ONLINE ROUNDTABLE
The latest information on the opioid crisis and new responses

November 10, 2021
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GENERATION OF HEMISPHERIC REPORTS AND INFORMATION BULLETINS

DATA FROM THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE AMERICAS

THE VALUE OF AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE EMERGING THREATS PROJECT: NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES, HEROIN, FENTANYL, AND OTHER OPIOIDS

INFORME SOBRE EL CONSUMO DE DROGAS EN LAS AMÉRICAS 2019

LA IMPORTANCIA DE UN SISTEMA DE ALERTA TEMPRANA

RESUMEN DE LOS PRINCIPALES HALLAZGOS DEL PROYECTO AMENAZAS EMERGENTES: NUEVAS SUSTANCIAS PSICÓACTIVAS, HEROÍNA, FENTANIL Y OTROS OPIOÍDOS

REPORT ON DRUG USE IN THE AMERICAS 2019

EMERGING DRUGS IN THE AMERICAS: NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS
Emerging Drugs

• Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

• Report on Drug Supply in the Americas 2021
  - To be reported at CICAD 70 (Nov 16-19, 2021)
CONTROLLED-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (CPD)

They have important sub-regional and population variations.

**Tranquilizers/Benzodiazepines.**
- Diverted from legal trade in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Higher consumption in the female population, even among female students (RDUA-CICAD).

**Stimulants/Amphetamine.**
- Prevalence is low, drugs are diverted from legal trade (RDUA-CICAD).
Analgesics/Opioids (Information Bulletin N°2-CICAD)

• Recurrent and epidemic phenomenon in North America.
• High levels of overdoses and deaths.
• Illicit Manufacturing - NSP Opioids
• Abuse problems in cities on the border between Mexico and the United States.
• Some countries in South America report abuse among health workers.
SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

- According to information from CONAPI, Mexico is a transit point (to the US) for fentanyl and its precursors, which come from Asia (GECS-CICAD).
- There is no evidence of fentanyl production in Mexico (GECS-CICAD).
- In 2018, 362 kg of fentanyl were seized in Mexico and 206 kg in 2019 (Report LAC 2021, Global SMART/UNODC).
- In 2018, an aggregate annual quantity of more than 2.5 tons of fentanyl was seized in the United States, suspected of coming from Mexico or China (Report LAC 2021, Global SMART/UNODC).
SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

- In 2019, in just one interdiction operation, the United States seized approximately 115 kg of fentanyl, along with about 179 kg of methamphetamine, from a Mexican citizen in Port of Nogales, Arizona. (Report LAC 2021, Global SMART/UNODC).

- In El Salvador, the diversion of Tramadol to illicit trade has been observed (GECS-CICAD).

- In 2017, authorities in the Dominican Republic dismantled a clandestine fentanyl laboratory (Report LAC 2021, Global SMART/UNODC).

- In 2017, 0.25 kg of fentanyl was seized in Argentina (Report LAC 2021, Global SMART/UNODC).

LETHAL DOSES

The amounts of heroin and fentanyl needed to kill a person
SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

• In 2019 CICAD reported the use of opioid drugs for non-medical purposes, such as tramadol, morphine, and suboxone and determined that it was associated with serious negative health consequences.

• A study conducted along the northern border of Mexico found that 93% of white powdered heroin samples collected from 89 heroin users contained fentanyl (Clara Fleiz et al., 2020).
SYNHETIC OPIOIDS

• In 2017, the EWS-Drugs from Uruguay reported that fentanyl had been detected in drug samples, in a typical presentation form of LSD.

• In the last decade, Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico reported an increase in the number of people seeking treatment for use of opioid drugs (Informe LAC 2021, Global SMART/UNODC).

• In December 2020, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia reported detecting NPS with opioid effects (Informe LAC 2021, Global SMART/UNODC).
In the United States, 870,000 people have died from opioid-associated deaths from the early 1990s to 2019.

*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Number of deaths associated with opioids in Canada and the United States, 2016-2020

Canada - Apparent opioid toxicity death (AOTD): A death caused by intoxication/toxicity (poisoning) resulting from substance use, where one or more of the substances is an opioid, regardless of how it was obtained (e.g. illegally or through personal prescription). Other substances may also be involved.

Number of drug-related deaths in the United States, 2015-2020

• Synthetic opioid overdose deaths nearly six-fold between 2015 and 2020.
• Deaths from psychostimulant overdoses, mainly methamphetamine, quadrupled between 2015 and 2020 (Population 18-64 years).

In 2019, CICAD/OID carried out a research project on opioids and other emerging drugs, in which five Latin American countries participated: Argentina, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.
General conclusions for 5 countries

Low prevalence
- In general terms and comparatively with other drugs that are produced in the region or are more traditional.

Availability facilitates use
- As observed in the health personnel of Argentina and Uruguay.

Need generates a market
- Heroin-dependent users in the Dominican Republic.

Closeness to markets generates use
- As seen in the border cities of Mexico with the United States.

Opioid use exists, but has remained invisible
- It is not recorded in large population surveys.
- Of 5 countries, in 4 of them use was observed in specific population groups.
- We also know of use in other countries that were not part of these studies:
  - Presence of the "H" in Colombia and Ecuador.
  - Increased use of opioid medications in Chile.
RESPONSE TO NEW CHALLENGES
In the last decade, the development of EWS has been promoted in the countries of the region.

Countries with an EWS are:
Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay, and CICAD is making efforts to resume the operation of the EWS in Argentina.

Other countries have shown interest in implementing a national EWS.

CICAD is currently conducting a regional diagnosis on the implementation of EWS in some member states.
Early Warning System for the Americas

SATA
(by its Spanish acronym)
VISION OF THE REGIONAL EWS (SATA)

Exchange of information

Once a new psychoactive substance or a new market trend is detected, the Member State ensures that information on the manufacture, traffic and/or drug use is transmitted to its National EWS and then to CICAD/OID /SATA, through the National Observatories or some equivalent institution.
Initial module: General aspects

Module 1: Detection

Module 2: Characterization and evaluation

Module 3: Emission of the alert

Module 4: Actions implemented, advice and monitoring.
TRAINING HANDBOOK
To support national drug observatories in the implementation and coordination of early warning systems
STRENGTHENING OF LABORATORIES

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
- Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (CICAD/OID)
- Supply Reduction Unit (CICAD/SRU)
• **Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products.**

• Technical forum at the hemispheric level for the exchange of information, experiences, and good practices on the control of chemical precursors used in the manufacture of illicit drugs in the region.
  – Since 2011, recommendations have been given to analyze and collect information on emerging drugs.
SUCCESSFUL MEASURES AND GOOD PRACTICE

• Inter-institutional coordination, through the creation of technical working groups, to monitor the precursor and NPS market.

• Make regulatory changes, as applicable, and develop updated legislation on the matter.

• Encourage the use of international cooperation resources, such as the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs and the CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
STRENGTHENING OF LABORATORIES FROM CICAD/SRU AND CICAD/OID

• Improve the infrastructure and the analysis capacity of the laboratories.
• Train professionals who work in laboratories.
• Modernize drug testing equipment.
• Report findings on NPS, synthetic opioids, and other emerging drugs.
• Contribute to the generation of alerts and work in coordination with the National EWSs.
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