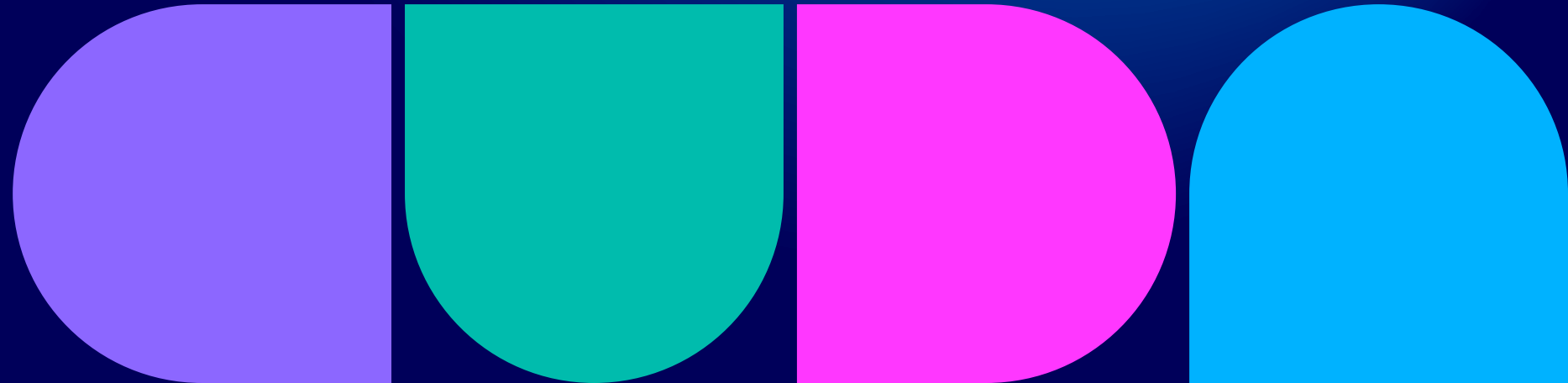


European Conference on Drug-Related Violence

This presentation was delivered at the European Conference on Drug-Related Violence on 26-27 November 2024 in Brussels. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.



Building community resilience to crime and violence, taking a public health approach to prevention

European Conference on
Drug-Related Violence

*Session 7: Innovative
strategies & interventions*

Brussels, 27 Nov 2024

Drugs use and drug use disorders



People who use drugs, 2022 (in million)

292
million people

↑ **20%**
over 10 years



228
cannabis



60
opioids
(of which 30 opiates)



30
amphetamines



23.5
cocaine



20
"ecstasy"

People with drug use disorders, 2022 (in million)

64
million people

↑ **3%**
over 5 years, 2018-2022

1 in 11
in treatment



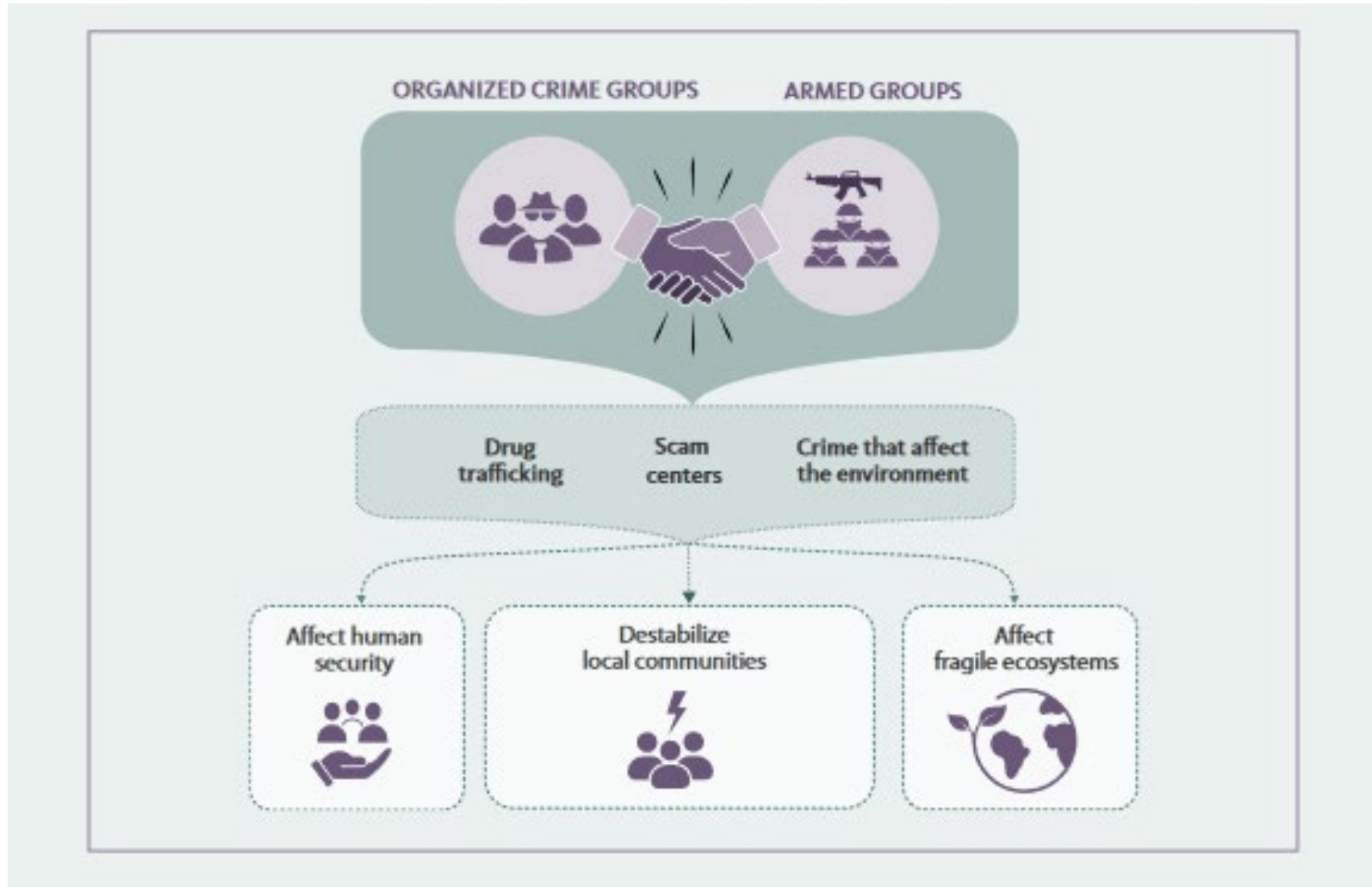
1 in 18 among women
in treatment



1 in 7 among men
in treatment



Drug-related violence fuelled by organised crime is affecting communities, creating fear and distrust and perpetuating cycles of harm.



World Drug Report 2024

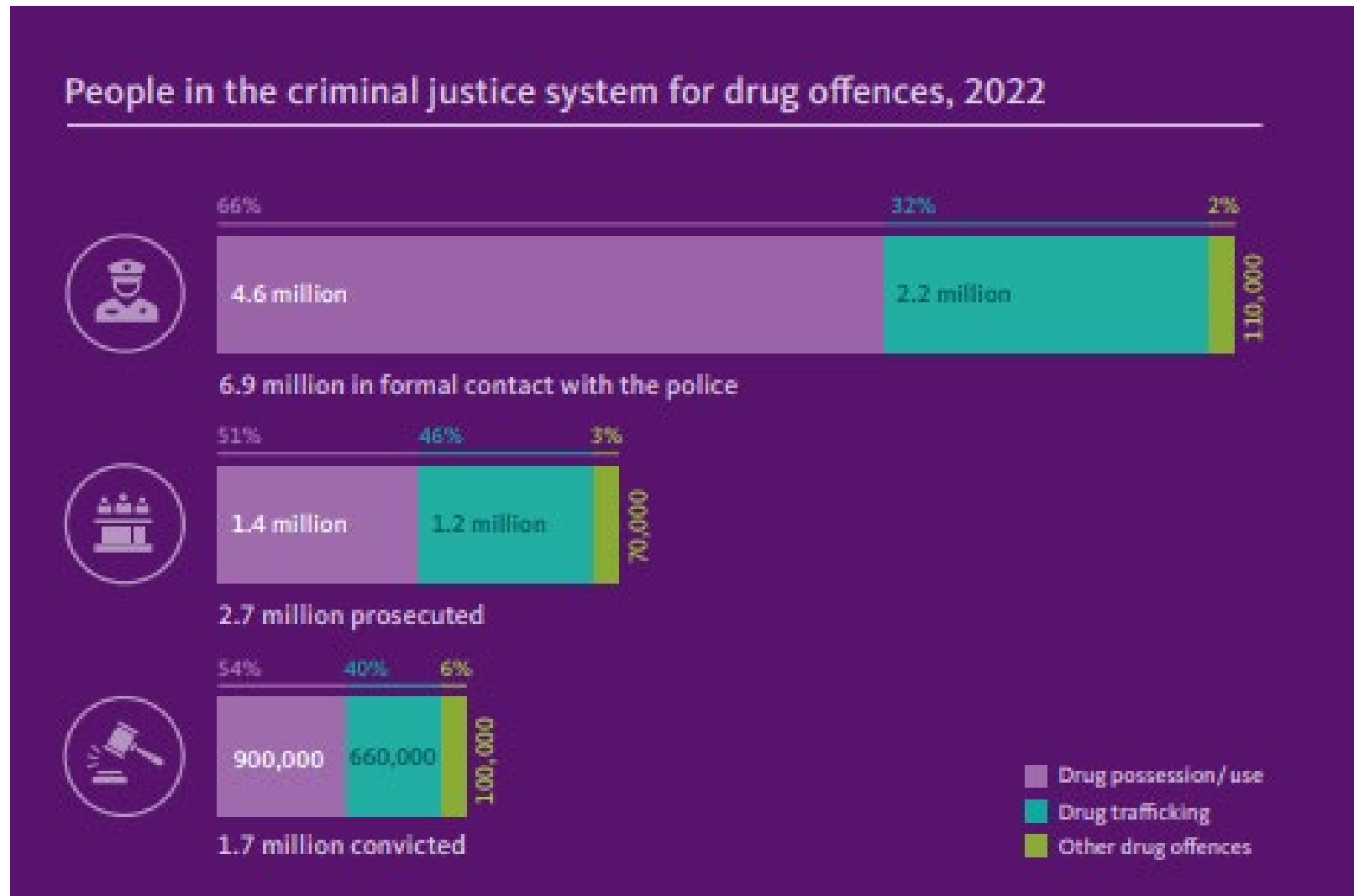


Connection drugs and violence

- Scenario 1: Drug-use and violence because of un-addressed vulnerabilities at personal or environmental factors around the person.
- Scenario 2: Violence induced by substance use, amplifying existing mental health conditions.
- Scenario 3: Violence can be the result of engagement with criminal networks related to drugs.



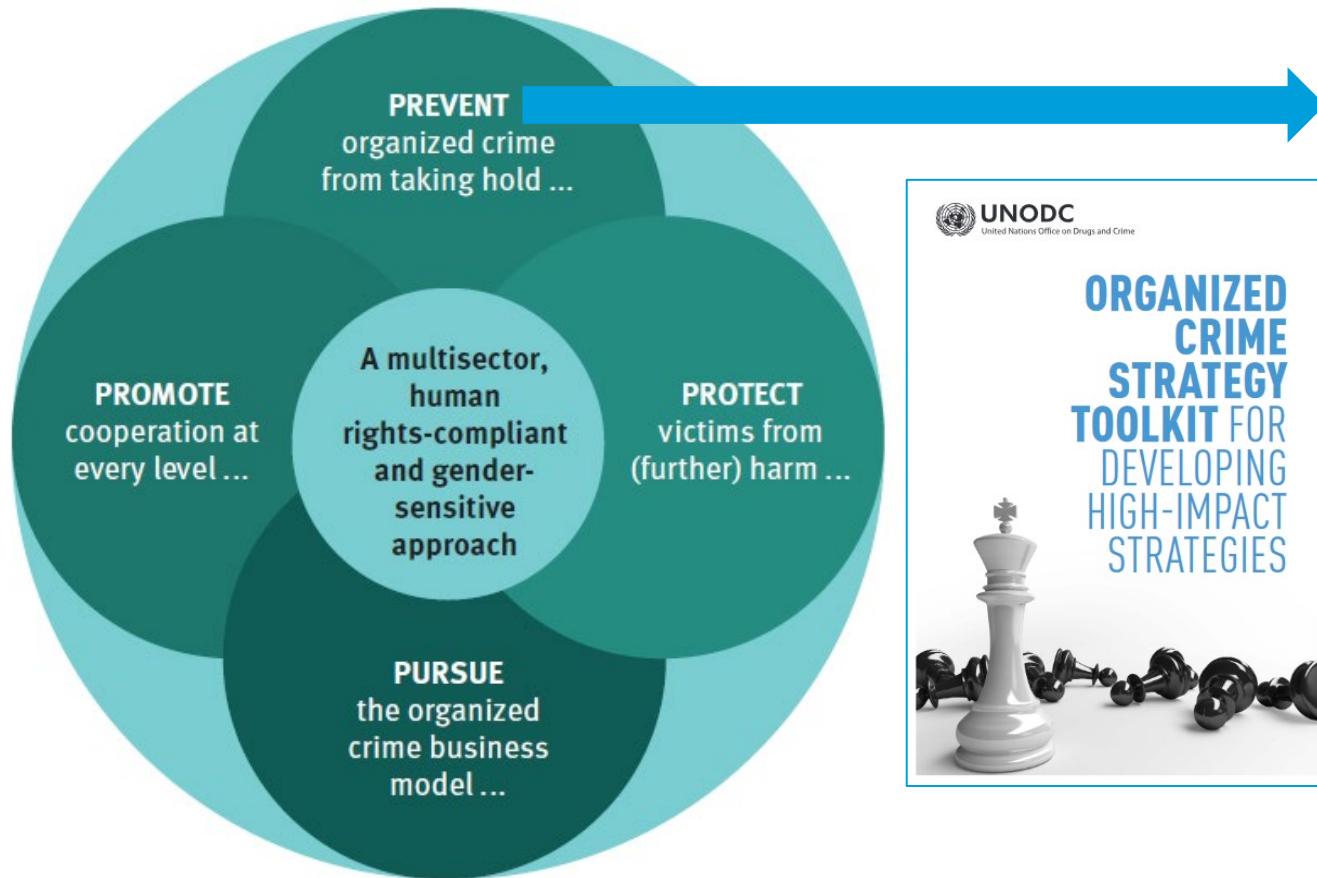
Drugs impact - the criminal justice system



World Drug Report 2024



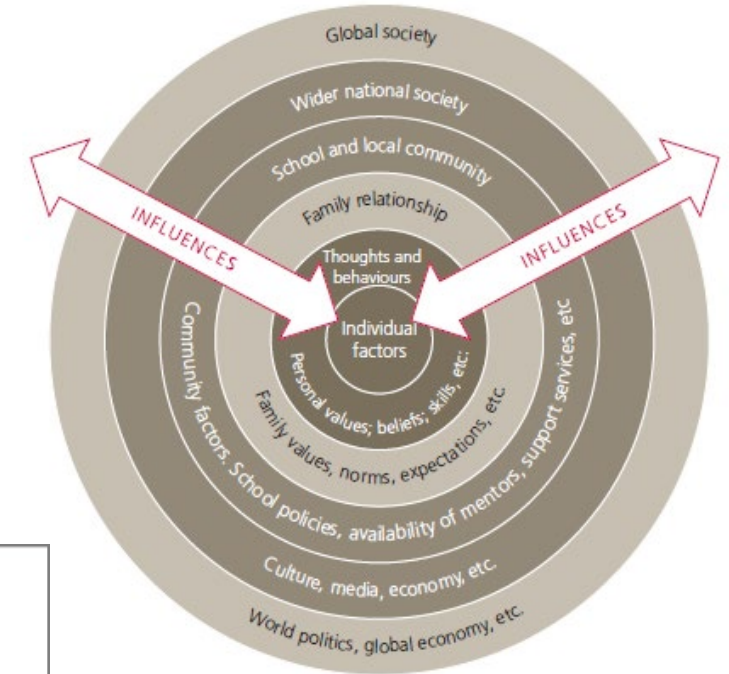
Increased complexity of drug supply dynamics - States to address transnational organized crime more holistically and addressing risk factors to prevent



Prevention – Root causes of anti-social, violence behavior or the early initiation of substance use and the progression to substance use disorders, are often overlapping

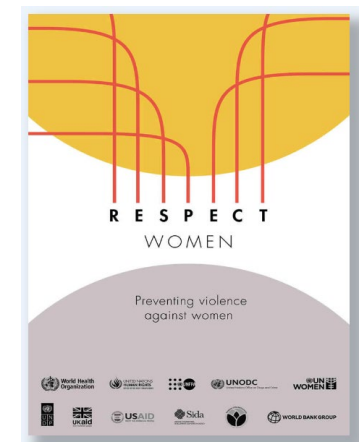
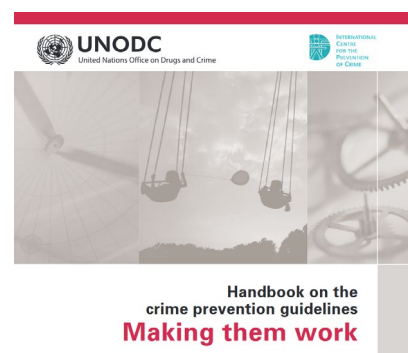
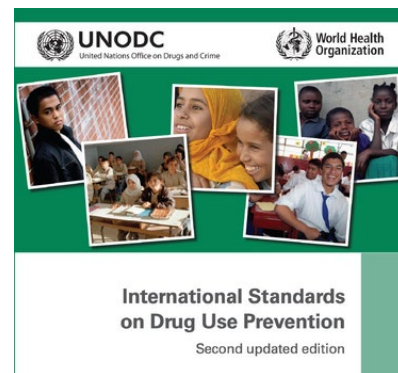
Risk Factors	<i>Substance Abuse</i>	<i>Delinquency</i>	<i>School Drop-Out</i>	<i>Violence</i>	<i>Depression & Anxiety</i>	<i>Teen Pregnancy</i>
Individual/Peer						
Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alienation and Rebelliousness	✓	✓		✓		
Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Constitutional Factors	✓	✓			✓	✓

Risk Factors	<i>Substance Abuse</i>	<i>Delinquency</i>	<i>School Drop-Out</i>	<i>Violence</i>	<i>Depression & Anxiety</i>	<i>Teen Pregnancy</i>
School						
Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lack of Commitment to School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Family						
Family History of the Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Management Problems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Family Conflict	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior	✓	✓			✓	



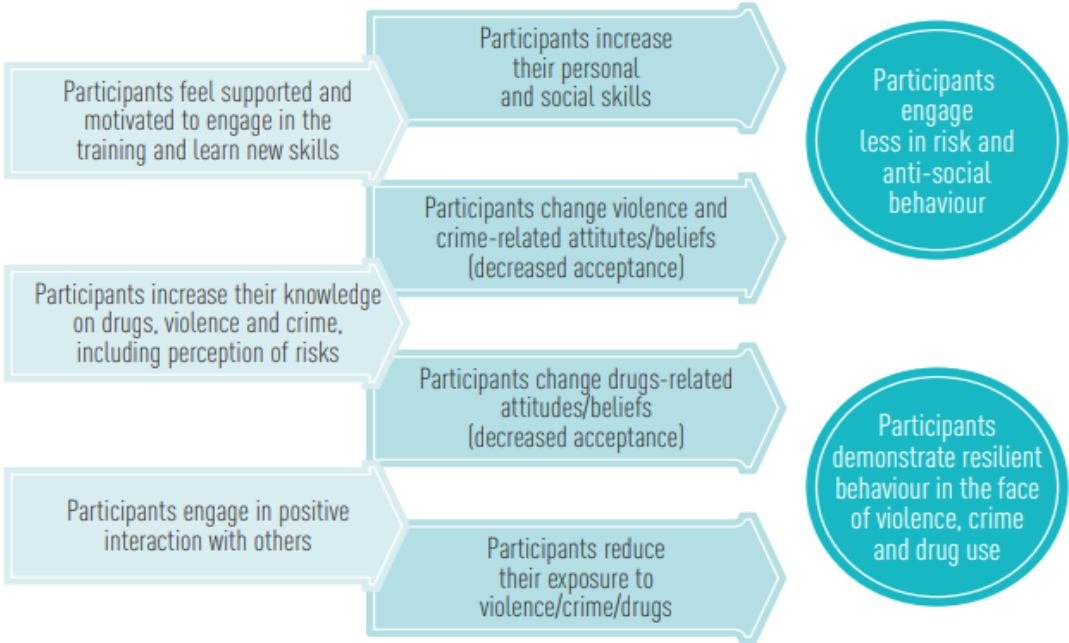
Taking a life-course perspective to prevention - minimizing both health disparities and (early) risky behavior

- 1) Draw on theoretical models from criminology and public health when designing prevention approaches;
 - Look at violence, crime as preventable consequences of a range of factors, such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community experiences and influences (education and skills training, treatment, limiting alcohol, prevent early school dropout etc.).

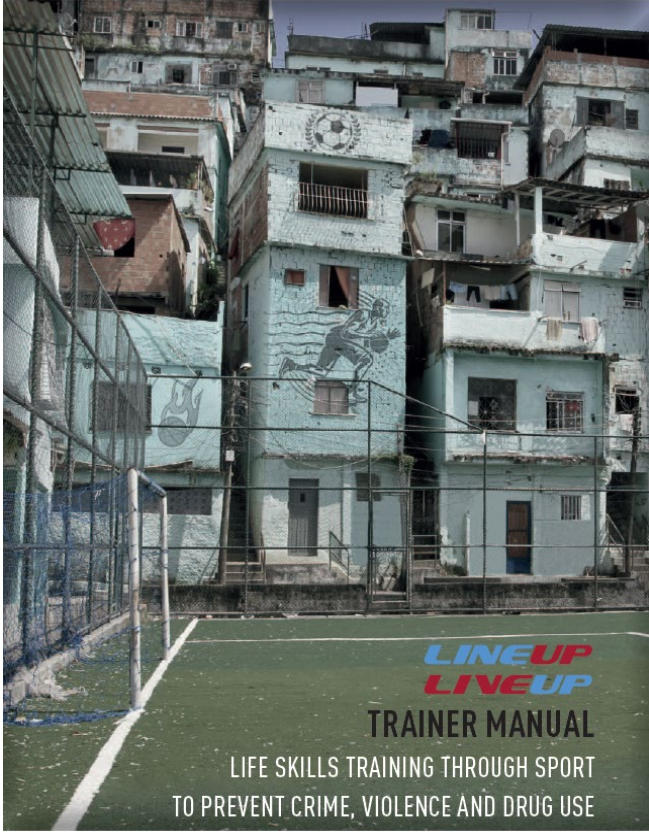
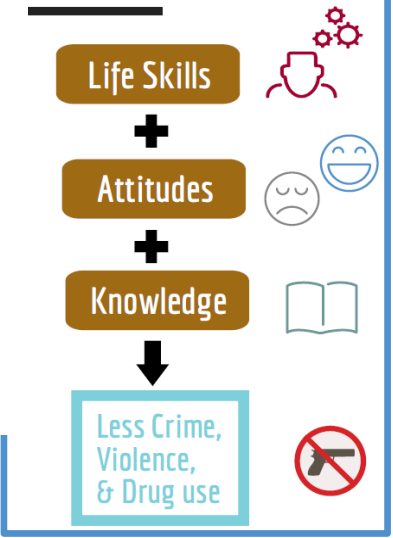


Exploring innovative ways to reach at-risk youth: inserting **skills training for violence/drug-use prevention** in a sport program

LINEUP
LINEUP



MEDIATING FACTORS BETWEEN INTERVENTION AND RESULT



UNODC
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Taking a life-course perspective to prevention - minimizing both health disparities and (early) risky behavior

2) More interaction between the health and criminal justice systems for targeting causal factors of crime and drug use.

- Health care providers, law enforcement, city officials and other local leaders to work together to address what is happening within a community in terms of violence and crime.
 - Share information and data and provide training to improve understanding and support to allow for targeted prevention, focusing resources on specific areas.
 - Sensitize criminal justice professionals on health issues and diversion mechanisms is key to address health concerns and bring down recidivism rates.



Options for treatment/care for people with drug use disorders in contact with criminal justice system

- Range of options at different levels of the criminal justice system to provide treatment as an alternative to conviction or punishment.
- At the sentence stage, the **drug treatment court model** has been adapted to the specific context and needs of several Member States and aims to address drugs disorder and problems on other drug-related life domains.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE	CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE		
Pre-arrest Police	Pretrial Police, prosecutor, defence, examining magistrate	Trial/sentencing Judge, probation officers	Post-sentencing Prison director, parole board, minister of justice
Administrative response with information/referral to treatment	Caution with a diversion to education/treatment	Postponement of the sentence, with a treatment element	Early release/parole/pardon, with a treatment element
	Conditional dismissal/Conditional suspension of the prosecution	Deferring the execution of the sentence, with a treatment element	
	Conditional bail (alternative to pretrial detention)	Probation/judicial supervision	
		Special courts/dockets (e.g., the drug treatment court)	



Treatment and care for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system

Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment





United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

Johannes de Haan,
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Section/Division for treaty Affairs