



MYANMAR

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- After seizing record amounts in 2020, seizures of methamphetamine, including crystalline, tablets and powder forms, declined in 2021, likely due to complications resulting from political developments in the country. Nevertheless, the amount of crystalline and tablet methamphetamine seized in 2021 exceeded the amounts seized in each of the years leading up to 2020, showing that the supply of methamphetamine in the country continues to be of concern (table 2).
- Expert perception on the use of both methamphetamine tablets and crystalline methamphetamine showed a decline for the first time in at least nine years (table 1).
- Seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine remain limited, but other controlled and non-controlled chemicals used in methamphetamine manufacturing as well as the synthesis of ephedrines, such as ethyl acetate and ammonium nitrate, continue to be seized in the country (table 3).
- In 2021, retail prices of crystalline methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets were stable in local currency but dropped in US\$ terms due to exchange rate changes (table 4).

“Ecstasy”¹

- Following a decline in “ecstasy” seizures in the previous three years, seizures of the drug rose again in 2021, while information on its use remains significantly limited (table 2).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- Seizures of ketamine in 2021 have continued to decline since the record amount seized in 2018 (table 2). However, several large seizures of ketamine in Shan State and other parts of Myanmar reported in 2022, including a seizure of 798 kg of ketamine reportedly being transported from Shan State to the border with Thailand, indicate that the illicit manufacture of ketamine in the country may have been revitalized.²
- Meanwhile, seizures of kratom³ have steadily increased since 2017, and reached for the first time more than three tons in 2021 (table 2).

Other drugs

- The area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar increased slightly in 2021 for the first time since 2014.⁴ Heroin seizures reached a record amount in 2021 (table 2).

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 Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) official Facebook account, March 2022 (accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/CCDACMyanmar/posts/1907955396064861>).

3 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.

4 UNODC, “Myanmar Opium Survey 2021: Cultivation, Production, and Implications”, April 2022.

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

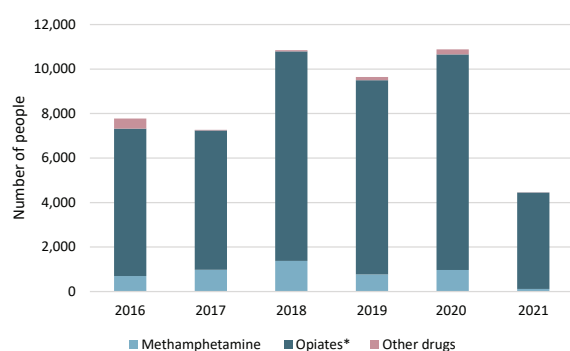
Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2016-2021

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Heroin	↔	↑	↑	↑	↔	↓
Opium	↔	↔	↔	↔	↓	↓
Methamphetamine tablets	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	●	↑	●	↑	↓
Cannabis	●	↑	↔	↔	↔	↓

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); Communication with the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), March 2022.

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

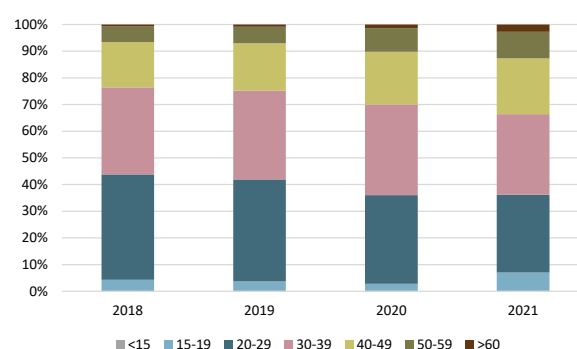
Figure 1. Number of people admitted to drug treatment centres in Myanmar, by drug type, 2016-2021



Sources: DAINAP; Communication with CCDAC, March 2022.

Note: * Includes opium and heroin.

Figure 2. Proportion of people admitted to drug treatment centres in Myanmar, by age group, 2018-2021



Source: Communication with CCDAC, March 2022.

Drug supply indicators

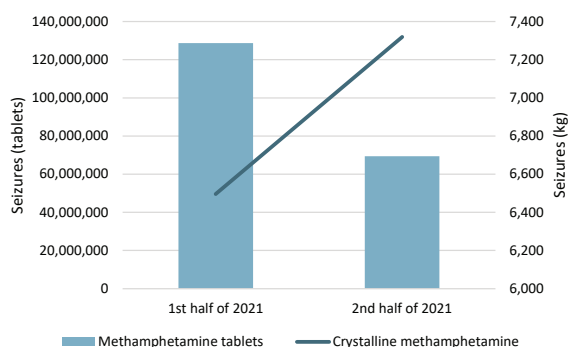
Table 2. Seizures of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine tablets	tablets	98,353,463	74,001,667	106,702,365	108,719,071	328,410,692	198,188,715
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	2,464.1	1,107.5	2,827.5	9,426.2	17,363.9	13,815.8
Methamphetamine powder ^a	kg	54.8	106.9	45.2	679.5	2,145.2	111.3
“Ecstasy”	tablets	22	645,882	2,686	27,995	2,437	146,414
Heroin ^b	kg	769.3	570.6	1,099.1	690.2	1,853.4	2,526.1
Opium	kg	945.7	1,256.2	2,829.0	1,552.7	3,882.9	2,632
Cannabis ^c	kg	188.8	99.4	142.4	364.8	737.6	503.7
Kratom	kg	1,409.4	652.1	1,833.9	2,542.6	2,632.7	3,088.2
Ketamine ^d	kg	940.2	75.1	2,360.2	1,096	888.5	762

Sources: DAINAP; UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) Myanmar for 2020 and previous years; CCDAC, “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Myanmar”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Communication with CCDAC, March 2022.

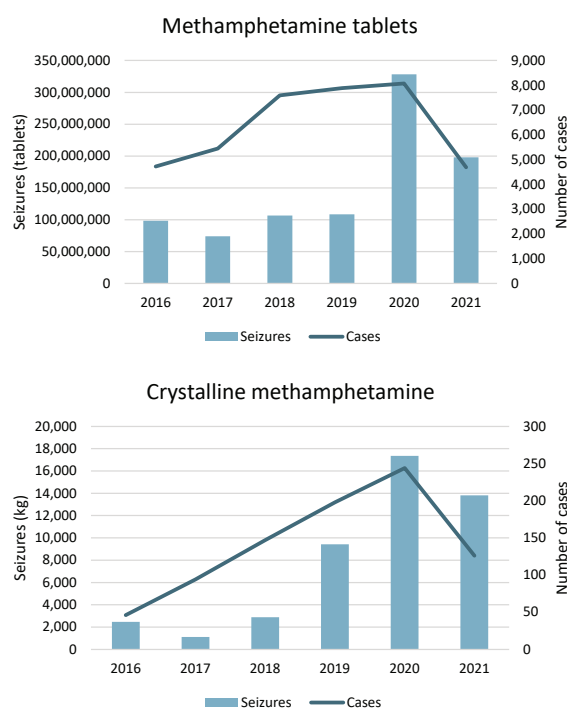
Note: ^a Methamphetamine for processing into methamphetamine tablets; ^b Reported as heroin No.4; ^c Combined herb and resin; ^d Figures reported in it were converted into kg with the ratio 1 lt = 1 kg.

Figure 3. Seizure amounts of methamphetamine in Myanmar, by half year, 2021



Source: Communication with CCDAC, March 2022.

Figure 4. Number of cases and seizures for methamphetamine in Myanmar, 2016-2021



Sources: DAINAP; CCDAC, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Myanmar", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Communication with CCDAC, March 2022.

Table 3. Seizures of selected precursors and chemicals in Myanmar, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ephedrine	kg	534.2	0	139.7	402	630	●
Pseudoephedrine ^a	tablets	1,192,000	3,901,000	450,000	0	1,500,000	●
Phenylacetic acid	lt	0	950	4,000	0	●	●
P-2-P	lt	0	0	3,298	30,001	160	●
Acetic anhydride	lt	16	1,318.3	40	4,140.1	12,240	●
Safrole	lt	0	0	0	1,440	●	●
Thionyl chloride	lt	0	0	16	11,600	●	●
Methyl ethyl ketone	lt	●	●	7,860	9,600	●	●
Sodium cyanide	kg	●	19,000	23,550	4,640	107,870	48,620
Benzyl cyanide	lt	●	●	●	22,160	17,272.5	●
Tartaric acid	lt	●	●	●	●	2,855	●
Caffeine (bulking agent)	kg	19,847.5	5,885	20,759.5	19,226	11,371.9	9,355
Toluene	lt	●	●	4,602	16,680	18,080	50,400
Ethyl acetate	lt	●	●	●	59,000	53,319	42,960
Ammonium nitrate	kg	●	●	●	500	103,585	74,434
Sodium ethoxide	kg	●	●	●	●	15,400	●
Methyl phenylacetate	lt	●	●	●	●	5,085	●

Sources: DAINAP; CCDAC, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Myanmar", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Communication with CCDAC, March 2022.

Note: ^a The amount of pseudoephedrine in tablets varies; ● = Not reported.

Table 4. Typical retail prices of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2017-2021 (US\$)

Drug type	Unit	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine tablet	per tablet	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.7
Crystalline methamphetamine	per g	20-24	14-18	14.28	15.2	11.7
“Ecstasy”	per tablet	31	30	32.1	34.3	26.5
Cannabis herb	per kg	207	200	214	228.8	176.5

Sources: DAINAP; CCDAC, “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Myanmar”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Communication with CCDAC, March 2022.