

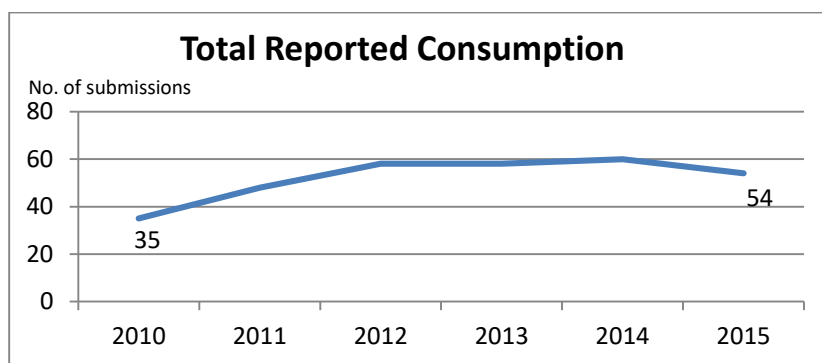
Reporting on consumption of psychotropic substances awaits further improvement

1. INCB is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 (hereafter, the 1971 Convention) while Governments are responsible for the actual implementation of the Convention. In concrete terms, the Board performs its function largely by reviewing the information that Governments are required to submit to it pursuant to article 16, paragraphs 4 and 5, and the additional information provided voluntarily, in conformity with the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions. The statistical returns system therefore constitutes the cornerstone of international control of psychotropic substances.

2. Currently, Governments submit on annual and quarterly basis to the Board various trade statistical data on psychotropic substances, including data on their manufacture, imports and exports as well as stocks and consumption.

3. In its resolutions 53/4 and 54/6, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) invited the Board to present to the Commission information on the consumption of psychotropic substances used for medical and scientific purposes worldwide and strongly encourages Member States to report to the International Narcotics Control Board data on the consumption of psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes in the same manner as for narcotic drugs, in order to enable the Board to analyse levels of consumption of psychotropic substances in an accurate manner and to promote their adequate availability.

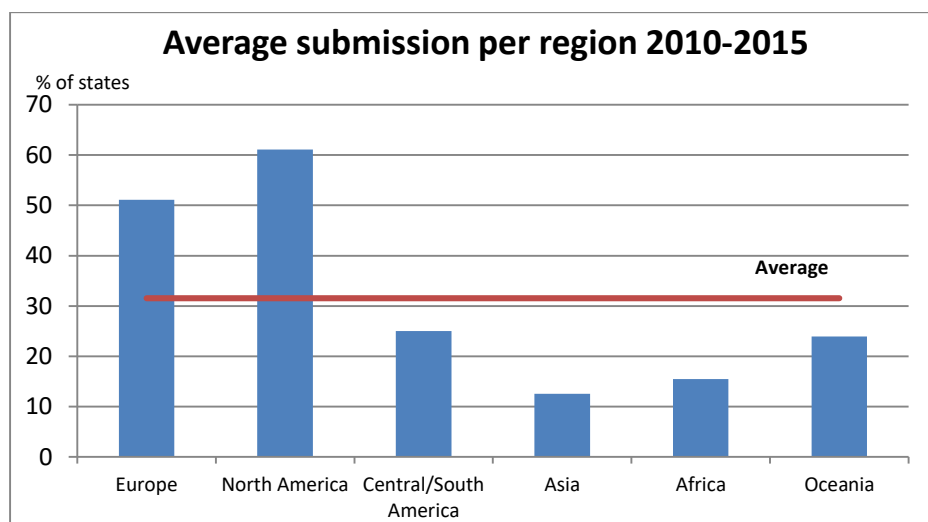
4. A review of the data submitted by Governments on consumption of psychotropic substances over the past few years reveals some interesting findings, as shown in the Graph below on the submissions for the period from 2010 to 2015.



5. When the Commission urged for submissions of consumption data in 2010, the Board received data from 35 competent national authorities on consumption of some or all psychotropic substances. During the following five years, the number of countries submitting such data increased steadily and reached 60 in 2014, and then dropped slightly to 54 in 2015.

6. The total number of governments supplying the requested information is still too low to be used in lieu of the consumption data as calculated by the Board. Among the submitting regions, the Board notes that the rate of submission of European and North American states is constantly the highest, whereas reports from Africa and Asia remain low. In 2015, only 7

African States submitted consumption data after the peak in 2012 when 12 national drug control administrations submitted their reports. For the Central/South America region, the Board recognizes a steady increasing trend, as the number of submissions rose from 6 in 2010 to 11 in 2015.



7. Regarding the consistency of data submission throughout this period, it is striking to note that only a few governments (e.g. Austria, Chile, USA) are consistent in their submission of consumption data on psychotropic substances, while the majority only submits occasionally for selective years. Such inconsistency poses a severe obstacle for the Board to fully utilize the data on understanding the availability of psychotropic substances worldwide.

8. As data on consumption are essential for any meaningful analysis of the availability of psychotropic substances, the Board would like to emphasize the importance of complete and consistent submission of consumption data for psychotropic substances, and strongly encourages Governments to collect and furnish the Board with their consumption statistics. Details of the definition of these statistics can be found in the training material listed below: http://www.incb.org/documents/Psychotropics/training-materials/Training_Material-ENG-2015-04196.pdf

9. Consumption data on psychotropic substances will enable the Board to analyse trends in the consumption of these substances and, ultimately, to promote their adequate availability for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse.

INCB is the independent, quasi-judicial body charged with promoting and monitoring Government compliance with the three international drug control conventions: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

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