

Recent developments in the UN and other organisations on access to controlled medicines, including opioid analgesics

Societal Impact of Pain

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Willem Scholten,
Team Leader, Access to Controlled Medicines
World Health Organization



- **Introduction**
- **UN Organisations and International NGOs**
- **WHO's Access to Controlled Medications Programme (ACMP)**

International Drug Control Conventions

- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)
- United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)



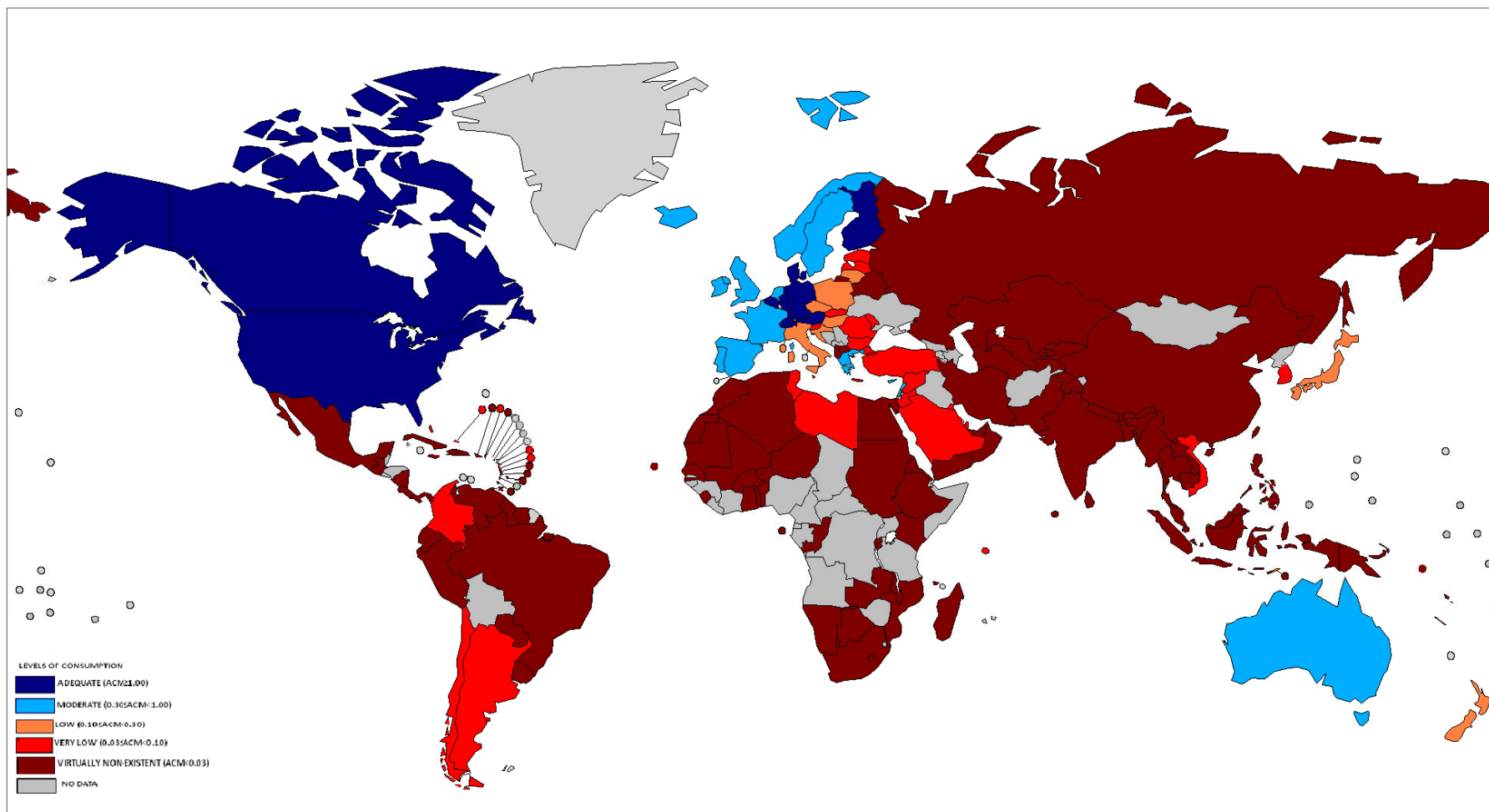
Controlled medicines on the WHO EML

The WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (~ for Children) list the following controlled medicines:

- **Opioid analgesics:**
morphine
moderate to severe pain
- **Long-acting opioid agonists:**
methadone,
buprenorphine
treatment of opioid dependence
- **Ergometrine and ephedrine:**
emergency obstetrics
- **Benzodiazepines:**
anxiolytics, hypnotics,
antiepileptics
- **Phenobarbital:**
antiepileptic



ADEQUACY OF CONSUMPTION OF OPIOID ANALGESICS (2007)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization
 Map Production: Public Health Information
 and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 World Health Organization

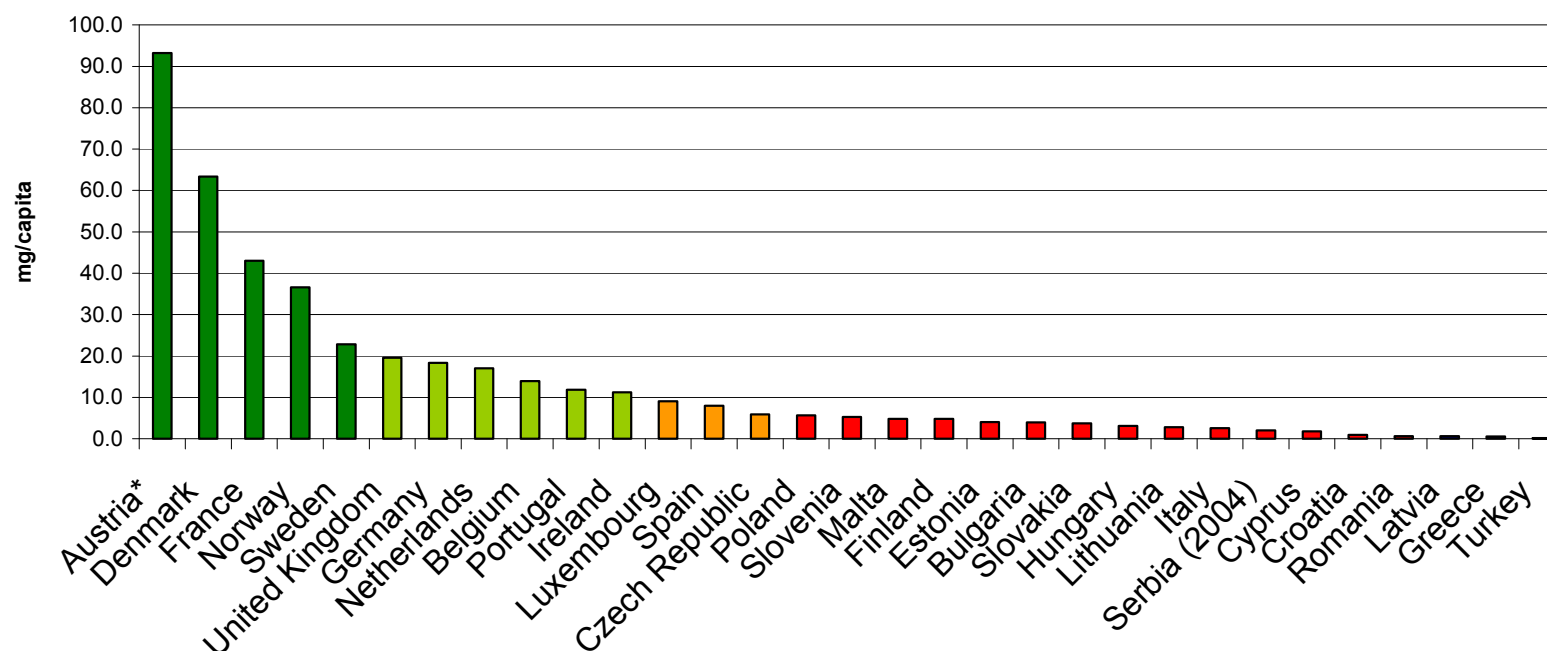


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Medical morphine consumption in Europe, 2003 (in milligrams)

European average: 11.8 mg per capita



* also used in treatment of opioid dependence



Inadequate access to opioid analgesics

- **Worldwide problem**
- **European average: not so bad**
 - **improvement possible**
- **Eastern Europe: improvement urgently needed**
- **Western Europe: some improvement advisable**



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INCB

- **International Narcotics Control Board**
- **Long history of calling for improved access (1986 -)**
- **Regular reports on availability**
- **Annual statistics**
- **Authoritative body for national drug controllers**
- **Developed Access to Controlled Medications Programme (ACMP) with WHO**



UNODC

- **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**
- **Programmes on**
 - **harm reduction and HIV prevention**
 - **treatment of opioid dependence**
- **Ambition to work on access to pain treatment**



WHO

World Health Organization

- **Access to Controlled Medications Programme (ACMP)**
- **Addresses *all* medicines controlled under the international drug conventions**
- **Essential Medicines in particular**
- **Problems and solutions for various medicines supposed to be very similar**



International NGOs

- **European Palliative Care Association (EAPC)**
- **Human Rights Watch (HRW)**
- **African Palliative Care Association (APCA)**
- **International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)**
- **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**
- **Douleurs sans Frontières**

..... and many others



UN Resolutions

- **ECOSOC 2005/25**
- **World Health Assembly 58.22**
 - Both resolutions calling on the World Health Organization and the Int. Narcotics Control Board
 - Resulting in WHO Access to Controlled Medications Programme (ACMP)

More recently:

- **Commission on Narcotic Drugs (2010 and 2011)**



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ACMP: 1 - Normative guidance

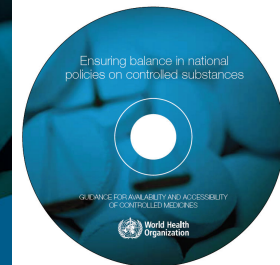
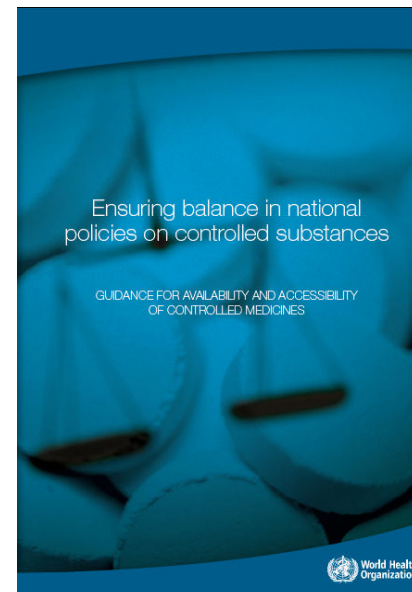
- **Pain treatment guidelines**
 - **Persisting pain in children: 2011**
 - **Persisting pain in adults**
 - **Acute Pain**
- **Policy guidelines "Ensuring Balance in National Policies on Controlled Substances"**
- **WHO/INCB Manual for estimates**



WHO Policy guidelines

Ensuring Balance in National Policies on Controlled Substances, *Guidance for accessibility and availability of controlled medicines* (Geneva 2011)

- English, French, and 7 other EU languages
- On-line: free (total 15 languages)
- In print: US\$ 25.– (English and French only)
- Based on Principle of Balance
- 21 Guidelines and Country Check List



Principle of Balance

- **Obligation of governments to establish a system of drug control that**
 - **ensures the adequate availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes**
 - **while simultaneously preventing abuse, diversion and trafficking**

In other words:

Public health interests are best served if all control measures aim at the optimum between medical availability and abuse prevention



ACMP: 2 - Country support

- **Situational analysis and drafting a plan**
 - **Legislation review**
 - **Policy review**
- **Assistance while amending the Law**
- **Assistance for the introduction of balanced policies**



ATOME Project

Access to Opioid Medication in Europe

- 10 partners (palliative care + legal/policy + harm reduction)
- from 8 countries
- 12 target countries (Eastern Europe)
- EC 7th Framework Programme funding
- € 2.45 m budget over 5 years



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Willem Scholten, PharmD, MPA
Team Leader, Access to Controlled Medicines
Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical
Policies
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland

scholtenw@who.int
+41 22 79 15540

