

# **Overview of ATS trends in East and Southeast Asia**

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# Structure

1. Overview of general drug trends in East and South-East Asia

2. ATS trends in East and South-East Asia

3. Key points

# General drug trends

- Cannabis: high levels of use
- Inhalants/solvents: young users
- Cocaine: increasing prevalence

# General drug trends

- Opiates
  - Reversal of past successes
  - Opium cultivation and production up
  - Heroin: re-emerging threat

# General drug trends

## OPIUM CULTIVATION

Lao PDR – up

Myanmar –up

Thailand – up

## OPIUM PRODUCTION

Lao PDR – up

Myanmar –up

Thailand – up

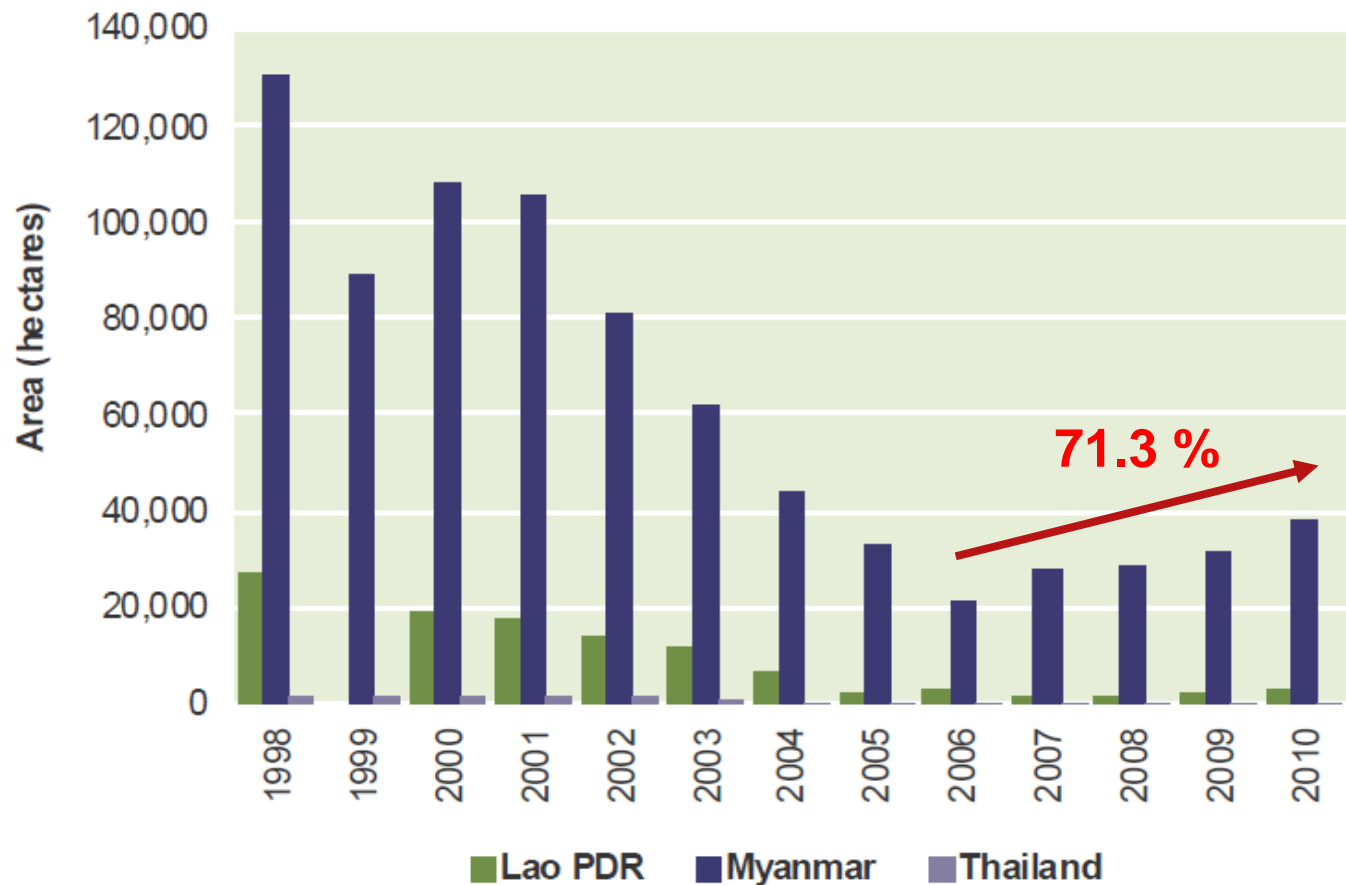
	2009	2010	Change from
Potential production of opium <sup>1</sup>	345 mt	603 mt	+75%
Lao PDR	11 mt	18 mt	+58%
Thailand	3 mt	5 mt	+36%
Myanmar	330 mt	580 mt	+76%

	2009	2010	Change from
Opium poppy cultivation <sup>1</sup>	33,811 ha	41,389 ha	+22%
Lao PDR	1,900 ha	3,000 ha	+58%
Thailand	211 ha	289 ha	+37%
Myanmar	31,700 ha	38,100 ha	+20%

# General drug trends

## Opium cultivation in South-East Asia– increasing

Figure 1: Opium poppy cultivation in South East Asia (hectares), 1998 - 2010



# Structure

1. Overview of drug trends in East and South-East Asia

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# ATS trends in East and South-East Asia



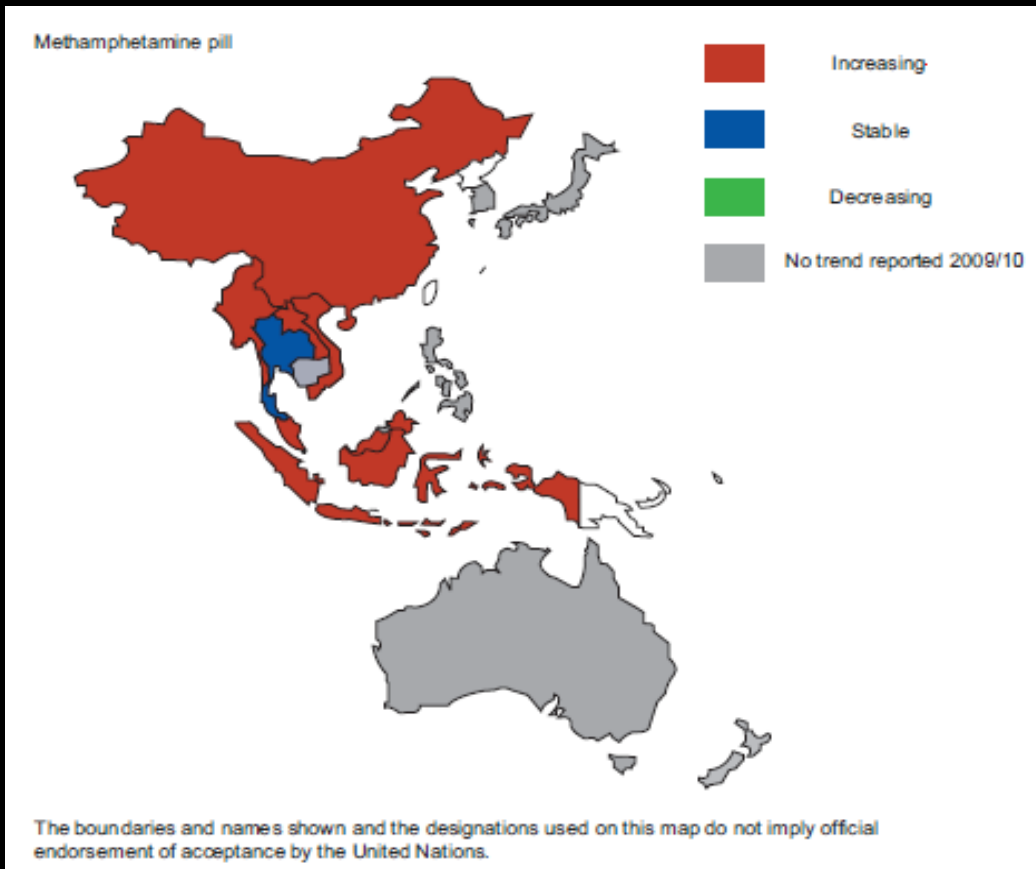
**ATS:**

**“Growing threat”**

- **high profits and low risks with initial investment**
- **involvement of organized crime**
- **situation steadily worsening**



# Methamphetamine pill use (2010\*)

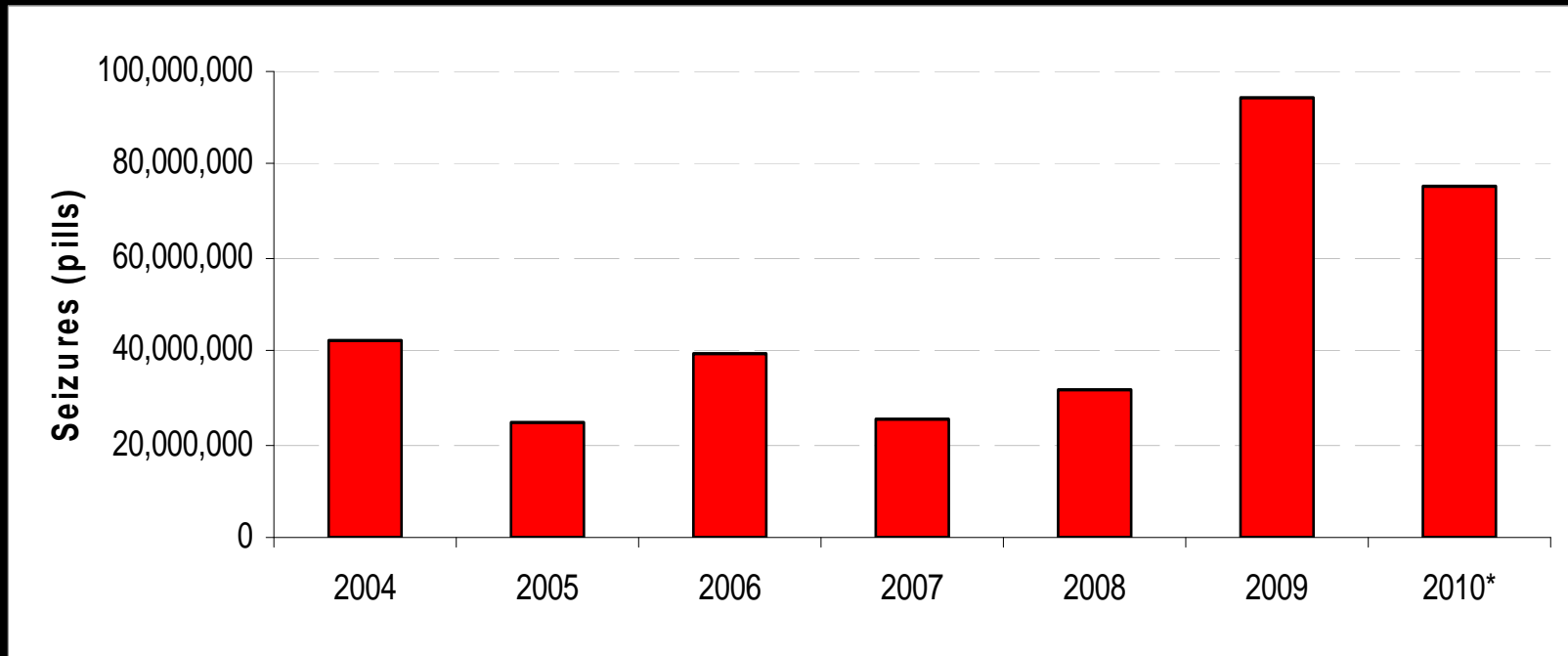


Increasing use in **SIX** countries:

**China**  
**Indonesia**  
**Lao PDR**  
**Malaysia**  
**Myanmar**  
**Viet Nam**

\*Or latest available data

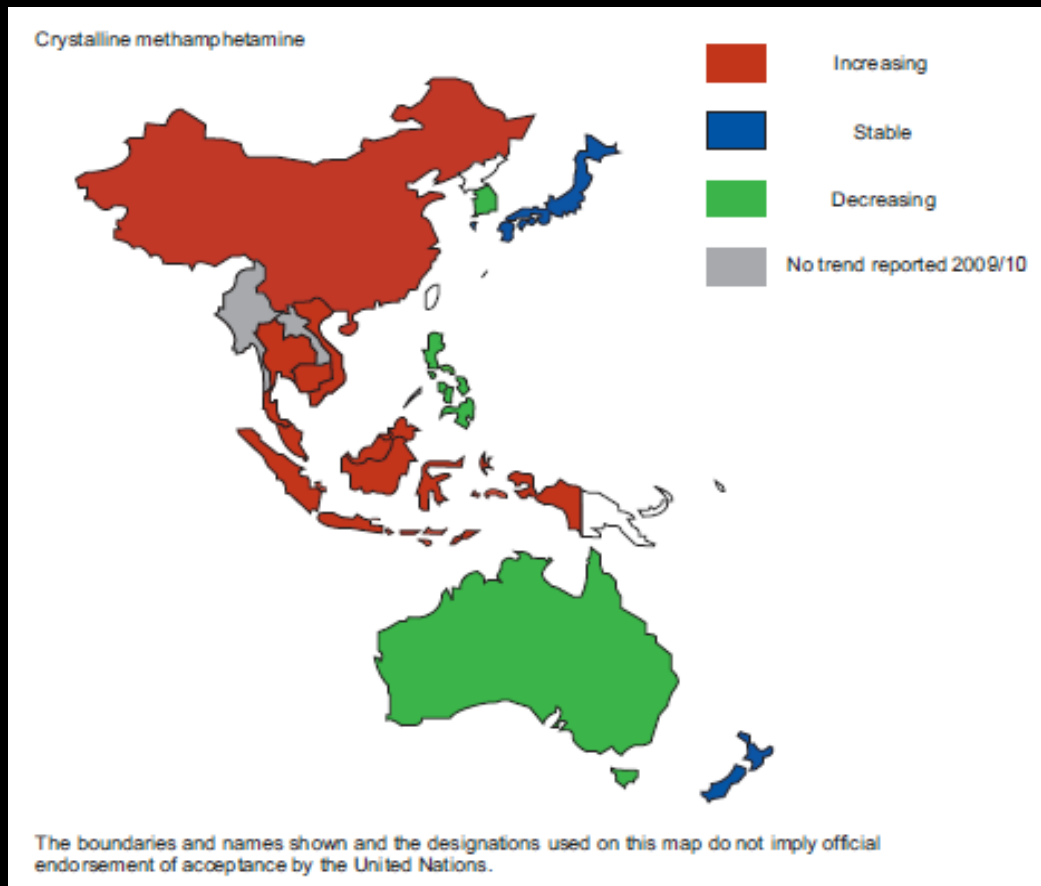
# Methamphetamine pill seizures (2004-2010)



\* China has not yet reported disaggregated methamphetamine seizure data for 2010

- **2010: Total seizures 75+ million pills\***
- **2009: Total seizures 94.2 million pills**

# Crystalline methamphetamine use (2010\*)

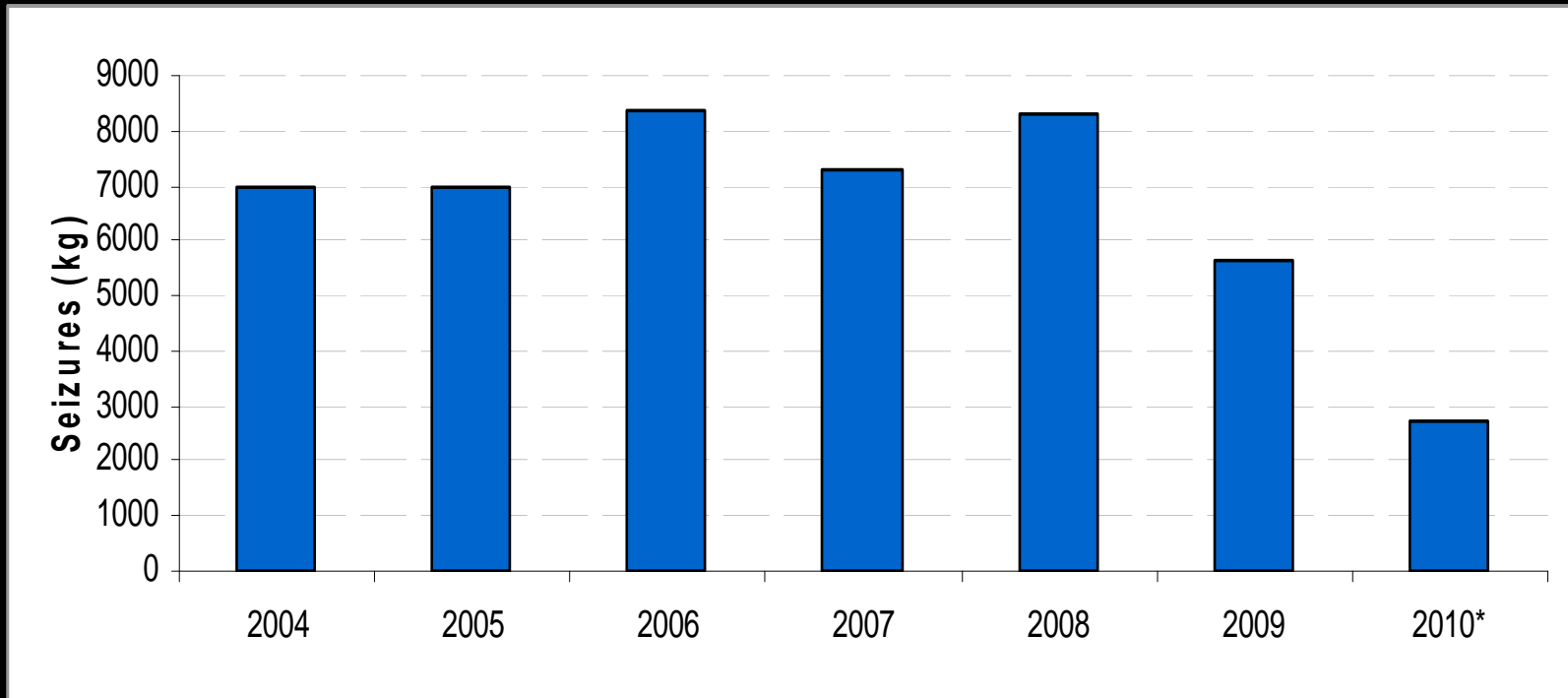


**Increasing use in  
EIGHT countries:**

**Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
China  
Indonesia  
Malaysia  
Singapore  
Thailand  
Viet Nam**

\*Or latest available data

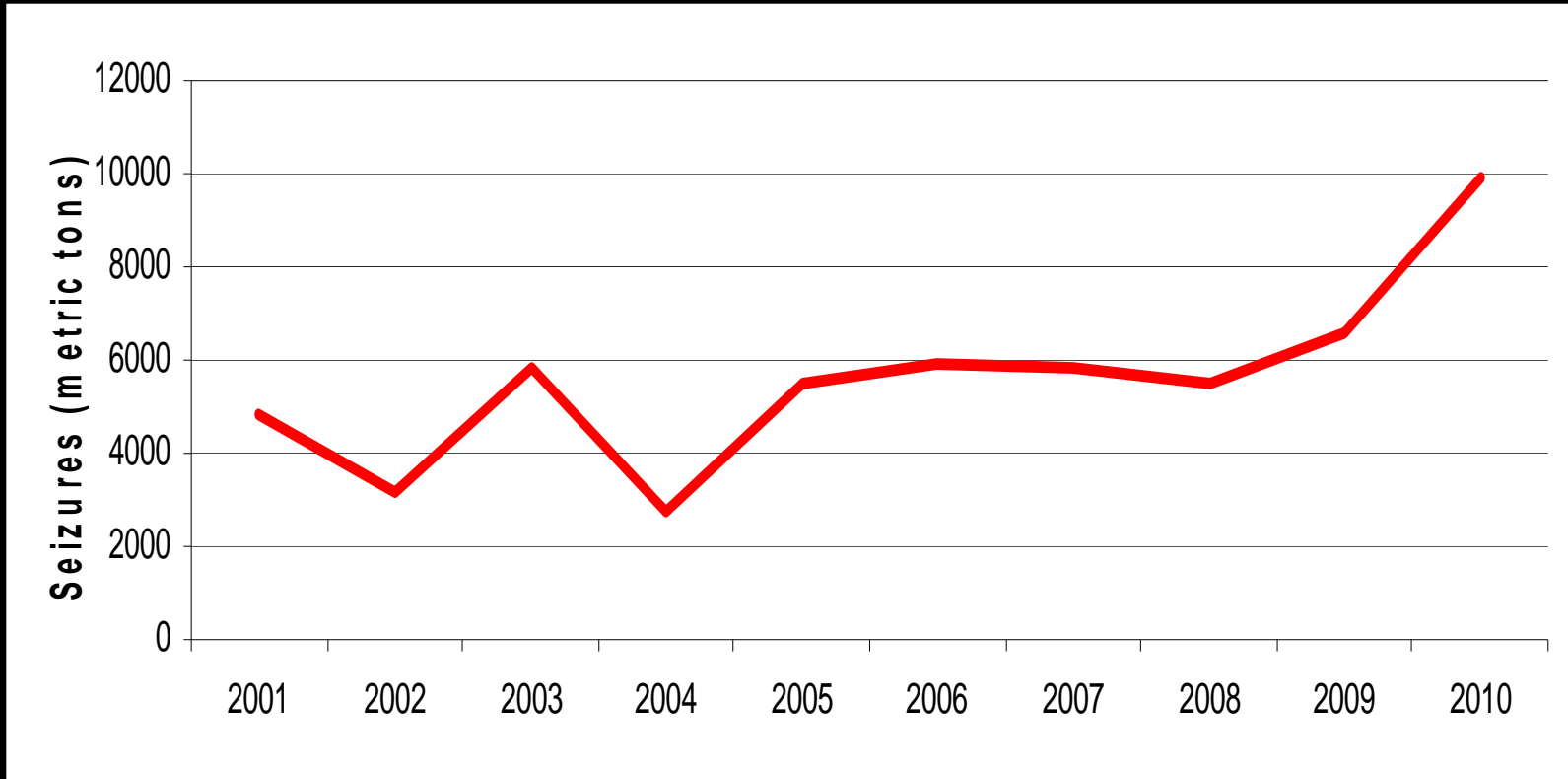
# Crystalline meth seizures (2004-2010)



\* China has not yet reported disaggregated methamphetamine seizure data for 2010

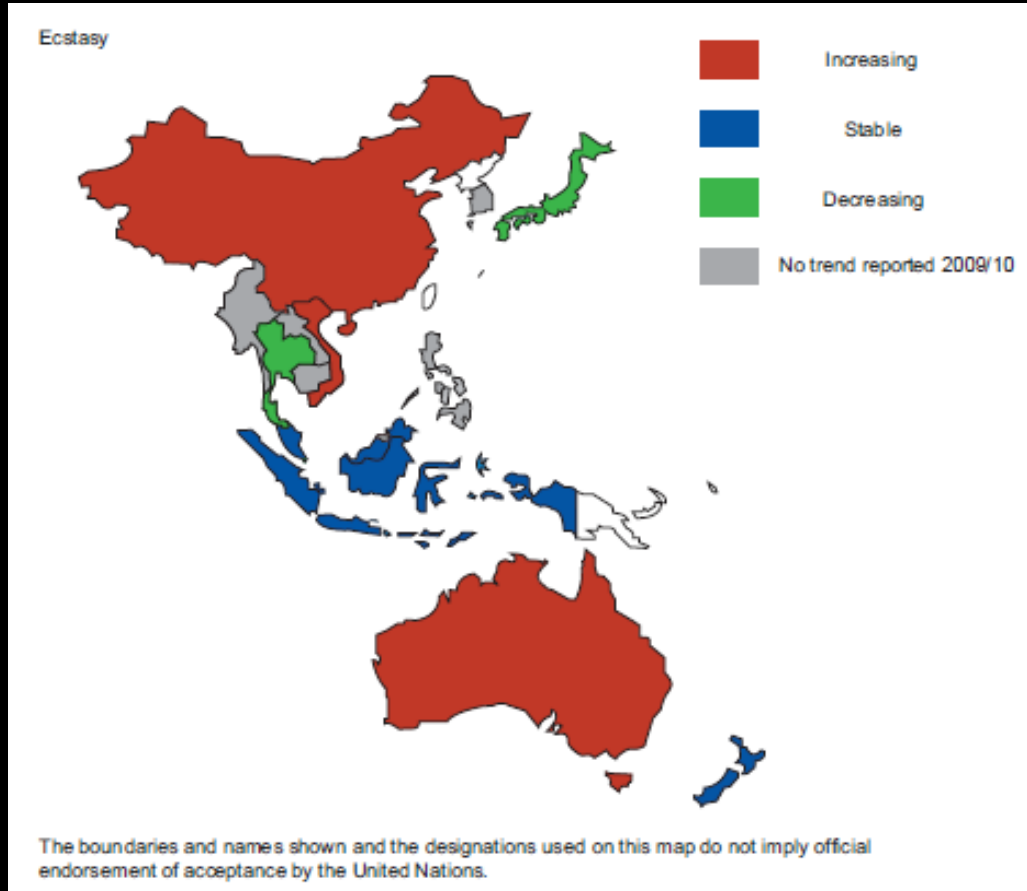
- **2010: 2.7 metric tons**
- **2009: 5.7 metric tons**

# ATS seizures in China (2001-2010)



- **2010: 9.9 mt seized – largest in past decade**
- **2009: 6.6 mt seized (2.5 mt of ice + 40.5m pills)**
- **2009-2010: 50% increase**

# Ecstasy use (2010\*)



Increasing use:

**Australia**  
**China**  
**Viet Nam**

Decreasing:

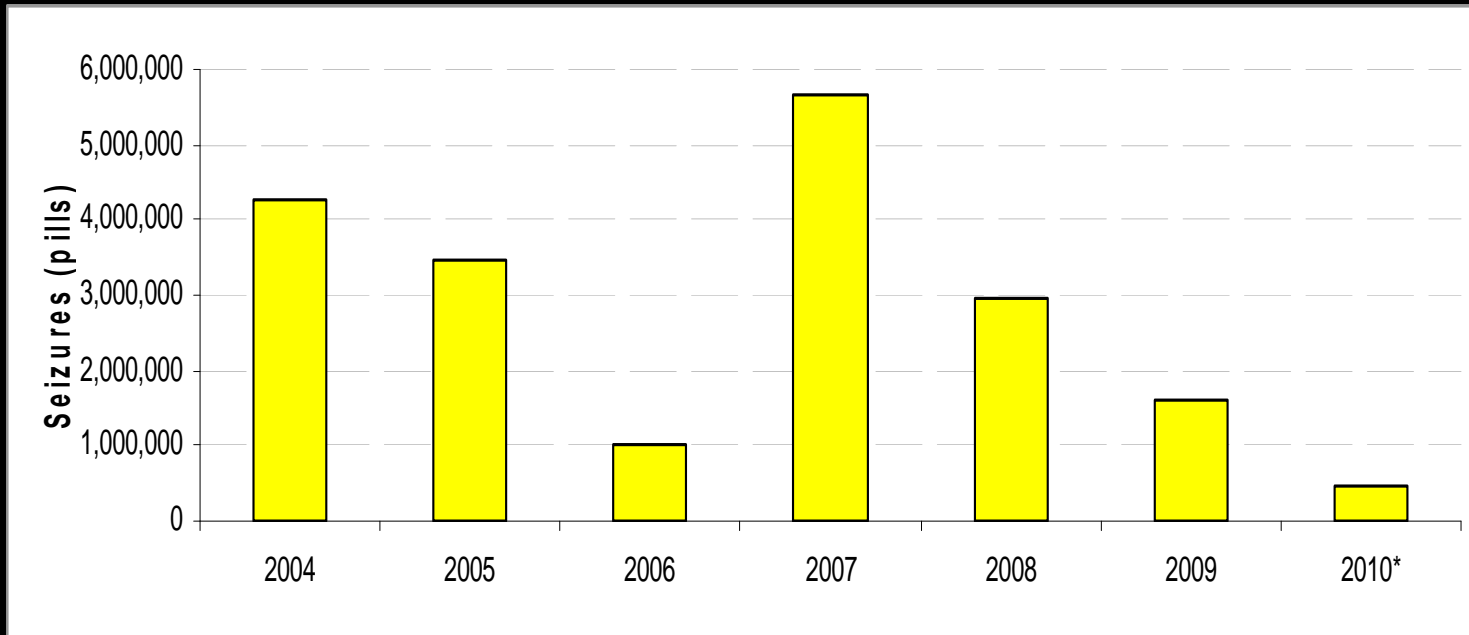
**Japan**  
**Singapore**  
**Thailand**

Stable:

**Indonesia**  
**Malaysia**  
**New Zealand**

\*Or latest available data

# Ecstasy pill seizures (2004-2010)

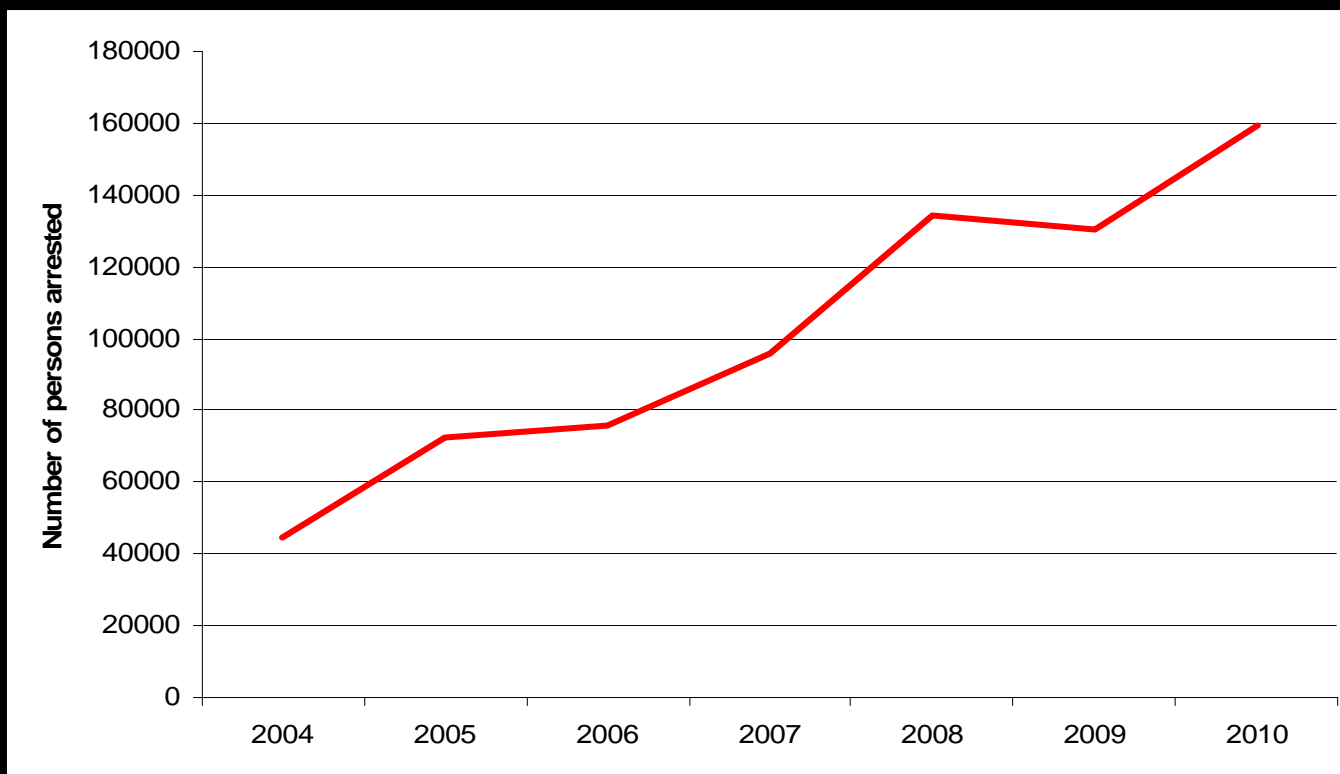


\*China has not yet reported disaggregated ATS seizure data for 2010.

- **2010: 471,000 pills seized**
- **2009: 1.6 million pills seized**

# Methamphetamine-related arrests rising

ASEAN + China (2004 – 2010)\*



\*For countries which provided disaggregated arrest data by drug type.



# Structure

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# 1. ATS rank in top 3 drugs in the region (2010)

...for the second consecutive year

Methamphetamine pills										
Brunei	Cambodia	China	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Viet Nam
●	●	●	●	1	●	3	●	●	1	2
Ecstasy										
Brunei	Cambodia	China	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Viet Nam
●	●	●	5	●	5	●	●	8	9	2
Crystalline methamphetamine										
Brunei	Cambodia	China	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Viet Nam
1	1	2	1	●	3	●	1	3	7	2

## 2. High levels of ATS manufacture

### Labs of varying capacities



Chachoengsao, Thailand (May 2010)



Guangdong, China (August 2008)

## 2. High levels of ATS manufacture

Countries with long-standing manufacture problems



### China

- 2010: 378 ATS labs seized
- 2009: 391\* total labs seized (up 60% from 2008)



### Myanmar

- Major producer of meth pills
- 39 labs seized from 1998–2010
- Likelihood of large-scale labs



### Philippines

- 2010: 7 labs
- 2002-2010: total of 72 shabu labs seized

## 2. High levels of ATS manufacture

Transit countries develop meth use and mfg problems



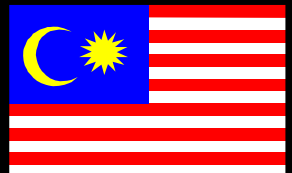
### **Cambodia**

- 2010: 11 labs and precursor manufacture sites seized
- 2009: 5 labs and precursor manufacture sites seized



### **Indonesia**

- 2010: 26 ATS labs seized
- 2009: 37 ATS labs seized



### **Malaysia**

- 2010: 8 labs – mfg. meth, ecstasy and ketamine
- 2009: 11 ATS labs seized

## 2. High levels of ATS manufacture

### Warning signs



#### **Viet Nam**

- One ecstasy retableting operation seized in 2008
- Indications of further ecstasy retableting



#### **Thailand**

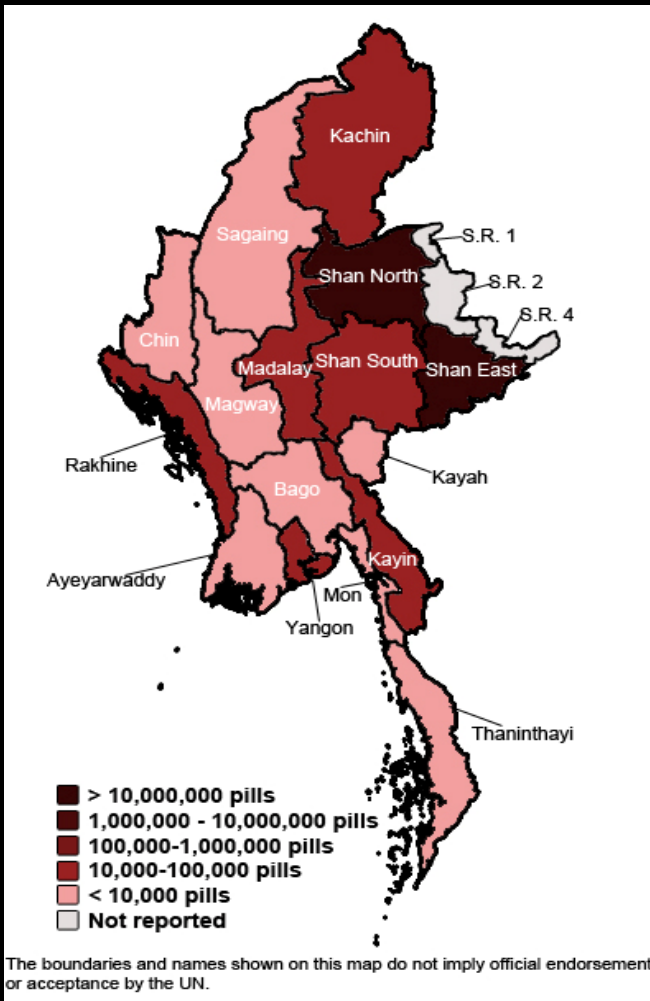
- Meth tableting operations near BKK and in North
- Reports of crystalline meth manufacture



#### **Lao PDR**

- The next manufacturing centre?

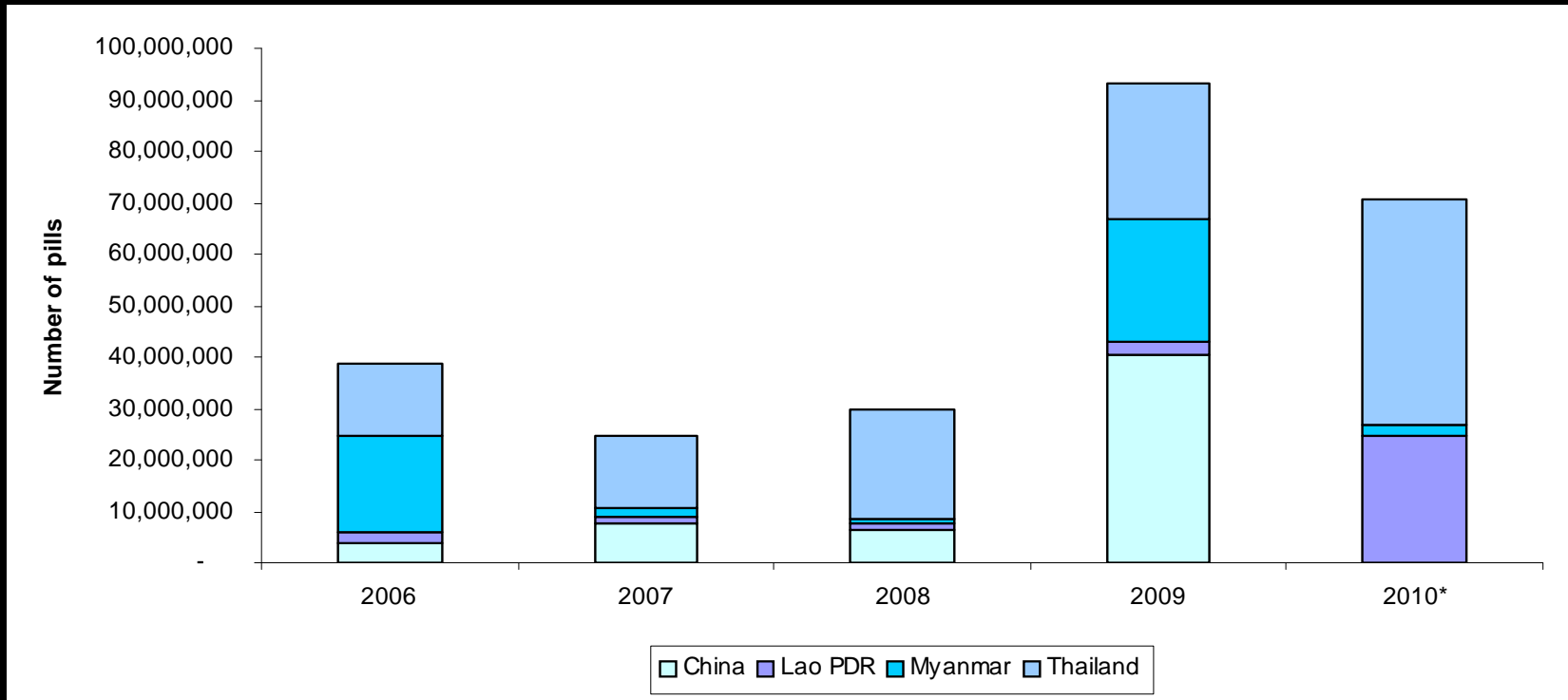
# 3. Meth spillover from Myanmar



- Major source of meth pills
- 2009: 23.9m meth pills seized
- Most seizures near production centres
- Seized pills primarily destined for neighbouring countries especially to China and Thailand
- Increased precursor seizures
- No crystalline meth facility seized

# 3. Meth spillover from Myanmar

## Increasing meth pill seizures in Myanmar's neighbours



\*China has not yet reported disaggregated methamphetamine seizure data for 2010

- **2010: Total seizures = 75m + 4.6 mt in Yunnan**
- **2009: Total seizures 94m (99% in CH, LA, MM and TH)**



### 3. Meth spillover from Myanmar

#### Meth pill seizures in Myanmar and neighbouring countries (2009-2010)

Country	2009	2010
China	40,450,608	●
Lao PDR	2,335,330	24,530,117
Myanmar	23,899,156	2,192,262
Thailand	26,640,206	47,370,688

● = not reported yet

Note: China has not yet reported disaggregated methamphetamine seizure data for 2010

## 4. Shift in precursor sourcing

Seizure of 816,000 cold tablets containing pseudoephedrine, Myanmar, July 2009



- Precursors in new physical forms
- Use of non-controlled licit chemicals
- Diversion of pharmaceutical preparations

Seizure of 122,400 bottles of nasal drops containing liquid ephedrine, Myanmar, August 2009



## 4. Shift in precursor sourcing

### Seizure of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine



Cam  
2010



Myar  
2009  
2010



Thail  
2009  
2010

#### Note

**1 cold tablet contains 60mg of pseudoephedrine on average.**

1 million cold tablets → 60 kg (pseudoephedrine)

60 kg of pseudoephedrine → 40 kg Ice or

40 kg Meth. HCL

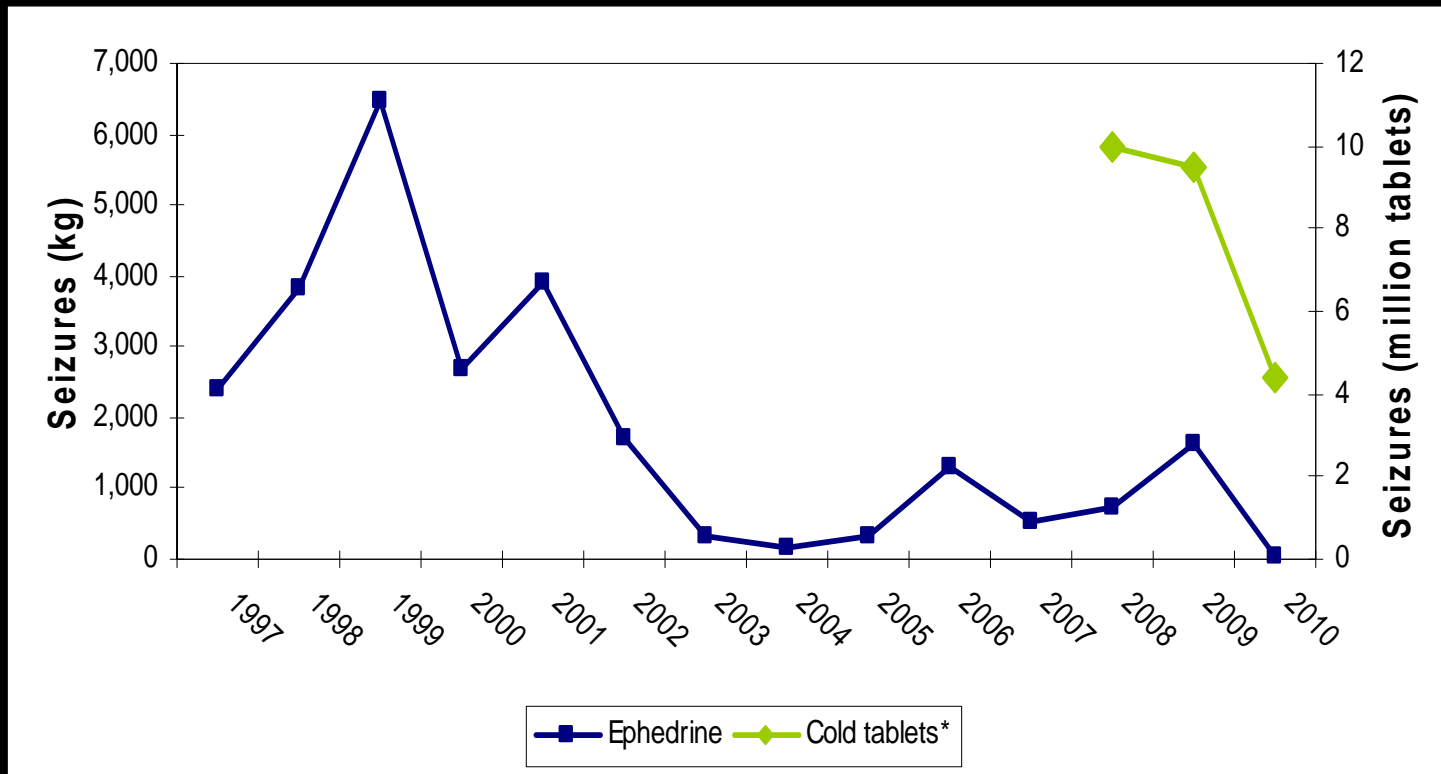
Source: Precursors Report E/INCB/2009/4, INCB

nasal-drop bottles

**1 million cold tablets is enough to produce 40 kg of crystal meth or 1.33 million high grade meth pills**

## 4. Shift in precursor sourcing

Bulk seizures of ephedrine and cold tablets in Myanmar



## 5. Injecting meth use



### **Cambodia**

- Reported injecting meth use in 2007



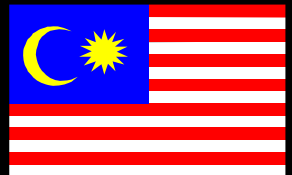
### **Indonesia**

- Reported injecting meth use in 2007



### **Lao PDR:**

- Reported injecting meth use in 2008



### **Malaysia**

- Reported injecting meth use in 2009



### **Thailand:**

- Reported injecting meth use in 2009

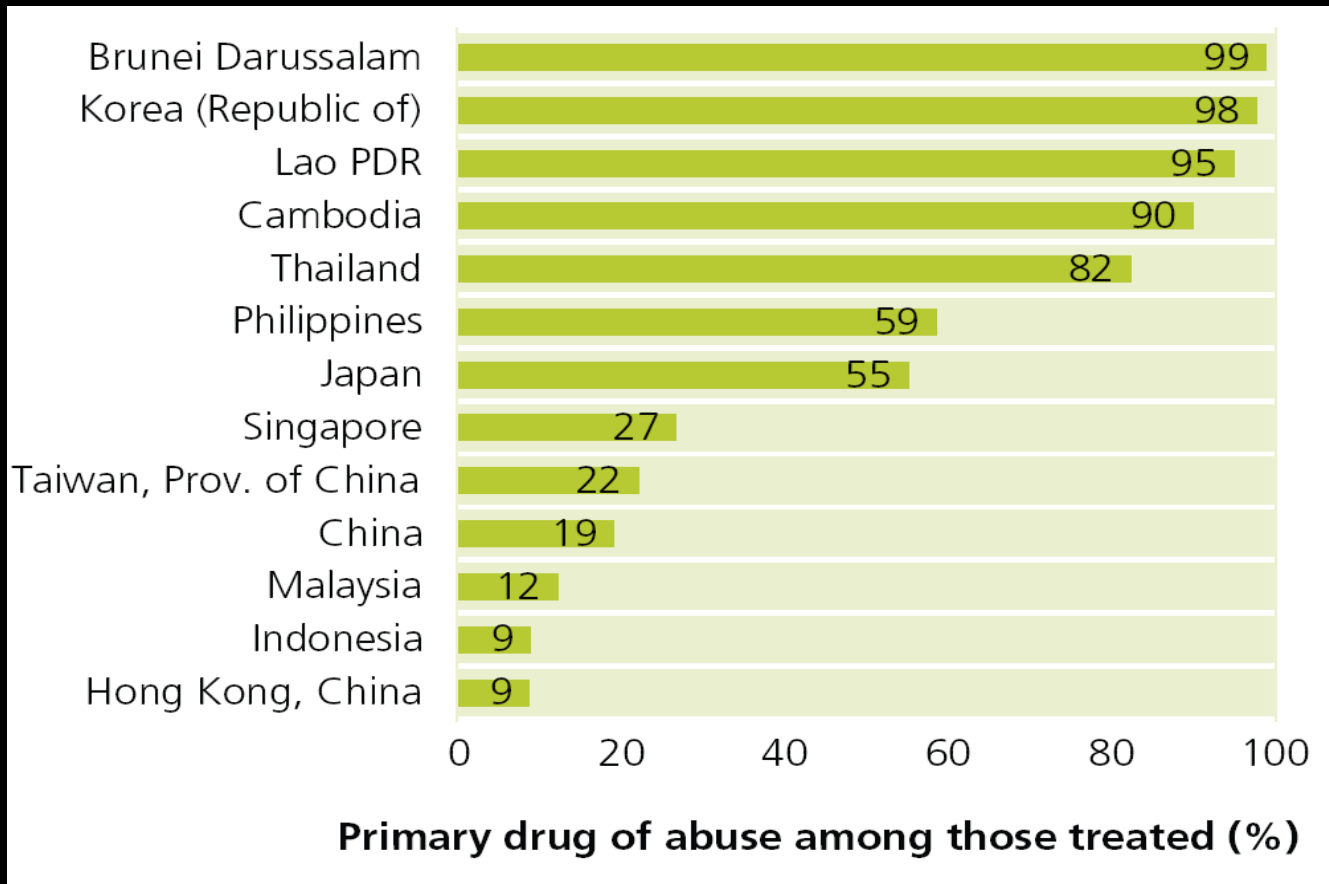
## 6. Lack of ATS treatment services

- ATS treatment under-resourced
- Most treatment for heroin, opium and cannabis
- Compulsory treatment marked by high relapse rates



## 6. Lack of ATS treatment services

### Methamphetamine treatment demand in E/SE Asia



Source: UNODC, 2011 World Drug Report, June 2011.

# 7. Transnational Organized Crime groups

## Syndicates from West Africa

- Operate in several countries
- Traffic primarily cocaine and heroin previously
- Emerging crystalline meth trafficking
- Sophisticated and constantly evolving methods
- Recruit women on the Internet and public places
- More trafficking by air/sea cargo



# 7. Transnational Organized Crime groups

## Syndicates from the Islamic Republic of Iran

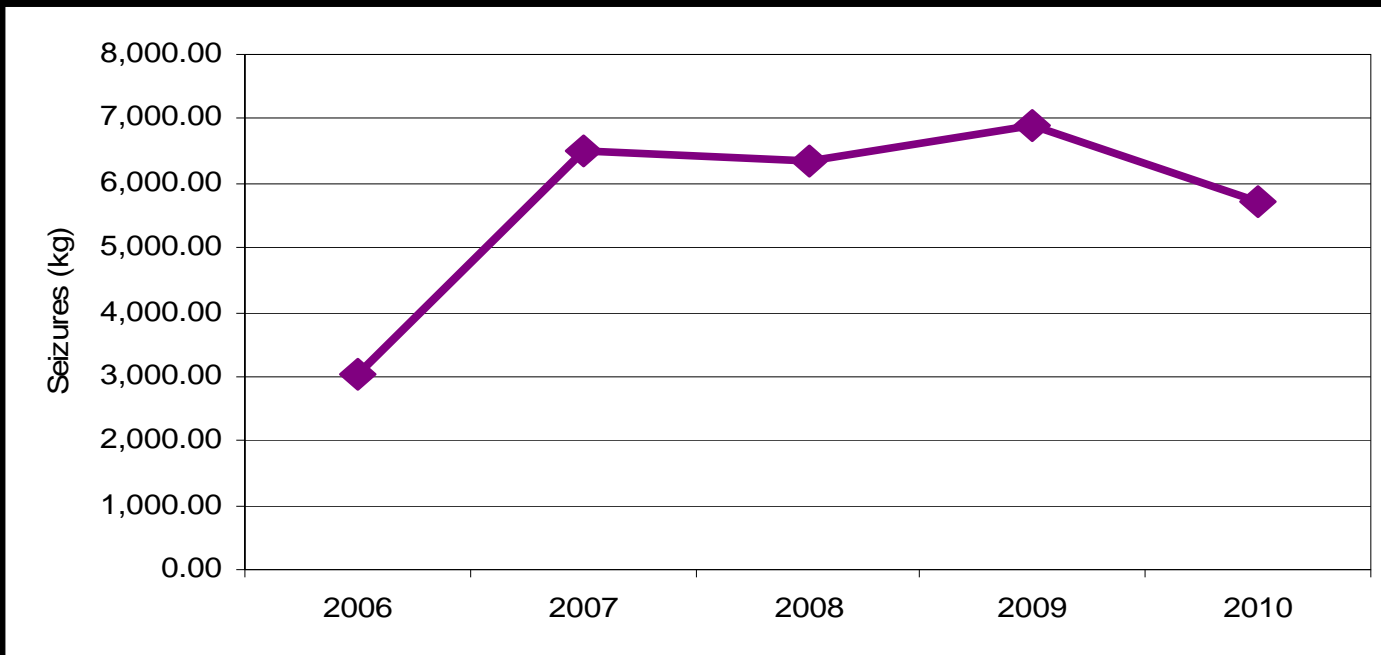
- Seizures started in mid-2009 and continued in 2010 and 2011
- Trafficked directly from Iran or via Europe and/or Middle East to SE Asian countries
- Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are major destinations
- Traffic high purity (99%) and lower cost meth

## 8. Ketamine use and trafficking

- Anaesthetic substance, often used for veterinary purposes
- Not controlled by any of the 3 United Nations drug control Conventions (1961, 1971 or 1988)
- Widely available, cheaper than MDMA

# 8. Ketamine use and trafficking

**Ketamine seizures in East and South-East Asia (2006-2010)**



- **2010: Total seizures 5.7 metric tons**
- **2009 – 2010: 17% decrease**

## 9. Emergence of new substances

- Piperazines
- Mephedrone
- Spice
- Drug-adulterant combinations: cocaine & levamisole
- Misuse of prescription drugs
- Prevalent in Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam

Challenges in controlling new substances...

**“It takes a network  
to defeat a  
network”**

**THANK YOU**

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