

A map of Brunei Darussalam is shown in the top left corner, with the name 'Brunei Darussalam' written in a light blue font over it. The rest of the top half of the page has a solid blue background with the text 'BRUNEI DARUSSALAM' in a larger, bold, white font.

Brunei
Darussalam

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- Crystalline methamphetamine remains the main drug of concern in Brunei Darussalam and accounts for the largest proportion of drug related offences as well as drug treatment admissions (figure 1 and table 2).
- Seizures of drugs declined across the board in 2021, including for crystalline methamphetamine, in part due to continued COVID-19 mobility restrictions. Though the amount of 3.4 kg seized in 2021 was significantly lower than the record amount seized in 2020, when authorities dismantled a large drug trafficking syndicate, it remains a considerable amount for the country (table 3).

“Ecstasy”¹

- Trend data is not available for the use of “ecstasy” in 2021 (table 1). However, seizures and arrests related to “ecstasy” dropped to similar levels as seen in 2018 (figure 1 and table 3).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- There were no reported use and seizures of NPS and ketamine in 2021 (tables 1 and 3).

Other drugs

- ‘Erimin 5’, which may contain nimetazepam, a benzodiazepine derivative, continues to be used and marketed in the country.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 “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

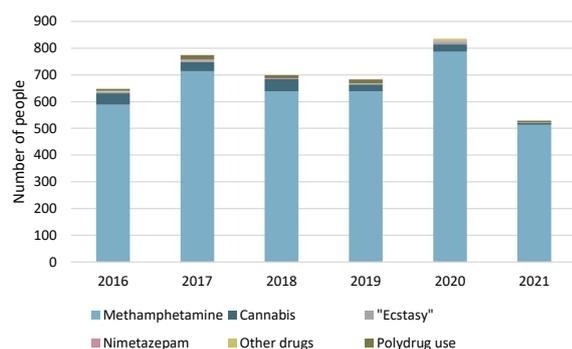
Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2016-2021

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
"Ecstasy"	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	●
Cannabis herb	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓
Inhalants	↓	●	↔	↔	●	↑
Ketamine	↑	↑	↓	●	↑	●
Nimetazepam	↑	↔	↓	↑	●	↑

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) Brunei Darussalam for 2020 and previous years; Official communication with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), February 2022.

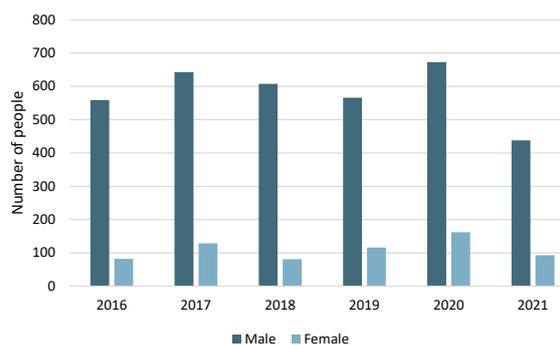
Note: Based on expert perception provided by NCB; ↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

Figure 1. Number of people brought into formal contact with authorities for drug-related offences in Brunei Darussalam, by drug type, 2016-2021



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

Figure 2. Number of people brought into formal contact with authorities in Brunei Darussalam for drug-related offences, by gender, 2016-2021



Sources: DAINAP; NCB, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Brunei Darussalam", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with NCB, February 2022.

Table 2. Number of people who use drugs receiving treatment in Brunei Darussalam, by gender and selected drug types, 2019-2021

Drug type	2019			2020			2021		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Methamphetamine	195	31	226	105	16	121	102	17	119
Cannabis	4	0	4	6	0	6	1	0	1
Ecstasy	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Inhalants	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polydrug use	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	201	31	232	112	16	128	103	18	121

Sources: DAINAP; NCB, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Brunei Darussalam", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with NCB, February 2022.

Drug supply indicators

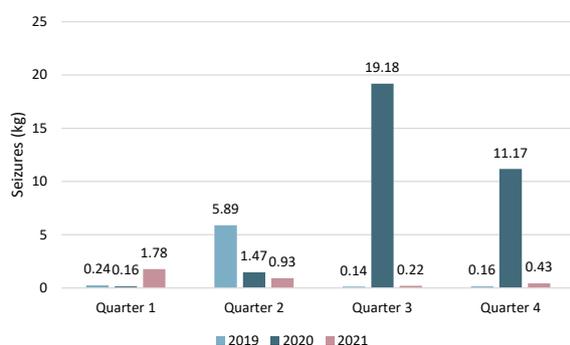
Table 3. Seizures of selected drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	0.7	0.8	0.8	6.4	32	3.4
“Ecstasy”	tablet / g	21 tablets	31 and 1.6 g	0	42 tablets	100 tablets	0.5 g
Cannabis herb	kg	6	1.1	0.4	6.5	1.3	0.1
Heroin	kg	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ketamine	tablet / g	17.6 g	50 and 54.5 g	21 g	1.6 g	229.9 g	●
Nimetazepam	tablet / g	457 tablets and 1.4 g	453 tablets and 11.8 g	275 tablets	503 tablets and 0.3 g	108 tablets and 0.3 g	0.20 g
Kratom (liquid)	lt	0	0	0	0.9	0.9	●
Khat	kg	0	0	0	80	80	●

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

Note: ● = Not reported.

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



Sources: DAINAP; Official communication with NCB, February 2022.

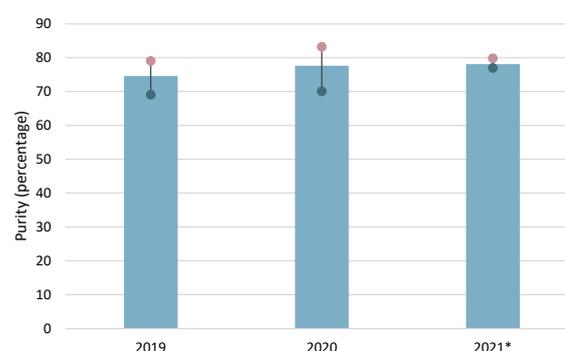
Table 4. Retail prices of selected illicit drugs in Brunei Darussalam, 2020-2021 (BND (US\$))

Drug type	Unit	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	per g	195 (143.9)	195 (143.9)
“Ecstasy”	per tablet	30-50 (22.1-36.9)	30 (22.1)
Cannabis herb	per g	15 (11.1)	15 (11.1)
Ketamine	per g	50 (36.9)	50 (36.9)
Benzodiazepines (“Erimin 5”)	per tablet	10 (7.4)	10 (7.4)

Source: Official communication with NCB, February 2022.

Note: NCB has reported the same prices of the drugs in the table in BND for 2017, 2018, and 2019; The conversion ratio used is US\$1 = 1.355 BND (as of March 2022).

Figure 4. Typical purity of crystalline methamphetamine in Brunei Darussalam, 2019-2021 (percentage)



Source: Official communication with NCB, February 2022.

Note: *Data covers the first ten months of the year. Data in this graph refer to the weight/weight (w/w) % expressed as the base form of these substances.



CAMBODIA

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- The market for crystalline methamphetamine has continued to expand, with seizures of the drug once again reaching a record amount in 2021 (table 2). Government experts perceived the use of crystalline methamphetamine to have risen annually in the past five years and users of the drug represent the largest proportion of drug treatment admissions (table 1 and figure 2).
- The total amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized reached nearly one ton in 2021 and was predominantly seized (68 per cent) during the last quarter of the year, while seizures in the third quarter showed a significant drop in relation to the same period in 2020 (figure 4).
- Purity of both crystalline methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets, as well as the price of methamphetamine tablets, remained stable in 2021 (table 3 and figure 5).

“Ecstasy”¹

- Drug treatment admissions for “ecstasy” remained low (figure 2). While seizures of “ecstasy” expressed in tablet equivalent declined in 2021, the amount seized remained significant and included 102 kg of MDMA found at a re-processing facility in July 2021, along with 1,144.3 kg of chemicals (table 2).²

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- Although there were no drug treatment admissions for ketamine in 2021, a record amount of the drug was seized within the year, nearly fifteen times the amount seized in the previous five years combined (table 2). A significant portion of the ketamine seized was uncovered at an industrial-scale clandestine ketamine laboratory dismantled in December 2021.³ Substantial quantities of chemicals were also found at the site.⁴

Other drugs

- The amount of heroin seized in 2021 is comparable to the record amount of 2020, indicating that the country continues to be targeted as a transit for heroin trafficking (table 2).
- After first being reported in 2020, seizures of “Erimin 5”⁵ were once again reported 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 Official communication with the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), March 2022.

3 Ibid.

4 See the NPS and other synthetic drugs section in the regional chapter.

5 “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

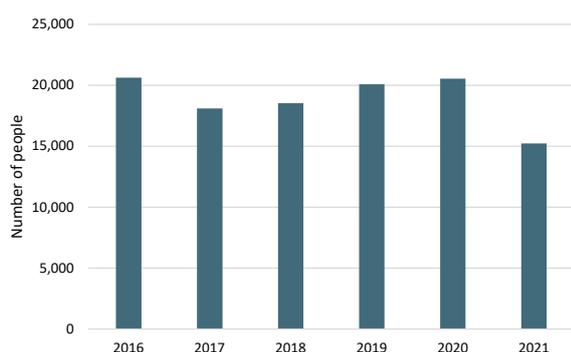
Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2016-2021

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

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); Official communication with the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), March 2022.

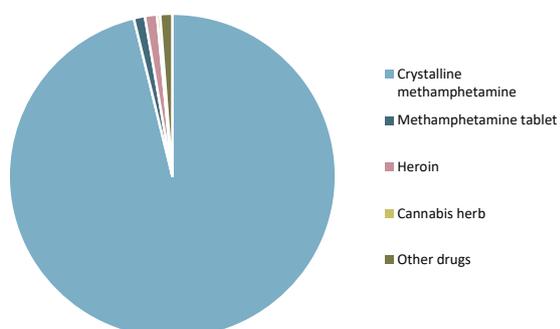
Note: Based on expert perception provided by NACD; ↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

Figure 1. Number of people who use drugs brought into formal contact with authorities in Cambodia, 2016-2021



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

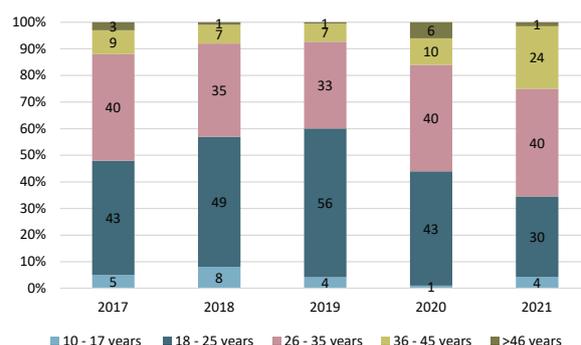
Figure 2. Drug treatment centre admissions in Cambodia, by drug type, 2021*



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

Note: * Data in the table only cover for drug users admitted to temporary treatment centres; The total number of admissions for temporary drug treatment centres in 2021 was 3,049 and included those admitted for poly-drug use.

Figure 3. Drug treatment centre admissions in Cambodia, by age group, 2017-2021*



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

Note: * Data in the table only covers drug users admitted to temporary treatment centres.

Drug supply indicators

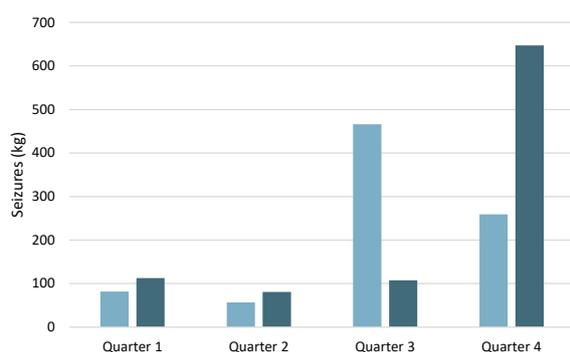
Table 2. Seizures of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine tablets ^a	tablets	490,689	371,556	77,000	483,444	43,222	63,130
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	66.3	80.1	306.6	384.9	863.5	948
“Ecstasy” ^b	tablets	5,509	83,533	599,200	382,733	2,245,200	534,706
Cannabis herb	kg	37	116.3	74.0	102.9	292.2	135.1
Cocaine	kg	14	12.8	5.4	0.6	0.5	2
Heroin	kg	6.2	22.5	1.3	0.5	298.7	275.6
Ketamine	kg	1.1	6.3	36.3	33	112.5	2,782.8
Nimetazepam	kg	●	●	●	●	9.4	11.7

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

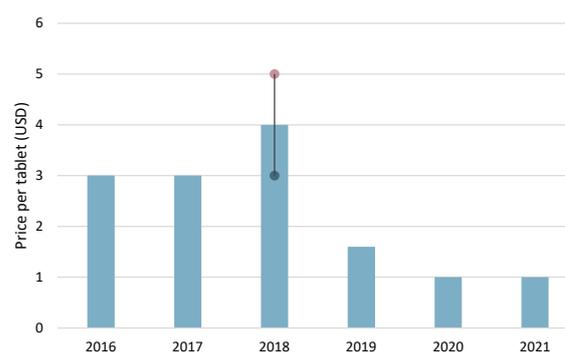
Note: ^a These figures include quantities reported as grams, all of which were converted into estimated tablet equivalent at 90 mg per tablet; ^b These figures include quantities reported as grams, all of which were converted into estimated tablet equivalent of 300 mg per tablet; ● = Not reported.

Figure 4. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in Cambodia, by quarter, 2020-2021



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

Figure 5. Retail prices of methamphetamine tablets in Cambodia, 2016-2021 (US\$)



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

Note: * The high-low bars represent the upper and lower limits of the price ranges reported in addition to the typical price.

Table 3. Typical purity of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2020-2021 (percentage)

	2020				2021*			
	Number of samples analysed	Minimum	Average	Maximum	Number of samples analysed	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Crystalline methamphetamine	8,470	1.9%	64.5%	81%	4,580	1.5%	62%	80.5%
Methamphetamine tablets	75	7.9%	15.3%	20%	140	12.2%	17%	23.7%
“Ecstasy” tablets (MDMA)	83	14.9%	30.9%	50%	174	14.6%	29.1%	43.5%
Ketamine (powder)	192	0.7%	34.3%	78.4%	171	5%	25.9%	68%

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

Note: * Data covers the first ten months of the year. Data in this table refer to the weight/weight (w/w) % expressed as the base form of these substances.

A map of China and its surrounding regions, including parts of Central Asia and Southeast Asia. The word "China" is written in a light blue font over the map. The map shows the coastline of China and the surrounding landmasses.

China

CHINA

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- Seizure amounts of methamphetamine in liquid, powder and crystalline forms rebounded slightly in 2021, while the amount of methamphetamine tablets seized nearly halved in 2021, dropping to its lowest level since 2010 (table 1). The implementation of strict COVID-19 mobility measures complicates the comparability of seizure trends in 2020 and 2021.
- Despite the decrease in number of registered synthetic drug users in 2021, methamphetamine remains a drug of concern and continues to account for the highest proportion of registered drug users.¹
- The number of illicit manufacturing facilities dismantled in China² continued its decline in 2021 (figure 5).
- The purity of crystalline methamphetamine declined compared to previous years but remains at a high level (table 3).

“Ecstasy”³

- The amount of “ecstasy” seizures dropped in 2021 after having increased slightly in the previous two years (table 1).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- Since 2018, synthetic cannabinoids have been the most frequently identified group of NPS in China, and in 2021, seizures of this substance group increased exponentially to fifteenfold the amount seized in 2020 (table 1 and figure 6).
- While a large number of synthetic cannabinoids were placed under national control under a generic definition in July 2021, several synthetic cannabinoids which may not be covered by this definition, were identified in China in 2021 for the first time, namely ADB-FUBIATA, 5F-BZO-POXIZID (5F-MDA-19), and BZO-POXIZID.⁴
- The number of synthetic cathinones identified in the country remains low with only eight different substances in a total of 27 samples analysed, though three new substances were identified in 2021 (table 2, and figures 6 and 8).
- Seizures of ketamine have continued to decrease and dropped to a record low in 2021 (table 1).

Other drugs

- A record low amount of heroin was seized in 2021 (table 1). The number of registered users of opiates continued to decrease in 2021 (figure 2).

1 Official communication with the National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), March 2022.

2 Disaggregated data by drug type is not available.

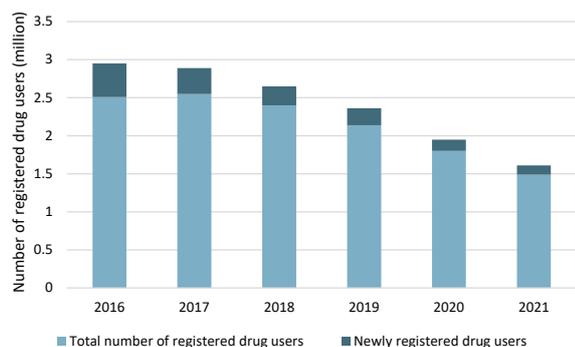
3 “Ecstasy” tablets sold in the country may contain a range of substances in varying composition and quantities in addition or instead of MDMA.

4 Liu C-M, Hua Z-D, Jia W, Li T. Identification of AD-18, 5F-MDA-19, and pentyl MDA-19 in seized materials after the class-wide ban of synthetic cannabinoids in China. *Drug Test Analysis*, 2021; 1-10. doi:10.1002/dta.3185.

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

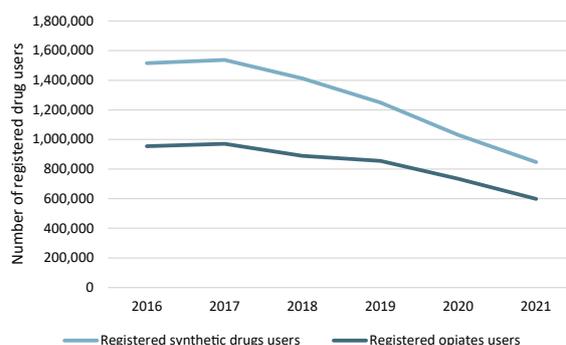
Figure 1. Number of current registered drug users in China, 2016-2021



Source: Official communication with the National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), March 2022.

Note: The number of current registered drug users is the number of registered drug users, excluding those who have passed away, are out of the country, or have not relapsed for 3 years.

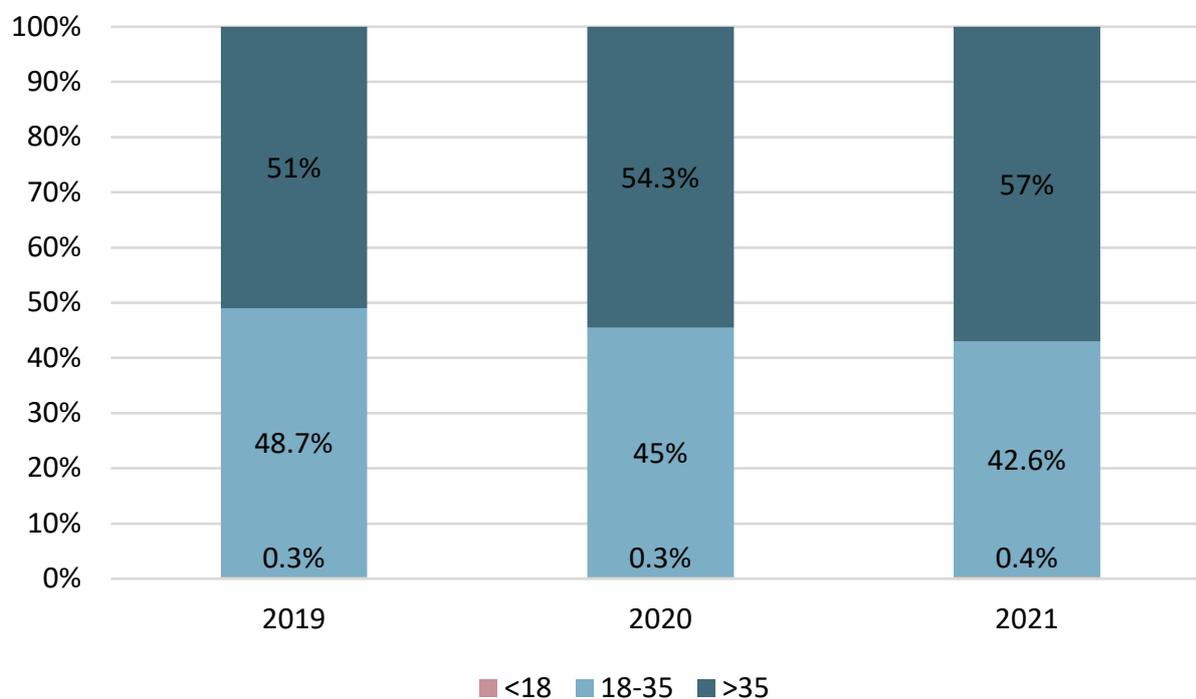
Figure 2. Number of current people who were registered for using synthetic drugs and opiates in China, 2016-2021



Source: Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Note: The number of current registered drug users is the number of registered drug users, excluding those who have passed away, are out of the country, or have not relapsed for 3 years.

Figure 3. Proportion of current registered drug users in China, by age group, 2019-2021



Source: Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Note: The number of current registered drug users is the number of registered drug users, excluding those who have passed away, are out of the country, or have not relapsed for 3 years.

Drug supply indicators

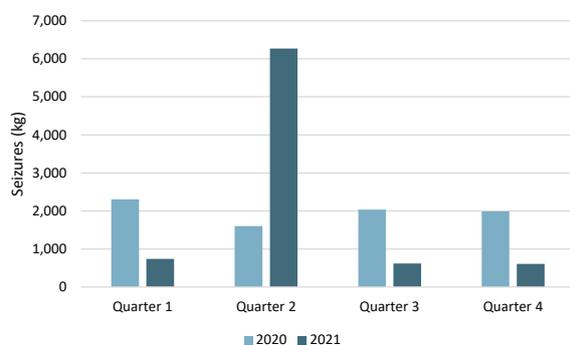
Table 1. Seizures of selected drugs in China, 2016-2021*

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	30,706 kg	30,766.4 kg	12,155.32	7,935.5	8,239.7
Methamphetamine tablets ^a	tablets			129,464,300	132,360,700	67,254,459
Methamphetamine powder	kg			235.8	364.5	808.9
Methamphetamine liquid	lt			1,174	437.8	611.7
"Ecstasy" ^b	tablets	1,200,267	3,481,233	240,667	490,667	292,667
Ketamine	kg	10,361.1	7,292.6	1,761.8	1,406.8	456.6
Cannabis herb	kg	5,833	4,927	621.7**	406.1	344.9
Cannabis resin	kg	34.4**	7.9	2,559.7	3	0.4
Cocaine	kg	430.6	311.7	155.1	582.2	690.5
Heroin	kg	8,777.4	9,519.9	6,136.4	3,771.5	1,805.6
Opium	kg	3,104.3	3,909.3	2,908.4	2,770.8	2,031.5
Synthetic cannabinoids	kg	●	●	6	11.7**	179.2

Sources: UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) China for 2020 and previous years; Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

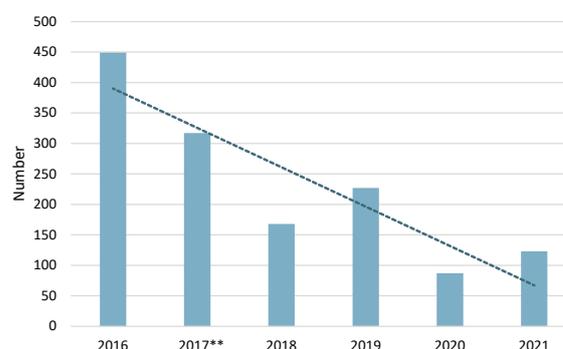
Note: * Data for 2018 is undergoing verification and is not included in the table; data for 2021 are from official communication with NNCC, while data for previous years are from the UNODC ARQ China unless otherwise stated; ** Data from official communication with NNCC, March 2022; ^a Figures not reported as number of tablets converted into estimated tablet equivalent at 100 mg per tablet. ^b Figures not reported as number of tablets converted into estimated tablet equivalent at 300 mg per tablet; ● = Not reported.

Figure 4. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in China, by quarter, 2020-2021



Source: Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

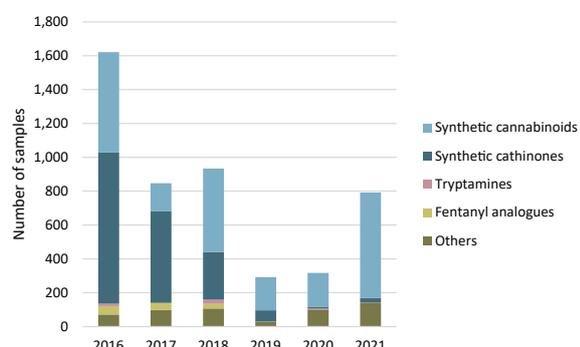
Figure 5. Number of illicit drug manufacturing facilities dismantled in China, 2016-2021*



Sources: UNODC ARQ China for 2020 and previous years; Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

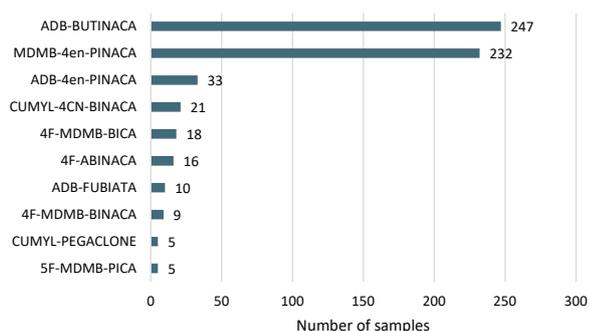
Note: * Data for 2021 is from official communication with NNCC, while data for previous years are from the UNODC ARQ China unless otherwise stated; ** Data from official communication with NNCC, March 2022; Disaggregated data by drug type is not available.

Figure 6. Frequency of NPS identified in samples analysed by the NPS Monitoring Programme of China, by substance group, 2016-2021



Source: Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Figure 7. Top 10 synthetic cannabinoids identified by the NPS Monitoring Programme of China, 2021



Source: Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Table 2. Newly identified NPS and other emerging synthetic substances in China, 2020-2021

Substance Type	2020	2021
Synthetic cannabinoids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adamantyl-CHMINACA ADB-BUTINACA 5F-EMB-PICA 4F-ABINACA 5F-EDMB-PICA 4F-MDMB-BICA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADB-FUBIATA 5F-BZO-POXIZID (5F-MDA-19) BZO-POXIZID
Synthetic cathinones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metamfepramone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-butylbutylone N-propylbutylone N-cyclohexylmethylone
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-Methoxy-alpha-methyltryptamine (5-MeO-AMT) 	-

Source: Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

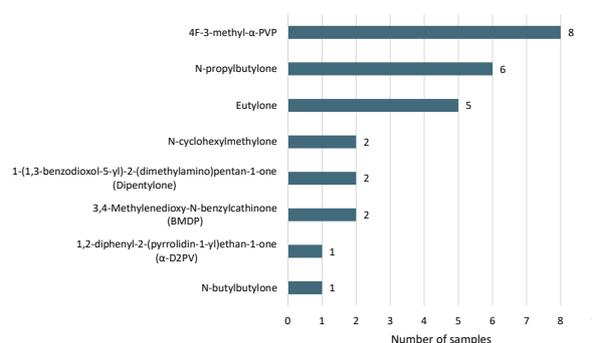
Table 3. Typical retail purities of methamphetamine and ketamine in China, 2016-2021 (percentage)*

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	95	87	90	72	82	74
Methamphetamine tablet	15	16	17**	17**	17	16
Ketamine**	69	74	74	72	69	65

Sources: UNODC ARQ China for 2019 and previous years; Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Note: * Data for 2020 and 2021 are from official communication with NNCC, while data for previous years are from the UNODC ARQ China unless otherwise stated; ** Data from official communication with NNCC, March 2022; Data in this table refers to the weight/weight (w/w) % expressed as the hydrochloride salt of these substances.

Figure 8. Top 8 synthetic cathinones identified by the NPS Monitoring Programme of China, 2021*



Source: Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Note: * These are all the synthetic cathinones identified by the NPS Monitoring Programme of China in 2021.

Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China)

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- The number of methamphetamine users brought into formal contact with authorities has declined annually since 2016 (figure 1).
- In contrast, seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine reached another record level in 2021, while wholesale and retail prices of the drug increased compared to the previous year (tables 1 and 2). This may indicate that the large amount of methamphetamine seized might not have been for the local market, but rather transiting through Hong Kong, China.

“Ecstasy”⁵

- “Ecstasy” use remains limited, accounting for only 0.8 per cent of reported drug users.⁶

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- The amount of ketamine seized increased exponentially in 2021, nearly sevenfold the record amount seized in 2020 (table 1). Though the number of reported persons with non-medical use of ketamine has been increasing for the past two years, it is only a slight increase, indicating that, similarly to methamphetamine, Hong Kong, China is likely to be a transit for ketamine as well (figure 1).

Other drugs

- Heroin remains the most commonly reported substance of use, though users of the drug have decreased every year for the past 11 years (figure 1).
- A record amount of cocaine was seized in 2021, while the retail price of the drug dropped (tables 1 and 2). The number of cocaine users reached over 1,000 people for the first time (figure 1). Together, this shows possible increased availability of cocaine in the local market.
- The number of cannabis users has increased year-on-year for the past five years (figure 1).

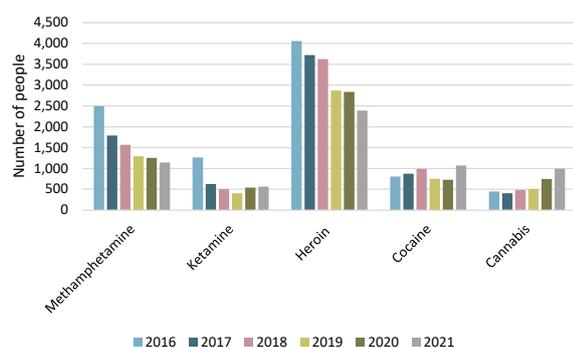
5 “Ecstasy” tablets sold in the country may contain a range of substances in varying composition and quantities in addition or instead of MDMA.

6 Narcotics Division, Security Bureau (NDSB), Hong Kong, China, “Newly/previously reported drug abusers by age group by common type of drugs abused (T3)” (Accessed at https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/crda_main_charts_and_tables.html).

Key facts and figures

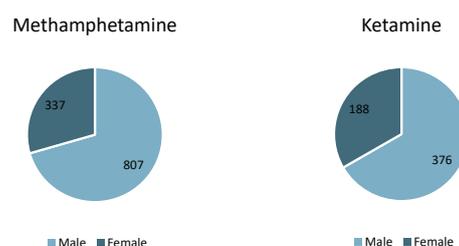
Drug demand indicators

Figure 1. Number of people who use methamphetamine, ketamine, heroin, or cocaine brought into formal contact with authorities in Hong Kong, China, 2016-2021



Source: Narcotics Division, Security Bureau (NDSB), Hong Kong, China, “Newly/previously reported drug abusers by age group by common type of drugs abused (T3)” (Accessed at https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/crda_main_charts_and_tables.html).

Figure 2. Number of people who use methamphetamine and ketamine, brought into formal contact with authorities in Hong Kong, China, by gender, 2021



Source: NDSB, “Reported drug abusers by sex by common type of drugs abused (T12)” (Accessed at https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/crda_main_charts_and_tables.html).

Drug supply indicators

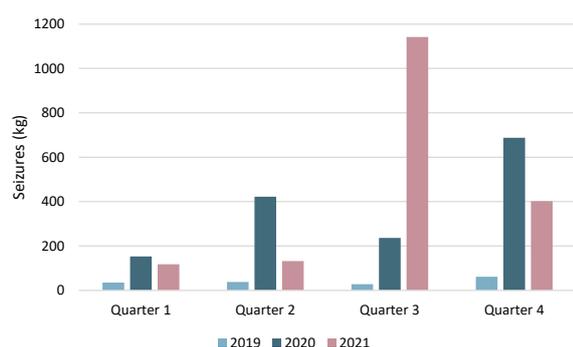
Table 1. Seizures of selected drugs in Hong Kong, China, 2016-2021*

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	359	144	164.1	143.4	1,498.6	1,794
“Ecstasy” ^a	tablets / kg	1,592 / 1.4 kg	11,694 / 2.9 kg	19,789 / 25.5 kg	77,602 / 72.4 kg	332,094 / 97.8 kg	62,955
Ketamine	kg	281.7	94.5	153.1	260.9	472.86	3,296
Cannabis	kg	346.7	1,377.6	354.5	467.3	1,141.2	1,985
Cocaine	kg	433.5	454	827.5	1,556.4	1,272.2	2,869
Heroin	kg	73.5	29.5	43.9	46.8	367.8	554

Sources: UNODC ARQ Hong Kong, China for 2020 and previous years; Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Note: * Data for 2021 are from official communication with NNCC, while data for previous years are from the UNODC ARQ Hong Kong, China; ^a Figures reported other than the number of tablets converted into estimated tablet equivalent at 300 mg per tablet.

Figure 3. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in Hong Kong, China, by quarter, 2019-2021



Source: Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Table 2. Wholesale and retail prices of selected drugs in Hong Kong, China, 2016-2021 (US\$)*

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	per kg	8,866.38	12,240.05	22,402.37**	18,845.18	23,199.00	26,641.00
Crystalline methamphetamine	per g	42.39	45.96	70.29**	76.42	65.90	80.47
“Ecstasy”	per tablet	7.73	10.27	10.08	9.54**	5.70	7.40
Heroin	per g	95.99	97.56	107.58	116.36	125.70	165.00
Ketamine	per g	28.48	49.04	65.64**	79.04	58.10	77.02
Cocaine	per g	140.57	121.44	171.14**	150.23	144.60	150.72

Sources: UNODC ARQ Hong Kong, China for 2020 and previous years; Official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Note: * Data for 2021 are from official communication with NNCC, while data for previous years are from the UNODC ARQ Hong Kong, China unless otherwise stated; ** Data from official communication with NNCC, March 2022.

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine rebounded in 2021 reaching the second highest amount recorded in the past several years, with higher amounts of methamphetamine seized in three quarters of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020 (table 2 and figure 2).
- Methamphetamine continues to account for the largest proportion of drug-related arrests and number of drug treatment admissions (figures 1 and 3).
- Despite the large amount of methamphetamine seized in the country, only one clandestine methamphetamine laboratory was dismantled in 2021, signifying that methamphetamine is being increasingly sourced from outside the country (table 3).
- While the majority of crystalline methamphetamine seized in the country originated from the Golden Triangle, Indonesian authorities again seized large amounts of methamphetamine trafficked from West Asia in February 2021 (436.6 kg) and April 2021 (2.5 tons), representing a quarter of the total amount seized in that year. Chemical analysis of the seized methamphetamine pointed to ephedra plant material as the main source of the ephedrine used in its synthesis.¹
- The majority of crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in 2021 were found to be synthesized using the Nagai method in contrast to the Emde method which was the most common method for samples analysed in recent years.² In addition, some samples were indicated as a mixture of methamphetamine synthesized using the Emde method with methamphetamine synthesized using methods that use P-2-P as the starting material, such as the Leuckart and reductive amination methods (figure 4).

“Ecstasy”³

- “Ecstasy” seizure amounts dropped sharply in 2021 to its lowest level since 2015 (table 3).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- Synthetic cannabinoids continue to dominate the NPS market in Indonesia, forming the largest proportion of substances identified in NPS samples. They are the most frequently identified NPS, and newly identified NPS in 2021 (figure 5 and table 6). Seizures of synthetic cannabinoids declined slightly in 2021 compared to 2020 but remain significantly higher than in years prior (table 2).

Other drugs

- Indonesia continues to seize the largest amount of cannabis herb in East and Southeast Asia (table 2).

1 Official communication with the National Narcotics Board (BNN) of Indonesia, March 2022.

2 Both methods use either ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as the main precursor for synthesizing methamphetamine.

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

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

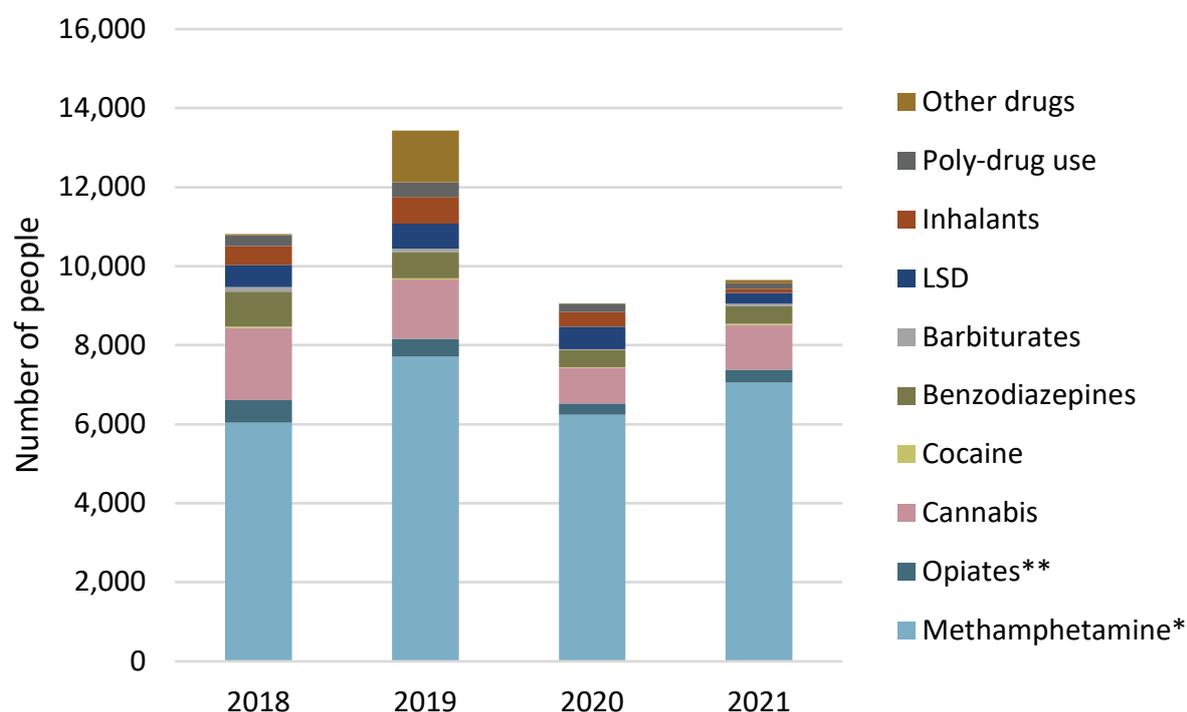
Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2016-2021*

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
“Ecstasy”	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔
Barbiturates	↑	↑	↑	↔	↓	↔
Benzodiazepines	↔	↔	↑	↔	↓	↔
Cannabis herb	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔
Cannabis resin	↑	●	●	●	●	●
Cocaine	↑	↔	↓	↔	↓	↑
Heroin	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑
LSD	↔	↔	↑	●	↑	↔
Ketamine	●	●	●	●	●	●

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); Official communication with the National Narcotics Board (BNN), April 2022.

Note: *Based on expert perception provided by BNN, Indonesia; ↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

Figure 1. Drug treatment admissions in Indonesia, by drug type, 2018-2021



Source: Official communication with BNN, April 2022.

Note: *Includes a few “ecstasy” related admissions; ** Include heroin, morphine and methadone.

Drug supply indicators

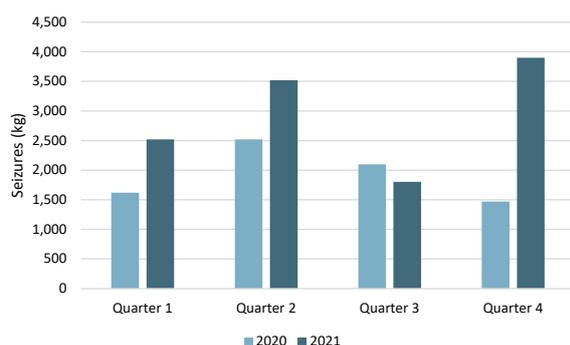
Table 2. Seizures of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	2,630	7,544.8	8,231.3	17,928.3	7,905.7	11,743.5
Methamphetamine powder	kg	•	•	4	•	•	•
Amphetamine	kg	•	0 ^a	65.4	•	•	•
“Ecstasy”	tablets	1,694,970	3,102,679	1,594,084	1,537,806	1,543,336	860,783
“Ecstasy” powder	kg	0.9	21.1	2.3	142.7	14.4	11.7
Barbiturates	tablets	273,201	264,107	138,516	722,572	65,774	88,900
Benzodiazepines	tablets	475,860	64,962	10,703	12,125	574,421	488,859
Cannabis herb	kg	15,700	151,670.9	41,266.8	63,212.2	53,573	72,721.8
Cannabis plants	plants	2,171,841	205,708	1,047,915	350,868	16,539	130,000
Cocaine	kg	0.5	0.1	8.4	8.4	0.5	1.4
Heroin	kg	2.2	0.5	1.4	23.9	44	28.1
Prescription opioid (tramadol)	tablets	•	•	7,477	3,476	5,998	•
Ketamine	kg	0 ^a	1.8	22.2	11	8.2	•
Synthetic cannabinoids	kg	10.5	45.2	5.4	25.1	492.4	337.7
PCC (paracetamol, carisoprodol, and caffeine)	tablet	•	•	1,652,864	1,652,864	400,000	•

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

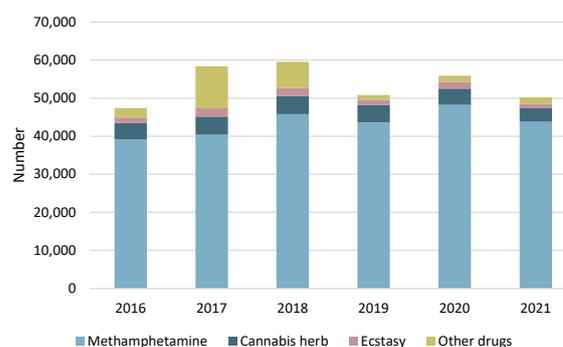
Note: ^a Less than 0.05 kg of the substance was seized; • = Not reported.

Figure 2. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in Indonesia, by quarter, 2020-2021



Sources: DAINAP; Official communication with BNN, April 2022.

Figure 3. Number of drug-related arrests in Indonesia, by drug type, 2016-2021



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

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

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine	3	3	4	2	6	1
“Ecstasy”	0	1	1	0	2	0
Synthetic cannabinoids	0	0	0	0	2	0
Synthetic cathinones	0	0	0	1	0	0
PCC	0	0	0	1	0	0

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

Table 4. Typical retail price of selected drugs in Indonesia, 2016-2021 (US\$)

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	per g	185-190	153-185	124-185	85.7-114.3	106.67 (66-233)	42-245
“Ecstasy”	per tablet	18	18-31	18-28	24.3-28.6	26 (12-50)	10.5-45.5
Amphetamine	per g	30	30	30	●	●	●
Ketamine	per g	●	77	●	50-71.4	●	●
Cannabis herb	per kg	185-191	185-191	185	●	●	●
LSD	per blot	●	●	●	10.7-21.4	●	●
Synthetic cannabinoids	per bag (5 g)	●	●	●	28.6-35.7	●	●
Heroin	per g	111-115	111-115	185	214.3	116.7	●
Cocaine	per g	74	74	74-241	179	183.3	●

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

Note: ● = Not reported.

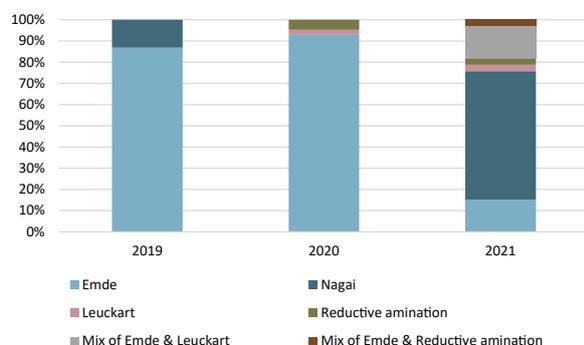
Table 5. Typical purity of crystalline methamphetamine in Indonesia, 2017-2021 (percentage)

Year	Number of samples analysed	Hydrochloride form	Base form
2017	8	67.05 (61.66-97.55)	53.87
2018	38	91.92 (75.33-95.48)	73.85
2019	38	96.35 (90.01-99.88)	77.41
2020	127	96.65 (88.80-99.31)	77.65
2021	33	89.96 (61.72-96.93)	72.29

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

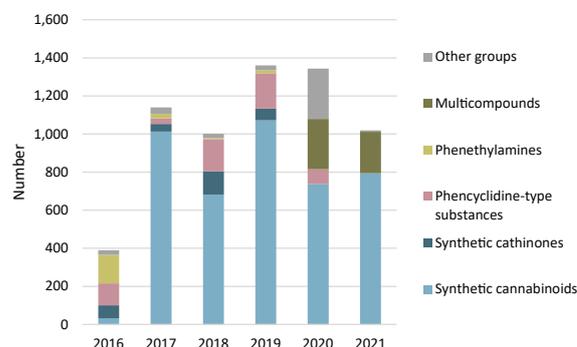
Note: Values in parentheses are the purity range (minimum-maximum) of the substance.

Figure 4. Proportion of synthesis routes of crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in Indonesia, 2019-2021



Source: Official communication with BNN, April 2022.

Figure 5. Number of NPS samples identified and analysed in Indonesia, by substance group, 2016-2021



Source: Official communication with BNN, April 2022.

Table 6. Newly identified NPS and other emerging synthetic substances in Indonesia, 2020 and 2021

Substance group	2020	2021
Synthetic cannabinoids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4F-ABUTINACA • 5F-EMB-PICA • 4f_MDMB-BICA • 5F-EDMB-PICA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDMB-BUTINACA • ADB-BUTINACA • BZO-POXIZID
Synthetic cathinones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)pentan-1-one 	-
Piperazines	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-Benzyl-4-methylpiperazine
Phenethylamines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2C-E 	-

Source: Official communication with BNN, April 2022.



JAPAN

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- Preliminary data for seizures of crystalline methamphetamine show only a slight increase in 2021 compared to 2020. The low number of air passenger-related seizures likely reflect the impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions in Japan in 2021 (table 2).
- Following the trend observed in 2020, the number of cases and seizure amount for methamphetamine trafficked by air passenger dropped even further in 2021 from 23 cases to only 5. Meanwhile, though trafficking using sea cargo remained the same, the use of air cargo and international mail rose in 2021 (figure 4 and 5).
- Asian countries are the most common embarkation point in terms of number of cases as well as seizure amounts of methamphetamine trafficking to Japan in 2021, with Malaysia overtaking Thailand and Viet Nam as the country of embarkation with the highest number of cases. Hong Kong, China was the most important source by weight, accounting for 47 per cent of the total amount seized by Japan Customs throughout the year (figure 3).¹
- The typical retail price of crystalline methamphetamine has remained stable over the past few years and is still the highest price in East and Southeast Asia (table 3).

“Ecstasy”²

- Preliminary data indicate that seizures of “ecstasy” have increased year on year for the past six years (table 2).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- The number of arrestees related to NPS in Japan has continued to decline since 2015 (figure 1). However, NPS use and trafficking remains a concern, particularly for synthetic cannabinoids, which continue to be seized in Japan and accounted for 8 of the 17 newly classified “designated substances” in 2021, as of October 2021.³
- Though few in number, synthetic opioids continue to be identified in Japan, with three new substances in this group reported to the UNODC Early Warning Advisory in 2021 (figure 6 and table 4).

Other drugs

- The number of people brought into formal contact with authorities for cannabis has increased every year since 2013 (figure 1). Of concern is the rising proportion of people younger than 30, which increased significantly from 57.4 per cent of the total number of people brought into formal contact with authorities for cannabis in 2019 to 66.7 per cent in 2020.⁴

1 Japan Customs, “Summary of Japan Customs’ Enforcement in 2021”, February 2022.

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

3 National Police Agency (NPA) and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Japan”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021.

4 Ibid.

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

Table 1. Trends in use of selected drugs in Japan, 2009-2021

Drug type	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	↓	↑	↑	↔	↔	●	●
“Ecstasy”	↔	↓	↑	↓	↑	●	●
Cannabis	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	●	●
NPS	●	●	●	↓	↓	●	●

Source: UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) Japan for 2019 and previous years.

Note: ↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

Drug supply indicators

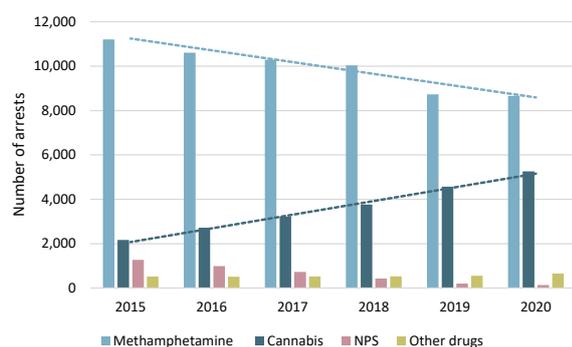
Table 2. Seizures of selected drugs in Japan, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	1,521.4	1,136.6	1,206.7	2,649.7	824.4	912
“Ecstasy”	tablets	5,122	3,244	12,307	73,915	106,308	127,000
Cannabis herb	kg	159.7	270.5	337.3	430.1	299.1	22
Cannabis resin	kg	1.0	21.9	3.1	14.8	3.6	132
Cocaine	kg	113.3	11.6	157.4	639.9	821.7	14
Heroin	kg	0	70.3	0	16.7	14.8	0
Opium	kg	0.7	0	0	0	0	4

Sources: UNODC ARQ Japan for 2020 and previous years; National Police Agency (NPA) and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Japan”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Japan Customs, “Summary of Japan Customs’ Enforcement in 2021”, February 2022.

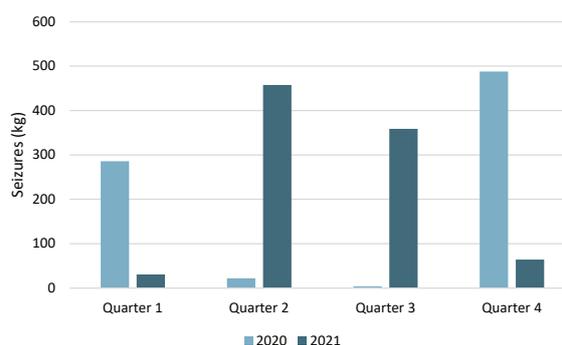
Note: * Data are preliminary and only include the amounts as reported by Japan Customs; ● = Not reported.

Figure 1. Number of drug-related arrests in Japan, by drug type, 2015-2020



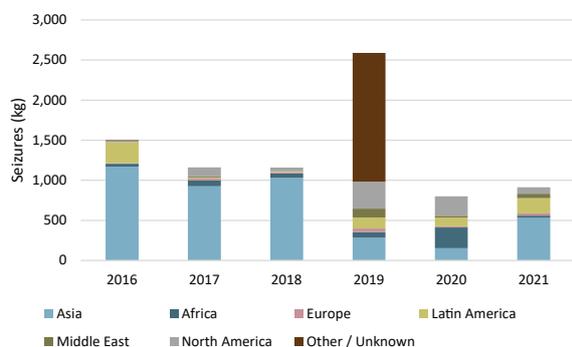
Source: Official communication with MHLW, June 2021.

Figure 2. Seizure amounts of methamphetamine in Japan, by quarter, as reported by Japan Customs, 2020-2021



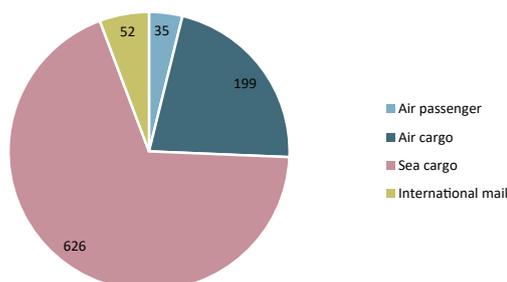
Source: Japan Customs, “Summary of Japan Customs’ Enforcement in 2021”, February 2022.

Figure 3. Proportion of embarkation points of methamphetamine trafficking to Japan, by seizure amount, as reported by Japan Customs, 2016-2021



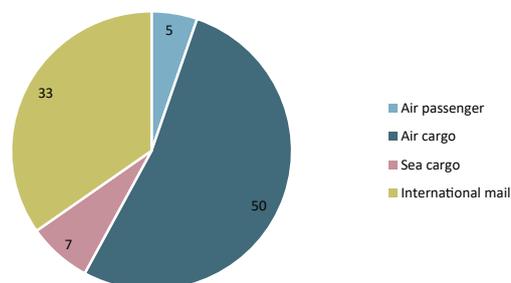
Source: Japan Customs, "Summary of Japan Customs' Enforcement in 2021", February 2022.

Figure 4. Seizures of methamphetamine in Japan, by mode of trafficking and seizure amount (kg), as reported by Japan Customs, 2021



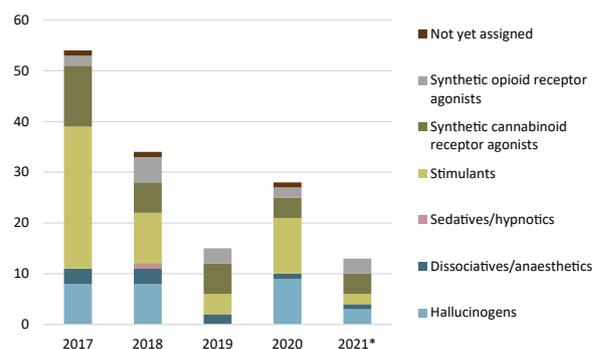
Source: Japan Customs, "Summary of Japan Customs' Enforcement in 2021", February 2022.

Figure 5. Seizures of methamphetamine in Japan, by mode of trafficking and number of cases, as reported by Japan Customs, 2021



Source: Japan Customs, "Summary of Japan Customs' Enforcement in 2021", February 2022.

Figure 6. NPS reported annually to UNODC in Japan, by effect group, 2017-2021



Source: UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on NPS.
Note: * Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Retail prices of selected drugs in Japan, 2016-2021 (US\$)

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	per g	588	560	562	562	613.56	535
"Ecstasy"	per tablet	36.7	36	37	37.5	38.35	●
Cannabis herb	per g	55	55	47	47	57.52	●
Heroin	per g	276	270	281.4	281.4	287.60	●
Cocaine	per g	●	●	187.6	187.6	191.74	●

Sources: NPA and MHLW, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Japan", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021 and previous years.

Note: ● = Not reported.

Table 4. New synthetic opioids in Japan reported to UNODC, 2020-2021

Year	Substance name
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crotonylfentanyl • Valeryl fentanyl
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isotonitazene • Isobutyrylfentanyl • 2-methyl-AP-237

Source: UNODC EWA on NPS.



Lao PDR

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- The use of Lao PDR as a transit for methamphetamine trafficked from Myanmar intensified. Although annual seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine nearly halved in 2021, seizures of methamphetamine tablets increased exponentially and reached a record amount, over double the amount seized in the previous five years combined (table 2 and figure 5).
- As for the past several years, methamphetamine represents the largest proportion of drug-related offences, drug users brought into formal contact with authorities, and treatment admissions (figure 2).¹
- Lao PDR has also served as an important transit for chemicals suspected to be destined for the illicit manufacture of drugs. Seizure amounts of unspecified chemicals suspected to be intended for illicit drug manufacture decreased in 2021 compared to the record amount of 2020 but exceeded the amounts seized in the years before (table 2).

“Ecstasy”²

- There is limited information on “ecstasy” use in Lao PDR, and authorities have not reported any seizures of the drug (table 2).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- For the first time, a small amount of ketamine was seized in Lao PDR in 2021 (table 2).

Other drugs

- From 2018 onwards, the amount of opium seized in Lao PDR has declined each year (table 2). Perceived use of opium follows a similar trend, with experts indicating decreasing use of the drug every year since 2018 (table 1).

1 Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Lao PDR”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021.

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

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

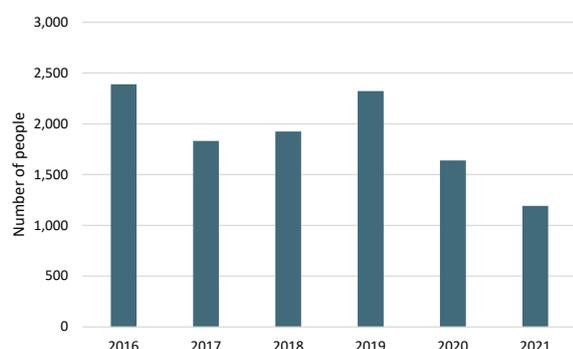
Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in Lao PDR, 2016-2021

Drug used in the past year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine tablets	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓
Cannabis herb	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑
Opium	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Heroin	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); Official communication with the Lao National Commission for Drugs Control and Supervision (LCDC), March 2022.

Note: Based on expert perception provided by LCDC; ↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

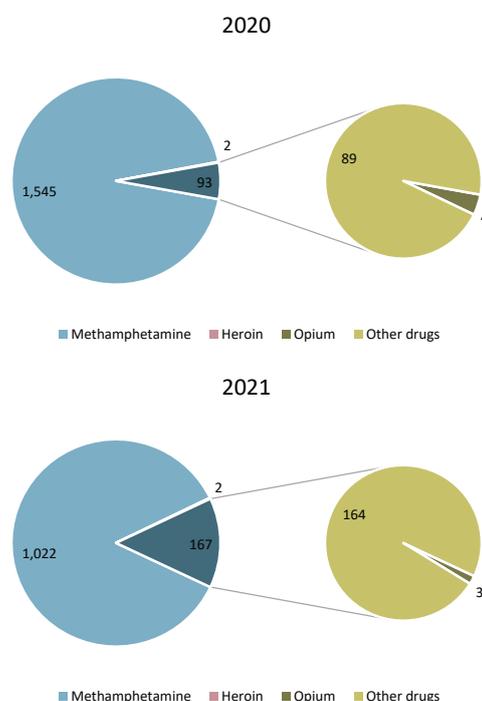
Figure 1. Number of drug users admitted for treatment in Lao PDR, 2016-2021



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

Note: The data here only represents drug users admitted to the Somsanga Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, and it should be interpreted with caution to understand the drug use situation in the country.

Figure 2. Drug treatment centre admissions in Lao PDR, by drug type, 2020 and 2021



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

Note: The data here only represents drug users admitted to the Somsanga Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, and it should be interpreted with caution to understand the drug use situation in the country.

Drug supply indicators

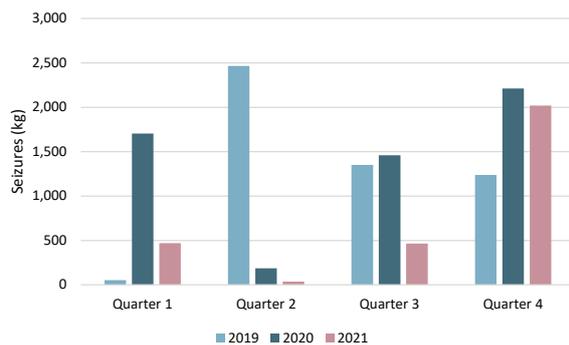
Table 2. Seizures of selected drugs and chemicals in Lao PDR, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Methamphetamine tablets	tablets	2,849,414	10,019,643	21,036,045	17,703,036	18,602,900	143,007,700
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	150.0	124.4	1,841.4	5,106.9	5,564.4	2,991
Cannabis herb	kg	465.9	4,810.0	450.9	2,577.4	5,167.6	5,846.7
Cocaine	kg	0	0	8.3	3.5	0	●
Heroin	kg	221.0	149.5	281.2	174.0	537.2	467.8
Opium	kg	137.7	142.9	103.7	89.4	60.3	18.8
Ketamine	kg	●	●	●	●	●	4.1
Precursors and unspecified chemicals	kg	1,102.5	189.2	5,016.3	13,141.9	125,418	19,480.3

Sources: DAINAP; UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) Lao PDR for 2020 and previous years; LCDC, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Lao PDR", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with LCDC, March 2022.

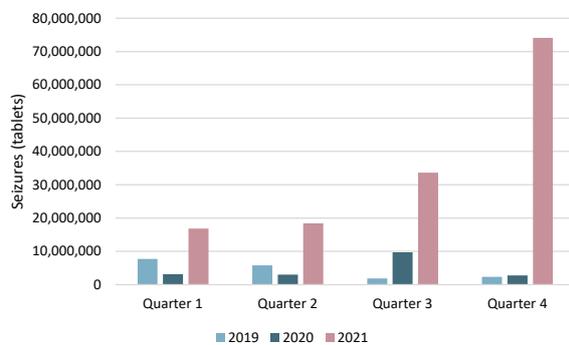
Note: ● = Not reported.

Figure 3. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in Lao PDR, by quarter, 2019-2021



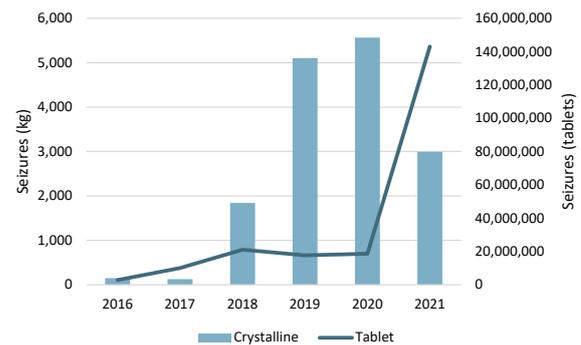
Sources: DAINAP; Official communication with LCDC, March 2022.

Figure 4. Seizure amounts of methamphetamine tablets in Lao PDR, by quarter, 2019-2021



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

Figure 5. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets in Lao PDR, 2016-2021



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



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.

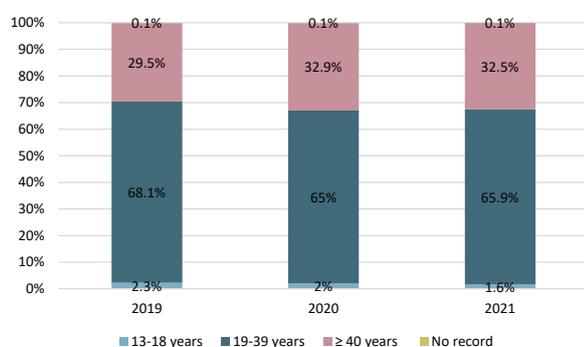
Table 2. Number of people who use drugs brought into formal contact with authorities in Malaysia, by drug type, 2016-2021

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.

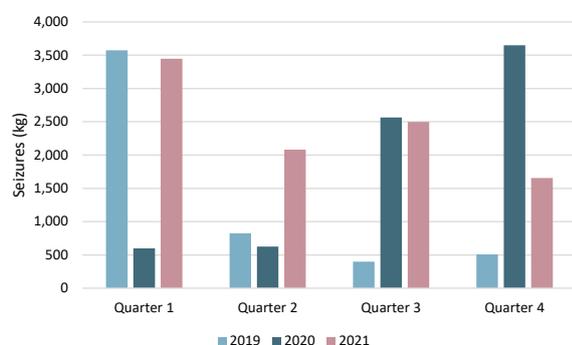
Drug supply indicators

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

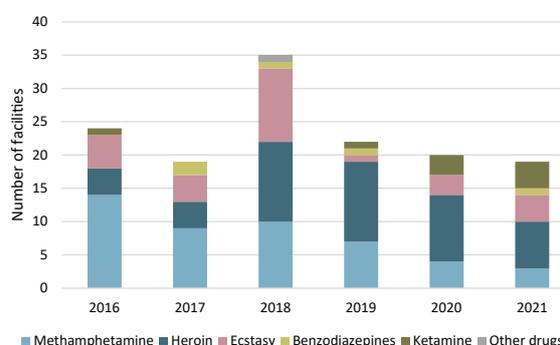
Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	718.5	1,553.3	6,851.8	5,302.4	7,557.2	9,682.1
Liquid methamphetamine	lt / kg	429 kg	460 lt	296.9 lt	308.4 kg	5,960 kg	188.5 kg
Methamphetamine tablets ^a	tablets / kg	895,499	847,334	2,512,444	2,208,889	2,300,222	4,118,667
“Ecstasy” ^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.

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

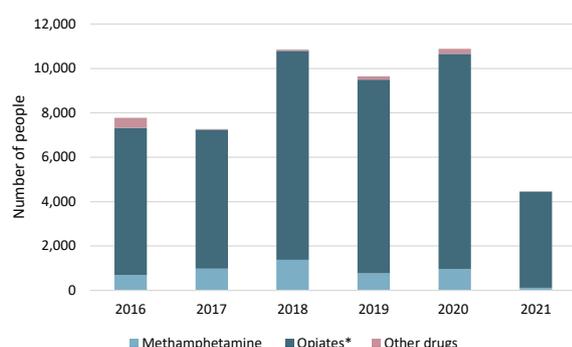
Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2016-2021

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.

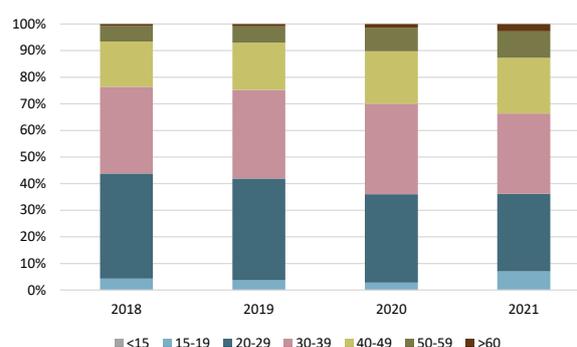
Figure 1. Number of people admitted to drug treatment centres in Myanmar, by drug type, 2016-2021



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

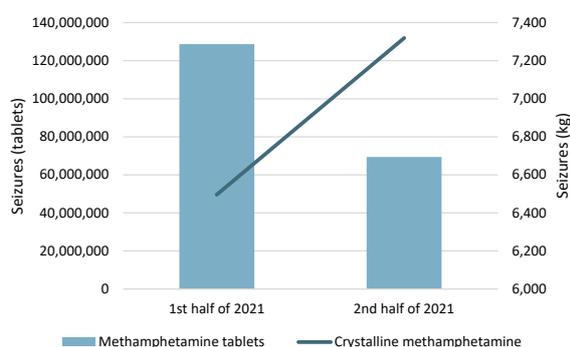
Table 2. Seizures of selected drugs in Myanmar, 2016-2021

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.

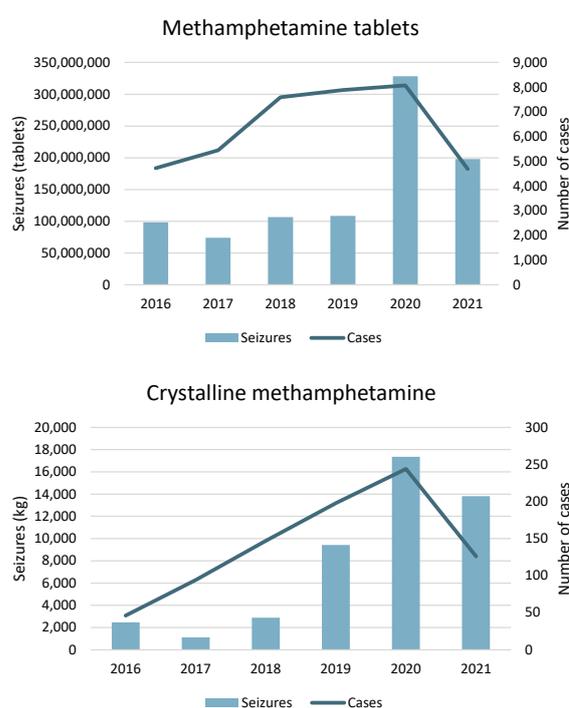
Note: ^a Methamphetamine for processing into methamphetamine tablets; ^b Reported as heroin No.4; ^c Combined herb and resin; ^d Figures reported in it were converted into kg with the ratio 1 lt = 1 kg.

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.

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- Crystalline methamphetamine continues to be the main drug of concern in the Philippines, forming the largest proportion of drug-related arrests and treatment admissions (figure 3).
- Drug treatment admissions for methamphetamine rebounded slightly in 2021 after declining in 2020 due to COVID-19-related restrictions and measures (figure 1).
- Methamphetamine users who are over 40 years old continued to account for the largest proportion of users admitted to treatment centres in the country in 2021 (figure 2).
- Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine continue to increase in the Philippines. The country recorded the highest amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized since 2004 (table 2).

“Ecstasy”¹

- Seizures of “ecstasy” increased again in 2021, however its use remains limited (table 2).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other emerging synthetic substances

- Two emerging substances were reported in 2021: 4-fluoromethamphetamine and phenacetin (table 5).

Other drugs

- Seizures of benzodiazepines increased significantly in 2021 to over sixfold the amount seized in the previous five years combined (table 2). This is in line with the rise in benzodiazepine use indicated by expert perception, as well as the number of drug treatment admissions for benzodiazepines, which represent the third highest number of treatment admissions following methamphetamine and cannabis respectively.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 Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), March 2022.

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

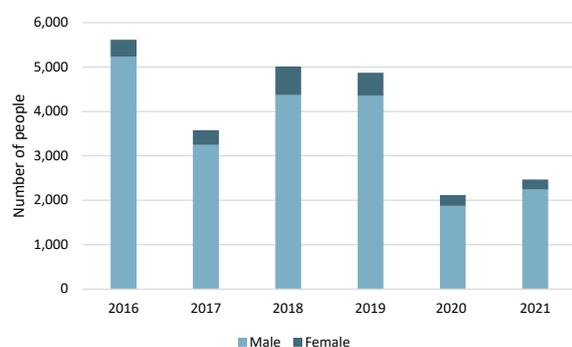
Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2016-2021

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑
Benzodiazepines	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Cannabis herb	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑
Inhalants	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); Official communication with the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), March 2022.

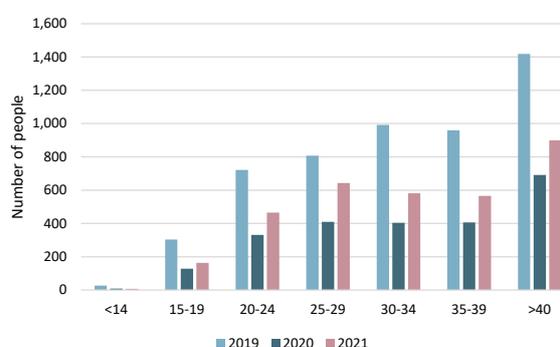
Note: Based on expert perception provided by DDB; ↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

Figure 1. Number of methamphetamine-related treatment admissions in the Philippines, by gender, 2016-2021



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

Figure 2. Number of treatment admissions in the Philippines, by age group, 2019-2021



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

Drug supply indicators

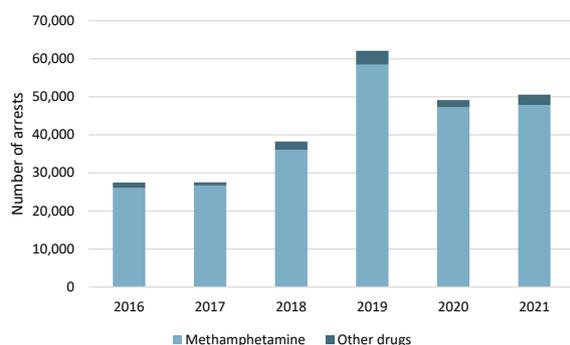
Table 2. Seizures of selected drugs and precursor chemicals in the Philippines, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	2,210.5	1,053.9	785.8	2,071.1	2,196	2,302.7
Liquid methamphetamine	lt	1,805.7	50.2	110.8	203.2	0.7	7.9
“Ecstasy”	tablets	21,736	591	16,713	13,108	42,794	74,786
Benzodiazepines	tablets	120	83	876	236	●	8,453
Cannabis herb	kg	1,334.6	431.7	257.8	900.4	1,474.4	6,286.7
Heroin	kg	0	0	0	0	●	0
Cocaine	kg	70.6	9.9	94.6	347	1.4	1.2
Ketamine	kg / tablet	0.0 ^a	•	0.0 ^a	0.2	●	0.8
GHB	lt	●	0 ^a	•	0 ^a	•	0
GBL	lt	●	0.9	0.7	2.3	3.5	0.5
Pseudoephedrine	kg	●	209.5	0	●	10.8	0
Ephedrine	kg	9.9	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.01	6.3

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

Note: ● = Not reported; ^a Reported as less than 10 grams seized.

Figure 3. Number of drug-related arrests in the Philippines, by drug type, 2016-2021



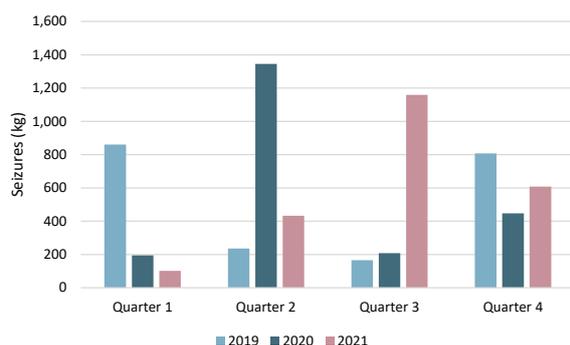
Sources: DAINAP; DDB and PDEA, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in the Philippines", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with DDB, March 2022.

Figure 5. Number of illicit methamphetamine facilities dismantled in the Philippines, 2016-2021



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

Figure 4. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in the Philippines, by quarter, 2019-2021



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

Table 3. Retail prices of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2016-2021 (US\$)

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	per g	25.8-236.6	163.7	130.1	136	130.8	134.6
"Ecstasy"	per tablet	30	37.7	32.5	34	32.7	33.7
Cocaine	per g	●	99.3	101.4	106	106	99
Cannabis herb	per g	●	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4

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

Note: ● = Not reported.

Table 4. Typical purity of selected drugs in the Philippines, 2016-2021 (percentage)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	82.4	87.7	72.5	67.99	58.29	82.56
MDMA ("Ecstasy")	47.5	31.4	45.5	25.56	23.42	43.03

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

Note: Data in this table refer to the weight/weight (w/w) % expressed as the hydrochloride salt of these substances.

Table 5. Types of NPS and other emerging synthetic substances identified in the Philippines, 2020-2021

Substance name	2020	2021
Phenethylamines	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-Fluoromethamphetamine • Phenacetin
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gamma-Butyrolactone (GBL) 	-

Sources: Official communication with DDB and PDEA, March 2022; UNODC Early Warning Advisory on NPS.



Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- A record amount of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in the Republic of Korea in 2021, surpassing the amount seized in the past five years combined (table 2). Quarterly seizure amounts in 2021 exceeded the amounts seized in comparative time frames in 2020, particularly in the third quarter of the year (figure 2). Seizure amounts of methamphetamine tablets also increased in 2021 to over double the number seized compared to 2020 (table 2).
- The Republic of Korea continues to be targeted as a transit for methamphetamine trafficking. In July 2021, national authorities seized a record amount of methamphetamine (402.8 kg), which originated in Mexico and was destined to Australia.¹
- In terms of overseas trafficking incidents, Thailand remained the most frequent country of departure for methamphetamine shipments to the Republic of Korea in 2021. Seized shipments originating in the United States had dropped in frequency between 2018 and 2020 but returned as a country of importance in 2021 (figure 5).
- The average purity for crystalline methamphetamine remained high, while prices were stable. Government experts perceived that the use of crystalline methamphetamine has increased for the past three years (tables 1, 4 and 5).

“Ecstasy”²

- The amount of “ecstasy” seized in the Republic of Korea as well as its price in 2021 were comparable to the amounts and prices reported in 2020 (tables 2 and 5).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- The amount of synthetic cannabinoids seized reached a new high in 2021 (table 2).³

Other drugs

- The number of cannabis users brought into formal contact with authorities continued to increase in 2021 (figure 1). Data on the number of drug offenders in the country for cannabis-related offences suggests that the drug is especially prevalent among people in their 20s (figure 3).
- A record amount of cocaine was seized in 2021, which is over four times the amount of the previous record in 2019 (table 2).

1 Korean Customs Service, “Drug trafficking trends for 2021”, February 2022.

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

3 Supreme Prosecutors’ Office, “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in the Republic of Korea”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021.

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

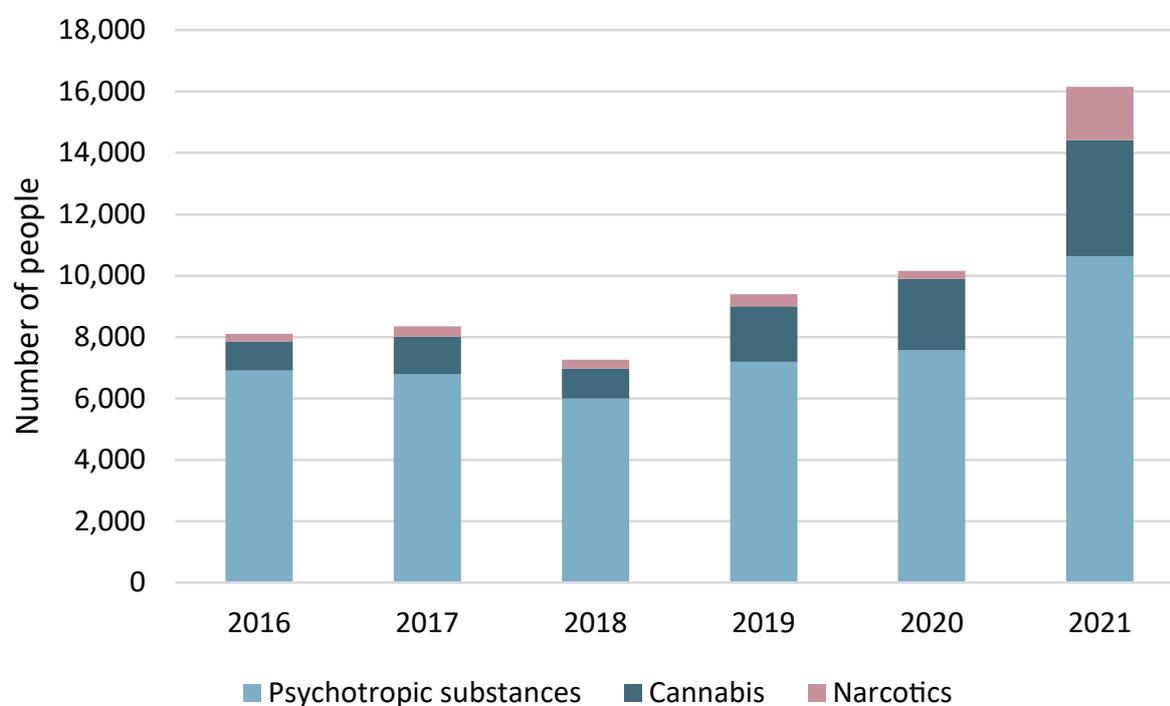
Table 1. Trend in use of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2016-2021

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑
Cannabis herb	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑
Other narcotics	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑

Source: Official communication with the Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO), March 2022.

Note: Based on expert perception provided by SPO; other narcotics include heroin, cocaine, and opium; ↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

Figure 1. Number of people who use drugs who are brought into formal contact with authorities in the Republic of Korea, by drug type, 2016-2021



Source: Official communication with SPO, March 2022.

Note: The Government of the Republic of Korea categorises synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine, "ecstasy", LSD and NPS as psychotropic substances. Narcotics include heroin, cocaine, and opium.

Drug supply indicators

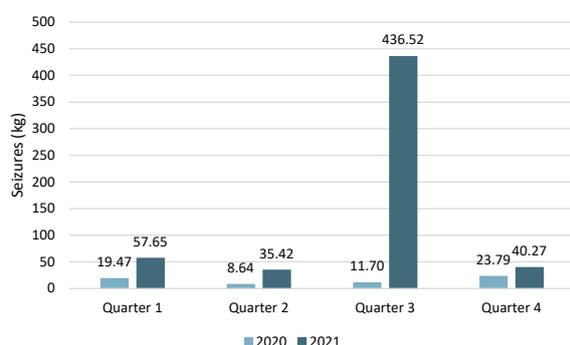
Table 2. Seizures of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	28.7	30.5	188	87.3	63.6	569.9
Methamphetamine tablets ^a	tablets	6,589	28,700	94,869	193,034	253,167	557,075
“Ecstasy” ^b	tablets	1,443	1,647	9,393	10,464	39,714	39,645
Cannabis herb	kg	75.5	40.1	89.1	81.9	37.3	91.2
Cannabis resin	kg	0.11	1.27	0.08	2.7	3.1	0.1
Cannabis seed	kg	1.9	1.2	1.2	0.4	5.9	0.9
Synthetic cannabinoids	kg	0.2	0.2	0.5	1.7	3.2	18.8
Cocaine	kg	10.9	0.13	88.3	106.9	48	435.7
Heroin	g	0	3.7	2	0	8.8	1,213
Raw opium	g	0	537	190	43.5	187.3	8.3
Khat	kg	3,169	0	132.5	0	0	0

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

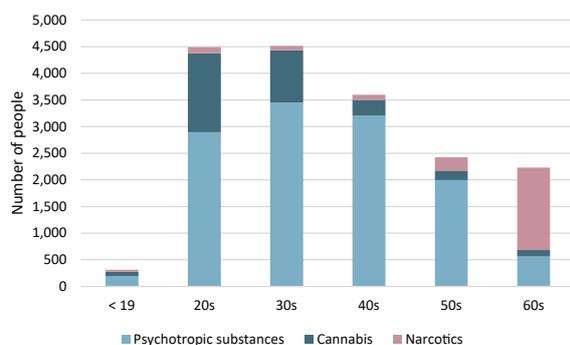
Note: ^a Figures reported other than the number of tablets converted into estimated tablet equivalents at 90 mg per tablet; ^b Figures reported other than the number of tablets converted into estimated tablet equivalents at 300 mg per tablet.

Figure 2. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in the Republic of Korea, by quarter, 2020-2021



Source: Official communication with SPO, March 2022.

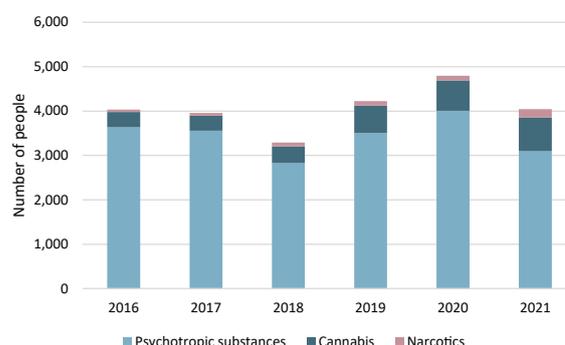
Figure 3. Number of drug offenders in the Republic of Korea, by age group, 2021



Source: Official communication with SPO, March 2022.

Note: The Government of the Republic of Korea categorises synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine, “ecstasy”, LSD and NPS as psychotropic substances. Narcotics include heroin, cocaine, and opium.

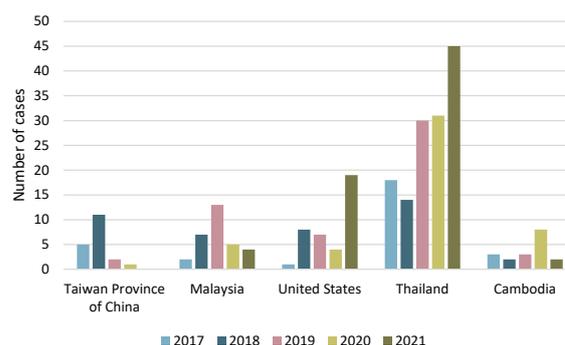
Figure 4. Number of people who are brought into formal contact with authorities for supplying drugs in the Republic of Korea, by drug type, 2016-2021



Source: Official communication with SPO, March 2022.

Note: The Government of the Republic of Korea categorises synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine, “ecstasy”, LSD and NPS as psychotropic substances. Narcotics include heroin, cocaine, and opium.

Figure 5. Origins of methamphetamine shipments seized in the Republic of Korea, by number of cases, 2017-2021



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

Table 3. Number of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories dismantled and amounts seized in the Republic of Korea, 2016-2021

Year	Number	Methamphetamine (g)	Intermediate products (g)
2016	2	200	0
2017	3	513	0
2018	2	0	660
2019	2	1,320	2,280
2020	1	1.8	0
2021	1	900	0

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

Table 4. Typical purity of crystalline methamphetamine in the Republic of Korea, 2016-2021

Year	No. of samples analysed	Minimum	Maximum	Average
2016	63	90.1	98.5	95.4
2017	11	90.5	98.5	95.0
2018	62	89.9	98.5	96.4
2019	79	34.7	98.5	91.6
2020	53	80.6	98.5	92
2021	89	87.7	98.5	98.5

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

Note: Data in this table refer to the weight/weight (w/w) % expressed as the hydrochloride salt of these substances.

Table 5. Retail prices of selected drugs in the Republic of Korea, 2016-2021 (US\$)

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	per g	436.3 (145.4-727.2)	370	397.2	399	272	272
Methamphetamine tablet	per tablet	53	53	57	62	60	45.4-63.6
"Ecstasy"	per tablet	72.6 (27.2-118.1)	72.6 (27.2-118.1)	72.6 (27.2-118.1)	95.4 (27.2-163.6)	45.4	45.4-54.5
Cannabis herb	per g	46.3 (1.8-90.9)	50.9 (1.8-100)	86.3 (36.3-136.3)	103.1 (24.5-181.8)	113.6 (90.9-136.3)	90.9-109.1
Heroin	per g	118	118	118	118	118	118.2
Cocaine	per g	•	•	363.6	295.4 (227.2-363.6)	340.8 (318.1-363.6)	318.2-363.6
Ketamine	per g	•	•	•	318	317.9 (272.2-363.6)	227.2-254.5
LSD	per sheet	19.4	19.4	27.8 (19.4-36.3)	28.7 (19.4-38.1)	90.9	90.9

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

Note: • = Not reported. Values in parentheses are the price range (minimum-maximum) of the substances.



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”¹

- 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.²
- A wide range of substances, including designer benzodiazepines, continue to be found in ‘Erimin 5’ tablets.³ 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

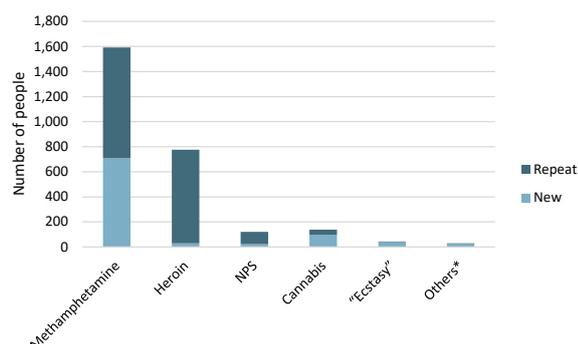
Table 1. Trend in use of specific drugs in Singapore, 2016-2021

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.

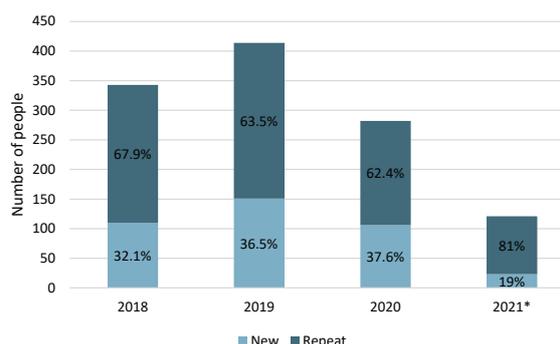
Figure 1. People who use drugs brought into formal contact with authorities in Singapore, by drug type, 2021



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 ^a	●	●	131	261	185	95
Total**	1,263	1,152	1,257	2,080	2,244	1,946

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
Total	1,588	358	1,946

Source: Official communication with CNB, March 2022.

Note: Data are provisional.

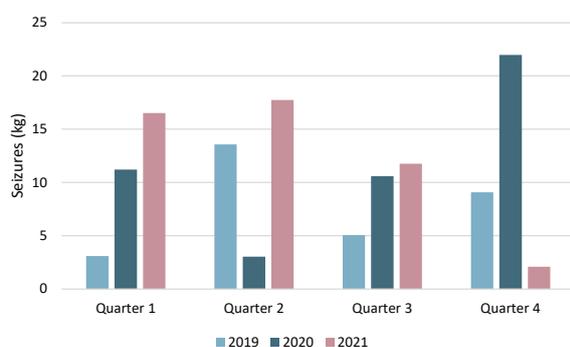
Drug supply indicators

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

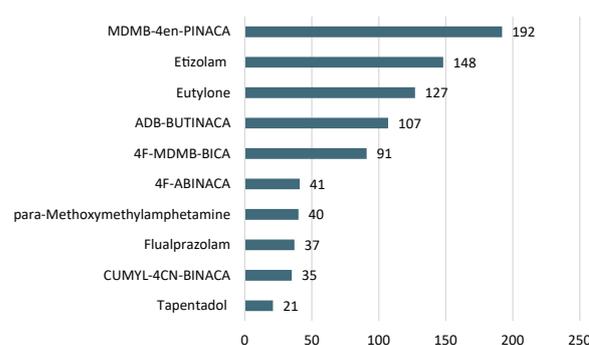
Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	18.3	22.2	19.3	30.8	46.8	48.1
Methamphetamine tablets	tablets	242	827	5,236	691	70	20
“Ecstasy”	tablets / g	3,891 / 97.9 g	4,743.5 / 11.4 g	4,127 / 5.5 g	5,742 / 469.5 g	23,141 / 92.1 g	9,488 / 443.6 g
Cannabis herb	kg	54.0	44.1	61.8	27.8	43.1	105.2
Heroin ^a	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 ^b	stamp	⁷⁰⁴	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; ^a Refers to Heroin No. 3; ^b 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"> • ADB-BUTINACA • CUMYL-5F-PINACA • 5F-EMB-PICA • 4F-MDMB-BICA • 4F-ABINACA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XLR-11 N-(4-pentenyl) • BZO-HEXOXIZID (MDA-19) • BZO-POXIZID • ADB-FUBIATA • BZO-CHMOXIZID • N-(1-Amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-5-bromo-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (ADB-5Br-INACA)
Synthetic cathinones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-Fluoro-3-methyl-alpha-pyrrolidino-pentiophenone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,2-diphenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethan-1-one (α-D2PV) • N-Butylhexedrone
Phencyclidine-type substances, including ketamine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,4,5-Trimethoxyamphetamine (TMA-2) 	-
Tryptamines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-Methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine (5-MeO-DMT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-Cp-Isd
Designer benzodiazepines	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

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.



THAILAND

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- The supply of methamphetamine to and through Thailand further increased in 2021, in part due to a spillover of drugs from Myanmar to neighbouring countries. While the annual seizure amount of crystalline methamphetamine decreased in 2021, seizures of methamphetamine tablets reached a record level, together making up the largest amount of methamphetamine seized by a single country in East and Southeast Asia (table 3).
- The use of methamphetamine, as perceived by Government experts and drug treatment admissions, declined in 2021 (tables 1 and 2).
- Wholesale and retail prices for both crystalline methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets further dropped to new lows in 2021, indicating continued widespread availability of the drugs, while purity levels were stable (tables 5 and 6).
- Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine remain the main precursors for methamphetamine found in the country (figure 4).

“Ecstasy”¹

- Experts perceived a decrease in use of “ecstasy” in 2021, in line with a decrease in drug treatment admissions for use of the drug (tables 1 and 2). However, quantities of the drug seized annually have increased every year since 2016 (table 3).
- Two clandestine “ecstasy” laboratories were dismantled in 2021, including one kitchen-sized laboratory and one tableting facility.²
- In addition to “ecstasy” tablets trafficked in from Europe, “ecstasy” tablets have also been trafficked through Thailand’s northeastern provinces bordering Lao PDR.³ Preliminary data up to September 2021 shows that the average content of MDMA in “ecstasy” tablets found in the country decreased to 62 mg, which is much lower than the corresponding figure for 2020 (205 mg). The decrease could be due to many samples containing a mixture of other substances, including methamphetamine and ketamine.⁴

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- Seizures of ketamine declined in 2021, following two years of increases (table 3). Non-medical use of ketamine, as indicated by treatment admissions, also declined in 2021 (table 2). The prevalence of synthetic NPS remains limited.⁵

Other drugs

- A record amount of heroin was seized in 2021 (table 3). Wholesale and retail prices of the drug also dropped in 2021, while use of the drug increased, indicating a possible resurgence of the heroin market in the country (tables 1 and 6).

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 Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Thailand”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021.

3 Bilateral meeting with Thai authorities in northeastern provinces, December 2021.

4 Official communication with ONCB, May 2022.

5 Synthetic NPS excludes ketamine and plant-based substances.

Key facts and figures

Drug demand indicators

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

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

Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); Official communication with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), May 2022.

Note: Based on expert perception provided by ONCB; ↑ = Increasing, ↓ = Decreasing, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported.

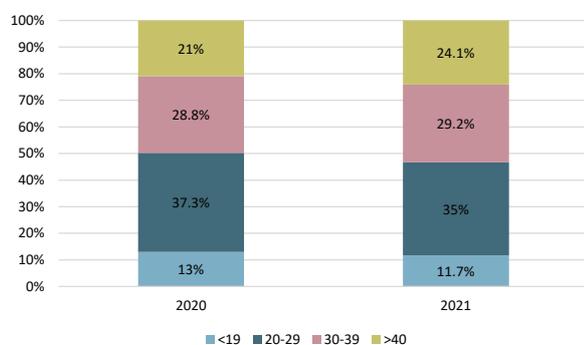
Table 2. Drug treatment admissions in Thailand, by drug type, 2016-2021

Drug type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine	130,364	172,847	202,201	185,526	155,676	135,795
“Ecstasy”	8,422	524	560	413	299	138
Cannabis	15,206	14,616	12,976	15,676	9,272	6,451
Heroin	3,767	3,383	3,819	3,660	4,890	5,543
Opium	3,165	3,841	3,481	3,167	8	3,341
Ketamine	●	381	704	1,093	711	511
Cocaine	84	25	22	12	15	7
Inhalants	1,693	1,456	1,288	1,055	698	●
Kratom ^a	5,327	6,828	5,384	4,495	2,737	1,795
Total	172,518	205,147	230,435	215,097	174,306	154,103

Sources: DAINAP; Official communication with ONCB, May 2022.

Note: ^a Includes users of kratom in leaf and liquid form; ● = Not reported.

Figure 1. Proportion of drug treatment admissions in Thailand, by age group, 2020-2021



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

Drug supply indicators

Table 3. Seizures of selected drugs in Thailand, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine tablets	tablets	93,700,000	240,051,853	515,146,570	395,000,000	368,798,198	592,013,942
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	1,161	8,113.9	18,441.4	17,642.9	25,072.6	22,126.7
“Ecstasy” ^a	tablets	8,807	80,433	203,407	221,300	398,333	594,029
Cannabis herb	kg	3185.5	13,395.9	39,997	26,815.2	41,611.6	69,711.9
Cocaine	kg	50.1	54.7	49.7	41.8	36.6	36.1
Heroin	kg	147.5	599.4	1,085.4	722.7	1,873.5	3,370
Ketamine	kg	95.1	617.4	720.2	1,175.4	1,926.3	1,031.9
Kratom leaves	kg	91,006.2	97,993.0	50,422.7	85,707.7	81,965.4	●
Kratom liquid	lt	27,088.6	40,280.1	25,961.3	28,525.0	35,307.8	●

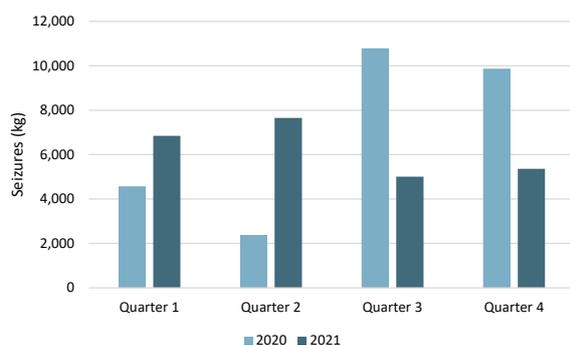
Sources: DAINAP; UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) Thailand for 2020 and previous years; Official communication with ONCB, May 2022.
Note: ^a Ecstasy tablet seizures converted into estimated kg equivalents at 1 tablet = 300 mg; ● = Not reported.

Table 4. Seizures of selected precursor chemicals and substances used as adulterants in illicit drugs in Thailand, 2017-2021

Drug type	Unit	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hydrochloric acid	kg	0	0	15,950	0	0
Sodium cyanide	kg	4,000	77,000	99,750	0	0
Ammonium hydroxide	lt	0	90	0	0	0
Carbon	kg	0	160	0	0	0

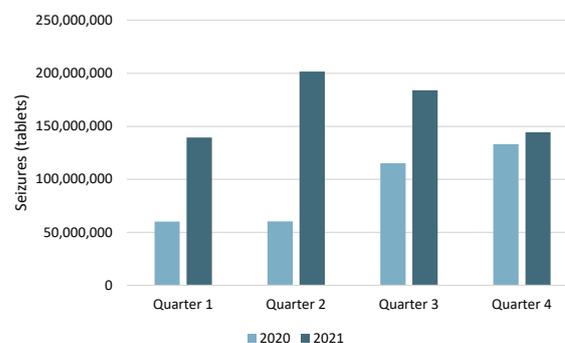
Sources: DAINAP; Official communication with ONCB, May 2022.

Figure 2. Seizure amounts of crystalline methamphetamine in Thailand, by quarter, 2020-2021



Sources: DAINAP; Official communication with ONCB, May 2022.

Figure 3. Seizure amounts of methamphetamine tablets in Thailand, by quarter, 2020-2021



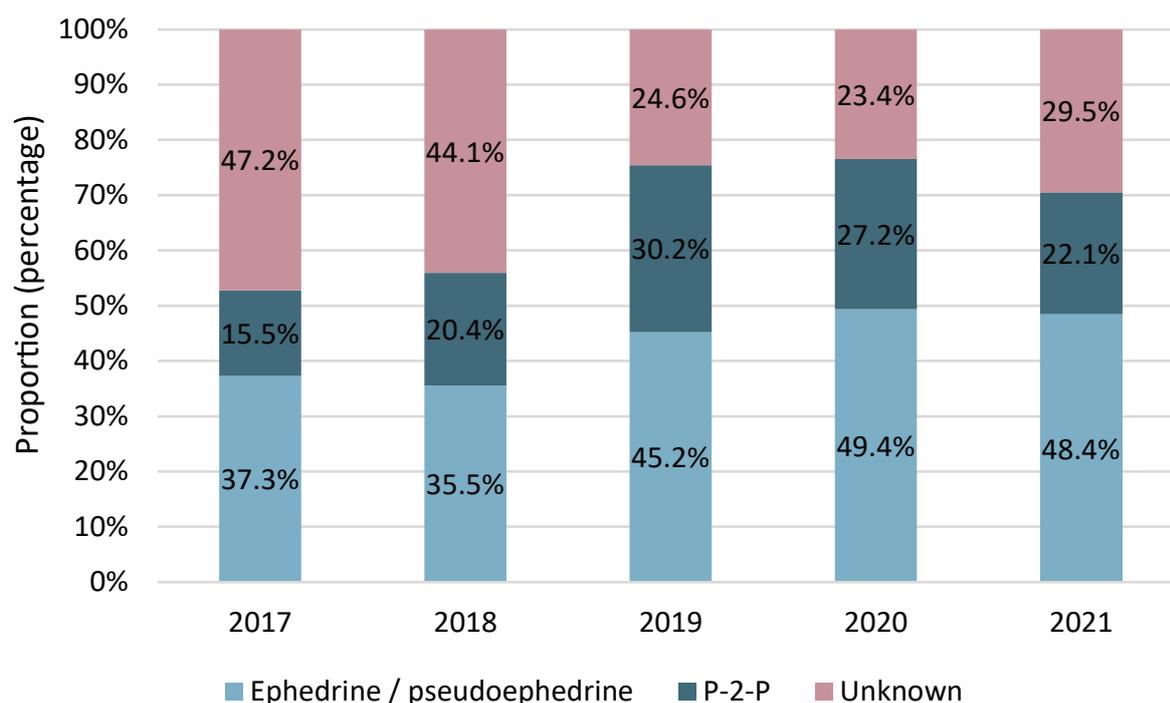
Sources: DAINAP; Official communication with ONCB, May 2022.

Table 5. Typical purity of selected drugs in Thailand, 2019-2021

Drug type	2019	2020	2021
Crystalline methamphetamine	94.85 (0.18-99.75)	95.62 (0.01-99.98)	93.54 (2.23-99.84)
Methamphetamine tablets	16.82 (0.06-31.17)	17.26 (0.01-30.35)	17.02 (0.02-23.99)
“Ecstasy”	49.03 (6.47-79.42)	50.93 (0.39-74.60)	18.80 (0.02-79.71)
Heroin (No. 3)	86.05 (71.85-92.39)	88.19 (41.83-96.63)	84.53 (39.46-95.31)
Cocaine	75.30 (18.43-98.43)	88.51 (31.38-96.77)	85.50 (0.33-98.47)
Ketamine	94.03 (3.71-99.79)	96.94 (0.01-99.98)	90.94 (0.09-99.11)

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

Note: Data in this table refer to the weight/weight (w/w) % expressed as the hydrochloride salt of these substances. Values in parentheses are the purity range (minimum-maximum) of the substances.

Figure 4. Proportion of crystalline methamphetamine samples analysed in Thailand, by main precursor, 2017-2021

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

Table 6. Wholesale and retail prices of selected illicit drugs in Thailand, 2019-2021 (US\$)

Drug type	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine tablet (per 2,000 tablets)	820 - 1,147	820 - 984	298 - 446
Methamphetamine tablet (per tablet)	1.64 - 3.28	1.64 - 3.28	1.49
Crystalline methamphetamine (per kg)	8,197 - 13,115	6,557 - 9,836	4,464 - 5,952
Crystalline methamphetamine (per g)	33 - 49	16 - 27	9 - 15
"Ecstasy" (per tablet)	10 - 16	13 - 20	12 - 18
Heroin (per 700 g)	9,836 - 13,115	13,115 - 16,393	7,440 - 11,900
Heroin (per g)	33 - 66	82 - 98	30 - 60
Cannabis herb (per kg)	164 - 262	180 - 328	164 - 298
Cannabis (per unit*)	1.64 - 3.28	2.62 - 3.28	2.38 - 2.98
Ketamine (per kg)	11,475 - 13,115	11,476 - 13,115	●
Ketamine powder (per g)	16 - 33	13 - 33	24 - 30

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

Note: * Approximately 5 g; ● = Not reported.

Table 7. Types of NPS and other emerging synthetic substances identified in Thailand, 2018-2021

Substance type	Substance name	2018	2019	2020	2021
Synthetic cannabinoids	JWH-018	✓	✓	●	●
Synthetic cathinones	3,4-Methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV)	●	✓	●	●
	4-Methylmethcathinone (Mephedrone)	●	✓	●	✓
	beta-keto-N-methylbenzodioxolylbutanamine	●	✓	●	●
Piperazines	1-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine (TFMPP)	●	✓	●	✓
	1-Benzyl-4-methylpiperazine (MBZP)	✓	●	●	●
	1-(3-chlorophenyl)piperazine	●	✓	●	●
Phenethylamines	para-Methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA)	✓	✓	●	✓
	M-alpha	●	✓	●	●
	Etizolam + Nitrazepam (combination)	●	●	✓	●
	Phenazepam	●	●	✓	●
	Etizolam	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Clonazolam	●	✓	●	●
	Flunitrazolam	●	✓	●	●
	Diclazepam	●	✓	●	●
	Isopropylphenidate	●	✓	●	●
	7- [2-([1-(4-chloro-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)propan-2-yl] amino)ethyl] -1,3-dimethyl-3,7 dihydro-1H-purine-2,6-dione	●	✓	●	●
	2-[3-(aminomethyl)-5-methyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]-5-chlorophenyl-(phenyl)methanone	●	✓	●	●
	(±)-Dimethyl-1-[1-(4-chlorophenyl)cyclobutyl]-N,N,3-trimethylbutan-1-amine	●	✓	●	●

Sources: Official communication with ONCB, May 2022; UNODC Early Warning Advisory on NPS.

Note: ✓ = Detected, ● = Not detected.



VIET NAM

Summary of major trends and emerging concerns

Methamphetamine

- Seizures of methamphetamine tablets in 2021 reached a record level. In addition, seizures of crystalline methamphetamine also remained at a high level in 2021 (table 1).
- Though the number of people who use amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) declined in 2021, ATS users continue to account for the largest proportion of new drug users. Together with the high levels of methamphetamine seizures, it indicates that the methamphetamine market in Viet Nam remains significant (table 1, and figures 1 and 2).
- The purity of both crystalline methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets have remained stable for the past few years (table 2).

“Ecstasy”¹

- “Ecstasy” tablets have increased in weight and purity in recent years, but are also found with a mixture of different psychoactive substances, including methamphetamine and ketamine, in addition to MDMA.²

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs

- A significant amount of ketamine for the country was seized in Viet Nam in 2021, including through several large seizures in June 2021 totalling 270 kg (table 2).³
- NPS continue to be identified in Viet Nam, including synthetic cannabinoids, phenethylamines, synthetic cathinones, and other substances, such as 1-Cp-lsd (table 3).

Other drugs

- Seizures of cannabis herb increased significantly in 2021 (table 1).

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

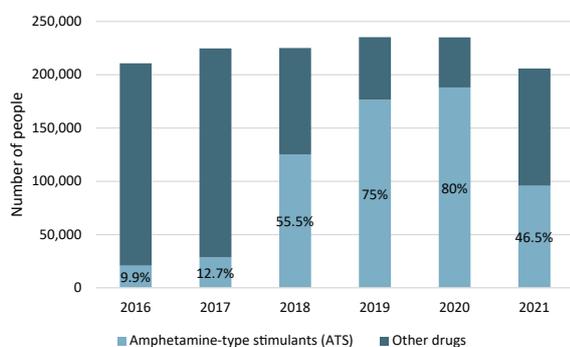
2 Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Viet Nam”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021.

3 Ibid.

Key facts and figures

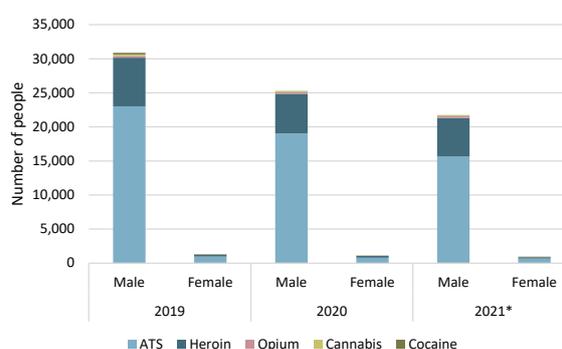
Drug demand indicators

Figure 1. Number of registered drug users in Viet Nam, 2016-2021



Sources: Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP); Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Viet Nam", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with SODC, May 2022.

Figure 2. Number of new people who use drugs receiving treatment in Viet Nam, by gender and drug type, 2019-2021



Sources: Official communication with SODC, May 2022.
Note: *Data covers the first six months of the year.

Drug supply indicators

Table 1. Seizures of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2016-2021

Drug type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine tablets	tablets	427,655	979,487	1,363,495	987,913	2,436,507	2,557,966
Crystalline methamphetamine	kg	839.6	856.9	1,929	5,500.6	3,950	3,304
Cannabis herb	kg	479.8	111 kg of 'fresh' and 376.4 kg of 'dried'	254.4 kg of 'dried'	586	274.8	1,756
Cocaine	kg	14.5	2.4	137	120.5	●	●
Heroin	kg	607.8	906.7	1,584.4	1,494.3	841	764
Ketamine	kg	4	17.6	6.2	507.5	●	304
Opium	kg	92.1	167.1	196.7	600	13.4	●
Khat	Kg	●	5,600	2,500	●	●	●
NPS	kg	1.6	108	103.28	●	●	●

Sources: DAINAP; UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) Viet Nam for 2020 and previous years; SODC, "Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Viet Nam", presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021; Official communication with SODC, May 2022.

Note: ● = Not reported.

Table 2. Typical purity of selected drugs in Viet Nam, 2019-2021 (percentage)

Drug type	Form	2019	2020	2021
Methamphetamine	Tablet	12-15%	10-15%	10-15%
	Crystalline	70-80%	75-80%	75-80%
"Ecstasy" / MDMA	Tablet	30-40%	35-40%	35-40%
	Crystalline	75%	75%	75%
Ketamine	Tablet	1-5%	1-5%	1-5%
	Crystalline	80%	80%	75-80%
	Liquid	100 mg/ml	100 mg/ml	●

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

Note: Data in this graph refer to the weight/weight (w/w) % expressed as the base form of these substances; ● = Not reported.

Table 3. Types of NPS and other emerging synthetic substances identified in drug samples in Viet Nam, 2021

No.	Substance group	Substance name
1	Synthetic cannabinoids	MDMD-4en-PINACA
2		4F-MDMB-BICA
3		ADB-BUTINACA
4		4F-ABINACA
5	Phenethylamines	2-fluoromethamphetamine (2-FMA)
6		3-fluoroethylamphetamine (3-FEA)
7	Synthetic cathinones	3-methylmethcathinone (3-MMC)
8	Other substances	1-Cp-lsd

Source: Official communication with SODC, May 2022.