**Africa**

* **Cannabis** is grown all over Africa. Over the 2013-2017 period Africa accounted for 20 per cent of all quantities of cannabisherb and resin seized, the second highest proportion after the Americas. Northern Africa accounted for 99 per cent of all quantities of cannabis resin seized and 55 per cent of all cannabis herb seized in Africa over the 2013-2017 period.
* According to qualitative information on cannabis use reported by member states, the increase in cannabis use over the period 2010-2017 appears to have been most pronounced in Africa followed by Asia.
* Recent estimates of cannabis use, however, are only available from two countries in Africa. In Kenya, the annual prevalence of cannabis use is estimated at 1.2 per cent , whereas in Nigeria it is estimated at 10.8 per cent of the adult population.
* The quantities of **cocaine** seized grew by 26 per cent on a year earlier in 2017 in Africa, thus exceeding growth at the global level (13 per cent) and quantities of cocaine seized in Africa more than doubled since 2015.
* West and Central Africa is a subregion with a high prevalence of non-medical use of opioids (1.9 per cent of the adult population), which is dominated by the non-medical use of pharmaceutical opioids. In Nigeria, for example, the new drug use surevy showed that the prevalence of pharmaceutical opioids in 2017 was estimated at 4.7 per cent of the population aged 15–64, most of which can be attributed to the non-medical use of tramadol.
* **Tramadol**, is widely trafficked for non-medical use in Africa. It is a major threat in West and Central Africa and in North Africa. Tramadol seizures in Africa rose from 8 tons in 2013 to 111 tons in 2017, accounting for 88 per cent of all tramadol seized worldwide in 2017.
* Quantities of **heroin seized** in Africa rose by 31 per cent on a year earlier in 2017, and thus more than at the global level (13 per cent); they showed a three-fold increase since 2013, mainly reflecting ongoing trafficking of heroin from South-West Asia to Eastern Africa.
* While overall quantities of **ATS seized in Africa** declined in 2017 as compared to a year earlier, mainly due to lower seizures of amphetamine, seizures of both methamphetamine and ecstasy increased in 2017.
* Methamphetamine seized in Africa has been often from domestic manufacture in Africa (including in countries of Western and Southern Africa) and was destined for export, notably for markets in East and South-East Asia.
* Africa, notably Southern and South-East Africa, is also a major market for **methaqualone,** mostly produced in South Asia**.**

**Americas**

* Overall 70 per cent of the area under coca cultivation was accounted for by Colombia, 20 per cent by Peru and 10 per cent by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2017.
* An increase is in coca cultivation and thus in the manufacture of **cocaine** was reported by all three Andean countries in 2017. Overall cocaine manufacture in the three Andean countries increased by 25 per cent on a year earlier in 2017 while it doubled over the 2013-2017 period.
* All indicators in North America also point to an expansion of the cocaine market from 2013 onwards mirroring the changes in Colombia.
* In North America, the non-medical use of **pharmaceutical opioids**, in particular fentanyl (and its analogues), has reached epidemic proportions with historic increases in the number of overdose deaths. In 2017, some 72,000 people died from a **drug overdose** in the United States, the highest number on record. This was largely due to a rise in deaths associated with pharmaceutical opioids (more than 47,000 opioid overdose deaths), notably fentanyl and its analogues.
* The largest **heroin** market in the Americas is the United States, accounting for more than three quarters of all opiate users in the region and more than 90 per cent of all opiate users in North America in 2017.
* **Cannabis** use has also increased in the Americas in the past decade, with the most prounounced increase in cannabis use observed in the United States. While the number of annual users rose by some 60 per cent, the number of daily or almost daily cannabis users rose by almost 130 per cent over the past decade (2007-2017) in the United States. States that officially legalized the non-medical use of cannabis experienced even higher growth rates.
* As of March 2019, legal provisions allowing the non-medical use of cannabis have been approved in Canada and Uruguay as well as in 10 jurisdictions in the United States. The common feature of the legislation is that it generally allows for the production and sale of cannabis products for non-medical use in the relevant jurisdictions.
* In 2017, 86 tons of **methamphetamine** were seized in North America, the largest amount worldwide. Most methamphetamine seizures were reported from the United States. Quantities of methamphetamine seized doubled in the United States between 2013 and 2017.
* In parallel the annual prevalence of methampethamine use doubled over the 2008 – 2017 period in the United States, while data on purity and price of methamphetamine suggest an increase in its availability.
* There is an ongoing concentration of seizures of **hallucinogens** (other than ketamine) in the Americas. Some 88 per cent of the quantities of hallucinogens (other than ketamine) were seized in the Americas over the period 2015–2017, mostly in the United States.

**Asia**

* Afghan **opium poppy** cultivation declined by 20 per cent in 2018 from its record levels reached in 2017, and opium production fell by 29 per cent on a year earlier, mainly due to a drought. There was also an ongoing decline in the area under cultivation and opium production in Myanmar in 2018 on a year earlier.
* Overall 24.6 million, or more than 70 per cent of the estimated global number of annual opiate users (34.5 million) reside in Asia, notably in South Asia (13 million), the Near and Middle East / South West Asia (7 million) and in East and South-East Asia (4 million). A new survey conducted in India in 2018 revealed far higher numbers of opiate users than previously thought (based on a survey conducted in 2001). In India 2.1 per cent of the population aged 10–75, a total of 23 million people, are estimated to be past-year opioid users.
* **Cocaine seizures** declined in Asia in 2017 by more than 50 per cent on a year earlier. Nonetheless, in 2017 the seizures were still more than 30 per cent higher than in 2013.
* Increases in use, manufacture and seized quantities point to a growing market for **methamphetamine** in East and South-East Asia, where the use of crystalline methamphetamine in particular has become a key concern. Seizures of methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia, accounting for 93 per cent of all methamphetamine seizures in Asia in 2017, rose by 36 per cent in 2017.
* Almost half of all quantities of **amphetamine** seized worldwide were seized in Near and Middle East/South West Asia. Seizures of amphetamine in the Near and Middle East is mostly in the form of so-called “captagon” tablets (often containing a mixture of amphetamine and caffeine). Quantities of amphetamine seized in Near and Middle East/South West Asia declined in 2017 from the record levels reported in 2016.
* **Kratom**, a plant-based substance used as traditional medicine in some parts of Asia, continues emerging as a popular plant-based NPS. Large amounts of kratom are being seized in South-East Asia.
* South-West Asia remains the region with the highest prevalence of **HIV** among **people who inject drugs**.

**Europe**

* Western and Central Europe, the second main market for **cocaine** (after North America), continues to show signs of an ongoing expansion.
* Wastewater analyses suggest an increase in the amounts of cocaine consumed in particular since 2015. Similarly, many of the recent household surveys conducted in Europe showed increases in cocaine use. People entering treatment for cocaine use disorders also increased in Europe over the 2014-2017 period.
* Most of the cocaine seized in Europe is intercepted in Western and Central Europe, where such seizures rose by 56 per cent in 2017.
* Cocaine purity has been increasing since 2010, notably over the 2015-2017 period, thus suggesting again a higher availability of cocaine as compared to previous years.
* In Western and Central Europe – apart from a few exceptions - overall **heroin** use appears to have remained largely stable in 2017.
* At the same time, there are signs of rising supply. Seizures of heroin and morphine in Western and Central Europe rose in 2017 by close to 30 per cent on a year earlier. There are also reports of slightly falling prices and rising levels of purity between 2013 and 2017.
* In parallel, a number of European countries reported increases in the numbers of drug related deaths which – in a majority of cases – are linked the use of opioids.
* In the Russian Federation, the most important opiate market of Eastern Europe, the market has started to change, with signs of heroin losing in significance while other drugs, particularly synthetic drugs, are gaining in importance.
* In Europe the non-medical use of **pharmaceutical opioids** is still at far lower levels than in North America. In recent years, an increasing number of countries in Western and Central Europe have reported that more than 10 per cent of opioid users who enter treatment do so for problems related to opioids other than heroin.
* Data on dismantled facilities manufacturing “**ecstasy**”, together with seizure statistics, suggest that Western and Central Europe has remained an international hub for the manufacture and trafficking of “ecstasy”.
* Eastern Europe remains the region most affected by **injecting drug use and HIV** among people who inject drugs. The region has the highest prevalence of injecting drug use and the second highest prevalence of HIV among people who inject drugs.
* In contrast to some other regions, **cannabis** use in the European Union has remained largely stable.

**Oceania**

* The latest household survey in Australia in 2016 confirmed a long-term upward trend in **cocaine** use in Oceania and other indicators suggest that this trend also continued in subsequent years. Nonetheless, cocaine consumption remains low in Oceania.
* The use of **methamphetamine**, particularly in its crystalline form, coupled with seizures of large consigments of the drug, continues to be a public health concern, particularly in Australia and New Zealand. The proportion of methamphetamine users reporting crystal methamphetamine (ice) has increased since 2013.
* Despite a decline, high levels of “**ecstasy**” use continue to be reported in Oceania, and estimated past-year prevalence rates for “ecstasy” use in the region are among the highest in the world. In recent years, authorities also noted the emergence of crystal ecstasy.
* No significant changes have been reported regarding the use of **opiates** in Australia, which accounts for the majority of opiate users in Oceania, in recent years.