



## ENFORCEMENT-BASED DRUG POLICIES FAIL TO REDUCE DRUG SUPPLY, HAVE NO EFFECT ON PRICE OR PURITY OF DRUGS

### BACKGROUND & METHOD

- Countries throughout the world continue to use drug law enforcement to reduce drug supply and use.
- Attempts to reduce the supply and use of illicit drugs are called 'supply reduction efforts'.
- We looked at the price, purity, and availability of illicit drugs in several countries.
- We used this information to see the effect of enforcement on levels of drug supply.

### QUICK FACT

*EVEN WITH BILLIONS OF DOLLARS BEING SPENT ON ENFORCEMENT SUPPLY REDUCTION EFFORTS THE PRICE OF DRUGS HAS GONE DOWN WHILE THE PURITY HAS GONE UP.*

### FINDINGS

- In the past 30 years, billions of dollars have been spent on supply reduction efforts, especially drug seizures.
- Over the past 20 years, the price of drugs has gone down while the purity of drugs has gone up.

### IMPLICATIONS

- The study shows that enforcement-based policies do not reduce drug supply.
- Enforcement-based responses, such as policing and seizures, do not affect the price or purity of drugs.
- Policymakers should explore new ways to solve drug-related problems such as reducing the demand for drugs and reducing drug-related harms.

Werb D, Kerr T, Nosyk B, Strathdee S, Montaner J, Wood E. **The temporal relationship between drug supply indicators: An audit of international government surveillance systems.** *BMJ Open*, 2013; 3(9): e003077.

