

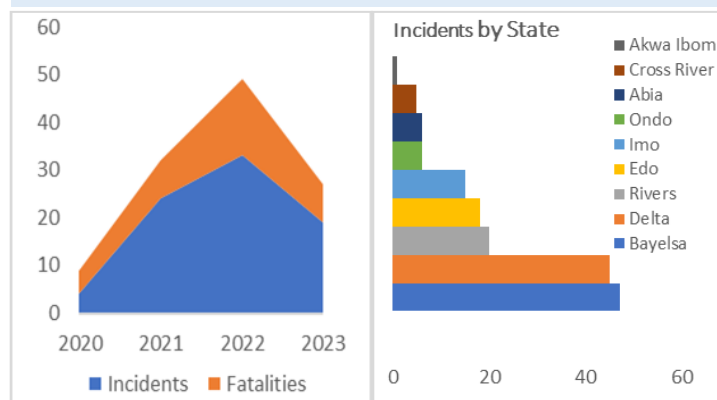
Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in the Niger Delta

December 08-14, 2024

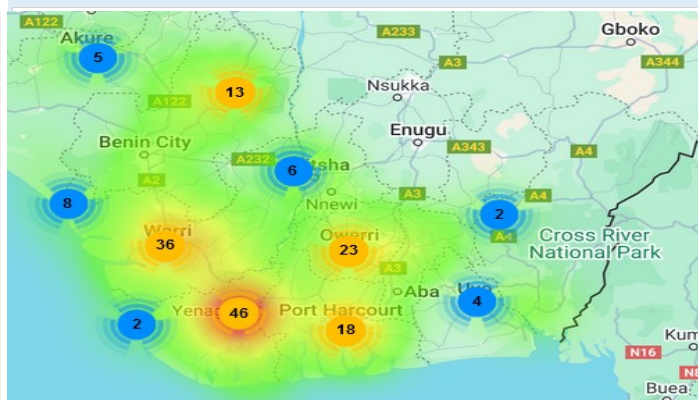
Background

This weekly update highlights illicit drug trafficking and abuse in the Niger Delta. Trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs remain burning issues, contributing to violent conflicts and criminal activities. According to data (see map below), more than 160 incidents of illicit drug trafficking and abuse were reported across the region between January 2020 and September 2024. Recent incidents highlight the link between drug-related activities and rising violence. In June 2024, for instance, operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) intercepted 290kg of illicit drugs in Cross River State. In August, a clash between rival cult gangs over drug proceeds led to the deaths of four persons in Otovwodo, Ughelli North, Delta State. In November, NDLEA officials intercepted a truck carrying 755.5kg of cannabis, concealed within cartons of noodles, in Abuja. The truck was reportedly transporting the drugs from Ogbese in Ondo State. On December 10, 2024, a tragic incident occurred in Elebele, Bayelsa State, where a 22-year-old man, allegedly under the influence of psychoactive substances, fatally stabbed his mother.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in the Niger Delta



Incidents Heat Map of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Data shows that Bayelsa and Delta States had the highest incidents of illicit drug trafficking and abuse in the Niger Delta. Sources: Nigeria Watch and ACLED data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of illicit drug trafficking and abuse in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - September 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The prevalence of illicit drug trafficking and abuse fuels the growth of criminal networks while contributing to widespread mental health challenges, reckless behavior, and violent crime in the Niger Delta. Drug abuse further undermines individual well-being, compromises community safety, and deepens social vulnerabilities. Together, these activities heighten the risk of social unrest, increase incidents of domestic and sexual violence, and pose significant threats to public health and security, and socio-economic stability in the region.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

As drug networks become more sophisticated and entrenched, the region faces a heightened risk of increased production and distribution of illicit substances. To address these challenges, stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant government agencies to establish an observatory dedicated to monitoring illicit drug production, trafficking, and abuse in the Niger Delta. Also, partnerships with media outlets and religious organizations are crucial to intensifying awareness campaigns about the risks of drug abuse in the region.

Contact Us

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What do you think about the report? - [We value your feedback](#)

Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222/0912 233 4455**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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