

9TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



University of Maribor

Faculty of
Criminal Justice and Security



Erasmus+




Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND RELATED ISSUES IN SLOVENIA

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ILLEGAL DRUGS

- Production, distribution, and possession are legally restricted or prohibited
- Strictly controlled use: veterinary medicine, scientific research, medicine, and education
- REGULATION ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF ILLICIT DRUGS



GROUP I : 405



GROUP II: 119



GROUP III: 76



METHODS OF DRUG USE

01.

ORAL CONSUMPTION



02.

INHALATION THROUGH THE NOSE



03.

SMOKING AND INHALATION



04.

INJECTION



05.

ABSORPTION THROUGH THE MUCOSA



ADDICTION / DEPENDENCE

ADDICTION

- loss of control over one's behavior
- compulsive pursuit of a substance or activity despite harmful consequences
- intense craving
- (drugs, alcohol, gambling, the internet...)

DEPENDENCE

- tolerance (requiring increasingly higher doses to achieve the same effect)
- withdrawal crisis



OVERDOSE

FACTS AND RISKS

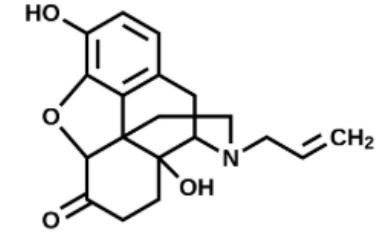
- Most opioid users experience an overdose at least once (either personally or as a witness).
- Deadly combinations: Mixing opioids (e.g., heroin) with alcohol or benzodiazepines leads to critical nervous system depression and respiratory arrest.
- A rising number of deaths due to synthetic cannabinoids and unpredictable new psychoactive substances.

RECOGNITION AND ACTION

- The education of users and bystanders is crucial for survival.
- It is essential to have an antidote on hand, which can prevent a fatal outcome in an instant.



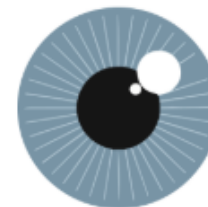
NALOXONE



- A specific opioid antagonist with high affinity for receptors.
- It displaces opioid molecules (heroin, methadone, fentanyl) from receptors in the brain.
- If there are no opioids in the body, it has no pharmacological effect (does not cause intoxication or dependence)
- Practical use in Slovenia
- nasal spray (easy for laypeople to use, no needles required).
- just as reliable as injection.



USE IN CASES OF SUSPECTED OVERDOSE:



REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS IN SLOVENIA



Each region has specific characteristics that shape drug use patterns and local issues.



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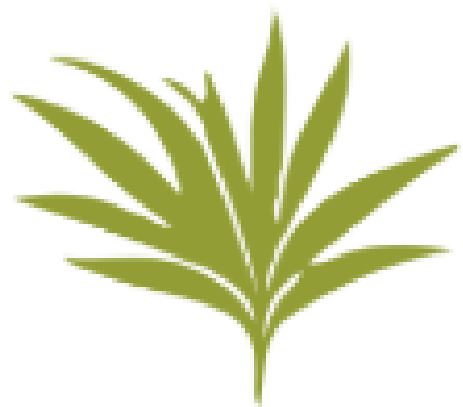


Central Slovenia Region:
Highest overall prevalence of drug use among the population.



Gorenjska Region: Particularly pronounced local stress and a strong sense of the issue within the community.

REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS IN SLOVENIA



The use of cannabis for medical purposes and the misuse of prescription drugs stand out.



To ensure effective action, it is essential to take into account the specific characteristics of the local environment.



Data on individuals with drug-related problems confirm the existence of this issue in all regions.

DRUG SITUATION IN SLOVENIA



01.

Drug Use in General Population

- Cannabis: 22%
- Ecstasy: 3.3%
- Cocaine: 3.1%
- Amphetamines: 2.7%
- Age group: 15–64

02.

High-Risk Drug Use in Slovenia

- Heroin in treatment:
- 2024: 52.4%
- 2025: 39.0%

SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF DRUG USERS

01.

Stigma, health problems, and a lack of support exacerbate social exclusion.

02.

High-risk opioid users (4,480 people) are among the most vulnerable.

03.

Incarceration further exacerbates social exclusion (25.3% of incarcerated individuals had issues with illicit drugs).

04.

Support programs help, but stigma often hinders timely engagement.





THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
ATTENTION