



## Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

### Methamphetamine

- Methamphetamine continues to be the main drug of concern in Singapore, accounting for the largest proportion of people brought into formal contact with authorities as well as drug treatment admissions (figure 1 and table 2). The reported use of the drug declined in 2021, as perceived by experts and evidenced by a reduction in the number of drug treatment admissions for methamphetamine, which decreased for the first time since 2017 (tables 1 and 2).
- Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine remained stable in 2021 compared to the previous year, but seizures of methamphetamine tablets dropped to the lowest amount recorded since 2007 (table 4).

### “Ecstasy”<sup>1</sup>

- Seizure amounts of “ecstasy” declined slightly in 2021, though use of the drug has increased, as perceived by government experts (tables 1 and 3). “Ecstasy” is also the third most used drug among new drug users brought into formal contact with authorities in 2021 (figure 1).

### New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- Although the number of NPS users, both new and repeat, brought into formal contact with authorities declined by more than half in 2021, the drop in new NPS users was more pronounced with only 23 users identified in 2021 compared to 106 in 2020 (figure 2).
- Synthetic cannabinoids dominate the NPS market in Singapore, constituting the most frequently occurring group of NPS identified in seizure incidents for the past five years. In the past three years, a comparatively large number of synthetic cannabinoids have been identified for the first time in the country each year (table 5). Users of synthetic cannabinoids also form the majority of NPS users brought into formal contact with authorities.<sup>2</sup>
- A wide range of substances, including designer benzodiazepines, continue to be found in ‘Erimin 5’ tablets.<sup>3</sup> Flualprazolam was detected for the first time in 2021 (table 6).

### Other drugs

- Seizures of heroin reached a record amount in 2021 (table 4). Drug demand indicators also point to rising use of heroin, with expert perception noting an increase in use of the drug for the first time since 2012. The number of drug treatment admissions for heroin also increased, surpassing 500 people for the first time since 2013 (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 Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), March 2022.

3 “Erimin 5” is a proprietary product of Sumitomo corporation, and its licit production has been discontinued since 2015. The proprietary product contains nimetazepam, a benzodiazepine, which is controlled in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. It is probable that current “Erimin 5” seizures are manufactured illicitly and may or may not contain nimetazepam as well as a range of other substances.

## Key facts and figures

### Drug demand indicators

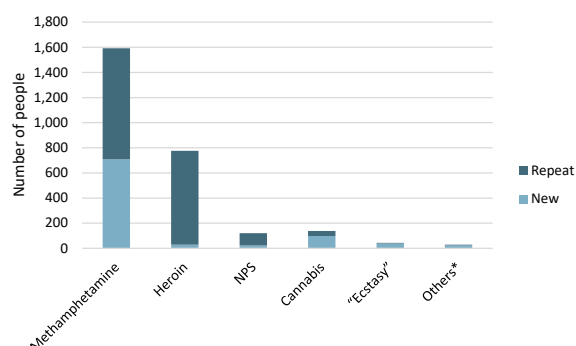
**Table 1. Trend in use of specific drugs in Singapore, 2016-2021**

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓
“Ecstasy”	↑	↑	↔	↑	↓	↑
Cannabis herb	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑
Heroin	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑
Ketamine	↓	↓	↑	↑	↔	↔
Nimetazepam	↓	↓	●	●	●	●
Cocaine	↔	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓
Synthetic cannabinoids	●	●	↑	↑	↓	↓

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) Singapore 2020 and previous years; Official communication with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), March 2022.

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

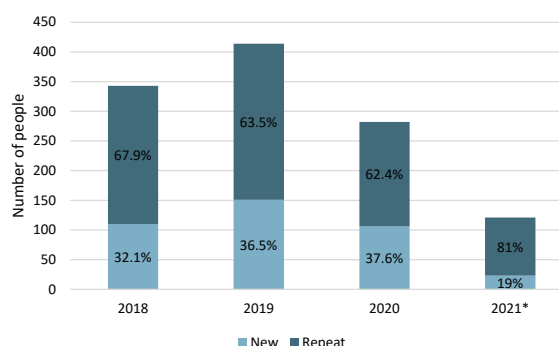
**Figure 1. People who use drugs brought into formal contact with authorities in Singapore, by drug type, 2021**



Sources: CNB and Health Sciences Authority (HSA), “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Singapore”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with CNB, March 2022.

Note: Data are provisional. \* Others include ketamine, GHB, LSD, dihydrocodeine, methadone, methylphenidate and tapentadol.

**Figure 2. Trends in people who use NPS brought into formal contact with authorities in Singapore, 2018-2021**



Sources: CNB and HSA, “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Singapore”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with CNB, March 2022.

Note: \* Data for 2021 are provisional.

**Table 2. Drug treatment admissions in Singapore, by drug type, 2016-2021**

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Methamphetamine	936	870	949	1,250	1,571	1,111
Amphetamine	0	0	●	●	●	●
“Ecstasy”	1	8	8	19	26	26
Buprenorphine	0	0	●	●	●	●
Cannabis	97	71	77	69	67	98
Heroin	149	141	91	473	327	558
Ketamine	3	4	1	8	4	12
Benzodiazepines	7	2	●	●	●	●
NPS	●	●	●	●	64	46
Other drugs <sup>a</sup>	●	●	131	261	185	95
<b>Total**</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>1,946</b>

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

Note: \* Data for 2021 are provisional; \*\* Figures include other unspecified drugs; ● = Not reported.

**Table 3. Number of people who use drugs admitted to treatment centres in Singapore, by gender and drug type, 2021**

Drug type	Male	Female	Total
Methamphetamine	849	262	1,111
Ecstasy	19	7	26
Cannabis	91	7	98
Heroin	501	57	558
Ketamine	8	4	12
Unclassified / other drugs	120	21	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>1,946</b>

Source: Official communication with CNB, March 2022.

Note: Data are provisional.

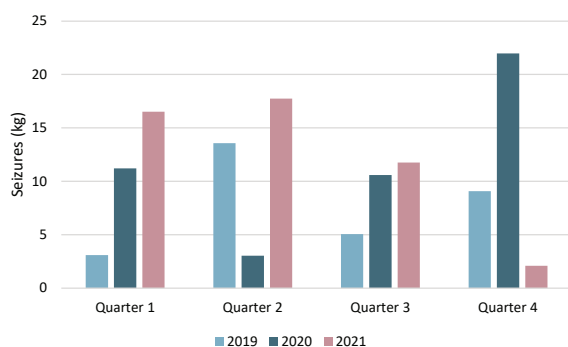
## Drug supply indicators

**Table 4. Seizures of selected illicit drugs in Singapore, 2016-2021**

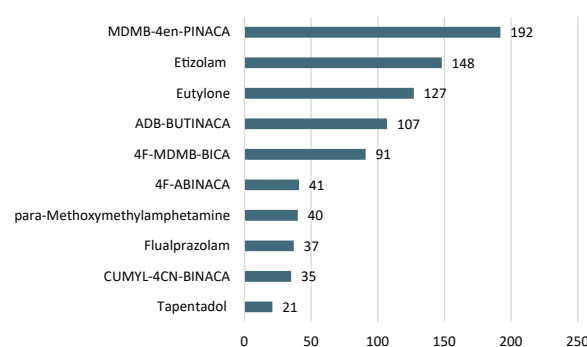
Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	18.3	22.2	19.3	30.8	46.8	48.1
Methamphetamine tablets	tablets	242	827	5,236	691	70	20
“Ecstasy”	tablets / g	3,891 / 97.9 g	4,743.5 / 11.4 g	4,127 / 5.5 g	5,742 / 469.5 g	23,141 / 92.1 g	9,488 / 443.6 g
Cannabis herb	kg	54.0	44.1	61.8	27.8	43.1	105.2
Heroin <sup>a</sup>	kg	52.4	36.9	58	38.1	72.7	95.5
Ketamine	kg	1.5	1.0	1.1	3	4	3.4
Benzodiazepines	tablets	19,550	19,580	7,873	8,204	42,706	13,261
Cocaine	g	2	66.4	2,746.8	60.4	21.2	1
LSD <sup>b</sup>	stamp	<sup>704</sup>	180	166	17	122	239
Synthetic cathinones	tablets / g	957 / 3.3 g	219 / 1.6 g	257 / 8.6 g	329 / 1.4 g	5 / 30.9 g	3,150 / 123 g
Synthetic cannabinoids	tablets / g	13 / 13.5 g	1 / 2,506.8 g	72 / 8,162 g	9,240.8 g	87 / 5,097.5 g	0 / 6,176.9 g

Sources: DAINAP; UNODC ARQ Singapore for 2020 and previous years; CNB and HSA, “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Singapore”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with CNB, March 2022.

Note: \* Data for 2021 are provisional; <sup>a</sup> Refers to Heroin No. 3; <sup>b</sup> Some of these stamps contain NBOMe and other NPS.

**Figure 3. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in Singapore, by quarter, 2019-2021**

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

**Figure 4. Top 10 NPS and other emerging synthetic substances identified in drug samples in Singapore, by number of occurrences, 2021**

Sources: CNB and HSA, “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Singapore”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with CNB and HSA, March 2022.

Note: The numbers of occurrences do not equate with the number of exhibits because some exhibits may contain more than one NPS.

**Table 5. Newly identified NPS and other emerging synthetic substances in Singapore, 2020-2021**

Substance type	2020	2021
Synthetic cannabinoids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADB-BUTINACA</li> <li>• CUMYL-5F-PINACA</li> <li>• 5F-EMB-PICA</li> <li>• 4F-MDMB-BICA</li> <li>• 4F-ABINACA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• XLR-11 N-(4-pentenyl)</li> <li>• BZO-HEXOXIZID (MDA-19)</li> <li>• BZO-POXIZID</li> <li>• ADB-FUBIATA</li> <li>• BZO-CHMOXIZID</li> <li>• N-(1-Amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-5-bromo-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (ADB-5Br-INACA)</li> </ul>
Synthetic cathinones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Fluoro-3-methyl-alpha-pyrrolidino-pentiophenone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2-diphenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethan-1-one (<math>\alpha</math>-D2PV)</li> <li>• N-Butylhexedrone</li> </ul>
Phencyclidine-type substances, including ketamine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,4,5-Trimethoxyamphetamine (TMA-2)</li> </ul>	-
Tryptamines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-Methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine (5-MeO-DMT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-Cp-Isd</li> </ul>
Designer benzodiazepines	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flualprazolam</li> </ul>

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

**Table 6. Benzodiazepines and substances detected in "Erimin 5" tablets in Singapore, 2018-2021**

Substance name	2018	2019	2020	2021
Nimetazepam	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nitrazepam	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diazepam	✓	✓	●	●
Phenazepam	✓	✓	●	✓
Etizolam	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alprazolam	●	✓	●	●
Flurazepam	●	✓	●	●
Clozapine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carbamazepine	●	✓	✓	✓
Flubromazolam	●	●	✓	✓
Flualprazolam	●	●	●	✓

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

Note: ✓ = Detected; ● = Not detected, ■ = Newly reported.