

## Written Testimony - Agenda Item 756

Agenda Item	Name	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
756	Anonymous	Support	We need consistent criminal regulation of controlled substances in public and adequate resources for drug treatment.	No	09/05/23 10:28 AM
756	Sisters of the Road	Oppose	Oppose further criminalization and punishment	Yes	09/05/23 8:37 PM
756	Megan Brown	Oppose	Portland need legislation requiring expanded mental health services and free and accessible rehabilitation programs. The focus of this Council is shameful and misguided. Our community members that are suffering through addiction are often also experiencing mental health crisis and homelessness. To add financial burdens and criminal charges just adds additional barriers to their lives. This is the criminalization of mental illness, homelessness and poverty to appease those who have far more privilege in their lives. All community members need homes and Healthcare! Stop trying to house people in prisons, sweep the streets of humans beings experiencing poverty, and ignoring the real issues facing the city!	No	09/05/23 9:36 PM
756	Liz Waters	Oppose	Criminalization of substance use has been studied extensively and does not work in discouraging use.	No	09/05/23 9:44 PM
756	Emily L.	Oppose	I am a Portland resident and this ordinance will create yet another law that will be discriminately enforced. It will further criminalize unsheltered people who do not have access to shelter for legal use. We know prohibition doesn't work. We support and want funding for harm reduction, safe-use sites, voluntary addiction treatment programs and mental health programs. Stop trying to waste our tax dollars - this is a futile war on drugs perpetuating the ongoing war on the poor. We oppose agenda item 756 & 757.	No	09/05/23 10:19 PM
756	Nicole Mercier	Oppose	I oppose further criminalization and punishment, and this policy has an economic bias against poor people in the city who do not have private spaces for consumption. This policy does not represent true leadership for the city.	No	09/05/23 10:46 PM
756	Jenna Goldin - Shift Accounting LLC	Oppose	I vehemently oppose Agenda Item 756. I am in community with folks who are struggling with addiction and housing instability, both fueled and sustained by the policies and practices of the Portland City Government (past and present). I am firmly committed to root cause solutions including: harm reduction, safe use sites, voluntary substance use and mental health programs, etc. I am committed to these solutions because they work, they are person centered and non-punitive. I am also firmly committed to preventative measures like: universal health care, investment in childhood wellness and education, additional measures to an adequate social safety net, etc. Rather than criminalizing people, and treating systemic issues like individual problems, let's be the City that focus on building systems of community care.	No	09/06/23 6:39 AM
756	Anonymous	Support	Please regulate drug use and make a law. Hail or rehab. People need to realize they need to participate in our society not just take advantage of it. Get off the streets!!!	No	09/06/23 8:51 AM
756	Ben Macdeda	Oppose	Prohibition does not work. Portland needs real solutions not more penalization for the disadvantaged.	No	09/06/23 9:10 AM



September 5, 2023

The War on Drugs started in the 1970s. It's 50 years later and we are still using the same tired and failed ideas to lessen illegal drug use. But even before then, in 1909, the Smoking Opium Exclusion Act was passed and all that did was create punitive measures. In 1914, the Harrison Act regulated and taxed opiates and cocaine. Shortly after, in 1918, the 18th Amendment was ratified and ushered in the Prohibition Era. In 1937, the Marijuana Tax Act was passed placing a federal tax on cannabis. If the tax was not paid, people were fined \$2,000 or faced a prison sentence of 5 years. Finally, Nixon signed the Controlled Substances Act into law in 1970 and declared a "War on Drugs." Which was just a thinly veiled disguise of the war on the poor. What do all these have in common? They failed.

From the start, these acts and laws target the people, not the product or the problem. A 2013 study published by the British Medical Journal found that efforts to control the illegal drug market are failing. Drug manufacturers have lowered the prices, increased the effectiveness, and customer demand in response to heavier legal enforcement.

Between 1990 to 2007:

The price of heroin has dropped 81% while the purity increased 60%

The price of cocaine fell 80% while purity increased 11%

On average, every 25 seconds someone is arrested in the United States for drug possession. In 2016, over 46% of prison inmates were there due to drug offenses, that's about 84,000 people. Jail does not lessen drug use nor does it help those addicted to drugs. What it does do is burden taxpayers. Until the demand for illicit drugs subsides, it will be hard to achieve a victory in the War on Drugs. And the only real and lasting way to reduce that demand is by early and effective educational and intervention programs designed at preventing drug abuse and addiction before it happens, and treating those individuals who are already suffering from an addictive disorder. This was the point of Measure 110.

Finding effective alternatives to incarceration should be a priority. Look at Portugal, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, where decriminalization has proven to be an effective tool against the drug epidemic.

Portugal has seen a decrease in adolescent drug use, the number of people imprisoned for drug-related crimes, the number of new HIV and Hepatitis B and C cases, and overdoses since 2001. In 2017, Switzerland reported 500 new cases of HIV infection, which is a significant drop from the 3,000 cases reported back in 1986. Netherlands reported a 21% reduction in problematic opiate users between 2009 and 2013.

This War on Drugs are not only unsustainable, but harmful to the public. As drug users fear legal repercussions, they are less likely to report contaminated substances and are more likely to seek out stronger products and ingestion methods, thereby increasing the risk of overdose. This fear also deters people suffering from addiction from accessing services. This stigmatizes people.

No one wants to see more people overdose or die from drug use. However, legal enforcement is not the solution.

What we need is to reimagine what the "War on Drugs" looks like. Here's what I think should be implemented:

1. Empower and give social workers and medical professionals the tools needed to advocated in communities and advocate for policy changes based on their professional experience. This would contribute to community-wide awareness of substance-abuse disorder and how prohibition policies harm disadvantaged communities.
2. Local organizations need funding and resources to provide assistance to users.
3. Law enforcement should receive education and unlearn racial profiling and discriminatory practices and educate them so they are equipped to deal with citizens exhibiting signs of drug use. Redirect law enforcement to look at drug trafficking instead of possession or use.
4. Local judiciaries need education about the impact of addiction and enact more court- ordered rehab than prison time.
5. Create safe use sites where needles, gauze, and other tools are available and staff is available if someone experiences an overdose. This also lessens the stigma.
6. Rehabilitation programs need funding so there is an alternative to incarceration.
7. After rehabilitation, individuals can be referred to a reintegration program. Fund those programs, support those programs, advocate for it.

Realize this not just a local problem, but a nationwide problem that reverberates internationally and has not worked. The United States should adopt a strategy that highlights education, harm reduction, and rehabilitation. So should Portland, as this will improve health, public safety, and equality for all those who live in this city.

Sincerely yours,

Kat Mahoney

Executive Director



**From:** [Jude al-Ghazal Stone](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk - Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Submitting ACLU OR Testimony for Sept. 2023  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:47:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[ACLU OR PDX Testimony on Public Use Ban Sept. "23.pdf](#)

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Hello,

I hope you're doing well. I'm emailing to submit the ACLU of Oregon's written testimony regarding Agenda Item 756/757 on behalf of our Executive Director, Sandy Chung. Please find the PDF attached. Thank you!

Very best,

Jude al-Ghazal Stone  
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*The 2023 Oregon legislative session has come to a close. Visit our [legislative hub](#) to catch up on our policy victories, unfinished business and next steps. Sustain and be a part of this collective movement by joining or renewing [your membership](#).*





September 6, 2023

City of Portland  
1221 SW 4th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204

**RE: City of Portland's directive to the Office of Government Relations  
regarding criminal regulation of controlled substances in public**

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Gonzalez, Mapps, Rubio, and Ryan:

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon submits this testimony in opposition to the proposed directive to the Office of Government Relations regarding criminal regulation of controlled substances in public. With over 27,000 members statewide, the ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to defending and advancing civil liberties and civil rights.

We represent Oregonians from many communities and backgrounds, including those who have lived experiences with substance use issues. We strongly agree with your stated value that addiction is a health-centered issue requiring health-centered solutions.

However, your proposed directive — which urges the Office of Government Relations to work towards re-criminalizing public substance use — directly contradicts this stated value. **Your directive will resume the decades-long cycle of ineffective, expensive, and punitive policies that have resulted in the current substance use crisis in Portland and across the country.**

Instead of repeating failed policies or engaging in political theater, the City of Portland should support policies that are aligned with the following solutions-oriented approaches:

- Treat substance use problems as a health care issue.
- Recognize that criminalization and punitive coercion are ineffective, costly, and inhumane.
- Support Measure 110; give this voter-adopted policy the necessary time and resources to be successfully implemented. Unlike decades of failed, coercive policies, Measure 110 services should be voluntary, free, and cover the full spectrum of care.



- Ensure that communities most impacted by punitive substance use policies — primarily Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, low-income communities, and people struggling with addiction — should lead the way and be centered in both policy decision-making and Measure 110 service delivery.

We are paying close attention to regressive efforts to undermine Measure 110 through punitive or coerced approaches to address the public health crisis of substance use because such efforts will simply continue the crises of substance abuse and mass incarceration in Oregon and the United States. We are committed to working with you and others in our community to protect the rights of all Portlanders and ensure that everyone — especially our most vulnerable residents — has the resources to heal and thrive.

Thank you,

**Sandy Chung**  
**Executive Director**  
*She/her/hers*  
ACLU of Oregon

**Portland City Council Meeting - Wednesday, September 6, 2023 2:00 p.m.**


<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
756/757-1	stuart	webster
756/757-2	Edie	Todd
756/757-3	Richard	Perkins
756/757-4	KEITH	WILSON
756/757-5	Barbara	Jacobsen
756/757-6	Nathan	Vasquez
756/757-7	Jude	al-Ghazal Stone
756/757-8	Lauren	Armony
756/757-9	Steve	Herring
756/757-10	bridgecrane	siMChA jOhnSoN



I am Dick Perkins, ex-heroin addict, Felon, recovered bank executive and an 18-year Downtown resident. I am here to support those on our streets with SUD. They have an illness. They need treatment, not prison. I am here to support more expenditures by the County and City for treatment options, including 24/7 sobering and detox options along with post detox residential treatment for those on our streets. And for those who don't take voluntary advantage of the needed 24/7 options, I am advocating for mandatory treatment and changes to Measure 110 to make that possible. I am NOT advocating for a return for the War on Drugs. But I know the power of opioid addiction physically and psychologically.

On a walk earlier this week, I talked to Hannah, an affable self-admitted 57-year-old Fentanyl addict. Hannah has been homeless "a long time", and she has been addicted to other drugs, but Fentanyl has been the best and the worst. She started about a year ago with 4 pills a day. She now needs to smoke up to 20, just to stay well. Think of that. That is her life's purpose. Hannah said she has overdosed many times. She feels trapped. She has no hope and no future. By her own admission, she is waiting on Fentanyl to take her. Hannah has a future, but she needs more than detox to get there, but it must start there. She needs peer support, job skills, social skills, dental care (she has lost her teeth), medical care and clinical behavioral health care. She needs a community away from drugs, like Bybee Lakes. And, eventually, she will need stable housing of her own.


The County needs to work with the City, stand up the needed Treatment and get people with SUD voluntarily into it when possible and involuntarily if not instead of leaving them on the street to die. And the Legislature needs to amend Measure 110 to make this possible. I support this new Ordinance as one step along the way. Let's give Hannah a future.

Drug Decriminalization - Comparison & Gap Analysis <small>(items in RED are significantly outside of upper or lower specs)</small>			KeithWilson@titanfs.com
Jurisdiction	Netherlands	Portugal	Oregon
Population (2021)	17,530,000	10,330,000	4,246,000
Drug Decriminalization or Tolerance Law	Opium Act of 1976 Tolerance Policy (Gedooigbeleid)	Decriminalisation Law #30 November, 2000	Ballot Measure 110 Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act November 2020
Decriminalization Implementation Date		July 2001	February 1, 2021
Benchmarking date	June 2022	June 2023 Dr. Goulao (program architect, appointed by prime minister of Portugal Antonio Guterres , who is now the current Secretary-General of the United Nations)	On-going
			
Hard Drugs Illegal (Unlawful to Possess)?	Yes	Yes	Yes <a href="#">Ballot Measure 110, Section 11, "(3) It is UNLAWFUL for any person knowingly or intentionally to possess a controlled substance"</a>
Police expected to remain the primary source of detection of drug use and subsequent referral	Yes	Yes	Yes
Drug use after law passage	Initially climbed	Initially climbed	Climbing




Jurisdiction	Netherlands	Portugal	Oregon
Personal Use - Drugs Confiscated / Seized?	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>2.2, "Seizure: When a criminal offence is detected under the Opium Act, all substances found on lists I and/or II must in any case be seized"</p> <p><a href="https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0036356/2013-03-01">https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0036356/2013-03-01</a></p> <p>"The Dutch drug use prevention <u>policy primarily aims to discourage drug use</u> and reduce the risks for drugs users themselves, for their families and for society as a whole"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>Article 4 of the Law: "Seizure and identification, 1 - The police authorities shall identify the consumer and may also proceed to search him and seize the ...substances...referred to in Article 1 which have been found in the possession of the consumer, which <u>shall be forfeit to the State</u>, drawing up the respective police report, which shall be forwarded to the relevant territorial commission,"</p> <p>Dr. Goulao, stated a police officer "<u>takes and removes drugs</u>." If the amount is more than the personal amount, they, "Take drug user to processing, weighs drugs, less than 10 days personal use - citation given for mandatory appearance to Dissuasion Commission. 10 days or more, arrested."</p> <p>Lisboa police officer interview: Open drug use in public area? "<u>I will confiscate the drugs and issue a citation</u>." What will you do if drug use is in a private setting, not viewed by the public? "I will not get involved."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p> <p>March 2023 - Journalist writes, "(Portland Police Officer) DiMatteo doesn't arrest any of the numerous people we see smoking drugs in the middle of the sidewalk..." - <u>Officer did not confiscate</u></p> <p>"...at DiMatteo's request, he (the drug user) revealed what he was holding—a blue and some white powder, perched in the foil. This, he said, he got for about \$7; it will keep him feeling good for a few hours. A friend darted over, grabbed his lighter, and darted away. 'What's your friend worried about?' asked DiMatteo. The guy (drug user) looked puzzled, replying, 'It's decriminalized, right?...'" - <u>Hard drugs are decriminalized but are unlawful to possess</u></p> <p>...Journalist writes, "nothing much else can be done, because there are no consequences for smoking fentanyl on a public sidewalk. There is, lamented DiMatteo, 'no accountability.'" - <u>Confiscating illegal and dangerous drugs is a consequence, holds the drug user accountable, and acts as a deterrence</u> (<a href="https://portlanddissent.substack.com/p/es-others-see-us">https://portlanddissent.substack.com/p/es-others-see-us</a>)</p> <p>Aug 25, 2023 - Conversation with six Portland Police Bureau officers - I asked if they will confiscate hard drugs, "Hard drugs are LEGAL under a certain amount, <u>we do not confiscate</u>," When I explained that they are still illegal and other decrim jurisdictions confiscate, they replied, "We will need a training video to direct us to confiscate."</p> <p>Aug 29, 2023 - Conversation with Portland Tri-County deputy district attorney confirmed his officers <u>do not confiscate</u> hard drugs in personal use quantities.</p>

Jurisdiction	Netherlands	Portugal	Oregon
Open Drug Scenes	<p>No</p> <p>"No noticeable open drug scene. The combination of a harm reduction strategy and systematic prevention of public nuisance had been effective in keeping the problems to tolerable levels. Open scenes were present but only in a dispersed form and not publicly noticeable." Helge Waal, Open drug scenes: responses of five European cities, BMC Public Health, 2014</p> <p><a href="#">Keith Wilson, Portland Tribune Opinion: "Unfortunately, the Amsterdam of the 1980s reminds me a lot of Portland in the 2020s"</a></p>	<p>No</p> <p>"The former, large open drug scenes seem to have disappeared"</p> <p>Helge Waal, Open drug scenes: responses of five European cities, BMC Public Health, 2014</p> <p>June 2023 benchmarking trip confirmed no open drug use witnessed throughout city</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Open drug use is prolific and prevalent in our communities</p>
Personal Use - User Receives Citation?	No	<p>Yes</p> <p>Requires attending a Dissuasion Commission</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Requires user to call Lines for Life</p>
Why the "Citation" is vital	No citation is given for personal use	<p>Dr. Goulao <a href="#">"Said that treatment is 'not mandatory,' even with repeated citations. 'It's a moment to reflect.'"</a></p> <p>Citations are an important part to communicate to the user that hard drug use is a dangerous behavior - it is a stop on a downward cycle.</p> <p>Anecdotally, the citation along with confiscating the illegal substance engages the police because they know they are affecting an outcome (removing drugs from the street and acting as a deterrent)</p>	See "Recommendations" below
Personal Drug Use Program:			
Administrator	Not Applicable	Dissuasion Commission	Recovery Center Hotline - Lines for Life
Locations	Not Applicable	40 - At least one in all 18 provinces	24-hour crisis phone number
Administrator Level of Education	Not Applicable	Three professionals - Legal expert, doctor, psychologist, sociologist, social services worker, and/or drug addiction specialist	Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor or other credentialed addiction treatment professional
Program Voluntary or Mandatory	There are no requirements for personal use	Voluntary	Voluntary

Jurisdiction	Netherlands	Portugal	Oregon
Fines & Sanctions - 1st Citation	No	No - Chronically addicted, Homeless, not working, etal. Yes - Recreational use, housed, working  "Dissuasion Commission focuses on ensuring recreational use does not progress to problematic addiction." The commission uses a host of remedies: Referral to immediate treatment; fines assessed but waived if no additional citation within six months; fines can be applied if no show (waived if in treatment). "	No \$100 fine is voluntary and is waived if not paid
Fines & Sanctions - 2nd or more Citations	No progressive penalties	No - Chronically addicted, Homeless, not working, etal. Yes - Recreational use, housed, working  Fines can be no more than one month's wage; ; overall, sanctions can be very creative and based on the individual needs and commission expertise.	No progressive penalties
Complying with Citation Completion Rate	There are no requirements for personal use	80%	Less than 1%  'It's crazy out there': The reasons behind Oregon's deepening drug crisis, Conrad Wilson, OPB, May 2023
Criminal record	No	No	No
<b>Hard Drug Quantities and Consequences:</b>			
< .5 Gram	Personal use and not prosecuted  The police can confiscate it as a "Dismissal with a Waiver" but the person will not be fined. The seizure is registered, the name is documented, but no criminal record.  "2. Small quantity for own use of the substances listed in List I (hard drugs)" - <a href="https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0036356/2013-03-01">https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0036356/2013-03-01</a>	Personal use and not prosecuted	Personal use and not prosecuted
0.5 to 1 Gram	Misdemeanor Fine and criminal record	Personal use and not prosecuted	Personal use and not prosecuted
1 to 5 Grams	Misdemeanor Fine and criminal record	Misdemeanor "if amount is personal use for 10 days or more"	Misdemeanor HB 2645, 2023
> 5 Grams	Felony - "Imprisonment" - Amount not stipulated - "The Opium Act states that supplying drugs (possession, cultivation or manufacture, import or export) is a crime punishable by up to 12 years' imprisonment, depending on the quantity and type of the drug involved."	Felony - "Imprisonment"	Felony

Jurisdiction	Netherlands	Portugal	Oregon
Additional Information:			
"Prolific drug user and repeated dealer, theft, or burglary"	Placement in an Institution for Prolific (repeat) Offenders Law - has enabled the treatment of persistent offenders, of whom problem drug users constitute a major proportion. The measure consists of a combination of imprisonment and behavioral interventions and treatment, which are mostly carried out in <u>care institutions outside prison</u> EMCDDA, Netherlands, Country Drug Report 2019		Prison
Overdose Rates			
Drug Overdose Deaths (2021)	298 <a href="https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2023/drug-induced-deaths_en">https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2023/drug-induced-deaths_en</a>	74 <a href="https://www.portugalresident.com/overdose-deaths-leap-45/">https://www.portugalresident.com/overdose-deaths-leap-45/</a>	1,171 <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/oregon/or.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/oregon/or.htm</a>
Drug Overdose Death Rate (per 100,000) (2021)	1.7	0.7	27.6 - Oregon 32.1 - United States
Fentanyl Extensively Used	No	No	Yes
On the left is a lethal dose of heroin, equivalent to about 30 milligrams; on the right is a 3-milligram dose of fentanyl, enough to kill an average-sized adult male.			
			
Drug Overdoses - Multnomah County - Per month			<a href="https://www.thelundreport.org/content/nearly-3000-so-far-year-overdose-911-calls-are-multnomah-county">https://www.thelundreport.org/content/nearly-3000-so-far-year-overdose-911-calls-are-multnomah-county</a>
January 2022			Multnomah County Only - 278
June 2023			Multnomah County Only - 616
Teen Drug Related Deaths - Percent increase 2019 to 2021			666%  "Drug-related deaths among teenagers increased faster in Oregon than anywhere else in the country" The Lund Report, March 2023, State inaction left Oregon teens vulnerable to fentanyl's fatal spread
Oregon Recommendation:			
Observation:			
Overdoses are at epidemic levels			
Oregon's overdose rate is 16 times higher than the Netherlands and 39 times higher than Portugal			
Fentanyl is a drug with extreme potency - the Netherlands and Portugal are not experiencing use at the level that Oregon is			



Jurisdiction	Netherlands	Portugal	Oregon
Every Oregon law enforcement and justice system conversation has confirmed that <u>confiscating personal use of hard drugs is not occurring</u>			
<b>Recommendation:</b>			
1st) Enforce <a href="#">BM 110</a> , Section 11 "(3) It is UNLAWFUL for any person knowingly or intentionally to POSSESS a controlled substance			
All hard drugs, in personal use amounts or larger, are illegal and law enforcement is authorized to confiscate / seize			
This is consistent with pre-BM 110, included in BM 110, and similar to law enforcement practices in decriminalization jurisdictions - where open drug use is not prevalent			
Prosecutors should provide guidance to law enforcement agencies, and agencies should provide training for police officers immediately			
Apply appropriate sanctioning based on law: Citation for personal use; if amount higher than personal use, assess misdemeanor or felony based on amount			
Goals:			
Police confiscation will deter this dangerous behavior, reduce open drug use, and improve community livability			
Police BM 110 citation is an important part of communicating to the personal user of hard drugs that the behavior is dangerous, provides info on available resources, and a moment for a user to reflect			
<b>Legislation Recommendation:</b>			
2nd) Ballot Measure 110 - "Amend, don't End"			
Recognizing the destructive force of fentanyl (and outlined in this gap analysis), the epidemic it has caused, and the knowledge that BM 110 was implemented prior to this epidemic:			
Change BM 110 so that a person who receives a citation is required to make a mandatory (in place of voluntary) appearance before a professional administrator for a drug treatment assessment			
3rd) <a href="#">ORS 430.402</a> - Change prohibition on local governments from adopting laws against penalties on open drug Use			
Allow local jurisdictions to prohibit hard drugs on public property similar to current laws banning public alcohol consumption			
<b>Netherlands and Portugal Recommendation</b> (Gap Analysis and recommendations shared with Portugal [hosts Dr Goulao and Lisboa city council policy advisor] and Belgium contacts):			
<b>Observation:</b>			
Afghanistan's opium ban makes Europe a potential new market for South American producers of fentanyl, a low-cost and significantly more dangerous substitute for opium			
<a href="#">The Taliban's Successful Opium Ban is Bad for Afghans and the World</a> , United States Institute of Peace, June 8, 2023			
"Around 90% of the world's opium comes from Afghanistan, and most of it is destined for the illicit market."			
"In Helmand, by far Afghanistan's largest opium-producing province, the area of poppy cultivation was cut from over 129,000 hectares (ha) in 2022 to only 740 ha as of April 2023."			
"After the 2000 Taliban ban, it took about 18 months to two years for the impacts to play out in Europe"			
Conversations that Indicate drug cartels from the Americas are beginning to target Europe for distribution via the ports of Rotterdam, Netherlands and Antwerp, Belgium, Europe's largest:			
	Brussels Finance Minister Sven Gatz (2nd from right), our host at the Belgium Embassy in Washington, D.C., November 2022. Minister Gatz noted that criminal gangs in Belgium are using grenades to target community members in support of the drug trade	Belgium Justice Minister Vincent Van Quickenborne at Washington D.C. Belgium Embassy - Two months earlier he was the victim of an attempted kidnapping	U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland at Belgium Embassy meeting with Minister Van Quickenborne to discuss drug interdiction cooperation and strategies
			
Portugal's "budget for outreach and treatment was cut by 79 percent starting in 2012." New York Times, August 29, 2023, <i>Portugal Has Succeeded Where We've Failed With Addiction</i>			
Fentanyl has not yet become a significant health crisis in the Netherlands, Portugal or Europe			

Jurisdiction	Netherlands	Portugal	Oregon
Recommendation:			
Administer laws as written and strengthen treatment systems			
Readily distribute and make available Naloxone and training to all public safety and community based organizations throughout the Netherlands and Portugal			
<b>Additional Background Information:</b>			
Universal Health Care	Yes	Yes	No
Health Insurance "Inmate Exclusion Policy"	No  Drug treatment is available in prison	No  Drug treatment is available in prison	Yes  "When Medicaid was authorized in 1965, the "inmate exclusion policy" was established to prevent state and local governments from receiving matching federal funds to cover the healthcare costs of people in state prisons and local jails. This policy leaves state and local governments solely responsible for financing the healthcare of incarcerated people, 1 even when those people were covered by Medicaid prior to their incarceration. This means that in most states, Medicaid coverage is terminated when someone is incarcerated." Prison Policy Initiative, November 28, 2022, <i>Why states should change Medicaid rules to cover people leaving prison</i>
Medicaid covers opioid treatment in prison			No  January 2023, "California became the first state to secure permission from the Biden administration to use Medicaid for health care in correctional facilities, which will allow officials to use federal funds to cover opioid treatment"
Illicit Drug Use Disorder Past Year			<a href="https://mhacbo.org/media/2021_epidemiology.pdf">https://mhacbo.org/media/2021_epidemiology.pdf</a>
Percent of Population			9.04%
National Ranking			1st
Needing but not Receiving Treatment for SUDs			<a href="https://mhacbo.org/media/2021_epidemiology.pdf">https://mhacbo.org/media/2021_epidemiology.pdf</a>
Percent of Population			18.08%
National Ranking			50th
Treatment			<a href="https://www.thelundreport.org/content/meth-fentanyl-pose-new-problems-overwhelmed-detox-providers">https://www.thelundreport.org/content/meth-fentanyl-pose-new-problems-overwhelmed-detox-providers</a>
Detox Beds			308  "Last year, just over 2,700 people were admitted into Hooper's inpatient withdrawal management program. Another 2,100 were turned away"
Detox Beds Needed			1141  "OHSU-PSU School of Public Health indicated that the supply of facilities was 27% short of what is needed"
Treatment Beds			1370  "There are 1,370 residential treatment beds for substance use disorder licensed in Oregon"

Jurisdiction	Netherlands	Portugal	Oregon
Treatment Beds Needed			12455  "He said before his nonprofit would expand detox, there needs to be somewhere to send patients afterward. Since the start of 2020, only 11% of people discharged from Hooper have been placed in residential treatment"
Did Ballot Measure 110 lead to an increase in crime rate in Portland?			
RTI International, "Building the Evidence: Understanding the Impacts of Drug Decriminalization in Oregon "			
Objective: To understand the impacts of drug decriminalization in Oregon through 911 calls for service data.			
Summary of Initial Findings: The Volume of 911 Calls Did Not Increase After Ballot Measure 110			
<p>Figure 1: Total Calls for Service for Portland (OR), Seattle (WA), Sacramento (CA), and Boise (ID) before and after Ballot Measure 110 (BM 110)</p> <p>City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sacramento</li> <li>Seattle</li> <li>Portland</li> <li>Boise</li> </ul>			
<p>Hope - Percent of people who suffered from addiction are either in recovery or have completed treatment and are working on addiction aftercare</p>			75%  "They recover and go on to live full and healthy lives."  <a href="https://www.npr.org/2022/01/15/1071282194/addiction-substance-recovery-treatment">https://www.npr.org/2022/01/15/1071282194/addiction-substance-recovery-treatment</a>