

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotighting Illicit Drug Abuse and Trafficking in Delta State

September 12-18, 2021

Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights drug abuse in the Niger Delta with a focus on illicit drug peddling and abuse in Delta State. According to data (see map below), 14% of reported incidents of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse in the Niger Delta between January 2018 and June 2021, occurred in Delta State. Recent incidents also indicate a rise in illicit drug abuse and trafficking in the State. In June 2021, for instance, operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) reportedly arrested a 20-year old man and seized over 38 kilograms of drugs in Ogwashi Uku town, Aniocha South LGA. In July, the police reportedly arrested a 17-year old male drug peddler and recovered several wraps of Indian hemp in Asaba, the state capital. In August, the police reportedly raided a hideout of illicit drug dealers, arrested two female suspects and seized a large quantity of drugs including Indian hemp and Cocaine in Ozoro town, Isoko North LGA. Also, in August, NDLEA officials reportedly arrested two drug peddlers and seized over 286 kilograms of Cannabis in Ogwashi Uku town, Aniocha South LGA.

Why it Matters

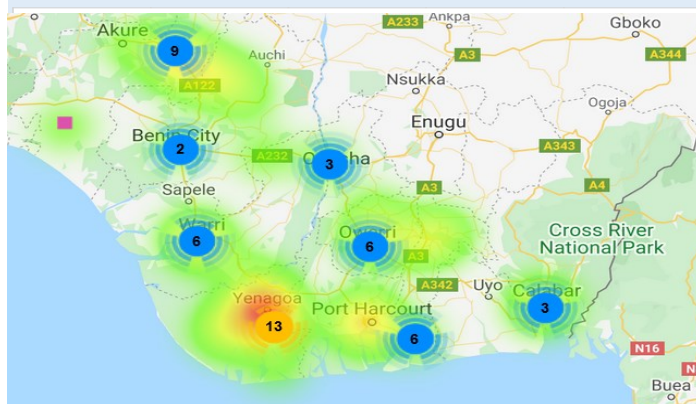
The number of dealers recently arrested and the volume of drugs seized by law enforcement agencies is indicative of the growing prevalence of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse in Delta State. The prevalence of illicit drug abuse and trafficking could intensify criminal violence, pose serious security risk to society and destabilize legitimate economic activities in the State. This could bring about far-reaching social, economic and political consequences in the State.

Social: Drug abuse could bring about serious psychosocial and health repercussions for individuals, families and society. Individuals under the influence of illicit drugs could pose serious health and safety risk to society, including addiction, mental disorder, hostility, emotional instability and loss of self-control. The abuse and trafficking of illicit drugs could also exacerbate criminal violence, sexual and domestic violence and other psychopharmacological crimes in the State.

Economic: The production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs could distort the local economy by diverting human and material resources from legitimate businesses into criminal networks. Indian hemp farming, for instance, could diminish the available land and labor for crop farming in the State. As an underground business, trading in illicit drugs could also reduce government's revenue from taxation.

Political: The growing prevalence of drug trafficking could have adverse impact on politics and governance in the State. It could encourage political thuggery and violence during elections. Profits from drug trafficking could also facilitate administrative corruption in the State.

Incidents Heat Map of Illicit Drug Abuses and Trafficking in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of illicit drug abuse and trafficking in the Niger Delta from January 2018 - June 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs is increasing becoming prevalent in Delta State. Stakeholders should work with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and the State government to establish an observatory on illicit drug production, trafficking and usage in the State. Stakeholders should also collaborate with media outfits and religious bodies to intensify ongoing efforts to raise public awareness of the danger of illicit drug abuse.

Contact Us

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Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.



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