

Introduction and Legislative History

Up-to-date information on the availability and prevalence of illegal drugs and the criminal, health, and social consequences of their use is vital to the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy. Such information also is important for measuring the effectiveness of Federal, State, and local drug control programs. The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Reauthorization Act of 2006 defines ONDCP's reporting requirements, citing specific provisions of HR 6344 that address the contents of the National Drug Control Strategy, as follows:

- (v) An assessment of current illicit drug use (including inhalants and steroids) and availability, impact of drug use, and treatment availability, which assessment shall include—
 - (I) estimates of drug prevalence and frequency of use as measured by national, State, and local surveys of illicit drug use and by other special studies of nondependent and dependent illicit drug use;
 - (II) illicit drug use in the workplace and the productivity lost by such use; and
 - (III) illicit drug use by arrestees, probationers, and parolees.
- (vi) An assessment of the reduction of illicit drug activity, as measured by—
 - (I) the quantities of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, ecstasy, and other drugs available for consumption in the United States;
 - (II) the amount of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy, and precursor chemicals entering the United States;
 - (III) the number of illicit drug manufacturing laboratories seized and destroyed and the number of hectares of marijuana, poppy, and coca cultivated and destroyed domestically and in other countries;
- (IV) the number of metric tons of marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine seized and other drugs; and
- (V) changes in the price and purity of heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine; changes in the price of ecstasy; and changes in tetrahydrocannabinol level of marijuana and other drugs.
- (vii) An assessment of the reduction of the consequences of illicit drug use and availability, which shall include—
 - (I) the burden illicit drug users placed on hospital emergency departments in the United States, such as the quantity of illicit drug-related services provided;
 - (II) the annual national health care costs of drug use; and
 - (III) the extent of drug-related crime and criminal activity.
- (viii) A determination of the status of drug treatment in the United States, by assessing—
 - (I) public and private treatment utilization; and

(II) the number of illicit drug users the Director estimates meet diagnostic criteria for treatment.

(ii) the inclusion of data and information to permit a standardized and uniform assessment of the effectiveness of drug treatment programs in the United States.

A further provision stipulates the following:

“(C) SELECTION OF DATA AND INFORMATION—In selecting data and information for inclusion under subparagraph (A), the Director shall ensure—

(i) the inclusion of data and information that will permit analysis of current trends against previously compiled data and information where the Director believes such analysis enhances long-term assessment of the National Drug Control Strategy; and

Data are available for many of the areas listed above; however, there are specific areas for which measurement systems are not yet fully operational. The tables presented in this volume contain the most current drug-related data on the areas the 2006 ONDCP Reauthorization Act requires ONDCP to assess.