



【28th Edition】

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Chief editor :Shu-Lung Yang

Executive editor :Hua-Fu Hsu

Vice executive editor : Yueh-Chung Ma

Document editor : Yuan-Hao Cheng

Executive department :Crime Research Center,
National Chung Cheng University

Phone number :+886-5-2720411#26305

◎UNODC and NIDA Reports

◎Taiwan Research News

◎Recent International Academic

Conference

9th Cross-Strait Criminal Law Symposium

The meeting will take place on April 30 and May 1, 2018 at the Zhuo Zhang Conference Hall in CCU College of Education with the theme “New Agenda on Criminal Law Concerning Drug-related Crimes and Community Corrections”. The goal of this event is to engage scholars from Taiwan and China in discussions pertinent to criminal law concerning drug-related crime and community corrections and exchange opinions. With the problem of drug crimes becoming increasingly serious across the strait, both countries can no longer afford to remain complacent and idle. Instead, China and Taiwan should work together to combat crime and create a drug-free environment.

With that in mind, there should be exchanges in legal systems across the strait as well, so that both countries can learn and complement each other, and learn from each other’s shortcomings and strengths in order to combat drug-related crimes effectively, in turn materializing the vision of a drug-free country. Currently, China and Taiwan are faced with increasingly severe drug crimes; despite defenses designed into the legal system, they are unable to effectively curb drug crimes. In particular, NPS (new psychoactive substances) appear in different forms that are unlike conventional drugs, including teabag, candy, jelly, plum powder or chocolate. These are becoming increasingly popular among the youth.

The community corrections system was developed relatively late in both countries, since drug rehabilitation is linked to community corrections, the issue can be discussed further as well.

In addition, the community corrections system has come under the spotlight in recent years across the strait; although developed relatively late compared to western countries, in order to solve problems including crowded prisons and recidivism rate, the issue has gained increasing attention in terms of policy and administration. The focus of community corrections lies in the re-socialization of offenders, including drug offenders. Drug rehabilitation and community corrections are closely associated, therefore the aim is to provide a platform for scholars from across the strait to draw on their collective wisdom in devising strategies in this regard.

The meeting will host at the Cho-Chang conference room of College of Education, National Chung Cheng University on April 30 and May 1 2018. For matters concerning registration, please refer to our website at <http://www.tcls.org.tw/> °



UNODC Reports

Myanmar opium cultivation declines sharply, except in some conflict areas: UN report

➤ Editorial Office

Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar), 6 December 2017 - The total area of opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has decreased significantly in 2017 to 41,000 hectares, down 25% from the 55,500 recorded in 2015, according to the Myanmar Opium Survey 2017 released today by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Reductions have been most significant in East Shan with a drop of 37% and South Shan with a drop of 29%. However, the report also reveals that while progress has been made, North Shan and Kachin states have seen reductions of less than 3% and 7%, which on the ground amounts to a decrease of only 600 hectares in total. Reductions in cultivation have been somewhat offset by a greater yield per hectare with potential opium production dropping 14% from 2015 levels.

The report reconfirms the link between conflict and opium in Myanmar, and that insecure areas with active insurgencies continue to cultivate and produce at levels similar to 2015. Jeremy Douglas, UNODC Regional Representative, noted that "the connection between governance and security on the one hand and poverty and conflict on the other is undeniable. We will continue to assist the transition from a dependence on opium to alternative and sustainable economic opportunities. But it cannot be done in isolation from the peace process, and we will need access to additional territory."



He added, "As long as significant parts of Shan and Kachin remain unstable and basically autonomous from the rest of the country and region, the environment will remain a safe haven for those who run the drug trade."

The decline in opium cultivation occurs against the backdrop of a changing regional drug market that has seen a fall in opium and heroin prices over recent years, as most countries in East and Southeast Asia report a shift toward synthetic drugs and especially methamphetamine.

Minister of Home Affairs General Kyaw Swe acknowledged that further effort will be needed to effectively address the high volumes of opium, heroin and other drugs produced in Myanmar. He commented that "the Government of Myanmar is pleased to see progress, but also agrees that while much has been done there is still much to do, and we will continue to support programmes that provide meaningful alternatives to communities that produce opium. We will also work with UNODC and our neighbours to address the production and trafficking of drugs and precursor chemicals."



Troels Vester, UNODC Country Manager, emphasized the importance of sustainable alternative development initiatives, noting

"Myanmar has taken important steps to address opium cultivation, especially in South Shan where we are running a programme together. But we also recognise that there is still a huge amount of work to be done and sustained support will be critical to our efforts."

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

<https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/myanmar/2017/12/myanmar-opium-survey-report-launch/story.html>



NIDA Reports

Marijuana and Vaping Are More Popular Than Cigarettes Among Teenagers

➤ Editorial Office

Cigarette smoking has dropped so sharply among American teenagers that vaping and marijuana use are now more common, according to a national survey of adolescent drug use released Thursday.

The report, sponsored by the federal government’s National Institute on Drug Abuse and administered by the University of Michigan, found that 22.9 percent of high school seniors said they had used marijuana within the previous 30 days and 16.6 percent had used a vaping device. Only 9.7 percent had smoked cigarettes.

The survey of 43,703 eighth-, 10th- and 12th-grade students in public and private schools nationwide raised concerns about the popularity of vaping devices, available in countless styles to appeal to different social groups. But it was otherwise optimistic. It found that teenagers’ consumption of most substances — including alcohol, tobacco, prescription opioids and stimulants — has either fallen or held steady at last year’s levels, the lowest rates in 20 years.

By contrast, rates of marijuana use have remained largely consistent, with occasional small shifts, in recent years. (Studies show, however, that marijuana rates have risen among young adults in the last decade.)



“We’re impressed by the improvement in substance use by all teenagers,” said Dr. Wilson Compton, deputy director of the institute. Still, Dr. Compton continued, “we don’t yet know about the health problems in vaping.”

Vaping devices, which typically vaporize substances into an inhalant, are perceived by some experts as a healthier alternative to traditional cigarettes because they do not include carcinogens that come with burning tobacco. But Dr. Compton said, “The concern is that it may represent a new route for exposure to nicotine and marijuana.

The devices are typically sold with nicotine. But when 12th-graders were asked what they believed was in the mist they had vaped most recently, 51.8 percent said “just flavoring.” When asked about use in the past month, one in 20 12th-graders said they had used marijuana in vaping devices and one in 10 said nicotine.

Cassie Poncelow, a school counselor at Poudre High School in Fort Collins, Colo., has noticed an upsurge in vaping across all social groups. “We’re seeing a ton of it,” she said. The devices are readily accessible and easy to conceal, she added. “Kids are taking hits on their vape pens in the hallways and nobody notices,” Ms. Poncelow said, noting that some devices resemble flash drives, which students plug into laptops to recharge.

But educators and public health officials praised the drop in tobacco use. Dr. Compton noted that in 1996, 10.4 percent of eighth graders reported smoking cigarettes daily. By 2017, that figure fell to 0.6 percent. In 1997, daily smoking among 12th graders peaked at 24.6 percent. By 2017, only 4.2 percent smoked cigarettes daily.



Thomas J. Glynn, a former director of cancer science at the American Cancer Society and an adjunct lecturer at Stanford University School of Medicine, hailed the continuing tobacco decline as “an astounding accomplishment in public health.”

“But,” he added, “it doesn’t mean we close the door and go home now.”

While noting that the data on vaping devices as a gateway to cigarettes is inconclusive, he added, “I think we have to have alarms out.”

Dr. Compton attributed the tobacco decline to many factors, including strong public health antismoking campaigns, higher cigarette prices and peer pressure not to smoke. Students in all grade levels reported that they viewed cigarettes and alcohol as distasteful and a serious health risk.

Similar explanations have been given for dropping rates of alcohol use, especially binge drinking. Students have become more self-conscious about the possibility of their drunken images being posted on social media, experts say, which can tarnish reputations and college eligibility.

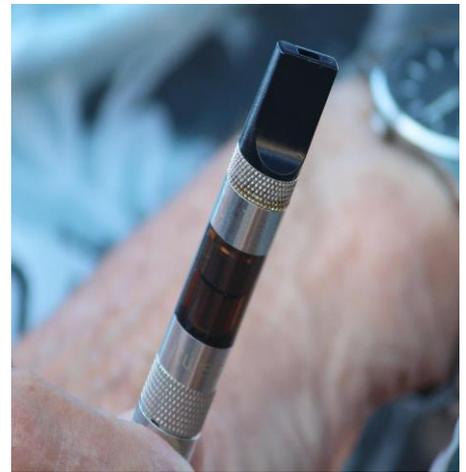
But marijuana? Not so much. In the report, only 14.1 percent of 12th graders said they saw a “great risk” from smoking marijuana occasionally. In 1991, 40.6 percent of seniors held that view. In 2017, nearly 24 percent of students in all three grades said they had used marijuana over the past year, a rate that has stayed relatively stable in recent years. Allison Kilcoyne, who directs a health center at a high school in a Boston suburb, has seen firsthand the evidence of the survey’s marijuana findings. Persuading students about marijuana’s risk is tricky, said Ms. Kilcoyne, a family nurse practitioner, especially in a state that permits medical marijuana.

“They perceive there are no negative effects,” Ms. Kilcoyne said. “I talk about the impact on their



developing brain and the risk of learning to smoke marijuana as a coping mechanism. We have other interventions, I say. But the problem is that for them, it works. They're feeling immediate relief of whatever symptoms they have. They're medicating themselves." Yet while marijuana use among high school seniors has not declined, it has also not increased in recent years. Given that fewer students hold marijuana in disregard, researchers are perplexed but relieved that use of marijuana has not kept pace with attitudes toward it.

"Drug use tends to go hand in hand with perceptions of risk and approval," said Ty S. Schepis, an associate professor of psychology at Texas State University who studies adolescent and young adult drug use. But approving of marijuana may not necessarily translate in such a manner, he said. "I've had friends who like to go sky diving. I would never go sky diving. There are certain activities that we may quietly condone or tacitly approve, even though the majority still may not want to engage in it."



This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/14/health/teen-drug-smoking.html>



Taiwan Research News

I. Illegal drugs use among junior and senior high school students in Taiwan Metropolitan Cities

Shu-Lung Yang, Shu-Ping Tseng, Shen-Feng Tai, Yi-Chien Ku, Jui-Min Chen

Department And Graduate Institute Of Criminology, National Chung Cheng University

In order to understand the epidemiological characteristics and differences of the adolescent drug, stratified proportional sampling and convenience sampling were conducted to investigate the current patterns of illegal drug use among junior and senior high school students in New Taipei City, Taichung City, and Kaohsiung City from 2014 to 2017.

Each year, around 2,190 were valid and the response rate was 87% on average. This three-year study found that prevalence rate of drug use among junior school students were lower than one percent from 2014 to 2017; within senior school students, prevalence rate of drug use were 1.31 percent in 2015-2016 and increased to 3 percent in 2016-2017. The prevalence of drug use among students were 1.5 percent on average in 2014 to 2017. Regarding the drugs ever used, Ketamine kept the 1st position and the prevalence rate stably increased in the successive three years, so was the prevalence rate of coffee-milk tea mixed drink.

This study argues that a comprehensive national prevalence survey could not only be an effective method to monitor the juvenile illicit drug use, but is useful to design the follow-up program of tracking, counseling, prevention. In addition, the findings revealed that Ketamine and coffee-milk tea mixed drink were the top two drugs most popularly used among Taiwanese adolescents. This calls attention on enhancing control and counseling strategies of the third and fourth degree of illegal drugs as well as strengthening the efficiency of fine and anti-drug education in order to establish effectively deterrent actions to reduce the risk of drug use.



II. Analysis of the Latest Drug Trends in Germany

Yueh-Chung Ma

Department And Graduate Institute Of Criminology, National Chung Cheng University

I. Foreword

According to BKA (Federal Criminal Police Office)'s Annual Drug Report published on May 8, 2017, the latest drug trend in Germany was analyzed, including: drug-related deaths, total number of drug offenders, number of seizures, quantities seized and the number of cases investigated by the police. Lastly, the international trend was compared. The article will first introduce the aforesaid drug trend analysis before my personal opinions is presented.

II. Drug trend analysis in Germany

1. Drug-related deaths

From table one, it can be observed that 1,333 people died due to drug abuse, which is a 9% increase compared to the previous year (2016). In particular, 84% of drug-related deaths had an average age of 38, significantly higher than the average age of 32 from 2002.

In total, 98 drug offenders died from NPS (new psychoactive substances)¹ in 2016, compared to 39 of 2015, demonstrating rapid growth trend.

2. Drug crime analysis

Secondly, the number of drug offenders increased by 7% compared to the previous year (2015), constituting 5% of total crimes committed. With regards to the quantities of drugs seized, due to changes made to the definition of certain drugs, the statistics cannot be presented (Table 3). However, from Table 2 it is clear that it is showing a gradual increasing trend since 2012. The total quantity of heroin seized in

¹ Known as new and emerging drugs in Taiwan



Rauschgifttote

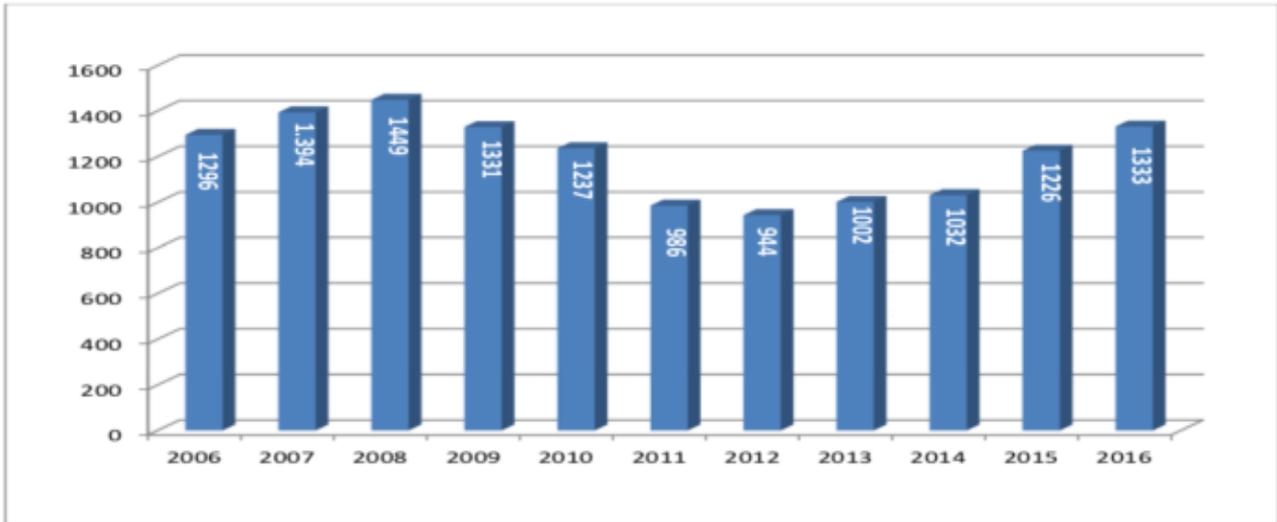


Table1: Number of drug-related deaths

2016 was 220kg, an increase of 57% compared to last year. The rapid ascending trend is attributed to 2 special cases, including the seizure of 81kg and 40kg of heroin in Berlin and Karlsruhe, respectively.

From Table 3, it is clear that the quantity of opium has been reduced the most (37%) and the drug showing the largest increase in quantity is cocaine (increased by 1.9 tons), this is because of the large amount of drugs smuggled with the shipment of bananas at the time. Compared to other drugs, most of the amphetamines were seized during transactions, only a small amount was seized during transit. At the same time, amphetamine is considered as the most popular stimulant in Germany. The quantity of haschisch and its product marihuana seized was far greater than any other drug in Germany, with 6,059kg and 32,353 kg seized, respectively.

3. Quantity seized by the police

Of the 245,731 drug offenders, 88% were male.



Rauschgiftdelikte insgesamt

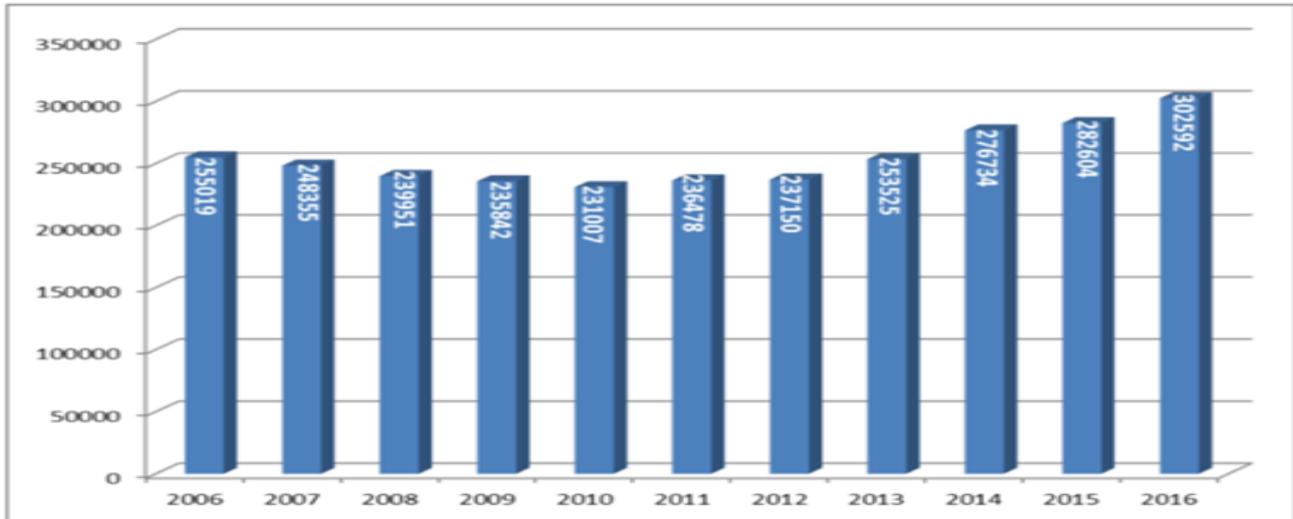


Table2: Total number of drug offenders

Sicherstellungsfälle

Jahr	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Heroin	6.763	6.853	6.638	6.183	5.645	4.361	3.381	3.065	2.857	3.061	
Rohopium	78	59	72	68	42	46	79	66	35	65	
Kokain	3.972	4.199	3.956	3.858	3.350	3.335	3.618	3.622	3.395	3.592	
Amphetamin	6.422	7.208	8.069	7.635	8.430	9.131	8.407	8.954	10.898	10.388	
Crystal	416*	454	356	446	799	2.112	3.512	3.847	3.905	3.292	
Ecstasy	2.382	2.495	2.698	1.761	1.209	1.322	1.786	2.233	3.499	4.015	
Haschisch	11.764	9.762	10.313	9.294	7.427	7.285	6.490	5.638	5.201	6.059	
Marihuana	23.506	21.831	24.594	24.135	24.710	27.144	28.744	28.875	31.519	32.353	

* Aufgrund geänderter Erfassungsmodalitäten einzelner Bundesländer hinsichtlich der Falldatei Rauschgift (FDR) können keine Zahlen zu Sicherstellungsfällen dargestellt werden.

Table3: Number of seizures

4. International drug trend analysis

Afghanistan remains the world’s largest drug producing country. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)’s report in December 2016, the plantation area grew by 10% to approximately 201,000 hectares, meaning that Afghanistan can produce 4,800 tons of opium (compared



to 3,300 tons in 2015). The largest producer of cocaine is Columbia, whose plantation area also increased by 39% to about 96,000 hectares. Most drugs are smuggled into Germany via the Port of Hamburg and Ports of Bremen. Most of the amphetamine comes from Holland, while most methamphetamine comes from the Czech Republic. Marijuana enters Germany via Morocco and Spain, with Afghanistan being the primary producer.

Last but not least, more and more drug transactions are conducted over the Internet and mailed to people’s homes, therefore this is a noteworthy issue.

Sicherstellungsmengen

Jahr	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Heroin	879	1.074	503	758	474	498	242	270	779	210	330
Rohopium	42	28	83	99	12	112	81	294	15	96	61
Kokain	1.717	1.878	1.069	1.707	3.031	1.941	1.258	1.314	1.569	3.114	1.871
Amphetamin	712	810	1.279	1.376	1.177	1.406	1.121	1.262	1.336	1.356	1.471
Crystal	11	10	4	7	27	40	75	77	74	67	62
Ecstasy	1.082.820	985.218	751.431	521.272	230.367	484.249	313.179	480.839	702.439	967.410	2.218.050
Haschisch	5.606	3.678	7.632	2.220	2.144	1.747	2.386	1.770	1.748	1.599	1.874
Marihuana	2.954	3.770	8.932	4.298	4.875	3.957	4.942	4.827	8.212	3.852	5.955

Darstellung in kg bzw. Konsumeinheiten

Table 4: Quantity of drug seizures

III. Brief summary

By comparing the drug trends in Germany and in Taiwan, it is evident that as far as the total quantity of drugs seized is concerned, marijuana and amphetamines are the most popular drugs in Germany, while the number of amphetamine seizures in Taiwan remains steady, ketamine is exhibiting signs of increasing

quantities. In terms of marijuana quantity, although the seized quantity is not as large as that in



Ermittelte Tatverdächtige

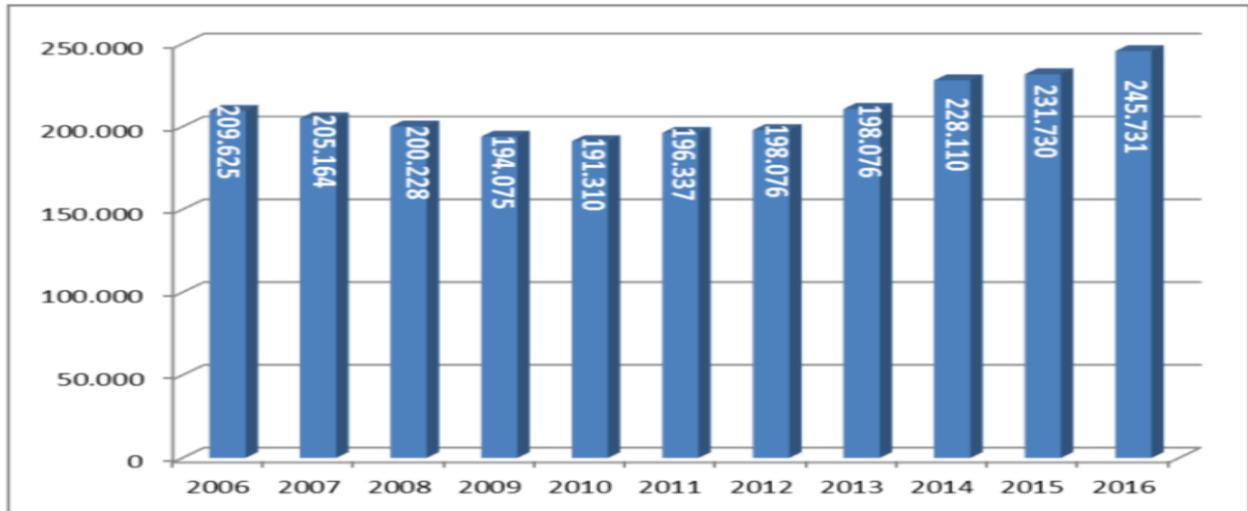


Table 5: Number of investigated cases

Germany, it has shown an increasing trend in recent years. Additionally, with regards to the problem of NPS, both countries are experiencing the same problems, perhaps it is something that countries around the world should pay attention to in their fight against drugs.



Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
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
The ASAM 49th Annual Conference - Innovations in Addiction Medicine and Science	American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)	April 12 – 15 2018	San Diego, California, USA Contact: https://www.asam.org/education/live-online-cme/the-asam-annual-conference
APA 2018 Annual Meeting	American Psychiatric Association (APA)	May 05-09 2018	New York, New York, USA Contact: https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/meetings/annual-meeting