Use, abuse and trafficking of opioids in Mexico:
The importance of international collaboration

October, 2018
HIGH SPECIALIZATION IN DRUGS

**PHASE**
- Production
- Routes
- Seizures
- Sampling

**ACTIVITY**
- Crop Identification
- Destruction of Crops
- Interception
- International Agencies
- Focus actions
- Chemical and Physical Characterization of substances

**SPECIALIZED AREA**
- Monitoring System of Air and Maritime Traffic
- Prequim
- MEX-54
- MEXW-34

**PROMINENT ACTIONS**
- Impulse to integral improvement in production zones through the promotion of actions oriented to the Sustainable Development of the communities
- Regulation of authorized companies of controlled substances. Identify routes of illicit trafficking of substances to strengthen surveillance in customs and ports
- Cooperation and coordination with international agencies on drugs
- Use of statistical tools to focus and prioritize institutional efforts
- List of Surveillance, Early Warning System, consumption indicators and regulations

**SCOPE**
- JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
- INTERNATIONAL
- STATISTICAL INDICATORS
- PREVENTION

**DIMENSION**
- Comprehensive Policies and Strategies

**JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- Attention to Supply and Demand

**INTERNATIONAL**
- Regional
- Global
- ONU

**COORDINATION AMONG INSTITUTIONS**

**COORDINATION AND INTEGRAL DRIVING**

**SECURITY CABINET**
- Collaborate with Authorities
- Strategic Intelligence
- Specialized Program

**FEDERAL LEVEL**
- National Drug Observatory

**STATE LEVEL**
- National Drug Observatory

**COORDINATION AMONG INSTITUTIONS**
- AGENDA 2030
- Prequim
- National Drug Observatory

**COORDINATION AND INTEGRAL DRIVING**
- Federal
- Estatal
- Municipal
- Centros de Integrazione Juvenil, A.C.
OVERVIEW
People worldwide used drugs at least once in 2016
275 million

People who their drug use is harmful to the point where they may need treatment
31 million

Deaths related with drug use in 2015
450 000

Deaths indirectly attributable to drug

Opioids implicated

Deaths associated with overdoses in 2015
167,750

76%

24%

It is estimated that in 2016, 34.3 million people used opioids and opiates for non-medical purposes

OPIOID USE IN MEXICO
International:


National:


Its use is permitted for medical and scientific purposes LGS Art. 235; Medical Prescription (prescription) LGS Art.226, frac. I

AGREEMENT: The compulsory nature of the comprehensive management of palliative care schemes is declared, as well as the processes indicated in the Guide.

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
The electronic special prescription is mandatory to get these narcotics for medical use.

- Methadone
- Fentanyl
- Morphine
- Codeine
- Hydromorphone
- Oxycodone
- Oxycodone / Paracetamol
- Sufentanil
- Remifentanil

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN MEXICO
1.3% of the population aged 12 to 65 has used medical drugs at some
time (1.7% men, 0.9% women); 0.5% consumed them in the last year
(0.6% men, 0.4% women).

Medical drugs: Opiates, tranquilizers, sedatives, barbiturates or amphetamines, the use must be out
of prescription or for a longer time or amount than indicated by the doctor.

0.2% of the population aged 12 to 65 has ever consumed

2011: 178,680 users
2016: 145,382 users
The downward trend is 18%.

HEROIN
Poppy Crops 1,015,904 Ui.

Erradication 132,524.5 Has.

Opium gum 4,580.44 Kg.

Clandestine laboratories 23*

Heroin 2,641.96 Kg.

Source: Criminal Investigation Agency. National Effort. Preliminary figures
HEROIN SEIZURES

Source: Criminal Investigation Agency. National Effort. Preliminary figures
NOTE: 3 natural ranges were considered (excluding zero). The natural ranges allow to generate ranges or intervals with values that are similar to each other but with significant difference with respect to the following range.
The tip of the arrow indicates the direction of the route; the destination where heroin was seized.

December 1, 2012 to August 15, 2017

Source: Criminal Investigation Agency. National Effort. Preliminary figures
FENTANYL
Source: Criminal Investigation Agency. National Effort. Preliminary figures
FENTANYL OVERVIEW 2018

Source: Criminal Investigation Agency. National Effort. Preliminary figures

90 fentanyl related cases nationwide, since 2006.

Source: Criminal Investigation Agency. National Effort. Preliminary figures
EFFORTS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT
The electronic form can be generated through the website of the Ministry of Health.

The electronic validation of the prescriptions through the alphanumeric reference of the two-dimensional code and the folio number, allow the validation by the pharmacies before being dispensed.

Source: General Health Law.
Who can prescribe?

Medical surgeons

Dental surgeons

Veterinary doctors: For use in animals

Dispensing special prescriptions

Special prescriptions

Medical Prescription (prescription)
LGS Art.226, frac. I

- Medication for 30 days from prescription.
- Validity of 30 days from the prescription.
- It is supplied and retired.

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
OBJECTIVES OF REGULATING THE WHOLE SUPPLY CHAIN OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

1. Allow and promote use for therapeutic and scientific purposes.

2. Minimize the risk of abuse.

3. Reduce the risk of their illicit production, demand and traffic.

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCOTROPIC SUBSTANCES FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

México’s average per capita consumption of morphine for 2013: 1.07 mg
54% lower than average

- Became mandatory for all Health institutions to have operational and overall policy schemes for palliative care.

- COFEPRIS had to develop the operational guidelines for special prescription books for controlled substances. As a result, COFEPRIS created the electronic prescription books for opioids.

- COFEPRIS had to establish guidelines to facilitate the access and assure the supply of opioids.

Source: Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS)
Pain reduction and Palliative care

Characteristics of Prescription books

- Doctor data is protected
- Authorization via internet
- 200 prescriptions per application
- 1 day response.
- Prescription validation in pharmacies.
- Traceability of medicines.

Results*

- 4,643 doctors with electronic prescription books (300% increase).

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
ACTIONS FOR DRUG CONTROL
Objectives

- Technical capabilities
- Detection of illicit crops.
- Comprehensive public policies.
- Combat the supply and demand of drugs.

Goals

1. Sown area
2. Yield Kg/ha
3. Chemical analysis

Generation of evidence-based policies

Publication "Poppy Crop Monitoring 2014-2015".

Obtaining the morphine concentration of the samples collected in the field.

Study of illicit crops through field work, to obtain the yield of the same.

Source: MEXK54 Program
The results were published in June 2016 in a national report and in the 2016 World Drug Report.

For the period July 2014 - June 2015, the information was evaluated by the UNODC-Vienna to obtain the estimate of the area sown with poppy crops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results 2014 - 2015¹</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
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For the period July 2015-June 2016, the estimate of poppy crops has been calculated.

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¹ Las cifras correspondientes a 2015 publicadas en la página 51 del Informe Mundial sobre las Drogas 2016 (publicación de las Naciones Unidas, número de venta: S. 16. XI. 7) se han revisado debido a un ajuste estadístico procesado por la UNODC. Estas Cifras corresponden al periodo de estimación de julio de 2014 a junio de 2015.

Source: MEXK54 Project

https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_2_HEALTH.pdf

Documento de uso cerrado
Procedure used to collect field data

1. Elección de la dirección del transecto al azar.
2. Medición del transecto con cinta métrica.
3. Selección de 3 números aleatorios para ubicar las parcelas de 1 m²
4. Ubicación de las parcelas de 1 m² sobre la línea del transecto.
5. Limpieza de la parcela 1 m² para realizar la colecta de los datos.
6. Conteo del número de plantas, botones, flores, etc.
7. Medición de la altura y ancho de las plantas.
8. Conteo del número de rayas y medición de altura y ancho de los bulbos.
9. Registro de los datos en los Formularios 1 y 2.
2. STRENGTHENING THE PROCESS OF COLLECTING DATA OF ERADICATION ACTIVITIES MEXW34

1. Compile information
   Generate file in application (Information and images)

2. Data transmission via satellite

3. Compile Information in Institutional Databases

4. Monitor, collect and report information on eradication activities of illicit crops nationwide.

Source: MEXK34 Project
PROFILING PROGRAM

RISK ANALYSIS

PEOPLE

COMPANIES

VEHICLES

GEO-SPATIAL TIME FRAME

ROUTES

NATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

FOCUS

PRIORITIZE

NATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

TYPE

ORIGIN

DESTINATION

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
Scientific evidence

Profiling

It involves the collection and systematic organization of information: quantitative, qualitative, drug samples, biological samples, among others.

Identification

Fully identify a substance, with total certainty.

Early Warning System

Disseminate information on the emergence of new psychoactive substances and/or new patterns of drug use.

Concealment

Packaging

Implement strategies and prevention programs based on scientific evidence to focus and prioritize attention to the demand and supply of drugs.

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
Quantitative 
Drug 
Samples 
Qualitative 
Know the 
nature of the 
substance 
Presumptive evidence 
Confirmatory tests 
Purity of the 
narcotics and 
composition 
Cutting agents (Adulterants and thinners) 
Physical analysis (Color, presentation, packaging, concealement mode, etc.) 
Chemical analysis (All substances within the sample are identified, such as active principle, excipient, etc.)

Implement strategies and prevention programs based on scientific evidence to focus and prioritize attention to the demand and supply of drugs.

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
1. Inter-institutional Group to continue promoting activities throughout Mexico and monitoring inventories of morphine.

2. Statistical analysis of electronic platform records to generate new public policies and improve existing measures.

3. In conjunction with UNODC develop a diagnosis and promotion strategy for palliative care in Mexico City and a replicable throughout the country.

4. Support the implementation of palliative care schemes in the National Health System.

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
Guide for selling controlled medicines in pharmacies

Concentrates all regulatory information related to the access of controlled medicines.

Contents:

• Legal framework
• Self assessment questionnaire
• Detailed explanation of electronic prescription books and their validation
• Detailed information about routine inspections, safety measures and sanctions.

Source: Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS)
In conjunction with UNODC prepare a diagnosis about service and availability of controlled medication in Mexico City’s Hospitals, to ensure access.

Distribute the Guide for selling controlled medicines in pharmacies

Assure traceability of controlled medicines

Monitor compliance with prescriptions

Assure there are no shortages and minimizing abuse risks

Inminent launch of the Electronic Control Books platform

Source: Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS)
- Preparation of a Surveillance List of non-controlled substances that can be used in the manufacture of drugs.
- Application of risk models.
- Addressing 100% for the review of sensitive merchandise (Fentanyl, its salts and other derivatives of piperidine).
- Send alerts of risk identified by analyzing the information.
- Specific training on the use and safe handling of Fentanyl, aimed at the first respondents.
- Strengthen the exchange of information between equivalent authorities of the countries (origin and destination).

- Rapid market development, expansion and diversification.

- Poor perception of risk and poor perception of legality
Increasing challenges to identify transnational criminal groups.

New dynamic involving production, trafficking and marketing.

Accurate data, Real Time, Good practices.
CONCLUSIONS

- Palliative care in Mexico has a human rights perspective
- Mexico has advanced in facilitating access
- There are significant challenges ahead
- Technology is fundamental

Source: National High Level Drug Policy Group.
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