Drug-induced deaths reported in 2013: preliminary results for discussion

João Matias, Isabelle Giraudon, Julián Vicente

EMCDDA expert group on the key-indicator
Drug-related deaths and mortality among drug users
October 2013
In the period 1995–2012, between 6 300 and 8 400 drug-induced deaths were reported each year in Europe.

Most fatal overdoses are associated with opioids (typically over 85%).

Around 500 cocaine-related deaths were reported last year.

Following an overall falling trend in drug-induced deaths between 2000 and 2003, subsequent data show an increase. Peak reached in 2008.

Recent data (2013 reports, 2012/2011 data) suggest a slight increase.
Drug-induced deaths in Europe – New Trend

New EU totals and trend
- UK new definition (Selection B)
Drug-induced deaths – ST 5 and 6

Source: Fonte 2013 reports

• ~ 6 400 fatal overdoses reported in 2013

  • 27 countries have submitted new data so far

  • 16 countries report an increase in the most recent data

  • 16 countries have provided information on the toxicological findings

  • Only 6 countries do not have as national definition neither Selection B nor D
Drug-induced deaths: Age and gender

Source: Fonte 2013 reports

Mean age at death

- 36 years

DRD with opioids

- 80%

Gender distribution

- 23% female
- 77% male

Age distribution

- <25: 4%
- 25-39: 10%
- 40-64: 39%
- >64: 47%

emcdda.europa.eu
Mortality rates due to drug-induced deaths among all adults

Source: SB 2013, based on reports received in 2012

EU average 18 per million

DRD account for 4% of the overall mortality among young adults
Drug-induced deaths in Europe - Trends

(data still under validation – 2013 Fonte reports)

Decrease until 2003

Peak in 2008
Drug-induced deaths in Europe - Trends

Source: Fonte 2013 reports

- Males
- Females

Year: 2001 to 2012

Numbers:
- Males: 7000 to 1000
- Females: 4000 to 1000

emcdda.europa.eu
Proportion of drug-induced deaths among females in Europe

Source: Fonte 2013 reports
Female drug-induced deaths – age profile

Source: Fonte 2013 reports

- >64: 8.9%
- 40-64: 44.1%
- 25-39: 35.9%
- <25: 11.1%
Trends and patterns of drug-induced deaths

Source: Fonte 2013 reports

- New data (2013) suggest a similar overall number of DRD
- More than half of the countries (16/27) report an increase
  - 6300 DRD in 2011
  - 6400 DRD in 2012 (provisional, based on 2013 reports)
Drugs-induced deaths: changes in most recent data (2013/2012 reports)

Source: Fonte 2013 reports - 27 countries received on 15 October 2013

Ratio between most recent number and previous number reported (mostly 2012/2011 data)

Countries not included: CZ and FI are not mentioned as the data according to national definition is not yet available. Both countries report, though in 2013 an increase in the number according to their alternative source (Selection B): from 132 to 165 cases in FI and from 22 to 32 cases in the CZ.

HL is not mentioned due to reporting delays which do not allow comparing 2013 reports with previous reports.

FR and PT were not available at the time of presenting these data. BE most recent data are from 2009.
Drug-induced deaths: Toxicology reports

Source: Fonte 2013 reports

- So far 16 countries reported detailed toxicological information

- 9 countries filled in the whole section (i.e. including the presence of psychoactive medicines and of alcohol)

- 4 countries submitted data from GMRs

- Complete data is a valuable source of information which allows analysing the cases beyond the basic ‘opioid vs no opioid’ breakdown of the core ST5 data
Proportion of drug-induced deaths with opioids for the most recent year

Source: Fonte 2013 reports

Mixed/unknown
Without opioids
With opioids

Belgium
Czech Republic
Estonia
Ireland
Greece
France
Croatia
Italy
Cyprus
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Hungary
Malta
Austria
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Finland
Turkey
Norway
Toxicological findings (based on Standard Table 5 – Section 4) – mention of substances

Source: Fonte 2013 reports
Toxicological findings (based on Standard Table 5 – Section 4) – mention of different opioids

Source: Fonte 2013 reports
Toxicological findings (based on Standard Table 5 – Section 4) – Heroin mentions (n= 419) and breakdown of other substances

Source: Fonte 2013 reports
Toxicological findings (based on Standard Table 5 – Section 4) – Methadone mentions (n=394) and breakdown of other substances

Source: Fonte 2013 reports
Interpreting the numbers of drug-induced deaths...

May be influenced by...

- Prevalence and patterns of drug use (polydrug, injecting drug use, medicines and alcohol use...)
- Age and co-morbidities of drug users
- Availability of OD prevention, treatment and emergency services
- Quality of the data collection and reporting

Revision of the Statistical Bulletin. Ideas welcome!

emcdda.europa.eu
28 May 2013: European Drug Report

EUROPEAN DRUG REPORT 2013

A set of interlinked elements allowing full access to the available data and analysis on the drugs problem in Europe

Trends and developments providing a top-level analysis of key developments

Statistical bulletin containing full data arrays, explanatory graphics and methodological information

Country overviews national data and analysis at your fingertips

Perspectives on drugs interactive windows on key issues

emcdda.europa.eu