

INTRODUCTION

1. *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2023; Statistics for 2021* is one of the three annual technical reports published by the International Narcotics Control Board this year.¹

2. The technical report on narcotic drugs is published in accordance with the provisions of article 15 (Reports of the Board) of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, which stipulates that:

“1. The Board shall prepare an annual report on its work and such additional reports as it considers necessary containing also an analysis of the estimates and statistical information at its disposal, and, in appropriate cases, an account of the explanations, if any, given by or required of Governments, together with any observations and recommendations which the Board desires to make. These reports shall be submitted to the [Economic and Social] Council through the Commission, which may make such comments as it sees fit.

“2. The reports shall be communicated to the Parties and subsequently published by the Secretary-General. The Parties shall permit their unrestricted distribution.”

3. Furthermore, article 12 (Administration of the estimate system), paragraph 6, of the 1961 Convention stipulates that:

“In addition to the reports mentioned in article 15, the Board shall, at such times as it shall determine but at least annually, issue such information on the estimates as in its opinion will facilitate the carrying out of this Convention.”

4. The technical data on narcotic drugs are published for control purposes and to meet the needs of researchers, enterprises and the general public. They are based on information furnished by Governments to the Board in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1961 Convention. The adherence by countries and territories to that Convention and the status of receipt of information (statistics and estimates) by the Board from their Governments are reflected in part two of this technical report.

5. The publication of statistical data (part four of this technical report) provides information for analytical purposes, inter alia, on the availability and use of narcotic drugs in various countries and territories. The publication of estimates and

statistics on production, manufacture, stocks and utilization of narcotic drugs is also intended to furnish producing and manufacturing countries with information on prospective trends, in order to encourage them to adjust their plans in a manner that will enable them to maintain a balance between supply and demand.

6. The preparation of estimates and statistics for submission to the Board requires the participation of several national administrative departments (health, police, customs, justice etc.), and the furnishing of coherent data is frequently a positive sign that good national control exists. The degree of effectiveness with which national authorities are operating can be assessed by analysing the information they furnish to the Board, for example by comparing their estimates and statistics for a particular year, as is done for all countries and territories in annex III of this technical report.

Remarks on the statistical tables

7. The following general remarks refer to statistical tables contained in part four and annexes II, III, IV and V of the present publication:

(a) The data appearing in the tables are those available to the Board as at 1 November 2022.

(b) Fractions of measurement units are not displayed in the quantities appearing for each country. However, fractions of a kilogram are accounted for in the total; the sums of those fractions, rounded to the nearest whole number, are then included in the total.

(c) In part four, with the exception of tables XIII.1 and XIV.1, fractions of a kilogram that are equal to or higher than 500 grams have been rounded up to the next kilogram; if fractions of a kilogram are smaller than 500 grams, they are rounded down. In table XIII.1, amounts are displayed to the milligram level and are not rounded up. In table XIV.1.a through table XIV.1.i the symbol << is used in cases where countries or regions have reported consumption of narcotic drugs not reaching 1 S-DDD per million inhabitants per day.

(d) The totals appearing in the statistical tables represent the sum of only the figures furnished to the Board and do not necessarily represent complete world totals. For the reasons indicated in subparagraphs (b) and (c) above, the totals are sometimes higher or lower than the sums of the amounts.

(e) Decimal fractions: in part four of this publication, when decimal fractions appear in tables I-VII and XI (in the yields) or in table XIII.1 (where consumption data are expressed in grams), such fractions are separated from the whole numbers by a decimal point.

¹The other two technical reports are: *Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2021; Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/INCB/2022/3); and *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2022 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/INCB/2022/4).

(f) In tables III-VII of part four, the manufacturing yields vary from one year to another, sometimes to a considerable degree, because of the fact that the manufacturing process extends from one year to another. Manufacture may take place at the beginning of a year on the basis of raw materials that were in use at the end of the preceding year. An average relating to several successive years gives a clearer indication of actual yields. Certain yields, however, necessitate investigation by the Board.

(g) A question mark “?” signifies that the statistical data were not received by 1 November 2022. The sign “—” signifies “nil”. The sign “<<” signifies that the value is smaller than half of the unit of measurement in the table in question but not “nil”. Two dots (. .) signify that a statistical report was furnished but data were not submitted for the item in question.

(h) Countries and non-metropolitan territories are listed in English alphabetical order. The names of non-metropolitan territories are shown in italics.