



# 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”<sup>1</sup>

- “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.<sup>2</sup>

### 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).<sup>3</sup>
- 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.

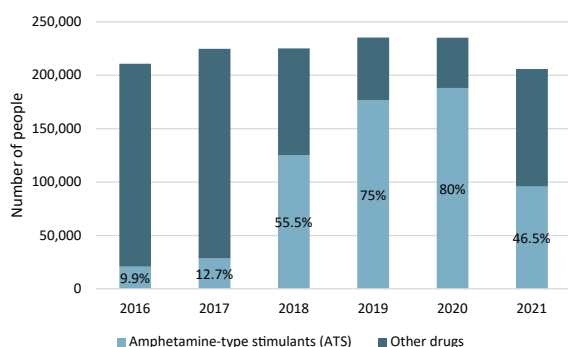
2 Standing Office on Drugs and Crime (SODC), “Latest situation on synthetic drugs and responses to the threats in Viet Nam”, presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional Workshop, November-December 2021.

3 Ibid.

## Key facts and figures

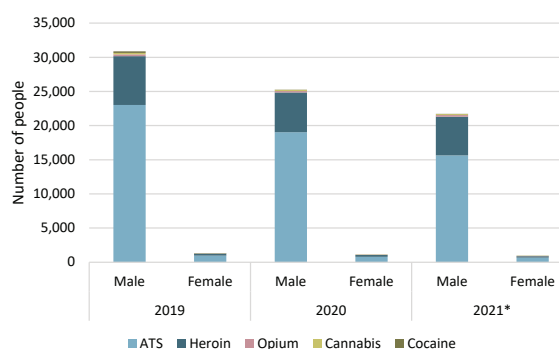
### Drug demand indicators

**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.