

European Update

EMCDDA

The EMCDDA has released its latest online thematic paper entitled: *Preventing later substance use disorders in at-risk children and adolescents: a review of the theory and evidence base of indicated prevention*. The review adds to the current knowledge and understanding of risk factors in the development of later drug problems and dependence, focusing on the mental health and behavioural problems that develop during childhood. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/press/factsheets/2009>

EMCDDA

Drugnet Europe No 65. In this issue: concerns expressed over Spice; latest findings on measuring illicit drugs in wastewater and on drugs and driving; legal responses to new psychoactive substances in Europe; and a new thematic paper on indicated prevention. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index69413EN.html>

European Commission

Report on Global Illicit Drug Markets 1998-2007. This report on the world's illicit drugs markets has been produced by an international team of experts on behalf of the European Commission. 74-page PDF http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/drugs/studies/doc/report_short_10_03_09_en.pdf

ESPAD

EUROPEAN SCHOOL SURVEY PROJECT ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS Use of illicit drugs among 15–16-year-old school students, appears to have stabilised or slightly fallen, according to the latest European study of this group published today by ESPAD. The report, which follows a 2007 survey conducted in 35 European countries, also reveals a decrease in last-month rates of cigarette smoking among school students. However, it sounds the alarm over clear rises in the group's 'heavy episodic drinking', and the narrowing gender gap in this behaviour. This is the fourth data-collection wave conducted by the ESPAD project, with multi-national surveys carried out in 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007. Over 100,000 school students took part in the latest survey. <http://www.espad.org/espad-reports>

Ireland

Crack cocaine in the Dublin Region. An evidence base for a crack cocaine strategy. 142-page PDF http://www.hrb.ie/uploads/tx_hrbpublications/HRB_Research_Series_6.pdf

Ireland

Directory of courses and training programmes on drug

misuse in Ireland 2009. This Directory contains information about courses and training programmes on drug misuse for individuals and agencies interested in developing their knowledge, skills and capacity in this field. 165-page PDF. http://www.ndc.hrb.ie/attached/3073-Directory_2009.pdf

Ireland

Ireland was the first country to sign up to an initiative, which was launched by seven countries and centres around the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre-Narcotics, known as MAOC-N, and based in Lisbon. <http://www.independent.ie/opinion/analysis/taking-the-war-on-drugs-to-the-high-seas-1649560.html>

Russia

Up to 2.5 million Russians including 140,000 minors are addicted to illegal drugs, the head of the Federal Drug Control Service said. <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090303/120391963.html>

Spain

Spanish police busted five people over heroin trafficking, including three Bulgarians. 31 kilos of heroin are the largest quantity seized in recent years. The drugs had been smuggled to Spain by the Bulgarians and had been destined to a Turkish national said to live in Valencia and to have close ties to Turkish mafia dealing with heroin trafficking. http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=102302

United Kingdom

Many parents don't feel confident talking about drugs with their teenage children. But we also know that discussing the subject as a family can help stop young people getting into trouble. 'Know what you're talking about' guide gives parents basic information to make them more confident about raising the issue. Pdf http://www.addaction.org.uk/?page_id=246

United Kingdom

Anabolic Steroids in the UK. The aim of this article is to provide an overview of anabolic steroids, including: 1) who uses them and why; 2) how the drugs are used; 3) the prevalence of use in the UK; 4) the risks to health; and, 5) basic harm reduction advice. 9-page PDF <http://www.smmgp.org.uk/download/others/other055.pdf>

United Kingdom

Khat use spreads to British youth. 'Khat' is a popular stimulant chewed across east Africa. Now it is crossing cultural divides and becoming a drug of choice for an increasing number of young people in the UK. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7942432.stm>

World Update

UNODC

UNODC has just launched an innovative online report highlighting developments in the global synthetic drugs scene. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/on-the-synthetic-drugs-trail.html>

INCB

The Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2008. download: http://www.incb.org/pdf/annual-report/2008/en/AR_08_English.pdf

NATO

NATO will remain within international law when it proceeds with new measures to kill drug traffickers in Afghanistan and bomb drug processing laboratories to deprive the Taliban of its main financing. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/12/world/asia/12nato.html?_r=1

Afghanistan

The phenomenal growth of Afghanistan's opium production over the past seven years is a sign of the monumental failure of the Karzai government. <http://www.eariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/CD93E83CD7F057A78725757500078694?OpenDocument>

Afghanistan

Seven hundred British troops seized four Taliban narcotics factories containing £50m of drugs and killed 20 enemy fighters in an operation in southern Afghanistan. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/feb/18/taliban-british-troops-drugs>

Australia

The use of ecstasy in Sydney has skyrocketed by as much as 112 per cent in the past two years, highlighting the ineffectiveness of deterrent strategies a drug expert has said. <http://www.smh.com.au/national/ecstasy-use-shoots-up-across-the-city-20090214-87mu.html>

Australia

The National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre has developed a range of useful resources on cannabis and cannabis use. These publications have been created to target particular audiences and needs. Including a DIY guide to quitting cannabis use. <http://ncpic.org.au/assets/downloads/workforce/cannabisinfo/resources/whats-the-deal-on-quitting-a-do-it-yourself-guide-to-quitting-cannabis.pdf>

Bolivia

Bolivian President Evo Morales calls for rescheduling of coca. <http://www.cndblog.org/2009/03/bolivian-president-evo-morales-calls.html>

Brazil

Federal police officers arrested 55 people, in a nationwide investigation focused on upper-middle-class youths who the police said were smuggling Ecstasy, LSD and other synthetic drugs into Brazil from Europe. Ecstasy's

emergence as the drug of Brazil's wealthy has opened the door wider for corrupt police officers to seize upon users and their families.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/15/world/americas/15ecstasy.html?_r=2

China

China plans to strengthen security along its borders with Central Asia to combat a rise in drug smuggling through its restive western region of Xinjiang <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/03/10/asia/AS-China-Central-Asia-Drugs.php>

Guinea-Bissau

Off all the countries lining West Africa's Atlantic coast, none has been so thoroughly penetrated and corrupted by Latin American drug cartels as Guinea-Bissau, which has been thrown once again into political chaos following the serial assassinations of its president and the head of its joint chiefs of staff. <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/cocaine-cartels-corrupt-politics-of-guineabissau/2009/03/03/1235842412613.html>

Ecuador

The Ecuadorian government has decided to release 1,500 people sentenced for small-scale drug trafficking. It is seen as a step in the process of reforming draconian legislation regarding controlled substances. http://www.tni.org/detail_page.phtml?act_id=19233

India

The stigma attached with drug addiction needs to be abolished so that the people affected by these social problems are brought back to the mainstream, feels Rev. Father Joseph H Pereira, who was honoured with the Padmashree award this year for social work. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Kolkata/Addicts_de_serve_life_of_dignity_Priest/articleshow/4102488.cms

United Arab Emirates

The UAE's large population of young people, particularly those living outside the cities, have a limited amount of entertainment outlets and drugs all too often become an insidious escape route from boredom. <http://www.thenational.ae/article/20090218/OPINION/882533012>

USA

The 2009 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) is an annual report by the Department of State to Congress. It describes the efforts of key countries to attack all aspects of the international drug trade in Calendar Year 2008. Volume I covers drug and chemical control activities. Volume II covers money laundering and financial crimes. <http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2009/index.htm>

Drug Webwatch

Publication

Women's voices — experiences and perceptions of women facing drug problems

A collection of narratives from women facing drug-related problems in Europe is released by the EMCDDA . It is estimated that around one in four drug users entering treatment is female, and that women account for one in five drug-related deaths. Yet most drug services today are designed with male drug users in mind, as they remain the predominant client group. Free pdf at <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/thematic-papers/womens-voices>

Publication

Forensic Chemistry of Substance Misuse: A Guide to Drug Control by Les King ISBN: 978-0-85404-178-7

This book builds on an earlier publication by the same author: The Misuse of Drugs Act: A Guide for Forensic Scientists. It provides a chemical background to the domestic and international legal controls on drugs of abuse and related substances and includes coverage of 'designer drugs' and generic/analogue controls from the UK, US and New Zealand perspectives.

.The book contains a number of unique features,

* For the forensic scientist, the book contains a complete list of all drug substances controlled by UK and International law. It explains the chemical-structural definitions and the significance to the legislation of terms such as salt, base, stereoisomer, ester, ether, derivative, homologue and isotope

* For the more general reader, there is an account of the history of domestic, European and International drugs control, the long debate about drug classification, the role of risk assessment and how the legal control of a wide range of harmful chemical substances might be consolidated

* For the criminal lawyer, the book provides a useful adjunct to standard works on case and statute law see: <http://www.rsc.org/shop/books/2009/9780854041787.asp>

The news page *DrugWorld* is updated on a regular basis with items from all around the world. You can access it at www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php Add it to your Favourites or Bookmarks for ease of access.

Future Issues

I would like to express thanks to those persons around the world who have contributed to this issue in particular to **Jim Young at Substance Misuse**. I am delighted to see that his extremely informative and useful web site is to continue despite funding difficulties. Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to paul@paul-cook.net

If you found this newsletter useful then click on the link below and recommend Drug-World to a friend or colleague.

Paul Cook

Send this newsletter to a colleague - click below

<http://www.drugworld.co.uk/recommend>



www.drugworld.co.uk