



Canadian Drug
Policy Coalition

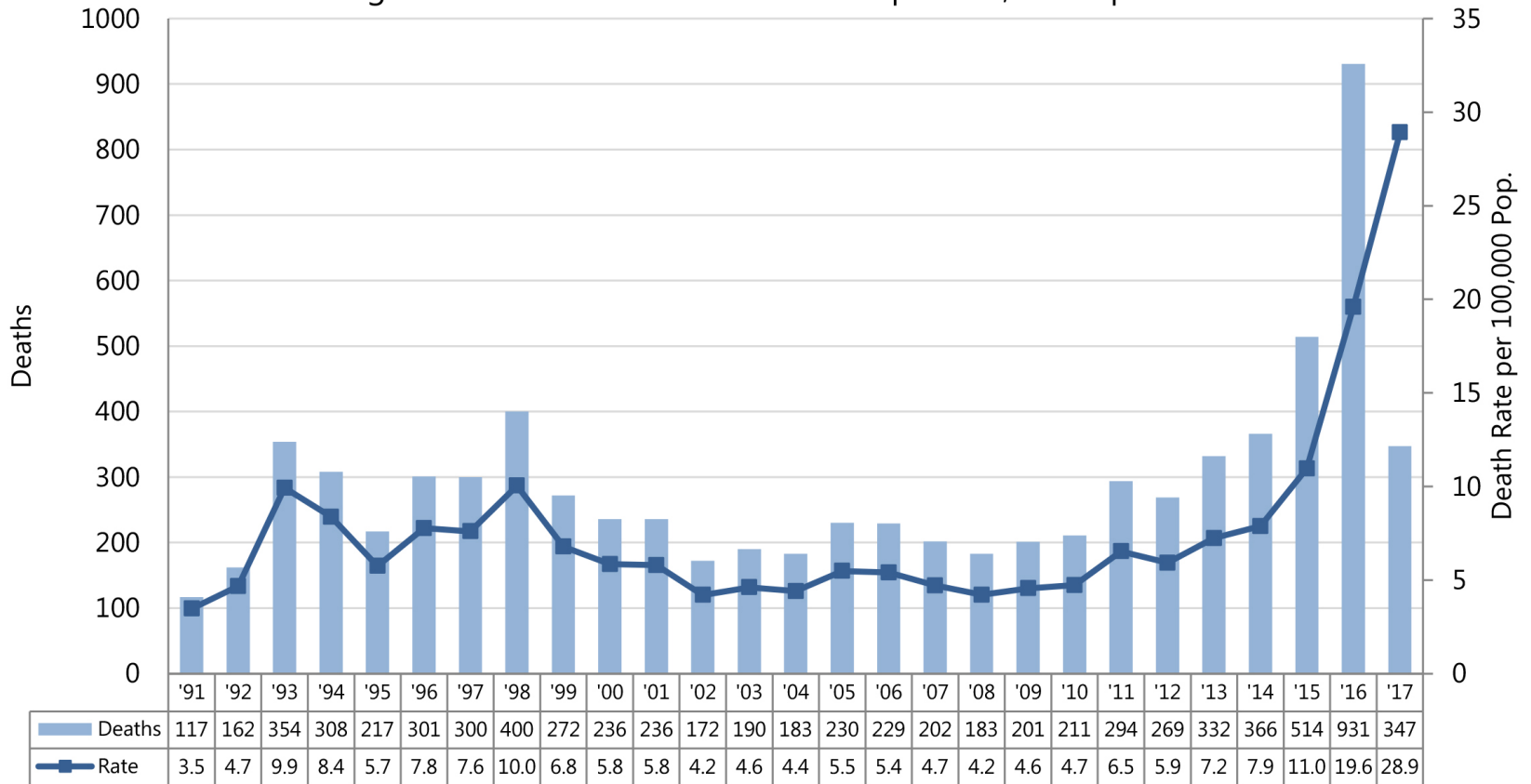
Coalition canadienne
des politiques
sur les drogues

The Poisoned Well: How Canada's Drug Policies Are Killing Canadians

Drug and Overdose Matters: Healthy Sexuality
and Harm Reduction Conference

Winnipeg, Manitoba
May 18, 2017

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population [2,5]



Source: Office of the Chief Coroner, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (April 19, 2017). *Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC, January 1, 2007 – March 31, 2017.*

The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence; *it is to act with yesterday's logic.*

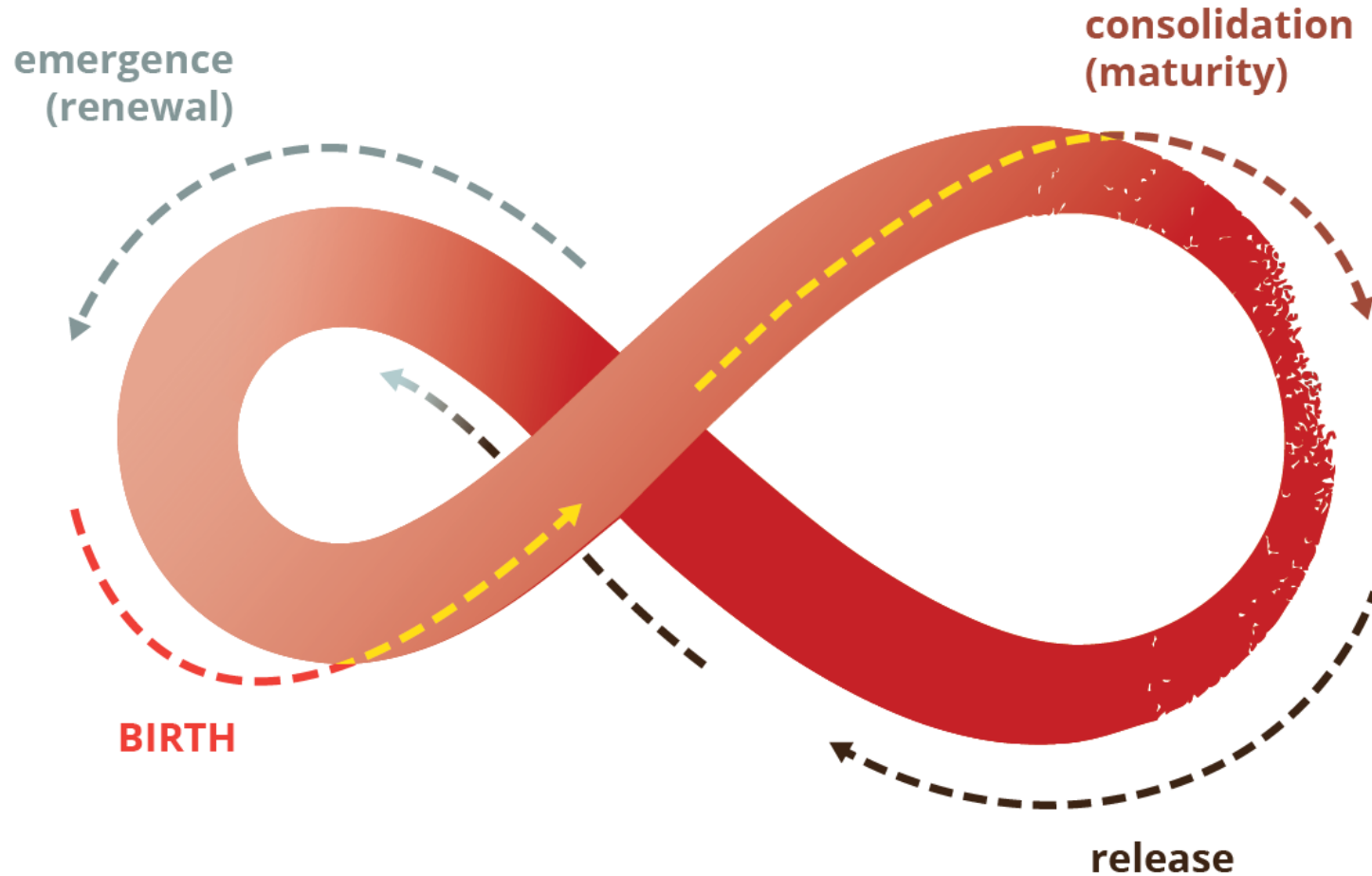
Peter Drucker, *Managing in Turbulent Times* (1980)

Resilience is the capacity
to deal with change
and continue to develop.

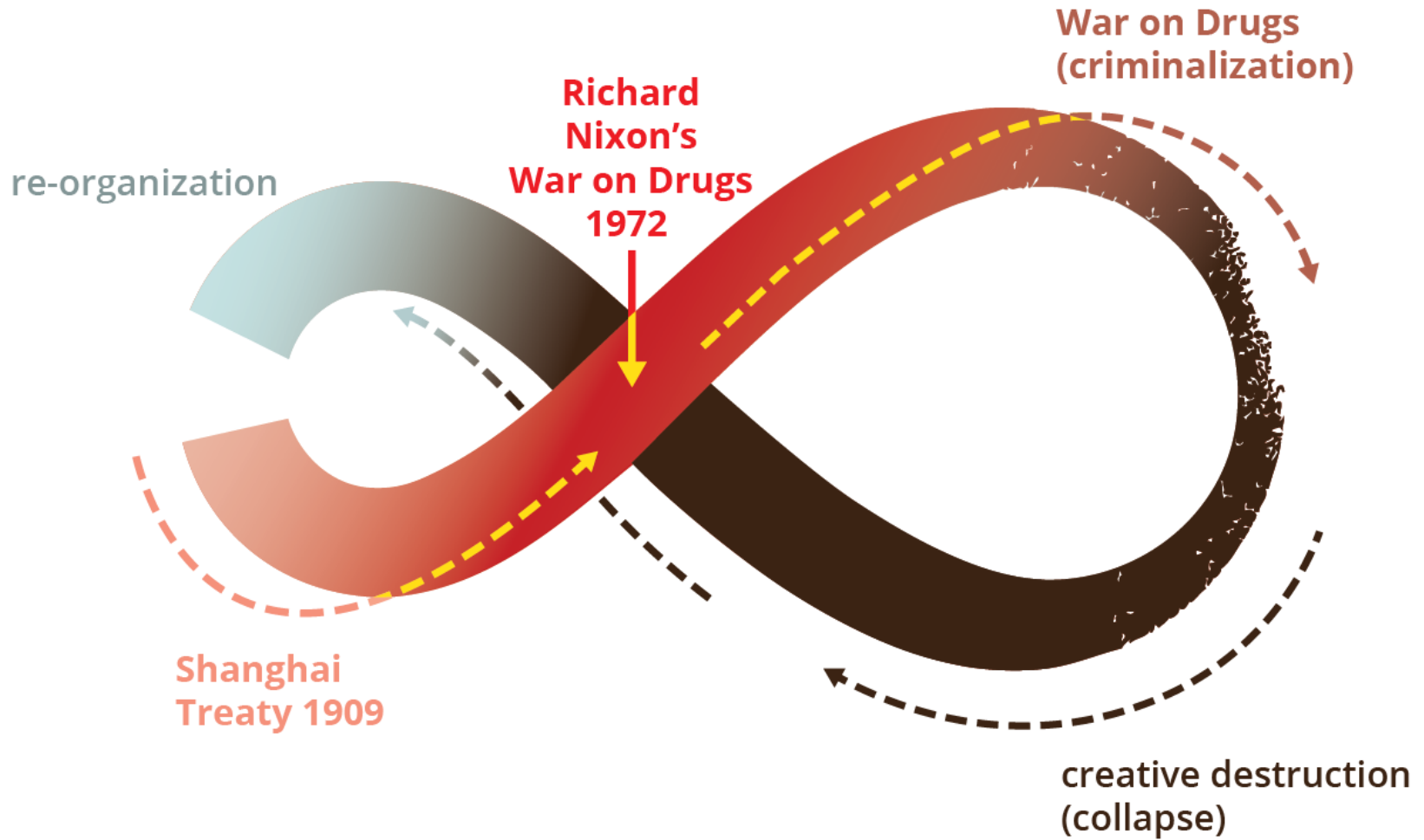
“...the ability of human communities to withstand and recover from stresses, such as environmental change or social, economic or political upheaval. Resilience in societies and their life-supporting ecosystems is crucial in maintaining options for future development.”

Stockholm Resilience Centre, *definition of Social Resilience*

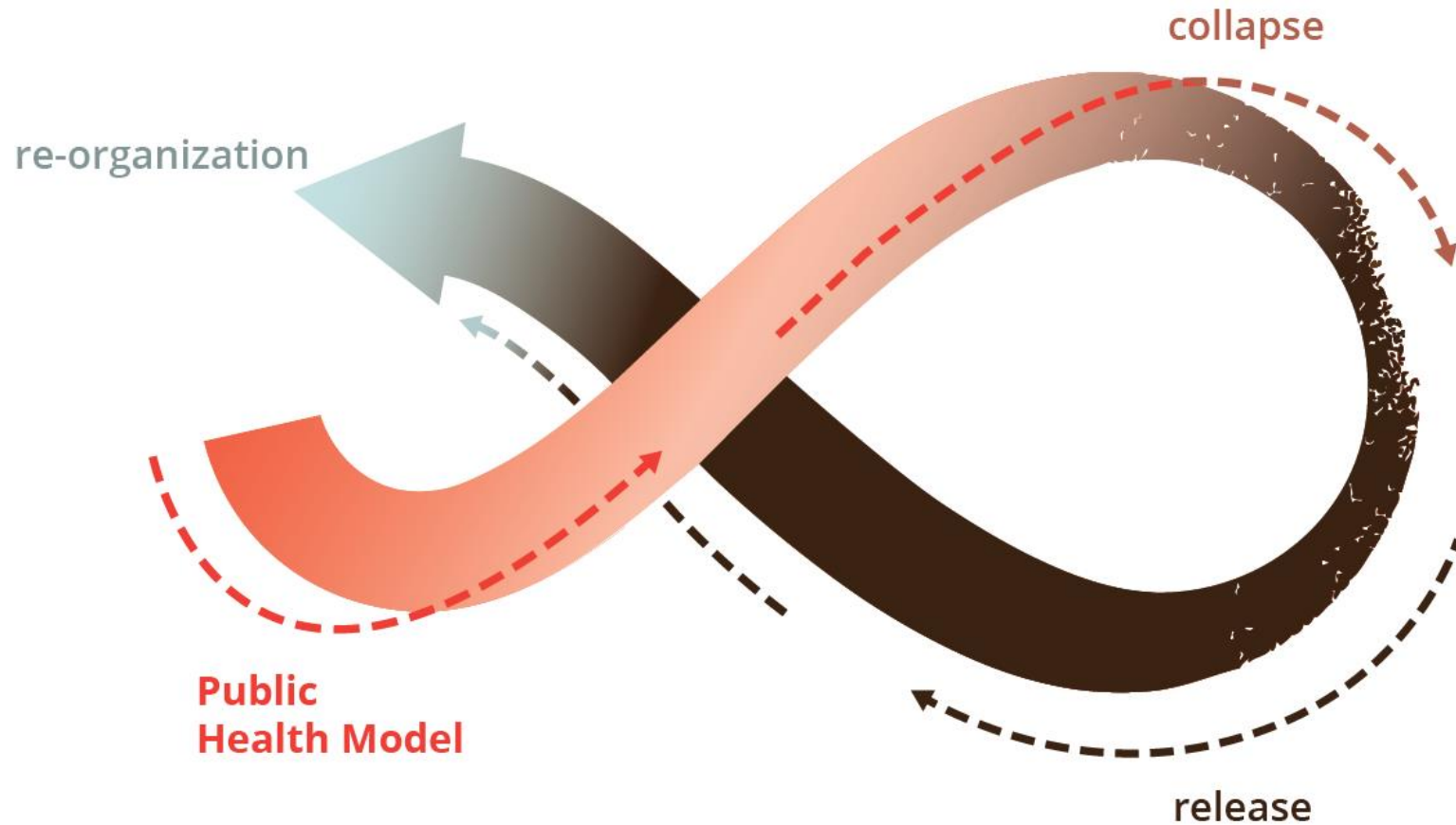
Policy Resilience



Policy Resilience



Policy Resilience



Pre-requisites for Resilience and Transformational Change

1. Getting beyond a state of denial and resistance to change
2. Developing options and alternatives to consider
3. Capacity for change – support from above to experiment, financial commitment to support novel approaches, and capacity to take risks

Resilience theory would indicate that we find ourselves in a state of minimum flexibility and maximum capital sequestration.

Delaying the inevitable collapse of this system of drug control and actively resisting change towards new and innovative approaches will make the collapse much more severe when it finally does occur.

Examples of Resilience

1. *Switzerland*: response to a crisis led to innovation in harm reduction and drug treatment with global impact
2. *Frankfurt*: Local leadership forced a change in national policy in harm reduction and drug treatment
3. *Edmonton*: Early adoption of Naloxone distribution.
4. *Portugal*: Full decriminalization of all drugs response at a country level to a crisis in HIV and overdose
5. *British Columbia*: Overdose Prevention Sites
6. *Canada*: Needle Exchange in the 80's





Photo : The Vancouver Sun, January 17, 2012



Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán

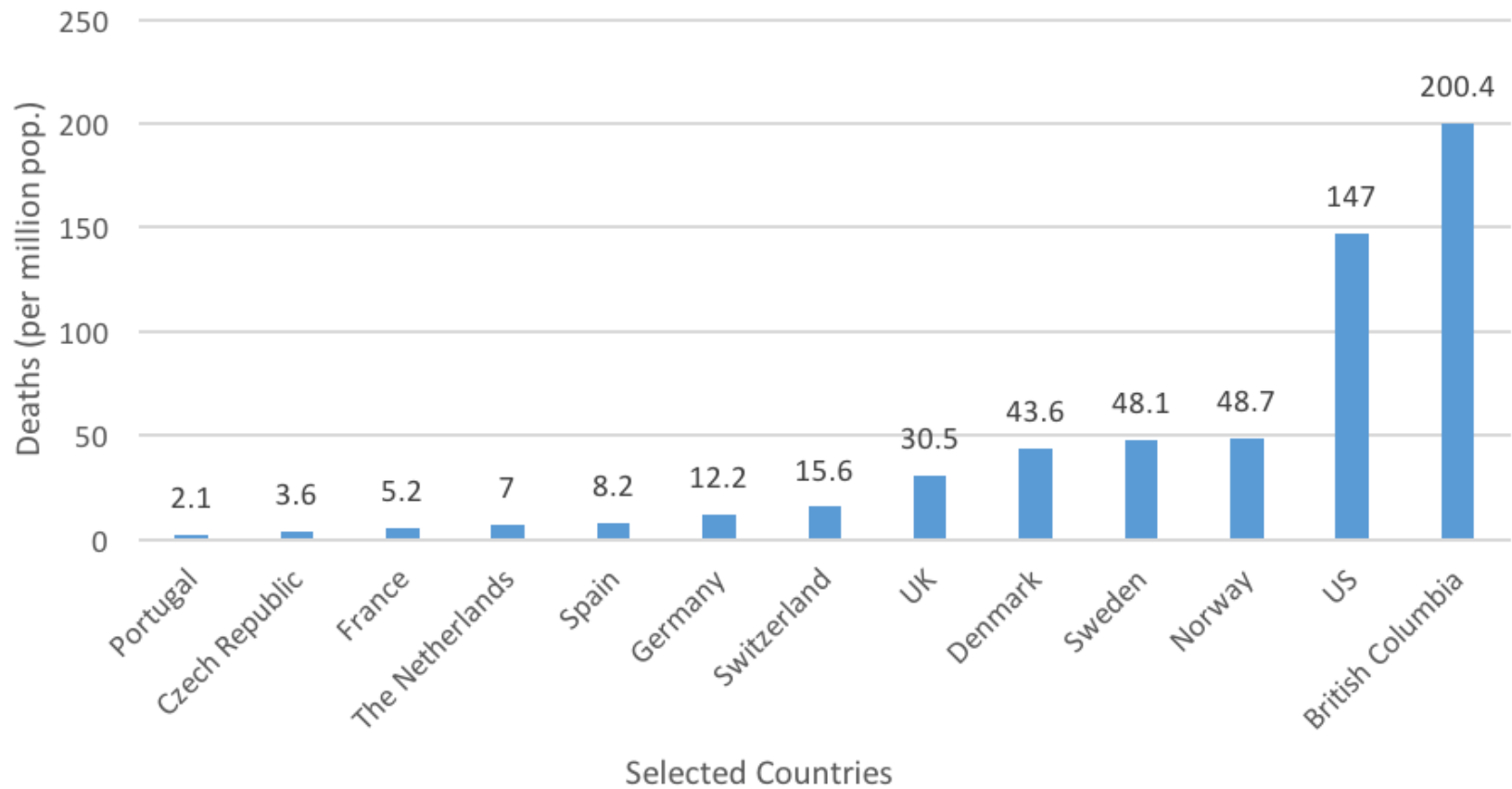
STOP! MOUTH
WIPER

STOP
TOYS

TIX AT
TOWN
RISK

WIPER

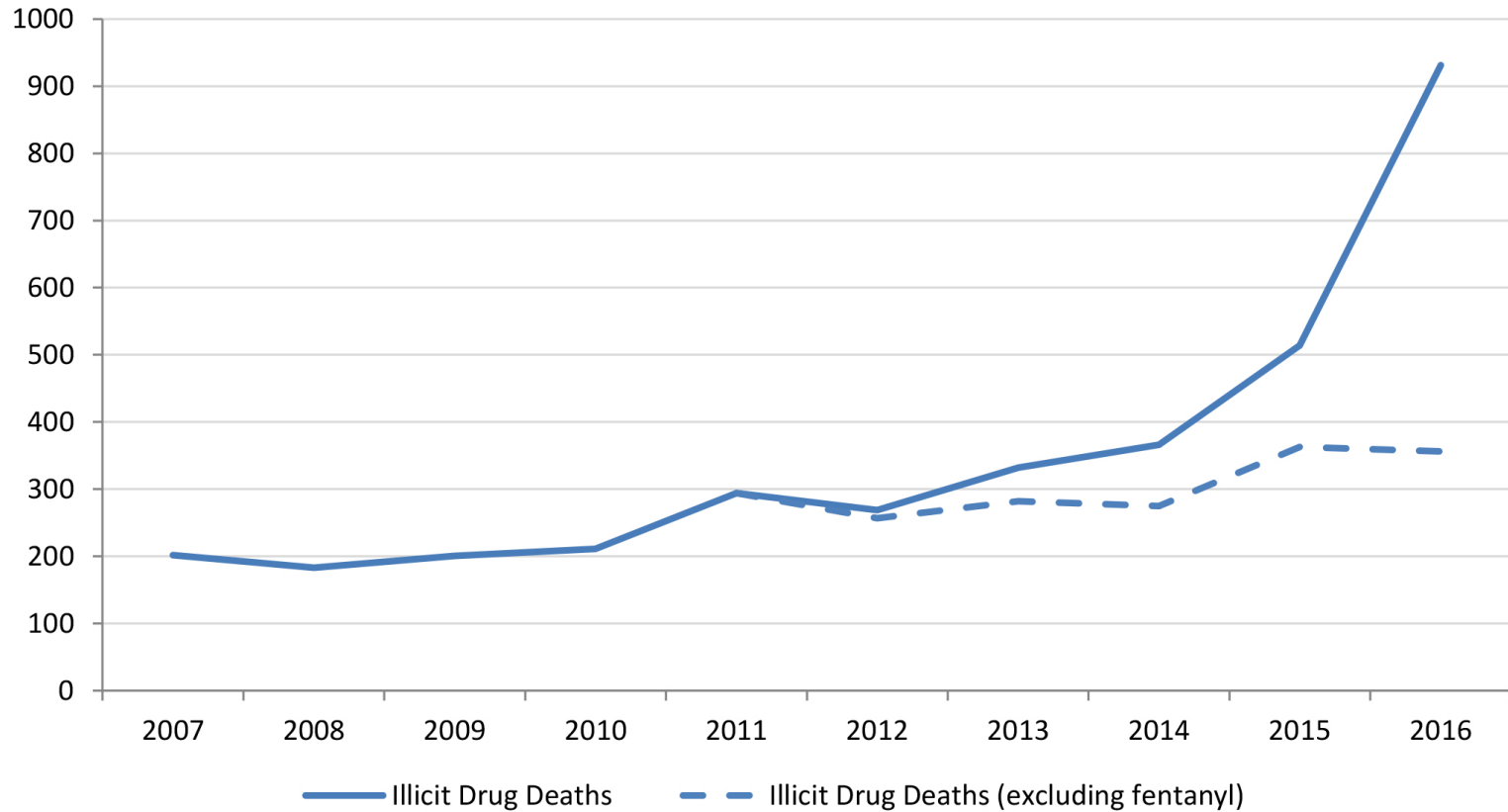
Drug-related Deaths



•**US Data** from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6450a3.htm> (2014 estimate of age-standardized drug overdose deaths. This source also estimates specifically drug overdose deaths involving opioids as 90/million in 2014.)

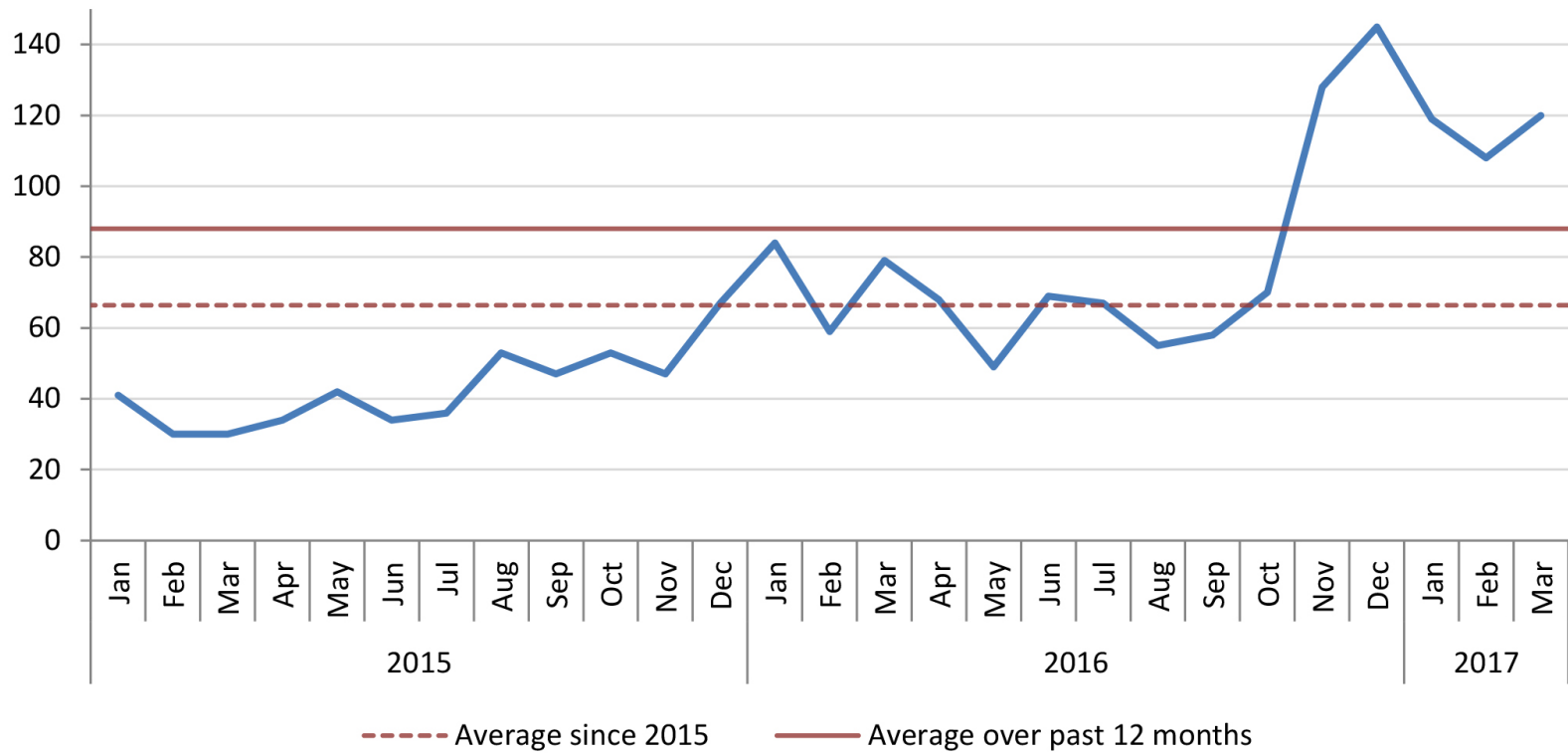
•**Switzerland data** from <http://www.suchtmonitoring.ch/fr/3/7.html?opioide-mortalitat> (2013 total number of drug-related deaths)

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths including and excluding Fentanyl, 2007-2016



Source: Office of the Chief Coroner, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (April 19, 2017). *Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC, January 1, 2007 – March 31, 2017.*

Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths by Month, 2015-2017^[2]

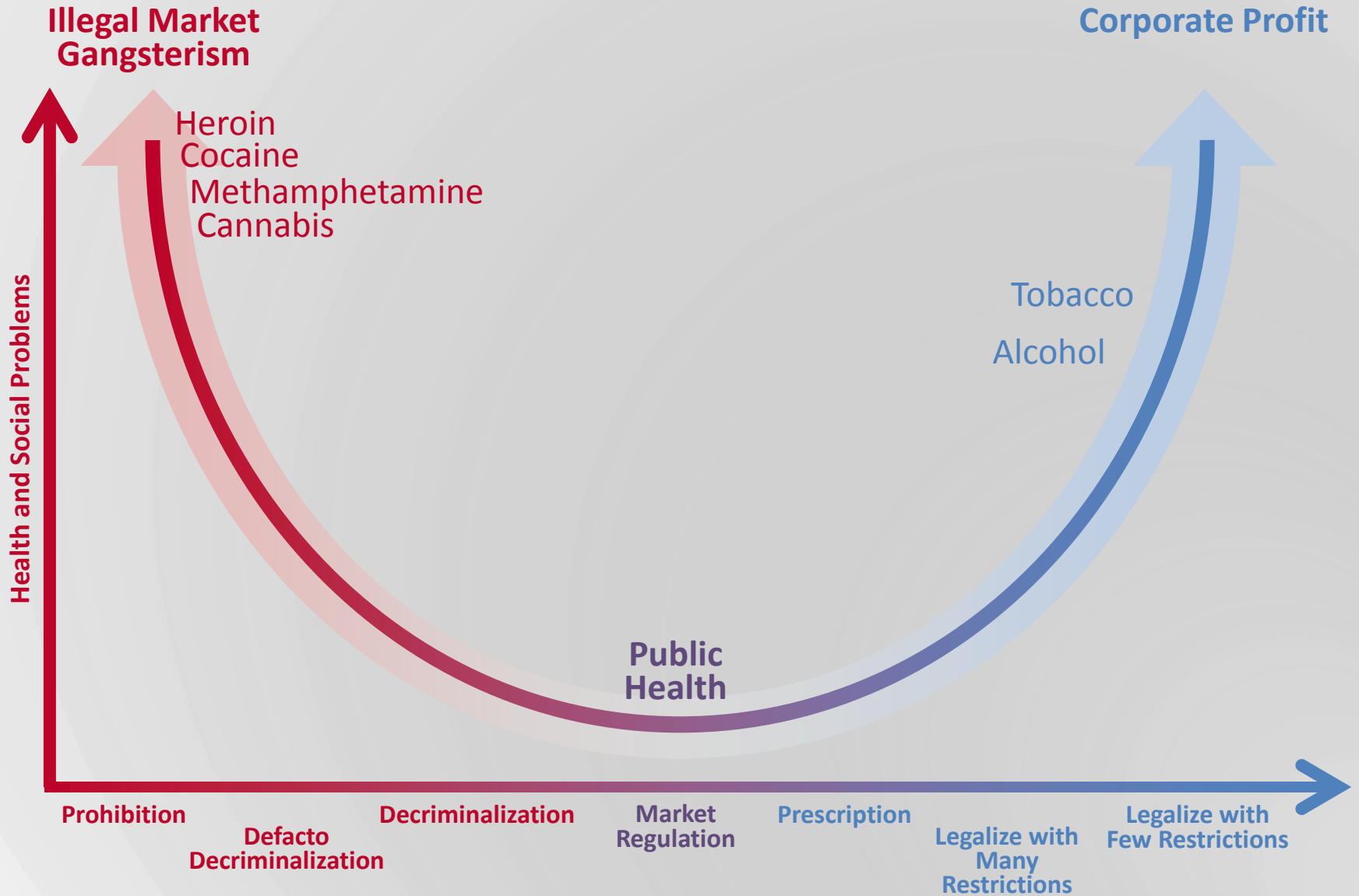


Source: Office of the Chief Coroner, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (April 19, 2017). *Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC, January 1, 2007 – March 31, 2017.*

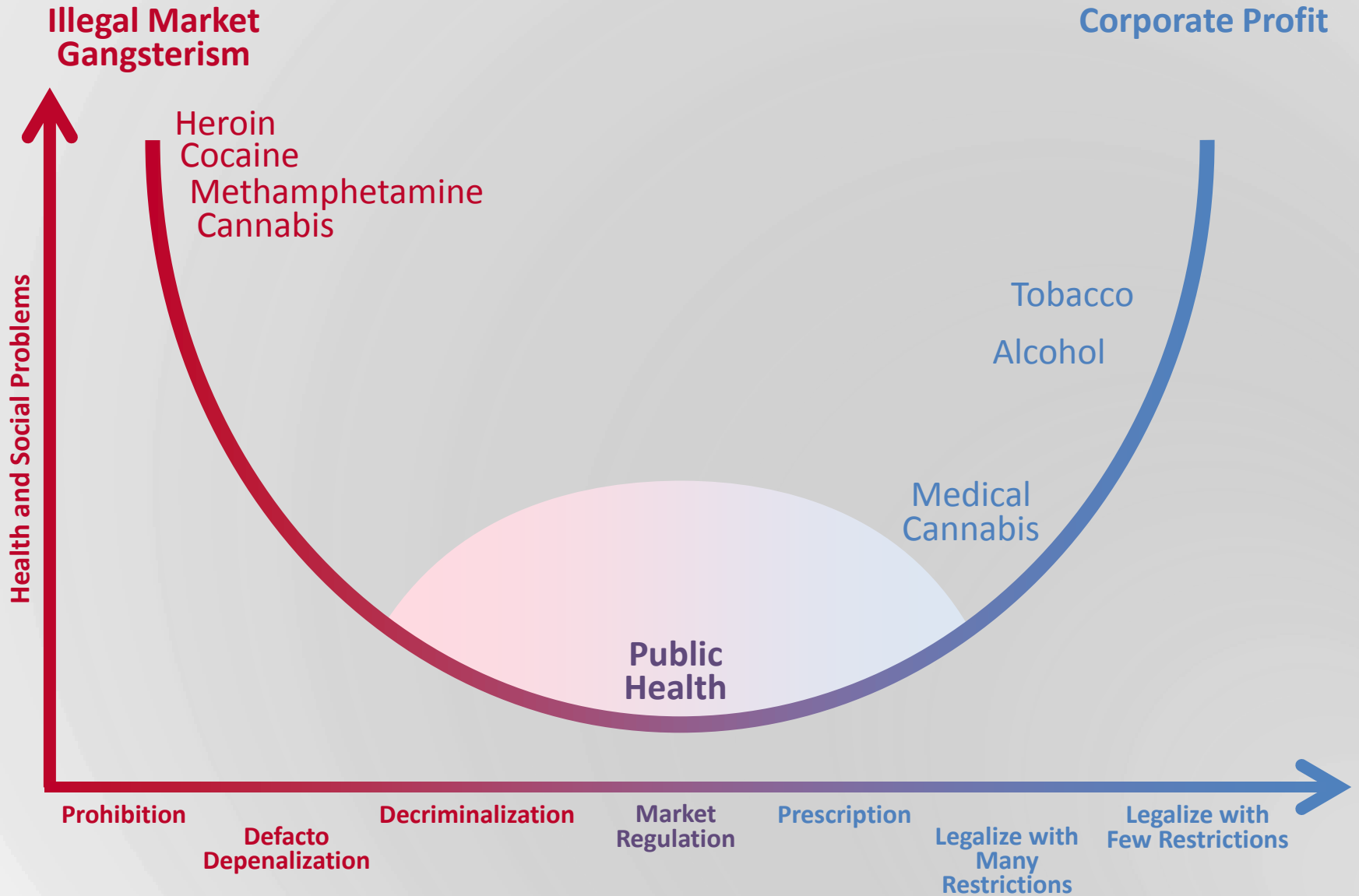
Calls for Change

- 1.Ledain Commission, 1973
- 2.Consumers Union Report, 1973, USA
- 3.BC Coroner Vince Cain's Report of the Task Force on Illicit Narcotic Overdose Deaths in BC, 1994
- 4.Report on the Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs, 2002
- 5.The City of Vancouver, *Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use*, 2005
- 6.Health Officers Council of BC Report, *Public Health Perspectives for Regulating Psychoactive Substances*, 2011
- 7.Canadian Public Health Association, *A New Approach to Managing Illegal Psychoactive Substances in Canada*, 2014

The Paradox of Prohibition



The Paradox of Prohibition



Responses Available for Illegal Drugs

Enforcement

**Treatment and
Harm Reduction**

**Education and
awareness**



**Socially stigmatized
through criminalization**

Regulation of Cannabis - Normalization

Age

Degree of intoxication

Volume rationing

Limited places to use

Required training prior to use

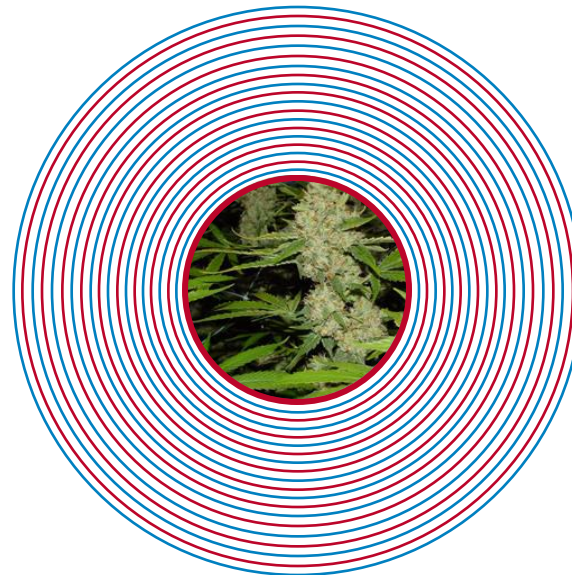
Maximum volumes for
purchase and possession

Training of supplier

Monitoring of use with driving

Illegal dealers pursued by enforcement

Retail outlets licensed and limited



Appearance of retail outlets

Taxed

Licensing, location and opening
hours of consumption facilities

Socially stigmatized

Prevention programs

Treatment

Plain packaging

Warning labels

No advertising or event
sponsorships



Regulation of Heroin - Normalization

Age

Degree of intoxicification

Volume rationing

Limited places to use

Required training prior to use

Registration of purchasers

Licensing of users

Tracking of consumption habits

Drug consumed on location of sale

Prescription only

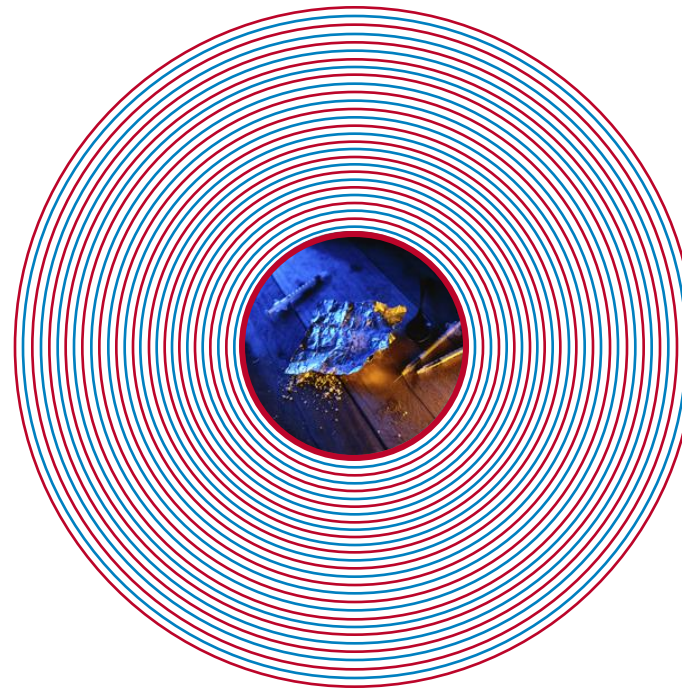
Maximum volumes for purchase and possession

Training of supplier

Monitoring of use with driving

Illegal dealers pursued by enforcement

Retail outlets licensed and limited



Appearance of retail outlets

Pharmacy specialist required

Price and profit controls

Taxed

Licensing, location and opening hours of consumption facilities

Socially stigmatized

Prevention programs

Treatment available

Plain packaging

Concentration of product is restricted and labeled

Warning labels

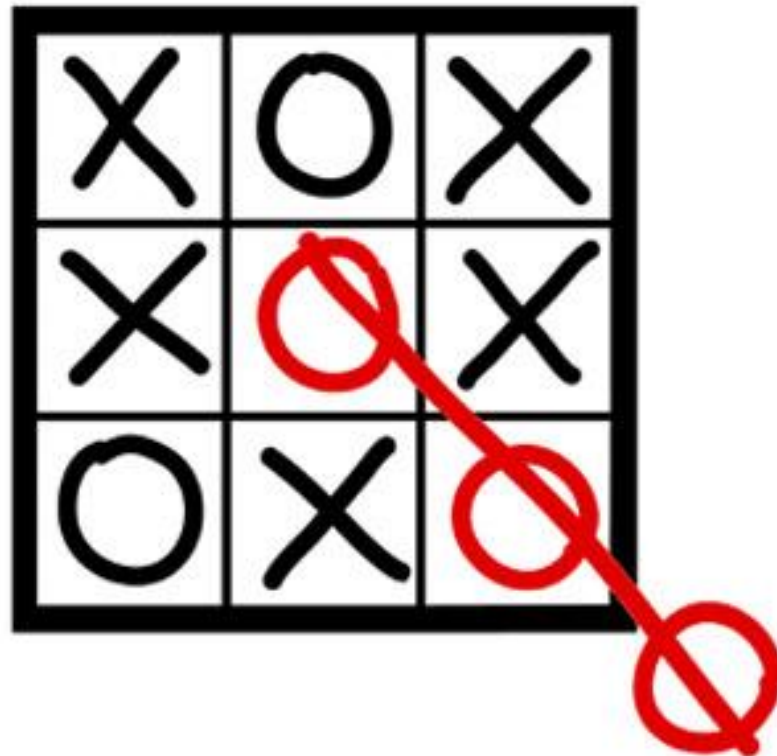
No advertising or event sponsorships

Clean needles and health information provided with purchase



Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán

**THINK
OUTSIDE
THE BOX**





**Canadian Drug
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sur les drogues

Thank you!

drugpolicy.ca