



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

| European | Drug | Report

Trends and Developments

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Cyprus launch

European Drug Report 2018 package

EUROPEAN DRUG REPORT PACKAGE 2018

Interlinked elements allowing access to available data and analysis on the drugs problem in Europe and at national level



Also published on the day:

NPS in prison (**Rapid communication & video**)

Updates on misuse of benzodiazepines in high-risk opioid users, drug consumption rooms (**Perspectives on Drugs**)

Fentanils and synthetic cannabinoids: driving greater complexity into the drug situation (**EU Early Warning System update 2018**)

Highlights from the European Drug Report 2018

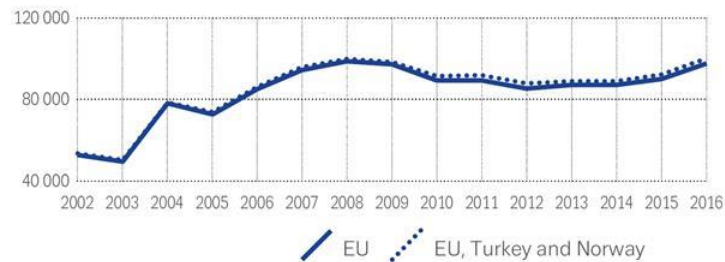
- **Cocaine:** signs of increased availability
- **Markets and production:** growing concerns over domestic production and the role of internet sales
- **NPS:** more evidence of harms, as reflected in an increase in risk assessments of highly potent substances
- **Prisons:** NPS use an emerging challenge within a setting important for responding to drug problems
- **Overdose deaths:** remain high — overdose prevention a public health priority: report highlights role of naloxone
- **Cannabis:** new policy challenges



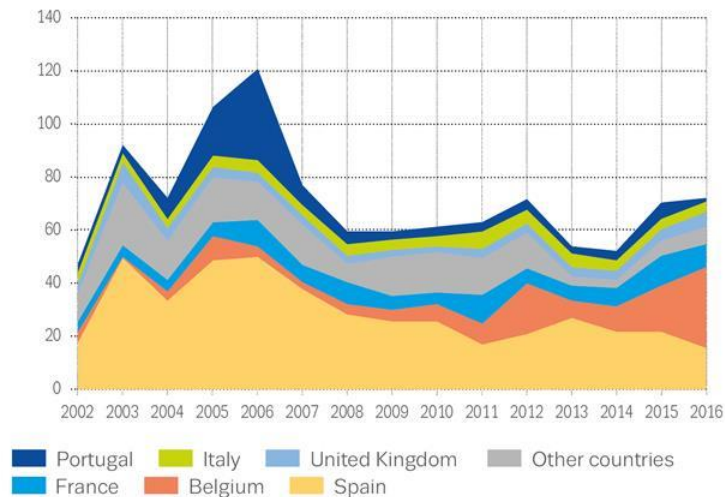
Cocaine: increased availability, higher purity

Number of cocaine seizures and quantity seized: trends and 2016 or most recent year

Number of seizures

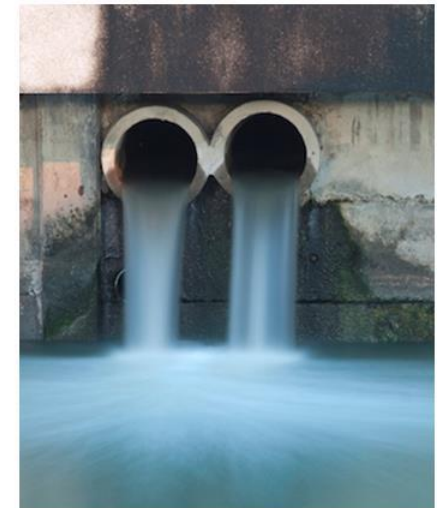
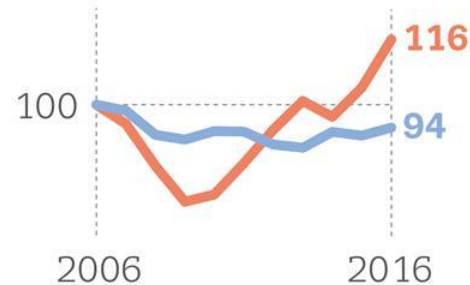


Tonnes



Indexed trends

Price and purity

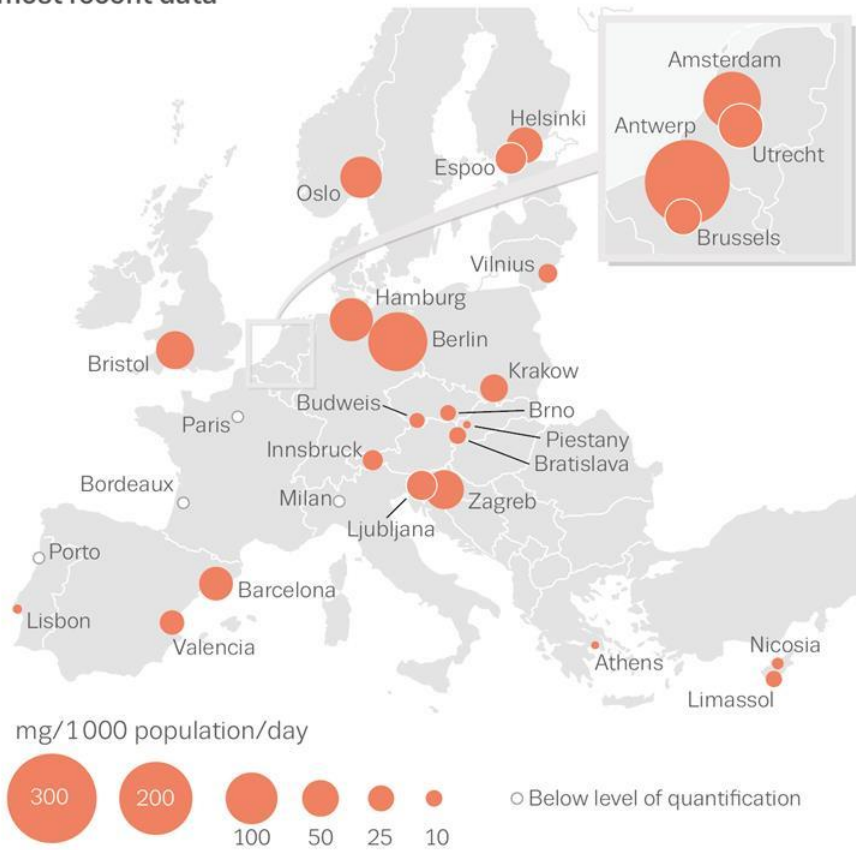


Use patterns less clear

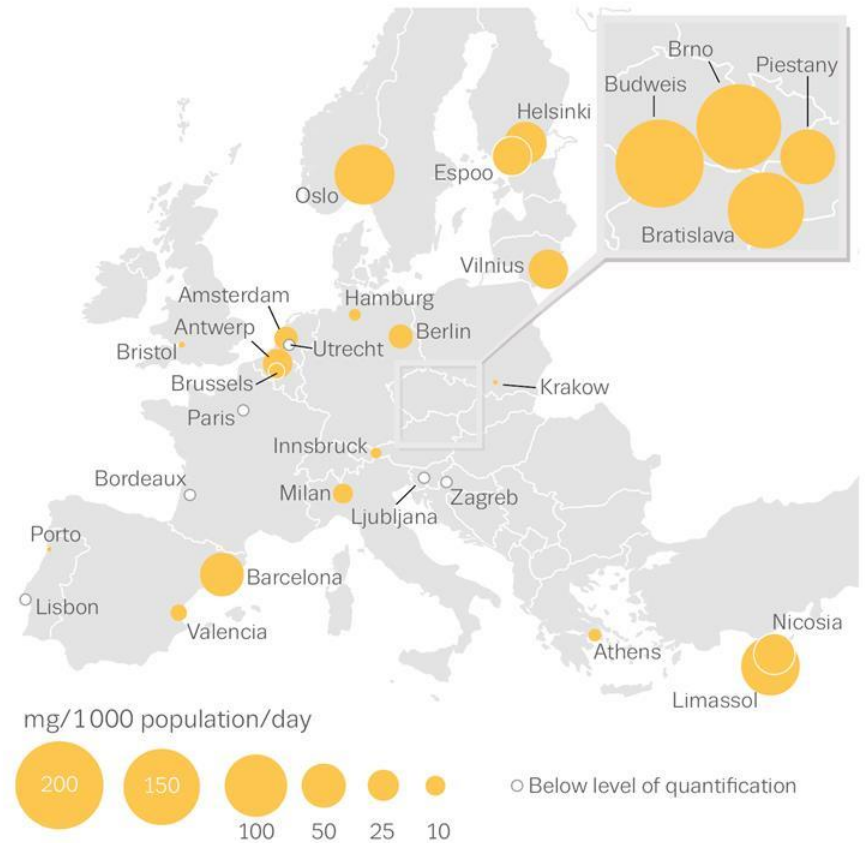
- Wastewater analysis of cocaine residues between 2015–17 shows an increase in 26 of 31 cities
- But survey data suggest a mixed picture

Amphetamines: variation in use but stable trends

Amphetamine residues in wastewater in selected European cities: most recent data



Methamphetamine residues in wastewater in selected European cities: most recent data



Markets: concerns around drug production in Europe

- **MDMA:** increase in laboratories detected & larger production runs
- Signs that final stages of **cocaine** and **heroin** processing can occur in the EU

- **NPS:** some production in the EU
- **Cannabis:** European production displacing imports



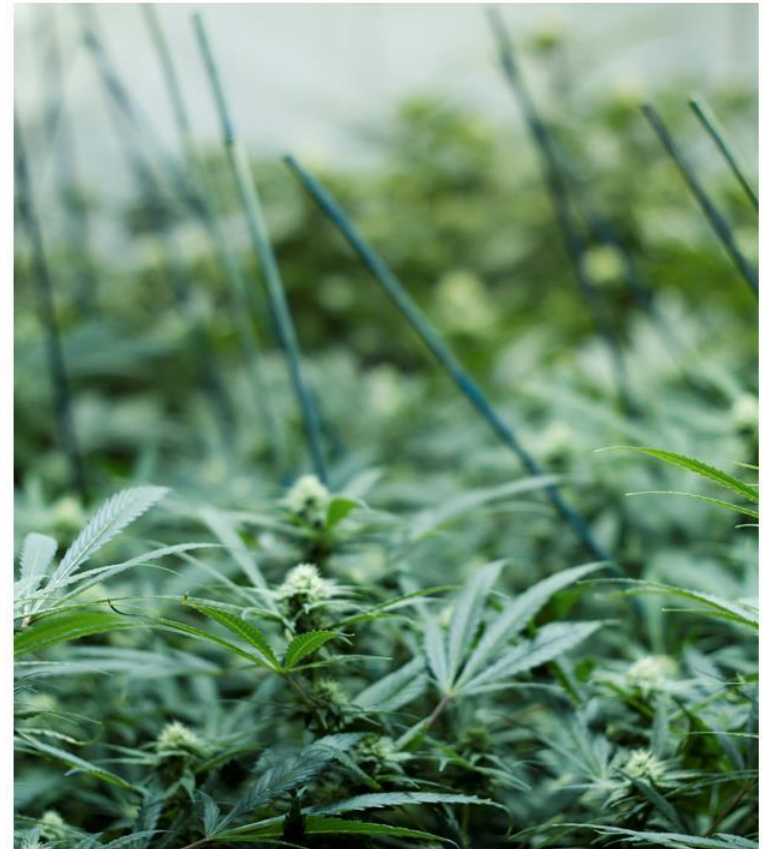
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Cannabis: a more complex set of policy challenges?

- Europe's most used drug
- Increases in new treatment demands
- Innovation in forms, products & delivery systems
- Global developments
- Cross over with other policy areas (e.g. drugs and driving)



Drug markets: online sales — a growing challenge to existing drug control models

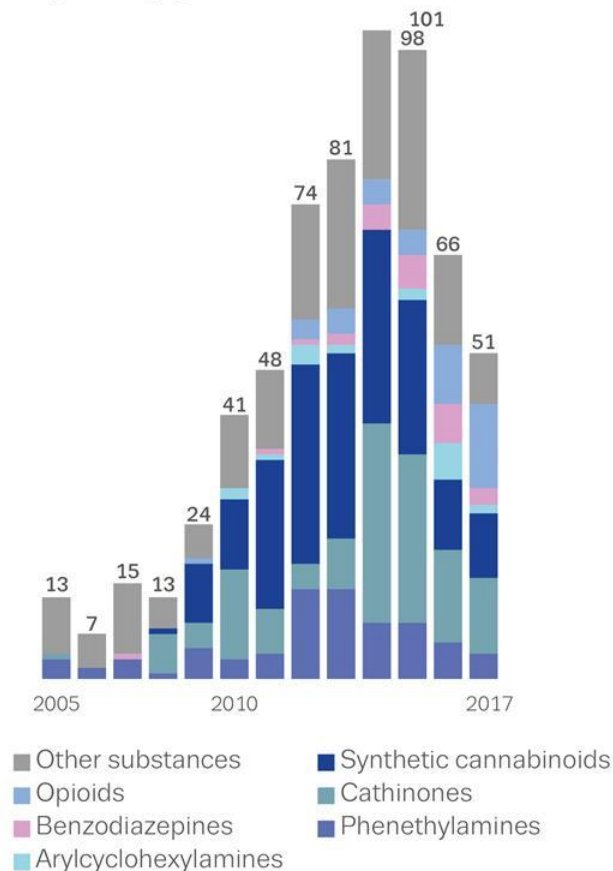
- Darknet markets — over 100 global markets identified
- 2/3rds of purchases are drug-related
- Surface web and social media important sources for NPS and misused medicines
- New benzodiazepines, not authorised as medicines in the EU, sold on- and offline



NPS: 51 new substances detected in 2017

- Around 350 substances reported annually to the EWS
- 51 of these were new substances detected for the first time in 2017
- Decline from 2014 peak (101)
- Impact of regulation in EU and China?
- Deaths and acute intoxications a growing problem

Number and categories of new psychoactive substances notified to the EU Early Warning System for the first time, 2005–17



NPS: nine risk assessments in 2017 of highly potent substances

4 synthetic cannabinoids

- most frequently seized NPS
- often in the form of herbal smoking mixtures



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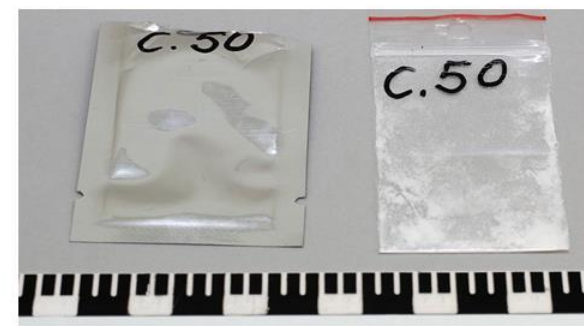
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5 fentanyl derivatives

- highly potent
- increasingly misused
- various forms (powders, tablets, nasal sprays)



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NPS in prisons: growing evidence of harms

- A growing problem: in particular synthetic cannabinoids
- Identified in 21 EU countries but may go unobserved elsewhere
- Serious problems reported, deaths, acute intoxications, self-harm and bullying
- Evidence of initiation in prison
- Difficult to detect and innovative methods used for supply



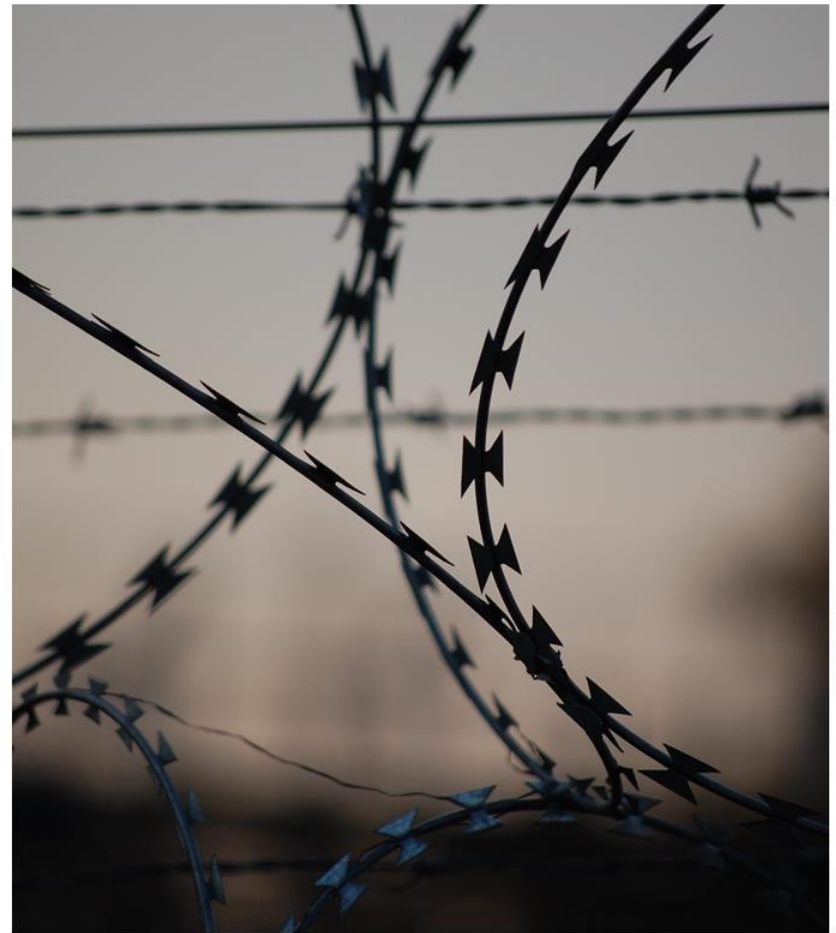
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Prison: an important setting for addressing drug-related problems

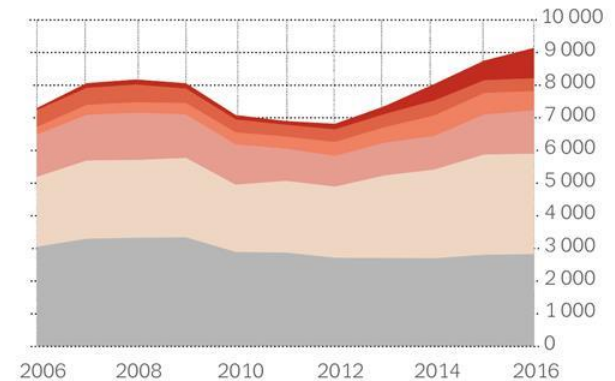
- Addressing drug-related problems in prison can improve health and reduce the risk of subsequent offending
- Important to:
 - identify and treat drug problems
 - test and treat for HIV, HCV
- Release from prison — time of increased risk of overdose



Overdose deaths: rise for fourth year

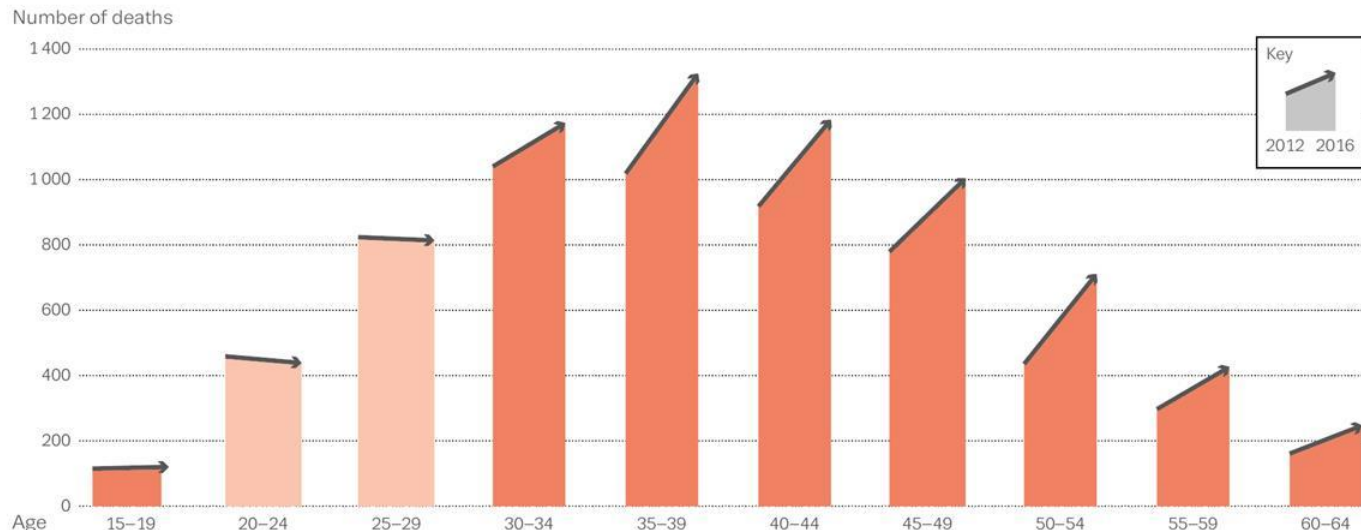
- Over 9 000 overdose deaths in 2016
- Increases in all age categories
- In older age groups reflects an aging cohort of opioid users

Trends in overdose deaths



■ Turkey
 ■ Spain
 ■ Sweden
 ■ Germany
 ■ United Kingdom
 ■ Other countries

Number of drug-induced deaths reported in the European Union in 2012 and 2016, or most recent year, by age band



Reducing overdose deaths: remains a critical public health objective

- Mainly related to heroin and other opioids
- Synthetic opioids a concern (medicines and NPS e.g. fentanyl derivatives)
- OST important to prevent overdose

Reducing fatal outcome of overdose



Reducing risk of overdose

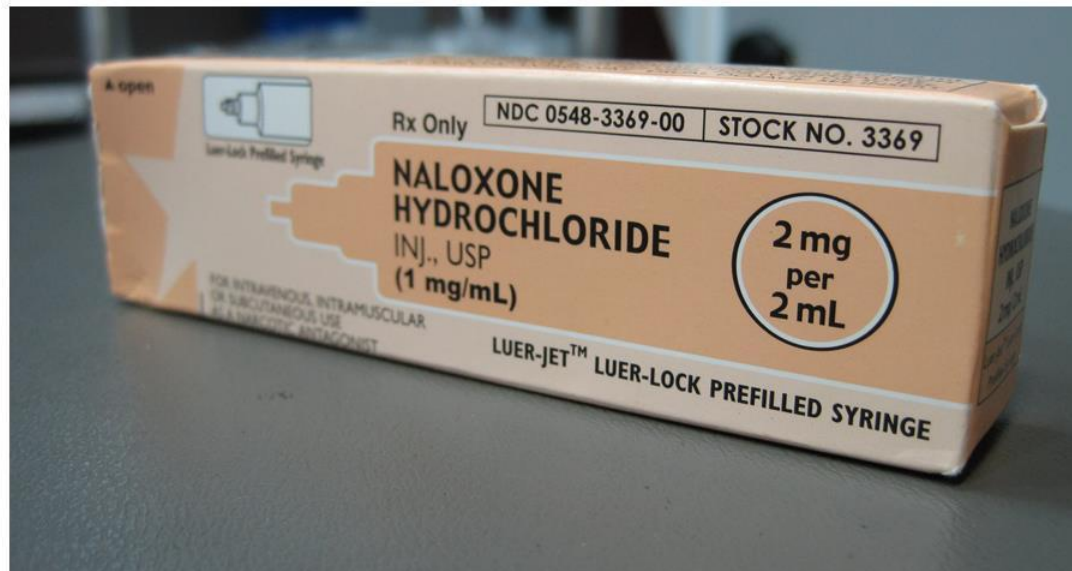


Reducing vulnerability



Reducing overdose deaths: remains a critical public health objective

- Increasing the access to the opioid antidote naloxone is also important
- 16 programmes in 10 European countries in 2017



Concluding remarks

- In Europe, illicit drugs continue to pose a range of public health and security threats
- The market remains highly dynamic, is more globally linked and developments in information technology are impacting on the problems we face
- The availability and spread of highly potent products is a key policy concern, especially use among vulnerable populations and in high-risk settings
- Reducing drug overdose and eliminating drug-related infectious disease remain important public health challenges
- Preparedness, sensitive monitoring and increasingly agile, evidence-based and rapid responses are required.






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