Anti-Drug Policy and Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong

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Commissioner for Narcotics
Topics

• Drug Abuse Situation in Hong Kong

• Anti-drug Policy

• Treatment and Rehabilitation Services
Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA)

67 Reporting Agencies

- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Treatment Agencies
- Welfare Agencies
- Hospitals and Clinics
- Tertiary Institutions

Voluntary reporting

CONFIDENTIAL

CRDA

Produce quarterly statistics and annual reports

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Indicator of Drug Abuse Trend
Reported drug abusers
(1999-2009)

No. of persons

Note: Figures exclude persons with unknown drug information. An individual drug abuser may abuse more than one type of substances concurrently in a given year.

Source: Central Registry of Drug Abuse
Reported young drug abusers aged under 21 (1999-2009)

No. of persons

Note: Figures exclude persons with unknown drug information. An individual drug abuser may abuse more than one type of substances concurrently in a given year.

Source: Central Registry of Drug Abuse
Major types of psychotropic substances abused by reported young drug abusers aged under 21 (2009)

Note: An individual drug abuser may abuse more than one type of substances concurrently in a given year.

Source: Central Registry of Drug Abuse
Reported young drug abusers aged under 21 by locality of abusing drugs (2009)

Notes:
1. Figures exclude persons with unknown locality of abusing drugs.
2. More than one locality may be reported for each individual drug abuser.
3. Proportion refers to the proportion of the total number of reported drug abusers in a given year.

Source: Central Registry of Drug Abuse
Reported young drug abusers aged under 21 by place of abusing drugs (2009)

Notes:
1. Figures exclude persons with unknown place of abusing drugs.
2. More than one place may be reported for each individual drug abuser.
3. Proportion refers to the total number of reported drug abusers in a given year.
4. Figure in bracket refers to the number of reported drug abusers.

Source: Central Registry of Drug Abuse
2008/09 Student Survey

- Seven times since 1987/88
- Generally once every four years
- 2008/09 survey

Around 160,000 students including:
- 26,200 from 94 primary schools
- 83,600 from 112 secondary schools
- 48,300 from 17 post-secondary / tertiary institutions
## 2008/09 Student Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug abuse rate</th>
<th>Lifetime</th>
<th>1-year</th>
<th>30-day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper primary</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>4.3% (3.3%)</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>1.5% (0.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGC-funded Undergraduates</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other post-secondary</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures in brackets refer to the corresponding proportions in 2004/05.
• Lowering age of drug abuse
  – Lifetime prevalence:
    • Secondary students aged 12 or below: 4.6% (compared to 2.4% in 2004/05)
    • Upper primary students: 1.6%
# 2008/09 Student Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Sample Size and Proportion</th>
<th>Lifetime Prevalence Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HK (2008/09)</td>
<td>About 83 000 secondary students (17.5% of target population)</td>
<td>4.3% (secondary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA (2008)¹</td>
<td>About 46 000 (Grade 8, 10 &amp; 12) students (0.4% of target population)</td>
<td>19.6% (Grade 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>34.1% (Grade 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>47.4% (Grade 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK (2008)²</td>
<td>About 10 000 (Year 7 to 11) students (0.3% of target population)</td>
<td>22% (students aged 11-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 European countries (2007)³</td>
<td>About 100 000 (Aged 15-16) students in total (sampling proportion not available)</td>
<td>23% (male students aged 15-16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17% (female students aged 15-16)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1 "Monitoring the Future - National Results on Adolescent Drug Use", US Department of Health and Human Services
2 "Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2008", NHS Information Centre
3 "The 2007 ESPAD (The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) Report – Substance Use among Students in 35 European Countries". Prevalence rates of individual countries range from 7-48% for boys and 1-43% for girls.
Escalated Anti-Drug Efforts

High-level interdepartmental Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse led by Secretary for Justice

Anti-drug Campaign led by Chief Executive since July 2009
Anti-Drug Strategy

Caring Culture for Our Youth

Preventive Education and Publicity
Treatment and Rehabilitation
Legislation and Law Enforcement
External Co-operation
Research
Preventive Education and Publicity

- Territory-wide Campaign against Youth Drug Abuse - “No Drugs, No Regrets. Not Now, Not Ever”

- New Chinese nomenclature

- School and parental education
Legislation & Law Enforcement

Trafficking / manufacturing of dangerous drugs

Possessing / Taking dangerous drugs

Illicit supply and possession of Precursor Chemicals

Illicit supply and possession of medicine

Dangerous Drugs Ordinance

Control of Chemicals Ordinance

Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance

Maximum Penalty

Life imprisonment

+ $5M

7 years

+ $1M

15 years

+ $1M

2 years

+ $100K
External Cooperation

- Cooperate with overseas countries and Mainland, especially Shenzhen
- Advocate international control over ketamine
Research

On-going studies

- Long-term ketamine abuse and apoptosis in Cynomologus monkeys and mice
- Psychiatric Comorbidity and Cognitive Dysfunction in primarily Ketamine users – a Closer Look
- Patterns of drugs of abuse in New Territories East Cluster Substance Abuse Clinic using conventional & new technologies
- Urological sequelae of ketamine abuse
- The Dietary Intake and Body Weight Status of Adolescent Psychotropic Substance Abusers in Hong Kong – an Explorative Study for Improving Drugs Rehabilitation Programme
- Socioeconomic and health impacts of psychoactive drug abuse in Hong Kong - A longitudinal study
- Transnationalism and Drug Abuse: A Study on the Nepalese Drug Abusers in Hong Kong

Effective ways to dispel misunderstanding about psychotropic substances in youth at risk for drug abuse problems
Path Builders

Providing a platform for those who care

Commercial organisations
Professional bodies
Experts
Individuals

Vocational training
Job opportunities
Mentorship scheme
Sharing Experience
Spreading anti-drug messages in the organisation
Providing avenues for dissemination of anti-drug messages
Sponsorships/Donations

Path building for the youth
Strengthening resilience
Beat Drugs Fund

- Scope: Preventive Education and Publicity, Treatment and Rehabilitation, and Research

- Approved grant: HK$217.7M (as at July 2009) for 461 projects

- Proposed capital injection of HK$3B

Capital Base
HK$350M (US$44.8m)
Treatment and Rehabilitation

Challenge: Hidden nature of PSA

- Minimal need for apparatus
- Less frequent use than heroin
- Home tops the list of locality
- Less discomfort of non-administration at the beginning
- Harmful effects may not be apparent at the beginning, but may gradually surface
- Little motivation to seek help
Treatment and Rehabilitation

Early identification and treatment

- Teachers
- School social workers
- Outreaching teams
- Family doctors
- Parents
Treatment and Rehabilitation

Early identification and treatment

- Schools and parents: training, resource kits & hotline
- Outreaching service: frontline workers increased by 20% in three years
- Family doctors: certificate training courses
Treatment and Rehabilitation

Community-based, specialised and structured treatment

• Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers (CCPSAs) & Caritas Lok Heep Club

• Methadone Treatment Programme

• Service improvements
  – 5 CCPSAs increased to 11
  – On-site nursing support
  – Collaboration with general practitioners
Treatment and Rehabilitation

Specialist psychiatric interventions

• Substance Abuse Clinics (SACs) and private practitioners

• Service improvements
  – 5 SACs increased to 7
  – Resource injection in 2009/10 and 2010/11
  – Target median waiting time: within 2 weeks for first attendance
Treatment and Rehabilitation

Residential services

- 40 Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (DTRCs)
  - Capacity: 1600 + places in total
  - Duration: 3 months to 3 years
  - Funding mode: 20 subvented; 20 self-financed
  - Service models: medical, faith-based, counselling, education...

- Service improvements
  - Expand service capacity
  - Enhance service contents
  - Invite proposals for new and effective service models
Treatment and Rehabilitation

Interface with criminal justice system

- Police Superintendents’ Discretion Scheme (PSDS)
- Probation System
- Drug Addiction and Treatment Centre
- Other correctional services
**Treatment and Rehabilitation**

**Pilot Project on Enhanced Probation System**

- **Probation Officers**
  - Step up coordinating and supervisory role

- **Strengthen collaboration**

- **Judicial Officers**
  - Enhance sanctioning role in the rehabilitative process
Treatment and Rehabilitation

Way forward: Proposed tiered approach

- **Continuum of services**
  - Identification
  - Treatment
  - Rehabilitation
  - Reintegration

- **Joint forces** of healthcare, educational and social services
A Proposed Tiered-Approach

Tier 1: Generic, primary services for open access, identification and assessment

Tier 2: First line of structured, specialised drug treatment & rehabilitation services, community based

Tier 3: More specialised treatment & rehabilitation services in residential setting

Tier 4: Reintegration & aftercare services
Drug Testing

School Drug Testing

- Voluntary Trial Scheme in Tai Po
  - for prevention
  - for rendering assistance to students
Drug Testing

Compulsory Drug Testing

• Proposal for new legislation to empower law enforcement officers to conduct compulsory drug testing

• Purpose: prevention / deterrence
  : early identification for treatment and rehabilitation

• Tiered intervention structure

• Issues to consider — law, human rights, support services, resources, etc.

Way forward

• Engage stakeholders

• Initiate public consultation exercise
Drug Testing

Hair Testing Technology

• As complementary tool to urinalysis
• GL has developed and accredited its hair testing method

Way forward

• To launch a pilot scheme in 2010
• To transfer to the local industry in the long run
Thank you

Narcotics Division, Security Bureau