

# 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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As of March 2009, 84 countries and territories worldwide 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 below 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: 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 this listing does not indicate the scope, quality or coverage of services.

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<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

Country (or territory)	Explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents	Needle and syringe exchange programmes operational	Opioid substitution therapy programmes operational	Drug consumption rooms	Needle exchange in prisons	Opioid substitution therapy in prisons
ASIA						
Afghanistan	ü	ü				
Bangladesh	ü	ü				
Cambodia	ü	ü				
China (Taiwan) (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region)	ü ü ü	ü ü ü	ü ü ü			
India	ü	ü	ü			ü
Indonesia	ü	ü	ü			ü
PDR Laos	ü					
Malaysia	ü	ü	ü			ü
Maldives			ü			
Myanmar	ü	ü	ü			
Nepal	ü	ü	ü			
Pakistan	ü	ü				
Philippines		ü				
Thailand		ü	ü			
Vietnam	ü	ü	ü			
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA						
Albania	ü	ü	ü			ü
Amenia	ü	ü			ü	
Azerbaijan		ü	ü			
Belarus	ü	ü	ü			
Bosnia and Herzegovina		ü	ü			
Bulgaria	ü	ü	ü			
Croatia	ü	ü	ü			ü
Czech Republic	ü	ü	ü			ü
Estonia	ü	ü	ü			
Georgia	ü	ü	ü			ü
Hungary	ü	ü	ü			
Kazakhstan	ü	ü	ü			
Kyrgyzstan	ü	ü	ü		ü	

Latvia	ü	ü	ü			
Lithuania	ü	ü	ü			
Macedonia	ü	ü	ü			ü
Moldova	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü
Montenegro	ü	ü	ü			ü
Poland	ü	ü	ü			ü
Romania	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü
Russia		ü				
Serbia	ü	ü	ü			ü
Slovakia	ü	ü	ü			
Slovenia	ü	ü	ü			ü
Tajikistan	ü	ü				
Ukraine	ü	ü	ü			
Uzbekistan	ü	ü	ü			
LATIN AMERICA						
Argentina	ü	ü				
Brazil	ü	ü				
Colombia	ü					
Mexico	ü	ü	ü			
Paraguay		ü				
Uruguay	ü	ü				
MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA						
Egypt		ü				
Iran	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü
Israel	ü	ü	ü			
Lebanon	ü	ü	ü			
Morocco	ü	ü				
Oman		ü				
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü
United States (Puerto Rico)	ü nk	ü ü	ü ü			ü
OCEANIA						
Australia	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü
New Zealand	ü	ü	ü			ü
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA						
Mauritius	ü	ü	ü			ü
South Africa	ü		ü			
Tanzania (Zanzibar)	ü ü					

WESTERN EUROPE						
Austria	ü	ü	ü			ü
Belgium	ü	ü	ü			ü
Cyprus	ü	ü	ü			
Denmark	ü	ü	ü			ü
Finland	ü	ü	ü			ü
France	ü	ü	ü			ü
Germany	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Greece	ü	ü	ü			
Ireland	ü	ü	ü			ü
Italy	ü	ü	ü			ü
Luxembourg	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Malta	ü	ü	ü			ü
Netherlands	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü
Norway	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü
Portugal	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü
Spain	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Sweden	ü	ü	ü			ü
Switzerland	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
United Kingdom	ü	ü	ü			ü