2020 World Drug Report: Access to Controlled Medicines

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Addressing supply inequity: progress has been slow

- 90% of the world's opioids are used by 12% of the population (10% for palliative care)

- 88% of the population use 10% of the world's opioids = insufficient access to essential medicines such as morphine for palliative care

![Opioid Supply Chart]

- High-income countries: 90%
- Rest of the world: 10%
Barriers to opioids in low-middle income countries

FIG. 8  Reported impediments to the availability of controlled medicines for pain management, 2018

- Lack of training/awareness of professionals
- Fear of addiction
- Problems in sourcing
- Fear of diversion
- Trade control measures
- Limited financial resources
- Cultural attitudes
- Fear of prosecution/sanctions
- Onerous regulations


Note: The percentage represents the proportion of responding countries that mentioned each of the factors as an impediment to the availability of pain medications. Multiple responses were possible.
Addressing oversupply

Regulation and prescription monitoring are some of the key ways that we control access to prescription opioids.

How well do we understand their effects (intended and unintended)?

50% reduction in prescription opioid supply between 2010 and 2018
Unintended consequences of opioid supply reduction

**FIG. 2** Global amounts available for medical consumption of selected opioids (including preparations), 1998–2018

Seago et al. Change in prescription habits after federal rescheduling of hydrocodone combination products. *Proc (Baylor Univ Med Cent)* 2016


Diverse problems with synthetic opioids

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl, sold as falsified oxycodone

Container of seized tramadol, Nigeria
Access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

- Globally, only **one in eight** who need drug treatment can access it
- Some countries are relatively well served with MOUD
- Many countries have no access to these essential medicines (methadone and buprenorphine)

Larney et al. 2017 Global, regional, and country-level coverage of interventions to prevent and manage HIV and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs: a systematic review
Thank you!

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