



# Harm Reduction Policy and Practice Worldwide

An overview of national support for harm reduction in policy and practice

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Prepared by the International Harm Reduction Association in collaboration with the harm reduction networks from around the world

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**HR2** | HARM REDUCTION & HUMAN RIGHTS

A PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL HARM REDUCTION ASSOCIATION

	Explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents	Needle and syringe exchange programmes operational	Opioid substitution therapy programmes operational	Drug consumption rooms (DCRs)	Needle exchange in prisons	Opioid substitution therapy in prisons
<b>ASIA</b>						
Afghanistan	•	•				
Bangladesh	•	•				
Cambodia	•	•				
China (Taiwan)	•	•	•			
(Hong Kong Special Administrative Region)	•	•	•			
India	•	•	•			•
Indonesia	•	•	•			•
PDR Laos	•	•				
Malaysia	•	•	•			•
Maldives	•	•	•			
Myanmar	•	•	•			
Nepal	•	•	•			
Pakistan	•	•	•			
Philippines	•	•	•			
Thailand	•	•	•			
Vietnam	•	•	•			
<b>CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA</b>						
Albania	•	•	•		•	•
Armenia	•	•	•		•	
Azerbaijan	•	•	•			
Belarus	•	•	•			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	•	•	•			
Bulgaria	•	•	•			
Croatia	•	•	•			•
Czech Republic	•	•	•			•
Estonia	•	•	•			
Georgia	•	•	•			•
Hungary	•	•	•			
Kazakhstan	•	•	•			
Kyrgyzstan	•	•	•		•	
Latvia	•	•	•			
Lithuania	•	•	•			
Macedonia FYR	•	•	•			•
Moldova	•	•	•		•	•
Montenegro	•	•	•		•	•
Poland	•	•	•			•
Romania	•	•	•		•	•
Russia	•	•	•			
Serbia	•	•	•			•
Slovakia	•	•	•			
Slovenia	•	•	•			•
Tajikistan	•	•	•			
Ukraine	•	•	•			
Uzbekistan	•	•	•			
<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>						
Argentina	•	•	•			
Brazil	•	•	•			
Colombia	•	•	•			
Mexico	•	•	•			
Paraguay	•	•	•			
Uruguay	•	•	•			
<b>MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA</b>						
Egypt	•	•	•			
Iran	•	•	•		•	•
Israel	•	•	•			
Lebanon	•	•	•			
Morocco	•	•	•			
Oman	•	•	•			
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>						
Canada	•	•	•	•		•
United States (Puerto Rico)	nk	•	•			•
<b>OCEANIA</b>						
Australia	•	•	•	•		•
New Zealand	•	•	•			•
<b>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</b>						
Mauritius	•	•	•			•
South Africa	•	•	•			
Tanzania (Zanzibar)	•	•	•			
<b>WESTERN EUROPE</b>						
Austria	•	•	•			•
Belgium	•	•	•			•
Cyprus	•	•	•			
Denmark	•	•	•			•
Finland	•	•	•			•
France	•	•	•			•
Germany	•	•	•	•	•	•
Greece	•	•	•			
Ireland	•	•	•			•
Italy	•	•	•			•
Luxembourg	•	•	•	•	•	•
Malta	•	•	•			•
Netherlands	•	•	•	•		•
Norway	•	•	•	•		•
Portugal	•	•	•		•	•
Spain	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sweden	•	•	•			•
Switzerland	•	•	•	•		•
United Kingdom	•	•	•		•	•

As of March 2009, harm reduction policies or programmes have been adopted in more than half of the 158 countries and territories where injecting drug use is reported.

- 84** support harm reduction in policy or practice
- 74** have an explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents
- 77** have needle and syringe exchange
- 10** have needle and syringe exchange in prisons
- 65** have opioid substitution therapy
- 37** have opioid substitution therapy in prisons
- 8** have drug consumption rooms

### Guide to reading the table

The table lists the countries and territories around the world that support harm reduction in policy or practice.<sup>1</sup>

-  **Explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents:**  
Countries and territories which have an explicit reference to harm reduction in national health or drug-related policy. Of particular interest here is the US, which includes harm reduction in its national HIV<sup>2</sup> and hepatitis C<sup>3</sup> strategy documents, but not in those relating to drug policy.
-  **Needle and syringe exchange programmes operational (NSP):**  
Countries and territories which have one or more operational NSP sites.
-  **Opioid substitution therapy programmes operational:**  
Countries and territories which have one or more sites which provide opioid substitution therapy as maintenance (not for detoxification only).
-  **Drug consumption rooms (DCRs):**  
Countries and territories which have one or more operational DCRs (or safer injecting facilities)
-  **Needle exchange in prisons:**  
Countries and territories which have one or more prisons with operational NSP
-  **Opioid substitution therapy in prisons:**  
Countries and territories which have one or more prisons with opioid substitution therapy as maintenance (not for detoxification only)

Please note that only countries and territories that support harm reduction are included in this table. However, inclusion does not indicate the scope, quality or coverage of services.

<sup>1</sup> The data are largely drawn from Cook C & Kanaef N (2008) Global State of Harm Reduction 2008: Mapping the response to drug-related HIV and hepatitis C epidemics (International Harm Reduction Association, London). This document has been reviewed and updated in February 2009 by the International Harm Reduction Association, Eurasian Harm Reduction Network, Sub-Saharan African Harm Reduction Network, International Harm Reduction Development Program of the Open Society Institute, Caribbean Harm Reduction Coalition, Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Network, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, International HIV/AIDS Alliance (UK and Ukraine) and Intercambios Association Civil.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2007) CDC HIV Prevention Strategic Plan: Extended Through 2010. Atlanta: CDC

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2001) National Hepatitis C Prevention Strategy. Atlanta: CDC

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