

From Malaysia to Australia: influencing harm reduction in Southeast Asia

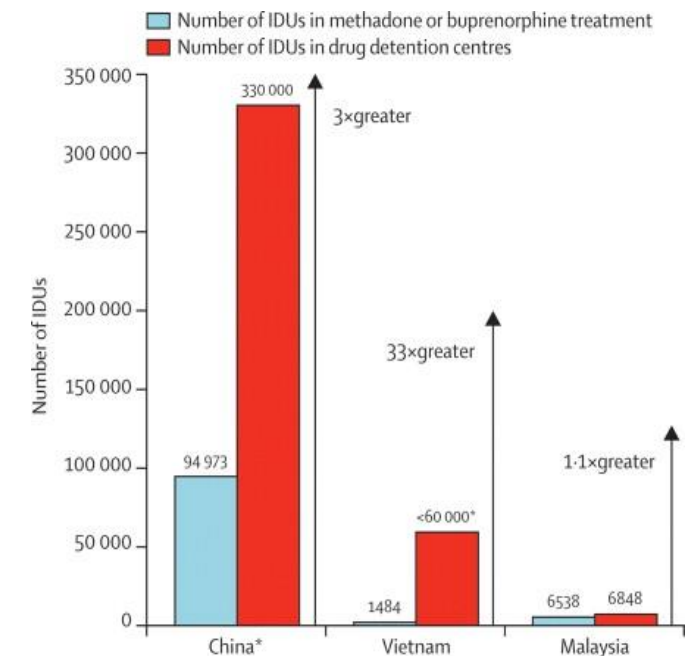
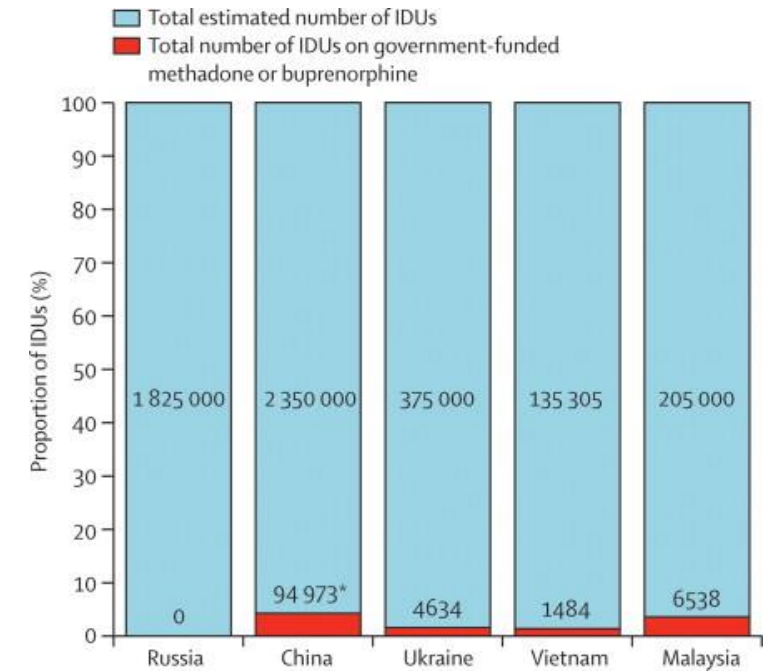
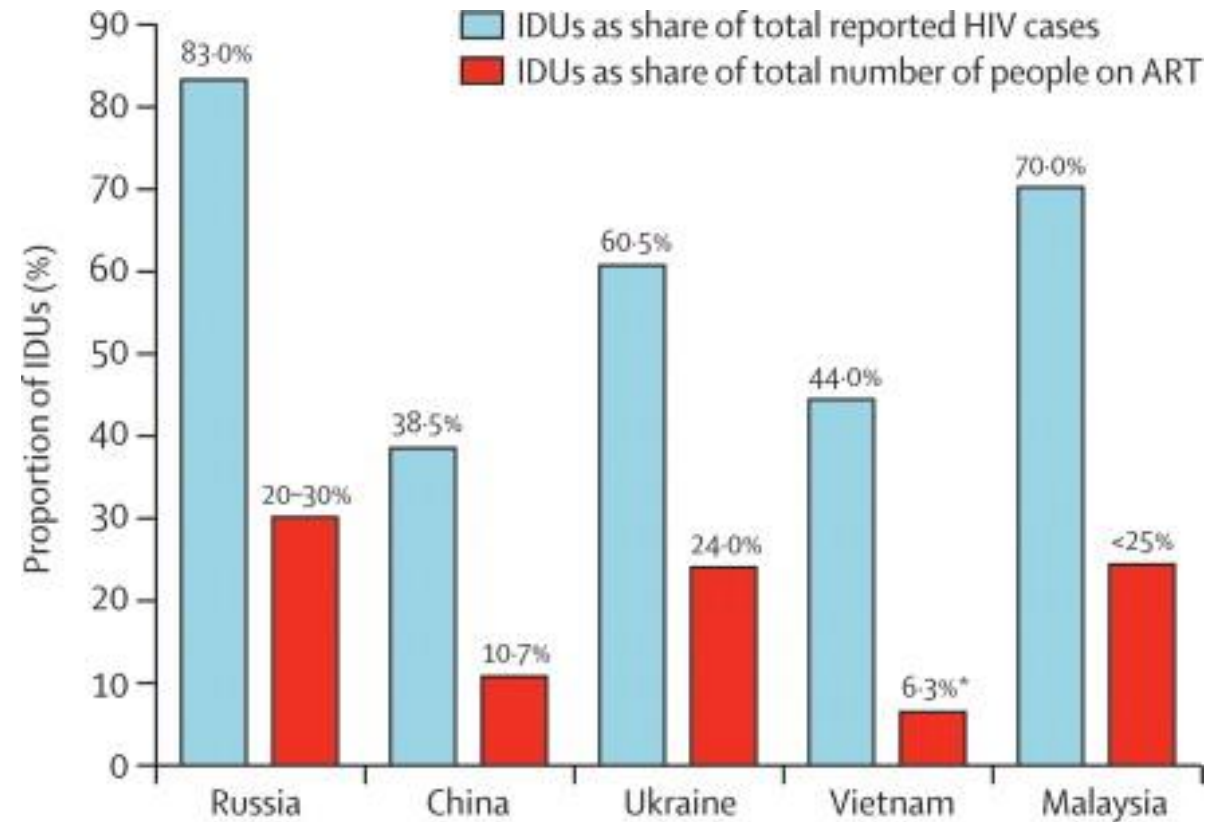
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Pro Vice Chancellor & President of Monash University
Monash University Malaysia

From Malaysia to Australia: Influencing Harm Reduction and Drug Policy Reform in Southeast Asia



80% Inject DRUG 3 times a day
81% Shared Needles with >5 others
76% were sexually active.....26.6% married;
85% Never Use CONDOM

(IDU & HIV in Malaysia, MOH, 2004)

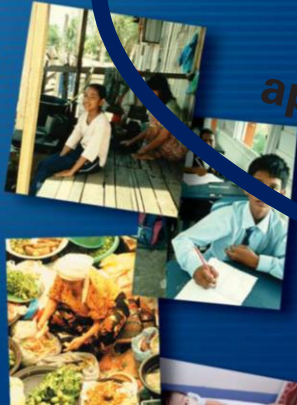




MALAYSIA

ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES



MDG target of halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 therefore appears extremely challenging.



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Research paper

Malaysia and harm reduction: The challenges and responses

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Abstract

In Malaysia the response to illicit drug use has been largely punitive with the current goal of the Malaysian government being to achieve a drug-free society by 2015. This paper outlines the results of a desk-based situation assessment conducted over a 3-week period in 2004. Additional events, examined in 2005, were also included to describe more recent policy developments and examine how these came about. Despite punitive drug policy there has been a substantial rise in the number of drug users in the country. Over two-thirds of HIV/AIDS cases are among injecting drug users (IDUs) and there has been an exponential rise in the number of cases reported. Further, data suggest high risk drug use practices are widespread. Harm reduction initiatives have only recently been introduced in Malaysia. The successful piloting of substitution therapies, in particular methadone and buprenorphine, is cause for genuine hope for the rapid development of such interventions. In 2005 the government announced it will allow methadone maintenance programmes to operate beyond the pilot phase and needle and syringe exchange programmes will be established to serve the needs of IDUs.
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Keywords: Malaysia; Illicit drugs; HIV; Responses; Policy; Harm reduction



www.elsevier.com/locate/drugpo

PM supports move to supply needles, condoms

ZUBAIDAH ABU BAKAR
reporting from
DOHA

Doha, Qatar: Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday threw his support behind the controversial plan to supply needles and condoms to drug users to curb the spread of AIDS.

He said the move was the "best so far" for fighting HIV and AIDS, a problem that has reached a dangerous stage. But if there were a better alternative to tackling the scourge, the Health Ministry would consider it, the Prime Minister said. Abdullah, who is here to attend the G-77 summit, was speaking to Malaysian journalists.

Some 1,200 drug users will get condoms and needles from 10 government and private clinics in October on a trial basis.

The plan, announced by Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lok early this month, has drawn mixed reactions with many against the move.

Many religious groups have shot down the idea, saying that freely distributing condoms encourages sexual promiscuity. However, Dr Chua gave an assurance that condoms would only



COMMON CAUSE: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (left) exchanging greetings with Abdullah during the summit of the G-77, the developing world's answer to the rich and powerful G-8, in Doha on Wednesday. — Reuters picture

RESOUNDING 'NO' FROM THE RAKYAT

By IFWAN TUN TUAH, NURUL AIN KAMIL and EMILY TOH

KUALA LUMPUR: Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lok's proposal to distribute needles and condoms to street dealers and addicts got thumbs down from the people yesterday.

Most of the people interviewed by The Malay Mail were against the idea. Here are some of their views.

■ WAN HUSSIN ALI, 47, chef from Bachok: "I disagree with the proposal. It is just our culture and religion, especially Islam. It encourages people to use drugs and practise free

education society on this."

■ BASIR ZAHROM, 22, college student from Johor Bharu: "It should not be implemented. This is not a deterrent but an encouragement for addicts."

■ YONG KAR KUAN, 31, hotel maintenance staff from Jalan Ipoh: "It is not a smart move to give away free needles and condoms to addicts. I think the money can be put to better use."

■ PARAMESWARA, 40,

addicted somewhere."

■ KEANU TANG, 23, operation executive from Mutiara Damansara: "The Government shouldn't encourage addicts to take more drugs. This will only make matters worse."

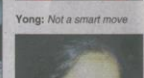
■ JOSEPHINE TAN, 24, pharmacist from Jalan Ipoh: "This will create more problems to the addicts and the Government. It is good if they



Norizan: Drug addicts may abuse it



Wan Hussin: Against our culture and religion



Yong: Not a smart move



Padmapria: Implement it

■ POLICY ON ADDICTS

Nothing good can come of proposal

I READ with dismay the statement by Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lok on a proposal to provide free condoms and needles to drug users to control the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Drug addicts now need not fear capture and forced rehabilitation but, instead, they will be assisted in their addiction.

The Government has also said it will provide methadone, a pain-killer, to combat withdrawal symptoms.

Who is going to monitor them to ensure that, instead of trying to combat their addiction?

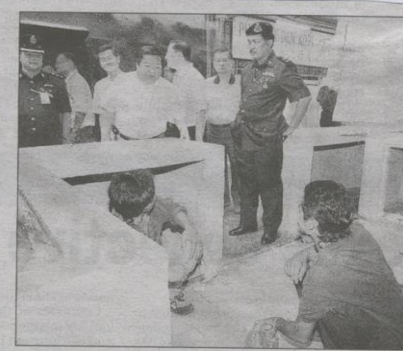
This proposal is as ridiculous

as the one made a few months ago to isolate all drug addicts on an island and give them an ample supply of drugs to feed their habit.

The only way to combat HIV and AIDS is continence and chastity.

I suppose this proposal should come as no surprise since the programmes in our drug rehabilitation centres are a failure.

To address this issue, the Government must first reassess its rehabilitation programmes and ascertain where its point of failure begins and then must make effective changes so that success



DEADLY CYCLE: Addicts getting their fix in Chow Kit.

breeds more success. If necessary, they should study drug rehabilitation programmes in other countries with a higher success rate

than ours and implement those programmes here.

ANDREA PAVEE
Petaling Jaya

HARM REDUCTION IN MALAYSIA

POA
1998 - 2005

NSP 2006 – 2010
Reduce HIV vulnerability among IDU

NSP 2011 – 2015
prevent / reduce infection, improve QoL of PLHIV, and
reduce the social and economic impact

NSPEA
2016 – 2030

Up scaling of harm reduction program

**2001
- 2004**

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

Jan 29,05 : PM
statement on MDG HIV
Jan 15 – endorsement
of MMT by NDEAC
June 3, 05 : MoH
annoucement on NSEP
June 23,05 : NTFHR
Oct, 05 : MMT piloted

2001 - The Declaration of
Commitment on HIV/AIDS
adopted by United Nation
General Assembly Special
Session on HIV/AIDS
(UNGASS) in 2001, for which
Malaysia was a signatory

2002- 2005 :
Proposal of harm reduction

**Feb 2006 : NSEP
piloted**
April 2006 – Malaysia
cabinet Endorsement
on HR

- MMT in
prison and
NADA
- NSEP at
health clinic

- Review of SOP

- Endorsement of up scaling
of harm reduction in NSP
2011-2015
- Endorsement of up scaling
MMT by JRP meeting
- Harm Reduction program by
Global Fund
- Support activities of harm
reduction by HIV/AIDS
Alliance funding

- 2nd Review
of SOP

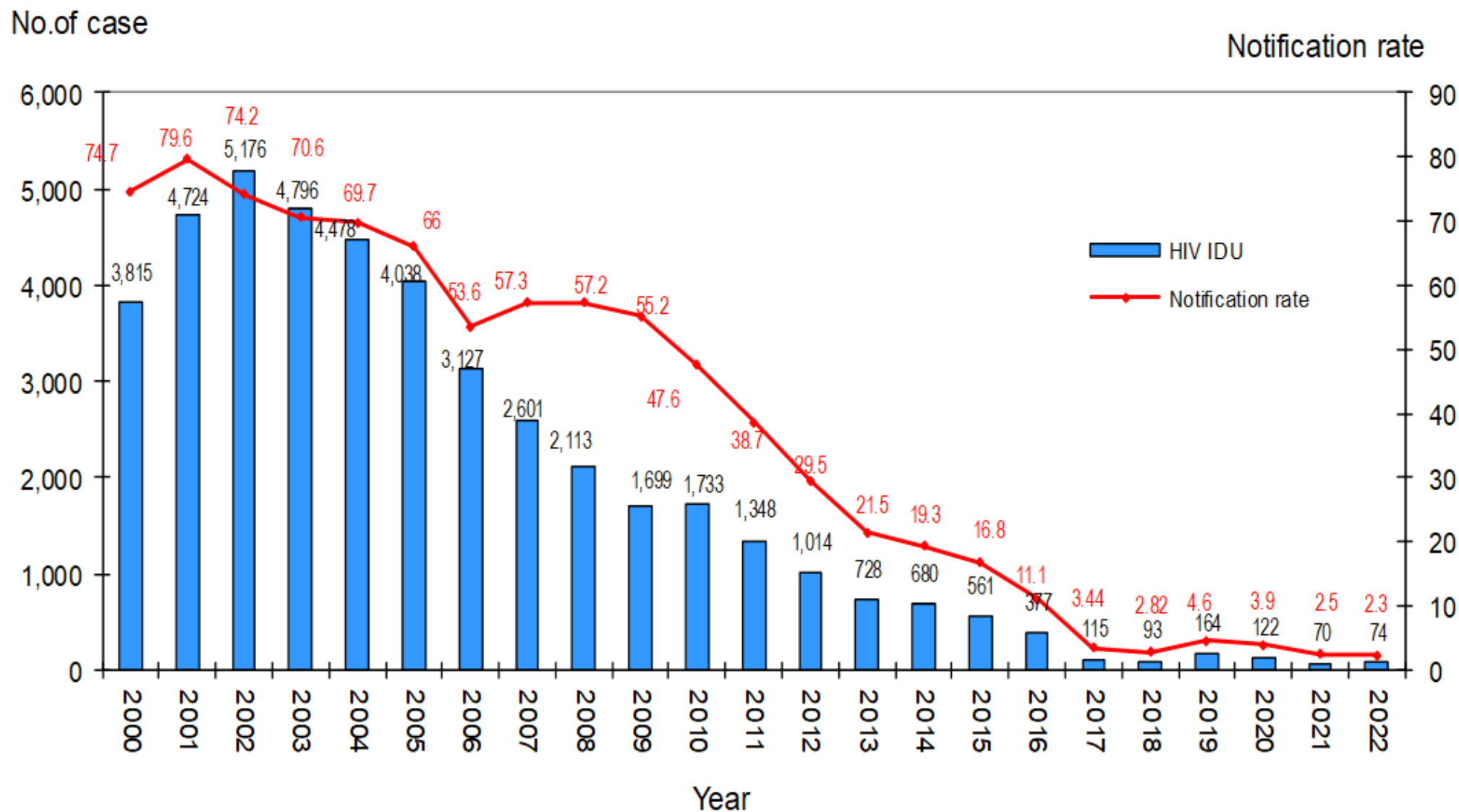
NSPEA preparatory
work

- Piloted KK Model Project
- 3rd Review of SOP
- Launching of NSPEA

- Expansion KK Model Project
- 2nd Edition SOP Methadone
- HLM @ New York –
Commitment in Ending AIDS

Community
HIV Screening

Annual HIV Notification – Injecting Drug Use 2000 – 2022



With Harm Reduction	Without Harm Reduction	Reduction in new HIV Infections
• 2006-2013		
20,903	34,220	39%
• 2013-2023		
3,596	27,118	87%
• 2006-2050		
27,979	134,345	79%

Cost-saving in direct health cos (mil. RM)		
2006 - 2013	2013 - 2023	2006 - 2050
47M (30 – 58M)	210M (114 – 248M)	909M (441 – 1182M)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1989

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THE NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1989

Intensive War on Drugs by Malaysia and Singapore Shows Mixed Results

By STEVEN ERLANGER

Special to The New York Times

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The television drama was hardly sophisticated, but the point was clear: A young man writhes on his bed, howling from drug withdrawal, while his family agonizes and finally decides to go to the authorities.

Malaysia's war on drugs is an intensive effort of education, advertising, testing, rehabilitation, harsh mandatory penalties for drug use and the death penalty for possession of relatively small amounts of heroin, cocaine or marijuana.

But results from the Malaysian program, put into effect in 1983, and a similar one adopted in nearby Singapore in 1975 have been mixed.

Malaysian officials can report only that the country's addiction rate rose again last year, though they believe that over the last six years it has started to stabilize. The number of addicts in Singapore has decreased from a high in 1976, but the problem is by no means solved there either.

Decline in Singapore Studied

Still, experts are looking with interest at the programs — particularly Singapore's — since it is one of the few urban centers in the world where addiction appears to be declining over the long term. Paradoxically, Amsterdam — which takes the opposite approach and permits the use of heroin in some cases — is another.

It is the death penalty in the Singapore and Malaysian programs that has received the most attention in the world's press, especially when foreigners are hanged. Since Malaysia imposed the death sentence for trafficking, 235 people have been sentenced to death and 81 have been hanged. The rest await appeals or execution. In Singapore, 37 people have received the death sentence, and 25 have been hanged.

Kerry Lane Wiley, a 37-year-old Californian, was arrested on Nov. 4 on grounds of possessing 18.2 ounces of marijuana, and he thus became the first American to await a hearing on the Malaysian drug charge that carries the mandatory death sentence.

With drug use rising rapidly in the early 80's, the Government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad identified "dada" — the Malay word for drugs — as a threat to national security on a par with Communism and as a major incitement to violence.

Whipping for Smaller Amounts

Malaysia and Singapore both impose capital punishment for "trafficking," which is defined as the possession of 0.53 ounces or more of pure heroin or morphine, 7.05 ounces of marijuana or hashish, 2.2 pounds of opium or 1.41 ounces of cocaine. Those caught with



In Malaysia's war on drugs, the death penalty for trafficking has received the most attention. Kevin Barlow, center, and Brian Chambers, behind him, Australians, were among 81 people who have been hanged.

rehabilitation efforts their drug problems would be far worse.

This, they say, is especially so because of both countries' proximity to the "Golden Triangle" of Burma, Laos and Thailand, where much of the world's heroin poppies are grown. They contend, too, that their drug programs have discouraged the use of Malaysia and Singapore as transit points for international smuggling to the West.

"Punishment must be strict, or otherwise the penalty has no meaning," said Poh Geok Ek, the director of Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau.

The view in Malaysia is as harsh, if less polite. "We hang anyone convicted who exhausts their appeals," said Tey Boon Hwa, assistant director of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force. "We also hang old ladies, even if we don't normally publicize it. If you get caught, you face the music."

Both countries also use a British colonial legacy, preventive detention without trial, to imprison those strongly suspected of involvement in drug trafficking when sufficient evidence cannot be obtained to guarantee conviction.

Opium use has a long history in the

Possession of narcotics can bring the death sentence.

popularity of drugs during the 1960's and the Vietnam War, the number of those addicted to heroin grew sharply.

In an interview, the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, said: "Death is the best deterrent we have. We have fewer addicts now than five years ago, and fewer than we had 10 years ago."

According to Mr. Poh, Singapore, with about 2.6 million people, now has roughly 9,000 addicts, about 85 percent of them using smokable heroin.

From 1974 to the end of 1976, Mr. Poh said, the number of heroin addicts exploded in Singapore from about 100 to 13,000. As part of a plan to reduce demand as well as supply, Singapore then decided to incarcerate as many addicts as possible for treatment and rehabili-

centers by executive action; the courts were bypassed entirely, a practice which continues.

Singapore now arrests about 4,000 addicts a year, about 70 percent of them repeat offenders, and about 300 traffickers, of whom 20 to 30 are subject to the death penalty.

Situation Is 'Stabilized'

Malaysian officials, who began their campaign eight years after Singapore in a much larger territory of 17 million people, say that at best they have "stabilized the situation." Mr. Tey estimates that the number of addicts in Malaysia now is something under 100,000, though Western diplomats think the figure may be as much as twice that.

Although 9,710 new addicts were detected last year, the highest figure since 1984, Malaysian officials contend that the 1988 experience was temporary and that drug use overall is leveling off.

Malaysia's main problem is money. Roughly \$22 million a year is being spent on the drug war, but even by the end of this year, there will only be about 4,000 beds in rehabilitation cen-

can promise jobs to addicts who have been through rehabilitation.

Singapore's problem is different, and it goes to a concern about ethnic tension that beats just beneath the skin of a Chinese-dominated city-state surrounded by Malays. The Chinese make up 76 percent of the population, Malays only 15 percent. But 52 percent of the addicts arrested now are Malays, a trend that began three years ago. Mr. Poh worries about racial stereotyping, and in fact Singapore is making significant efforts to engage Malays, from political leaders to religious ones, in helping with the problem.

Addicts Not Called Criminals

In Singapore, addicts, though arrested, are not given criminal status. They are put into rehabilitation centers and segregated by their pattern of drug use. All who are fit and under the age of 35 are put through "cold turkey" detoxification in spare rooms for a week. There is medical supervision, but no medication is provided to ease withdrawal. The point, said Mr. Poh, is to remember the pain. Drug maintenance programs, he said, merely perpetuate addiction. Nor are addicts regarded as patients; they are seen as people with behavioral problems.

A week of recuperation from detoxification follows, plus orientation to a regimen of paramilitary discipline. Once they are judged ready and able to quit drug use, the first-time addicts are put into two weeks of intensive physical training in the tropical sun and equally intensive personal, group and family counseling.

The entire experience is designed as "a short, sharp shock," to wean them from drugs and to make them afraid to try again. Between 30 and 50 percent of first-time addicts are then sent home, and for two years they must report to the police for urine tests on a regular schedule, undergo counseling and be subjected to surprise urine tests.

The others are at this point put in a two- or three-month course at another, harsher center. They then enter a four-month day-release program, during which they are permitted outside employment. The two years of urine tests and counseling come after that for this group.

High Rate of Repeaters

For those who fail these programs or who are repeat offenders, there is a longer program that can keep them incarcerated up to three years.

About 70 percent of the Central Narcotics Bureau's annual budget of \$11 million is spent on treatment and rehabilitation. Even so, Mr. Poh said, about 70 percent of repeat offenders go back on drugs — "but at least 30 percent kick the habit." Among first-time addicts, he said, only about 35 percent currently relapse, though he admits the program is still new.

In addition to rehabilitation and harsh law-enforcement procedures, both countries also stress preventive education in the schools, the press and the temple or mosque.

At Singapore's center for first-time addicts, it was not hard to see the pain of rehabilitation at work. A man of 30, older than the average, squatted in the regulation blue shorts and white T-shirt, his hair shorn boot-camp style. He had been smoking heroin for three weeks when he was caught with five friends. Because he had probably not

Harsh treatment of addicts and efforts to rehabilitate.

yet become addicted, the detoxification period was not hard, he said, but the physical training was.

He had worked for the subway system, a semipublic agency, and would now lose his job. Why had he started to smoke heroin? He could not explain, except that he was divorced and bored, and his friends were smoking.

Did he have any children? Three, he said, his voice breaking. How would they react? "I don't want to think about that," he said. "I just feel so stupid."

Outside the room, the supervising officer smiled. "I think we can save him," he said.

Armed Force Deployed To Stop Benin Protests

COTONOU, Benin, Dec. 14 (Reuters)

— Hundreds of police officers and soldiers were deployed in the streets of Benin's two main cities today to prevent protests against President Mathieu Kérékou.

Armed guards manned potential trouble spots, including a statue of Lenin that was stoned by crowds calling for Mr. Kérékou's resignation earlier this week.

Mr. Kérékou, in power in since 1972, repudiated Marxism-Leninism as the official ideology of this West African state a week ago, but opposition to his Government has intensified.

Mass protests, mostly by students and teachers, started on Friday in the old colonial city of Porto Novo.

Two people were killed by the police on Monday in Cotonou, the former French colony's economic center, officials said. The two cities were calm



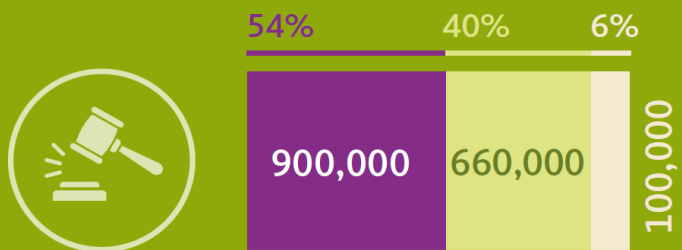
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR DRUG OFFENCES, 2022



6.9 million in formal contact with the police



2.7 million prosecuted



1.7 million convicted

- Drug possession/use
- Drug trafficking
- Other drug offences

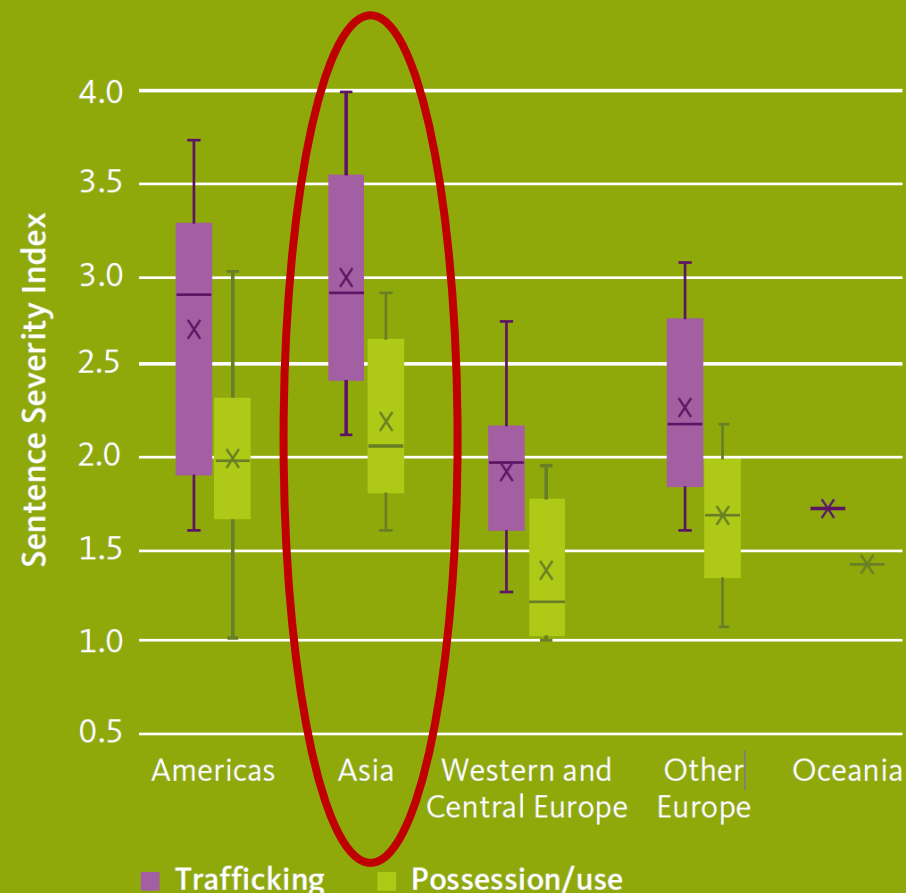
DISTRIBUTION OF LENGTH OF SENTENCE BY DRUG OFFENCE TYPE IN COUNTRIES WITH AVAILABLE DATA, 2020–2022



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Note: Data available on trafficking for 41 countries (114,000 sentences), and on drug use/possession for 33 countries (40,000 sentences).

LEVEL OF SEVERITY OF SENTENCES FOR DRUG OFFENCES, BY REGION, 2020–2022



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Note: Higher values indicate more severe sentences; black dots represent outliers.

Threshold Quantities in Malaysian law

Drug type	Possession/self-administration Section 6, 12, 15(1)(a) (presumed)	Increased penalty possession Section 39A(1)	Increased penalty possession Section 39A (2)	Trafficking Section 37 (da)
Heroin, morphine, Monoacetylmorphines	< 2 grams	2 g < 5 grams	≥ 5 grams	≥ 15 grams
Opium				≥ 1000 grams
Cannabis	< 20 grams	20 g < 50 grams	≥ 50 grams	≥ 200 grams
Cocaine			≥ 15 grams	≥ 40 grams
Methamphetamine, MDMA	< 5 grams	5 g < 30 grams	≥ 30 grams	≥ 50 grams
Penalties	Fine RM5000 or imprisonment ≤ 2 yrs (or both) (note: 39C increased penalty where priors)	2-5 years imprisonment (note: 39C increased penalty where priors)	Mandatory 5 years or life (note: 39C increased penalty where priors)	

The Size of the Problem

TABLE 1: No. of Arrests Under Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (DDA), 2014-2018					
YEAR / SECTION	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sec. 39B – Trafficking	4,923	5,354	5,771	6,759	6,884
Sec. 39A(2) – Major Possession	3,259	3,455	3,706	4,140	3,997
Sec. 39A(1) - Minor Possession	8,023	9,625	11,721	13,583	14,691
Other sec. (under DDA 1952) [Sec.6 /Sec. 6B/ Sec.9/Sec.12(2)]	34,172	38,299	47,002	52,979	56,640
Sec.15(1)(a) – self-administration	81,435	84,205	85,004	80,925	75,465
TOTAL	131,812	140,938	153,204	158,386	157,677

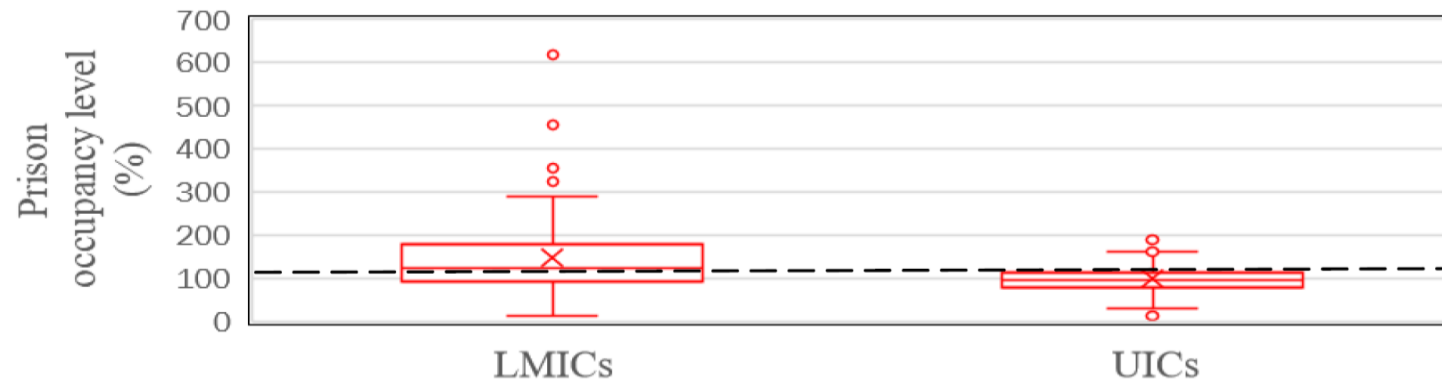
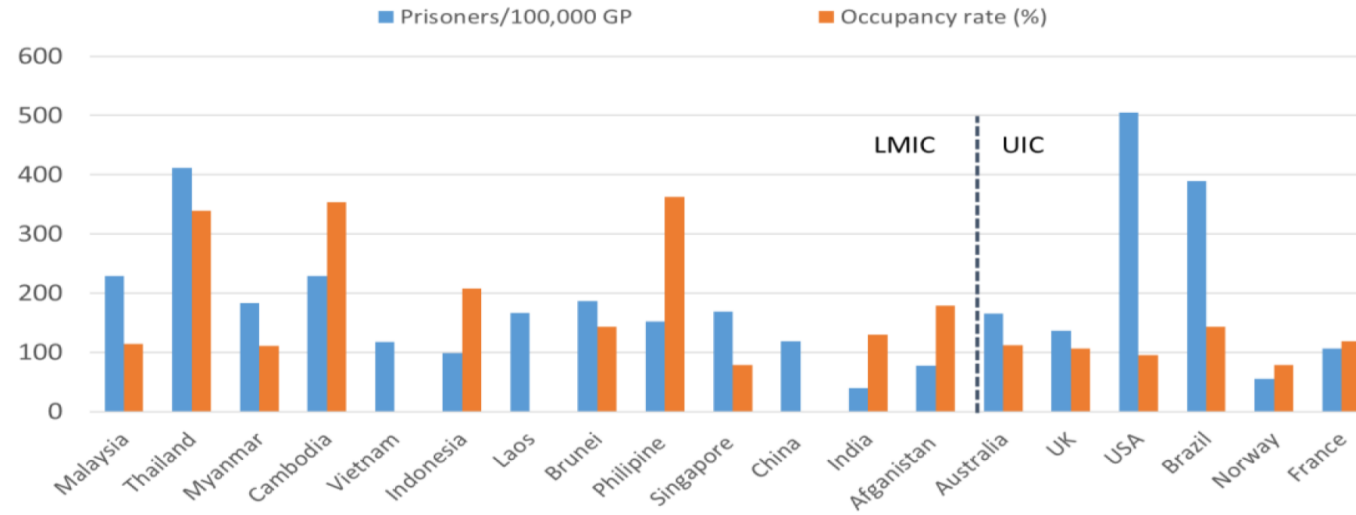
STATISTIK BILANGAN WARAN KESALAHAN DIBAWAH ADB 1952 PADA 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

BIL	SEKSYEN	REMAN	SABITAN	JUMLAH
1.	6	594	780	1,374
2.	9	10	5	15
3.	10	-	1	1
4.	12	10,034	22,675	32,709
5.	15	5,942	17,509	23,451
6.	31	-	14	14
7.	36	1	-	1
8.	39	13,750	23,371	37,121
JUMLAH		30,331	64,355	94,686

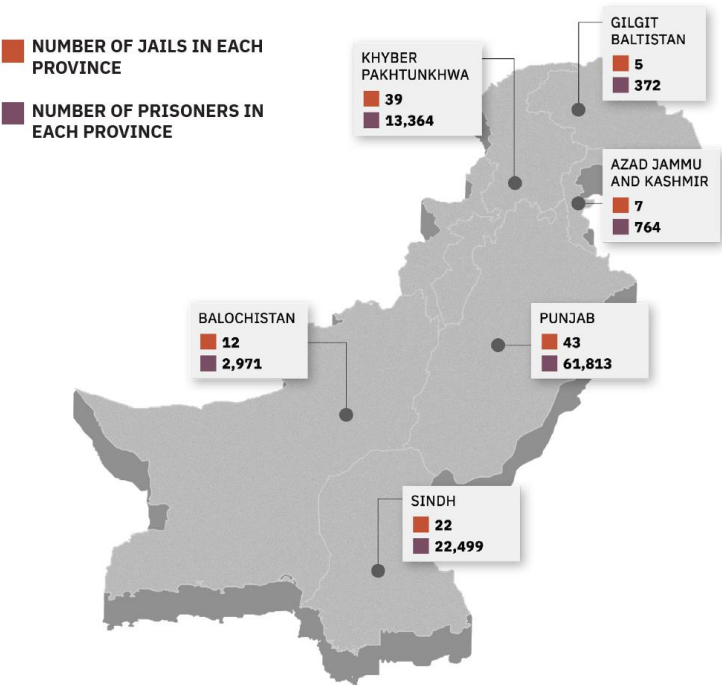
Catatan:

Terdapat ramai banduan yang mempunyai banyak waran menahan atau waran mempenjarakan di atas kesalahan berkaitan ADB

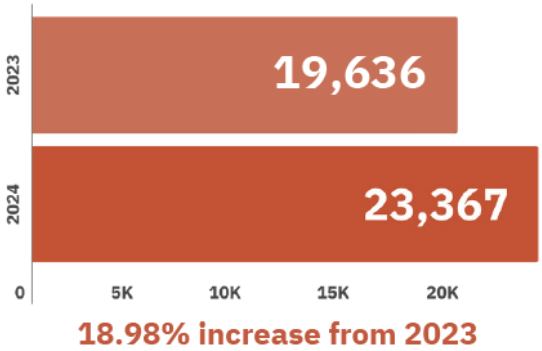
Prison Overcrowding



Prison Overcrowding



PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY FOR DRUG OFFENCES 2023-2024

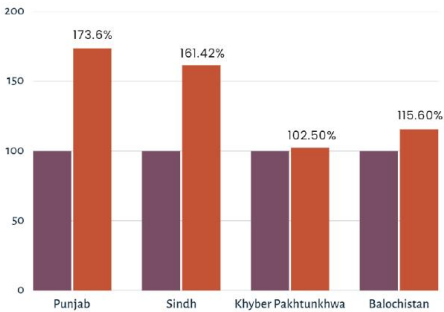


OPERATING CAPACITY

On a national level, prisons are operating at 152.9% capacity. In other words, overcrowding persists by 52.9% in Pakistan prisons.

Punjab jails are operating at 173.6% of their capacity, Sindh 161.42%, KP 102.50%, while Balochistan operates at 115.60% of its capacity.

OVERCROWDING ACROSS PAKISTAN'S JAILS



Karachi's Central Prison houses 8,518 inmates, despite having an official capacity of just 2,400, operating at an alarming 354.92% of its capacity – more than three times its intended limit.

As the Pandemic Swept America, Deaths in Prisons Rose Nearly 50 Percent

The first comprehensive data on prison fatalities in the Covid era sheds new light on where and why prisoners were especially vulnerable.

 Give this article

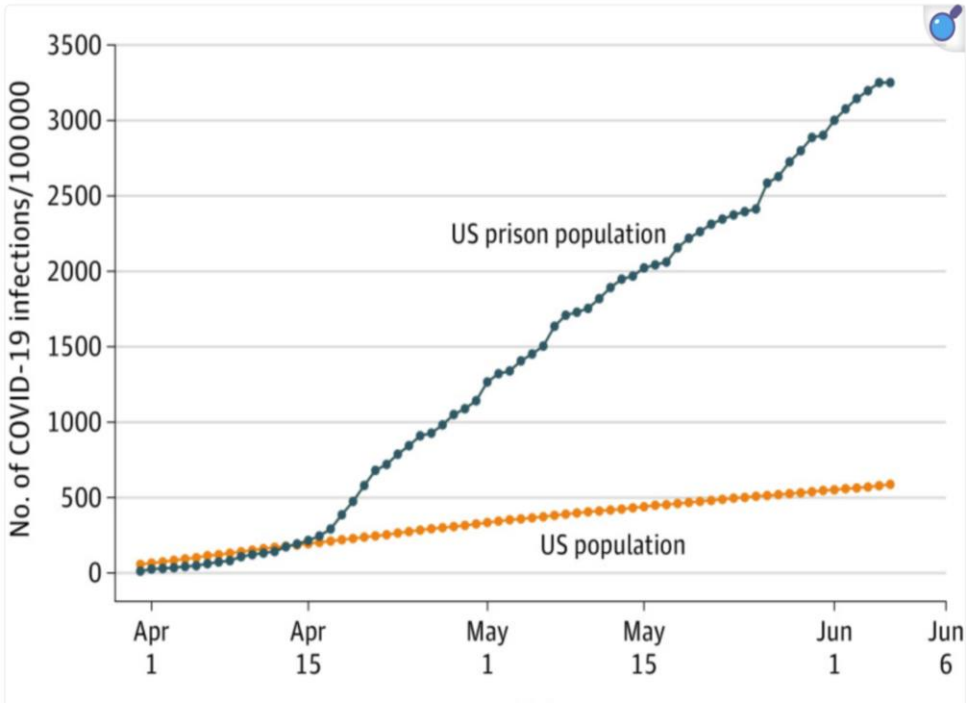






The Lieber Correctional Institution in Ridgeville, S.C. Sean Rayford for The New York Times

Figure. Trends in Cumulative Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Confirmed Case Rate per 100 000 People for Prison and US Populations.



AA 100 years 1920-2020

TURKEY WORLD ECONOMY POLITICS ENERGY SPORTS INFOGRAPHICS ANALYSIS V

ASIA - PACIFIC, LATEST ON CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Malaysian prisons report 1,126 COVID-19 cases

To contain virus transmission, drug-related inmates moved to temporary prisons

Pizaro Gozali Idrus | 07.10.2020



The 1,126 prison-related positive cases, 39 are prison officers or staff.

International Detention Coalition

Who We Are ▾ What We Do ▾ Where We Work ▾ Resources ▾ Covid-19 ▾

Covid-19 Outbreaks in Malaysia's Detention Centres

JUNE 26, 2020 | IN ASIA PACIFIC

ALJAZEERA

News ▾ US Elections Features Economy Opinion Video

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Immigration detention centres become Malaysia coronavirus hotspot

Health ministry says detention centres 'high risk' areas after spike in cases following series of raids during lockdown.



Malaysia Reports 489 Covid-19 Cases, Penang Prison Cluster

By CodeBlue | 07 October 2020

Over half of total reported cases today were sporadic community cases in Sabah, whereas more than a quarter of today's cases belong to the Tembok cluster in Kedah.



Overcrowding behind rapid spread of Covid-19 in Malaysian prisons

By Dhesegaan Bala Krishnan - October 19, 2020 @ 11:53am



COMMENT | VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5, E263-E264, MAY 2021

Tuberculosis in prisons: an unintended sentence?

Kavindhran Velen • Salome Charalambous ✉

Open Access • Published: March 22, 2021 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(21\)00049-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(21)00049-9) •

- Incidence of TB
 - consistently much higher in prisons than in the general population
 - Incidence ratio - averaging higher than ten globally.
- Prevalence of TB
 - > 1000 per 100 000 prisoners in all regions except for North America.
- Incidence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection
 - extremely high annual risks

Latin America’s rise in tuberculosis linked to imprisonment rates

Study warns region’s exponential rise in incarceration is fuelling the disease, with cases increasing by 19% between 2015 and 2022



📷 In El Salvador, 44% of tuberculosis cases occurred in prisons, the worst scene has the highest incarceration rate of the six Latin American nations studied. Photo by Peña/Getty Images

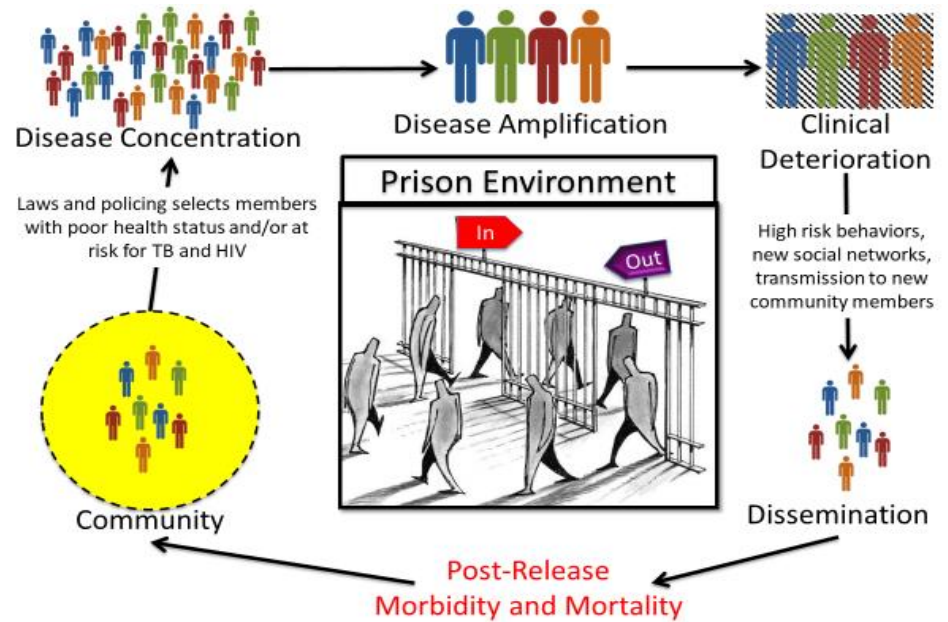
Mass incarceration as a driver of the tuberculosis epidemic in Latin America and projected effects of policy alternatives: a mathematical modelling study



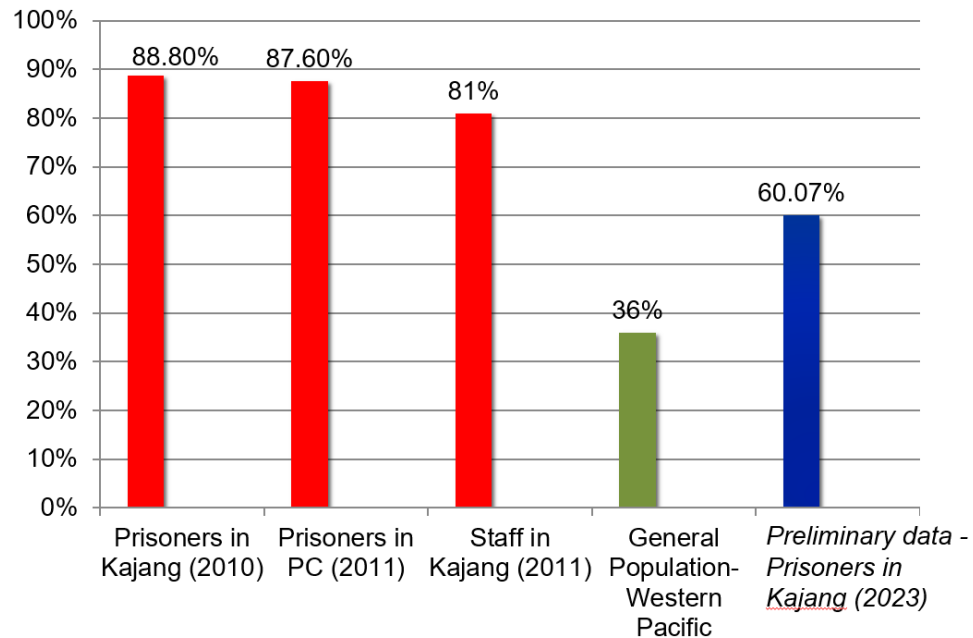
	Argentina	Brazil	Colombia	El Salvador	Mexico	Peru	Source
Incarcerated population in 1990*	21 016	90 000	32 387	5 982	93 119	17 859	Data
Incarcerated population in 2019	109 405	755 274	123 078	38 114	200 936	95 548	Data
Prison occupancy in 2018 (%)	112	165	146	333	97	219	Data
Prevalence of incarceration per 100 000 population in 2019	321	452	316	825	216	399	Data
Percent increase in prevalence of incarceration since 1990 (95% UI)	239 (229–249)	397 (393–400)	120 (107–134)	372 (331–404)	28 (19–38)	190 (171–197)	Model
Incarceration growth driven by increasing entry rates or duration	Entry rates	Entry rates	Both	Both	Both	Duration	Model
Average duration of incarceration in 2019 (years [95% UI])	2·6 (2·2–3·4)	1·3 (1·1–1·6)	3·2 (2·7–3·8)	6·0 (4·8–8·0)	1·9 (1·6–2·3)	4·7 (3·9–5·8)	Model
Within-prison prevalence of incarceration history	30% (21–37)	52% (41–59)	21% (15–27)	18% (12–22)	25% (17–32)	25% (18–32)	Model
Community prevalence of incarceration history	1·3% (1·0–1·7)	2·8% (2·0–3·9)	4·2% (3·0–5·6)	2·9% (2·2–3·6)	6·0% (4·7–7·6)	3·5% (2·8–4·3)	Model
Population-level tuberculosis notifications in 2019	11 446	85 523	14 292	3009	23 702	31 764	Data
Population tuberculosis notification rate per 100 000 in 2019	25·7	40·5	28·7	47·9	19·0	97·6	Data
Prison tuberculosis notification rate per 100 000 in 2019	214	1303	784	3484	144	2945	Data
Percent of all tuberculosis notifications occurring in prisons in 2019	2·0	11·5	6·8	44·1	1·2	8·9	Data

Data are n or % (95% uncertainty interval), unless otherwise specified. For model outputs, medians are shown with 95% uncertainty intervals in parentheses. All population-wide prevalence estimates are for the population aged 15 years and older. Data sources are detailed in the appendix (pp 13–14). UI=uncertainty interval. *Data are from 1992 for Argentina.

Table 1: Incarceration-related and tuberculosis-related characteristics by country



Kamarulzaman A et al, Lancet, 2016



Prison overcrowding and infectious disease outbreaks

Over 51,000 prison inmates, personnel infected with Covid-19 since last year, says Deputy Home Minister

By TARRENCE TAN, RAHIMY RAHIM and MARTIN CARVALHO



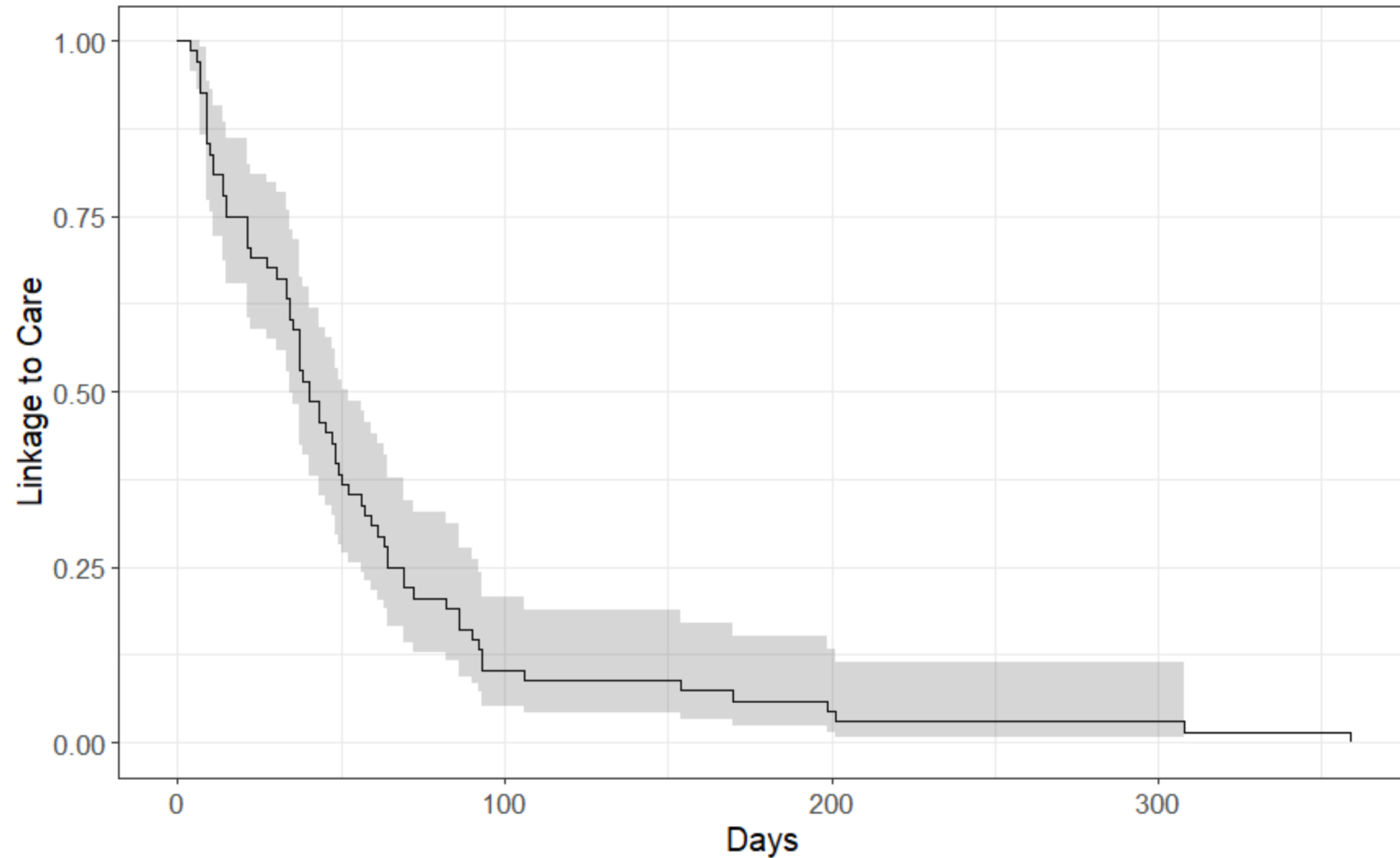
NATION

Tuesday, 28 Sep 2021
12:58 PM MYT

KUALA LUMPUR: More than 51,000 individuals, including nine babies, consisting of prison inmates and staff have contracted Covid-19 since last year, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

7.79% active TB
amongst prisoners
(data as of 31Jan2023)

Amongst 68 patients diagnosed with active TB in prison, median treatment initiation was **48 days** after diagnosis.



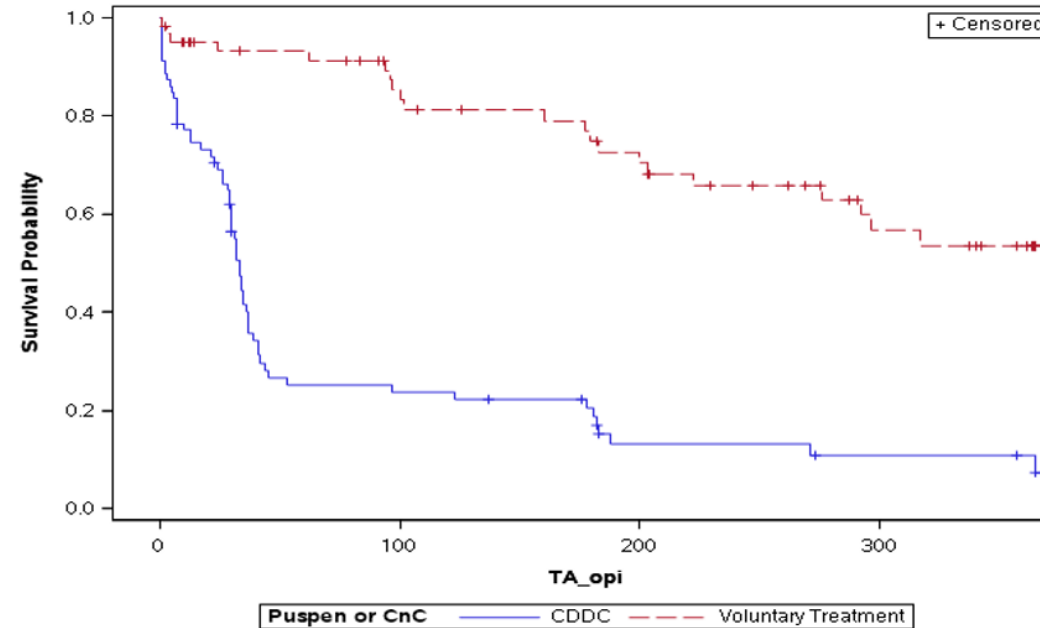
Relapse to opioid use in opioid-dependent individuals released from compulsory drug detention centres compared with those from voluntary methadone treatment centres in Malaysia: a two-arm, prospective observational study

Martin P Wegman, Frederick L Altice, Sangeetha Kaur, Vanesa Rajandaran, Sutayut Osornprasop, David Wilson, David P Wilson, Adeeba Kamarulzaman

Summary

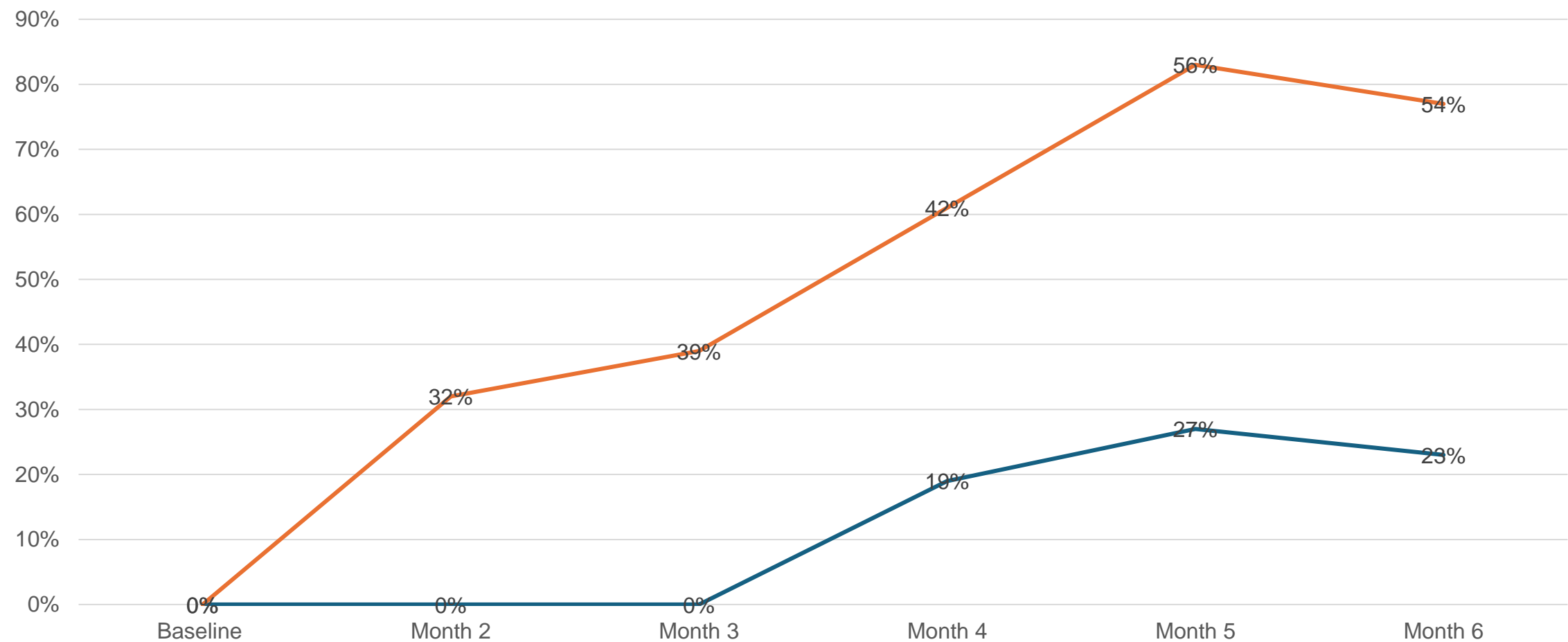
Background Detention of people who use drugs into compulsory drug detention centres throughout East and Southeast Asia. Evidence-based pharmacological therapies for treatment such as opioid agonist treatments with methadone, are generally unavailable in these opportunity where CDDCs coexisted with voluntary drug treatment centres (VTCs) provide to compare the timing and occurrence of opioid relapse (measured using urine drug transitioning from CDDCs versus methadone maintenance in VTCs.

Methods We did a parallel, two-arm, prospective observational study of opioid-dependent individuals who were treated in Malaysia in the Klang Valley in two settings: CDDCs and VTCs. We recruited individuals. Assessed individuals in CDDCs were required to participate in sessions and manual labour. Assessed individuals in VTCs could voluntarily access many in CDDCs, in addition to methadone therapy. We undertook urinary drug tests and behavioural individuals at baseline and at 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months post-release. The primary outcome post-release in the community confirmed by urinary drug testing in individuals who interviewing and at least one urine drug test (our analytic sample). Relapse rates between using time-to-event methods. This study is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT02698098).



- Median **time to relapse** to opioid use post-release
 - PUSPEN participants **31 days**
 - C&C participants **352 days**
- C&C participants had an **81% decreased chance of opioid relapse** compared to PUSPEN




Relapse rates a comparison between release from prison and fined participants under Sec 15(1) Dangerous Drug Act 1952



Singh, D., Saref, N., Narayanan, S., Griffin, H. O., and Vicknasingam, B. (2020). Treatment Compliance among Incarcerated and Fined Amphetamine-Type-Stimulant (ATS) Users in a Community Supervision Programme in Malaysia: A Preliminary Study. *Journal of Substance Use*, 26(3), 240-249.

Many people with drug use disorders receive no treatment and the gap is widening

- » According to newly available estimates, only about 1 in 11 people with drug use disorders received drug treatment globally in 2022, a decrease from 2015.
- » The treatment gap is widest in Africa and Asia, where drug treatment coverage was 2.8 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively in 2022.
- » Drug-related treatment coverage is lower among women than among men in all five global regions. Some 1 in 18 women with drug use disorders received treatment globally in 2022, while the ratio was 1 in 7 in the case of men.

			
	TREATMENT COVERAGE	PRIMARY DRUG	PATHWAY OF REFERRAL
Africa	2.8% of people with Drug Use Disorders in treatment in 2022	Cannabis is most common, followed by Opioids	Referral by friends and family and self referral are most common
Americas	10.7% of people with Drug Use Disorders in treatment in 2022 – 7.5% for women, 13.1% for men	Opioids is most common, but ATS and cannabis are also significant	Varies across subregions but referral from other health care service is more common than in other regions
Asia	5.1% of people with Drug Use Disorders in treatment in 2022 – 1.9% for women, 10.5% for men	Amphetamine-type stimulants most common, followed by Opioids	Criminal justice system is the most common pathway of referral
Europe	25.9% of people with Drug Use Disorders in treatment in 2022 – 13.6% for women, 29.9% for men	Opioids is most common	Self referral and referral by friends and family are the most common
Oceania	14% of people with Drug Use Disorders in treatment in 2022 – 12.5% for women, 14% for men	Amphetamine-type stimulants is the most common, followed by Cannabis	Different pathways of referral observed

COMPULSORY DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

886

The estimated number of compulsory facilities for people who use drugs in seven countries. The number of compulsory facilities increased in the majority of countries between 2012 and 2018.

The number of people in compulsory drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities has stayed the same or increased in most countries since 2012.

440,000 – 500,000

people were detained annually in compulsory facilities in seven countries between 2012 and 2018.

The Inequity of Drug Arrests - The Targeting of Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups and Poor Communities for Low Level Drug Offenses

The Inequity of Drug Arrests - The Targeting of Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups and Poor Communities for Low Level Drug Offenses

The racial disparity of stop-and-search factors into disproportionate arrest rates. Research from five Canadian cities showed that in 2015 Indigenous and Black peoples were much more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white people in every city.³⁷ Repeatedly, across the world people who use drugs are over-policed and over-criminalized, leading to further marginalization.³⁸

THE INEQUITY OF ARRESTS FOR DRUG POSSESSION ^{39,40,41,42,43}



Canada

In Vancouver, Indigenous peoples were **6.3x** more likely to be arrested for possession of cannabis compared to white people.

Black people in Halifax were **4.1x** more likely to be arrested for possession of cannabis compared to white people.

India

67% of drug cases registered in 2022 were for drug possession for personal use, rather than trafficking.



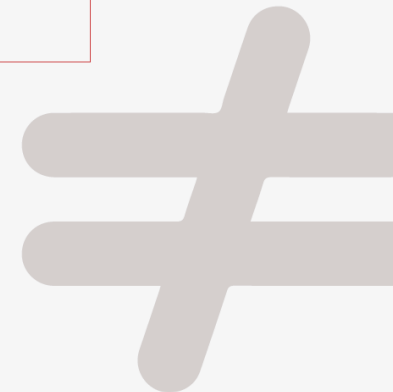
United States

Black Americans make up **14%** of the US population and use drugs at similar rates to white Americans. However, they represent **25%** of all drug possession arrests.



South Africa

In Wynberg, South Africa, **99.3%** of all drug-related crimes heard in the Magistrates were for possession alone.



Global evidence and movement towards drug policy reform

- UN Joint Statement
- Report by the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Global Commission for Drug Policy
- Commission of Narcotic Drugs – CND 2024
- WHO and UNAIDS

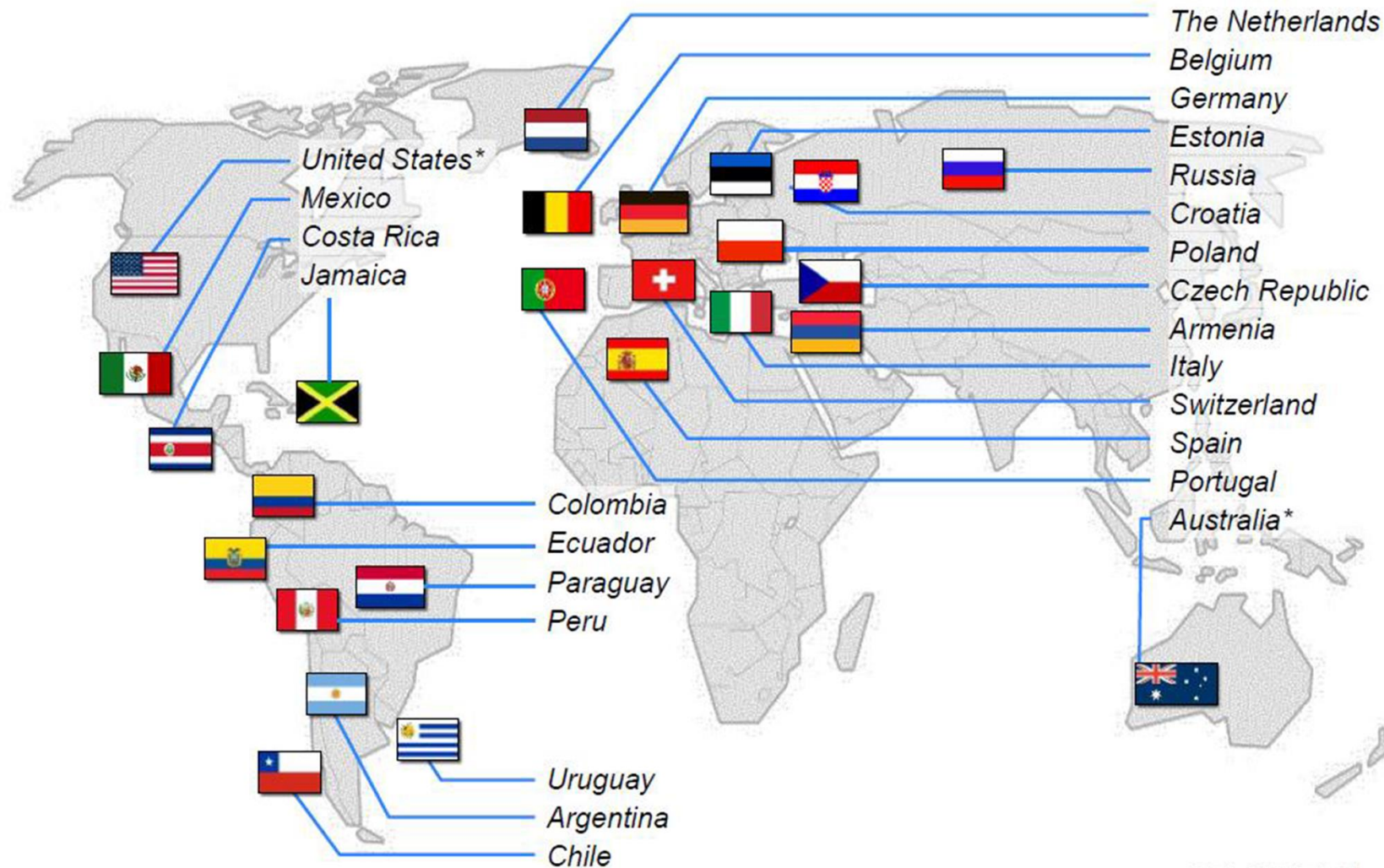
UN Common Position on Drug Policy

In March 2019, the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB), chaired by the UN Secretary General representing **31 UN agencies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, unanimously adopted a common position on drug policy that **endorsed decriminalization of possession and use of drugs.**

The statement called on member states to “**promote alternatives to conviction and punishment in appropriate cases, including the decriminalization of drug possession for personal use.**”

Global movement to decriminalization

Over 50 jurisdictions + more than 30 countries have adopted some form of decriminalisation for drug use and related activities



How Australia Can Play a Role in Drug Policy Reform in SEA

1. PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT



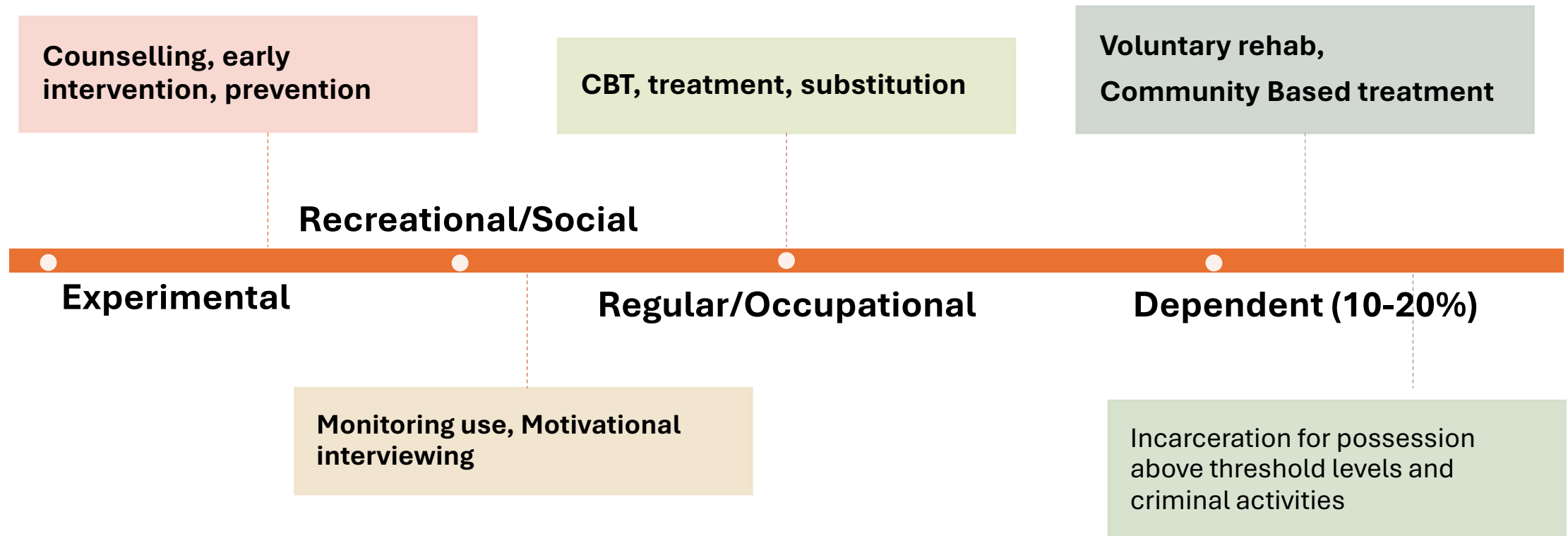
2. FOSTERING ENABLING LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENTS



3. HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SYSTEMS-STRENGTHENING AND FINANC- ING

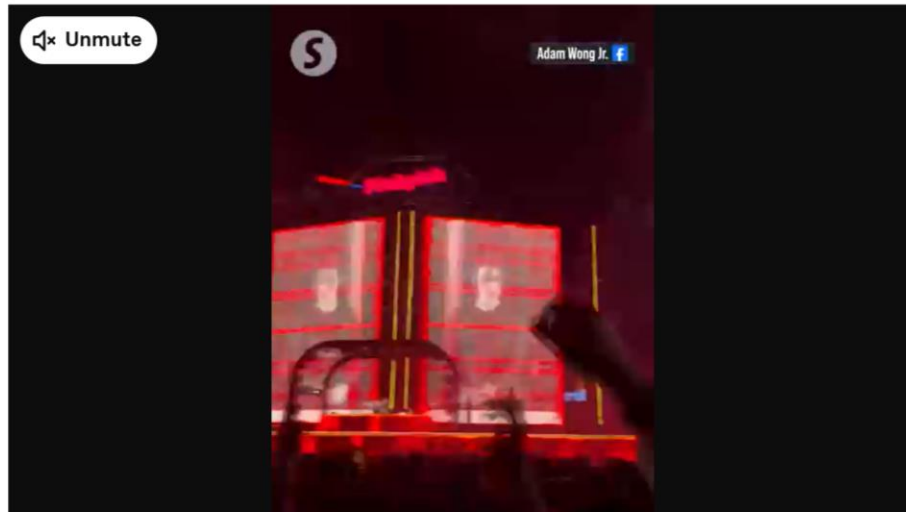


We can provide better treatment for people who use drugs without perpetuating the same cycle





Suspected drug use led to deaths at Pinkfish concert



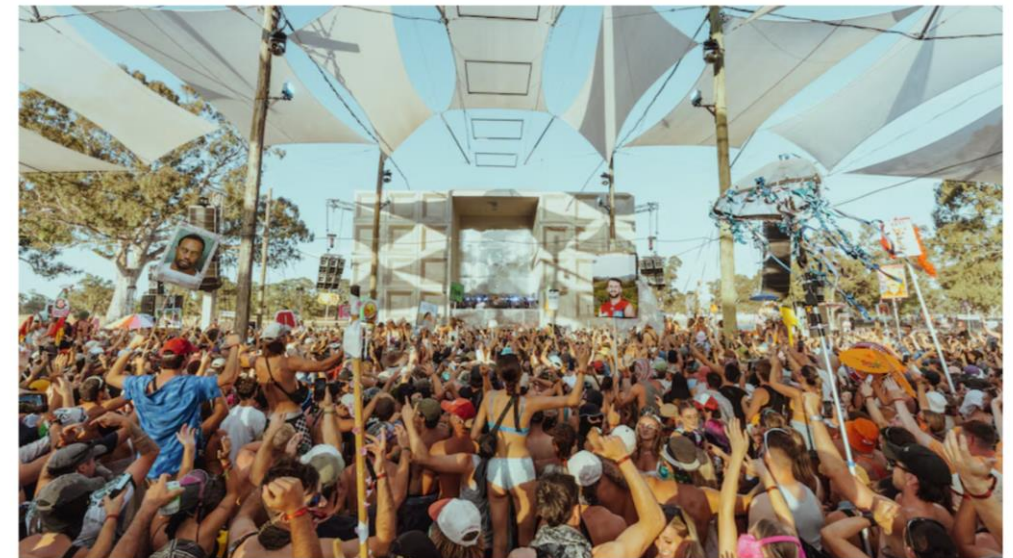
PETALING JAYA: The four people who died after attending the Pinkfish Countdown 2024 concert in Bandar Sunway here on New Year's Eve are believed to have taken drugs.

Selangor police chief Comm Datuk Hussein Omar Khan told reporters the victims were

Pill testing to be introduced at Victorian music festivals where overdoses occurred

Drug Education

Thu 30 Jan



The government has announced four more festivals hosting pill-testing trials in Victoria this year. (Facebook: Pitch Music & Arts)

In short:

The government will roll out pill testing at four more Victorian festivals, including festivals where drug overdoses occurred in 2024.

Hardmission Festival, Pitch Music and Arts Festival, Ultra Music Festival and The Warehouse Project will host a free pill-testing service this year.



