

KEY FACTS

Approximately 13 million people who inject drugs.

30% of new HIV Infections outside of sub-Saharan Africa are as a result of unsafe injecting.

Approximately 13% of people who inject drugs are living with HIV.

People who inject drugs are globally 28 times more likely to contract HIV than others in the general population.

Between 162 million and 324 million people, corresponding to between 3.5 per cent and 7.0 per cent of the world population aged 15-64, have used an illicit drug.

There are 30 million people in prison in the course of a year, many of them for minor drugs offences (52% of the prison population of the US are convicted of drugs offences, mostly low level).

Low- and middle-income countries, where 80% of the world's population lives, consume only 8% of the opioids produced legitimately for pain relief.

Approximately 6.6 million people aged 15-64 and inject drugs are living with HCV.

Only 7% of the investment currently estimated by UNAIDS to be required to end the HIV epidemic among people who inject drugs is currently provided.

*“Member States should pursue a balanced and mutually reinforcing approach to supply and demand reduction, devoting more effort to the realization of demand reduction with a view to achieving proportionality of effort, resources and international cooperation in addressing drug abuse as a **health and social issue**, while upholding the law and its enforcement.”*

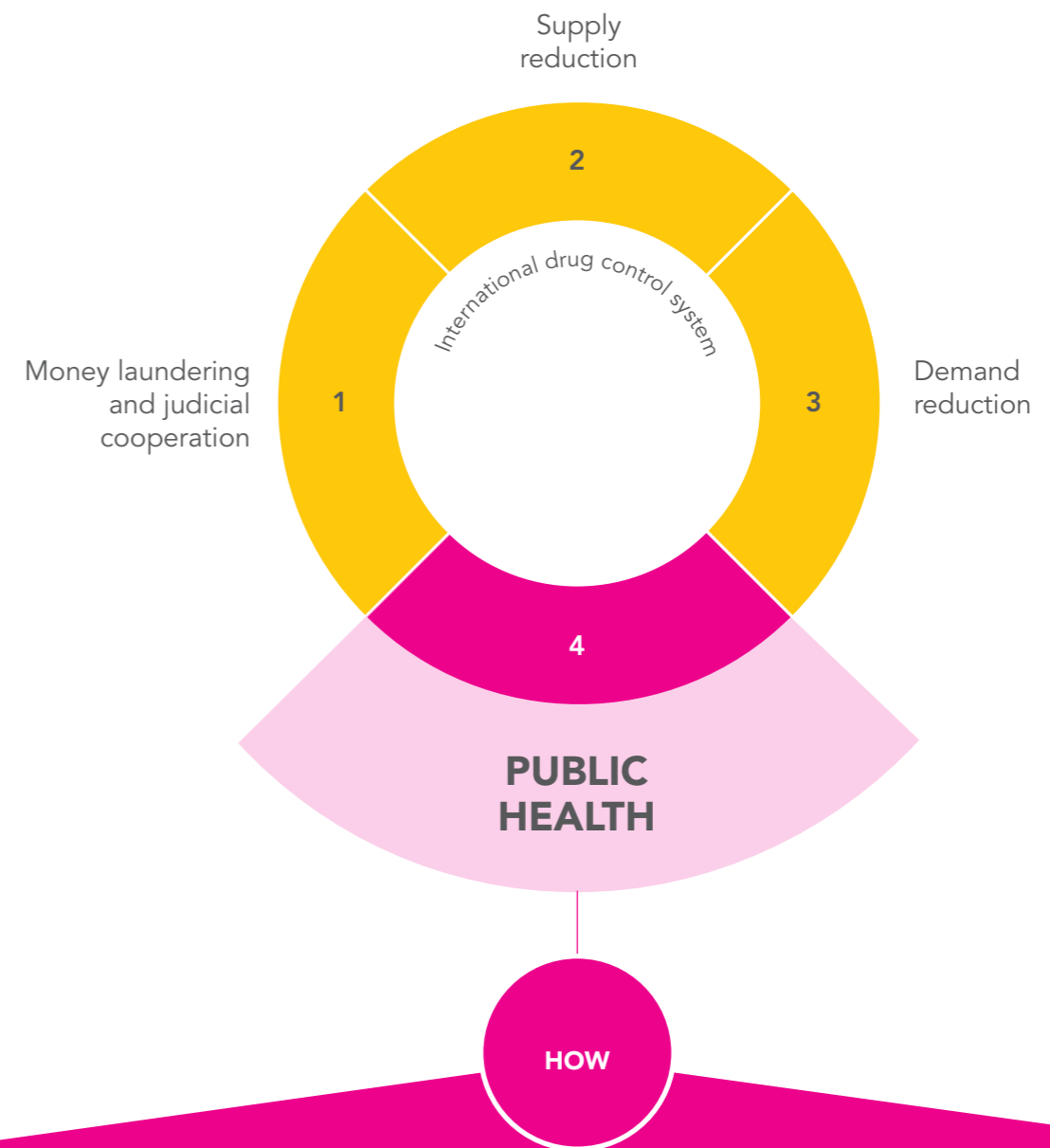
United Nations Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Co-operation towards and integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem, March 2009.

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HIV AND DRUGS: PUBLIC HEALTH—THE MISSING LINK



- Decriminalize drug use
- Smart policing
- Fewer people in prisons; health care for inmates
- End the death penalty for drugs offences
- Access to opioids for legitimate purposes
- Community-based services led by people who inject drugs
- Accessible OST, needle and syringe programmes, HIV treatment and naloxone
- Mitigate negative public health impacts of drug use in trafficking routes
- Ban compulsory drug testing, treatment and detention
- Refocus funds to public health.

A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO DRUG CONTROL

ISSUES & BENEFITS

