

Anti-Narcotics Chief Says Russian Heroin Market Worth \$6 Billion

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The black market for heroin in Russia, fueled by large-scale production in Afghanistan, is worth \$6 billion dollars, said Federal Drug Control Service head Viktor Ivanov on Friday.

Ivanov said the marijuana market is worth \$1.5 billion, the market for synthetic drugs \$1 billion, and the cocaine market much less at \$80 million, Interfax reported.

Earlier this month, the drug control service said there are five million regular drug users in Russia.

Over the weekend, anti-narcotics forces seized a huge haul of Afghan heroin, over 40 kilograms, from the home of two Tajik natives in St. Petersburg, Ivanov also said Friday. The pair is believed to be part of a larger drug-trafficking group, the members of which are currently being sought by authorities, Ivanov said.

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