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Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs

Asia and the Pacific

Global SMART Programme

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Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs: Asia and the Pacific 2012

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December 2012

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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 South-East 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 South-East 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
ADK	National Anti-Drugs Agency (Malaysia)
ADLOMICO	Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AFSN	Asian Forensic Sciences Network
AGCMEO	Singapore Attorney General's Chambers and Managing for Excellence Office
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
AIDS	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANCD	Australian National Council on Drugs
ANF	Anti-Narcotics Force (Pakistan)
APAIC	Asia and Pacific Amphetamine Type Stimulants Information Centre
ARQ	Annual Reports Questionnaire
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulants
Bk-MBDB	Butylone, also known as β -keto-N-methylbezodioxolylpropylamine
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)
CDCP	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (United States)
CECVT	Centre for Education, Correction and Vocational Training
CID	Criminal Investigation Division Directorate (Indonesia)
CNB	Central Narcotics Bureau (Singapore)
CNP	Cambodian National Police
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)
DNC	Department of Narcotics Control (Bangladesh)
DOCMJHR	Directorate of Corrections, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Indonesia)
DRC	Drug Rehabilitation Center
DUMA	Drug Use Monitoring System (Australia)
DXM	Dextromethorphan
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
GHB	Gamma-hydroxybutyrate
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion (comprises Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam as well as Yunnan and Guangxi provinces in China)
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
IDMS	Illicit Drug Monitoring System (New Zealand)

IDRS	Illicit Drug Reporting System (Australia)
IDUs	Injecting drug users
IFS	Institute of Forensic Science (Viet Nam)
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
INCSR	International Narcotics Control Strategy Report
INP	Indonesian National Police
Interpol/ICPO	International Criminal Police Organization
JCITC	Japan Customs Intelligence and Targeting Centre
JWH-018	1-Pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole
KFDA	Korean Food and Drug Administration
LCDC	Lao National Commission on Drug Control and Supervision
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide
MBDB	N-Methyl-1-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-2-butanamine
mCPP	m-Chlorophenylpiperazine
MCRP	Mitsampan Community Research Project (Thailand)
MDA	3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine (tenamfetamine)
MDE	3,4-Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine
MDMA	3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine
MHLW	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan)
MMDMG	3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOHNZ	Ministry of Health (New Zealand)
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (Viet Nam)
MPS	Ministry of Public Security (Viet Nam)
NAC	National AIDS Commission (Indonesia)
NACD	National Authority for Combating Drugs (Cambodia)
NADA	National Anti-Drug Agency (Malaysia)
NAPAC	National AIDS Prevention and Alleviation Committee (Thailand)
NCB	Narcotics Control Bureau (Brunei Darussalam)
NCCA	National Committee for the Control of AIDS (Lao PDR)
NCHADS	National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STIs for Cambodia
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)
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey (Thailand)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NNB	National Narcotics Board Indonesia
NNCC	National Narcotics Control Commission (China)
NPA	National Police Agency (Japan)
NSB	Narcotics Suppression Bureau, Royal Thai Police
NZG	New Zealand Government
OCO	Oceania Customs Organisation
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONCB	Office of the Narcotics Control Board (Thailand)
P-2-P	1-Phenyl-2-propanone (BMK)
PAG	Policy Advisory Group (New Zealand)
PCDC	Provincial Committee for Drug Control (Lao PDR)
PDARN	Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network
PDEA	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
PIFS	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

PMK	3,4-Methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone (3,4-MDP-2-P)
PNAC	Philippine National AIDS Council
PWID	People who inject drugs
RMP	Royal Malaysian Police
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 (Korea)
SRO	Safrole-rich oils
STI	Sexually transmitted infections
TFMPP	3-Trifluoromethylphenyl-piperazine
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	United States dollar
USDOJ	United States Department of Justice
VMOH	Vanuatu Ministry of Health
WHO	World Health Organization
2C-B	4-Bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine (Nexus)
2C-D	2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methyl-phenethylamine
2C-T-2	4-Ethylthio-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
4-MEC	4-methylethcathinone
4-MMC	4-methylmethcathinone

Weights and Measurements

g	gram
kg	kilogramme
lt.	litre
mg.	milligramme
ml.	millilitre
mt	metric ton

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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’.

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 2007-2011 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 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

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; yao tou ubin (head-shaking pill) in Myanmar; XTC and love drug in the Philippines; ya-love in Thailand; and shaking pill in Viet Nam.

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 South-East 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.

Executive Summary

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are the second most widely used class of drugs worldwide, after cannabis. The East and South-East Asia 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. Demand for ecstasy remains high, although its use has declined. Since the late 1990s, the illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of ATS have expanded significantly in the region. These trends continued in 2011.

The present report highlights the most current patterns and trends of amphetamine-type stimulants and other drugs of use in East and South-East Asia and provides overviews for the neighbouring regions of South Asia and the Pacific. This is the latest in a series of reports prepared under the Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme. The objective of the Global SMART Programme is to enhance the capacity of Member States and relevant authorities to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information, in order to design effective, scientifically-sound and evidence-based policies and programmes.

The findings of the 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 Annual Reports Questionnaire, and through primary and secondary research. Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea also provided data to the Global SMART Programme for this report.

Significant levels of ATS use were reported from all 15 countries that contributed to this report, with 12 countries reporting methamphetamine as the primary or secondary drug of use. In East and South-East Asia, annual prevalence of ATS use is estimated to be 0.2-1.3 per cent of the population aged 15-64 years. The number of persons who have used amphetamines

in the past year in East and South-East Asia is estimated between 3.7 and 19.5 million. In 2011, seven countries reported the use of methamphetamine pills, while all but two countries (Lao PDR and Myanmar) reported the use of crystalline methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine seizures in East and South-East Asia have accounted for almost half of the global totals during the past few years. In 2011, seizures continued at historically high levels, with a number of countries reporting significant increases. Illicit ATS manufacture also continued at high, albeit slightly declining, levels in 2011. As is the case elsewhere in the world, much of the ATS illicitly manufactured in East and South-East Asia is used within the region. Precursor chemicals – often in the form of pharmaceutical preparations – used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine are often easily obtainable, and a large portion of the precursor chemicals are produced in this region. In addition, transnational organized criminal groups based outside of the region continue to be involved in illicit ATS trade.

Although improvements continue to be made in the region in terms of data generation, analysis and sharing as well as forensic capacity, numerous challenges remain in order to assess the full extent of the security and health implications of illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of ATS in the region.

Based on data submitted for the years 2010 and 2011, the following observations are made in the report:

- **ATS use, in particular methamphetamine use, continued to increase in most countries in East and South-East Asia.** ATS have ranked in the top three drugs of use in all countries in the region since 2009. In 2011, reported use of methamphetamine showed an increase in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam whereas methamphetamine use was reported as stable or declining in Australia, Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea.
- **The illicit manufacture of ATS continued at high levels in the region.** In 2011, some 401 illicit synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were

seized in East and South-East Asia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine. Significant quantities of ATS continued to be illicitly manufactured in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines. Large-scale illicit ATS manufacture also continued to take place in Cambodia. A small number of illicit methamphetamine pill pressing operations continued to be seized in Thailand.

- **Methamphetamine seizures remained high in 2011.** A total of 122.8 million methamphetamine pills were seized in East and South-East Asia in 2011, a 9% decrease compared with the 134.4 million pills seized in 2010. Most pills continued to be seized in China (62 million), Thailand (49 million), Myanmar (5.9 million) and Lao PDR (4.6 million), which accounted for 98% of the total in 2011. The total amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized in the region rose by 23% in 2011 to 8.8 mt, with a number of countries reporting record-level seizures. Half of the region's total seizures were made in China. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand each reported seizures of more than 1 mt of crystalline methamphetamine.
- **Ecstasy has been in decline in recent years; however the demand for illicit stimulants remains high.** Reported ecstasy use continued to show a stable or declining trend in most countries in the region in 2011. However, in the same year ecstasy seizures showed an increase in eight countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand. In addition, ecstasy manufacture continues to be reported in the region, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia. While the availability of MDMA has shown a decline in recent years, a large portion of the seized drugs marketed on the street as 'ecstasy' in the region continued to contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA, such as ketamine or methamphetamine.
- **A range of new psychoactive substances has emerged in the region in recent years.** These psychoactive substances include synthetic cannabinoids, piperazines such as BZP or m-chlorophenylpiperazine (mCPP), as well as analogues of methcathinone such as 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC, known as mephedrone) or MDPV (methylenedioxypropylvalerone). Whereas the use

of these substances has been reported in Australia and New Zealand for some time, they have also more recently emerged in China, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

- **Cocaine traffickers are targeting the large and untapped cocaine market in East and South-East Asia.** Large quantities of cocaine have been seized in several countries in recent years and Cambodia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Hong Kong, China, have emerged as transit locations for cocaine trafficking.
 - **Organized criminal groups from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran** continue to traffic methamphetamine and other illicit drugs into the region. West African drug trafficking organizations, which used to traffic primarily cocaine and heroin, are increasingly involved in methamphetamine trafficking. Transnational organized criminal groups from the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic quantities of methamphetamine to various countries in the region, including Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand.
 - **Arrests and drug treatment demand related to methamphetamine** remain high and continued to show an upward trend in 2011.
 - **The neighbouring regions of South Asia and the Pacific Island States and territories** remain vulnerable to the expansion of ATS trafficking and the diversion of precursor chemicals used for the manufacture of ATS, in particular ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, often in the form of pharmaceutical preparations. Illicit manufacture of ATS has also been reported from these two regions. Moreover, in the absence of formal drug surveillance systems or comprehensive illicit drug assessments, either nationally or regionally, the nature and extent of the ATS situation in these two regions are not fully understood.
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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 65 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 South-East 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 South-East 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.

Risk and protective factors for initial and progressive use of drugs are influenced by a wide range of social and behavioral factors. 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.

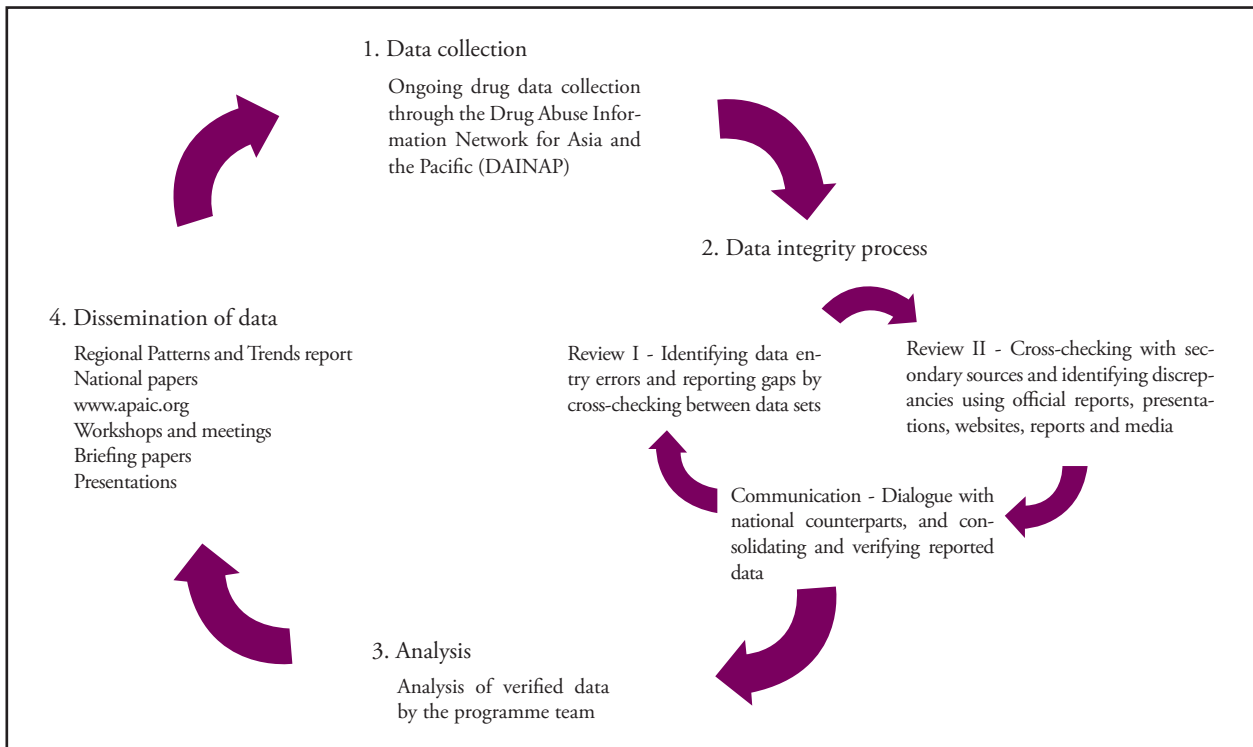
Method

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 end-point 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. 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 and 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 South-East Asia
Pacific Island States and Territories
South Asia



Regional Trends: East and South-East Asia

Summary, emerging trends and concerns

- ATS use, in particular methamphetamine use, continues to increase in most countries in East and South-East Asia.
- The illicit manufacture of ATS continues at high levels in the region.
- Methamphetamine seizures remained high in 2011.
- Ecstasy has been in decline in recent years, but there are signs at the global level that the 'ecstasy' market is in recovery.
- A range of new psychoactive substances has emerged in the region in recent years.
- Cocaine traffickers are targeting the large and untapped cocaine market in East and South-East Asia.
- Organized criminal groups from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic methamphetamine and other illicit drugs into the region.
- Drug treatment demand related to methamphetamine remains high in the region.

Regional trends: East and South-East Asia¹

The illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) constitute one of the most significant drug problems worldwide. The East and South-East Asia 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. The demand for ecstasy remains high, although its use has declined. Demand for ATS and the massive profits generated by their trade continue to provide ample incentive for manufacturers and traffickers to expand their illicit business.

The first part of this chapter highlights the key emerging trends and concerns related to ATS, their precursors 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 South-East Asia region.

¹ Although this chapter focuses in detail on the trends in the East and South-East 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.

- **ATS use, in particular methamphetamine use, continues to increase in most countries in East and South-East Asia.** ATS have ranked in the top three drugs of use in all countries in the region since 2009. In 2011, reported use of methamphetamine showed an increase in eleven countries whereas methamphetamine use was reported as stable or declining in Australia, Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea.

Use of methamphetamine pills takes place predominantly in the Greater Mekong Subregion, which includes Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. All of these countries reported an increase in the use of methamphetamine pills in 2011. Some methamphetamine pill use also takes place in Indonesia² 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, Philippines and the Republic of Korea. In

² 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.

2011, use of crystalline methamphetamine increased in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The use of methamphetamine, primarily in powder form, increased in New Zealand and remained stable in Australia.

• **The illicit manufacture of ATS continues at high levels in the region.** In 2011, some 401 illicit synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were seized in East and South-East Asia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine. While this figure is lower than the number reported for 2010 (442), it is more than three times the number of illicit manufacturing facilities seized in 2007 (125).

China continued to report high, albeit declining, levels of illicit synthetic drug manufacture with 357 illicit synthetic drug manufacturing facilities seized in 2011. It is unclear how many of these facilities were specifically manufacturing methamphetamine. Illicit drug manufacture has expanded from the southern coastal areas of China to northern and central areas of the country; in 2011, illicit drug manufacturing facilities were seized in 29 of the 33 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions of China.

Illicit laboratories were also seized in Indonesia (22), Malaysia (17) and the Philippines (6), mostly smaller-scale laboratories, which can be more easily relocated. Most seized laboratories were manufacturing methamphetamine or ecstasy. Malaysia also reported the seizure of one ketamine laboratory, one illicit nimetazepam³ (Erimin 5) manufacturing facility and nine facilities related to the processing of low-purity heroin. Cambodia reported the seizure of two large illicit laboratories for manufacturing ATS.

Myanmar remains the primary source of methamphetamine pills found in the region and reported its first ever seizure of a crystalline methamphetamine laboratory in 2012. Pill pressing operations were seized in Myanmar but also in Thailand, in the outskirts of Bangkok and in surrounding provinces which may indicate that drug criminals are trafficking intermediary forms of methamphetamine to pill pressing facilities near user markets in the capital.

In Australia, a total of 556 illicit laboratories for manufacturing ATS were detected in 2010-2011, of which

16 were manufacturing ecstasy and 34 were ephedrine and pseudoephedrine extraction operations. New Zealand dismantled 109 clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories.

• **Methamphetamine seizures remained high in 2011.** A total of 122.8 million methamphetamine pills were seized in East and South-East Asia in 2011, a decrease (9%) compared to the 134.4 million pills seized in 2010. Most pills were seized in China (62 million) and Thailand (49 million), which accounted for 89% of the total in 2011. Significant seizures were also made in Myanmar (5.9 million) and Lao PDR (4.6 million).

While methamphetamine pill seizures decreased, the total amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized in the region rose by 23% in 2011, to 8.8 mt.⁴ Record level seizures were reported in a number of countries during the year. Half of the region's total seizures were made in China, where 4.5 mt were seized in 2011. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand reported seizures of more than 1 mt of crystalline methamphetamine. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures also increased significantly in Cambodia and Singapore.

• **Ecstasy has been in decline in recent years, although there are signs at the global level that the 'ecstasy' market is in recovery.** Reported ecstasy use has shown a stable or declining trend in most countries in the region over the past few years. In addition, seizure and arrest data related to ecstasy have also shown declines. However, in 2011 ecstasy seizures showed an increase in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand. Ecstasy manufacture continues to be reported in the region, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia. In the past, manufacture in the region has consisted primarily of pill pressing and re-pressing operations. However, some MDMA production facilities have been dismantled in Indonesia during the past few years. In addition, safrole-rich oils, which can be used to manufacture MDMA, continue to be smuggled from Cambodia and China.

Demand for synthetic stimulants in the region remains high. While the availability of MDMA has shown a decline in recent years, a large portion of the seized drugs marketed on the street as 'ecstasy' in the region contain psychoactive substances other than

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

⁴ One metric ton is equal to 1,000 kg.

Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and their varieties

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

Methamphetamine is a white, odourless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that dissolves easily in water or alcohol. It can be ingested, smoked, snorted, sniffed 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 new psychoactive substances have emerged which include piperazines such as BZP as well as analogues of methcathinone including 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC, known as mephedrone).

MDMA, such as ketamine or methamphetamine. There are indications that drug users still seek to use psychoactive stimulants, including BZP⁵ and other new psychoactive substances, which are most prevalent in New Zealand and Australia but also emerging in some countries in East and South-East Asia, for example, Viet Nam.

- **A range of new psychoactive substances has emerged in the region in recent years.** In the Philippines, use of pills sold as ‘ecstasy’ but which contain BZP instead of MDMA (or its analogues) has been identified as a concern. The Government of Viet Nam has reported the emergence of a number of new psychoactive substances such as MDA⁶ and ketamine as well as PMMA⁷ and mCPP.⁸ The new psychoactive substance mephedrone,⁹ a synthetic cathinone, has been identified in China and Thailand as an emerging drug of concern. In 2010 and 2011, China also reported the emergence of various piperazines, such as BZP,¹⁰ TFMPP¹¹ and mCPP, which are often used as a substitute for ‘ecstasy’. In addition, synthetic cannabinoids, such as JWH-018 and its analogues, have been identified as an emerging problem in the Republic of Korea.

- **Cocaine traffickers are targeting the large and untapped cocaine market in East and South-East Asia.** Large quantities of cocaine have been seized in several countries in recent years and Cambodia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Hong Kong, China, have emerged as transit locations for cocaine trafficking. In Hong Kong, China, authorities seized a record 650 kg of cocaine in a shipping container sent from Ecuador in 2012. Most of the cocaine was believed to be destined for markets in China and South-East Asia.

- **Organized criminal groups from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic methamphetamine and other illicit drugs into the region.** West African drug trafficking organizations, which used to traffic primarily cocaine and heroin, are increasingly involved in methamphetamine trafficking. Trafficking of methamphetamine by African groups has been reported by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Nigeria, by far the largest country in West Africa, both in terms of population and surface area, is most frequently cited as the origin for methamphetamine trafficking (UNODC 2012c).

Transnational organized criminal groups from the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic quantities of methamphetamine to various countries in the region, including Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand.

⁵ BZP refers to benzylpiperazine, a stimulant that mimics the effects of ecstasy.

⁶ MDA refers to 3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine.

⁷ PMMA refers to 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-methylpropan-2-amine, also known as paramethoxymethamphetamine.

⁸ mCPP refers to meta-Chlorophenylpiperazine.

⁹ 4-methylmethcathinone.

¹⁰ BZP refers to Benzylpiperazine.

¹¹ TFMPP refers to Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine.

¹² Based on drug treatment data reported to DAINAP. Methamphetamine-related drug treatment data are not uniformly reported in the region. Some countries report data only from select drug treatment centres.

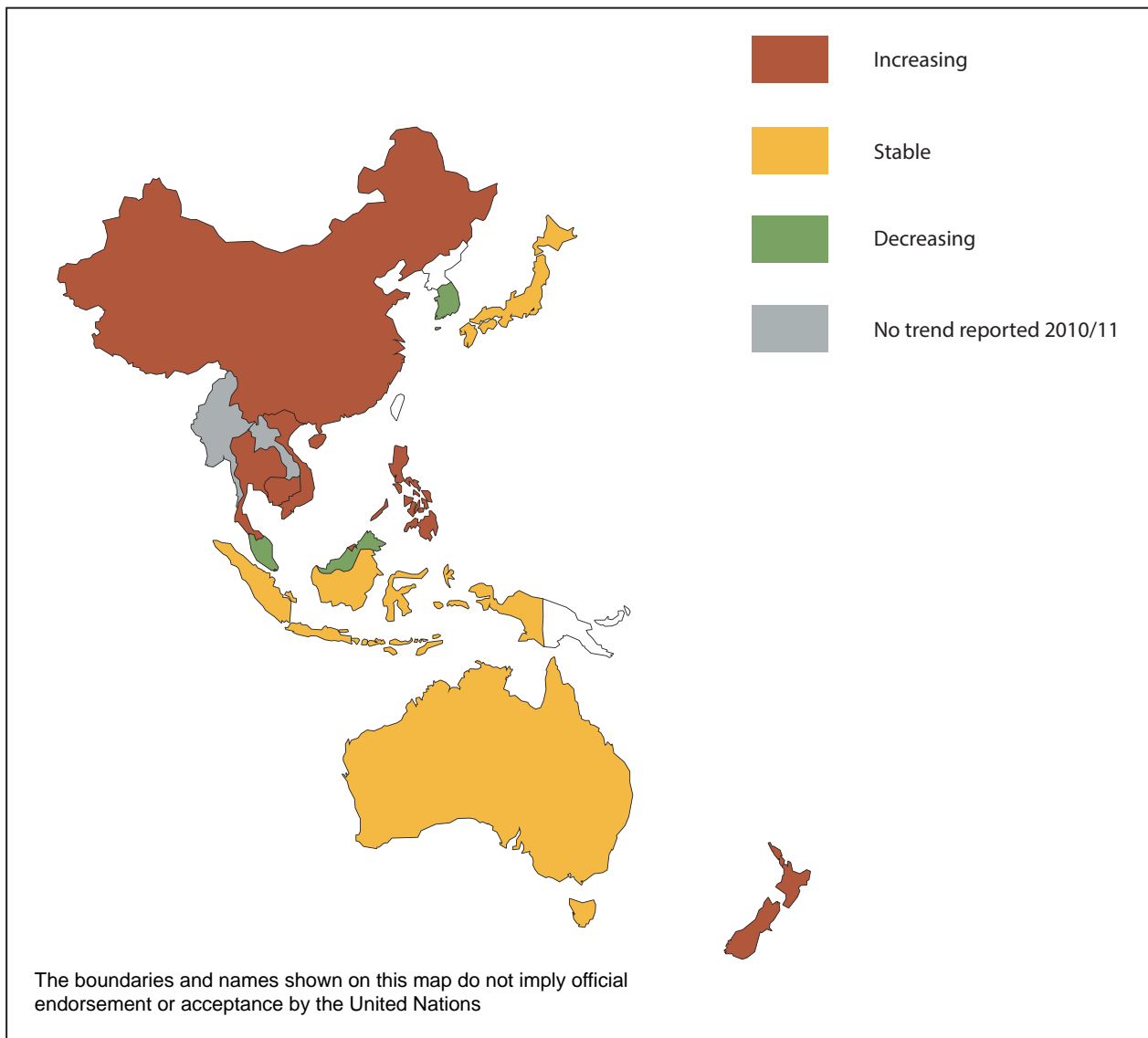
• **Drug treatment demand related to methamphetamine remains high in the region.**

ATS were the primary drugs of use for 70% of all persons in drug treatment in 2011.¹² During the year, about two-thirds of the persons in treatment in the Philippines were crystalline methamphetamine users, roughly the same proportion as in each of the previous ten years. In addition, the proportion of women in treatment for crystalline methamphetamine in the Philippines increased to 75% in 2011 (compared with 62% in 2010). The number of methamphetamine users in treatment in Singapore increased sharply to the highest level reported during the past five years. As a proportion of all persons in drug treatment, crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for about 44% compared with 30% in 2010. Crystalline

methamphetamine was also the primary drug of use among persons who received drug treatment in Brunei Darussalam (96%). Methamphetamine pills continued to be the most common drug of use among persons in treatment in Lao PDR (98%) and Thailand (86%). In addition, the number of crystalline methamphetamine users in treatment in Thailand in 2011 showed a near three-fold increase and accounted for about 4% of all persons in drug treatment.

Most drug treatment services in the region are aimed at users of heroin, opium and cannabis. In addition, in several countries in the region, a large number of persons in drug treatment are arrested drug users who are sent to compulsory drug treatment facilities, most of which do not provide ATS-specific drug treatment services.

Figure 2. Crystalline methamphetamine use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

Methamphetamine

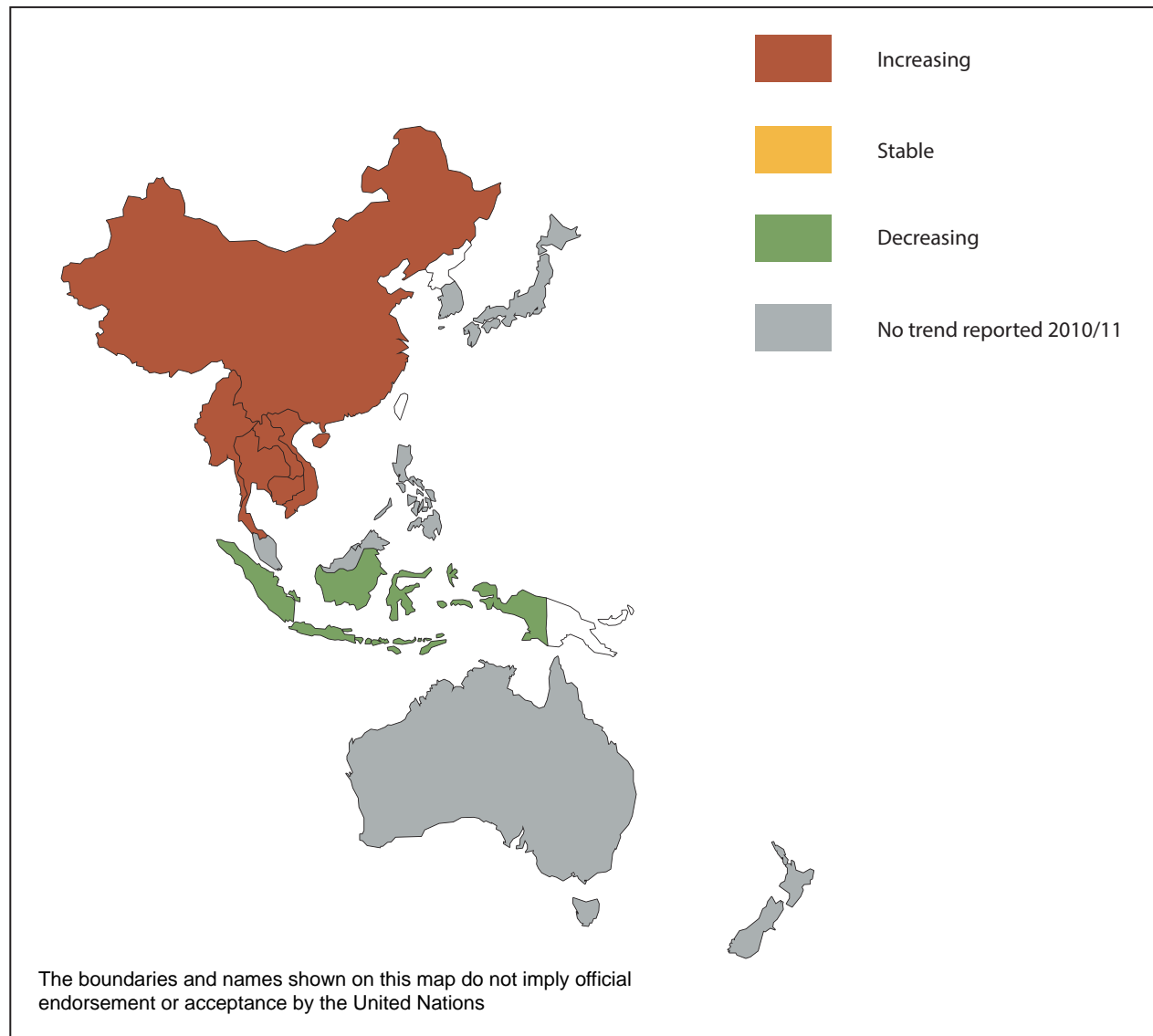
Methamphetamine use – All countries in the region report the use of methamphetamine, with 13 countries reporting it as the primary or secondary drug of use: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Seven countries reported the use of methamphetamine pills – Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam – while all but two countries (Lao PDR and Myanmar) reported the use of crystalline methamphetamine.

Crystalline methamphetamine use has rapidly be-

come more prevalent throughout the region, expanding in countries that previously had experienced only limited or no use, such as in Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. In 2011, increasing use of crystalline methamphetamine was reported in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

In Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, methamphetamine use has shown overall stable or declining trends over the past few years. Methamphetamine in crystalline form is the most common form of the drug in Japan and the Republic of Korea and the second most common form in Australia and New Zealand, after methamphetamine powder.

Figure 3. Methamphetamine pill use trend, 2011

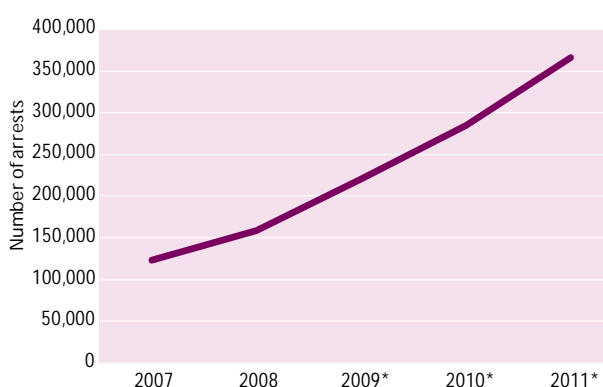


Source(s): DAINAP

Methamphetamine pills are almost exclusively a concern in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Small quantities of lower purity methamphetamine pills are found elsewhere in the region. Methamphetamine pills are the primary drugs of use in Lao PDR and Thailand and the secondary drugs of use in Cambodia, China and Viet Nam, according to government expert perception. In 2011, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam reported increasing methamphetamine pill use.

Methamphetamine-related arrests – Methamphetamine-related arrests¹³ in East and South-East Asia have increased each year since 2004. In 2011, almost 367,000 methamphetamine-related arrests were recorded in the region, a 29% increase compared with 2010 and the highest total ever reported. However, this figure excludes detailed information from Cambodia, Philippines and Viet Nam, which did not provide disaggregated arrest data in 2011. During the year, methamphetamine accounted for more than three fourths of all drug-related arrests in Brunei Da-

Figure 4. Methamphetamine-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011



*Includes arrest data from China, which prior to 2009 did not report disaggregated drug-related arrest data to DAINAP.
Source(s): DAINAP

russalam (86%), Japan (86%), Philippines (77%), Republic of Korea (79%) and Thailand (77%).

Australia reported a total of 12,897 arrests related to ATS in 2010-2011, representing about 15% of all illicit drug-related arrests, second only to cannabis.

Table 1. Methamphetamine-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Number of methamphetamine arrests				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	662	498	411	489	508
Cambodia	246	371	•	•	•
China	•	•	31,907	39,231	44,920
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	747	874	788	726	732
Indonesia	8,651	8,685	10,185	12,463	15,766
Japan	12,211	11,231	11,873	12,200	12,083
Lao PDR	147	344	581	1,007	1,749
Malaysia ¹⁴	1,235	1,443	1,131	42,701	66,736
Myanmar	745	943	1,317	1,008	1,269
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	8,521	7,457	7,965	6,771	7,226
Singapore	221	404	542	702	1,157
Thailand	90,809	127,195	153,929	168,146	214,779
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	123,475	159,445	220,629	285,444	366,925

• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

¹³ 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.

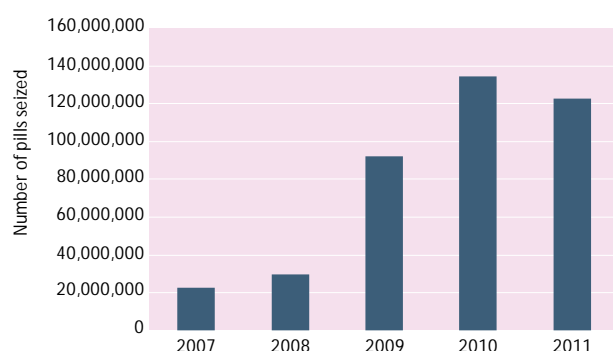
¹⁴ Methamphetamine-related arrest data for Malaysia (from 2007-2009) refer only to the number of methamphetamine users arrested and do not include methamphetamine traffickers and manufacturers. Arrest figures for 2010 and 2011 include all such groups.

ATS-related arrests in Australia have increased by 62% during the past decade. In New Zealand, ATS-related offences accounted for nearly 13% of all drug-related arrests in 2011, unchanged from the previous year.

Methamphetamine seizures – The number of methamphetamine pills seized in the region continued at a high, albeit slightly declining, level. In 2011, a total of 122.8 million methamphetamine pills were seized, representing a 9% decrease from the 134.4 million pills seized in 2010. However, the total represents a 33% increase compared with 2009 (92.1 million seized) and a five-and-a-half fold increase

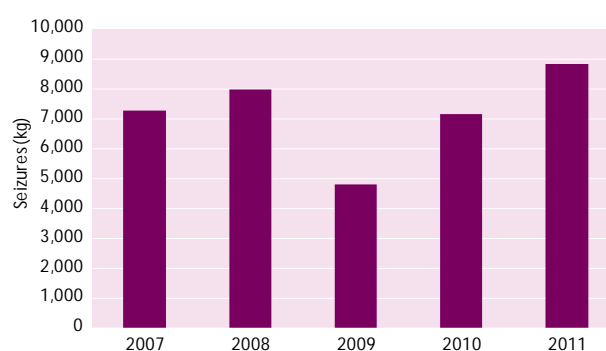
compared with 2007 (22.4 million pills seized). The number of pills seized in China (61.9 million), Thailand (49.4 million), Myanmar (5.9 million) and Lao PDR (4.6 million) accounted for 98% of the total during the year (as these four countries did in 2010). The largest relative increases were reported from Cambodia (189%) and Myanmar (169%). A large increase (120%) was also reported from Singapore; though the number of methamphetamine pills seized in Singapore is low by regional standards, it is high by national standards. In addition, Viet Nam also reported a large increase (65%) in methamphetamine pill seizures in 2011, with 366,000 synthetic drug

Figure 5. Methamphetamine pill seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

Figure 6. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

Table 2. Methamphetamine pill seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Number of methamphetamine pills seized				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	420,287	116,772	137,249	82,746	238,994
China	7,620,322	6,255,658	40,460,038	58,443,666	61,942,559
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	•	•	•	•	•
Japan	•	•	•	•	•
Lao PDR	1,272,815	1,227,205	2,335,330	24,530,177	4,609,729
Malaysia	121,629	281,343	107,952	107,963	364,909
Myanmar	1,666,141	1,102,199	23,899,156	2,192,263	5,894,188
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	196	151	1	5	5
Singapore	498	1,135	1,237	352	772
Thailand	12,783,761	20,023,705	24,638,320	48,793,951	49,365,700
Viet Nam	29,679	850,000*	564,515**	221,685***	366,000****
Total	22,415,328	29,858,168	92,143,798	134,372,808	122,782,856

• = Not reported. *Reported as 60kg plus 70,000 pills. **Reported as 500,000 pills and 5.87 kg. ***Reported as 221,685 pills plus 22 kg.

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 3. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011

Country	Amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.8
Cambodia	6.8	1.9	4.6	9.9	19.1
China	5,863.0	5,523.0	2,479.0	4,186.0	4,458.0
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	40.8	23.9	40.1	101.8	38.4
Indonesia	492.9	709.9	239.5	649.1	1,161.3
Japan	359.0	402.6	369.5	310.7	350.9
Lao PDR	●	●	●	●	●
Malaysia	69.2	357.0	1,160.0	887.3	1,235.6
Myanmar	3.4	15.9	124.3	226.1	33.4
Philippines	368.9	853.5	149.3	63.6	254.3
Republic of Korea	23.7	25.6	15.2	11.9	23.5
Singapore	1.5	1.8	3.7	5.6	14.1
Thailand	48.3	54.3	213.2	706.0	1,232.0
Viet Nam	0.7	●	3.9	●	●
Total	7,278.5	7,969.8	4,802.6	7,158.8	8,821.4

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

pills seized, most of which were likely methamphetamine pills. However, methamphetamine seizure data are not uniformly reported from Viet Nam, making year-by-year comparisons in that country difficult.

Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine in 2011 reached their highest level during the past five years. In 2011, a total of approximately 8.8 mt of crystalline methamphetamine were seized in the region, representing a 23% increase over the approximately 7.2 mt seized in 2010. Record level seizures were reported from Malaysia (1.2 mt) and Thailand (1.2 mt). In addition, the 1.2 mt of crystalline methamphetamine seized in Indonesia in 2011 is the highest total reported during the past five years. Record seizures were also reported from Cambodia (19.1 kg) and Singapore (14.1 kg), although the amounts seized are comparatively low by regional standards. The largest portion of crystalline methamphetamine seizures continued to be made in China, where the 4.5 mt seized in 2011 accounted for half of the regional total.

Ecstasy

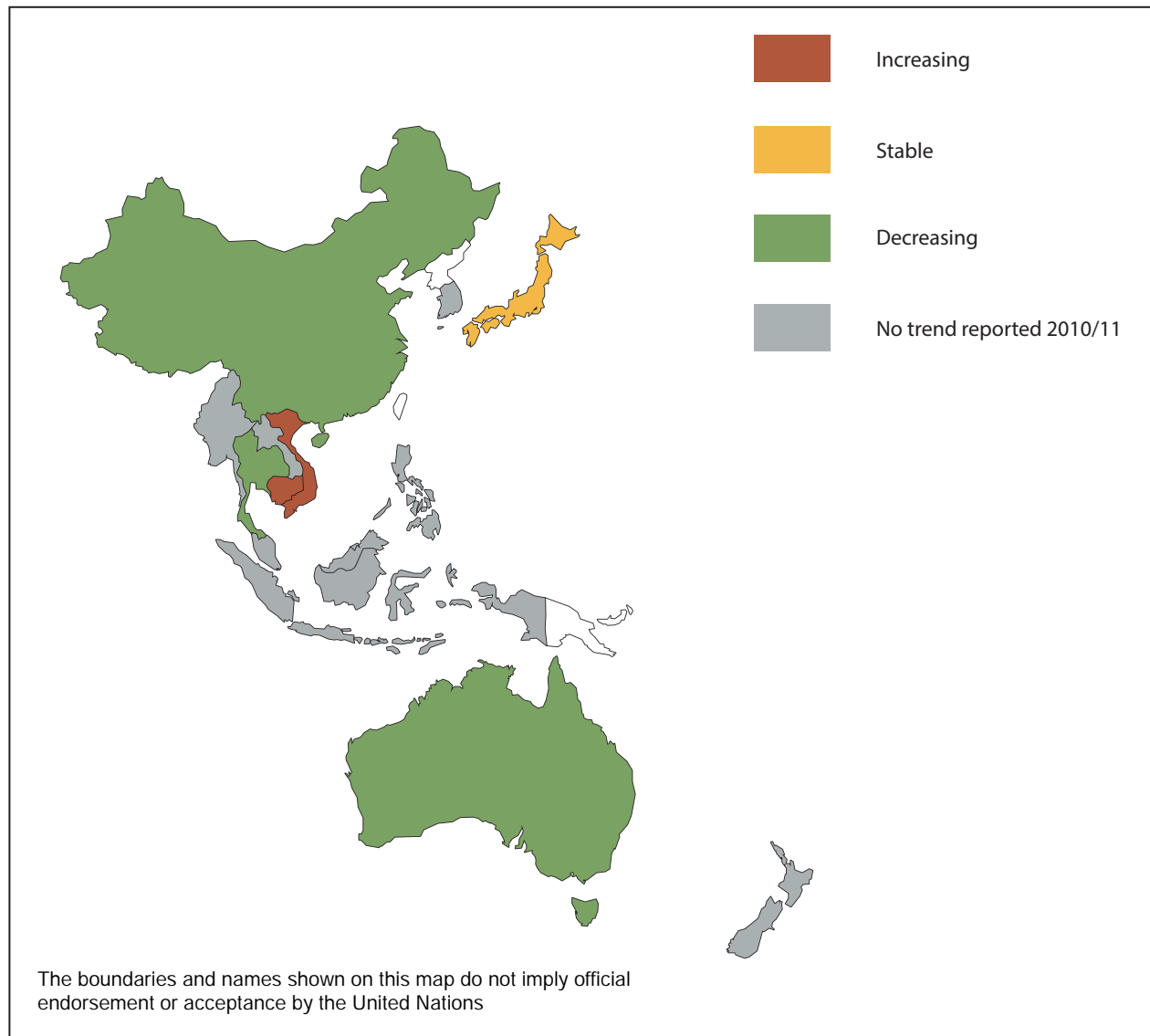
Ecstasy use – Ecstasy use continues to decline in the region, in line with the global trend. However, whereas

many countries in the region reported a continued low availability of MDMA in the ‘ecstasy’ market in 2011, at the global level, there are signs that the ‘ecstasy’ market is beginning to recover, including the increasing availability of ‘ecstasy’ in North America and Europe. Many of the seized drugs marketed on the street as ‘ecstasy’ in the region contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA,¹⁵ such as methamphetamine or ketamine and other new psychoactive substances such as piperazines. Hence, caution should be exercised when assessing statistics related to ecstasy in countries which do not have ATS data and classification systems or the appropriate forensic and analytical facilities. In 2011, Cambodia, Singapore and Viet Nam all reported increases in ecstasy use. All other countries that reported ecstasy use trend data to DAINAP reported stable or decreasing use of the drug. Ecstasy is not reported as the most common drug of use in any country in the region but is the second most common illicit drug of use in Australia and New Zealand and the third most common drug of use in China and the Republic of Korea.

Ecstasy-related arrests – Only 1.8% of the ATS-related arrests in the region involved ecstasy in 2011.

¹⁵ 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, or one of its related analogues.

Figure 7. Ecstasy use trend, 2011



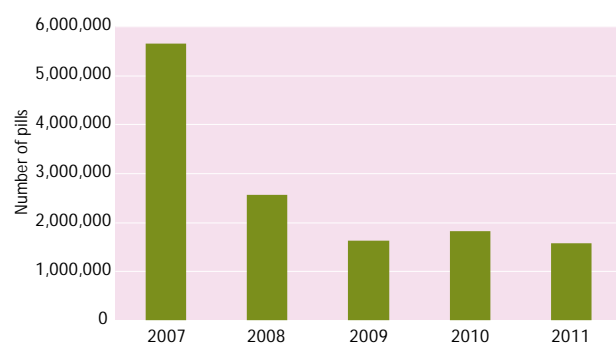
Source(s): DAINAP

During the year a total of 6,984 ecstasy-related arrests were reported compared with 10,512 arrests in 2010, a 34% decline. Nearly all countries able to report ecstasy arrests showed a decline in figures for 2011; only Brunei Darussalam and Singapore reported increases during the year. However, ecstasy use and the number of ecstasy pills seized in those two countries remain comparatively insignificant. The largest numbers of ecstasy-related arrests continue to be reported from Malaysia, which accounted for 73% of all ecstasy-related arrests in the region in 2011 and 78% in 2010.¹⁶

¹⁶ Ecstasy-related arrest data for Malaysia (from 2007-2009) refer only to the number of ecstasy users arrested and do not include ecstasy traffickers and manufacturers. Arrest figures for 2010 and 2011 include all such groups.

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

Figure 8. Ecstasy seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

Table 4. Ecstasy-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Number of ecstasy-related arrests				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0	3	10	0	1
Cambodia	1	7	•	•	•
China	•	•	1,287	816	627
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	224	315	157	34	25
Indonesia	3,415	2,947	1,919	1,087	965
Japan	312	311	140	93	86
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	182	119	83	8,248	5,071
Myanmar	8	6	0	0	0
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	•	•	•	•	•
Singapore	78	110	39	17	22
Thailand	453	592	496	217	187
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	4,673	4,410	4,131	10,512	6,984

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 5. Ecstasy seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Number of ecstasy pills seized				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	12	15	•	349
Cambodia	300	33	3,352	1,056	7,855
China	2,219,353	1,077,552	1,062,173	1,272,904	317,886*
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	65,539	11,984	7,146	5,810	983
Indonesia	1,247,302	1,091,204	318,935	434,660	1,096,249
Japan	1,278,354	217,883	91,960	18,246	27,187
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	709,888	80,788	75,515	60,713	98,751
Myanmar	2,690	108	5	0	0
Philippines	122	513	2,090	336	993
Republic of Korea	18,323	714	894	486	562
Singapore	7,035	7,415	8,986	8,085	3,213
Thailand	92,336	49,833	61,089	16,647	21,115
Viet Nam	•	19,000	•	•	•
Total	5,641,242	2,557,039	1,632,160	1,818,943	1,575,143

• = Not reported. *Reported as 71,533 ecstasy pills plus 73.9 kg; converted into estimated pill equivalents at 300 mg per pill.

Source(s): DAINAP

Ecstasy seizures – Ecstasy seizures in the region have fluctuated over the years. In 2011, seizures of ecstasy pills decreased by 13%, with almost 1.6 million pills seized, the lowest total reported during the past five

years. The vast majority of seizures continue to be made in China, where the number of ecstasy pills seized declined by 75% in 2011, and in Indonesia, which showed a two-and-a-half-fold increase to about

1.1 million pills seized during the year. In 2011, the two countries accounted for about 90% of all ecstasy pill seizures in East and South-East Asia (and about 94% in 2010, 85% in 2009, 85% in 2008 and 61% in

2007). Large increases in ecstasy pill seizures were also reported in Cambodia (644%), Philippines (196%), Malaysia (63%), Japan (49%) and Thailand (27%) in 2011. Brunei Darussalam reported a total of 349

Table 6. Illicit methamphetamine manufacturing facilities dismantled, 2007-2011

Country	Methamphetamine				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	2	•	5	11	2
China	75	•	•	•	•
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	•	•	2	1	•
Indonesia	7	•	•	11	17
Japan	•	•	•	1	•
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	•	•	•	6	3
Myanmar	5*	1*	•	•	2
Philippines	9	10	9	7	6
Republic of Korea	•	•	•	4	•
Singapore	•	•	•	•	•
Thailand	•	•	2*	6*	4*
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	98	11	18	47	34

• = Not reported. *Pill pressing operation.

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 7. Illicit ecstasy or undefined ATS manufacturing facilities dismantled, 2007-2011

Country	Ecstasy or undefined ATS				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	•	•	•	•	•
China*	•	244*	391*	378*	357*
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	16	21	37	15	7
Japan	•	•	•	•	•
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	9	12*	11	1	3
Myanmar	•	•	3**	•	•
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	2	•	•	•	•
Singapore	•	•	•	•	•
Thailand	•	•	1	1	•
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	27	277	443	395	367

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

Source(s): DAINAP

ecstasy pills seized in 2011, low by regional standards but the highest total ever reported in the country.

Whereas the amount of ecstasy seized in New Zealand nearly tripled in 2011, the amount seized at the borders in 2011 showed a large decrease compared with the previous year. The overall increase in the number of 'ecstasy' pills seized in 2011 is likely due to the growth of domestic supply. In Australia, the number and weight of ecstasy (MDMA) border detections showed substantial increases in 2010-2011.

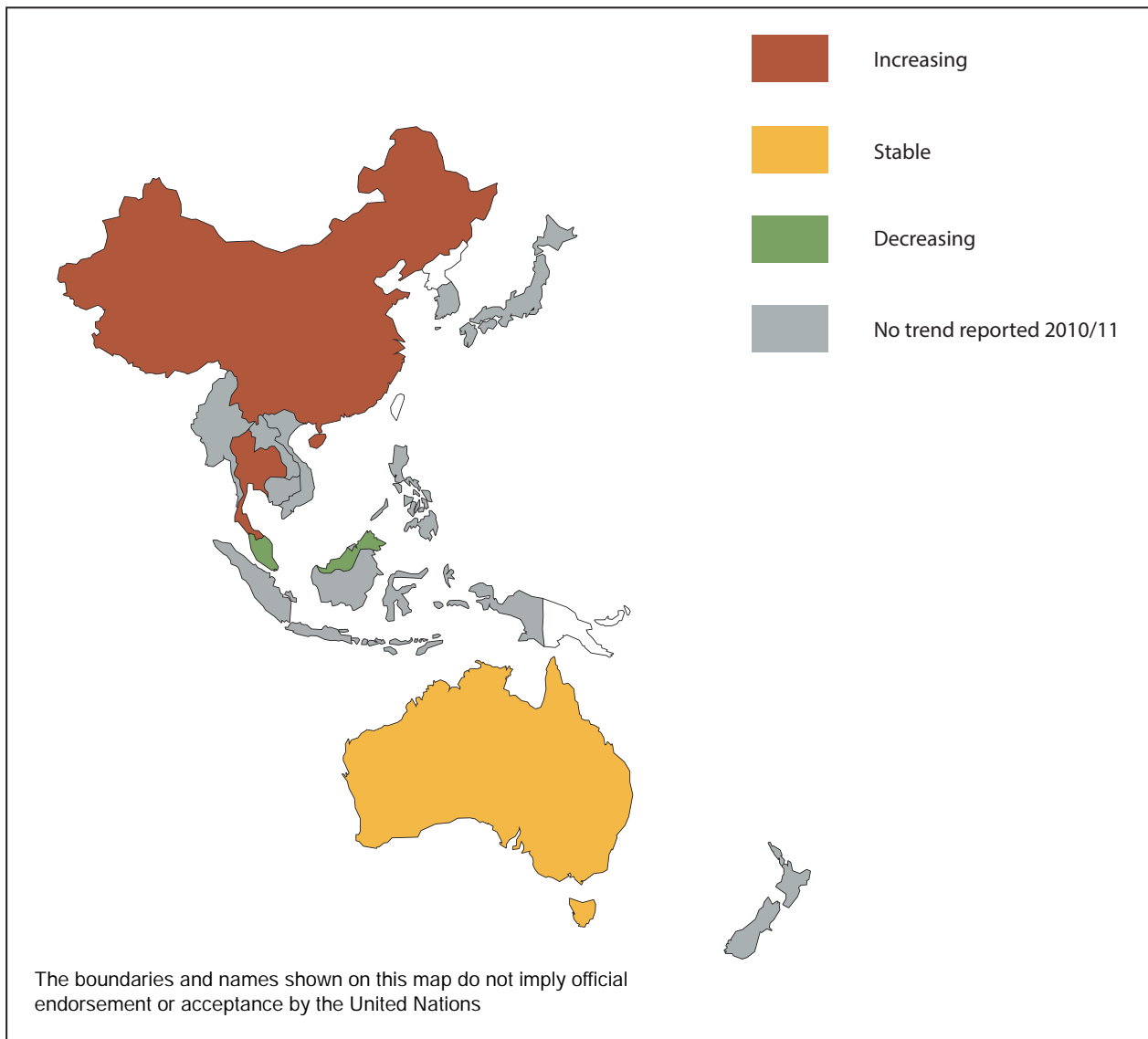
ATS manufacture

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 from Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. Ecstasy manufacture has been reported from Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand and possibly also in Myanmar. A large number of illicit drug manufacturing laboratories dismantled during the past few years have been smaller and relatively mobile facilities based in private residences. In addition, the global trend of extracting ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from pharmaceutical preparations in the manufacture of methamphetamine also occurs in East and South-East Asia as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

In 2011, some 401 synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were dismantled in East and South-East Asia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine. The number of illicit ATS manufacturing facilities

Figure 9. Ketamine use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

dismantled in 2011 is lower (9%) than the number of facilities seized in 2010 and about 13% lower than the number of illicit ATS facilities seized in 2009, the year in which clandestine laboratory seizures peaked (461). Myanmar is the primary source of methamphetamine pills and one of the sources of crystalline methamphetamine. The seizure of only a small number (12) of pill pressing machines during the five-year reporting period (2007-2011) is inconsistent with the number of methamphetamine pills seized in neighbouring countries and with the amount of Myanmar-manufactured crystalline methamphetamine seized in the northern part of Thailand. In 2011, two methamphetamine pill pressing operations were dismantled in Myanmar; and in 2012, Myanmar officially reported its first ever seizure of a crystalline methamphetamine facility.

China continued to report high, albeit slightly declining, levels of illicit synthetic drug manufacture in 2011. However, illicit synthetic drug manufacture has spread throughout China, and in 2011 clandestine laboratories were detected in nearly all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the country. In Hong Kong, China, no illicit ATS manufacturing facilities were seized in 2011.

Cambodia continued to dismantle facilities that were manufacturing methamphetamine or producing precursor chemicals for the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA. In the first half of 2012, six clandestine ATS laboratories were dismantled.

In the maritime countries of South-East Asia, ATS manufacture has been dominated by the illicit manufacture of crystalline methamphetamine and, to a lesser but still significant extent, ecstasy. Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have seized a number of smaller, more mobile home-based ATS laboratories.

In addition, Malaysia also seized one ketamine laboratory, one illicit nimetazepam (Erimin 5) producing facility and nine facilities related to the processing of low-purity heroin.

Ketamine

Ketamine use – Use of ketamine,¹⁷ a hallucinogenic substance used mainly in veterinary medicine, remains widespread in some countries in East and South-East Asia but appears to have stabilized in recent years. In

Table 8. Ketamine seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011

Country	Amount of ketamine seized (kg)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0.005 *	0.001**	0.01	0.04	0.4
Cambodia	●	495***	1.1	0.001	●
China	6,101.7	5,271.1	5,323.0	4,905.0	5,380.0
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	96.4	423.3	472.3	189.1	276.3
Indonesia	●	19.8	6.1	116.9	49.3
Japan	●	●	●	●	●
Lao PDR	●	●	●	●	●
Malaysia	267.9	553.1	1,070.6	334.1	202.5
Myanmar	●	●	14.9	●	1.4
Philippines	325.0	10.2	9.0	0	0
Republic of Korea	●	●	●	●	●
Singapore	11.0	14.0	8.7	12.2	7.9
Thailand	2.8	18.5	20.6	166.7	78.0
Viet Nam	●	5.7	●	●	●
Total	6,804.8	6,315.7	6,926.3	5,724.0	5,995.8

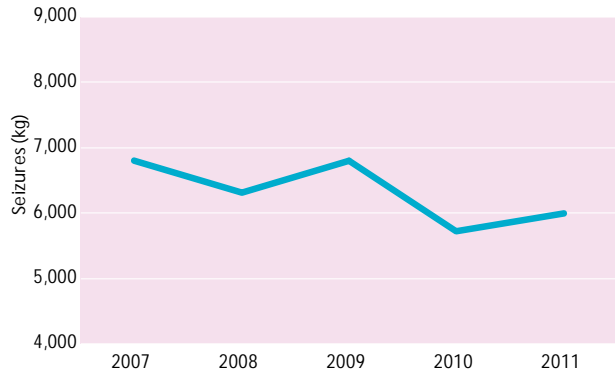
● = Not reported. *Reported as 0.005 kg and 9 pills. **Reported as 0.001 kg and 2 pills. ***Reported as 495 small bottles of undefined weight. Source(s): DAINAP

¹⁷ Ketamine comes in bottled liquid, whitish powder and pill forms. It is sometimes sold in East and South-East Asia as 'amphetamine' or 'ecstasy' or is mixed with MDMA.

2011, ketamine use was reported in Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. In Hong Kong, China, ketamine users accounted for roughly 36% of all drug users and an estimated 80% of all drug users below the age of 21. Ketamine use was reported to have increased in 2011 in China.

Ketamine seizures – Ketamine seizures showed a slight (5%) increase in 2011, with 6.0 mt seized during the year compared with 5.7 mt seized in 2010. However, total seizures may actually be higher as several countries report ketamine seizures in the categories of ‘other drugs’, ‘synthetic drugs’, or not at all since it is not an internationally controlled substance. Almost 90% of the ketamine seized in the region in 2011 was seized in China. China and India have been cited as sources of ketamine and illicit ketamine manufacture has been reported from Malaysia and

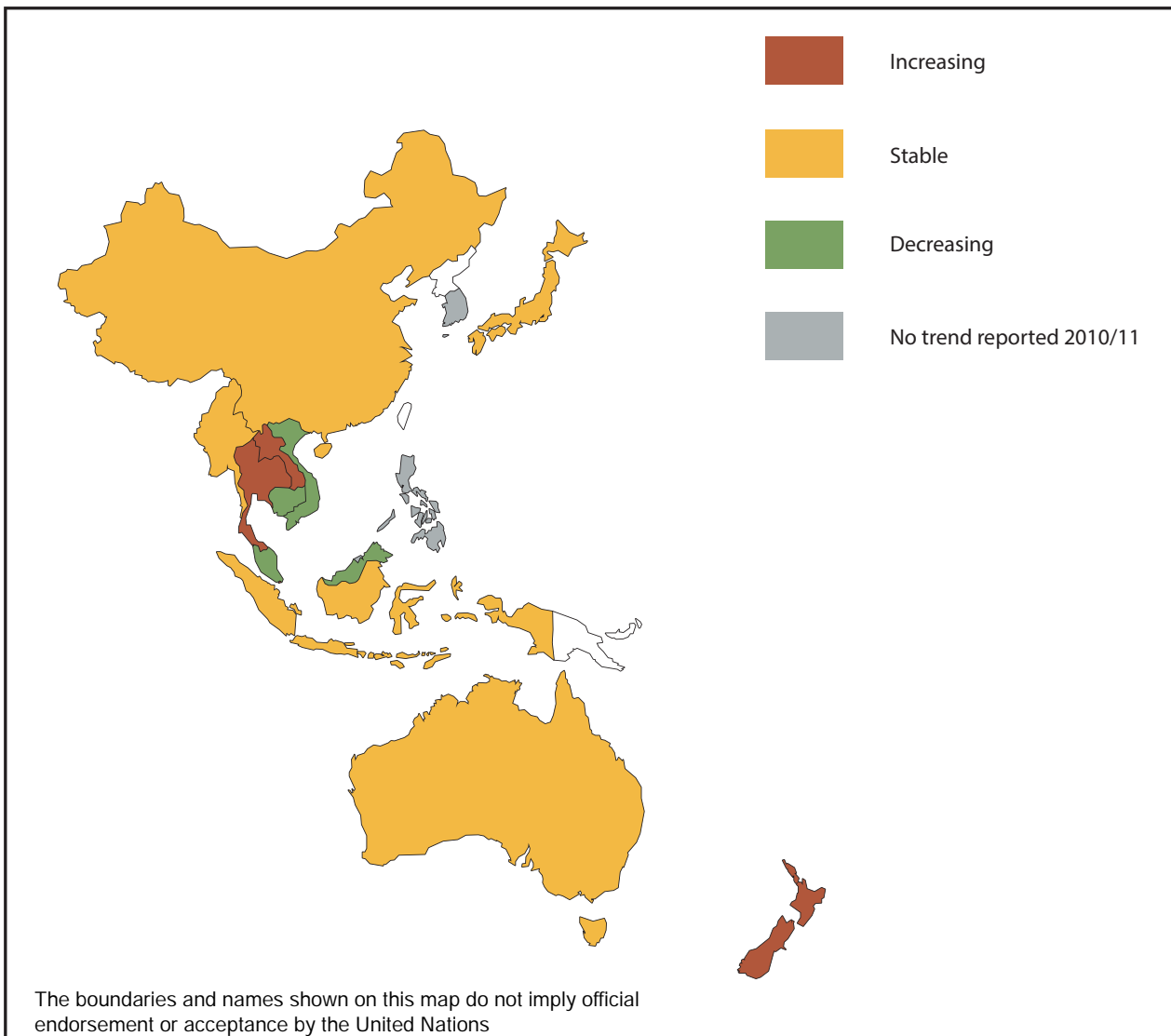
Figure 10. Ketamine seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

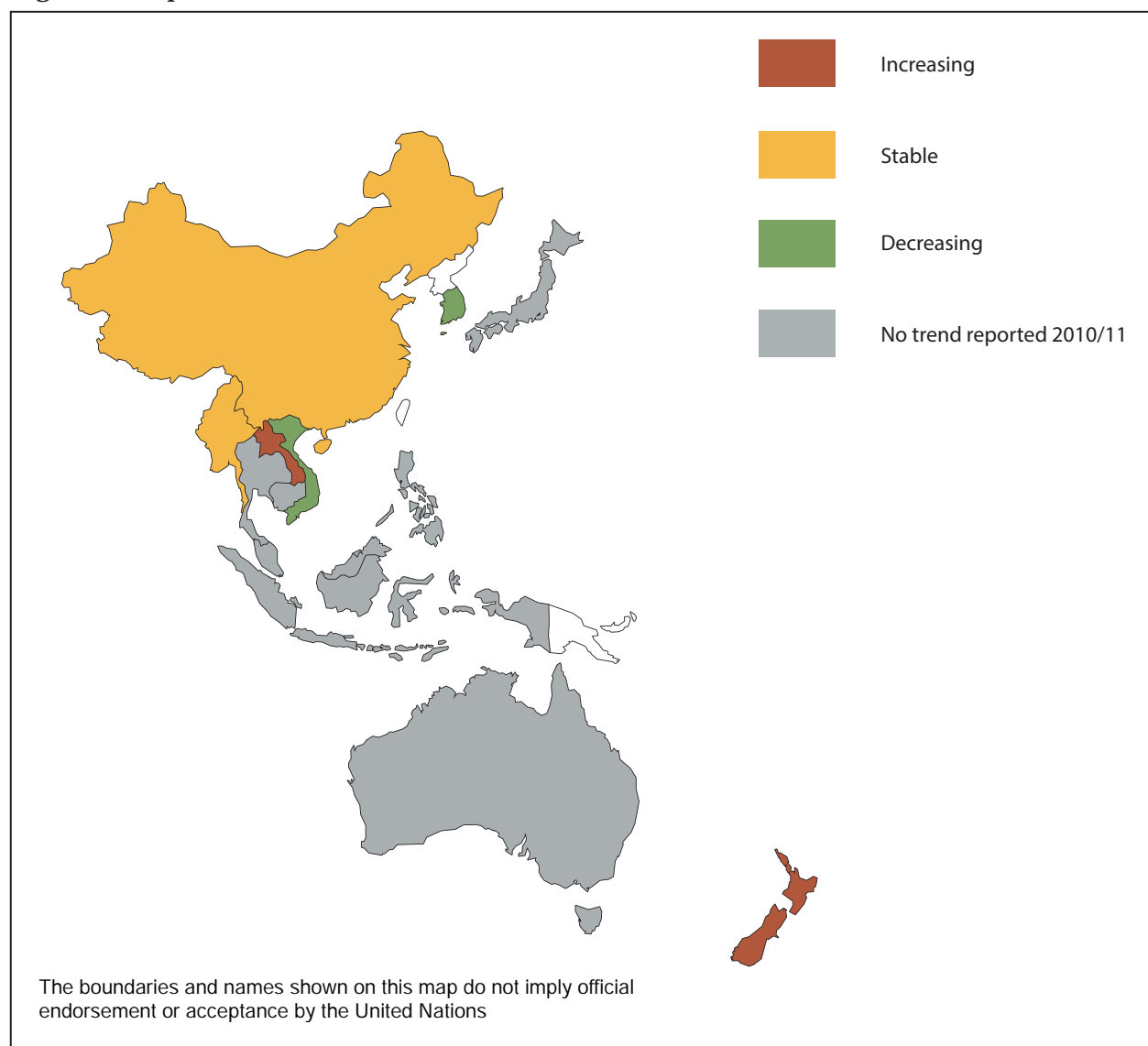
the Philippines. Ketamine seizures increased by about 11% in China (including Hong Kong, China) to 5.7 mt in 2011 compared with 5.1 mt in 2010. Notable

Figure 11. Heroin use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

Figure 12. Opium use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

declines were recorded in Indonesia (58%), Thailand (53%), Malaysia (39%) and Singapore (35%).

Opiates

Illicit opium poppy cultivation continues to take place primarily in Myanmar and Lao PDR. As with opium poppy cultivation, heroin use in the region had also stabilized in recent years. However, 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. In addition, heroin accounted for a substantial number of problem drug users in treatment in Australia, Chi-

na, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore. In 2011, reported heroin use increased in Lao PDR, Singapore and Thailand. Reported opium use increased in Lao PDR. In New Zealand, the use of opiates including morphine and 'homebake heroin'¹⁸ as well as synthetic opioids increased.

Opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia (mainly in Myanmar and Lao PDR) is at far lower levels than in the mid-1990s but has increased in each of the past six years. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in the region increased by 21% from about 48,000 ha in 2011 to 58,000 ha in 2012, 88% of which was cultivated in Myanmar. Lao PDR reported the

¹⁸ 'Homebake heroin' is a street substance which is created from pharmaceutical opiates such as morphine or codeine through a simple chemical process using acetic anhydride.

Table 9. Opiate-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Number of opiate-related arrests*				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	1	0	0
Cambodia	8	6	•	•	•
China	•	•	•	•	48,392
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	1,601	1,378	1,145	888	771
Indonesia	3,561	1,813	925	759	698
Japan	62	36	44	45	31
Lao PDR	36	45	94	•	•
Malaysia	9,169	8,693	8,488	25,094	68,340
Myanmar	2,015	2,059	2,613	1,689	1,933
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	954	1,389	2,189	1,124	755
Singapore	690	1,216	1,425	1,787	1,924
Thailand	1,485	1,388	1,859	1,681	1,853
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	19,581	18,023	18,783	33,067	124,697

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

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 10. Heroin seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011

Country	Amount of heroin seized (kg)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	1.1	0	0
Cambodia	11.0	5.3	26.7	2.4	2.1
China	4,594.0	4,332.3	5,838.0	5,353.0	7,080.0
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	37.4	46.4	37.1	68.5	171.7
Indonesia	17.2	29.1	12.3	25.0	28.8
Japan	2.0	1.0	1.2	0.3	3.6
Lao PDR	23.8	17.5	29.2	84.3	43.4
Malaysia	243.3	297.1	283.4	299.3	755.5
Myanmar	68.4	88.2	1,076.1	88.5	42.4
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	0	0	1.9	0.1	0
Singapore	17.2	44.5	29.1	49.0	72.7
Thailand	294.6	199.9	143.1	137.6	547.5
Viet Nam	160.2	156.2	213.0	316.8	309.0
Total	5,469.1	5,217.5	7,692.2	6,424.8	9,056.7

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

cultivation of 6,800 ha in 2012 compared with 4,100 ha in 2011, representing a 66% increase. Far smaller amounts of opium poppy are cultivated in the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Arrests involving opiates (heroin, opium, morphine and codeine) in the region nearly quadrupled in 2011 compared with the previous year. The 124,697 opiate-related arrests reported in 2011 is the high-

Table 11. Opium seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011

Country	Amount of opium seized (kg)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	0	0
Cambodia	•	•	•	•	•
China	1,184.6	1,375.0	1,303.0	1,015.0	823.0
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	•	182.7	•	•	•
Indonesia	•	•	•	•	•
Japan	19.6	6.6	3.2	3.7	7.6
Lao PDR	14.2	11.8	50.0	86.5	63.4
Malaysia	7.4	13.9	10.1	4.4	0.9
Myanmar	1,173.8	1,463.4	752.0	922.0	828.3
Philippines	2.5	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0
Singapore	•	0.5	•	•	0.2
Thailand	72.6	117.9	111.1	157.9	42.7
Viet Nam	63.4	18.8	69.8	28.2	76.0
Total	2,538.2	3,190.8	2,299.4	2,217.8	1,842.1

• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

est total ever reported from the region. However, the increase is due to the large number of arrests in China, which reported opiate-related arrest data for the first time in 2011, and in Malaysia, where prior to 2010 only the number of drug users arrested was reported.

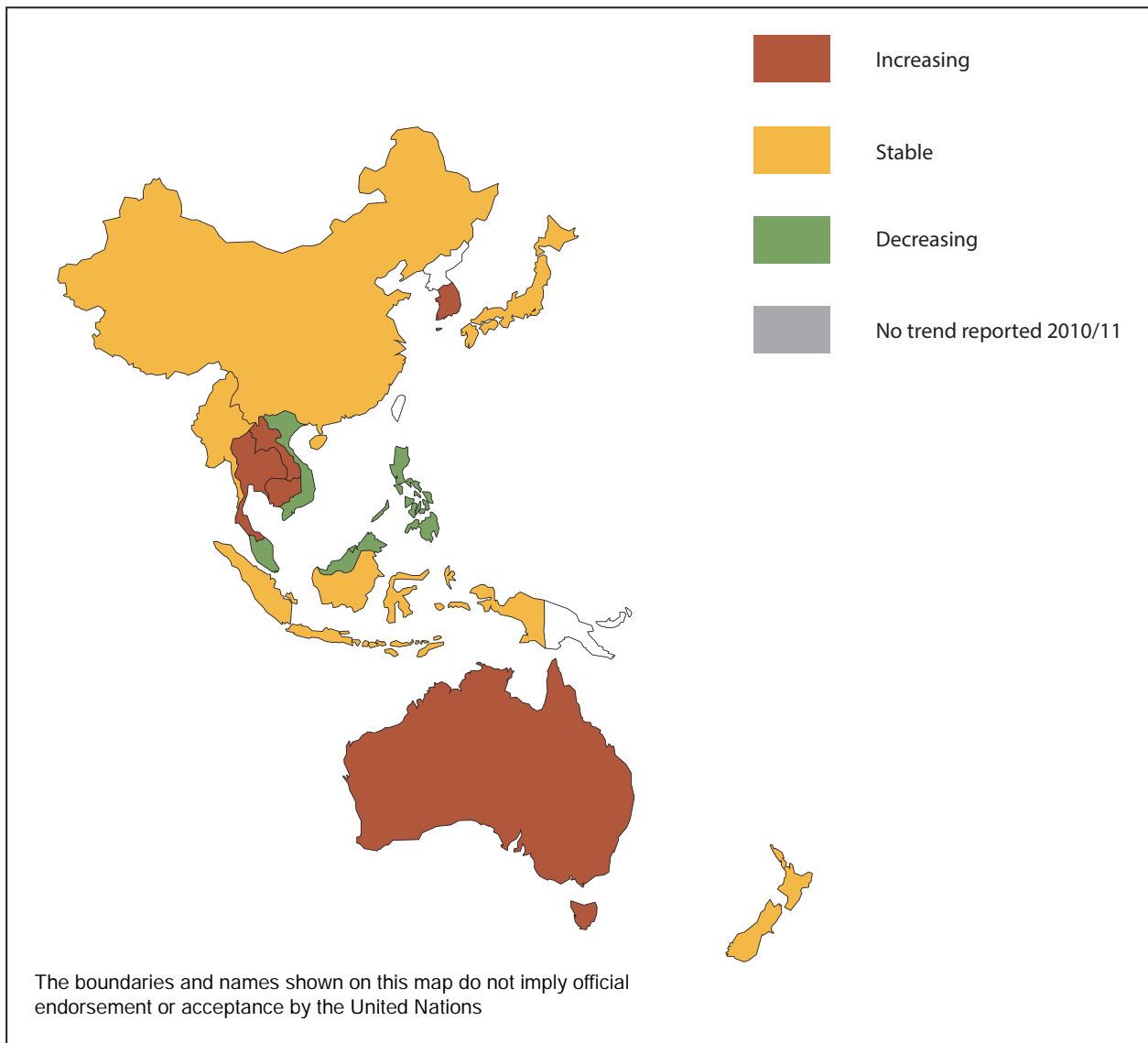
Since 2010, Malaysia has also included arrested drug manufacturers and traffickers in its drug-related arrest data. Hence, making year-by-year comparisons for opiate-related arrest data is difficult.

Table 12. Cannabis-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Number of arrests				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	27	28	5	44	31
Cambodia	8	6	•	•	•
China	•	•	•	•	634
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	541	544	543	325	256
Indonesia	18,142	11,581	12,001	9,630	7,841
Japan	2,375	2,867	3,087	2,367	1,759
Lao PDR	2	26	40	•	•
Malaysia	3,385	514	5,207	6,567	15,220
Myanmar	217	240	490	146	275
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	1,170	1,045	1,712	1,837	1,189
Singapore	102	88	126	131	127
Thailand	12,851	13,168	18,600	15,281	13,737
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
Total	38,820	30,107	41,811	36,328	41,069

• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Figure 13. Cannabis use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

Heroin seizures in the region increased by 41% in 2011, from 6.4 mt seized in 2010 to 9.1 mt seized in 2011, the highest total reported during the past five years. The majority of seizures was made in China (including Hong Kong, China), with nearly 7.3 mt seized during the year. Substantial increases were reported from Thailand (298%), Malaysia (152%), Hong Kong, China (151%), Singapore (48%) and China (33%).

Myanmar and China reported the majority of opium seized in the region (as in previous years), with 828 kg of opium seized in Myanmar and 823 kg seized in China, accounting for 90% of the total opium seizures in the region in 2011. A significant increase was reported in Viet Nam (170%). Thailand and Lao PDR reported substantial decreases.

The amount of heroin detected at the Australian border increased by 241%, from 117.5 kg in 2009-2010 to 400.2 kg in 2010-2011, the highest total recorded since 2001-2002. The quantity of national heroin seizures showed a five-fold increase, from 74.7 kg in 2009-2010 to 375.5 kg in 2010-2011, the highest amount recorded since 2002-2003. The illicit trafficking and use of heroin or opium is not widespread in New Zealand as most opiate users in the country use 'homebake heroin', or diverted medicines such as oxycodone. Prescribing records and seizure data indicate that the use of the prescription opiate oxycodone in New Zealand is increasing.

Table 13. Cannabis seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011

Country	Amount of cannabis seized (herb and resin) (kg)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0.1	0.6	1.6	6.3	0.6
Cambodia	10.0	5.0	3.8	1.2	210.2
China	•	•	•	3,186.0	3,580.0
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	569.0	260.6	107.1	14.3	43.1
Indonesia	35,464.6	140,496.3	110,722.7	12,661.2	20,259.7
Japan	560.5	415.7	224.8	195.6	169.5
Lao PDR	2,302.8	804.6	976.0	3,521.0	1,617.0
Malaysia	1,482.6	874.8	2,351.8	1,064.0	1,054.0
Myanmar	104.3	170.2	284.6	205.6	196.4
Philippines	1,200.0	3,724.0	1,660.0	1,129.4	596.5
Republic of Korea	23.0	94.7	123.0	44.5	83.7
Singapore	30.3	3.3	7.1	8.5	12.9
Thailand	17,227.8	21,135.8	26,081.0	22,470.6	14,374.5
Viet Nam	8,000.0	8,928.8	332.0	211.3	7,500.0
Total	66,975.0	176,914.4	142,875.5	44,719.5	49,698.1

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Cannabis

Cannabis continues to be widely used in East and South-East Asia. Increasing cannabis use was reported in Australia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea and Thailand. All other countries reported stable or declining trends.

Cannabis-related arrests in the region in 2011 increased by 13% compared with 2010. The 41,069 arrests is the second highest total reported in the past five years. Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia accounted for the majority of the region's cannabis-related arrests in 2011 (90%).

Cannabis seizures increased by 11% in 2011 to 50 mt compared with 36 mt seized in 2010. The majority of cannabis seizures continued to be reported from Indonesia and Thailand, which accounted for 70% of the total amount of cannabis seized in the region. Viet Nam reported a dramatic increase, from 211 kg in 2010 to 7.5 mt in 2011. Significant increases in cannabis seizures were also reported in Indonesia (60%) and Republic of Korea (88%).

Other substances

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

Cocaine use in Asia remains limited, though the substantial quantities of cocaine seized during the past two years may possibly indicate that organized crime 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 but can also be dissolved in water and then injected. A record amount of cocaine was seized in Hong Kong, China (776.5 kg) in 2011. Significant increases were also reported in Australia and Japan in 2011.

The non-medical use of benzodiazepines, in particular nimetazepam¹⁹, is a problem in some countries in the region. Use of nimetazepam, sometimes in combination with methamphetamine, is particularly prevalent in peninsular South-East Asia, including Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

¹⁹ Nimetazepam is a benzodiazepine derivative, controlled in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, often marketed under the brand name Erimin.

An example of globalization at work – the impending impact of the ASEAN Economic Community

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at their 12th ASEAN Summit in 2007 reiterated their commitment to the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015. The AEC will create a single regional common market of more than 600 million persons and will facilitate the free flow of goods, services, investment, capital and labour.

However, regional integration under the AEC will doubtless also make possible the increased mobility of illicit goods, including drugs. The ASEAN region continues to be one of the most rapidly developing parts of the planet. And while the AEC will bring positive and welcome changes and provide the region with unrivaled access to knowledge and the power to communicate, it will simultaneously provide opportunities for transnational organized crime to expand.

Already, several ASEAN governments have given priority to upgrading cross-border infrastructure links, in particular the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link as well as a number of road networks that include the North-South corridor from southern China through Myanmar, Thailand and Lao PDR to Viet Nam; the East-West corridor linking Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam; and the South-South corridor linking proposed and existing deep seaports in Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar. Under the AEC, trade and customs procedures along these routes will be harmonized, standardized and simplified.

Organized criminal groups may utilize the improved transportation connections and take advantage of the streamlined border controls to smuggle illicit goods throughout the region and beyond.

The use of kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*), a substance derived from the leaves of the Rubiaceae tree, which produces both stimulant and sedative effects, is most prevalent in Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand. The most frequent mode of administration is making tea out of the dried leaves. It is a controlled substance in several Asian and European countries. In 2011, Thailand seized nearly 33 mt of kratom while Malaysia and Myanmar each seized roughly 1 mt of kratom.

During the past few years, a range of new psychoactive substances has emerged on ATS markets in the region. These psychoactive substances include piperazines such as BZP or m-chlorophenylpiperazine (mCPP), as well as analogues of methcathinone such as 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC, known as mephedrone) or MDPV (methylenedioxypropylvalerone). Whereas the use of these substances has been reported in Australia and New Zealand for some time, they have also more recently emerged in China, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

A similar development has been observed with regard to synthetic cannabinoids which have appeared in some countries. Sold on the Internet and in specialized shops, synthetic cannabinoids have been referred to as 'legal alternatives' to cannabis, as they are not under international control. The Republic of Korea

has reported increasing synthetic cannabinoid seizures during the past few years, albeit at low levels. In Thailand, the synthetic cannabinoid 'spice' is available in some of the larger urban areas. The substances are not under international control and the control status of these compounds differs significantly from country to country.

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



Regional Trends: Pacific Island States and Territories

Summary, emerging trends and concerns

- The Pacific Island States and Territories is a region surrounded by major markets for ATS and other drugs. However, there are few formal drug surveillance systems, either nationally or regionally, in place for monitoring illicit drug use and trends.
- The region continues to be used for the transshipment of precursor chemicals and illicit drugs to Asia as well as Australia and New Zealand.
- Several major cases over the past five years indicate that illicit ATS manufacture, trafficking of ATS, drugs and precursors are real and current threats.
- Transnational organized crime groups appear to be targeting the Pacific for the trafficking of methamphetamine, precursor chemicals and other illicit drugs into and through the region.

The Pacific Island States and Territories region covers millions of square kilometres of ocean and is strategically located between Asia to the west, Australia and New Zealand to the south, and the Americas to the East. The states and territories in the region are a mixture of independent states, associated states, integral parts of non-Pacific Island countries, and dependent states, with a large variation in population sizes. Australia and New Zealand are covered in separate chapters of this report.

The Pacific islands are vulnerable to the activities of transnational organized crime groups due to their location near major amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) markets and along trafficking routes for a range of illicit goods, including drugs. Large quantities of cocaine trafficked through the region have been seized in Australia in recent years. Cannabis, the most widely used drug in the region, continues to be smuggled into and through the Pacific. The trafficking of methamphetamine and its precursor chemicals, particularly in the form of pharmaceutical preparations, are also trafficked through the Pacific.

ATS awareness is low and information related to ATS manufacture, trafficking and use in the Pacific Island States and Territories is virtually non-existent. There are millions of potential customers and the potential

for spill-over effect exists. A similar spill-over effect has been observed in states and territories in the Caribbean which are used for the transshipment of cocaine from South America to North America or Europe. Good air and sea links to South-East Asia, long coastlines which are difficult to patrol, limited law enforcement capacity and a multitude of small islands increase the vulnerability.

Most law enforcement agencies in the Pacific Island States and Territories operate in relative geographical isolation with limited resources and obsolete legislation and procedures specifically drafted to combat and regulate domestic criminal activity. This is in contrast to organized criminal groups, which are often well resourced and have networks across the globe (PIFS 2011).

Data gaps

Very few drug monitoring systems exist in the region and data vary widely in terms of availability, quantity and quality. There is also a very low rate of adherence to the three United Nations Drug Control Conventions in the region: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United

Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Only four states in the Pacific, namely Fiji, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Tonga are parties to all the above three treaties, making the Pacific the region with the lowest rate of adherence to the treaties in the world. This has impacted not only on the availability of reliable data and drug monitoring systems but also on drug-related legislation which is often outdated and ill-equipped to address emerging drug issues such as ATS. None of the Pacific island states and territories have submitted ARQs to UNODC since 2006. ATS data collection is further hampered by a lack of resources such as drug testing equipment and forensic facilities.

ATS use

Those Pacific Island States and Territories with available data report high prevalence rates of amphetamines-group substances.¹ The Marshall Islands report the highest annual prevalence rate among Pacific Island States and territories (2.7%) (UNODC).

Lifetime methamphetamine use rates among secondary school students in this region vary considerably, but most tend to be higher than those for Australia or New Zealand. The highest rates were reported from the Marshall Islands (13.1%) and Palau (7.1%); the lowest from American Samoa (5.7%) and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (4.9%). Most of these rates are higher than comparable rates for secondary students in Australia (5.3%) or New Zealand (1.2%) (CDCP 2008; CCDP 2007).

ATS trafficking

Illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, particularly in the form of pharmaceutical preparations, continue to be trafficked through the Pacific. As Australia and New Zealand have strengthened controls over precursor chemicals, these have become lucrative items that can be sold at high prices. Seizures of precursor chemicals, attempted diversions and thefts have been reported by authorities in Fiji, French Polynesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga. Attempts have been

made to traffic large amounts of ephedrine through Fiji disguised as allergy medication (ANCD 2010).

Amphetamine-type stimulants, particularly methamphetamine, are seized throughout the region. Along with cannabis, methamphetamine is the most frequently intercepted drug in the region. Methamphetamine seizures were reported from Fiji, French Polynesia, Samoa and Tonga in 2009 and 2010. In Tonga, 17.6 kg of methamphetamine believed to be destined for Australia were seized in 2009. In June 2010, a Customs officer in Tonga was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for his involvement in the seizure (PIFS 2011). Liquid methamphetamine was reported seized in French Polynesia (340 grams), and five seizures of smaller quantities of methamphetamine were seized in the mail in Guam (OCO undated). In February 2011, 4 kg of methamphetamine-cocaine mixture were found in a vehicle in Tonga.

During the past few years, a number of Chinese nationals have been arrested in the Pacific Island States and Territories for attempting to smuggle methamphetamine. In March 2010, authorities in Fiji arrested a female Chinese national who had arrived on a flight from the Republic of Korea carrying about 1.4 kg of methamphetamine. Investigations resulted in the arrests of nine other Chinese nationals and one Indonesian national and the seizure of an additional 11 kg of methamphetamine (PIFS 2011). In the same month, authorities in Vanuatu arrested two Chinese nationals who were charged with possession of five grams of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking (PIFS 2011). In April 2010, one Chinese national was arrested in Vanuatu for possession of about 237 grams of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking (PIFS 2011).

In Tahiti, authorities recorded two small (less than 1 kg) methamphetamine seizures from air passengers arriving from Hawaii in 2009 and 2010. In May 2009, 350 kg of liquid methamphetamine shipped from Mexico were seized in the postal stream, which led to the arrests of 15 members of a local drug-importing network (PIFS 2011).

Trafficking of precursor chemicals also remains a concern. In July 2010, a total of 195,000 ContacNT[®] pharmaceutical tablets containing pseudoephedrine were seized in Fiji. The shipment had been imported from China and concealed in a cargo container. In the same month, Australian authorities intercepted a

¹ High rates may also in part reflect confusion of the substance used, which is common for synthetic drugs, particularly among inexperienced users.

Table 14. 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 shows an upward trend	Use in urban settings (night-clubs) 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 (2.6% lifetime use of ATS among 15-24 year olds)	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 criminal groups suspected of smuggling pseudoephedrine from China into Fiji since 2007	ATS seizures reported. Identified source countries include China, Philippines, United States of America (mainland and Hawaii)	Three seizures in 2010 totalling 155.5 g of methamphetamine, seized from two Palau nationals and one Filipino national, and smuggled from the Philippines	ATS seizures of precursors, attempted diversions and thefts reported	Potential major transshipment point for ATS and precursor chemicals. 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 manufacturing plant for methamphetamine seized in 2004. Methamphetamine seizures reported. Seizures of precursors, attempted diversions and thefts also reported	•	•	•	•	•

• = Not reported. Note: High rates may also in part reflect confusion of the substance used, which is common for synthetic drugs, particularly among inexperienced users.

sea vessel off the coast of Queensland, and seized five litres of 4-methoxyphenyl-2-propanone, a chemical precursor used to manufacture ATS. Investigations revealed that the chemical originated from a stockpile on Daru Island in Papua New Guinea, where an additional 45 litres were discovered (PIFS 2011).

Conclusion

The Pacific Island States and Territories are surrounded by countries with large markets for illicit drugs, particularly ATS, rendering the region highly vulnerable to drug transit trafficking. The risk of a spillover of illicitly manufactured or trafficked substances into the domestic market can be rapid and new forms of drug use can become a major public health concern. This concern is even more acute in light of the fact that limited data are available, and that only four Pacific Island States and Territories have ratified the three fundamental United Nations Drug Control Conventions.

Regional Trends: South Asia

Summary, emerging trends and concerns

- South Asian¹ countries remain vulnerable to illicit ATS manufacture due to the geographical proximity to important source countries of illicit methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia, the continued availability of precursor chemicals, particularly ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, often in the form of pharmaceutical preparations, and the technical knowledge in the region.
- India, by far the largest country of the subregion both in terms of population and surface area, remains a main source of manufacture and trafficking of ATS in South Asia. Illicit ATS manufacture operations have been detected at regular intervals since 2003. Seizures of ATS and ketamine, a hallucinogenic substance that is not under international control, are reported. Ephedrine seizures showed a sharp decline in 2011.
- Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka have reported methamphetamine seizures. Some of the methamphetamine pills seized in South Asian countries are believed to originate in Myanmar, a neighbouring country of Bangladesh.
- Official statistics represent only the tip of the iceberg, as comprehensive assessments to determine the nature and extent of the ATS situation have not been made. In addition, there is no systematic profiling of seizures of ATS with respect to their constituents, markings, colour, manufacturing batch numbers and/or identifications and backtracking investigations to identify the origin of precursors and equipments. These are areas that deserve further action by the governments concerned, with possible support from the international community.

Overview of the situation

While the subregion of South Asia consists of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, the focus of this chapter is on those countries where the risk of increasing use of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) is greatest, namely Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Very little information is available from Bhutan and Maldives.

Unfortunately, dedicated data collection mechanisms on this important issue are still absent from most countries in the region. There is also a need to continue improving forensic information which can provide

important insights into the origin of ATS available on illicit drug markets. Nevertheless, the discovery of several illicit methamphetamine laboratories in South Asia over the past two years shows that countries in the region are increasingly being used as locations for illicit ATS manufacture.

In recent years, the vulnerability of South Asia to ATS trafficking and manufacture has become evident. International drug trafficking organizations have sought to convert the subregion into a major base, given the wide availability of precursor chemicals required to manufacture illicit synthetic drugs throughout South Asia, coupled with good technical knowledge and infrastructure.

The subregion has witnessed all types of ATS manufacture, ranging from small-scale kitchen laboratories to larger-scale manufacturing plants. Controls over ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, the main precursors

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.

sors for illicit methamphetamine manufacture, have forced traffickers to establish facilities to extract these substances from pharmaceutical preparations or to manufacture ephedrine from P-1-P.

South Asia is also a transit region for ATS trafficked from neighbouring Southeast Asia. Data show increasing inflows of methamphetamine pills from Myanmar into Bangladesh. Crystalline methamphetamine manufactured in the region is also being trafficked from South Asia to Southeast Asia and Oceania.

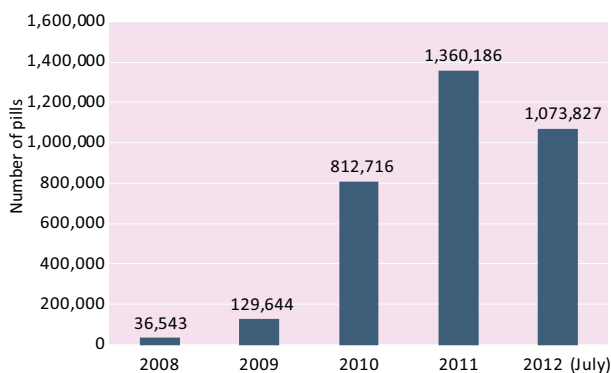
Ketamine (a substance not controlled by the international drug control treaties) is trafficked from India to destinations in East and South-East Asia and, to a lesser extent, to other parts of the world. In February 2011, the Government of India placed the substance under national control as a psychotropic substance, with the result that ketamine can now be seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act), 1985.

Bangladesh

The most widely seized ATS in Bangladesh are methamphetamine pills (locally known as 'yaba'), which are said to be trafficked into the country from neighbouring Myanmar. The number of methamphetamine seizures has shown a steady upward tendency since 2008, with more than 1.3 million pills seized in 2011. That number could further increase in 2012, in view of over 1 million pills that have already been seized until July 2012.

Use of ATS has become widespread in the urban areas of Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka where the drug

Figure 14. Bangladesh: seizures of methamphetamine pills, 2008-2012



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

is said to be widely available, and is reportedly spreading to rural areas as well. Methamphetamine pills are the most frequently used ATS.

India

Illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)

India has been targeted for illicit ATS manufacture for some time. The first seizure of an illicit ATS laboratory (a methamphetamine laboratory) was reported in May 2003 in Kolkata. Twenty-four kilogrammes of ephedrine were seized and nationals from China and Myanmar were arrested. Backtracking investigations led to a further seizure of ephedrine (500 kg) in June 2003 and the arrest of more persons operating on the India - Myanmar border.

Between 2004 and 2011, several additional facilities, or attempts to establish facilities for the illicit manufacture of ATS, predominantly methamphetamine, were uncovered by law enforcement agencies in India. Since 2009, several ephedrine manufacturing facilities have been uncovered by authorities. In 2010, two illicit methamphetamine laboratories were seized in Mumbai and one methamphetamine laboratory was seized in the State of Himachal Pradesh (INCB 2011). Significantly, three laboratories found to be illicitly manufacturing ephedrine were seized in Maharashtra and Gujarat by the Narcotics Control Bureau, Mumbai (NCB). During the course of the investigation, methamphetamine, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and pharmaceutical preparations, from which precursors can be extracted, were seized.

In February 2011, officers of the NCB of Mumbai seized an ephedrine laboratory at District Satara, Maharashtra along with 13 kg of ephedrine. Two persons were arrested. Attempts to set up illicit facilities to manufacture methamphetamine often involve transnational criminal organizations which might indicate that India is being used by international syndicates for the illicit manufacture of ATS.

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. Seizures of methamphetamine and amphetamine pills

Table 15. Seizures of selected drugs in India, 2008-2012

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*
Amphetamine	kg	20	41	38	473	•
Methaqualone	kg	2,382	5	20	72	51
Heroin	kg	1,063	1,047	766	528	287
Cocaine	kg	12	12	23	14	32

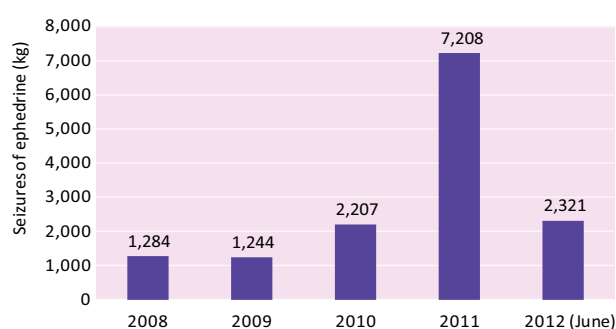
• = Not reported. * January to June 2012.

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

in India are predominantly made in the northeast of the country, in the region bordering Myanmar, which is also the source of these drugs. An overview of drug seizures in India is shown below:

Up to 2011, seizures increased continuously. They have developed from a few isolated cases of seized methamphetamine and ecstasy in 2004 to relatively large seizures of methamphetamine, ecstasy and amphetamine in more recent years. The low level of ATS seizures is likely to reflect the relatively low levels of awareness among law enforcement agencies of the ATS problem.

Whereas amphetamine and methamphetamine pills are mostly trafficked into the country from abroad, amphetamine and methamphetamine in powder form are primarily manufactured in India. It should be noted that most ecstasy seizures are reported from Goa, a popular tourist destination located in southwest India. The last significant ecstasy seizure outside Goa was recorded in 2004. Along with China (including Hong Kong), India has emerged as a prominent point of embarkation for attempted trafficking of ATS (excluding MDMA) to Australia. According to the Australian Crime Commission, India and China (including Hong Kong) accounted for over 62 per cent of all ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border (ACC 2012).

Figure 15. India: seizures of ephedrine, 2008-2012 (June)

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

India is among the countries most often reported as sources of seized illicit shipments of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Law enforcement agencies in India have made significant seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine over the last few years.

Trafficking of ketamine

Ketamine is an anaesthetic used in veterinary medicine, and, to a lesser extent, in human medicine. While not controlled under the international drug control treaties, several countries have adopted national control measures. The Government of India introduced controls on the export of ketamine in December 2007. In order to curb the trafficking of ketamine, in February 2011, the Government of India placed the substance under national control as a psychotropic substance, with the result that ketamine can now be seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act), 1985.

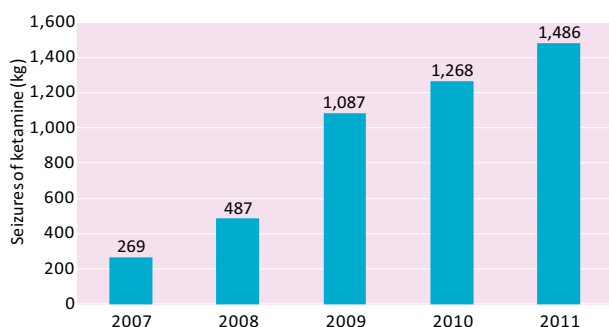
Ketamine is often trafficked from India to countries in East and South-East Asia where its use is widespread. The quantities of ketamine seized in India have continuously increased over the past years, from 60 kg in 2005 to more than 1.4 mt in 2011.

Ketamine seizures are made at airport interdictions, courier parcels, sea cargo and during domestic transportation. A large proportion of the seizures have been made in the south of India.

Ketamine has been popular among drug trafficking organizations due to high profit margins. The absence of domestic controls allows free movement of the substance and makes it more easily available to traffickers.

The extent of use of ATS 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 used were not included. Available data on drug treatment is scarce as the last assessment was

Figure 16. Seizures of ketamine in India, 2007-2011



Source(s): Various seizure reports from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Chennai and Drug Situation Reports of Narcotics Control Bureau and UNODC ARQ

conducted in 2001. Anecdotal reports, however, suggest that ATS use for recreational purposes exists and is on the rise.

Nepal

No illicit manufacture or use of ATS has been reported from Nepal to date. The main drugs in the country are domestically cultivated cannabis and opium which are trafficked through and to Nepal. With regard to illicitly manufactured ATS, several seizures have been reported by the Narcotic Drugs Control Law Enforcement Unit (NDCLEU) in Nepal to date, including 800 grams of methamphetamine seized at Kathmandu airport in 2008, involving an Iranian national, and a total of 255.3 grams of methamphetamine pills in 2010 seized in three separate incidents, all involving Nepalese nationals (NDCLEU 2011).

The NDCLEU has reportedly noted an increase in arrests of Nepalese couriers in other countries in recent years, indicating that Nepalese nationals are possibly becoming more involved in the drug trade, both as couriers and as traffickers. Nepal may also be increasingly used as a transit point for destinations in South and East Asia, as well as in Europe. The NDCLEU has identified the United States as a final destination for some drugs transiting Nepal, typically routed through Thailand, China and Indonesia (INCSR 2012 Nepal).

Sri Lanka

Traffickers have been searching for new places to set up clandestine laboratories for ATS manufacture in

South Asia, and Sri Lanka is becoming a target. ATS use is also reportedly on the rise in Sri Lanka.

So far, only one illicit laboratory was seized, in May 2008, in Kosagama, Awissawela, 70 km from Colombo. Large quantities of chemicals were seized which were suspected of being used in illicit methamphetamine manufacture. Sri Lanka has not reported seizures of precursors to the International Narcotics Control Board for the past five years.

Significant seizures of methamphetamine were made in 2010. In the first major haul of methamphetamine in January 2010, Sri Lankan customs officers seized over 17 kg of methamphetamine at Colombo International Airport. In August 2010, police narcotic officers made an additional 8.3 kg methamphetamine seizure from Iranian nationals who had just flown into Colombo from Qatar. Smaller quantities of ecstasy and other substances are routinely seized in Colombo.

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

- A record number of clandestine laboratories were detected in Australia in 2010-2011,¹ predominantly for the manufacture of methamphetamine.
- Organized criminal groups continue to attempt to smuggle large quantities of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and their precursor chemicals as well as large quantities of other illicit drugs into Australia. The number of ATS detections at the border in 2010-2011 is the highest recorded in the past decade.
- Border detections of ATS precursors increased in 2010-2011.
- Recent increases in reported cocaine use and quantities seized indicate a potential expansion of the Australian cocaine market.

Overview of the drug situation

ATS use in Australia has stabilized of late. The amphetamines-group substances² market in Australia appears to be predominantly supplied by domestic manufacture, which continues at high levels. Domestic and transnational organized criminal groups continue to target Australia, seeking 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 has developed. Two groups of new psychoactive substances that received considerable public attention in 2010-2011 are synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones, in particular mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone).³ In 2011, the Australian Government added eight synthetic cannabinoids to Schedule 9 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Poisons in 2011 (ACC 2012).

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

² Amphetamines group substances include amphetamine and methamphetamine

³ Synthetic cannabinoids are also referred to as 'cannabimimetics' or 'synthetic cannabis'. Mephedrone (also known as 4-MMC, meow and m-cat) is a synthetic cathinone.

Cannabis remains the dominant illicit drug in Australia in terms of arrests, seizures and use. Most of the cannabis consumed in Australia continues to be domestically cultivated. The cocaine market in Australia appears to be expanding, as reflected by increasing seizures, treatment episodes and use (ACC 2012; AIHW 2011b). The amount of national heroin seizures in Australia increased significantly in 2010-2011. In 2012, Australia recorded its third ever single largest heroin seizure (AFP 2012b).

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Methamphetamine powder continues to be the most widely used form of the drug in Australia, followed by crystalline methamphetamine, methamphetamine base and methamphetamine pills. There are indicators to suggest that the use of crystalline methamphetamine is increasing in Australia (Sindicich & Burns 2012). Annual use 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, that figure was 2.1%. Lifetime prevalence of amphetamines-group

Table 16. Rank of general population reporting recent use of selected drugs in Australia, 1998-2010⁴

Drug type	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
Ecstasy	4	3	2	2	2
Amphetamines	2	2	3	3	3
Cocaine	5	4	4	4	3
Ketamine	●	●	6	6	5
Heroin	6	6	7	6	5
Cannabis herb	1	1	1	1	1

● = Not reported

Source(s): AIHW 2011a

Table 17. Trend in recent use of selected drugs in Australia, 1998-2010⁵

Drug type	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
Ecstasy	↑	↑	↑	↔	↓
Amphetamines	↑	↓	↓	↓	↔
Cocaine	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑
Ketamine	●	●	↔	↔	↔
Heroin	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔
Cannabis herb	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑

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

Source(s): AIHW 2011a

substance use among the general population was 7.0% in 2010, compared with 6.3% in 2007 (AIHW 2011a).⁶

Ecstasy remains the second most commonly used illicit drug in Australia. Recent use of ecstasy among the general population showed a decrease for the first time since 1995, from 3.5% in 2007 to 3.0% in 2010. However, the lifetime prevalence of ecstasy use increased from 8.9% in 2007 to 10.3% in 2010 (AIHW 2011a).

Cannabis remains the most widely used illicit drug in Australia. In 2010, the proportion of the population reporting recent cannabis use increased for the first time since 1998, from 9.1% in 2007 to 10.3% in 2010 (AIHW 2011a). Recent cocaine use increased from 1.6% in 2007 to 2.1% in 2010, and is currently at its highest reported level (ACC 2012).

Injecting drug use

According to the findings from the 2011 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS), a national survey of 868 regular injecting drug users, about 66% of respondents reported having used some form of methamphetamine (in powder, base, crystalline or liquid form) in the six months preceding the interview. This is a considerable increase from 60% in 2010 but still far lower than the peak of 89% reported in 2003. The upward trend from 2010 to 2011 was driven by the increase in crystalline methamphetamine use (Stafford & Burns 2012). The mean age of IDRS respondents was 38 years (range 17-65 years). Fifty-two per cent reported that an amphetamine was the first drug they injected, followed by heroin (39%). However, heroin remained the drug of choice among more than half of the respondents (53%) in 2011. The mean age of first injection was 20 years (Stafford & Burns 2012).

Drug treatment

There were 140,769 treatment episodes reported in 2009-2010 for clients seeking treatment for alcohol and other drug problems in publicly funded and

⁴ The latest year for which data are available.

⁵ The latest year for which data are available.

⁶ 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 the 12 months prior to interview.

Table 18. Number of drug treatment episodes in Australia by drug type, 2005-2006 to 2009-2010

Drug type	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Amphetamines	15,935	17,292	16,588	12,739	10,038
Ecstasy	897	1,010	1,321	1,397	1,107
Cannabis	35,636	31,980	31,864	31,100	32,676
Cocaine	434	448	457	479	595
Heroin	19,776	14,870	15,571	14,222	13,862

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

Source(s): AIHW 2010b

non-government drug treatment facilities in Australia (AIHW 2011b).⁷ Amphetamines were the principal drug of concern in approximately 7% of treatment episodes compared with 9% in the previous reporting period. Persons aged 20-39 years accounted for 77% of amphetamines treatment episodes. Ecstasy was the principal drug of concern in less than 1% of treatment episodes. The proportion of treatment episodes for cannabis and heroin use remained stable at approximately 23% and 10% respectively.⁸ In addition, the number of treatment episodes related to cocaine has increased in each reporting period since 2005-2006. The median age for persons who entered treatment in 2009-2010 was 32 years and 68% of all episodes were men. Fifty-three per cent of treatment episodes were for multiple drugs (AIHW 2011b).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – During 2010-2011, ATS arrests accounted for 15.2% of all illicit drug-related arrests (84,738) in Australia, second only to cannabis. While the number of ATS arrests in 2010-2011 (12,897) decreased for the second consecutive reporting period, it is high compared with earlier in the decade. Of all drug-related arrests, arrests involving ATS have recorded the largest increase in arrests in the last decade (62%) (ACC 2012).

During the past decade, cannabis has accounted for more than two-thirds of all drug-related arrests and this was also the case in 2010-2011 when the number

of cannabis-related arrests accounted for 69.3% of all illicit drug-related arrests (ACC 2012). The 58,760 cannabis-related arrests in 2010-2011 is the highest total reported in the last decade. In 2010-2011, the number of national cocaine arrests decreased by 33%, but are still the third highest recorded in the last decade. The number of heroin and other opioid arrests decreased by 7.8% in 2010-2011 compared with the previous reporting period. In 2010-2011, the number of national 'other and unknown' drug arrests is the second highest recorded in the last decade and accounted for 11.5% of all illicit drug-related arrests (ACC 2012).

The total number of illicit drug-related arrests has remained relatively stable in Australia during the past five years. However, following a record number of illicit drug-related arrests in 2009-2010, the 84,738 total drug-related arrests recorded in 2010-2011 is the second highest total reported in the past decade (ACC 2012).

Drug seizures – The number of amphetamines-group detections at the Australian border increased by 60%, from 672 in 2009-2010 to 1,075 in 2010-2011 and is the highest number recorded in the past decade. The amount of amphetamines-group detections increased by 58%, from 66.7 kg in 2009-2010 to 105.2 kg in 2010-2011. Only 2.1% of amphetamine and methamphetamine detections were over 1 kg (ACC 2012).

The number of ecstasy border detections increased by 111%, from 53 in 2009-2010 to 112 in 2010-2011. The amount of border detections also increased, from 6.5 kg in 2009-2010 to 8.8 kg in 2010-2011. In 2010-2011, 95% of all ecstasy border detections weighed less than 100 grams (ACC 2012).

Nationally, the number of ATS seizures increased by 6.3%, from 10,543 in 2009-2010 to 11,212 in 2010-

⁷ The Alcohol and other drug treatment services national minimum data set (AODTS-NMDS) is a collection of data from publicly funded treatment services in all states and territories in Australia. 'Treatment episodes' are defined as a period of contact, with definite dates of commencement and cessation, between a client and a treatment provider. Only treatment episodes that are completed during the collection period (between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010) are included in the data for 2009-2010 (AIHW 2011).

⁸ Heroin treatment data in this collection does not include opioid pharmacotherapy treatment.

Table 19. Drug-related arrests in Australia, 2006-2007 to 2010-2011

Drug type	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
ATS	15,216	16,047	16,452	13,982	12,897
Cannabis	56,862	52,465	55,638	57,170	58,760
Heroin and other opioids	2,164	2,279	2,693	2,767	2,551
Cocaine	699	669	848	1,244	839
Steroids	142	163	214	314	346
Hallucinogens	243	325	369	512	373
Other and unknown	7,063	6,727	7,659	9,263	8,972
Total	82,389	78,675	83,873	85,252	84,738

Source(s): ACC 2012

2011.⁹ The amount of national ATS seizures increased by 50.1%, from 671.8 kg in 2009-2010 to 1,008.7 kg in 2010-2011 (ACC 2012).

The 2,137 cannabis detections at the Australian border in 2010-2011 are the highest on record, with cannabis seeds continuing to account for the majority of detections (ACC 2012). The amount of cannabis border detections increased by 255%, from 19.6 kg in 2009-2010 to 69.6 kg in 2010-11, and is the highest amount recorded since 2003-2004 (ACC 2012). The

number of national cannabis seizures (50,073) is the highest number reported in the past decade. However, the amount of national cannabis seizures (5,452 kg) in 2010-2011 decreased by 9% from the previous reporting period (ACC 2012).

The amount of heroin detections at the Australian border increased by 241%, from 117.5 kg in 2009-2010 to 400.2 kg in 2010-2011, the highest total recorded since 2001-2002 (ACC 2012). The amount of national heroin seizures increased by 402.6%, from

Table 20. Seizures of selected drugs in Australia, 2006-2007 to 2010-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
ATS*	Number	13,243	13,097	13,300	10,543	11,212
	Weight (kg)	5,442.9	2,035.8	1,640.0	671.8	1,008.7
Cannabis	Number	43,844	41,661	46,875	44,736	50,073
	Weight (kg)	4,781.9	8,909.2	5,573.0	5,989.8	5,452.4
Heroin	Number	1,476	1,411	1,691	1,582	1,700
	Weight (kg)	86.1	68.5	145.5	74.7	375.7
Cocaine	Number	1,184	1,271	1,217	1,517	1,217
	Weight (kg)	646.6	664.6	591.9	394.8	662.0
Other opioids	Number	148	178	277	315	229
	Weight (kg)	6.5	12.3	41.1	41.4	236.8
Hallucinogens	Number	105	126	135	215	206
	Weight (kg)	2.7	6.8	1.4	11.7	15.0
Steroids	Number	91	104	113	134	205
	Weight (kg)	9.6	6.6	3.7	5.5	13.9
Other/ unknown ¹⁰	Number	2,408	3,442	3,951	4,628	4,753
	Weight (kg)	792.5	270.8	5,306.5	661.0	1,593.5

Note: 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. *ATS includes amphetamine, methamphetamine, and ecstasy (MDMA).

Source(s): ACC 2012

⁹ National seizure statistics in Australia include both domestic seizures and border detections. National ATS seizures include both methamphetamine, amphetamine, ecstasy as well as other ATS.

¹⁰ Drugs categorized as 'other and unknown' include anabolic agents and selected hormones, tryptamines, anaesthetics, various pharmaceuticals and drugs not elsewhere classified (ACC 2012).

74.7 kg in 2009-10 to 375.7 kg in 2010-11, the highest amount recorded since 2002-2003 (ACC 2012).

Whereas the number of national cocaine seizures decreased in 2010-2011, the amount of national cocaine seizures increased by 67.7%, from 394.8 kg in 2009-2010 to 662 kg in 2010-2011, the third highest amount seized in the past decade (ACC 2012). The total amount of cocaine detected at the Australian border increased by 81%, from 386.8 kg in 2009-2010 to 701.8 kg in 2010-2011 (ACC 2012). The number of 'other and unknown' drug seizures is the highest recorded in the past decade. In 2010-2011, the amount of national 'other and unknown' national seizures increased by 139%, from 678 kg in 2009-2010 to 1,622 kg in 2010-2011 (ACC 2012).

The number of national illicit drug seizures increased from 63,670 in 2009-2010 to 69,595 in 2010-2011, the highest number of seizures in the past decade (ACC 2012).

Drug prices – The price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine in 2010-2011 remained stable, ranging from approximately USD 310 to USD 1,030 in 2010-2011. The price for one gram of non-crystalline forms of methamphetamine also remained stable, ranging from approximately USD 103 to USD 1,000 in 2010-2011. The retail price for one gram of amphetamine decreased considerably, to between USD 47 and USD 93 compared with USD 155 to USD 413 in the previous reporting period (ACC 2012).

The street price for one pill of ecstasy ranged between USD 10 and USD 52 in 2010-2011 compared with USD 9 and USD 47 in 2009-2010 (ACC 2012).

Sources of illicit drugs

Most of the amphetamines found in Australia are supplied by domestic manufacture. A record 703 clandestine laboratories were detected in Australia in 2010-2011, compared with 694 clandestine laboratories detected in 2009-2010, the majority of which continued to be identified as manufacturing ATS. In 2010-2011, a total of 556 ATS clandestine laboratories were detected, compared with 585 laboratories detected during the previous reporting period. Thirty-four laboratories were identified as undertaking pseudoephedrine and/or ephedrine extraction in 2010-2011. There were sixteen MDMA laboratories detected in

2010-2011, a slight decrease from the 17 laboratories detected in 2009-2010 (ACC 2012).

In 2010-2011, most clandestine laboratories continued to be detected in residential areas (68.5%) (ACC 2012). 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. In 2010-2011, there was a 63% increase in the number of detected laboratories manufacturing methamphetamine using the Nazi/Birch method (ACC 2012).

The majority of heroin seized at the Australian border originates from South-East Asia and South-West Asia. In 2010-2011, the primary embarkation points for heroin detected at the Australian border were India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Viet Nam. Cocaine profiling data indicates the continued prominence of Colombia as a source country for cocaine seized at the Australian border (ACC 2012).

Trafficking – In July 2012, a total of 306 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 252 kg of heroin concealed in a sea cargo consignment were seized in Sydney. The seizure was Australia's largest ever crystalline methamphetamine seizure and third largest heroin seizure. Four nationals of Hong Kong, China and three Australian nationals were arrested in connection with the seizure (AFP 2012b).

In 2010-2011, some 93% of all amphetamines-group detections at the Australian border were in parcel post, while air cargo accounted for about 47% of the total weight of detections. Notable amphetamines-group detections in 2010-2011 include 8.9 kg of methamphetamine detected in air cargo from Canada, 8.5 kg of crystalline methamphetamine detected in parcel post from Netherlands, 7.9 kg of methamphetamine detected in air cargo from Armenia, 5 kg of methamphetamine in parcel post from China, 5 kg of methamphetamine detected in air cargo from the United States, and 3.9 kg of crystalline methamphetamine detected in the luggage of air passengers travelling from Hong Kong, China. In all of these cases, Sydney was the final destination (ACC 2012).

In 2010-2011, India, Hong Kong, China and China accounted for more than 62% of the number of all amphetamine-group substances detections at the Australian border. By weight, Canada, China and Hong

Kong, China accounted for more than 48% of all amphetamines-group detections at the Australian border (ACC 2012).

In 2010-2011, Canada was the prominent embarkation point for MDMA detections at the Australian border by weight, accounting for more than 85% of the MDMA detected. Ireland accounted for more than 66% of the number of detections (ACC 2012).

Oceania remains a common destination for smuggled ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in both the bulk and pharmaceutical preparations forms. In 2010-2011, a total of 780.8 kg of ATS precursors were detected at the Australian border. While this represents a 40% increase from the 556 kg detected in the previous reporting period, it remains considerably less than the 2,041 kg detected in 2008-2009. Viet Nam continued to be a key embarkation point for large quantities of these substances trafficked to Australia. Notable detections from Viet Nam include 174 kg of pseudoephedrine in sea cargo, 34 kg of pseudoephedrine in two separate air passengers detections, and 10 kg of ephedrine in parcel post. Two large seizures of pseudoephedrine were detected in air cargo from Singapore (12.1 kg) and Hong Kong, China (10 kg) during the reporting period (ACC 2012). In April 2011, authorities at the port of Karachi, Pakistan, seized 245 kg of ephedrine concealed in a sea cargo container bound for Australia.

Significant border detections of MDMA precursors were made in Australia in 2010-2011, including the detection of 2,570 litres of safrole oil¹¹ in two separate sea cargo consignments from China, in April 2011. This is the largest quantity (by weight) of MDMA precursors detected since 2004-2005 (ACC 2012).

Large quantities of South American cocaine are being trafficked into Australia by sea vessel through the Pacific. In November 2011, a shipment of 300 kg of cocaine was seized in Australia, which was trafficked by sea vessel through Vanuatu. Another 200 kg of cocaine were seized from a vessel in waters northwest of New Caledonia in April 2012 (AFP 2012b). In 2010-2011, the prominent embarkation points for cocaine detected at the Australian border by number were Panama, the United Kingdom, United States, Argentina and Thailand. By weight, the prominent embarkation points were Ecuador, Panama, United States, Colombia and Canada (ACC 2012).

¹¹ The volume of safrole that can be extracted from safrole oil varies and is generally less than 20% of the volume of safrole oil.

Forensic data

The annual median purity of analysed amphetamine¹² samples has fluctuated considerably over the past decade, ranging between 0.1% and 45.2%. In 2010-2011, the median purity of amphetamine ranged from 0.4% in the Australian Capital Territory to 49% in Western Australia. The annual median purity of analysed methamphetamine samples has remained relatively stable during the past decade. In 2010-2011, however, all jurisdictions reported an increase in purity. During the reporting period, the median purity of methamphetamine ranged from 1.9% in Tasmania to 49.4% in Victoria (ACC 2012). The median purity of analysed phenethylamine samples – the majority of which relate to MDMA – has been declining in Australia since 2005-2006. In 2010-2011, the annual median purity of phenethylamines ranged from 1.2% in the Australian Capital Territory to 30.8% in Victoria (ACC 2012).

¹² 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 2012).



Emerging trends and concerns

- Crystalline methamphetamine use remains the primary drug concern in Brunei Darussalam. More than 95% of the persons who have entered drug treatment during the past three years have been admitted for crystalline methamphetamine use. During the past decade, approximately 85-95% of all drug-related arrests have involved amphetamine-type stimulants, primarily crystalline methamphetamine.
- There has been no reported involvement of transnational organized criminal groups in the trafficking of ATS to Brunei Darussalam.
- In 2011, a record number of ecstasy pills were seized in Brunei Darussalam.

Overview of the drug situation

Crystalline methamphetamine has been the primary drug of concern in Brunei Darussalam since 1996. Brunei Darussalam is one of only two countries of the region that has not reported illicit ATS manufacture, Singapore is the other. In addition, there is no legitimate domestic production of precursor chemicals and there has been no reported diversion of precursor chemicals in the country. The quantity of illicit drugs seized in the country remains relatively low.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug seizures – In 2011, the vast majority (86%) of all drug users in the country were crystalline methamphetamine users, according to arrest and treatment data. Although crystalline methamphetamine use had been on a downward trend earlier in the decade, it has increased in each of the past two years. Most crystalline methamphetamine users smoke the drug. Ecstasy is not considered a problem in Brunei Darussalam and use of the drug has only been reported in 2006 and 2009.

Cannabis herb is the second most commonly used drug in the country and its use declined in 2011, after having increased considerably during the previous few years.

Injecting drug use

Injecting drug use is extremely rare in Brunei Darussalam. There have been no known cases of HIV transmission through the injecting use of drugs in the country (MOH Brunei Darussalam 2012). Of the 175 persons who received drug treatment in Brunei Darussalam in 2011, 21 persons said that they have ever injected drugs (NCB 2012b).

Drug treatment

The Government-run Pusat Al-Islah drug rehabilitation and treatment centre is the only approved facility of its kind in the country. The centre also offers counseling as well as religious and therapeutic community programmes (NCB 2011a). Detention can vary from a minimum of six months to a maximum of 36

Table 21. Rank of use of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	•	•	5	•	6
Cannabis herb	2	2	2	2	2
Heroin	•	•	6	•	•
Inhalants	•	•	•	4	3
Ketamine	4	4	3	3	5
Nimetazepam ¹	3	3	4	5	4

• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 22. Trend in use of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	↓	↔	↓	↑	↑
Ecstasy	•	•	↑	•	•
Cannabis herb	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓
Heroin	•	•	•	•	•
Inhalants	•	•	•	↓	↑
Ketamine	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓
Nimetazepam	↑	↓	↓	↔	↑

↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, • = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

months. The length of detention is determined by the progress of the drug user (NCB 2011b).

The number of persons who underwent treatment for crystalline methamphetamine use in 2011 (175) is about one third higher than the number treated in the previous year (133). Crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for about 96% of all persons in drug treatment in 2011, roughly the same as in previous years. In general, methamphetamine users are older than users of other drugs in Brunei Darussalam. In

2011, the average age of methamphetamine users in drug treatment was about 33 years, compared with an average age of about 25 years for inhalant and cannabis users.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – The number of total arrests and the proportion of arrests by drug type have remained comparatively stable over the past four years.

Table 23. Drug treatment admissions in Brunei Darussalam, 2011

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	64	10	74	147	28	175
Cannabis	3	0	3	5	0	5
Inhalants	3	0	3	3	0	3
Total	70	10	80	155	28	183

Source(s): DAINAP

¹ Nimetazepam is a benzodiazepine derivative, controlled in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, often marketed under the brand name Erimin.

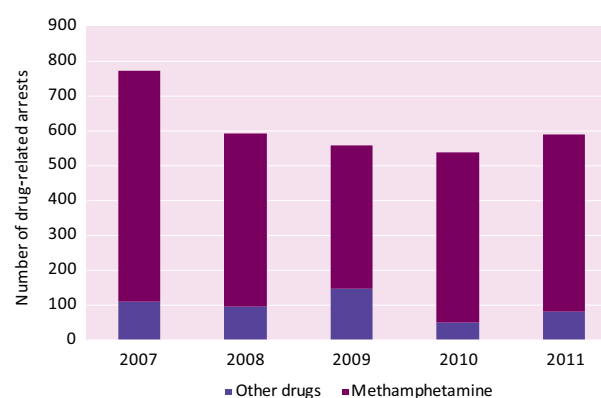
In 2011, about 86% of the 588 total drug-related arrests were related to crystalline methamphetamine. The majority was Bruneian, aged 31 years and above and unemployed. The number of persons arrested for crystalline methamphetamine in 2011 (508) was only slightly higher (4%) than the number in 2010 (489). Of the 71 foreign nationals arrested for drug-related offences in 2011, 80% involved crystalline methamphetamine. In 2010, the total number of drug-related arrests was 565.

Drug seizures – The quantities of crystalline methamphetamine seized each year continue to remain low, less than 1 kg. In 2011, 0.75 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized, about the same amount seized in 2010 but double the amounts seized in previous years. No methamphetamine pills have been reported seized in the country since 2006, when 157 pills were seized. In 2011, a total of 349 ecstasy pills were seized – low by regional standards but the highest ever total reported in Brunei Darussalam.

In addition, a total of 1,495 nimetazepam tablets were seized in 2011, significantly higher than the amounts seized during the previous few years and the highest total reported during the past decade.

Drug prices – The retail street price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine has shown a slight upward trend during the past few years. In 2011, the retail price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine was USD 551. The retail street price for one ecstasy pill decreased by about 50%, to USD 62 in 2011. Prices of other drugs remained stable.

Figure 17. Drug-related arrests in Brunei Darussalam, 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

Sources of illicit drugs

Most of the crystalline methamphetamine trafficked into Brunei Darussalam originates from Malaysia (NCB 2011b). The Philippines has also been indicated as a source for crystalline methamphetamine found in Brunei Darussalam in recent years. Most of the nimetazepam found in Brunei Darussalam originates from Malaysia. Most of the cannabis trafficked into Brunei Darussalam originates from Thailand and Malaysia (ARQ 2010 Brunei Darussalam).

Trafficking – Most illicit drugs are trafficked into Brunei Darussalam from Malaysia, primarily by land through official border entry points. Smaller quantities are trafficked from Malaysia by air and sea (NCB 2011a).

Table 24. Drug-related arrests in Brunei Darussalam by drug type, 2011

Drug type	National			Non-national		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	409	45	451	45	12	57
Ecstasy	1	0	1	0	0	0
Cannabis herb	26	2	28	2	0	2
Cannabis resin	1	0	1	0	0	0
Cannabis plants	1	0	1	0	0	0
Inhalants	17	0	17	1	0	1
Ketamine	5	1	6	5	0	5
Nimetazepam	11	0	11	2	4	6
Other drugs	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	472	48	517	55	16	71

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 25. Seizures of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	0.25	0.38	0.32	0.76	0.75
Ecstasy	pills	●	3.28 grams	15	●	349
Cannabis herb	kg	0.05	0.61	1.50	6.28	0.58
Heroin	kg	●	●	1.08	●	●
Ketamine	kg	9 pills and 0.005 kg	2 pills and 0.001 kg	0.01	0.04	0.39
Nimetazepam	tablets	100	70	44	43	1,495

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 26. Retail prices of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam (USD), 2008-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	510 – 549	476 – 510	510	551
Ecstasy	per pill	●	120 – 127*	●	62
Cannabis herb	per gram	71 – 77	71	71	77
Nimetazepam	per tablet	4	3 – 4	3.6	4

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP; *ARQ 2010

There has been no reported involvement of transnational organized criminal groups in the trafficking of ATS to Brunei Darussalam. However, in March 2012, authorities from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested a female Kenyan national at Brunei International Airport for attempting to smuggle 4 kg of crystalline methamphetamine into the country. The suspect had embarked from the United Arab Emirates and was in transit to Kuala Lumpur. This may indicate that African drug trafficking organizations are beginning to target Brunei Darussalam as a transit location for illicit drug trafficking (NCB 2012a).

Forensic data

The 343 crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in 2011 showed an average purity of about 71% methamphetamine (NCB 2012a). A similar number of samples were tested in 2010 and all showed purity higher than 60% methamphetamine. In 2011, a total of 270 ecstasy pills were analysed and showed an average weight of 286 mg and a content of about 48% MDMA. Only qualitative analysis was conducted for ketamine samples tested in 2011; therefore, no purity data are available.



Emerging trends and concerns

- The manufacture, trafficking and use of illicit drugs is a significant and worsening problem in Cambodia.
- Cambodia has become a favored transit and storage location for international drug traffickers. In 2012, a number of significant seizures of illicit drugs – including methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin – were recorded in Cambodia. Most of this was related to transnational organized criminal activity.
- Methamphetamine use continues to expand. Illicit drug use was previously concentrated primarily in urban areas, but has expanded into rural areas in recent years, in particular in the provinces adjacent to Lao PDR and Thailand.
- Drug trafficking organizations from China, including Taiwan Province of China, are involved in the trafficking of ATS and heroin. West African networks are involved primarily in the trafficking of heroin and cocaine through Cambodia to markets in the region.

Overview of the drug situation

The manufacture, trafficking and use of illicit drugs in Cambodia continue to expand. Over the past few years, Cambodia has become a favoured manufacture and transit location for Asian and African drug trafficking networks. In 2011 and 2012, Cambodian law enforcement authorities seized record amounts of crystalline methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine, most of which was destined for international markets including Australia, Taiwan Province of China and Thailand. A number of ATS manufacturing facilities were also seized, most of which were located in Phnom Penh.

During the past few years, Cambodian authorities have dismantled nearly 20 facilities that were manufacturing methamphetamine or producing precursor chemicals for the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA. Some of the seized facilities as well as seized shipments of precursor chemicals were connected to Chinese drug trafficking organizations based in Taiwan Province of China.

Large amounts of methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) and heroin manufactured in the Golden Triangle are smuggled into Cambodia from Lao PDR. Cambodia has also become a major transit hub for the smuggling of cocaine and Afghanistan-produced heroin by drug trafficking organizations, in particular ones from Africa.

Methamphetamine pills are the most widely used drug in Cambodia, although crystalline methamphetamine is becoming more widely available and use of the drug is on the rise, particularly in Phnom Penh and among young drug users (NACD 2011c).

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – There are no recent statistics on the number of drug users in Cambodia. A size estimation study is being conducted in 2012, led by the government. According to the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), the official number of drug users in Cambodia was estimated at about 5,000 to 6,000 per-

sons in 2011. NACD officials admit, however, that the actual number of drug users may be considerably higher.

The Cambodian National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STI (NCHADS) estimated that there were 13,000 drug users in 2008. Earlier estimates from an expert consensus group, led by UNAIDS, indicate that there were upwards of about 46,000 drug users in Cambodia, of which about half were ATS users (NAA 2008).

In 2010, an estimated 81% of all drug users used methamphetamine, 4% used heroin, 4% used inhalants (glue) and 11% used other drugs. An estimated 77% of all drug users in Cambodia are below the age of 26 years (NACD 2011c). Whereas illicit drug use was previously concentrated primarily in urban areas, in recent years it has been expanding into the rural areas, in particular in the provinces adjacent to Lao PDR and Thailand (INCSR Cambodia 2012). In addition, drug use among women appears to be on the rise (NACD 2011c).

Injecting drug use

The HIV rate among all drug users in Cambodia was about 1.1% in 2008, slightly higher than the 0.9%

national prevalence rate (NACD 2011c). In 2011, of the estimated 1,900 injecting drug users in Cambodia, the HIV prevalence was estimated at 24.1%, according to preliminary findings of the latest study by the National AIDS Authority of Cambodia (NAA 2012).

Drug treatment

UNODC and partners are promoting access to voluntary community-based treatment, as an alternative to the Compulsory Drug Treatment Centres. This approach, championed by the Government and piloted in Banteay Mancheay Province, is showing promising results.

Cambodia has 13 temporary drug treatment centres run by the civilian police, military police, Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs (NACD 2012a).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – Cambodia does not provide drug-related arrest data disaggregated by drug type. The 2,381 total drug-related arrests in 2011 represent a 250% increase over the previous year, due primarily to

Table 27. Rank of use of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	●	●	2	1	2
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	●	1	2	1
Ecstasy	●	●	●	●	6
Cannabis herb	●	●	●	4	4
Heroin	●	●	●	3	5
Inhalants	●	●	●	●	3
Opium	●	●	●	●	●

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; NACD 2010a; NACD 2012b

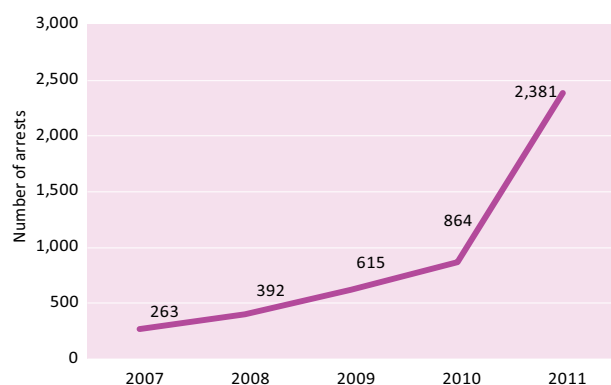
Table 28. Trend in use of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011
Methamphetamine pills	●	●	●	↑	↑
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	●	●	↑	↑
Ecstasy	●	●	●	●	↑
Cannabis herb	●	●	●	●	↑
Heroin	●	●	●	●	↓
Inhalants	●	●	●	●	●
Opium	●	●	●	●	●

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

Source(s): DAINAP; NACD 2012b

Figure 18. Drug-related arrests in Cambodia, 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

increased law enforcement efforts. Most arrests were for the use of ATS (INCSR Cambodia 2012). More than 90% of those arrested were Cambodian nationals. Of the 206 foreign nationals arrested for drug-related offences in 2011, about 65% were nationals of Viet Nam (74 men and 60 women). In addition, 20 Chinese nationals and 10 Nigerian nationals were arrested for drug-related offences during the year (NACD 2012c).

Drug seizures – In 2011, seizures of crystalline methamphetamine almost doubled, to 19.1 kg compared with 9.9 kg in 2010. The 19.1 kg seized in 2011 is the highest total reported in Cambodia during the past five years. Methamphetamine pill seizures nearly tripled in 2011, with 239,884 pills seized during the year compared with 82,746 pills seized in 2010. In March 2011, some 2.9 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, 87,600 methamphetamine pills and an unspecified quantity of methamphetamine powder were seized in a single incident in Phnom Penh (NACD 2011b). The number of ecstasy pills seized in Cambodia remains small compared with elsewhere in the region,

but showed a relatively large increase, from 1,056 pills seized in 2010 to 7,855 pills seized in 2011.

In May 2012, police conducted a series of drug raids – possibly the most extensive in Cambodia's history – and uncovered six illicit drug manufacturing sites in Phnom Penh and seized large amounts of substances used in the production of ecstasy and methamphetamine. The haul included nearly 4,000 litres of safrole-rich oil (SRO),¹ enough to manufacture about 30 million ecstasy pills, which was to be destined for further trafficking to Canada via Viet Nam and China. Six Vietnamese nationals and five Cambodian nationals were arrested in relation to the case (NACD 2012d).

SRO have various licit commercial uses in the perfume and pesticide industry, but can also be used for the illicit manufacture of ecstasy. SRO continue to be illegally harvested and sold in Cambodia, although at lower levels than in previous years. Cambodia is one of the three countries in the region (along with China and Viet Nam) to have specific regulations for production and trade of SRO. In 2011, SRO seizures amounted to about 2.3 mt compared with 6.8 mt seized in 2010 (NACD 2012c), 14.2 mt seized in 2009 (NACD 2010a) and about 42 mt seized in 2008 (NACD 2011d). The production of SRO was first reported from Cambodia in 2001 (NACD 2011c).

Before 2012, the quantities of cocaine seized in Cambodia had remained limited. The 1.1 kg of cocaine seized in 2011 was the highest total reported since 2006, when 5.1 kg were seized. In August 2012, however, Cambodian authorities arrested nine persons, including seven female Thai nationals, one female Vietnamese national and a man from the Philippines, in connection with the attempted smuggling of more

Table 29. Seizures of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	pills	420,287	116,772	137,249	82,746	238,994
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	6.8	1.9*	4.6	9.9	19.1
Ecstasy	pills	300	33	3,352	1,056	7,855
Cannabis herb	kg	10.0	5.0	3.8	1.2	210.2
Cocaine	kg	●	0.2	1.0	0.9	1.1
Heroin	kg	11.0	5.3	26.7	2.4	2.1

● = Not reported. * Plus a number of 'small packs' undefined weight
Source(s): DAINAP

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 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' (INCB 2009).

Table 30. ATS prices in Cambodia (USD), 2011

Drug type	Measurement	2011
Methamphetamine pills	per pill	5
Crystalline methamphetamine	per kg	70,000
Ecstasy	per pill	9

Source(s): DAINAP

than 30 kg of cocaine and 10 kg of methamphetamine into Cambodia (NACD 2012d). The cocaine was likely destined for further trafficking to Thailand and other markets in the region.

Compared with other countries in the region, Cambodia seizes minimal amounts of ketamine, with less than 5 grams seized in 2011 (1.14 kg in 2009 and a large seizure of undefined weight in 2008). In addition, Cambodian authorities seized 8.1 kg of cannabis resin oil, 3 kg of ephedrine and 6 kg of pseudoephedrine (NACD 2012a).

Drug prices – The retail price for one methamphetamine pill in Cambodia in 2011 was USD 5, unchanged from the previous year. The price for one kg of crystalline methamphetamine showed a 40% increase over the previous year, at about USD 70,000 in 2011 compared with USD 50,000 in 2010. The street price for one ecstasy pill in 2011 was about USD 9.

Sources of illicit drugs

Large quantities of methamphetamine are manufactured domestically; however, most of the methamphetamine pills (and heroin) trafficked into and through Cambodia originates from Myanmar. Since 2010, law enforcement authorities have dismantled a number of clandestine illicit drug manufacturing laboratories, most of which were for the manufacture of ATS or their precursor chemicals (NACD 2011a; NACD 2010b). In recent years, large quantities of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine have been seized in Cambodia. In 2009 and 2010, drug law enforcement authorities dismantled a number of facilities that were extracting ephedrine from ephedra and pseudoephedrine from pharmaceutical preparations. It is believed that the extracted precursor material was intended for further trafficking to illicit crystalline methamphetamine manufacturers in the region (NACD 2011c). Cambodian drug trafficking groups involved in clandestine ATS manufacture of-

ten work together with partners from other countries. The harvesting of SRO, common precursors for ecstasy, continues to be a law enforcement and environmental concern in Cambodia.

Trafficking – Cambodia continues to be used by Asian and African drug criminals as a major transit country for the trafficking of illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals. A large portion of the methamphetamine and heroin trafficked into Cambodia is trafficked from manufacturing centres in Myanmar along the Mekong River and road networks in Lao PDR and then into Cambodia through its northeastern borders. The drugs are then often repackaged for further trafficking via air passenger couriers to regional and international markets. The international airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap are key trafficking centres for inbound and outbound consignments of illicit drugs (NACD 2012a).

West African drug trafficking criminals continue to be involved in trafficking primarily heroin and cocaine through Cambodia. Cocaine is smuggled into Cambodia by air and post from a number of countries in South America, North America, West Africa and South-East Asia for export to third countries along overland routes (NACD 2012a). Some drug trafficking organizations from China, including Taiwan Province of China, are involved in the trafficking mainly of ATS and heroin (NACD 2012c).

In 2012, law enforcement authorities in Cambodia recorded a number of significant seizures of illicit drugs as well as chemicals and equipment used for the manufacture of ATS. In April 2012, Australian authorities seized about 13 kg of heroin, shipped by parcel post from Cambodia and concealed as hair products (AFP 2012a). The heroin is likely to have originated from Myanmar and was loaded on board the vessel in Cambodia.

Forensic data

The average purities of methamphetamine in pill form has declined slightly, from a range of 15-28% methamphetamine in 2010 to 14-20% methamphetamine in 2011. Samples of methamphetamine in crystalline form showed a range of purity of 70-85% methamphetamine, relatively unchanged from the previous year. Ecstasy samples analysed in 2011 showed a range of 17-40% MDMA.



Emerging trends and concerns

- The methamphetamine market in the People's Republic of China continues to expand as indicated by the increasing numbers of registered users, seizures and related arrests.
- Of particular concern is the growing spread of methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs among young drug users in China, including Hong Kong and Macao.
- The trafficking of illicit drugs into China is a growing law enforcement concern. The trafficking of methamphetamine and heroin from Myanmar and heroin from South-West Asia increased in 2011, and remains a law enforcement concern.
- The risk of diversion of precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs remains a concern.
- Cocaine is a growing threat in Hong Kong, China. The two largest ever cocaine seizures in Hong Kong took place in 2010 and 2011 and there are indications that use of the drug is on the rise.

Overview of the drug situation

Heroin remains the most widely used illicit drug in the People's Republic of China (hereafter: China), but its use has declined of late. Methamphetamine use continues to expand and is becoming more popular among young drug users. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine and other psychoactive substances such as ketamine remain a serious concern. Chinese and international drug trafficking organizations continue to smuggle illicit drugs into China both for domestic use as well as for further trafficking to international markets (NNCC 2012c). The use of ketamine has become increasingly prevalent, and has been identified as the primary drug of concern among young drug users in Hong Kong, China.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Methamphetamine (in both pill and crystalline) form remains the second most commonly used illicit drug in China. Methamphetamine use contin-

ues to rise in China, and in recent years it has spread to smaller cities and rural areas (NNCC 2012a).

By the end of 2011,¹ there were nearly 1.8 million (1,793,846) registered drug users² in China, of which 23% (417,210 persons) were identified as methamphetamine users (NNCC 2012a). The proportion of ATS users among all registered drug users has expanded continually during the past few years, from about 9% in 2008, 14% in 2009, and 19% in 2010 (NNCC 2012b). In addition, the proportion of young ATS users continues to rise. In 2011, of all newly registered methamphetamine users, about 68% were below the age of 35 (NNCC 2012a).

Heroin remains the primary drug of concern in China, as it has been for the past several decades. In recent years, however, the proportion of heroin users

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 of China. Data for Hong Kong, China is reported separately below.

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

Table 31. Rank of use of selected drugs in China, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	2	2	2	2
Methamphetamine pills	5	2	2	2	2
Ecstasy	4	3	3	3	5
Ketamine	●	5	5	5	3
Cannabis	●	●	●	●	6
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1
Opium	2	4	4	4	4

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP; NNCC 2012d

Table 32. Trend in use of selected drugs in China, 2007-2011

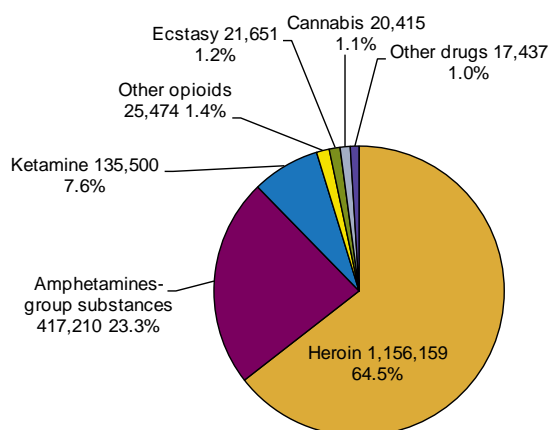
Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	↑	↑	↑	↑
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Ecstasy	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓
Cannabis	↑	●	●	●	↔
Heroin	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔
Ketamine	●	↑	↑	↑	↑
Opium	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔

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

has shown a continual decline, from roughly 78% of all drug users in 2008 to less than 65% in 2011 (NNCC 2012b).

Injecting drug use

The injecting use of methamphetamine has stabilized in China. An estimated 3.5% of all injecting drug

Figure 19. Proportion of registered drug users in China, by drug type, 2011

Source(s): DAINAP

users inject methamphetamine. By the end of 2011, 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 (MOH China 2012).

HIV prevalence among injecting drug users in 2011 was 6.4% in 2011, down from 6.9% in 2009 and 9.3% in 2009 (MOH China 2012). However, in some areas such as in Yili city, Xinjiang Province, as many as 89% of IDUs were HIV positive in 2011 (UNAIDS China 2012).

Drug treatment

In 2011, about 577,000 drug users received drug treatment in China, of which 235,000 were newly registered during the year. The 577,000 drug users in treatment represent an 8.3% increase over the number of persons who received treatment in 2010. Of the total drug users in treatment in 2011, some 171,000 drug users received compulsory drug treatment

and more than 97,000 received community-based treatment and rehabilitation (NNCCa 2012).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2011, a total of 112,406 persons were arrested for drug-related offences in 101,718 separate cases, compared with 101,748 persons arrested in 89,255 cases in 2010. This represents an increase of 10% and 14% respectively (NNCC 2012b).

While heroin continued to account for the largest proportion of drug-related arrests (46%), arrests related to methamphetamine have been increasing. They accounted for 44% of all drug-related arrests in 2011 compared with 39% in 2010. The total number of arrests related to methamphetamine in 2011 (44,920) is nearly 15% higher than the figure in the previous year (39,231). The number of persons arrested for ecstasy continues to decline, with 627 persons arrested in 2011 compared with 816 persons arrested in 2010 and 1,287 persons arrested in 2009 (NNCC 2011c).

Drug seizures – The total amount of methamphetamine seized in China increased by 44%, from 9.9 mt seized in 2010 to 14.3 mt seized in 2011, about half of which was seized in Yunnan province, adjoining

Myanmar. The rise is partly due to the increase in seizures of methamphetamine from Myanmar in China. In addition, there was an increase in individual seizures of large amounts of methamphetamine (more than 10 kg) during the year (NNCC 2012c). The amount of ecstasy seized in China declined sharply in 2011, due in large part to its declining popularity.

Preliminary data for 2012 indicates that methamphetamine seizures will continue at high levels. In the first quarter of 2012, more than 3.5 mt of methamphetamine were seized in 11,159 cases, representing a nearly 80% increase over the first quarter of 2011 (1.97 mt in 6,160 cases) (NNCC 2012b).

More than 7 mt of heroin were seized in China in 2011, an increase of one-third over the 5.3 mt of heroin seized in 2010. The amount of opium seized in 2011 (823 kg) represents the lowest total reported during the past five years and a 19% decrease compared with the amount seized in 2010 (1,015 kg) (NNCC 2012a).

Ketamine seizures showed a nearly 10% increase in 2011 compared with the previous year.

Drug prices – China did not report drug price data to DAINAP in 2011.

Table 33. Drug-related arrests in China by drug type, 2011

Drug Type	National			Non-national		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	24,874	4,880	29,754	53	35	88
Methamphetamine pills	12,490	1,385	13,875	742	347	1,089
Methamphetamine powder	100	14	114	0	0	0
Ecstasy	540	80	620	5	2	7
Ketamine	7,294	640	7,954	101	19	120
Cannabis herb	216	52	268	4	2	6
Cannabis resin	284	70	354	6	0	6
Cocaine	42	9	51	17	30	47
Heroin	38,288	7,224	45,512	1,562	571	2,133
Opium	577	109	686	44	17	61
Total³	84,705	14,463	99,188	2,534	1,023	3,557

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

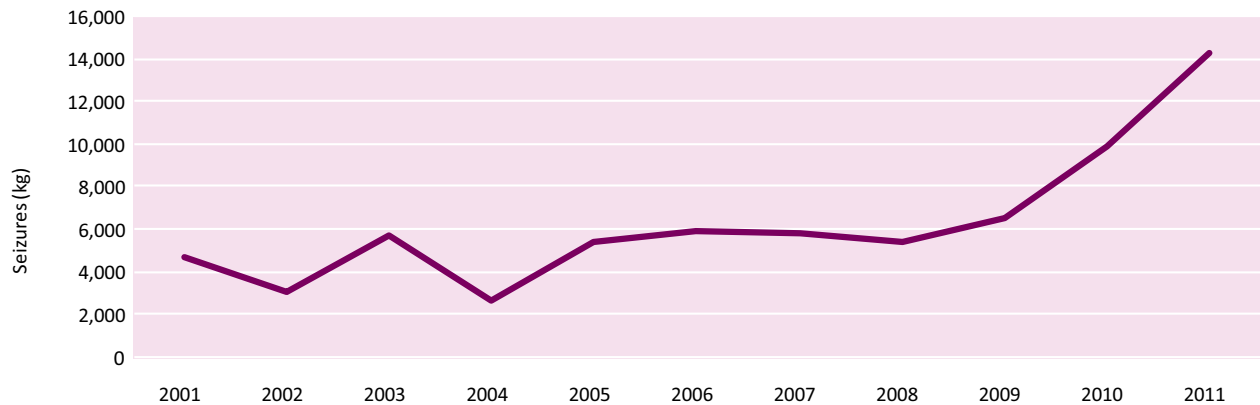
³ In addition, approximately 10,000 persons were arrested for offences related to other drugs, psychoactive substances and precursors – such as methcathinone, tramadol and pharmaceutical preparations – which are not listed in Table 33. Thus, the total number of drug-related arrests in 2011 (112,406) is higher than the total in Table 33 (102,745).

Table 34. Seizures of selected drugs in China, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	5,863.0	5,523.0	2,479.0	4,186.0	4,458.0
Methamphetamine pills	pills	7,620,322	6,255,658	40,640,038	58,443,666	61,942,559
Ecstasy	pills	2,219,353	1,077,552	1,062,173	1,272,904	317,886*
Ketamine	kg	6,101.7	5,271.1	5,323.0	4,905.0	5,380.0
Heroin	kg	4,594.0	4,332.3	5,838.0	5,353.0	7,080.0
Opium	kg	1,184.6	1,375.0	1,303.0	1,015.0	823.0
Cocaine	kg	162.0**	530.0**	41.0	441.0	48.0
Cannabis herb	kg	•	•	•	3,186.0	2,600.0
Cannabis resin	kg	•	•	•	•	980.0

• = Not reported. * Reported as 71,553 ecstasy pills plus 73.9 kg; converted into estimated pill equivalents at 300 mg per pill. ** Information from unconfirmed reports; not formally reported by NNCC.

Source(s): DAINAP; 2009 and 2010 data from NNCC 2011a and NNCC 2011d

Figure 20. Methamphetamine (in crystalline and pill form) seizures in China, 2001-2011

Source(s): NNCC 2011a

Sources of illicit drugs

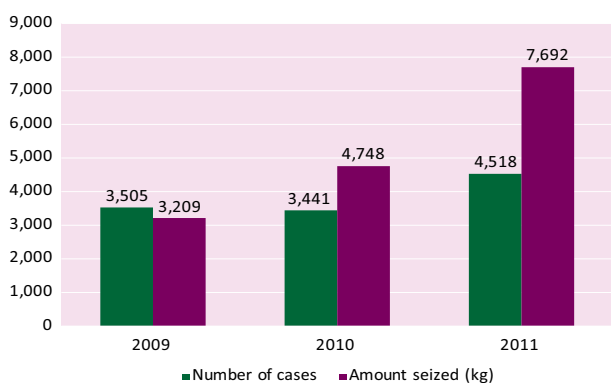
In 2011, a total of 357 clandestine synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were dismantled compared with 378 such facilities dismantled in 2010, 391 in 2009 and 244 in 2008. However, it is unclear how many of these laboratories were specifically manufacturing methamphetamine. Illicit drug manufacture was reported in 29 of the 33 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China. Most of the facilities seized in 2011 were located in Guangdong, Sichuan and Hubei provinces and were manufacturing methamphetamine in crystalline and pill forms as well as ketamine (NNCC 2012b; NNCC 2012c).

China has a large chemical industry, with more than 160,000 precursor chemical enterprises in the country (NNCC 2012a). However, organized criminal groups frequently divert precursor chemicals produced for

licit purposes to the manufacture of ATS and other illicit drugs. China continues to report significant seizures of precursor chemicals, albeit at lower levels than in previous years. In 2011, there were 414 criminal cases related to precursor chemical diversion reported in China, and approximately 1,835 mt of various precursor chemicals and other materials used for the manufacture of illicit drugs were seized (NNCC 2012b). In addition, 10 shipments of some 720 tons of precursor chemicals were suspended in 2011 (NNCC 2012a).

Trafficking – Most of the methamphetamine trafficked into China is trafficked from Myanmar into Yunnan, Guangdong and Guanxi provinces for further trafficking into inland areas (NNCC 2012b). The amount of methamphetamine smuggled from Myanmar to Yunnan province in southwestern China (7,692 kg) in 2011 is 62% higher than the amount

Figure 21. Methamphetamine seizures in Yunnan province, 2009-2011



Source(s): NNCC 2012b

seized from Myanmar in 2010 (4,748 kg) (NNCC 2012b).

The trafficking of heroin from South-West Asia increased substantially in 2011. In Xinjiang province alone, a total of 611 kg of heroin was seized in 10 separate cases in 2011 (NNCC 2012b). A large portion of the heroin trafficked into China is used domestically but considerable quantities are also transhipped through the country to international markets by maritime transport (INCSR China 2012).

Increasing drug smuggling activity by foreign traffickers, especially those from West Africa, was reported in 2011 (NNCC 2012b). West African groups primarily traffic cocaine into China, and some are reported to be working in association with criminal syndicates from South America (NNCC 2011b).

Due to the large size of China's chemical industry, the country continues to be a key source of precursor chemicals and non-controlled substances which can be used as 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 2011, China was reported as the country of embarkation of a number of shipments of ethylphenylacetate destined for Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua (INCB 2012b). In the first six months of 2011, Mexico reported three large seizures of methylamine at seaports, totaling more than 154,000 lt. which were illicitly imported 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. (INCB 2012b)

In 2010, the Netherlands Customs Service reported the seizure of 100 kg of mephedrone and 1,000 kg of PMK-glycidate,⁴ both of which originated from China, in two separate incidents at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The PMK-glycidate was misdeclared as camphanic acid and arrived in an air-freight shipment. Investigations showed that seven shipments of camphanic acid intended for the same recipient had been imported since 2009. Danish authorities also reported seizing 800 kg of the substance in March 2011; that shipment was later determined to be part of a series of related shipments that had originated in China and were destined for the Netherlands. In addition, Slovakia also effected seizures from this series of shipments (DNR 2012; INCB 2012b). A large portion of the alpha-phenylacetonitrile,⁵ a pre-precursor for amphetamine manufacture, seized in 2010 originated from China (INCB 2012b).⁶

The synthetic cathinone mephedrone⁷ has been listed as a Category 1 psychotropic drug in China since September 2010 (NNCC 2012d). Mephedrone is an analogue of the internationally controlled stimulant cathinone (one of the psychoactive substances in the khat plant) and is structurally related to amphetamine. It is one of a number of new psychoactive substances which have emerged on the illicit drug market in China and in other countries in recent years. In 2010 and 2011, China reported the emergence of various substances in the piperazine class, such as BZP,⁸ TFMPP⁹ and mCPP,¹⁰ which are often used as a substitute for 'ecstasy'¹¹ (UNODC 2012a).

Forensic data

Crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in China in 2011 showed typical purity of 90% methamphetamine. The highest purity was 99% methamphetamine.

⁴ 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate, or MMDMG, is produced from piperonal and can be converted into piperonyl methyl ketone, or PMK. All of these substances are under international control (SMART 2012).

⁵ 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.

⁶ The above mentioned chemicals are not listed in the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychoactive Substances nor are they controlled under Chinese law and regulations.

⁷ Mephedrone refers to 4-methylmethcathinone.

⁸ BZP refers to Benzylpiperazine.

⁹ TFMPP refers to Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine.

¹⁰ mCPP refers to meta-Chlorophenylpiperazine.

¹¹ Reported by China to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) International Collaborative Exercises (ICE).

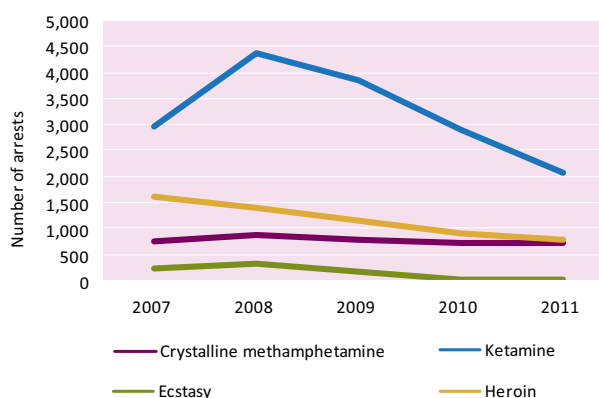
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China)

Drug use in Hong Kong, China has traditionally been dominated by the use of opiates. Heroin remains the most widely used drug in Hong Kong but it is most popular among older drug users and its use is indicated to be on the decline (NDSB 2012). Ketamine remains the most commonly used psychoactive substance among young drug users. Methamphetamine use has increased gradually during the past decade to about 13% of the drug user population,¹² and 22% of reported drug users under the age of 21 (NDSB 2012). The number of arrests related to crystalline methamphetamine (732 arrests in 2011) has remained relatively stable during the past five years. Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine totaled 38.4 kg in 2011 compared with approximately 102 kg of methamphetamine and 73 lt. of liquid methamphetamine seized in 2010 (HKNB 2012a; HKNB 2012b; HKNB 2011).

The manufacture of illicit drugs is rare in Hong Kong, China. However, Hong Kong Police dismantled a large crystalline methamphetamine operation housed in an industrial estate in 2010 (HKNB 2011) and two small-scale clandestine crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facilities in 2009. In 2011, one small 'crack' cocaine manufacturing facility was seized in Hong Kong, China (HKNB 2012a).

Ecstasy use and seizures have declined in recent years, possibly due the growing popularity of the

Figure 22. Drug-related arrests in Hong Kong, China, 2007-2011



Source(s): HKNB 2011

significantly less expensive ketamine and because of the expansion of the cocaine market. A large portion of the pills sold as 'ecstasy' in Hong Kong actually contains substances other than MDMA, such as ketamine, methamphetamine and trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP). The number of ecstasy pills seized in 2011 (983) is by far the lowest total reported during the past decade (HKNB 2012a).

Ketamine users account for about 36% of all drug users in Hong Kong, China. Among drug users below the age of 21, an estimated 80% used ketamine (NDSB 2012). A total of 2,071 persons were arrested for ketamine-related offences in 2011. Ketamine seizures in 2011 were nearly 50% higher than the amount seized in 2010, but the 276 kg seized in 2011 is still far lower than amounts seized in the previous two

Table 35. Seizures of selected drugs in Hong Kong, China, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	40.8	23.9	40.1	101.8*	38.4**
Ecstasy	pills	65,539	11,984	7,146	5,810	983
Cannabis herb	kg	537.2	244.1	84.6	8.8***	14.9****
Cannabis resin	kg	31.8	16.5	22.5	5.5	28.2
Cocaine	kg	197.1	63.7	102.9	579.7	776.5
Heroin	kg	37.4	46.4	37.1	68.5	171.7
Ketamine	kg	96.4	423.3	472.3	189.1	276.3

*Reported as 101.8 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 73 lt. of liquid methamphetamine. **Reported as 38.4 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 0.362 lt. of liquid methamphetamine. ***In addition to 58 cannabis plants. ****In addition to 756 cannabis plants. Source(s): HKNB 2011; HKNB 2012a and HKNB 2012b.

¹² 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 2010, the latest year for which data are available.

years. In comparison, more than 1 mt of ketamine was seized in Hong Kong in 2006. However, in the first six months of 2012, approximately 559 kg of ketamine were seized in Hong Kong, including one large seizure of 412 kg at Kwai Chung Container Terminals in May. The consignment arrived from Guangzhou Province in China and was bound for Malaysia (GovHK 2012).

The amount of heroin seized in Hong Kong, China increased significantly in 2011, with nearly 172 kg seized during the year compared with 68.5 kg seized in 2010. A large portion of the heroin seized in Hong Kong in 2011 was seized at Hong Kong International Airport by Customs, including two large seizures of more than 20 kg each (HKNB 2012a).

Cocaine seizures in Hong Kong have increased significantly during the past two years. In 2011, a total of 776.5 kg of cocaine were seized, including a record seizure of 567 kg in a single incident in September at a warehouse in Tuen Mun district (HKNB 2012a). The previous largest cocaine seizure in Hong Kong, China, of 290 kg cocaine, was made in December 2010. The seizures, may indicate a growing demand for cocaine in Hong Kong, China and in the Asia and Pacific region. The proportion of total drug users reported to have used cocaine in 2010 (6.2%) is the highest figure reported during the past decade (NDSB 2012).



Emerging trends and concerns

- Although ATS use has remained relatively stable over the past few years, it has expanded throughout Indonesia, both geographically and demographically. ATS use is especially prevalent among laborers, students and commercial sex workers.
- There is considerable risk that as ATS use expands in parts of Indonesia which were previously unaffected or where only limited ATS use took place, ATS manufacturers will relocate operations nearer to these emerging markets.
- A large number of dismantled ATS laboratories in recent years have been small-scale ‘kitchen type’ facilities, often located in residences, which are mobile and can be more easily located near ATS consumer markets. As ATS use expands across the archipelago, the threat of ATS manufacturers relocating operations close to emerging ATS markets is considerable.
- The large licit requirements of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine for industrial purposes in Indonesia also heighten the risk that these substances may be diverted by drug criminals for illicit ATS manufacture.

Overview of the drug situation

In 2010, the National Narcotics Bureau of Indonesia (BNN) identified crystalline methamphetamine as the primary drug of concern in Indonesia for the first time. While cannabis remains the most widely used illicit drug in Indonesia, crystalline methamphetamine use has expanded continually during the past several years, and in 2010 the drug surpassed cannabis in terms of new treatment admissions and arrests.¹ Ecstasy, popular with young adults, continues to be the third most widely used illicit drug in Indonesia (BNN & UNODC 2012).

Large-scale illicit ATS manufacture in Indonesia was first reported in 2002, when a highly sophisticated ecstasy manufacturing facility was uncovered in Jakar-

ta. Over the next few years, a small number of crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facilities and ecstasy pill re-pressing operations were dismantled. From 2006 through 2011, 135 ATS laboratories were seized in the country.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Indonesia had an estimated 3.7 million to 4.7 million drug users in 2011, or approximately 2.2% of the total population aged 10-59 years. Of those users, about 1.2 million used crystalline methamphetamine and 950,000 used ecstasy. ATS use is especially prevalent among laborers, students and commercial sex workers. The Indonesian ecstasy market – although comparatively large by regional standards – is limited to nighttime entertainment venues and young Indonesian adults. Crystalline methamphetamine is the second most widely used illicit drug in Indonesia, after cannabis (BNN & PPKUI 2011).

¹ In 2010, the number of arrests related to crystalline methamphetamine (12,417 persons) surpassed that for cannabis (9,637 persons) for the first time and accounted for 53% of all drug-related arrests during the year (compared with 38% of all such arrests in 2009). Directorate of Drug Crimes, National Police Criminal Investigation, BNN, March 2012.

Table 36. Rank of use of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2007-2011²

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	2	2	1	1
Methamphetamine pills*	●	●	●	3	5
Ecstasy	●	2	3	5	3
Barbiturates	●	●	●	6	6
Benzodiazepines	●	3	4	7	7
Cannabis herb	●	1	1	2	2
Cannabis resin	●	●	●	8	9
Cocaine	●	●	●	10	10
Heroin	●	4	5	4	4
Ketamine	●	7	6	9	8

● = Not reported. *Primarily 'ecstasy' pills containing methamphetamine.
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 37. Trend in use of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	↑	↑	↑	↔
Methamphetamine pills	●	●	●	↑	↓
Ecstasy	●	↑	↓	↔	●
Barbiturates	●	●	●	↑	●
Benzodiazepines	●	↑	↑	↓	●
Cannabis herb	●	↔	↑	↓	↔
Cannabis resin	●	●	●	↑	↓
Cocaine	●	●	●	↔	↔
Heroin	●	↓	↓	↑	↔
Ketamine	●	↔	↑	↓	●

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

While most methamphetamine users in Indonesia (89%) are men, arrest and drug treatment data indicate that methamphetamine use is expanding among women.

Crystalline methamphetamine is primarily smoked, although a small number of users also inject the drug. Use of methamphetamine in pill form is less common in Indonesia, although some of the ecstasy found in the country contains quantities of methamphetamine.

Injecting drug use

The two primary modes of HIV transmission in Indonesia are sexual transmission and injecting drug use. As of 2010, the latest year for which data are

² Rankings are based on drug seizures during the year. Cannabis herb remains the primary drug of use in Indonesia.

available, there were an estimated 105,784 injecting drug users (IDUs) in Indonesia.³ A small number of drug users inject crystalline methamphetamine (the primary mode of administration being smoking). The proportion of IDUs living with HIV remains high but has declined during the past five years, from 52.4% in 2007 to 36.4% in 2011 (NAC 2012).

Drug treatment

ATS users accounted for 43% of all persons who received drug treatment in 2011 (28% for crystalline methamphetamine and 15% for ecstasy). Of all persons newly admitted to drug treatment during the

³ Figures based on a behaviour rapid survey conducted by the National AIDS Commission of Indonesia (NAC) in 2009. The survey covered 33 provinces in Indonesia and used the Poisson Regression Modeling estimation methodology.

Table 38. Drug treatment admissions in Indonesia by drug type, 2011

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Methamphetamine	549	43	592	2,559	187	2,746
Ecstasy	294	29	323	1,372	110	1,482
Cannabis	441	22	463	2,616	175	2,791
Cocaine	31	2	33	119	12	131
Heroin	580	41	621	2,543	169	2,712
Multi drugs	6	0	6	8	0	8
Total	1,901	137	2,038	9,217	653	9,870

Source(s): DAINAP

year, crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for 30%. Of the 653 women in drug treatment in 2011 (29%), 187 of them were treated for crystalline methamphetamine use.

Indonesian women account for about 23% of all ecstasy users in the country. In 2010, the number of women treated for ecstasy use surged, and during the year women accounted for 56% of all persons treated for ecstasy use. However, that figure declined to about 17% in 2011.

Cannabis users accounted for about 28% of all drug treatment admissions in 2011. During the year, heroin users accounted for the largest portion of new drug treatment admissions (30%) and about 27% of all admissions.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – The total numbers of cases and persons arrested for methamphetamine, primarily in crystalline form, in Indonesia have increased each year since 2006. In 2011, those totals (15,766 persons and 11,819 cases) were about three times higher than 2006 totals (5,045 persons and 3,135 cases). The proportion of drug-related arrests involving crystalline methamphetamine in Indonesia has risen continuously, from 38% in 2009 to 61% of all drug-related arrests. Nearly 77% of all women arrested for drug-related offences in 2011 were arrested for crystalline methamphetamine (BNN & UNODC 2012). As a proportion of total drug-related arrests in 2011, women accounted for 14%.

In 2011, 93 foreign nationals were arrested in Indonesia for methamphetamine-related offences, a large number of which were arrested for attempting to

smuggle methamphetamine into the country. Most are associated with drug trafficking networks based in the Islamic Republic of Iran, West Africa, Malaysia, the Philippines and China (including Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan Province of China) (INCSR Indonesia 2012; BNN 2012).

Drug seizures – ATS seizures have fluctuated widely in Indonesia but have shown a considerable increase in each of the past two years. In 2011, the amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized in the country (1,161 kg) was the highest total reported during the past five years. The number of ecstasy pills seized in Indonesia dropped by nearly 71% from 2008 to 2009, but has risen steadily over the past two years, to about 1.1 million pills seized in 2011 (BNN and UNODC 2012).

The amount of ketamine seized in the country declined from about 117 kg in 2010 to 49 kg in 2011. Heroin seizures increased by 15% in 2011.

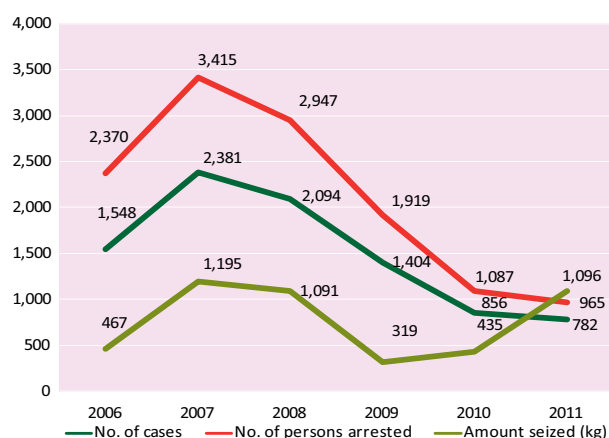
The primary crystalline methamphetamine precursors seized in Indonesia include ephedrine, norephedrine and pseudoephedrine whereas the primary ecstasy precursors seized include MDP2P⁴ and PMK.⁵ In 2011, Indonesia police seized a wide range of chemicals used in the manufacture of ATS (BNN & UNODC 2012).

Drug prices – The retail street prices for most illicit drugs have shown an upward trend in recent years. In 2011, the price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine ranged from USD225 to USD285, about 45-50% higher than the price in the previous year. The retail price for one ecstasy pill doubled in 2011.

⁴ 3,4-(Methylenedioxy)phenyl-2-propanone.

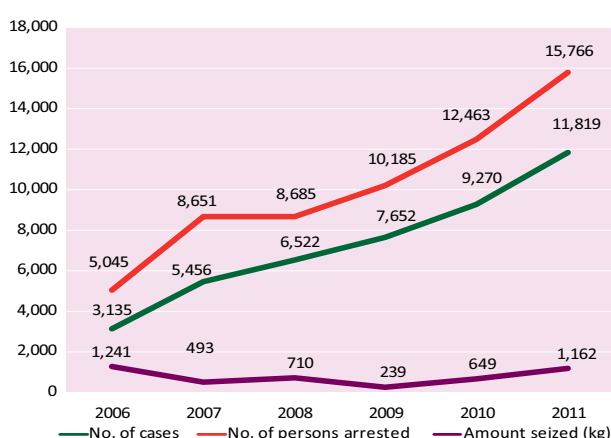
⁵ Piperonyl Methyl Ketone.

Figure 23. Ecstasy: number of cases and suspects, 2006-2011



Source(s): BNN 2011; BNN 2012

Figure 24. Crystalline methamphetamine: number of cases and suspects, 2006-2011



Source(s): BNN 2011; BNN 2012

Table 39. Seizures of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	492.9	709.9	239.5	649.1	1,161.3
Ecstasy	pills	1,247,302	1,091,204	318,935	434,660	1,096,249
Barbiturates	pills	•	•	•	100,932	158,577
Benzodiazepines	pills	3,200,495	6,485,246	2,369,720	785,936	526,242
Cannabis herb	kg	35,464.0	140,496.0	110,723.0	12,656.0	20,260.0
Cannabis plantation	ha	242.0	128.1	241.9	178.4	305.8
Cannabis plants	plants	1,858,342	720,774	11,755	407,448	1,839,665
Cannabis resin	kg	0.6	0.3	0.04	4.9	0.2
Cocaine	kg	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.05	0.1
Heroin	kg	17.2	29.1	12.3	25.0	28.8
Ketamine	kg	•	19.8	6.1	116.9	49.3

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; BNN 2011; BNN & UNODC 2012

Table 40. Retail prices of selected drugs in Indonesia (USD), 2008-2011

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

• = Not reported. Based on 2011 average exchange rate of 1 USD = IDR 8,760.

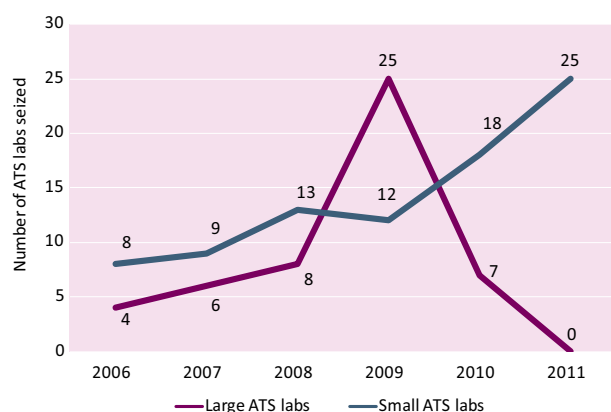
Source(s): DAINAP; BNN 2011; BNN 2012

Sources of illicit drugs

Up to 60% of all crystalline methamphetamine demand in Indonesia is supplied by domestic

manufacture. Significant quantities are also trafficked into the country from the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Malaysia and the Philippines (ARQ 2011 Indonesia; PDEA 2010b). Most ecstasy-type pills in

Figure 25. Number of clandestine ATS facilities seized in Indonesia, 2006-2011



Source(s): BNN 2011; BNN 2012

Indonesia are manufactured in the country (about 90%), with the remainder originating primarily from Malaysia and China (ARQ 2011 Indonesia).

Since 2006, a total of 135 ATS manufacturing facilities have been dismantled in Indonesia, including 22 facilities in 2011. A large number of dismantled ATS laboratories in recent years have been small-scale 'kitchen type' facilities, often located in residences, which are mobile and can be more easily located near ATS consumer markets. Of the laboratories dismantled in 2011, 15 were small-scale crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facilities and seven were small-scale ecstasy facilities (compared with 15 ecstasy laboratories seized in 2010), of which six were ecstasy pill re-pressing operations. As ATS use expands across the archipelago, the threat of ATS manufacturers relocating operations close to emerging ATS markets is considerable. Most illicit ATS facilities over the years have been uncovered in the Jakarta area, particularly in those districts where nighttime entertainment venues are located (Cengkareng, Mangga Besar and Tanjung Duren). ATS manufacture has also been detected in Surabaya, Bali (Denpasar) and Sumatera (BNN & UNODC 2012).

Precursors are said to be smuggled to Indonesia from India, China (including Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan Province of China), Thailand and the United States (BNN & UNODC 2012; INCSR Indonesia 2012). Most precursors continue to be trafficked into Indonesia by sea through Singapore (BNN & UNODC 2012). However, the extent of ATS precursor chemical trafficking into Indonesia is not fully known due to the limited available data.

Among South-East Asian countries, Indonesia has the highest annual legitimate requirement for ephedrine and the second highest annual legitimate requirement for pseudoephedrine (after Thailand). This, according to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), remains a potential risk for the diversion of these substances for illicit ATS manufacture (INCB 2012b). Most methamphetamine manufacture in Indonesia uses ephedrine and pseudoephedrine as precursors.

Trafficking – The large size of the Indonesian methamphetamine market and the relatively high prices compared to the region (ranging from about USD 225 to USD 285 per one gram of crystalline methamphetamine) make the country an attractive target for transnational drug trafficking groups. Most of the crystalline methamphetamine smuggled from China exits the country from Guangzhou and then transits Hong Kong, China or Singapore before entering Indonesia, primarily at Jakarta, Batam, Surabaya and Denpasar. Crystalline methamphetamine trafficked into Indonesia by air passengers from the Islamic Republic of Iran also enters Indonesia at these same four destinations via a number of transit locations including, *inter alia*, Abu Dhabi, Damascus, Doha, Istanbul, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

A large portion of the crystalline methamphetamine and ecstasy found in Aceh and Medan on Sumatera island originates from Malaysia and is trafficked across the Melaka Straits by sea. A large portion of this trafficking is organized by criminal networks based in Aceh province, many of whom are former Free Aceh Movement (GAM) insurgents who were once in armed conflict with the Government of Indonesia from 1976 to 2005 (BNN & UNODC 2012). Small quantities of ecstasy are trafficked into Indonesia from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands and transit primarily through Hong Kong, China, Singapore or Thailand (BNN 2011).

A large portion of the methamphetamine trafficking into and within Indonesia is conducted by sea. Smaller fishing boats often either obtain packages of crystalline methamphetamine directly from large vessels traveling at sea or docked at major seaports or they retrieve the packages from the waters after they have been dumped overboard. The fishing boats then traffic the drugs throughout the country (BNN & UNODC 2012).

Heroin seized in Indonesia originates from Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and is trafficked to Indonesia via, *inter alia*, Karachi, New Delhi, Kathmandu, Bangkok and Singapore, and enters Indonesia at Medan, Bali and Jakarta. Heroin trafficked from Myanmar is often trafficked overland through Thailand and Malaysia, with some quantities trafficked onwards to Australia (INP 2012).

Forensic data

Nine large methamphetamine samples (of more than 10 kg) were analysed in 2011 and showed purities of about 53% methamphetamine. The three small methamphetamine seizures (of less than 10 kg) analysed showed average purities of 65% methamphetamine. The purity levels are roughly the same as in the previous year. A total of 182 pills sold as 'methamphetamine pills' analysed in 2011 showed an average weight of 280 mg and contained methamphetamine as well as ketamine, dextrometorphan, acetaminophen or caffeine.



Emerging trends and concerns

- The smuggling of methamphetamine is on the rise in Japan, in particular by air passenger couriers. In 2011, 185 methamphetamine smuggling cases into Japan were reported, the highest figure in two decades.
- In addition to China, which remains the primary source of methamphetamine seized in Japan, Mexico and several African countries have emerged as sources of methamphetamine.
- The number of arrests involving methamphetamine has remained relatively stable. During the past decade, methamphetamine has accounted for roughly 80% of all drug-related arrests each year in Japan.

Overview of the drug situation

Crystalline methamphetamine remains the primary drug of concern in Japan, followed by cannabis. During the past decade or so, more than 80% of all drug-related arrests have involved methamphetamine. Illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in Japan is rare. Domestic and international drug trafficking organizations continue to smuggle methamphetamine into Japan, due to the large size of its methamphetamine market and the high prices for the drug.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – The use of crystalline methamphetamine in Japan has stabilized of late. Use of ecstasy pills is likely declining, as indicated by the general downward trend in the number of arrests and quantity of ecstasy seized in Japan during the past five years (NPA 2012a).

Cannabis remains the second most commonly used drug in Japan and cannabis use has expanded in recent years. Since 2001, about half of all new drug dependents in Japan have been identified as cannabis dependents (MHLW 2011b).

Demand for cocaine, heroin and opium in Japan remains limited. The combined number of arrests related to these drugs has accounted for less than 1% of total drug-related arrests during the past two years (NPA 2012a).

Injecting drug use

As of the end of 2010, a total of 12,648 cases of HIV infection and 5,799 AIDS cases were reported. HIV transmission through injecting drug use in Japan remains rare, accounting for less than 1% of the number of HIV infections (0.5%) and AIDS cases (0.8%) in 2011 (MHLW 2012).

Drug treatment

Recent consolidated drug treatment data are not available from Japan. As of June 2010, there were about 560 health and mental health centres in Japan, which had provided an average of 11,000 drug-related consultations per year since 2007 (INCB 2012a). Publicly available government statistics for drug-related consultations at clinics and mental health and welfare centres show that in fiscal year 2010 (1 April

Table 41. Rank of use of selected drugs in Japan, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	4	4	3	●	●
Cannabis	3	2	2	2	2
Heroin	6	6	●	●	●

● = Not reported

Source(s): ARQ 2012 and previous years

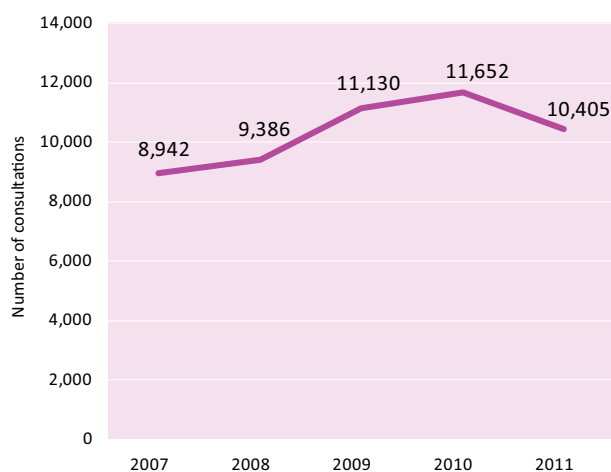
Table 42. Trend in use of selected drugs in Japan, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔
Ecstasy	↓	↔	↓	↓	↔
Cannabis	↔	↓	●	↓	↔
Heroin	↔	↔	●	●	↔

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

Source(s): ARQ 2012 and previous years

2010 - 31 March 2011), 10,405 persons had received drug-related services. This was an 11% decrease from the number of persons requiring drug consultations in 2009 (MHLW 2011b).

Figure 26. Number of drug-related consultations at health centres in Japan, 2007-2011

Source(s): MHLW 2011b

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – While the total number of drug-related arrests in Japan showed a decline of 5% in 2011 to 14,200, the number of arrests involving methamphetamine has remained relatively stable over the past five years. The 12,083 persons arrested for methamphetamine in 2011 accounted for 85% of

all persons arrested for drugs. Of all arrests involving methamphetamine in 2011, more than 90% were related to possession or use of the drug (NPA 2012a).

Japanese organized crime groups continue to play a major role in drug trafficking in the country. In 2011, a total of 6,553 ‘Boryokudan’ (‘Yakuza’) members and associates were arrested on methamphetamine-related charges, which accounted for about 54% of all methamphetamine-related arrests. The proportion of methamphetamine-related arrests associated with organized crime has remained stable during the past several years (NPA 2012b).

Arrests related to ecstasy and other synthetic drugs have shown a continuous decline over the past five years. In 2011, a total of 86 ecstasy-related arrests were reported in Japan (NPA 2012a).

The number of arrests related to cannabis in 2011 (1,759) showed a 26% decline compared with the previous year. In addition, the number of persons arrested in relation to cannabis cultivation also declined (NPA 2012a).

Drug seizures – In 2011, 350.9 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in Japan, a 13% increase from the previous year. Since 2007, more than 300 kg of methamphetamine have been seized each year (NPA 2012c).

The 27,187 ecstasy pills seized in 2011 is 49% higher than the number of pills seized in 2010. However, the

Table 43. Drug-related arrests in Japan, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine	12,211	11,231	11,873	12,200	12,083
Ecstasy	312	311	140	93	86
Cannabis	2,375	2,867	3,087	2,367	1,759
Cocaine	114	120	135	112	99
Heroin	15	15	16	22	19
Opium	47	21	28	23	12
Other illicit drugs	105	155	138	148	142
Total	15,179	14,720	15,417	14,965	14,200

Source(s): Follow up report by the Cabinet Office on The Five Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy. NPA 2012c

Table 44. Drug seizures in Japan, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	359.0	402.6	369.5	310.7	350.9
Ecstasy	-pills	1,278,354	217,883	91,960	18,246	27,187
Cannabis herb	kg	503.6	382.3	207.4	181.7	141.1
Cannabis resin	kg	56.9	33.4	17.4	13.9	28.4
Cocaine	kg	19.1	5.6	11.6	7.2	28.8
Heroin	kg	2.0	1.0	1.2	0.3	3.6
Opium	kg	19.6	6.6	3.2	3.7	7.6

Source(s): Follow up report by the Cabinet Office on The Five Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy. NPA 2012c

quantities of ecstasy seized since 2009 are far lower than the quantities of pills seized in previous years.

Whereas cannabis herb seizures showed a 22% decline in 2011 compared with the previous year, seizures of cannabis resin, heroin, opium and in particular cocaine all showed considerable increases in 2011. Almost 29 kg of cocaine were seized in 2011, the highest total reported during the past five years (NPA 2012a).

Drug prices – Illicit drug prices for 2011 were not available. Price data for previous years are shown below.

Sources of illicit drugs

Nearly all of the methamphetamine seized in Japan is trafficked into the country from overseas by drug trafficking organizations. These organizations primarily involve domestic 'Boryokudan' organized crime groups as well as drug trafficking groups from the Islamic Republic of Iran and West Africa (NPA 2012b).

China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan) remains the primary source of methamphetamine seized in Japan in recent years and in 2011 it accounted for

Table 45. Retail price range per gram of drugs in Japan (in USD), 2007-2010

Drug type	2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Crystalline methamphetamine	115	918	127	1,376	107	1,007	125	685
Ecstasy (per pill)	17	115	7	105	5	85	10	57
Cannabis herb	34	126	16	211	5	160	9	171
Cannabis resin	57		106		107	134	57	114
Heroin	344	459	338		641		160	1,142
Cocaine	172	287	74	423	128	214	114	342
LSD (1 tab)	29	57	32	63	43		40	

Note: Drug price data calculated on average exchange rates of Japanese Yen to USD for each year.

Source(s): MHLW 2011b and previous years

about 18% of the total amount of methamphetamine seized in Japan. During the past decade, the number of countries and territories of origin of methamphetamine smuggling to Japan has increased, from 10 in 2001 to 38 in 2011 (NPA 2012a).

Trafficking – In 2011, the number of methamphetamine smuggling cases into Japan (185) represents the highest figure reported during the past two decades and is about 40% higher than the number of methamphetamine smuggling cases detected in 2010 (132). Of all methamphetamine smuggling cases into Japan in 2011, some 81% were detected from air passenger couriers. The number of ecstasy smuggling cases detected has decreased from 41 in 2007 to 5 in 2011 (NPA 2012a).

China remains a major source of methamphetamine smuggled into Japan. Whereas previously most crystalline methamphetamine from China trafficked into Japan was trafficked directly from Hong Kong, China, in more recent years, drug traffickers have smuggled methamphetamine into Japan from a number of ports on China's eastern coast as well as from North Korea (JCG 2011). In 2011, China accounted for 34 of the 185 methamphetamine smuggling cases to Japan – mainland China (11), Hong Kong, China (13) and Taiwan Province of China (10) (NPA 2012b).

In addition, there are indications to suggest that Mexican drug trafficking organizations have gained a foothold in Japan (CENAPI 2012). In 2011, a total of 25 methamphetamine smuggling cases were detected from Mexico (NPA 2012a).

Methamphetamine smuggling into Japan from countries in Africa has shown an upward trend in recent years. The number of cases of methamphetamine smuggling into Japan from countries in Africa was 32 in 2011 and 31 in 2010 (compared with 3 in 2008 and 0 in 2007) (NPA 2012a).

Considerable amounts of methamphetamine are also smuggled into Japan from countries in the Middle East, which accounted for about 12% of all methamphetamine smuggling cases detected in 2011. In May 2011, some 64 kg of liquid methamphetamine was smuggled into Japan concealed in the gasoline tanks of two automobiles in a sea cargo consignment sent from the United Arab Emirates (NPA 2012b).

The major sources of cannabis smuggled into Japan in 2011 were the United States, Netherlands, United Kingdom and India (NPA 2012b).

Forensic data

No forensic data are available.



Emerging trends and concerns

- The expansion of ATS trafficking and use in Lao PDR is a growing human security and public health threat and is a strain on Lao PDR's limited law enforcement and drug treatment resources.
- Opium poppy cultivation may continue in Lao PDR due to the lack of development assistance, alternative livelihoods for farmers and high prices for opium in the region.
- There is a lack of available data related to ATS and other illicit drugs in Lao PDR. Given the country's expanding role as a transit country for illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals, and the likelihood of some domestic clandestine manufacture, there is an urgent need for the Government of Lao PDR to enhance the collection and reporting of drug-related data.

Overview of the drug situation

Large amounts of illicit amphetamine-type stimulants and opiates continue to be smuggled into and through the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Precursor chemicals are also smuggled through Lao PDR to drug manufacturing centres in neighbouring Myanmar. Illicit drugs manufactured in Myanmar are smuggled through Lao PDR to markets in Thailand, China, Cambodia and Viet Nam. In addition, some major drug trafficking groups with networks in China, Myanmar and Thailand are also active in Lao PDR.

The use of methamphetamine, primarily in pill form, in Lao PDR continues to increase, in large part because of its high availability and low prices. In addition to methamphetamine, other synthetic drugs, which are often marketed as 'ecstasy' have become increasingly available in Lao PDR and are possibly also manufactured illicitly in the country (INCSR Lao PDR 2012).

Opium poppy cultivation has increased in Lao PDR in each of the past six years. In 2012, the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Lao PDR was estimated at 6,800 ha, a 66% increase from the estimated

4,100 ha under cultivation in 2011. Potential opium production in the country increased by 64% to 41 mt in 2012 (UNODC 2012b).

Patterns and trends in drug use

Drug use – Methamphetamine pills remain the most commonly used drug and their use continues to be highest in urban and border areas. Government data suggests there are an estimated 44,000 methamphetamine users in the country (CHAS 2011).

The primary route of administration for methamphetamine pills is oral ingestion, although many users also smoke the drug.¹ The use of crystalline methamphetamine and ecstasy is considered to be insignificant but could increase in the future as Lao PDR is surrounded by countries with rapidly expanding crystalline methamphetamine markets.

The use of both opium and heroin has shown an increasing trend during the past five years. Most opium

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

Table 46. Rank of use of selected drugs in Lao PDR, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	1	1	1	1	1
Cannabis herb	4	3	2	2	2
Opium	2	2	3	3	3
Heroin	3	4	4	4	4
Cocaine	•	5	5	•	•

• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 47. Trend in use of selected drugs in Lao PDR, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Cannabis herb	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑
Opium	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑
Heroin	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable
Source(s): DAINAP

users live in the more remote mountainous regions in the northern part of the country. In 2012, the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) estimated the number of regular opium users at 10,776 persons in the ten northern provinces. This translates into a prevalence rate of 0.42% of the population aged 15-64 years in these provinces.² The highest opium prevalence rates were found in the two major opium-producing provinces, Phongsali and Houaphan (UNODC 2012b). A large number of young drug users continue to use inhalants (LCDC 2012a).

Injecting drug use

Lao PDR first reported the injecting use of dissolved methamphetamine pills in 2008. However, the injecting use of methamphetamine is not considered to be common in Lao PDR. Injection is the second most common route of administration for heroin in Lao PDR (snorting is the primary mode) and the injecting use of heroin is indicated to have increased in 2011. Lao PDR had an estimated 17,180 injecting drug users in the country in 2011 (CHAS 2011).

Data on HIV and injecting drug use in Lao PDR are limited. A rapid assessment and response survey conducted in 2010, found that among the 46 people who

inject drugs (PWID) surveyed in the northern border regions of Phongsali and Houaphan provinces, eight PWID were infected with HIV (17%).³ Although the survey sample is small, the threat of HIV transmission through the injecting use of drugs remains a concern in Lao PDR. These two locations are adjacent to Yunnan province in China and Dien Bien province in Vietnam, where HIV prevalence among PWID is indicated to be higher than 50% (CHAS 2012). In addition, the use of sterile needles and syringes is reported to be low in Lao PDR, and the use of contaminated injecting equipment has been identified as the primary route of HIV transmission in the country (CHAS 2012).

Drug treatment

There are eight ATS treatment centres in seven provinces in Lao PDR. The Somsanga Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, in Vientiane, is the only facility that provides services specifically for ATS users. Of the 1,544 persons who received treatment at Somsanga in 2011, 1,509 received treatment for methamphetamine use (about 98%). Of the 80 women in treatment at the centre in 2011, 79 were treated for meth-

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

³ The survey was conducted jointly by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID); the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC); the Centre for HIV/AIDS/STI, Lao National Committee for the Control of AIDS (NCCA); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Table 48. Number of patients at Somsanga Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total no. of patients	1,894	1,682	1,964	2,154	1,544
Women	137	105	118	123	80

Source(s): LCDC 2010b; LCDC 2011d

amphetamine use and one was treated for alcohol use. A total of 16 persons were treated for heroin use (15 persons were treated for alcohol use, three persons for inhalants and one for cannabis) during the year (LCDC 2012a).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – Lao PDR did not provide disaggregated arrest data for 2011. In recent years, most drug-related arrests in Lao PDR have been for methamphetamine trafficking and use. In 2011, a total of 1,749 persons were arrested in 1,037 cases related to methamphetamine, compared with 1,007 persons arrested in 581 cases related to methamphetamine in 2010 (LCDC 2012a). Of the 1,749 persons arrested for methamphetamine in 2011, 376 were women and 77 were foreign nationals (LCDC 2012b).

Drug seizures – Approximately 4.6 million methamphetamine pills were seized in Laos in 2011, far less than the 24.5 million pills seized in 2010 – of which 21.8 million were seized in a single case. No crystalline methamphetamine has been reported seized in the country since 2005, when 4.8 kg were seized. However, some quantities of crystalline methamphetamine manufactured in Myanmar are trafficked through the country to markets in the region. Lao PDR has not reported any seizures of ecstasy (UNODC 2011b).

Overall seizures of heroin and opium in 2011 were lower than the amounts seized in 2010 but were still the second highest totals reported during the past five years. The high levels of opiates seizures during the past two years may either reflect expanding domestic opiates production or increased trafficking from Myanmar or both.

Drug prices – Retail drug price data from Lao PDR are unavailable. In 2011, the reported wholesale price for one kg of ATS was USD 18,700. This is roughly equal to USD 2 per pill, at the wholesale level.⁴ The price for one 350 gram block of heroin was about USD 8,500 while the price of one kg of opium was USD 1,300. The price of one kg of cannabis was USD 170 (LCDC 2012a).

Sources of illicit drugs

Illicit methamphetamine manufacture has not been officially reported in Lao PDR.

Since 2007, both the cultivation and production of opium in Lao PDR have shown a continual rise. Most cultivation takes place in the poorer and more remote northern border regions. There is a risk of continued growth in opium poppy cultivation as a livelihood strategy, largely due to the absence of other development initiatives (UNODC 2012b).

Table 49. Seizures of selected drugs in Lao PDR, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	pills	1,272,815	1,227,205	2,335,330	24,530,177	4,609,729
Methamphetamine powder	kg	●	●	●	195.8	●
Cannabis herb	kg	2,302.8	804.6	976.0	3,521.0	1,617.1
Cocaine	kg	●	2.0	0.1	●	●
Heroin	kg	23.8	17.5	29.2	84.3	43.4
Opium	kg	14.2	11.8	50.0	86.5	63.4

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINP

⁴ Based on a calculation of approximately 10,000-11,000 pills per kg.

Lao PDR remains a key source of cannabis for illicit drug markets in Thailand and Malaysia (INCB 2010; RMP 2011b). Most of the large-scale cannabis cultivation in Lao PDR takes place in the central provinces of Lao PDR, particularly in areas near the Mekong River (LCDC 2011b).

Trafficking – The mountainous and riverine terrain of Lao PDR is advantageous for the trafficking of illicit drugs. Lao PDR has been used as a transit country for amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor chemicals since the late 1990s (LCDC 2010a). In recent years, the role of Lao PDR in the region's drug trade has increased considerably, commensurate with the expansion of illicit methamphetamine manufacture and trafficking in neighbouring countries. Large quantities of methamphetamine continue to be smuggled through the country from Myanmar to Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia (UNODC 2011b; SODC 2012a). The nature of illicit drug trafficking between Lao PDR and China, however, remains unclear due to the lack of available data.

Forensic data

Lao PDR performed qualitative analysis on a large number of methamphetamine samples in 2011 but lacks the technical capacity to conduct quantitative analyses. In previous years, Lao PDR has not reported forensic data to DAINAP.



Emerging trends and concerns

- The illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs continues to take place in Malaysia. In 2011, 17 clandestine synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were seized, including three methamphetamine facilities and three ecstasy facilities.
- Transnational organized criminal groups continue to target Malaysia as both a destination and transit country for the trafficking of illicit drugs, primarily methamphetamine and heroin. In 2011, a record number of West African nationals were arrested for drug-related offences.
- Newly reported HIV transmission through the injecting use of drugs has declined steadily in Malaysia since 2004 but remains high relative to the region. In 2011, injecting drug use accounted for an estimated 39% of all new HIV transmissions.

Overview of the drug situation

The drug problem in Malaysia continues to expand. Seizures of illicit drugs increased substantially in 2011. During the year, record amounts of methamphetamine, heroin and other psychotropic substances were seized, and a large number of facilities used for the manufacture of methamphetamine, ecstasy and ketamine were dismantled. In addition, the illicit manufacture of nimetazepam¹ and illicit cultivation of the local plant kratom² takes place in Malaysia (NADA & RMP 2011). Amphetamine-type stimulants continue to pose a serious public health and law enforcement threat in Malaysia. At the same time, the trafficking and use of heroin and cannabis are also getting worse.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Heroin has long been the primary drug of concern in Malaysia. Over the past few years, the use of ATS and other synthetic drugs – such as ketamine and nimetazepam – has grown considerably (NADA & RMP 2012). In 2011, crystalline methamphetamine surpassed morphine as the second most widely used drug in the country. However, reported crystalline methamphetamine use declined from 2010 levels. The primary route of administration for crystalline methamphetamine is snorting, followed by injection. The primary route of administration for methamphetamine pills and ecstasy is oral ingestion. Overall drug use showed a decline in 2011, after having increased in each of the previous two years.

Injecting drug use

In 2011, the injecting use of methamphetamine decreased and the injecting use of heroin remained stable compared with the previous year. There are an estimated 170,000 injecting drug users (IDUs) in

¹ Nimetazepam, a benzodiazepine, is known on the street as Erimin 5 and is available in 5 mg pill form. It is legally available as a pharmaceutical from Japan. However, counterfeited products are also available.

² Kratom refers to the *mitragyna speciosa* plant, commonly known locally as ketum or kratom.

Table 50. Rank of use of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Amphetamine ³	8	7	5	3	4
Crystalline methamphetamine	4	4	4	4	2
Methamphetamine pills	●	●	●	9	●
Ecstasy	6	6	6	6	●
Ketamine	●	●	7	7	5
Cannabis herb	3	3	2	5	3
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1
Kratom*	●	●	8	8	●
Morphine	2	2	3	2	●

● = Not reported. * Kratom refers to the *mitragyna speciosa* plant, commonly known locally as ketum or kratom. The plant is indigenous to South-East Asia and contains the alkaloid mitragynine.

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 51. Trend in use of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Amphetamine	↓	●	↓	↑	↓
Crystalline methamphetamine	↓	●	↑	↑	↓
Methamphetamine pills	●	●	↑	↑	●
Ecstasy	↓	●	↔	↔	●
Cannabis herb	↓	●	↑	↓	↓
Heroin	↓	●	↓	↑	↓
Ketamine	●	●	↑	↑	↓
Kratom*	●	●	↑	↑	●

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported. * Kratom refers to the *mitragyna speciosa* plant, commonly known locally as ketum or kratom. The plant is indigenous to South-East Asia and contains the alkaloid mitragynine.

Source(s): DAINAP

Malaysia. In the 1990s, about 70-80% of all newly reported HIV cases were attributed to injecting drug use. This proportion has declined steadily since 2004, reaching 39% in 2011, with a concomitant rise in the proportion of sexually transmitted HIV transmissions. The total number of IDUs living with HIV as of 2011 was estimated at 55,981 persons (MOH Malaysia 2012).

Drug treatment⁴

A total of 4,403 persons received drug treatment in Malaysia in 2011 (4,304 men and 99 women). Of these,

about 61% had been newly admitted to treatment in 2011. Methamphetamine was the second most commonly used drug by persons in drug treatment in 2011, accounting for 12% of all persons who underwent drug treatment during the year and 16% of all newly admitted patients (compared with 12.5% and 18% in 2010). Of the 431 persons newly admitted to treatment for crystalline methamphetamine use in 2011, an estimated 21.5% were injecting drug users. For all persons who received treatment for crystalline methamphetamine use during the year, 7.3% were injecting drug users. About 37% of all women in drug treatment in 2011 and 40.5% of all women newly admitted to treatment during the year were treated for methamphetamine use.

The majority of persons in drug treatment in 2011 (83%) were heroin users.

³ Information on reported amphetamine use may in part reflect some confusion about the substance consumed as there have been no amphetamine seizures since 2007 and no cases of treatment admissions for amphetamine.

⁴ Drug treatment figures refer to the number of persons who received drug treatment and rehabilitation services at centres operated by the National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia (NADA).

Table 52. Drug treatment admissions in Malaysia by drug type, 2011

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Methamphetamine	399	32	431	491	37	528
Ecstasy	6	0	6	6	0	6
Ketamine	4	1	5	5	1	6
Cannabis	142	0	142	202	0	202
Heroin and morphine	2,058	46	2,104	3,593	61	3,654
Opium	0	0	0	2	0	2
Cocaine	4	0	4	5	0	5
Total	2,613	79	2,692	4,304	99	4,403

Source(s): DAINAP

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests⁵ – A total of 160,879 drug-related arrests were reported in 2011, representing a 72% increase compared with the 93,462 such arrests reported in 2010. The number of arrests involving crystalline methamphetamine (60,873 persons) showed a 43% increase over the previous year. However, the proportion of crystalline methamphetamine-related arrests of all drug-related arrests decreased to 38% in 2011 compared with 46% in 2010. In addition, arrests involving methamphetamine pills totaled

5,863 in 2011, the first time that methamphetamine pill-related arrests have been reported during the five-year reporting period (2007-2011). Arrests related to ecstasy decreased by 39% in 2011, with 5,071 persons arrested during the year. Arrests related to ketamine decreased by 56% in 2011.

The largest proportion of drug-related arrests involved heroin. In 2011, a total of 68,132 persons were arrested for heroin in Malaysia, which accounted for about 42% of all drug-related arrests during the year. The number of heroin-related arrests increased by

Table 53. Drug-related arrests in Malaysia by drug type, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	1,235	1,443	1,131	42,701	60,873
Methamphetamine pills	•	•	•	•	5,863
Amphetamine	73	225	84	2,256	•
Ecstasy	182	119	83	8,248	5,071
Ketamine	•	•	•	6,518	2,888
Benzodiazepines*	442	145	39	1,025	1,393
Cannabis	3,385	514	5,207	6,567	15,220
Cocaine	•	•	•	13	7
Codeine	91	70	50	71	207
Heroin	4,752	4,974	5,047	25,016	68,132
Kratom	•	•	•	1,040	1,224
Morphine	4,312	3,640	3,386	•	•
Opium (raw & prepared)	14	9	5	7	1
Not specified	3	1	704	•	0
Total	14,489	12,352	15,736	93,462	160,879

*Includes different brands of diazepam.

Source(s): DAINAP

⁵ Drug-related arrest data for Malaysia (from 2007-2009) refer only to the number of drug users arrested and do not include drug traffickers and manufacturers. Arrest figures for 2010 and 2011 include all such groups

more than 170% compared with the figure from the previous year.

Arrests related to cannabis increased almost two-and-a-half fold in 2011, while arrests related to kratom, codeine and psychotropic pills also showed some increase during the year. The considerable increase in drug-related arrest figures in 2011 is due in large part to increased law enforcement efforts.

Drug seizures – Seizures of most illicit drugs, in particular ATS and heroin, showed considerable increases in 2011. Approximately 1,236 kg of crystalline methamphetamine were seized in Malaysia during the year, representing a 39% increase compared with 2010 and the highest total ever reported in the country. Seizures

of methamphetamine pills more than tripled in 2011, with 364,909 pills seized during the year, the highest total reported during the past five years. The 54,613 litres of liquid methamphetamine seized in 2011 (NADA & RMP 2012) is far higher than the amounts seized in the preceding two years (20 litres in 2010 and 4,692 litres in 2009). The number of ecstasy pills seized increased by about 63% in 2011. In addition, about 200 kg of ephedrine, a precursor used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, were seized in Malaysia in 2011, compared with about 50 kg seized in 2010.

The approximately 203 kg of ketamine seized in Malaysia in 2011 is the lowest total reported during the past five years.

Table 54. Seizures of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	69.2	357.0	1,160.0	887.3	1,235.6
Methamphetamine pills	pills	121,629	281,343	107,952	107,963	364,909
Ecstasy	pills	709,888*	80,778	75,515	60,713	98,751
Ketamine	kg	268.0	553.0	1,071.0	334.1	202.5
Benzodiazepines	pills	628,372	1,808,844	3,178,475	2,343,306	1,773,875
Cannabis herb	kg	1,483.0	875.0	2,352.0	1,064.0	1,054.0
Cocaine	kg	0.0	7.1	18.6	20.6	3.5
Codeine	lt	9,630.0	0.0	13,131.7	1,925.1	1,573.8
Heroin	kg	243.0	297.0	283.4	299.3	755.5
Kratom**	kg	•	•	•	•	1,440.4
Opium (raw and prepared)	kg	7.4	14.0	10.1	4.4	0.9

• = Not reported. *Reported in combination of pills and kg; converted at 1 pill = 300 mg. ** Kratom refers to the *mitragyna speciosa* plant, commonly known locally as ketum or kratom. The plant is indigenous to South-East Asia and contains the alkaloid mitragynine.

Source(s): DAINAP; NADA & RMP 2010; NADA & RMP 2011

Table 55. Retail prices of selected drugs in Malaysia (USD), 2009-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	per kg	78,370	77,750	81,750
Ecstasy	per pill	16	16	16
Ecstasy powder	per kg	•	31,100	32,700
Nimetazepam (Erimin-5)	per pill	6	6	6.5
Cannabis herb	per kg	750	745	785
Cocaine	per kg	62,696	62,200	65,400
Heroin (no. 3)	per kg	9,400	9,330	9,810
Ketamine	per kg	3,450	3,420	3,595
Opium (prepared)	per kg	6,270	6,220	6,540
Kratom (leaf)	per kg	•	12	13
Kratom (liquid)	per lt.	•	1.6	1.6

• = Not reported. Note: Drug prices for 2011 are calculated based on a 2011 average exchange rate of 1 USD = 3.058 MYR.

Source(s): DAINAP; NADA & RMP 2010; RMP 2011b; NADA & RMP 2012

Heroin seizures showed a significant increase in 2011 compared with the previous year, with roughly 756 kg seized in 2011, the highest total reported during the past five years.

Drug prices – The prices for most illicit drugs in Malaysia have shown a slight upward trend in recent years. The street retail price data for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine are unavailable. However, the average wholesale price for one kg of crystalline methamphetamine reached USD 81,750 in 2011, which is about double the price in 2007. The price for one ecstasy pill remained unchanged, at USD 16.

Sources of illicit drugs

A large number of illicit ATS manufacturing facilities have been seized in Malaysia during the past several years. In 2011, a total of 17 clandestine synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were seized, including three methamphetamine manufacturing facilities and three ecstasy facilities.⁶ Also seized in 2011 were one ketamine laboratory and one illicit nimetazepam⁷ (Erimin 5) producing facility. In January 2012, about 282 kg of nimetazepam (in tablet and powder form) were seized from an illicit manufacturing facility in Selangor. Quantities of methamphetamine, ecstasy and ephedrine were also seized. A total of 28 people, including three Nepalese nationals were arrested in connection with the case (NADA & RMP 2012).

Some of the crystalline methamphetamine seized in Malaysia is manufactured domestically. Some quantities of methamphetamine are also smuggled into the country from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Most of the methamphetamine pills and some of the crystalline methamphetamine found in Malaysia originates from Myanmar. The ecstasy manufactured in Malaysia tends to be of low purity. Some quantities of ecstasy are smuggled into Malaysia from Europe, in particular the Netherlands (RMP 2010a; DNR 2012). A large portion of the ATS precursor chemicals seized in Malaysia is smuggled into the country from China (RMP 2010b; RMP 2011b).

Most of the heroin found in Malaysia originates from

⁶ In addition, nine facilities related to the processing of low purity heroin were also seized in 2011.

⁷ Nimetazepam is a benzodiazepine derivative, controlled in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, often marketed under the brand name Erimin.

Myanmar, Lao PDR and West Asia, although some quantities of low-purity heroin are also processed domestically (RMP 2010a; UNODC 2011b).

Trafficking – In addition to the large amounts of ATS manufactured domestically in Malaysia, substantial quantities of ATS are also smuggled into Malaysia from a number of countries. This is due to its large and growing ATS market as well as its advantageous location near other major ATS markets in the region. Some quantities of methamphetamine are trafficked into Malaysia from Thailand, primarily by Malaysian and Thai drug couriers on commercial flights and by vehicle and foot traffic overland. Some quantities of methamphetamine were also smuggled into Malaysia from South Africa in 2011.

Transnational organized criminal groups from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic significant quantities of methamphetamine and heroin into and through Malaysia, primarily via air passengers, although some quantities are also trafficked to Malaysia in air cargo. In 2012, one Iranian national was arrested for manufacturing methamphetamine in Kuala Lumpur (NADA and RMP 2012). Whereas the number of nationals from the Islamic Republic of Iran arrested for drug-related offences in Malaysia decreased by about 60%, from 182 in 2010 to 115 in 2011, the number of Nigerian nationals arrested for violating drug laws increased by about 250%, from 50 Nigerians arrested in 2010 to 174 Nigerians arrested in 2011 (NADA & RMP 2012).

Nigerian drug trafficking groups are also involved in the smuggling of cannabis from Thailand into Malaysia. The primary mode of trafficking is by bus overland from Bangkok and onward primarily to Penang and Kuala Lumpur (RMP 2012a).

Transnational drug trafficking organizations continue to recruit Malaysian women as drug couriers on commercial air flights. Twenty Malaysian women were arrested for smuggling drugs to foreign countries in 2011, mostly in China. Most were working in association with Nigerian drug trafficking networks in Malaysia (RMP 2012a).

Forensic data

The average purities of methamphetamine samples analysed in 2011 – 94,000 samples of less than 50

grams and 6,300 samples of more than 50 grams – was 70% methamphetamine. A large portion of the pills sold as ‘methamphetamine pills’ showed an average weight of 80 mg and contained unspecified quantities of methamphetamine as well as MDMA.

Heroin samples analysed in 2011 showed average purities of 10% heroin.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Myanmar remains a major source of methamphetamine pills and opiates in South-East Asia, most of which are manufactured in Shan State in the eastern part of the country.
- For the first time, a crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facility was seized in 2012.
- Large amounts of methamphetamine in pill and crystalline form originating from Myanmar continue to be seized in neighbouring countries.
- Precursor chemicals are trafficked from neighbouring countries to methamphetamine manufacturing centres located near Myanmar's eastern border, where Government control remains limited.
- Preliminary data for 2012 suggests that seizures of illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals have increased significantly.
- Opium poppy cultivation has increased in Myanmar for six consecutive years.

Overview of the drug situation

For the past decade and a half or so, Myanmar has been one of the key sources of methamphetamine for a number of illicit drug markets in the region. Most methamphetamine manufacture in Myanmar takes place in the mountainous and remote terrain of eastern Shan State, a region affected by drug trafficking, and political instability for much of the past six decades. There are also indications of methamphetamine manufacture and trafficking in Kayin and Kayah States, adjacent to Thailand's western border.

Since the mid-1990s,¹ billions of methamphetamine pills manufactured in Myanmar have been used by drug users in the Greater Mekong Subregion, particularly in China and Thailand. Significant quantities of crystalline methamphetamine are also being manufactured in Myanmar to supply markets in the Greater Mekong Subregion (Cambodia, China,

Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) and some quantities being trafficked beyond. Whereas the use of methamphetamine pills has increased continually in Myanmar during the past decade, no use of crystalline methamphetamine in the country has been reported so far. Heroin and opium remain the primary drugs of use in Myanmar, but the use of these drugs has shown a decline in recent years.

Opium poppy cultivation is at far lower levels than in the mid-1990s but has increased in each of the past six years. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar in 2012 was estimated at 51,000 ha, a 17% increase from the 43,600 ha under cultivation in 2011. In 2012, potential opium production increased by 13% to 690 mt. During the year, an estimated 300,000 households were involved in opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar (UNODC 2012b).

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Heroin and opium remain the primary drugs of use in Myanmar but the use of these drugs has

¹ Myanmar reported its first seizure of methamphetamine pills in 1996 and its first seizure of crystalline methamphetamine in 2001 (CCDAC 2012d).

Table 56. Rank of use of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
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 57. Trend in use of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Heroin	↔	↓	↓	↓	↔
Opium	●	↓	↓	↓	↔
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Cannabis	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔

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

shown a declining trend during the past seven years (CCDAC 2012a). Of the 1,550 registered drug users in Myanmar in 2011, the majority (83%) identified themselves as heroin users (1,282 persons) and opium users (13% or 204 persons)² (CCDAC 2012a). Methamphetamine use is indicated to have increased each year in Myanmar since 2005 albeit from a low level. In 2011, less than 4% of all registered drug users identified themselves as methamphetamine users (57 persons).

Beginning in 2011, the Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) conducted a study³ of 698 methamphetamine users who came into contact with drug treatment services in Myanmar in 2011.⁴ The study showed that 58% of users reported occasional methamphetamine use with 42% reporting regular use. Most methamphetamine users are poly-drug users (69%) and 30% said they use methamphetamine only. Smoking⁵ was found to be the most common mode of administration (96.8%) for methamphetamine pills. Some 0.6% of methamphetamine users said they inject the drug (CCDAC 2012b). Most methamphetamine users are

between the ages of 25-34 years. A large portion of all methamphetamine users responded that they have used methamphetamine for a duration of 1-4 years (CCDAC 2012b).

Whereas in previous years, ATS use was found to be similar in poppy-growing and non-poppy-growing villages, in 2012 a statistically significant⁶ higher use rate was reported in poppy-growing villages (0.6%) than in non-poppy-growing villages (around 0.2%). Prevalence of recent (within the last month) use of opium and heroin in poppy-growing villages in the Shan and Kachin states in 2012 was estimated at 1.8% and 0.2% respectively. In non-poppy growing villages, the prevalence was 0.2% for both drugs (UNODC 2012b).

Injecting drug use

The injecting use of methamphetamine in Myanmar was reported for the time in 2011, although most methamphetamine users continue to smoke the drug (CCDAC 2012b). Injection is also the primary route of administration for heroin. Overall, the number of injecting drug users (IDUs) in Myanmar was estimated at 75,000 (range: 60,000-90,000) in 2007, the latest year for which estimates are available (SACP 2011). In 2011, HIV prevalence in the adult population (aged 15 and above) in Myanmar was estimated at 0.53% (NAP Myanmar 2012). Surveillance data for most-

² In addition, five persons were cannabis users and two persons were users of 'other' drugs.

³ The study was conducted jointly by the CCDAC, Myanmar Ministry of Health, the UNODC Global SMART Programme and local NGOs.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Significant at the 0.01 level.

at-risk populations in 2011 showed HIV prevalence in the sentinel groups was highest in male injecting drug users, at 21.9%, followed by 9.6% in female sex workers and 7.8% in men who have sex with men. Prevalence has shown a considerable decrease among all sentinel groups during the past few years, however HIV transmission among IDUs through the sharing of contaminated injecting equipment remains comparatively high (NAP Myanmar 2012).

Harm reduction services are reaching an increasing, albeit still limited, number of injecting drug users in Myanmar. In 2010, some 13,368 people who inject drugs registered in drop-in centres during the year (a 40% increase from 2009), of which about 4% were female (NAP Myanmar 2012).

Drug treatment

Most drug treatment admissions in Myanmar continue to be related to heroin and opium use. In recent years, however, there have been an increasing number of admissions to the Yangon Mental Health Hospital for psychiatric problems related to ATS use (INCB 2012a). Most ATS users do not voluntarily seek treatment, and there are no evidence-based treatment facilities specifically focusing on ATS dependency in the country. However, compulsory drug treatment

is required for persons arrested for drug possession in Myanmar, which means that a drug user must be registered and admitted to one of the 69 drug treatment centres (DTCs) operated by the Ministry of Health throughout the country. The Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association operates nine drop-in-centres (DICs) and there are an additional 16 DICs operated by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. Most of the DICs are located in Shan State (CCDAC 2012b). In addition, the Social Welfare Department operates eight rehabilitation centres for former drug users located in Yangon, Mandalay, Phekon, Namlat, Kyaing Tong, Lashio, Myitkyina and Wet Hti Khan (CCDAC 2011).

As of 2012, the Ministry of Health operates 18 methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) centres in Myanmar, at which more than 2,500 opiate users have received opioid substitution treatment (CCDAC 2012d).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – Of the 3,691 total drug-related arrests in Myanmar in 2011, 1,249 arrests involved methamphetamine pills. This figure represents about one-third of all drug-related arrests during the year and an increase of 24% over the number of persons arrested for methamphetamine pills in 2010. The

Table 58. Drug-related arrests in Myanmar, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	740	933	1,307	1,008	1,249
Crystalline methamphetamine	0	9	6	0	18
Methamphetamine powder	5	1	4	0	2
Ecstasy	8	6	0	0	0
Cannabis herb	217	240	490	146	275
Heroin	1,084	1,040	1,067	981	1,008
Opium (raw & prepared)	675	760	1,107	708	566
Opium (low grade)	252	250	439	●	355
Opium (brown opium / heroin No. 3)	4	9	●	●	4
Kratom ⁷	89	120	323	●	211
Not identified/other drugs	●	●	●	622*	3
Total	3,074	3,368	4,743	3,465	3,691

● = Not reported. *Includes arrests related to precursor chemicals. Precursors are categorized as drugs under the Myanmar Narcotics Control Law. Source(s): DAINAP

⁷ A plant indigenous to South-East 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 several Asian and European countries.

number of women arrested for offences related to methamphetamine pills in 2011 (202) accounted for about 16% of all arrests related to the drug, compared with 27% in 2010. During the past five years, methamphetamine pills have accounted for about 29% of all drug-related arrests in Myanmar. The number of arrests related to other ATS in Myanmar remains low, with 18 persons arrested for crystalline methamphetamine (in 11 separate cases) and two persons arrested for methamphetamine powder in 2011. No persons have been arrested for ecstasy in Myanmar since 2008. Women accounted for about 17% of all drug-related arrests in 2011.

The number of arrests related to heroin has remained stable during the past five years. In 2011, heroin accounted for about 27% of all drug-related arrests. One fourth of all drug-related arrests in 2011 were related to all forms of opium (raw and prepared, low grade, and brown opium).

Drug seizures – In 2011, approximately 5.9 million methamphetamine pills were seized in Myanmar, nearly three times higher than the previous year and the second highest total reported during the past five years. However, methamphetamine pill seizure figures reported from Myanmar do not reflect the full extent of manufacture, as most methamphetamine pills are trafficked short distances across the border to neighbouring countries.

Most of the crystalline methamphetamine seized in Myanmar has reportedly been destined for

international markets rather than for local use (UNODC 2010). The largest amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized in Myanmar was in 2001 when 518 kg were seized (UNODC 2010). In July 2012, Myanmar recorded its largest ever crystalline methamphetamine seizure when 73 kg were seized along with 274 kg of liquid methamphetamine and various equipment used in methamphetamine manufacture from a clandestine laboratory in the Kokang Special Region in eastern Shan State (CCDAC 2012c).

Whereas the amount of heroin seized in Myanmar in 2011 (42 kg) is less than half of the amount seized during the previous year (89 kg), the 148 kg of heroin seized during the first nine months of 2012 represent the second highest seizure total during the past six years. Seizures of opium (high-grade) showed a slight (10%) decline in 2011 compared with the previous year but were indicated to have increased significantly in the first nine months of 2012, to 1,342 kg (CCDAC 2012d).

The quantity of precursor chemicals seized in Myanmar increased in 2011 but remain considerably lower than the quantities seized in previous years. In 2011, total seizures of ephedrine more than tripled, to 110 kg compared with 34 kg seized in 2010, which is the lowest total reported in the past decade. Pseudoephedrine seizures (primarily pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine) more than doubled, from 766 kg in 2010 to approximately 1.7 mt in 2011. Preliminary data indicate a further significant increase in 2012, with 313 kg of ephedrine

Table 59. Seizures of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	pills	1,666,141	1,102,199	23,899,156	2,192,263	5,894,188
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	3.4	15.9	124.3	226.1	33.4
Methamphetamine powder*	kg	470.8	3.9	339.0	0	20.2
Ecstasy	pills	2,690	108	5	0	0
Heroin	kg	68.4	88.2	1,076.1	88.5	42.4
Morphine	kg	1,121.0	206.1	325.7	98.2	36.9
Opium, high grade	kg	1,173.8	1,463.4	752.0	922.0	828.3
Opium, low grade	kg	10,972.0	2,453.0	465.0	148.0	281.6
Opium oil	kg	56.3	80.1	27.5	35.5	60.0
Cannabis**	kg	104.3	170.2	284.6	205.6	196.4
Kratom	kg	407.0	308.5	597.5***	375.0	969.5
Ketamine	kg	●	●	14.9	●	1.4

● = Not reported. *Intermediary form to process into methamphetamine pills. **Combined herb and resin. ***Plus two litres of liquid speciosa. Source(s): DAINAP; CCDAC 2012a

Table 60. Precursor chemical seizures in Myanmar, 2007-2011

Precursor type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Acetic anhydride	lt.	595.0	1,142.0	699.0	14.0	●
Ephedrine	kg	530.0	751.0	1,646.0	33.6	110.0
Pseudoephedrine	kg	●	7.8	3,272.0	766.2	1,660.0

● = Not specified

Source(s): DAINAP; CCDAC 2012a

Table 61. Retail prices of selected drugs in Myanmar (USD), 2010 and 2011

Drug type	Measurement	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	per pill	3 – 6	3 – 7
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
Heroin	per kg	75,000 – 90,000	95,000
Opium	per kg	2,000 – 2,500	2,350

Source(s): DAINAP; CCDAC 2011; CCDAC 2012a; CCDAC 2012d

and almost 3.5 mt of pseudoephedrine seized during the first nine months of the year (CCDAC 2012c).

Seizures of kratom reached approximately 970 kg in 2011, the highest total reported in Myanmar during the past five years.

Drug prices – Street retail prices of methamphetamine are generally much lower in Shan State than in cities such as Yangon and Mandalay which are located further away from methamphetamine manufacturing centres. In 2011, the retail price of one methamphetamine pill in Yangon and other urban areas was approximately USD 6-7, while prices were lowest in North Shan (USD 2.2) and East Shan (USD 3.4) (CCDAC 2012a). Prices for other drugs remain largely unchanged from the previous year.

Sources of illicit drugs

In Myanmar, eastern Shan State continues to be a key source of methamphetamine being trafficked in the region. Most illicit methamphetamine manufacture in Shan State takes place in small, mobile facilities located in border areas near China and Thailand, primarily in territories controlled by active or former ethnic insurgent groups, many of which now operate as criminal syndicates rather than politically motivated insurgents (INCSR Myanmar 2010). However, most of the inputs required for illicit methamphetamine manufacture – chemicals, equipment, chemists and in-

vestment – are sourced from neighbouring countries. In July 2012, Myanmar officially reported its first ever seizure of a clandestine crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing laboratory, in the Kokang Special Region of eastern Shan State (CCDAC 2012c). In addition, in 2011, authorities in Myanmar seized a small number of pill pressing machines and related equipment used to make methamphetamine pills from two separate clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing facilities (CCDAC 2012a).

In 2011, the estimated 610 mt of opium produced in Myanmar accounted for about 9% of total global production (UNODC 2012b). During the 2006-2010 period, a total of 24 illicit heroin facilities were seized in Myanmar (CCDAC 2011).

As Myanmar does not produce ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, the main precursor chemicals required for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, these chemicals are trafficked into the country from India and China. While most precursor chemical seizures are made in the central part of Myanmar, along routes which run from the northwestern border with India (CCDAC 2012a), precursors are also often smuggled in the form of pharmaceutical preparations containing these substances from the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam, transiting Thailand and Lao PDR (RTP 2011).

Trafficking – Methamphetamine in pill and crystalline forms – as well as heroin – manufactured in the

Shan State is trafficked overland and via the Mekong River, primarily to illicit drug markets in China, Thailand and, to a lesser but possibly increasing extent, Bangladesh (UNODC 2010). Methamphetamine is also smuggled from Myanmar into Yunnan province in southwestern China (NNCC 2012b). Some methamphetamine is also trafficked within Myanmar to supply the domestic drug market (UNODC 2010).

Significant amounts of methamphetamine manufactured in Myanmar are trafficked through Lao PDR to Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam (UNODC 2011b). There is also some maritime trafficking of methamphetamine from ports in southern Myanmar into southern Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia as well as to markets beyond the region (RMP 2011c). Some methamphetamine originating from Myanmar is trafficked to Bangkok for further trafficking to, *inter alia*, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore (ONCB 2012a; CCDAC 2012a).

A large portion of the ephedrine smuggled from India is smuggled directly to Myanmar through Chin State, in the western part of the country (CCDAC 2012a).

Forensic data

In 2011, the Chemical Examiner's Office in Myanmar conducted qualitative analysis only on 189 large (greater than 5 grams) and 150 small (less than 3 grams) methamphetamine samples, which contained unspecified amounts of methamphetamine. Myanmar lacks the technical capacity to conduct quantitative analyses. In previous years, methamphetamine pills found in Myanmar were typically composed of 25% methamphetamine and 75% caffeine and other substances.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Transnational and domestic organized criminal groups will increasingly attempt to smuggle methamphetamine into New Zealand, particularly following the disruption of domestic manufacture.
- The diversion of precursor chemicals, both from the domestic chemical industry and illegal imports, in particular from China, is likely to continue. There are indications that a wider range of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products may be smuggled into the country using a variety of new sources and smuggling methods.
- There are indications that alternative methods of methamphetamine manufacture such as P-2-P will be increasingly used, and it is likely that alternative precursors will be increasingly sourced.
- The availability of a growing range of new psychoactive substances not under international control and used in 'ecstasy' to substitute MDMA will likely increase, in response to the declining availability of MDMA.

Overview of the drug situation

New Zealand continues to experience high levels of methamphetamine use, primarily of methamphetamine in powder form. Methamphetamine is manufactured domestically in clandestine laboratories, mostly from imported pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. In addition, there are indications that increasing amounts of methamphetamine (finished product) are being trafficked into New Zealand, which may be in response to increased law enforcement pressure on precursor imports and clandestine laboratories. It may also be a result of international criminal groups targeting New Zealand given that the price for methamphetamine is comparably high in the country. The Government of New Zealand has identified the reduction of the availability and use of methamphetamine as the highest priority in relation to illicit drugs.

The New Zealand Government has implemented stronger controls over methamphetamine precursors. In September 2011, a law which ended the availability of over-the-counter pseudoephedrine from phar-

macies came into effect. The Government has also established a Precursor Working Group to investigate stronger controls on substances used in the manufacture of methamphetamine (PAG 2012).

Cannabis remains the most commonly used illicit drug in New Zealand and its domestic cultivation remains widespread. In addition, an increasing range of synthetic cannabinoid products have become available. In August 2011, the New Zealand Government placed a temporary ban on the substances (NZG 2011).

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Methamphetamine use has shown a decline in recent years. According to the preliminary data from the latest triennial drug use prevalence survey,¹ published by the Ministry of Health in 2012, the percentage of the New Zealand population aged

¹ Based on the New Zealand Health Survey Preliminary findings May-Dec 2011. Confirmed full-year 2011 data will be available by the end of 2012 (PAG 2012).

Table 62. Rank of use of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cannabis herb	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	2	2	●	2	2
Methamphetamine	3	3	●	3	2
BZP	4	5	●	●	2
Opioids (Heroin, morphine and opiates)	5	4	●	4	3
Hallucinogens	●	●	●	5	4
Cocaine	●	●	●	6	5

● = Not reported

Source(s): ARQ 2012 and previous years

Table 63. Trend in use of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cannabis herb	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
Ecstasy	↑	↑	↔	↑	●
Methamphetamine	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑
BZP	↔	↓	●	●	●
Opioids (Heroin, morphine and opiates)	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑

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

Source(s): ARQ 2012 and previous years

16-64 years who used methamphetamine in 2011 was 1.0% (or about 28,000 New Zealanders), compared with 2.1% in 2008. The prevalence of use was highest among drug users aged between 18-24 and 25-34 years (1.8%) (PAG 2012).

The prevalence of past-year ecstasy use in New Zealand among the general population aged 16-64 years has shown a significant increase, from 1.5% in 1998 to 2.6% in 2008, the latest year for which data are available. However, 'ecstasy' pills consumed in New Zealand nowadays rarely contain MDMA. Instead, pills sold as 'ecstasy' often contain stimulants such as 4-MEC,² TFMPP,³ mephedrone⁴ and BZP.⁵ It is believed that the powders are being imported and pressed into tablets in New Zealand.

Cannabis continues to be the most common drug of use in New Zealand. Cannabis prevalence and use appears to be on the decline; however, hospital admissions related to cannabis use are indicated to be on the rise.

² 4-MEC refers to 4-methylethcathinone, a synthetic cathinone.

³ TFMPP refers to the piperazine 1-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl).

⁴ Mephedrone, 4-methylmethcathinone, is a synthetic cathinone that mimics the effects of cathinone, one of the psychoactive substances in the khat plant.

⁵ BZP refers to benzylpiperazine.

Prescribing records and seizure data indicate that the use of the prescription opiate oxycodone is increasing. Most opiate use is with diverted medicines, either in tablet form or 'homebake heroin', a street substance which is created from pharmaceutical opiates such as morphine or codeine through a simple chemical process using acetic anhydride (NDIB 2012b).

Injecting drug use

There are an estimated 10,000 to 40,000 people who inject drugs in New Zealand. Approximately 15% of all amphetamine users and 20% of all methamphetamine users inject the drug (ARQ New Zealand 2012). There was some increase in the injecting use of amphetamine and methamphetamine in 2011. The injecting use of heroin (primarily 'homebake') showed some increase while the injecting use of opium showed some decrease and the injecting use of pharmaceutical opioids remained stable during the year. In addition, there was some increase in the injecting use of powder cocaine.

HIV transmission through the injecting use of drugs is low in New Zealand. From 1985 through 2011, a total of 68 male injecting drug users were identified to

be infected with HIV, accounting for about 1.9% of all male HIV infections reported during the period.

A total of 11 female injecting drug users were found to be infected with HIV during the period, accounting for 0.3% of all female HIV infections. In 2011, a total of 109 persons were newly diagnosed with HIV in New Zealand, of which only one male was infected with HIV through injecting drug use (MOH NZ 2012b).

Drug-related hospital admissions⁶

An estimated 29% of frequent methamphetamine users reported they sought help in 2011 but did not receive it (compared with 24% in 2010) (PAG 2012). The average days per month of amphetamine use before entering drug treatment was 7.4 days. Average days per month of amphetamine use one month after completing treatment was 1.1 days (PAG 2012). Cannabis continues to account for most illicit drug-related hospital admissions. Hospital admissions related to opioids increased in 2010.

The number of persons admitted to public hospitals (excluding emergency department figures) for the use of methamphetamine (as the cause of or a factor in their admission) in 2011 totaled 316 persons during the year. Of the 690 persons admitted to hospital for ATS use in 2009, 310 persons were admitted for methamphetamine use (NDIB 2011b).

Cannabis users account for the largest portion of

persons admitted to public hospitals for drug-related causes. The 2,413 persons admitted to treatment for cannabis use in 2011 represent half of the total number of drug-related admissions in 2011. The 2,043 persons admitted in 2011 for use of heroin, morphine and opiates (including synthetic opioids) accounted for 42% of the total number of drug-related hospital admissions during the year (NDIB 2012c).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2011, a total of 15,190 persons were arrested in New Zealand on drug-related charges, of which 9,451 were arrested for personal drug offences⁷ and 5,739 were arrested for drug trafficking offences.⁸ ATS-related arrests accounted for about 11% of personal drug offences and 16% of all drug trafficking offences in 2011. (ATS-related offences accounted for nearly 13% of all drug-related arrests in 2011, unchanged from the previous year.) Arrest data for 2011 is not disaggregated by different ATS types.

Cannabis accounted for about 81% of all drug-related arrests in New Zealand (86% of all personal drug offences and 72% of all drug trafficking offences).

Drug seizures – In 2011, some 53 kg of methamphetamine were seized in New Zealand, a 72% increase over the previous year and the highest total reported since 2007 (NDIB 2012c). Increasing amounts of finished methamphetamine have been smuggled into New Zealand in each of the past two

Table 64. Drug-related hospital admissions in New Zealand, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
ATS	739	610	690	306*	316*
Heroin, morphine and opiates	1,938	1,976	2,083	2,301	2,043
Cannabis	2,185	2,001	2,185	2,625	2,413
Cocaine	15	16	21	13	22
Hallucinogens	59	38	59	72	71
Total	4,936	4,641	5,038	5,317	4,865

● = Not reported. Note: 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. *The figure refers to the number of persons admitted to treatment for methamphetamine use; New Zealand did not report total ATS treatment admissions for 2010 and 2011.

Source(s): PAG 2010; NDIB 2011b; NDIB 2012c

⁶ Drug treatment data for New Zealand refers to drug-related hospital admissions. Specific drug treatment figures are not available.

⁷ Personal drug offences are drug offences related to the use or the possession of drugs for personal consumption.

⁸ Drug trafficking refers to drug offences committed not in connection with the use or possession of drugs for personal consumption.

Table 65. Drug-related arrests for personal drug offences and trafficking in New Zealand, 2011

Drug type	Personal drug offences			Trafficking		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ATS	764	255	1,020	728	202	930
Cannabis	6,670	1,414	8,085	3,438	717	4,157
Cocaine	9	1	10	18	6	24
Hallucinogens	38	14	52	88	1	89
Opioids	51	20	71	40	6	46
BZP	0	0	0	1	2	3
Synthetic cannabinoids	0	0	0	7	1	8
Others	173	40	213	376	106	482
Total	7,705	1,744	9,451	4,696	1,041	5,739

Source(s): NDIB 2011b

years. In 2011, there were 23 border seizures totaling 27 kg compared with 21 border seizures totaling 19.4 kg during the previous year. This increase is likely due to expanding activity by transnational drug trafficking groups targeting New Zealand (NDIB 2012b).

Whereas the amount of ecstasy seized in New Zealand nearly tripled in 2011, the amount of ecstasy seized at New Zealand's borders in 2011 showed a large decrease compared with the previous year (ARQ New Zealand 2012). The overall increase in the number of 'ecstasy' pills seized in 2011 is likely due to the growth of domestic supply.

In 2011, a total of 109 clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories were dismantled, of which three facilities were also producing MDMA, GBL and explosives. Most of the seized facilities were located

on private premises on the Upper North Island. Some were mobile laboratories and some were located in industrial facilities (ARQ New Zealand 2012). Clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the previous few years totaled 130 in 2010, 135 in 2009 and 133 in 2008, far lower than the number of labs seized earlier in the decade. Most of the clandestine laboratories found in New Zealand in 2011 were manufacturing methamphetamine or were pseudoephedrine extraction operations. In November 2011, New Zealand Police dismantled a large clandestine manufacturing facility which was likely to have been supplying significant quantities of illicit drugs in New Zealand and was possibly established to meet the increasing demand for ecstasy pills.

Nearly all illicitly manufactured methamphetamine in New Zealand is made using ephedrine and pseudo-

Table 66. Seizures of selected drugs in New Zealand, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine	kg	39.3	24.0	20.8	30.9	53.0
Amphetamine	kg	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.3	2.7
Ecstasy	pills	3,123	25,806	15,063	46,234	128,897
Cannabis plants	plants	43,823	158,058	182,606	162,540	38,062
Cannabis herb*	kg	522.0	916.0	840.0	718.5	546.0
LSD	no. of doses	1,031	2,672	53,226**	836	597
GBL / GHB	lt.	5.1	853.0	99.3	120.1	105.0
Heroin	grams / ml.	4.1 / 0	25.0 / 42.0	0.8 / 39.0	17.0 / 1.5	2.7 / 17.0
Cocaine	kg	0.02	0.8	3.0	9.9	4.1

● = Not reported. *Does not include cannabis oil, cannabis resin or cannabis seeds. ** The 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): NDIB 2009; NDIB 2010; NDIB 2011a; NDIB 2012b; NDIB 2012c; ARQ 2011; ARQ 2012

Table 67. Border seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, 2007-2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Amount seized (pills) – converted to equivalent of 90 mg pills	1,766,200	3,336,978	5,392,886	4,383,594	2,789,964
Equivalent in kilos of precursors	393	744	1,203	978	622
Number of seizures	454	831	923	788	686
Potential methamphetamine yield (kg)*	79 – 111	150 – 210	243 – 340	197 – 276	126 – 176

*Methamphetamine yield is calculated on 50-70% purity.

Source(s): PAG 2012; information obtained from the New Zealand Customs Service CusMod database.

ephedrine as precursors. Border seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine have been on the decline since they peaked in 2009. In 2011, the quantity of precursor chemicals seized by Customs was about 36% lower than the quantity seized during the previous year. In 2011, about 2.8 million pill equivalents of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine were seized in 686 incidents. This compares with almost 4.4 million pill equivalents seized in 978 incidents in 2010 (PAG 2012). Since September 2011, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine have been available in New Zealand as prescription medicines. Domestic diversion of other precursor chemicals, essential chemicals, and solvents continues to be a concern for Police (NDIB 2012b).

Drug prices – Methamphetamine prices in New Zealand increased in 2011, largely due to successful supply control efforts. The typical price for one gram of methamphetamine powder in 2011 was USD 554 compared with USD 504 in the previous year. The price of methamphetamine has remained relatively stable. However, the prices of methamphetamine and other drugs depend greatly on the region of sale (PAG 2012). The declining trend in the retail prices of ecstasy is likely due to the declining 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 the methamphetamine found in New Zealand is manufactured domestically but significant quantities are also trafficked into the country. Increasing amounts of methamphetamine finished product have been smuggled into New Zealand in each of the past two years, primarily by air passenger couriers as well as by air cargo, fast freight and mail, and often by transnational criminal groups (PAG 2012).

New Zealand retailers are working in cooperation with the New Zealand Police to limit sales of toluene, a substance commonly used in the pseudoephedrine extraction process. In addition, New Zealand authorities have identified the use of ephedra and ephedrine-containing *sida cordifolia* plants and plant extracts in a small number of methamphetamine laboratories since 2005. Between 2005 and 2009, there were three confirmed incidents involving ephedra and *sida cordifolia*; two of those incidents took place at illicit laboratories. In 2010, three additional incidents were confirmed by authorities, and there were three other suspected incidents, all of which involved illicit laboratories. The trend continued into the first half of 2011, during which Customs made two seizures totaling 30 kg of *ephedra* and *sida cordifolia*, with an additional kilogram seized at an illicit laboratory (INCB 2012b).

Table 68. Typical street retail drug prices (USD) in New Zealand, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine powder	per gram	420	700	700	504	554
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	490	560	●	576	●
Ecstasy	per pill	42	42	●	29	28
Cannabis herb	per 1.5 g	14	14	●	22	24
Heroin (homebake)	per ml.	0.7	0.7	●	●	●
Cocaine	per gram	245	280	●	180	316

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

Source(s): Wilkins 2009; PAG 2010; ARQ 2012 and previous years.

Trafficking – In 2011, there were no significant changes in the methods of transportation or the origin, routes or final destinations of drugs trafficked into New Zealand. The primary embarkation locations for methamphetamine trafficked into New Zealand (by quantity) in 2011 were Hong Kong, China (27.5%), Malaysia (23.5%) and Thailand (19.6%). Amphetamine seized in New Zealand in 2011 came primarily from the United States (57.7%), China (15.4%) and Australia (7.7%). Malaysia was the main country of embarkation for ecstasy trafficked into New Zealand in 2011, accounting for 23.5% of all ecstasy trafficked into New Zealand, followed by Thailand (11.1%) and Canada (11.1%) (ARQ New Zealand 2012).

In 2011, there was a large increase in the amount of methamphetamine seized at New Zealand's borders. About half of all the methamphetamine seized at the New Zealand border in 2011 was seized in parcel post (50.3%) with the other half seized from air passenger couriers (49.7%). Of the total amount of amphetamine seized at the border in 2011, some 95% was seized in parcel post with the remaining 5% seized in the air stream. Nearly all ecstasy seized at the border in 2011 (99.5%) was seized in the parcel post stream (ARQ New Zealand 2012).

Most of the pseudoephedrine used in clandestine methamphetamine manufacture in New Zealand is diverted from international trade. The Government of New Zealand has identified the importation of pseudoephedrine, primarily in the form of Contac^{NT}® from China, as a significant concern (NDIB 2012a). In 2011, the main embarkation locations for precursor chemicals trafficked into New Zealand continued to be mainland China (73.9%) and Hong Kong, China (13.6%), while smaller quantities were smuggled from Viet Nam (2.7%). China also remained the primary embarkation country for ephedrine smuggled into New Zealand (25.8%), followed by Thailand (25.0%) and Viet Nam (17.7%) (ARQ New Zealand 2012). In addition, smaller amounts of precursors are smuggled into New Zealand from a number of other countries in South-East Asia, North America and Europe (PAG 2012). As with most illicit drugs smuggled into New Zealand, most of the ephedrine and pseudoephedrine is smuggled into the country by air and parcel post, although large quantities are also trafficked by sea, but this does not appear to be the case with illicit drugs (ARQ New Zealand 2012).

A large portion of the pseudoephedrine and metham-

phetamine trafficked into New Zealand is trafficked into the country by organized criminal groups based in Asia. There are also indications to suggest that South-East Asian criminal groups are involved in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in New Zealand. In addition, Iranian organized criminal groups have re-emerged and are involved in the trafficking of methamphetamine into New Zealand. Criminal organizations based in Africa, in particular in Nigeria, are involved in cocaine trafficking but since 2010 have also been identified as smuggling methamphetamine into New Zealand (ARQ New Zealand 2012; NDIB 2012a). Criminal groups based in the Pacific region may also be involved in trafficking illicit drugs and their precursors into New Zealand. Domestic criminal groups are heavily involved in the manufacture and distribution of many illicit drugs in New Zealand, particularly methamphetamine and cannabis (ARQ New Zealand 2012).

The Government of New Zealand reported that the amount of cannabis seized at the border in 2011 showed a large decrease. However, there was a large increase in the quantity of cocaine seized at the border, nearly all of which was seized in parcel post and 25% of which was trafficked through Canada (ARQ New Zealand 2012).

Forensic data

The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) reported that methamphetamine samples tested in 2011 showed purities ranging from trace amounts (less than 1%) to 80%. Of the 100 samples tested during the year, 73 showed purities of 70% or higher (PAG 2012). The median methamphetamine purity across all samples was 75% (PAG 2012). Purity remains high at the wholesale (a gram or more) level; purity at 'street level' (e.g. a point) has not been assessed by ESR (PAG 2012).

The New Zealand Government undertook a drug signature programme for methamphetamine for the first time in 2011 (ARQ New Zealand 2012). Some of the diluents and cutting agents found in methamphetamine in 2011 include methylsulfonylmethane, ethyl maltol, creatine and glucose. Pills sold as 'ecstasy' frequently include new psychoactive substances such as methedrone, 4-MEC, BZP and TFMPP.



Emerging trends and concerns

- Crystalline methamphetamine remains the primary drug threat in the Philippines, and it continues to account for most drug-related arrests and drug treatment admissions.
- There are indications that crystalline methamphetamine use is increasing among women.
- Increasing amounts of methamphetamine are being smuggled into the Philippines. In 2012, a number of African drug courier air passengers were arrested for attempting to smuggle multi-kilo consignments of methamphetamine into the country. This may be an indication of increased activity by transnational organized drug trafficking networks in the Philippines.

Overview of the drug situation

Crystalline methamphetamine remains the primary drug of concern in the Philippines, followed by cannabis. The domestic manufacture of methamphetamine appears to be on the decline. However, it appears that increasing quantities of methamphetamine are being smuggled into the Philippines by international drug trafficking organizations. Ecstasy use remains limited; however, the use of tablets sold as ecstasy but which contain BZP instead of MDMA is an emerging concern in the Philippines (PDEA 2010c). A large number of young drug users, in particular street children, continue to use solvents and other inhalants (PDEA 2012a).

Patterns and trends of drug use¹

Drug use – Crystalline methamphetamine (known locally as *shabu*) remains the most commonly used drug in the Philippines and use of the drug is said to have increased in 2011, according to government expert perceptions. Snorting is the primary mode of

administration for crystalline methamphetamine. The use of methamphetamine pills in the Philippines has not been reported.

Most drug users in the Philippines are poly-drug users. Almost 32% of all drug users are aged 20 to 29 years old. More than half (53%) are single, and about 34% are unemployed. The ratio of male to female drug users in the Philippines is estimated at 11 to 1 (DDB & PDEA 2012).

Injecting drug use

HIV transmission among injecting drug users was first detected in the Philippines, in the island of Cebu, in 2010 (PNAC 2012). An estimated 14% of all injecting drug users in the Philippines are living with HIV.² Of the 63 female injecting drug users interviewed in 2011, 17 were living with HIV (27%); of the 1,220 male injecting drug users interviewed during the year, 157 were living with HIV (nearly 13%).

¹ Drug use data in the Philippines is based on drug-related arrests during the year.

² Estimates are based on the Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) – which is conducted among key affected populations every two years – and the Philippine HIV and AIDS Registry (PNAC 2012).

Table 69. Rank of use of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	●	●	1	1
Benzodiazepines	●	●	●	4	4
Cannabis herb	●	●	●	2	2
Inhalants	●	●	●	3	3

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 70. Trend in use of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	●	●	↓	↑
Benzodiazepines	●	●	●	↓	↓
Cannabis herb	●	●	●	↓	↓
Inhalants	●	●	●	↓	↑

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

Source(s): DAINAP

Drug treatment

In 2011, a total of 3,040 persons³ underwent drug treatment in the Philippines, most of which had used multiple drugs (DDB & PDEA 2012). Two-thirds of the persons in treatment in 2011 were crystalline methamphetamine users, about the same proportion as in each of the previous ten years. The number of persons treated for crystalline methamphetamine use in 2011 (2,192) was 23% higher compared with the previous year (1,777). In addition, the number of female crystalline methamphetamine users in drug treatment continues to increase. Of the 260 women in drug treatment in 2011, 75% (196) were crystalline methamphetamine users, compared with about 62% in 2010. The number of persons in treatment for ecstasy use in 2011 (27) continued to decline and represented less than 1% of all persons admitted to drug treatment during the year.

Cannabis users accounted for the second largest portion of drug users in treatment in 2011, at 27%, followed by inhalants (5%) and cocaine (1%).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2011, a total of 10,636 total drug-related arrests were reported in the Philippines, which is 29% higher than the 8,259 drug-related arrests in 2010. The Philippines does not disaggregate drug arrest data by drug type to DAINAP. However, according to estimates by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), about 77% of the total drug-related arrests in 2011 involved crystalline methamphetamine, only slightly higher than the proportion in the previous two years. Cannabis accounted for 17% of all drug-related arrests in 2011 (DDB & PDEA 2012).

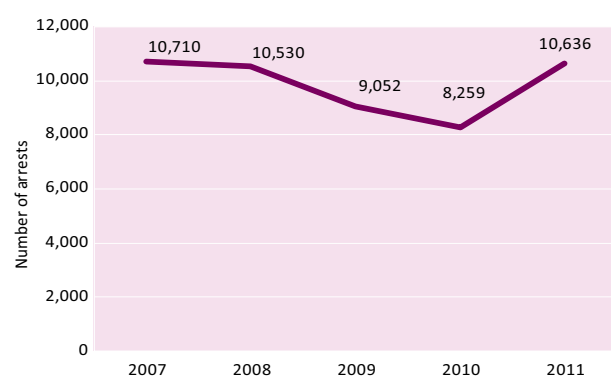
Table 71. Drug treatment admissions in the Philippines by drug type, 2011

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	1,629	183	1,812	1,996	196	2,192
Ecstasy	18	0	18	27	0	27
Ketamine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cannabis	719	48	767	854	49	903
Cocaine	32	5	37	45	5	50
Inhalants	146	10	156	156	10	166

Source(s): DAINAP

³ Due to poly-drug users who received treatment for more than one drug type, the total number of admissions in Table 71 is higher than 3,040.

Figure 27. Drug-related arrests in the Philippines, 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

In the first six months of 2012, 45 foreign nationals arrested for drug-related offences, of which 26 were members of West African drug trafficking organizations.⁴ Most of those were arrested in connection with clandestine crystalline methamphetamine manufacture or the smuggling of multi-kilo consignments of illicit drugs (PDEA 2012c).

Drug seizures – The 254.3 kg of crystalline methamphetamine seized in 2011 is the highest total reported from the Philippines since 2008 and represents a four-fold increase over the amount seized in 2010 (63.6 kg). Crystalline methamphetamine seizures peaked in the Philippines in 2003 and 2004 when 3.1 mt and 3.7 mt were seized respectively (UNODC 2007).

Due to the limited size of the ecstasy market in the Philippines, the quantities of ecstasy pills seized in the country remain small relative to the region. In 2011, a total of 993 ecstasy pills were seized compared with 336 pills seized in the previous year.

Cannabis seizure levels have shown an overall downward trend during the past five years. A total of 596.5 kg of cannabis herb was seized in 2011, representing one of the lowest totals reported during the past decade and less than one tenth of the amount seized in 2006 (6,249 kg).

Drug prices – Crystalline methamphetamine prices have shown a slight downward trend during the past few years, although prices vary widely throughout the country. The street retail price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine in 2011 remained stable compared with the previous year, ranging from about USD 190 to USD 285 (PDEA 2012c). The retail price of one ecstasy pill in 2011 ranged from USD 19 to USD 57 (DDB & PDEA 2012).

Sources of illicit drugs

A large portion of the methamphetamine found in the Philippines is illicitly manufactured in the country itself. In 2011, six laboratories were seized, most of which were smaller ‘home-based’ or ‘kitchen type’

Table 72. Seizures of selected drugs and precursors in the Philippines, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	368.9	853.5	149.3	63.6	254.3
Liquid methamphetamine	lt.	●	72.0	831.5	46.4	173.5
Ecstasy	pills	122	513	2,090	336	993
Benzodiazepine	pills	1,376	3,926	542	5,818	9
Cannabis herb	kg	1,200.0	3,724.0	1,660.0	1,128.0	596.5
Cannabis plants	plant	2,492,878	3,290,974	4,779,271	9,941,977	3,955,546
Cannabis seed	kg	4.6	14.1	31.8	8.2	2.9
Cannabis seedlings	seedlings	57,674	644,441	3,003,275	558,233	1,670,227
Cocaine	kg	0	0	259.3	342.0	17.8
Ephedrine	kg	57.1	53.0	9.1	0.6	0.1
Ketamine	kg	325.0	10.2	9.0	0	0
Pseudoephedrine	lt.	●	●	241.0	●	0.7

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; PDEA 2011; PDEA 2012c

⁴ In addition, 11 Philippine nationals were also arrested in relation to West African drug trafficking activity in 2012 (January – June).

Table 73. Retail prices of selected drugs in the Philippines (USD), 2008-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	262	254	210	190 – 285
Ecstasy	per pill	26	26	34	19 – 57
Cannabis herb	per gram	•	•	•	0.5 – 2.3
Cocaine	per gram	•	•	•	69 – 160

• = Not reported. Prices calculated using the 2011 average exchange rate of 1 Philippine peso = 0.0229 US dollars.

Source(s): PDEA 2010a; DDB & PDEA 2012; PDEA 2012c

facilities (PDEA 2012b). From 2002 to 2010, a total of 72 clandestine methamphetamine facilities were seized. However, the decline in illicit industrial-scale methamphetamine manufacture in the Philippines may account for the seizures in recent years of bulk quantities of high-purity methamphetamine manufactured outside of the Philippines and smuggled into the country, mainly in sea cargo. There are also indications to suggest that transnational organized drug criminal groups are trafficking large amounts of methamphetamine through the Philippines to international markets. Some of the crystalline methamphetamine trafficked into the Philippines continues to originate from China (DDB & PDEA 2011).

Trafficking – Crystalline methamphetamine is smuggled into the Philippines through seaports and airports as well as mail and parcel services. The primary organizers and financiers of methamphetamine trafficking in the Philippines continue to be ethnic Chinese organized criminal groups (INCSR Philippines 2012). Filipino drug couriers continue to be recruited by international drug trafficking syndicates (PDEA 2012a).

In 2012, the emergence of African manufactured methamphetamine being smuggled into the Philippines through the airport for further trafficking to markets in South-East Asia is a concern (INCSR Philippines 2012). In the first few months of 2012, a number of significant crystalline methamphetamine seizures from African couriers were made at the international airport in Manila. These include 5.9 kg of crystalline methamphetamine seized from a Kenyan national in February, 2.7 kg seized from a female Ugandan national in March, 8.0 kg seized from two Ghanaian nationals in March and 2.7 kg seized from a Guinean national in March (DDB & PDEA 2012).

A large portion of the drug trafficking into and out from the Philippines is conducted through commercial parcel post courier services (PDEA 2012a). In

January 2012, authorities working on a controlled delivery operation seized eight packages containing a total amount of approximately 8 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and were sent from Nanjing, China to a Sino-Filipino male in Quezon City (PDEA 2012b; PDEA 2012c).

Chemical precursors and essential chemicals are usually smuggled into the country concealed in container vans containing other legal products shipped into various container ports (PDEA 2012b).

Forensic data

In 2011, average purities of crystalline methamphetamine samples declined to 52% methamphetamine (DDB and PDEA 2012), compared with 71% in 2010, 67% in 2009 and 55% in 2008 (DDB & PDEA 2011).



Emerging trends and concerns

- Crystalline methamphetamine remains the most commonly used drug in the Republic of Korea, accounting for most drug-related arrests and nearly all drug treatment admissions.
- The Republic of Korea is affected by the transiting of drugs and precursor chemicals destined for illicit markets and manufacturing countries in the region.
- New psychoactive substances such as the synthetic cannabinoid JWH-018¹ or the plant-based substance kratom² have been seized in Republic of Korea, suggesting that a market for these substances is developing.

Overview of the drug situation³

Crystalline methamphetamine remains the most widely used illicit drug in the Republic of Korea. Since 2004, methamphetamine has accounted for about 65-80% of all drug-related arrests (SPO 2012b and previous years) and more than 95% of admissions to drug treatment (SPO 2011c; ARQ Republic of Korea 2010 and previous years).

Until the late 1980s, the Republic of Korea was a significant source of methamphetamine and other amphetamine-type stimulants for illicit drug markets in Asia. Since that time, the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine has been rare; the last such manufacture was reported in 2010 when four small-scale 'kitchen-type' methamphetamine manufacturing operations were seized (SPO 2011a). Most of the

methamphetamine found in the Republic of Korea has historically come from China, but in recent years source countries for methamphetamine have diversified. During the past few years, the Republic of Korea has been indicated as a source of ephedrine and pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine that have been trafficked to other countries in the Asia and the Pacific region (UNODC 2011b). The country has also been increasingly targeted by transnational drug trafficking organizations as both a destination and a transit country for drugs in recent years, thus raising the concern that domestic drug use may rise in the next few years.

Cannabis is the second most commonly used drug in the Republic of Korea. Synthetic cannabinoids (JWH-018 and its analogues), first detected in the country in 2008 (SPDO 2012), are still not widely used in the Republic of Korea but have been identified as an emerging threat. In July 2009, the Government placed synthetic cannabinoids under national control (KCS 2012). Heroin and cocaine are not indicated to be commonly used in the country as reflected by drug seizure and arrest data (SPO 2012a).

¹ JWH-018 refers to 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole or AM-678 and is a substance not under international control. It has been identified in various herbal smoking blends and in substances sold as 'plant food'.

² Kratom refers to *mitragyna speciosa*, a plant indigenous to South-East Asia that contains the alkaloid mitragynine.

³ All data and information, unless otherwise specified, was submitted by the narcotics division of the Korean Supreme Prosecutors' Office to UNODC in August 2011. However, Republic of Korea does not routinely submit data through the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP). Hence, terminology may deviate from other country chapters.

Table 74. Rank of use of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	1	1	1	1	1
Cannabis herb	2	2	2	2	2
Ecstasy	●	●	●	3	3
Opium	●	●	●	4	4

● = Not reported
Source(s): SPO 2011c; SPO 2012d

Table 75. Trend in use of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Cannabis herb	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑
Ecstasy	●	●	●	↓	●
Opium	●	●	●	↓	↓

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported
Source(s): SPO 2011c; SPO 2012

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Crystalline methamphetamine, commonly known locally as ‘philopon’ or ‘hiropon’ in the Republic of Korea, remains the most commonly used drug in the country. An estimated 73-75% of all drug users in the Republic of Korea use crystalline methamphetamine (SPO 2012c). The use of methamphetamine pills is limited.

Cannabis is the second most common drug of use in the Republic of Korea. Cannabis users account for roughly 13-18% of all drug users in the country (SPO 2012c).

Injecting drug use

Injecting use of methamphetamine has been reported but no estimates are available of the number of injecting drug users in the Republic of Korea. Injecting drug use

accounted for approximately 0.04% (approximately 213 persons) of the total reported HIV cases in the country in 2007 (5,323 cases), the latest year for which data are available (UNAIDS ADH 2012).

Drug treatment

Complete drug treatment data for the Republic of Korea are unavailable. However, a number of drug users each year are admitted to medical treatment and custody by the judicial system for drug-related offences. In addition, some drug users enter medical treatment and custody voluntarily. In 2011, all of the 81 persons who were admitted to drug treatment in medical centres in the country were treated for ATS use. Of those, 21 persons were referred to treatment by the judicial system. In 2010, a total of 231 persons were admitted to drug treatment, of which 227 persons were admitted for ATS use and 33 persons were referred to treatment by the judicial system (SPO 2012d).

Table 76. Number of persons admitted to drug treatment in the Republic of Korea, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
ATS (psychotropic substances)	395	345	277	227	81
Cannabis	11	20	7	4	0
Narcotics	4	1	0	0	0
Total	410	366	284	231	81

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): SPO 2012d

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2011, a total of 9,174 drug-related arrests were recorded, of which nearly 79% were related to crystalline methamphetamine. In comparison, nearly 70% of the 9,732 drug-related arrests in 2010 were related to methamphetamine. The number of women arrested for ATS-related offences in 2011 totaled 932, representing a 7% increase from the 871 women arrested for ATS in the previous year. The number of women arrested for ATS in 2009 and 2008 were 1,339 and 727 respectively. The total number of drug-related arrests in 2011 declined by 6% compared with the previous year (SPO 2012a).

Of the 9,174 drug-related arrests in 2011, approximately 59% were arrested for drug use, 21% were arrested for drug trafficking, 6% were arrested for cultivation, 5% were arrested for drug possession, 3% were arrested for drug smuggling, and the remainder were arrested on other drug-related charges (SPO 2012a).

The number of foreign nationals arrested for drugs in the Republic of Korea dropped sharply in 2011. During the year (as of November 2011), a total of 244 foreign nationals were arrested for drug-related offences in the Republic of Korea, representing a 71% decline compared with the 858 foreign nationals arrested in all of 2010. Most of the foreign nationals (72%) arrested in 2011 were nationals of China, the United States and Viet Nam (SPO 2012a).

The number of Nigerian nationals arrested for drug-related offences in the Republic of Korea has increased slightly in recent years but remains small relative to other countries in the region. In 2011, a total of 12 Nigerian nationals were arrested for drug-related offences, including one smuggler and nine traffickers, accounting for just 4% of all foreign nationals arrested during the year compared with 8% in 2010 (SPO 2012b).

Drug seizures – Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine nearly doubled in 2011 to 23.5 kg, the highest total reported since 2008. Of the amount seized

Table 77. Drug-related arrests in the Republic of Korea, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
ATS*	8,521	7,457	7,965	6,771	7,226
Cannabis herb	1,170	1,045	1,712	1,837	1,189
Cocaine	4	7	9	0	4
Heroin	0	0	18	11	0
Opium**	954	1,389	2,171	1,113	755
Total	10,649	9,898	11,875	9,732	9,174

*Refers to crystalline methamphetamine, although Republic of Korea did not report disaggregated arrest data by ATS type. **Opium-related arrests in Republic of Korea are primarily related to opium poppy cultivation for traditional use.

Source(s): SPO 2011b; SPO 2011c; SPO 2012a; SPO 2012d

Table 78. Seizures of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	23.7	25.6	15.2	11.9	23.5
Methamphetamine pills	pills	196	151	1	5	5
Ecstasy	pills	18,323	714	894	486	562
Cannabis herb	kg	22.2	92.7	122.5	44.5	83.6
Cannabis resin	kg	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.04	0.1
Cannabis seed	kg	10.7	61.2	218.0	37.0	28.2
Synthetic cannabinoids	kg	●	●	0.03	0.6	3.1
Cocaine	kg	0.08	8.9	0.3	0	2.5
Heroin	kg	0	0	1.9	0.1	0
Raw Opium	kg	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0

● = Not reported

Source(s): SPO 2011c; SPO 2011d

in 2011, an estimated 19 kg were trafficked into the country during the year (SPDO 2012). The amount of methamphetamine pills and ecstasy seized in the country remains limited (SPO 2012a).

Cannabis herb seizures increased by nearly 88% in 2011 to 83.6 kg compared with 44.5 kg seized in 2010. The amounts of cannabis seized in recent years remains far higher than the amounts seized earlier in the decade. The considerable rise in overall cannabis seizures since 2008 is due in large part to strengthened law enforcement efforts, particularly against household cultivators of cannabis (SPO 2010). In addition, synthetic cannabinoids have been identified as an emerging threat in the Republic of Korea and seizures of the substance have increased each year. In the first six months of 2012, some 6.8 kg of synthetic cannabinoids were seized in the country. A large portion of the synthetic cannabinoids seized in the country has been seized from foreign nationals (KCS 2012).

A small but increasing quantity of new psychoactive substances, including various synthetic cathinones and piperazines, have been seized in the Republic of Korea in 2012 and 2011.

The quantities of other illicit drugs seized in the Republic of Korea remain small.

Drug prices – The wholesale price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine in 2011 ranged from USD 54-272 and the street-level retail price ranged from USD 272-1,000, representing an approximately 20% decline compared to comparable 2010 price ranges of USD 69-345 and USD 173-952 respectively. The reported average retail price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine in 2011 was USD 772, an 11% increase from the previous year and a 44% increase from the average retail price in 2008. One dose (0.03 grams) of crystalline methamphetamine retailed for about USD 90 in 2011 compared with USD 87 in 2010 and 2009. However, the wholesale prices and retail prices varied from province to province (SPO 2012a). In Seoul, the average street-level retail price for ecstasy in 2011 was USD 90 per pill. The average retail price

for one gram of cannabis in 2011 ranged from USD 1.8 to USD 10.9 (SPO 2012b).

Sources of illicit drugs

The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine is rare in Republic of Korea. In 2011, the largest portion of methamphetamine seized in the country originated from China (5.8 kg), followed by Mali (4.2 kg), South Africa (3.6 kg), Canada (3.2 kg) and the Philippines (2.1 kg) (SPDO 2012). In addition, Cambodia, Ghana, Malaysia, Mexico and Taiwan Province of China have also been identified as sources for methamphetamine smuggled into Republic of Korea during the past few years (SPDO 2012; SPO 2011a; ARQ 2010; INCB 2010).

Trafficking – The Korean Customs Service reported 67 separate methamphetamine seizures in 2011, totaling about 18.3 kg of methamphetamine. Of the 67 seizures, 52 (78%) originated from China. Other methamphetamine seizures during the year originated from Viet Nam (5), Mali (2), South Africa (2), the United States (2) and Canada (1). Most illicit drug smuggling cases in 2011 were detected from air passenger couriers followed by parcel post (KCS 2012).

The Republic of Korea also continues to be used as a transit country for the trafficking of drugs to international markets. In December 2011, Korean Customs seized 2.1 kg of methamphetamine originating from the Philippines from an air passenger courier en route to Guam. In a similar case, an additional 1 kg of methamphetamine originating from the Philippines was seized from an air passenger courier en route to Guam in March 2012 (KCS 2012).

In recent years, the Republic of Korea has been a source of large quantities of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine used for the manufacture of methamphetamine in the region. In addition, some 2,500 litres of safrole-rich oil – which can be used in the manufacture of MDMA – originating from the Republic of Korea was seized at the Mexican seaport of Manzanillo in August 2011 (INCB 2012b). Multi-

Table 79. Average retail price of crystalline methamphetamine in the Republic of Korea (USD), 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	770	536	684	693	772

Source(s): SPO 2011a; SPO 2012b

ton seizures of cut ephedra were made in Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation in 2010, with authorities indicating in both cases that the smuggled ephedra – from which ephedrine can be extracted – was destined for the Republic of Korea (INCB 2012b).

In 2011, the United States was the origin of the largest portion of cases involving the smuggling of cannabis into the Republic of Korea. During the year 15 of the 42 (29%) cannabis smuggling cases detected by Korean Customs originated from the United States. The second largest source of cannabis trafficking into the Republic of Korea in 2011 was Canada. The United States was also the origin of the largest portion of synthetic cannabinoids detected in the Republic of Korea, accounting for 19 of the 41 (46%) synthetic cannabinoids smuggling cases in 2011. Hungary and New Zealand were also indicated to have been major sources of synthetic cannabinoids smuggled into the Republic of Korea in 2011 (KCS 2012).

Forensic data

In 2011, a total of 21 samples of seized methamphetamine were analyzed by the Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO) drug laboratory. The samples showed average purities ranging from 88.8% methamphetamine to 99.8% methamphetamine. Average methamphetamine content of the analysed samples was 94.5%. Only three samples showed purity of less than 90% methamphetamine in 2011. The most common impurities found in the samples include acetic acid, benzaldehyde, benzyl alcohol, 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P), amphetamine, and dimethylamphetamine (SPO 2012d).



Emerging trends and concerns

- Singapore remains a transit location for the trafficking of ATS and their precursor chemicals into neighbouring countries.
- Methamphetamine use in the country is on the rise, in particular among young drug users as well as drug users arrested for the first time. In addition, the number of arrests and drug treatment admissions related to crystalline methamphetamine use continue to expand.
- Overall drug seizures have shown an increasing trend during the past five years. In 2011, seizures of the most commonly used drugs in Singapore – heroin, methamphetamine and cannabis – increased considerably. The total amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized in 2011 (14 kg) was the highest ever reported.
- Heroin remains the primary drug of concern in Singapore and its use continues to increase.

Overview of the drug situation

While heroin remains the primary drug of concern in Singapore, methamphetamine continues to be the most commonly used drug among new drug users in the country. About 93% of all drug users arrested for drugs in 2011 were users of heroin or methamphetamine (CNB 2012a).

In 2011, a total of 14 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in Singapore, the highest amount ever recorded in the country.

In November 2010, the Ministry of Home Affairs listed a number of new psychoactive substances as Class A controlled drugs in the First Schedule of the Misuse of Drugs Act. These substances include BZP,¹ TFMPP² and mephedrone.³ The control of these new psychoactive substances was a pre-emptive measure. There is no evidence that the use of these drugs is prevalent in Singapore (CNB 2012b).

¹ BZP refers to benzylpiperazine.

² TFMPP refers to 3-Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine.

³ Mephedrone refers to 4-methylmethcathinone.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – In 2011, the use of methamphetamine, primarily in crystalline form, increased for the fifth consecutive year, with smoking being the main mode of administration. Methamphetamine was the most commonly used drug among young drug users as well as drug users arrested for the first time in 2011 (CNB 2012c). 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 reportedly increased in each of the past five years.

Injecting drug use

The number of self-declared injecting drug users⁴ among arrested drug users in Singapore has increased

⁴ Figures based on persons admitted to prisons and on self-declarations made at the point of admission.

Table 80. Rank of use of selected drugs in Singapore, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine	4	4	3	2	2
Ecstasy	8	7	8	8	7
Buprenorphine ⁵	1	3	4	7	8
Cannabis herb	7	8	6	5	4
Heroin	2	1	1	1	1
Inhalants	3	2	2	3	3
Ketamine	5	5	5	4	6
Nimetazepam	6	6	7	6	5

Source(s): DAINAP

Table 81. Trend in use of selected drugs in Singapore, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Ecstasy	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑
Buprenorphine	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Cannabis herb	↓	↓	↑	↔	↔
Heroin	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Inhalants	↑	↓	↔	↓	↓
Ketamine	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
Nimetazepam	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓

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

Source(s): DAINAP

from 291 persons in 2010 to 664 persons in 2011. Of these people who inject drugs, none were found to be infected with HIV as at the end of 2011. The Ministry of Health indicates that in 2011, 461 (430 men and

31 women) Singapore residents⁶ were newly reported to be infected with HIV, of which injecting drug use accounted for two cases (0.4%) (MOH Singapore 2012).

Table 82. Drug treatment admissions by drug type in Singapore, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine	69	87	143	209	549
Ecstasy	35	23	7	6	8
Buprenorphine	140	75	26	13	1
Cannabis herb	10	27	27	49	79
Heroin	154	201	242	364	558
Ketamine	48	31	42	22	17
Nimetazepam	54	37	48	25	19
Inhalants	●	●	●	●	14
Total	510	481	535	688	1,245

● = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

⁵ 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.

⁶ Includes Singapore citizens and permanent residents.

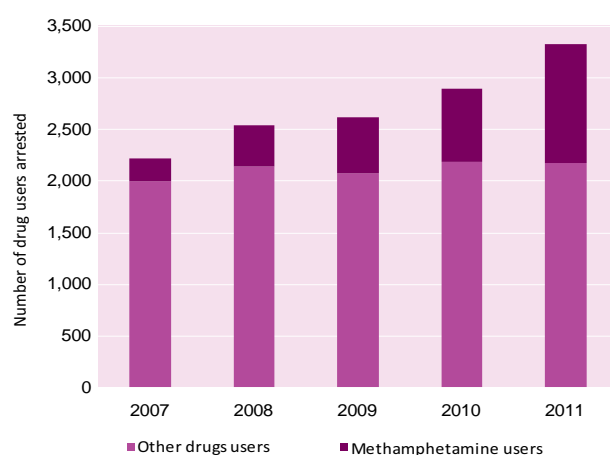
Drug treatment

In 2011, the number of persons in drug treatment (1,245) was nearly double the number of persons in treatment in the previous year (688). Treatment for crystalline methamphetamine use continues to expand. Of the 1,245 persons in drug treatment, 842 (68%) persons were newly admitted in 2011, of which 430 persons (51%) were newly admitted for crystalline methamphetamine use. The number of methamphetamine users in treatment in 2011 was more than 160% higher than the number in 2010. As a proportion of all persons in drug treatment, crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for about 44% (heroin users accounted for 45%) in 2011, compared with 30% in 2010. Women accounted for 20% of all crystalline methamphetamine users in treatment in 2011 and 24% in 2010.

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests⁷ – 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 nearly 93% of all drug-related arrests in 2011. In 2011, a total of 3,326 drug-related arrests were recorded in Singapore, a 15% increase over the total number of drug-related arrests in 2010 (2,887). The number of drug users arrested in Singapore peaked in 1994, at 6,165 persons (CNB 2012a).

Figure 28. Number of methamphetamine users arrested in Singapore, 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

⁷ Drug-related arrest data for Singapore refers to the number of drug users arrested and does not include drug traffickers and manufacturers.

Table 83. Drug-related arrests in Singapore by drug and gender, 2011

Drug type	Male	Female	Total
Methamphetamine	963	194	1,157
Ecstasy	19	3	22
Buprenorphine	6	0	6
Cannabis herb	117	10	127
Heroin	1,700	224	1,924
Ketamine	38	4	42
Methadone	1	0	1
Nimetazepam	43	4	47
Total for all drugs	2,887	439	3,326

Source(s): DAINAP

Methamphetamine users accounted for the second largest proportion of drug users arrested in 2011, following heroin, at about 35%. Arrests related to methamphetamine increased by 65% in 2011 to 1,157 arrests compared with 702 arrests in 2010 (CNB 2012a). Of the 1,128 drug users arrested for the first time in 2011, about 62% (703 persons) had used methamphetamine and about 24% (275 persons) had used heroin (CNB 2012a). Of the 439 women arrested in 2011 (13% of the total), about 44% were arrested for crystalline methamphetamine. In addition, 123 methamphetamine traffickers were arrested in 2011 compared with 115 traffickers arrested in 2010 (CNB 2012c).

Of all drug users arrested in 2011 about 58% were heroin users. Over the past five years, arrests related to heroin have nearly tripled, from 690 in 2007 to 1,924 in 2011.

Drug seizures – The total number of drug seizures and the quantities seized by law enforcement officials in Singapore are small in comparison with the quantities seized in neighbouring countries. However, overall drug seizures have shown an increasing trend during the past five years. In 2011, seizures of the most commonly used drugs in Singapore – heroin, methamphetamine and cannabis – increased significantly.

The 14 kg of crystalline methamphetamine seized in 2011 is the highest amount on record in Singapore, and is more than double the seizures made in 2010. In November 2011, a total of 5.2 kg of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in a single incident. On the other hand, the amount of methamphetamine pills seized in the country remains small, with an average

Table 84. Drug-related arrests in Singapore, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine	221	404	542	702	1,157
Ecstasy	78	110	39	17	22
Buprenorphine	841	444	202	54	6
Cannabis herb	102	88	126	131	127
Heroin	690	1,216	1,425	1,787	1,924
Ketamine	151	138	162	138	42
Methadone	•	•	•	•	1
Nimetazepam	128	137	120	58	47
Total	2,211	2,537	2,616	2,887	3,326

• = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 85. Seizures of selected drugs in Singapore, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	1.5	1.8	3.7	5.6	14.1
Methamphetamine pills	pills	498	1,135	1,237	352	772
Ecstasy	pills	7,035	7,415	8,986	8,085	3,213
Buprenorphine (Subutex)	tablets	3,401	2,043	1,097	296	35
Cannabis herb	kg	30.3	3.3	7.1	8.5	12.9
Heroin	kg	17.2	44.5	29.1	49.0	72.7*
Ketamine	kg	11.0	14.0	8.7	12.2	7.9
Nimetazepam	tablets	24,926	38,363	42,236	43,505	40,078

* Refers to Heroin No. 3, a low purity substance processed by adulterating heroin with other substances.
Source(s): DAINAP

of about 800 pills seized in each of the past five years. The number of ecstasy pills seized declined by about 60% in 2011 to 3,213 pills, of which 3,097 pills were seized in a single incident in January 2011.

The nearly 73 kg of heroin seized in Singapore in 2011 is the highest amount reported during the past five years and is almost 50% higher than the amount seized in 2010 (49 kg). Cannabis seizures increased by more than half in 2011, with about 13 kg seized.

Seizures of other synthetic substances, including ketamine, buprenorphine⁸ and nimetazepam,⁹ showed a decline in 2011.

Drug prices – Street prices of methamphetamine in crystalline and pill forms have remained relatively sta-

ble during the past five years. In 2011, the retail price of a gram of crystalline methamphetamine ranged from about USD 138 to USD 231 and the price of one methamphetamine pill ranged from USD 8 to USD 19. Since 2007, the street price of ecstasy has remained relatively unchanged, at roughly USD 22.

Sources of illicit drugs

Most illicit drugs trafficked into Singapore enter from neighbouring countries, usually concealed on the person. Larger drug seizures have been discovered in specially constructed compartments of motor vehicles (CNB 2012b).

Trafficking – Most drug traffickers in Singapore traffic drugs in small quantities, however, large shipments of illicit drugs – including ATS – and precursor chemicals have been detected transiting through the country, primarily for further trafficking to neighbouring countries.

⁸ 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.

⁹ Nimetazepam, a benzodiazepine, is known on the street as Erimin 5 and is available in 5 mg pill form. It is legally available as a pharmaceutical preparation from Japan. The substance is also regularly counterfeited.

Table 86. Retail prices of selected drugs in Singapore (USD), 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	per pill	13 – 22	12 – 22	7 – 11	8 – 14	8 – 19
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	145 – 242	138 – 266	143 – 252	145 – 270	138 – 231
Ecstasy	per pill	20 – 24	17 – 25	17 – 24	16 – 24	19 – 27
Buprenorphine	per tablet	72 – 98	55 – 83	55 – 86	61 – 91	62 – 77
Cannabis herb	per 1.5 grams	27 – 36	33 – 37	29 – 46	14 – 40	15 – 39
Heroin	per 0.2 gram*	20 – 36	20 – 36	21 – 24	22 – 24	12 – 23
Ketamine	per gram	26 – 36	27 – 36	21 – 35	22 – 32	23 – 38
Nimetazepam	per tablet	5 – 7	5 – 6	5 – 6	5 – 6	5 – 6

Note: Figures are not adjusted for inflation or currency fluctuations. *Heroin is often sold as on the street as 'straw' weighing 0.2 gram.

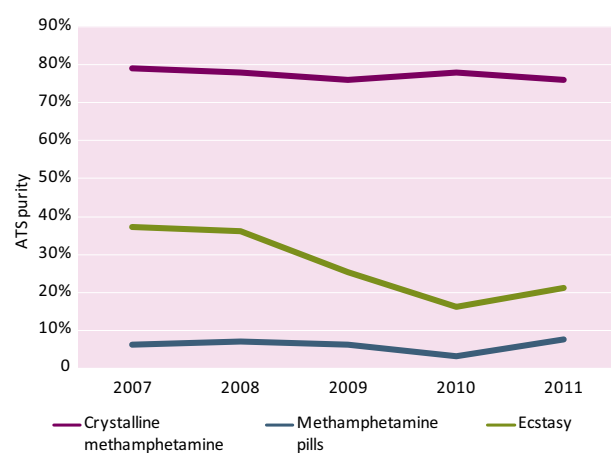
Source(s): DAINAP

In December 2010, a consignment of 140 kg of MDMA pills concealed in two large industrial welding machines was seized at Schipol Airport in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The shipment was en route to Singapore. Investigations showed that from the middle of 2010, the same sender had sent eight similar shipments to companies in Singapore and to Kuala Lumpur. It is suspected that these shipments were used for similar purposes (DNR 2012).

than the MDMA content found in samples analysed in previous years (CNB 2012c). Many 'ecstasy' pills seized in Singapore also contained methamphetamine. The methamphetamine content found in pills sold as 'ecstasy' – as well as in pills sold as methamphetamine pills (yaba) – was around 7.5% in 2011 (CNB 2012d). Singapore reported a low purity of 2.3% for heroin No. 3 (from 882 samples of less than 15 grams) in 2011, compared with 3.68% in 2010 and 3.83% in 2009 (CNB 2012d).

Forensic data

Crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in 2011 showed average purities of about 76% methamphetamine, roughly in line with average purity figures since 2006 (CNB 2012c).

Figure 29. Purity of ATS in Singapore, 2007-2011

Pills sold as 'ecstasy' had an average composition of approximately 21% MDMA, slightly higher than the average composition in 2010, but still lower



Emerging trends and concerns

- Illicit methamphetamine manufacture remains a concern and methamphetamine pill pressing equipment and small-scale clandestine crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing operations continue to be seized.
- Crystalline methamphetamine use has expanded rapidly in Thailand during the past few years as indicated by the substantial increases in seizures, arrests and drug treatment admissions related to crystalline methamphetamine.
- Methamphetamine in pill form remains the primary drug of use in Thailand. All indicators suggest that the trafficking and use of methamphetamine pills increased in 2011.
- New psychoactive substances have been identified as an emerging concern.

Overview of the drug situation

The methamphetamine market in Thailand is one of the largest in the region. The trafficking and use of methamphetamine pills continues to be the top drug-related law enforcement and public health concern in Thailand. In addition, the market for the more potent and profitable crystalline form of the drug has grown rapidly during the past few years. In 2011, seizure, arrest and drug treatment data related to crystalline methamphetamine reached record levels. This reflects the increasing manufacture and trafficking from neighbouring Myanmar and the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as the growing demand among Thailand's expanding drug user population.

A large portion of the methamphetamine smuggled into Thailand is intended for the domestic market. However, considerable quantities are further trafficked to neighboring countries and smaller amounts are trafficked beyond the region. Drug criminal organizations continue to target Thailand as a transit hub for the smuggling of illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals. West African and Iranian drug trafficking organizations traffic methamphetamine into and

through Thailand. In addition, the diversion and smuggling of bulk quantities of precursor chemicals, primarily in the form of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, through Thailand to manufacturing sites in Myanmar and, to a lesser extent, Cambodia has become a major concern.

Cannabis use continues to be prevalent throughout Thailand. In the southern part of Thailand, the illicit trafficking and use of kratom¹ remains a problem. In addition, there are indicators to suggest that the heroin and cocaine markets in Thailand may be expanding.

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Methamphetamine pills continue to be the most widely used drug in Thailand, according to government expert perception. Smoking is indicated to be the most common route of administration, followed by oral ingestion. The injecting use of methamphetamine pills also takes place in Thailand, albeit at low levels. During the past few years, an

¹ Kratom is a substance derived from *mitragyna speciosa* and produces both stimulant and sedative effects.

estimated 70-80% of all drug users in Thailand have used methamphetamine pills (ONCB 2011c). In addition, the use of crystalline methamphetamine, most of which is indicated to take place in major cities, has increased substantially in Thailand. Ecstasy use is also concentrated primarily in urban areas and major tourist destinations, however it has shown a declining trend in recent years.

Cannabis is the second most common drug of use in Thailand and its use is indicated to have increased in each of the past five years. Kratom is used predominantly in the southern part of Thailand. Most kratom users typically chew fresh kratom leaves or boil the kratom leaves and then drink the resulting liquid. In more recent years, it has become common for younger users to mix the resulting liquid in a cocktail with cough syrup, a soft drink and ice cubes.

The use of opiates is indicated to have been on the rise of late. Record quantities of ketamine have been seized in Thailand during the past two years but its use appears to have stabilized. New psychoactive substances such as mephedrone and synthetic cannabinoids have been

identified as an emerging concern, although data on this phenomenon are currently limited.

Injecting drug use

The injecting use of methamphetamine has emerged in Thailand in recent years but remains far lower than the injecting use of opiates. Injection is the second most common route of administration for crystalline methamphetamine and the third most common route of administration for methamphetamine pills (smoking and oral ingestion are the most common modes). Injection is the primary route of administration for heroin and the second most common route of administration for opium (smoking is the most common).

A survey of people who inject drugs (PWID) in three major cities (Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Songkhla) and conducted in 2010, found that HIV prevalence among PWID in Thailand was 21.9% (DDCMPH 2012). However, some previous studies have estimated the HIV prevalence among PWID as high

Table 87. Rank of use of selected drugs in Thailand, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	3	8	7	7	3
Methamphetamine pills	1	3	1	1	1
Ecstasy	6	7	9	9	8
Cannabis herb	2	1	2	2	2
Heroin	5	6	5	5	7
Inhalants	3	4	3	3	5
Ketamine	6	9	●	●	9
Kratom	4	2	6	6	4
Opium	9	5	4	4	6

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 88. Trend in use of selected drugs in Thailand, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑
Methamphetamine pills	↑	↑	↔	↔	↑
Ecstasy	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Ketamine	↓	↑	●	●	↔
Cannabis herb	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Heroin	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑

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

as 35 to 50% (NAPAC 2010; ONCB 2010c). HIV prevalence among injecting opiates users who present for treatment at drug treatment and rehabilitation centers in Thailand remains high, at levels ranging from 30 to 50%. The study indicated that access to HIV prevention services for PWID remains low (DDCMPPH 2012).

Drug treatment

In 2011, a total of 183,547 persons underwent drug treatment in Thailand, a 38% increase from the number of persons who underwent treatment in 2010. Methamphetamine pills continued to be the most common drug of use among persons in treatment in 2011 and were the primary drug of use for 86% of the drug users who received treatment in specialized treatment facilities and correctional institutions during the year. This figure has remained relatively stable since 2004. However, the total number of persons who received treatment for methamphetamine pill use in 2011 (158,316 persons) represents a 40% increase from the previous year (113,430). In addition, there was a substantial increase in the number of crystalline methamphetamine users admitted to drug treatment in 2011. The 6,728 persons who received treatment for crystalline methamphetamine use during the year represent a near three-fold increase compared with the number of persons treated for crystalline methamphetamine use in 2010 (2,353). In 2011, crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for nearly 4% of all persons in drug treatment compared

with less than 1% from 2007 to 2009. Treatment admissions related to ecstasy remain low and declined by 18% in 2011 to 172 persons compared with 209 persons in 2010. During the past five years, women have accounted for about 9% of all persons in treatment (ONCB 2012e).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – The total number of drug-related arrests in Thailand increased by 19%, from 208,344 arrests in 2010 to 247,796 arrests in 2011, of which almost 87% involved ATS. Since 2007, the average proportion of all drug-related arrests involving ATS is approximately 80% (ONCB 2012e).

The number of persons arrested for methamphetamine pills in 2011 totaled 191,956, representing more than 77% of all drug-related arrests during the year and a 22% increase from the number of persons arrested for methamphetamine pills in 2010. Arrests related to crystalline methamphetamine have increased by a factor of more than 12 during the past five years. In 2011, the number of arrests related to crystalline methamphetamine more than doubled, to 22,823 arrests, the highest total ever reported. Arrests related to ecstasy have shown a declining trend during the past several years. The 187 ecstasy-related arrests in 2011 is the lowest total reported since 2004 (ONCB 2012e).

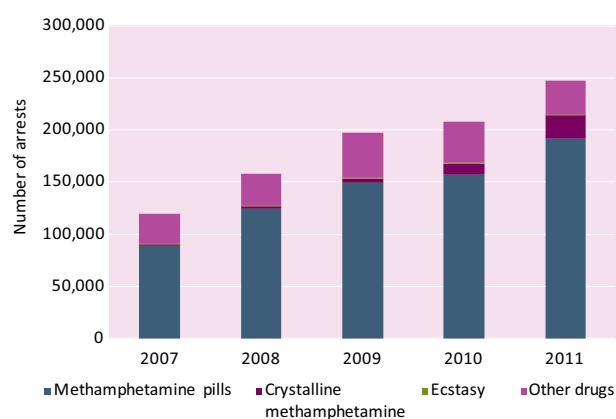
The number of arrests related to kratom in 2011 (13,134) accounted for about 5% of all drug-related

Table 89. Drug treatment admissions in Thailand by drug type, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	49,131	79,977	101,971	113,430	158,316
Crystalline methamphetamine	484	582	930	2,353	6,728
Ecstasy	152	237	333	209	172
Cannabis herb	5,936	6,155	8,736	7,471	7,136
Cocaine	25	17	19	18	15
Cough medicine	85	36	76	45	81
Heroin	1,204	1,107	1,374	1,414	2,115
Inhalants	2,680	3,911	6,495	4,709	3,535
Ketamine	4	9	12	12	13
Kratom*	969	1,067	2,030	2,357	2,835
Opium	1,532	2,019	2,081	1,910	2,601
Total	62,202	95,117	124,057	133,928	183,547

*Includes users of kratom in leaf and liquid form
Source(s): ONCB 2012e

Figure 30. ATS arrests as a proportion of the total drug-related arrests in Thailand, 2007-2011

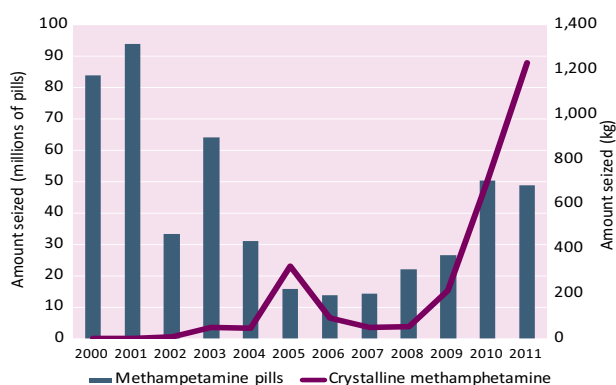


Source(s): DAINAP; ONCB 2012e

arrests during the year compared with 8% in 2010. The large number of arrests involving kratom during the past few years is most likely due to increased law enforcement efforts targeting the illicit trafficking and use of kratom. The number of arrests related to heroin increased by one third in 2011. Despite this increase, however, the combined number of persons arrested for opiates (heroin and opium) in Thailand remains comparatively small, accounting for less than 1% of the total drug-related arrests in each of the past four years (ONCB 2012e).

Drug seizures – Seizures of methamphetamine pills in 2011 totaled almost 49.4 million, which is a slight (1%) increase over the previous year and the highest

Figure 31. Seizures of methamphetamine (pill and crystalline) in Thailand, 2000-2011



Source(s): DAINAP; ONCB 2012e

total reported since 2003 when approximately 64.2 million pills were seized. During the first eight months of 2012, the number of pills seized in Thailand (50.5 million) has already surpassed the 2011 total.

Crystalline methamphetamine seizures have increased substantially during the past few years. In 2011, more than 1.2 mt of crystalline methamphetamine were seized in Thailand, representing a 75% increase over the 706 kg seized in 2010 and the highest total ever reported in the country. The sharp increase of crystalline methamphetamine seizures during the past few years is due to larger amounts being trafficked from Myanmar and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Table 90. Drug-related arrests in Thailand, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	88,964	124,800	149,441	157,683	191,956
Crystalline methamphetamine	1,845	2,395	4,488	10,463	22,823
Ecstasy	453	592	496	217	187
Cannabis herb	12,837	13,155	18,579	15,257	13,721
Cannabis resin	14	13	21	24	16
Cocaine	150	109	125	96	82
Codeine	381	82	119	6	8
Heroin	542	481	856	838	1,115
Inhalants	6,753	6,361	6,528	4,952	3,420
Ketamine	101	206	266	204	177
Kratom	5,571	7,920	14,378	16,276	13,134
Opium (raw and prepared)	943	907	1,003	843	738
Others	1,004	850	1,487	1,485	419
Total	119,558	157,871	197,787	208,344	247,796

Source(s): ONCB 2012e

Table 91. Seizures of selected drugs in Thailand, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	pills	12,783,761	20,023,705	24,638,320	48,793,951	49,365,700
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	48.3	54.3	213.2	706.0	1,232.0
Ecstasy*	pills	92,336	49,833	61,089	16,647	21,115
Cannabis herb	kg	17,226.1	21,105.9	26,070.8	22,415.2	14,302.0
Cannabis resin	kg	1.7	29.9	10.2	55.4	72.5
Cocaine	kg	18.9	11.5	9.3	31.1	31.8
Codeine	kg	776.2	141.7	97.6	14.0	4.1
Heroin	kg	294.6	199.9	143.1	137.6	547.5
Inhalants	kg	152.1	165.8	165.4	133.0	100.2
Ketamine	kg	2.8	18.5	20.6	166.7	78.0
Kratom**	kg	42,712.6	15,675.6	29,917.8	44,206.2	32,913.6
Opium (raw and prepared)	kg	72.6	117.9	111.1	157.9	42.7

* 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 2012e

Ecstasy seizures have shown a general downward trend during the past five years. Whereas the number of ecstasy pills seized in Thailand increased by about 27% in 2011, the 21,115 pills seized during the year is the second lowest total reported since 2000.

Large quantities of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine have been seized in Thailand. In 2011, more than 9.6 million pseudoephedrine tablets were seized in eight separate cases compared with 33.4 million pseudoephedrine tablets seized in 13 separate cases in 2010. Most of the pills are smuggled by drug traffickers from Thailand and Myanmar to illicit methamphetamine manufacturing centres in Myanmar and Cambodia.

Heroin seizures showed a four-fold increase in 2011, to 548 kg compared with 138 kg seized in 2010, after having declined in each of the three previous years. Seizures of opium declined by 73% in 2011 to about 43 kg, the lowest total reported during the past decade. The 78 kg of ketamine seized in Thailand in 2011 is less than half of the amount seized during the previous year (167 kg). However, the amounts of ketamine seized in each of the past two years are the highest totals reported from the country during the past decade.

Drug prices – The retail price of methamphetamine pills has remained relatively stable in Thailand during the past few years, ranging from about USD 5 to USD 9. Prices continued to be lowest in the northern parts of the country, which are located nearer to illicit

manufacturing centres in Myanmar. The price for one gram of crystalline methamphetamine ranged from about USD 67 to USD 100.

Sources of illicit drugs

Myanmar remains the source of the vast majority of methamphetamine pills seized in Thailand, although some quantities may also originate from Lao PDR (INCB 2010; INCSR Lao PDR 2012). Most of the crystalline methamphetamine seized in Thailand also originates from Myanmar as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran. Some quantities of crystalline methamphetamine found in Thailand are also indicated to originate from Cambodia (ONCB 2010b) and various countries in West Africa (INCSR Thailand 2012).

However, since 2009, law enforcement authorities in Thailand have uncovered a number of small-scale methamphetamine pill pressing operations and 'kitchen-type' crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing operations located in Bangkok and in surrounding provinces as well as in the northern province of Chiang Rai (ONCB 2010a). In 2011, methamphetamine pill pressing operations were dismantled and pill pressing machines and other equipment were seized in Bangkok as well as in Pathum Thani, Samut Prakarn and Chonburi provinces. This may indicate a re-emergence of illicit methamphetamine pill manufacture in Thailand. In addition, in July 2011, one Iranian

Table 92. Retail prices for ATS in Thailand (USD), 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement*	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Methamphetamine pills	per pill	3 – 14	6 – 10	7 – 8.5	5 – 10	5 – 9
Crystalline methamphetamine	per gram	43 – 86	71 – 86	71 – 86	67 – 100	67 – 100
Ecstasy	per pill	9 – 25	23 – 29	23 – 35	12 – 18	12 – 18

Note: Drug price data calculated on average exchange rates of Thai Baht to USD for each year. * Assumes price at retail purity levels, not per gram of pure substance.

Source(s): DAINAP; ONCB 2011a; ONCB 2011d; ONCB 2012a

national was arrested for attempting to manufacture crystalline methamphetamine in his condominium in Bangkok (ONCB 2012b).

Most of the ecstasy found in Thailand is trafficked into the country from Malaysia (ONCB 2012c). Some quantities of ecstasy are also trafficked into Thailand from Europe and North America (ONCB 2012b).

Opium cultivation in Thailand has declined to insignificant levels over the past few decades. During the August 2011 – January 2012 period, opium poppy cultivation was estimated at about 157 ha, a decline of about 20% compared with the same period in the previous year (ONCB 2012d). Most of the opium and heroin available on the illicit market in Thailand originates from Myanmar, with smaller quantities originating from Afghanistan (UNODC 2011a).

Trafficking – The large majority (more than 80%) of the methamphetamine pills trafficked into Thailand are trafficked across the northern border with Myanmar. Smaller quantities are smuggled into Thailand from Lao PDR and Cambodia (ONCB 2010d).

Large quantities of crystalline methamphetamine are smuggled into Thailand from Myanmar and the Islamic Republic of Iran for domestic consumption and for further trafficking to Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan and Hong Kong, China (ONCB 2012c). In 2011, the majority of crystalline methamphetamine seized in Thailand (at least 60%) was indicated to have been smuggled into the country from Myanmar (ONCB & NSB 2012).

Iranian drug trafficking groups smuggle methamphetamine into Thailand primarily through countries in the Middle East and South-West Asia (ONCB 2012a). In 2011, more than 30 Iranian nationals were arrested in Thailand for attempting to smuggle crystalline methamphetamine into the country. A total of 57 kg of methamphetamine, including 15 kg of liquid methamphetamine, were

seized from Iranian air passenger couriers in Thailand during the year (ONCB & NSB 2012).

In 2011, a total of 138 West Africans were arrested in Thailand for drug trafficking, of which 102 persons were nationals of Nigeria. Approximately 42 kg of crystalline methamphetamine were seized from them, as well as about 12 kg of cocaine (ONCB & NSB at 2012). Most of the African couriers arrested in Thailand boarded flights in West Africa and transited primarily through Kenya and Ethiopia (ONCB 2012a). West African drug trafficking groups typically smuggle small quantities (with high frequency) of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs – primarily cocaine and heroin – into Thailand (ONCB & NSB 2012).

Thailand continues to be used by drug traffickers as a transit country for heroin manufactured in South-East and South-West Asia to international markets. West African drug trafficking groups often use nationals of Pakistan and Thailand to traffic heroin into and through Thailand. In 2011, a total of eight Pakistan nationals were arrested with 2 kg of heroin, compared with 17 Pakistan nationals arrested with 12.3 kg of heroin in 2010 (ONCB 2012a).

A large portion of the cocaine trafficked into Thailand is trafficked from producing countries in South America by African drug trafficking networks, usually by air passenger couriers, a number of which are nationals of Thailand and the Philippines (ONCB 2012a). In August 2012, seven female Thai nationals were arrested at Phnom Penh International Airport for attempting to smuggle approximately 30 kg of cocaine, which is believed to have been destined for Thailand and other markets in the region (NACD 2012d). In addition, it is highly likely that a portion of the more than 1.2 mt of cocaine seized in Hong Kong, China during the past two years (HKNB 2012a) was likely destined for the Thai market.

Most of the ketamine (primarily in powder form)

Table 93. Seizures of pseudoephedrine preparations in Thailand, 2008-2011

Year	No. of cases	No. of tablets	Kg
2008	4	707,450	192.5
2009	12	1,908,700	0
2010	13	33,376,072	0
2011	8	9,626,820	0

Source(s): ONCB & NSB 2012

found in Thailand is trafficked from India (ONCB 2012a). A total of 150 kg of ketamine was seized from Indian air passenger couriers in 2010 and 25.8 kg was seized from Indian air passengers in 2011 (ONCB 2012c).

Significant quantities of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine have been trafficked through and from Thailand in recent years. Since 2008, nearly 46 million pharmaceutical decongestant tablets containing pseudoephedrine have been seized in Thailand. The tablets were destined for methamphetamine manufacture centres in Myanmar and Cambodia (ONCB 2011b). Pseudoephedrine traffickers have established networks in Thailand that enable substantial quantities of the substance to be purchased and smuggled to neighbouring countries (ONCB & NSB 2012). In addition, since 2008, tens of millions of pseudoephedrine tablets have been seized or disappeared from hospitals and pharmacies in Thailand. National controls aimed at restricting the availability of pharmaceutical pseudoephedrine came into effect in November 2011 (ONCB & NSB 2012).

In October 2011, Belgian Customs seized a consignment of 76 crates containing some 12,008 kg of safrole-rich oils² – enough to produce about 25 million ecstasy pills – from a cargo ship at the port in Antwerp. The safrole-rich oil, which was smuggled into Thailand from Lao PDR and likely originated in China, had been shipped from Laem Chabang port in Thailand. The shipment was intended for a company in the Netherlands (FPLO 2012).

² 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 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' (INCB 2009).

Forensic data

Methamphetamine pills in Thailand typically weigh about 90 mg and contain 10 to 25% methamphetamine and 60 to 70% caffeine. In 2011, methamphetamine samples analysed in Thailand showed purities of 10 to 30% methamphetamine. Crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in Thailand in 2011 were, on average, about 90% pure (ONCB 2012b).



Emerging trends and concerns

- The ATS market in Viet Nam continues to expand and diversify. Use of crystalline methamphetamine is becoming increasingly widespread and trafficking of the drug is a growing law enforcement and public security concern.
- A number of new psychoactive substances have emerged on the illicit ATS market in Viet Nam during the past few years, most of which are presented in pill form.
- The trafficking of precursor chemicals from Viet Nam appears to be increasing in frequency and in the range of chemicals being trafficked. During the past few years, a number of countries have reported precursor chemical seizures which have originated in or have been transshipped through Viet Nam.
- Vietnamese drug trafficking organizations based outside of Viet Nam continue to be involved in the cultivation, manufacture and trafficking of illicit drugs, as well as the trafficking of precursor chemicals, in a number of countries globally.
- Given the lack of complete seizure and forensic data, there is an urgent need for the Government of Viet Nam to enhance the collection and reporting of drug-related data.

Overview of the drug situation

The trafficking and use of various ATS, including methamphetamine and a variety of new psychoactive substances sold on the streets as ‘ecstasy’, has swiftly become a top drug control priority in Viet Nam. Opiates have long been the primary drugs of concern in Viet Nam, and heroin remains the most widely used illicit drug. However, given the increasing trafficking and use of ATS and other synthetic drugs in Viet Nam and in neighbouring Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand, the Government of Viet Nam has recognized that a further expansion of its own ATS market is likely (SODC & UNODC 2012). It is a concern that the general level of knowledge and understanding about ATS remains low in Viet Nam.

There have been very few seizures of illicit ATS manufacturing facilities in Viet Nam. Previously, only small-scale methamphetamine manufacturing and

ecstasy pill pressing operations have been reported seized in the country. In 2011, however, a number of synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were detected (INCSR Viet Nam 2012). In addition, violent crime associated with drug use and trafficking has become a growing concern (SODC 2012a). Some quantities of cannabis are cultivated in Viet Nam, primarily for the domestic market. The illicit cultivation of opium poppy remains limited.

During the past few years, Viet Nam has been identified as the source or transit location for a number of large precursor chemical seizures around the world. In August 2011, the Government of Viet Nam tightened import and export controls of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine (SODC 2012b).

Patterns and trends of drug use

Drug use – Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) overtook opium as the second most widely used drug in Viet Nam in 2010, according to government experts. Since 2003, the use of methamphetamine pills and ecstasy has expanded continually in the country. The use of crystalline methamphetamine has risen considerably in Viet Nam since it was first reported in 2008, and most indicators suggest that use of the crystalline form of the drug now far surpasses the use of methamphetamine pills (SODC & UNODC 2012). However, most of the ‘ecstasy’ pills found in Viet Nam contain little or no MDMA, but contain a variety of psychoactive substances including methamphetamine (AFSN 2010; CSI 2010). ATS use is most prevalent among young drug users living in large cities, border areas and industrial zones (SODC 2011a; SODC 2011c). However, the use of illicit drugs, including ATS, continues to rise in rural areas (SODC 2012a).

A survey of drug users in Viet Nam conducted in 2010 found a high prevalence of ATS use among the targeted risk groups.¹ ‘Ecstasy’ and crystalline methamphetamine were found to be the most commonly used types of ATS. Use of methamphetamine pills was highest in Ha Noi, but still far lower than the reported use of ‘ecstasy’ and crystalline methamphetamine. ‘Ecstasy’ prevalence was highest among men who have sex with men (82%) and bar and nightclub goers (86%). The prevalence of crystalline methamphetamine use was high, ranging from 70 to 97% across all risk groups. Most of the persons surveyed reported having used different types of ATS several times a month, with only a small percentage having reported using ATS more frequently (SODC & UNODC 2012).

Heroin remains the most commonly used drug. During the past several years, the number of registered drug users in Viet Nam has increased, with

Table 94. Rank of use of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	4	3	2	2
Methamphetamine pills	4	4	3	2	2
Ecstasy	●	4	3	2	2
Cannabis herb	3	3	4	4	4
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1
Ketamine	●	4	●	3	●
Opium	●	2	2	3	3

● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP

Table 95. Trend in use of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2007-2011

Drug type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	↑	↑	↑	↑
Methamphetamine pills	●	↑	↑	↑	↑
Ecstasy	●	↑	↑	↑	↑
Cannabis herb	●	↓	↓	↓	↓
Heroin	●	↑	↑	↑	↓
Ketamine	●	↑	●	↑	●
Opium	●	↓	↓	↓	↓

↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported
Source(s): DAINAP; SODC 2012c

¹ The survey was conducted using a targeted sampling method among various groups considered at high risk of ATS use including drug users, men who have sex with men, female sex workers, taxi and construction workers, and bar and nightclub goers. A total of 1,351 persons were interviewed by the survey in Viet Nam's three largest cities: Ho Chi Minh City, Ha Noi and Da Nang.

some 171,392 registered drug users² as of mid-2012³ (SODC 2012b), a rise of about 8% compared to the number of registered drug users in mid-2011. In 2011, an estimated 85% of all drug users in Viet Nam used heroin and almost 7% were identified as synthetic drugs users. The vast majority (96%) of drug users in Viet Nam are men (SODC 2012b).

In recent years, the Government of Viet Nam has reported the emergence of a number of new psychoactive substances in the illicit drug market. New psychoactive substances found in Viet Nam include PMMA⁴ and mCPP⁵ (SODC 2012a).

Injecting drug use

The injecting use of methamphetamine in Viet Nam remains limited to a small number of heroin users who also inject methamphetamine (SODC & UNODC 2012). Injection is the primary mode of administration for heroin and the secondary mode of administration for opium in Viet Nam.

An estimated 25,792 drug users are infected with HIV, accounting for roughly 15% of the total drug user population in the country, most of whom inject drugs (SODC 2012a). 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, the high prevalence of HIV among men who inject drugs is worryingly high: Dien Bien (56%), Quang Ninh (56%), Hai Phong (48%) and Ho Chi Minh City (46%) (NCADPPC 2012).

Drug treatment

There were 16,000 drug users who received drug treatment services in the first six months of 2012, of which 9,400 persons underwent compulsory drug treatment and 6,600 persons received community-based treatment (SODC 2012b). In 2011, a total of 28,514 drug users received drug treatment in Viet Nam (SODC 2012c).

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

³ As of 15 May 2012.

⁴ PMMA refers to para-methoxymethamphetamine, or 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-methylpropan-2-amine.

⁵ mCPP refers to meta-Chlorophenylpiperazine, or 1-(3-chlorophenyl)piperazine.

In Viet Nam, most drug treatment services are provided by the more than 120 compulsory treatment centres throughout the country, which are managed by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and local authorities. Ten compulsory centres are managed by the Youth Union (MOLISA 2011). In September 2010, the Government of Viet Nam issued a decree on the strengthening of family-based and community-based drug treatment and rehabilitation services (INCB 2012a). Most drug users who undergo drug treatment in Viet Nam are poly-drug users. In general, the relapse rate at drug treatment centres in Viet Nam remains very high (SODC 2011c).

Drug-related arrests, seizures and prices

Drug-related arrests – In 2011, the total number of drug-related arrests in Viet Nam was 26,680, which is about 14% higher than the number of drug-related arrests in the previous year (23,492) (SODC 2012b). Unfortunately, reported arrest data for 2011 is not disaggregated by drug type, gender or nationality. In 2010, approximately 1,600 arrests involved ATS, accounting for about 7% of the total drug-related arrests in Viet Nam (SODC 2011b).

Drug seizures – Since late 2007, the proportion of crystalline methamphetamine of all methamphetamine seized in Viet Nam has increased considerably, accounting for more than 75% of all methamphetamine seizure cases. Despite repeated requests, no seizure data for crystalline methamphetamine was reported for 2011 which results in the full extent of the methamphetamine situation being unclear due to the lack of available data.

Sources of illicit drugs

Most ATS are smuggled into Viet Nam from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand and domestic illicit ATS manufacture reportedly remains limited. In 2011, Vietnamese police uncovered a number of small-scale illicit methamphetamine manufacturing facilities which were using pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine as precursor material (INCSR Viet Nam 2012). Previously, no clandestine methamphetamine manufacture had been reported in Viet Nam since 2005. In 2008, ecstasy pill pressing equipment was reportedly seized from an undisclosed location in Viet Nam.

Table 96. Seizures of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2007-2011

Drug type	Measurement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	0.7	•	3.9	•	•
Methamphetamine pills	pills	29,679	70,000 pills and 60 kg	654,491	221,685 pills and 22 kg	366,000
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'
Heroin	kg	160.2	156.2	213.0	316.8 and 12 'blocks'	309 kg and 36 'blocks'
Ketamine	kg	•	5.7	•	•	•
Opium	kg	63.4	18.8	69.8	28.2	76.0

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP; SODC 2011c; SODC 2011d

Some cannabis is commercially cultivated in the northern provinces, sometimes hired by third parties, for exporting cannabis seeds to other countries (SODC 2012a).

Trafficking – Viet Nam is becoming a significant transit country for the trafficking of illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals to international markets. In recent years, transnational drug trafficking organizations have targeted Viet Nam for the trafficking of Myanmar-manufactured methamphetamine and heroin into Viet Nam and through the country to international markets. In 2011, various types of ATS also manufactured in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Thailand were trafficked into Viet Nam for the domestic market and further trafficking (INCSR Viet Nam 2012).

A large and increasing portion of the opium, heroin and methamphetamine manufactured in Myanmar and trafficked into Viet Nam is trafficked into the country across its northwestern border with Lao PDR (SODC 2012a). Transnational criminal groups, working with local drug trafficking organizations, also continue to store large quantities of illicit drugs along the border in Lao PDR (SODC 2012a). ATS, in particular crystalline methamphetamine, are also trafficked into Viet Nam from Cambodia (SODC 2012a). Significant quantities of heroin and opium are trafficked out from Viet Nam overland into China through official border crossings (SODC 2012a). The trafficking of illicit drugs (both inbound and outbound) through international airports in Viet Nam is on the rise. There

is also some international trafficking of illicit drugs to international markets through various seaports in the central provinces (SODC 2012a).

The trafficking of precursor chemicals into and from Viet Nam continues to expand, as drug traffickers may be targeting Viet Nam as a source of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and P-2-P, chemicals which are frequently used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.⁶ Large amounts of chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine have been trafficked across the southwest border to Cambodia in recent years (SODC 2012a).

Forensic data

Viet Nam did not report forensic data for 2011. In 2010, methamphetamine samples analysed in Viet Nam contained approximately 5 to 20% methamphetamine. Crystalline methamphetamine in Viet Nam generally contained 45 to 72% methamphetamine (CSI 2010). The ecstasy samples analysed showed content of 3 to 32% MDMA and usually contained other substances such as MDA, 2C-B, ketamine and methamphetamine (CSI 2010).

⁶ P-2-P refers to (1-Phenyl-2-propanone), or Benzyl methyl ketone (BMK) which can be used in illicit methamphetamine manufacture.

Annexes

Data annex

References

Data annex (East and South-East Asia) and guide to interpretation of drug control data

Arrest data

In most countries drug-related offences recorded by law enforcement agencies typically reflect drug-related possession/use and drug trafficking (sale), and to a much lesser degree illicit drug manufacture offences. Similar to drug seizure statistics, the number of drug offences recorded is related to both illicit drug activity in a particular country and drug enforcement activity. Additionally, reported drug offences vary dramatically between countries because of vast differences in national definitions of crimes involving drugs. For example, national definitions of illicit drugs for personal use commonly vary based on threshold amounts of drugs involved, i.e. greater amounts may reflect drug trafficking versus personal use, the type of drug and nature of the drug, whether governments utilize administrative drug offences which may or may not be recorded and reported together with criminal offences, varying levels of law enforcement resources and priorities related to drug offences, and, how a country records and manages its administrative drug data – all of which vary from country to country. These issues and others make it possible for countries

with relatively minor drug problems to have drug offence rates higher compared to those countries with severe drug problems, making comparison between countries difficult, if not inadvisable.

This problem can be mitigated by focusing the analysis on multi-year trends within countries and with the utilization of additional data sources, such as drug seizures or representative surveys of illicit drug use. For example, if there is an increasing trend in reported personal use offences together with a decreasing trend in self-reported illicit drug use, as reflected in representative national surveys, an increase in enforcement activity is likely. However, if an increase in reported personal use offences occurs with an increase in self-reported drug use levels, increases in actual drug activity is likely. Drug-related arrests for countries in East and South-East Asia reported for the years 2007-2011 are shown in Table 97. Annual comparisons cannot be made in this table or in subsequent tables in this section because of the different years in which countries began reporting.

Table 97: Drug-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Methamphetamine					Ecstasy					Opiates				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	662	498	411	489	508	0	3	10	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Cambodia	246	371	•	•	•	1	7	•	•	•	8	6	•	•	•
China	•	•	31,907	39,231	44,920	•	•	1,287	816	627	•	•	•	•	48,392
Hong Kong, China	747	874	788	726	732	224	315	157	34	25	1,601	1,378	1,145	888	771
Indonesia	8,651	8,685	10,185	12,463	15,766	3,415	2,947	1,919	1,087	965	3,561	1,813	925	759	698
Japan	12,211	11,231	11,873	12,200	12,083	312	311	140	93	86	62	36	44	45	31
Lao PDR	147	344	581	1,007	1,749	•	•	•	•	•	36	45	94	•	•
Malaysia	1,235	1,443	1,131	42,701	66,736	182	119	83	8,248	5,071	9,169	8,693	8,488	25,094	68,340
Myanmar	745	943	1,317	1,008	1,269	8	6	0	0	0	2,015	2,059	2,613	1,689	1,933
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	8,521	7,457	7,965	6,771	7,226	•	•	•	•	•	954	1,389	2,189	1,124	755
Singapore	221	404	542	702	1,157	78	110	39	17	22	690	1,216	1,425	1,787	1,924
Thailand	90,809	127,195	153,929	168,146	214,779	453	592	496	217	187	1,485	1,388	1,859	1,681	1,853
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Total	123,475	159,445	220,629	285,444	366,925	4,673	4,410	4,131	10,512	6,984	19,581	18,023	18,783	33,067	124,697

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP and multiple resources; see relevant country chapters for details

Table 97: Cont. Drug-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Cannabis					Total				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	27	28	5	44	31	772	591	556	538	588
Cambodia	8	6	•	•	•	263	392	615	864	2,381
China	•	•	•	•	634	68,109	73,360	91,859	101,748	112,406
Hong Kong, China	541	544	543	325	256	6,791	8,089	7,009	5,432	5,185
Indonesia	18,142	11,581	12,001	9,630	7,841	38,235	40,569	26,721	23,401	25,689
Japan	2,375	2,867	3,087	2,367	1,759	15,179	14,720	15,417	14,965	14,200
Lao PDR	2	26	40	•	•	182	418	718	1,007	1,749
Malaysia	3,385	514	5,207	6,567	15,220	14,489	12,352	15,736	93,462	160,879
Myanmar	217	240	490	146	275	3,074	3,368	4,743	3,465	3,691
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•	10,701	10,530	9,052	8,259	10,636
Republic of Korea	1,170	1,045	1,712	1,837	1,189	10,649	9,898	11,875	9,732	9,174
Singapore	102	88	126	131	127	2,211	2,537	2,616	2,887	3,326
Thailand	12,851	13,168	18,600	15,281	13,737	119,558	157,871	197,787	208,344	247,796
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•	14,800	24,739	21,086	23,492	26,680
Total	38,820	30,107	41,811	36,328	41,069	305,013	359,434	405,790	497,596	624,380

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP and multiple resources; see relevant country chapters for details

Seizure data

Drug seizure data represent the most commonly reported data available for most countries and, in some cases, are the only data available to assess illicit drug supply and to infer patterns and trends in use. The quantity of illicit drugs seized annually, both in total weight and number of cases, is influenced by many factors, but is largely a result of the amount of drugs available in the market and the effectiveness of interdiction efforts. There is often considerable annual variability in both of these key factors and, thus, considerable volatility in the amounts of illicit drugs reported seized annually. For example, drug traffickers often adopt new trafficking routes and concealment techniques to avoid detection without any real change in the amount of drugs available on the market. In addition, the results of a government's interdiction efforts vary dramatically based on number of factors, such as the availability of properly trained and equipped personnel; a government's stability and its control over its territories and borders; a country's physical location and geography; and, how a country records, manages, analyzes and reports its administrative data.

An assessment of drug supply of a single drug based on seizure data from a single year, from just one country, without regard to the form or composition of a drug – e.g. methamphetamine pills versus methamphetamine in powder or crystalline forms – can be misleading. To understand drug supply, it is useful to have indicators other than simply seizures, such as drug prices and purity. Trends in a drug's price per pure gram are a sign of real changes in their market supply. For example, if there is an increasing trend of seizures together with a decreasing trend in price per pure gram, a real increase in supply is likely. However, if an increase in seizures occurs along with an increase in price per pure gram, increased effectiveness of interdiction efforts is more likely. The ability to assess drug purity accurately depends on the capacity of a country's forensic laboratories. Unfortunately, very few countries in the region have the resources and capacity to regularly and properly collect price and purity data, making this level of assessment challenging. Seizures data for the years 2007-2011 for countries in East and South-East Asia are shown in Table 98.

Table 98: Drug seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Methamphetamine pills					Crystalline methamphetamine (kg)					Ecstasy pills				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.8	•	12	15	•	349
Cambodia	420,287	116,772	137,249	82,746	238,994	6.8	1.9	4.6	9.9	19.1	300	33	3,352	1,056	7,855
China	7,620,322	6,255,658	40,460,038	58,443,666	61,942,559	5,863.0	5,523.0	2,479.0	4,186.0	4,458.0	2,219,353	1,077,552	1,062,173	1,272,904	317,886
Hong Kong, China	•	•	•	•	•	40.8	23.9	40.1	101.8	38.4	65,539	11,984	7,146	5,810	983
Indonesia	•	•	•	•	•	492.9	709.9	239.5	649.1	1,161.3	1,247,302	1,091,204	318,935	434,660	1,096,249
Japan	•	•	•	•	•	359.0	402.6	369.5	310.7	350.9	1,276,354	217,883	91,960	18,246	27,187
Lao PDR	1,272,815	1,227,205	2,335,330	24,530,177	4,609,729	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	121,629	281,343	107,952	107,963	364,909	69.2	357.0	1,160.0	887.3	1,235.6	709,888	80,788	75,515	60,713	98,751
Myanmar	1,666,141	1,102,199	23,899,156	2,192,263	5,894,188	3.4	15.9	124.3	226.1	33.4	2,690	108	5	0	0
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•	368.9	853.5	149.3	63.6	254.3	122	513	2,090	336	993
Republic of Korea	196	151	1	5	5	23.7	25.6	15.2	11.9	23.5	18,323	714	894	486	562
Singapore	498	1,135	1,237	352	772	1.5	1.8	3.7	5.6	14.1	7,035	7,415	8,986	8,085	3,213
Thailand	12,783,761	20,023,705	24,638,320	48,793,951	49,365,700	48.3	54.3	213.2	706.0	1,232.0	92,336	49,833	61,089	16,647	21,115
Viet Nam	29,679	850,000	564,515	221,685	366,000	0.7	•	3.9	•	•	•	19,000	•	•	•
Total	22,415,328	29,858,168	92,143,798	134,372,808	122,782,856	7,278.5	7,969.8	4,802.6	7,158.8	8,821.4	5,641,242	2,557,039	1,632,160	1,818,943	1,575,143

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP and multiple resources; see relevant country chapters for details

Table 98: Cont. Drug seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Ketamines (kg)					Heroin (kg)					Opium (kg)					Cannabis				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0.005	0.001	0.01	0.04	0	0	0	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.6	1.6	6.3	0.6
Cambodia	•	495	1.1	0.001	•	11.0	5.3	26.7	2.4	2.1	•	•	•	•	•	10.0	5.0	3.8	1.2	2102
China	6,101.7	5,271.1	5,323.0	4,905.0	5,380.0	4,594.0	4,332.3	5,838.0	5,353.0	7,080.0	1,184.6	1,375.0	1,303.0	1,015.0	823.0	•	•	•	•	3,580.0
Hong Kong, China	96.4	423.3	472.3	189.1	276.3	37.4	46.4	37.1	68.5	171.7	•	182.7	•	•	•	569.0	260.6	107.1	14.3	43.1
Indonesia	•	19.8	6.1	116.9	49.3	17.2	29.1	12.3	25.0	28.8	•	•	•	•	•	35,464.6	140,496.3	110,722.7	12,661.2	20,259.7
Japan	•	•	•	•	•	•	2.0	1.0	0.3	3.6	19.6	6.6	3.2	3.7	7.6	560.5	415.7	224.8	195.6	169.5
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•	23.8	17.5	29.2	84.3	43.4	14.2	11.8	50.0	86.5	63.4	2,302.8	804.6	976.0	3,521.0	1,617.0
Malaysia	267.9	553.1	1,070.6	334.1	202.5	243.3	297.1	283.4	299.3	755.5	7.4	13.9	10.1	4.4	0.9	1,482.6	874.8	2,351.9	1,064.0	1,054.0
Myanmar	•	•	14.9	•	1.4	68.4	88.2	1,076.1	88.5	42.4	1,173.8	1,463.4	752.0	922.0	828.3	104.3	170.2	284.6	205.6	196.4
Philippines	325.0	10.2	9.0	0	0	•	•	•	•	•	2.5	•	•	•	•	1,200.0	3,724.0	1,660.0	1,129.4	596.5
Republic of Korea	•	•	•	•	•	0	0	1.9	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	23.0	94.7	123.0	44.5	83.7
Singapore	11.0	14.0	8.7	12.2	7.9	17.2	44.5	29.1	49.0	72.7	•	0.5	•	•	0.2	30.3	3.3	7.1	8.5	12.9
Thailand	28	18.5	20.6	166.7	78.0	294.6	199.9	143.1	137.6	547.5	72.6	117.9	111.1	157.9	42.7	17,227.8	21,135.8	26,081.0	22,470.6	14,374.5
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•	160.2	156.2	213.0	316.8	309.0	63.4	18.8	69.8	28.2	76.0	8,000.0	8,928.8	332.0	211.3	7,500.0
Total	6,804.8	6,315.7	6,926.3	5,724.0	5,995.8	5,469.1	5,217.5	7,692.2	6,424.8	9,056.7	2,538.2	3,190.8	2,299.4	2,217.8	1,842.1	66,975.0	176,914.4	142,875.5	44,719.5	49,698.1

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP and multiple resources; see relevant country chapters for details

Treatment data

Drug treatment data often represent the only source of data available to assess illicit drug demand in a country. Systematically collected, drug treatment trend data are useful in understanding both emerging and existing drug problems, their extent and patterns of use. However, accurately interpreting treatment data are difficult because the definition of drug ‘treatment’ varies between countries and the treatment services provided are often under-reported or incomplete.

Countries provide various types of drug ‘treatment’ which are defined differently based on a variety of social, cultural, political and medical contexts. Treatment focused on addressing the medical aspects of addiction may reflect a different population of drug users than services focused on the social or public health of a community. Therefore, treatment-based statistics could be misleading. For example, if services are primarily designed for the needs of opiate users, an increase in problematic methamphetamine use may not necessarily reflect increased demands for methamphetamine treatment. Additionally, the lag between onset of use and first treatment demand may take some time to occur in a population, particularly for emerging drugs and for drugs that do not cause acute reactions. This appears to be the case in some countries in East and South-East Asia.

Countries typically have a combination of treatment programmes that are provided or sponsored by

government agencies, non-government organizations and private providers, which can result in administrative data that are often incomplete, under-reported or simply not collected. For example, the administrative costs associated with collecting treatment data often result in providers avoiding the activity altogether. In addition, treatment providers may be unwilling to disclose the collected data due to concerns about the privacy and confidentiality of drug treatment patients. When reported, treatment data are often limited to geographic areas, such as a particular province or metropolitan area, or to specific treatment modalities, such as in-patient treatment hospitals or government-run treatment programmes, or only reflect treatment figures for a specific substance, such as opiate-based detoxification or maintenance programmes.

Even when defined and consistently reported, interpretation based on treatment services poses additional challenges. For example, while an increase in persons seeking treatment may indicate an increase in drug demand, it may also indicate an increase in treatment capacity or reflect a successful initiative to intervene earlier in the progression of a drug user’s dependence. Therefore, interpretation of treatment demand data is best done in the context of additional indicators of drug use and the policy responses for a given country. Table 99 shows annual drug treatment admissions in East and South-East Asia for the years 2007-2011.

Table 99: Total annual treatment admissions in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Methamphetamine					Ecstasy					Heroin & opium				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunel Darussalam	59	50	102	133	175	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambodia	•	•	1,175	•	•	•	•	4	•	•	•	•	56	•	•
China	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	•	•	984	2,963	2,746	•	•	490	2,524	1,482	•	•	10,768	3,426	2,712
Japan	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Laos PDR	•	•	1,150	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	7	•	•
Malaysia	•	•	•	886	528	•	•	•	46	6	•	•	•	5,513	3,656
Myanmar	23	21	23	43	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	949	1,024	1,372
Philippines	2,562	2,014	1,678	1,777	2,192	62	36	45	49	27	0	0	0	0	0
Republic of Korea	395	345	277	227	81	•	•	•	•	•	4	0	0	0	0
Singapore	69	87	143	209	549	35	23	7	6	8	154	201	242	364	558
Thailand	49,131	79,977	101,971	113,430	158,316	152	237	333	209	172	2,736	3,126	3,455	3,324	4,716
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Total	52,239	82,494	107,503	119,668	164,587	249	296	879	2,834	1,695	3,773	4,276	15,552	13,999	11,642

• = Not reported. * Includes drug-related treatment admissions for all illicit drug types in the country. Duplication of total treatment data may occur in individual cases. Source(s): DAINAP and multiple resources; see relevant country chapters for details

Table 99: Cont. Total annual treatment admissions in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011

Country	Cannabis					Total*				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunel Darussalam	0	0	0	0	5	59	50	103	135	183
Cambodia	•	•	4	•	•	1,719	2,382	1,305	•	•
China	•	•	•	•	•	•	11,267	173,000	529,109	577,000
Indonesia	•	•	1,774	3,325	2,791	•	•	14,852	12,427	9,870
Japan	•	•	•	•	•	8,942	9,386	11,130	11,651	10,405
Laos PDR	•	•	2	•	•	1,894	1,682	1,964	2,154	1,544
Malaysia	•	•	•	460	202	14,489	•	15,645	6,918	4,403
Myanmar	57	2	12	12	•	959	974	1,066	1,427	•
Philippines	1,421	1,264	1,086	938	903	4,287	3,372	2,863	2,745	3,040
Republic of Korea	11	20	7	4	0	410	366	284	231	81
Singapore	10	27	27	49	79	510	481	535	688	1,245
Thailand	5,936	6,155	8,736	7,471	7,136	62,202	95,117	124,057	133,928	183,547
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•	•	45,261	64,809	29,535	28,514
Total	7,435	7,468	11,648	12,259	11,116	95,198	161,164	411,331	730,758	820,442

• = Not reported. * Includes drug-related treatment admissions for all illicit drug types in the country. Duplication of total treatment data may occur in individual cases.

Source(s): DAINAP and multiple resources; see relevant country chapters for details

Drug use data

Accurately measuring how many persons engage in an illicit behavior, such as drug use, is a challenging endeavor. Two broad approaches often used are direct survey and indirect estimation, each with benefits and limitations. The direct method for estimating drug use prevalence utilizes population surveys, either for general or specialized groups, such as students. Drug use surveys usually ask a sample of participants if drugs were used at least once in the past month, at least once in the past year, or in their lifetime, in order to estimate total drug use in the general or specialised population. The approach generates accurate estimates if and when a representative population sample of drug users is obtained equitably from around the country (i.e. metropolitan drug use levels are typically higher than rural drug use levels) and interviewees honestly and accurately disclose their drug use. However, this approach leads to underestimates of the actual levels of drug use because it typically excludes marginalized groups, such as severe or problematic drug users who are unable to take part in either a household or a school-based survey, and because persons may feel uncomfortable disclosing their illicit drug use.

The indirect method of estimating drug use prevalence uses multiple data sources to estimate the population of drug users. The multiplier method is a common approach which uses two independent pieces of data: one data source, for example, the number of persons receiving treatment in a year, is multiplied with another, for example, the proportion of a sample of drug users who received treatment, to estimate the drug-using population. While this approach is both less expensive and technically challenging than general population surveys and does not require persons to admit to drug use, it does require multiple sources of data to perform multiple estimates, which many countries do not collect.

Because of the limitations noted above and others, estimates of illicit drug use sometimes have a wide range. Ranges of estimated drug use reflect the likely levels of use and the amount of uncertainty related to estimates of use. For example, amphetamine and methamphetamine past year drug use as reported in 2010 for adults aged 15-64 was between 14 and 53 million people globally. The wide range in this estimate is partly due to countries in Asia, notably China and India, that contain a significant proportion of the world's population, but where nationally representative population surveys of illicit drug use may not be conducted regularly. In contrast, the smaller ranges in the estimated number of users in regions such as North America and Europe reflect the longstanding and relatively well funded research programmes in some of the countries in those regions.

For several countries in East and South-East Asia, there are few or no prevalence estimates on either direct or indirect measurements. In the event that no survey data is available, qualitative judgments of prevalence and changes in patterns and trends often can be made by drug experts and key informants who are familiar with available data sources, although limited, and country specific nuances of change in population size and behaviour. In this regard, UNODC requests all national counterpart agencies to make a qualitative assessment of the extent of use by providing a hierarchical ranking of drugs from the most commonly used to the least commonly used as well as a report on the trend in use of each drug, based on available law enforcement agency statistics, treatment and public health office reports, social service agency information and other sources of drug use indicator data.

Rank and trend data for East and South-East Asian countries for the years 2007 through 2011 are shown in Tables 100 and 101.

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