

Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting the Prevalence of Drug Trafficking and Abuse in Edo State

July 04-10, 2021

Description

This special edition of the weekly update highlights drug abuse and addiction in the Niger Delta with a focus on illicit drug trafficking and abuse in Edo State. According to data (see map below), more than 25% of reported incidents of illicit drug trafficking in the Niger Delta between 2018 and 2020, occurred in Edo State. Current data shows the prevalence of illicit drug trafficking and abuse in Edo State. In the first quarter of 2021, officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) reportedly arrested over 100 drug trafficking suspects and seized more than 238,000 kilograms of illicit drugs in Edo State. In February 2021, for instance, NDLEA officials reportedly raided four cannabis warehouses, arrested seven drug trafficking suspects and seized over 16,000 bags of cannabis at a forest in Ukpuje community, Esan West LGA. In May, NDLEA officials reportedly arrested two male drug trafficking suspects and seized 17 bags of cannabis in Egbeta-Okada community, Ovia North East LGA. In June, a 30-year old man was reportedly arrested by NDLEA officials for dealing in crack cocaine in Ekpoma community, Esan West LGA.

Why it Matters

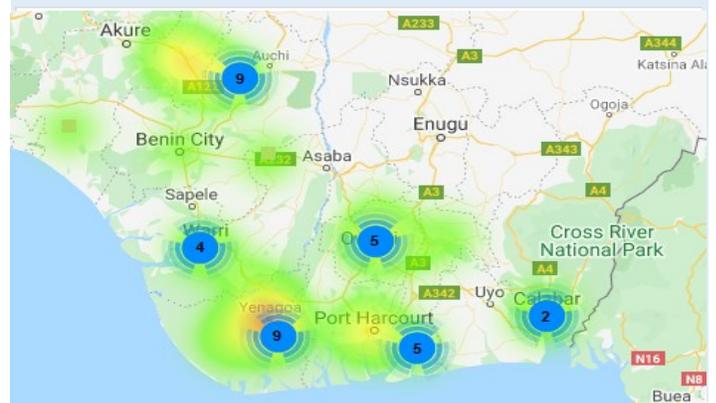
The recent increase in the number of illegal drug production facilities uncovered and the volume of illicit drugs seized is indicative of the growing role of the Edo State as a hotbed of illicit drug trafficking in the Niger Delta and beyond. The prevalence of illicit drug production and trafficking has the potential to undermine legitimate economic activities and exacerbate insecurity in the State. This could have significant socio-economic and political repercussions in the State.

Social: Drug abuse could have serious psycho-social and health consequences for individuals and society. Persons under the influence of drugs could pose safety risk to society. Consumption of illicit drugs can cause mental disorder and behavioral problems including addiction, hostility, impaired judgement and loss of self-control. It can also intensify criminal violence, sexual and domestic violence, psycho-pharmacological crimes, road crashes and other drug-related deaths.

Economic: The production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs could negatively impact economic development in the State. It could result in manpower and productivity losses. As a clandestine business, drug trafficking can distort the local economy by diverting resources from legitimate businesses into criminal networks. This can undermine legitimate businesses and reduce government revenue from taxation.

Political: The growing prevalence of drug trafficking could have significant political repercussions in the State. It can change the relational dynamics between the citizenry, political and security actors in ways that could facilitate corruption and erode state authority.

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



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of illicit drug trafficking and abuse in the Niger Delta from January 2018 - December 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The production and trafficking of illicit drugs remain prevalent in Edo State. Stakeholders should collaborate 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 a regional observatory on drug trafficking and usage in the State. Law enforcement agencies should devise strategies to improve inter-agency coordination and work with residents for intelligence gathering to support coordinated responses.

Contact Us

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Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

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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