KEY FACTS

Approximately 13 million people who inject drugs.

30% of new HIV Infections outside of sub-Saharan Africa are as a result of unsafe injecting.

Approximately 13% of people who inject drugs are living with HIV.

People who inject drugs are globally 28 times more likely to contract HIV than others in the general population.

Between 162 million and 324 million people, corresponding to between 3.5 per cent and 7.0 per cent of the world population aged 15-64, have used an illicit drug.

There are 30 million people in prison in the course of a year, many of them for minor drugs offences (52% of the prison population of the US are convicted of drugs offences, mostly low level).

Low- and middle-income countries, where 80% of the world’s population lives, consume only 8% of the opioids produced legitimately for pain relief.

Approximately 6.6 million people aged 15–64 and inject drugs are living with HCV.

Only 7% of the investment currently estimated by UNAIDS to be required to end the HIV epidemic among people who inject drugs is currently provided.

“Member States should pursue a balanced and mutually reinforcing approach to supply and demand reduction, devoting more effort to the realization of demand reduction with a view to achieving proportionality of effort, resources and international cooperation in addressing drug abuse as a health and social issue, while upholding the law and its enforcement.”

80% of the world’s population lacks access to opioids for legitimate reasons.

Adequate access to opioids for legitimate use reduces pain and suffering.

Reduced transmission not just of HIV but also HCV and TB.

183.000 drug related deaths every year.

1.5 million years of lives lost through deaths caused by HIV or HCV among people who use drugs.

69,000 opioid overdoses per year.

183,000 drug related deaths every year.

SAVES LIVES

Keeps people alive to work and care for their families.

Relieves the burden on health systems of treating chronic illness.

Prevents the distress and misery caused to many on losing a loved one.

Reduced transmission not just of HIV but also HCV and TB.

Public health messaging on drugs reduces demand in an informed way.

Adequate access to opioids for legitimate use reduces pain and suffering.

High return on investment

Public health interventions are cost-effective.

Reduced prison operating costs and overcrowding.

Fewer HIV infections due to incarceration.

Overcrowding exacerbates TB, HIV and HCV transmission and fuels violence and abuse.

International Human Rights Obligations are breached.

Drug dependence is treated as a health condition, not a crime.

Reduces harm and mitigates the adverse health and social consequences.

Criminalisation does not deter drug use.

Drug dependence is treated as a health condition.

Adequate access to opioids for legitimate use reduces pain and suffering.

Reduced transmission not just of HIV but also HCV and TB.

A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO DRUG CONTROL

ISSUES & BENEFITS

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