



Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- Although seizure amounts of liquid methamphetamine dropped in 2021, both crystalline methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets reached the highest annually amounts seized so far, showing the importance of Malaysia as a transit and destination country (table 4).
- Meanwhile, the number of clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing facilities dismantled in the country has continued to decline (figure 3).
- Expert perception indicates that methamphetamine use has declined in 2021 (table 1). Other indicators, including the proportion of methamphetamine users brought into formal contact with authorities, also show a decline (tables 2 and 3).
- Prices for wholesale crystalline methamphetamine and retail methamphetamine tablets dropped in 2021, while purity remained stable, indicating their increased availability and affordability (tables 5 and 6).

“Ecstasy”¹

- Seizures of “ecstasy” tablets and powder declined significantly in 2021 compared to the one ton seized in 2020 (table 4). The number of people brought into formal contact with authorities and drug treatment admissions for “ecstasy” use remained low (tables 2 and 3).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other emerging synthetic substances

- Although seizures of ketamine declined in 2021 compared to the two prior years, three clandestine ketamine laboratories dismantled in the country in 2021 evidence its continuing domestic manufacture (table 4 and figure 3).
- Seizures of kratom² leaves once again reached a record level in 2021 (table 4).
- Kratom and etizolam were the most and second most common NPS identified in 2021 by frequency, followed by synthetic cannabinoids and benzodiazepines (table 7).
- Though synthetic cathinones were not frequently identified in drug samples in the country, new synthetic cathinones continued to be detected (table 8).

Other drugs

- Seizures of heroin have increased for the past three years, with 2021 seeing the second highest amount of heroin seized annually in the country (table 4). Drug treatment admissions for heroin, as well as the number of opiate users (including heroin and morphine) brought into formal contact with authorities, accounted for the second-largest proportion of users, after methamphetamine (tables 2 and 3).

1 “Ecstasy” tablets sold in the country may contain a range of substances in varying composition and quantities in addition or instead of MDMA.

2 Kratom is the colloquial name of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*. It contains pharmacologically active alkaloids, especially mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, which have opioid and stimulant properties.

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2016-2021

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓
Methamphetamine tablets	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
“Ecstasy”	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓
Amphetamine	↑	↓	↑	●	↓	↓
Benzodiazepines	↑	↑	↑	●	↓	↑
Cannabis herb	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓
Heroin	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Ketamine	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Cocaine	●	●	●	↑	●	●
Kratom	↑	↓	↑	↑	●	●

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); Official communication with the National Anti-Drug Agency (NADA), March 2022.

Note: Based on expert perception provided by NADA; ↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

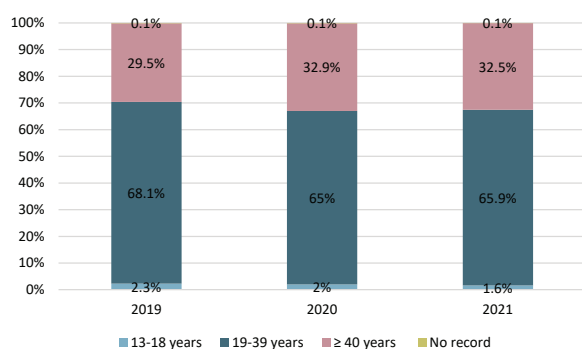
Table 2. Number of people who use drugs brought into formal contact with authorities in Malaysia, by drug type, 2016-2021

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	10,107	10,419	11,531	13,768	13,317	11,171
Opiates*	16,985	10,154	7,746	7,938	4,457	2,756
Methamphetamine tablets	2,631	4,366	4,853	2,386	1,831	2,197
Cannabis	1,236	1,066	1,122	755	474	540
Amphetamine and “ecstasy”	764	764	1,152	2,872	2,384	3,047
Other drugs**	23	13	19	78	48	95
Psychotropic group***	18	9	26	14	14	15

Source: Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Note: * Refers to heroin and morphine; ** Mainly composed of kratom, inhalants and others; *** Includes benzodiazepines, psychotropic pills and Erimin 5.

Figure 1. Proportion of drug and substance users in Malaysia, by age group, 2019-2021



Source: Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Table 3. Drug treatment admissions in Malaysia, by drug type and gender, 2021

Drug type	New admissions			All admissions		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Crystalline methamphetamine	40,384	2,602	42,986	58,450	3,317	61,767
Methamphetamine tablets	6,357	279	6,636	9,353	355	9,708
“Ecstasy”	93	21	114	148	28	176
Amphetamine	5,549	410	5,959	7,656	509	8,165
Heroin	12,130	412	12,542	38,148	900	39,048
Opium	0	0	0	52	0	52
Cannabis	2,334	84	2,418	3,083	96	3,179
Psychotropic pills*	243	14	257	330	17	347
Others**	446	80	526	602	95	697
Total	67,536	3,902	71,438	117,822	5,317	123,139

Source: Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Note: *Includes benzodiazepines, psychotropic pills and Erimin 5; ** Others include kratom, inhalants, cocaine, and others.

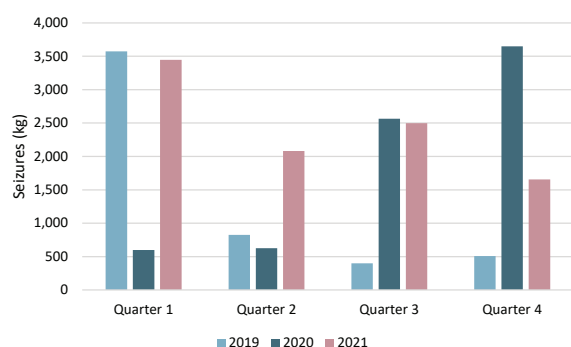
Drug supply indicators

Table 4. Seizures of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2016-2021

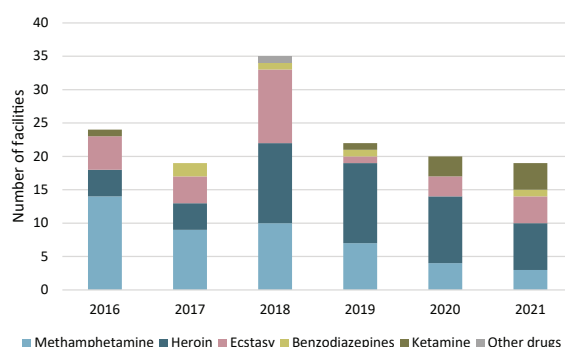
Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	718.5	1,553.3	6,851.8	5,302.4	7,557.2	9,682.1
Liquid methamphetamine	lt / kg	429 kg	460 lt	296.9 lt	308.4 kg	5,960 kg	188.5 kg
Methamphetamine tablets ^a	tablets / kg	895,499	847,334	2,512,444	2,208,889	2,300,222	4,118,667
“Ecstasy” ^b	tablets	200,763	329,594	146,758	706.9 kg	1,096 kg	293.1 kg
“Ecstasy” powder	kg	●	430.6	337.4			
Ketamine	kg	380	506.4	217.1	1,261	3,004.2	474.6
Heroin	kg	742.6	1,441.4	731.5	709.9	930.3	2,166.5
Benzodiazepines	tablets / kg	1,891,852 tablets	2,756,552 tablets	912.4 kg	683.2 kg	925.4 kg	●
Cannabis herb	kg	2,945.5	2,696.3	1,894.8	649.6	5,426.8	3,728.3
Cocaine	kg	253.1	23	12.1	15,247.1	11.3	5.8
Codeine	lt	5,616	10,216.3	37,263.9	13,312.6	4,187.8	6,451.9
Kratom leaf	kg	124,717.9	81,028.6	87,564.8	161,233.6	296,120.8	368,040.4
Kratom liquid	lt	274,421	89,060.1	233,525.9	101,516.7	75,545.1	76,212.8
Opium (raw and prepared)	kg	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.4	●	0.1
Psychotropics	tablets / kg	56,279 tablets	39,979 tablets	13,944 tablets	2.61 kg	2 kg	3.3 kg

Sources: DAINAP; UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) Malaysia for 2020 and previous years; NADA, Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) and Department of Chemistry (KIMIA), “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Malaysia”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Note: ^a Figures reported other than the number of tablets converted into estimated pill equivalent at 90 mg per tablet; ^b Figures reported other than the number of tablets converted into estimated tablet equivalent at 300 mg per tablet; ● = Not reported.

Figure 2. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in Malaysia, by quarter, 2019-2021


Sources: DAINAP; Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Figure 3. Number of illicit drug manufacturing facilities dismantled in Malaysia, by drug type, 2016-2021


Sources: DAINAP; NADA, RMP and KIMIA, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Malaysia", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Table 5. Wholesale and retail prices of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2016-2021 (US\$)

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine tablet	per tablet	3-5	3.6	4.8	2.4-3.6	3.71	2.40
Crystalline methamphetamine	per kg	16,000-26,800	16,800	12,000	12,000	9,889	8,595
"Ecstasy"	per tablet	8.4-10.8	12	7.2	7.2	4.45-7.42	3.60
Heroin (No.3)	per kg	3,744-4,368	5,880	2,667	3,240	2,747	3,199
Ketamine	per kg	6,000-10,800	10,800	12,720	14,400	11,125-13,597	13,132
Cannabis	per kg	486-681	586	576	480-600	445-618	596

Sources: DAINAP; NADA, RMP and KIMIA, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Malaysia", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Table 6. Typical purity of selected drugs in Malaysia, 2018-2021 (percentage)

Drug type	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	75 (40 – 80)	75 (20 – 80)	75 (20 – 80)	78 (20 – 80)
"Ecstasy"	15 - 40	50 (10 – 60)	50 (10 – 60)	50 (10 – 60)
Heroin (No.3)	3 (1 – 5)	4 (3 – 5)	3 (3 – 5)	2 (2 – 4)
Ketamine	75 (70 – 85)	80 (50 – 85)	80 (50 – 85)	80 (50 – 85)

Sources: NADA, RMP and KIMIA, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Malaysia", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Note: Data in this graph refer to the weight/weight (w/w) % expressed as the base form of these substances.

Table 7. Top 8 NPS and other emerging synthetic substances identified in drug samples analysed in Malaysia, 2020-2021

Ranking	2020	2021
1	Kratom	Kratom
2	Etizolam	Etizolam
3	4F-MDMB-BINACA	4F-MDMB-BINACA
4	5F-MDMB-PICA	MDMB-4en-PINACA
5	MDMB-4en-PINACA	ADB-BUTINACA
6	5F-MDMB-PINACA	Flubromazolam
7	Phenazepam	Flualprazolam
8	Flubromazolam	1-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine (TFMPP)

Source: Official communication with NADA, March 2022.

Table 8. Newly identified NPS and other emerging synthetic substances in Malaysia, 2020-2021

Substance group	2020	2021
Synthetic cannabinoids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDMB-4en-PINACA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADB-BUTINACA
Synthetic cathinones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-ethylnorpentylone beta-keto-N,N-dimethylbenzodioxolylbutanamine (dibutylone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> beta-keto-N-methylbenzodioxolylpentanamine (Pentylone) Eutylone
Designer benzodiazepines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flubromazolam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flualprazolam

Source: Official communication with NADA, March 2022.