

Global & Regional

[Drug sales on dark web triple since Silk Road closure](#)

Newsweek (10/08)

Sales of illicit drugs on the so-called dark web have tripled since the 2013 shutdown of the online marketplace Silk Road, according to new research.

[Drug trafficking and commercial fraud rife at Vietnam – Laos border](#)

VnExpress (10/08)

Police said transnational drug operations are complicated at the borders with Laos as well as China, and several drug busts have been made this year as drugs enter the country from the "Golden Triangle" - Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

[A 'cure' for addiction is theoretically possible — but still far away](#)

Vice (10/08)

The bigger finding is that genes themselves play a smaller role in determining addictive behavior than previously thought. The study found that addiction is influenced by an individual's ability to regulate their genes, more than the genes themselves.

[When a door closes, a window opens: Closing Silk Road leads to surge in online drug sales](#)

RT (11/08)

It is worth noting that the study found production of NPS was linked to Asian countries such as China, Malaysia, the Philippines, India and Pakistan.

[U.S. to allow more marijuana research: sources](#)

Reuters (11/08)

The U.S. government will announce on Thursday that it will allow more research into marijuana but has rejected requests to relax the classification of the substance as a dangerous, highly addictive drug with no medical use, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

["This is your brain. This is drugs. This is your brain on drugs. Any questions?"](#)

The Independent (11/08)

The new advert, repackaged for the non-profit organisation, points to drugfree.org, so parents can inform themselves on how to answer those questions. But anti-drug adverts can have wider implications for public health, criminal justice and racism.

[Indonesia discusses narcotic drugs trafficking with India](#)

Antara News (12/08)

This is the first meeting held in the framework of the Joint Working Group on narcotic drugs control as the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation between BNN and NCB signed in 2013.

[Preventing migrant workers from becoming drug couriers](#)

Antara News (14/08)

According to domestic helpers rights groups, maids could be an easy prey for drug rings looking for couriers, the media wrote.

Afghanistan

[Afghanistan Forces Struggle to Hold Firm Against Taliban in South](#)

New York Times (14/08)

Increasingly, the Taliban have come to resemble a drug cartel as much as an insurgency, relying heavily on the profits from the opium trade to fund their fight.

Australia

[Hysteria about drugs and harm minimisation. It's always the same old story](#)

The Guardian (10/08)

No matter how impressive the evidence of benefits, or how weak the evidence of serious side effects or how badly a strategy is needed, new harm reduction strategies are always greeted the same way: with relentless hostility.

[Finding a better way to treat drug addiction than by jailing people](#)

Sydney Morning Herald (11/08)

Australia could learn a lot from the fact that a number of American cities are successfully reducing the role of criminalisation in their drug policies.

[Sydney injecting room doctor hits back at Deputy Premier Troy Grant](#)

Sydney Morning Herald (11/08)

The Sydney doctor in charge of Sydney's lone supervised injecting centre has decried as "hurtful" and "offensive" suggestions by the NSW deputy premier that the centre was trying to "tout" for business among pregnant women.

[Government consults addicts on new laws to force drug users into rehab](#)

WA Today 13/08

The state government has taken the first steps toward forcing drug addicts into rehab by setting up a consultation group which will include addicts.

India

[India Tackles Drug Smugglers Trafficking a New Product: Jihadists](#)

Wall Street Journal (08/08)

Antinarcotics and intelligence officials say overlapping groups of drug smugglers, criminals and militants in Pakistan are ferrying fighters into Punjab state.

[Drug addiction grips India's Punjab region](#)

DW News (12/08)

With limited opportunities for employment and easy access to drugs, India's Punjab district is losing increasing numbers of young people to addiction and overdose.

Indonesia

[Lessons from Indonesia's recent executions](#)

Rappler (09/08)

Indonesia still claims that by killing drug mules, it will stop this terrible crime. Is there any evidence of this? Definitely not, judging from past experience

[Indonesia's president orders probe into alleged police role in drug trade](#)

Reuters (11/08)

Indonesia's president has ordered security authorities to investigate allegations of police involvement in the illegal distribution of drugs in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

[Indonesia's Push to Execute Drug Convicts Underlines Flaws in Justice System](#)

New York Times (13/08)

Many condemned convicts were tortured into confessing, did not receive access to lawyers or were otherwise denied fair trials.

New Zealand

[Labour would consider a referendum on decriminalising cannabis](#)

New Zealand Herald (11/08)

"We will look at holding a referendum about it... we want to make sure there is a good information campaign about it, and have a referendum about it and let people decide."

[NZ has 'big appetite' for illegal drugs](#)

Radio New Zealand (14/08)

Drug addicts paying top dollar means New Zealand's illegal drug market is being targeted by international crime networks, the Customs Minister says.

Philippines

[Philippine President Duterte Threatens 'Martial Law' if His Drugs War is Hindered](#)

Time (10/08)

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte threatened on Tuesday to declare "martial law" in the country if its judiciary gets in the way of his national war on illegal drugs, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reports.

[New Philippine prisons won't fix broken justice system](#)

Southeast Asia Globe (10/08)

As President Duterte's brutal war on drugs strains already overcrowded Philippine prisons, human rights workers say pouring money into new jails isn't the answer.

[The Trouble With the Philippines' 'Name and Shame' Campaign](#)

The Diplomat (10/08)

A worrisome lack of transparency calls Duterte's latest method in the war on drugs into question.

[Duterte's war on drugs leaves jails bursting, sees mass surrenders](#)

Channel News Asia (11/08)

From severely overcrowded prisons to exhausted funeral parlour operators and parents turning in their own children in to avoid vigilante bounty killings, people in the Philippines are scrambling to respond to the effects of President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs.

[Philippine Leader Shifts Drug War to Officials, Meeting Resistance and Approval](#)

The New York Times (12/08)

This week, President Duterte took on judges and police generals, military officials, more than 50 mayors and local officials, and three men said to be current or former members of Congress, in his war on drugs.

[A harvest of lead](#)

The Economist (13/08)

Rodrigo Duterte is living up to his promise to fight crime by shooting first and asking questions later.

[Drug killings to be investigated, Philippines tells US](#)

GMA News Online (14/08)

The Philippines has vowed to investigate reports of a wave of extrajudicial killings, the government said Sunday, after Washington warned military aid to its Asian ally was dependent on respect for human rights.

[Philippines: Duterte may face international court for drug deaths, senator says](#)

Asian Correspondent (15/08)

"There are some experts who are saying that... if this spate of killings go unabated and unchecked, it could reach that point that the ICC could send a prosecutor to our country and investigate all these for possible prosecution under the Rome Statute," she was quoted saying.

[CPP withdraws support for anti-drug campaign](#)

The Manila Times (15/08)

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has withdrawn its support for President Rodrigo Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs, which the party described as having become "anti-people and anti-democratic."

Vietnam

[Vietnam sentences 11 to death for heroin trafficking](#)

VnExpress (10/08)

A court in the northern mountainous province of Lang Son has sentenced 11 people to death for smuggling nearly 280 kilograms (617 pounds) of heroin from Vietnam to China between 2013 and 2014.

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