Each year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) evaluates the state of growing drug threats around the globe. By presenting this evidence, UNODC aims to shed light on the drug challenges that cannot be addressed by one country or one policy alone. The report highlights collected data and recommended strategies to address the crisis of drug use, production, and trafficking worldwide.

39.5 million people with drug use disorders

Adolescents remain the most vulnerable to drug abuse.

Across the globe, the creation of NPS (new psychoactive substances) is expanding, and drug use is continuing to increase in every sector.

North America
High level of opioid-related overdoses
Increasing use of methamphetamine
Cocaine use rising

Central and South America
Continuing increase in manufacture of methamphetamine and opioids
Cocaine production, use, and trafficking rising

Europe and Asia
Opiate production, use, and trafficking expanding
Increased cocaine market
 More amphetamine type stimulant (ATS) creation

Africa
Non-medical use of Tramadol
Heroin and cocaine trafficking crossing into use
Prevalent use of synthetic stimulants
“Reducing inequalities and the gap in access to treatment and comprehensive services to minimize the adverse public health and social consequences of drug use in a continuum of care for people who use drugs, especially vulnerable and marginalized populations, is critical.”

86%

Percentage of global population living without access to needed pharmaceutical opioids.

"Mental health conditions increase the risk of developing drug disorders, and drugs pose the risk of exacerbating mental health problems if taken outside medical supervision.”

The economies surrounding illicit drug use, production, and trafficking are causing irreversible environmental damage and continuing to endanger human rights, particularly of vulnerable groups.

Community, school, and family based large-scale prevention programs are NECESSARY to help address the world’s drug crisis.

References: