Drugs problem in Australia?

Hi everyone, my name is Jiacong Zheng. Not sure if you have seen this TV series before, this guy is the actor from a famous American TV series called the Narcos, which is about the biggest cocaine business in the world. And his business made the cocaine became all around the world. And today, I would like to talk about the cocaine and drugs problems in Australia.

On December, 1st 2024, 13 people were charged over the largest cocaine seizure by the AFP following an investigation into a transnational organized crime syndicate accused of conspiring to import 2.34 tons of cocaine into Australia by sea. The cocaine had an estimated street value of about $760 million dollars with the potential to equate to 11.7 million individual street deals, had it reached the community.

This number might be abstract for people that do not take these drugs, just so you know there were 100,000 deaths every year due to drugs overdosed. And the minimum amount of cocaine to get a person to death is about 6.5 grams. So, 2.34 tons of cocaine **Seized by the AFP** could lead to over 360,000 additional deaths in Australia. That could be a disaster.

Luckily, comparing to the other countries in the world, Australia government keeps trying to solve the drug problem. Here is a map showing the change of death rate contributed by drug from 1990 to 2021. We can see the death rate were kept in a similar level for Australia since 1993.

This chart shows the exact change of the deaths rate in Australia. While the deaths in United States kept increasing every year, Australia did have a drop during 1999 to 2006 from 7.8 to 5.6. However, the death rate in Australia is still higher the average rate throughout the world. And the rate started to increase again since 2006, and rate become 7.9 in 2021 which is higher than ever.

One of the factors causing this uprise trend is because there are more people consuming the illicit drugs. As we can see here, for both males and female, the consumption of illicit drugs started to increase since 2007. Although there seems to be a turning point at 2019 in males, but the total trend is still uprise.

Conclusion

Under this circumstance, the government has taken some actions such as establishing the needles and syringe programs to restrict sharing of injecting equipments, and also set up some supervised drug consumption rooms for preventing injury and death from injection. To conclude, to prevent the drug problems in Australia from becoming out of control, it needs both the government and the residents work together, and figure out more ways to solve this problem.

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