

## Country Profiles on Opioid Availability Now Available

The Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG) announces enhancements to the international section of its website that may be useful for individuals and organizations interested in improving availability and access to essential opioid medications.

The PPSG website ([www.painpolicy.wisc.edu](http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu)) now offers Country Profiles that provide standardized information about opioid availability and key policy-related indicators for every country in the world. Each Country Profile contains graphs that portray the trend in reported national consumption of principal opioids as an indicator of opioid availability. Key policy-related indicators are provided, including whether the country is a Party to the international conventions which require governments to estimate their medical requirements for opioids and to report consumption statistics to the International Narcotics Control Board. Information on how to contact the national Competent Authority, which is responsible for administering these important government functions that supports opioid availability is provided, as well as access to the WHO Guidelines, "**Achieving Balance in National Opioids Control Policy: Guidelines for Assessment (2000)**" now available in 22 languages. Links to national resource documents regarding opioid availability for pain relief and palliative care will be added as the PPSG learns about them.

Additional enhancements are being developed and will be announced here. Suggestions for national resource documents are welcome. The Country Profiles can be accessed directly at <http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/countryprofiles.htm> or from the PPSG home page.

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