

## **Brief outlines for papers on cocaine deaths**

Suggestions based on the report for the EMCDDA on cocaine DRDs in Europe

### **Paper 1 - Survey/review of information on how cocaine DRDs are identified, classified and reported in Europe**

Background to the issue and EMCDDA study

Summary of relevant methods used in EMCDDA project: survey & data collection

Aspects to cover

- Problems/challenges
- Commonalities and differences
- Types of approach
- Types of sources used
- Types of death identified/not identified

Discussion – to cover any other publications/grey literature bearing on these issues

- Definitions
- Sources used to identify cases
- What needs to be done to improve comparability and identifying all types of cocaine-related deaths
- What is feasible and possible as a minimum

Conclusion & next steps

### **Paper 2 – Cocaine deaths in Europe – key findings from an international study**

Background to EMCDDA study

Study rationale

Methods used survey and data collection

Results

- Case identification and classification
- Trends in numbers
- Key characteristics of decedents and of deaths

Discussion

- Issues around identification and classification of cases
- Trends could be supplemented with other (published) data
- Reasons for trends – develop arguments in Mena et al (2012)
- Relationship of key findings to other studies

Conclusions & future directions

### **Paper 3 – Key characteristics of European cocaine DRDs**

Aim: to outline characteristics of decedents/victims and role of cocaine in deaths

Methods

- Literature review of papers (in major languages) looking at such aspects in Europe
- Background of EMCDDA study

Results

- Key findings from EMCDDA study
- Literature review
- Age, gender & other demographics (employment, addiction status, ethnicity?)
- Role of cocaine in death
- mechanism/cause
- intention
- substance combinations

Discussion

- How definitions and sources used for case identification in EMCDDA study compare to other studies

- Key characteristics of decedents and types of death – comparability across studies
- Conclusion & next steps – basis for what needs to be researched using individual case data

Invitations to contribute to any experts/registers that took part in the EMCDDA study and those that did not have the opportunity + Isabelle Giraudon, Julian Vincente, Guillermo Mena, Joao Matias

John Corkery, UK FP expert

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