Slide 1

Impact Analysis on Drug Policy

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Drug Policy

- Legal
- Cultural
- Moral
- Drug control
- Level and Nature of Harm
- No 'one size fits all' regulatory approaches

N.Singleton, A. Stevens, J. F. Ochoa & A. Feilding. (2014). "Developing a framework for analysing the impact of different regulatory approaches". Papers for ISSDP 2014 Conference.

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Multiplicity Factors

- Consensus on Goals
- Evidence-based
- Positive Impacts
- Unintended consequences
- Complex interaction between outcomes

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Slide 4

Ideal policy process

Stage 1A : Identify the main harms associated with use, supply, production & control of the drug	Stage 1B : Review available regulatory approaches
Stage 2A : Translate these into policy goals	Stage 2B : Identify possible new regulatory
Stage 3: Develop a logic model for each regulatory approaches proposed, showing the hypothesized impact on the harms experienced by different groups	
Stage 4: Assess the impact of each regulatory approaches proposed using existing evidence and expert assessments	
Stage 5: Select the most efficacious model	

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Harms vs Benefits

- Harms
  - (A) Type of Harms
  - (B) Bearer of Harms
- Benefits
  - Well-being (eg. medical, enjoyment)
  - Economic (eg. tax revenues)

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Different Categories of Harms

- Harms related to use, supply, production and control;
- Harms to individuals; communities, institutions and the state;
- Harms in production, transit, and consuming countries.

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Challenges to Identify Harms

- Cultural and socioeconomic variability
- Subjectivity
- Infinitude
- The need to include Death rate
- Difficulties of quantification
- Incommensurability, unable to compare different types of harms and harms to different types of bearer

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Cost-benefit analysis

- Severity of Harm
- Frequency of Occurrence
- Financial Value of the Cost and Benefit
- Advantage : Simple and Clear
- Disadvantage : Hard to Value Intangible elements, Ignore the complexity of qualitative outcomes, Dehumanized, One customer

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Disaggregated Impact Analysis (DIA)

- Identify monetizable costs and benefits
- Identify the associated stakeholder groups
- Identify the processes
- Identify the different policy scenarios
- Estimate the trade-offs
- Calculate the net-change

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Disaggregated Impact Analysis (DIA)

- Disadvantage : Financial value
- Advantage : Identify the impacts of affected stakeholders, including both direct and indirect impacts

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- Consensus on policy goals (e.g. 'drug free' vs harm reduction)
- Evidence on the effect of current and potential policies
- Potential impacts (e.g. rates of drug use, health harms, violence).
- Differential impacts across social groups (e.g. users, non-users, rich, poor, ethnic minorities).
- High potential for unintended consequences (e.g. violence, displacement).
- Complex interactions between outcomes (e.g. price of drugs, health harms, violence).

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Key feature

- Identify the main focus explicitly, and the link between the specific harms associated with drug use, supply and control
- A pool of options accord to purpose, rather than level of punishment
- Consider the impact on different groups
- Result in a policy that does more good than harm

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Example 1

Ethnic Minorities

- UK in 2009/10, black people were stopped and searched for drugs at 6.3 times the rate of white people. Asian people were stopped and searched for drugs at 2.5 times the rate of white

Young people

- Half of the drug stop searches were on young people aged 21 years or below

Article : "Ethnic Disparities in the policing and prosecution of drug offences in England and Wales" by N. Eastwood, M. Shiner, D. Bear

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Example 2

Unemployed and lower Socio-Economic Status

- Crime Survey for England & Wales in 2009/10
- 92% arrested were from lower Socio-Economic Status
- 50% sanctioned were unemployed

Article "Drug policing, deprivation and social class: a London case study" by Caitlin Oddy & Niamh Eastwood

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Example 3

- Impact analysis of drug policies in Georgia by Tea Kordzadze, Georgian Harm Reduction Network
- Qualitative research of social and economic impact of existing drug policies on drug users, their family members and wider public
- In-depth interviews with drug users, police officers, harm reduction and national emergency service providers and focus groups was conducted
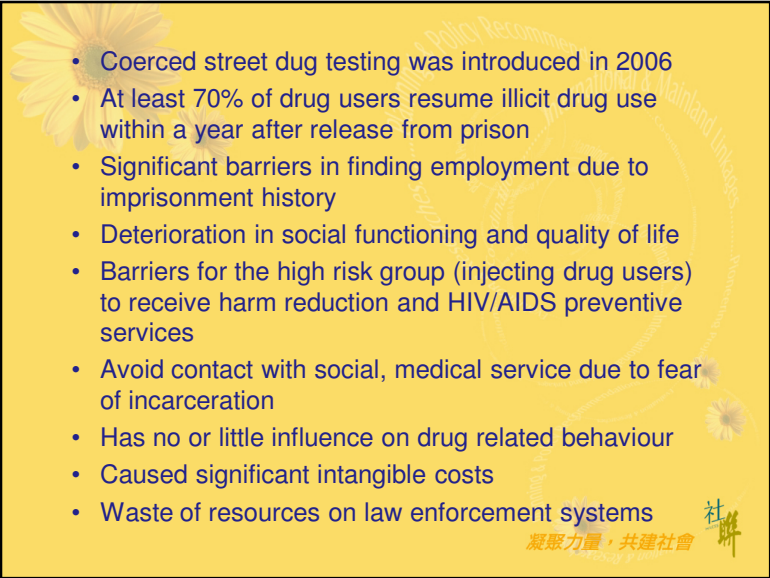
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Disproportionate punishment

Drug related offences	Other offences
Illicit preparation, possession, or dealing of SMALL AMOUNTS of drugs — imprisonment up to 11 years	Human trafficking – imprisonment from 7 till 12 years
Illicit preparation, possession, or dealing of LARGE AMOUNTS of drugs — imprisonment from 7 till 14 years	Rape – imprisonment from 4 to 6 years
Illicit preparation, possession, or dealing of EXTREMELY LARGE AMOUNTS of drugs – imprisonment from 20 years to lifetime	Murder – imprisonment from 7 till 15 years

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- Coerced street dug testing was introduced in 2006
- At least 70% of drug users resume illicit drug use within a year after release from prison
- Significant barriers in finding employment due to imprisonment history
- Deterioration in social functioning and quality of life
- Barriers for the high risk group (injecting drug users) to receive harm reduction and HIV/AIDS preventive services
- Avoid contact with social, medical service due to fear of incarceration
- Has no or little influence on drug related behaviour
- Caused significant intangible costs
- Waste of resources on law enforcement systems

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Thank You!

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