

6% of Russians Are Drug Addicts, Government Report Says

By [The Moscow Times](#)

September 17, 2013

The  **Moscow Times**

The number of drug addicts in Russia is estimated at 8.5 million people, which is almost 6 percent of the total population, a government report said Tuesday.

"A total number of people using illicit narcotics and psychotropic substances in Russia is estimated at 8.5 million," the report said.

The report accompanies the amended directive on state support of non-governmental organizations NGOs, adopted by the Russian government on Sept. 12 and posted on the government's website on Tuesday.

The amended directive stipulates the addition of NGOs involved in rehabilitation programs for drug addicts to the list of socially-oriented NGOs eligible for state support.

Russia, which is the main conduit of drugs originating in Afghanistan, has more heroin

addicts per capita than any other country. More than 90 percent of drug addicts in the country use heroin.

The heroin market in Russia is valued at \$6 billion by various sources while the country's marijuana market is estimated at \$1.5 billion.

Some 30,000 to 40,000 Russians die every year from drug-related illnesses, according to official statistics.

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