Prescription Drug Misuse: France and Italy
Today’s Goals

• Prescription drug misuse in France and Italy
• Landscape overview
• Prescribing patterns
• Misuse by class
• Misuse by API
• Poison centres data (GTNet)
• Addiction centres data (Europad)
What is the RADARS® System?

- Supported by subscriptions from pharmaceutical manufacturers, government, and non-government agencies for surveillance, research and reporting services.
- Property of Denver Health and Hospital Authority, a political subdivision of the State of Colorado.
- Denver Health retains exclusive ownership of all data, databases and systems. Subscribers do not participate in data collection nor do they have access to the raw data.
France: Landscape

• National Action Plan on Addiction focuses on:
  • Prevention, treatment, supply reduction, research, monitoring, and international cooperation
  • Illicit use and possession = criminal offenses
    • “Rapid and graduated” policy
    • Compulsory drug awareness course
• EMCDDA data
THE DRUG PROBLEM IN FRANCE AT A GLANCE

Drug use
In young adults (18-34 years) in the last year by primary drug:

- Cannabis: 21.8%
  - Female: 14.6%
  - Male: 29.1%
- Other drugs:
  - MDMA: 1.3%
  - Amphetamines: 0.6%
  - Cocaine: 3.2%

All treatment entrants

Overdose deaths

Drug law offences

223,509

Top 5 drugs seized

1. Cannabis resin
2. Herbal cannabis
3. Cocaine
4. Heroin
5. Amphetamine

Opioid substitution treatment clients

New HIV diagnoses attributed to injecting

Population

(15-64 years)

41,739,037

Source: Eurostat Extracted on: 18/03/2019

Syringes distributed

through specialised programmes

210,000
(180,000 - 240,000)

11,907,416

Source: ECDC
France: Prescribing patterns

- Increasing prescribing for 3 of 4 opioids
- Tramadol most dispensed
- Codeine close behind
France: Poison Centres (GTNet)
Misuse Rate per Population

![Graph showing misuse rate per population for different drugs over years.](image-url)
France: Poison Centres (GTNet) Misuse Rate per Units Sold

- Codeine
- Tramadol
- Oxycodone
- Morphine
France: Addiction Centres (Europad)
Misuse Rate per Population

- Codeine
- Morphine
- Tramadol
- Oxycodone
France: Addiction Centres (Europad)
Misuse Rate per Units Sold
France: Conclusions

- Rising rates of opioid prescribing
- Poison centres show tramadol and codeine most misused per population
  - Oxycodone emerges when adjusted per drug availability
- Addiction centres show all opioids misused
  - Oxycodone emerges when adjusted per drug availability
Italy: Landscape

• National Action Plan on Drugs
  • Demand reduction: prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration
  • Supply reduction: evaluation, monitoring, legislation, supply reduction, juvenile justice
• Illicit use not specifically criminal
  • Possession = 1st offense warning, 2nd offense administrative sanctions
  • Option for socio-rehabilitation and therapeutic programme
• EMCDDA data
THE DRUG PROBLEM IN ITALY AT A GLANCE

Drug use

In young adults (15-34 years) in the last year

Cannabis

20.9%

Other drugs

MDMA 0.8%
Amphetamines 0.3%
Cocaine 1.7%

Top 5 drugs seized

ranked according to quantities measured in kilograms
1. Herbal cannabis
2. Cannabis resin
3. Cocaine
4. Heroin
5. Metamphetamphetamine

Drug law offenders

73 804

Overdose deaths

by primary drug

73 804

Opioid substitution treatment clients

69 642

New HIV diagnoses attributed to injecting

Population

38 878 311

(15-64 years)

High-risk opioid users

235 000

(223 000 - 247 000)

Source: Eurostat Extracted on: 18/03/2019

Source: ECDC
Italy: Prescribing patterns

- Increasing prescribing for oxycodone
- Oxycodone and codeine most prescribed
Italy: General Population Misuse by Class

- Cannabinoids
- Pain Drugs
- Stimulants
- Sedatives
Italy: General Population Misuse by APIs

Graph showing the rate per 100,000 population and rate per 100,000 standard units for Tramadol, Codeine, Morphine, and Oxycodone.
Italy: Addiction Centres (Europad)
Misuse Rate per Population

![Graph showing misuse rate per population for Tramadol, Codeine, Oxycodone, and Morphine from 2015 to 2018. Tramadol shows a steady increase, while Codeine decreases, Oxycodone increases sharply in 2018, and Morphine remains stable.]
Italy: Addiction Centres (Europad)
Misuse Rate per Units Sold

- Tramadol
- Oxycodone
- Codeine
- Morphine
Italy: Conclusions

• Rising rates of oxycodone prescribing
• General population shows pain and sedative medications most misused
  • Codeine most misused per population
  • Morphine most misused per drug availability
• Addiction centres show tramadol and codeine most misused
  • Morphine emerges when adjusted per drug availability