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2017 Adolescent Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling Program

In view of the drastic social changes in recent years and the gradual occurrence of drug abuse among adolescent students, the center believes that strengthening drug abuse prevention and control training on school teachers and relevant counselors will provide better-quality prevention and counseling measures. Therefore, in collaboration with Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse, National Chung Cheng University, a Ministry of Education commissioned program called "Adolescent Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling Program" was jointly organized. The program invited a number of our adolescent drug abuse prevention and control experts to design a training course targeting on school counselors, security and teachers in order to minimize the exposure of students to drug abuse.

Target participants include directors of Office of Student Affairs, military instructors and teachers at all levels of schools in six counties and cities such as Chiayi County and Chiayi City, Taipei City, Taichung City, Kaohsiung City and Hualien County, a total of 14 sessions with an estimated 80 to 100 participants per session will be carried out. It is expected that the drug abuse prevention and counseling seminars for 1,500 junior or high school teachers will be completed by December this year in order to strengthen the new century anti-drug strategies of the Government on campus.





Evidence based Intervention Program for Drug offenders

In view of the high recidivism rate of drug offenders and the tremendous impact on security and public health in Taiwan, the Agency of Corrections, Ministry of Justice has proposed an “Intervention Program for Drug offender System Integration and Counseling” this year. By inviting Professor Shu-Lung Yang, Distinguished Professor of **Department and Graduate Institute of Criminology**, National Chung Cheng University, and the chairman of Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse Research for assisting in constructing an intervention program for convicted drug offenders, the Agency aims to strengthen drug offender correction operations to achieve the goal of recidivism prevention.

After attending the press conference at Ministry of Justice, Professor Shu-Lung Yang pointed that an evidence-based intervention program for drug offenders should focus on the construction of mandatory intervention courses such as core counseling, and actively participates in interventions in critical contributing factors to recidivism to minimize recidivism. Yang said that according to the planning of Agency of Corrections, the evidence-based program will be implemented in all national prisons after January 1, 2018. He also expects that Ministry of Justice can inject more resources into the intervention for drug offenders.

The concept of the intervention program for drug offenders constructed by Professor Shu-Lung Yang is based on the drug addiction treatment recommendations of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and the intervention principles for drug addiction rehabilitation published by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA,2012;2014). The program emphasizes that the rehabilitation principles for drug offenders must be based on scientific evidence, and must address the multiple needs (social and psychology) of the drug offenders rather than confine the program to only addressing physiological issues.



Professor Shu-Lung Yang believes that a more comprehensive intervention program should cover multiple aspects including psychological & health counseling, legal advice, family relations, career development, financial management, AIDS prevention and health education, etc.

Professor Shu-Lung Yang indicated that in April this year, he went to Taichung Prison to carry out the program. He invited psychologist and law professor of **Department and Graduate Institute of Criminology**, National Chung Cheng University; Dr. Ting-Gang Chang of Division of Psychiatry, Changhua Christian Hospital; Mr. Yu-Wen Hsieh, Director of Pharmacy of China Medical University Hospital; Miss Hui-Tzu Chiu, Senior Specialist of Health Bureau, Taichung City Government, and three counselors as well as social workers to develop a 2.5-hour per week, total of 16 weeks of lecturing and group interventions. The experts also met regularly for further discussions.

Professor Shu-Lung Yang indicated that the 16 drug offenders who participated in this program basically have learned about correct drug use after the intervention, and they were more confident of succeeding in drug rehabilitation with the consultation of professionals and group interventions. Nearly half of the participants of this program expressed that they had actively participated in various drug rehabilitation programs before; however, none of them succeeded. Moreover, so many drug rehabilitation failure cases made them feel frustrated or worry about their success. Professor Yang suggests inviting those successful cases of drug recovery as seed instructors to share their personal experience, potential challenges and accessible resources so that the contents of the intervention program will fit better the needs of the participants, reflect reality issues, and thus truly help drug offenders or abusers solve their isolated interpersonal relations.



UNODC Reports

Singapore and UNODC conduct pilot regional training programme to strengthen control of new psychoactive substances contingency

➤ Editorial Office

3 October 2017 - The Government of Singapore and UNODC recently teamed up to combat the growing and global challenges posed by new psychoactive substances (NPS).

A joint training programme on "Regional Law Enforcement in New Psychoactive Substances" was conducted in Singapore from 4 to 8 September 2017. Participating were 23 officials from 11 South-East Asian and Pacific Island countries, including Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

As a pilot initiative developed by Singapore and UNODC, the programme helps developing countries in the region achieve their development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also supports the implementation of the relevant operational recommendations outlined in the Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS), which called for Member States to adopt measures to address the challenges posed by NPS.



At this occasion, Member States also called for a balanced approach to the world drug problem: putting people first through approaches that attend to health and human rights, and promote the safety and security of all our societies. This reaffirms the emphasis on the health and welfare of humankind that is the founding purpose of the international drug conventions.

In a statement earlier this year, UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, said: "Let us be clear, the threat of NPS is very real. NPS, including fentanyl analogues, continue to multiply and evolve. Fentanyl analogues for example, are helping to fuel tragic increases in opioid overdoses."

In this regard, experts and law enforcement practitioners from Singapore, UNODC staff and invited speakers from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and Australian Federal Police shared their expertise in areas such as legislative responses, forensic identification, field detection, enforcement and diversion of precursor chemicals.

Representing UNODC at the training programme, the Office's Laboratory and Scientific Section Chief, Justice Tettey, said: "Identifying the NPS on the market, including how they are presented on drug markets, is critical to understanding the nature of the threat and in formulating effective law enforcement and health interventions. Unfortunately, the identification and detection of NPS remains one of the biggest challenges we face in addressing the problem

The programme also included site visits to a Health Sciences Authority laboratory for forensic



identification, to the Ministry of Home Affairs Office of the Chief Science and Technology Officer (MHA OCSTO) laboratory for identification of a clandestine laboratory setup.

The course allowed participants to gain a better understanding of the recent trends in the global and regional markets for NPS, and to identify best practices in its detection and investigation.

Speaking about the programme, Ronny Saohu Horo, Senior Foreign Relations Officer at the National Security Department of the Solomon Islands said: "I learnt about how new drugs emerge in the market and evolve over time." "I also had the chance to see machines used to detect drugs and laboratory testing. This puts me in a position to do more in preventing drugs," he added.

Similarly, Socheat Khiev, Deputy Director of Cambodia's National Authority for Combating Drugs said: "The course is interesting and helps to improve my knowledge to bring back home. We can have more of such courses."

The course was conducted under the auspices of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, which is the country's primary platform in extending technical assistance to the developing world. Over 170 countries and territories have taken part in the programmes since its inception in 1992.

This paper is from: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2017/October/singapore-and-unodc-conduct-pilot-regional-training-programme-to-strengthen-control-of-new-psychoactive-substances.html>



NIDA Reports

The Role of Fentanyl in the Opioid Crisis

➤ Editorial Office

The emergence of illicitly manufactured synthetic opioids including fentanyl, carfentanil, and their analogues represents an escalation of the ongoing opioid overdose epidemic. Fentanyl is a μ -opioid receptor agonist that is 80 times more potent than morphine *in vivo*. While fentanyl is available as a prescription – primarily used for anesthesia, treating post-surgical pain, and for the management of pain in opioid-tolerant patients – it is the illicitly manufactured versions that have been largely responsible for the tripling of overdose deaths related to synthetic opioids in just two years – from 3,105 in 2013 to 9,580 in 2015.

A variety of fentanyl analogues and synthetic opioids are also included in these numbers, such as carfentanil (approximately 10,000 times more potent than morphine), acetyl-fentanyl (about 15 times more potent than morphine), butyrfentanyl (more than 30 times more potent than morphine), U-47700 (about 12 times more potent than morphine), and MT-45 (roughly equivalent potency to morphine), among others.

The opioid crisis began in the mid-to late 1990's, following a confluence of events that led to a dramatic increase in opioid prescribing, including: a regulatory, policy and practice focus on opioid medications as the primary treatment for all types of pain; an unfounded concept that opioids prescribed for pain would not lead to addiction; the release of guidelines from the American Pain Society in 1996 encouraging providers to assess pain as "the 5th vital sign" at each clinical encounter; and the initiation of aggressive marketing campaigns by pharmaceutical



companies promoting the notion that opioids do not pose significant risk for misuse or addiction and promoting their use as “first-line” treatments for chronic pain.

The sale of prescription opioids more than tripled between 1999 and 2011, and this was paralleled by a more than four-fold increase in treatment admissions for opioid abuse and a nearly four-fold increase in overdose deaths related to prescription opioids. Federal and state efforts to curb opioid prescribing resulted in a leveling off of prescriptions starting in 2012; however, heroin-related overdose deaths had already begun to rise in 2007 and sharply increased from just over 3,000 in 2010 to nearly 13,000 in 2015. We now know prescription opioid misuse is a significant risk factor for heroin use; 80 percent of heroin users first misuse prescription opioids. While only about four percent of people who misuse prescription opioids initiate heroin use within 5 years, for this subset of people the use of the cheaper, often easier to obtain street opioid is part of the progression of an opioid addiction.

The opioid overdose epidemic has now further escalated, with the rise in deaths related to illicitly manufactured synthetic opioids. Often, the population of people using and overdosing on fentanyl looks very similar to the population using heroin. However, the drivers of fentanyl use can be complicated as the drug is often sold in counterfeit pills – designed to look like common prescription opioids or benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax) – or is added as an adulterant to heroin or other drugs, unbeknownst to the user. And there are also market forces supporting the proliferation of higher-potency opioids, as people with opioid addictions develop increasing tolerance to these drugs.

This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/legislative-activities/testimony-to-congress/2017/research-use-misuse-fentanyl-other-synthetic-opioids>



Taiwan Research News

I. Utilizing GIS into the Analysis of Taiwan Regional Distribution and Character of Drug-Related Crime : The Case Study of Luzhou District of New Taipei City

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Drug-related crime is a global and transnational issue. Drug-related crime has caused great harm upon social security, economical development and human health. Most of the academic literature have proved the significant association between drug and crime. This research project aims to utilize GIS technology to analyze thematic mapping of drug-related crime by the combination of governmental big data information. The analysis will include temporal and spatial distribution and character as well as the focus on hot-spot and the tendencies on proliferation and displacement.

This study profoundly developing academic theory and discourses through the literature of environmental criminology, geographical criminology, drug-related crime and GIS for the further construction of thematic mapping. The systematical methods of Average Nearest Neighbor, Kernel Density Estimation and Getis-Ord GI are used to the drug-related crime at Luzhou District of New Taipei City for the dimensions of temporal and spatial distribution and character as well as the focus on hot-spot and the tendencies on proliferation and displacement. It hopes to offer explicit perspectives and interpretations for the development of contemporary crime control and policing management by the provision of the construction of drug-related crime mapping.



Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
Annual Meeting of Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research 2017	Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research (AASAR)	November 28-30, 2017	Yun'an Huidu Hotel, Kunming, Yunnan : http://lessdrugs.org/conference/en/home
AAAS 2018 Annual Meeting: Communicating Science Seminar	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	February 15-19 2018	Austin, Texas, USA Contact : https://www.aaas.org/annual-meeting/future
ASCPT 2018 Annual Meeting	American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT)	March 20-24 2018	Orlando, Florida, USA Contact : http://www.ascpt.org/
SRNT 24th Annual Meeting	Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT)	March 21-24 2018	Baltimore, MD, USA Contact: http://www.srnt.org/?page=2018meeting
Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM)	SBM's 39th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions	April 11 – 14 2018	New Orleans, Louisiana, USA Contact: http://www.sbm.org/meetings/2018