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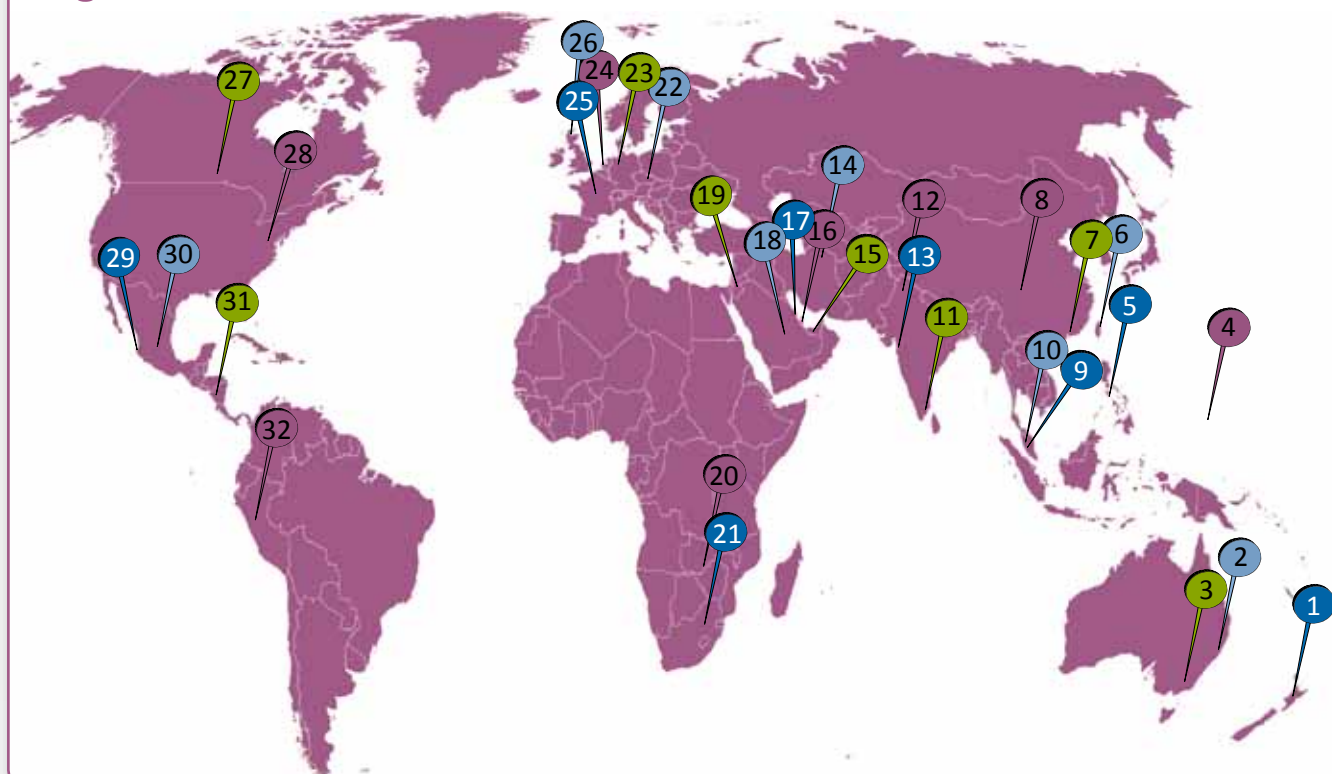
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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**GLOBAL SMART
UPDATE
2010**

Regions covered in this issue



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

The Global SMART Update (GSU) marks its first anniversary with the release of Volume 3. Globally there are significantly more users of synthetic drugs, such as amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), than heroin and cocaine, combined. Since 1990 ATS-related manufacture has occurred in more than 60 countries, with more findings reported each year. Unlike heroin and cocaine, ATS are constantly evolving with new drugs appearing on the market each year.

The GSU is designed to provide regular 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 sharing of emerging information from different parts of the world. 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, emerging drugs or user groups, and health implications related to their use.

The inaugural issue of GSU (March 2009) highlighted several countries across the globe where new incidents of manufacture had been identified—particularly throughout Latin America—demonstrating the flexibility and speed with which ATS manufacture can become established in any country. In GSU2 (October 2009), the focus was on new types of synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals—most of which are specifically engineered to circumvent international and national controls by subtle modification to the chemistry.

In this issue, the focus is on the harms that arise from the use of these synthetic drugs— not only directly with incidences of addiction and toxicity but indirectly through the environmental damage resulting from sourcing naturally occurring precursors and the disposal of their seizures. Articles related to harms from synthetic drugs are denoted in the table of contents with the double dagger symbol (‡). This issue also highlights the increasing trafficking in *Captagon* throughout the Middle East and changes in national legislation and proposed changes in international controls to better combat the trafficking of precursor chemicals such as phenylacetic acid.

The information and data contained within this report are from official government reports, press releases or cases that are confirmed by UNODC field offices. Additional or updated information from previously reported incidents may also be included where appropriate. Stories denoted with an asterisk (*) are from 'open sources' and UNODC is waiting for official confirmation, and therefore should be considered only preliminary. This report has not been formally edited. Suggested citation: Global SMART Update Volume 3, March 2010

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Special Coverage- Environmentally-friendly approaches to the disposal of safrole-rich oils - Battambang, Cambodia, February 2010

Safrole-rich oils (SRO) provide a natural source of the precursor required in the manufacture of MDMA (ecstasy). Recently, there have been large seizures of SRO in Cambodia where the harvesting of the stumps and roots of the mreas prov phnom tree (*Dysoxylum loureiri*) for the production of this oil is banned. Large quantities of this protected plant are required for production of SRO and the recent large seizures of SRO in the country create a worrying prospect of depletion of this and related species in the near future.

The disposal of the seized SRO by open air burning is of environmental concern due to the thick plumes of black smoke produced. At the 33rd meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and Pacific (Denpasar, Indonesia, October 2009) delegates called on Governments to support increased regional cooperation among their law enforcement, forensic and chemical control authorities, to ensure a safe and environmentally friendly approach to the disposal of seized chemicals and products of clandestine laboratories.

The Special Response – Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (SRATS) team of the Australian Federal Police, in partnership with UNODC, has been exploring viable environmentally-friendly measures for the safe disposal of precursor chemicals and products of clandestine laboratories in the region. In February 2009, the SRATS team piloted mobile turbo burner technology in the disposal of almost 15 tons of seized SRO in Battambang, Cambodia. The test showed promising results with a significant reduction in the amount of smoke released into the environment. The team is hoping to build on lessons learned, exploring new technologies for a smoke-free (clean burn) of seized SRO.



New Method/ Technology (Turbo Burners)



Old Method (Open Air)

New Zealand Seizes Record Pseudoephedrine

AUCKLAND, New Zealand - 11 Jan 2010. In 2009, New Zealand Customs seized more than one ton of pseudoephedrine, one of the main chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, locally known as "P". In 2008, 733 kg of the chemical was intercepted at the border. The predominant source of pseudoephedrine is in the form of *ContacNT*® cold medicine from China. However, there are signs of an increasing divergence of sources and trafficking routes for methamphetamine precursors as changes in the law have made domestic sources of the chemical more difficult to obtain. In October 2009, the Government unveiled a new action plan to combat domestic manufacture, trafficking, and use of methamphetamine, including controls on precursor chemicals.



Photo: New Zealand Customs Service

1



Photo: Peripitua

Australia Dismantles First Ever Safrole Oil Laboratory

BYRON BAY, Australia - 28 Jan 2010. Authorities in New South Wales, Australia uncovered the country's first ever clandestine laboratory to extract and process safrole-rich oil, a precursor chemical used in the manufacture of ecstasy (MDMA). Safrole-rich oil is used in the perfume and fragrance industry and is commonly derived from tree species in southeast Asia such as the *dysoxylum loureiri* and *cinnamomum camphora*. The raid seized other chemicals and equipment to manufacture MDMA including two tableting machines, along with ecstasy tablets, LSD, cannabis, cocaine, and steroids. Recently there have been a number of reports utilizing safrole-rich oils in the manufacture of MDMA.

2

Two Charged for Trafficking 50 kg of "Ice" into Australia

SYDNEY, Australia - 12 Jan 2010. Australian authorities arrested two Chinese nationals in Sydney following the seizure of approximately 50 kg of high-potency crystalline methamphetamine ("ice") which had been trafficked into Australia. The drugs were reportedly hidden in car parts sent from China to Melbourne in January 2010 and later transported to Sydney. According to the police, the drugs represented nearly 50,000 doses or about A\$20 million on the open market. The seizure was equivalent to nearly all methamphetamine seizures in Sydney in 2009.



Photo: Australian Federal Police

3

11 Years Prison for Northern Mariana Islands Biggest "Ice" Case Trafficker

SAIPAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - 17 Aug 2009. Courts sentenced a man to 11 years in prison for trafficking in the largest crystalline methamphetamine (ice) case in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), an unincorporated dependent territory of the United States located in the western Pacific Ocean. In August 2009, law enforcement authorities arrested four suspects and seized 1,021 grams of high-potency crystalline methamphetamine in a two-part operation. Abuse of methamphetamine, particularly among young persons, is of great concern in CNMI: 4.9% of high school students in 2007 reported having used the drug in their lifetime, making it the second most commonly abused illicit substance after cannabis.

4

WHO Report Sheds Light on High Drug Relapse Rates in Southeast Asia

MANILLA, Philippines - March 2009. In a study entitled *Assessment of compulsory treatment of people who use drugs in Cambodia, China, Malaysia and Viet Nam: An application of selected human rights principles*, researchers from the World Health Organization reported drug relapse rates ranging from 60% to nearly 100%. The report recommends an alternative to imprisonment for drug users and improvement of the current system of compulsory treatment for drug abusers by moving from a punitive approach to a voluntary, medically-assisted and evidence-based one. The unique treatment needs for problem ATS users differs from those of opiate users.



Photo: UNODC file



Photo: Bureau of Controlled Drugs

Taiwan "Ecstasy" Remains High in MDMA Content

TAIPEI, Taiwan Province of China - 10 Aug 2009. Recent forensic analysis from Taiwan's (PoC) Bureau of Controlled Drugs indicates a high MDMA content in "ecstasy" tablets. The analysis of 116 tablets seized between July 2007 and February 2009 found that 70% contained MDMA, and that of those more than half (55%) contained between 100 and 150 mg, with a maximum of 378 mg reported. Recent analysis of MDMA in Europe have shown declining MDMA content as precursor chemicals remain in short supply, with a greater proportion of tablets containing other drugs altogether. Other samples tested contained high levels of other psychoactive substance such as analogues of MDMA and the toxic *para*-methoxyamphetamine (PMA, up to maximum 121 mg).

Two Cases of Methamphetamine Manufacture Reported in Hong Kong, SAR

HONG KONG, SAR, China - 11 Aug 2009. Hong Kong authorities dismantled two clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, an unusual occurrence in China's Special Administrative Region. In August, an investigation into drug manufacture netted 440 grams of liquid methamphetamine base, precursor chemicals-likely extracted from pharmaceutical preparations-and recipes for the manufacturing process. Two men were arrested. The following month in an unrelated incident authorities arrested a woman and seized 14 grams of crystalline methamphetamine along with manufacturing equipment. Very few methamphetamine manufacturing operations, typically representing small-scale production, have been uncovered in Hong Kong SAR.

Tons of Ephedrine Seized China's Largest Methamphetamine Manufacture Case

SICHUAN PROVINCE, China - 2 Dec 2009. In October 2009, Chinese authorities in the southwestern Sichuan Province cracked one of the largest illicit drug manufacturing and distribution rings, arresting 85 suspects and seizing several tons of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of crystalline methamphetamine. Eight illegal drug processing factories, 44 tons of raw chemical materials, 415 kg of ephedrine, and nearly one kilogram of processed methamphetamine were seized. Authorities also confiscated 18.2 million Yuan (about \$2.6 million) 10 apartments, 21 vehicles and various weapons during the raid.

Malaysia's Records Largest Ecstasy Seizure 323 kg

JALAN BATU FERRINGHI, Malaysia - 27 Oct 2009. Police in northwest Malaysia recorded its largest ever MDMA (ecstasy) seizure of 323 kg of powder and an additional 42,282 pills. The arrest of four Indonesian nationals might indicate that Indonesian-based trafficking organizations are shifting their operations to Malaysia. Despite shortages of MDMA reported in Europe, it appears as though supply remains strong in southeast Asia. Police also seized 2.3 kg of ketamine, 50.6 grams of heroin and 10 grams of crystalline methamphetamine.*

Iranian Nationals Caught Smuggling Methamphetamine into Southeast Asia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - 8 Feb 2010. Three Iranian nationals were arrested while attempting to traffic 54.5 kg of methamphetamine into Malaysia on a flight from Dubai. The two women and one man were arrested at Kuala Lumpur International Airport after customs officials discovered the drugs in their luggage. In a similar incident in June 2009, two Iranian nationals were arrested for smuggling 20 kg of methamphetamine in their luggage on a flight arriving from Dubai. There have recently been multiple incidents throughout Asia of Iranian nationals trafficking methamphetamine.



Photo: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

Largest Single Seizure of Ketamine in India Bound for Malaysia

TUTICORIN, India - 29 Dec 2009. Customs authorities in India seized a record 440 kg of ketamine hydrochloride and arresting three after foiling an attempt to smuggle the drugs from the southeast port of Tuticorin Port. The drugs were hidden in 22 of the 519 bags of iodized salt bound for Malaysia. Ketamine hydrochloride resembles common table salt. The bags had between 25 and 30 smaller "retail-sized" packs containing 750 grams each. According to the 2009 annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board, India has reported an increasing number of seizures of ketamine. Ketamine use in India is also reportedly growing, especially among young rave goers.

India Discovers Another Methamphetamine Laboratory, 18 kg in Drugs Seized

JALANDHAR, India - 1 Jan 2010. Indian authorities uncovered a synthetic drug manufacturing operation in the Baddi industrial area of Solan district in Himachal Pradesh in the north of India. The machinery, laboratory equipment and chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine were seized along with 18 kg of methamphetamine. Three men were arrested in connection with the case. India is witnessing a growing number of clandestine methamphetamine-related laboratories, with the last reported in June 2009 along with the seizure of 28.1 kg of crystalline methamphetamine.



Photo: Narcotics Control Bureau

Large-Scale Illegal Ephedrine Factory Seized in India

NASHIK, India - 26 Nov 2009. Officials from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) have busted a factory illegally manufacturing ephedrine, a precursor chemical for the manufacture of methamphetamine. The raid on the factory near Nashik in the west of India, yielded 82.5 kg of ephedrine. Extraction laboratories utilizing pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine have been dismantled in the past, but this is the first case of illegal large scale factory manufacture reported to UNODC. The ephedrine was believed to have been destined for Mexico.

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Crystalline Methamphetamine Manufacturing and Trafficking Ring Busted in Northeastern Iran

NORTH KHORASSAN, Islamic Republic of Iran - 17 Jan 2010. Iranian authorities have disbanded a methamphetamine trafficking ring in North Khorassan in the country's northeastern province, according to the Fars News Agency reports. The ring was involved in the manufacture and distribution of crystalline methamphetamine, known locally as "shisheh." Two men were arrested in connection with the raid. In October 2009, Iran's National Drug Control Headquarters reported that the country had already dismantled several clandestine laboratories.*

14

Dubai Police Seize 4.2m *Captagon* Pills, One of the Largest Seizures to Date

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - 11 Dec 2009. In reportedly one of the UAE's biggest drug hauls, authorities raided a warehouse and seized 4.2 million *Captagon* pills. One arrest was made and several other suspects remain at large. The amphetamines were smuggled into the country in November 2009 by ship hidden in large textile rolls. The consignment was believed to be destined for the Saudi Arabian market. Earlier this year Dubai Customs reported finding another 651,000 *Captagon* pills hidden inside 152 industrial-sized spools of thread.*

15

Qatar Seized 4 Million *Captagon* Tablets, Largest Ever Reported

DOHA, Qatar - 25 June 2009. In June 2009, Qatar disbanded an international drug trafficking network and seized four million pills of *Captagon*, reportedly the biggest-ever drugs haul in the country. The trafficking network, comprised of nationals of Arab, Gulf and European countries, was attempting to promote the drug in Qatar and other Gulf countries.



Photo: Official Qatar New Agency

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17



Photo: Bahrain Ministry of Interior

Bahrain Authorities Foil an Attempt to Smuggle 75,000 Captagon Pills

MANAMA, Bahrain - 29 Jan 2010. Customs officers at the Bahrain International Airport seized nearly 75,000 fake *Captagon* pills totaling almost 14 kg. A Gulf national was arrested after authorities found the drugs hidden inside his luggage. Seizures of drugs sold as *Captagon*, are fake, typically containing amphetamine and other drugs. The frequency and size of seizures continue to increase as more countries throughout the Near and Middle East report interceptions.

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Saudi Arabia Reports Another Multi-Million Captagon Tablet Seizure

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - 10 Jan 2010. Saudi Arabian authorities reported the seizure of more than 8 million *Captagon* pills with an estimated street value of \$77.9 million. Six men - three Saudis and three foreigners - were arrested in the operation which is believed to have ties to one of the largest-ever amphetamine manufacturing and distribution rings which was apprehended in Turkey in September 2009. Back in June 2009, security services foiled an another attempt to smuggle more than 5.5 million *Captagon* tablets and other drugs into the country.



Photo: German Bundeskriminalamt (BKA)

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Photo: Official Jordan News Agency

Jordanian Authorities Stop Record Poly-Drug Shipment, Methamphetamine Seized

AMMAN, Jordan - 13 Feb 2009. Anti-narcotics police foiled a plot to smuggle a record poly-drug consignment which included 119 kg of heroin, 39 kg of hashish and 2 kg of methamphetamine. The drugs were transported into the country via the northeastern border region and were discovered hidden in a store. The bust was reportedly the largest in the Kingdom's history and the most methamphetamine ever seized in Jordan. No arrests have been made.

20

Zambian Authorities Stopping Ephedrine Trafficking

LUSAKA, Zambia - 26 Oct 2009. Zambian drug enforcement and revenue authorities reportedly arrested several staff of pharmaceutical company for illegally importing 50 kg of ephedrine. The ephedrine, imported from Thailand using a fake importation license, was stopped at the Lusaka International Airport. In another ephedrine incident authorities arrested a Congolese national for trafficking 5,686 ephedrine tablets in August 2009. The man was arrested at Chirundu Border Post on the border with Zimbabwe en route to South Africa. South Africa has seen increases in trafficking after domestic controls of medications containing ephedrine were strengthened in 2008 in an effort to stem the growth of methamphetamine manufacture.*



Photo: Adam Annfield

South Africa Authorities Seizes Large Methamphetamine Lab

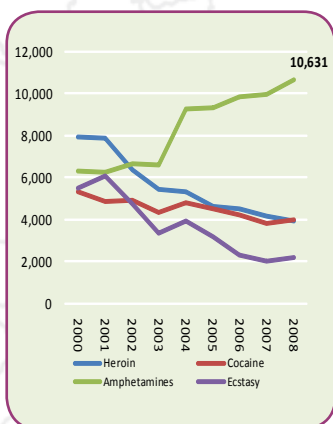
BRAKPAN, South Africa - 4 Dec 2009. South African officials reportedly made the second largest drug bust in the country's history seizing drugs, 30kg of chemicals and equipment in a raid on a drug factory in Brakpan, east of Johannesburg. Two Nigerians nationals were arrested, along with equipment to manufacture methamphetamine, known locally as "tik".*

21

Decision Halts Tracking of Pseudoephedrine Sales in the Czech Republic

PRAGUE, Czech Republic - 21 Oct 2009. A decision by the Office for the Protection of Personal Data of the Czech Republic has blocked the government requirement to track individual pseudoephedrine sales in a central prescriptions database. Originally the measure was put in place on 1 May 2009 as a way to prevent pseudoephedrine diversion into illicit methamphetamine manufacture. Pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine have been the main source of precursor chemicals fueling the growing number of methamphetamine laboratories throughout the country. Sales of pseudoephedrine reportedly declined significantly after the new law went into effect. However, the decision reversing the requirement to track sales may allow illicit manufacturers continued access to methamphetamine precursors.

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Source: German Bundeskriminalamt (BKA)

German Police Report Increasing Numbers of First-Time Amphetamine Users

BERLIN, Germany - 3 Mar 2009. Data from the German Bundeskriminalamt shows that the number of amphetamine users who have come to the attention of police for the first time continues to grow, outpacing all other hard drug groups combined. Data between 2000 and 2008 showed significant declines in the number of new police contacts for drugs such as heroin, cocaine, and ecstasy, however amphetamines increased dramatically. In 2008, 10,631 first-time cases were registered, the highest on record for any hard drug over the last 20 years.

23

GHB Addiction Cases in Europe Reportedly on the Rise

ZOETERMEER, Netherlands - 8 Feb 2010. An increasing number of people in Europe are seeking treatment for addiction to GHB and GBL. Reports from the December 2009 *Nationaal Netwerk Drugexpertise* newsletter (Netherlands) and the July/ August 2009 issue of *DrugLink* (UK) are both finding increasing cases of problem GBL use in 2009. GBL (*gamma-butyrolactone*) is a common solvent which converts to GHB (*gamma-hydroxybutyric acid*) in the body. Known as "liquid ecstasy" the drugs are common in the dance party scene. Reports of addiction to these drugs is a relatively new phenomenon, and there exists a false perception that these drugs are neither harmful or addictive. Europe is witnessing a decrease in the availability of ecstasy (MDMA), which may be shifting users to alternative drugs.



Photo: Nationaal Netwerk Drugexpertise

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Photo: le Douane, Française

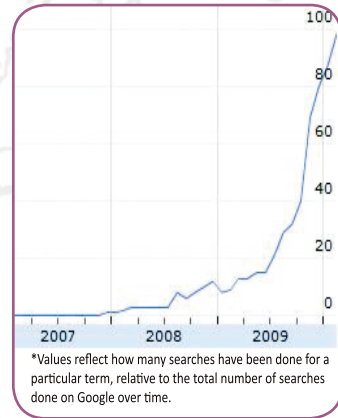
French Customs Stop 206 kg of Amphetamine and 43 kg of Cocaine at Channel Tunnel

MONTREUIL, France - 2 Dec 2009. French Customs seized 206 kg of amphetamine and 43 kg of cocaine from a refrigerated truck registered in the Netherlands en route to the United Kingdom via the Channel Tunnel. The truck was subjected to x-ray scanning and image analysis which revealed the presence of a suspicious area at floor level. Agents completely removed the truck's floor, revealing s two caches containing the drugs. The driver, a British national, was arrested in connection with the estimated €4.4 million haul. This single seizure of amphetamine represents nearly twice the total seizures in 2008 for the drug (111 kg).

26

Mephedrone-related death reported in the UK

SCOTLAND, United Kingdom - 31 Jan 2010. The UK media are reporting another *mephedrone*-related death after a 49-year-old Scottish woman died shortly after taking the drug. The increasing reports of mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) abuse and its dangers - whose street names include "meow-meow" and "bubbles" - were reported in the October 2009 Global SMART Update. The drug, which is not under international control, can be obtained easily via the internet purchased as so-called "plant-food." According to data obtained from Google, the proportion of internet search volume related to purchasing mephedrone on-line has skyrocketed over the past 12 months, particularly in Europe.*



Source: Google

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Photo: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Canadian Authorities Make Significant Ecstasy Seizure

WINNIPEG, Canada - 26 July 2009. Canadian authorities seized 65 kg of MDMA in one of the largest ecstasy busts in Canada. The high purity powder (above 90%) was discovered after police stopped a speeding vehicle near the city of Winnipeg. Police estimate that the powder could have yielded 650,000 tablets. Earlier that same month, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized 15 kg of MDMA and arrested two Canadian nationals who attempted to smuggle the drugs through the Massena, N.Y., port of entry. The 50,000 star shaped ecstasy tablets were found concealed in the vehicle's spare tire. The shortage of MDMA precursor chemicals affecting Europe does not for the moment appear to be impacting the significant manufacturing in Canada.

28

US Student Meth Use Declines, Prescription Stimulant Abuse Persists

WASHINGTON D.C., United States - 14 Dec 2009. Methamphetamine use among high school students appears to have dropped significantly in recent years, according to the latest annual Monitoring the Future survey. The number of 12th grade students reporting past year methamphetamine use is now at 1.2% - the lowest since questions about methamphetamine were added to the survey in 1999, when it was reported at 4.7%. However, the survey indicates a continuing high rate of non-medical use of prescription drugs. The past year non-medical use of Adderall, an amphetamine commonly prescribed to treat ADHD, was more than 5% for 10th and 12th grade students.



Photo: Parham

Mexico Seize Nearly 4 Tons of Ephedrine in a Month at Manzanillo Port

MANZANILLO, Mexico - 16 Jan 2010. In a joint operation, Mexico's Tax Administration Service the Office of the Attorney General and the Secretaries of Navy and Defense successfully intercepted nearly 3.5 tons of ephedrine, at the Pacific Port of Manzanillo, Colima. Authorities discovered nearly 3 metric tons of tablets and 327 kg of ephedrine powder hidden inside 612 fire extinguishers. On 21 December 2009, an additional 490 kg of ephedrine powder were seized at the port, hidden in 98 suitcases which had originated from India. The port—one of the country's largest—remains a primary entry point for large-scale illegal shipments of ATS precursor chemicals.



Photo: México Secretaría de Marina

29

Mexico Strengthens Controls Over Phenylacetic Acid and Methylamine

MEXICO CITY, Mexico - 23 Nov 2009. The government of Mexico has strengthened control measures and surveillance for the use of phenylacetic acid and its salts and derivatives, methylamine, hydriodic acid and red phosphorus, substances used in the production of synthetic drugs. The new requirements add these chemicals to Article 245 of the General Health Law, and are now subject to additional requirements for their manufacture, import, export and acquisition. Imports of these chemicals have increased in recent years as criminal manufacturers diversify into methamphetamine based on phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P). In October 2009, authorities reported seizing 17 tons of 2-phenylacetamide at Nuevo Laredo, on the border with the USA, and an additional 20 tons of sodium phenyl acetate at the Port of Manzanillo, both salts or derivatives of phenylacetic acid. In February 2010, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) recommended to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that phenylacetic acid be rescheduled to Table I, substantially increasing the international controls over the chemical.

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Photo: Nicaragua Policía Nacional

First Large-Scale Nicaraguan ATS Laboratory Found, Could Produce 70 kg of Drugs

EL CARMEN, Nicaragua - 23 Feb 2010. Nicaraguan National Police discovered the country's largest synthetic drug laboratory in the town of El Carmen, northwest of Managua. The raid netted 760.8 grams of amphetamine, and had enough raw materials that Police estimate a production capacity of around 70 kg of amphetamine. A Mexican national and two Guatemalans were arrested, while several other suspects escaped while gunfire was exchanged. This is the third reported ATS laboratory in the country and the increasing numbers and size of laboratories point to continued shifting of manufacture into Latin America to meet North American consumer demand.

31

First Comparative Study of Andean College Students Reveals Rates of Synthetic Drug Abuse

LIMA, Peru - 23 Nov 2009. The results of the first comparative investigation into illicit synthetic drug use of university students from the four countries of the Andean Community, found self-reported drug use while varied is highest among Colombian students. Results indicated that 4.6% of Colombia students had consumed synthetic drugs at least once, with about 1.6% of students from Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru having ever reported using them. In Colombia, Ecuador and Peru ecstasy was reported as the most commonly tried synthetic substance, while in Bolivia is was amphetamine. In contrast indirect measures of drug use found 23.4% of Colombian students reporting knowing peers in college who consume synthetic drugs, with lower levels in Bolivia (13.3%), Peru (12%) and Ecuador (10.3%), suggesting that even more students may be consuming synthetic drugs. The study, conducted between January and October of 2009, surveyed 21,857 students.

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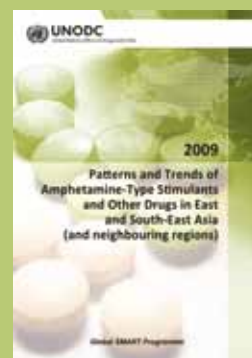
The Global SMART (*Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends*) Programme improves the capacity of targeted Member States to generate, manage, analyze, report and use information on illicit synthetic drugs. It was announced in March 2008 at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna and launched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

- development and production of the biannual Global SMART Update;
- convening the annual Global SMART Programme Advisory Group meeting;
- the selection and placement of teams at UNODC Headquarters (Vienna) and at the UNODC Regional Centre in Bangkok;
- conducting annual regional synthetic drug information workshops in East and South-East Asia;
- publication of the first in a series of annual regional Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants
- redesign of the *Asia and Pacific ATS Information Centre* (APAIC) website, continued development of the *Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific* (DAINAP) and the on-line *Forensic Alert*;
- and dissemination of information related to the synthetic drug situation at targeted conferences.

New Global SMART Publications:

2009 Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs in East and South-East Asia (November 2009)

The report provides detailed data and information on 15 countries in East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific, with regional coverage of South Asia and Oceania. The report warns that Asia is facing a rising threat from illegal amphetamines, even as the problem from plant-derived drugs such as heroin have eased. Increases in Thailand's methamphetamine market, already one of the largest in the region, and the political uncertainty in Myanmar are seen as significant regional threats.



UNODC would like to specifically recognize the following funding partners for their investment in the Global SMART Programme.



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 Members 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. Information on the Global SMART Programme can be found via the internet at www.unodc.org and www.apaic.org or by contacting UNODC at the Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria.