



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs:

Challenges for Asia and the Pacific

Global SMART Programme

2013

Printed: November 2013

Authorship: Global SMART Programme

Global team:

Dr. Justice Tettey, Chief, Laboratory and Scientific Section

Ms. Yen Ling Wong, Scientific Affairs Expert, Laboratory and Scientific Section

Ms. Sabrina Levissianos, Associate Drug Control Officer, Laboratory and Scientific Section

Ms. Natascha Eichinger, Consultant, Laboratory and Scientific Section

East Asia team:

Mr. Tun Nay Soe, Programme Coordinator

Mr. Shawn Kelley, Regional ATS Analyst

Ms. Porntipa Pahnichaputt, Project Assistant

Mr. Akara Umapornsakula, Web Assistant

Disclaimer: This document has not been formally edited. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the document does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area under its authority or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers and boundaries.

Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs: Challenges for Asia and the Pacific 2013

A Report from the Global SMART Programme
November 2013

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	i
The Global SMART Programme	ii
Abbreviations	iii
List of Tables and Figures.....	vii
Notes to the Reader.....	xi
Executive Summary.....	1
Background and Method	4
Regional Trends	7
East and Southeast Asia.....	9
Pacific Island States and Territories	29
South Asia	33
National Trends	39
Australia.....	41
Emerging trends and concerns	41
Overview of the drug situation	41
Patterns and trends of drug use	42
Injecting drug use	43
New psychoactive substances	43
Drug treatment.....	43
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	44
Sources of illicit drugs.....	46
Forensic data.....	48
Brunei Darussalam	49
Emerging trends and concerns	49
Overview of the drug situation	49
Patterns and trends of drug use	49
Injecting drug use	49
New psychoactive substances	49
Drug treatment.....	50
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	50
Sources of illicit drugs.....	51
Forensic data.....	52
Cambodia	53
Emerging trends and concerns	53
Overview of the drug situation	53
Patterns and trends of drug use	53
Injecting drug use	54
New psychoactive substances	54
Drug treatment.....	54
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	55
Sources of illicit drugs.....	56
Forensic data.....	57
China	59
Emerging trends and concerns	59
Overview of the drug situation	59
Patterns and trends of drug use	59
Injecting drug use	61
New psychoactive substances	61
Drug treatment.....	61
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	61

Sources of illicit drugs.....	62
Forensic data.....	65
Indonesia	69
Emerging trends and concerns	69
Overview of the drug situation	69
Patterns and trends of drug use	69
Injecting drug use	70
New psychoactive substances	71
Drug treatment.....	71
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	72
Sources of illicit drugs.....	73
Forensic data.....	74
Japan.....	77
Emerging trends and concerns	77
Overview of the drug situation	77
Patterns and trends of drug use	77
Injecting drug use	77
New psychoactive substances	78
Drug treatment.....	78
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	79
Sources of illicit drugs.....	80
Forensic data.....	81
Lao PDR.....	83
Emerging trends and concerns	83
Overview of the drug situation	83
Patterns and trends of drug use	83
Injecting drug use	84
New psychoactive substances	84
Drug treatment.....	84
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	85
Sources of illicit drugs.....	86
Forensic data.....	86
Malaysia.....	87
Emerging trends and concerns	87
Overview of the drug situation	87
Patterns and trends of drug use	87
Injecting drug use	88
New psychoactive substances	88
Drug treatment.....	88
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	89
Sources of illicit drugs.....	90
Forensic data.....	93
Myanmar	95
Emerging trends and concerns	95
Overview of the drug situation	95
Patterns and trends of drug use	95
Injecting drug use	97
New psychoactive substances	97
Drug treatment.....	97
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	98
Sources of illicit drugs.....	99
Forensic data.....	100

New Zealand	101
Emerging trends and concerns	101
Overview of the drug situation	101
Patterns and trends of drug use	101
Injecting drug use	103
New psychoactive substances	103
Drug-related hospital admissions	104
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	104
Sources of illicit drugs.....	105
Forensic data.....	107
Philippines	109
Emerging trends and concerns	109
Overview of the drug situation	109
Patterns and trends of drug use	109
Injecting drug use	109
New psychoactive substances	110
Drug treatment.....	110
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	111
Sources of illicit drugs.....	111
Forensic data.....	113
Republic of Korea	115
Emerging trends and concerns	115
Overview of the drug situation	115
Patterns and trends of drug use	116
Injecting drug use	116
New psychoactive substances	116
Drug treatment.....	117
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	117
Sources of illicit drugs.....	118
Forensic data.....	119
Singapore	121
Emerging trends and concerns	121
Overview of the drug situation	121
Patterns and trends of drug use	121
Injecting drug use	121
New psychoactive substances	122
Drug treatment.....	122
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	123
Sources of illicit drugs.....	124
Forensic data.....	125
Thailand	127
Emerging trends and concerns	127
Overview of the drug situation	127
Patterns and trends of drug use	127
Injecting drug use	128
New psychoactive substances	129
Drug treatment.....	129
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	130
Sources of illicit drugs.....	131
Forensic data.....	133

Viet Nam	135
Emerging trends and concerns	135
Overview of the drug situation	135
Patterns and trends of drug use	135
Injecting drug use	136
New psychoactive substances	136
Drug treatment.....	137
Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices	137
Sources of illicit drugs.....	138
Forensic data.....	139

Acknowledgements

Grateful appreciation is expressed to the national drug control agencies participating in the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAIN-AP), either directly in the system or through sharing of information under the Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme.

The countries which shared information are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Appreciation is also due to the staff of each agency and affiliated office for compiling and submitting the data requested and for reviewing and clarifying their data submissions prior to publication of the report. Without the significant effort of the national focal persons and drug control agencies participating in the DAINAP surveillance project, this report could not have been compiled.

Special thanks for inputs are expressed to Amber Migus, Manager Strategic Intelligence Team (Canberra), Deputy Head of Department High Risk and Emerging Drugs, Australian Crime Commission; Amanda Roxburgh, Senior Research Officer, Coordinator National Illicit Drug Indicators Project, Australian National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; Taishi Akimoto, First Secretary & police senior liaison officer, Embassy of Japan in Thailand; Stuart Mills, Co-

ordinator, National Drug Intelligence Bureau, New Zealand National Police; Diana Fan, Outreach And Information Advisor, Client Engagement Team, Statistics New Zealand; and Minseok Ahn, International Relations Coordinator, Narcotics Division, Supreme Prosecutors' Office, Republic of Korea, for help in compiling and submitting national data.

Particular acknowledgement is given to the Governments of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for providing funding to support the Global SMART Programme.

The core team that prepared this report consists of Mr. Tun Nay Soe, Programme Coordinator, Global SMART Programme (East Asia), and Mr. Shawn Kelley, Regional ATS Analyst. Expert review was provided by Dr. Justice Tettey, Chief, Laboratory and Scientific Section, Ms. Yen Ling Wong, Scientific Affairs Expert, Laboratory and Scientific Section, Ms. Sabrina Levisianos, Associate Drug Control Officer, Laboratory and Scientific Section, and Ms. Natascha Eichinger, Consultant. In addition, the report benefited from the work and expertise of many other UNODC staff members in Vienna and in the field offices around the world. Particular thanks go to the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia for its important contribution to the regional overview for South Asia.

The Global SMART Programme

UNODC launched the Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme in September 2008. The Programme seeks to enhance the capacity of Member States and authorities in priority regions, to generate, manage, analyse and report synthetic drug information, and to apply this scientific evidence-based knowledge to design the policies and programmes. The Global SMART Programme is being implemented in a gradual phased manner, with East Asia being the first focus priority region. Operations in Latin America started in 2011.

This annual report is the fourth regional situation assessment for East and Southeast Asia put forward under the Global SMART Programme. It forms one of the essential key steps in providing consolidated up-to-date analysis, based on the information shared by the member countries. It is hoped that the information on drug trends presented in this report will make

a practical contribution to addressing the significant threat posed by the illicit ATS manufacture, trafficking and use in the East and Southeast Asia region, and place policymakers in a better position to evaluate the drug situation, and to make informed decisions on intervention and prevention strategies.

This report provides an overview of the ATS situation in the region. It outlines several key issues and emerging threats throughout the region and their implications for the neighbouring regions. While the data presented point towards the increased efforts by the countries in the region to tackle the ATS problem, it also highlights the need for continued and joint efforts, both at the national as well as regional levels. It is hoped that this report and the forthcoming national and regional updates, will help in the better understanding of the ATS problem and in designing effective strategies to combat it.

Abbreviations

ACC	Australian Crime Commission
ACCORD	ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs
ADEC	Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference
ADLOMICO	Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AFSN	Asian Forensic Sciences Network
AIDS	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AM-694	[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl](2-iodophenyl)-methanone
AM-2201	[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1-naphthalenyl-methanone
APAAN	<i>alpha</i> -phenylacetoacetonitrile
APAIC	Asia Pacific Amphetamine Type Stimulants Information Centre
ARQ	Annual Reports Questionnaire
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASOD	ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters Meeting
ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulants
Bk-MBDB	Butylone, also known as β -keto-N-methylbenzodioxolylbutanamine)
BKN	Narcotics Control Bureau (Brunei Darussalam)
BNN	National Narcotics Board (Indonesia)
BMK	Benzyl methyl ketone (P-2-P)
BZP	Benzylpiperazine
CCDAC	Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (Myanmar)
CCE	General Department of Cambodia Customs and Excise
CDCP	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (United States)
CNB	Central Narcotics Bureau (Singapore)
CNP	Cambodian National Police
CP-47,497	rel-2-[(1S,3R)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-5-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)phenol
CP-47,497-C8	rel-2-[(1S,3R)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-5-(2-methylnonan-2-yl)phenol
CRDA	The Central Registry of Drug Abuse (Hong Kong, China)
CSI	Criminal Scientific Institute of Vietnam
DAINAP	Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
DDB	Dangerous Drugs Board (Philippines)
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration (USA)
DMA	N,N-Dimethylamphetamine
3,4-DMMC	3,4-Dimethylmethcathinone
DNC	Department of Narcotics Control (Bangladesh)
DOC	1-(4-chloro-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-propan-2-amine
DOI	1-(4-iodo-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-propan-2-amine
DOET	2,5-Dimethoxy-4-ethylamphetamine
DRI	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (India)
EDRS	Ecstasy and related Drugs Reporting System (Australia)
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
ESR	Institute of Environmental Science and Research (New Zealand)
GBL	Gamma-butyrolactone
GDVC	General Department of Viet Nam Customs
GHB	Gamma-hydroxybutyrate
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion (comprises Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam as well as Yunnan and Guangxi provinces in China)
HAARP	HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program

HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HKNB	Narcotics Bureau, Hong Kong Police
HONLAP	Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
HONLEA	Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies
HU-210	3-(1,1'-dimethylheptyl)-6aR,7,10,10aR-tetrahydro-1-hydroxy-6,6-dimethyl-6H-dibenzo[b,d]pyran-9-methanol
IDMS	Illicit Drug Monitoring System (New Zealand)
IDPO	Incheon District Public Prosecutors' Office (Republic of Korea)
IDRS	Illicit Drug Reporting System (Australia)
IDUs	Injecting drug users
IFS	Institute of Forensic Science (Viet Nam)
IHBSS	Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
INCSR	International Narcotics Control Strategy Report
INP	Indonesian National Police
Interpol/ICPO	International Criminal Police Organization
JWH-018	(1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-1-naphthalenyl-methanone, also known as AM678
JWH-122	(4-methyl-1-naphthalenyl)(1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-methanone
JWH-210	(4-ethyl-1-naphthalenyl)(1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-methanone
JWH-250	1-(1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-ethanone
KAADA	Korean Association Against Drug Abuse
KCS	Korea Customs Service
KFDA	Korean Food and Drug Administration
LCDC	Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide
MBDB	N-Methyl-1-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-2-butanamine
mCPP	1-(3-Chlorophenyl)piperazine
MDA	3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (tenamphetamine)
MDE	N-ethyl- <i>α</i> -methyl-3,4-(methylenedioxy)phenethylamine
MDMA	3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine
MDMC	3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methcathinone
MDPV	3,4-Methylenedioxypropylone
3,4-MDP2P	3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone, or piperonyl methyl ketone (PMK)
MeOPP	Methoxyphenylpiperazine
MHLW	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan
MMDMG	3-[3'4'(methylene dioxy)phenyl]-2-methyl glycidate
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (Viet Nam)
MPS	Ministry of Public Security (Viet Nam)
NAA	National AIDS Authority (Cambodia)
NAC	National AIDS Commission (Indonesia)
NACD	National Authority for Combating Drugs (Cambodia)
NADA	National Anti-Drugs Agency (Malaysia)
NAP	National AIDS Programme (Myanmar)
NAPAC	National AIDS Prevention and Alleviation Committee (Thailand)
NCB	Narcotics Control Bureau
NCCA	National Committee for the Control of AIDS (Lao PDR)
NDARC	National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (Australia)
NDCLEU	Narcotic Drugs Control Law Enforcement Unit (Nepal)
NDDCB	National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (Sri Lanka)
NDIB	National Drug Intelligence Bureau (New Zealand)
NDPS	Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (India)

NDSB	Narcotics Division, Security Bureau, Hong Kong (China)
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey (Australia)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NNCC	National Narcotics Control Commission (China)
NPA	National Police Agency (Japan)
NPS	New psychoactive substances
OCO	Oceania Customs Organisation
ONCB	Office of the Narcotics Control Board (Thailand)
P-1-P	1-phenyl-1-propanone (also known as propiophenone or ethyl phenyl ketone)
P-2-P	1-Phenyl-2-propanone (BMK)
PAG	Policy Advisory Group (New Zealand)
PDARN	Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network
PDEA	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
pFPP	1-(4-Fluorophenyl)piperazine, (4-FPP)
PICS	Precursors Incident Communication System
PIFS	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
PMK	Piperonyl methyl ketone
PMMA	<i>p</i> -Methoxymethamphetamine
PNAC	Philippine National AIDS Council
PTCCC	Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre
PTCN	Pacific Transnational Crime Network
RMC	Royal Malaysian Customs
RMP	Royal Malaysian Police
RPNGC	Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary
SACP	Substance Abuse Control Project (Myanmar)
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SMART	Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends
SODC	Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (formerly Standing Office on Drugs Control) (Viet Nam)
SPO	Supreme Prosecutors' Office (Republic of Korea)
SRO	Safrole-rich oils
STI	Sexually transmitted infections
TCDN	Temporary class drug notices (New Zealand)
TFMPP	1-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	United States Dollar
VBA	Border Army of Viet Nam
WHO	World Health Organization
2C-B	4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
2C-D	4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
2C-E	4-ethyl-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
2C-T-2	4-ethylthio-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
2C-T-7	4-propylthio-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
2C-I	4-iodo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
2C-P	4-propyl-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
25C-NBOMe	1-(4-chloro-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-N-[(2-methoxyphenyl) methyl]ethanamine
25I-NBOMe	1-(4-Iodo-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-N-[(2-methoxyphenyl) methyl]ethanamine

4-Acetoxy-DiPT	4-Acetoxy-N,N-diisopropyltryptamine
4-MEC	4-methylethcathinone
4-MMC	4-methylmethcathinone also known as mephedrone

Weights and Measurements

g	gram
kg	kilogram
lt.	litre
mg.	milligram
ml.	millilitre
mt	metric ton

List of Tables and Figures

Tables

East and Southeast Asia

- Table 1. Methamphetamine-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 2. Methamphetamine pill seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 3. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 4. Ecstasy-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 5. Ecstasy seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 6. Illicit methamphetamine manufacturing facilities dismantled, 2008-2012
- Table 7. Illicit ecstasy or undefined ATS manufacturing facilities dismantled, 2008-2012
- Table 8. NPS found in East and Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand
- Table 9. Ketamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 10. Opiate-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 11. Heroin seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 12. Opium seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 13. Cannabis-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012
- Table 14. Cannabis seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Pacific Island States and Territories

- Table 15. ATS concerns in selected Pacific Island States and Territories

South Asia

- Table 16. Seizures of selected drugs in India, 2008-2013

Australia

- Table 17. Rank of general population reporting recent use of selected drugs in Australia, 1998-2010
- Table 18. Trend among the general population in recent use of selected drugs in Australia, 1998-2010
- Table 19. Number of drug treatment episodes in Australia by drug type, 2006-2007 to 2010-2011
- Table 20. Drug-related arrests in Australia, 2007-2008 to 2011-2012
- Table 21. Seizures of selected drugs in Australia, 2007-2008 to 2011-2012

Brunei Darussalam

- Table 22. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Brunei Darussalam, 2008-2012
- Table 23. Trend in use of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2008-2012
- Table 24. Drug treatment admissions in Brunei Darussalam, 2012
- Table 25. Drug-related arrests in Brunei Darussalam, 2012
- Table 26. Seizures of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2008-2012
- Table 27. Retail prices of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam (USD), 2008-2012

Cambodia

- Table 28. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Cambodia, 2008-2012
- Table 29. Trend in use of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2008-2012
- Table 30. Seizures of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2008-2012
- Table 31. ATS prices in Cambodia (USD), 2011-2012

China

- Table 32. Rank of use of selected drugs in China, 2008-2012
- Table 33. Trend in use of selected drugs in China, 2008-2012
- Table 34. Drug-related arrests in China, 2012
- Table 35. Seizures of selected drugs in China, 2008-2012
- Table 36. Seizures of selected drugs in Hong Kong, China, 2008-2012

Indonesia

- Table 37. Rank of drugs of concern in Indonesia, 2008-2012
- Table 38. Trend in use of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2008-2012
- Table 39. Drug treatment admissions in Indonesia by drug type, 2012
- Table 40. Drug-related arrests in Indonesia, 2012
- Table 41. Seizures of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2008-2012
- Table 42. Retail prices of selected drugs in Indonesia (USD), 2008-2012

Japan

- Table 43. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Japan, 2008-2012
- Table 44. Trend in use of selected drugs in Japan, 2008-2012
- Table 45. Drug-related arrests in Japan, 2008-2012
- Table 46. Seizures of selected drugs in Japan, 2008-2012
- Table 47. Retail price range per gram of drugs in Japan (USD), 2008-2012

Lao PDR

- Table 48. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Lao PDR, 2008-2012
- Table 49. Trend in use of selected drugs in Lao PDR, 2008-2012
- Table 50. Number of patients at Somsanga Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, 2008-2012
- Table 51. Seizures of selected drugs in Lao PDR, 2008-2012

Malaysia

- Table 52. Rank of use of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2008-2012
- Table 53. Trend in use of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2008-2012
- Table 54. Drug treatment admissions in Malaysia by drug type, 2012
- Table 55. Drug-related arrests in Malaysia, 2008-2012
- Table 56. Seizures of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2008-2012
- Table 57. Retail prices of selected drugs in Malaysia (USD), 2009-2012

Myanmar

- Table 58. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Myanmar, 2008-2012
- Table 59. Trend in use of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2008-2012
- Table 60. Drug-related arrests in Myanmar, 2008-2012
- Table 61. Seizures of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2008-2012
- Table 62. Precursor chemical seizures in Myanmar, 2008-2012
- Table 63. Retail prices of selected drugs in Myanmar (USD), 2010-2012

New Zealand

- Table 64. Rank of use of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2008-2012
- Table 65. Trend in use of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2008-2012
- Table 66. Drug-related hospital admissions in New Zealand, 2008-2012
- Table 67. Seizures of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2008-2012
- Table 68. Border seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, 2008-2012
- Table 69. Typical street retail drug prices in New Zealand (USD), 2008-2012

Philippines

- Table 70. Rank of use of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2008-2012
- Table 71. Trend in use of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2008-2012
- Table 72. Drug treatment admissions in the Philippines by drug type, 2012
- Table 73. Seizures of selected drugs and precursors in the Philippines, 2008-2012
- Table 74. Retail prices of selected drugs in the Philippines (USD), 2008-2012

Republic of Korea

Table 75. Rank of use of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Table 76. Trend in use of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Table 77. Number of persons admitted to drug treatment in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Table 78. Drug-related arrests in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Table 79. Seizures of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Table 80. Average retail price of crystalline methamphetamine in the Republic of Korea (USD), 2008-2012

Singapore

Table 81. Rank of use of selected drugs in Singapore, 2008-2012

Table 82. Trend in use of selected drugs in Singapore, 2008-2012

Table 83. Drug treatment admissions in Singapore by drug type, 2008-2012

Table 84. Drug-related arrests in Singapore, 2008-2012

Table 85. Seizures of selected drugs in Singapore, 2008-2012

Table 86. Retail prices of selected drugs in Singapore (USD), 2008-2012

Thailand

Table 87. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Thailand, 2008-2012

Table 88. Trend in use of selected drugs in Thailand, 2008-2012

Table 89. Drug treatment admissions in Thailand by drug type, 2008-2012

Table 90. Drug-related arrests in Thailand, 2008-2012

Table 91. Seizures of selected drugs in Thailand, 2008-2012

Table 92. Retail prices for ATS in Thailand (USD), 2008-2012

Viet Nam

Table 93. Rank of use of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2008-2012

Table 94. Trend in use of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2008-2012

Table 95. Seizures of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2008-2012

Figures

Background and Method

Figure 1. Data integrity process

East and Southeast Asia

Figure 2. Crystalline methamphetamine use trend, 2012

Figure 3. Methamphetamine pill use trend, 2012

Figure 4. Methamphetamine-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Figure 5. Methamphetamine pill seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Figure 6. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Figure 7. Ecstasy use trend, 2012

Figure 8. Ecstasy seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Figure 9. Ketamine use trend, 2012

Figure 10. Ketamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Figure 11. Opium use trend, 2012

Figure 12. Heroin use trend, 2012

Figure 13. Cannabis use trend, 2012

Figure 14. Cocaine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

South Asia

Figure 15. Bangladesh: seizures of methamphetamine pills, 2008-2012

Figure 16. India: seizures of ephedrine, 2008-2013 (May)

Figure 17. India: seizures of ketamine, 2008-2012

Australia

Figure 18. Clandestine laboratory detections in Australia, 2002-2003 to 2011-2012

Brunei Darussalam

Figure 19. Drug-related arrests in Brunei Darussalam, 2008-2012

Cambodia

Figure 20. Drug-related arrests in Cambodia, 2008-2012

China

Figure 21. Registered drug users in China, by drug type, 2012

Figure 22. Methamphetamine (in crystalline and pill form) seizures in China, 2001-2012

Figure 23. Methamphetamine seizures in Yunnan province, 2008-2012

Figure 24. Drug-related arrests in Hong Kong, China, 2008-2012

Japan

Figure 25. Number of drug-related consultations at health centres in Japan, 2008-2012

Lao PDR

Figure 26. Drug-related arrests in Lao PDR, 2008-2012

Philippines

Figure 27. Drug-related arrests in the Philippines, 2008-2012

Singapore

Figure 28. Number of methamphetamine users arrested in Singapore, 2008-2012

Figure 29. Purity of ATS in Singapore, 2008-2012

Thailand

Figure 30. ATS arrests as a proportion of the total drug-related arrests in Thailand, 2008-2012

Notes to the Reader

This report has not been formally edited.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Countries and areas are referred to by the names that were in official use at the time the relevant data were collected.

The following notes describe certain terms, regional designations, data sources and timeframes used throughout this document.

ATS – Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are a group of substances comprised of synthetic stimulants including amphetamine, methamphetamine, methcathinone, and *ecstasy-group substances* (e.g., MDMA and its analogues).

In various sections of this report, amphetamine and methamphetamine are also referred to as *amphetamines-group substances*. In cases where countries report to UNODC without indicating the specific ATS they are referring to, the term non-specified amphetamines is used. Tablets which are marketed to contain an ecstasy-group substance, but may actually contain a variety of other substances, are referred to as ‘ecstasy’.

NPS – New psychoactive substances are substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic

Substances, but which may pose a public health threat. In this context, the term ‘new’ does not necessarily refer to new inventions but to substances that have recently become available.

Data sources – The data contained in the national reports section of this publication were obtained primarily through DAINAP.

Drug use ranking and trends – The national trend tables of drugs used in the past year are based on informed decisions by government experts ranking the drugs of highest use prevalence or of greatest national concern, the perceived trend in use of those drugs, and the perceived street availability of those drugs during 2011 or the latest year available. While it should be noted that this information represents an expert opinion that may not necessarily be grounded in empirical research, certain trends are often known by experts in the field long before these facts are revealed by quantitative data or survey results. Trends and drug use rankings are independent; therefore, an upward trend in the use of a particular drug does not necessarily result in an upward change and vice versa.

Data time-frame – Drug trend data contained in this report cover the 2008-2012 period, except in instances where a longer historical timeframe is necessary to provide a clear explanation of particular drug trends. Data are subject to change for a variety of reasons, such as new or late data being added or revisions in data already provided by Member States. Thus, some figures may differ from previously published figures. All data

ATS street names – Several of the most popular ATS street names are listed below:

Crystalline methamphetamine – yaba or yama chakk (injectable) in Cambodia; bindu in China; shabu in Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines; anpon, philopoon (liquid) and speed in Japan; ‘P’ in New Zealand; bato, sha, and siopao in the Philippines; and ice in Australia, Cambodia, Japan, and Thailand.

Methamphetamine pills – yama in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar; yaba in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand; bingdu pian in China; and seik kwya say, and myin say in Myanmar.

Ecstasy – thnam krovee kbai (shake-head drug) in Cambodia; yao tou ubin (head-shaking pill) in China; XTC in Indonesia; ya-E in Lao PDR and Thailand; X in Japan; gaung khar say (head-shaking pill) in Myanmar; XTC and love drug in the Philippines; ya-love in Thailand; and shaking pill in Viet Nam.

reported herein reflect the most up-to-date and accurate information available at the time of writing.

Symbols – In the tables throughout this report in which a ‘rank’ is given, the numeration begins with 1 (one) which denotes the most common drug, and the highest number in the series represents the least common. In addition, arrows indicate an increase or decrease in the trend of use or availability of a specified drug during the previous year - (↑) an increase, (↓) a decrease, and (↔) a stable trend. The symbol, ‘•’ indicates that the information is not available, not known, or was not reported.

Country names and geographical terms – The term ‘region’ unless specified, generally refers to the geographical area that includes the countries and territories in East and Southeast Asia (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China (including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Province of China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam). Lao People’s Democratic Republic is denoted as Lao PDR.

Terms – As there is some scientific and legal ambiguity about the distinctions between drug ‘use’, ‘misuse’ and ‘abuse’, efforts have been made to use the term ‘use’ throughout the document.

Trade names – The trade names under which licit drugs and medicines are sold in the market, and which are mentioned in the report, are not intended to be a pejorative connotation.

Maps – The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Seizures of illicit drugs – Data related to seizures of ATS, their precursors and clandestine laboratories are subject to change for a variety of reasons, such as new or late data being added or revisions in data already provided by Member States. Thus, some figures may differ from previously published figures. All data reported herein reflect the most up-to-date and accurate information available at the time of writing.

Drug prices – The prices of methamphetamine and other drugs depend greatly on the region of sale and some reported changes in illicit drug prices may be due to fluctuating exchange rates.

Drug-related arrests – Drug-related arrest data are not uniformly reported by countries in East and Southeast Asia. Data for some countries refer only to the number of users arrested, while data for some countries also include the number of traffickers and manufacturers arrested.

Executive Summary

The market for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in the Asia and the Pacific region continued to expand in 2012. Seizures of methamphetamine in pill and crystalline forms reached record highs while methamphetamine use increased in most countries in East and Southeast Asia, according to government expert perception. Illicit methamphetamine manufacture continued to spread throughout the region and new markets emerged for a variety of other synthetic substances. Ecstasy use, which had been in decline over the past several years, increased in a number of countries in 2012 while ecstasy seizures more than tripled compared with the previous year. Moreover, the range of new psychoactive substances (NPS) found in the region continued to increase.

This report highlights the most current patterns and trends of amphetamine-type stimulants and other drugs of use in East and Southeast Asia and provides overviews for the neighbouring regions of South Asia and the Pacific Island States and Territories. This is the latest in a series of reports prepared under the Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme. The Programme seeks to enhance the capacity of Member States and authorities in priority regions to generate, manage, analyse and report synthetic drug information, and to apply this scientific evidence-based knowledge to design effective responses. A primary objective of this report is to help in improving the ability of states to respond to the growing human security and public health threats posed by the illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of synthetic drugs in the Asia and the Pacific region.

The findings of this report are based on primary information submitted by the drug control agencies and designated institutions in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, via the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP) established through the Global SMART Programme. Information from DAINAP is supplemented with data from other government sources such as national reports, the UNODC Annual Reports Questionnaire, and through primary and secondary research. Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea also provided data to the Global SMART Programme for this report.

Significant levels of ATS use continued to be reported

from all 15 countries that contributed to this report, with 13 countries reporting methamphetamine as the primary or secondary drug of use. In 2012, six countries reported the use of methamphetamine pills, while all but two countries (Lao PDR and Myanmar) reported the use of crystalline methamphetamine. In addition, the market for new psychoactive substances continued to grow.

In 2012, methamphetamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia continued at record high levels, and a number of countries reported significant increases. Illicit ATS manufacture also continued at high levels. Most of the ATS illicitly manufactured in East and Southeast Asia are used within the region. Precursor chemicals used in illicit methamphetamine manufacture are often easily obtainable, and a large share of these, often in the form of pharmaceutical preparations, are produced in the region and in the neighbouring region of South Asia. Meanwhile, transnational organized criminal groups continue to be involved in the illicit ATS trade.

The increasing pace of regional integration in East and Southeast Asia is positively facilitating the free flow of goods, services, investment, capital and labour. Unfortunately, it is also being exploited by transnational organized crime in order to expand its activities in the region. The misuse of economic integration for the illicit trafficking of drugs and other contraband will continue to pose a significant threat to security, good governance, human rights and sustainable development in the region.

Governments in the Asia and the Pacific region continue to make notable efforts in responding to the threat posed by illicit drugs at the national and regional levels, and improvements continue to be made in terms of data generation, analysis and sharing as well as forensic capacity. However, numerous challenges remain in assessing the full extent of the security and health implications of the illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of ATS and other synthetic drugs in the region.

Based on the data submitted for 2012 and part of 2013, the following observations are made in the report:

- **Methamphetamine use continued to increase in most countries in East and Southeast Asia.** ATS have ranked among the top three drugs of use in

all countries in the region since 2009. In 2012, reported use of methamphetamine increased in Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam, according to experts in those countries. Methamphetamine pill use continues to rise while crystalline methamphetamine use has rapidly become more prevalent throughout the region. Methamphetamine use, primarily in powder form, appears to be on the decline in Australia and New Zealand.

- **The manufacture of illicit amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) continued at high, albeit slightly declining levels.** In 2012, some 385 illicit synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were dismantled in East and Southeast Asia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine. Large quantities of ATS continued to be illicitly manufactured in China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar the Philippines and Cambodia, as well as in Australia and New Zealand. Methamphetamine pill pressing operations and small-scale crystalline methamphetamine manufacture facilities continued to be seized in Thailand and there were indications that large-scale clandestine methamphetamine manufacture is taking place in Viet Nam.
- **Methamphetamine seizures reached record highs in 2012.** A total of 227 million methamphetamine pills were seized in East and Southeast Asia in 2012, a 59% increase from the 142 million pills seized in 2011 and a more than seven-fold increase since 2008, when 31.1 million pills were seized. Most pills were seized in China (102.2 million), Thailand (95.3 million), Myanmar (18.2 million) and Lao PDR (10.1 million), which together account for 99% of all pills seized in 2012. The total amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized increased by 12% to 11.6 tons. Record level seizures were reported in a number of countries. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures increased significantly in Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong (China).
- **There has been a resurgence of the ‘ecstasy’ market in East and Southeast Asia.** Ecstasy use in the region had been on the decline over the past few years. In 2012, however, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam reported increasing ‘ecstasy’ use. The number of ‘ecstasy’ pills seized in the region more than tripled, to over 5.4 million pills, from about 1.6 million pills seized in 2011.

This is the highest total reported since 2007. Many of the seized drugs sold as ‘ecstasy’ on the street contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA.

- **The market for new psychoactive substances (NPS) is growing rapidly in the region.** In addition to the growing number of substances such as synthetic cathinones, ketamine, piperazines, and phenethylamines, sold pills purported to be ‘ecstasy’, ketamine and kratom continue to be used throughout the region. NPS have been found in ‘ecstasy’ pills or preparations in Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and ketamine has been reported in all but one country (Lao PDR) in the region. While the use of most of these substances is not as widespread as the use of traditional illicit drugs, data available on seizures, use and forensic analysis suggest increasing availability of these NPS.
- **Transnational organized criminal activities in the region’s illicit drug trade continued to diversify.** Drug trafficking syndicates from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic methamphetamine and other drugs into East and Southeast Asia. The most common destinations for methamphetamine trafficked from or through Africa, primarily by air passenger couriers, appear to be Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam. Drug trafficking groups, mostly from Iran, continue to traffic methamphetamine to various countries in the region by air transportation. However, in 2012 there were numerous significant seizures of methamphetamine discovered in sea cargo containers in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Indian drug trafficking networks continue to play a role in smuggling precursor chemicals to methamphetamine manufacturing locations in East and Southeast Asia.
- **Demand for drug treatment related to methamphetamine remains high in East and Southeast Asia.** ATS were the primary drugs of use for a large majority of persons who received drug treatment in 2012. However, a large number of arrested drug users continue to be sent to compulsory drug treatment facilities, most of which do not provide ATS-specific treatment services.
- **The neighbouring regions of South Asia and the Pacific Island States and Territories** are being tar-

geted for illicit ATS manufacture and trafficking. International drug trafficking groups have sought to use South Asia as a major base, given the high availability of precursor chemicals used for manufacturing illicit synthetic drugs, as well as technical expertise on ATS manufacturing. Transnational organized criminal groups continue to use the Pacific region as a transit point for trafficking methamphetamine and precursor chemicals to and from Asia. However, the lack of quality data and information related to drug trafficking and drug use continues to impede the development of an effective evidence-based response in these two regions.

Background

Since the late 1990s, the use of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), such as methamphetamine and ecstasy, has been one of the most significant drug problems worldwide. The most recent global estimates of past year use of amphetamine-group substances exceed that of heroin and cocaine users, combined. Unlike cocaine and heroin, ATS can be manufactured anywhere, and since 1990 more than 70 countries worldwide have reported at least some ATS-related manufacture. Because of cheap and easy ways to manufacture the drugs, more countries are added to the list each year. ATS in East and Southeast Asia have become the leading drugs of use and concern, replacing heroin, cannabis and opium, which until a decade ago were the drugs that dominated the regional illicit market.

The primary ATS of use in East and Southeast Asia are methamphetamine and, to a much lesser extent, ecstasy. Methamphetamine is a white, odourless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that dissolves easily in water or alcohol. It is available as a powder or in crystalline form and may be presented as a pill or tablet. It can be ingested, smoked, snorted, sniffed and injected.

Ecstasy (MDMA) has the psychoactive action of both a stimulant and a hallucinogen and it is ingested almost exclusively in pill or tablet form. Use of ecstasy originated among teens and young adults at raves or night-long dance parties in Europe. However, use of the drug has expanded in recent years to include varied social settings and diverse demographic subgroups throughout the world. Manufacture of this drug has also spread, moving from more traditional locations in Western Europe closer to often young and lucrative consumer markets across the world. In East and Southeast Asia, many of the pills sold as 'ecstasy' contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA.

Risk and protective factors for initial and progressive use of drugs are influenced by a wide range of social and behavioral aspects. The use of certain ATS and other drugs has been sufficiently prevalent among middle and upper class youths and young adults in bars and discos, such that the phrase 'club drugs' became a term of reference. Research has documented that the groups at particularly high risk are marginalized youth, especially the homeless. In addition, workers in low-paying, labour-intensive jobs and those whose wages depend on working long hours have greater vulnerability to problem drug use, as do sex workers, including bar and karaoke workers and hostesses.

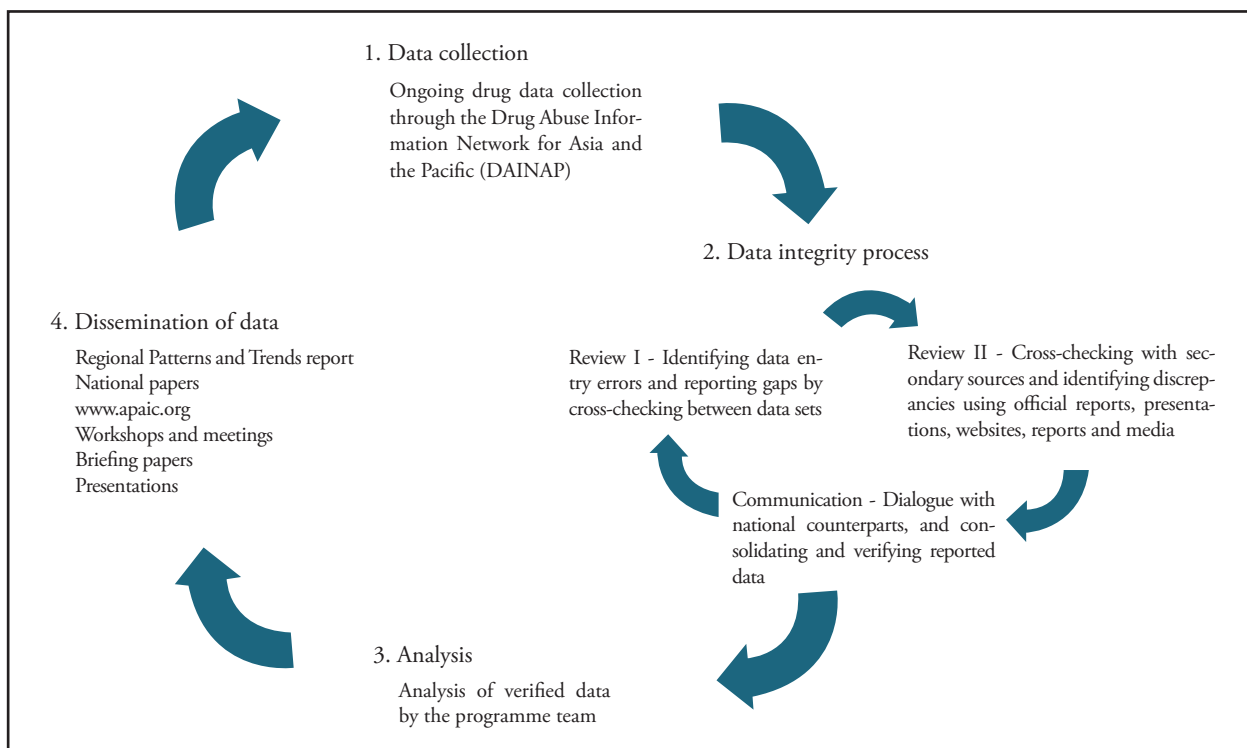
Method

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime established the Global SMART Programme in September 2008, to assist Governments in the establishment or strengthening of drug monitoring systems. This kind of support involves knowledge transfer in understanding and implementation of information systems, and training in the collection, collation and communication of data on drug use patterns and trends. An endpoint to the provision of individual country assistance in data development is the organization of the national information into a standardized reporting format for the region and the implementation of a regional drug use surveillance network among countries participating in the programme.

The Global SMART Programme builds on mechanisms and lessons learned from a previous project on Improving ATS Data and Information Systems, established in 2002 and implemented by the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific (now the Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific). Through consensus among the participating Member States, a minimum data set – aligned with UNODC Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ) – was developed. Data collection focuses on national trends, treatment and health-related information, and law enforcement data and is uploaded by Member States into the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP).

DAINAP, initiated in May 2005, is an internet-based drug use information system which integrates data collection efforts of two major UNODC projects, i.e. Improving ATS Data and Information Systems, cited above, and the Regional Cooperative Mechanism to Monitor and Execute the ACCORD Plan of Action. DAINAP enhances both the timeliness and ease of data submission as well as improved efficiency and quality control of the information submitted. It has also provided a mechanism for communication among the national counterparts themselves. Key to the success of the SMART Programme is the effort that has gone into developing and implementing operational activities which ensure that the most accurate and up-to-date information is obtained from national data systems to assist in the further development of those systems. The flow chart shown in Figure 1 outlines the data quality and integrity controls that have been implemented to achieve that objective.

Figure 1. Data integrity process



The capabilities of countries in the region to collect, compile, and disseminate accurate and timely data on the current drug use situation vary greatly. Some countries have sophisticated and well-funded data systems, research infrastructures, and survey programmes, while data collection activities in others are relatively basic due to various reasons including a lack of resources. The Global SMART Programme provides valuable assistance to a number of countries in the region in efforts to improve their data collection

capabilities. In addition to oversight of the regional surveillance, another aim of the Global SMART Programme is the development and maintenance of a comprehensive clearinghouse of ATS information. A complete description of the background, activities, and objectives, as well as other clearinghouse information, can be viewed on the Asia and Pacific Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Information Centre (APAIC) website at: www.apaic.org.

Regional Trends

East and Southeast Asia
Pacific Island States and Territories
South Asia



Regional Trends: East and Southeast Asia

Summary, emerging trends and concerns

- Methamphetamine use continues to increase in most countries in East and Southeast Asia.
- The manufacture of illicit amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) continues at high, albeit slightly declining, levels.
- Methamphetamine seizures reached record highs in 2012.
- There has been a resurgence of the ‘ecstasy’¹ market in East and Southeast Asia.
- The market for new psychoactive substances (NPS) not under international control is growing rapidly in the region.
- Transnational organized criminal activities in the region’s illicit drug trade continue to diversify.
- Methamphetamine smuggling in sea cargo containers is becoming increasingly prevalent.
- Demand for drug treatment related to methamphetamine remains high in East and Southeast Asia.

Regional trends: East and Southeast Asia²

ATS are the second most widely used class of drugs worldwide, after cannabis. The East and Southeast Asian region, which is home to about one-third of the global population, has some of the largest and most established ATS markets in the world. Methamphetamine in pill, powder and crystalline forms are the most widely used forms of ATS in the region. In addition, the demand for ecstasy remains high. Since the late 1990s, the illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of ATS have expanded significantly in the region. These trends continued in 2012.

The demand for ATS, and the massive profits generated by their trade, continue to provide ample incentive for manufacturers and traffickers to expand their illicit businesses. At the same time, improved infrastructure and increased vehicle traffic, which facilitate the freer flow of licit goods, services, capital and labour, simul-

taneously provide opportunities for an expansion of transnational organized crime in the region.

The first part of this chapter highlights the key emerging trends and concerns related to ATS and other illicit drugs in the region. The second part of the chapter presents detailed data related to the use, manufacture, law enforcement and public health dimensions of ATS and other primary drugs of use in the East and Southeast Asia region.

• **Methamphetamine use continues to increase in most countries in East and Southeast Asia.** Amphetamine-type stimulants have ranked in the top 3 drugs of use in every country in the region since 2009. In 2012, reported use of methamphetamine increased in 8 countries after having increased in 11 countries in 2011. In 2012, methamphetamine use was reportedly stable or declining in Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Singapore, according to expert perception.

The use of methamphetamine pills takes place predominantly in the Greater Mekong sub-region, which includes Cambodia, China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Experts in these countries reported an increase

¹ ‘Ecstasy’ refers to pills sold as ecstasy but which contain substances other than MDMA.

² This chapter focuses in detail on the trends in the East and Southeast Asian region. A summary of trends in Australia and New Zealand is also included. Detailed information for all countries is available in the individual country chapters.

in the use of methamphetamine pills in 2012 (and in 2011). Some methamphetamine pill is also used in Indonesia³ and Malaysia. Methamphetamine in pill form is the primary drug of use in Lao PDR and Thailand, and the secondary drug of use in Cambodia, China and Viet Nam.

Crystalline methamphetamine is the primary drug of concern in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. In 2012, crystalline methamphetamine perceived use increased in Cambodia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. Methamphetamine use, primarily in powder form, appears to have been on the decline in Australia and New Zealand.

• **Illicit ATS manufacture continues at high, albeit slightly declining, levels.** In 2012, some 385 synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were dismantled in East and Southeast Asia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine. This figure slightly declined by 4% from the 401 reported for 2011. China continued to report high, but declining, levels of illicit synthetic drug manufacture with 326 illicit clandestine laboratories dismantled in 2012, of which 228 were manufacturing methamphetamine. In addition, 81 illicit ketamine facilities were dismantled in China in 2012.

Illicit laboratories were also dismantled in Malaysia (27), Indonesia (7), the Philippines (7), Cambodia (6), Thailand (6), Myanmar (5) and the Republic of Korea (1), most of which were small-scale laboratories that are easier to conceal and are easily relocated closer to user markets. Most dismantled laboratories were manufacturing methamphetamine, but some were manufacturing ecstasy.

Myanmar remains the primary source of methamphetamine pills found in the region, according to reports by governments in the region, and in 2012 reported the dismantling of its first ever crystalline methamphetamine laboratory. Four pill pressing operations were seized in Myanmar in 2012 while pill pressing operations continue to be dismantled in Thailand, primarily at the outskirts of Bangkok and in surrounding provinces, which may indicate that drug traffickers are smuggling intermediate forms of methamphetamine to pill pressing facilities near user markets in the capital.

³ A large portion of the methamphetamine pills found in Indonesia are pills sold on the streets as 'ecstasy' which may contain various psychoactive substances including methamphetamine.

In Australia, 552 clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamines-group substances were detected⁴ in 2011-2012.⁵ A total of 17 laboratories were identified as undertaking pseudoephedrine and/or ephedrine extraction and 2 MDMA laboratories were also detected. New Zealand dismantled 84 clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories in 2012, all but one of which were small-scale 'kitchen-type' facilities, as well as one laboratory that was suspected of manufacturing MDA (an MDMA analogue).

• **Methamphetamine seizures reached record highs in 2012.** A total of 227 million methamphetamine pills were seized in East and Southeast Asia in 2012, a 59% increase from the 142.4 million pills seized in 2011 and a more than seven-fold increase since 2008, when 31.1 million pills were seized. Most pills were seized in China (102.2 million), Thailand (95.3 million), Myanmar (18.2 million) and Lao PDR (10.1 million), which together accounted for 99% of all pills seized in 2012. Methamphetamine pill seizures more than tripled in Myanmar, more than doubled in Lao PDR, increased by 93% in Thailand and 25% in China. Smaller amounts of methamphetamine pills were seized in Viet Nam and Malaysia, but both countries recorded significant increases in 2012.

The amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized in the region increased by 12% in 2012 to 11.6 tons. Record level seizures were reported in a number of countries that year. About half of the region's seizures continued to be reported by China, where 5.9 tons were seized in 2012. Indonesia and Thailand also reported crystalline methamphetamine seizures of more than 1 ton. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures increased significantly in Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Japan, Thailand and Hong Kong (China).

• **There has been a resurgence of the 'ecstasy' market in East and Southeast Asia.** In the last few years several countries reported a continued low availability of MDMA for the 'ecstasy' market, which is in line with global trends. Moreover, many of the seized drugs sold as 'ecstasy' on the street contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA. In 2012, experts in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand and

⁴ The term 'detections' is used for drug-related law enforcement data reported for Australia, since some detected clandestine laboratories are not dismantled and some illicit drugs are not seized but are intended for controlled delivery.

⁵ Drug-related law enforcement data reported for Australia follow the fiscal calendar year from 1 July through 30 June.

Viet Nam reported increasing 'ecstasy' use. 'Ecstasy' is not reported as the most common drug of use by any country in the region but it is the second most common illicit drug of use in Australia, New Zealand and Viet Nam. In 2012, the number of 'ecstasy' pills seized in the region more than tripled, to over 5.4 million pills, from about 1.6 million pills seized in 2011. This is the highest total reported since 2007, when 5.6 million 'ecstasy' pills were seized.

- **The market for NPS is growing rapidly in the region.** Ketamine has been in use throughout the region for a number of years but appears to have stabilized while the plant-based substance, kratom, continues to be used as a traditional stimulant in Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand. Khat, containing the amphetamine-like stimulant cathinone, has more recently emerged in some countries including New Zealand, Indonesia and Viet Nam. A large number of the pills sold as 'ecstasy' in the region contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA, such as synthetic cathinones, ketamine, piperazines and phenethylamines. These substances have been found in 'ecstasy' pills or in preparation form in Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Synthetic cannabinoids have been detected in Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Singapore. While the use of most of these substances is not yet widespread relative to illicit drug use, drug seizure, drug use and forensic data suggest increasing availability of these NPS.

- **Transnational organized criminal activity in the region's illicit drug trade continues to diversify.** Drug trafficking syndicates from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic methamphetamine and other drugs into East and Southeast Asia. African drug trafficking networks primarily traffic cocaine and heroin, but also more recently traffic methamphetamine. The most common destinations for methamphetamine trafficked from or through Africa appear to be Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam. Methamphetamine trafficking by African groups in 2012 was also reported by Brunei Darussalam, New Zealand, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. Methamphetamine consignments between 1-3 kg are usually trafficked by air transportation. Nigeria, by far the largest country in West Africa, both in terms of population size and surface area, is most frequently cited as the source of methamphetamine trafficking.

Drug trafficking syndicates from the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic significant quantities of methamphetamine to various countries in the region, particularly Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand. Whereas previously, most Iranian methamphetamine was smuggled by passenger plane couriers, there have been numerous significant seizures of Iranian methamphetamine discovered in sea cargo containers in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, and a seizure of 211 kg of liquid methamphetamine shipped from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Malaysia concealed in parcel post. In the last few years, Iranian nationals have been arrested in Malaysia, Thailand and Japan for attempting to manufacture methamphetamine. There are also indications that Iranian drug trafficking groups may be smuggling Mexican manufactured methamphetamine, as well as precursor chemicals, to Malaysia in air cargo.

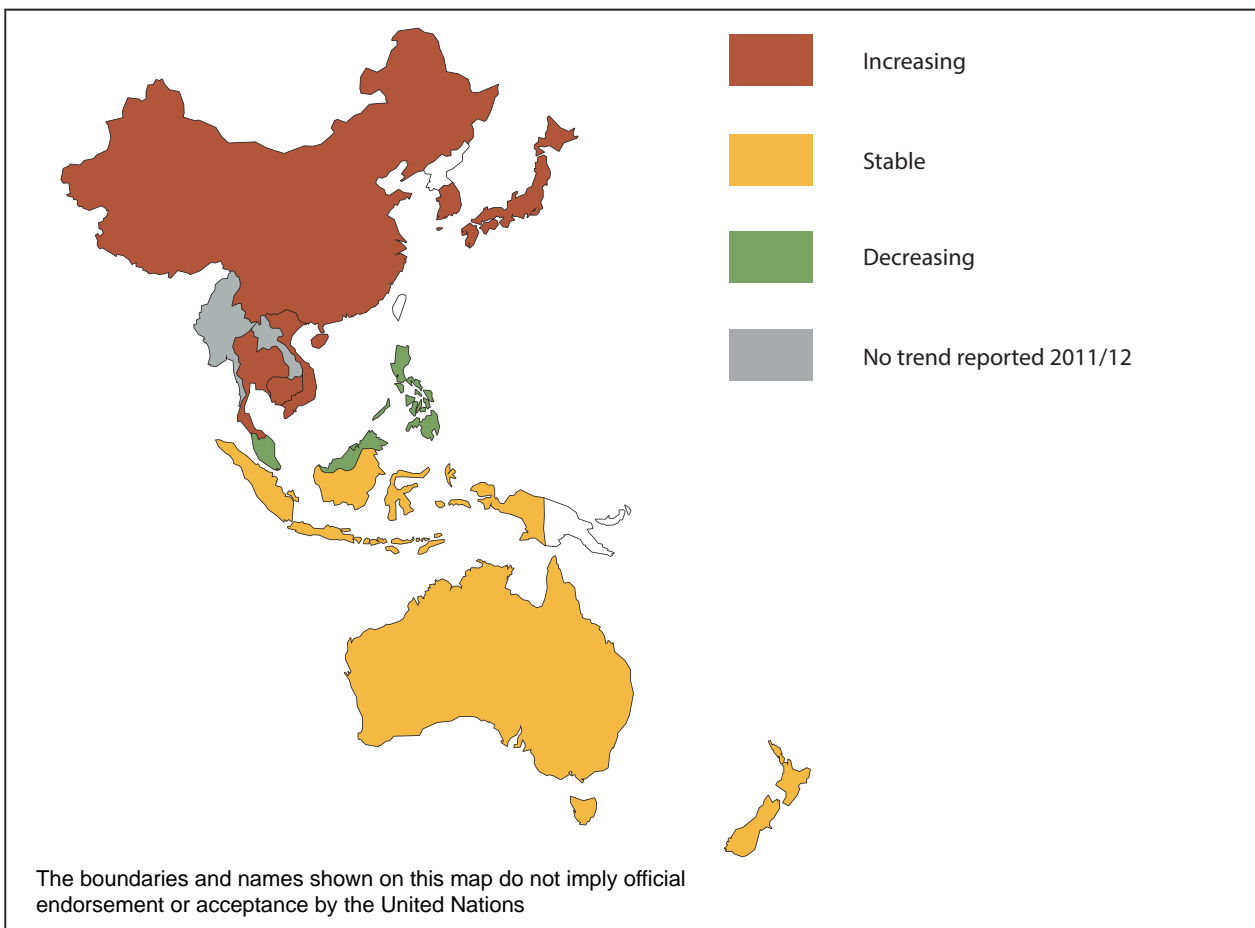
Drug trafficking networks based in India continue to play a role in smuggling precursor chemicals to methamphetamine manufacturers in East and Southeast Asia. Large quantities of pseudoephedrine tablets are smuggled to Myanmar via overland border crossings, and Malaysia has also reported multi-ton seizures of ephedrine smuggled from India. Ketamine continues to be diverted or smuggled from India to several countries in East and Southeast Asia.

- **The smuggling of methamphetamine and other drugs by sea cargo is becoming increasingly prevalent in the region.** In 2012, 60 kg of methamphetamine originating from the Islamic Republic of Iran were seized from a shipping vessel in Indonesia, and in the last few years several hundred kilograms of Iranian-manufactured methamphetamine have been seized in sea cargo in Malaysia and Thailand. The shift to sea cargo imports in Malaysia may have resulted from strengthened interdiction efforts at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Large amounts of heroin, cocaine or other illicit drugs continue to be smuggled in sea cargo to China. In Australia, large amounts of liquid methamphetamine were seized in sea cargo containers originating from Mexico in 2011-2012, while crystalline methamphetamine from China and large cocaine consignments originating from South and Central America continued to be seized in sea cargo. High volumes of methamphetamine and other drugs continued to be smuggled by sea cargo to countries with vast coastlines such as Indonesia and the Philippines.

• **Drug treatment demand related to methamphetamine remains high in East and Southeast Asia.** In 2012, ATS were the primary drugs of use for about 85% of all persons receiving drug treatment from countries that reported such data, increasing from 70% in 2011. However, these figures do not include data from China, Myanmar and Viet Nam, where heroin is the primary drug of concern. About two thirds of the persons receiving drug treatment in the Philippines in 2012 were crystalline methamphetamine users, roughly the same proportion as in each of the previous 10 years. The proportion of women receiving treatment for crystalline methamphetamine use in the Philippines has slightly decreased from 74% in 2011 to 68% in 2012. The number of methamphetamine users receiving treatment in Singapore increased to the highest level reported over the past five years and ac-

counted for about 42% of all persons receiving drug treatment in 2012. In Cambodia, methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) users accounted for about 89% of all persons receiving treatment. Crystalline methamphetamine was also the primary drug of use among persons who received drug treatment in Brunei Darussalam (97%). Methamphetamine pills continued to be the most common drug of use (82%) among persons receiving treatment in Thailand and Lao PDR (51%). However, most drug treatment services in the region continue to be aimed at heroin, opium and cannabis users. Moreover, in several countries in the region, a large number of persons receiving drug treatment are arrested drug users sent to compulsory drug treatment facilities, most of which do not provide ATS-specific drug treatment services.

Figure 2. Crystalline methamphetamine use trend, 2012



Note: Drug use trend data are based on government expert perception.
Source(s): DAINAP

Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and their varieties

While ATS pose serious human security and public health threats across the world, the types of amphetamines-group substances used in different regions vary considerably. In Europe, the main substance used within this group is amphetamine. In the Near and Middle East, the use of amphetamine tablets sold as Captagon is more common. In the East Asian and Pacific region, the predominant substance consumed within this group is methamphetamine, in pill, powder and crystalline form.

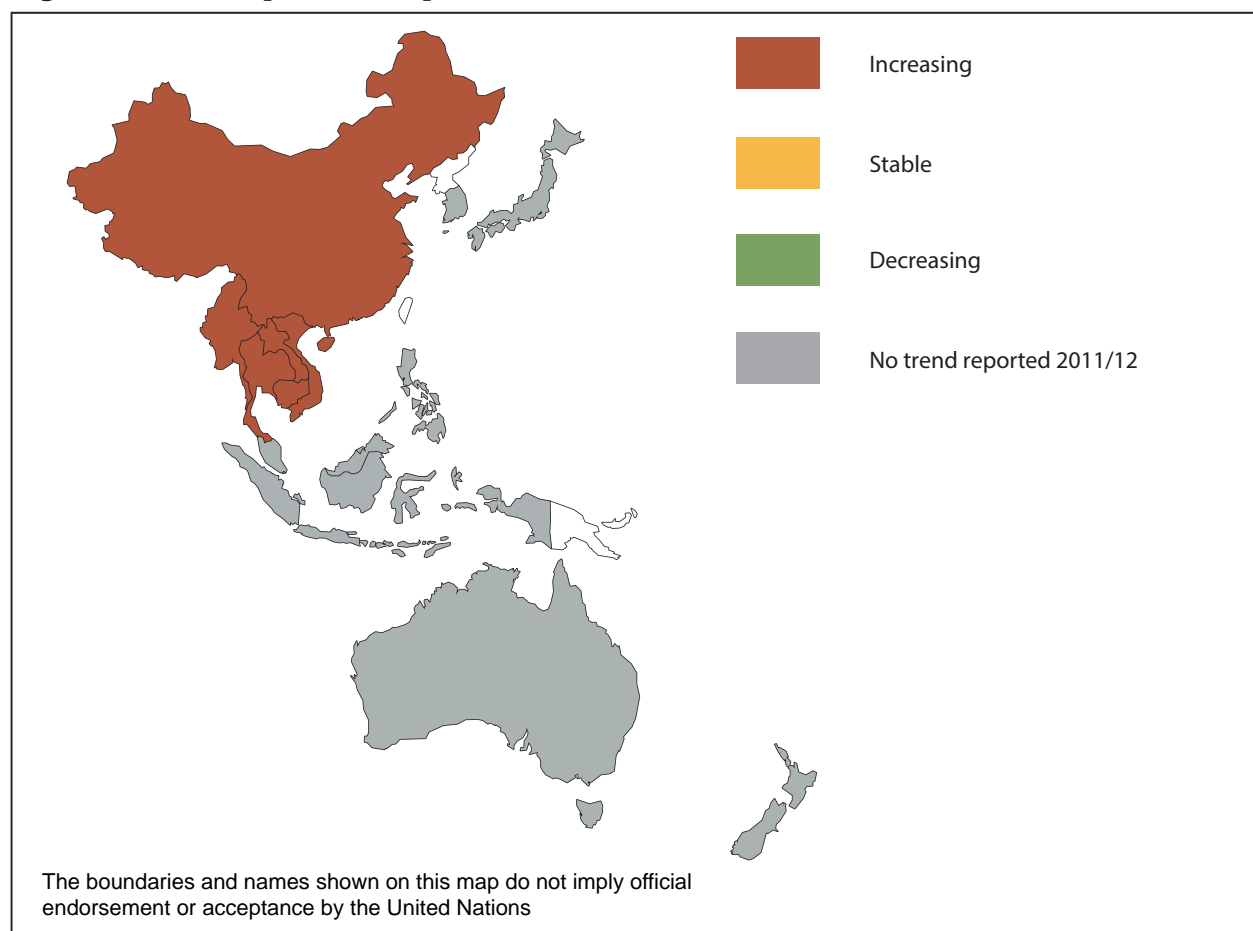
Methamphetamine is a white, odourless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that dissolves easily in water or alcohol. It can be ingested, smoked, snorted and injected. Ecstasy (MDMA) is ingested almost exclusively in pill form. In addition, a variety of other psychoactive substances such as ketamine are sold on ATS markets in the region, while in recent years a number of NPS have emerged which include piperazines such as BZP as well as analogues of methcathinone including 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC, known as mephedrone).

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine use – All countries in the region report methamphetamine use, with 13 countries re-

porting it as the primary or secondary drug of use: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand

Figure 3. Methamphetamine pill use trend, 2012



Note: Drug use trend data are based on government expert perception.

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 1. Methamphetamine-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Number of methamphetamine arrests				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	498	411	489	508	412
Cambodia	371	•	•	•	•
China	•	31,907	39,231	44,920	75,549
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	874	788	726	732	970
Indonesia	8,685	10,185	12,463	15,766	16,001
Japan	11,231	11,873	12,200	12,083	11,842
Lao PDR	395	753	1,007	1,749	1,943
Malaysia	1,443	1,131	42,701	66,736	74,460
Myanmar	943	1,317	1,008	1,269	1,825
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	7,457	7,965	6,771	7,226	7,631
Singapore	404	542	702	1,157	1,022
Thailand	127,195	153,929	168,146	214,779	195,741
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	159,496	220,801	285,444	366,925	387,396

• = Not reported. Data for some countries include only the number of methamphetamine users arrested, while data for some countries also include the number of methamphetamine traffickers and manufacturers arrested.

Source(s): DAINAP

and Viet Nam. In 2012, 6 countries reported methamphetamine pill use – Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. All but two countries (Lao PDR and Myanmar) reported crystalline methamphetamine use in 2012.

Crystalline methamphetamine use has rapidly become more prevalent throughout the region. Increasing crystalline methamphetamine use was reported in Cambodia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam, according to expert perception. In Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Singapore, methamphetamine use showed overall stable or declining trends. Methamphetamine in crystalline form is the primary drug of concern in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, according to government experts.

Methamphetamine pills are almost exclusively of concern in countries of the Greater Mekong sub-region – Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. All 6 countries reported increasing methamphetamine pill use in 2012. Small quantities of pills of lower purity are also found elsewhere in East and Southeast Asia (such as Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Singapore). Methamphet-

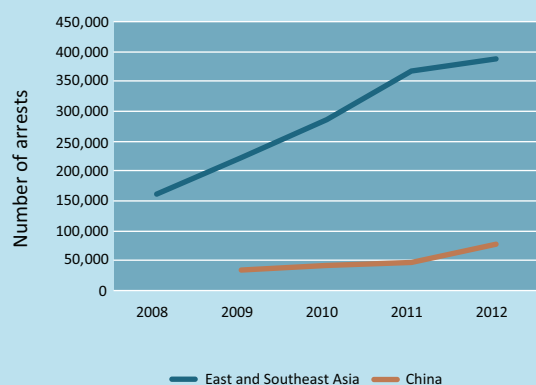
amine pills are the primary drugs of use in Lao PDR and Thailand and the secondary drug of use in Cambodia, China and Viet Nam.

Methamphetamine-related arrests – Methamphetamine-related arrests⁶ in East and Southeast Asia increased by 6% in 2012, having previously increased annually since 2004. Some 387,396 methamphetamine-related arrests were recorded in the region in 2012, the highest total ever reported. However, this excludes methamphetamine-related arrests for Cambodia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, which did not provide disaggregated arrest data for 2012. That year, methamphetamine accounted for 80% or more of all drug-related arrests in Thailand (93%), Brunei Darussalam (90%), Japan (85%), the Republic of Korea (82%) and Lao PDR (80%).

Australia reported 16,828 arrests related to ATS in 2011-2012, making up about 18% of all illicit drug-related arrests, second only to cannabis. In New Zealand, ATS-related cases accounted for nearly 13% of all drug-related cases in 2011 and 2010. No ATS arrest data are available from New Zealand for 2012.

⁶ Methamphetamine-related arrest figures are not reported uniformly in the region. Some countries report the arrests of methamphetamine users only and do not include methamphetamine traffickers and manufacturers. Arrest figures for other countries include all such groups.

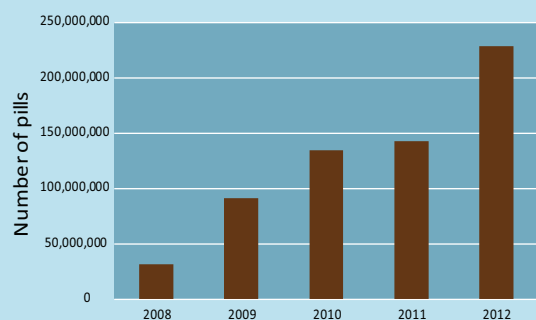
Figure 4. Methamphetamine-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP

Methamphetamine seizures – The number of methamphetamine pills seized in the region has increased annually since 2007, followed by a dramatic increase in 2012. Approximately 227 million methamphetamine pills were seized in 2012, marking a 59% increase from the 142.4 million pills seized in the previous year and a more than seven-fold increase from the 31.1 million pills seized in 2008. Together, the number of pills seized in China (102.2 million), Thailand (95.3 million), Myanmar (18.2 million) and Lao PDR (10.1 million) accounted for 99% of all seizures reported for the region in 2012. That year, methamphetamine pill seizures more than tripled in Myanmar, more than doubled in Lao PDR, surged by 93% in Thailand and increased by 25% in China. Smaller amounts of methamphetamine pills were seized in Viet Nam and Malaysia in 2012, but both countries

Figure 5. Methamphetamine pill seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP

recorded a substantial increase in the total number of seizures that year.

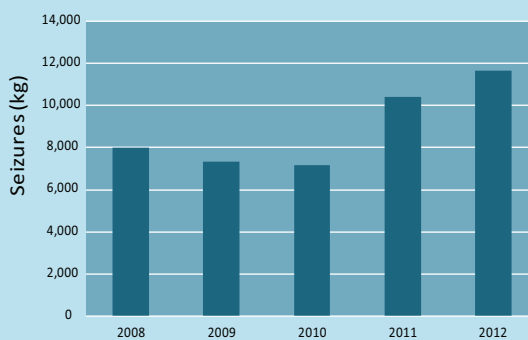
Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in 2012 reached their highest level within the past decade having increased from 10.4 tons in 2011 to 11.6 tons in 2012. Record high seizures were reported in Indonesia (2.1 tons), Thailand (1.6 tons), Singapore (50.8 kg), Cambodia (33.5 kg) and Brunei Darussalam (9 kg). The 466.6 kg of crystalline methamphetamine seized in Japan in 2012 is the largest amount seized since 2003, while the 426.7 kg seized in Myanmar in 2012 is the highest total reported since 2001. The largest share of crystalline methamphetamine seizures in the region continue to be made in China, where the 5.9 tons seized accounted for more than half (51%) of the regional total in 2012.

Crystalline methamphetamine seizures significantly increased in 2012 by more than 12-fold in Myanmar, 10-fold in Brunei Darussalam, 91% in Hong Kong, China, 75% in Indonesia, 75% in Cambodia, 33% in Japan and 29% in Thailand. Large, but decreasing, amounts were seized in Malaysia (851.8 kg) and the Philippines (112.1 kg).

Ecstasy

Ecstasy use – There has been somewhat of a re-emergence of ecstasy in East and Southeast Asia in 2011 and 2012. In the previous years, several countries continued to report a low availability of MDMA for the ‘ecstasy’ market. Moreover, many of the seized drugs that had been sold on the street as ‘ecstasy’ contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA,⁷ such as

Figure 6. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP

⁷ 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine, or one of its related analogues.

Table 2. Methamphetamine pill seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Number of methamphetamine pills seized*				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	116,772	137,249	82,746	238,994	112,723
China	6,255,658	40,640,038	58,443,664	81,554,400	102,242,000
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	•	•	•	•	•
Japan	•	•	•	•	•
Lao PDR	1,227,205	2,335,655	24,530,177	4,609,729	10,071,146
Malaysia	281,343	107,952	107,963	364,909	521,384
Myanmar	1,102,199	23,899,156	2,192,263	5,894,188	18,162,052
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	151	1	5	5	402
Singapore	1,135	1,237	352	772	765
Thailand	20,023,705	24,638,320	48,793,951	49,365,700	95,268,000
Viet Nam	850,000	564,515	441,685	366,000	335,470
Total	29,858,168	92,324,123	134,372,806	142,394,697	226,713,942

• = Not reported. * Or pill equivalents.

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 3. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized (kg)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.8	9.0
Cambodia	1.9	4.6	9.9	19.1	33.5
China	5,523.3	4,479.0	4,186.0	6,022.7	5,939.9
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	23.9	40.1	101.8	38.4	73.2
Indonesia	709.9	239.5	649.1	1,168.7	2,050.6
Japan	402.6	369.5	310.7	350.9	466.6
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	356.9	1,660.0	887.3	1,235.6	851.8
Myanmar	15.9	124.3	226.1	33.4	426.7
Philippines	853.5	149.3	63.6	254.3	112.1
Republic of Korea	25.6	15.2	11.9	23.5	20.7
Singapore	1.8	3.7	5.6	14.1	50.8
Thailand	54.3	213.2	706.0	1,232.0	1,585.8
Viet Nam	•	3.9	•	•	•
Total	7,970.0	7,302.6	7,158.8	10,393.5	11,620.7

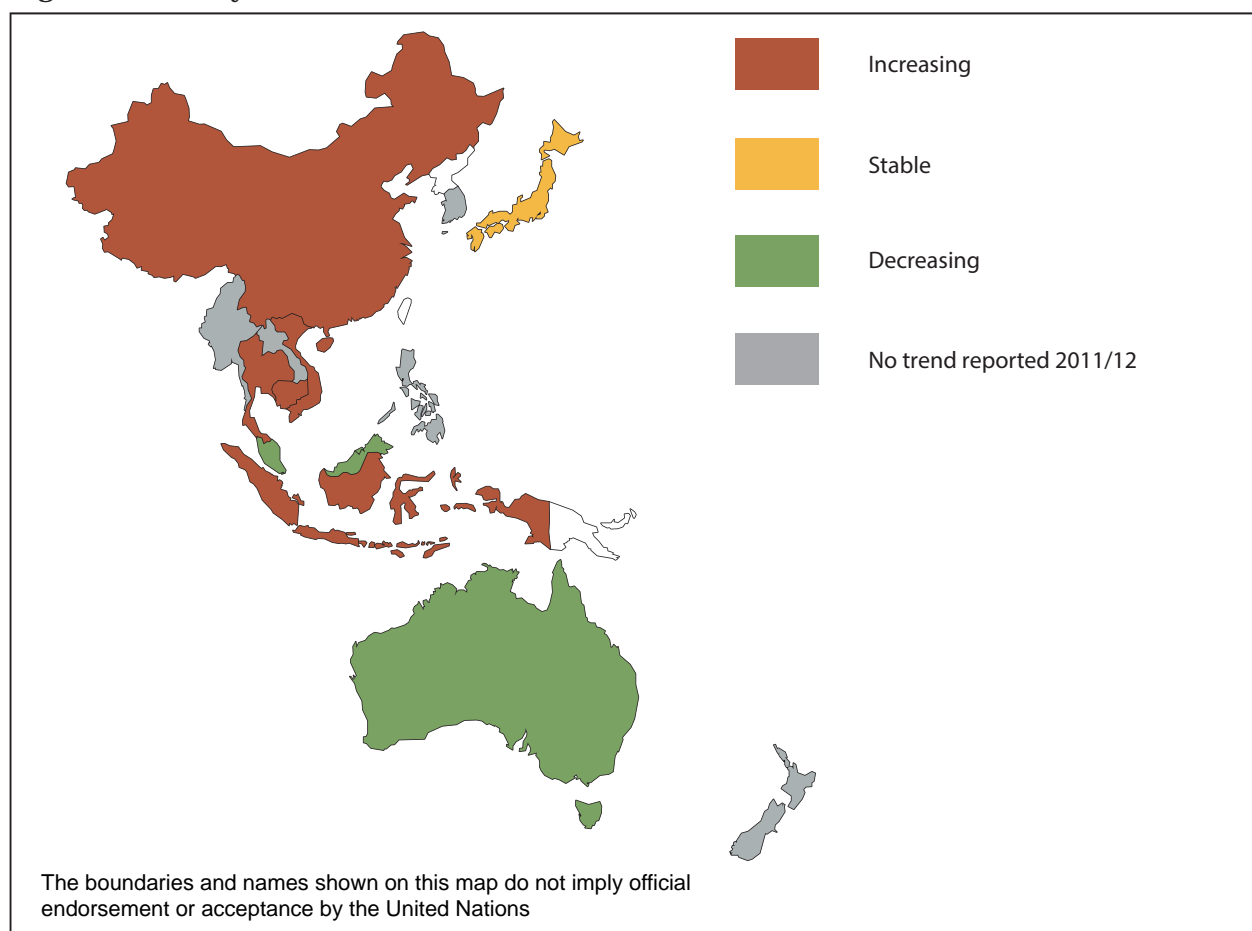
• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

methamphetamine, ketamine or other NPS, such as piperazines. This greatly complicates the assessment of statistics related to 'ecstasy' for countries that do not have ATS data and classification systems or the

appropriate forensic and analytical facilities. In 2012, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam reported increasing 'ecstasy' use, according to government experts. All other countries that reported 'ec-

Figure 7. Ecstasy use trend, 2012



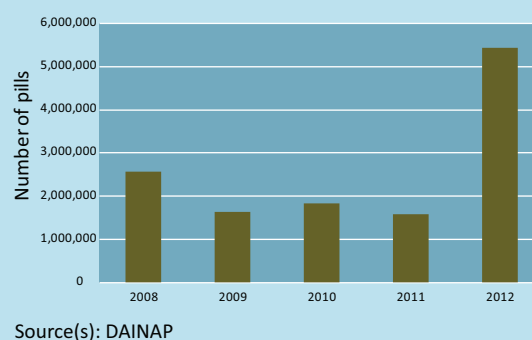
Note: Drug use trend data are based on government expert perception.

Source(s): DAINAP

stasy' use trend data to the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP) reported a stable or decreasing use of this drug. 'Ecstasy' is not reported as the most common drug of use in any country in the region, but it is the second most common illicit drug of use in Australia, New Zealand and Viet Nam.

Ecstasy-related arrests – Only 1% of the ATS-related arrests in the region involved 'ecstasy' in 2012. That year, 3,842 ecstasy-related arrests were reported, a 45% decrease from 6,984 ecstasy-related arrests in 2011. This was due to the large decrease reported by Malaysia. Nearly every country that reported ecstasy-related arrests reported a declining trend for 2012, except for Indonesia and Japan which reported increases for that year. The largest number of ecstasy-related arrests continue to be reported by Malaysia, which accounted for about 64% of all ecstasy-related arrests in the region in 2012 and 73% in 2011, and from Indonesia, which accounted for about 30% of all ecstasy-related arrests in 2012.

Figure 8. Ecstasy seizures in East and South-east Asia, 2008-2012



New Zealand and Australia did not report disaggregated arrest data for 'ecstasy'.

Ecstasy seizures – 'Ecstasy' seizures in the region have fluctuated over the years. In 2012, the number of 'ecstasy' pills seized more than tripled, to over 5.4 million pills from about 1.6 million pills in 2011. This

Table 4. Ecstasy-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Number of ecstasy-related arrests				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	3	10	0	1	0
Cambodia	7	•	•	•	•
China	•	1,287	816	627	•
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	315	157	34	25	6
Indonesia	2,947	1,919	1,087	965	1,134
Japan	311	140	93	86	87
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	119	83	8,248	5,071	2,443
Myanmar	6	0	0	0	0
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	•	•	•	•	•
Singapore	110	39	17	22	19
Thailand	592	496	217	187	153
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	4,410	4,131	10,512	6,984	3,842

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 5. Ecstasy seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Number of ecstasy pills seized*				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	14	15	•	349	9
Cambodia	33	3,352	1,056	7,855	1,373
China	1,077,552	1,062,173	1,272,904	317,886	374,433
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	11,984	7,146	5,810	983	198
Indonesia	1,091,205	318,936	434,660	1,096,249	4,272,228
Japan	217,883	91,960	18,246	27,187	3,708
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	80,778	75,515	60,713	98,751	772,421
Myanmar	108	5	0	0	0
Philippines	513	2,090	336	993	158 lt.
Republic of Korea	714	894	486	562	2,344
Singapore	7,415	8,986	8,085	3,213	4,103
Thailand	49,833	61,089	16,647	21,115	4,809
Viet Nam	19,000	•	•	•	•
Total	2,557,032	1,632,161	1,818,943	1,575,143	5,435,626

• = Not reported. * Or pill equivalents.

Source(s): DAINAP

is the highest total reported since 2007, when 5.6 million 'ecstasy' pills were seized. A large majority of 'ecstasy' seizures continue to be made in Indonesia, where the number seized nearly increased four-fold

from 1.1 million pills in 2011 to 4.3 million pills in 2012, accounting for 79% of the region's total. 'Ecstasy' seizures in Malaysia showed nearly an eight-fold increase to around 772,000 pills and accounted for

14% of the region's total, while the number of pills seized in China increased by 18% and accounted for about 7% of the region's total. 'Ecstasy' pill seizures also increased in the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

In Australia, the number of MDMA detections at the border increased more than eight fold compared with the previous reporting period, to 964 in 2011-2012, the highest number recorded in the past decade. The total amount of border detections also increased, by 36.4% to 12 kg in 2011-2012. The number of 'ecstasy' seizure cases in New Zealand increased in 2012; however, seizures of 'ecstasy' pill equivalents decreased by about 14% in 2012, to approximately 174,000 pills. A large number of the pills sold as 'ecstasy' in New Zealand contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA.

ATS manufacture

Based on data on dismantled facilities, large-scale ATS manufacture takes place in Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand and the Philippines. Limited and small-scale illicit ATS manufacture or ATS pill pressing operations have been reported in recent years by Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. MDMA manufac-

ture has been reported in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and New Zealand and manufacture is suspected in Cambodia and Myanmar. A large number of illicit drug manufacturing laboratories dismantled during the last few years have been smaller and relatively mobile facilities based in private residences. Most methamphetamine manufacture in East and Southeast Asia as well as in Australia and New Zealand use ephedrine and pseudoephedrine extracted from pharmaceutical preparations as precursors. However, there have been a small number of cases where dismantled methamphetamine laboratories were using alternative precursor chemicals, including P-2-P and phenylacetic acid.

In 2012, some 385 synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were dismantled in East and Southeast Asia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine. The number of illicit ATS manufacturing facilities dismantled in 2012 declined by 4% from the 401 facilities dismantled in 2011 and by about 13% from the 442 dismantled in 2010.

Myanmar remains the primary source for methamphetamine pills and one of the sources for crystalline methamphetamine. Only a small number of pill pressing machines have been seized in recent years while no large-scale methamphetamine pill manufacturing facilities have been dismantled in the country. In 2012,

Table 6. Illicit methamphetamine manufacturing facilities dismantled, 2008-2012

Country	Methamphetamine				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	•	5	11	2	6
China	•	•	•	•	228
Hong Kong (SAR)	•	2	1	0	0
Indonesia	•	•	11	17	4
Japan	•	•	1	•	•
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	•	•	6	3	21
Myanmar*	1	•	•	2	5
Philippines	10	9	7	6	7
Republic of Korea	•	•	4	•	1
Singapore	•	•	•	•	•
Thailand*	•	2	6	4	6
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	11	18	47	34	278

• = Not reported. *Includes pill pressing operations and crystalline methamphetamine facilities

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 7. Illicit ecstasy or undefined ATS manufacturing facilities dismantled, 2008-2012

Country	Ecstasy or undefined ATS				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	•	•	•	•	•
China*	244	391	378	357	98
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	21	37	15	7	3
Japan	•	•	•	•	•
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	12*	11	1	3	6
Myanmar	•	•	•	•	•
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	•	•	•	•	•
Singapore	•	•	•	•	•
Thailand	•	1	1	•	•
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	277	443	395	367	107

• = Not reported. * Not specified by laboratory type; includes ketamine and non-synthetic drugs.

Source(s): DAINAP

Myanmar seized 4 methamphetamine pill pressing machines from 3 clandestine facilities and also officially reported the dismantling of its first ever crystalline methamphetamine laboratory.

China continued to report high, albeit declining, levels of illicit synthetic drug manufacture in 2012. Clandestine laboratories were detected in nearly all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China in 2011; in 2012, however, more than half of all synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were dismantled in Guangdong province. Chinese law enforcement authorities also dismantled an industrial-scale facility in Hunan province in 2012.

Cambodia continued to dismantle facilities that were manufacturing methamphetamine or producing precursor chemicals for the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA. Thailand continued to dismantle methamphetamine pill pressing operations and small-scale crystalline methamphetamine facilities. In Malaysia, 27 clandestine ATS laboratories were dismantled, including 20 crystalline methamphetamine facilities, 6 ecstasy facilities and one methamphetamine pill facility. In recent years, Malaysia has also dismantled a number of facilities which were illicitly manufacturing ketamine, nimetazepam⁸ (E-

imin 5) and low-purity heroin. A large-scale laboratory was dismantled in the Philippines in 2012, and 7 clandestine ATS laboratories were dismantled in Indonesia.

New psychoactive substances (NPS)

The ATS market has always been characterized by a large variety of substances. However, in recent years, NPS have rapidly emerged in this market purportedly as 'legal' alternatives to internationally controlled drugs but with similar effects. NPS are substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat. In this context, the term 'new' does not necessarily refer to new inventions but to substances that have recently become available. The 6 main groups of substances present in the NPS market, i.e. synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, ketamine⁹, phenethylamines, piperazines, plant-based substances, and a seventh group of miscellaneous substances that contain recently identified NPS which do not fit into the aforementioned groups, have been found in East and Southeast Asia. A large share of the pills sold as 'ecstasy' in the region con-

⁸ Nimetazepam is a benzodiazepine derivative, controlled in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, often marketed under the brand name Erimin.

⁹ Ketamine comes in liquid, powder (whitish) and pill forms. It is sometimes sold in East and Southeast Asia as 'amphetamine' or 'ecstasy' or is mixed with MDMA.

Table 8. NPS found in East and Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand

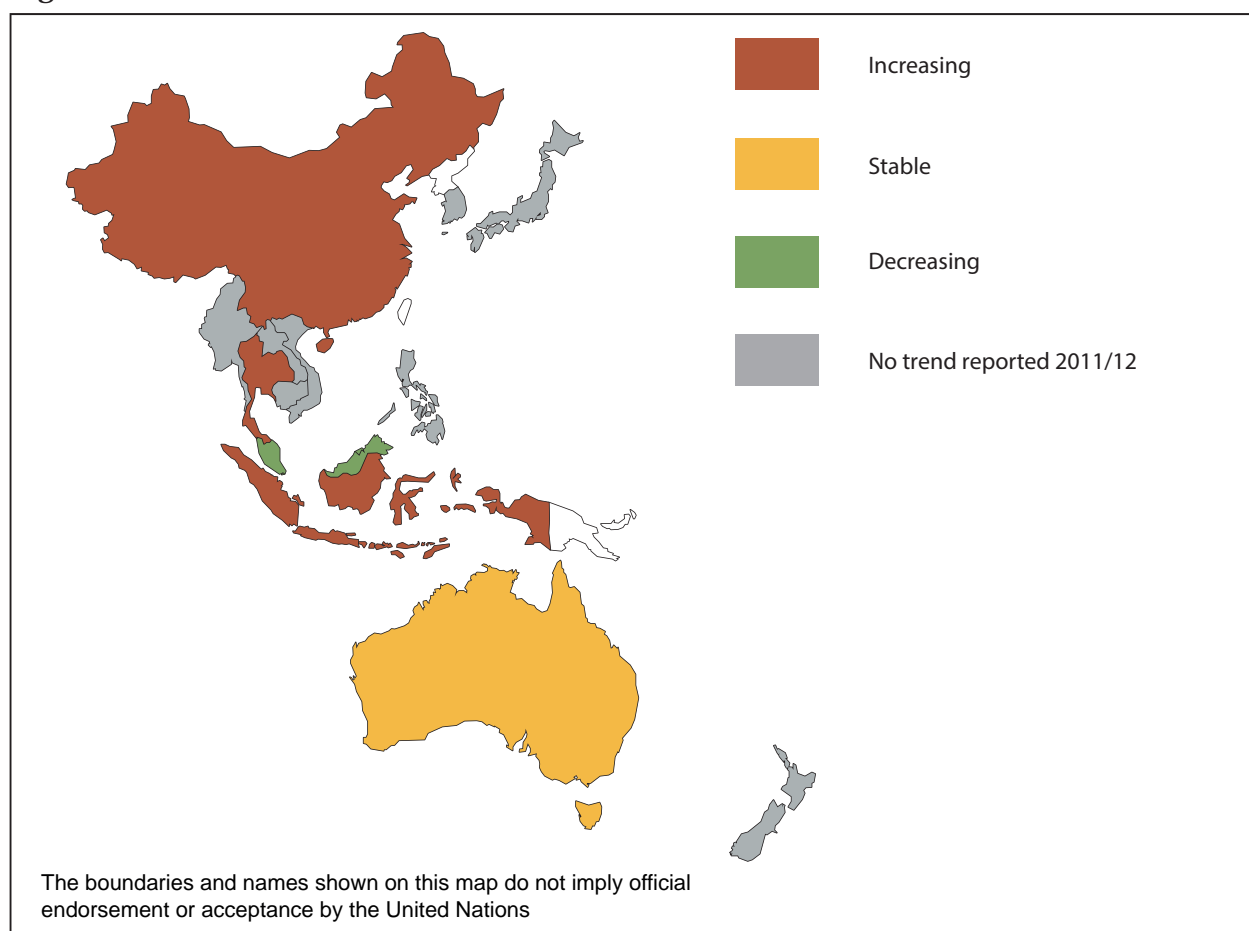
NPS group	Australia	Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	China	Hong Kong, China	Indonesia	Japan	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	New Zealand	Philippines	Republic of Korea	Singapore	Thailand	Viet Nam
Synthetic cannabinoids	√			√	√	√	√				√		√	√		
Synthetic cathinones	√			√	√	√	√				√		√	√		
Phenethylamines	√				√	√	√				√		√	√		√
Piperazines	√				√	√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√
Plant-based substances	√	√			√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√
Ketamine	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Miscellaneous	√													√		

Source(s): DAINAP; 'The challenge of new psychoactive substances', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global SMART Programme, Vienna, March 2013

tain substances other than MDMA, such as ketamine, piperazines, synthetic cathinones and phenethylamines. Ketamine, a hallucinogenic substance used mainly in veterinary medicine, is one of the oldest and most

widely used NPS in the region. Another NPS widely used in the region, notably in Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand, is kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*). The leaves of this plant have mild stimulant effects, including ef-

Figure 9. Ketamine use trend, 2012



Note: Drug use trend data are based on government expert perception.

Source(s): DAINAP

fects which are similar to those of opioids. Traditionally, kratom had been used in Malaysia and Thailand by labourers and farmers to enhance productivity, as a substitute for opium, and also in traditional medicine, allegedly due to its morphine-like pharmacological effects. Kratom leaves are usually consumed fresh or brewed as a tea, although dried leaves in powder form are also available. Kratom is a controlled substance in Australia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand. Khat (*Catha edulis*) is another plant-based NPS, which is native to the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula containing the amphetamine-like stimulant cathinone, has only recently emerged in East and Southeast Asia. In August 2012, a total of 5.8 kg of khat destined for the United States was seized at a post office in Viet Nam. In February 2013, approximately 2-3 hectares of khat plants were eradicated in Indonesia. Khat was first reported in New Zealand in 2009.

The use of these substances has been reported in Australia and New Zealand for some time, but their use remains relatively low. In New Zealand, the use of 'ecstasy', which currently usually contains 4-MEC, TFMPP, mephedrone and BZP, has increased. Synthetic cathinones (particularly MDMC, MDPV and DMMC) and synthetic cannabinoids are the most prominent NPS found in Australia.

Governments in Asia perceive China (along with India) as a major producer and exporter of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones, as well as other NPS found in Asia. In recent years, the government of China has taken measures to restrict the availability of NPS. A number of other countries in the region have also taken legislative measures to control NPS.

Ketamine

Ketamine use – Ketamine use remains widespread in some countries in East and Southeast Asia, but appears to have stabilized in recent years, based on expert perception. In 2012, ketamine use was reported in Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, as well as Australia. In Hong Kong, China, ketamine users accounted for approximately 31.5% of all drug users and an estimated 70.4% of all drug users below the age of 21, although ketamine use is indicated to have declined in 2012. In that year, ketamine use was reported to have increased in China, Indonesia and Thailand.

Ketamine seizures – Ketamine seizures decreased by about 5% to 5.7 tons in 2012 from nearly 6 tons seized in 2011. However, total ketamine seizures may

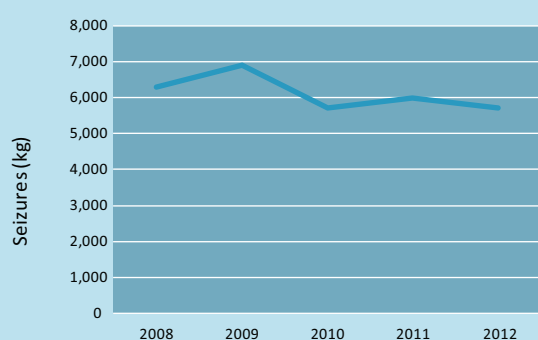
Table 9. Ketamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Amount of ketamine seized (kg)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	0.001 ^a	0.02	0.04	0.4	386 pills and 5.63g
Cambodia	495 ^b	1.1	0.001	•	•
China	5,271.1	5,323.0	4,905.0	5,380.0	4,716.6
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	423.3	472.3	189.1	276.3	723.9
Indonesia	19.8	6.1	116.9	49.3	13.4
Japan	•	•	•	•	•
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	553.1	1,071.0	334.1	202.5	238.9
Myanmar	•	14.9	•	1.4	•
Philippines	10.2	9.0	0	0	0
Republic of Korea	•	•	•	•	•
Singapore	14.0	8.7	12.2	7.9	3.9
Thailand	18.5	20.6	166.7	78.0	21.0
Viet Nam	5.7	•	•	•	•
Total	6,315.7	6,926.7	5,724.0	5,995.8	5,717.7

• = Not reported. ^aReported as 0.001 kg and 2 pills. ^bReported as 495 bottles, undefined weight.

Source(s): DAINAP

Figure 10. Ketamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP

in fact be significantly higher as several countries in the region report ketamine seizures in the categories of 'other drugs', 'synthetic drugs', or not at all since it is not an internationally controlled substance. Approximately 82% of ketamine seized in the region in 2012 was seized in China. China and India are perceived as sources of ketamine, according to country reports,

and illicit ketamine manufacture has been reported in China, Malaysia and the Philippines. Ketamine seizures increased substantially in 2012 in Hong Kong, China by 162% and also in Malaysia by 18%. Notable decreases were recorded in Indonesia (73%), Thailand (73%) and China (12%).

Opiates

Opium continues to be primarily illicitly cultivated in the region in Myanmar and Lao PDR. Since 2009, heroin trafficking and use has re-emerged as a threat.

Heroin remains the primary drug of concern in China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam and accounted for a substantial number of the problem drug users in Australia, China, Indonesia, Myanmar and Singapore. In 2012, experts reported heroin use increased in China, Lao PDR, Singapore and Thailand. In New Zealand, the use of opiates, including morphine and 'homebake heroin'¹⁰ as well as synthetic opioids, continued to increase.

Table 10. Opiate-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

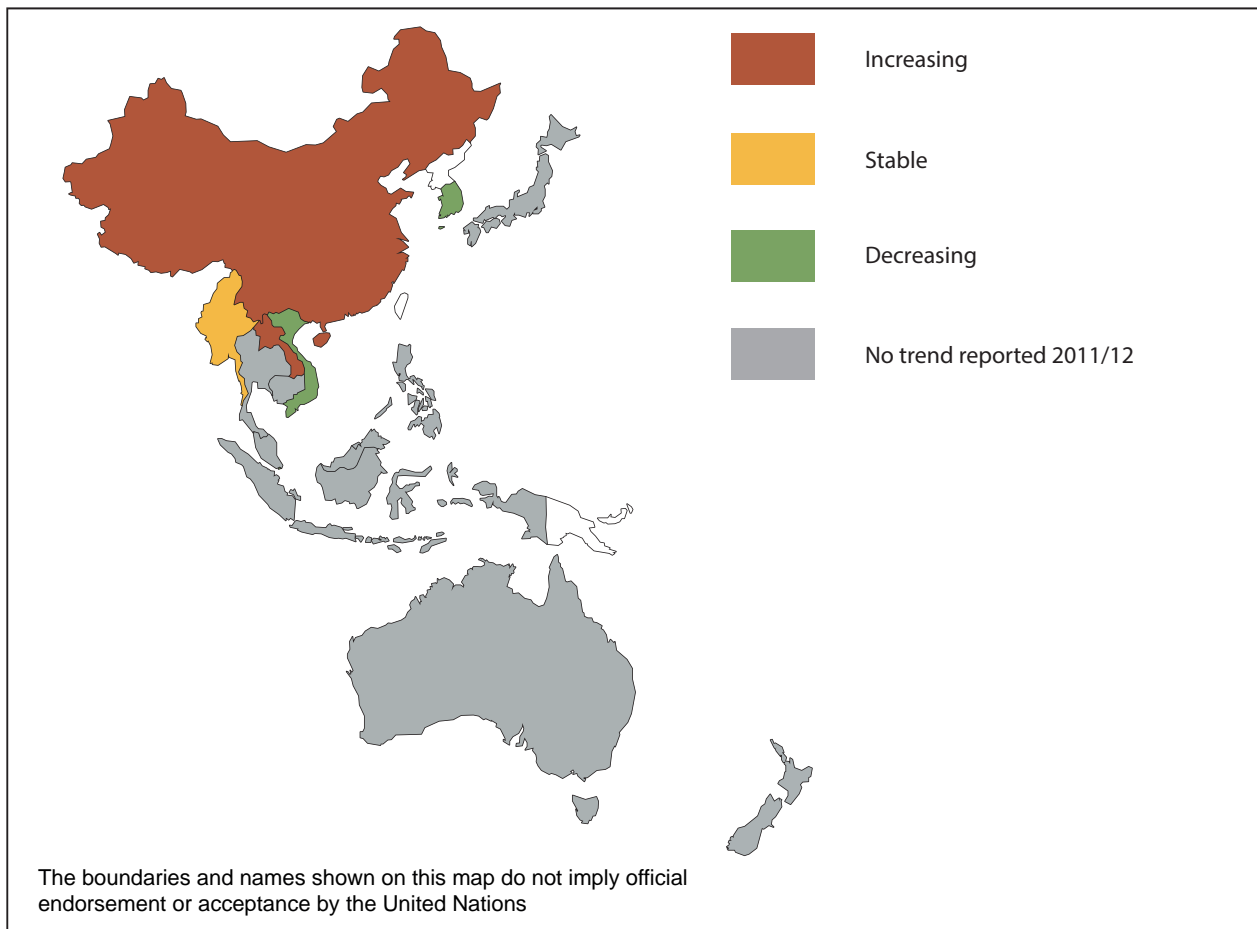
Country	Number of opiate-related arrests*				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	0	1	0	0	0
Cambodia	6	•	•	•	•
China	•	•	•	48,392	48,612
Hong Kong (SAR)	1,378	1,145	888	771	700
Indonesia	1,813	925	759	698	562
Japan	36	44	45	31	36
Lao PDR	45	94	•	•	•
Malaysia	8,693	8,488	25,094	68,340	29,795
Myanmar	2,059	2,613	1,689	1,933	3,226
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	1,389	2,189	1,124	755	579
Singapore	1,216	1,425	1,787	1,924	2,239
Thailand	1,470	1,978	1,687	1,861	1,523
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	18,105	18,902	33,073	124,705	87,272

• = Not reported. *Includes heroin, opium, morphine and other opiates.

Source(s): DAINAP

¹⁰ 'Homebake heroin' is a street substance created from pharmaceutical opiates such as morphine or codeine through a simple chemical process using acetic anhydride.

Figure 11. Opium use trend, 2012



Note: Drug use trend data are based on government expert perception.

Source(s): DAINAP

Opium poppy cultivation in Southeast Asia (mainly Myanmar and Lao PDR) has annually increased for the past 6 years. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in the region increased by 21% from about 48,000 hectares in 2011 to 58,000 hectares in 2012, 88% of which was cultivated in Myanmar. Lao PDR reported 6,800 hectares under cultivation in 2012 decreasing by 66% from 4,100 hectares in 2011. Opium poppy is cultivated to a much smaller extent in the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam.

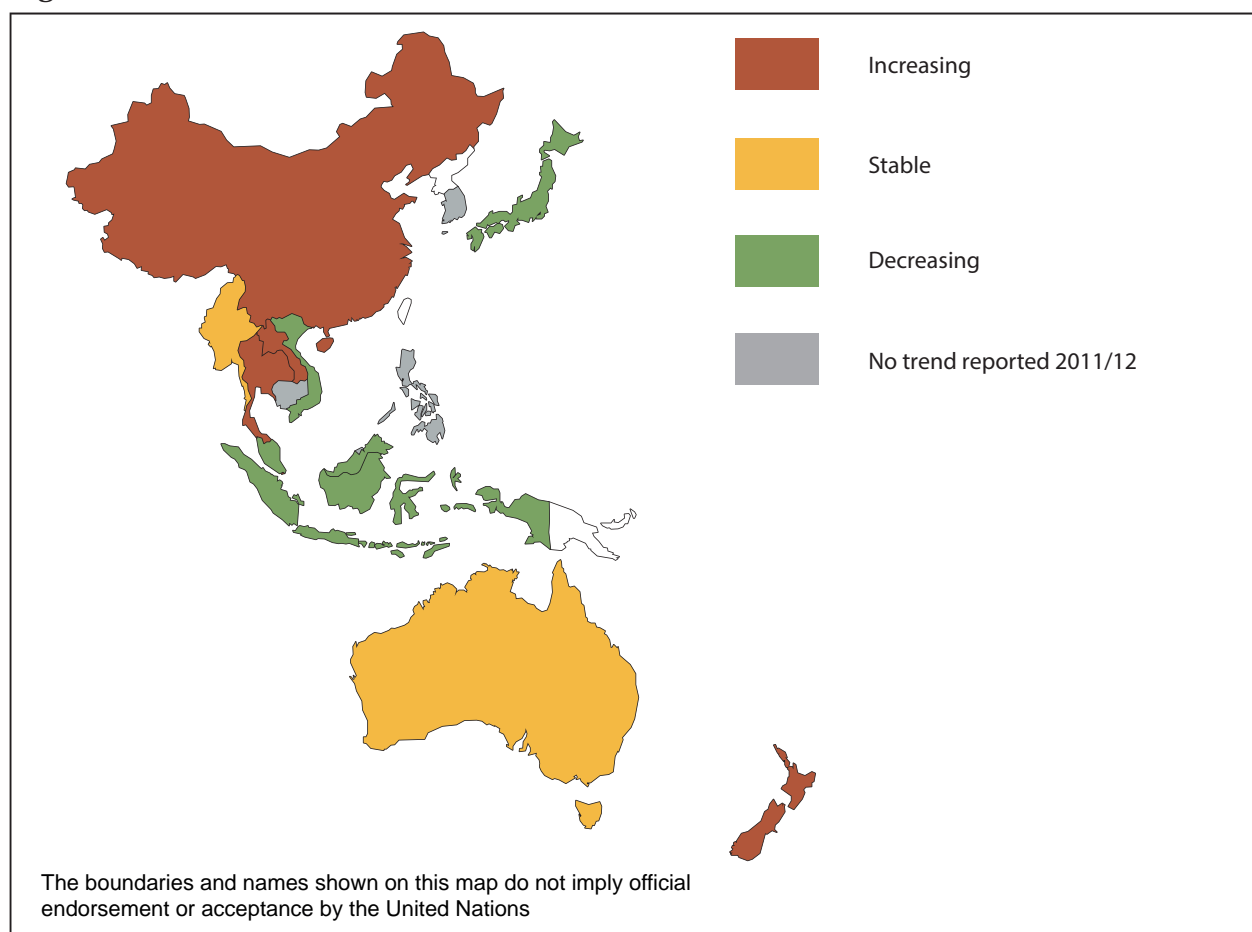
Opiate-related arrests (heroin, opium, morphine and codeine) in the region decreased by 30% in 2012. The large number of arrests reported in 2011 is due to the number of arrests in China, which reported opiate-related arrest data for the first time that year, and in Malaysia, where prior to 2010 only the number of arrested drug users was reported. Since 2010, Malaysia has also included arrested drug manufacturers and traffickers in its drug-related arrest data, which makes year-on-year comparisons for opiate-related arrests difficult. In 2012, the number of opiate-related arrests

in Malaysia decreased by more than half.

Heroin seizures in the region marginally decreased to just over 9 tons in 2012, which is the second highest total reported since 2005. The majority of seizures continued to be made in China (including Hong Kong), with about 7.4 tons seized that year, accounting for roughly 82% of all seizures reported in the region. Heroin seizures showed an almost eight-fold increase in Myanmar and more than doubled in Viet Nam, while Indonesia also reported a large increase by 47%. Significant decreases were reported by Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong, China.

Myanmar and China continued to report the majority of opium seizures in the region, with approximately 1.5 tons of opium seized in Myanmar and 845 kg seized in China, accounting for 87% of all opium seizures in the region in 2012. Significant increases in opium seizures were reported by Viet Nam (a three-fold increase), Myanmar (78%) and Lao PDR (37%).

Figure 12. Heroin use trend, 2012



Note: Drug use trend data are based on government expert perception.

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 11. Heroin seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Amount of heroin seized (kg)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	0	1.1	0	0	0
Cambodia	5.3	26.7	2.4	2.1	0.3
China	4,332.3	5,837.4	5,353.0	7,080.0	7,287.1
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	46.4	37.1	68.5	171.7	78.0
Indonesia	29.1	12.3	25.1	28.8	42.3
Japan	1.0	1.2	0.3	3.6	0.1
Lao PDR	17.5	29.3	84.3	43.4	45.0
Malaysia	297.1	283.0	299.3	755.5	416.9
Myanmar	88.1	1,076.1	88.5	42.4	335.8
Philippines	0	0	0	0	0
Republic of Korea	0	1.9	0.1	0	0
Singapore	44.5	29.1	49.1	72.7	66.4
Thailand	199.9	143.1	137.6	547.5	127.5
Viet Nam	156.2	213.0	316.8	309.0	629.0
Total	5,217.4	7,691.3	6,425.0	9,056.7	9,028.4

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

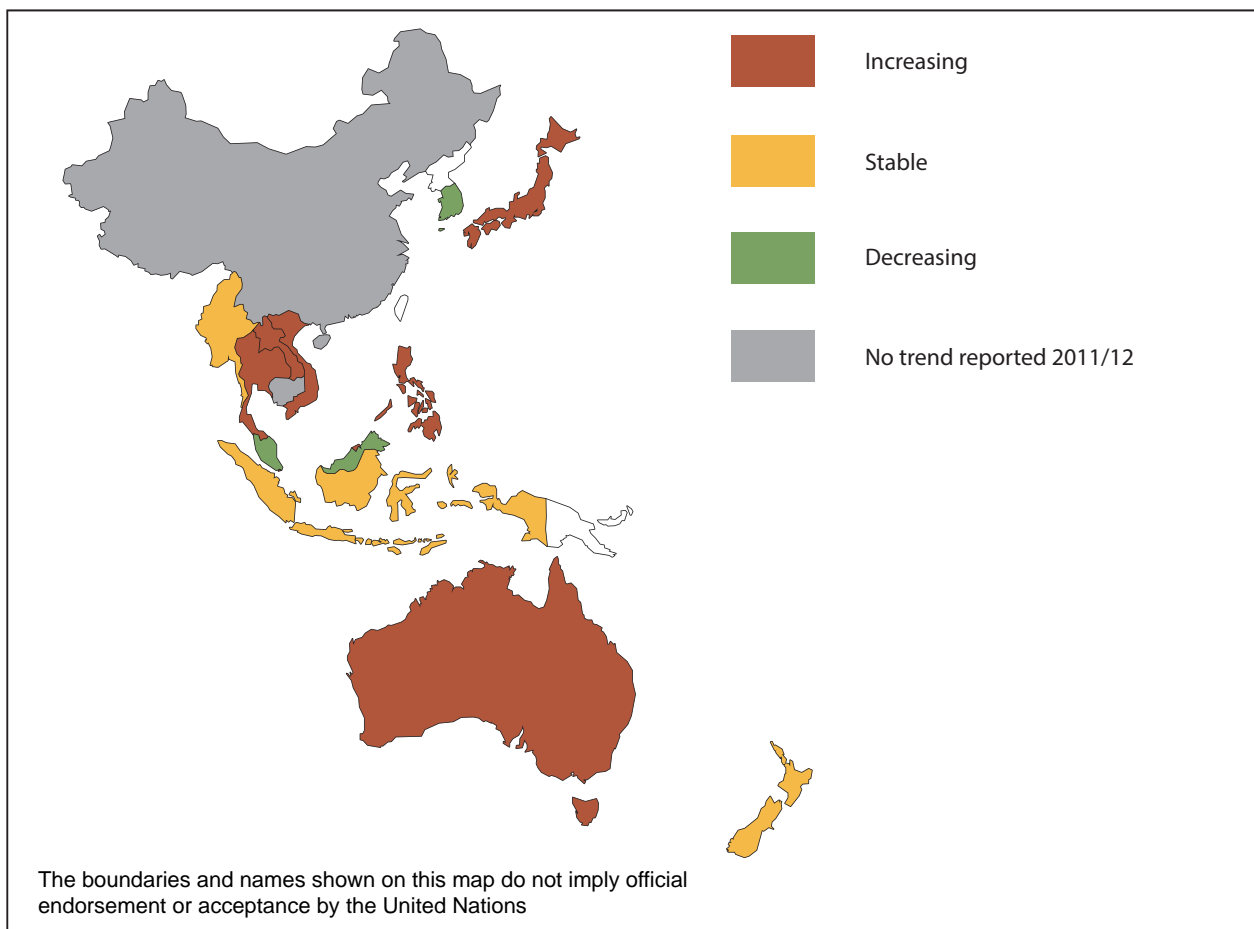
Table 12. Opium seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Amount of opium seized (kg)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	0	0
Cambodia	•	•	•	•	•
China	1,375.0	1,302.6	1,015.0	823.2	844.7
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	182.7	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	6.6	3.2	3.7	7.6	0.2
Lao PDR	11.8	49.9	86.5	63.9	87.6
Malaysia	13.9	10.1	4.4	0.9	10.9
Myanmar	1,463.4	752.0	764.8	828.3	1,470.4
Philippines	0	0	0	0	0
Republic of Korea	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0
Singapore	0.5	0	0	0.2	0
Thailand	117.9	111.1	157.9	42.7	30.1
Viet Nam	18.8	69.8	28.2	76.0	225.0
Total	3,190.8	2,298.9	2,060.6	1,842.8	2,668.9

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Figure 13. Cannabis use trend, 2012



Note: Drug use trend data are based on government expert perception.

Source(s): DAINAP

The number and weight of heroin seizures detected at the Australian border continued to decrease to 256 kg in 2011-2012 compared with the previous reporting period. However, the number of national heroin seizures increased to 1,758 in 2011-2012, and is the highest reported over the last decade, while the amount of national heroin seizures increased to 388 kg, the second highest reported over the past decade. Illicit trafficking

Table 13. Cannabis-related arrests in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Number of arrests				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	28	5	44	31	36
Cambodia	6	•	•	•	•
China	•	•	•	634	•
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	544	543	325	256	237
Indonesia	11,581	12,001	9,630	7,841	8,451
Japan	2,867	3,087	2,367	1,759	1,692
Lao PDR	26	40	•	•	•
Malaysia	514	5,207	6,567	15,220	5,663
Myanmar	240	490	146	275	247
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	1,045	1,712	1,837	1,189	1,042
Singapore	88	126	131	127	142
Thailand	13,168	18,600	15,281	13,737	11,637
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	30,107	41,811	36,328	41,069	29,147

• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 14. Cannabis seizures in East and Southeast Asia, 2008-2012

Country	Amount of cannabis seized (herb and resin) (kg)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brunei Darussalam	0.6	1.5	6.3	0.6	0.7
Cambodia	5.0	3.8	1.2	210.2	2.4
China	•	•	3,186.0	3,610.1	4,228.2
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	260.6	107.1	14.3	43.1	39.1
Indonesia	140,496.3	110,722.7	12,661.1	20,259.9	22,297.5
Japan	415.7	224.8	195.6	169.5	375.3
Lao PDR	804.6	975.9	3,521.0	1,617.1	2,836.1
Malaysia	874.8	2,352.0	1,064.4	1,054.4	861.3
Myanmar	170.2	284.6	205.6	196.4	80.3
Philippines	3,724.3	1,659.8	1,127.6	596.5	425.6
Republic of Korea	94.7	123.0	44.5	83.7	22.0
Singapore	3.3	7.1	8.5	12.9	14.9
Thailand	21,135.8	26,081.0	22,470.6	14,374.5	24,411.7
Viet Nam	128.8	332.0	211.3	7,500.0	1,164.0
Total	168,114.7	142,875.3	44,718.0	49,728.9	56,759.1

• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

and use of heroin and opium is not widespread in New Zealand as most opiate users in the country use 'home-bake heroin', or diverted medicines such as oxycodone.

Cannabis

Cannabis remains the most widely used illicit drug in East and Southeast Asia. Increasing cannabis use was reported in Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, according to expert perception. All other countries that reported on cannabis use reported a stable or declining trend.

Cannabis-related arrests in the region in 2012 decreased by 29% from 41,069 in 2011 to 29,147 in 2012. Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia continued to account for the majority (88%) of the region's cannabis-related arrests in 2012.

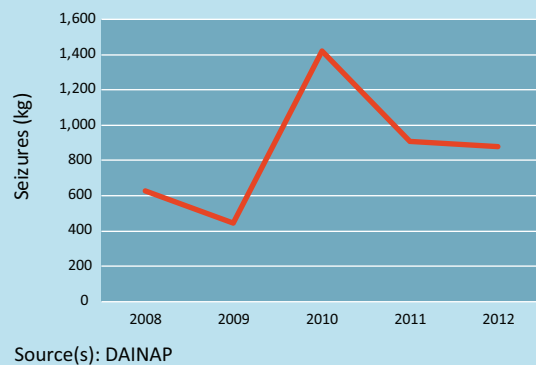
Cannabis seizures increased by 14% to about 57 tons in 2012 from 50 tons in 2011. The majority of cannabis seizures continue to be reported by Indonesia and Thailand, which together accounted for 82% of the cannabis seized in the region. Significant increases in cannabis seizures were reported in Japan (121%), Lao PDR (75%) and Thailand (70%).

Other substances

Apart from ATS, NPS, heroin, opium and cannabis, a range of other illicit drugs are used in the region, although to a far lesser extent.

Cocaine use in Asia remains limited, although the substantial quantities of cocaine seized during the past 3 years may possibly indicate that organized criminal groups are trying to develop the potentially large market in the region. The most common form of cocaine in the region is the powdered hydrochloride salt form, which is typically snorted (nasal insufflation) but can also be dissolved in water and then injected. Record amounts of cocaine have been annually seized in Hong Kong, China over the last 3 years, culminating in a seizure of 782 kg of cocaine in 2012. Most of the cocaine was seized from sea cargo containers and was believed to be destined for markets in Asia and the Pacific.

Figure 14. Cocaine seizures in East and South-east Asia, 2008-2012



Non-medical use of nimetazepam and other benzodiazepines is a problem in some countries in the region. Nimetazepam use, sometimes in combination with methamphetamine, is particularly prevalent in peninsular Southeast Asia, including Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

The use of inhalants and solvents, particularly among young drug users, remains an issue of concern in several countries in the region.



Regional Trends: Pacific Island States and Territories

Summary, emerging trends and concerns

- Transnational organized criminal groups continue to use the Pacific Island States and Territories as a transit point for trafficking methamphetamine and precursor chemicals to and from Asia.
- There are only a few formal national and regional drug surveillance systems in place to monitor illicit drug use trends.
- The lack of information relating to drug trafficking and drug use inhibits the development of an effective response.
- Large quantities of cocaine continue to be trafficked across the Pacific from South America to Australia.

The Pacific Island States and Territories remain vulnerable to illicit drug trafficking by transnational organized criminal groups due to their close geographic proximity to major amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) markets and to trafficking routes of various illicit goods, including drugs and their precursor chemicals.¹ Spanning across an ocean surface of several million square kilometers, the countries and territories in the Pacific region include independent states, associated states, integral entities of non-Pacific island states and dependent states strategically located between Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

The Pacific region has a developed aerial, seaport and maritime infrastructure connecting the long coast lines and a multitude of small islands. However, this region is vulnerable to trafficking as it is difficult to patrol and there is limited law enforcement capacity. Moreover, ATS awareness is low and information related to the manufacture, trafficking and use of ATS in the Pacific Island States and Territories is virtually non-existent. Most law enforcement agencies in this region operate in relative geographical isolation with limited information-sharing and inter-agency coordination, limited resources and a lack of legislation and procedures specifically drafted to combat and regulate domestic criminal activity. Transnational organized criminal groups, in contrast, often possess extensive resources and have networks across the globe. The lack of quality data and information related

to drug trafficking and drug use continues to impede the development of an effective drug trafficking response.²

General drug trends

Cannabis remains the most widely used illicit drug in the Pacific islands. Cannabis is predominantly cultivated for local use, and some amounts are smuggled to and through other locations within the region. Large amounts of cocaine trafficked through the Pacific from South America continue to be seized in or en route to Australia, and are often discovered on private yachts. Other illicit drugs and precursors are trafficked through the Pacific by passenger plane couriers and air cargo.³ Methamphetamine use, while still limited relative to neighbouring regions, is of growing concern. In addition, methamphetamine and its precursor chemicals, particularly in the form of pharmaceutical preparations, are also trafficked via the Pacific. Law enforcement agencies in the region indicate that Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Samoa, in particular, continue to be used by organized criminal groups as transit points for trafficking illicit drugs predominantly smuggled from Asia, South America and North America to markets in Australia, New Zealand and Japan.⁴

¹ 'Pacific Transnational Crime Assessment', Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), 2013.

² Op. cit. PIFS 2013.

³ 'Transnational Crime Assessment', Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN), 2012.

⁴ Op. cit. PIFS 2013.

In April 2012, a total of 200 kg of cocaine was seized from a private yacht off the coast of New Caledonia. The yacht embarked from South America and had been destined for Australia.⁵ In November 2012, another 224 kg of cocaine concealed in the hull of a yacht was seized from an abandoned vessel on a remote island in Tonga. The yacht embarked from Ecuador and had also been destined for Australia.⁶ In November 2011, a seizure of 300 kg of cocaine was made in Australia on a private yacht that had embarked from South America and transited Fiji and Vanuatu. Four Spanish nationals were arrested.⁷

Transnational Organized Crime in the Pacific

Domestic and transnational crime poses a threat to national and regional stability. Many organized criminal groups have access to commercial trade networks in the Pacific which enable them to conceal their illicit activities in licit business transactions, thereby disguising the country of origin of illicit products they are intending to traffic.⁸ Transnational organized criminal groups operating in the region most commonly originate from Asia, West Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Eastern Europe.⁹ Chinese transnational organized criminal groups are indicated to be the most prominent foreign network operating in the Pacific, together with well-established local networks in a number of Pacific Island States and Territories.¹⁰

ATS in the Pacific Islands

Asia continues to be the main source region for most cases related to illicit drug trafficking in the Pacific Island States and Territories. However, there have been significant cocaine and ATS seizures in the Pacific region that originated from Europe, Central America and South America.¹¹

The Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC) reported instances of illicit drug traffick-

ing using the postal service, air cargo and passenger plane couriers, as well as private yachts travelling across the Pacific.¹² In 2012, there were 13 illicit drug seizures in the Pacific, of which more than 75% involved methamphetamine or precursor chemicals trafficked to or from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Samoa and American Samoa.¹³ Fiji is a major transport hub with direct flights to China and the Republic of Korea, where relatively small quantities (5 kg or less) continue to be seized that were being trafficked using the postal service or unescorted air freight or surface cargo.¹⁴ In 2012, three ATS seizures of less than 2.5 kg were made at Nadi International Airport. The drugs were discovered in the luggage of African passengers traveling on commercial flights to Japan via the Republic of Korea and to Australia via Papua New Guinea.¹⁵ In 2011, a Latvian national was arrested at the same airport for attempting to smuggle 5.5 kg of methamphetamine to Fiji from Hong Kong.¹⁶ In December 2012, Samoan Customs Officers intercepted 60 grams of methamphetamine in air freight at Faleolo International Airport concealed in a package of foodstuffs and clothing.¹⁷

In November 2012, more than 50 kg of methamphetamine was seized in Papua New Guinea, making it the largest methamphetamine seizure ever reported by the Island-State,¹⁸ and two Malaysian nationals and a national of Papua New Guinea were arrested. The methamphetamine had originated from the Netherlands and was believed to be destined for Australia and New Zealand. In October 2012, a female American national was arrested at Brisbane airport in Australia for attempting to smuggle 2 kg of methamphetamine from Papua New Guinea to Australia.¹⁹

Four seizures of precursor chemicals (pseudoephedrine in the form of Contac^{NT}) were reported in 2012, all of which were reportedly from Fiji smuggled in passenger luggage. The largest seizure at Nadi International Airport consisted of 449 grams of Contac^{NT} concealed by a passenger traveling to

⁵ 'Oceania Customs Organisation Report. Law Enforcement Pre-FRSC Meeting Briefing Paper 2012', Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), March 2012.

⁶ 'Media Release: Joint South Pacific law enforcement operation results in huge cocaine haul', Australian Federal Police (AFP), 16 November 2012.

⁷ 'Pacific Transnational Crime Assessment', Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), 2012.

⁸ Op. cit. PIFS 2013.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Op. cit. PTCN 2012.

¹¹ Op. cit. PIFS 2013.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Op. cit. PTCN 2012.

¹⁴ Op. cit. PIFS 2013.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Op. cit. OCO 2012.

¹⁷ 'Oceania Customs Organisation Report. Law Enforcement Pre-FRSC Meeting Briefing Paper 2013', Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), 2013.

¹⁸ 'ICE' worth K15m busted in Port Moresby', Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC), Media statement, 11 November 2012.

¹⁹ Ibid.

Table 15. ATS concerns in selected Pacific Island States and Territories

Drug type	American Samoa	Fiji	Marshall Islands	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Tonga	Vanuatu
ATS use	Use of crystalline methamphetamine on an upward trend	Use in urban settings (nightclubs) reported	High lifetime prevalence of methamphetamine reported (13.1%)	Methamphetamine use among youth. No data collection on adult substance use	Some use reported	Use reported (6.4% of lifetime use of ATS among school students)	8% lifetime use of ATS reported by 15-24 year olds. Methamphetamine (speed) was the most commonly used drug by 41% of injecting drug users
ATS trafficking	Methamphetamine seizures reported. Seizures of precursors, attempted diversions and thefts reported	Transnational organized crime groups suspected of smuggling pseudoephedrine from China into Fiji since 2007. Used as a transit country for ATS from Asia	ATS seizures reported. Identified source countries include China, Philippines, United States of America	Three seizures totaling 155.5 g of methamphetamine, seized from two Palau nationals and one Filipino national, and smuggled from the Philippines	Seizures of ATS and precursors, attempted diversions and thefts of precursors reported. Indicated as a transit country for MDMA from Europe	Potential major transit point for ATS and precursors. Seizures of precursors, attempted diversions and thefts reported	Seizures of amphetamines and ecstasy reported
ATS manufacture	Substance believed to originate from USA (Hawaii and other states)	Large-scale illicit manufacture facility seized in 2004. Methamphetamine seizures reported. Seizures of precursors, attempted diversions and thefts also reported	●	●	●	●	●

● = Not reported. Note: High prevalence rates may also in part reflect confusion of the substance used, which is common for synthetic drugs, particularly among inexperienced users. Source(s): 5th Meeting of Pacific Drug Use and Alcohol Research Network, July 2010; Port Vila, Vanuatu; 'Situational analysis of drug and alcohol responses in the Pacific 2008-09, ANCD research paper 21, The Burnet Institute, Australian National Council on Drugs, 2010; PIFS 2013; PTCN 2012; OCO, March 2012

Auckland.²⁰ Precursor seizures found trafficked by plane passengers departing from the Pacific Island States and Territories may indicate the existence of an established support network in the Pacific region²¹ and might also lend strength to still unsubstantiated reports of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in the Pacific region.²²

New psychoactive substances

The use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) has not been reported by the Pacific Island States and Territories. However, small packages of synthetic cannabinoids are openly sold in some shops in the Pacific, including Vanuatu. There is a concern that NPS use may expand if the substances should become more affordable for users in the Pacific, who have traditionally been unable to afford any substances other than cannabis.²³

²⁰ Op. cit. OCO 2013.

²¹ Op. cit. PIFS 2013.

²² Op. cit. PTCN 2012.

²³ Ibid.



Regional Trends: South Asia

Summary, emerging trends and concerns

- South Asian¹ countries remain vulnerable to illicit ATS manufacture due to their geographic proximity to important source countries of illicit methamphetamine in East and Southeast Asia; the continued availability of precursor chemicals, particularly ephedrine and pseudoephedrine (often in the form of pharmaceutical preparations); and the availability of technical expertise on ATS manufacturing in the region.
- India, by far the largest country of the subregion both in terms of population size and surface area, continues to be a main source of ATS manufacturing and trafficking in South Asia. Illicit ATS manufacturing operations have been detected at regular intervals since 2003. There are reports of seizures of ATS, while seizures of ephedrine have sharply declined since 2011.
- Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka have reported methamphetamine seizures. Some of the methamphetamine pills seized in South Asian countries are believed to have originated from Myanmar, which shares a border with Bangladesh.
- The situation depicted by official statistics is only the tip of the iceberg, as comprehensive assessments to determine the nature and the extent of the ATS situation have not been conducted.

Overview of the situation

This chapter will focus on South Asian countries that face the greatest risk of increasing use of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), namely Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Very little information is available on the situation in Bhutan and the Maldives.

Unfortunately, most countries in the region do not possess a data collection system to address this important issue. There is also a need for continued improvement of forensic information and data, as these can provide important insights into the origin of ATS currently available on the illicit drug market. Nevertheless, the discovery of numerous illicit methamphetamine laboratories in South Asia over the last two years shows that countries in the region are increasingly being used for illicit ATS manufacture.

In recent years, it has become evident that South Asia is being targeted for ATS trafficking and manufacturing. International drug trafficking groups have sought to use the subregion as a major base, given the high availability of precursor chemicals used for manufacturing illicit synthetic drugs throughout South Asia, as well as technical expertise on ATS manufacturing and developed infrastructure.

Various capacities for ATS manufacture have been identified in this subregion, ranging from small-scale kitchen laboratories to large-scale manufacturing plants. National controls over ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, which are the main precursors used in illicit methamphetamine manufacture, have forced traffickers to establish facilities that extract these substances from pharmaceutical preparations or manufacture ephedrine from P-1-P.

South Asia is also a transit region for ATS trafficked from Southeast Asia. Data from the Bangladesh Department of Narcotics Control show increasing inflows of methamphetamine pills from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Crystalline methamphetamine manufactured in the re-

¹ The South Asia subregion comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. South Asian countries do not contribute to DAINAP and therefore data used in this chapter were largely supplied by the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia based in India, which used information provided by Government authorities, United Nations entities and other international organizations such as Interpol and the World Customs Organization as well as regional organizations.

gion is also being trafficked from South Asia to South-east Asia and Oceania.

Ketamine (a substance not controlled by the international drug control conventions) is trafficked from India to countries in East and Southeast Asia and, to a lesser extent, to other parts of the world. In February 2011, the Indian government scheduled ketamine as a psychotropic substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) of 1985.

Bangladesh

Methamphetamine pills (locally known as 'yaba'), are the most frequently used and widely seized ATS in Bangladesh and are reported to be trafficked into the country from Myanmar across the southeastern border of Bangladesh.² According to the Department of Narcotics Control methamphetamine pills are trafficked by sea, transiting Teknaf (in southeast Bangladesh to the border of Myanmar) and St. Martins (an island off the southeast coast of Bangladesh).³ The colour of 'yaba' seized in Bangladesh is generally red or orange although white and green pills have also been identified in the southeastern part of the country.⁴ There has been an increase in methamphetamine seizures since 2008, with more than 1.3 million pills seized in 2011 and 2.1 million pills seized in 2012.⁵ In May 2012, the Rapid Action Battalion seized 270,000 methamphetamine pills,

making it the largest anti-drug operation conducted by the Battalion in Bangladesh. These pills had allegedly been trafficked from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

The government controls import of raw materials and precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of any narcotic drug and psychotropic substances. In August 2010, Bangladesh Customs seized 80 kg of ephedrine, concealed in an export cargo of denim apparels bound for Malaysia.⁶ While ATS use has become widespread in the urban areas of Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka where the drug is said to be widely available, it is reportedly also spreading to rural areas.

India

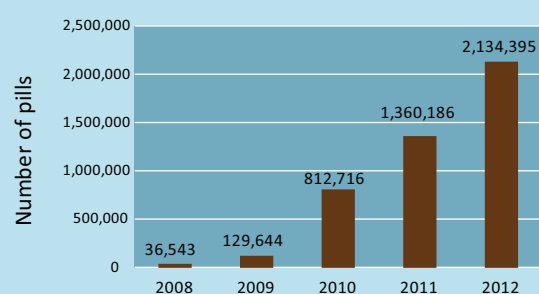
Illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)

India continues to be a target for the illicit manufacture of ATS. The first laboratory in India for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine was dismantled in Kolkata in May 2003. A total of 24 kg of ephedrine was seized for which nationals of China and Myanmar were arrested. Backtracking investigations led to a further 500 kg seizure of ephedrine in June 2003 and the arrest of individuals operating along the India-Myanmar border, according to the Narcotics Control Bureau.

Between 2004 and 2011, several facilities, and attempts to establish facilities for illicit ATS manufacture (predominantly methamphetamine), were uncovered by law enforcement agencies in India. Since 2009, several ephedrine manufacturing facilities have been uncovered by the authorities. In 2010, two illicit methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled in Mumbai and another in the State of Himachal Pradesh.⁷ Notably, three laboratories illicitly manufacturing ephedrine were dismantled in Maharashtra and Gujarat by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) of Mumbai. One methamphetamine laboratory was uncovered in Madurai (South India) in March 2013 and almost 6 kg of methamphetamine were seized in this incident.

In April 2013, drug enforcement authorities reported that clandestine methamphetamine laboratories are being

Figure 15. Bangladesh: seizures of methamphetamine pills, 2008-2012



Source(s): Department of Narcotics Control, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bangladesh

² Bangladesh Department of Narcotics Control (DNC). 'Bangladesh Country Report and Presentation', presented at the ADLOMICO Meeting, 27 June 2013.

³ Official communication with the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh, June 2013.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Bangladesh Customs 2013. 'Country Report Bangladesh', presented at the World Customs Organization Regional Liaison Office Asia Pacific Meeting, Customs Intelligence & Investigation Directorate, April 2013.

⁷ Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2011.

Table 16. Seizures of selected drugs in India, 2008-2013

Drug seized (kg)	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 ^a
Amphetamine	kg	20	41	38	473	30	39
Methaqualone	kg	2,382	5	20	72	51	153 ^b
Heroin	kg	1,063	1,047	766	528	1,029	567
Cocaine	kg	12	12	23	14	44	23

^aJanuary to May 2013; ^bJanuary to February 2013

Source(s): Drug Situation Report and National Drug Enforcement Statistics, Ministry of Home Affairs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, and Narcotics Control Bureau, India

set up throughout the country, including villages of Tamil Nadu (South India) from where drugs are trafficked onwards to Southeast Asian countries and Japan. Attempts at setting up illicit facilities to manufacture methamphetamine often involve transnational criminal organizations which may indicate that India is being used by international syndicates for illicit ATS manufacture. Several attempts to establish illicit methamphetamine laboratories, in collaboration with foreign drug operatives based in China (Hong Kong), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Australia and Canada have been identified.

Trafficking of ATS and precursors

Traditionally, ATS precursors have been smuggled from India to Myanmar whereas the finished ATS product has been trafficked in the reverse direction. Methamphetamine and amphetamine pill seizures in India are predominantly made in the northeastern part of the country bordering Myanmar, which is where these drugs originate. Foreign nationals involved in methamphetamine trafficking are reportedly from Canada, Denmark, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Colombia.⁸

Starting with a few isolated methamphetamine and ecstasy seizures in 2004, India currently experiences relatively larger ATS seizures. Amphetamine seizures have fluctuated between 2008 and 2013, increasing from 20 kg in 2008 to more than 470 kg in 2011 and decreasing to 30 kg in 2012. By February 2013, amphetamine seizures had increased to almost 40 kg. Methaqualone seizures fell significantly from almost 2.4 tons in 2008 to only 5 kg in 2009. Since then seizures have increased, reaching more than 150 kg of methaqualone in May 2013. It is likely that the low number of ATS seizures reflect the relatively low levels of awareness for the ATS problem among law enforcement agencies.⁹

Whereas amphetamine and methamphetamine pills are mostly trafficked into the country from abroad, amphetamine and methamphetamine in powder form is primarily manufactured in India. Along with China (including Hong Kong), India has emerged as a prominent point of embarkation for attempted ATS trafficking (excluding MDMA) to Australia. According to the Australian Crime Commission, India and China (including Hong Kong) accounted for over 24 per cent of all ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border.¹⁰ Notably, most ecstasy seizures are reported in Goa, which is a popular tourist destination in Southwest India. The most recent significant ecstasy seizure outside Goa was recorded in 2004.

India is one of the countries most frequently reported as a source of illicit shipments of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. In the last few years law enforcement agencies in India have made significant seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. In November 2012, officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau seized more than 3.8 tons of ephedrine, believed to have originated in Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), 19 km east of Delhi, which marks the largest seizure of this substance reported by any national drug law enforcement agency that year.¹¹ Ephedrine seizures in India significantly increased from almost 1.3 tons in 2008 to more than 7.2 tons in 2011, followed by a decrease to almost 4.4 tons in 2012 and only reached about 760 kg by May 2013.

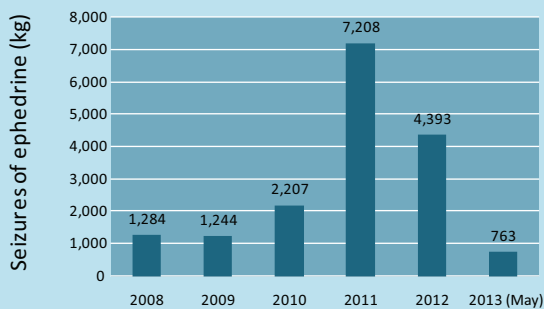
Since 2011, the Narcotics Control Bureau observed that pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are being smuggled to Myanmar across the Indo-Myanmar border. Between November 2011 and the end of June 2012, Indian authorities reported seizures of over 30 million tablets

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ 'India Country Report and Presentation', Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

¹⁰ Illicit Drug Data Report 2011-2012, Australian Crime Commission (ACC), Canberra, 2013.

¹¹ Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Significant seizures during the year 2012 (Accessed at: http://narcoticsindia.nic.in/NCB_Majorseizures.htm; date accessed: August 2013).

Figure 16. India: seizures of ephedrine, 2008–2013 (May)

Source(s): Drug Situation Report and National Drug Enforcement Statistics, Ministry of Home Affairs and Narcotics Control Bureau, India

containing pseudoephedrine, of which more than 13 million were destined for Myanmar.¹²

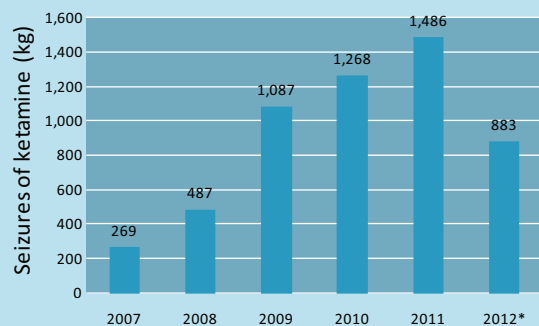
In early 2013, there were reported seizures of pseudoephedrine powder and pills destined for Mizoram (in northeastern India), of which one consignment was intended for onward trafficking to Myanmar.^{13,14} In June 2013, law enforcement authorities in Delhi made a large seizure consisting of 370 kg of ephedrine from a drug cartel run by Indian pharmacists and Nigerian nationals, who used couriers to smuggle the ephedrine to other countries.¹⁵

Trafficking of ketamine

Ketamine is an anaesthetic used in veterinary medicine, and, to a lesser extent, in medicinal products. Even though it is not controlled under any of the international drug conventions, several countries have adopted national control measures. The Indian government introduced controls over the export of ketamine in December 2007. In order to curb ketamine trafficking, the Indian government placed the substance under national control in February 2011 in accordance with the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) of 1985.

Ketamine is often trafficked from India by a Southeast Asian network to countries in East and Southeast Asia for widespread use.¹⁶ However, detected cases and intelligence reveal that ketamine is being smuggled to Europe and the United States.¹⁷ In the last few years, the quantities of ketamine seized in India have continuously increased, from 60 kg in 2005 to more than 1.4 tons in 2011. Between June and November of 2012, a total of 883 kg of ketamine was seized in nine individual¹⁸ trafficking attempts by air transportation courier services, sea cargo and various forms of domestic transportation. In 2012, a large proportion of the seizures were made in the south of India and had been destined for Malaysia.^{19,20} In August 2012, factory premises in Mumbai were searched and an initial amount of more than 84 kg of ketamine was seized.²¹ A total of almost 110 kg of ketamine was eventually seized in connection with this case, and five persons were arrested. Two reported seizures of a total of 200 kg of ketamine prevented the substance from being trafficked to the United Kingdom.²²

The extent of ATS use in India remains unknown. The last household survey on drug use was carried out in 2000–2001; however questions specific to various types of ATS use were not included. Available data

Figure 17. India: seizures of ketamine, 2008–2012*

*June to November 2012

Sources: Various seizure reports from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Chennai and Drug Situation Reports of Narcotics Control Bureau, UNODC Annual reports questionnaire

¹² Annual Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

¹³ Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Significant seizures during the year 2013 (http://narcoticsindia.nic.in/NCB_Majorseizures.htm).

¹⁴ Delhi Police. 'Press Releases – 4 April 2103', (Accessed at: <http://delhipolice.nic.in/home/backup/april2013.htm>; date accessed: August 2013).

¹⁵ Delhi Police. 'Press Releases – 26 June 2013', (Accessed at: <http://delhipolice.nic.in/home/backup/June2013.htm>; date accessed: August 2013).

¹⁶ NCB, June 2013. Op. cit.

¹⁷ Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). 'Country Report India', presented at the World Customs Organization Regional Liaison Office Asia Pacific Meeting, April 2013.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ NCB 2012, Op. cit.

²⁰ DRI 2013, Op. cit.

²¹ NCB 2012, Op. cit.

²² DRI 2013. Op. cit.

on drug treatment is limited due to the fact that the last assessment was conducted in 2001. Anecdotal evidence suggests an increase in the use of ATS for recreational purposes.

Nepal

To date, there are no reports of illicit manufacture or use of ATS in Nepal although several seizures have been reported by the Narcotic Drugs Control Law Enforcement Unit (NDCLEU) in Nepal. These include an 800 gram seizure of methamphetamine at Kathmandu airport in 2008, involving an Iranian national, and another 255.3 grams of methamphetamine pills seized in three separate incidents in 2010, involving Nepalese nationals.²³ Cannabis and opium are the main drugs produced in the country.

In recent years the NDCLEU has reported an increase in the arrests of Nepalese couriers in other countries, possibly indicating that Nepalese nationals are becoming more involved in the drug trade, both as couriers and as traffickers. Nepal may also be increasingly used as a transit point for onward trafficking to South and East Asia, as well as Europe. The NDCLEU has identified the United States as a final destination for some drugs transiting Nepal, typically trafficked through Thailand, China and Indonesia.²⁴

Sri Lanka

Traffickers have attempted to identify new locations at which to set up clandestine laboratories for ATS manufacture in South Asia, and Sri Lanka has increasingly been targeted. According to experts, ATS use is also reportedly on the rise in Sri Lanka.

So far, only one illicit laboratory has been dismantled, in May 2008, in Kosagama, Awissawela, 70 km from Colombo, according to the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka. Large quantities of chemicals seized were suspected of being used in illicit methamphetamine manufacture. For the past five years, Sri Lanka has not reported precursor seizures to the International Narcotics Control Board.

Significant methamphetamine seizures were made in 2010, the first of which took place in January 2010, when Sri Lankan customs officers seized over 17 kg of methamphetamine at Colombo International Airport. In August 2010, police narcotic officers seized a further 8.3 kg of methamphetamine from Iranian nationals who had flown to Colombo from Qatar. Between 2011 and 2012, methamphetamine seizures of less than 2 kg were reported, one of which had been found concealed in spray cans inside the hand-luggage of an Iranian national, who had arrived from Doha.²⁵ Smaller quantities of ecstasy and other substances are regularly seized in Colombo. The Sri Lankan law enforcement authority noted an upward trend in drug trafficking across the country associated with an increase in the number of cocaine and methamphetamine seizures since 2010.²⁶

²³ Official communication with the Narcotic Drugs Control Law Enforcement Unit (NDCLEU), Nepal, 2011.

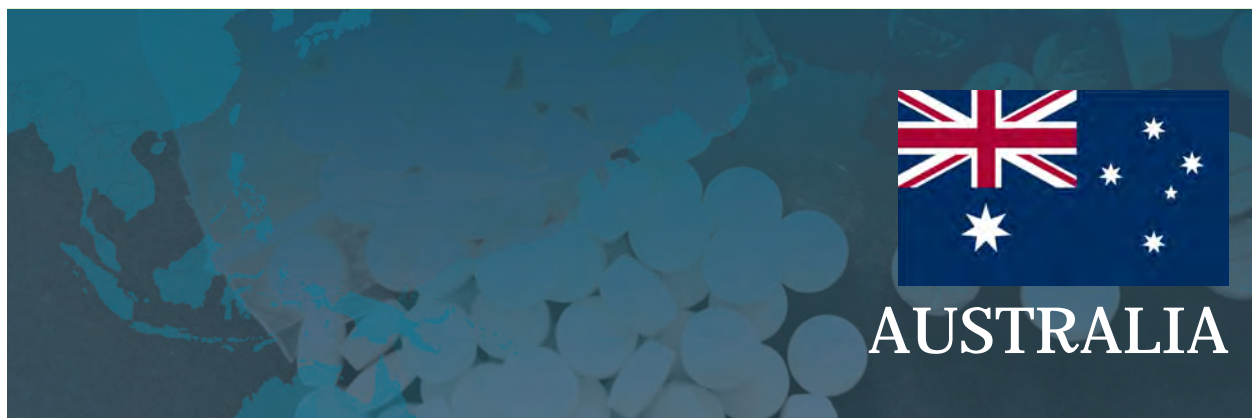
²⁴ Nepal country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2012/vol1/184101.htm>, date accessed: October 2012).

²⁵ 'Country Report Sri Lanka', presented at the Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (HONLAP), Bangkok, Thailand, 30 October – 2 November 2012.

²⁶ Sri Lanka HONLAP 2012, Op. cit.

National Trends

Australia
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Indonesia
Japan
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Myanmar
New Zealand
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Singapore
Thailand
Viet Nam



Emerging trends and concerns

- For the fourth successive reporting period, a record number of clandestine laboratories were detected in Australia in 2011-2012. Most of the laboratories were manufacturing methamphetamine.
- In 2011-2012, the number and weight of amphetamines-group substances detections at the Australian border increased and were the highest reported in the past decade.
- Increases in reported cocaine use, combined with increases in border detections, seizures and arrests indicate a possible expansion of the domestic cocaine market.
- Border detections of amphetamines-group precursors increased in 2011-2012, and was the second highest amount detected in the past decade.

Overview of the drug situation

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) continue to be the second-most widely used illicit drug in Australia and the growth of the methamphetamine market remains the most significant issue impacting the Australian illicit drug market.¹ The amphetamines-group substances² market in Australia appears to be predominantly supplied by domestic manufacture. However, domestic and transnational organized crime groups continue in their attempts to illicitly import large amounts of ATS and their precursor chemicals into the country.

During the past few years, a market for new psychoactive substances (NPS) has developed in Australia, with indications suggesting that the use of NPS, in particular synthetic cannabinoids and methcathinones,³ is emerging among specific groups of regular illicit drug users. In 2011, the Australian Government placed national

controls on eight synthetic cannabinoids.⁴ In June 2013, the Government implemented temporary controls pursuant to the Australian Consumer Law on an additional 19 synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones and other psychoactive substances.⁵

Cannabis remains the dominant illicit drug in Australia in terms of arrests, seizures and use. Most of the cannabis used in Australia is domestically cultivated. The heroin situation in Australia remains generally stable, showing periodic fluctuations in prevalence of use and availability.⁶ However, the amount of national heroin seizures increased considerably in 2010-2011 and continued to increase in 2011-2012. The cocaine market in Australia appears to be expanding, as reflected by the overall increasing trend in seizures, treatment episodes and reported use.⁷

¹ Australia country presentation, Australian Federal Police, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

² Amphetamines-group substances include amphetamine and methamphetamine.

³ Synthetic cannabinoids are also referred to as 'cannabimimetics' or 'synthetic cannabis'. Methcathinones include the synthetic cathinone, mephedrone, also known as 4-MMC, meow and m-cat.

⁴ 'Illicit Drug Data Report 2010-11', Australian Crime Commission (ACC), Canberra, May 2012.

⁵ Attorney-General's Department 2013, Government to ban the importation of 'synthetic drugs', Canberra, viewed 23 July 2013, <<http://www.ministerhomeaffairs.gov.au/MediaReleases/Pages/2013/Second%20Quarter/16June2013-GovernmenttoBantheImportationofSyntheticDrugs.aspx>>.

⁶ Op. cit. ADEC, 26-27 February 2013.

⁷ 'Illicit Drug Data Report 2011-12', Australian Crime Commission (ACC), Canberra, May 2013; 'Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2009-2010: report on the National Minimum Data Set', Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Drug treatment series no. 14, Cat. No. HSE 114, Canberra, November 2011.

Table 17. Rank of general population reporting recent use of selected drugs in Australia, 1998-2010⁸

Drug type	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
Ecstasy (MDMA)	3	3	2	2	2
Amphetamines/methamphetamines	2	2	3	3	3
Cocaine	4	4	4	4	3
Ketamine	●	●	5	5	4
Heroin	5	5	6	5	4
Cannabis herb	1	1	1	1	1

● = Not reported

Source(s): AIHW, July 2011

Table 18. Trend among the general population in recent use of selected drugs in Australia, 1998-2010⁹

Drug type	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
Ecstasy (MDMA)	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
Amphetamines/methamphetamines	↑	↓	↓	↓	↔
Cocaine	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑
Ketamine	●	●	↔	↔	↔
Heroin	↑	↓	↔	↔	↔
Cannabis herb	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): AIHW, July 2011

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Methamphetamine powder, often referred to as ‘speed’, continues to be the most widely used form of methamphetamine in Australia, followed by crystalline methamphetamine, methamphetamine base and methamphetamine pills. The use of all forms of methamphetamine has shown a decreasing trend during the past decade among the general population. In contrast, there has been an upward trend in the use of crystalline methamphetamine among groups of regular drugs users in Australia over the past few years.¹⁰ The reported recent use¹¹ of amphetamine and methamphetamine

has been steadily decreasing since it peaked in 1998 at 3.7% of the general population aged 14 years and over. In 2010, the latest year for which data are available, the figure was 2.1%.¹² The proportion of the general population reporting amphetamine and methamphetamine use at least once in their lifetime increased from 6.3% in 2007 to 7.0% in 2010.¹³

Ecstasy remains the second most commonly used illicit drug in Australia. In 2010, recent ecstasy use reported in the general population showed a decrease from 3.5% in 2007 to 3.0% in 2010. In 2010, the proportion of the population reporting ecstasy use at least once in their lifetime increased from 8.9% in 2007 to 10.3% in 2010.¹⁴ Among regular ecstasy users in Australia, there has been a slight resurgence in the ecstasy market in 2012 after a previous decline in proportions of this group nominating ecstasy as their drug of choice. Proportions increased to 32% in 2012 from 27% in 2011.¹⁵

⁸ The latest year for which data are available.

⁹ The latest year for which data are available.

¹⁰ ‘Australian Trends in Ecstasy and Related Drug Markets 2012. Findings from the Ecstasy and Related Drug Reporting System (EDRS)’, Sindicich, N. & Burns, L., Australian Drug Trend Series, No.100, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, 2013; Stafford & Burns 2013. ‘Injecting risk behaviours, self-reported mental health and crime: a comparison of recent heroin and non-heroin use from the 2012 IDRS’, Stafford, J. & Burns, L., Drug Trends Bulletin, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, July 2013.

¹¹ The National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) was conducted by the Australia Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW). A total of 26,648 persons in Australia were interviewed between April and September 2010. The term ‘recent use’ in the NDSHS refers to reported use in the 12 months prior to interview.

¹² Results of the 2013 NDSHS will be available in the second half of 2014.

¹³ ‘2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report’, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Drug statistics series no. 25, Cat. No. PHE 145, Canberra, July 2011.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Op. cit. Sindicich and Burns, 2013.

Cannabis remains the most widely used illicit drug in Australia. The proportion of the population reporting recent cannabis use increased from 9.1% in 2007 to 10.3% in 2010. Reported recent cocaine use increased from 1.6% in 2007 to 2.1% in 2010, and is currently at its highest reported level.¹⁶

Injecting drug use

According to the findings from the 2012 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS), about 68% of respondents in a national survey of 924 regular injecting drug users reported having used some form of methamphetamine (in powder, base, crystalline or liquid form) in the six months preceding the survey. This represents an increase over the previous two years (66% in 2011 from 60% in 2010) but is still far lower than the peak of 79% reported in 2006. The upward trend has been driven by the increase in crystalline methamphetamine use. The mean age of IDRS respondents was 39 years (range 17-71 years). Half of the national sample reported that an amphetamine was the first drug they injected, followed by heroin (37%). However, heroin remained the drug of choice among 54% of the respondents in 2012. The mean age of first injection was 20 years, similar to the previous year.¹⁷

New psychoactive substances

New psychoactive substances (as well as drug analogues) have been found in notable quantities in Australia since at least the mid-2000s. These have included mephedrone, benzylpiperazine (BZP), TFMPP,¹⁸ and N,N-dimethylamphetamine (DMA). Over the reporting periods, the prominent NPS have been synthetic cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids. Of the seized substances analysed in 2011-2012 which were found to contain new psychoactive substances, synthetic cathinones accounted for approximately 47% and synthetic cannabinoids accounted for about 6%. In addition, piperazine-based substances and amphetamine-like substances were also seized.¹⁹ The most common synthetic cathinone substances encountered (in terms of weight) were 3,4-methylenedioxymethcathinone (MDMC), 3,4-methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV) and 3,4-dimethylmethcathinone (DMMC). In con-

trast to earlier reporting periods, where 4-MMC was the most common cathinone analogue encountered (in terms of weight), no significant quantities of 4-MMC were reported from border seizures in 2011-2012.²⁰

There are indications to suggest an upward trend in the use of new psychoactive substances among regular ecstasy users in Australia. The 2012 EDRS survey²¹ of regular ecstasy users and regular psychoactive substances users showed that 40% of respondents reported having used a new psychoactive substance in the six months preceding the survey compared with 33% in 2011 and 28% in 2010. The percentage of respondents who reported having used synthetic cannabinoids in the preceding six months showed a significant increase from 6% in 2011 to 15% in 2012. The reported use of synthetic cannabinoids at least once in their lifetime was high among the sample, at 28% in 2012. However, the days of use over the previous six months remains low (2 days; range 1 to 180 days). The use of BZP, as well as a number of phenethylamines such as those in the 2-C series (e.g. 2C-T-7, 2C-T-2) and the 2-D series (e.g. DOC, DOI) were also reported among small proportions of the sample. The use of mephedrone was reported to have been on the decline; however, it is unclear whether this trend reflects a fluctuation or stabilization of the mephedrone market.²² In addition, according to the 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1.4% of the general population aged 14 years or older reported ketamine use in their lifetime, an increase from 1.1% reported in 2007.²³

Drug treatment

There were 144,002 treatment episodes reported in 2010-2011 for clients seeking treatment for alcohol and other drug problems in publicly funded and non-government drug treatment facilities in Australia.²⁴ Amphetamines were the principal drugs of concern in approximately 9% of treatment episodes, a slight increase compared with the previous reporting period (7%).²⁵ Persons aged 20-39 years accounted for 75% of amphetamines treatment episodes. Ecstasy was the

¹⁶ Op. cit. ACC 2012.

¹⁷ Op. cit. Stafford & Burns 2013.

¹⁸ TFMPP refers to 1-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine.

¹⁹ Op. cit. ACC 2013.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ A total of 607 regular ecstasy users and regular psychoactive substances users were interviewed by the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS), National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre in 2012.

²² Op. cit. Sindicich & Burns 2013.

²³ Op. cit. ACC 2013.

²⁴ AIHW 2012.

²⁵ When other drugs of concern were also considered, 20% of all treatment episodes included amphetamines as a drug of concern in 2010-2011, similar to the previous reporting period; AIHW 2012.

Table 19. Number of drug treatment episodes in Australia by drug type, 2006-2007 to 2010-2011

Drug type	2006–2007	2007–2008	2008–2009	2009–2010	2010–2011
Amphetamines	17,292	16,588	12,739	10,027	12,563
Ecstasy	1,010	1,321	1,397	1,105	708
Cannabis	31,980	31,864	31,100	31,559	31,762
Cocaine	448	457	479	595	501
Heroin	14,870	15,571	14,222	13,882	13,354

Note: Data based on financial year from 1 July of the prior year through 30 June of the following year.

Source(s): 'Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2010-11: Report on the National Minimum Data Set', Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Drug Treatment Series No. 18, Cat. no. HSE 128, Canberra, November 2012

principal drug of concern in less than 1% (0.5%) of treatment episodes. The proportion of treatment episodes for cannabis use remained stable at 22%. The proportion of heroin episodes has declined during the past eight years, from a peak of 18% of episodes in 2002-2003 to 9% in 2010-2011.²⁶ Cocaine was the principal drug of concern in less than 1% of all treatment episodes in 2010-2011. The median age for persons who entered treatment in 2010-2011 was 33 years and 68% of all episodes were men. Approximately half (49%) of all treatment episodes were for multiple drugs.²⁷

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – During 2011-2012, the number of ATS-related arrests increased for the first time since 2008-2009, by 30.5%, from 12,897 in 2010-2011 to 16,828 in 2011-2012, and is the highest reported in the past decade. ATS-related arrests accounted for 18.1% of all illicit drug-related arrests in Australia, second only to cannabis (65.5%).²⁸

During the past decade, cannabis has accounted for approximately two-thirds of all illicit drug-related arrests. In 2011-2012, the 61,011 cannabis-related arrests accounted for 65.5% of all illicit drug-related arrests, which is the highest total reported in the past decade.²⁹ In 2011-2012, the number of national cocaine-related arrests increased by 18.6%, and is the second highest total recorded in the past decade. Cocaine-related arrests have increased by 298%, from 250 in 2002-2003 to 995 in 2011-2012. While the number of heroin and other opioid-related arrests in-

creased by 6.4% in 2011-2012, it remains low compared to figures reported prior to 2004-2005. The 484 national hallucinogen-related arrests reported in 2011-2012 is the second highest in the past decade.³⁰

The 93,148 national illicit drug-related arrests in 2011-2012 is the highest number reported in the past decade.³¹

Drug seizures – The number of amphetamines-group detections increased marginally, from 1,075 in 2010-2011 to 1,077 in 2011-2012. The weight of amphetamines-group detections increased by 230.1%, from 105.2 kg in 2010-2011 to 347.3 kg in 2011-2012 and is the highest reported in the past decade. Only 3.7% of amphetamine and methamphetamine detections were over 1 kg.³²

The number of MDMA border detections increased by 760.7%, from 112 in 2010-2011 to 964 in 2011-12, the highest number recorded in the past decade. The weight of border detections also increased, by 36.4%, from 8.8 kg in 2010-2011 to 12.0 kg in 2011-2012. Nearly all (99.7%) of the MDMA detections in 2011-2012 weighed less than 1 kg, which is low in comparison to detections prior to 2008-2009.³³

Nationally, the number of ATS seizures increased by 35.5%, from 11,212 in 2010-2011 to 15,191 in 2011-2012.³⁴ The weight of national ATS seizures increased by 55.9%, from 1,008.7 kg in 2010-2011 to 1,572.6 kg in 2011-2012.³⁵

²⁶ Heroin treatment data in this collection does not include opioid pharmacotherapy treatment.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Op. cit. ACC 2013.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ National seizure statistics in Australia include both domestic seizures and border detections. National ATS seizures include methamphetamine, amphetamine and MDMA as well as other ATS.

³⁵ Ibid.

Table 20. Drug-related arrests in Australia, 2007-2008 to 2011-2012

Drug type	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
ATS	16,047	16,452	13,982	12,897	16,828
Cannabis	52,465	55,638	57,170	58,760	61,011
Heroin and other opioids	2,279	2,693	2,767	2,551	2,714
Cocaine	669	848	1,244	839	995
Steroids	163	214	314	365	511
Hallucinogens	325	369	512	373	484
Other and unknown	6,727	7,659	9,263	8,972	10,605
Total	78,675	83,873	85,252	84,757	93,148

Source(s): ACC 2013

Table 21. Seizures of selected drugs in Australia, 2007-2008 to 2011-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
ATS*	Number	13,097	13,300	10,543	11,212	15,191
	Weight (kg)	2,035.8	1,640.0	671.8	1,008.7	1,572.6
Cannabis	Number	41,661	46,875	44,736	50,073	51,823
	Weight (kg)	8,909.2	5,573.0	5,989.8	5,452.4	7,349.2
Heroin	Number	1,411	1,691	1,582	1,700	1,758
	Weight (kg)	68.5	145.5	74.7	375.7	388.3
Cocaine	Number	1,271	1,217	1,517	1,217	1,336
	Weight (kg)	664.6	591.9	394.8	662.0	956.3
Other opioids	Number	178	277	315	229	83
	Weight (kg)	12.3	41.1	41.4	236.8	26.6
Hallucinogens	Number	126	135	215	206	285
	Weight (kg)	6.8	1.4	11.7	15.0	23.5
Steroids	Number	104	113	134	205	208
	Weight (kg)	6.5	3.7	5.5	13.9	33.7
Other/ unknown ³⁶	Number	3,442	3,951	4,628	4,753	5,399
	Weight (kg)	270.8	5,306.5	661.0	1,593.5	13,451.6

Note: Data based on financial year (1 July to 30 June). Includes only those seizures for which a drug weight was recorded. Data reflect State and Territory police and Australian Federal Police (AFP) seizures. Seizures made during joint operations between the AFP and State and Territory police may be duplicated in these statistics. Weight given as rounded figures. *ATS includes amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA.

Source(s): ACC 2013.

The 2,660 cannabis detections at the Australian border in 2011-2012 is the highest number on record, with cannabis seeds continuing to account for the majority of detections.³⁷ The weight of cannabis detected at the border decreased by 75.6%, from 69.6 kg in 2010-2011 to 17.0 kg in 2011-2012. The number of national cannabis seizures (51,823) is the highest num-

ber reported in the past decade. The weight of national cannabis seizures increased by 34.8%, from 5,452.4 kg in 2010-2011 to 7,349.2 kg in 2011-2012.³⁸

The number of heroin detections at the Australian border has continued to decline since 2006-2007 and decreased by 22.8% from 232 in 2010-2011 to 179 in 2011-2012. While the weight of heroin detected at the Australian border decreased by 35.9%, from 400.2 kg in 2010-2011 to 256.2 kg in 2011-2012, it is the third highest weight reported in the past decade.

³⁶ Drugs categorized as 'other and unknown' include new psychoactive substances, precursors, anabolic agents, selected hormones, tryptamines, anaesthetics, various pharmaceuticals and drugs not elsewhere classified; ACC 2013; 'Illicit Drug Data Report 2010-11', Australian Crime Commission (ACC), Canberra, May 2012.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

The number of national heroin seizures increased by 3.4% from 1,700 in 2010-2011 to 1,758 in 2011-2012, and is the highest reported in the last decade. The weight of national heroin seizures also increased by 3.4%, from 375.7 kg in 2010-2011 to 388.3 kg in 2011-2012 and is the second highest weight reported in the past decade.³⁹

The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border increased by 101.4%, from 486 in 2010-2011 to 979 in 2011-2012. The weight of cocaine detected increased by 11.9%, from 701.8 kg in 2010-2011 to 785.7 kg in 2011-2012. Of note, 96% of all cocaine detections at the Australian border in 2011-2012 weighed less than one kg. The number of national cocaine seizures has increased by 114% during the past decade, from 624 in 2002-2003 to 1,336 in 2011-2012, which is the second highest number reported in the past decade. The weight of national cocaine seizures has continued to increase since 2009-2010, with the 956.3 kg seized in 2011-2012, the highest weight reported in the past decade.⁴⁰

In 2011-2012, there were 59 ketamine detections at the Australian border, an increase from 23 detections in 2010-2011. In 2011-2012, 94.9% of ketamine detections at the Australian border were through the postal stream.⁴¹

Drug prices – ATS prices have not changed significantly in Australia over the past two reporting periods. Whereas the lower price limit for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine remained unchanged at approximately USD 290-300, the higher price limit has showed some increase, from about USD 1,940 in 2011-2012 compared with USD 1,030 in 2010-2011. In 2011-2012, the price for one gram of non-crystalline forms of methamphetamine ranged from approximately USD 95 to 875 compared with about USD 95 to USD 1,000 in 2010-2011. The price for one gram of amphetamine ranged between USD 145 and USD 776 in 2011-2012 compared with USD 145 to USD 388 in the previous reporting period.⁴² The street price for MDMA remained relatively stable. In 2011-2012, the price for a single ‘ecstasy’⁴³ pill ranged between USD 19 and USD 58.⁴⁴

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid. ACC 2013.

⁴³ Tablets sold as ecstasy may contain little or no MDMA.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

However, the prices of methamphetamine and other drugs depend greatly on the region of sale and some reported changes in illicit drug prices may be due to fluctuating exchange rates.

Sources of illicit drugs

Most of the amphetamines found in Australia continue to be supplied by domestic manufacture. A record 809 clandestine laboratories were detected in Australia in 2011-2012, compared with 703 laboratories in 2010-2011, the majority of which continued to be identified as manufacturing amphetamines-group substances. In 2011-2012, a total of 552 clandestine laboratories that were manufacturing amphetamines-group substances were detected compared with 556 laboratories during the previous reporting period. A total of 17 laboratories were identified as undertaking pseudoephedrine and/or ephedrine extraction in 2011-2012 compared with 34 laboratories during the previous reporting period. The number of MDMA laboratories detected showed a substantial decrease from 16 in 2010-2011 to 2 in 2011-2012. In addition, the number of clandestine laboratories detected in 2011-2012 includes laboratories which were extracting cannabis oil, manufacturing ‘homebake’ heroin, GHB/GBL,⁴⁵ as well as other and unidentified substances.⁴⁶

In 2011-2012, most clandestine laboratories continued to be detected in residential areas (70.6%). The hypophosphorous method remains the most common method of illicit ATS manufacture detected in Australia, followed by the Nazi/Birch method, the red phosphorous method and the P-2-P method. Most of the clandestine laboratories detected in Australia continue to be small-scale. However, illicit drug manufacture in Australia does include medium to industrial scale laboratories, as indicated by the seizure of 11 mt of hypophosphorous acid in 2011-2012.⁴⁷

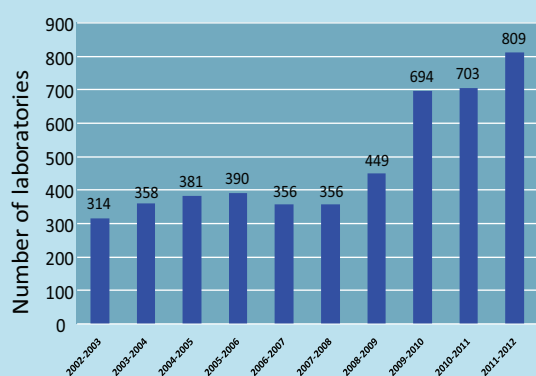
The majority of heroin seized at the Australian border originates from Southeast Asia and Southwest Asia. In 2011-2012, the primary embarkation points for heroin detected at the Australian border, in terms of

⁴⁵ GBL refers to gamma-Butyrolactone. GHB refers to gamma-Hydroxybutyrate. GHB is a clear odourless liquid or white powder usually made into tablets or capsules. GBL is also a liquid and is used as a precursor for the production of GHB. GHB is often used by bodybuilders as an alternative to anabolic steroids.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

Figure 18. Clandestine laboratory detections in Australia, 2002-2003 to 2011-2012



Source(s): ACC 2013

weight, were Afghanistan, Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam. Cocaine profiling data indicates the continued prominence of Colombia as a source country for cocaine seized at the Australian border.⁴⁸

Trafficking – In 2011-2012, 87.9% of all amphetamines-group detections at the Australian border were via the parcel post, while air cargo accounted for 29.7% of the total weight of detections and three sea cargo detections accounted for 46.3% of the total weight.⁴⁹ Significant amphetamines-group detections in 2011-2012 include 129.7 kg of liquid methamphetamine detected in sea cargo from Mexico, 27 kg of crystalline methamphetamine detected in air cargo from Canada, 26 kg of crystalline methamphetamine detected in air cargo from Hong Kong, China, 25 kg of crystalline methamphetamine detected in sea cargo from Hong Kong, China and 15 kg of crystalline methamphetamine detected in air cargo from South Africa. Melbourne or Sydney was the final destination in all of these attempted importations.⁵⁰

In 2011-2012, India, Hong Kong, China and China accounted for more than 24% of the number of amphetamines-group substances detections at the Australian border. By weight, Mexico was the most prominent embarkation point – due to the single detection of 129.7 kg of liquid methamphetamine in October 2011 – followed by Hong Kong, China and Canada.⁵¹

In 2011-2012, the Netherlands was the prominent em-

barkation point for MDMA detections at the Australian border both in terms of number and weight. Of the 13 countries identified as embarkation points, a total of more than 1 kg were detected only from the Netherlands, Canada and New Zealand. Parcel post accounted for 71.7%, in terms of weight, of MDMA detections at the border during the reporting period.⁵²

Both the number and weight of border detections of amphetamines-group precursors have fluctuated during the past decade. In 2011-2012, a total of 1,744.6 kg of amphetamines-group precursors were detected at the Australian border, which represents a 123.5% increase from the previous reporting period (780.7 kg). This is the second highest weight detected during the past decade.⁵³ Of the 36 embarkation points for amphetamines-group precursors identified in 2011-2012, China was the most prominent, accounting for 15.8% of the total number and 25.6% of the total weight of detections. Notable detections of ephedrine and/or pseudoephedrine in 2011-2012 include 118.4 kg of pseudoephedrine in sea cargo from Afghanistan, 73 kg of pseudoephedrine in sea cargo from Lebanon, 41 kg of pseudoephedrine in sea cargo from China, 18 kg of pseudoephedrine in parcel post from Viet Nam, and 15.5 kg of pseudoephedrine in the luggage of an air passenger travelling from Viet Nam. In all of these attempted importations, the final destination was Sydney.⁵⁴

The number and weight of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border has remained relatively low during the past decade. Notable border detections of MDMA precursors in 2011-2012 include 240 litres of safrole⁵⁵ in sea cargo from China and 145.3 grams of isosafrole in parcel post from the United Kingdom.^{56, 57}

Large quantities of cocaine originating from South America continue to be trafficked into Australia by sea. In 2011-2012, four sea cargo detections, with a combined weight of 304.2 kg, accounted for 38.7% of the total weight of cocaine detected at the Aus-

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ The volume of safrole that can be extracted from safrole oil varies and is generally less than 20% of the volume of safrole oil.

⁵⁶ Other MDMA precursor seizures at the Australian border in 2011-2012 include 11.6 grams of MDP2P (3,4-Methylenedioxyphenylpropan-2-one or piperonyl methyl ketone (PMK)) in parcel post from Thailand, 8.7 grams of isosafrole in parcel post from Thailand and 8.7 grams of piperonal in the luggage of an air passenger travelling from Viet Nam.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

tralian border. In 2011-2012, prominent embarkation points for cocaine, by number, were Panama, the Netherlands and Canada. In terms of weight, the prominent embarkation points were Vanuatu,⁵⁸ Brazil, Argentina, and the United Kingdom.⁵⁹

Forensic data

The annual median purity of analysed amphetamine⁶⁰ samples has fluctuated widely over the past decade, ranging between 0.1% and 71.4%. In 2011-2012, the median purity of amphetamine ranged from 0.1% in Western Australia to 77% in the Australian Capital Territory. The annual median purity of analysed methamphetamine samples ranged between 4.4% and 60%. All jurisdictions in Australia, with the exception of Tasmania, reported an increase in the purity of methamphetamine samples analysed in 2011-2012. During the reporting period, the median purity of methamphetamine ranged from 6.3% in Tasmania to 77.6% in Victoria.⁶¹ The annual median purity of phenethylamine samples – the majority of which relate to MDMA – ranged from 14.9% in the Australian Capital Territory to 18.1% in Victoria. Queensland was the only jurisdiction to report a decrease (though minimal) in the purity of analysed phenethylamine samples in 2011-2012.⁶²

⁵⁸ The prominence of Vanuatu as a point of embarkation by weight can be attributed to a single large detection, weighing 276.4 kilograms, in small craft travelling from Vanuatu to Queensland; ACC 2013.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Amphetamine is a manufacturing by-product of some common methods of methamphetamine manufacture. This can result in two separate purity figures for a single drug sample – one as methamphetamine with considerable purity and another as amphetamine of low purity; ACC 2013.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Crystalline methamphetamine remains the primary drug of concern in Brunei Darussalam with a large majority of drug treatment admissions and drug-related arrests related to it.
- Two crystalline methamphetamine seizures from passenger planes travelling from West Africa in 2012 may indicate that Brunei International Airport is emerging as a transit location for transnational criminal networks.

Overview of the drug situation

There have been no reports of illicit drug manufacturing nor attempts at manufacture in Brunei Darussalam. Previously, Brunei Darussalam had not been identified as a transit country for illicit drug and precursor trafficking. However, crystalline methamphetamine seizures from two air passenger couriers traveling from West Africa en route to Malaysia in 2012 may indicate that Brunei Darussalam is being used as a transit country by West African drug trafficking groups to gain access to other markets in the region. Most drugs continue to be trafficked into Brunei Darussalam from neighbouring countries, particularly Malaysia. Although crystalline methamphetamine remains the primary drug of concern, cannabis, ketamine and nimetazepam (Erimin-5) are also widely used.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – According to arrest and treatment data, the vast majority (94%) of all drug users in the country in 2012 were crystalline methamphetamine users. Even so, crystalline methamphetamine use has decreased since 2011. Most crystalline methamphetamine users smoke the drug. Ecstasy use has only been reported in 2006 and 2009 and is not considered to be a major problem in Brunei Darussalam.

Cannabis herb is the second most commonly used drug in the country and its use is perceived to have increased in 2012.

Injecting drug use

There have been no known cases of HIV transmission through injecting drug use in Brunei Darussalam. Of the 149 persons who received drug treatment in Brunei Darussalam¹ in 2012, only 17 stated that they had injected drugs.²

New psychoactive substances

Ketamine use has been a problem in Brunei Darussalam for a number of years. In February 2012, amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act included the reclassification of ketamine as a Class B controlled drug; the same category as codeine and nimetazepam.³ In addition, mitragynine (kratom leaves) was classified

¹ 'Global AIDS Progress Reporting 2012 and Universal Access in the Health Sector Reporting Brunei Darussalam, Reporting period: January 2010–December 2011', Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam, March 2012.

² Official communication with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), August 2013.

³ Nimetazepam is a benzodiazepine derivative, controlled in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, often marketed under the brand name Erimin.

Table 22. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Brunei Darussalam, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	•	5	•	6	5
Cannabis herb	2	2	2	2	2
Codeine	•	•	•	•	5
Heroin	•	6	•	•	•
Inhalants	•	•	4	3	5
Ketamine	4	3	3	5	3
Nimetazepam	3	4	5	4	4

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 23. Trend in use of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	↔	↓	↑	↑	↓
Ecstasy	•	↑	•	•	↓
Cannabis herb	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑
Inhalants	•	•	↓	↑	↓
Ketamine	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓
Nimetazepam	↓	↓	↔	↑	↓

↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, • = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 24. Drug treatment admissions in Brunei Darussalam, 2012

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	69	5	74	130	15	145
Cannabis	1	0	1	4	0	4
Total	70	5	75	134	15	149

Source(s): DAINAP

as a Class D controlled drug.⁴ There have been no reports on the use of other new psychoactive substances.

Drug treatment

The number of persons who underwent treatment for crystalline methamphetamine use declined by about 17%, from 175 persons in 2011 to 145 persons in 2012. Crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for about 97% of all persons in drug treatment in 2012, which was about the same as in previous years. In 2012, methamphetamine users in drug treatment had an av-

⁴ Brunei Darussalam country report, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

erage age of 33 years, while inhalant and cannabis users had an average age of 25 years. Of the 75 persons admitted to treatment in 2012, 10 persons entered treatment voluntarily.⁵

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – The total number and proportion of arrests by drug type have remained comparatively stable over the past five years. In 2012, 90% of the 459 drug-related arrests involved crystalline methamphetamine. The majority of those arrested were from Brunei Darussalam, aged 31 years and above and unemployed. The number of persons arrested for crystal-

⁵ Ibid.

Table 25. Drug-related arrests in Brunei Darussalam, 2012

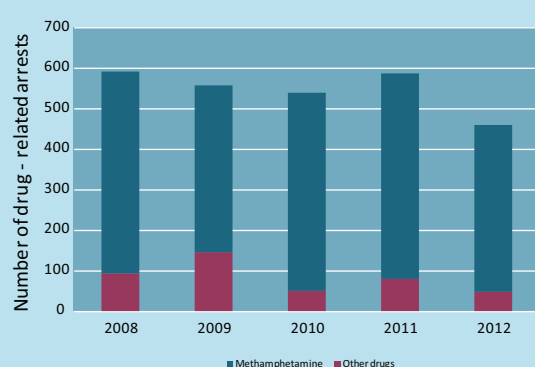
Drug type	National			Non-national		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	316	57	373	30	9	39
Cannabis herb	26	4	30	3	3	6
Codeine	0	0	0	1	0	1
Inhalants	1	0	1	0	0	0
Ketamine	1	0	1	3	0	3
Nimetazepam	4	0	4	1	0	1
Total	348	61	409	38	12	50

Source(s): DAINAP

line methamphetamine decreased by about 19%, from 508 persons in 2011 to 412 persons in 2012. Of the 50 arrests of foreign nationals for drug-related offences in 2012, 78% involved crystalline methamphetamine. Approximately 95% of all crystalline methamphetamine-related arrests were for drug use or possession.⁶ In 2011, there were 587 drug-related arrests.

Drug seizures – In 2012, a total of 9 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in 112 individual cases: the largest total ever reported in Brunei Darussalam. In previous years, seizures were no more than 1 kg. From January through May 2013, approximately 0.7 kg of crystalline methamphetamine were seized.⁷ There have been no reports in the country of methamphetamine pill seizures since 2006. In 2012, only nine ecstasy pills were seized, a significant difference from the largest ever reported total of 349 pills in 2011.

Figure 19. Drug-related arrests in Brunei Darussalam, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP

⁶ Information provided by Brunei Darussalam in the annual report questionnaire (ARQ), 2013.

⁷ Brunei Darussalam country report, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), presented at the ASEAN Conference 2013: Roadmap to Effective Substance Dependence Treatment, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 17-19 July 2013.

Drug prices – During the last few years, there has been a marginal upward trend in the retail street price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine, increasing from USD 510 in 2010, USD 551 in 2011 to USD 558 in 2012. The prices for other drugs remained stable.

Sources of illicit drugs

Most crystalline methamphetamine seized in Brunei Darussalam is trafficked from Malaysia by land, in small quantities for personal use. However, due to the two large seizures from passenger planes at Brunei International Airport, Cameroon was indicated as the embarkation location for 99% of all detected crystalline methamphetamine. The majority of other illicit drugs are trafficked into Brunei Darussalam from neighbouring countries.

Trafficking – In 2012, there were two cases in which two female Kenyan nationals were arrested for attempting to smuggle several kilograms of crystalline methamphetamine from Cameroon to Malaysia through Brunei International Airport. In March 2012, 4.1 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized from a drug courier that had previously transited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Dubai. The methamphetamine is believed to have originated from Ethiopia. In October 2012, another 4.1 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, which had originally been trafficked from Kenya, was seized from a drug courier that had previously transited Singapore.⁸ Prior to these cases, there had been no reports of transnational drug trafficking through Brunei Darussalam.

In 2012, all ketamine seizures, 97% of all nimetazepam and 17% of cannabis herb seizures in Brunei

⁸ Op. cit. ARQ Brunei Darussalam 2013.

Table 26. Seizures of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	0.38 ^a	0.32	0.76	0.76	9.0
Ecstasy	pills	14 ^b	15	•	349	9
Cannabis herb	kg	0.6	1.5	6.3	0.58	0.7
Heroin	kg	•	1.1	•	•	•
Ketamine	kg	2 pills and 14.65 g	0.02	0.04	0.39	386 pills and 5.63 g
Nimetazepam	tablets	70	44	43	1,495	532

• = Not reported. ^aIn addition to the seizure of 3 grams of methamphetamine powder. ^bReported as 2 pills plus 3.28 g.
Source(s): DAINAP; NCB 2010

Table 27. Retail prices of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam (USD), 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	510 – 549	476 – 510	510	551	558
Ecstasy	per pill	•	120 – 127 ^a	•	62	62
Cannabis herb	per gram	71 – 77	71	71	77	78
Nimetazepam	per tablet	4	3 – 4	3.6	4	4

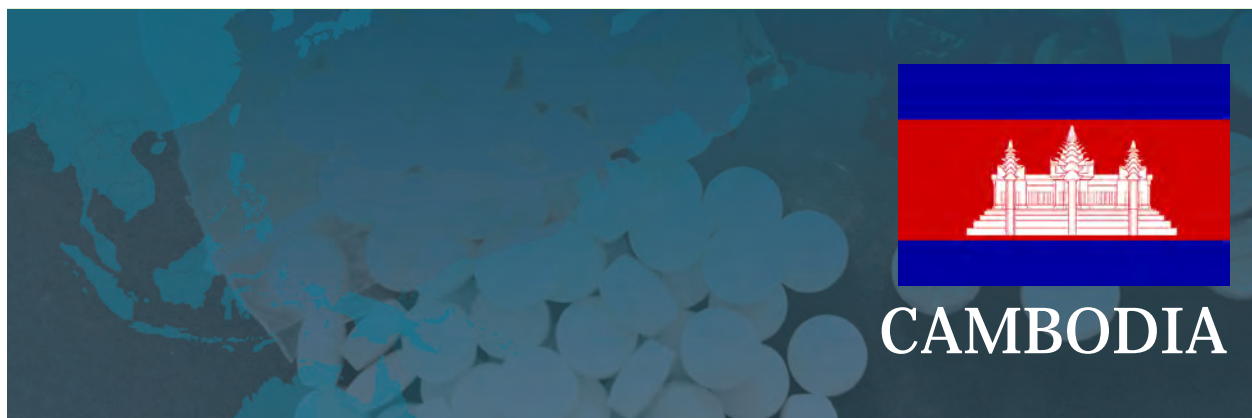
• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP; ^aARQ 2010 Brunei Darussalam

Darussalam, were trafficked from Malaysia while the remaining 83% of all cannabis herb seizures were trafficked from Thailand. Approximately 87% of cannabis seized in Brunei Darussalam in 2012 was smuggled into the country by air.⁹

Forensic data

Crystalline methamphetamine purity has remained relatively stable. In 2012, each of the 293 crystalline methamphetamine samples that were analysed had a purity level higher than 60%. The three ecstasy pills that were analysed had an average weight of 276 mg and contained an unspecified amount of MDMA. There is no purity data available for ketamine samples, as only qualitative analyses have been conducted in the last few years.

⁹ Ibid.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Transnational and Asian drug trafficking groups continue to target Cambodia as a source, transit and destination country for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and other illicit drugs.
- The availability and use of methamphetamine in pill and crystalline form continues to expand. A large and growing majority of persons arrested for drug-related offences or persons submitted for drug treatment involve methamphetamine.
- Crystalline methamphetamine and cocaine seizures in Cambodia in 2012 are the highest ever reported from the country.

Overview of the drug situation

The manufacture, trafficking and use of ATS is significant and is becoming increasingly problematic in Cambodia. Drug law enforcement authorities continue to dismantle a significant number of facilities that illicitly manufacture methamphetamine or produce precursor chemicals for the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA. In 2012, several ATS manufacturing facilities were dismantled, most of which were located in Phnom Penh.

Transnational organized criminal groups, particularly from Asia and West Africa, continue to use Cambodia to manufacture and transit ATS, their precursor chemicals, and other illicit drugs such as cocaine and heroin. The illicit harvesting and export of safrole-rich oils (SRO),¹ which can be used as a precursor for MDMA, remains an environmental and law enforcement concern.

¹ Safrole is a substance listed in Table 1 of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as well as in the Cambodia's Drug Law. The International Narcotics Control Board defines safrole-rich oils as being 'any mixtures or natural products containing safrole present in such a way that it can be used or recovered by readily applicable means'; 'Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 2008', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, February 2009.

There is continued increase in the availability and use of methamphetamine in pill and crystalline form. In 2012, record amounts of crystalline methamphetamine and cocaine were seized in Cambodia.

Patterns and trends of drug use

There are no consistent statistics available on the exact number of drug users in Cambodia. In 2012, the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) estimated the number of drug users in Cambodia at 4,057.² However, in March 2013, NACD officials suggested that the number of drug users was considerably higher and likely to be in excess of 10,000.³ In recent years, illicit drug use, previously primarily concentrated in urban areas, has expanded to rural parts of the country, particularly in provinces adjacent to Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and Thailand.⁴

² 'Summary Report on the Control of Drug Related Matters', National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

³ 'MINI Dublin Group Cambodia', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Phnom Penh, April 2013.

⁴ Cambodia country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2012/vol1/184098.htm>; date accessed: 23 August 2012).

Table 28. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Cambodia, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	●	2	1	2	2
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	1	2	1	1
Ecstasy	●	●	●	6	●
Cannabis herb	●	●	4	4	4
Heroin	●	●	3	5	●
Inhalants	●	●	●	3	3

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; 'Country Report of Drug Situation in Cambodia', National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Fifteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 2-5 February 2010; Official communication with the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), 25 April 2012; Cambodia country presentation, National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Jakarta, 28-29 August 2013

Table 29. Trend in use of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	●	●	↑	↑	↑
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	●	↑	↑	↑
Ecstasy	●	●	●	↑	↑
Cannabis herb	●	●	●	↑	●
Heroin	●	●	●	↓	●

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; NACD, April 2012; NACD, August 2013

Injecting drug use

Injecting drug use, including of methamphetamine, in Cambodia, continues to be on the rise.⁵ According to the National AIDS Authority of Cambodia, HIV prevalence in 2011 was 24.1% for the estimated 1,900 injecting drug users in Cambodia.⁶ In 2012, the 'National Population Size Estimation, HIV Prevalence and Related Risk Behaviors' (under the auspice of the NACD, Ministry of Health and AusAID), reported that HIV prevalence slightly increased among injecting users to 24.8%. The same study reported a significant increase of approximately 4% in HIV infections among non-injecting drug users.⁷

New psychoactive substances

Over the past 5 years, there have been limited seizures of ketamine in Cambodia. Less than 0.5 kg of ketamine was seized in 2008; and just over 1 gram reportedly seized annually up to 2012. There have been no

reports of any other new psychoactive substance in use in Cambodia.

Drug treatment

Cambodia currently has 13 Temporary Centers for Drug Education and Rehabilitation that are managed by Government Ministries and the civilian/military police, Ministry of Social Affairs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).⁸ In 2012, a total of 1,162 drug users received treatment and rehabilitation services at these centres, most of which used crystalline methamphetamine (74%) and methamphetamine pills (15%). The majority (56%) of drug users at the centres were aged 18 to 25 years.⁹

However, international and government agencies are concerned that drug treatment centres in Cambodia do not have sufficient treatment focus. International technical experts working in the field have sought to address this gap by developing medical treatment services with the support of the Royal Government of Cambodia and

⁵ Op. cit. NACD, June 2013.

⁶ 'Cambodia Country Progress Report: Monitoring the Progress towards the Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS, Reporting Period January 2010-December 2011,' National AIDS Authority (NAA), Phnom Penh, 2012.

⁷ HAARP Steering Committee Meeting, Phnom Penh, April 2013.

⁸ 'Country Report on Drug Situation in Cambodia', National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 14-16 February 2012.

⁹ Op. cit. NACD, August 2013.

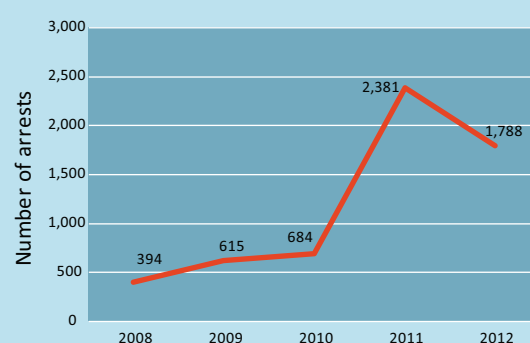
the UN Country Team. This has led to the emergence of voluntary community-based treatment as an alternative to compulsory treatment centers. This approach, championed by the government and piloted in Banteay Mancheay Province, is showing promising results in reducing drug dependence and providing healthcare among drug users. In 2012, community-based treatment services were extended to Stung Treng and Battambang province. By the end of 2012, the Community-Based Treatment programme had provided training for 170 health officials and provided ongoing treatment for an estimated 1,292 drug users, of which 1,085 (84%) were ATS users.¹⁰

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – Cambodia does not provide drug-related arrest data disaggregated by drug type. The total number of persons arrested for drug-related offences in Cambodia decreased by 25% from 2,381 persons in 2011 to 1,788 persons in 2012. These figures are still considerably higher than those recorded between 2006-2010, when an annual average of 517 arrests were made.¹¹ In recent years, most drug-related arrests have been related to ATS use.¹²

Drug seizures – During the past 3 years, crystalline methamphetamine seizures have increased significantly in Cambodia. In 2012, a total of 33.5 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized, marking a 75% increase since 2011, when 19.1 kg was seized. This signifies the highest amount ever reported by the country. Methamphetamine pill seizures declined by about 53% from 238,994 pills seized in 2011 to 112,723 pills in 2012. Ecstasy pill seizures in Cam-

Figure 20. Drug-related arrests in Cambodia, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP; 'Brief Operation Results of Cambodia Law Enforcement in Combating Drugs 2012', National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), 2013

bodia remain low compared to other countries in the region. In 2012, a total of 1,373 ecstasy pills were seized, marking an 83% decline from 2011 when 7,855 pills were seized.¹³

The smuggling and diversion of precursor chemicals from licit trade channels continues to be a problem in Cambodia. In 2012, an estimated 52 tons of precursor chemicals were seized in the country.¹⁴

Safrole-rich oils (SRO) continue to be illegally harvested and sold in Cambodia. SRO have various licit commercial uses in the perfume and pesticide industry, but are at risk of being diverted for the illicit manufacture of ecstasy. Cambodia is one of 3 countries in the region (along with China and Viet Nam) known to possess specific SRO production and trade regulation. In 2012, SRO seizures increased considerably

Table 30. Seizures of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	pills	116,772	137,249	82,746	238,994	112,723 ^a
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	1.9 ^b	4.6	9.9	19.1	33.5
Ecstasy	pills	33	3,352	1,056	7,855	1,373 ^c
Cannabis herb	kg	5.0	3.8	1.2	210.2	2.4
Cocaine	kg	0.2	1.0	0.9	1.1	41.0
Heroin	kg	5.3	26.7	2.4	2.1	0.3

● = Not reported/unspecified amount. ^aReported as 61,170 methamphetamine pills plus 5,155.3 grams; converted into estimated pill equivalents at 100 mg per pill. ^bPlus a number of 'small packs' undefined weight. ^cReported as 1,318 ecstasy pills plus 14.9 grams; converted into estimated pill equivalents of 250-300 mg per pill.

Source(s): DAINAP; 'Brief Operation Results of Cambodia Law Enforcement in Combating Drugs 2012' (NACD), 2013

¹⁰ Op. cit. NACD, June 2013.

¹¹ Op. cit. 'Brief Operation Results of Cambodia Law Enforcement in Combating Drugs 2012' (NACD), 2013.

¹² Op. cit. INCSR 2012.

¹³ Op. cit. 'Brief Operation Results of Cambodia Law Enforcement in Combating Drugs 2012' (NACD), 2013.

¹⁴ Op. cit. NACD, August 2013.

Table 31. ATS prices in Cambodia (USD), 2011-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	per pill	5	6
Crystalline methamphetamine	per kg	60,000	60,000
Ecstasy	per pill	9	25-30

Source(s): DAINAP; Cambodia country presentation, National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Phnom Penh, 24-25 July 2012

to about 13 tons¹⁵ from around 2.3 tons in 2011.¹⁶ Previously, there had been an overall downward trend in SRO seizures since the 42 tons seized in 2008: 14.2 tons in 2009 and 6.8 tons in 2010.¹⁷

In 2012, a total of 41 kg of cocaine was seized in Cambodia, increasing significantly from the 1.1 kg seized in 2011 and marking the highest total ever reported by the country.¹⁸ Prior to that, the largest amount of cocaine seized in Cambodia had been 5.1 kg in 2006. A large share of cocaine smuggled into Cambodia is destined for Thailand and other markets in the region.

Drug prices – The retail street price for one methamphetamine pill in Cambodia in 2012 was USD 6, signifying a slight increase from the previous year. The price for 1 kg of crystalline methamphetamine remained stable, at about USD 70,000. The street price for one ecstasy pill increased sharply, from USD 9 in 2011 to about USD 25-30 in 2012 and is likely due to the declining availability of ecstasy in Cambodia.

Sources of illicit drugs

Large quantities of methamphetamine are domestically manufactured; however due to the paucity of data the full extent of illicit drug manufacture in Cambodia is unknown. Over the last few years, Cambodian authorities have dismantled almost 20 facilities that were manufacturing methamphetamine or producing precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA. Some of the dismantled facilities, including the seized consignments of precursor

chemicals, were linked to Chinese drug trafficking organizations based in the Taiwan Province of China.¹⁹ Illicit SRO harvesting, commonly used as precursors for ecstasy, remains a problem in Cambodia.

In May 2012, the police conducted a series of drug raids and uncovered 6 illicit drug manufacturing sites in Phnom Penh including one clandestine laboratory which manufactured both methamphetamine and ecstasy.²⁰ Authorities seized large quantities of substances used in ecstasy and methamphetamine production including nearly 4,000 litres of SRO, most of which was believed to be destined for onward trafficking to Canada via Viet Nam and China.²¹

Even though cannabis is illicitly cultivated in Cambodia, cultivation levels continue to decline.²²

Trafficking – Transnational organized criminal networks from Asia and West Africa continue to target Cambodia as a major transit country for illicit drug and precursor chemical trafficking. Large quantities of methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) and heroin manufactured in Myanmar continue to be trafficked into Cambodia across its northeastern border from Lao PDR.²³ Majority of the drugs, particularly crystalline methamphetamine and heroin, are often repackaged for further trafficking via overland routes and with passenger plane couriers to neighbouring countries (primarily Thailand and Viet Nam) and to other markets, in particular Australia. In addition, international airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap are being increasingly used as key trafficking points for both inbound and outbound illicit drug consignments.²⁴ Between August and October 2012, a total of 12 persons were arrested in nine cases for attempting to smuggle around 16 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 41 kg of cocaine into the country. All the suspects were believed to have been recruited by African drug trafficking groups in Bangkok.²⁵ In addition, several tons of precursor chemicals and drug manufacturing equipment were smuggled via the Sihanoukville seaport and river ports in Phnom Penh in 2012.²⁶

¹⁹ Op. cit. NACD, July 2012.

²⁰ Official communication with the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), October 2012.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Op. cit. NACD, February 2013.

²³ Op. cit. NACD, June 2013.

²⁴ Op. cit. NACD, February 2012.

²⁵ Op. cit. NACD, August 2013.

²⁶ Op. cit. NACD, June 2013.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Cambodia country report, National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Op. cit. 'Brief Operation Results of Cambodia Law Enforcement in Combating Drugs 2012' (NACD), 2013.

Drug trafficking organizations continue to recruit women and minors to traffic illicit drugs to and via Cambodia. There has also been an increase in drug smuggling to Cambodia using express delivery postal services.²⁷

Cocaine is smuggled into Cambodia by plane and by post from a number of countries in South America, North America, West Africa and Europe, to be exported onwards to a third country along overland and air routes.²⁸ Many arrested drug couriers had been recruited by West African drug trafficking organizations. Some drug trafficking organizations from China, including the Taiwan Province of China, are mainly involved in ATS and heroin trafficking.²⁹

In August 2012, 2 royal Cambodian army officers were arrested by the Cambodian Police for drug trafficking and approximately 85,000 methamphetamine pills and over 1 kg of ecstasy were seized.³⁰

Forensic data

The average purity of methamphetamine pills decreased from 15-28% in 2010 to 14-20% in 2011 and further to 3-19% in 2012. Crystalline methamphetamine samples had purities ranging from 10-84% in 2012 decreasing from about 70-85% in the two previous years. The purity of ecstasy samples analyzed in 2011 and 2012 ranged from 17-40%.³¹

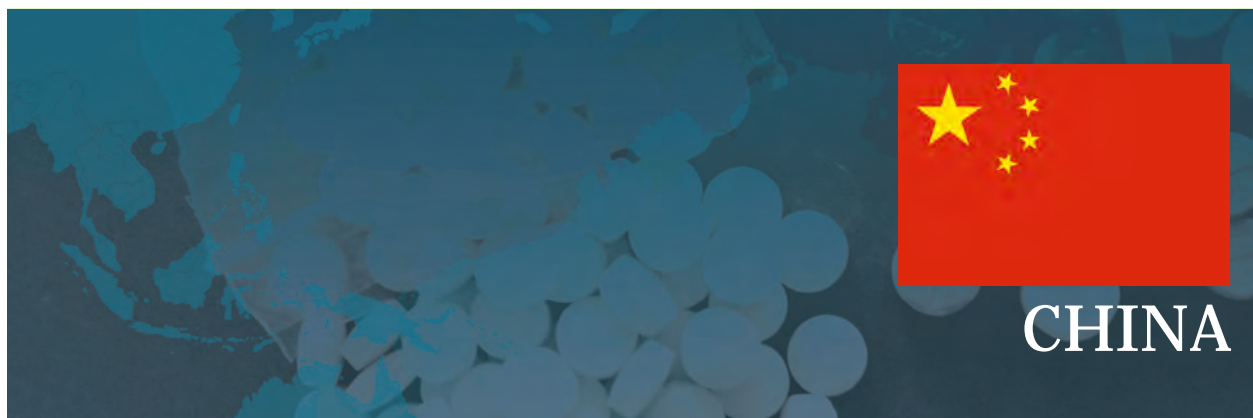
²⁷ 'Drug Enforcement Activities and Outcomes', General Department of Cambodia Customs and Excise (CCE), presented at the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific Regional Seminar for Information Exchange to Fight against Drug Trafficking, Seoul, 16-18 April 2013.

²⁸ Op. cit. NACD, February 2012; Op. cit. NACD, February 2013.

²⁹ Op. cit. NACD, July 2012.

³⁰ Cambodia country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2013/vol1/204048.htm>; date accessed: 10 July 2013).

³¹ Op. cit. NACD, August 2013.



Emerging trends and concerns

- A growth in the number of registered users, seizures and related arrests indicate that illicit drug use continues to be on the rise in China.
- The market for methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs is continuously expanding, particularly among young drug users, in China, including Hong Kong and Macao. Methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) and ketamine use has increased in China for five successive years.
- Transnational organized criminal groups appear to be increasingly targeting China as a destination and transit country for illicit drugs.
- The risk of diversion of precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs continues to be high.
- Cocaine is a growing threat in Hong Kong, China. The two largest cocaine seizures ever to have been reported in Hong Kong took place in 2011 and 2012 and there are indications that its use has significantly increased in 2012.

Overview of the drug situation

Methamphetamine use continues to increase in China, particularly among young drug users. Heroin remains the most widely used illicit drug, but its use is on the decline. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine and other synthetic psychoactive substances such as ketamine continues to be a problem. China is also being increasingly used by transnational criminal syndicates as a destination and transit country for illicit drugs. China is a major producer of precursor chemicals for legitimate use. However, significant quantities of precursor chemicals are being diverted by criminal groups for the manufacture of methamphetamine, as well as heroin and cocaine.

There are indications that China is a major producer and exporter of new psychoactive substances. In the last few years, however, the Government of China has undertaken a number of measures aimed at restricting the availability of these substances.

Ketamine use remains a problem, and it has been identified as the primary drug of concern among young drug users in Hong Kong, China. In addition, a number of indicators suggest that there has been a substantial increase in cocaine use in Hong Kong.

Patterns and trends of drug use¹

By the end of 2012, there were more than 2 million (2,098,000) registered drug users² in China, of which about 29% were identified as users of amphetamine-type substances (ATS).³ The share of ATS users among all registered drug users has continuously increased during the last few years, from about 9% in

¹ Figures for 'China' in this chapter do not include data for the Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of Hong Kong and Macao, and Taiwan Province. Data for Hong Kong, China are reported separately below.

² Registered drug users are persons who have come into contact with law enforcement authorities.

³ 'Annual Report on Drug Control in China 2013', China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, Beijing, 2013.

Table 32. Rank of use of selected drugs in China, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*
Crystalline methamphetamine	2	2	2	2	2
Methamphetamine pills	2	2	2	2	2
Ecstasy	3	3	3	5	4
Cannabis	•	•	•	6	6
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1
Ketamine	5	5	5	3	3
Opium	4	4	4	4	5

• = Not reported *2012 rankings based on the number of registered drug users, by drug type, during that year.
Source(s): DAINAP; NNCC, 2013; Official communication with the China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, Beijing, October 2012

Table 33. Trend in use of selected drugs in China, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Ecstasy	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑
Cannabis	•	•	•	•	•
Heroin	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑
Ketamine	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Opium	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, • = Not reported *2012 drug use trend data based on the number of registered drug users, by drug type, compared with the previous year.
Source(s): DAINAP; NNCC, 2013; NNCC, October 2013; NNCC, October 2012

2008 to 14% in 2009, 19% in 2010 and to 23% in 2011.⁴ Methamphetamine (in both pill and crystalline) form remains the second most commonly used illicit drug in China.

In 2012, a total of 210,000 synthetic drug (methamphetamine or ketamine) users were newly registered, which marks a 44% increase of 64,000 persons since the previous year. The 210,000 registered synthetic drug users in 2012 accounted for 68.8% of all the 305,000 newly registered drug users.⁵

In 2012, the average age of newly registered synthetic drug users declined. Methamphetamine and ketamine users below the age of 35 accounted for 28.8% of all newly registered drug users, an increase of 4% since

the previous year.⁶ However, the share of registered drug users below the age of 35 has annually declined somewhat from 59.7% in 2008 to 55.4% in 2012.⁷

Heroin remains the primary drug of concern in China, as has been the case for the past several decades. In recent years, however, the proportion of registered heroin users has been on the decline, from roughly 78% of all drug users in 2008 to about 59.3% in 2012.⁸ Heroin continues to be the primary drug of use among older drug users. Among all registered drug users above the age of 35 in 2012, 78.1% were opiate users.⁹

⁴ China country presentation, China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Phnom Penh, 24-25 July 2012.

⁵ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013; 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

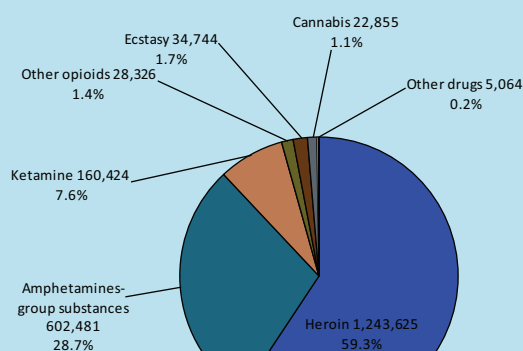
⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013.

⁸ Op. cit. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013; Official communication with the China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), October 2013.

⁹ China country presentation, China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), 26-27 February 2013.

Figure 21. Registered drug users in China, by drug type, 2012



Source(s): NNCC, 2013

Injecting drug use

The injecting use of methamphetamine is indicated to have stabilized in China. An estimated 3.5% of all injecting drug users inject methamphetamine. By the end of 2011, the latest year for which data are available, approximately 780,000 persons were estimated to be living with HIV, of which some 28.4% were infected through injecting drug use. Of the estimated 48,000 new HIV infections reported in 2011, 18% were transmitted through injecting drug use.¹⁰

HIV prevalence among injecting drug users in 2011 was 6.4% in 2011, down from 6.9% in 2010 and 9.3% in 2009.¹¹ However, in some areas such as in Yili City, Xinjiang Province, as many as 89% of injecting drug users were HIV positive in 2011.¹²

New psychoactive substances

Ketamine continues to be the most widely used new psychoactive substance (NPS) in China. Multi-ton ketamine seizures are reported in the country each year. Ketamine is manufactured in China for legitimate medical purposes. However, significant quantities of ketamine are also manufactured illicitly in clandestine laboratories. In 2012, a total of 81 clandestine ket-

¹⁰ '2012 China AIDS Response Progress Report' Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China, Beijing, 31 March 2012.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² 'HIV in China: Facts and Figures', UNAIDS (Accessed at: <http://www.unaids.org.cn/en/index/page.asp?id=197&class=2&classname=China+Epidemic+%26+Response>; date accessed: 13 July 2012).

amine laboratories were seized in China.¹³ Ketamine use in China is indicated to have increased annually in the last five years.

Governments in Asia indicate that China (along with India) is a major producer and exporter of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones as well as other NPS found in Asia. In recent years, the Government of China has taken measures to restrict the availability of NPS. Mephedrone was listed as a controlled substance in September 2010, and additional measures have been taken in 2012 to advance the control of synthetic cannabinoids (JWH¹⁴ compounds) and synthetic cathinones (MDPV¹⁵). In addition, China is one of the few countries in Asia (Australia is another) that uses emergency scheduling to temporarily ban NPS during which time the legislative process can be completed and/or a thorough assessment of the risks can be conducted.¹⁶

Drug treatment

In 2012, approximately 305,000 drug users were newly identified and registered nationwide. Of the total drug users in treatment in 2012, more than 202,000 drug users received compulsory drug treatment and more than 136,000 received community-based treatment and rehabilitation.¹⁷

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2012, a total of 132,783 persons¹⁸ were arrested for drug-related offences in 121,836 separate cases, while 112,406 persons were arrested in 101,700 cases in 2011. This represents an increase of approximately 18% and 20% respectively.¹⁹ Of the 121,836 cases of drug-related arrests in 2012, approximately 40% (49,138 cases) were related to methamphetamine and 36% (43,411 cases) were related to heroin.²⁰ Ecstasy-related arrest data for

¹³ Op. cit. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013.

¹⁴ JWH belongs to the group of aminoalkylindoles.

¹⁵ MDPV refers to 3,4-methylenedioxypropylvalerone.

¹⁶ 'The challenge of new psychoactive substances', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global SMART Programme, Vienna, March 2013.

¹⁷ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013; Op. cit. NNCC, October 2013.

¹⁸ Some persons were arrested in connection with multiple drugs. Thus, the aggregate totals in Table 34 (134,916) exceed 132,783 persons.

¹⁹ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013.

²⁰ Op. cit. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013.

Table 34. Drug-related arrests in China, 2012

Drug Type	National			Non-national		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	44,922	9,054	53,926	52	35	87
Methamphetamine pills	16,836	3,264	20,100	258	564	822
Methamphetamine powder	506	108	614	0	0	0
Ketamine	9,354	1,238	10,592	4	2	6
Cocaine	85	11	96	46	15	61
Heroin	38,807	8,119	46,926	255	767	1,022
Opium	482	138	620	27	17	44
Total	110,992	21,932	132,874	642	1,400	2,042

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; NNCC, October 2013

2012 were not reported to the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and Pacific (DAINAP).

The number of foreign nationals arrested for drug-related offences in 2012 (1,695 persons from 78 countries) declined by 52% since 2011 when 3,557 foreign nationals were arrested from an unspecified number of countries.²¹

Drug seizures – The total amount of methamphetamine seized in China increased by 13%, from 14.3 tons in 2011 to about 16.2 tons in 2012.²² Of the total amount seized in 2012, more than half (9 tons of methamphetamine pills, or 55% of the total) was seized in Yunnan province, bordering Myanmar and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).²³ Methamphetamine seizures in Yunnan increased by 23.5% in 2012. In that year, 5.6 tons of various illicit drugs seized in Yunnan originated from Lao PDR, marking a 13% increase since 2011.²⁴ Ecstasy seizures increased by 18% in 2012 to 374,433 pills.

Heroin seizures in China slightly increased in 2012, to about 7.3 tons,²⁵ of which approximately 74% was seized in Yunnan Province.²⁶

Ketamine seizures have remained relatively stable at an average of about 5.3 tons since 2007. In 2012, ketamine seizures declined by approximately 12% to 4.7 tons from 5.4 tons in 2011.²⁷

²¹ Ibid.

²² Op. cit. NNCC, 2013.

²³ Op. cit. NNCC, China country presentation, February 2013.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013.

²⁶ Op. cit. NNCC, China country presentation, February 2013.

²⁷ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013.

Drug prices – China did not report drug price data to DAINAP in 2012.

Sources of illicit drugs

Many clandestine synthetic drug manufacturing facilities are dismantled annually in China, most of which manufacture crystalline methamphetamine or ketamine. In 2012, a total of 326 clandestine synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were dismantled, which is a 9% decrease from the 357 facilities dismantled in 2011.²⁸ Of the 326 clandestine laboratories dismantled, 228 (70%) were manufacturing crystalline methamphetamine,²⁹ of which more than half were seized in Guangdong province.³⁰ A large number of clandestine laboratories were also seized in the Chengdu area of Sichuan province.³¹ Most (about 90%) of the clandestine crystalline methamphetamine laboratories seized used *Ephedra* plant or pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as precursors.³² Few crystalline methamphetamine laboratories used P-2-P as a primary precursor chemical, and China has also reported the emerging use of P-1-P as a methamphetamine precursor.³³ Overall, 378 clandestine synthetic drug manufacturing laboratories were dismantled in 2010, 391 in 2009 and 244 in 2008.

Most of the clandestine laboratories dismantled in 2012

²⁸ Op. cit. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Op. cit. NNCC, China country presentation, February 2013.

³¹ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013.

³² Op. cit. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013.

³³ Ibid.

Table 35. Seizures of selected drugs in China, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	5,523.3	4,479.0	4,186.0	6,022.7	5,939.9
Methamphetamine pills	pills	6,255,658	40,640,038	58,443,664	81,554,400 ^a	102,242,000 ^b
Ecstasy	pills	1,077,552	1,062,173	1,272,904	317,886 ^c	374,433 ^d
Ketamine	kg	5,271.1	5,323.0	4,905.0	5,380.0	4,716.6
Cannabis herb	kg	●	●	3,186.0	2,630.0	4,228.2
Cannabis resin	kg	●	●	●	980.1	●
Cocaine	kg	530.0 ^e	41.0	441.0	48.0	●
Heroin	kg	4,332.3	5,837.4	5,353.0	7,080.0	7,287.1
Opium	kg	1,375.0	1,302.6	1,015.0	823.2	844.7

● = Not reported. ^aReported as 19,232,559 million pills plus 4,271.4 kg; converted into estimated pill equivalents at 100 mg per pill. ^bReported as 10,224.2 kg; converted into estimated pill equivalents at 100 mg per pill. ^cReported as 71,553 ecstasy pills plus 73.9 kg; converted into estimated pill equivalents at 250-300 mg per pill. ^dReported as 112.33 kg; converted into estimated pill equivalents at 250-300 mg per pill. ^eInformation from unconfirmed reports; not formally reported by NNCC.

Source(s): DAINAP; NNCC, 2013; 'Annual Report on Drug Control in China 2011', China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, Beijing, 2011; Official communication with the China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, Beijing, 18 July 2011

Figure 22. Methamphetamine (in crystalline and pill form) seizures in China, 2001-2012



Source(s): NNCC, 2013

were small-scale manufacturing facilities.³⁴ However, in September 2012, Chinese law enforcement authorities dismantled an industrial-scale facility in Hunan province, arresting 14 persons including one Mexican national. More than 660 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 19.8 tons of unidentified chemicals and materials were seized.³⁵

A total of 81 illicit ketamine manufacturing facilities were dismantled in China in 2012, accounting for about 25% of all clandestine synthetic drug labora-

tories dismantled that year of which 67 laboratories (83%) were dismantled in Guangdong province.³⁶

In response to the increase in pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine illicitly sold by pharmaceutical companies and pharmacies to drug traffickers, the Government of China has adopted a series of control measures to prevent pharmaceutical preparations containing such substances from being diverted to the illicit market.³⁷ As a result, seizures of pharmaceutical preparations containing

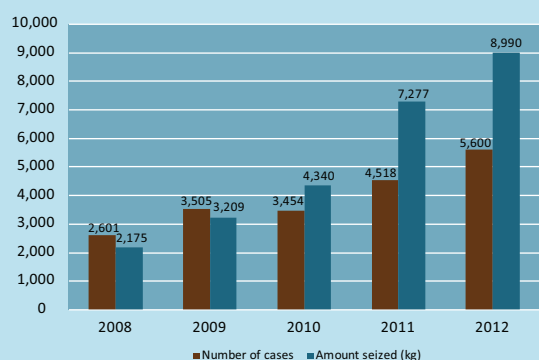
³⁴ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013.

³⁵ Op. cit. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ 'Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

Figure 23. Methamphetamine seizures in Yunnan province, 2008-2012



Source(s): NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013

ephedrine or pseudoephedrine have sharply declined during the last 2 years.³⁸

However, precursor chemical seizures have substantially increased in China in 2012.³⁹ The number of substances diverted for illicit drug manufacture increased from 20 controlled substances (primarily ephedrine and hydroxylamine hydrochloride) in 2011 to 40 uncontrolled substances in 2012, including pharmaceutical preparations and ethyl phenylacetate.⁴⁰ In 2012, 1,128 criminal cases were reported in China that involved the diversion of precursor chemicals, and approximately 5,824 tons of various precursor chemicals and other materials used for the manufacture of illicit drugs were seized,⁴¹ which is a substantial increase from the previous year. In addition, 43 shipments of some 1,442 tons of precursor chemicals were suspended in 2012,⁴² increasing from only 10 shipments of 720 tons of precursor chemicals suspended in 2011.⁴³

China is also a major source of safrole-rich oils (SRO),⁴⁴ which can be used for the illicit manufacture of ecstasy.

³⁸ Op. cit. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Op. cit. NNCC, 2013.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ 'Annual Report on Drug Control in China 2012', China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, Beijing, 2012.

⁴⁴ Safrole is a substance listed in Table 1 of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The volume of safrole that can be extracted from safrole oil varies and is generally less than 20% of the volume of safrole oil.

In April 2012, a joint operation of law enforcement authorities in China and Australia led to the dismantling of a transnational organized drug trafficking group that intended to smuggle approximately 3.4 tons of SRO from China to Australia. Most of the SRO, disguised as liquid hair products, had been smuggled between April and August 2011 and was seized by the Australian authorities once the shipments had arrived in Sydney. It is likely that the seized substance was intended for illicit MDMA manufacture in Australia.⁴⁵

Trafficking – Most methamphetamine trafficked to China is smuggled from Myanmar to Yunnan, Guangdong and Guanxi province for onward trafficking to regions further inland.⁴⁶ Methamphetamine smuggling from Myanmar to Yunnan province in southwestern China continues to be on the rise. In 2012, nearly 9 tons of methamphetamine pills originating from Myanmar were seized in Yunnan increasing from approximately 7.3 tons seized in 2011 and 4.3 tons seized in 2010.⁴⁷ It is believed that enhanced law enforcement efforts along the border with Myanmar, in particular along the Mekong River, have compelled drug traffickers to increasingly smuggle drugs to China overland via Lao PDR. In 2012, drug control authorities in Yunnan province seized 5.6 tons of various illicit drugs, primarily methamphetamine and heroin, from Lao PDR, signifying a 13% increase from the previous year.⁴⁸

Large quantities of heroin originating from Myanmar and Southwest Asia and methamphetamine originating from Myanmar continue to be trafficked to China via Viet Nam by overland routes, sea cargo, passenger plane couriers and postal services.⁴⁹

About 90% of the heroin seized in China in 2012 originated from Myanmar, while a total of 192.4 kg of heroin originating from Afghanistan was seized in 98 separate cases throughout the year.⁵⁰ Heroin is also trafficked to China from Lao PDR, Pakistan and Tajikistan.⁵¹ A large amount of the heroin trafficked to China is con-

⁴⁵ Op. cit. INCB, March 2013.

⁴⁶ Op. cit. NNCC, July 2012.

⁴⁷ Op. cit. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013.

⁴⁸ Op. cit. NNCC, China country presentation, February 2013; Ibid. NNCC, 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', February 2013.

⁴⁹ Ibid. NNCC, China country presentation, February 2013.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ INCSR China 2013. China country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2013/vol1/204048.htm>; date accessed: 08 July 2013).

sumed domestically. However, significant quantities are also transshipped via the country in sea cargo or fishing vessels to markets in other parts of Asia and Australia.⁵²

Drug smuggling activities by foreign traffickers in China, especially from West Africa, have been on the rise in recent years. In 2012, there were 41 cases that involved heroin smuggling from Afghanistan by passenger plane couriers from whom a total of 61.5 kg of heroin were seized.⁵³ The drug couriers were believed to have been recruited by West African drug trafficking groups. In addition, 28 cases involved the trafficking of Afghan heroin in 2012 via postal services by West African criminal groups. A total of 11.9 kg of heroin was seized, and parcels were sent primarily from India, Bangladesh and Malaysia.⁵⁴

Due to China's large chemical industry, the country continues to be a key source of chemicals used as precursors and/or pre-precursors in the manufacture of illicit drugs. A large portion of these chemicals and substances are diverted from licit channels by drug traffickers. In 2012, China was reported as the country of embarkation for a number of shipments of *alpha*-phenylacetonitrile (APAAN),⁵⁵ destined for Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Netherlands and Romania. The shipments had a total weight of approximately 20 tons of APAAN. In addition, 6 seizures of methylamine were reported in 4 countries in Central and North America in between January and October of 2012 totaling more than 130,000 litres. It is estimated that 90% of methylamine seized originated from China. Methylamine is a non-scheduled substance which, when used together with P-2-P or 3,4-MDP-2-P, can produce methamphetamine and MDMA, respectively.⁵⁶

Forensic data

No forensic data were reported to DAINAP for 2012. Crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in China in 2011 displayed a typical purity of 90%. The highest purity recorded was 99%.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Op. cit. NNCC, China country presentation, February 2013.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Also known as APAAN or 1-cyano-P-2-P. It can be converted cheaply and easily to P-2-P, or BMK, benzyl methyl ketone.

⁵⁶ 'Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China)

Heroin remains the most widely used drug in Hong Kong, China. However, heroin is most popular among older drug users and its use has been on the decline during the past decade. Ketamine continues to be the second most commonly used drug among all drug users and the most commonly used drug among young drug users.⁵⁷

Methamphetamine use, related arrests and seizure data suggest that this market continues to expand in Hong Kong. Methamphetamine use has annually increased during the past decade making up 13.4% of the drug user population,⁵⁸ and 26.6% of reported drug users under the age of 21.⁵⁹ Crystalline methamphetamine-related arrests in 2012 (970 arrests) are the highest reported during the past decade. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures totaled 73.2 kg in 2012 signifying a 91% increase from the 38.4 kg seized in the previous year and the second highest total reported during the past decade.⁶⁰ Crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed by the Hong Kong Government Laboratory in 2012 displayed an average purity level of about 95.25%.⁶¹

Illicit drug manufacture is rare in Hong Kong, China. In recent years, a few small-scale 'crack' cocaine manufacturing facilities were dismantled. In addition, a large crystalline methamphetamine operation housed in an industrial estate was dismantled in 2010⁶² and a few small-scale clandestine crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facilities were dismantled in previous years.

Ecstasy use, seizures and arrests have declined sharply

⁵⁷ 'Central Registry of Drug Abuse, Sixty-first Report, 2002-2011', Narcotics Division, Security Bureau (NDSB), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China, 2013.

⁵⁸ Drug user data is based on information collated by the Central Registry of Drug Abuse from reports sent to it by law enforcement departments, treatment and welfare agencies, educational institutions, hospitals and clinics. Figures in this chapter refer to data reported in 2011, the latest year for which data are available.

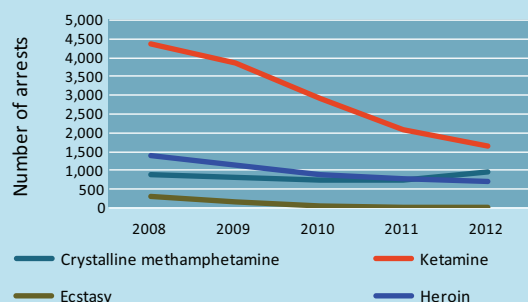
⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ 'Narcotics Bureau Quarterly Report, 4Q – 2012 (October – December)', Narcotics Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force (HKNB), presented at the 'Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² 'Drug Situation Report, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China', Narcotics Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force (HKNB), presented at the Sixteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 22-24 February 2011.

Figure 24. Drug-related arrests in Hong Kong, China, 2008-2012



Source(s): HKNB, June 2013 and previous reports by the Narcotics Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force

in recent years. This is likely due to a combination of factors including the declining availability of MDMA worldwide, the growing popularity of the significantly less expensive ketamine, and the expansion of the cocaine market in Hong Kong, China. The 198 ecstasy pills seized in 2012 is by far the lowest total reported in over a decade.⁶³ As in other parts of the region, many of the pills sold as 'ecstasy' in Hong Kong continue to contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA, such as ketamine, methamphetamine, TFMPP⁶⁴ and PMMA.^{65, 66}

In addition, a number of other new psychoactive substances have emerged in Hong Kong in recent years which include synthetic cathinones (before 2008), khat (in 2009) and synthetic cannabinoids (in 2010).⁶⁷ However, NPS use in Hong Kong remains limited. In July 2012, gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), the precursor chemical used for the manufacture of GHB, and *salvia divinorum* became controlled substances in Hong Kong.⁶⁸

There are indications that ketamine use may be on the decline in Hong Kong. In 2012, ketamine users accounted for 31.5% of all drug users in Hong Kong decreasing from 36% in 2011. Among drug users below

⁶³ Op. cit. HKNB, June 2013.

⁶⁴ TFMPP refers to 1-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine.

⁶⁵ PMMA refers to 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylaminopropane.

⁶⁶ 'Narcotics Bureau Quarterly Report, 3Q – 2012 (July – September)', Narcotics Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force (HKNB), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

⁶⁷ Op. cit. UNODC, March 2013.

⁶⁸ 'Country report by Hong Kong, China', Narcotics Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force (HKNB), presented at the Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (HONLAP), Bangkok, 30 October – 2 November 2012.

the age of 21, an estimated 70.4% used ketamine which also signifies a decline from 80% in the year before.⁶⁹ A total of 1,644 persons were arrested for ketamine-related offences in 2012, the lowest total reported since 2006. Ketamine seizures have increased substantially in each of the last 2 years. In 2012, nearly 724 kg of ketamine was seized, almost three times the amount seized in the previous year and the second highest total reported during the past decade (more than 1 ton of ketamine was seized in 2006). This increase is primarily due to a large seizure of 412 kg of ketamine at Kwai Chung Container Terminal by Customs in May 2012.⁷⁰ The consignment arrived from Guangzhou province in China and was destined for Malaysia.⁷¹

Heroin seizures in Hong Kong decreased sharply in 2012 to 78 kg after having substantially increased in 2011 when nearly 172 kg of heroin were seized, making it the highest total reported during the past decade.⁷² Most heroin seized in Hong Kong originates from Myanmar and limited amounts are from South-west Asia.⁷³

There have been record seizures of cocaine in Hong Kong during the last three years. In 2012, a total of 782 kg of cocaine was seized, and in July the largest seizure ever reported consisting of 649 kg of heroin was made at the Kwai Chung Container Terminals. The consignment was concealed in a sea cargo container and had arrived from Ecuador.⁷⁴ Previous record-high seizures of cocaine were also reported in 2011 (567 kg) and in 2010 (290 kg).⁷⁵ In addition, a number of drug couriers from South America were arrested in Hong Kong in 2012.⁷⁶ The seizures and arrests are another indicator of the growing demand for cocaine in Hong Kong and in the Asia and Pacific region. These cases also raise con-

⁶⁹ Op. cit. NDSB, 2013.

⁷⁰ Op. cit. HKNB, June 2013.

⁷¹ 'HK Customs smashes transnational drug trafficking case with seizure of 412 kg of ketamine', Press Release, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, 1 June 2012 (Accessed at: <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201206/01/P201206010361.htm>; date accessed: 08 July 2013).

⁷² Op. cit. HKNB, June 2013.

⁷³ Op. cit. HKNB, February 2013.

⁷⁴ 'HK Customs smashes drug trafficking case with record seizure of 649kg of cocaine', Press Release, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, 6 July 2012 (Accessed at: http://www.customs.gov.hk/en/publication_press/press/index_id_892.html; date accessed: 08 July 2013).

⁷⁵ HKNB, February 2012.

⁷⁶ Hong Kong Special Administrative Region report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2013/vol1/204050.htm>; date accessed: 08 July 2013).

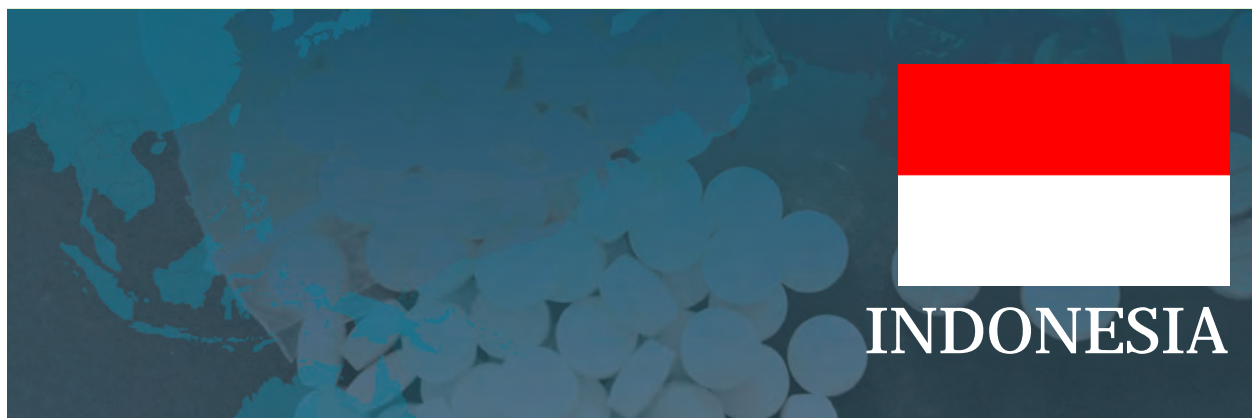
Table 36. Seizures of selected drugs in Hong Kong, China, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	23.9	40.1	101.8 ^a	38.4 ^b	73.2
Ecstasy	pills	11,984	7,146	5,810	983	198
Ketamine	kg	423.3	472.3	189.1	276.3	723.9
Cannabis herb	kg	244.1	84.6	8.8 ^c	14.9 ^d	7.9 ^e
Cannabis resin	kg	16.5	22.5	5.5	28.2	31.2
Cocaine	kg	63.7	102.9	579.7	776.5	782.0
Heroin	kg	46.4	37.1	68.5	171.7	78.0

^aReported as 101.8 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 73 lt. of liquid methamphetamine. ^bReported as 38.4 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 0.362 lt. of liquid methamphetamine. ^cIn addition to 58 cannabis plants. ^dIn addition to 756 cannabis plants. ^eIn addition to 388 cannabis plants. Source(s): HKNB, February 2011; Narcotics Bureau Quarterly Report (July – September 2011)', Narcotics Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force (HKNB), presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 14-16 February 2012; 'Narcotics Bureau Quarterly Report, 2Q – 2012 (April-June)', Narcotics Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force (HKNB), presented at the Twenty-second Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Busan, Republic of Korea, 12-14 September 2012; HKNB, June 2013

cern that Hong Kong is becoming a transit point for cocaine originating from South and Central America. In 2011, 7.5% of all drug users in Hong Kong reported to have used cocaine, which is the highest figure reported during the past decade, while 20% of drug users below the age of 21 had used cocaine that year.⁷⁷

⁷⁷ Op. cit. NDSB, 2013.



Emerging trends and concerns

- The trafficking of crystalline methamphetamine into Indonesia by transnational organized criminal groups continues to be a major concern.
- The amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized in 2012 was the highest total ever reported in Indonesia. In addition, the number of ecstasy pills seized in the country has been on the increase four successive years.
- The injecting use of methamphetamine and ecstasy is reported to have increased in 2012. Injecting drug use continues to be a primary mode of HIV transmission in Indonesia; the proportion of injecting drug users living with HIV remains high despite a decrease in recent years.
- The large amounts of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine required for licit industrial purposes in Indonesia also heightens the risk of these substances being diverted for illicit ATS manufacture.

Overview of the drug situation

Indonesia has one of the world's largest markets for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). Although ATS use has remained relatively stable over the past few years, it has expanded throughout Indonesia, both geographically and demographically. Significant quantities of crystalline methamphetamine and ecstasy continue to be manufactured domestically. In addition, transnational organized criminal groups from outside the region continue to target Indonesia as a destination and transit country for ATS.

Cannabis remains the most widely used drug in Indonesia. In addition, the use of dextromethorphan, a cough suppressant, has increased rapidly among illicit drug users in recent years. Indonesia also has a large market for heroin, and its users continue to account for a large portion of persons admitted to drug treatment centres. However, heroin use has shown an overall declining trend in the last five years.

The use of new psychoactive substances is relatively limited in Indonesia. Ketamine use, although not widespread, continues to be a problem. A large number of

pills sold as 'ecstasy' contain ketamine and other psychoactive substances in place of MDMA. More recently, piperazines and synthetic cathinones have emerged on the illicit drug market in Indonesia.

Patterns and trends of drug use

In 2012, there were an estimated 1.2 million problem drug users in the country, of which 90% were ATS users. The percentage of the general population aged 16 to 59 years that had ever used an illicit drug in their lifetime was 12.8% (16.3% for men and 8.0% for women).¹ The lifetime prevalence for use of methamphetamine was estimated at 2.4% (3.5% for men and 0.8% for women with a past-year prevalence of 0.7% (1.0% for men and 0.2% for women). ATS use is especially prevalent among labourers, students and commercial sex workers. The highest lifetime prevalence was for dextromethorphan (8.4%) followed by cannabis (7.2%).²

¹ Data are based on the 'Study of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in the Workplace in Indonesia 2012', conducted by the National Narcotics Board of Indonesia (BNN) and the Center for Health Research, University of Indonesia.

² ARQ Indonesia 2013. 'Annual Report Questionnaire for 2012', Indonesia 2013.

Table 37. Rank of drugs of concern in Indonesia, 2008-2012³

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	2	2	1	1	1
Methamphetamine pills*	●	●	3	5	●
Ecstasy	2	3	5	3	5
Barbiturates	●	●	6	6	10
Benzodiazepines	3	4	7	7	7
Cannabis herb	1	1	2	2	2
Cannabis resin	●	10	8	9	9
Cocaine	8	9	10	10	8
Heroin	4	5	4	4	3
Ketamine	7	6	9	8	13
Buprenorphine	●	●	●	●	4
Trihexyphenidyl	●	●	●	●	6
LSD	●	●	●	●	12
Amphetamine	●	●	●	●	11

● = Not reported. *Primarily 'ecstasy' pills containing methamphetamine.

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 38. Trend in use of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔
Methamphetamine pills	●	●	↑	↓	●
Ecstasy	↑	↓	↔	↑	↑
Barbiturates	●	●	↑	↔	↑
Benzodiazepines	↑	↑	↓	↔	↔
Cannabis herb	↔	↑	↓	↔	↔
Cannabis resin	●	↑	↑	↓	↔
Cocaine	↓	↓	↔	↔	↓
Heroin	↓	↓	↑	↔	↓
Ketamine	↔	↑	↓	↑	↑

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

The prevalence of drug use among school students is indicated to have decreased in 2011, the latest year for which data are available. A survey of drug use among school students⁴ found that in 2011 methamphetamine prevalence was 0.4% (lifetime), 0.2% (past year) and 0.4% (last 30 days). The highest prevalence was for cannabis 1.7% (lifetime), 1.1% (past year) and 1.4% (last 30 days).

Crystalline methamphetamine is primarily smoked and also snorted (nasal insufflation), although a small number of users administer the drug by injection. The use of methamphetamine in pill form is less common in Indonesia, but pills sold as ecstasy have been found to contain methamphetamine.

Injecting drug use

The two primary modes of HIV transmission in Indonesia continue to be sexual transmission and injecting drug use. In 2011, the latest year for which data

³ Rankings are based on drug seizures during the year. Cannabis herb remains the primary drug of use in Indonesia.

⁴ Data are based on the 'National Survey on Drug Abuse Among the Student, 2011' conducted by the BNN and the Center for Health Research, University of Indonesia.

Table 39. Drug treatment admissions in Indonesia by drug type, 2012

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Methamphetamine	610	52	662	915	78	993
Ecstasy	311	27	338	442	42	484
Benzodiazepines	196	16	212	277	22	299
Cannabis	508	28	536	740	41	781
Cocaine	35	1	36	52	3	55
Heroin	500	38	538	1,031	73	1,104
Barbiturates	6	2	8	9	3	12
Multi drugs	37	3	40	53	3	56
Total	2,203	167	2,370	3,519	265	3,784

Source(s): DAINAP

are available, there were an estimated 74,326 injecting drug users in Indonesia.⁵ The proportion of injecting drug users living with HIV remains high despite the decline in recent years, from approximately 52.4% in 2007⁶ to 42.4% in 2011.⁷

An estimated 3.8% of crystalline methamphetamine users inject the drug⁸ and the injecting use of methamphetamine is indicated to have increased in 2012. Approximately 87.5% of heroin users and 38.8% of pharmaceutical opioids⁹ users inject the drug.¹⁰ In addition, the injecting use of suboxone (13.9%), buprenorphine (12.0%), ketamine (2.0%) and other drugs has been reported in Indonesia. Approximately 0.4% of ecstasy users inject the drug, indicating a marginal increase in 2012.

New psychoactive substances

Ketamine continues to be the most widely used new psychoactive substance in Indonesia. Considerable albeit declining quantities of ketamine have been seized in Indonesia during the past few years (117 kg in

2010, 49 kg in 2011 and 13 kg in 2012). Indonesia has also reported seizures of synthetic cannabinoids (JWH-018 and its analogues), various piperazines including TFMPP (1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl) piperazine) and BZP (*N*-benzylpiperazine), phenethylamines and kratom.^{11,12} The Government of Indonesia reported the emergence of synthetic cathinones on the illicit drug market in 2012.¹³ In February 2013, anti-drug officials eradicated two to three hectares of khat plants in Bogor, West Java. Khat contains the amphetamine-like stimulant cathinone, which is a controlled under the 2009 Anti-Narcotics Law.¹⁴

Drug treatment

ATS users accounted for about 39% of all persons receiving drug treatment in 2012 (26% for crystalline methamphetamine and 13% for ecstasy), compared with 43% in 2011. Crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for the largest proportion (28%) of all new admissions to drug treatment during the year. The average age of crystalline methamphetamine users that received drug treatment during the year was 34 years. Of the 265 women in drug treatment in 2012, 78 (29%) were treated for crystalline methamphetamine

⁵ Figures based on a behaviour rapid survey conducted by the National AIDS Commission of Indonesia, Ministry of Health in 2011. The survey covered nine cities in Indonesia from 2010 through 2012 and used the Poisson Regression Modeling estimation methodology.

⁶ NAC 2012. 'Republic of Indonesia Country Report on the Follow up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS), Reporting period 2010-2011', Indonesia National AIDS Commission (NAC), March 2012.

⁷ ARQ Indonesia 2013. 'Annual Report Questionnaire for 2012', Indonesia 2013.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Pharmaceutical opioids may include preparations containing buprenorphine, codeine, dextropropoxyphene, fentanyl, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone and pethidine.

¹⁰ ARQ Indonesia 2013. 'Annual Report Questionnaire for 2012', Indonesia 2013.

¹¹ Kratom is a substance derived from the *mitragyna speciosa* plant and produces both stimulant and sedative effects. It is indigenous to countries in Southeast Asia, in particular Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.

¹² 'The challenge of new psychoactive substances', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global SMART Programme, Vienna, March 2013; 'Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

¹³ Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP).

¹⁴ Jakarta Globe 2013. 'BNN Discovers '2-3 Hectares' of Khat Drug in Bogor', Jakarta Globe, 4 February 2013 (Accessed at: <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/archive/bnn-discovers-2-3-hectares-of-khat-drug-in-bogor/>; date accessed; 20 July 2013).

Table 40. Drug-related arrests in Indonesia, 2012

Drug type	National			Non-national		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	13,740	1,293	15,033	56	7	63
Ecstasy	989	135	1,124	9	1	10
Barbiturates	142	15	157	0	0	0
Benzodiazepines	209	13	222	2	0	2
Cannabis herb	8,278	150	8,428	18	0	18
Cannabis plants	32	0	32	0	0	0
Cannabis resin	0	0	0	5	0	5
Cocaine	3	1	4	3	2	5
Ketamine	2	0	2	1	0	1
Heroin	520	37	557	3	2	5
Methamphetamine powder	0	2	2	0	0	0
Total	23,915	1,646	25,561	97	12	109

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

use and 42 (16%) were treated for ecstasy use. While the number of new admissions for crystalline methamphetamine use increased in 2012 by about 12% compared with the previous year, the number of all admissions for crystalline methamphetamine use declined by 64%. Heroin users accounted for the largest portion of all drug treatment admissions in 2012 (29%) and about 23% of new admissions.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2012, there was a slight decrease (less than 5%) in crystalline methamphetamine related arrests (15,033) compared with the previous year (15,766). The proportion of drug-related arrests involving crystalline methamphetamine also decreased slightly, to 59% in 2012 compared with 61% in the previous year (and 53% in 2010 and 38% in 2009). Approximately 78% of all women arrested for drug-related offences in 2012 were arrested for crystalline methamphetamine, similar to the previous year. As a proportion of total drug-related arrests in 2012, women accounted for about 6%, compared with 14% in 2011.

In 2012, a total of 109 foreign nationals were arrested in Indonesia for drug-related offences, of which about 58% were arrested for crystalline methamphetamine.

Drug seizures – Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in Indonesia have increased substantially during

the past three years. In 2012, nearly 2.1 mt of crystalline methamphetamine were seized representing a 75% increase over the previous year and the highest total ever reported in Indonesia. In addition, quantities of methamphetamine powder have been seized in Indonesia during the past two years (1.1 kg in 2012, and 5.4 kg in 2011).

For the third consecutive year, the quantity of ecstasy pills seized in the country increased significantly with approximately 4.3 million pills seized in 2012. This represents almost a four-fold increase in the number of pills seized in 2011 (1.1 million) and the highest total reported during the past five years.

In 2012, the amount of ketamine seized in Indonesia continued to decline while seizures of heroin, cocaine, cannabis resin and barbiturates all showed significant increases.

Drug prices – The retail street prices for most illicit drugs have risen in recent years, in part due to declining availability. In 2012, however, the price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine ranged from about USD 155 to USD 250, slightly lower than the previous year. The retail price for one ecstasy pill in 2012 remained stable compared with the previous year.

Table 41. Seizures of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	709.9	239.5	649.1	1,168.7	2,050.6
Ecstasy	pills	1,091,205	318,936	434,660	1,096,249	4,272,228
Barbiturates	pills	●	●	100,932	158,577	426,794
Benzodiazepines	pills	6,485,246	2,369,720	785,936	526,242	512,523
Cannabis herb	kg	140,496.0	110,722.7	12,656.2	20,259.7	22,293.5
Cannabis plantation ^a	ha	128.1	241.9	178.4	305.8	89.5
Cannabis plants	plants	720,774	11,755	407,448	1,839,665	360,983
Cannabis resin	kg	0.3	0.04	4.9	0.2	4.0
Cocaine	kg	0.5	0.2	0.05	0.1	6.7
Heroin	kg	29.1	12.3	25.1	28.8	42.3
Ketamine	kg	19.8	6.1	116.9	49.3	13.4

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; ^aBNN 2011. 'Journal of Data on the Prevention and Eradication of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2011, Directorate of Drug Crimes, National Police Criminal Investigation, National Narcotics Board of Indonesia (BNN), Jakarta, June 2011; 'Indonesia ATS Situation Assessment 2012', National Narcotics Board of Indonesia (BNN) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), February 2013

Table 42. Retail prices of selected drugs in Indonesia (USD), 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	87-130	50-70	150-200	225-285	155-250
Amphetamine	per gram	17	20	20	●	●
Ecstasy	per pill	7-9	8-10	10-15	20-30	10-30
Cannabis herb	per kg	174-217	200-250	350-650	400-740	350-780
Cannabis resin	per gram	6.5	6	7.5	8.5	7.5
Cocaine	per gram	87	100	100	115	105
Heroin	per gram	61-87	50-70	70-100	●	70-105

● = Not reported.

Source(s): DAINAP

Sources of illicit drugs

A number of illicit methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories continue to be seized each year in Indonesia. In 2012, a total of seven clandestine ATS laboratories were seized in Indonesia, including an MDMA manufacturing facility, four methamphetamine manufacturing facilities (one of which was also manufacturing MDMA) and one operation that was undertaking the extraction of pseudoephedrine and/or ephedrine from pharmaceutical preparations. All of the laboratories were small-scale 'kitchen-type' facilities and were seized in Jakarta and Sumatra.¹⁵ During the 2006-2011, a total of 136 ATS manufacturing facilities were dismantled in Indonesia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine or ecstasy.

In 2012, approximately 57% of the methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories in Indonesia were identified as using ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as precursors,¹⁶ the majority of which continue to be diverted from legitimate trade. Among Southeast Asian countries, Indonesia had the second highest annual legitimate requirements for ephedrine and pseudoephedrine (after Singapore) in 2011; the diversion of these substances for illicit ATS manufacture remains a potential risk.¹⁷ Precursors are believed to be smuggled to Indonesia from India, China (including Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan Province of China), Thailand and the United States.¹⁸

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Op. cit. INCB, March 2013.

¹⁸ Op. cit. BNN & UNODC 2013; Indonesia country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2013/vol1/204050.htm>; date accessed: 03 July 2013).

¹⁵ ARQ Indonesia 2013. 'Annual Report Questionnaire for 2012', Indonesia 2013.

Commercial quantities of cannabis continue to be cultivated in Indonesia, primarily in Aceh province of North Sumatra, but also in Bengkulu, West Java and Yogyakarta.¹⁹ The majority of heroin seized in Indonesia originates from Southwest Asia.²⁰

Trafficking – In 2012, the primary embarkation locations for crystalline methamphetamine trafficked into Indonesia were identified as Malaysia followed by the Netherlands and South Africa. Crystalline methamphetamine trafficked into Indonesia from Malaysia is either through direct maritime routes or by transshipment through Singapore.²¹ Large quantities of crystalline methamphetamine also continue to be trafficked into Indonesia from the Islamic Republic of Iran and China by transnational organized criminal groups.

In addition, a number of Malaysian nationals were arrested during the year for trafficking large amounts of ATS. Notable seizures in 2012 include the seizure of 50 kg of methamphetamine and 378,000 ecstasy pills from two Malaysian nationals in Jakarta in January. In April, Indonesian police uncovered a drug trafficking organization that was managed from Hong Kong, China, arresting six persons and seizing 30 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 300,000 ecstasy pills.²² In May, Indonesian law enforcement disrupted a Malaysian syndicate attempting to traffic a large quantity of methamphetamine from China into Indonesia via Malaysia. In the same month, police seized 299 kg of methamphetamine in North Jakarta from a Malaysian national and an Indonesian national and also uncovered another crystalline methamphetamine trafficking organization with networks in India, Indonesia and Malaysia. In November, five persons from a Malaysian-Indonesian drug trafficking group were arrested and 215 kg of methamphetamine was seized.²³

Drug trafficking activity in Indonesia by organizations from the Islamic Republic of Iran continues but is in-

dicated to have declined in 2012.²⁴ During the year, a number of Iranian nationals were arrested for trafficking methamphetamine domestically within Indonesia.²⁵ In January 2012, seven Iranian nationals were arrested in West Jakarta for attempting to traffic 60 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, after the Indonesian National Police detected a large sea cargo consignment of methamphetamine that had embarked from Iran and was destined for Ujung Genteng on the southern coast of West Java.²⁶

West African drug trafficking groups also continue to traffic illicit drugs, including methamphetamine, into Indonesia. Eighteen Africans were arrested for drug trafficking in 2012 and 13 in 2011, most of whom were nationals of Nigeria (five persons in 2012 and eight persons in 2011).²⁷

Western European countries such as Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands have traditionally been the primary sources of ecstasy trafficked into Indonesia. However, in 2012, China was identified as the primary embarkation location for ecstasy-type substances trafficked into Indonesia.²⁸ In addition, Malaysia also continues to be a source of the ecstasy found in Indonesia.²⁹

Forensic data

The purity levels of methamphetamine have remained relatively stable in recent years. Crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in 2012 had a typical purity of 60% (ranging from 40% to 70%) at the wholesale level. Crystalline methamphetamine samples tested at the street retail level had a typical purity of 40% (ranging from 30% to 60%).³⁰

¹⁹ ARQ Indonesia 2013. 'Annual Report Questionnaire for 2012', Indonesia 2013.

²⁰ Indonesia country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

²¹ ARQ Indonesia 2013. 'Annual Report Questionnaire for 2012', Indonesia 2013.

²² Indonesia country report, Directorate of Drug Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation Board, Indonesian National Police (INP), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

²³ Indonesia country report, Directorate of Drug Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation Board, Indonesian National Police (INP), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

²⁴ Indonesia country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

²⁵ Indonesia country report, Directorate of Drug Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation Board, Indonesian National Police (INP), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

²⁶ 'Law enforcement on illicit drug trafficking in Indonesia', Directorate of Drug Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation Board, Indonesian National Police (INP), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ ARQ Indonesia 2013. 'Annual Report Questionnaire for 2012', Indonesia 2013.

²⁹ Indonesia country report, Directorate of Drug Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation Board, Indonesian National Police (INP), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

³⁰ ARQ Indonesia 2013. 'Annual Report Questionnaire for 2012', Indonesia 2013.

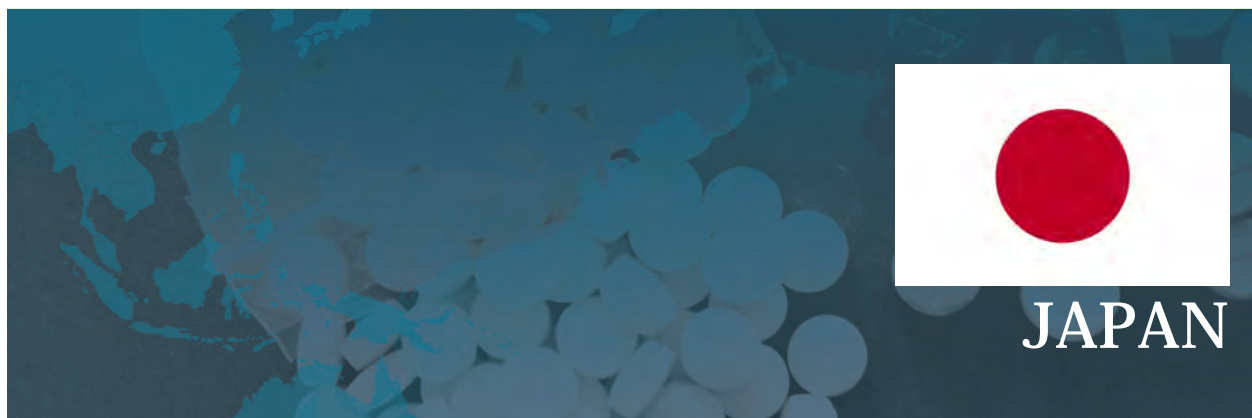
Methamphetamine pills analysed in 2012 had an average weight of 272 mg and typically contained 60 mg of methamphetamine (ranging from 20 mg to 150 mg), at both the wholesale and retail level.³¹ Methamphetamine pills were also found to include caffeine, ketamine, diazepam, dextromethorphan and acetaminophen. Samples of pills sold as 'ecstasy' in Indonesia were found to contain ketamine, dextromethorphan, methylone, caffeine, and, notably, synthetic cannabinoids.³²

Heroin samples analysed in Indonesia in 2012 had a typical purity of 40%.³³

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.



Emerging trends and concerns

- In 2012, Japan reported the largest total amount of crystalline methamphetamine seizures since 2003.
- Japan continues to be targeted by an expanding transnational drug trafficking network, as it has a large methamphetamine market that is driven by high drug market prices.
- Over the last few years, the smuggling of methamphetamine from countries in Central and South America, in particular from Mexico, has increased.

Overview of the drug situation

Crystalline methamphetamine, followed by cannabis, remain the primary drugs of concern in Japan, both in terms of seizures and drug-related arrests. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine is rare in Japan. However, there are indicators to suggest that liquid methamphetamine is being trafficked into the country for conversion and refinement.¹ Most of the crystalline methamphetamine is smuggled into Japan by domestic and international drug trafficking groups, primarily from China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, West Africa and recently, from Mexico.

Patterns and trends of drug use

The use of crystalline methamphetamine in Japan has stabilized in recent years but it is indicated to have greatly increased in 2012. A national drug use survey conducted by the Government of Japan in 2011 showed that 0.4% of the population aged 15-64 years and 0.2% of secondary school students had used methamphetamine. An estimated 0.1% of the population, aged 15-64, had used ecstasy. No data are available for

students. In 2012, ecstasy use remained stable, but has shown a downward trend over the last several years as indicated by the decreasing number of ecstasy arrests and ecstasy pills seized in Japan.²

Following methamphetamine, cannabis is the second most commonly used illicit drug in Japan and it is indicated to have increased in 2012.³ An estimated 1.2% of the population is indicated to have used cannabis.⁴

Demand for cocaine, heroin and opium in Japan remains limited. The combined number of arrests relating to these drugs accounted for less than 1% of the total drug-related arrests during the last three years.⁵ In addition, the use of benzodiazepines, barbiturates and hallucinogens remained stable in 2012.⁶

Injecting drug use

The injecting use of methamphetamine remained stable in 2012.⁷ Since 2010, the latest year for which

¹ Japan country report 2013, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2013/vol1/204050.htm>; date accessed: 20 July 2013).

² Information provided by Japan in the annual report questionnaire (ARQ), 2013.

³ Official communication with the Drugs and Firearms Division, National Police Agency of Japan (NPA), August 2013.

⁴ Op. cit. ARQ Japan 2013.

⁵ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.

⁶ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.

⁷ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.

Table 43. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Japan, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	4	3	●	●	●
Cannabis	2	2	2	2	2
Heroin	6	●	●	●	●

● = Not reported

Source(s): ARQ Japan 2013 and previous years

Table 44. Trend in use of selected drugs in Japan, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↔	↔	↔	↑
Ecstasy	↔	↓	↓	↔	↔
Cannabis	↓	●	↓	↔	↑
Heroin	↔	●	●	↔	↓

↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): ARQ Japan 2013 and previous years

data are available, 12,648 HIV infection cases and 5,799 AIDS cases had been reported. HIV transmission through injecting drug use in Japan remains rare, accounting for 0.5% of HIV infections and 0.8% of AIDS cases in 2011.⁸ An estimated 1.1% of methamphetamine users who entered psychiatric or medical facilities in 2011 had contracted HIV.⁹

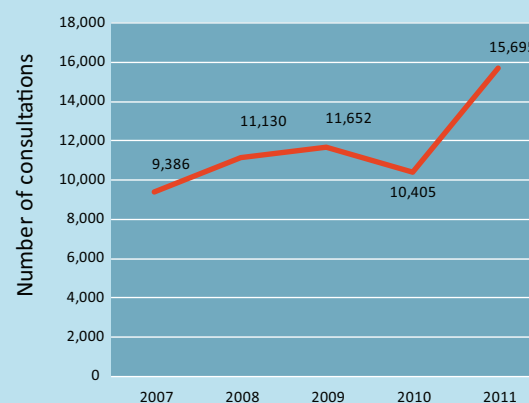
New psychoactive substances

New psychoactive substances (NPS)¹⁰ have been available in Japan over the Internet since 2004 and through direct sales in the country since 2009. Japan, together with Singapore, are the only two countries in Asia that have reported seizures from each NPS group. Both Japan's national and local governments have taken legislative measures to control NPS.¹¹ As at November

2012, 90 NPS were controlled under the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law which came into force in 2007.¹²

Drug treatment

Consolidated drug treatment data are not available for Japan. However, in 2012, amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), followed by sedatives, tranquilizers and cannabis, were ranked as the main drugs used by per-

Figure 25. Number of drug-related consultations at health centres in Japan, 2007-2011

Source(s): MHLW, October 2012

⁸ 'Report to UNAIDS – HIV/AIDS Trends in Japan', Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, Tokyo, February 2012.

⁹ Op. cit. ARQ Japan 2013.

¹⁰ For the purposes of control, NPS were defined as 'new narcotic or psychotropic drugs, in pure form or in preparation, that are not controlled by the 1948 Cannabis Control Law, the 1951 Stimulants Control Law, the 1953 Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Law and the 1964 Opium Law, but which may pose a public health threat'.

¹¹ The Tokyo Metropolitan Government responded to this challenge in 2005 by granting the Governor new legislative powers that allow for the adoption of ordinances to ban activities related to the supply and production of NPS of concern to the Tokyo Administration. Subsequently, the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law on a national level was amended in 2007 to allow for the control over NPS as 'designated substances' prohibiting their advertising, sale, supply and production. Penalties for the violation of this law include imprisonment of up to 5 years and/or fines up to 5 million Japanese Yen. The mere possession (for personal use) of a 'designated substance' does not constitute an offence.

¹² '2009 Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs in East and South-East Asia (and neighbouring regions), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna, November 2009.

Table 45. Drug-related arrests in Japan, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine	11,231	11,873	12,200	12,083	11,842
Ecstasy	311	140	93	86	87
Cannabis	2,867	3,087	2,367	1,759	1,692
Cocaine	120	135	112	99	66
Heroin	15	16	22	19	30
Opium	21	28	23	12	6
Other illicit drugs	155	138	148	142	158
Total	14,720	15,417	14,965	14,200	13,881

Source(s): Follow up report by the Cabinet Office on The Five Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy; ARQ 2013

Table 46. Seizures of selected drugs in Japan, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	402.6	369.5	310.7	350.9	466.6
Ecstasy	pills	217,883	91,960	18,246	27,187	3,708
Cannabis herb	kg	382.3	207.4	181.7	141.1	332.8
Cannabis resin	kg	33.4	17.4	13.9	28.4	42.5
Cocaine	kg	5.6	11.6	7.2	28.8	6.8
Heroin	kg	1.0	1.2	0.3	3.6	0.1
Opium	kg	6.6	3.2	3.7	7.6	0.2

Source(s): ARQ 2013

sons treated for drug use in mental health facilities. The number of persons who received treatment during that year remained stable for each drug type.¹³

Publicly available government statistics for drug-related consultations at clinics, and mental health and welfare centres show that 15,695 persons received drug-related services between April 2010 and March 2011, marking a 51% increase since the previous reporting period.¹⁴

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – The majority of drug-related arrests in Japan continue to involve crystalline methamphetamine. Though arrests have remained stable during the past five years, they decreased by 2% to 11,842 in 2012. Crystalline methamphetamine arrests accounted for 85% of all drug-related arrests in Japan in 2012. There has been a downward trend of ecstasy and other synthetic drug arrests and they ac-

counted for less than 1% of all drug arrests in the last four years.¹⁵

Recently, drug-related arrests have declined in Japan by 2%, from 14,200 in 2011 to 13,881 in 2012. Cannabis arrests decreased by 4% to 1,692 in 2012, accounting for 12% of all drug-related arrests that year. Furthermore, in relation to cannabis cultivation, arrests continued to decline in 2012.¹⁶

Japanese organized crime syndicates continue to dominate drug trafficking in the country. In 2012, a total of 6,421 'Boryokudan' (Yakuza) members and associates were arrested, which accounted for around 54% of all methamphetamine-related arrests, roughly the same proportion as in previous years. The proportion of methamphetamine arrests associated with organized crime on the whole has remained relatively stable during the last several years.¹⁷

Drug seizures – In 2012, a total of 466.6 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in Japan, increas-

¹³ Op. cit. ARQ Japan 2013.

¹⁴ 'The General Situation of Administrative Measures Against Narcotics and Stimulants Abuse', Compliance and Narcotics Division, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (MHLW), Tokyo, October 2012.

¹⁵ Op. cit. ARQ Japan 2013.

¹⁶ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.

¹⁷ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.

Table 47. Retail price range per gram of drugs Japan (USD), 2008-2012

Drug type	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Crystalline methamphetamine	127	1,376	107	1,007	125	685	80	500	165	400
Ecstasy (one pill)	7	105	5	85	10	57	5	60	10	50
Cannabis herb	16	211	5	160	9	171	13	100	15	60
Cannabis resin	106		107	134	57	114	●		●	
Cocaine	74	423	128	214	114	342	70	200	150	200
Heroin	338		641		160	1,142	300	400	350	
LSD (1 dose)	32	63	43		40		20	30	●	

● = Not reported. Drug price data are calculated on average exchange rates of Japanese Yen to USD for each year.

Source(s): MHLW, October 2012 (and previous years); 2012 data provided by Japan ARQ 2013.

ing by 33% from 350.9 kg in 2011 and signifying the largest amount seized since 2003 (when 493.5 kg were seized).¹⁸

Ecstasy pill seizures have sharply declined by 86% from the previous year, to 3,708 pills in 2012, marking the lowest total reported since 2000.¹⁹

Cannabis herb seizures more than doubled in 2012, after having decreased each year since 2007. During this period, cannabis resin seizures increased by about 50%. In addition, 7,650 cannabis plants were seized in 2012. Seizures of cocaine, heroin and opium significantly decreased in 2012.²⁰

Drug prices – Methamphetamine, and other drug prices vary greatly depending on the region of the sale, the drug trafficking route and the size of the purchase. Compared to the previous year, crystalline methamphetamine prices on the whole remained relatively stable in 2012, although the maximum price range was considerably lower than those of previous years. Over the last few years, there has been a declining trend in prices for ecstasy.²¹

Sources of illicit drugs

Only a small number of illicit crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facilities have been dismantled in Japan. However, there are indications that liquid methamphetamine is being trafficked into the country where it is then converted into the finished

product. Nearly all methamphetamine seized in Japan originates from other countries and is trafficked into the country by domestic and international drug trafficking groups. China has historically been the major source of methamphetamine smuggled into Japan. However, during the last several years, there has been a substantial increase in the number of source countries (in Asia and other regions) from where methamphetamine has been smuggled into Japan.

Trafficking – There has recently been an increasing trend in the number of cases of methamphetamine smuggling to Japan. In 2012, a total of 179 persons were arrested in 127 separate cases.²²

Based on methamphetamine seizure figures for Japan in 2012, the primary embarkation points for methamphetamine were the Netherlands, followed by Mexico and Hong Kong, China. Overall, 65% of methamphetamine smuggled into Japan was trafficked via the Republic of Korea, 14% via Qatar and 7% via the United Arab Emirates.²³

Japan is among the major destinations for methamphetamine trafficked from West Africa, which has increased in recent years. In 2012, 14 West African nationals were arrested for methamphetamine offences. In recent years, methamphetamine trafficking has also emerged from countries in Central and South America, in particular from Mexico.²⁴

The primary embarkation locations for 'ecstasy'-type substances smuggled into Japan in 2012 were France,

¹⁸ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013; Op. cit. UNODC 2009.

¹⁹ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.

²⁰ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.

²¹ Op. cit. MHLW, October 2012; Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.

²² NPA, August 2013.

²³ Op. cit. ARQ Japan 2013.

²⁴ 'Drugs and Firearms situation in 2012' (in Japanese), Drugs and Firearms Division, National Police Agency of Japan (NPA), April 2013.

followed by the Taiwan Province of China and Canada. Switzerland was indicated to be the primary country of transit.²⁵

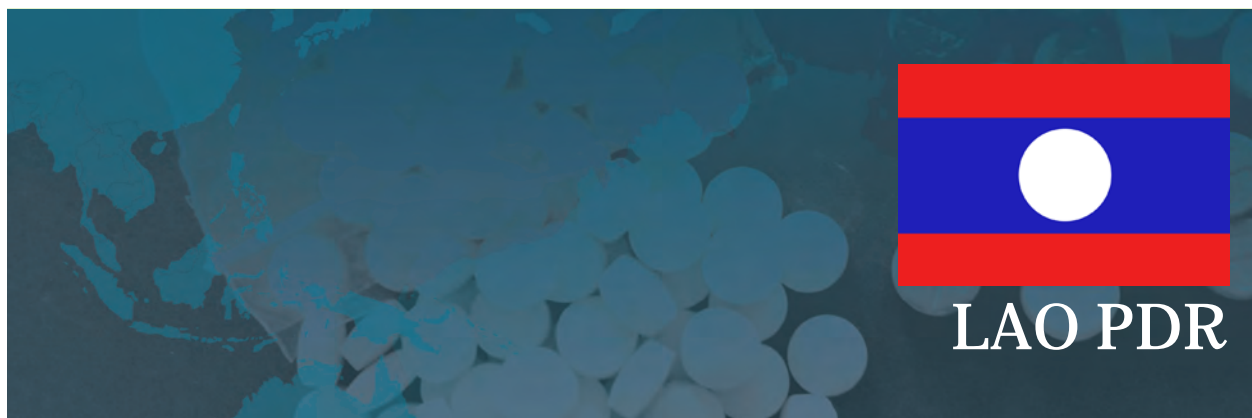
Cannabis seizures at the Japanese border have increased significantly during the last three years. The major sources of cannabis smuggled into Japan in 2012 were the United States, Canada and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.²⁶

Forensic data

No forensic data are available.

²⁵ Op. cit. ARQ Japan 2013.

²⁶ Ibid. ARQ Japan 2013.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) remains a major transit country for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and opiates originating from the Golden Triangle.
- Opium poppy cultivation and opium production have increased annually since 2007.
- ATS use and trafficking is a growing public health and security threat in Lao PDR and puts a strain on the country's limited law enforcement and drug treatment resources.
- Due to the lack of available data related to ATS and other illicit drugs in Lao PDR, the full extent of the problem remains unclear. There continues to be an urgent need for enhancing the collection and reporting of drug-related data.

Overview of the drug situation

ATS use and trafficking is of growing concern in the Lao PDR. Significant quantities of methamphetamine and opiates manufactured in the Golden Triangle continue to be trafficked via Lao PDR to Thailand, Viet Nam, China and Cambodia. Illicit poppy cultivation and opium production have steadily increased since 2007, and these may continue due to limited developmental assistance, a lack of alternative livelihoods for farmers, coupled with high demand and high prices for opium in Lao PDR and neighbouring countries. In addition, cannabis continues to be illicitly cultivated in country, a large portion of which is trafficked to Thailand and Viet Nam.

Patterns and trends in drug use

The use of methamphetamine pills continues to increase in Lao PDR, primarily because of its high availability and low market prices. Methamphetamine in the form of pills has been the primary drug of concern according to expert perception in Lao PDR, surpassing opium since 2005. Even though methamphetamine use is indicated to have increased across the

country, the highest levels continue to be found in the urban areas and near the border. Oral administration of methamphetamine pills is the main means of methamphetamine use, although many users also smoke the drug.¹ Crystalline methamphetamine is currently not of concern in Lao PDR, but this may change as crystalline methamphetamine markets in neighbouring countries are rapidly expanding.

In the last 4 years, there has been an increasing trend in both opium and heroin use. The Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) estimated that there were 10,776 regular opium users in the ten northern provinces of the country in 2012. This equates to a 0.42% prevalence rate in these provinces for their population aged 15 to 64.^{2,3}

¹ The pills are typically crushed and then vaporized in glass pipes or on aluminum foil heated by a flame from underneath so that the user can inhale the escaping fumes.

² Calculation based on population figures from the 2005 national population census.

³ 'South-East Asia Opium Survey: Lao PDR, Myanmar', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna, November 2012.

Table 48. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Lao PDR, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	1	1	1	1	1
Cannabis herb	3	2	2	2	4
Opium	2	3	3	3	2
Heroin	4	4	4	4	3

Source(s): Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and Pacific (DAINAP); Lao PDR country presentation, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), presented at the ASEAN Conference 2013: Roadmap to Effective Substance Dependence Treatment, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 17-19 July 2013

Table 49. Trend in use of selected drugs in Lao PDR, 2008-2012

Drug used in the past year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Cannabis herb	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑
Opium	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑
Heroin	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 50. Number of patients at Somsanga Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total no. of patients	1,682	1,964	2,154	2,631	2,880
Females	105	118	123	133	158

Source(s): DAINAP; LCDC, July 2013

Injecting drug use

Injecting use of dissolved methamphetamine pills was first reported in Lao PDR in 2008, but it is not considered to be a common feature among methamphetamine users. Following nasal insufflation injecting use is the second most common form of consuming heroin in Lao PDR. However, injecting heroin use is indicated to have increased in 2012. Data on HIV and injecting drug use in Lao PDR are limited, but the threat of HIV transmission through injecting drug use remains a concern. In addition, there is reportedly a low use of sterile needles and syringes in Lao PDR and the use of contaminated injecting equipment has been identified as the primary means of HIV transmission in the country.⁴ As of 2009, the latest year for which data are available, an estimated 1.5% of all drug users in Lao PDR were living with HIV.

⁴ Lao PDR country presentation, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Phnom Penh, 24-25 July 2012; LCDC, July 2013.

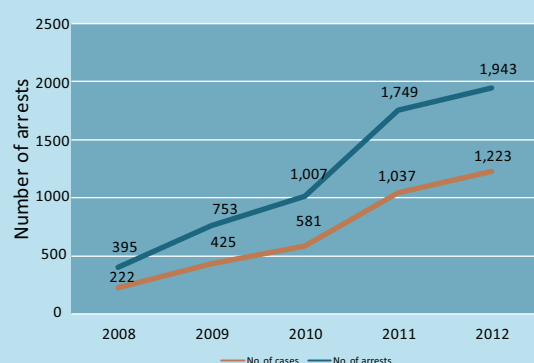
New psychoactive substances

There have been no reports of trafficking or use of new psychoactive substances in Lao PDR. However, it is likely that some pills sold as 'ecstasy' in the capital in Vientiane and other major tourist destinations in the country, may contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA.

Drug treatment

The Government of Lao PDR operates 8 ATS treatment centres in seven provinces. The Somsanga Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, in Vientiane, is the only facility that provides services specifically for ATS users. Of the 2,880 persons who received treatment at Somsanga in 2012, a total of 1,464 persons received treatment for methamphetamine use, while of the 158 women in treatment at this centre in 2012, 93 were treated for methamphetamine use. Between January and June of 2013, a total of 1,521 persons received treatment of which 1,305 (86%), among them 56 women, were treated for methamphetamine use. Most

Figure 26. Drug-related arrests in Lao PDR, 2008-2012



Source(s): LCDC, July 2013

other persons in drug treatment centres continue to be treated for heroin, alcohol, inhalants and cannabis use.⁵

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In recent years, most drug-related arrests in Lao PDR have been for methamphetamine trafficking and use. In 2012, a total of 1,943 persons were arrested in 1,223 cases relating to methamphetamine, accounting for 80% of all drug-related arrests that year,⁶ while 1,749 persons were arrested in 1,037 cases in 2011. Of the 1,943 persons arrested for drug-related offences in 2012, 347 were women and 41 were foreign nationals.⁷

Drug seizures – In 2012, methamphetamine pill seizures in Lao PDR more than doubled to around 10.1 million from 4.6 million in 2011. The majority of methamphetamine pills seized in 2012 were intercepted in a single seizure of nearly 7.2 million pills in May that year.⁸ There have been no seizure reports of crystalline methamphetamine in Lao PDR since 2005, when 4.8 kg were seized. In addition, Lao PDR has not reported any ecstasy seizures. However, some crystalline methamphetamine manufactured in the Golden Triangle is frequently trafficked via Lao PDR to neighbouring countries, and it continues to be available in Vientiane and other major tourist destinations in the country.

Heroin seizures totaled 45 kg in 2012. The 87.6 kg of opium seized in 2012 marks the highest total reported during the past decade. The high level of opiates seizures during the last two years may indicate an expansion of domestic opiate production and/or an increase of trafficking from the Golden Triangle. Furthermore, significant quantities of cannabis continue to be seized in Lao PDR, increasing by 75% to more than 2.8 tons in 2012.⁹

Drug prices – Methamphetamine pills continue to be the cheapest and most widely available illicit drug in Lao PDR. However, retail drug price data from Lao PDR remain unavailable. In 2012, the reported retail price for one methamphetamine pill was USD 3. The price for a 350 gram block of heroin remained unchanged from the previous year at about USD 8,500 while the price of 1 kg of opium was USD 1,800. The price of 1 kg of cannabis was USD 125.¹⁰

Table 51. Seizures of selected drugs in Lao PDR, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	pills	1,227,205	2,335,655	24,530,177	4,609,729	10,071,146
Methamphetamine powder	kg	●	●	195.8	●	●
Cannabis herb	kg	804.6	975.9	3,521.0	1,617.1	2,836.1
Cocaine	kg	2.0	0.1	●	●	●
Heroin	kg	17.5	29.3	84.3	43.4	45.0
Opium	kg	11.8	49.9	86.5	63.9	87.6

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; LCDC, July 2012; LCDC, July 2013

⁵ Op. cit. LCDC, July 2013.

⁶ Lao PDR country presentation, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Jakarta, 28-29 August 2013.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Laos country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2013/vol1/204050.htm>; date accessed: 20 April 2013).

⁹ Op. cit. LCDC, July 2013.

¹⁰ Op. cit. LCDC, 28-29 August 2013.

Sources of illicit drugs

There have been no reports of illicit ATS manufacture in Lao PDR. Most methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs found in the country originate from the Golden Triangle.

According to the annual UNODC opium survey, illicit opium poppy cultivation has steadily increased in Lao PDR from an estimated 1,500 hectares in 2007 to 4,100 hectares in 2011 and increased again in 2012 by 60% to 6,800 hectares.¹¹ However, official government figures estimate an illicit opium poppy cultivation of 5,000 hectares for 2012.¹² Since 2011, potential opium production increased by 64% to 41 tons in 2012.¹³ Illicit cannabis cultivation primarily takes place in the central and southern provinces.

Trafficking – Lao PDR is a major transit point for methamphetamine, heroin and opium originating from the Golden Triangle. In recent years, significant quantities of methamphetamine pills destined for the domestic market and for onward trafficking to Cambodia and Thailand have been seized in the northern parts of the country. In 2012, large amounts of crystalline methamphetamine and heroin seized in Viet Nam had been smuggled via Lao PDR, some of which was trafficked overland onwards to China past official border crossings.¹⁴ It is believed that strengthened law enforcement efforts of the Chinese government along the joint border with Myanmar, in particular along the Mekong River, has forced drug traffickers to increasingly smuggle drugs into China overland via Lao PDR. In 2012, drug control authorities in Yunnan province in China seized 5.6 tons of methamphetamine, heroin and other illicit drugs originating from Lao PDR. This represents a 13% increase compared with the previous year.¹⁵

Lao PDR is a significant transit country for precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphet-

amine. In 2012, 60 kg of pseudoephedrine hydrochloride in the form of a pharmaceutical preparation originating from the Republic of Korea was seized in Lao PDR.¹⁶ In addition, a shipment containing 1.8 tons of pseudoephedrine preparations originating from Lao PDR destined for Guatemala was intercepted when the Lao authorities were informed that its import was prohibited in Guatemala.¹⁷

Cannabis is usually trafficked from Lao PDR to Viet Nam and Thailand some of which is trafficked onwards overland to Malaysia. In 2013, the Japanese government indicated Lao PDR as a major source of cannabis trafficked to Japan.¹⁸

Forensic data

Lao PDR conducted qualitative analyses on a large number of methamphetamine samples in 2012 but still lacks the technical expertise and capacity to conduct quantitative analyses. In 2012, a total of 450 ATS samples were analysed. In previous years, Lao PDR had not provided DAINAP with any forensic data.

¹¹ Op. cit. UNODC, November 2012.

¹² Official communication with the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), August 2013.

¹³ Op. cit. UNODC 2012.

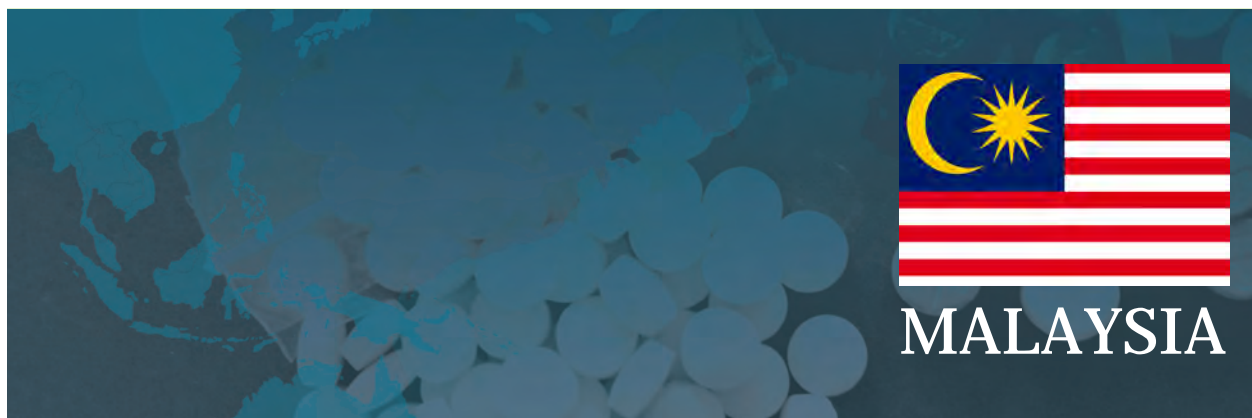
¹⁴ 'Trends of synthetic drugs and precursor trafficking', Border Army of Vietnam (VBA), presented at the Viet Nam National Workshop, Da Nang, Viet Nam, 30-31 May 2013.

¹⁵ China country presentation, China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), 26-27 February 2013; 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

¹⁶ 'Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Information provided by Japan in the annual report questionnaire (ARQ), 2013.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Crystalline methamphetamine manufacture, trafficking and use remains the most significant drug threat in Malaysia.
- Seizure and arrest data indicate an increasing demand for methamphetamine pills originating from Myanmar.
- ‘Ecstasy’ pills seizures increased significantly in 2012 and is the highest total reported in the past decade.
- Transnational drug trafficking groups are increasingly targeting Malaysia as both a destination and transit country for methamphetamine and other illicit drugs, as well as for the manufacture of crystalline methamphetamine and MDMA for ‘ecstasy’ pills.

Overview of the drug situation

The trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) to Malaysia for both domestic use and as a transit location for international markets remains a problem. A large share of the crystalline methamphetamine trafficked to Malaysia originates from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Significant quantities of crystalline methamphetamine and ‘ecstasy’ are also manufactured domestically in clandestine laboratories using precursors and essential chemicals smuggled into the country or diverted from licit trade. In addition, there is continued illicit nimetazepam¹ manufacture in Malaysia and illicit cultivation of the local plant kratom.²

Opiates, namely heroin and illicit morphine, continue to be the most widely used drugs in Malaysia, followed by cannabis, crystalline methamphetamine and ‘ecstasy’. Ketamine and nimetazepam use remains a problem.

¹ Nimetazepam, a benzodiazepine derivative, is controlled in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Nimetazepam is often marketed under the brand name ‘Erimin 5’ and is available in 5 mg pill form. It is a prescription medication licitly produced by Japan. However, counterfeited products are also available.

² Kratom refers to the *mitragyna speciosa* plant, commonly known locally as ketum or kratom. The plant is indigenous to Southeast Asia and contains the alkaloid mitragynine.

Patterns and trends of drug use

In 2012, an estimated 8% of all drug users in Malaysia used ATS, in particular crystalline methamphetamine and MDMA.³ The use of crystalline methamphetamine, as well as other substances such as ketamine and nimetazepam (‘Erimin-5’), is indicated to have substantially increased in recent years. ATS continue to be the most commonly used drug type among new drug users and drug users arrested for the first time.⁴

Heroin remains the primary drug used in Malaysia. In 2012 approximately 48% of all drug users had used heroin while 31% had used illicit morphine.⁵ The number of problem drug users is reported to be on the decline in Malaysia.⁶

³ ‘Country Report 2012, Malaysia’, National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia (NADA), Ministry of Home Affairs, presented at The ASEAN Conference 2013: Roadmap to Effective Substance Dependence Treatment, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 17-19 July 2013.

⁴ Malaysia country report, Narcotics Crime Investigation Department, Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

⁵ Op. cit. NADA, July 2013.

⁶ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013.

Table 52. Rank of use of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Amphetamine ⁷	7	5	3	4	4
Crystalline methamphetamine	4	4	4	2	2
Methamphetamine pills	●	●	9	●	●
'Ecstasy'	6	6	6	●	6
Cannabis herb	3	2	5	3	3
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1
Ketamine	●	7	7	5	5
Kratom	●	8	8	●	●
Morphine	2	3	2	●	●

● = Not reported.

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 53. Trend in use of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Amphetamine	●	↓	↑	↓	↓
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	↑	↑	↓	↓
Methamphetamine pills	●	↑	↑	●	●
'Ecstasy'	●	↔	↔	●	↓
Cannabis herb	●	↑	↓	↓	↓
Heroin	●	↓	↑	↓	↓
Ketamine	●	↑	↑	↓	↓
Kratom	●	↑	↑	●	●

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Injecting drug use

In 2012, the injecting use of methamphetamine remained stable while injecting heroin use decreased compared with the previous year. There are an estimated 170,000 injecting drug users (IDUs) in Malaysia. Newly reported HIV cases attributed to injecting drug use has declined from approximately 70-80% in the 1990s to about 39% in 2011. As of 2011, the latest year for which data are available, there were an estimated 55,981 injecting drug users living with HIV in Malaysia.⁸

New psychoactive substances

The most commonly used new psychoactive substances

(NPS) in Malaysia continue to be ketamine and kratom. There is continued illicit kratom cultivation in the country. Most ketamine found in Malaysia is smuggled from southern India.⁹ Ketamine seizures and ketamine-related arrests have decreased significantly over the past five years, while kratom-related arrests and seizures have increased. Malaysia has not reported the seizure or use of other NPS to the UNODC.¹⁰

Drug treatment

A total of 6,007 persons received drug treatment in Malaysia in 2012 (5,884 men and 123 women) of which about 60% had been newly admitted to treatment in 2012. Methamphetamine was the third most

⁷ Information on reported amphetamine use may reflect confusion about the consumption of this substance since there have been no seizures reported since 2007 and no cases of treatment admissions for amphetamine.

⁸ 'Malaysia 2012, Global AIDS Response Country Progress Report. Reporting Period: January 2010 to December 2011', HIV/STI Section, Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH Malaysia), Putrajaya, Malaysia, March 2012.

⁹ Malaysia Country Presentation, Narcotics Crime Investigation Department, Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

¹⁰ 'The challenge of new psychoactive substances', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global SMART Programme, Vienna, March 2013.

Table 54. Drug treatment admissions in Malaysia by drug type, 2012

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Methamphetamine	482	50	532	492	50	542
'Ecstasy'	5	0	5	5	0	5
Ketamine	10	1	11	12	1	13
Cannabis	906	5	911	1,085	5	1,090
Heroin	2,095	49	2,144	4,287	67	4,354
Opium	1	0	1	3	0	3
Total	3,499	105	3,604	5,884	123	6,007

Source(s): DAINAP

commonly used drug by persons in drug treatment in 2012, accounting for 9% of all persons who underwent drug treatment that year and 15% of all newly admitted patients as opposed to 12% and 16% respectively in 2011. About 41% of all women in drug treatment in 2012 and 48% of all women newly admitted to treatment that year were treated for methamphetamine use. The majority of persons in drug treatment in 2012 (72%) were heroin users.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests¹¹ – A total of 117,442 drug-related arrests were reported in 2012, a 27% decrease from the 160,879 arrests reported in 2011. In 2012, there were 57,642 persons arrested for offences involving crystalline methamphetamine, marking a 5% decrease from the previous year. Crystalline methamphetamine-related arrests accounted for about half (49%) of all drug-related arrests in 2012, increasing from 38% in 2011 and 46% in 2010. Arrests related to methamphetamine pills nearly tripled to 16,818 persons in 2012. 'Ecstasy'-related arrests decreased by 52% to 2,443 persons in 2012. Ketamine-related arrests continued to fall sharply, decreasing by 37% in 2012.

Heroin-related arrests decreased substantially in 2012, but still accounted for about one-fourth of all drug-related arrests in 2012, similar to the previous year.

Kratom-related arrests increased by 20% to 1,464 in 2012.

Drug seizures – Approximately 852 kg of crystalline methamphetamine were seized in Malaysia in 2012, representing a 31% decrease from 1.2 tons seized in 2011. The quantity of crystalline methamphetamine seized since 2009 has been substantially higher than the quantity seized in previous years. In addition, methamphetamine pill seizures increased considerably for two consecutive years. Methamphetamine pill seizures in Malaysia increased by 43% from 364,909 in 2011 to 521,384 in 2012. Liquid methamphetamine, an intermediate form of the drug, also continues to be seized in Malaysia.¹² 'Ecstasy' pills seizures increased seven-fold to 772,421 in 2012 and is the highest total reported in the past decade.

Most other illicit drug seizures, with the exception of heroin and cannabis herb, showed strong increases in 2012. Ketamine seizures increased by 18% in 2012; however, ketamine seizures since 2010 are considerably lower than in previous years. Malaysia has only reported kratom seizures to DAINAP since 2011. In 2012, more than 5.2 tons of kratom was seized in the country, a 71% increase from the 3.1 tons seized in the previous year.¹³

Benzodiazepine pills ('Erinin-5') seizures increased significantly with more than 9.4 million pills seized in 2012.

Drug prices – In recent years, there has been a slight upward trend in the prices for most illicit drugs in Malaysia. The street retail price data for one gram of

¹¹ Drug-related arrest data for Malaysia (from 2006-2009) refer only to the number of drug traffickers and manufacturers and do not include drug users. Arrest figures for 2010 and 2011 include all such groups.

¹² However, liquid methamphetamine seizure figures are not reported to DAINAP.

¹³ Malaysia country presentation, joint presentation by the National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia (NADA) and the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Jakarta, 27-28 August 2013.

Table 55. Drug-related arrests in Malaysia, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	1,443	1,131	42,701	60,873	57,642
Methamphetamine pills	•	•	•	5,863	16,818
Amphetamine	225	84	2,256	•	•
'Ecstasy'	119	83	8,248	5,071	2,443
Ketamine	•	•	6,518	2,888	1,811
Benzodiazepines*	145	39	1,025	1,393	1,792
Cannabis	514	5,207	6,567	15,220	5,663
Cocaine	•	•	13	7	14
Codeine	70	50	71	207	242
Heroin	4,974	5,047	25,016	68,132	29,549
Kratom	•	•	1,040	1,224	1,464
Morphine	3,640	3,386	•	•	•
Opium (raw & prepared)	9	5	7	1	4
Not specified	1	704	•	•	•
Total	11,140	15,736	93,462	160,879	117,442

• = Not reported. *Includes different brands of diazepam.

Source(s): DAINAP

crystalline methamphetamine are unavailable. However, the average wholesale price for 1 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, which had remained relatively stable in the 4 previous years, decreased from about USD 78,000 in 2011 to USD 60,000 in 2012. The price for an 'ecstasy' pill increased slightly to USD 19.

In addition, the wholesale price of 1 kg of ketamine increased three-fold from USD 3,595 in 2011 to approximately USD 11,000 in 2012. The wholesale price for cannabis herb is also reported to have increased significantly in 2012.

Sources of illicit drugs

Large numbers of illicit ATS manufacturing facilities continue to be dismantled in Malaysia. In 2012, a total of 27 clandestine ATS manufacturing laboratories were dismantled, including 20 crystalline methamphetamine facilities, 6 'ecstasy' facilities and one methamphetamine pill facility.¹⁴

In addition to locally manufactured crystalline methamphetamine, large quantities of methamphetamine are also smuggled to the country, primarily from the

¹⁴ Op. cit. NADA and RMP, August 2013.

Islamic Republic of Iran.¹⁵ Most methamphetamine pills and some crystalline methamphetamine found in Malaysia continue to originate from Myanmar. Of the 851.8 kg of crystalline methamphetamine seized in Malaysia in 2012, some 267.9 kg (31%) was seized at the Malaysian border.¹⁶

In recent years, Malaysia has also dismantled a number of facilities which were illicitly manufacturing ketamine, nimetazepam ('Erinin 5') and low-purity heroin. In January 2012, an industrial-scale illicit nimetazepam manufacturing facility was seized in Selangor together with quantities of methamphetamine, 'ecstasy' and ephedrine.¹⁷ However, large quantities of nimetazepam and ketamine are also illicitly imported to Malaysia, primarily from India and China.¹⁸

Trafficking – Transnational drug trafficking organizations appear to be increasingly favouring Malaysia as

¹⁵ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013.

¹⁶ Malaysia country presentation, Narcotics Branch, Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC), presented at the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific Regional Seminar for Information Exchange to Fight against Drug Trafficking, Seoul, 16-18 April 2013.

¹⁷ Malaysia country presentation, joint presentation by the National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia (NADA) and the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Phnom Penh, 24-25 July 2012.

¹⁸ 'Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013; Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia Country Presentation, February 2013.

Table 56. Seizures of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	356.9	1,660.0	887.3	1,235.6	851.8
Methamphetamine pills	pills	281,343	107,952	107,963	364,909	521,384
'Ecstasy'	pills	80,778	75,515	60,713	98,751	772,421
Ketamine	kg	553.1	1,071.0	334.1	202.5	238.9
Benzodiazepine	pills	1,502,233	2,952,303	2,032,183	1,206,735	9,424,643
Cannabis herb	kg	874.8	2,352.0	1,064.4	1,054.4	861.3
Cocaine	kg	7.1	18.6	20.6	3.5	7.0
Codeine	lt	0	13,131.7	1,323.9	3,463.8	5,571.6
Heroin	kg	297.1	283.0	299.3	755.5	416.9
Kratom	kg	1,441.8	2,813.6	2,203.1	3,067.0	5,237.7
Opium (raw and prepared)	kg	13.9	10.1	4.4	0.9	10.9
Psychotropics	pills	306,611	226,172	334,589	895,890	1,124,078

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; 'National ATS Situation and Responses to the Threat', joint presentation by the National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia (NADA) and the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Bangkok, 18-20 July 2011; Malaysia country presentation, joint presentation by the National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia (NADA) and the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Bangkok, 5-6 August 2010

Table 57. Retail prices of selected drugs in Malaysia (USD), 2009-2012

Drug type	Unit	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	per kg	78,370	77,750	78,000	60,000
'Ecstasy'	per pill	16	16	16	19
'Ecstasy' powder	per kg	●	31,100	32,700	31,520
Benzodiazepine (Erimin-5)	per pill	6	6	6.5	6.5
Cannabis herb	per kg	750	745	785	945
Cocaine	per kg	62,696	62,200	65,400	63,040
Heroin (No. 3)	per kg	9,400	9,330	9,810	9,460
Ketamine	per kg	3,450	3,420	3,595	11,000
Opium (prepared)	per kg	6,270	6,220	6,540	6,300
Kratom (leaf)	per kg	●	12	13	13
Kratom (liquid)	per lt.	●	1.6	1.6	1.6

● = Not reported. Note: Drug price data are calculated on average exchange rates of MYR to USD for each year.

Source(s): DAINAP; 'NADA and RMP, 18-20 July 2011; NADA and RMP, 5-6 August 2010; Official communication with the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP), September 2011

both a destination and transit country for methamphetamine, a large share of which is trafficked by syndicates from the Islamic Republic of Iran.¹⁹ However, the number of Iranian nationals arrested for drug-related offences in 2012 (52) is considerably lower than those arrested in the previous two years (116 in 2011 and 208 in 2010). Of the 376 Iranian na-

tionals arrested over the 3-year period, approximately 90% were arrested for supply-related offences.²⁰ The decreasing number of Iranian drug couriers arrested may possibly be due to an increase in the smuggling of methamphetamine in crystalline and liquid form to Malaysia, possibly by sea cargo.²¹ Moreover, recent indicators suggest that Iranian nationals are also involved in methamphetamine manufacture in Malay-

¹⁹ Malaysia drug situation report, Narcotics Crime Investigation Department, Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLO-MICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

²⁰ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013.

²¹ Ibid.

sia. In 2012, 9 Iranian nationals were arrested in 3 separate cases of illicit methamphetamine manufacture.²² In addition, there are indications that Iranian drug trafficking groups are smuggling methamphetamine manufactured in Mexico as well as precursor chemicals to Malaysia in air cargo.²³

Some quantities of methamphetamine are trafficked to Malaysia from Thailand, primarily by Malaysian and Thai drug couriers on commercial flights, by vehicle or on foot overland. In addition, multi-kilogramme consignments of methamphetamine were seized in 2012 from passenger plane couriers that had embarked from Cambodia, Denmark, India and Turkey.²⁴

Due to its proximity to other major ATS markets, Malaysia is a key transit country for methamphetamine and other illicit drugs smuggled en route to international markets, including Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Australia.²⁵

The diversion of precursors and essential chemicals for ATS manufacture in Malaysia remains a problem. Significant quantities of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine have been seized from passenger plane couriers and in air cargo consignments originating from, *inter alia*, India, Republic of Korea, and Bangladesh.²⁶ Malaysia has also reported multi-ton seizures of ephedrine²⁷ and bulk quantities of ephedrine have been smuggled from Chennai in southern India.²⁸ In addition, methamphetamine seizures originating from India in 2012 and 2013 may suggest that India is becoming an emerging source of methamphetamine sold on the Malaysian market.²⁹

²² Op. cit. NADA and RMP, August 2013.

²³ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia Country Presentation, February 2013.

²⁴ Op. cit. RMC, April 2013.

²⁵ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013; Malaysia country presentation, Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), 14-16 February 2012.

²⁶ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia Country Presentation, February 2013; PICS Analytics, Precursor statistics, analysis and emerging threats, Issue 03, Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, Precursors Control Section, Vienna, November 2012.

²⁷ 'Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

²⁸ PICS Analytics, Precursor statistics, analysis and emerging threats, Issue 04, Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, Precursors Control Section, Vienna, March 2013.

²⁹ Op. cit. RMC, April 2013; Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia Country Presentation, February 2013.

West African (primarily Nigerian) drug trafficking groups also traffic 'ecstasy', heroin and cocaine to and through Malaysia by using passenger plane couriers and sea cargo consignments.³⁰ They also send cocaine to Malaysia in parcel post for further trafficking to markets in Asia and the Pacific.³¹ Nigerian drug trafficking groups are also involved in overland cannabis smuggling from Thailand to Malaysia.³² In 2012, a total of 159 Nigerian nationals were arrested for drug-related offences in Malaysia increasing from 174 arrested in 2011.³³

A large portion of heroin seized in Malaysia originates from Myanmar and is trafficked overland through Thailand.³⁴ Myanmar nationals have accounted for the largest number of foreign nationals arrested for drug-related offences in Malaysia in the last 3 years. Of the 1,105 Myanmar nationals arrested in Malaysia during that period, 592 (53%) were arrested for supply-related offences; however, arrest figures are not disaggregated by drug type.³⁵ In addition, increasing quantities of heroin originating from Southwest Asia are being trafficked to Malaysia, primarily from West Africa and Pakistan.³⁶ The number of Pakistan nationals arrested for drug-related offences, primarily related to large-scale heroin trafficking, is indicated to have increased. In 2012, a total of 40 Pakistan nationals were arrested, of which 24 were arrested for drug trafficking offences, while in 2011, 10 Pakistan nationals were arrested 7 of which were arrested for drug trafficking offences.³⁷ There are indications that Pakistani drug traffickers are working with Nigerian criminal groups to ship bulk quantities of heroin into and through Malaysia via sea and air cargo.³⁸

Transnational drug trafficking syndicates continue to recruit Malaysian nationals (primarily females) as drug couriers on commercial plane flights. During the last 3 years, a total of 450 Malaysian nationals were ar-

³⁰ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013; Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia Country Presentation February 2013.

³¹ Malaysia country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2013/vol1/204050.htm>; date accessed: 17 July 2013).

³² Malaysia country report, Narcotics Crime Investigation Department, Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 14-16 February 2012.

³³ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013.

³⁴ Op. cit. RMP, June 2013.

³⁵ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013.

³⁶ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia Country Presentation, February 2013.

³⁷ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013.

³⁸ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia Country Presentation, February 2013.

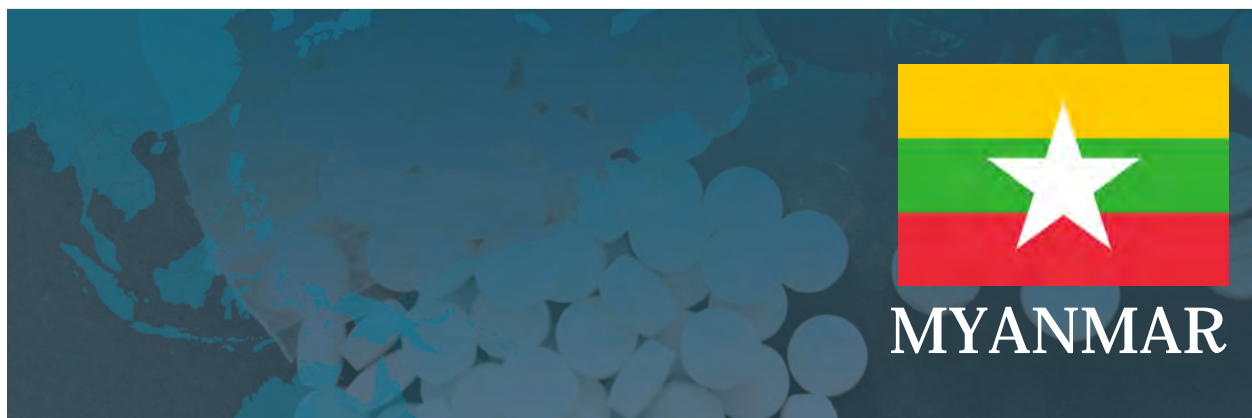
rested abroad for their involvement in the drug trade, a large number of which were arrested in Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, China and Australia.³⁹

Forensic data

The average purity of methamphetamine samples analysed in 2012 was 70% methamphetamine, similar to the previous year. Pills sold as 'ecstasy' contained a range of 40-70% MDMA.

Heroin samples analysed in 2012 had an average purity of 10%.

³⁹ Op. cit. RMP, Malaysia country report, February 2013.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Seizures, arrests and drug treatment data indicate that the use of methamphetamine pills in Myanmar is on the rise.
- Seizures of most illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals increased significantly in 2012.
- Both the total area under opium poppy cultivation and potential opium production continued to increase in 2012 and have reached their highest level since 2003.
- Large and increasing amounts of methamphetamine in pill and crystalline form originating from Myanmar continue to be seized in neighbouring countries.

Overview of the drug situation

Most indicators suggest that methamphetamine use is rapidly increasing in Myanmar. Data from the Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) show that methamphetamine use in the country has increased annually since 2005. In addition, the number of arrests and drug treatment admissions related to methamphetamine have continued to increase, and in 2012, the number of methamphetamine pills seized in Yangon was the highest total ever reported. However, heroin and opium continue to be the most widely used drugs.

Myanmar continues to be a major source of methamphetamine pills, crystalline methamphetamine, opium and heroin in Southeast Asia, the majority of which is manufactured in Shan State in the eastern part of the country. Significant amounts of methamphetamine originating from Myanmar continue to be seized in neighbouring countries. In 2012, a record amount of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine, one of the primary precursors used for illicit methamphetamine manufacture, was seized in Myanmar.

In 2012, both the total area under opium poppy cul-

tivation and potential opium production reached their highest levels since 2003. Opium poppy cultivation continues to be at a far lower level than in the mid-1990s but has nevertheless increased in each of the past six years. In 2012, the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar was estimated at 51,000 hectares, increasing by 17% from 43,600 hectares under cultivation in 2011. Potential opium production increased by 13% to 690 tons in 2012, when an estimated 300,000 households were involved in opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar.¹

Patterns and trends of drug use

No official data are available on the number of drug users in Myanmar. However, the CCDAC estimates that there are between 300,000 to 400,000 drug users in the country. Heroin and opium remain the primary drugs of use in Myanmar but there are indications that the number of users is declining. Of the 2,777 registered drug users² in Myanmar in 2012, the ma-

¹ 'South-East Asia Opium Survey 2012, Lao PDR, Myanmar', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna, November 2012.

² Registered drug users refers to drug users who received treatment during the year.

Table 58. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Myanmar, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1
Opium	2	2	2	2	2
Methamphetamine pills	3	3	3	3	3
Cannabis	4	4	4	4	4

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 59. Trend in use of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Heroin	↓	↓	↓	↔	↔
Opium	↓	↓	↓	↔	↔
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Cannabis	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

majority continued to identify themselves as heroin users (89.0%) and opium users (7.9%).³

ATS users accounted for roughly 2.4% (68 persons) of all registered drug users in 2012, declining from about 3.6% (57 of 1,550 persons) in 2011. Previously, most methamphetamine users lived close to the border near illicit methamphetamine manufacturing centres.⁴ More recently, however, methamphetamine use has become increasingly common across the country, particularly in major cities. In addition, ATS are indicated to becoming increasingly popular among young drug users.⁵ Beginning in 2011, the CCDAC conducted a study⁶ of 698 methamphetamine users who came into contact with drug treatment services in Myanmar during that year.⁷ The study showed that 58% of users reported occasional methamphetamine use while 42% reported regular methamphetamine use. Most methamphetamine users are poly-drug us-

ers (69%) and 30% stated that they only use methamphetamine. Smoking⁸ was found to be the most common mode of administration (96.8%) for methamphetamine pills while 0.6% of methamphetamine users said they inject the drug. Most methamphetamine users are aged between 25-34 years. A large number of methamphetamine users stated that they have used methamphetamine for a 1-4 year duration.⁹

A study on ATS use among high school students in Myitkyina, in Kachin State, where heroin use has long been the primary drug threat, found that methamphetamine was the most commonly used illicit drug.¹⁰ The reported lifetime prevalence of methamphetamine use among the student population was 1.5%; past year prevalence was 0.83%; and past month use was 0.6%.¹¹

³ Myanmar country presentation, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), presented at the ASEAN Conference 2013: Roadmap to Effective Substance Dependence Treatment, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 17-19 July 2013.

⁴ 'Myanmar: Situation Assessment on Amphetamine-Type Stimulants', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, Global SMART Programme, Bangkok, December 2010.

⁵ Myanmar country report. Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), presented at the ASEAN Conference 2013: Roadmap to Effective Substance Dependence Treatment, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 17-19 July 2013.

⁶ The study was conducted jointly by the CCDAC, Myanmar Ministry of Health, the UNODC Global SMART Programme and local NGOs.

⁷ Of the 698 methamphetamine users surveyed in 2011 and early 2012, 313 had visited drug treatment centres and 385 had visited drop-in-centres. The vast majority (95%) of methamphetamine users were men.

⁸ The pills are typically crushed and the vaporized in glass pipes or on aluminum foil heated by a flame underneath so that the user can inhale the resulting fumes.

⁹ 'Treatment data collection and forensic capacity building in Myanmar', Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Phnom Penh, 24-25 July 2012.

¹⁰ The study was conducted by the Myanmar Ministry of Health and World Health Organization in Myitkyina in 2011. Data were collected from 4,923 students.

¹¹ 'Study on Use of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants among High School Students at Myitkyina, Kachin State', Substance Abuse Control Project, Department of Health, Ministry of Health, the Republic of Myanmar and the World Health Organization Country Office for Myanmar, Myitkyina, Myanmar, 2011.

Table 60. Drug-related arrests in Myanmar, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	933	1,307	1,008	1,249	1,815
Crystalline methamphetamine	9	6	0	18	10
Methamphetamine powder	1	4	0	2	0
Ecstasy	6	0	0	0	0
Cannabis herb	240	490	146	275	247
Heroin	1,040	1,067	981	1,008	2,082
Opium (raw & prepared)	760	1,107	708	566	800
Opium (low grade)	250	439	•	355	328
Opium (brown opium / heroin No. 3)	9	•	•	4	16
Speciosa	120	323	•	211	147
Not identified/other drugs	•	•	622*	303	295*
Total	3,368	4,743	3,465	3,991	5,740

• = Not reported. *Includes arrests related to precursor chemicals. Precursors are categorized as drugs under the Myanmar Narcotics Control Law. Source(s): DAINAP

Injecting drug use

The injecting use of methamphetamine in Myanmar was first reported in 2011, but the majority of methamphetamine users continue to smoke the drug.¹² Injecting is the main form of heroin administration, and there are indications that an increasing number of drug users are shifting from smoking opium to injecting heroin.¹³ There continues to be a high level of HIV transmission among injecting drug users through sharing of contaminated needles.¹⁴

The number of injecting drug users in Myanmar was estimated at 75,000 in 2007, the latest year for which estimates are available.¹⁵ In 2011, HIV prevalence among the adult population (aged 15 and above) in Myanmar was estimated at 0.53%. Surveillance data for most-at-risk populations in 2011 showed that HIV prevalence among the sentinel groups has considerably decreased during the last few years. HIV prevalence was highest among male injecting drug users, at 21.9%, followed by 9.6% among female sex workers.¹⁶

¹² Op. cit. 'Treatment data collection and forensic capacity building in Myanmar', CCDAC, July 2012.

¹³ Myanmar/Burma country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2013/vol1/204048.htm>; date accessed: 16 June 2013).

¹⁴ 'Myanmar Global AIDS Response Progress Report 2012, Reporting Period January 2010-December 2011', National AIDS Programme (NAP), March 2012.

¹⁵ Myanmar country report, Substance Abuse Control Project (SACP), Drug Dependency Treatment Center, presented at the Regional Seminar on Drugs and HIV/AIDS Response, Ha Noi, 14-17 June 2011.

¹⁶ Op. cit. NAP, 2012.

New psychoactive substances

The use of new psychoactive substances is not indicated as a major problem in Myanmar. There have been ketamine seizures in the country (14.9 kg in 2009 and 1.4 kg in 2011); however, there have been no reports of ketamine use. Myanmar is one of 3 countries in Southeast Asia (the others being Malaysia and Thailand) where kratom¹⁷ use and cultivation is relatively common. Since 2008, an average of 516 kg of kratom has been seized annually in Myanmar.

Drug treatment

A large majority of persons admitted to drug treatment in Myanmar continue to be heroin and opium users. In 2012, about 97% of all persons admitted to treatment were opiate users of which 89% were heroin users and 8% opium users.¹⁸ However, the number of persons admitted to treatment at the Yangon Mental Health Hospital for psychiatric problems related to ATS use has increased in each of the last five years. In 2012, the 68 ATS users in treatment accounted for about 2.4% of all persons who received treatment that year.¹⁹ Most drug users do not seek treatment voluntarily, and there are no treatment facilities in the country that are capable of providing evidence-based treatment and specifically focus on ATS dependency.

¹⁷ A plant indigenous to Southeast Asia that contains the alkaloid mitragynine. The most frequent mode of administration is making tea out of the dried leaves. It is a controlled substance in Myanmar.

¹⁸ Op. cit. Myanmar country presentation CCDAC, July 2013.

¹⁹ Op. cit. Myanmar country report CCDAC, July 2013.

Table 61. Seizures of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	pills	1,102,199	23,899,156	2,192,263	5,894,188	18,162,052
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	15.9	124.3	226.1	33.4	426.7 ^a
Methamphetamine powder ^b	kg	3.9	339.0	0	20.2	73.0
Ecstasy	pills	108	5	0	0	0
Heroin	kg	88.1	1,076.1	88.5	42.4	335.8
Morphine	kg	206.1	325.7	98.2	36.9	45.8
Opium, high grade	kg	1,463.4	752.0	764.8	828.3	1,470.4
Opium, low grade	kg	2,453.0	465.0	148.0	281.6	80.8
Opium oil	kg	80.1	27.5	35.5	60.0	0.535 litres
Cannabis ^c	kg	170.2	284.6	205.6	196.4	80.3
Kratom	kg	308.5	597.5 ^d	375.0	969.5	330.2
Ketamine	kg	•	14.9	•	1.4	•

• = Not reported. ^aReported as 274.0 kg of liquid methamphetamine and 152.7 kg of crystalline methamphetamine. ^bIntermediary form to process into methamphetamine pills ^cCombined herb and resin. ^dPlus two litres of liquid kratom.

Source(s): DAINAP; Myanmar country presentation, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Phnom Penh, 24-25 July 2012; CCDAC, February 2013

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – Of the total of 5,740 drug-related arrests in Myanmar in 2012, 1,815 arrests involved methamphetamine pills. This figure represents about one-third of all drug-related arrests that year and a 15% increase from the number of persons arrested for methamphetamine pills in 2012. During the past five years, methamphetamine pills have accounted for about 30% of all drug-related arrests in Myanmar. Crystalline methamphetamine-related arrests in Myanmar remain low, with 10 persons arrested in relation to crystalline methamphetamine in 7 separate cases. There have been no ecstasy-related arrests in Myanmar since 2008.

Heroin-related arrests more than doubled in 2012 accounting for about 36% of all drug-related arrests. One-fifth of all drug-related arrests in 2012 related to all forms of opium (raw and prepared, low grade, and brown opium).

Drug seizures – Methamphetamine and heroin seizures increased significantly in 2012. In that year, approximately 18.2 million methamphetamine pills were seized in Myanmar, representing more than a three-fold increase from the 5.9 million pills seized in 2011 and marking the highest total reported since 2009 when 23.9 million pills were seized. The 426.7 kg²⁰ of crystal-

line methamphetamine seized in Myanmar in 2012 is a substantial increase from the 33.4 kg seized in 2011 and signifies the highest total reported since 2001 when 518 kg were seized. Much of the crystalline methamphetamine seized in 2012 was discovered at a clandestine laboratory in the Kokang Special Region of the eastern Shan State in July. A total of 73 kg of methamphetamine powder, 274 kg of liquid methamphetamine, intermediate forms for processing methamphetamine pills and crystalline methamphetamine, was seized.²¹ However, figures for methamphetamine seizures in Myanmar do not reflect the full extent of their manufacture, as most methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) is trafficked across the border to neighbouring countries. Most illicit drug seizures in Myanmar are believed to be intended for the domestic market or for markets in India, Malaysia and Singapore.²²

Notable methamphetamine seizures in 2012 include a seizure of more than 8.7 million methamphetamine pills and precursor chemicals discovered in a storage facility in Tachilek, in Shan State in February.²³ It was the largest single methamphetamine pill seizure in Myanmar since 2009. In January, 98,200 meth-

²¹ Official communication with the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), September 2012.

²² Myanmar country report, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

²³ 'Activities on the fight against narcotic drugs in Myanmar (April 2013)', Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMIC), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

²⁰ 274.0 kg of liquid methamphetamine and 152.7 kg of crystalline methamphetamine.

Table 62. Precursor chemical seizures in Myanmar, 2008-2012

Precursor type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Acetic anhydride	lt.	1,142.0	699.0	14.0	0	0
Ephedrine	kg	750.9	1,645.7	33.6	110.0	358.4
Pseudoephedrine	kg	7.8	949.0	766.2	1,666.4	6,947.0

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; Myanmar country presentation (CCDAC), July 2012; CCDAC, February 2013; 'Activities on the fight against narcotic drugs in Myanmar (April 2013)' (CCDAC), June 2013

Table 63. Retail prices of selected drugs in Myanmar (USD), 2010-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	per pill	3 – 6	3 – 7	2.5
Crystalline methamphetamine	per kg	8,500 – 10,000	10,000 – 11,000	●
Ecstasy	per pill	70 – 80	58 – 68	●
Cannabis herb	per kg	150 – 250	235	235
Heroin	per kg	75,000 – 90,000	95,000	94,120
Opium	per kg	2,000 – 2,500	2,350	2,350

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; 'Myanmar's Report on Suppression of Narcotic Drugs', Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), presented at the Sixteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 22-24 February 2011; Myanmar country presentation (CCDAC), July 2012; Official communication with the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), October 2012; CCDAC, February 2013

amphetamine pills were seized in Yangon. Follow-up investigations resulted in an additional 1.71 million methamphetamine pill seizures in February (a total of about 1.81 million pills) which was the largest seizure of such pills in Yangon.²⁴

Heroin seizures in 2012 totaled approximately 336 kg, signifying a near eight-fold increase since 2011 and marking the second highest total reported from Myanmar since 2005. High-grade opium seizures increased by 78% to 1,470 kg in 2012, which is the highest total reported since 2006 when 2,321 kg were seized.

Precursor chemical seizures in Myanmar increased sharply in the last two years. In 2012, more than 6.9 tons of pseudoephedrine (primarily pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine) was seized increasing from approximately 1.7 tons seized in 2011.²⁵ Ephedrine seizures in 2012 totaled around 358 kg, which is more than a three-fold increase from 110 kg in 2011 and a ten-fold increase from 34 kg seized in 2010.

Drug prices – In 2012, the retail price of one methamphetamine pill in Yangon and other urban areas was indicated to have decreased to about USD 2.5,

while the lowest prices were found in North Shan at USD 2.2 and East Shan at USD 3.4.²⁶ Other drug prices remain largely unchanged from the previous year. Methamphetamine street retail prices are generally much lower in Shan State than in cities such as Yangon and Mandalay which are further from methamphetamine manufacturing centres.

Sources of illicit drugs

Most methamphetamine that originates from Myanmar is illicitly manufactured in clandestine laboratories located in eastern Shan State close to the borders with China and Thailand. Some methamphetamine is manufactured in small, mobile facilities, primarily in territories controlled by active or former ethnic insurgent groups. However, given the large amounts of methamphetamine trafficked from Myanmar to neighboring countries, there is almost certainly an industrial-scale production of methamphetamine pills and crystalline methamphetamine. In July 2012, Myanmar officially reported that the first clandestine crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing laboratory had been dismantled, in the Kokang Special Region of eastern Shan State.²⁷ Myanmar authorities also dismantled 4

²⁴ Op. cit. INCSR.

²⁵ Op. cit. CCDAC, February 2013.

²⁶ Op. cit. Myanmar country presentation CCDAC, July 2012.

²⁷ Op. cit. CCDAC, September 2012.

pill pressing machines from 3 manufacturing facilities located near the border with Thailand in 2012.²⁸

Myanmar continues to be the world's second largest producer of opium, after Afghanistan. The estimated potential opium production in Myanmar increased by 13% to 690 tons in 2012, from 610 tons in 2011, representing about 10% of global opium production.²⁹

Myanmar does not have a domestic pharmaceutical industry. Thus, illicit methamphetamine manufacture relies exclusively on diverted precursors and licit pharmaceutical preparations which contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. These continue to originate primarily from India and China but also to a lesser extent from Thailand and the Republic of Korea, whilst it is assumed that Lao People's Democratic Republic is a transit point of precursor chemicals originating from Vietnam. Most precursor seizures continued to be made in the central parts of Myanmar, along routes which run from the northwestern border with India.³⁰

Trafficking – A large share of the methamphetamine pills manufactured in Myanmar is either trafficked directly to Thailand or first transits Lao PDR before being trafficked to Thailand. Some methamphetamine pills are also trafficked via Lao PDR to Viet Nam and Cambodia. Seizure data during the last few years suggest that significant and increasing quantities are also being trafficked westward to Bangladesh. Some methamphetamine pills remain in Myanmar to meet the growing domestic demand for methamphetamine. However, most crystalline methamphetamine manufactured in Myanmar is destined for international markets rather than local use. The majority (about 80-90%) of crystalline methamphetamine seized in Thailand is reported to originate from Myanmar.³¹ Large amounts of methamphetamine in pill and crystalline form are also smuggled to China. It is estimated that more than 90% of the methamphetamine pills seized in China in 2012 originated from Myanmar.³² The total amount of methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) from Myanmar seized in Yunnan province

in southwestern China during the year nearly totaled 9.0 tons, increasing from approximately 7.3 tons in 2011 and 4.3 tons in 2010.³³

Most heroin manufactured in Myanmar is trafficked to China. In addition, a large share of heroin seized in Viet Nam is trafficked into the country from Myanmar via Lao PDR.³⁴ Some quantities of heroin are trafficked via Viet Nam and Thailand for onward trafficking to international markets.

Forensic data

In 2012, the Chemical Examiner's Office in Myanmar conducted a qualitative analyses of 1.8 million methamphetamine pills. The average weight of the pills was 100 mg and these contained unspecified amounts of methamphetamine and caffeine. In previous years, methamphetamine pills found in Myanmar were typically composed of 25% methamphetamine and 75% caffeine, including other substances.³⁵ In addition, 3,897 samples of crystalline methamphetamine were analysed.

²⁸ Op. cit. CCDAC, August 2013.

²⁹ Op. cit. UNODC 2012.

³⁰ Op. cit. CCDAC, February 2013.

³¹ Thailand country report, Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

³² China country presentation, China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), 26-27 February 2013.

³³ 'Current Drug Situation and Trends of ATS in China', China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

³⁴ Viet Nam country report, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

³⁵ '2011 Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs, Asia and the Pacific', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna, November 2011.



Emerging trends and concerns

- New Zealand continues to experience high levels of illicit methamphetamine manufacture, trafficking and use.
- The market for pills sold as ‘ecstasy’ remains strong. This is indicated by data related to seizures and clandestine laboratory detections as well as by the growing range of new psychoactive substances used in ‘ecstasy’ as substitutes for MDMA.
- It is likely that transnational and domestic organized criminal groups will continue to divert significant quantities of precursor chemicals from licit trade to New Zealand, using new sources and smuggling methods.
- The range of transnational organized criminal groups targeting New Zealand for the trafficking of methamphetamine into the country is likely to expand.

Overview of the drug situation

The methamphetamine market in New Zealand, which appears to be predominantly supplied by domestic manufacture, continues to be at a high level. Domestic and transnational organized criminal groups continue to illicitly import large amounts of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and their precursor chemicals into the country. In addition, New Zealand continues to experience high levels of methamphetamine use, primarily in its powder form although recent studies suggest a declining trend. There are also indications that the ‘ecstasy’ market is expanding, despite the dismantling of a number of ‘ecstasy’ trafficking syndicates in 2011 and 2012. In recent years, the Government of New Zealand has made the reduction of the availability and use of methamphetamine its highest priority in relation to illicit drugs.¹

During the past few years, a number of new psychoactive substances have emerged in New Zealand, although their use appears to be limited. A large proportion of pills sold as ‘ecstasy’ contain psychoactive substances

other than MDMA. The use of synthetic cannabinoids and phenethylamines is indicated to have increased in 2012.

Cannabis remains the dominant illicit drug in New Zealand in terms of arrests, seizures and use, and its domestic cultivation remains widespread.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Methamphetamine use appears to be declining in recent years. According to data from the latest triennial drug use prevalence survey,² conducted by the Ministry of Health, 0.9% (or about 25,000 New Zealanders) of the working age population used an amphetamines-group substance in 2011, marking a decline from 2.1% in 2007-2008. Past-year amphetamine use was highest among persons aged 25 to 34 years at 1.9% and higher for men at 1.3% than women at 0.5%.³ In 2012, there

¹ Information provided by New Zealand in the annual report questionnaire (ARQ), 2012.

² Based on the New Zealand Health Survey 2011/12, as cited in ‘Tackling Methamphetamine: Indicators and Progress Report’, Policy Advisory Group (PAG), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Wellington, October 2012.

³ Ibid.

Table 64. Rank of use of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Cannabis herb	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	2	●	2	2	2
Methamphetamine	3	●	3	2	2
BZP	5	●	●	2	2
Opioids (Heroin, morphine and opiates)	4	●	4	3	3
Hallucinogens	●	●	5	4	4 ^a
Cocaine	●	●	6	5	5

● = Not reported; ^aIn 2012, the Government of New Zealand ranked tranquilizers and sedatives such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates as the fourth most widely used drug in the country. However, use data for these substances are not available for previous years.

Source(s): ARQ 2013 New Zealand and previous years

Table 65. Trend in use of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Cannabis herb	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
Ecstasy	↑	↔	↑	●	●
Methamphetamine	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔
Opioids (Heroin, morphine and opiates)	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): ARQ New Zealand 2013 and previous years

were an estimated 7,000 problematic users⁴ of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in New Zealand.⁵

The findings from the latest Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS) survey⁶ also suggest a recent decline in methamphetamine use. The percentage of frequent methamphetamine users who had used crystalline methamphetamine in the past six months decreased from 64% in 2006 to 37% in 2011. In addition, the percentage of frequent methamphetamine users who had ever used crystalline methamphetamine decreased from 78% in 2006 to 58% in 2011. The number of days that frequent methamphetamine users had used methamphetamine in the previous six months declined from 57 days in 2006 to 40 days in 2011, and the number of days they had used crystalline methamphetamine declined from 55 days in 2006 to 30 days in 2011.⁷

⁴ Problematic drug users refer to persons who engage in high-risk drug use behaviour such as those who inject drugs, persons who use drugs on a daily basis and/or persons diagnosed as drug dependent.

⁵ Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

⁶ A total of 372 frequent drug users were interviewed for the 2011 Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS) survey. All respondents had used a drug type at least monthly during the six months prior to the interview.

⁷ 'Recent Trends in Illegal Drug Use in New Zealand, 2006-2011: Findings from the 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS)', Wilkins, C., Sweetsur, P., Smart, B., Warne, C. and Jawalkar, S., Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation, School of Public Health, Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand, July 2012.

During the last few years, the ecstasy market has continued to expand in New Zealand. However, 'ecstasy' pills consumed in New Zealand nowadays rarely contain MDMA. Instead, pills sold as 'ecstasy' often contain stimulants, in particular 4-MEC,⁸ but also TFMPP,⁹ mephedrone¹⁰ and BZP^{11,12}. It is believed that these drugs are being imported as powders and pressed into tablets in New Zealand.¹³ The prevalence of past-year ecstasy use in New Zealand among the general population aged 16-64 years has shown a statistically significant increase, from 1.5% in 1998 to 2.6% in 2008, the latest year for which data are available.¹⁴

Cannabis continues to be the most widely used illicit drug in New Zealand and its use is indicated to have remained relatively stable in the last several years. The

⁸ 4-MEC refers to 4-methylethcathinone, a synthetic cathinone.

⁹ TFMPP refers to 1-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine.

¹⁰ Mephedrone, 4-methylmethcathinone, is a synthetic cathinone that mimics the effects of cathinone, one of the psychoactive substances in the khat plant.

¹¹ BZP refers to benzylpiperazine.

¹² New Zealand country report, National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013; Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

¹³ 'Illicit Drug Assessment 2012', National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), Wellington, 2012.

¹⁴ 'Drug Use In New Zealand: Key results of the 2007/08 New Zealand Alcohol and Drug Use Survey', Ministry of Health, Wellington, January 2010.

Table 66. Drug-related hospital admissions in New Zealand, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
ATS	610 ^a	690 ^a	486	542	473
Methamphetamine	•	•	306	316	371
Heroin, morphine and opiates	1,976	2,083	2,301	2,043	2,280
Cannabis	2,001	2,185	2,625	2,413	2,286
Cocaine	16	21	13	22	28
Hallucinogens	38	59	72	71	74
Total	4,641	5,038	5,803	5,407	5,512

• = Not reported. Data are provisional only and relate to admissions to publicly funded hospitals. Data do not include admissions to emergency departments for drug-related conditions, i.e. those who are not actually admitted to hospital. The data do not include admissions to private hospitals or individuals referred or directed to publicly or privately-funded drug treatment programs. ^aThe figure refers to the number of persons admitted to treatment for methamphetamine and ATS use; New Zealand reported total methamphetamine treatment admissions since 2010.

Source(s): 'Tackling Methamphetamine: Indicators and Progress Report', Policy Advisory Group (PAG), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Wellington, October 2010; Official communication with the National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), Wellington, September 2011; Official communication with the National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), Wellington, October 2012; NDIB, July 2013 (preliminary data).

use of prescription opiates/pharmaceutical opioids,¹⁵ either in tablet form or 'homebake heroin', a street substance created from pharmaceutical opiates such as morphine or codeine, showed some increase in 2012. Heroin use, which is relatively uncommon in New Zealand, also showed a slight increase that year.¹⁶

Injecting drug use

In 2012, there were an estimated 21,500 injecting drug users in New Zealand, most of which were pharmaceutical opioid users. In the same year, approximately 15% of all amphetamine users and 20% of all methamphetamine users injected these drugs, similar to the previous year. Injecting use of amphetamine and methamphetamine is indicated to have increased in 2012 and continues to be the primary mode of opiate use. In 2012, it was estimated that all heroin users and 90% of both opium users and pharmaceutical opioid users injected the drugs. The injecting use of heroin (primarily 'homebake') showed some increase while the injecting use of opium appeared to be on the decline and the injecting use of pharmaceutical opioids remained stable that year. In addition, there was some increase in the injecting use of cocaine.¹⁷

HIV transmission by injecting drug use remains low in New Zealand. Approximately 0.3% of all injecting drug

users in the country are living with HIV (and 50% are living with Hepatitis C and 20% with Hepatitis B).¹⁸

New psychoactive substances

The use of new psychoactive substances has been a feature in New Zealand for several years, although their use remains relatively low. In the late 1990s, benzylpiperazine (BZP) emerged in New Zealand as a 'legal alternative' for MDMA and methamphetamine and was marketed as 'party pills'. In 2008, the Government of New Zealand placed BZP in Schedule 3 (Class C 'Controlled Drugs') of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975. More recently, a number of other new psychoactive substances have emerged in New Zealand, including synthetic cathinones (2008), synthetic cannabinoids (2008), khat¹⁹ (2009), and phenethylamines (2011).²⁰ The use of synthetic cannabinoids is indicated to have increased sharply in 2011²¹ with a further increase in 2012.²² However, synthetic cannabinoids will no longer be sold legally without an assessment for safety and government approval.²³ In June 2012, Cabinet agreed

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ The khat shrub (*Catha edulis*) of the Celastraceae family is a plant native to the horn of Africa and the Arabian peninsula. Khat is not under international drug control, but its psychoactive constituents cathinone and cathine are listed in Schedules I and III, respectively, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Khat is under national control in several countries, including New Zealand.

²⁰ 'The challenge of new psychoactive substances', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global SMART Programme, Vienna, March 2013.

²¹ Op. cit. Wilkins et. al. 2012.

²² Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

²³ Official communication with the National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), July 2013.

¹⁵ Pharmaceutical opioids may include preparations containing buprenorphine, codeine, dextropropoxyphene, fentanyl, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone and pethidine (ARQ New Zealand 2013).

¹⁶ Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

¹⁷ Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

to policy proposals for new legislation to control psychoactive substances, including 'party pills' and other legal highs. In July 2013, the Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect.²⁴ The new legislation makes the import, manufacture and supply of psychoactive substances illegal unless they have been assessed for risk and approved by a regulator. The legislation replaces the temporary class drug notices (TCDN) regime.²⁵

The use of phenethylamines, in particular substances in the '2C series' (2CB, 2CE, 2CI, 2CP) as well as 25I-NBOMe and 25C-NBOMe, is indicated to have increased in 2012. Some of these substances, such as 25I-NBOMe are being marketed as LSD.²⁶ In recent years, New Zealand has seized considerable amounts of plant-based psychoactive substances: 137 kg in 2009 (65 seizure cases), 75 kg (40 cases) in 2011 and 39 kg (21 cases) in 2012.²⁷ In addition, Customs seizures of unidentified powders and drug analogues more than doubled in 2012 (in terms of both quantity and the number of seizures) since 2011. It is likely that some of the unidentified drugs were temporary class drugs, such as synthetic cannabinoids, and other drug analogues intended to be pressed into illicit 'ecstasy'-type pills.²⁸

*Drug-related hospital admissions*²⁹

A total of 473 persons were admitted to public hospitals (excluding emergency departments) for ATS use (as the cause of or a factor in their admission) in 2012, marking a 13% decrease from 542 persons in 2011. On the other hand, the 371 persons admitted to public hospitals for methamphetamine use in 2012 marks a 17% increase from the previous year.³⁰ The number of ATS users accounted for roughly 15% of the total drug-related admissions in 2012.

The 2,286 cannabis users continued to account for the largest portion, of around 41%, of persons admitted to public hospitals for drug-related causes. A similar percentage of persons were admitted for heroin, morphine and opiate use (including synthetic opioids).³¹

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Op. cit. NDIB, February 2013.

²⁶ Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

²⁷ Op. cit. UNODC 2013.

²⁸ Op. cit. NDIB, July 2013.

²⁹ Data for New Zealand refers to drug-related hospital admissions. Specific drug treatment figures are not available.

³⁰ Op. cit. NDIB, July 2013.

³¹ Ibid.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2012, 20,682 persons were arrested for drug-related offences in New Zealand.³² However, data are not disaggregated by drug type. In 2011, a total of 15,190 drug-related cases were reported in New Zealand. ATS-related cases accounted for nearly 13% of all drug-related cases in 2011, as in the previous year. Arrest data for 2011 is not disaggregated by different ATS types. Cannabis accounted for about 81% of all drug-related cases in New Zealand.³³

Drug seizures – In 2012, a total of 14.9 kg of methamphetamine was seized in New Zealand, a 72% decrease from the previous year and the lowest total reported in the past five years.³⁴ In 2012, there were 15 methamphetamine border seizures totaling 6.4 kg compared with 23 border seizures totaling 27 kg in the previous year.

Whereas the number of 'ecstasy' seizure cases in New Zealand increased in 2012, seizures of 'ecstasy' pill equivalents decreased by about 14% to 173,715 from 202,208 in 2011.³⁵ The spike in 'ecstasy' seizures reported in 2011 is mainly due to the dismantling of one large 'ecstasy' trafficking operation that year. The high level of 'ecstasy' pills seized in 2012 is likely due to the growth in the domestic supply of pills sold as 'ecstasy' but which contain stimulants other than MDMA.³⁶

In 2012, a total of 84 clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories were dismantled, all but one of which were small-scale 'kitchen-type' facilities.³⁷ In addition, one laboratory dismantled that year was suspected of manufacturing MDA (an MDMA analogue). Most of the dismantled facilities continued to be located on private premises in the Upper North Island. A total of 109 clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled in 2011, 130 in 2010, 135 in 2009 and 133 in 2008. These figures are considerably lower than the number of laboratories seized earlier in the decade. In recent years, increasing numbers of clandestine laboratories have been seized in ru-

³² Annual apprehensions for the latest calendar years, Statistics New Zealand Tauranga Aotearoa (Accessed at: <http://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7407#>; date accessed: 09 September 2013).

³³ ARQ New Zealand 2013.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid; Op. cit. NDIB, July 2013.

³⁶ Ibid. ARQ New Zealand 2013.

³⁷ Ibid.

Table 67. Seizures of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine	kg	24.0	20.8	30.9	53.0	14.9
Amphetamine	kg	1.0	1.2	0.3	2.7	13.3
Ecstasy ^a	pills	25,806	15,063	46,234	202,208	173,715
Cannabis plants	plants	158,058	182,606	162,540	38,062	40,435
Cannabis herb ^b	kg	916.0	840.0	718.5	546.0	693.0
LSD	no. of doses	2,672	53,226 ^c	836	597	921
GBL / GHB	lt.	853.0	99.3	120.1	105.0	35.4
Heroin	grams/ml.	25.0 / 42.0	0.8 / 39.0	17.0 / 1.5	2.7 / 17.0	17.7 / 0
Cocaine	kg	0.8	3.0	9.9	4.1	16.3

● = Not reported. ^aData for 2010-2012 includes pills sold as 'ecstasy', most of which do not contain MDMA. 'Ecstasy' seizure figures include the number of pills plus powders suspected to be for pill pressing, which are converted into pill equivalents. ^bDoes not include cannabis oil, cannabis resin or cannabis seeds. ^cThe spike in LSD seizures in 2009 is due to a large seizure in November 2009 of 2.5 g of LSD powder (equivalent to approximately 50,000 doses of LSD). It is possibly the first occasion where a solid form of LSD has been found in New Zealand (NDIB 2010).

Source(s): 'New Zealand Country Report – 2008', National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), presented at the Fourteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 17-20 February 2009; 'Illicit Drug Assessment 2010', National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), Wellington, 2010.; New Zealand Country Report, National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), presented at the Sixteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 22-24 February 2011.; 'New Zealand Country Report', National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB), presented at the Twenty-second Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Busan, Republic of Korea, 12-14 September 2012.; NDIB, July 2013; 'Tackling Methamphetamine: Indicators and Progress Report', Policy Advisory Group (PAG), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Wellington, April 2013; ARQ New Zealand 2013 and previous years.

ral or semi-rural areas.³⁸ In addition, a growing number of Asians have been arrested in relation to the illicit methamphetamine manufacture in New Zealand.³⁹

Nearly all illicitly manufactured methamphetamine in New Zealand continues to be made using ephedrine and pseudoephedrine as precursors, most of which is diverted from licit international trade. Border seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine have continued to decline since their peak in 2009. In 2012, the quantity of precursor chemicals seized by Customs decreased by about 25% from the previous year. In 2012, more than 2 million pill equivalents of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine were seized in 333 incidents, while almost 2.8 million pill equivalents were seized in 683 incidents in 2011.⁴⁰ In addition, 3 clandestine laboratories related to 'homebake' heroin were dismantled in 2012, including two facilities producing GBL.⁴¹ It is believed that those found to be involved in GBL extraction and distribution were also involved in the manufacture and/or distribution of methamphetamine in New Zealand.⁴²

With approximately 16 kg seized in 2012, cocaine seizures showed a four-fold increase, illustrating the fluctuating nature of cocaine seizures in New Zealand.

Drug prices – Methamphetamine retail prices in New Zealand decreased in 2012. The typical price for one gram of methamphetamine powder in 2012 was approximately USD 680 compared to USD 775 in the previous year. The price of methamphetamine at the ounce and point (0.1 gram) level has remained relatively stable. However, methamphetamine prices, and those for other drugs, depend greatly on the region of sale.⁴³

The decline in ecstasy retail prices is likely due to the decreasing MDMA content of ecstasy pills, which often contain various substances other than MDMA. Some changes in illicit drug prices may be due to fluctuating exchange rates.

Sources of illicit drugs

A large portion of methamphetamine found in New Zealand is domestically manufactured. Significant quantities have also been trafficked into the country during the last few years, often by transnational criminal groups.

³⁸ Op. cit. NDIB, February 2013.

³⁹ Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

⁴⁰ 'Tackling Methamphetamine: Indicators and Progress Report', Policy Advisory Group (PAG), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Wellington, April 2013; Op. cit. NDIB, July 2013.

⁴¹ This has been in the form of extracting the GBL from the commercial fungicides Mogul and Fandango, both of which contain about 40% GBL.

⁴² Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

⁴³ Op. cit. PAG, October 2012.

Table 68. Border seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, 2008-2012

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Amount seized (pills) – converted to equivalent of 90 mg pills	3,336,978	5,395,030	4,383,594	2,749,949	2,069,142
Equivalent in kilos of precursors	744	1,203	978	613	461
Number of seizures	831	921	788	683	333
Potential methamphetamine yield (kg)*	150 – 210	243 – 340	197 – 276	124 – 173	93 – 130

*Methamphetamine yield is calculated on 50-70% purity.

Source(s): PAG, April 2013; Information obtained from the New Zealand Customs Service CusMod database

Most of the pseudoephedrine used in clandestine methamphetamine manufacture in New Zealand continues to be diverted from international trade. For several years, the illicit importation of pseudoephedrine from China primarily in the form of ContacNT[®] has been of significant concern in New Zealand.⁴⁴

Most of the cannabis used in New Zealand is domestically cultivated. There is no evidence of large-scale imports or exports of cannabis or any of its derivatives.⁴⁵

Trafficking – In 2012, there was a large increase in the amount of methamphetamine and pseudoephedrine seized at New Zealand's borders. In addition, ecstasy – in both powder and finished pill form – seized at the border increased considerably, from a total of 383 ecstasy pills in 15 seizures in 2011 to a total of 2,656 ecstasy pills in 105 seizures in 2012. It is likely that much of this increase is due to an increase in purchases over the Internet.⁴⁶ In contrast, ephedrine seizures at the border decreased in 2012.⁴⁷

Transnational and domestic organized criminal groups continue to traffic significant quantities of methamphetamine and precursor chemicals to New Zealand. Asian criminal groups are predominant in the illicit importation of pseudoephedrine and methamphetamine. There are also indications that criminal groups from Southeast Asia are involved in methamphetamine manufacture in New Zealand. Organized criminal groups from the Islamic Republic of Iran have re-emerged during the past few years and are involved in smuggling methamphetamine to New Zealand. Drug trafficking groups from West Africa, in particular Nigeria, previously involved in trafficking cocaine to New Zealand, have also been identified recently for trafficking of methamphetamine into

the country. Domestic criminal groups continue to be involved in illicit manufacture/production and distribution of various drugs in New Zealand, particularly methamphetamine and cannabis.⁴⁸

In 2012, the primary embarkation points for methamphetamine trafficked into New Zealand (by quantity) were the Netherlands (10.3%), Hong Kong, China (0.4%) and Germany (0.3%). Amphetamine seized in New Zealand in 2012 primarily came from the Netherlands (14.0%), China (12.0%) and the Philippines (4.0%), while the primary embarkation points for 'ecstasy' were the Netherlands (18.7%), Thailand (2.0%) and Spain (0.7%).⁴⁹

The majority of ATS and precursor chemicals seized at New Zealand's borders are found in parcel post. In 2012, approximately 87% of methamphetamine, 74% of the amphetamine and 98% of the ecstasy seized at the border of New Zealand was seized in parcel post. Passenger plane couriers accounted for the second most widely used method for ATS trafficking into the country. Only 3.7% of amphetamine seized at the New Zealand border was seized in sea cargo, and no sea cargo smuggling cases were reported for methamphetamine or ecstasy.⁵⁰

The main embarkation points for precursor chemicals trafficked to New Zealand continued to be mainland China, accounting for about 51% of pseudoephedrine seized at the border of New Zealand in 2012, followed by Hong Kong, China (12.0%) and Canada (4.2%). China also remained the primary embarkation country for ephedrine smuggled into New Zealand (38.6%), followed by Canada (18.6%) and the United States (8.6%). As with most illicit drugs smuggled into New Zealand, the majority of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine is smuggled by plane and

⁴⁴ Op. cit. NDIB, February 2013.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Op. cit. NDIB, July 2013.

⁴⁷ Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

Table 69. Typical street retail drug prices in New Zealand (USD), 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine powder	per gram	680	•	•	775	680
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	560	•	576	•	•
Ecstasy	per pill	42	•	29	28	20
Cannabis herb	per 1.5 g	14	•	22	24	20
Heroin (<i>homebake</i>)	per ml.	0.70	•	•	•	•
Cocaine	per gram	280	•	180	316	580

• = Not reported. Drug price data are calculated on average exchange rates of NZD to USD for each year.

Source(s): 'Recent Trends in Illegal Drug Use in New Zealand, 2006-2008: Findings from the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS), Wilkins, C., Griffiths, R., Sweetsur, P., Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation, School of Public Health, Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand, May 2009; PAG 2010; PAG, April 2013; ARQ New Zealand 2013 and previous years.

parcel post.⁵¹ However, in 2012, approximately 220 kg of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, nearly half of the total that year, was illicitly imported in sea cargo/containers.⁵²

TFMPP, and phenethylamines such as the '2C series'.⁵⁶

In 2012, the Government of New Zealand reported a continuing decrease in cannabis seizures along the border. In addition, there was a large decrease in cocaine seizures following the significant increase in the previous year.⁵³

Forensic data

Methamphetamine purity remains high in New Zealand but has declined over the past five years. Purity levels of the 40 methamphetamine samples from 2011-2012 analysed by the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) in 2013 were at an average of 65%. The 15 border seizures analysed during the reporting period had an average purity of 72% methamphetamine. Domestic seizures had an average purity of 60% with the maximum purity for the hydrochloride form of the drug at 80%.⁵⁴ Purity levels remain high at wholesale level (one gram or more); the ESR has not assessed purity at street level (e.g. a point, or 0.1 gram).⁵⁵

Methylsulfonylmethane, ethyl maltol, creatine and glucose are some of the diluents and cutting agents found in methamphetamine during the last two years. Pills sold as 'ecstasy' often include new psychoactive substances such as mephedrone, 4-MEC, BZP,

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Op. cit. NDIB, July 2013.

⁵³ Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.

⁵⁴ Op. cit. PAG 2013.

⁵⁵ Op. cit. PAG, May 2012.

⁵⁶ Op. cit. ARQ New Zealand, 2013.



Emerging trends and concerns

- The manufacture, trafficking and use of crystalline methamphetamine continues to be the primary drug threat in the Philippines, as it still accounts for most drug-related arrests and drug treatment admissions in the country.
- A large portion of crystalline methamphetamine manufacture, and the trafficking of methamphetamine and its precursors in the Philippines is carried out by transnational organized criminal networks, primarily consisting of Chinese and African nationals.
- In recent years, significant quantities of cocaine from South America have been trafficked via the Philippines to markets in Asia.

Overview of the drug situation

Crystalline methamphetamine remains the primary drug of concern in the Philippines, even though domestic manufacture of methamphetamine appears to be on the decline. The manufacture and trafficking of the drug by transnational organized criminal groups from China and West Africa is of particular concern. Crystalline methamphetamine users continue to account for the majority of drug-related arrests and drug treatment admissions.

Cannabis is cultivated in the Philippines for domestic use and is indicated to be the second most widely used drug in the country. Solvents and other inhalants used by young drug users, in particular street children, continues to be a major problem.¹

Patterns and trends of drug use²

Crystalline methamphetamine remains the most prob-

lematic drug in the Philippines, in terms of arrests and treatment admissions. However, according to government expert perception, methamphetamine use has decreased in 2012. Recently, there are indications that crystalline methamphetamine use has increased among women. Nasal insufflation (snorting) is the primary means of crystalline methamphetamine use in the Philippines. The use of ecstasy remains limited.

A large number of drug users in the Philippines are poly-drug users. More than half (52%) are single, and about 39% are unemployed. There is an estimated 10 to 1 ratio between male and female drug users in the Philippines.³

Injecting drug use

An estimated 14% of all injecting drug users in the Philippines are living with HIV.⁴ Of the 63 female injecting drug users interviewed in 2011, 17 (27%) had HIV; of the 1,220 male injecting drug users inter-

¹ Information provided by the Philippines in the annual report questionnaire (ARQ); 'Philippine Drug Situation', Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 14-16 February 2012.

² The data for drug use is based on drug-related arrests during the year.

³ Philippine country presentation, Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Jakarta, 28-29 August 2013.

⁴ Estimates are based on the Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance (IHBS) – which is conducted among key affected populations every 2 years – and the Philippine HIV and AIDS Registry (PNAC 2012).

Table 70. Rank of use of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	●	1	1	1
Benzodiazepine	●	●	4	4	●
Cannabis herb	●	●	2	2	2
Inhalants	●	●	3	3	3

● = Not reported

Source(s): Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and Pacific (DAINAP)

Table 71. Trend in use of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	●	↓	↑	↓
Benzodiazepine	●	●	↓	↓	●
Cannabis herb	●	●	↓	↓	↑
Inhalants	●	●	↓	↑	↓

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 72. Drug treatment admissions in the Philippines by drug type, 2012

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	1,593	141	1,734	1,944	167	2,111
Ecstasy	16	4	20	24	5	29
Cannabis	718	54	772	839	61	900
Cocaine	29	4	33	44	7	51
Ketamine	1	1	2	3	2	5
Inhalants	104	4	108	107	4	111

Source(s): DAINAP

viewed that year, 157 (13%) had HIV. HIV transmission among injecting drug users was first detected in the Philippines in 2010.⁵

New psychoactive substances

The use of psychoactive substances is limited in the Philippines. Ketamine use has been a feature for a number of years, but it is not widespread. Few people have been admitted to drug treatment for ketamine use, and less than 10 grams of ketamine have been seized in each of the past few years. In addition, a large share of pills sold as 'ecstasy' in the Philippines contain BZP rather than MDMA (or its analogues). The Philippine government reported that no new drugs or new patterns of drug use had been observed in 2012.⁶

⁵ Country Progress Report, Philippines, 2012 Global AIDS Response Progress Report, 2010-2011', Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC), Manila, 2012.

⁶ Op. cit. ARQ Philippines, 2013.

Drug treatment

Two-thirds of the persons in treatment centres in 2012 were crystalline methamphetamine users, approximately the same as in the previous ten years. The 2,111 persons treated for crystalline methamphetamine use in 2012 decreased by 4% from 2,192 in the previous year. Of the 246 women in drug treatment in 2012, about 68% were crystalline methamphetamine users, previously making up 75% in 2011 and 62% in 2010. The 29 persons in treatment for ecstasy use in 2012 continued to make up less than 1% of all persons admitted to drug treatment that year.

Cannabis users accounted for the second largest group of drug users in treatment in 2012 at 28%, followed by inhalants and cocaine at 3% and 2% respectively. The median age of persons in drug treatment in 2012 was 29.⁷

⁷ Ibid.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – A total of 10,159 drug-related arrests were reported in the Philippines in 2012, marking a 4.5% decrease from the 10,636 arrested in the previous year. The Philippines does not disaggregate drug arrest data by drug type to DAINAP. However, previous estimates by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) indicate that more than 75% of all drug-related arrests in 2011 and 2010 involved crystalline methamphetamine.⁸

In 2012, 65 foreign nationals were arrested for drug-related offences,⁹ including 24 persons arrested at Ninoy Aquino International Airport who had connections to African drug trafficking groups.¹⁰ The largest number of foreign nationals arrested for drug-related offences in 2012 was from China (23 arrests), followed by Taiwan Province of China (10 arrests) and Malaysia (5 arrests).¹¹

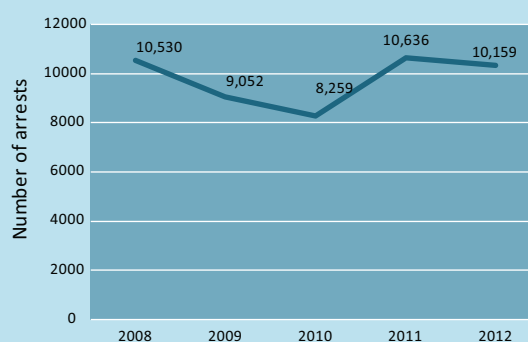
Drug seizures – Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in the Philippines have fluctuated considerably during the last 5 years. In 2012, approximately 112 kg of crystalline methamphetamine were seized, marking a 56% decrease from the previous year when 254 kg were seized.

Due to the limited ecstasy market in the Philippines, ecstasy pill seizures in the country remain small in comparison to other countries in the region. In 2012, 158 litres of ecstasy were seized.

There has been a downward trend of cannabis seizures during the last 5 years. A large share of cocaine seized in the Philippines is intended for onward trafficking to other Asian markets. In 2012, a total of 18,042 benzodiazepine pills were seized which is the highest total since 2005.

Drug prices – There has been a slight decrease of crystalline methamphetamine prices of late, though prices vary greatly across the country. The street retail price for 1 gram of crystalline methamphetamine in 2012

Figure 27. Drug-related arrests in the Philippines, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP

ranged between USD 116 and USD 232.¹² The retail price for one ecstasy pill in 2012 ranged between USD 25 and USD 46.¹³

Sources of illicit drugs

A significant share of crystalline methamphetamine continues to be domestically manufactured in the Philippines. Since 2008, a total of 39 clandestine methamphetamine laboratories have been dismantled, 7 of which were dismantled in 2012. During the last few years, most dismantled laboratories were in the form of small-scale 'kitchen type' facilities at private residences. However, in 2012, a large-scale facility was dismantled, capable of manufacturing more than 50 kg of crystalline methamphetamine in a single production cycle.¹⁴ Moreover, large amounts of crystalline methamphetamine continue to be smuggled into the Philippines from China,¹⁵ followed by Malaysia.¹⁶ Recently, methamphetamine has been smuggled into the Philippines via the post and by air couriers from Myanmar, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Africa.¹⁷

Trafficking – Crystalline methamphetamine is smuggled to the Philippines via seaports and airports as well as by mail and parcel. In 2012, China continued to be

⁸ 'The Philippine Drug Situation', joint presentation by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Office of the President and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Phnom Penh, 24-25 July 2012.

⁹ Official communication with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), August 2013.

¹⁰ Philippine country report, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

¹¹ Op. cit. Philippine country presentation, (DDB), August 2013.

¹² Philippine country report, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Philippine country report, Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Jakarta, 28-29 August 2013.

¹⁵ Op. cit. ARQ Philippines, 2013

¹⁶ Op. cit. Philippine country report, (DDB), August 2013.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Table 73. Seizures of selected drugs and precursors in the Philippines, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	853.5	149.3	63.6	254.3	112.1
Liquid methamphetamine	lt.	72.0	831.5	46.4	173.5	●
Ecstasy	pills	513	2,090	336	993	158 (litres)
Benzodiazepine	pills	3,926	1,060	5,818	9	18,042
Cannabis herb	kg	3,724.3	1,659.8	1,127.6	596.5	425.6
Cannabis plants	plants	3,290,974	4,779,271	9,941,977	3,955,546	1,133,924
Cannabis seed	kg	14.1	31.8	8.2	2.9	2.6
Cannabis seedlings	seedlings	644,441	3,003,275	558,233	1,670,227	130,993
Cocaine	kg	●	259.3	341.9	17.8	15.4
Ephedrine	kg	53.0	9.1	0.6	0.1	377.8
Ketamine	kg	10.2	2.0	*	*	*
Pseudoephedrine	lt.	●	241.0	●	0.7	2.5

● = Not reported *Reported as less than 10 grams of ketamine seized.

Source(s): DAINAP; 'The Philippine Country Report', Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), presented at the Sixteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 22-24 February 2011; Official communication with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), October 2012; PDEA, August 2013.

Table 74. Retail prices of selected drugs in the Philippines (USD), 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	262	254	210	190-285	116-232
Ecstasy	per pill	26	26	34	19-57	25-46
Cannabis herb	per gram	●	●	●	0.5-2.3	0.3-7.0
Cocaine	per gram	●	●	●	69-60	114-162

● = Not reported. Prices calculated using the approximate average exchange rate of 1 Philippine peso to the US dollar.

Source(s): 'Annual Report 2010', Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Quezon City, Philippines, 2010.; PDEA 2011; DDB and PDEA 2012; PDEA, October 2012; PDEA, June 2013

the primary embarkation point for methamphetamine trafficked to the Philippines, while Thailand and Malaysia were identified as primary transit countries for onward trafficking to the Philippines.¹⁸ Most large-scale methamphetamine manufacturing and trafficking is carried out by transnational organized criminal networks, consisting primarily of Chinese nationals.¹⁹

In recent years, there has been an emergence of African manufactured methamphetamine trafficked via the Philippines to markets in Southeast Asia by passenger planes. In early 2012, numerous significant amounts of crystalline methamphetamine were seized from African couriers at Ninoy Aquino International Airport.²⁰ Many of these flights first transit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) before reaching the Philippines.²¹

¹⁸ Op. cit. ARQ Philippines, 2013.

¹⁹ Op. cit. Philippine country report, (PDEA), February 2013.

²⁰ Op. cit. DDB and PDEA, 2012.

²¹ Op. cit. ARQ Philippines, 2013.

Transnational drug trafficking networks continue to recruit Philippine nationals as drug couriers and many are arrested in other countries, particularly in China, Macau (China) and Malaysia.²² However, African networks in particular continue to recruit drug couriers of various Asian nationalities.²³

Chemical precursors and essential chemicals are often smuggled into the country by being shipped to various container ports and concealed in containers together with other licit products.²⁴ In 2012, approximately 378 kg of ephedrine and 2.5 litres of pseudoephedrine were seized, while just over 6 kg of piperonal²⁵ were seized

²² Op. cit. Philippine country report, (PDEA), February 2013.

²³ Op. cit. ARQ Philippines, 2013.

²⁴ Philippine country report, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 14-16 February 2012.

²⁵ Piperonal, also known as heliotropin, exists as a white or colourless solid. It is widely used in the legitimate manufacture of fragrances, flavours and insecticides. Piperonal can be used in the illicit manufacture of MDMA and its analogues.

in January 2012 after a successful controlled delivery operation involving international mail. The seized piperonal was part of a series of shipments that had arrived from China and had been mislabeled as sodium tungstate.²⁶

The Philippines is also a transit point for cocaine trafficked from South America. Most of the cocaine is trafficked from Peru and Brazil primarily to China (including Hong Kong, China) via the UAE.²⁷

Forensic data

The crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in the Philippines in 2012 had an average purity of 55% methamphetamine,²⁸ having previously recorded levels of 71% in 2010, 67% in 2009 and 55% in 2008.²⁹

²⁶ 'Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

²⁷ ARQ Philippines 2013.

²⁸ Op. cit. PDEA, August 2013.

²⁹ Philippine country presentation, joint presentation by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Office of the President and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Bangkok, 18-20 July 2011.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Crystalline methamphetamine remains the primary drug of concern, accounting for most drug-related arrests and nearly all drug treatment admissions.
- The Republic of Korea continues to be affected by the transiting of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals destined for illicit markets and drug manufacturing sites in the Asia and Pacific region.
- The Government of the Republic of Korea has strengthened controls over the import and export of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine and has broadened its legislation to address the diversion of these substances from licit trade.
- A wide range of new psychoactive substances (NPS), which are not under international control, have been detected in the Republic of Korea, and there has been a recent increase in the smuggling of synthetic cannabinoids into the country using the postal system.

Overview of the drug situation

Over the past decade, the majority of treatment admissions and drug-related arrests involved crystalline methamphetamine. Organized transnational criminal networks continue to traffic large quantities of illicit drugs through the Republic of Korea to international markets. The country is also a source of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine that are diverted from licit trade for illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, primarily in other Asian countries.

Cannabis is the second most commonly used drug in the Republic of Korea. In recent years, seizures data indicate that synthetic cannabinoids (JWH-018 and its analogues) are increasingly being illegally imported into the country. In addition, a number of other NPS have been detected on the illicit drug market. Several NPS have been subject to control under the Control of Narcotics Act¹ since the

mid-2000s.² However, the dramatic increase of newly detected NPS since 2008 prompted the Government to take further action towards strengthening controls over NPS. According to a new 'temporary scheduling system' that was added to the Control of Narcotics Act and entered into force in September 2011, the Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety may temporarily schedule NPS for a year.³

Drug seizure data and arrest figures over the last several years throughout the country indicate low use of heroin and cocaine. Even though opium poppy cultivation continues to be illegal in the Republic of Korea, there is still cultivation for traditional medicinal use, primarily for veterinary purposes.

¹ In the Republic of Korea, drugs are controlled under the 'Act on the Control of Narcotics'. In 2000, the three major drug laws to control narcotics, psychotropic substances, opium and cannabis – i.e. the Narcotics Act, the Cannabis Control Act, and the Psychotropic Substances Control Act – were combined into this single Act.

² NPS regarded as psychotropic drugs and subject to control include, among others, JWH-018 & its analogues, CP-47497 & C6, C8, C9, BZP, 2C-D, 2C-E, MeOPP, HU-210, 4-Acetoxy-DiPT, mCPP, TFMP, Psilocybin, phencyclidine analogues.

³ Official communication with the Supreme Prosecutors' Office, Narcotics Division, August 2013.

Table 75. Rank of use of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	1	1	1	1	1
Cannabis herb	3	3	2	2	2
Ecstasy	●	●	●	●	●
Opium	2	2	3	3	3

● = Not reported

Source(s): SPO, August 2013

Table 76. Trend in use of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Cannabis herb	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓
Ecstasy	●	●	●	●	●
Opium	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): SPO, August 2013

Patterns and trends of drug use

Government experts observed that crystalline methamphetamine, commonly known locally as 'philopon' or 'hiropon', remains the most frequently used drug in the country. However, the use of methamphetamine pills and ecstasy is limited.

Cannabis is the second most commonly used drug in the Republic of Korea. In 2012, the latest year for which data are available, cannabis users accounted for roughly 11% of all drug users in the country.⁴ Heroin and cocaine are not commonly used.

Injecting drug use

There have been reports of injecting methamphetamine use in the Republic of Korea, but there are currently no available estimates. Out of all the 5,323 reported HIV cases in the country in 2007, which is the latest year for which data are available, approximately 0.04% (around 213 persons) were injecting drug users.⁵

New psychoactive substances

At the end of 2011, the synthetic cathinone MDPV

(3,4-Methylenedioxypropylvalerone), often sold as 'bath salts' and used as a cocaine or 'ecstasy' substitute, was the first drug subject to the temporary schedule.⁶ The smuggling of synthetic cannabinoids into the country by parcel post has substantially increased during the last few years. In 2012, approximately 7 kg of synthetic cannabinoids were seized in the Republic of Korea, increasing from 3.1 kg seized in 2011 and 0.6 kg seized in 2010.⁷

The Republic of Korea reported that 74% of the synthetic cannabinoids that were analysed by the Customs Laboratory between January 2009 and August 2012, belonged to the JWH class. Synthetic cannabinoids detected in the Republic of Korea include JWH-018, JWH-122, JWH-250, JWH-210, CP-47, 497-C8, AM-2201 and AM-694. Around 29% of synthetic cathinones analysed were identified as MDPV, making it the most frequently detected synthetic cathinone.⁸ Other synthetic cathinones detected in the Republic of Korea include butylone (bk-MBDB), methcathinone, mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) and flephedrone (4-fluoromethcathinone). In recent years, the Republic of Korea has also reported seizures of small quantities of ketamine, piperazines (BZP, mCPP, TFMPP and pFPP) and kratom.⁹

⁴ Ibid.⁵ Republic of Korea country profile, HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia and Pacific website, UNAIDS, UNICEF, World Health Organization and the Asia Development Bank. Accessed at: <https://skydrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=AFD9EDEA3DDFB75C!721>; date accessed: 26 September 2012.⁶ '2010 Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs, Asia and the Pacific', Vienna, November 2010.⁷ 'Drug Smuggling Trends in Korea', Korea Customs Service (KCS), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.⁸ 'Designer drug situation and activities of customs laboratories in Korea', Korea Customs Service, presented at the Group of European Customs Laboratories workshop on designer drugs, Berlin, 27-28 September 2012.⁹ Op. cit. KCS, June 2013.

Table 77. Number of persons admitted to drug treatment in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
ATS (psychotropic substances)	345	277	227	81	23
Cannabis	20	7	4	0	0
Narcotics	1	0	0	0	0
Total	366	284	231	81	23

Note: As a part of treatment, the Stay of Indictment, which is conditional on complete mandatory education, is used by the Korean Association Against Drug Abuse (KAADA).

Source(s): Official communication with the Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO), October 2012; SPO, August 2013

Drug treatment

Complete drug treatment data for the Republic of Korea are unavailable. However, each year a number of drug users are admitted to medical treatment and judicial custody for drug-related offences. Some drug users also enter medical treatment and go into custody voluntarily. All of the 23 persons admitted for treatment in medical centres in Republic of Korea in 2012, were treated for ATS use. Of these, 12 persons were referred for treatment by a court decision.¹⁰

Drug arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – Of the 9,255 drug-related arrests that were recorded in 2012, approximately 82% were related to crystalline methamphetamine, marking an increase from 79% in 2011 and 70% in 2010.¹¹

In 2012, a total of 910 women were arrested for ATS-related offences, which is a 2.3% decrease from the previous year when 932 women were arrested. In 2010 and 2009, 871 and 1,339 women were arrested for ATS-related offences respectively.

The total number of drug-related arrests in 2012 marginally increased.¹² Of the 9,255 drug-related arrests in 2012, around 55% related to drug use, followed by 27% relating to drug trafficking, 5% to drug possession, 5% to cultivation and 4% to drug smuggling. The remaining 4% were arrested for other drug-related offences.¹³

A total of 359 foreign nationals were arrested for drug-related offences in 2012, which marks a 22% increase

from the previous year when 295 individuals were arrested, but still remains considerably lower than the 858 arrests that were made for drug-related offences in 2010. As in the previous year, most of the foreign nationals arrested were from the United States (8 of which were arrested for drug smuggling), China and Viet Nam.¹⁴ Most foreign drug offenders are migrant workers from other countries in Asia who are arrested for drug possession or drug use.¹⁵

Drug seizures – In 2012, a total of 20.7 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in the Republic of Korea, decreasing from 23.5 kg in 2011. Methamphetamine pill seizures peaked in 2000 when 3,994 pill seizures were reported in the Republic of Korea.¹⁶ Between 2004 and 2011, less than 200 methamphetamine pills were seized annually in the Republic of Korea, which is less than the number seized in other countries in the region. However, in 2012, a total of 402 methamphetamine pills were seized, markedly increasing from the combined seizure of 11 pills from the previous three years. Moreover, the 2,344 ecstasy pills seized in 2012, represents the highest total since 2007 when 18,323 pills were seized.¹⁷

Cannabis herb seizures decreased by 74% from 83.6 kg in 2011 to 21.7 kg in 2012. Other seizures in the Republic of Korea remain limited.¹⁸

Drug prices – The wholesale price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine in 2012 ranged between USD 135 and USD 225, while the street retail price ranged between USD 629 and USD 898. In 2011, wholesale prices were USD 90-225 and retail prices USD 719-898. The average retail price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine in 2012 was reportedly USD 764, which is slightly lower

¹⁰ Op. cit. SPO, August 2013.

¹¹ 'Recent Drug Trend in Republic of Korea (C/Y 2011)', Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO), Narcotics Division, presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Op. cit. SPO, August 2013.

¹⁵ Op. cit. SPO, June 2013.

¹⁶ Op. cit. SPO, August 2013.

¹⁷ Op. cit. SPO, June 2013.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Table 78. Drug-related arrests in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
ATS ^a	7,457	7,965	6,771	7,226	7,631
Cannabis herb	1,045	1,712	1,837	1,189	1,042
Cocaine	7	9	0	4	3
Heroin	0	18	11	0	2
Opium ^b	1,389	2,171	1,113	755	577
Total	9,898	11,875	9,732	9,174	9,255

^aRefers to crystalline methamphetamine, although Republic of Korea did not report disaggregated data for ATS. ^bOpium-related arrests in Republic of Korea are primarily related to opium poppy cultivation for traditional use.

Source(s): 'Drug Control in Korea 2011', Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO), Narcotics Division, Narcotics and Organized Crimes Department, Seoul, 2011; SPO, August 2011; 'Drug Control in Korea 2012', Supreme Prosecutors' Office, Narcotics Division, Narcotics and Organized Crimes Department, Seoul, 2012; SPO, October 2012; SPO, June 2013; SPO, August 2013

Table 79. Seizures of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	25.6	15.2	11.9	23.5	20.7
Methamphetamine pills	pills	151	1	5	5	402
Ecstasy	pills	714	894	486	562	2,344
Cannabis herb	kg	92.7	122.5	44.5	83.6	21.7
Cannabis resin	kg	2.0	0.5	0.04	0.06	0.3
Cannabis seed	kg	61.2	218.2	37.0	28.2	27.9
Synthetic cannabinoids	kg	●	0.03	0.6	3.1	7.0
Cocaine	kg	8.9	0.3	0	2.5	0.06
Heroin	kg	0	1.9	0.08	0	0.004
Raw Opium	kg	0.2	0.2	0.05	0	0

● = Not reported

Source(s): 'Drug Control in Korea 2011', SPO 2011; Official communication with the Supreme Prosecutors' Office, August 2011; 'Drug Control in Korea 2012', SPO 2012; SPO, June 2013; KCS, June 2013

than in the previous year.¹⁹ However, the retail price for 0.03 grams (considered to make up one 'dose') of crystalline methamphetamine has remained relatively stable over the past few years, and was about USD 90 in 2012. Wholesale and retail prices continue to vary from province to province. In Seoul, the average street-level retail price for ecstasy in 2012 remained stable at USD 90 and yet prices elsewhere in the country are reported to be considerably lower. The average retail price for one gram of cannabis in 2012 ranged between USD 1.8 and USD 10.9.²⁰

Sources of illicit drugs

Illicit manufacturing of methamphetamine is rare in the Republic of Korea. However, in 2012 Ko-

rean authorities detected a crystalline methamphetamine user who had illicitly manufactured 4 grams of methamphetamine using as a precursor, pseudoephedrine extracted from pharmaceutical preparations.²¹ Most of the methamphetamine seized in the Republic of Korea continues to be trafficked into the country by transnational criminal groups, particularly from China and West Africa.

The Republic of Korea is reported to be an important source of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine which are diverted from licit trade flows to illicitly manufacture methamphetamine, primarily in Asia. To tackle this problem, the Government of the Republic of Korea has strengthened controls over precursor chemicals. Since June 2012, the Republic of Korea has applied

¹⁹ Op. cit. SPO, August 2013.

²⁰ Op. cit. SPO, June 2013.

²¹ Op. cit. SPO, August 2013.

Table 80. Average retail price of crystalline methamphetamine in the Republic of Korea (USD), 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	536	684	693	772	764

Note: 2012 prices calculated at an average exchange rate of 1 USD – 1,113 KRW.

Source(s): 'Drug Trend in the Republic of Korea in 2010', Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO), Narcotics Division, presented at the Sixteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 22-24 February 2011; 'Recent Drug Trend in Republic of Korea (C/Y 2011)', Supreme Prosecutors' Office, (SPO), Narcotics Division, presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 14-16 February 2012; SPO, August 2013

a scheme where an approval is required of the Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety prior to the import, export or manufacture of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, which in effect limits the export of these substances as pharmaceutical preparations.²²

Trafficking – The Korean Customs Service reported 112 separate methamphetamine seizures in 2012 totaling around 21 kg of methamphetamine. Of these, 75 seizures, amounting to 67%, had originated from China. Of the other methamphetamine seizures that year, 14 had originated from Viet Nam, 9 from the Philippines, 4 each from Thailand and Hong Kong, 3 from China, 2 from Mexico and one each from Fiji and the United States. Whereas most illicit drug smuggling cases in 2012 continued to be detected in passenger planes, followed by parcel post, the majority (around 56%) of methamphetamine cases were discovered in express cargo.²³

Transnational drug trafficking groups continue to target the Republic of Korea as a transit country for the trafficking of drugs to international markets, in particular Japan. In 2012, a number of passenger planes were detained for attempting to smuggle several kilograms of methamphetamine from Incheon International Airport in the Republic of Korea to Japan. Noteworthy methamphetamine seizure cases in 2012 include: 2.5 kg seized in August originating from Fiji; 7.3 kg in October, coming from Shanghai in China; and two separate cases in November from Kenya totaling 4.6 kg.²⁴ An additional 5.4 kg of methamphetamine were seized in a sea freight consignment in October 2012 which had originated from Shanghai

and had passed through Busan and Pohang seaports in the Republic of Korea, destined for Osaka in Japan.²⁵ In early 2013, significant quantities of methamphetamine were seized from passenger planes coming from Mali (4.0 kg) and Macao in China (6.2 kg).²⁶

Pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine continue to be diverted for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in the region. In 2012, the authorities in Hong Kong, China, requested to apprehend two shipments of 600 kg and 1 million pseudoephedrine tablets heading for their territory. In addition, 60 kg of pseudoephedrine hydrochloride within pharmaceutical preparations was seized in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, while Thailand reported another seizure of 2 million tablets containing pseudoephedrine that had originated from the Republic of Korea, having been smuggled via Singapore. Investigations by the Singaporean and Thailand authorities resulted in a second seizure of 2 million tablets heading for Malaysia by air. In addition, a shipment of 300,000 tablets containing pseudoephedrine destined for Ghana was stopped, as the importer had no authorization.²⁷

In 2012, a total of 23 (58%) of the 40 cannabis smuggling cases and 15 (58%) of the 26 synthetic cannabinoids cases detected by Korean Customs originated from the United States. The next largest source of cannabis trafficking to the Republic of Korea in 2012 was the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom and Hungary were also indicated as major sources for synthetic cannabinoids smuggled into the country that year.²⁸

²² 'Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

²³ 'Country Report on Drug Smuggling Trends in 2012', International Investigation Division, Korea Customs Service (KCS), presented at the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific Regional Seminar for Information Exchange to Fight against Drug Trafficking, Seoul, 16-18 April 2013.

²⁴ Op. cit. KCS, June 2013.

²⁵ IDPO 2013. A presentation by the Incheon District Public Prosecutors' Office (IDPO), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

²⁶ Op. cit. KCS, June 2013.

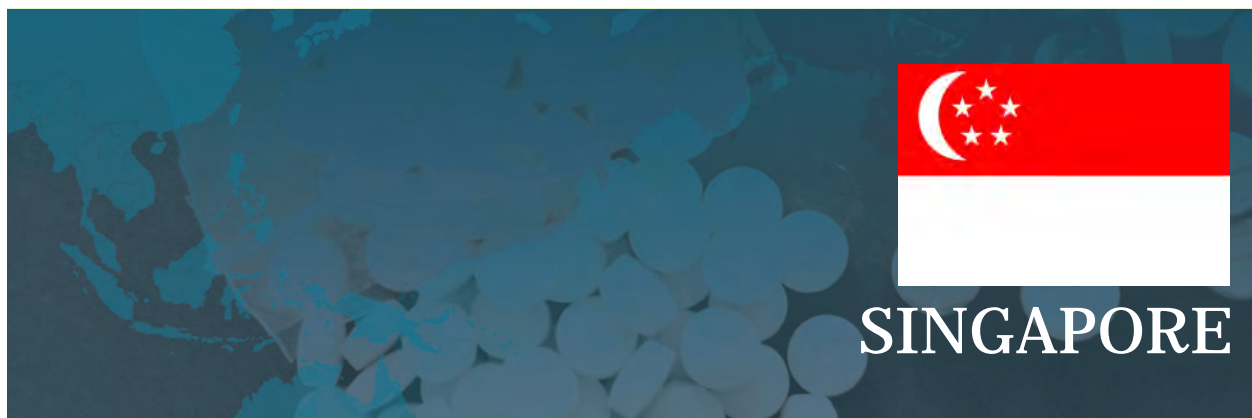
²⁷ Op. cit. INCB, March 2013.

²⁸ Op. cit. KCS, June 2013.

Forensic data

In 2012, a total of 65 samples of seized methamphetamine were analyzed by the Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO) drug laboratory. The content of methamphetamine ranged from 86% to 98% with an average purity of 91.5%. Only seven samples displayed purity levels of less than 90% in 2012. The most common impurities that were identified in methamphetamine samples were acetic acid, benzaldehyde, benzyl alcohol, 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P), amphetamine, and dimethylamphetamine.²⁹

²⁹ Op. cit. SPO, August 2013.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Singapore continues to be used as a transit location for the trafficking of ATS and their precursor chemicals into neighbouring countries.
- In 2012, Singapore reported its highest ever total seizures of crystalline methamphetamine, most of which was destined for international markets
- Methamphetamine use remains a significant problem, particularly among young drug users as well as drug users arrested for the first time.
- Heroin remains the primary drug of use in Singapore, and its use continues to increase.

Overview of the drug situation

There has been an upward trend of international drug trafficking organizations using Singapore to traffic illicit drugs. In 2012, a total of 50.8 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in Singapore, the highest amount ever recorded in the country. A large portion (85%) of the crystalline methamphetamine seized in Singapore was believed to be destined for further trafficking to drug markets in the region.¹

Methamphetamine continues to be the most commonly used drug among new drug users in the country. However, heroin remains the primary drug of concern in Singapore. During the past two years, about 93% of all drug users arrested for drugs were users of heroin or methamphetamine.²

Patterns and trends of drug use

In 2012, the use of methamphetamine, primarily in

crystalline form, remained high. Methamphetamine was the most commonly used drug among young drug users as well as drug users arrested for the first time in 2012. Since 2010, government experts have ranked crystalline methamphetamine as the second most commonly used drug in Singapore, after heroin. Ecstasy is not indicated to be a significant problem in the country. Heroin use in Singapore has increased in each of the past five years.

Injecting drug use

The number of self-declared injecting drug users³ among arrested drug users in Singapore decreased from 664 persons in 2011 to 615 persons in 2012. Data from the Ministry of Health indicates that in 2012, 469 (437 men and 32 women) Singapore residents⁴ were newly reported to be infected with HIV, of which injecting drug use accounted for two cases (0.4%).⁵

¹ Central Narcotics Bureau Press Release, Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), Singapore, February 2013a (updated June 2013) (Accessed at: http://www.cnb.gov.sg/Libraries/CNB_Newsroom_Files/CNB_2012_Press_Release_Updated_figures_on_23_Jul_2013_2.sflb.ashx).

² Op. cit. CNB, February 2013a.

³ Figures based on persons admitted to prisons and on self-declarations made at the point of admission.

⁴ Includes Singapore citizens and permanent residents.

⁵ MOH Singapore 2013. 'Update on the HIV/AIDS Situation in Singapore 2012', Ministry of Health Singapore (MOH) (Accessed at http://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/statistics/infectiousDiseasesStatistics/HIV_Stats.html).

Table 81. Rank of use of selected drugs in Singapore, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine	4	3	2	2	2
Ecstasy	7	8	8	7	7
Buprenorphine	3	4	7	8	8
Cannabis herb	8	6	5	4	3
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1
Inhalants	2	2	3	3	4
Ketamine	5	5	4	6	6
Nimetazepam	6	7	6	5	5

Source(s): DAINAP; Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), September 2013

Table 82. Trend in use of selected drugs in Singapore, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
Ecstasy	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓
Buprenorphine	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Cannabis herb	↓	↑	↔	↔	↑
Heroin	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Inhalants	↓	↔	↓	↓	↓
Ketamine	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓
Nimetazepam	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), September 2013

New psychoactive substances

The trafficking and use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) is not a major problem in Singapore. However, Singapore is one of two countries that have reported seizures of each group of NPS (the other being Japan). The trafficking and use of ketamine⁶ has been of concern for several years, although its use is currently indicated to be limited. The appearance of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones were first reported in Singapore in 2011. The appearance of the plant-based substance kratom⁷ was first reported before 2008.⁸

Ketamine, mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), BZP (1-benzylpiperazine), and TFMPP (1-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine) are listed as Class A controlled drugs in the First Schedule of the Misuse of Drugs Act

⁶ Ketamine is listed as a Class A controlled drug in the First Schedule of the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA).

⁷ Kratom is a substance derived from the *mitragyna speciosa* plant and produces both stimulant and sedative effects. It is indigenous to countries in Southeast Asia, in particular Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.

⁸ 'The challenge of new psychoactive substances', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global SMART Programme, Vienna, March 2013.

(MDA).⁹ In addition, a new Fifth Schedule has been introduced, which allows the authorities to list a new psychoactive substance for a period of 12 months, with a possibility of extension for another 12 months. The Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) will be given the power to seize new psychoactive substances listed in the Fifth Schedule so that their circulation is restricted. The trafficking, manufacture, import, export, possession or consumption of any substance listed in the Fifth Schedule will not constitute an offence under the MDA, until that substance is removed from the Fifth Schedule and listed as a controlled drug in the First Schedule whereupon all offences will apply.¹⁰

Drug treatment

In 2012, the number of persons in drug treatment (1,408) increased compared with the previous year (1,245) and the demand for treatment for crystalline

⁹ Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), September 2013.

¹⁰ Singapore country presentation, Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013b.

Table 83. Drug treatment admissions in Singapore by drug type, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine	87	143	209	549	585
Ecstasy	23	7	6	8	10
Buprenorphine	75	26	13	1	2
Cannabis herb	27	27	49	79	69
Heroin	201	242	364	558	632
Ketamine	31	42	22	17	19
Nimetazepam	37	48	25	19	66
Inhalants	•	•	•	14	24
Mephedrone	•	•	•	•	1
Total	481	535	688	1,245	1,408

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), September 2013

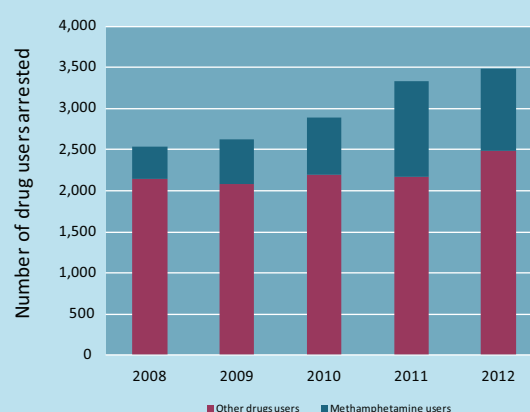
methamphetamine use continued to rise. Of the 1,408 persons in drug treatment, 1,021 (73%) persons were newly admitted in 2012, of which 520 persons (51%) were newly admitted for crystalline methamphetamine use. The number of methamphetamine users in treatment in 2012 was 7% higher than the number in 2011. As a proportion of all persons in drug treatment, crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for about 42% (heroin users accounted for 45%) in 2012, compared with 44% in 2011. Female users accounted for 23% of all crystalline methamphetamine users in treatment in 2012 and 20% in 2011.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests¹¹ – The number of drug-related arrests in Singapore has increased each year since 2007, driven primarily by increases in the number of arrests related to methamphetamine and heroin, which accounted for about 93% of all drug-related arrests in 2012. In 2012, a total of 3,507 drug-related arrests were recorded in Singapore, a slight increase (5%) over the previous year (3,326). Methamphetamine continued to account for the second largest proportion (after heroin) of arrests related to drug use in 2012 at about 29%. In 2012, the total number of arrests related to methamphetamine decreased by 12% to 1,022 arrests compared with 1,157 arrests in 2011. Of the 1,092 drug users arrested for the first time in 2012, about 56% (616 persons) had used methamphetamine and about 30% (326 persons) had used heroin.¹² Of the

452 women arrested in 2012 (13% of the total), about 40% were arrested for crystalline methamphetamine. Heroin users accounted for 64% of all drug users arrested in 2012.

Figure 28. Number of methamphetamine users arrested in Singapore, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP

Drug seizures – In 2012, a record amount of 50.8 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in Singapore, of which 43 kg (85%) was intended for the international market. The total represents a three-and-a-half-fold increase (261%) over the amount seized in 2011 (14.1kg). The amount of methamphetamine pills seized in the country remains small, with an average of about 850 pills seized in each of the past five years. The number of ecstasy pills seized increased by 28% in 2012 to approximately 4,103 pills.

The 66.4 kg of heroin seized in Singapore in 2012 is 9% lower than in the previous year but is the second

¹¹ Drug-related arrest data for Singapore refers to the number of drug users arrested and does not include drug traffickers and manufacturers.

¹² Op. cit. CNB, February 2013a.

Table 84. Drug-related arrests in Singapore, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine	404	542	702	1,157	1,022
Ecstasy	110	39	17	22	19
Buprenorphine	444	202	54	6	4
Cannabis herb	88	126	131	127	142
Heroin	1,216	1,425	1,787	1,924	2,239
Ketamine	138	162	138	42	30
Methadone	•	•	•	1	•
Nimetzapam	137	120	58	47	51
Total	2,537	2,616	2,887	3,326	3,507

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), September 2013; Central Narcotics Bureau Press Release, Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), Singapore, February 2013

Table 85. Seizures of selected drugs in Singapore, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	1.8	3.7	5.6	14.1	50.8
Methamphetamine pills	pills	1,135	1,237	352	771.5	765
Ecstasy	pills	7,415	8,986	8,085	3,213	4,103
Buprenorphine (Subutex)	tablets	2,043	1,097	296	35	276
Cannabis herb	kg	3.3	7.1	8.5	12.9	14.9
Heroin*	kg	44.5	29.1	49.1	72.7	66.4
Ketamine	kg	14.0	8.7	12.2	7.9	3.9
Nimetazepam	tablets	38,363	42,236	43,505	40,078	46,421

* Refers to Heroin No. 3, a low purity substance processed by adulterating heroin with other substances.

Source(s): DAINAP; Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), September 2013

highest total reported during the past decade. Seizures of other synthetic substances, including buprenorphine¹³ and nimetazepam, increased in 2012, while the amount of ketamine seized declined by about half during the year.¹⁴

Drug prices – The street retail price of methamphetamine in crystalline form decreased in 2012, while the price of methamphetamine pills has remained relatively stable over the past five years. In 2012, the retail price of a gram of crystalline methamphetamine ranged from USD 80 to USD 160 and the price of one methamphetamine pill ranged from USD 12 to USD 20. Since 2007, the street retail price of ecstasy has remained relatively unchanged, at approximately USD 20.

¹³ Buprenorphine is a narcotic analgesic used in some countries to treat opium dependence. It can be found in the form of the pharmaceutical preparation Subutex.

¹⁴ Op. cit. CNB, February 2013a.

Sources of illicit drugs

There is no known manufacture of illicit drugs in Singapore. Most illicit drugs are trafficked into Singapore from neighbouring countries, usually concealed on the person. Larger drug seizures continue to be discovered in specially constructed compartments of motor vehicles.¹⁵

Trafficking – Relative to its neighbours, drug trafficking networks in Singapore operate on a much smaller scale and traffic drugs in small quantities.¹⁶ However, large shipments of illicit drugs – including ATS – and precursor chemicals continue to be detected transiting through the country, primarily for further trafficking to neighbouring countries.

¹⁵ Op. cit. CNB, February 2013b.

¹⁶ Ibid.

Table 86. Retail prices of selected drugs in Singapore (USD), 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	per pill	12 – 22	7 – 11	8 – 14	8 – 19	12 – 20
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	138 – 266	143 – 252	145 – 270	138 – 231	80 – 160
Ecstasy	per pill	17 – 25	17 – 24	16 – 24	19 – 27	16 – 24
Buprenorphine	per tablet	55 – 83	55 – 86	61 – 91	62 – 77	80 – 96
Cannabis herb	per 1.5 grams	33 – 37	29 – 46	14 – 40	15 – 39	16 – 40
Heroin	per 1 'straw' of 0.2 grams	20 – 36	21 – 24	22 – 24	12 – 23	16 – 34
Ketamine	per gram	27 – 36	21 – 35	22 – 32	23 – 38	32 – 40
Nimetazepam	per tablet	5 – 6	5 – 6	5 – 6	5 – 6	5 – 6

Note: Figures are not adjusted for inflation or currency fluctuations.

Source(s): DAINAP; Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), September 2013

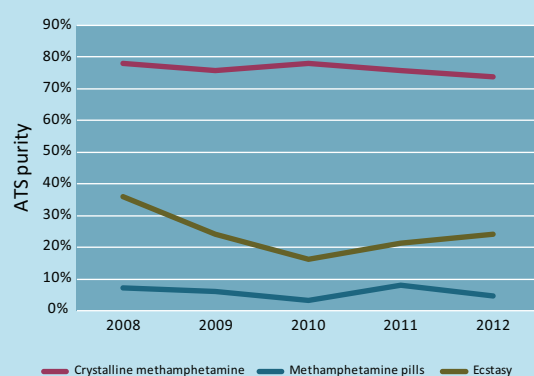
Forensic data¹⁷

Crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in 2012 had an average purity of about 74% methamphetamine, comparable with average purity figures since 2006.

Pills sold as 'ecstasy' had an average purity of approximately 24% MDA/MDMA, slightly higher than the average composition in 2011.¹⁸ Many 'ecstasy' pills seized in Singapore also contained methamphetamine. The average purity of methamphetamine found in pills sold as 'ecstasy' – as well as in pills sold as methamphetamine pills (yaba) – was around 4.4% in 2012.¹⁹

Singapore reported a purity of 3.6% for heroin No. 3 (from 740 samples each weighing less than 15 grams) in 2012, compared with 2.3% in 2011 and 3.68% in 2010.²⁰

Figure 29. Purity of ATS in Singapore, 2008-2012



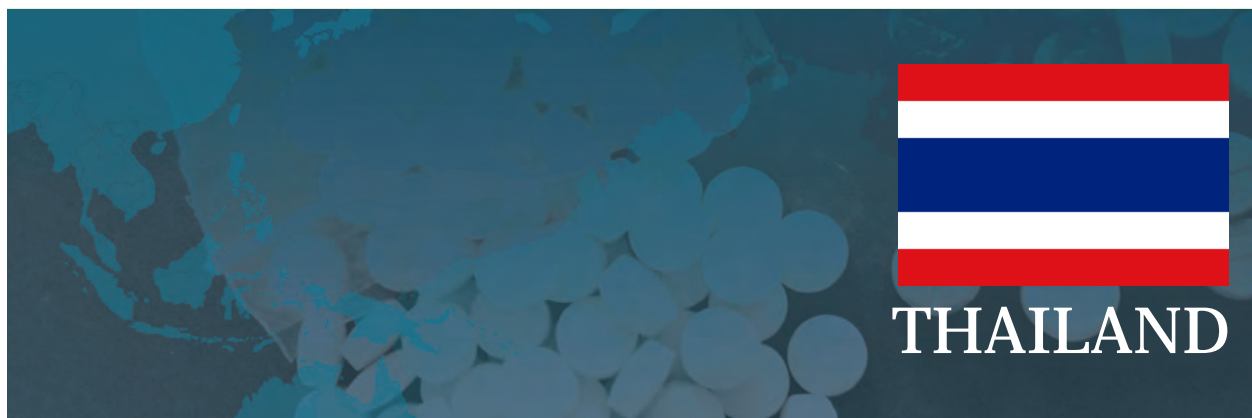
Source(s): DAINAP

¹⁷ There has been a change in the methodology used in the calculation of drug purity to reflect a more up-to-date purity of drugs seized. This revised methodology is only applied to purity data from 2012 onwards, while previous years' data are not revised retrospectively.

¹⁸ Official communication with the Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) and the Health Sciences Authority Singapore, August 2013.

¹⁹ Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), September 2013.

²⁰ Ibid.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Methamphetamine seizures in pill and crystalline form have increased substantially over the last 5 years, and reached historically high levels in 2012.
- The crystalline methamphetamine market in Thailand is growing rapidly, and in 2012 the number of arrests and drug treatment admissions relating to this drug were the highest ever reported.
- Transnational criminal groups continue to target Thailand as a major transit location for trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals to international markets.
- The re-emergence of methamphetamine manufacture is of concern.

Overview of the drug situation

Methamphetamine trafficking and use continues to be the main drug-related concern in Thailand. Thailand remains one of the largest markets for methamphetamine pills manufactured in Myanmar, and in 2012 the number of methamphetamine pills seized in Thailand was the second highest total ever reported by the country. A record amount of crystalline methamphetamine was also seized in 2012, and its use has increased significantly. This reflects the increased manufacture and trafficking from neighbouring Myanmar, the sales of which were helped with aggressive marketing by drug traffickers and street level dealers.

Transnational criminal groups, primarily those which involve nationals from African countries, China and the Islamic Republic of Iran, continue to target Thailand as a transit country for the trafficking of crystalline methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin to international markets. In addition, large quantities of precursor chemicals are diverted or smuggled via Thailand to illicit methamphetamine manufacturing locations in Myanmar, and to a lesser extent, in Cambodia. There are also indications that domestic drug trafficking networks managed from inside correctional facilities in Thailand are playing an increasing role

in the illicit methamphetamine trade.¹ The use of cannabis and kratom² continues to be of concern. In addition, there are indicators to suggest that the cocaine market in Thailand may be expanding.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Methamphetamine pills remain the primary drug of concern in Thailand, followed by crystalline methamphetamine, in terms of arrests, seizures and drug treatment data. Crystalline methamphetamine use has increased rapidly during the last few years. 'Ecstasy' use, which had shown a declining trend of late, was indicated to have increased in 2012. Cannabis herb remains the most widely used drug in Thailand, followed by kratom.

According to the most recent drug use household survey conducted in 2011, an estimated 3,531,436 million persons aged 12 to 65 years have used an illicit drug in their lifetime. Of those persons, approximate-

¹ Thailand country report, Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February.

² Kratom is a substance derived from *mitragyna speciosa* and produces both stimulant and sedative effects.

Table 87. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Thailand, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	8	7	7	3	2
Methamphetamine pills	3	1	1	1	1
'Ecstasy'	7	9	9	8	8
Cannabis herb	1	2	2	2	3
Heroin	6	5	5	7	7
Inhalants	4	3	3	5	5
Ketamine	9	●	●	9	9
Kratom	2	6	6	4	4
Opium	5	4	4	6	6

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 88. Trend in use of selected drugs in Thailand, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↔	↔	↑	↑
'Ecstasy'	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑
Ketamine	↑	●	●	↔	↑
Cannabis herb	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Heroin	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

ly 32% had ever used amphetamine-type stimulants (26% used methamphetamine pills; 4% crystalline methamphetamine; 2% 'ecstasy'). Of the 598,765 persons who had used a drug in the past year, about 15% had used methamphetamine pills and 6% had used crystalline methamphetamine. Of the 338,995 users who had used a drug in the last 30 days, roughly 11% had used methamphetamine pills and 4% had used crystalline methamphetamine.³ Smoking is indicated to be the most common route of administration for methamphetamine pills, followed by oral ingestion. The injecting use of methamphetamine pills (which are crushed and dissolved in liquid) also takes place in Thailand, albeit at low levels.

An estimated 69% of all drug users reported having ever used cannabis and 35% reported having ever used kratom. However, recent kratom use was indicated to be particularly high; of the persons who reported having used drugs in the past year, 68% used kratom, while of the persons who used drugs during the past 30 days, 85% used kratom. The same figures

for cannabis were only 18% and 3%, respectively.

Heroin and opium use continued to increase in 2012. An estimated 9% of all drug users have used opiates in their lifetime (about 4% used heroin and 5% opium).

Drug use is indicated to have increased significantly among drug users aged 15-24 as well as among manual labourers and farmers. Drug use was also indicated to have increased among secondary school and university students, in particular the use of methamphetamine pills, crystalline methamphetamine and cannabis herb.

Injecting drug use

Injecting use of methamphetamine is present in Thailand but remains less frequent than the injecting use of opiates. In 2012, the injecting use of heroin, opium and methamphetamine each was indicated to have increased. Injecting is the second most common form of administering crystalline methamphetamine and the third most common form of administering methamphetamine pills (smoking and oral ingestion are the

³ Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP).

Table 89. Drug treatment admissions in Thailand by drug type, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	79,977	101,971	113,430	158,316	245,920
Crystalline methamphetamine	582	930	2,353	6,728	16,503
'Ecstasy'	237	333	209	172	263
Cannabis	6,155	8,736	7,471	7,136	14,279
Cocaine	17	19	18	15	27
Cough medicine	36	76	45	81	●
Heroin	1,107	1,374	1,414	2,115	2,559
Inhalants	3,911	6,495	4,709	3,535	4,288
Ketamine	9	12	12	13	18
Kratom*	1,067	2,030	2,357	2,835	11,593
Opium	2,019	2,081	1,910	2,601	2,846
Total	95,117	124,057	133,928	183,547	298,296

● = Not reported. *Includes users of kratom in leaf and liquid form
Source(s): DAINAP

most common forms). Injecting is the primary form of administering heroin and the second most common in the case of opium (smoking is the most common).

HIV prevalence among injecting drug users attending detoxification centers remains high, at approximately 30-40%.⁴ Of the 2,559 heroin users in drug treatment in 2012, an estimated 32.5% injected the drug. Of the 2,935 opium users in drug treatment, an estimated 5.5% injected the drug.

New psychoactive substances

Kratom, a plant indigenous to Thailand, remains used for its psychoactive properties specifically as a mild stimulant and is also processed for traditional medicines, although the cultivation and harvesting are prohibited in Thailand. Illicit kratom cultivation and use remains a problem, primarily in the southern parts of Thailand. The largest kratom seizures in the region are made in Thailand. Ketamine also continues to be of concern. Ketamine use was first reported in Thailand in 1989;⁵ however, its use is considerably less prevalent than that of kratom. Record quantities of 167 kg of ketamine were seized in Thailand in 2010 and 78

kg in 2011, before declining to 21 kg in 2012. In addition, Thailand has reported the appearance of piperazines, although data on this phenomenon remains limited.⁶

Drug treatment

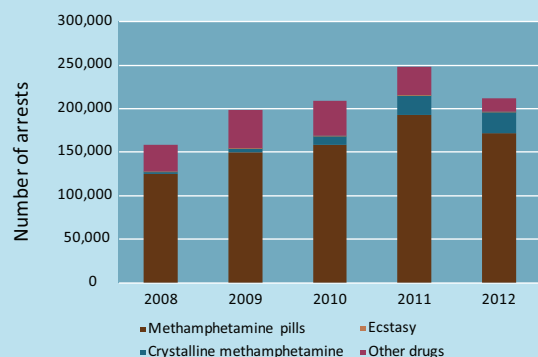
In 2012, a total of 298,296 persons underwent drug treatment in Thailand, a 63% increase from 2011. Methamphetamine pills continued to be the most common drug of use among persons in treatment in 2012 and were the primary drug of use for 82% of drug users who received treatment in specialized treatment facilities and general hospitals that year. This has been a stable trend since 2004. However, the total number of persons who received treatment for methamphetamine pill use increased by 55% from 158,316 in 2011 to 245,920 in 2012. The number of crystalline methamphetamine users admitted to drug treatment in 2012 more than doubled since the previous year, totaling 16,503 persons in 2012, accounting for about 6% of all persons in drug treatment. Treatment admissions related to 'ecstasy' remain low, but increased by 53% in 2012. The 20,590 women who received treatment in 2012 accounted for about 6% of all persons in treatment, of which 94% were methamphetamine users (78% used methamphetamine pills and 16% crystalline methamphetamine).

⁴ 'Thailand AIDS Response Progress Report 2012, Reporting period: 2010-2011', Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health (DDCMPH), Thailand National AIDS Committee, Bangkok, March 2012.

⁵ Thailand country report, Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

⁶ 'The challenge of new psychoactive substances', United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global SMART Programme, Vienna, March 2013.

Figure 30. ATS arrests as a proportion of the total drug-related arrests in Thailand, 2008-2012



Source(s): DAINAP; ONCB, October 2012

The number of persons admitted to treatment for kratom use more than quadrupled to 11,593 in 2012, accounting for approximately 4% of all treatment admissions that year.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – The total number of drug-related arrests in Thailand decreased by 15%, from 247,796 in 2011 to 211,372 in 2012, of which almost 93% involved ATS. In the last 5 years, an average of 84% of all drug-related arrests involved ATS.

The number of persons arrested for methamphetamine pills in 2012 totaled 171,272, making up approximately 81% of all drug-related arrests during the year and an 11% decrease compared with the previous year. Crystalline methamphetamine related arrests increased more than ten-fold over the last five years. In 2012, crystalline methamphetamine related arrests increased by 7% to 24,469 arrests, the highest total ever reported. ‘Ecstasy’ related arrests continued to decline, to 153 persons, the lowest total reported in the past decade.

The number of arrests related to opiates (heroin and opium) in Thailand remains comparatively small, accounting for less than 1% of all drug-related arrests in each of the past 5 years.

Drug seizures – Methamphetamine seizures (in pill and crystalline form) reached historically high levels in 2012 when 95.3 million methamphetamine pills were seized. This is nearly double the 49.4 million pills seized in 2011 and is the second highest total ever reported in Thailand. (The highest total was reported in 2002, when approximately 95.5 million pills were seized). In addition, nearly 1.6 tons of crystalline methamphetamine were seized in 2012, a 29% increase from 1.2 tons seized in 2011 and the highest total ever reported in the country. Preliminary data suggest that methamphetamine seizures will continue at high levels in 2013. In the first 3 months of 2013, nearly 34 million methamphetamine pills and

Table 90. Drug-related arrests in Thailand, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	124,800	149,441	157,683	191,956	171,272
Crystalline methamphetamine	2,395	4,488	10,463	22,823	24,469
‘Ecstasy’	592	496	217	187	153
Cannabis herb	13,155	18,579	15,257	13,721	11,630
Cannabis resin	13	21	24	16	7
Cocaine	109	125	96	82	77
Codeine	82	119	6	8	•
Heroin	481	856	838	1,115	966
Inhalants	6,361	6,528	4,952	3,420	2,071
Ketamine	206	266	204	177	170
Kratom	7,920	14,378	16,276	13,134	•
Opium (raw and prepared)	907	1,003	843	738	557
Others	850	1,487	1,485	419	•
Total	157,871	197,787	208,344	247,796	211,372

Source(s): DAINAP; Official communication with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), October 2012

Table 91. Seizures of selected drugs in Thailand, 2008-2012

Drug type	Quantity	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	pills	20,023,705	24,638,320	48,793,951	49,365,700	95,268,000
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	54.3	213.2	706.0	1,232.0	1,585.8
'Ecstasy'*	pills	49,833	61,089	16,647	21,115	4,809
Cannabis herb	kg	21,105.9	26,070.8	22,415.2	14,302.0	24,393.5
Cannabis resin	kg	29.9	10.2	55.4	72.5	18.2
Cocaine	kg	11.5	9.3	31.1	31.8	17.9
Codeine	kg	141.7	97.6	14.0	4.1	●
Heroin	kg	199.9	143.1	137.6	547.5	127.5
Inhalants	kg	165.8	165.4	133.0	100.2	69.0
Ketamine	kg	18.5	20.6	166.7	78.0	21.0
Kratom**	kg	15,675.6	29,917.8	44,206.2	32,913.6	28,978.4
Opium (raw and prepared)	kg	117.9	111.1	157.9	42.7	30.1

● = Not reported. * 'Ecstasy' pill seizures converted into estimated kg equivalents at 1 pill = 250-300 mg. ** Combined seizures of kratom leaves and kratom liquid.

Source(s): DAINAP; ONCB, October 2012; Thailand country presentation, Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Jakarta, 28-29 August 2013

593 kg of crystalline methamphetamine were seized. The sharp rise in seizures is due to increased quantities trafficked from Myanmar as well as strengthened law enforcement efforts targeting illicit trafficking and methamphetamine use.⁷

There has been an overall downward trend in 'ecstasy' pill seizures over the past few years. In 2012, approximately 4,809 'ecstasy' pills were seized, a 77% decrease since 2011 and the lowest total reported during the past decade.

Large amounts of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine have been seized in Thailand. However, the quantity of pseudoephedrine tablets seized declined from 33.4 million in 2010 to about 9.6 million in 2011 and more than 2 million tablets in 2012. In addition, 16.5 kg of ephedrine was seized in Thailand in 2012. Most of the pseudoephedrine tablets seized in Thailand are believed to have been destined for illicit methamphetamine manufacturing centres in Myanmar. The sharp decline in pseudoephedrine tablet seizures in Thailand may suggest that precursor chemicals are being trafficked to Myanmar from alternate sources.

Heroin seizures significantly decreased by 77% from 547.5 kg in 2011 to 127.5 kg in 2012. Opium sei-

zures in 2012 decreased by about 30% to 30.1 kg, the lowest total reported in the past decade.

Ketamine seizures in Thailand declined sharply in the past two years after having peaked in 2010 at approximately 167 kg. In 2012, a total of 21 kg of ketamine was seized, a 73% decrease from the 78 kg seized in 2011. Cocaine seizures in Thailand declined to about 18 kg in 2012.

Drug prices – The street retail price of methamphetamine pills has remained relatively stable in Thailand during the last few years. However, prices vary widely depending on the point of purchase and region of sale. Prices continue to be lowest in the northern parts of the country, which are located close to illicit manufacturing centres in Myanmar. In 2012, retail prices of methamphetamine pills ranged between USD 4 and USD 12. Retail prices of crystalline methamphetamine have also remained relatively stable; however, there are indications that crystalline methamphetamine prices have declined in some parts of the country, due to increasing availability and perhaps because street-level traffickers are offering crystalline methamphetamine at lower prices to expand the new market in Thailand.

Sources of illicit drugs

A large majority of methamphetamine pills found in Thailand originate from along the border with Myan-

⁷ The National Command Centre for Drug Elimination (NCCDE) was established in 2012 to coordinate the work of all relevant agencies whose work relates to drug control in Thailand.

Table 92. Retail prices for ATS in Thailand (USD), 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement*	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Methamphetamine pills	per pill	6-10	7-8.5	5-10	5-9	4-12
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	71-86	71-86	67-100	67-100	50-120
'Ecstasy'	per pill	23-29	23-35	12-18	12-18	25-32

● = Not reported. 2012 prices calculated at an exchange rate of 1 US\$ = 30 Baht. * Assumes price at retail purity levels, not per pure gram.

Source: DAINAP; Thailand country report, Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), presented at the Sixteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 22-24 February 2011; 'Thailand country report 2012', Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 14-16 February 2012

mar while some others may also originate from Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).⁸ Large and increasing amounts of crystalline methamphetamine seized in Thailand are also indicated to originate from Myanmar. Large amounts of crystalline methamphetamine seized from syndicates from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran are believed to have been destined for onward trafficking to international markets.⁹

However, methamphetamine manufacture has re-emerged in Thailand in recent years and a small number of methamphetamine manufacturing facilities continue to be dismantled. This may be partly due to increased law enforcement efforts along the northern border attempting to prevent the trafficking of methamphetamine to Thailand from neighbouring countries. Since 2008, more than 20 illicit methamphetamine manufacturing facilities have been dismantled,¹⁰ including 6 methamphetamine manufacturing facilities dismantled in 2012.¹¹ Most manufacturing facilities dismantled in recent years have consisted of methamphetamine pill pressing operations and small-scale crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing sites in the central parts of the country near Bangkok. Between 2003 and 2008, no clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing was detected.¹²

Small amounts of opium continue to be illicitly cultivated in Thailand for local use. In 2012, the Government of Thailand eradicated 207.5 hectares of opium poppy, which accounted for approximately 96% of the total estimated cultivation.¹³

⁸ Op. cit. ONCB, June 2013; Op. cit. ONCB, Thailand country report, February 2013; Laos country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State, (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2012/vol1/184100.htm#Laos>; date accessed: 08 July 2013).

⁹ Op. cit. ONCB, Thailand country report, February 2013.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Op. cit. ONCB, August 2013.

¹² Op. cit. ONCB, Thailand country report, February 2013.

¹³ Ibid.

Trafficking – Most methamphetamine pills and an increasing amount (between 80-90%) of crystalline methamphetamine trafficked to Thailand continues to be trafficked directly across the northern border with Myanmar.¹⁴ However, methamphetamine trafficking via Lao PDR to the north and northeastern parts of Thailand is increasing. During the last few years, Thai law enforcement agencies have made many joint methamphetamine pill and crystalline methamphetamine seizures. Most of the crystalline methamphetamine trafficked from Myanmar to Thailand is used domestically.¹⁵

Approximately 5-10% of crystalline methamphetamine found in Thailand is either manufactured in or first trafficked via Africa, and is smuggled by West African drug trafficking groups by passenger plane couriers. A large amount of methamphetamine of African origin is smuggled to Thailand for domestic use while some quantities are trafficked onwards to other markets in Asia. Transnational criminal groups from the Islamic Republic of Iran also continue to smuggle methamphetamine (in crystalline and liquid form) to Thailand by passenger plane couriers. It is believed that Thailand is used primarily as a transit country for Iranian methamphetamine en route to Japan but also Malaysia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong, China.¹⁶ Whereas Suvarnabhumi International Airport continues to be the primary entry point for transnational drug traffickers, methamphetamine and other illicit drugs smuggled by parcel post and sea cargo is reported to be on the rise.¹⁷

A significant number of Thai nationals – primarily women – continue to be arrested worldwide for drug

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid; 'Thailand Country Report 2011', Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), presented at the Twenty-second Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (AD-LOMICO), Busan, Republic of Korea, 12-14 September 2012.

¹⁷ Op. cit. ONCB, June 2013.

smuggling activities in connection with West African criminal organizations. In 2012, a total of 72 Thai drug couriers (69 women and 3 men) were arrested, most of whom were arrested for cocaine smuggling offences from countries in South America, primarily Brazil. In 2012, 10 Thai drug couriers were arrested in Cambodia for attempting to smuggle around 41 kg of cocaine and 14 kg of crystalline methamphetamine into the country.¹⁸ The drugs were believed to be destined for Thailand and other international markets.¹⁹

Most 'ecstasy' trafficked to Thailand originates from countries in Europe and North America as well as from Malaysia.²⁰ Thailand is also a transit country for safrole-rich oils (SRO), a commonly used precursor for the manufacture of MDMA, which originate from Cambodia and China and are destined for illicit MDMA manufacture in Western Europe, in particular the Netherlands.²¹

Most opium and heroin available on the illicit market in Thailand originates from Myanmar. In addition, West African drug trafficking groups smuggle heroin originating from Southwest Asia via Thailand to international markets, including Australia.²²

Most ketamine (primarily in powder form) found in Thailand is trafficked from India.²³

Forensic data

Methamphetamine pills in Thailand typically weigh about 90 mg, contain 10-20% methamphetamine and 50-70% caffeine. Crystalline methamphetamine samples contain approximately 40-90% methamphetamine, depending on the location at which they were manufactured. 'Ecstasy' pills typically contain approximately 50-60% MDMA.²⁴

¹⁸ 'ATS Situation & West African Drug Syndicate in Thailand', Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB), presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

¹⁹ Official communication with the National Authority for Combating Drugs of Cambodia (NACD), October 2012.

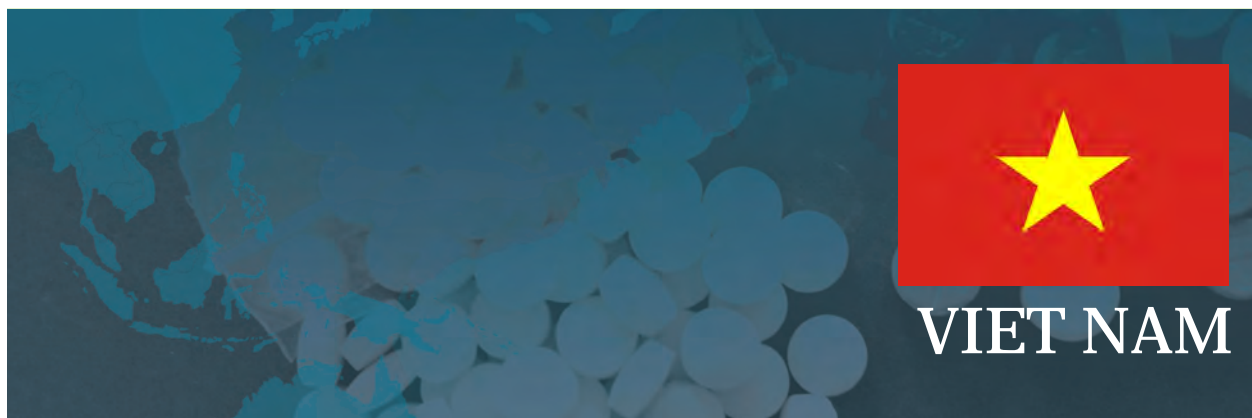
²⁰ Op. cit. ONCB, Thailand country report, February 2013; Op. cit. ONCB, June 2013.

²¹ 'Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 2012', International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Vienna, March 2013.

²² Op. cit. ONCB, June 2013.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Op. cit. ONCB, August 2013.



Emerging trends and concerns

- A small but growing number of clandestine laboratories for the manufacture of methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs have been detected in Viet Nam over the last two years.
- Transnational organized criminal groups, in particular from West Africa, continue to traffic large quantities of illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals through Viet Nam to international markets.
- The amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) market in Viet Nam continues to expand and diversify. Crystalline methamphetamine use is becoming increasingly widespread and a number of new psychoactive substances (NPS) have emerged on the illicit ATS market.
- Given the limited availability of seizure and forensic data, there continues to be an urgent need to enhance the collection and reporting of drug-related data in Viet Nam.

Overview of the drug situation

Illicit drug manufacture, trafficking and use continues to increase in Viet Nam. Over the last few years, a small number of illicit manufacturing facilities for ATS and other synthetic drugs have been seized in the country. However, most methamphetamine found in Viet Nam is trafficked from neighbouring countries by land, sea and, increasingly by air. Domestic and transnational organized criminal groups, including West African drug trafficking groups, continue to traffic illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals through Viet Nam to international markets. The Government of Viet Nam indicated that there is a rise of violent crime associated with drug use and trafficking.

Heroin remains the primary drug of use. Meanwhile, ATS use continues to increase, especially among young drug users in major cities. A number of NPS have also emerged on the ATS market in Viet Nam. The general low level of knowledge and understanding about ATS in Viet Nam is of concern. Some quantities of cannabis are cultivated in Viet Nam, primarily for the domestic market. The illicit cultivation of opium poppy remains limited.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Opiates have long been the primary drugs of concern in Viet Nam, while heroin remains the most widely used illicit drug. However, according to government experts, ATS surpassed opium as the second most widely used drug type in Viet Nam in 2010. The use of methamphetamine pills and ecstasy has continuously increased during the past decade. Crystalline methamphetamine use was first reported in Viet Nam in 2008 and has since increased considerably. There are indications that the use of methamphetamine in crystalline form now surpasses that of methamphetamine pills. ATS use in Viet Nam is likely to be primarily for recreational purposes.¹

In 2012, there were more than 172,000 registered drug users² in Viet Nam, marking an increase of 8.5%

¹ 'Amphetamine-Type Stimulants in Viet Nam: Review of the availability, use and implications for health and security', Standing Office on Drugs and Crime of Vietnam (SODC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Viet Nam Country Office, 2012.

² Registered drug users are drug users who have come into contact with law enforcement authorities.

Table 93. Rank of use of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	4	3	2	2	2
Methamphetamine pills	4	3	2	2	2
Ecstasy	4	3	2	2	2
Cannabis herb	3	4	4	4	4
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1
Ketamine	4	●	3	●	●
Opium	2	2	3	3	3

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 94. Trend in use of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2008-2012

Drug type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Ecstasy	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Cannabis herb	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑
Heroin	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓
Ketamine	↑	●	↑	●	●
Opium	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP; Official communication with the Standing Office on Drugs and Crime of Vietnam (SODC), October 2012

from 13,400 drug users in 2011.³ The majority, at 84.7% of registered drug users in 2012, were heroin users followed by 6.5% for synthetic drug users, 6.4% for opium users, 1.6% for cannabis users and 0.3% and 0.5% for pharmaceutical and other drugs respectively.⁴ Approximately half of all registered drug users (48%) are aged between 16 and 30 years.⁵ The large majority of registered drug users (96%) in 2012 continued to be male.⁶

Injecting drug use

There have been no official reports of injecting methamphetamine use in Viet Nam. However, there are in-

dications that a small number of heroin users also inject methamphetamine.⁷ Injecting continues to be the primary mode of administration for heroin in Viet Nam and the second most widely used mode of administration for opium.

The Ministry of Health in Viet Nam estimates that 37.4% of all persons living with HIV in the country are injecting drug users.⁸ HIV prevalence among injecting drug users in 2011 was estimated at 13.4%. Among Vietnamese men who inject drugs, there has been an overall decrease in HIV prevalence. However, in several provinces, HIV prevalence among injecting male drug users is very high: Dien Bien (56%), Quang Ninh (56%), Hai Phong (48%) and Ho Chi Minh City (46%).⁹

New psychoactive substances

In recent years, the Government of Viet Nam has re-

³ Viet Nam country report, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMIC), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

⁴ 'Situation and the results of drug prevention in Vietnam', Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the SMART Viet Nam National Workshop, Da Nang, Viet Nam, 30-31 May 2013.

⁵ Vietnam country presentation, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the ASEAN Conference 2013: Roadmap to Effective Substance Dependence Treatment, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 17-19 July 2013.

⁶ Op. cit. SODC, June 2013.

⁷ Op. cit. SODC and UNODC, 2012.

⁸ Op. cit. SODC, Vietnam country presentation, July 2013.

⁹ 'Viet Nam AIDS Response Progress Report 2012', National Committee for AIDS, Drugs, and Prostitution Prevention and Control, Hanoi, March 2012 (Accessed at: http://www.unaids.org.vn/images/GlobaI%20AIDS%20response%20EN%2013_7-final.pdf; date accessed: 27 September 2012).

ported the emergence of a number of synthetic drugs and NPS on the illicit drug market. NPS found in Viet Nam include phenethylamines in the '2C series', particularly 2C-B¹⁰, DOET¹¹ and PMMA,¹² which was detected for the first time in 2011 and is available in tablet form.¹³ Viet Nam has also reported the emergence of piperazines, namely BZP,¹⁴ mCPP¹⁵ and TFMPP.¹⁶ A large portion of 'ecstasy' pills found in Viet Nam contains little or no MDMA, but rather a variety of the aforementioned synthetic drugs and NPS as well as methamphetamine. In addition, the use of ketamine has been reported in Viet Nam.¹⁷ In August 2012, a total of 5.8 kg of khat destined for the United States was seized in parcel post.¹⁸

Drug treatment

There were 15,767 persons who received drug treatment services in the first six months of 2013, of which 12,639 persons (80%) underwent compulsory drug treatment and 3,128 persons (20%) received community-based treatment.¹⁹ In 2012, a total of 23,413 persons underwent compulsory drug treatment and 6,204 persons received community-based treatment.²⁰

Most drug treatment services are provided by the 123 compulsory treatment centres set-up throughout the country, most of which are managed by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), and local authorities. Most drug users who undergo drug treat-

ment in Viet Nam are poly-drug users. In general, the relapse rate of persons at drug treatment centres in Viet Nam is indicated to be very high, between 80-90%.²¹

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2012, the total number of drug-related arrests in Viet Nam was 31,412, which is 17% higher than the 26,680 drug-related arrests in the previous year.²² However, reported arrest data for 2012 is not disaggregated by drug type. A total of 86 foreign nationals were arrested in 2012, most of whom were arrested at airports for attempting to smuggle drugs in to and out of Viet Nam, and approximately 58 kg of heroin as well as 67 kg and 216,300 synthetic drug pills were seized from them.²³

Drug seizures – Large quantities of synthetic drugs continue to be seized in Viet Nam. The share of crystalline methamphetamine seizures in Viet Nam is indicated to have increased considerably since 2007. The Standing Office on Drugs and Crime of Viet Nam (SODC) points out that the amount of methamphetamine seized in 2012 marks an increase of 116 kg and 210,841 pills over the previous year;²⁴ however data for 2011 are unavailable.²⁵ There have been no seizure reports for crystalline methamphetamine since 2009, thus making the full extent of the methamphetamine situation in the country unclear.

Drug prices – The wholesale price of 1 kg of crystalline methamphetamine in 2012 was approximately USD 50,000-55,000. The street retail price of 1 gram of crystalline methamphetamine was approximately USD 100.²⁶

¹⁰ 2C-B refers to 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine. It is listed in Schedule II of the 1971 UN Convention on Psychoactive Substances.

¹¹ DOET refers to 2,5-Dimethoxy-4-ethylamphetamine. It is listed in Schedule II of the 1971 UN Convention on Psychoactive Substances.

¹² PMMA refers to para-Methoxy-N-methylamphetamine.

¹³ Country report by Viet Nam, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (HONLAP), Bangkok, 30 October – 2 November 2012.

¹⁴ BZP refers to 1-Benzylpiperazine.

¹⁵ mCPP refers to meta-Chlorophenylpiperazine, or 1-(3-chlorophenyl)piperazine.

¹⁶ TFMPP refers to 1-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine.

¹⁷ 'Synthetic Monitoring, Reporting and Trends through Drug Analysis Activities', Institute for Forensic Science (IFS), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Viet Nam National Workshop, Da Nang, Viet Nam, 30-31 May 2013.

¹⁸ 'Drug Trafficking in Viet Nam', General Department of Vietnam Customs (GDVC), presented at the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific Regional Seminar for Information Exchange to Fight against Drug Trafficking, Seoul, 16-18 April 2013.

¹⁹ 'Overview on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation in Vietnam', Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the ASEAN Conference 2013: Roadmap to Effective Substance Dependence Treatment, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 17-19 July 2013.

²⁰ Op. cit. SODC, June 2013.

²¹ Op. cit. SODC, 'Overview on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation in Vietnam', July 2013.

²² Op. cit. SODC, June 2013; 'Vietnam National Report: On situation of illicit drugs and achievements of drug control in Vietnam in 2011 and first 6 months of 2012', Standing Office on Drugs and Crime of Viet Nam (SODC), presented at the 'Twenty-second Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Busan, Republic of Korea, 12-14 September 2012.

²³ Viet Nam country report, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), Ministry of Public Security, presented at the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 26-27 February 2013.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Op. cit. SODC, August 2013.

Table 95. Seizures of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	•	3.9	•	•	•
Methamphetamine pills	pills	70,000 pills and 60 kg	654,491	221,685 pills and 22 kg	366,000	335,470 pills and 128.9 kg
Ecstasy	pills	19,000 and 7.6 kg	•	•	•	•
Cannabis herb	kg	128.8	332.0	211.3	7 mt of 'fresh' and 500 kg of 'dried'	1 mt of 'fresh' and 164 kg of 'dried'
Heroin	kg	156.2	213.0	316.8 and 12 'blocks'	309.0 kg and 36 'blocks'	629.0
Ketamine	kg	5.7	•	•	•	•
Opium	kg	18.8	69.8	28.2	76.0	225.0

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; Country report of Vietnam: Drug situation in Vietnam in 2010, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime of Vietnam (SODC), Hanoi, 2011; Vietnam country report, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime of Vietnam (SODC), presented at the Thirty-second ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters Meeting (ASOD), Vientiane, 10-13 October 2011; SODC, September 2012; SODC, June 2013; Viet Nam country presentation, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime of Vietnam (SODC), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, Jakarta, 28-29 August 2013

Sources of Illicit drugs

Domestic illicit ATS manufacture remains limited in Viet Nam. Most ATS continue to be smuggled into Viet Nam from neighbouring countries. However, in recent years, a number of small-scale illicit manufacturing facilities for methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs have been seized in Viet Nam, and 8 facilities have been detected in 2013. In addition, in 2012 and 2013 there were indications that large-scale clandestine methamphetamine manufacture is taking place in laboratories operated by Vietnamese nationals who used to live abroad and have since returned to Viet Nam.²⁷ Most illicit methamphetamine manufacture in Viet Nam uses pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine as precursor chemicals. However, a small number of clandestine laboratories have been detected which were using ephedra plant, P-2-P²⁸ and phenylacetic acid as precursors.²⁹

Cannabis continues to be illicitly cultivated in the northern provinces.³⁰

Trafficking – In recent years, Viet Nam has become a destination and significant transit location for the trafficking of illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals to international markets. A large share of the illicit drugs trafficked into and through Viet Nam in 2012 is smuggled by land and sea from Cambodia, China and increasingly Lao PDR, with some quantities being further trafficked to Australia, Canada and the United States.³¹ Illicit drug trafficking (both inbound and outbound) via international airports in Viet Nam increased in 2012. There is also some trafficking of illicit drugs to international markets via various seaports in the central provinces.³²

Most methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs trafficked to Viet Nam originates from China and Cambodia.³³ In 2012, significant quantities of crystalline methamphetamine – as well as heroin – were also seized in Son La province, adjacent to Lao PDR, a portion of which was further trafficked overland to China through official border crossings.³⁴ The large majority of heroin found in

²⁷ Op. cit. SODC, May 2013; Op. cit. IFS, May 2013.

²⁸ P-2-P refers to (1-Phenyl-2-propanone), or Benzyl methyl ketone (BMK). The licit trade in P-2-P is limited to just a few countries. P-2-P is used in the manufacture of pesticides and cleaning agents. P-2-P is widely used in methamphetamine manufacture in Mexico.

²⁹ Ibid. IFS, May 2013.

³⁰ Op. cit. SODC, February 2013.

³¹ Vietnam country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Accessed at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/204265.pdf>; date accessed: 24 July 2013).

³² Vietnam country report, Standing Office on Drugs and Crime of Vietnam (SODC), presented at the Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 14-16 February 2012.

³³ Op. cit. SODC, February 2013.

³⁴ 'Trends of synthetic drugs and precursor trafficking', Border Army of Viet Nam (VBA), presented at the SMART Viet Nam National Workshop, Da Nang, Viet Nam, 30-31 May 2013.

Viet Nam is trafficked into the country from Lao PDR and originates from Lao PDR and Myanmar.³⁵

Drug trafficking groups from West Africa continue to recruit Vietnamese and foreign nationals – primarily women – to smuggle drugs into Viet Nam and through the country. In 2012, 31.6 kg of heroin (primarily from Southwest Asia), 53.8 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 2.1 kg of cocaine were seized in Viet Nam from passenger plane couriers who were recruited by West African drug trafficking groups.³⁶ Between July and September 2012, a total of 22 female Vietnamese passenger plane couriers were arrested in Malaysia.³⁷

Precursor chemical trafficking to and from Viet Nam remains a problem. In recent years, there have been indications that drug traffickers may be targeting Viet Nam as a source of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and P-2-P.

Forensic data

In 2012, methamphetamine pill samples analysed in Viet Nam contained 5-17% methamphetamine and an unspecified amount of caffeine and other substances. In previous years methamphetamine pills were also found to contain ketamine. Crystalline methamphetamine in Viet Nam contained 45-75% methamphetamine, similar to previous years. The ecstasy samples analysed contained unspecified amounts of MDMA and other substances such as ketamine, *m*CPP, 2C-B, DOET, TFMPP, BZP, PMMA and caffeine.³⁸

³⁵ Op. cit. SODC, February 2013.

³⁶ Op. cit. SODC, May 2013.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Op. cit. IFS, May 2013.

Contact details

Global SMART Programme (East Asia)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building, 3rd floor, Block B
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Global SMART Programme (Headquarters)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna
Austria

www.apaic.org

UNODC would like to specifically recognize the following funding partners for their contribution to the Global SMART Programme.

