



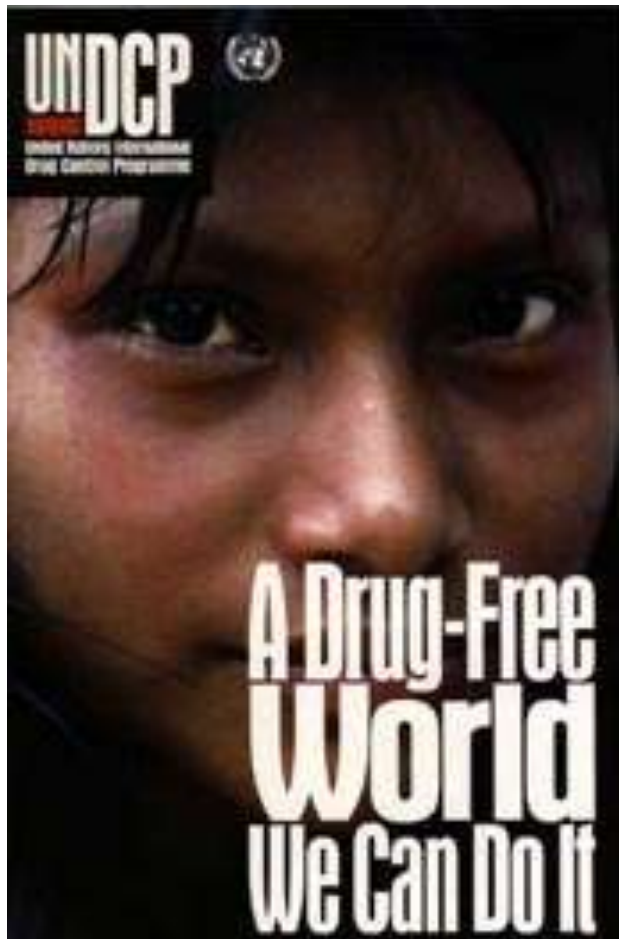
UNGASS 2016 on the world drug problem

Tom Blickman – TNI

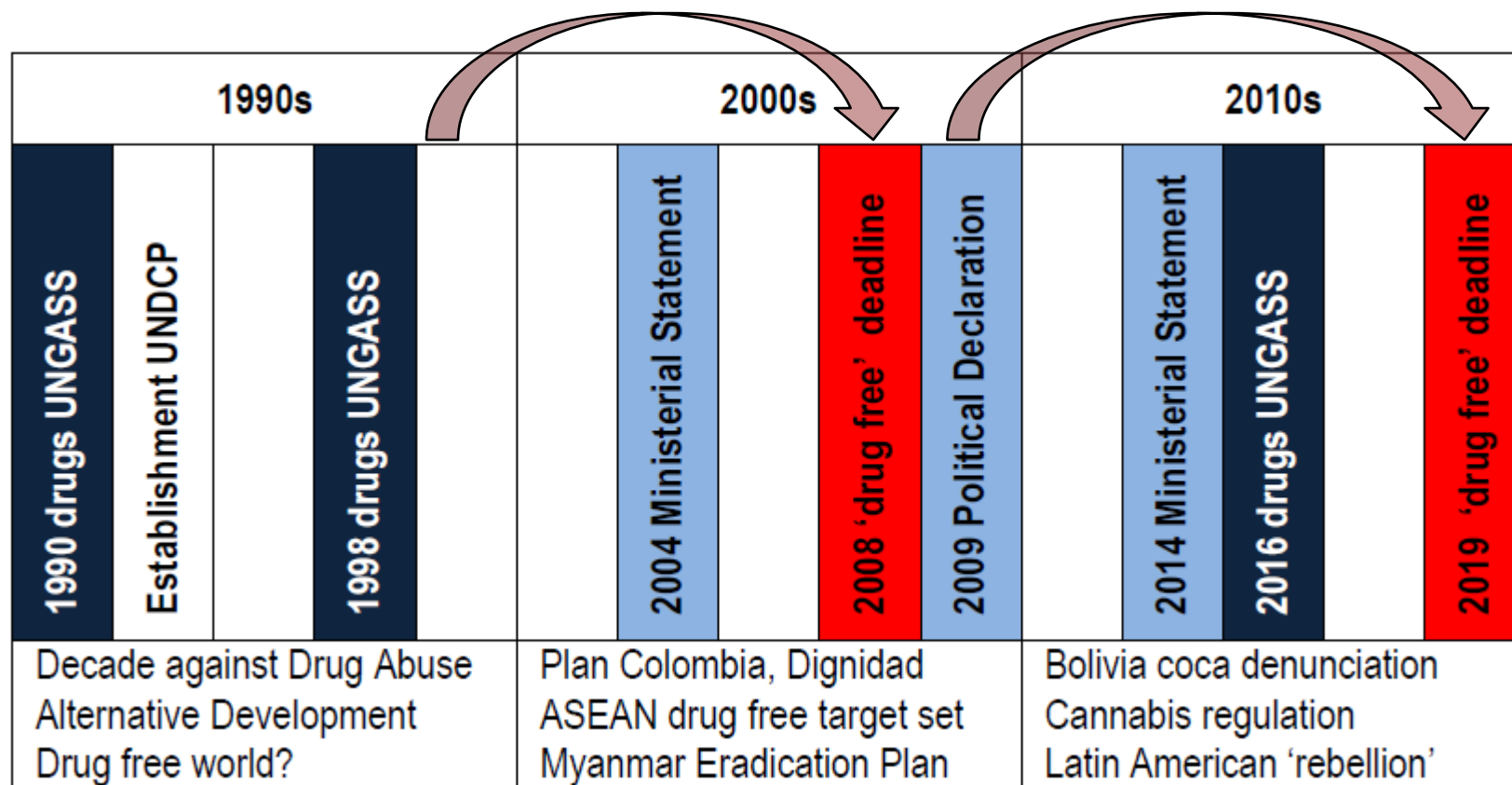
tblickman@tni.org

Florence – 14 February 2015

1998 UNGASS



UNGASS 1990 – 1998 - 2016

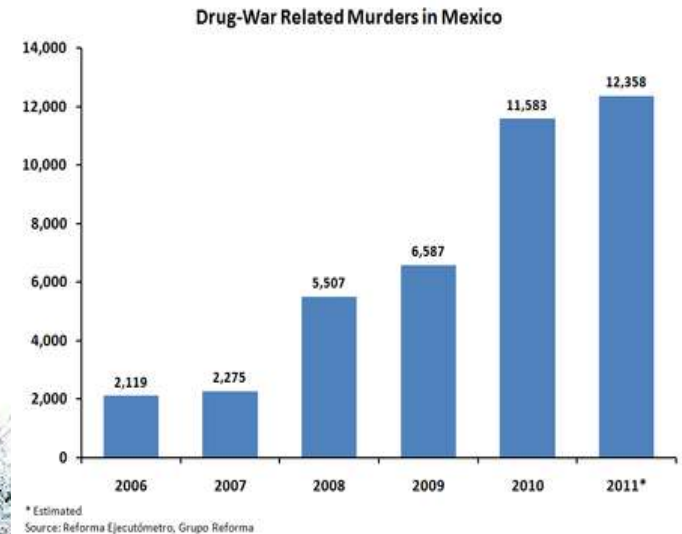


Background: 1998 UNGASS & review

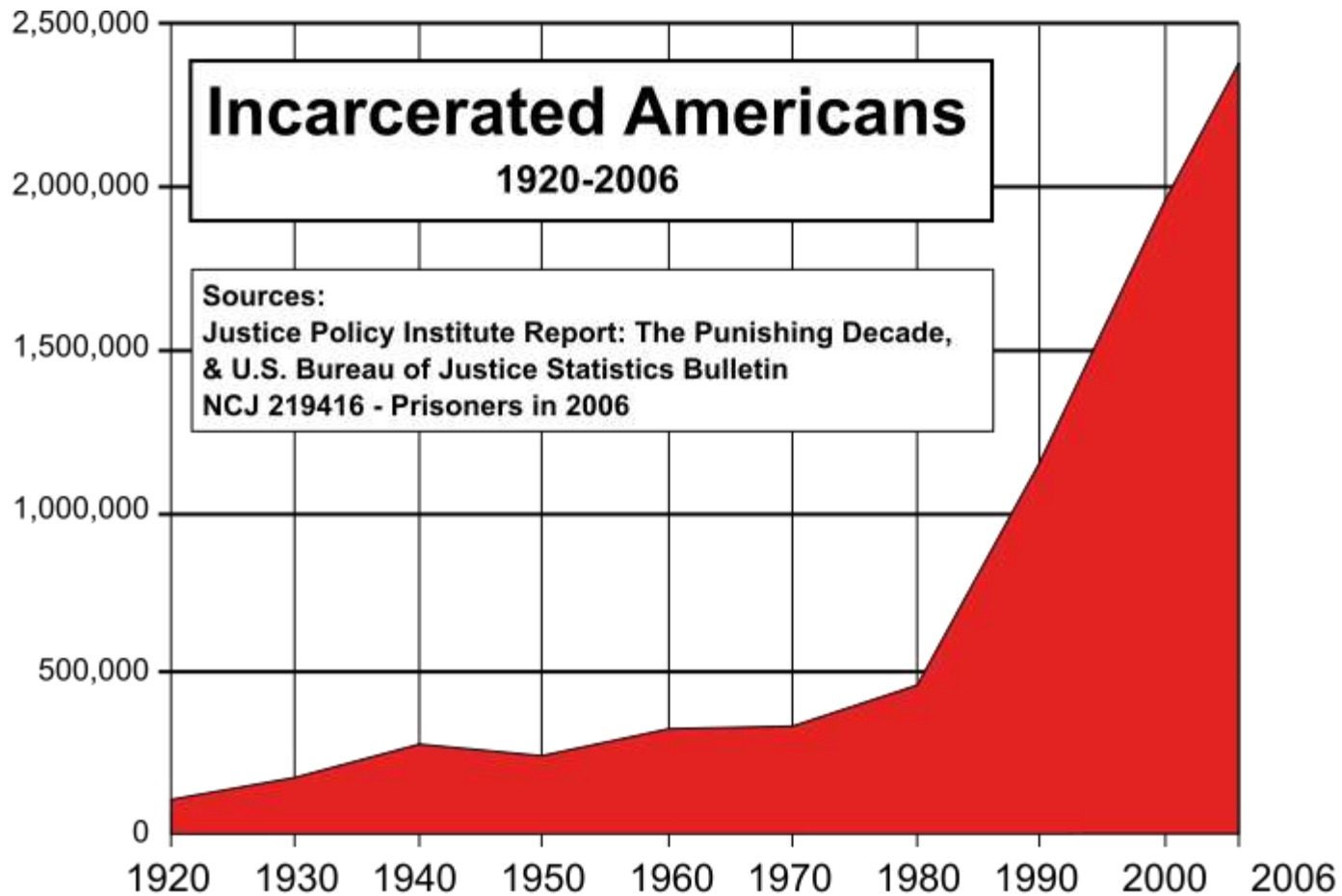
- Latin American initiative: balanced approach
- Europe: guiding principles demand reduction
- Progress: ‘reducing adverse consequences’
- Progress: ‘Alternative Development’
- ‘Eliminate coca, poppy and cannabis by 2008’
- 2009 CND review: no progress, no change?
- ‘Eliminate coca, poppy and cannabis by 2019’

Escalation 'War on Drugs'

- Militarisation
- Human rights violations
- Aerial spraying
- Mass incarceration
- Explosion of violence

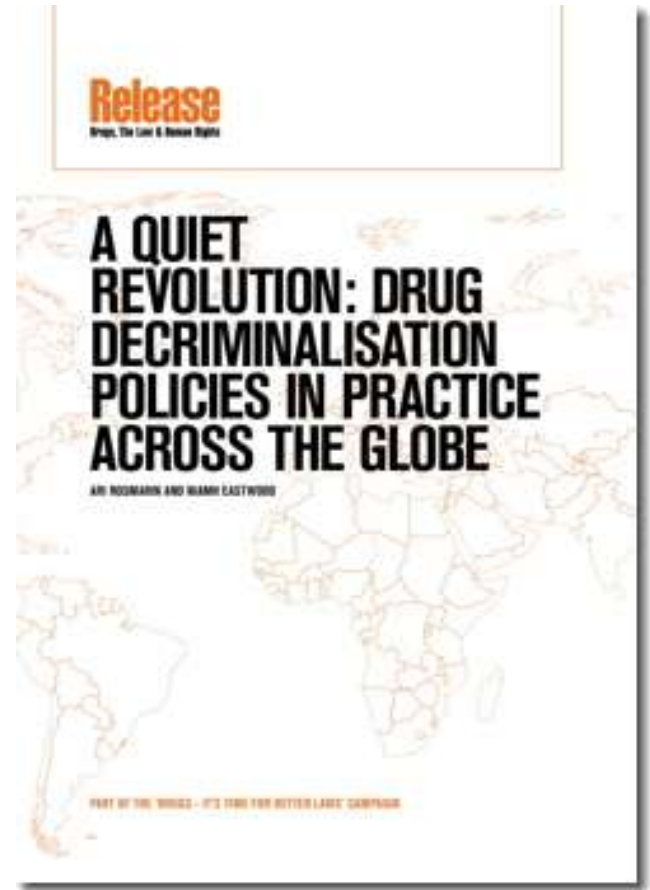


Incarceration explodes

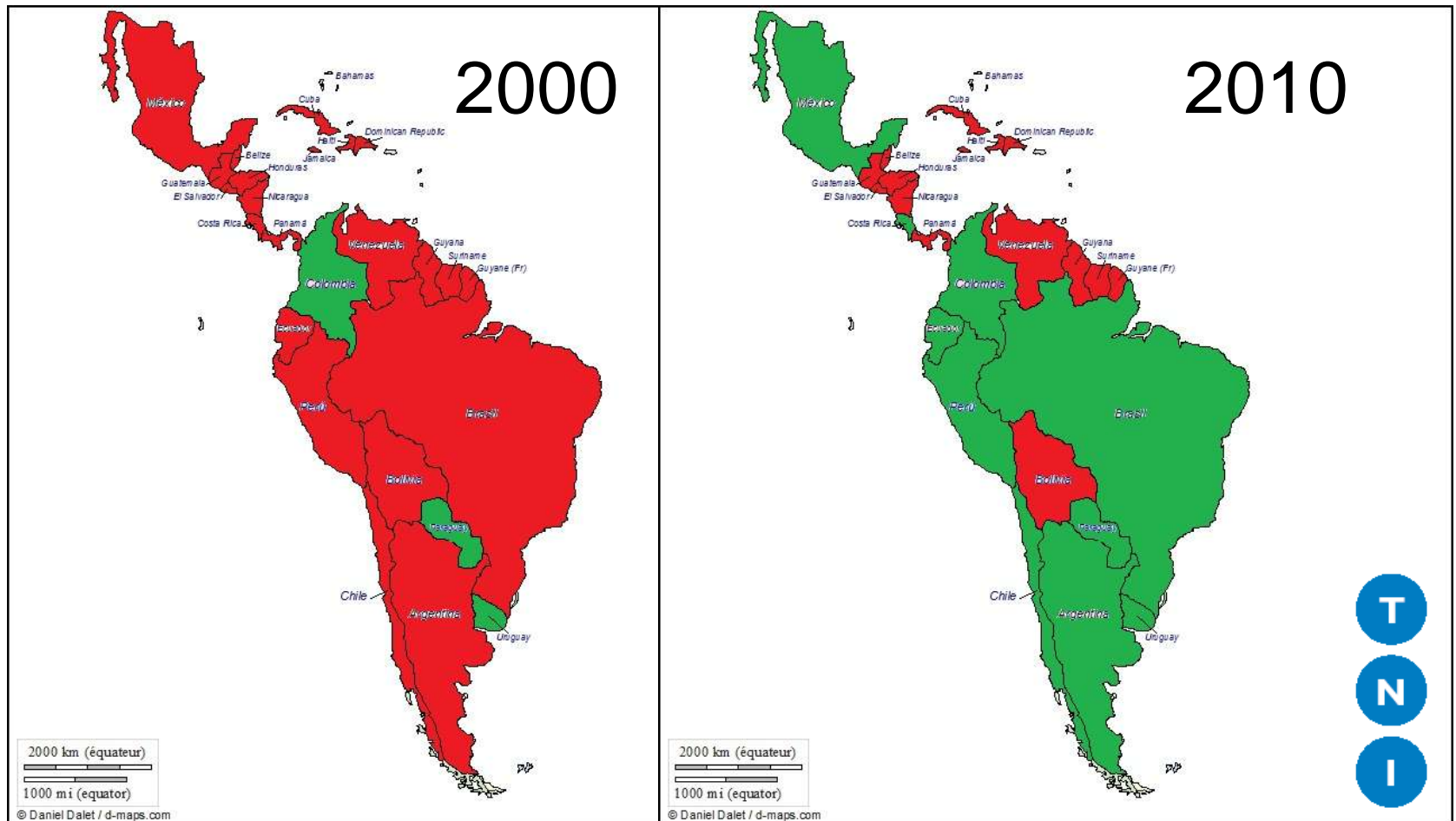


Decriminalisation: a quiet revolution

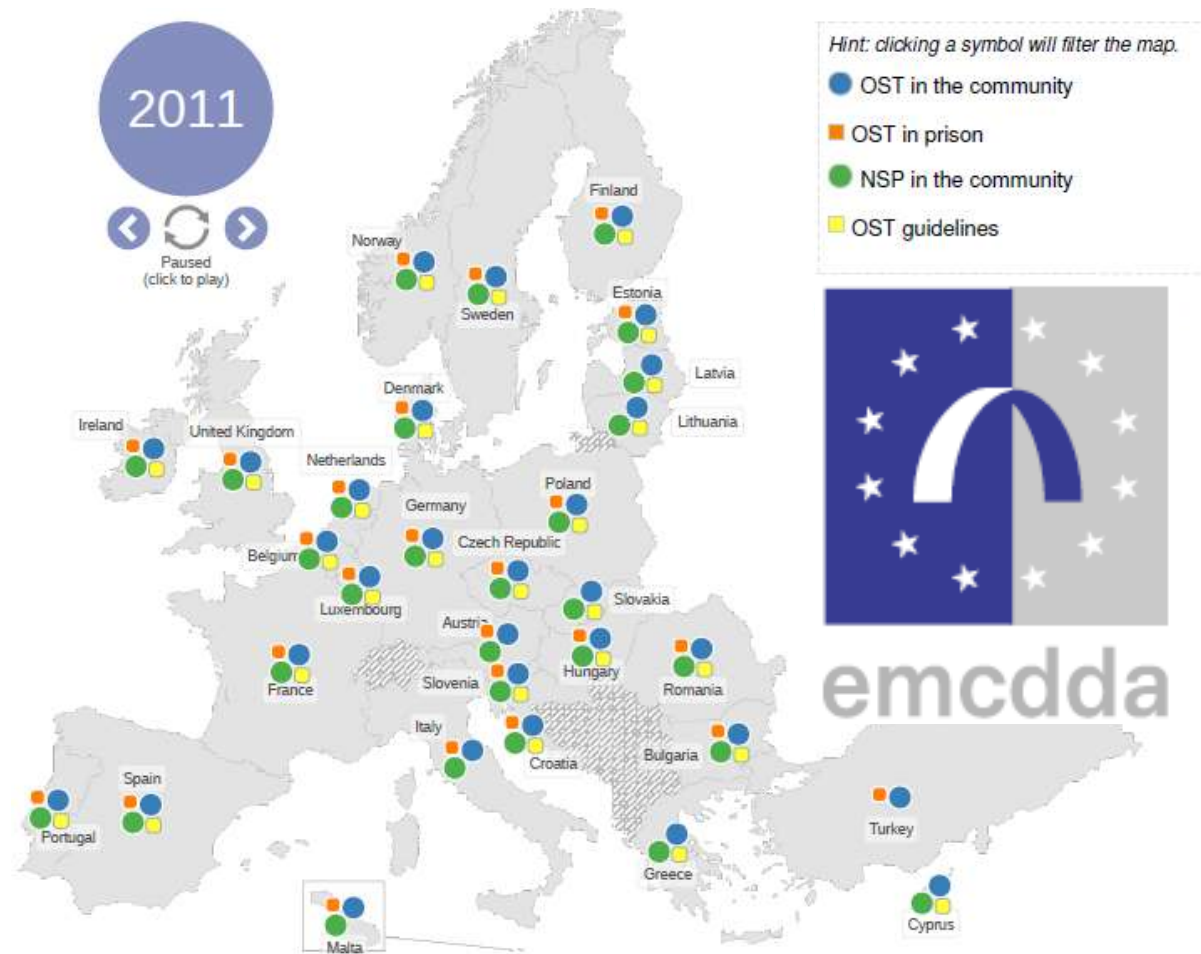
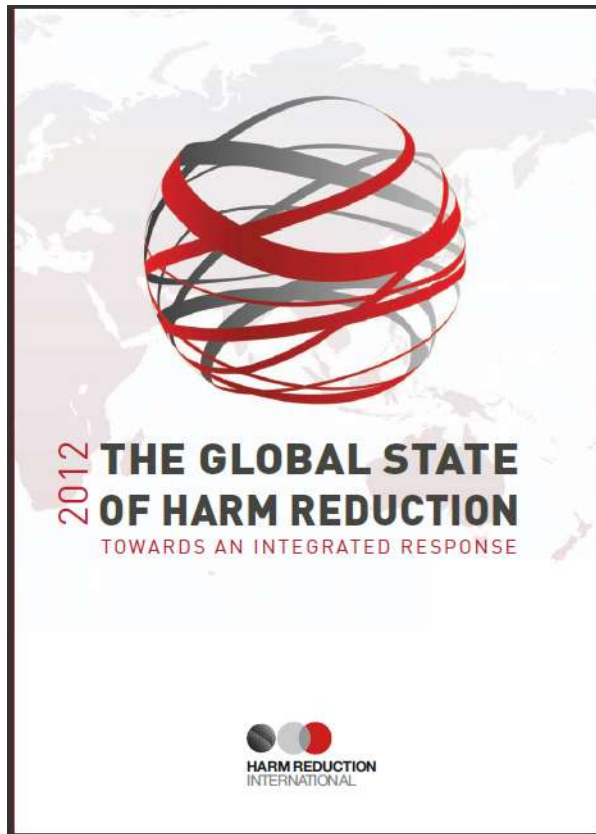
Argentina	Netherlands (de facto)
Australia (state level)	Paraguay
Belgium	Peru
Brazil	Poland
Chile	Portugal
Colombia	Spain
Costa Rica	Uruguay
Czech Republic	United States (state level)
Estonia	
Germany	
Italy	
Mexico	



Decriminalisation 2000 - 2010



Harm reduction: practice & paradigm



Challenge 1: scheduling

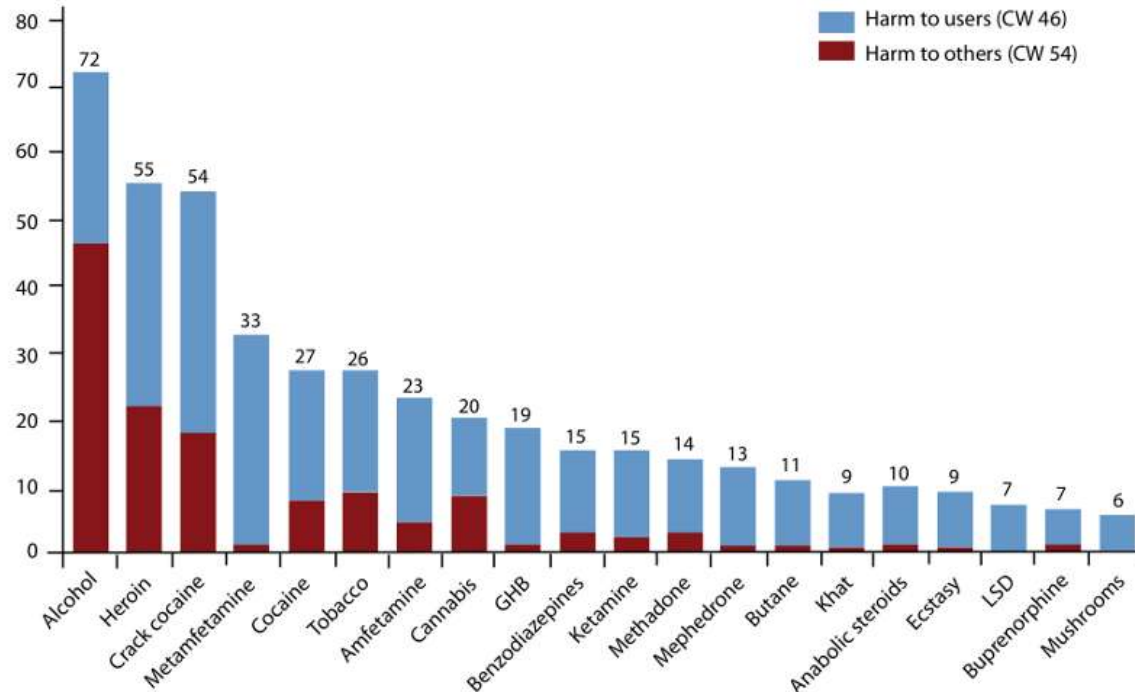
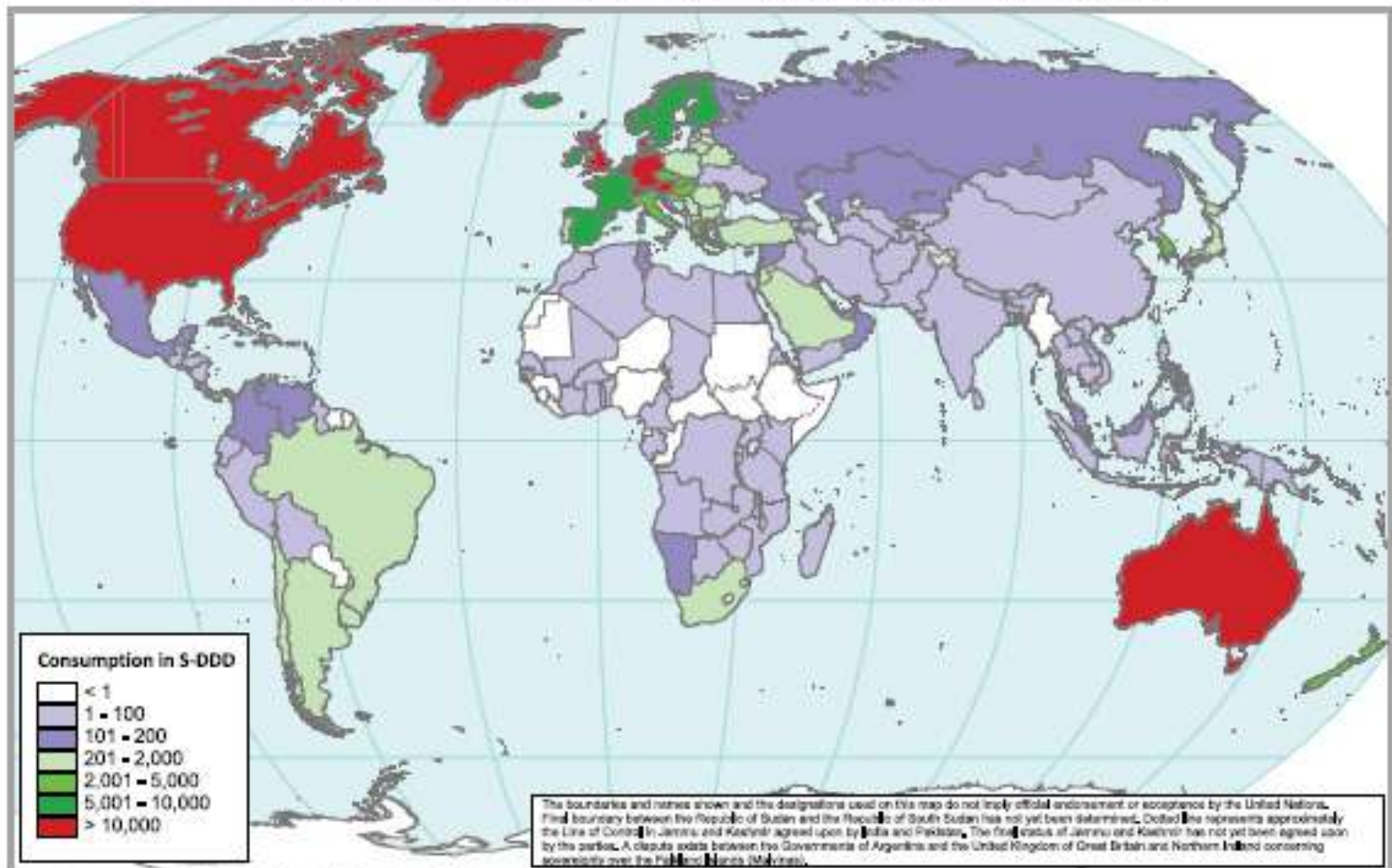


Figure 2

Drugs ordered by their overall harm scores, showing the separate contributions to each overall score of harm to users and harm to others. The cumulative weights (CWs) after normalization (potentially ranging from 0 to 100), as shown in the key, are 46 for sum of all normalized weights for all criteria related to harm to users and 54 for sum of all normalized weights for all criteria related to harm to others. GHB = γ -hydroxybutyric acid, LSD = lysergic acid diethylamide. Reprinted with kind permission of *The Lancet* from Nutt et al. (2010).⁴⁴

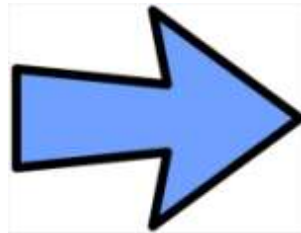
Challenge 2: essential medicines

Availability of opioids* for pain management (2010-2012 average)
(Consumption in defined daily doses for statistical purposes (S-DDD) per million inhabitants per day)



[†]Cocaine, zalcitabine, d,l-hydroxyphenylisopropylamine, fenfluramine, hydroxyzine, ketobemidone, morphine, oxycodone, salbutamol, salicylic acid and trimethoprim.

Challenge 3: pharmaceuticals

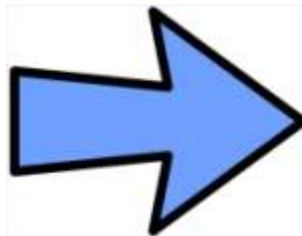


Usual Dosage: Read accompanying prescribing literature.

Swallow tablets whole.

Do not crush or chew.

Dispense in a tight, light-resistant container. Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted between 15°-30°C (59°-86°F).



Attention Dispenser: Accompanying Medication Guide must be provided to the patient upon dispensing.

NDC 59011-103-10

OxyContin® 

(oxycodone hydrochloride controlled-release) tablets

20 mg

100 Tablets Rx Only

Purdue Pharma L.P.

U.S. Patent Nos. 7,109,248; 7,674,799; 7,674,800; and 7,683,072.

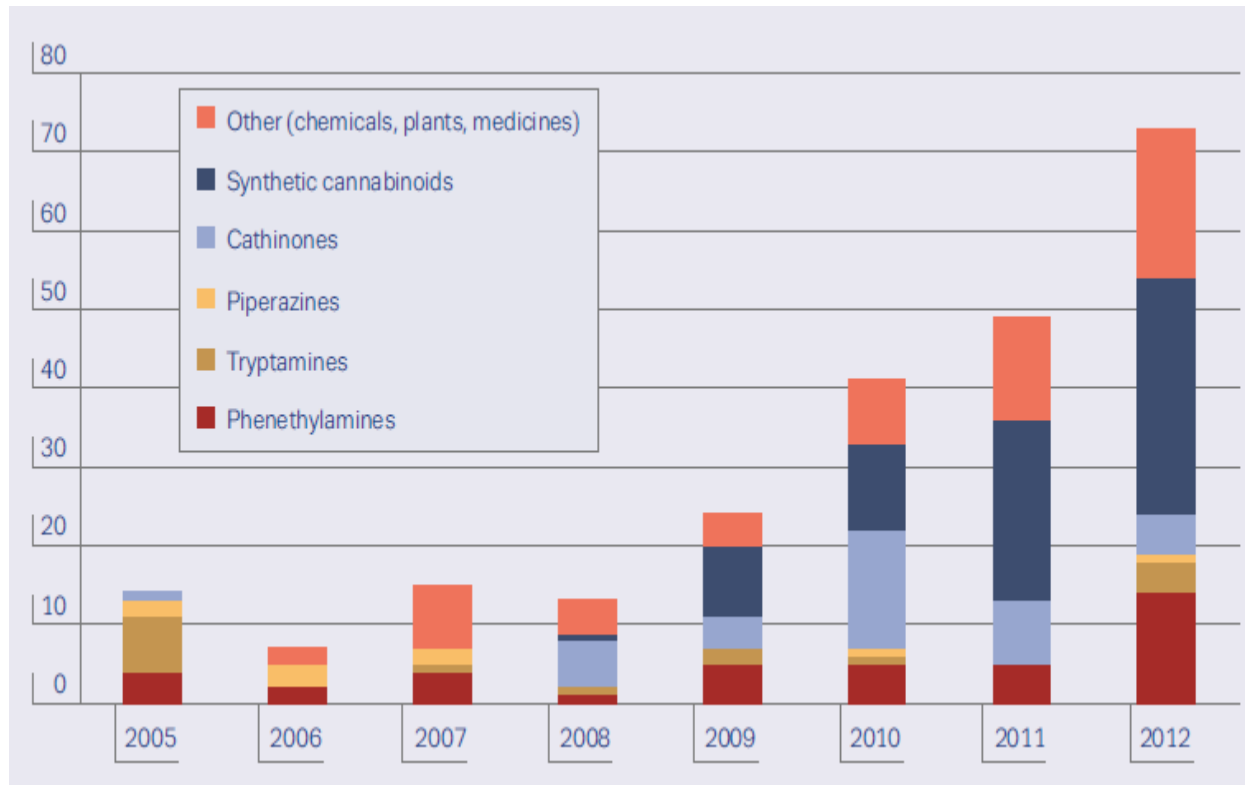
This package contains a radio frequency device.



Purdue Pharma L.P.
Stamford, CT 06901-3431
xxxxxx-xx



Challenge 4: 'legal highs'



Changes in drug policy landscape since 2009

Traditional use: coca leaf

- Bolivia: Evo Morales & indigenous rights
- 2011: amendment Single Convention fails
- 2012: withdrawal from the treaty
- 2013: re-adherence with reservation



Changes in drug policy landscape since 2009

Cannabis regulation Uruguay



“Someone has to be first...”

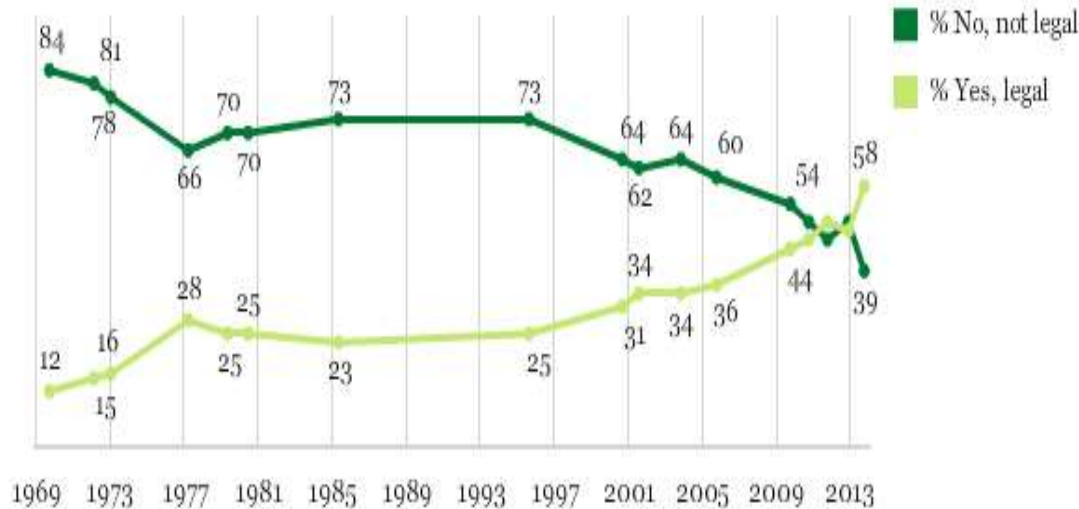


Changes in drug policy landscape since 2009

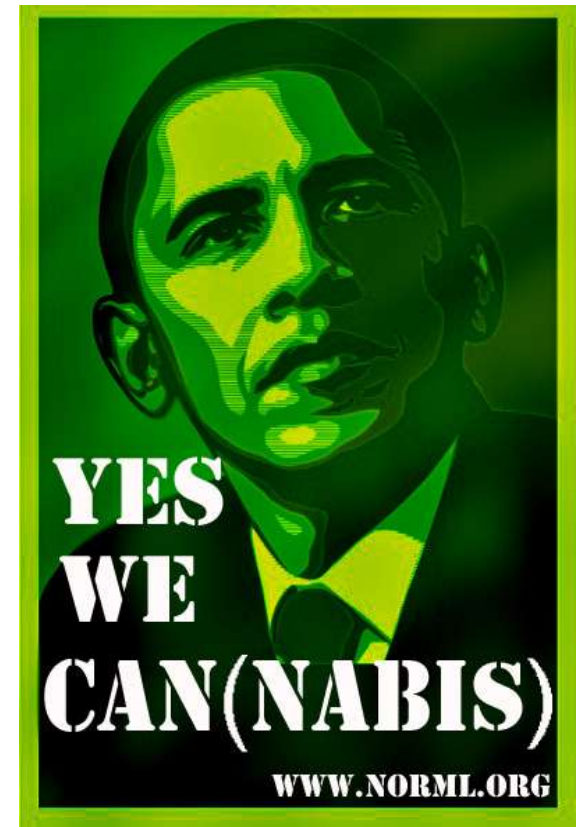
Cannabis regulation USA

Americans' Views on Legalizing Marijuana

Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?



GALLUP®



Changes in drug policy landscape since 2009

Cannabis regulation Europe?

- Bottom up initiatives
- Social movements: Cannabis Social Clubs
- Local authorities advocate regulation

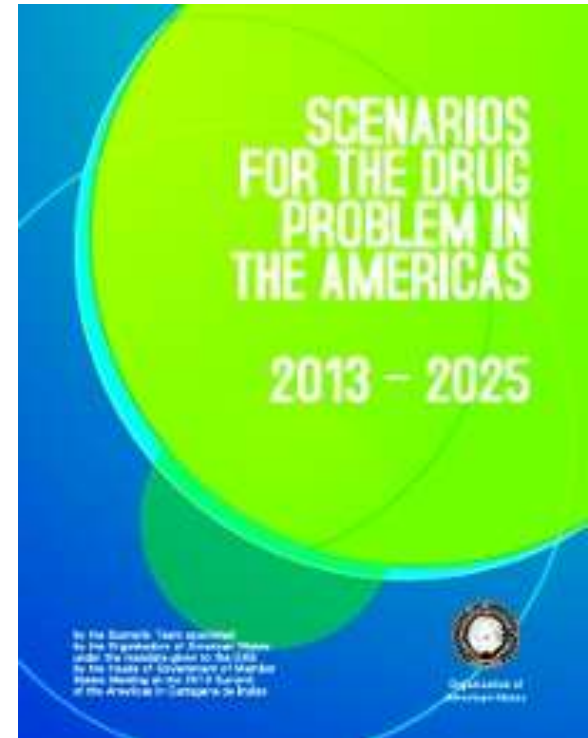


Background: 2016 UNGASS

- Latin American initiative (Mexico & Colombia) Cartagena Summit of the Americas (2012)
- Advance UNGASS from 2019 to 2016
- Frustration with the ineffectiveness and high costs of current drug control policies
- War on Drugs paradigm questioned: increased violence, overcrowding criminal justice system and prisons
- **“Explore new approaches to strengthen this struggle and become more effective” (Santos)**

OAS report & scenarios

- Cartagena summit mandate
- Analytical report
- Scenario planning process
- The four scenarios:
 - Together
 - Pathways
 - Resilience
 - Disruption



USA: flexibility?

Brownfield's 4 pillar proposal:

- 1) Defend the integrity of the conventions
- 2) Allow flexibility of interpretation
- 3) Permit some national differentiation
- 4) Continue fight against organised crime



William R. Brownfield, Assistant Secretary of State of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Reasons for Europe to join the debate

1. Inconsistency: old compromises & new challenges
2. Ineffectiveness: market resilience
3. Harm reduction: crime and violence
4. Financial crisis: budget cuts & tax revenues
5. Opportunity: breakthrough in the making

Latin America & Europe: common ground?

- Internal divides and political pressure to reach regional common positions on both sides
- Formal transatlantic drug policy dialogue structures very unhelpful and frustrating
- Some reform-oriented countries on both sides interested to explore more collaboration
- Doubts about a common reform agenda

Future of the UN Conventions?

- World Drug Report 1997: “**Laws** -and even the international Conventions- are not written in stone; they can be changed *when the democratic will of nations so wishes it.*”
- UNODC 2008: “*There is indeed a spirit of reform in the air, to make the conventions fit for purpose and adapt them to a reality on the ground that is considerably different from the time they were drafted.*”
- Insulza - OAS report 2013: “*With respect to United Nations conventions, changes could result from the possibility that the current system ... may become more flexible, thereby allowing parties to explore drug policy options that take into consideration their own specific practices and traditions.*”

Treaty reform options

- Amendments: require near consensus
- Re-scheduling: WHO review of coca leaf and cannabis?
- Denunciation and re-adherence with new reservation (Bolivia)
- **‘Inter se’ agreement:** like-minded group of countries modifies treaty provisions among themselves only
- Initiative for a new Single Convention, convening a Conference of the Parties? UN high level commission to evaluate current treaty system?
- Period of transformation between current UN system and future one: encourage countries to breach the conventions

Treaty reform requirements

- Growing disenchantment with current UN drug control system
- Increase in violations of UN conventions
- Overcome fear to start questioning current system (diplomatic nightmare)
- Like-minded group of countries to take the lead

Expectations UNGASS 2016

- Official outcomes: little chance for significant breakthrough. No questioning of UN drug conventions.
- Some progress on harm reduction, human rights and access to essential medicines (strong country statements)
- Process: good opportunity to show consensus is broken and the system and conventions are outdated
- Hope: commission to evaluate if the current UN drug control system is fit for purpose and if conventions need to be revised

Timeline

- February 23: CND intersessional
- 9 – 12 March: CND preparation for UNGASS
- May 7: high-level thematic debate New York
- March 2016: final CND preparation
- April 19-21, 2016: UNGASS