Program

Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting, and Trends)

- **Objective:** Member states will be able to make effective, evidence-based decisions to tackle the problem of synthetic drugs.
- **Outcome 1:** Create and manage information on ATS.
- **Outcome 2:** Drug information analyzed at the national, regional, and world levels.
- **Outcome 3:** ATS information is used by the countries to design evidence-based policies and strategic interventions.
The Global SMART Program began its expansion into Latin America in January 2011. In March 2011, first working meeting with three pilot countries was held in South America; those countries – Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay – are already reporting information.

In July 2011, the Program was presented at the meeting of CICAD’s Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, held in Quito, Ecuador.

At the meeting of September 13 to 16, 2011, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the Global SMART Program was presented to all the countries at the fourth biannual meeting of the National Drugs Observatories of the Caribbean countries.

- On September 20 to 22, the first regional meeting of the Global SMART Program – Latin America was held in Lima, Peru. The 14 participating countries were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

- Agreements were reached with them for transfers of information on synthetic drugs and on the annual completion of the DAINLAC questionnaire to draw up an annual report on synthetic drugs in the nations of Latin America.
Canada: Ecstasy (MDMA)

![Bar chart showing percentage of MDMA and other substances from 1997 to 2007.]

- Only MDMA
- MDMA and others
- MDMA and Ketamine
- MDMA and meth
- MDMA and cocaine

Colombia: Ecstasy (MDMA)

- Colombia, Bogotá, 2009
- Study of more than 300 samples of ecstasy
- Very few samples with low % of MDMA
- Almost all contain caffeine
- Mixtures with cocaine, methamphetamine
- Mixtures with ketamine (animal anesthetic)
- Many samples were diclofenac mixed with industrial colorants
- On average, five different components, where there was only supposed to be one

Source: Colombian Drugs Observatory
BASE PASTE, COCA PASTE, BASUCO

- Significant usage in some countries
- Highly addictive
- Demand for treatment
- Associated with respiratory and infectious diseases
- Most vulnerable groups
- Micro-trafficking
- Associated with crime
- High presence of adulterants (caffeine)
Public policies

SET OF OBJECTIVES, DECISIONS, AND ACTIONS

PURSUED BY A GOVERNMENT **TO RESOLVE**

**THOSE PROBLEMS** THAT, AT A GIVEN TIME,

**THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT**

**DEEM TO BE A PRIORITY.**
Public policies

If we do not clearly understand
the problem,
we have little chance
of dealing with it successfully.

Evidence

- Create the evidence
  - National Drugs Observatory
  - Universities
  - Other institutions
Policies

- **Diagnostic assessment** (identify the problem)
  - Information on the factors to be addressed.
- **Intervention.** Based on the diagnostic assessment, create a series of actions (policies) in order to change the status of the problem.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation** (adherence, results, impact).

Summary

- Complex consumption situation
- Pay greater attention to licit drugs
- Improve indicators for medicine use
- Strengthen information and research
- Create more and better, updated information
- Use the information in the formulation (creation) of policies
- "If we do not clearly understand the problem, we have little chance of dealing with it successfully."
THANK YOU!

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INTER-AMERICAN OBSERVATORY
ON DRUGS
CICAD-OAS