



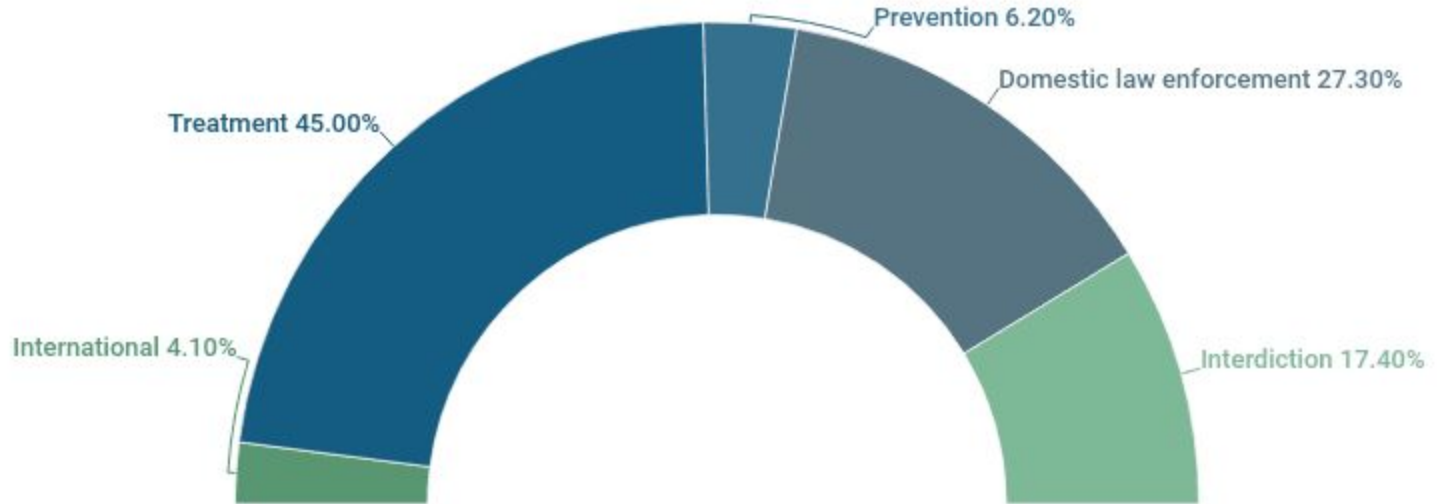
How Government Assistance Impacts Drug Use

International Edition
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2023

Distribution of Federal Drug Control spending in the United States in FY 2020, by function





What is government assistance?

How do YOU think it impacts drug use?

Canada, 2021

Using certain drugs like crack-cocaine, or injecting drugs, increased the chances of experiencing these problems:

- o using certain drugs more frequently, like crack-cocaine or injecting drugs, increased the chances of experiencing these problems:
- o Using more drugs than usual
- o Having overdoses
- o Having trouble accessing health or social services
- o Being forced to settle drug debts
- o Having contact with the police
- o Leaving a hospital stay against medical advice
- o Leaving substance use disorder treatment

- o Around 75% of the people studied experienced more drug-related problems when they got their monthly income assistance.
- o If someone made money from activities like panhandling or sex work, or if they were homeless, they were more likely to spend their income on drugs.

Cont.

Those who experienced harm during the study period were more likely to be younger, women, living in a specific neighborhood, exposed to violence, engaged in sex work or street-based income generation, have had a mental health diagnosis, or have interrupted their medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorder.

Payment-coincident drug-related harm was reported in 47.5% of the total observations, with the prevalence ranging from 41.0% to 53.1% during each six-month follow-up period. Overall, 77.7% of participants reported experiencing harm at some point during the study period.

Europe,2022

- Gov financial assistance alleviate stressors, which may contribute to substance abuse.
- When individuals have their basic needs met through government aid, they may experience less pressure to turn to drugs as a coping mechanism.
- This is seen in Europe where there are lower rates of opioid-related deaths despite an increase in prescription opioid consumption.



Prevalence of opioid use at least once during past year

2000-2012



Per 1,000 adults



Top 5 countries



China

- Drug use is centuries old in China
- Narcotic Control Law of 2008
 - preventive measures such as public education campaigns, community outreach programs, and early intervention
 - law aimed to provide support and assistance to individuals struggling with drug addiction, including access to medical treatment, counseling, and social services.
 - Results somewhat pending, but believed it helped



China and Southeast Asia

While the situation has since stabilised in many countries, methamphetamine trafficking and use are still increasing in parts of the Mekong region and there is evidence of large-scale manufacture in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Methamphetamine is typically smoked or ingested, but injection of the drug is apparent.



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