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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

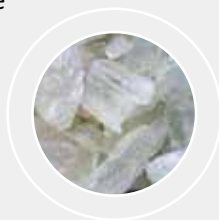
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**GLOBAL SMART  
UPDATE  
2010**

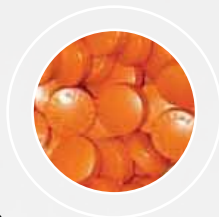
## About the SMART Update

The threat of synthetic drugs represents one of the most significant drug problems worldwide. Global estimates of past year amphetamine-type stimulant users (ATS) exceed heroin and cocaine, combined. Since 1990 ATS-related clandestine manufacture has occurred in more than 65 countries, with more findings reported each year. Unlike plant-based drugs synthetic drugs are quickly evolving with new designer drugs appearing on the market each year.

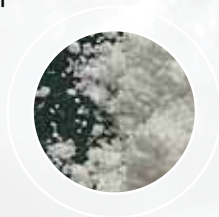


The UNODC Global *Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends* (SMART) programme enhances the capacity of Member States in priority regions to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information to design effective policy and programme interventions. Global SMART was launched in September 2008 in Bangkok and provides capacity building in 11 countries in East and South-East Asia. Operations expanded into the Americas and Oceania in 2010.

The Global SMART Update (GSU) is designed to provide regular brief reporting on emerging patterns and trends of the fast changing global synthetic drug situation. Given the speed with which changes in the ATS markets occur, it is especially important to have a simple sustainable mechanism for frequent information sharing from different parts of the world. The twice yearly report is published in March and October, and is available in English and now Spanish.



The GSU reports synthetic drug information in several categories, such as significant or unusual drug or precursor chemical seizures, new locations or methods for clandestine manufacture, new trafficking groups or routes, changes in legislation to combat synthetic drugs, environmental impacts from their manufacture and destruction, emerging drugs or user groups, and health implications related to their use. Segments are selected by experts and prioritized based on several criteria: does the information represent new or unusual patterns; are the information reported recent; are priority regions covered; are developing countries represented; are the sources of the information and data reliable?<sup>1</sup>



## In this issue

Each issue of the GSU contains special coverage and thematic segments. For its first issue, the GSU highlighted new incidents of manufacture, particularly throughout Latin America, to demonstrate the flexibility and speed with which ATS manufacture can become established in any country. In the second issue, the GSU focused on new types of synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals, often specifically engineered to circumvent international and national controls by subtle modification to the chemistry. The third issue of the GSU examined health and social consequences arising from the use of synthetic drugs, from their addictive potential and their toxicity and also the environmental dimension resulting from the disposal and destruction of seized drugs and their precursors.

To further improve the value of the GSU, the format has been changed incorporating feedback from the SMART Advisory Group and other readers. A new regional overview has been added to provide a snapshot of the current situation in the main areas of the world. The special segment the GSU, has been enlarged to provide a more in-depth review of an issue that deserves particular attention.

In this issue, the GSU sheds light on the increasing importance of Africa as a manufacturing and trafficking location for ATS. In July 2009, the discovery of chemicals and large-scale equipment used in the manufacture of ecstasy in Guinea was the first indication of potential ATS manufacture in West Africa. Since that time, trafficking of methamphetamine from that region has come to light which is covered in the special segment on West Africa.

While information on law enforcement activities is often abundant, information about the demand for ATS is often scarce and anecdotal in nature. Nevertheless, the GSU continues to make a determined effort to highlight the human toll of ATS use. Subjects covered in this issue include the use of ATS among young people, examining methamphetamine use in secondary schools in the Pacific and various ATS use among university students in Brazil.

<sup>1</sup> The information and data contained within this report are from official government reports, press releases, scientific journals, or incidents confirmed by UNODC field offices. Additional or updated information from previously reported incidents may also be included where appropriate. Information denoted with an asterisk (\*) are from 'open sources' where UNODC is waiting for official confirmation, and therefore should be considered only preliminary. This report has not been formally edited. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of UNODC or contributory organizations and neither do they imply any endorsement. Suggested citation: Global SMART Update Volume 4, October 2010. UNODC.

## Regional overviews

This new section provides a brief summary focusing on the current situation and what might be new from a key regions perspective. Summaries begin in Oceania and East Asia, where prevalence of ATS use is among the highest in the world, and then moves westward.

**Oceania.** The lack of ATS information affects most of Oceania's small Island States and territories. However, limited data on methamphetamine use among youth in some communities is unusually high, pointing to ATS availability even in remote areas. Australia and New Zealand continue dismantling scores of ATS laboratories which are increasingly reliant upon trafficked pseudoephedrine from Asia.

**East and South-East Asia.** East and South-East Asia remains the region with the greatest numbers of past year amphetamines users, currently estimated at between 3.4 - 20.7 million. Methamphetamine pill seizures are at some of the highest levels recorded in the past seven years as political instability in Myanmar appears to have pushed drugs across the border. High purity crystalline methamphetamine continues to arrive via Iranian couriers who appear to be increasingly using South Asia and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as transit points. There are new indications that methamphetamine sourced from West Africa is arriving in East Asia, predominately Japan.

**South Asia.** The region's pharmaceutical industry continues to be targeted by organized crime as a source for ATS precursors and now drugs. Significant amounts of ketamine continue to be trafficked into the growing East Asia market as large-scale unlicensed manufacture is discovered in India. Foreign criminal groups have also begun manufacturing methamphetamine likely for export, although spillover into the domestic market remains a risk. The region's vast and increasingly affluent population remains an attractive target for market expansion.

**West Asia and the Middle East.** West Asia continues to report significant seizures of pills sold as *Captagon*, containing amphetamine. In addition, reports of clandestine manufacture have surfaced in several countries which previously reported none such as Armenia and Saudi Arabia. Information flow from the region, particularly related to drug use in the Middle East and others, remains inadequate.

**Europe.** Europe continues to see an increase in new synthetic substances throughout the region. These substances are not under international or in many cases national controls. The volume is due in part to the lack of MDMA (ecstasy) throughout the region as traditional precursor chemicals have become difficult to obtain. There are increasing indications that manufacturers are relying on alternative chemicals including new pre-precursor chemicals previously unseen in the region, to resume MDMA manufacture.

**Africa.** Africa now poses the greatest emerging ATS threat, as trafficking of methamphetamine from Africa emerged in 2008/09 and has increased in the past year. West Africa in particular, is emerging as a new source of methamphetamine for East Asian markets, with couriers transiting European, GCC and East African countries. Few countries in the region have the capacity and stable governance structures to fight yet another drug problem.

**North America.** North American consumption of ATS has increased, as the USA reports growing use of both ecstasy and methamphetamine. Ecstasy is supplied primarily by Asian organized crime groups in Canada, but there are indications that ecstasy output could be increasing from groups operating in the USA and Mexico. Methamphetamine is supplied primarily by large operations from Mexico, but increases have been reported in both the USA and Canada. Mexico continues to battle violent drug trafficking organizations that have increased methamphetamine output by utilizing new precursors not under international (but national) controls.

**Central and South America.** Organized crime groups from Mexico continue to obtain precursor chemicals from countries throughout Latin America to continue the manufacture of methamphetamine. They exploit countries with lax or non-comprehensive regulatory controls and limited awareness. There are indications of increasing use of ecstasy in South America with large reported seizures by Andean countries and growing prevalence in Brazil, where university students report combined synthetic drugs use on levels similar to cannabis.



## Special segment - African methamphetamine

The vast African continent has become a major hub not only for cocaine trafficking from Latin America to Europe on the west and heroin trafficking from South-West Asia in the east, but for many other trafficking flows. This devastating progression for a region where in 2009, 42% of countries were ranked with low human development, is not new. While reports suggest decreases in some forms of trafficking such as cocaine via West Africa into Europe, limited information points to a new threat of manufacture and trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS).

**Manufacture.** Methamphetamine manufacture is not entirely new to Africa—Egypt reported a case as recently as April 2010 and South Africa has had growing reports since 2004. There are also indications of ATS manufacture occurring in West Africa. In July 2009, the first evidence of ATS manufacture was discovered in Guinea. Teams from UNODC and INTERPOL assessed multiple facilities housing large-scale equipment, with more than 5,000 lt of precursor chemicals capable of producing in excess of \$100 million in MDMA (ecstasy). Traces of both MDMA and cocaine were also found. In June 2010, the United States Government indicted members of a large international cocaine trafficking organization for *inter alia* the intent to establish large-scale manufacture of crystalline methamphetamine in Liberia.

**Precursor chemicals.** The events of July 2009 illustrate the ease of obtaining restricted precursor chemicals in the continent. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) identified Africa as the region with the greatest number of diversions or attempted diversions of ATS precursor chemicals in 2008. Countries import precursors in considerable excess of legitimate annual needs and are targets for organized crime. For example, a single shipment to Uganda of 300 kg of pseudoephedrine was seized upon arrival in 2008. At the same time, the INCB notes that precursor trafficking patterns in Africa stand in sharp contrast to the low number of seizures made by Governments in the region. Only two cases were reported in 2009: 1.25 metric tons of ephedrine to the Central African Republic and 1 mt of pseudoephedrine to Kenya, both which can be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

**Trafficking.** The World Customs Organization (WCO) noted a small number of methamphetamine trafficking cases from Africa (southern) to East Asia emerging in mid-2008 with no prior cases reported. 2009 saw both the number of seizures and their quantities originating from Africa

more than triple. This trend appears to be growing and spreading. Cases of methamphetamine trafficking have now emerged from various West African nations. Trafficking of methamphetamine originating or transiting from Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, and in particular Nigeria have all been reported since 2009.

The most common destinations have been outside the continent, primarily Japan followed by the Republic of Korea with new reports from Malaysia and Thailand. In the first 6 months of 2010 reports from Japanese Customs identified 17 cases of methamphetamine all originating from West Africa, while seven were identified in the second half of 2009.

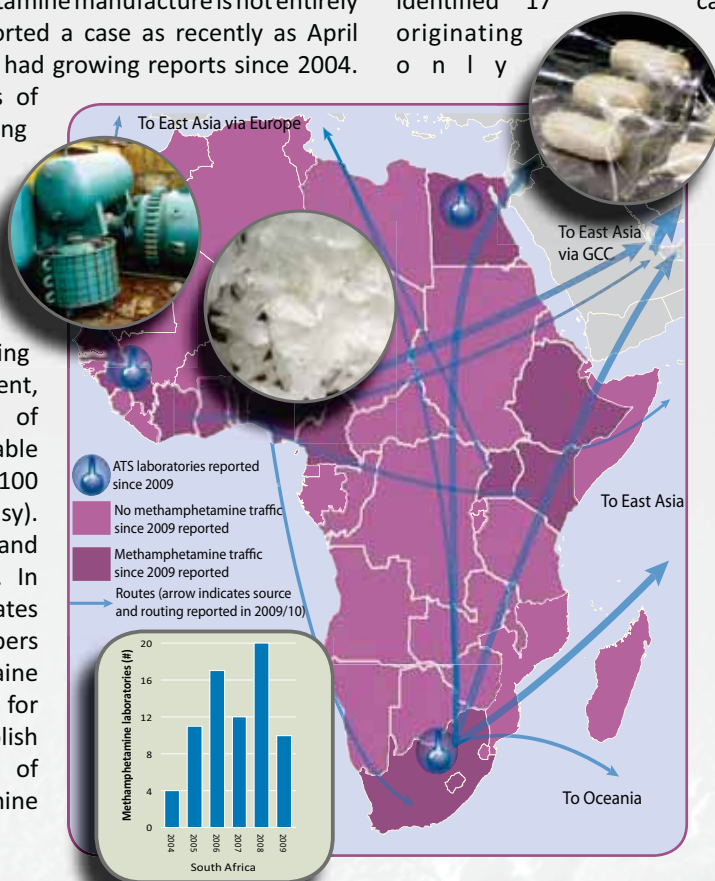
Cases are typically multi-kilo and transported via air passenger and hidden in luggage or by body concealment resembling methods employed by West African syndicates for other drugs. Couriers transit via GCC, East African and European countries.

Significantly larger shipments have also been reported. For example, in May 2010 Nigerian authorities stopped two separate cargo shipments totaling 63 kg of methamphetamine and amphetamine to Japan and South Africa, respectively. In July 2009, 10 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, 10 kg of amphetamine, and 57 kg of ephedrine were seized in

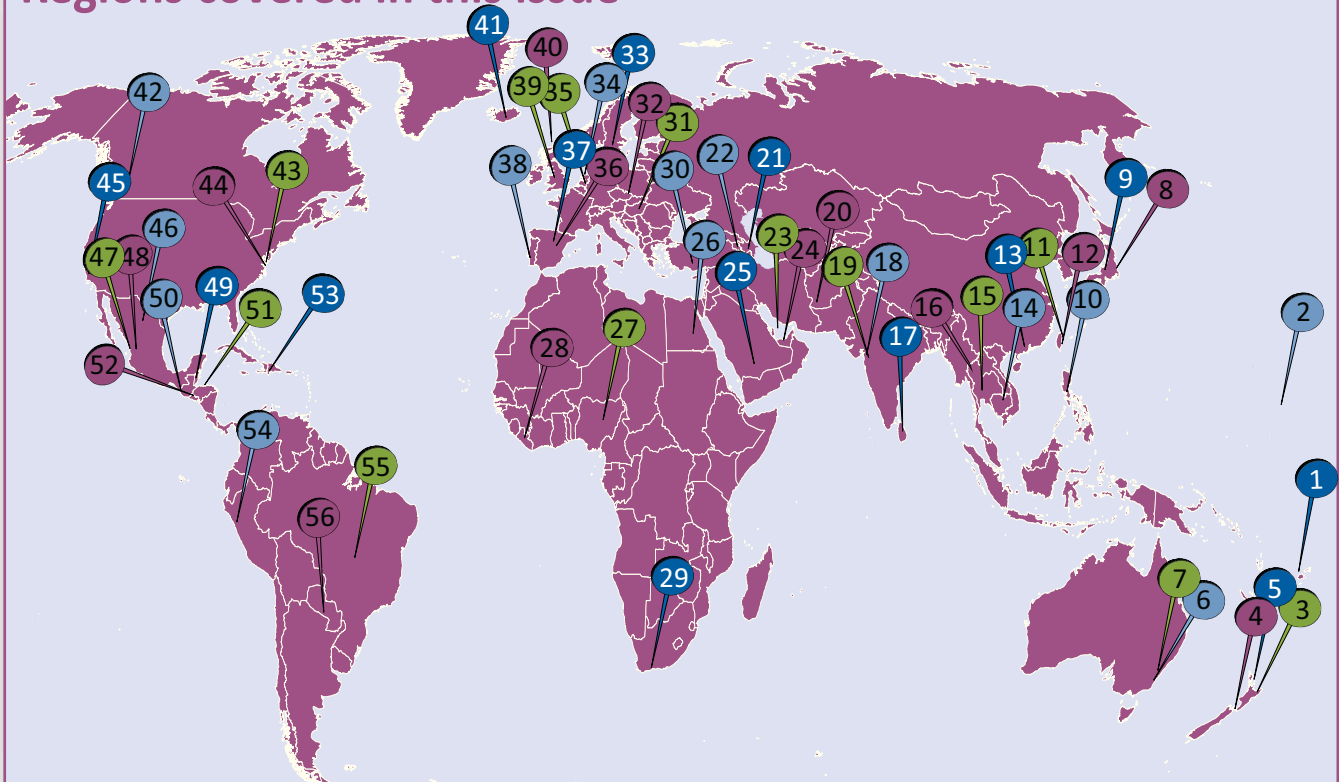
Nigeria *en route* to South Africa.

**Use.** Increased trafficking flows impact the economic and social fabric, as drugs spill into the local communities. The 2010 World Drug Report estimates that as much as 30% of cocaine transshipped through West Africa remains as payment. The effects can be seen with increased drug use, corruption and state instability. Though data are limited data, use of amphetamines is already being seen in West Africa. According to the 2008 W.H.O. Global School-Based Student Health Survey, nearly 6% of high school students in Ghana had reported trying drugs, of which 8% reported using amphetamine and 3.1% methamphetamine most often.

The infrastructure established by transnational cocaine and heroin traffickers in West Africa is readily adaptable to accommodate the flexibility of ATS manufacture. While the capacity to report on the situation in the region remains poor, initial indicators suggest the products are a threat for lucrative markets half way around the world. This more than ever before, raises the need for a truly global effort to address the synthetic drugs problem.



## Regions covered in this issue



Note: The boundaries, names and designations used herein do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Global SMART segments are arranged based on regional threat. Oceania has among the highest prevalence rates for ATS use in the world, while the number of ATS users are greatest in East Asia. Therefore, the map and corresponding index of segments begins with recent events from Oceania and East Asia and then moves geographically westward. The numbered pins on the map above correspond with the index of segments below.

## Index of segments

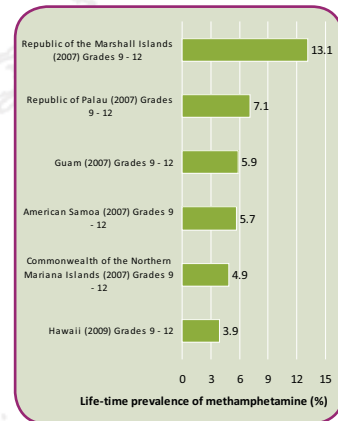
SUVA, Fiji – 17 July 2010	1	CAPE TOWN, South Africa – 26 Feb 2010	29
PACIFIC ISLAND STATES – 4 June 2010	2	ADANA, Turkey – 10 Jan 2010	30
AUCKLAND, New Zealand - 9 Mar 2010	3	KOMÁROM, Hungary – 6 January 2010	31
WELLINGTON, New Zealand – 29 Mar 2010	4	PRAGUE, Czech Republic – 5 May 2010	32
AUCKLAND, New Zealand - 17 Aug 2010	5	STOCKHOLM, Sweden – 18 May 2010	33
SYDNEY, Australia - 17 Aug 2010	6	THE HAGUE, Netherlands – June, 2010	34
SYDNEY, Australia – 8 July 2010	7	TESSENDERLO, Belgium – 8 May 2010	35
OSAKA, Japan - 16 May 2010	8	ESTELLA, Spain - 30 June 2010	36
SAGAMIHARA, Japan – 22 June 2010	9	MADRID, Spain – 1 July 2010	37
MANILA, Philippines – 10 Aug 2010	10	LISBON, Portugal – Sept 2010	38
XINDIAN, Taiwan Province of China - 6 May 2010	11	LONDON, United Kingdom – 23 July 2010	39
TAIPEI, Taiwan Province of China - 7 May 2010	12	GLASGOW, Scotland – 20 April 2010	40
HONG KONG (SAR), China – 14 July 2010	13	SEYDISFIORDUR, Iceland – 17 June 2010	41
BANTEAY MEANCHHEY PROVINCE, Cambodia – 22 Aug 2010	14	ABBOTSFORD, Canada – 31 May 2010	42
BANGKOK, Thailand – 13 July 2010	15	WASHINGTON, United States – 30 August 2010	43
BANGKOK, Thailand – 5 Aug 2010	16	WASHINGTON, United States – 16 Sept 2010	44
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka – 12 Aug 2010	17	LOS ANGELES, United States – 5 Aug 2010	45
THANE, India – 19 Aug 2010	18	JIMENEZ, Mexico – 27 May 2010	46
MUMBAI, India - 14 Sept 2010	19	MANZANILLO, Mexico – 4 Aug 2010	47
KANDAHAR PROVINCE – Afghanistan, 15 June 2010	20	TAMAZULA de GORDIAN, Mexico – 11 Sept 2010	48
GARABUAVANDIKLI, Azerbaijan – 6 Sept 2010	21	PORT OF BELIZE, Belize – 10 April 2010	49
YEREVAN, Armenia - 5 June 2010	22	ESQUIPULAS, Guatemala - 13 July 2010	50
DOHA, Qatar – 30 Aug 2010	23	PUERTO CORTES, Honduras – 8 March 2010	51
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates – 9 Aug 2010	24	SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador – 19 May 2010	52
RIYADH, Saudi Arabia – 5 June 2010	25	SANTIAGO, Dominican Republic - 11 Aug 2010	53
ALEXANDRIA, Egypt – 14 April 2010	26	LIMA, Peru – 22 July 2010	54
LAGOS, Nigeria – 17 May 2010	27	BRASILIA, Brazil – 23 June 2010	55
MONROVIA, Liberia – 1 June 2010	28	ASUNCIÓN, Paraguay – 3 Mar 2010	56

## Record precursor seizure in Fiji could point to renewed drug manufacture

**SUVA, Fiji – 17 July 2010.** Media reports that Fijian authorities seized 128,000 capsules containing pseudoephedrine in one the largest seizures of the substance. The consignment arrived from China, via Hong Kong (SAR), Australia and New Zealand, and was intercepted at the Suva wharf. A Chinese national was charged with the importation of a controlled chemical substance under the Illicit Drugs Act. Previous seizures of the substance were typically for transshipment often destined for New Zealand. However, as the consignment arrived via New Zealand there exists the possibility of renewed domestic methamphetamine manufacture. The largest methamphetamine laboratory ever found in the southern hemisphere was discovered in Fiji in 2004.

## Youth methamphetamine use high in the Pacific

**PACIFIC ISLANDS – 4 June 2010.** Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) shows that methamphetamine use among secondary students in the Pacific are at elevated rates. In newly released data from the YRBSS, the US Pacific island state of Hawaii, students grades 9-12 reported in 2009 a lifetime methamphetamine use prevalence of 3.9%, an improvement over those reported in 2007 (4.5%). However, most recent (2007) results from other Pacific islands show even higher lifetime methamphetamine prevalence rates, ranging from 4.9% in the Northern Mariana Islands to the unusually high figure of 13.1% in the Marshall Islands. High rates may in part reflect confusion of the substance used, common for synthetic drugs, particularly among inexperienced users.



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Photo: New Zealand Customs

## New Zealand authorities intercept 67 kg of pharmaceutical pseudoephedrine at the border

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand - 9 Mar 2010.** In a joint operation, Police and Customs seized 67 kg of the pharmaceutical preparation ContacNT® which contains the precursor pseudoephedrine. The chemicals—valued at NZ \$3 million—were hidden in granite in a shipping container arriving through the Ports of Auckland. Five Chinese nationals were charged with possession of pseudoephedrine with intent to supply Auckland methamphetamine manufacturers. On 16 July, an additional 2 kg of ContacNT® and 5 kg of methamphetamine were seized, resulting in the arrest of 6 Asian organized crime members on charges of importing and distributing methamphetamine.

## New asset forfeiture laws hit New Zealand's organized crime in the pocket

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand – 29 Mar 2010.** New Zealand Police are reporting significant success of new civil forfeiture legislation designed to go after the profits of crimes such as methamphetamine trafficking. The new legislation came into force in December 2009, and Police have already identified NZ \$36 million worth of assets believed to have been obtained through criminal activities. Of the \$36 million under investigation, \$25 million has been gained through drug offending of which \$14 million is identified as methamphetamine-related. In addition to the assets, there has been an 80% increase in recorded offenses for trafficking of methamphetamine since November 2009, the results of changes in the law and a nationwide focus on fighting methamphetamine.

## New Zealand Methamphetamine Action Plan yielding results

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand - 17 Aug 2010.** Six clandestine methamphetamine and ecstasy laboratories have been dismantled in a simultaneous police operation code named "Slab." The laboratories operated from residential, commercial and rural properties throughout the Auckland Metropolitan and surrounding areas. More than 200 investigators executed 22 search warrants in districts throughout the country's North Island. Police seized high potency crystalline methamphetamine along with large quantities of equipment and precursor chemicals. The past year has seen an increased focus on decreasing domestic manufacture, precursor chemical availability and proceeds of crime via the government's *Methamphetamine Action Plan* launched in October 2009. Currently, there is a bill before Parliament which would *inter alia* reclassify pseudoephedrine and ephedrine as Class B2 controlled drugs with a presumption for supply set at 10 grams. The effect of this would be to make these methamphetamine precursor substances available by prescription only.

## Controlled delivery nets 174 kg of pseudoephedrine from Viet Nam

**SYDNEY, Australia - 17 Aug 2010.** In a joint operation involving the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Customs and Border Protection (ACBP) and the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), authorities successfully executed a controlled delivery which resulted in the arrest of two people. The operation began after authorities at Port Botany identified a total of 174 kg of pseudoephedrine in 86 boxes from a sea container arriving from Viet Nam. The chemicals were concealed in an unusual method, hidden in individual packets of coffee.



Photo: Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

## Increasing methamphetamine prices decrease use, even for dependent users

**SYDNEY, Australia – 8 July 2010.** New research published in the September issue of *International Journal of Drug Policy* suggests that increases in methamphetamine price can decrease its use, even among dependent users. One principle of supply-side drug interventions is to increase risks associated with drug trafficking—and thus their price—so users will consume less, a concept referred to as price elasticity. A sample of 101 regular methamphetamine users surveyed using a hypothetical drug budget found that a 10% rise in methamphetamine prices resulted in a 15-24% decrease in its use. The study found little evidence of switching to other drugs as methamphetamine prices rose. Compared to other types of users, dependent users of methamphetamine alone showed lower responsiveness to increased prices.

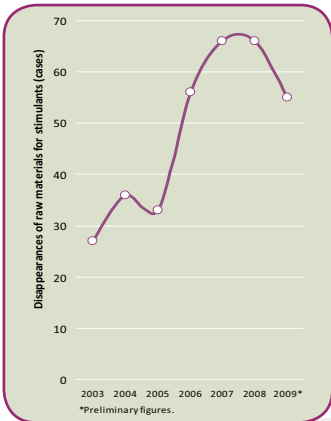


Photo: Japan Customs

## Japan targeted by methamphetamine trafficking originating from West Africa

**OSAKA, Japan - 16 May 2010.** Customs authorities in Japan arrested a Nigerian national suspected of trafficking nearly a kilogram of methamphetamine. The man arrived from Nigeria and was stopped at the Kansai International Airport, 50 km outside of Osaka. A similar case with 2.4 kg was reported just three days later. Beginning in 2009, Customs authorities reported increases in multi-kilo methamphetamine cases which had originated from countries in West Africa, often transiting GCC or European countries. Malaysia and Thailand have recently reported on similar cases, pointing to new trafficking groups and the possibility of manufacture occurring in West Africa.

9



Source: Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

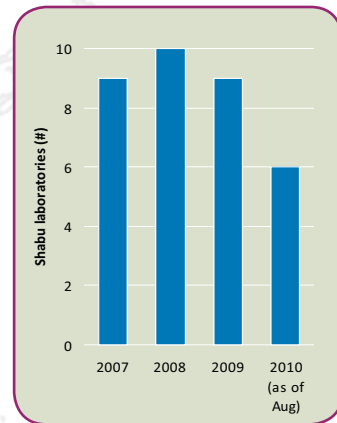
### First methamphetamine lab found in Japan in 15 years

**SAGAMIHARA, Japan – 22 June 2010.** Japanese law enforcement seized a suspected residential clandestine methamphetamine laboratory outside of Tokyo, the first such seizure since 1995. Two Iranian nationals were arrested on suspicion of illicit manufacture. Given the continuously high price of imported crystalline methamphetamine there may be an increased likelihood that more domestic manufacture could emerge. The number of incidents involving the disappearance of pharmaceuticals containing precursor chemicals which could be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine has been increasing since 2003, with 55 such cases reported in 2009.

10

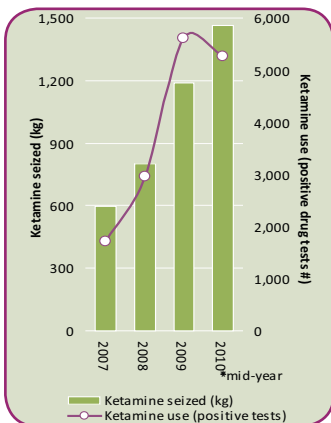
### Philippines intercepts huge methamphetamine precursor shipment

**MANILA, Philippines – 10 Aug 2010.** Philippines Customs stopped a huge shipment of toluene at the Manila International Container Port. The 6,400 liters of toluene—one of the country’s largest single seizures of the substance—was stored in 32 drums hidden in a shipping container which had originated from China. Toluene is a solvent under international control which can be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, known locally as “shabu”. The number of large-scale laboratories has declined in recent years, but the size of this shipment may point to a return of large scale manufacture.



Source: Philippines PDEA

11



Source: Food and Drug Administration

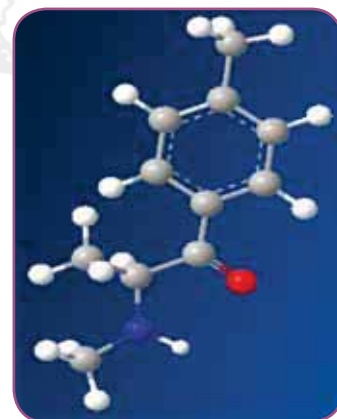
### Record ketamine seizures and use reported by Taiwan Province of China

**XINDIAN, Taiwan Province of China - 6 May 2010.** Authorities in Xindian, south of Taipei, seized 125 kg of ketamine from Malaysia in a warehouse. Police arrested five suspects of an international drug-trafficking group in connection, noting that this was the group’s third such shipment. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reports that ketamine seizures in the first five months of 2010 alone totaled 1,465 kg, nearly 300 kg more than last year’s record setting 1,186 kg. Concurrent increases in use were also noted, with more than 5,200 persons testing positive for ketamine use in the first seven months—doubling figures reported just two years ago.

12

### First seizure of mephedrone reported in Taiwan Province of China

**TAIPEI, Taiwan Province of China - 7 May 2010.** Health authorities are reporting their first seizure of mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) also known as “meow” in Taiwan Province of China. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned that the new drug was confirmed seized after it was discovered by law enforcement authorities. In another incident in May, the Aviation Police Office successfully conducted a controlled delivery of 0.44 kg of mephedrone, arresting one teenage suspect. The drug, not under international controls, has been popular among youth in many European countries, where at least two fatalities related to its use have already been confirmed by the EMCDDA.



Mephedrone





Photo: Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department

### Large methamphetamine lab found in Hong Kong SAR

**HONG KONG (SAR), China – 14 July 2010.** Hong Kong authorities seized a large sophisticated clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in an industrial building in Kwai Tsing. The operation netted 70 kg of methamphetamine, 70 lt of liquid methamphetamine and an additional 200 lt of semi-processed methamphetamine. A large amount of chemicals, including P-2-P (phenyl-2-propanone), along with professional grade equipment were also found at the laboratory and in other storage facilities. Five arrests were made in connection with the seizure. Clandestine laboratories are rare in Hong Kong, but have increased over the past year, illustrating that even in small densely populated areas, large-scale manufacture of methamphetamine is possible.

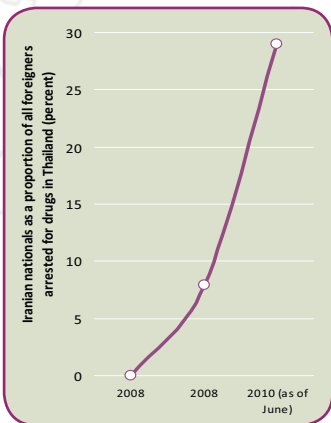
13

### Cambodia seizes nearly 13 million pseudoephedrine tablets entering the country

**BANTEAY MEANCHEY PROVINCE, Cambodia – 22 Aug 2010.** Police arrested a man for trafficking 12.85 million pharmaceutical tablets containing pseudoephedrine into Cambodia. The South Korean made tablets were found in a warehouse in the northwest Banteay Meanchey province, shortly after arriving from Thailand at the border city of Poipet. Authorities have charged the man with illegal importation of pharmaceutical products. It is unclear whether these products were intended for direct consumption or for use in illicit methamphetamine manufacture, which has increasingly spread throughout the Greater Mekong Subregion.



14



Source: Thailand Office of the Narcotics Control Board

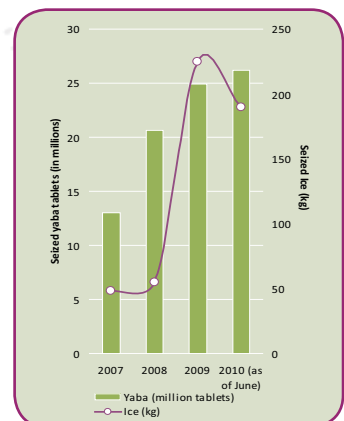
### Iranian traffickers using new routes and forms

**BANGKOK, Thailand – 29 Aug 2010.** Iranian methamphetamine traffickers appear to be adapting their *modus operandi* now routing via Syria and concealing drugs in liquid form. Seven Iranian nationals were arrested in four separate incidents at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport in August. In each case, investigators determined that the suspects had flown from Damascus, before boarding connecting flights to other Middle East cities *en route* to Thailand. A total of 18.5 kg of methamphetamine in crystalline and liquid forms were confiscated. Liquid form was first reported in July, after authorities arrested an Iranian with 18.5 kg of liquid methamphetamine. Iranian nationals accounted for 29% of foreign drug arrests in the first 6 months of 2010, a dramatic increase over the 8% reported in 2009.

15

### Thailand heading for highest methamphetamine seizures since 2003

**BANGKOK, Thailand – 5 Aug 2010.** The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) reported significant increases in methamphetamine seized in a presentation at the second annual Global SMART Regional Workshop for East and South-East Asia. Methamphetamine pills ('yaba') seized in the first 6 months of 2010 amounted to 26.2 million pills, more than the 24.9 million reported for all of 2009, and the highest levels since 2003. Increases in high purity crystalline methamphetamine ('ice') have also been reported, with 190 kg reported as of June 2010, some of the highest levels in the past five years.



Source: Thailand Office of the Narcotics Control Board

16

17



Photo: Sri Lanka Police Narcotics Bureau

### Sri Lanka arrest of Iranians trafficking methamphetamine points to changing routes

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka – 12 Aug 2010.** Police arrested three male Iranian nationals seizing 16 kg of methamphetamine. Two of the men, travelling from Qatar, were arrested at Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport with 8 kg of methamphetamine and, upon questioning, led authorities to another man, with an additional 8 kg of the drug. Iranian nationals trafficking methamphetamine has been a growing problem throughout South-East Asia, but this incident represents the first time significant amounts of methamphetamine have been seized in Sri Lanka and points to new trafficking routes emerging via South Asia.

18

### Foreigners operating methamphetamine labs in India

**THANE, India – 19 Aug 2010.** The Narcotics Control Bureau raided a clandestine drug laboratory operating in an industrial area just outside of Mumbai, seizing 8.5 kg of methamphetamine, 10 lt of methamphetamine in liquid form, and 60 kg of bulk ephedrine. Six Iranian nationals and a Dutch national were arrested, marking the first reported incident of Iranians manufacturing methamphetamine in India. The following day in a similar case, authorities seized another laboratory engaged in precursor extraction and methamphetamine manufacture in Thane. Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine tablets and powder in excess of 467 kg, 8 kg of amphetamine and 3.54 kg of methamphetamine were seized. A Colombian national and an Indian were arrested in this case.



Photo: India Narcotics Control Bureau

19

### Back-track investigation leads to big illegal ketamine factory in India

**MUMBAI, India - 14 Sept 2010.** Agents of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested a major manufacturer of ketamine for operating without a license. Back-track investigations of a ketamine trafficker apprehended in early August led authorities to the illegal factory. Authorities identified consignment receipts for 600 kg of ketamine. An additional 500 kg may have also originated from the same factory. Ketamine is not covered under the narcotic laws in India with no restrictions upon its domestic movement. Restrictions have been placed on import and export of the substance. However, India remains a significant source of diverted ketamine throughout South-East Asia, where it is increasingly popular in cities such as Bangkok, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Taipei.

20



Photo: UNODC File

### Amphetamines seized in southern Afghanistan

**KANDAHAR PROVINCE – Afghanistan, 15 June 2010.** NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) discovered 1 kg of amphetamines in the southern Garm Ser district, detaining several individuals who also tested positive for the drug. In May, ISAF and counter-narcotics police seized 5 kg of suspected methamphetamine along with other drugs, weapons and explosives, arresting 7 men in the Nad Ali district in Hilmand Province. Two additional kilograms of amphetamines, along with other drugs and chemicals were seized in neighboring Nimroz Province in March. The specific types of amphetamines remain unknown as forensic analysis is not possible in the dangerous southern provinces. Methamphetamine in Afghanistan was first confirmed seized in January 2009.



## Azerbaijan increasingly seizing methamphetamine from Iranian couriers

**GARABUAVANDIKLI, Azerbaijan – 6 Sept 2010.** Customs have reported multiple cases of methamphetamine transiting the country by Iranian nationals in 2010. In several cases the drugs have been for transshipment to countries in East Asia. The largest (3 kg) was seized in March at the Baku Airport destined for Malaysia via Istanbul. However, in the most recent case reported 6 September, a man was arrested trying to sell 2.35 kg of methamphetamine and 9.9 kg of cannabis resin to an undercover officer in Garabuavandikli, near the border with Iran (IR). Although most incidents represent the transiting of methamphetamine this case suggests that the supply could be spilling into the domestic market.

21

## Armenian authorities dismantle several large-scale amphetamine laboratories

**YEREVAN, Armenia - 5 June 2010.** Three cases of large-scale amphetamine-related manufacture were reported in the Armenian capital of Yerevan. A total of 265 kg of the precursor phenylacetic acid (PAA) and 150 kg of phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P) were seized, along with 12 kg of amphetamine and various laboratory equipment. Although opioid-related manufacture has been reported in the past, this marks the first case of ATS manufacture reported to UNODC and points to expansion of synthetic drug manufacture into the region.

22

## Qatar controlled delivery nets 2.2 million “Captagon” pills

**DOHA, Qatar – 30 Aug 2010.** Qatar’s Drug Combating Department (DCD) arrested members of an international criminal network engaged in drug trafficking, intercepting 2,204,000 pills sold as *Captagon* during a controlled delivery. On a tip from anti-drug authorities in a neighboring country, a container storing the drugs was identified when it arrived at the Doha Seaport. The consignment, hidden in the walls of a shipment of heavy equipment, was allowed to clear the port and was tracked to a leased home. Authorities arrested two men while they were trying to distribute the pills. The source of the pills was not disclosed.



Photo: Qatar Ministry of the Interior

23

## UAE reports a string of methamphetamine traffickers transiting from Africa

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates – 9 Aug 2010.** Several recent media reports point to a string of crystalline methamphetamine trafficking via the UAE by African nationals. According to the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) a courier from an undisclosed African country was allegedly caught trafficking 4.25 kg of crystalline methamphetamine on 9 August, the third such report in two months. A week earlier (3 August) an African male was reportedly caught by Dubai Customs with 1.57 kg concealed in his luggage. The first report surfaced on 27 June, when an African woman was caught transporting 3 kg. All cases appear to be bound for East Asian destinations. Methamphetamine originating from Africa and bound for East Asia has been increasing since 2009.\*

24

## “Captagon” laboratory reportedly seized in Saudi Arabia

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia – 5 June 2010.** The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reports that authorities in the north of the country seized a laboratory for the manufacture of pills sold as *Captagon*. Three tableting machines, punches, chemicals, and tablets marked with the *Captagon* logo were reported seized. If confirmed this represents the first report of manufacture in the country. However, these pills—which typically contain amphetamine—are primarily trafficked into the country in large quantities. On 20 April, SPA reported that authorities seized 8.1 million pills in a single case. The World Customs Organization reports that Saudi Arabia seized 13.4 metric tons of amphetamine in 2009.



Photo: Official Saudi Press Agency

## Methamphetamine laboratory seized in Egypt

**ALEXANDRIA, Egypt – 14 April 2010.** Egyptian authorities in Alexandria dismantled a clandestine laboratory for the manufacture of methamphetamine. One man, a Mexican national, was arrested in connection. Authorities seized tools, laboratory equipment, and chemicals including pseudoephedrine, toluene, hydrochloric and sulfuric acids. Methamphetamine in Egypt is sometimes sold as counterfeit “*Maxiton Forte*” a pharmaceutical preparation which originally contained dexamphetamine. The last ATS laboratory in Egypt was reported to UNODC in 2004.



Photo: AIRCOP

## Nigeria stops a total of 63 kg of amphetamines bound for Japan and South Africa

**LAGOS, Nigeria – 16 May 2010.** The Nigerian National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) arrested two suspected drug traffickers in two separate incidents, attempting to ship a total of 63 kg of methamphetamine and amphetamine from the Murtala Muhammed International Airport. Thirty-six kg of methamphetamine was found hidden inside food stuffs (fufu) for export to Japan. The following week 26.5 kg of amphetamine was found hidden inside bronze statues bound for South Africa. Several incidents of methamphetamine trafficking from West African countries have recently occurred and point to the possibility of significant manufacture in the region.

## Indictment charges crime group intending to manufacture methamphetamine in Liberia

**MONROVIA, Liberia – 1 June 2010.** A United States Federal Grand Jury has indicted several members of an international organized crime group on cocaine smuggling charges in Liberia, with the intent to establish a clandestine laboratory for the large-scale manufacture of methamphetamine. The indictment states that the group conspired to bribe officials in order to import the precursor ephedrine in amounts that would support the manufacture of 20 kg of crystalline methamphetamine “every few days”, relying on foreign chemists. The unsealed indictment stated that the methamphetamine would have been destined for the American and Japanese markets.

## Large seizure of “tik” made at Cape Town International Airport

**CAPE TOWN, South Africa – 26 Feb 2010.** South African authorities arrested a man suspected of trafficking 14 kg of crystalline methamphetamine known as “tik”. The drugs, valued at more than USD \$700,000, were stored in plastic bags hidden inside luggage. The suspect was stopped at the Cape Town International Airport after arriving on a flight from Johannesburg’s OR Tambo International Airport. South Africa reported 37 kg of methamphetamine seized in all of 2009 - the highest amount ever. Local methamphetamine manufacture primarily in the Gauteng Province continues to supply domestic demand with increased exports to overseas markets.



Photo: South African Police Service

29

## First methamphetamine laboratory reported in Turkey

**ADANA, Turkey – 10 Jan 2010.** Media reports the seizure of Turkey’s first methamphetamine laboratory in Adana, in the southern part of the country. Authorities seized 3.5 kg of methamphetamine, 14.2 kg of precursor chemicals, 10 lt of essential chemicals, 16 boxes of pharmaceutical preparations and various laboratory equipment. The drug was punched into tablets with an “A” logo. Reports state that 100,00 tablets were to be manufactured for retail sale at 20 lira (USD \$13.4) apiece. In 2009, Turkey reported its first seizures of methamphetamine—totaling 103 kg—as Istanbul’s Atatürk International Airport became a transit point for methamphetamine trafficked from the Islamic Republic of Iran to markets in East Asia.\*

30



Photo: Hungary National Police

## Hungary detects its first methamphetamine laboratory

**KOMÁROM, Hungary – 6 January 2010.** Hungary reported its first methamphetamine laboratory located in a remote area of the country. The small scale operation reduced ephedrine—extracted from pharmaceutical preparations—with ammonia and lithium following a recipe readily available from the internet. The laboratory had been in operation for 6 months before it was discovered by police. Illicit drug laboratories are uncommon in Hungary, however this case represents the third incident since 2007.

31

## Law enforcement faces unique challenges with synthetic drug analogues

**PRAGUE, Czech Republic – 5 May 2010.** Customs officers at Prague’s Ruzyně Airport reported arresting a Polish national for transporting 15 kg of a substance which initially tested positive for methcathinone. Methcathinone (ephedrone), a less common synthetic stimulant under international control, is found primarily in the Russian Federation and South Africa. Confirmatory tests however revealed the substance to be methylmethcathinone (mephedrone) an analogue not under international control. The event illustrates the challenges law enforcement face when encountering new synthetic substances like analogues not under international of national control.



Photo: Czech Customs Administration

32

33

### Methamphetamine breathalyzer test may be possible

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden – 18 May 2010.** The June issue of *Journal of Analytical Toxicology* reports the first breath test for methamphetamine and amphetamine detection was successfully conducted in Sweden. Drugs in the exhaled breath are captured in a filter which is analyzed using combined liquid chromatography—tandem mass-spectrometry. Experimental trials on 12 amphetamine dependent patients admitted to hospital emergency rooms for amphetamine-related overdose provided the same results as traditional drug tests. In the future, technology like this could save significant amounts of time and money for those engaged in regular drug testing such as law enforcement, health care professionals, and potential employers.

34

### EUROPOL finds new, uncontrolled ecstasy precursor

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands – June, 2010.** EUROPOL has recently alerted law enforcement agencies of the emergence of new pre-precursor chemicals that could be used in MDMA (ecstasy) manufacture. In May, 0.55 kg of methyl 3-[3'4'-(methylenedioxy)phenyl]-2-methyl glycidate (MMDMG), was found in an MDMA and methamphetamine laboratory in the Netherlands. Notes with instructions for the possible conversion of this substance into 3,4-MDP-2-P, a common precursor chemical in short supply, were also discovered. Law enforcement, international cooperation and legislative changes have resulted in a shortage of the precursor 3,4-MDP-2-P used to manufacture MDMA. MMDMG is a non controlled substance, and its use as a substitute may not limited to Europe.

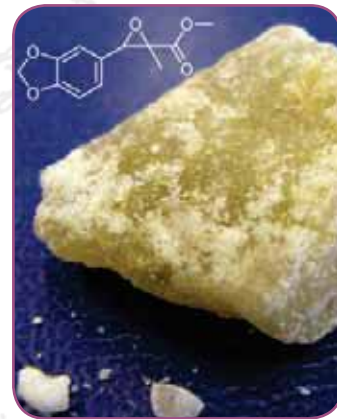


Photo: EUROPOL

35

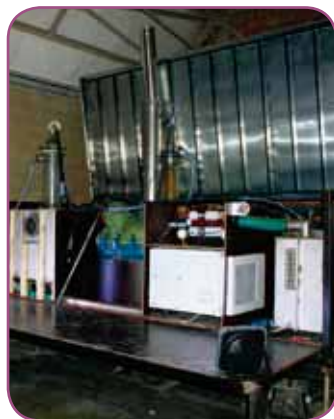


Photo: EUROPOL

### Large sophisticated mobile amphetamine laboratory identified in Belgium

**TESSENDERLO, Belgium – 8 May 2010.** Belgian Federal Police in cooperation with EUROPOL dismantled a large-scale sophisticated mobile illicit drug laboratory in Tessenderlo, 60 km southeast of Antwerp. The laboratory had the potential to manufacture as much as 30 million euros of drugs per day. Two Belgian and four Dutch nationals were arrested. The group had already manufactured 100 lt of amphetamine oil and another batch of 100 lt was in production. The custom built container housed the laboratory and was mounted on a trailer platform which allowed the criminals the ability to quickly set-up and move manufacture to avoid detection.

36

### Spanish police smash large international synthetic drug ring

**ESTELLA, Spain - 30 June 2010.** Spain's La Guardia Civil have broken up a major network specialized in synthetic drug distribution across the country, culminating in nearly 140 kg in drugs representing one of the largest seizures of synthetic drugs in Spain. The year long investigation resulted in the seizure of 118 kg of amphetamine (37% purity), 21 kg of high purity (80% purity) crystalline MDMA, 1.2 kg of cocaine and cannabis. Twenty people were arrested, including nationals of Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Moldova, and Spain. Related to this, Police dismantling a processing laboratory in Vitoria in May.



Photo: La Guardia Civil

## Ketamine laboratory uncovered in Spain

**MADRID, Spain – 1 July 2010.** Spanish National Police discovered a ketamine laboratory and distribution operation after dismantling a large forced prostitution ring in Madrid. Eleven Chinese nationals were arrested and 30 victims of sexual exploitation were freed from their squalid conditions. The ketamine (locally known as “kin”) laboratory represents the second reported case, with the first operated by Chinese nationals reported in Torrejón de la Calzada in April 2008. Spain has reported dismantling a growing number of synthetic drug laboratories.



Photo: Policía Nacional

## EMCDDA mephedrone assessment details fatalities and organized crime

**LISBON, Portugal – Sept 2010.** The EMCDDA released its risk assessment of *mephedrone* (4-methylmethcathinone) in Europe. Mephedrone is a psychoactive synthetic cathinone derivative and was first reported by the Finnish Government in March 2008. Since then 24 European countries have reported seizures of the substance in powder or tablet form, ranging from 2 grams up to more than 130 kg. China was often reported as the source of bulk *mephedrone* and there are indications of the involvement of organized crime in its distribution. The report identified 31 cases of toxicity associated with its use in London since January 2009 and limited reports of drug dependence exist. There have been two reported fatalities in which the substance appears to be the sole cause of death and at least 37 more deaths in the United Kingdom and Ireland where the drug has either been detected in post-mortem samples or otherwise potentially implicated in death. *Mephedrone* is not under international controls. The decision to carry out a risk assessment on mephedrone was based on the findings of the EUROPOL–EMCDDA joint report on mephedrone from March 2010.



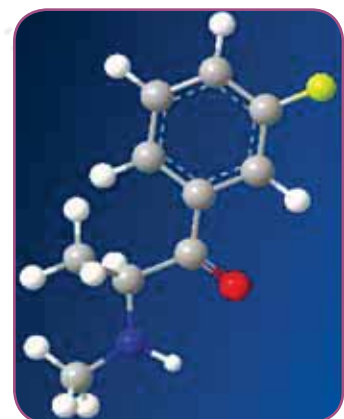
Naphyrone

## UK bans mephedrone “replacement” naphyrone

**LONDON, United Kingdom – 23 July 2010.** The UK has outlawed the synthetic substance naphyrone (and analogues) and begun an awareness raising campaign to its dangers following a report of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Naphyrone is similar to other cathinones stimulants such as mephedrone and methylenedioxy-pyrovalerone (MDPV). Naphyrone was increasingly being sold as a “legal high” much the same as mephedrone before its ban in April 2010. Test purchases of the substances suggested that users were inadvertently purchasing other, often illegal substances. Beginning in 2008/09 many European countries reported an explosion in the number new synthetic designer drugs, ostensibly marketed as bath salts, plant food or incense.

## Scotland seizes 50 kg of recently banned synthetic methcathinone analogue

**GLASGOW, Scotland – 20 April 2010.** A joint operation of the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA) and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) resulted in the seizure of 50 kg of 3-fluoromethcathinone with an estimated street value of £500,000. The drugs were seized in a parcel arriving at the Glasgow Airport. 3-fluoromethcathinone, similar to *flephedrone* (4-fluoromethcathinone), was first reported in the European Early Warning System by Denmark in September 2008. The UK government categorized fluoromethcathinone, mephedrone and other cathinone derivatives as class B drugs under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act on 16 April 2010.



3-fluoromethcathinone

41



Photo: Iceland National Police

### Iceland amphetamine seizure suggests clandestine laboratories operating

**SEYDISFIORDUR, Iceland – 17 June 2010.** Iceland authorities arrested two female German nationals and seized 21.3 lt of liquid amphetamine base as they arrived at Seydisfiordur port on the east coast. Dogs detected the drugs hidden in the vehicle’s gas tank. Amphetamine is often trafficked in its more concentrated base form but is consumed in the sulfate salt form, which likely points to the existence of domestic processing laboratories. In October 2008, Iceland Police in cooperation with EUROPOL dismantled a large-scale, sophisticated synthetic drug laboratory, with the potential to manufacture hundreds of kilograms of amphetamine.

42

### RCMP finds large ecstasy laboratory with 3,4-MDP-2-P

**ABBOTSFORD, Canada – 31 May 2010.** The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) dismantled a large-scale ecstasy laboratory in a rural Abbotsford, 75 km east of Vancouver, British Columbia (BC). Large quantities of hexane, methanol, methylamine chloride and 3,4-MDP-2-P were seized. 3,4-MDP-2-P is a key precursor chemical, which continues to be in short supply, particularly in Europe. The last significant seizure of 3,4-MDP-2-P was reported in 2008, when 2,823 lt was intercepted in the Vancouver, BC port facility. Although still a significant source of ecstasy, the number of ecstasy laboratories in 2009 (12) declined notably over 2008, possibly related to a lack of chemicals required in their manufacture.



Photo: Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

43



Photo (fentanyl): U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

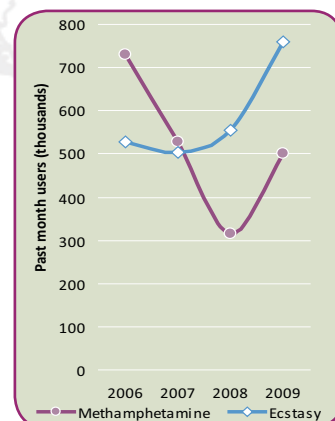
### U.S. expanding controls on fentanyl and LSD precursors

**WASHINGTON, United States – 30 Aug 2010.** The DEA has designated the precursor chemical 4-anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine (ANPP) as a precursor chemical for fentanyl, an extremely potent synthetic analgesic. ANPP has been reported as a precursor in clandestine manufacture of fentanyl in the U.S. In February, the DEA proposed new controls over ergocristine, a chemical precursor used in the manufacture of LSD. Clandestine laboratories in the U.S. are using it as a substitute for ergotamine and ergometrine already under international control. LSD, a potent synthetic hallucinogen, requires only microgram amounts to produce overt hallucinations.

44

### Current U.S. methamphetamine use jumps 60%, ecstasy increases 37% in 2009

**WASHINGTON, United States – 16 Sept 2010.** Results from the new National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) found that past month drug use of those 12 and older increased between 2008 and 2009 from 8% to 8.7% reversing a downward trend. Current use of methamphetamine in 2009 increased 60% over 2008 to 502,000 users, while ecstasy (MDMA) increased 37% to 760,000 users. Methamphetamine supply has rebounded as several indicators increased in 2009 including increased border seizures from Mexico, increased U.S. domestic laboratory counts, and a low retail market price per pure gram.



Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration





Photo: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

## U.S. indicts 15 in one of the largest ecstasy ring busts

**LOS ANGELES, United States – 5 Aug 2010.** The U.S. Department of Justice announced that a Federal Grand jury has indicted 15 men linked to one of the country's largest ecstasy (MDMA) manufacturing and trafficking rings. In July 2010, authorities seized a large-scale laboratory capable of manufacturing MDMA and methamphetamine in the City of Industry, outside of Los Angeles. Two storage facilities were also seized during the investigation yielding approximately 710,000 MDMA tablets. Over a year law enforcement authorities seized more than 1.1 million tablets and 33 kg of cocaine related to the case, and it is believed that the group was responsible for the distribution of hundreds of thousands of MDMA tablets each month. The type and source of precursor chemicals have not been disclosed.

## 702 kg of methamphetamine seized in Mexico, one of the largest hauls

**JIMENEZ, Mexico – 27 May 2010.** The Secretaría de Seguridad Pública (SSP) reported stopping a cargo truck transporting nearly 1 ton of drugs including 701.9 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, 206.2 kg of cocaine, and 15.9 kg heroin, representing one of the largest single methamphetamine seizures reported. The drugs were found hidden in boxes of detergent and cleaning products. The shipment was stopped in Jimenez, in the state of Chihuahua. The truck was stopped en route from Mexico City to Tijuana, a northwest city bordering the United States. Two men were arrested.



Photo: Secretaría de Seguridad Pública de México



Photo: La Secretaría de Marina de México

## Unprecedented seizures of new precursor chemicals for methamphetamine

**MANZANILLO, Mexico – 4 Aug 2010.** In a joint operation Mexican authorities reported securing 200 metric tons of phenylacetic acid (PAA) and some of its derivatives in the Pacific Port of Manzanillo, Colima. PAA is a controlled precursor used for the manufacture of methamphetamine. The derivatives—ethyl phenylacetate and phenylethyl alcohol—are used in legitimate industry as flavorings and fragrances but might also be used as pre-precursor in the manufacture of methamphetamine. The chemicals were found in 970 metal drums shipped in 18 containers from China and Korea. Shipments of ethyl phenylacetate were also reported seized on 4 and 19 of May.

## Large lab seizures climb to record levels in Mexico

**TAMAZULA de GORDIAN, Mexico – 24 Sept 2010.** Authorities reported dismantling a large-scale methamphetamine laboratory in a remote area near Tamazula de Gordian, in the west coast state of Jalisco. Thousands of liters of precursors were seized, including 400 lt of acetic anhydride (AA). AA is a chemical under international control typically used in the production of heroin but is also needed when manufacturing methamphetamine from phenylacetic acid (PAA). In 2008, Mexico reported seizing only 4 lt of AA, however growing seizures of PAA-based laboratories will likely drive AA seizures up. The source of the AA was not disclosed. Mexico reported seizing 191 methamphetamine laboratories in 2009—many large-scale—a significant jump over the 21 reported to UNODC in 2008.



Photo: Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional

## Belize stops large shipments of methamphetamine precursors bound for Mexico

**PORT OF BELIZE, Belize – 10 April 2010.** Customs authorities in Belize reportedly stopped two large shipments of phenylacetic acid (PAA) derivatives, amounting to about 46 metric tons. The chemical can be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, and several hundred metric tons of PAA and some of its derivatives have recently been seized in Mexico. Reports suggest the chemical came from China and was believed to be ultimately destined for Mexico. While PAA is under international controls, illicit drug manufactures may be utilizing new precursor derivatives of PAA not under international controls to continue manufacture of methamphetamine.\*

49



Photo: Policía Nacional Civil de Guatemala

## Guatemala stops 500,000 ephedrine capsules trafficked from Honduras

**ESQUIPULAS, Guatemala - 13 July 2010.** The Ministry of Interior reported that officers of the National Civil Police (PNC) seized more than 500,000 capsules containing ephedrine. The seizure occurred near the town of Esquipulas, Chiquimula as a man attempted to enter from Honduras. The capsules were transported in luggage. Although many countries of Central America have banned ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, the region continues to be used for the smuggling of precursor chemicals into Mexico for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.

50

## Honduras makes record seizure of pseudoephedrine tablets

**PUERTO CORTES, Honduras – 8 March 2010.** Honduran authorities reported seizing more than 30 million tablets of pseudoephedrine, the largest single seizure ever in Honduras. The tablets were discovered in a container that arrived at Puerto Cortes on the Caribbean coast originating from China. For several years, Honduras, along with Guatemala and Nicaragua, has been targeted by organized criminal groups to smuggle precursors, particularly pseudoephedrine to Mexico, thereby circumventing controls in place and ensuring the supply for methamphetamine manufacture. In an effort to rid its country of these transshipments, Honduras prohibited the import, export, possession, synthesis, use, manufacture, sale, storage, distribution and transportation of pseudoephedrine in February 2009. There is therefore no legitimate need for pseudoephedrine in the country. According to the International Narcotics Control Board, the Government of Honduras reports a legitimate need only for ephedrine (150 kg).

51

## 42 tons of pseudoephedrine confiscated and destroyed

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador – 19 May 2010.** Authorities in El Salvador confiscated and destroyed more than 42 metric tons of pseudoephedrine over the past 11 months. The bulk chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations were stocks confiscated from multiple pharmaceutical facilities located around the country, after pseudoephedrine was prohibited in June 2009. That amount of pseudoephedrine is able to produce approximately 28 mt of high potency methamphetamine.

52



## German national busted in unusual illegal drug laboratory operated in the Dominican Republic

**SANTIAGO, Dominican Republic - 11 Aug 2010.** The National Drug Control Agency (DNCD) reported an illegal laboratory in the city of Santiago, arresting a German national posing as a chemist. The laboratory had been authorized to produce only acetaminophen and aspirin, however it was reportedly manufacturing fake "Viagra®", the trade name for Sildenafil citrate. Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are often marketed as "Viagra®" to unsuspecting buyers. Authorities discovered the operation after altered import permits for pseudoephedrine and oxycodone were discovered. The man had been previously convicted and imprisoned for the manufacture of ATS in another country.



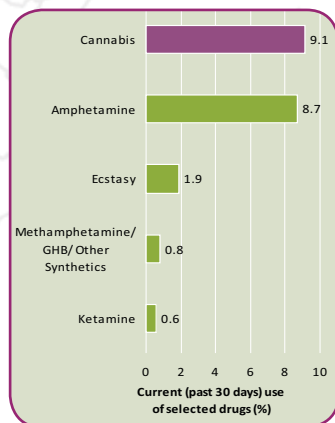
Photo (Viagra®): Selefant

53

## Andean authorities reporting record ecstasy seizures

**LIMA, Peru – 22 July 2010.** Peru's National Police seized 247,000 ecstasy tablets in a Lima suburb making it one of the country's largest ever synthetic drugs seizures. The drugs were hidden in five suitcases along with 102 kg of cocaine. Six people were arrested in connection. Initial investigations point to the drugs originated in South-East Asia. On 19 March, Colombia's Dirección Nacional de Estupefacientes (DNE) announced that a consignment of 15,000 ecstasy tablets en route for Colombia were stopped by authorities in Poland. Had they been seized in Colombia they would have represented the largest amounts seized since 2006. The ecstasy was reported to have been part of a drug bartering transaction for coca products.

54



Source: Secretaria Nacional de Políticas sobre Drogas

## ATS use rivals cannabis on Brazil university campuses

**BRASILIA, Brazil – 23 June 2010.** A new study of drug use among university students has shown that recent use of synthetic drugs now rivals that of cannabis. The study, commissioned by the Secretaria Nacional de Políticas sobre Drogas (SENAD), of more than 18,000 university students in 27 capital cities found that in 2009 current use of amphetamine was 8.7%, ecstasy 1.9%, other synthetic drugs (such as methamphetamine and GHB) at 0.8% and ketamine at 0.6%. Past year cannabis use was reported at 9.1%. Nearly 4% of amphetamine users were classified as at moderate risk of drug dependence, second only to cannabis users (7.8%). Concern over rising synthetic drug use such as ecstasy among South Americas young people has been growing.

55

## Paraguay stops ephedrine shipment bound for Mexico

**ASUNCIÓN, Paraguay – 3 Mar 2010.** Anti-drug authorities (SENAD) seized a consignment of 50 kg of ephedrine which was concealed in four bags among 300 bags of starch. The shipment was stopped in Mariano Roque Alonso, just outside the capital Asunción, bound for Mexico. Three people were arrested including a Mexican national. Mexican drug cartels have targeted countries in South and Central America to supply precursors for the manufacture of methamphetamine.



Photo: Secretaria Nacional Anti-drogas (SENAD) de Paraguay

56

### Global SMART accomplishments for 2010

The Global SMART (*Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends*) Programme improves the capacity of targeted Member States to generate, manage, analyze, report and use information on illicit synthetic drugs. Announced in March 2008 at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna the programme launched formal operations September 2008 in Bangkok Thailand. In 2010 the Global SMART Programme has:

- produced the March and October Global SMART Updates;
- presented the latest information related to the global ATS situation at the 53rd Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna;
- convened the second annual Global SMART Programme Advisory Group meeting;
- provided substantive input into the 2010 World Drug Report chapter on ATS;
- conducted the second annual regional synthetic drug information workshops in East and South-East Asia;
- begun recruitment for Global SMART expansion into the Americas in partnership with the Organization of American States (OAS);
- begun recruitment for Global SMART expansion into the Pacific Island States;
- redesigned *Asia and Pacific ATS Information Centre* (APAIC) website and continued development of the *Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific* (DAINAP) and the on-line *Forensic Alert*;
- disseminated information related to the synthetic drug situation at targeted conferences;
- prepared the second annual regional report on the patterns and trends of amphetamine-type stimulants (see below).

### New Global SMART Publications - Coming in November

*2010 Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs in East and South-East Asia (November 2010)*

The report provides detailed data and information on 15 countries in East and South-East Asia, and the Pacific, with regional coverage of South Asia and Oceania. The report examines the threat from illegal amphetamines manufacture, trafficking and use from within the region and from neighbouring regions. 2010's reports has expanded coverage of trafficking routes for both drugs and precursor chemicals, reporting on drug trafficking organizations, and improved forensic information.

UNODC would like to specifically recognize the following funding partners for their investment in the Global SMART Programme. UNODC would also like to acknowledge the significant contributions of our partner the Global SMART Americas, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), for their support regarding this publication.



The Global SMART Programme is managed by the Laboratory and Scientific Section of the Division for Policy and Analysis and Public Affairs. UNODC reiterates its appreciation and gratitude to Member States and partner agencies for the reports and information that provided the basis of this report.

If you have comments on this report, or would like to contribute information that should be considered for future reports, please contact the Global SMART Programme at [globalsmart@unodc.org](mailto:globalsmart@unodc.org). Information on the Global SMART Programme can be found via the internet at [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org) and [www.apaic.org](http://www.apaic.org) or by contacting UNODC at the Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria.