



Mentor Lithuania



Lithuania: General information

- **Population:** 3,445,700 (at the beginning of 2004)
- **Area:** 65,300 km²
- **Borders with other countries:** Latvia, Belarus, Poland, Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation
- **Capital city:** Vilnius (pop. 553,000)
- **Ethnic composition:** 83,45% Lithuanians, 6,31% Russians, 6,74% Poles, 1,23% Byelorussia's, 0,65% Ukrainians, 0,12% Jews and 1,49% other nationalities (0,07% Roma).

Drug strategy

- National Drug Control and Drug Addiction Prevention Programme for 1999-2003
- National Drug Prevention and Drug Control Strategy 2004-2008
- Non-governmental organizations

Trends

- The 2003 National Report indicates that alcohol continue to be the most relevant problem drug misuse in Lithuania One of the major developments over the past years concerns the increase in number of crimes related to alcohol use and illegal drug trafficking, especially among minors.
- Over last year a big number of HIV infected prisoners was detected. The main contamination reason is multiple syringe use for intravenous drug injections.

Drug use among the general population

- No data on drug use among the general population is currently available.

Drug use among young people (I)

- The biggest problem in the schools is the consumption of alcohol among students (32%)
- Comparing the survey data of 2003 and 1999, the number of smoking students has increased (80% casual smokers)
- The use of other drugs, which had increased from 3.2% in 1995 m. to 15.5% in 1999, has stabilised and currently constitutes 15.6%.
- 32.6% of students have used drugs

Drug use among young people (II)

- Marijuana and hashish are the most prevalent among the illicit drugs. Comparing to the data of ESPAD 99, the use of heroin and ecstasy has decreased

Drug related mortality

- Between 1998 and 2002, mortality increased almost twice (from 32 to 62 cases); however, it stabilised in 2001-2002 (from 49 to 40 cases). Mortality caused by the use of drugs is more frequent among men than among women. The highest mortality is among 30-35 year-old drug-addicts.
- A large number of people abusing alcohol were deceased in the result of poisoning with alcohol or its surrogates.

Drug prevention

- Primary prevention of drug abuse is usually included in health promotion programmes, which are currently implemented in all schools; a national network of 'healthy' schools is under development.
- Municipalities create new workplaces for school social educators. One of social educators tasks – drug misuse prevention.

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- Mentoring program
- Researches on drug misuse among the general population