

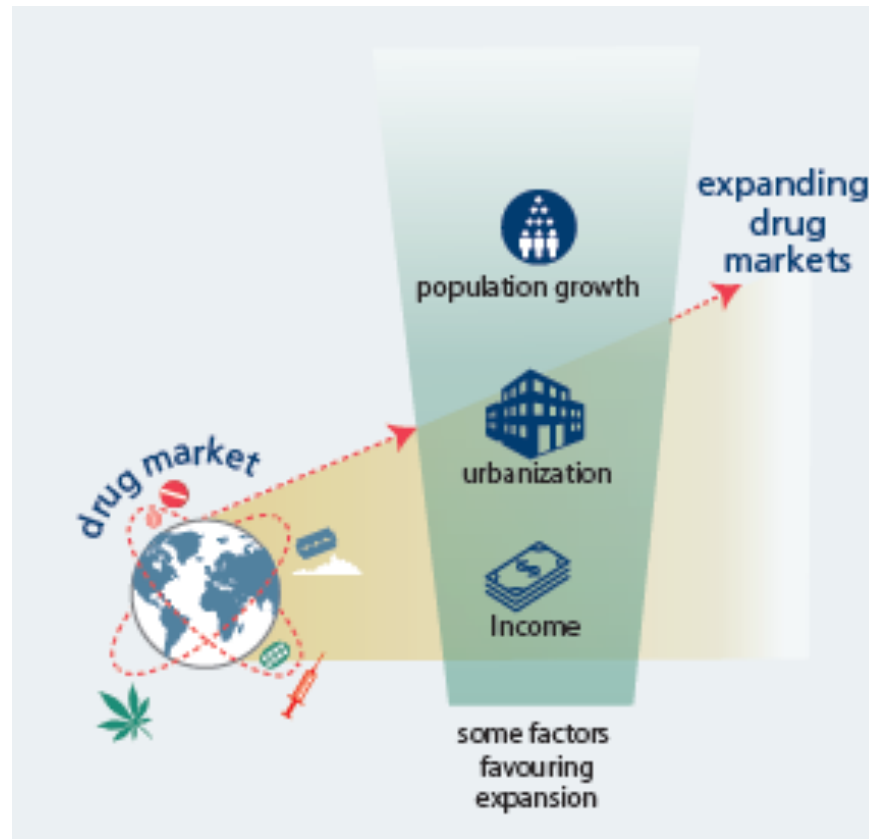
# *Global overview of drug use: latest estimates and trends*

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Drug Research Section, Chief  
UNODC

**Virtual Conference on Drug Demand Reduction in Africa**  
Setting the scene for drug demand reduction in Africa, 16 September 2020



# Global drug market: expansion



30% more users between 2009-2018

2008-2017: deaths increased by a quarter

Highest cocaine production in 2018

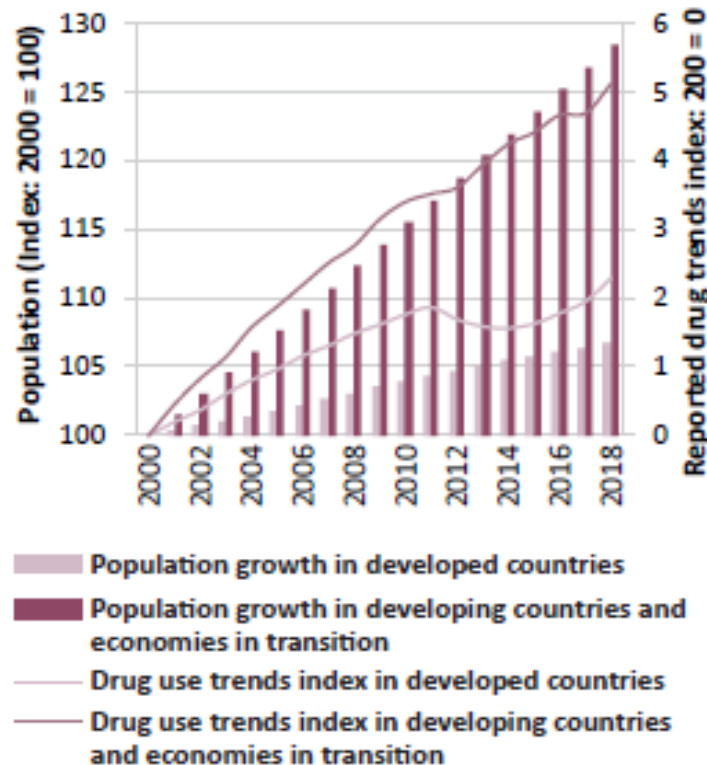
Seizures of ATS quadrupled between 2009-2018

Abundant opium production

# Expansion in developing countries



**FIG. 5** Population growth and reported drug use trends in developed countries as compared with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, 2000–2018

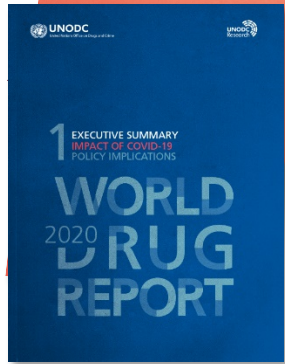


## Between 2000-2018

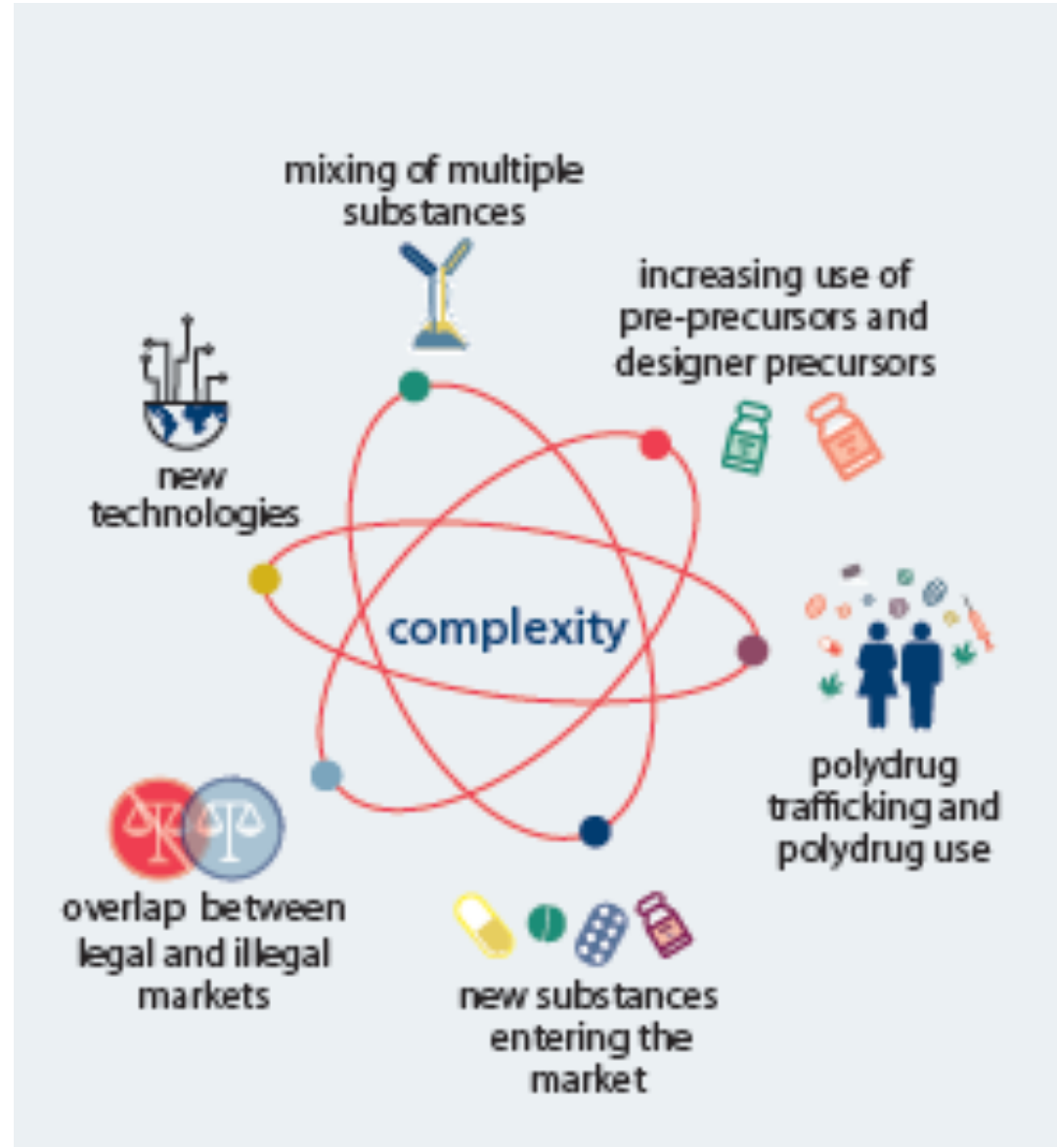
Total population grew by 28% in developing countries and by 7% in developed countries

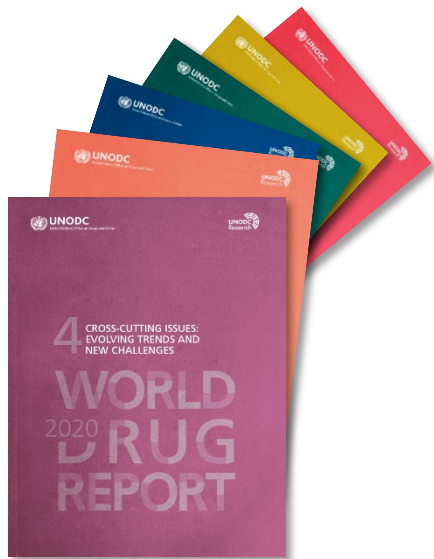
Population 18-25 grew by 18% in developing countries and decreased by 10% in developed countries

Sources: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire; and United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2019 Revision*.



# Global drug market: increased complexity





## NPS market: constant state of flux

Potentially harmful opioid new psychoactive substances are on the increase

Use of NPS may become cemented among vulnerable population groups

Regulating new psychoactive substances appears to have a containment effect

The market for NPS is in a constant state of flux

48 newly emerging NPS in 2018



118 NPS not reported since 2015

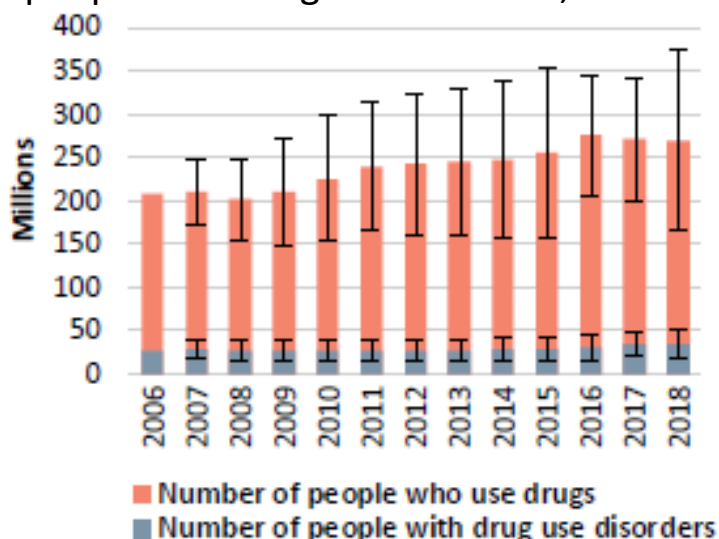


# Number of drug users on the rise

2018

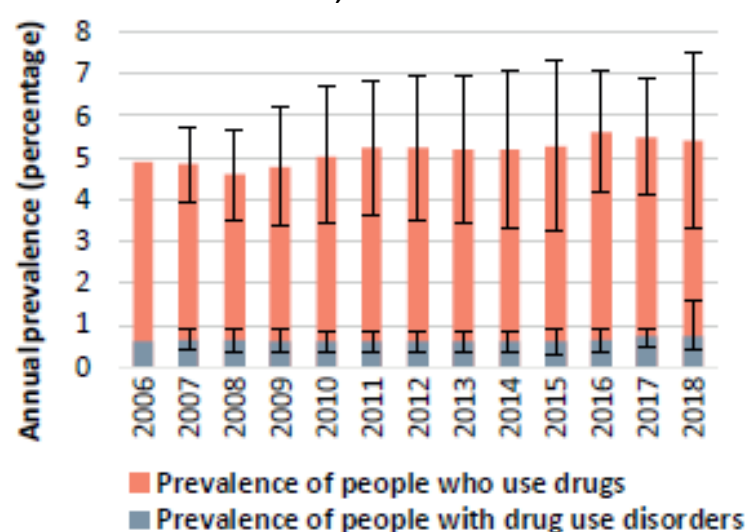
269 million people used drugs in the past year or **5.4%** of 15-64  
 35 million **people with drug use disorders** or **0.7%** of 15-64

Number of people who use drugs and people with drug use disorders, 2006–2018

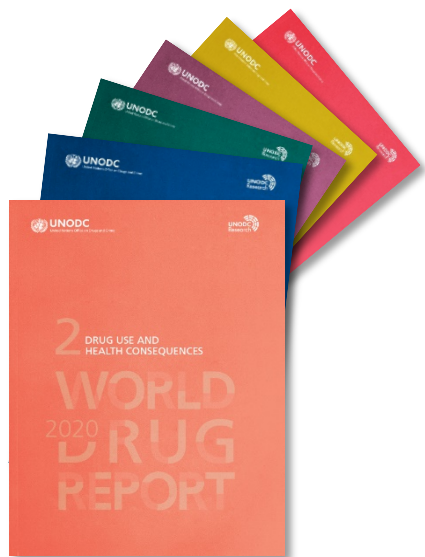


Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

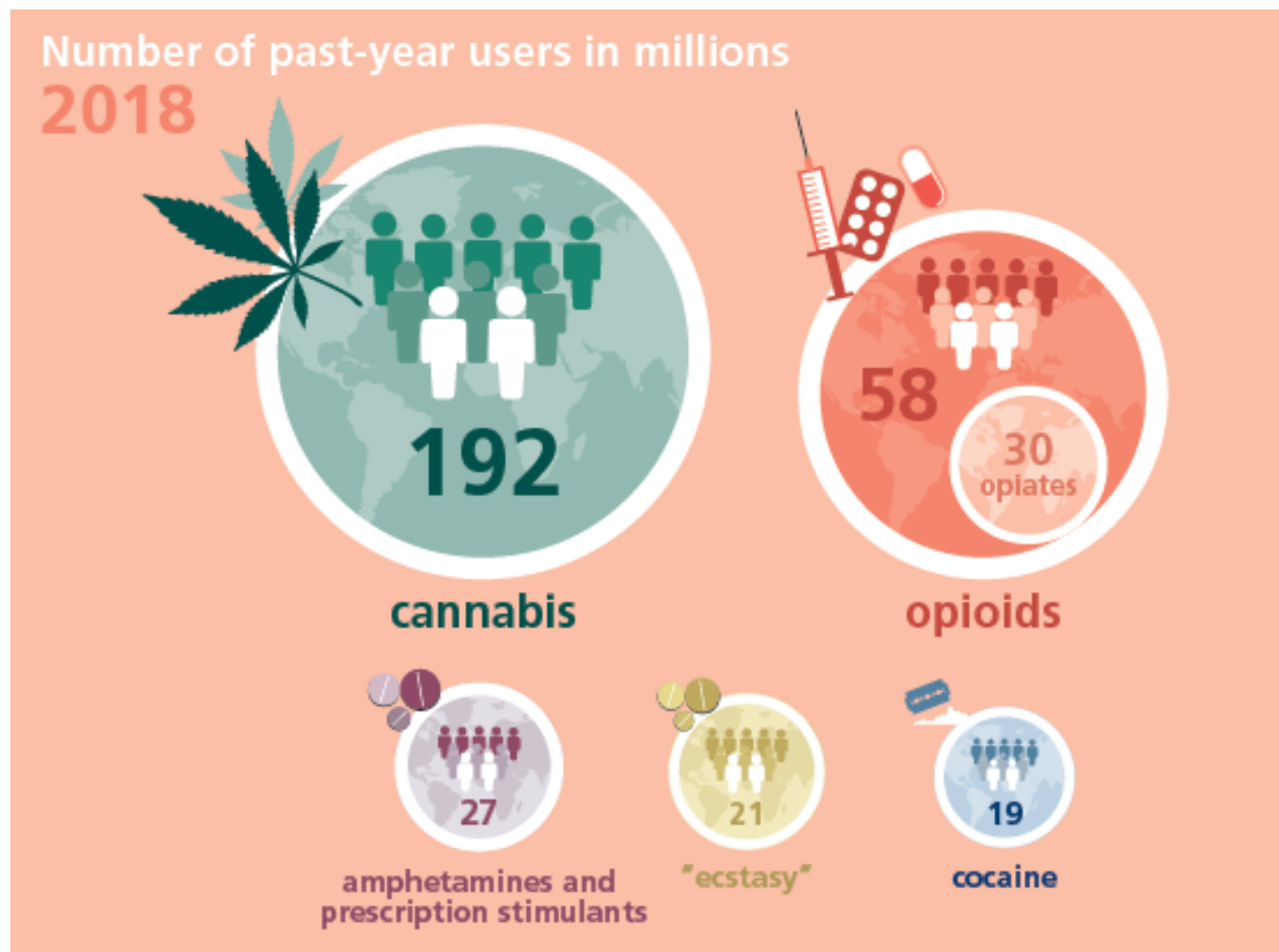
Prevalence of drug use and drug use disorders, 2006–2018

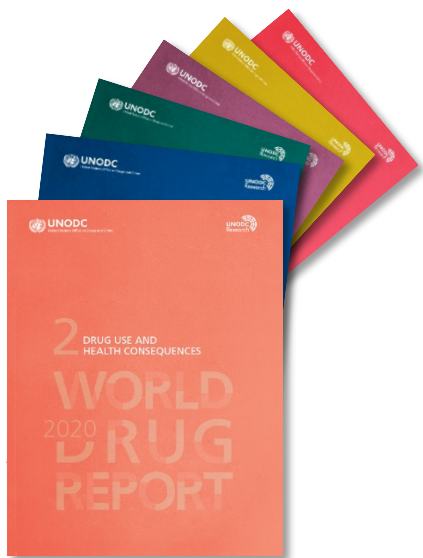


Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.



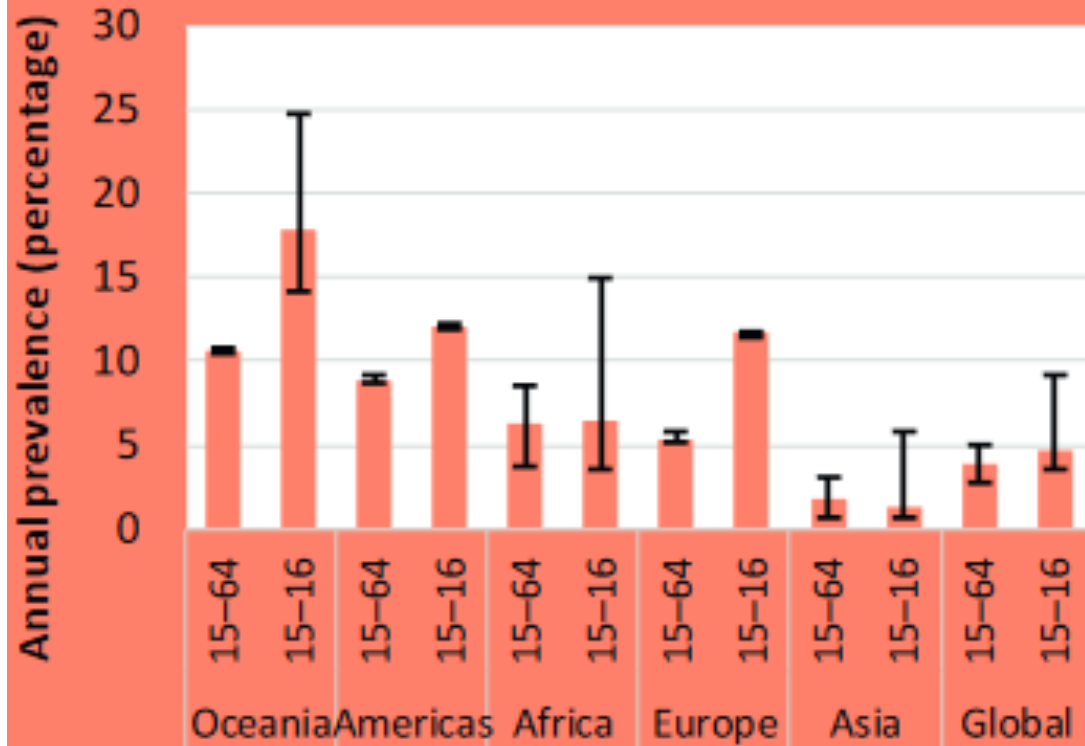
# Estimates of global numbers of people using drugs 2018





## Cannabis use higher in youth

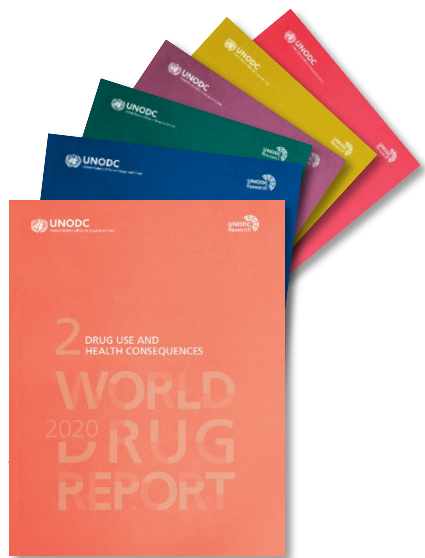
### Global and regional use of cannabis among people aged 15–16, and among the general population aged 15–64, 2017



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire; and other government reports.

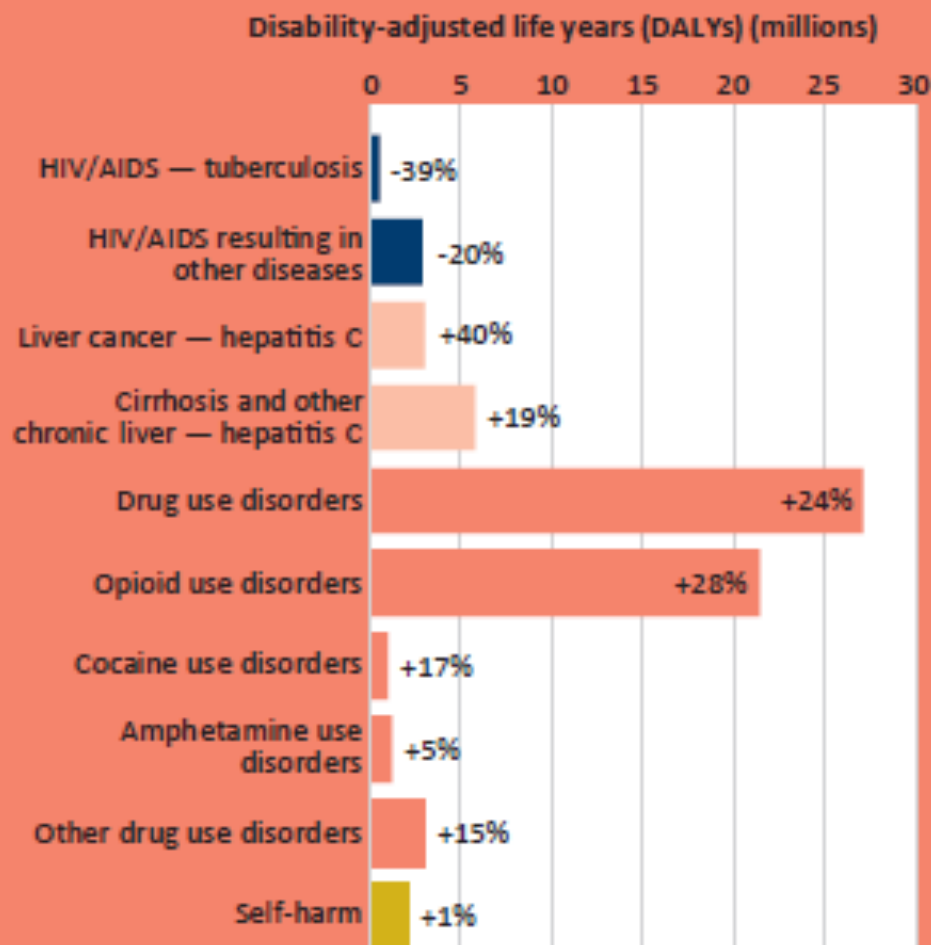
*Note: The estimates of the annual prevalence of use among those aged 15–16 are based on school surveys in most countries and may not be representative of all those.*





**42 million years of  
 healthy life lost due to  
 drug use, half due to  
 opioids**

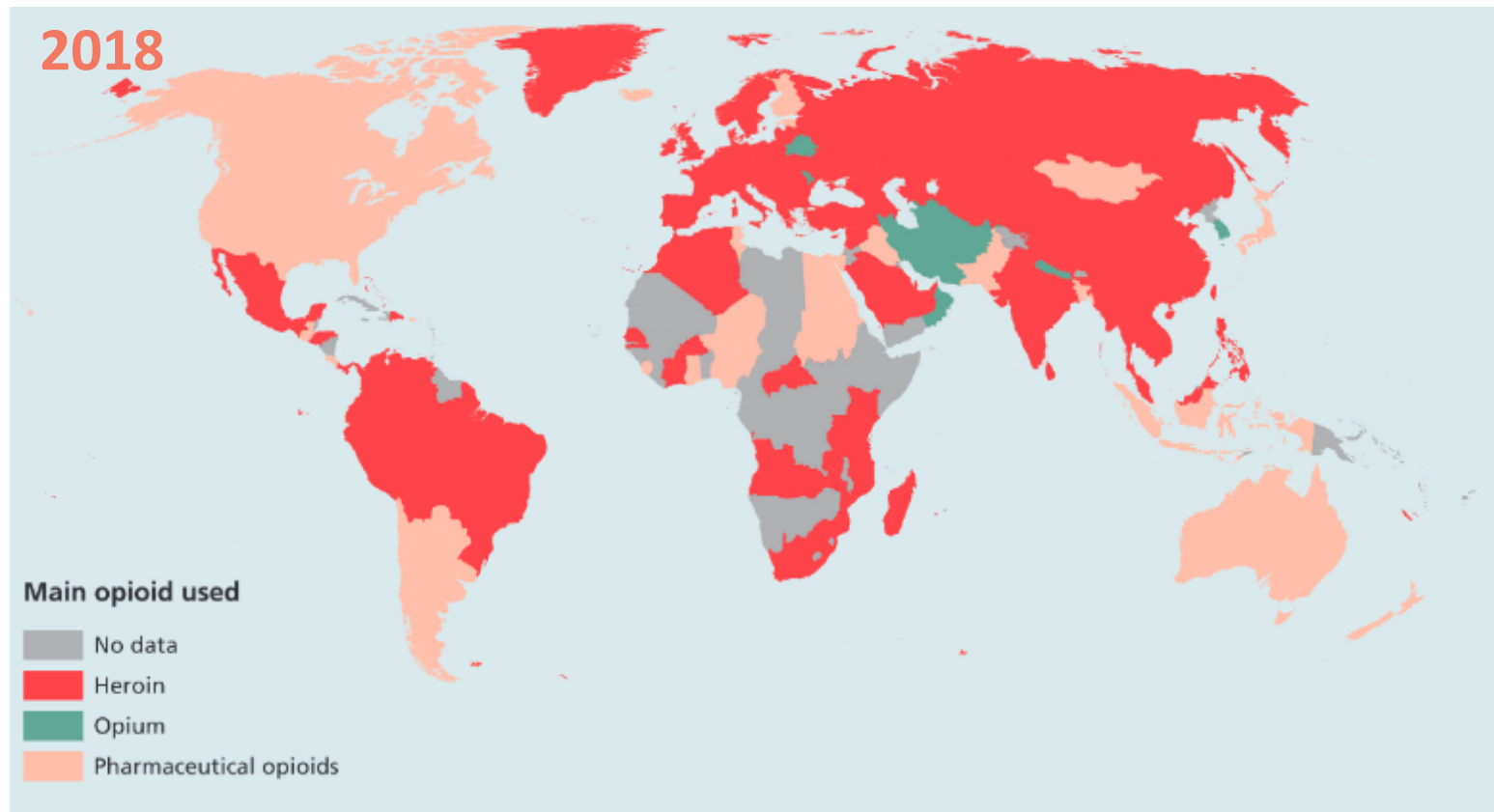
## DALYs in 2017, and changes over the period 2008–2017



Source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, "Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 (GBD 2017) Data Resources: GBD Results Tools", 2018.



# Regional differences in main opioid used



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

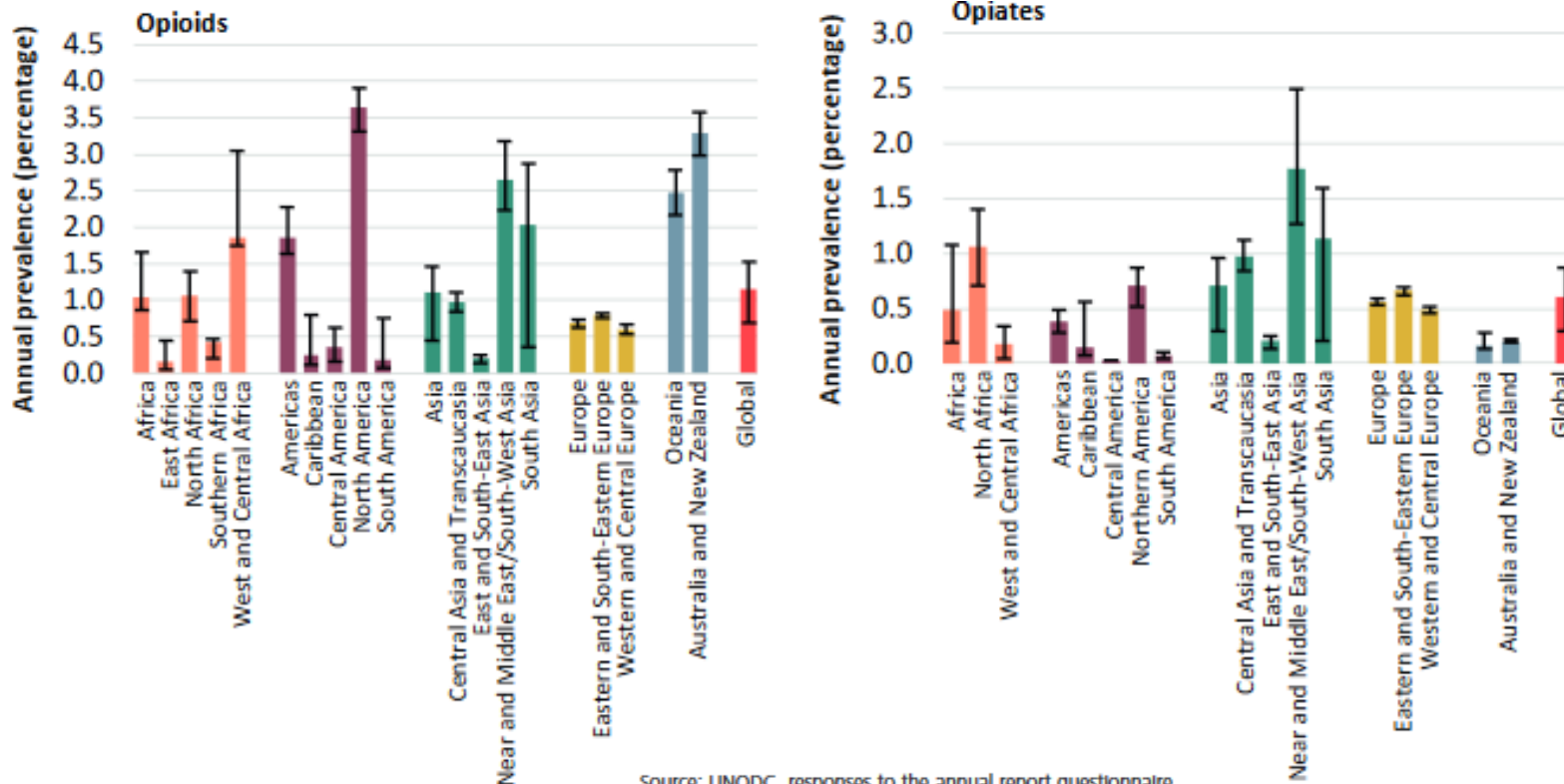
Note: Information is based primarily on the reported prevalence of opioid use and, when that was not available, on the ranking or data on treatment of opioid use reported in the annual report questionnaire.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).



# Regional differences in opioid/opiates use

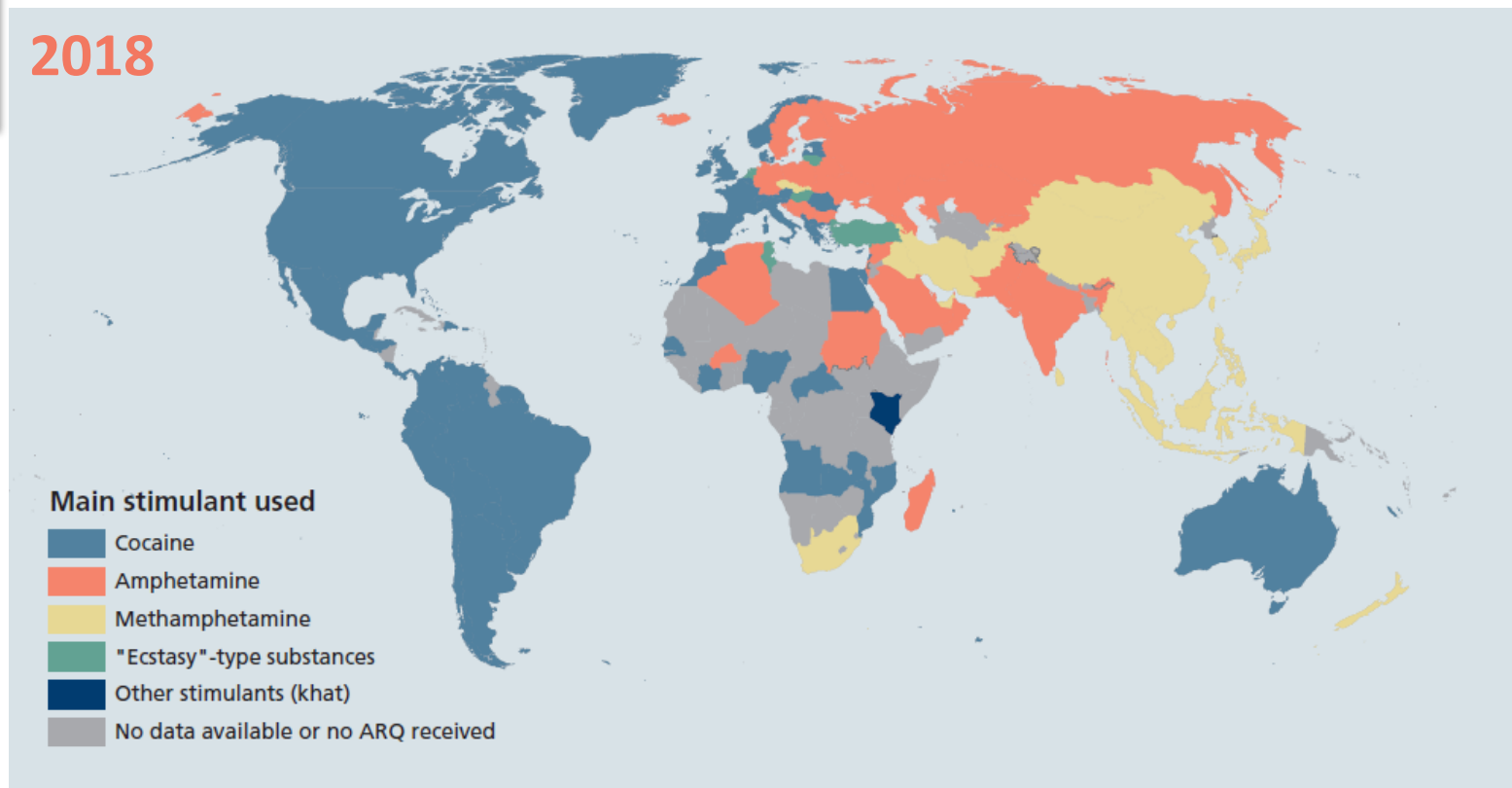
**FIG. 9** Use of opioids and opiates, by region and sub-region, 2018



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.



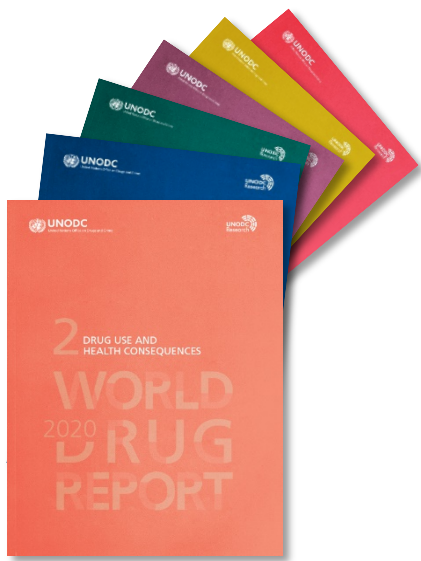
# Regional differences in main stimulant drugs used



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Note: Information is based primarily on the reported prevalence of stimulant drugs (cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine and "ecstasy") and, when that was not available, on the ranking or data on treatment of stimulant drug use reported in the annual report questionnaire.

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# Regional differences in amphetamines and ecstasy use

FIG. 12 Use of amphetamines, by region and subregion, 2018

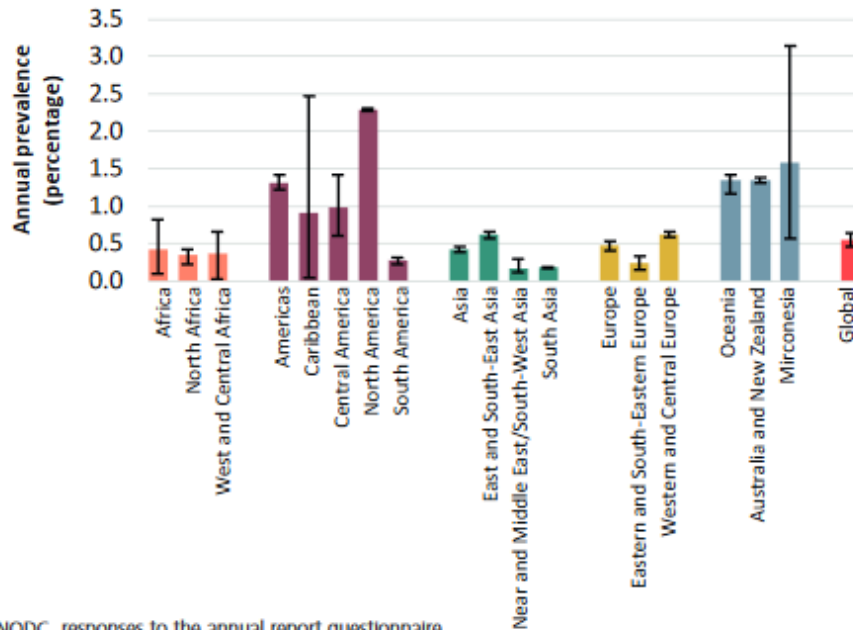
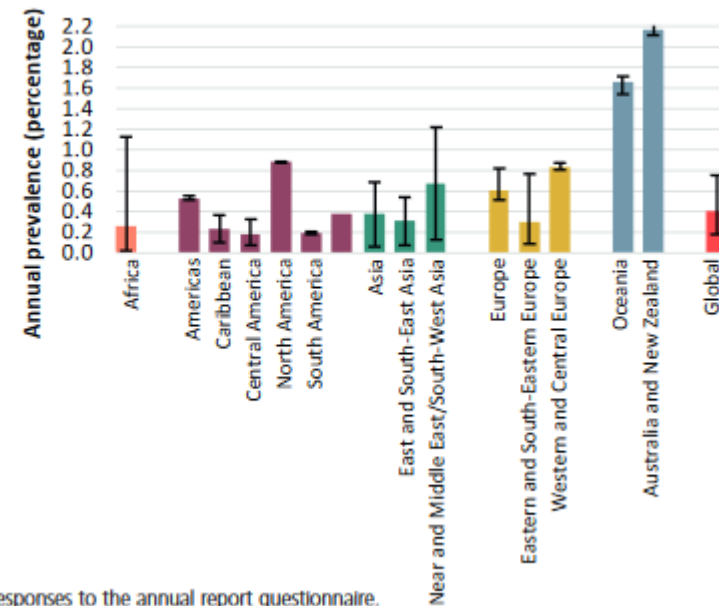


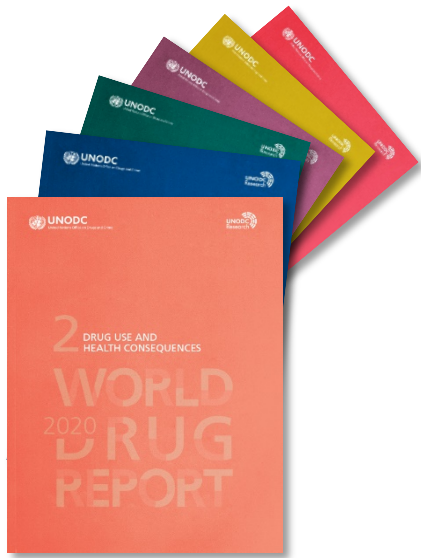
FIG. 16 Use of "ecstasy", by region and in selected subregions, 2018



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Note: "Amphetamines" includes the non-medical use of amphetamine, methamphetamine and pharmaceutical stimulants.

Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.



## Use of drugs during incarceration



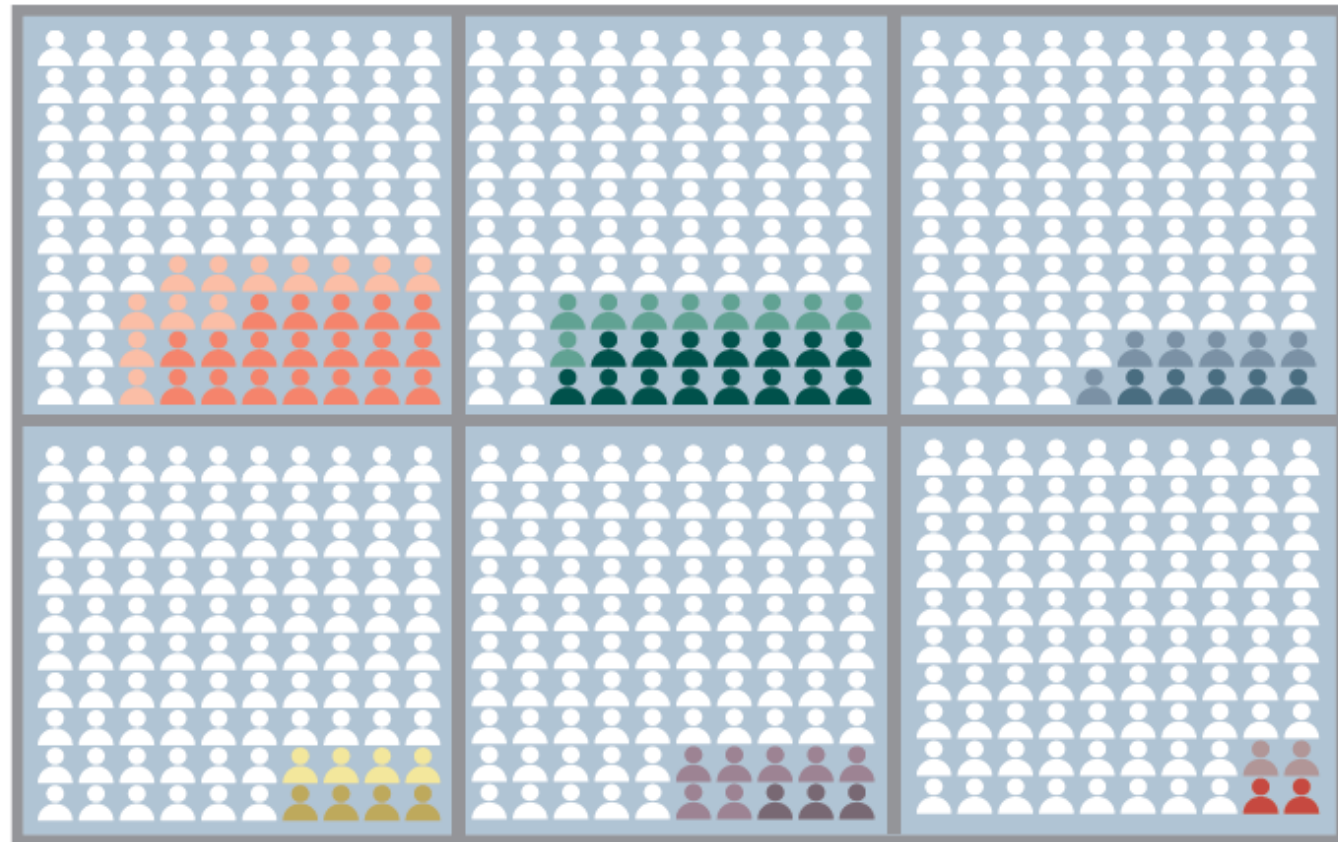
any drug



cannabis



heroin



# Drug use in prison

**Any drug**  
31% at least once  
19% past month



amphetamines



cocaine



"ecstasy"



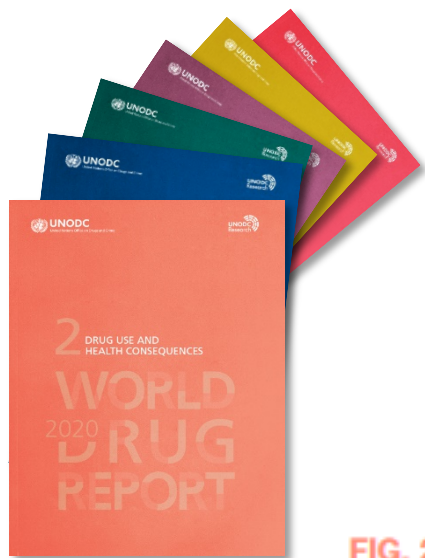
Never used



At least once

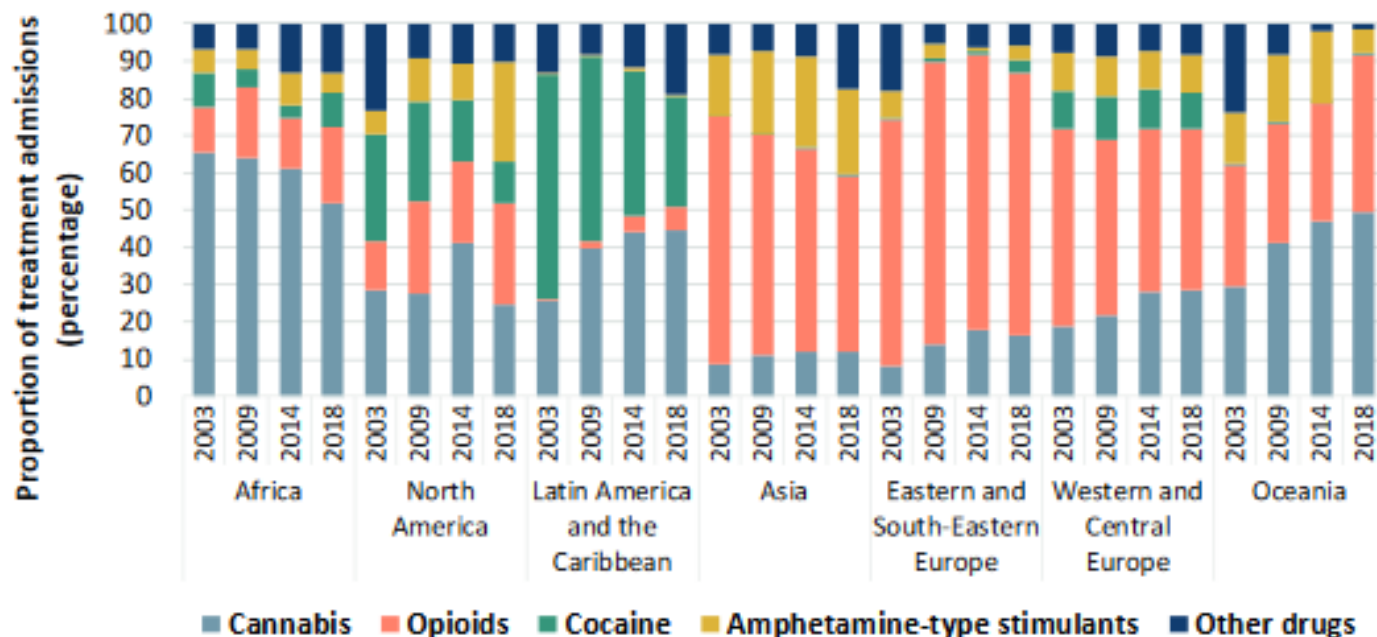


Recent (past-month)

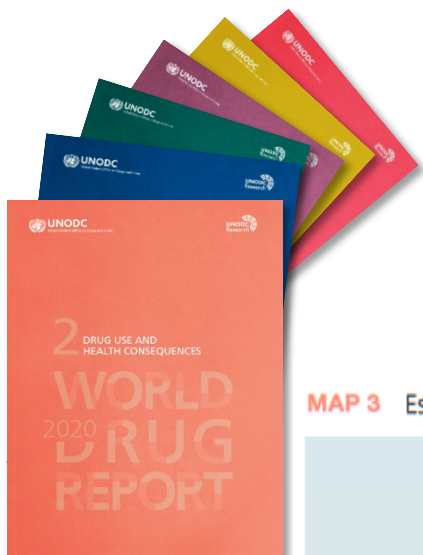


# Increase in cannabis use disorders in people in drug treatment

**FIG. 28** Trends in the primary drug of concern in drug treatment, by region and selected subregions, 2003, 2009, 2014 and 2018

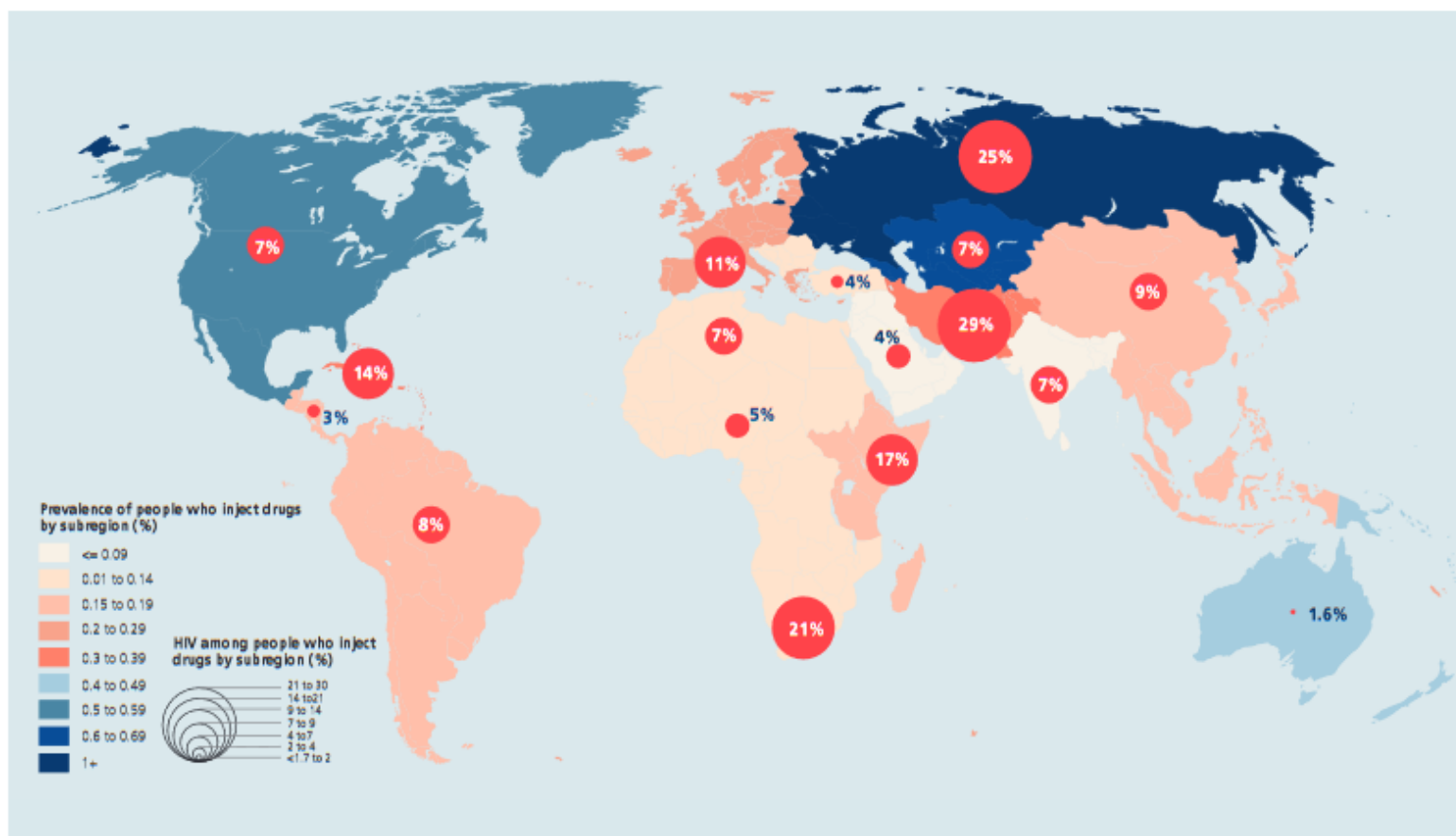


Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.



# 11.3 million PWID, half (5.5) living with hep C and one eight with HIV

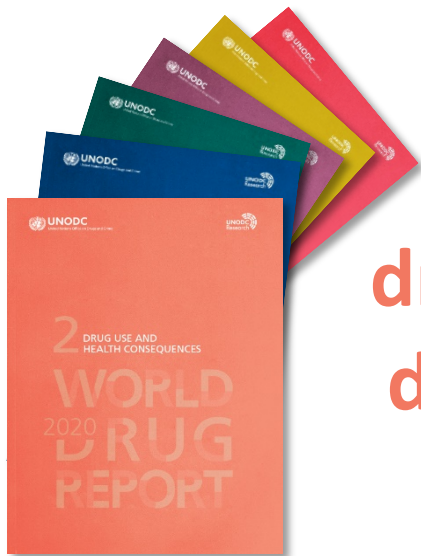
**MAP 3** Estimated subregional prevalence of people who inject drugs and HIV among them, 2018



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire, supplemented by other data sources.

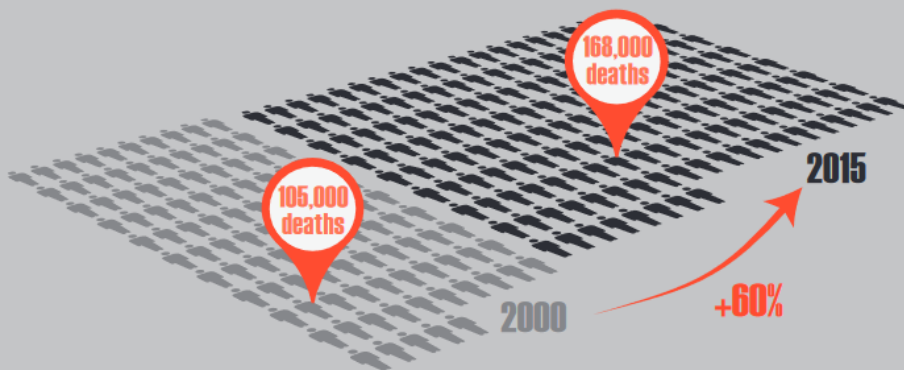
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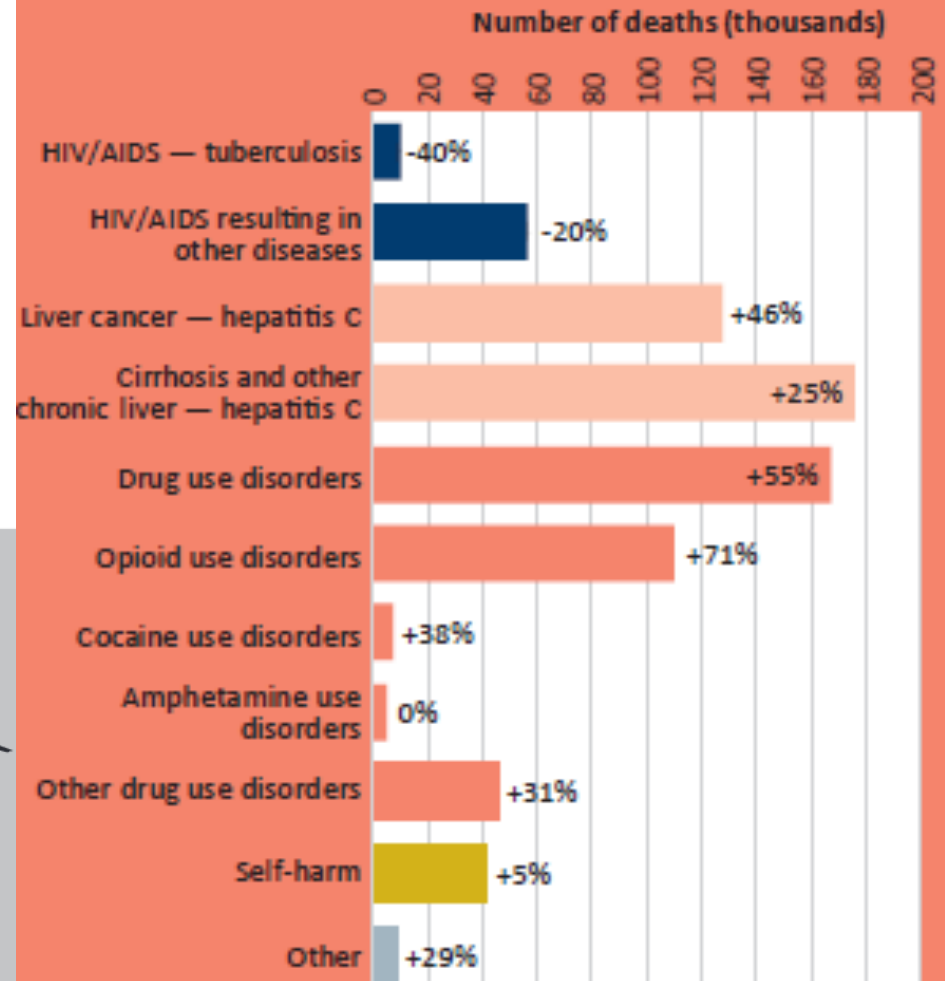
**585,000**  
drug related  
deaths, half  
due to  
hepatitis C

Global deaths directly caused by the use of drugs **have been increasing**



Source: UNODC analysis based on WHO, Disease burden and mortality estimates, Global Health Estimates 2015: deaths by cause, age, sex, by country and by region, 2000–2015.

**Drug-related deaths in 2017, and changes over the period 2008–2017**



Source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, "Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 (GBD 2017) Data Resources: GBD Results Tools", 2018.



**Thank you for your listening!**