

International policing and harm reduction



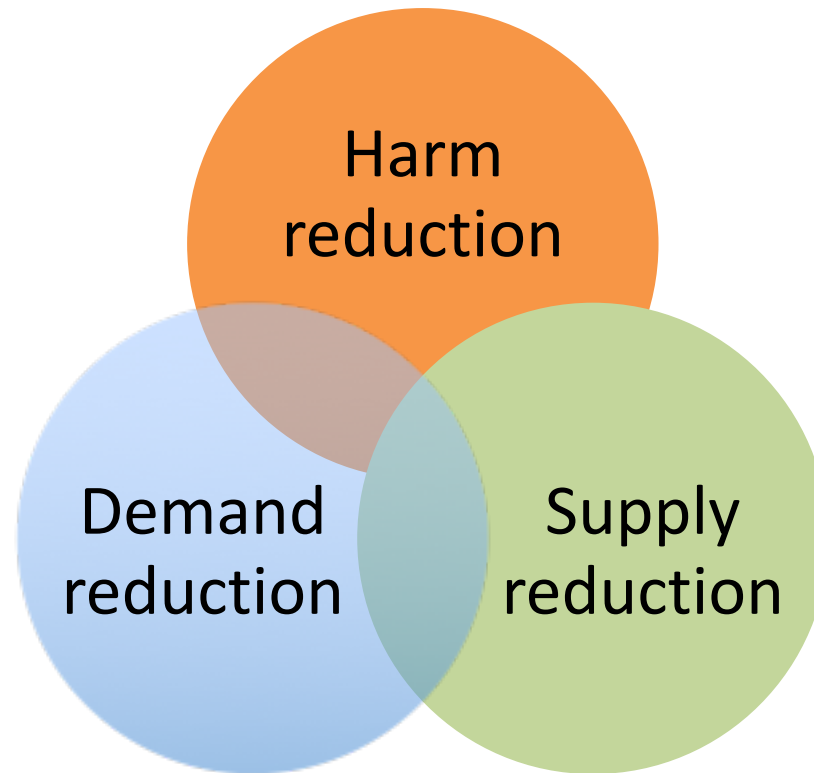
Weighing up disruption and congruity in drug law enforcement strategies



Presented by **Melissa Jardine**

3 October, 2016

Harm reduction or harm minimisation?



Harm reduction: the 'UN Comprehensive Package'

**Harm
reduction***

* Technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, 2012 revision' WHO UNODC, UNAIDS 2013

- 1. Needle and syringe programmes**
- 2. Opioid substitution therapy and other drug dependence treatment**
- 3. HIV testing and counselling**
- 4. Antiretroviral therapy**
- 5. Prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections**
- 6. Condom programmes for people who inject drugs and their sexual partners**
- 7. Targeted information, education and communication**
- 8. Prevention, vaccination, diagnosis and treatment for viral hepatitis**
- 9. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis**

Harm reduction definitions

“Harm reduction means what I choose it to mean” (Wodak & Saunders, 1995)

“[t]he bewildering variety of interpretations of this term adds to the confusion of an area already complicated by lack of terminological clarity...” (Wodak, 1999)

“[t]he term ‘harm reduction’ has been used variously to describe a principle, concept, ideology, policy, strategy, set of interventions, target and movement” (Ball, 2007)

Harm reduction can be viewed as the prevention of adverse consequences of illicit drug use without necessarily reducing their consumption” (Crofts, N., Costigan, G. and Reid, G., 2003)

“that the overall objective be to minimize the harm associated with the production, distribution, consumption, and control of illicit substances” (Caulkins & Reuter, 1997)

Importance of terminology #1

Specificity

Shared understanding

Strategic purposes

Context specific

What is 'harm'?

Supply reduction

Eradication

Seizures

Arrests

Supply-oriented drug policy

Income

Corruption

Violence

Environment

Human health

If Supply-Oriented Drug Policy
is Broken, Can Harm Reduction
Help Fix It?

Victoria A. Greenfield, Letizia
Paoli, July 29, 2010

West Africa

Shipment crackdown
Caribbean>Europe
opened transit route

Already unstable,
corrupt & violent.
Increased risk for state
building?
(UNODC, 2007/09)

The illegal drug industry is like
a **balloon**: when it is
“squeezed” or curbed in one
location, it tends to “bulge” or
re-emerge in another location

(Paoli et al., 2009)

Decreased risk of
detection of synthetic
cannabinoids may explain
increase in uptake,
despite greater health
risks

Australia
Crackdown on
precursors for ecstasy
correlates with
increased manufacture
of methamphetamine
(NDLRF, 2016)

Supply-oriented drug policy

E.g. Delaying opium crop eradication until civil state economic and institutional development is robust enough to cope with transition

E.g. Compare modes of production or trafficking and seek to discourage the most damaging modes. For example, “body packing”



Leveraging the balloon effect
(Caulkins and Reuter, 2009)

*"If Supply-Oriented Drug Policy is Broken, Can Harm Reduction Help Fix It?" Victoria A. Greenfield, Letizia Paoli, July 29, 2010

Calculating social harm and cost:

New Zealand Drug Harm Index 2016

Drug-type estimates of social cost and harm per dependent user and casual user*

Drug type	Social cost per dependent user (\$)	Social cost per casual user (\$)	Harm per dependent user (\$)	Harm per casual user (\$)
Methamphetamine	116,600	8,300	111,300	7,900
Heroin/homebake	104,000	9,300	98,600	8,800
Pharma-opioids	44,300	3,200	38,300	2,700
Cocaine	42,300	2,700	36,200	2,300
Synthetic cannabis	42,000	2,800	35,900	2,400
Pharma-sedatives	38,200	2,600	31,800	2,200
Amphetamine	37,500	2,500	31,000	2,000
Dexamphetamine	33,600	2,400	27,000	1,900
Ketamine	32,900	2,500	26,200	2,000
GHB	32,100	2,600	25,400	2,100
Pharma-stimulants	31,400	2,200	24,600	1,700
Cannabis	29,100	2,100	22,100	1,600
LSD	6,200	2,200	4,700	1,700
Ecstasy	6,200	400	4,700	300

*McFadden Consultancy. 2016. *A Guide to the Practical Application of the New Zealand Drug Harm Index 2016*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

Importance of terminology #2

Discretion

Disruption

Engineer?

Limitations of police culture

Risk averse

Lacks trial and error culture ie. found in engineering -but lack of theory and testing of interventions (failures) in policing results in greater risk taking

(Tilley & Laycock, 2016)

'Professional' skills

- Risk assessment
- Surveillance (electronic, physical)
- Undercover police, informants
- Multi-jurisdiction management
- Search warrants
- Legal procedures, evidence
- Lack of 'victims'

Defining success

Harsher sentencing an indicator for reduced harm

Thank you



melissa.jardine@gmail.com

 @majardine

Special thanks to [Geoff Monaghan](#) (Former New Scotland Yard Detective)
for his ongoing and thought-provoking ideas about drug policing