



## Regional Trends: East and South-East Asia

### Summary, emerging trends and concerns

- ATS use, in particular methamphetamine use, continues to increase in most countries in East and South-East Asia.
- The illicit manufacture of ATS continues at high levels in the region.
- Methamphetamine seizures remained high in 2011.
- Ecstasy has been in decline in recent years, but there are signs at the global level that the 'ecstasy' market is in recovery.
- A range of new psychoactive substances has emerged in the region in recent years.
- Cocaine traffickers are targeting the large and untapped cocaine market in East and South-East Asia.
- Organized criminal groups from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic methamphetamine and other illicit drugs into the region.
- Drug treatment demand related to methamphetamine remains high in the region.

### Regional trends: East and South-East Asia<sup>1</sup>

The illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) constitute one of the most significant drug problems worldwide. The East and South-East Asia region, which is home to about one-third of the global population, has some of the largest and most established ATS markets in the world. Methamphetamine in pill, powder and crystalline forms are the most widely used forms of ATS in the region. The demand for ecstasy remains high, although its use has declined. Demand for ATS and the massive profits generated by their trade continue to provide ample incentive for manufacturers and traffickers to expand their illicit business.

The first part of this chapter highlights the key emerging trends and concerns related to ATS, their precursors and other illicit drugs in the region. The second part of the chapter presents detailed data related to the use, manufacture, law enforcement and public health dimensions of ATS and other primary drugs of use in the East and South-East Asia region.

<sup>1</sup> Although this chapter focuses in detail on the trends in the East and South-East region, a summary of trends in Australia and New Zealand is also included. Detailed information for all countries is available in the individual country chapters.

- **ATS use, in particular methamphetamine use, continues to increase in most countries in East and South-East Asia.** ATS have ranked in the top three drugs of use in all countries in the region since 2009. In 2011, reported use of methamphetamine showed an increase in eleven countries whereas methamphetamine use was reported as stable or declining in Australia, Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea.

Use of methamphetamine pills takes place predominantly in the Greater Mekong Subregion, which includes Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. All of these countries reported an increase in the use of methamphetamine pills in 2011. Some methamphetamine pill use also takes place in Indonesia<sup>2</sup> and Malaysia. Methamphetamine in pill form is the primary drug of use in Lao PDR and Thailand and the secondary drug of use in Cambodia, China and Viet Nam.

Crystalline methamphetamine is the primary drug of concern in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and the Republic of Korea. In

<sup>2</sup> A large portion of the methamphetamine pills found in Indonesia are pills sold on the streets as 'ecstasy' which may contain various psychoactive substances including methamphetamine.

2011, use of crystalline methamphetamine increased in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The use of methamphetamine, primarily in powder form, increased in New Zealand and remained stable in Australia.

• **The illicit manufacture of ATS continues at high levels in the region.** In 2011, some 401 illicit synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were seized in East and South-East Asia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine. While this figure is lower than the number reported for 2010 (442), it is more than three times the number of illicit manufacturing facilities seized in 2007 (125).

China continued to report high, albeit declining, levels of illicit synthetic drug manufacture with 357 illicit synthetic drug manufacturing facilities seized in 2011. It is unclear how many of these facilities were specifically manufacturing methamphetamine. Illicit drug manufacture has expanded from the southern coastal areas of China to northern and central areas of the country; in 2011, illicit drug manufacturing facilities were seized in 29 of the 33 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions of China.

Illicit laboratories were also seized in Indonesia (22), Malaysia (17) and the Philippines (6), mostly smaller-scale laboratories, which can be more easily relocated. Most seized laboratories were manufacturing methamphetamine or ecstasy. Malaysia also reported the seizure of one ketamine laboratory, one illicit nimetazepam<sup>3</sup> (Erimin 5) manufacturing facility and nine facilities related to the processing of low-purity heroin. Cambodia reported the seizure of two large illicit laboratories for manufacturing ATS.

Myanmar remains the primary source of methamphetamine pills found in the region and reported its first ever seizure of a crystalline methamphetamine laboratory in 2012. Pill pressing operations were seized in Myanmar but also in Thailand, in the outskirts of Bangkok and in surrounding provinces which may indicate that drug criminals are trafficking intermediary forms of methamphetamine to pill pressing facilities near user markets in the capital.

In Australia, a total of 556 illicit laboratories for manufacturing ATS were detected in 2010-2011, of which

16 were manufacturing ecstasy and 34 were ephedrine and pseudoephedrine extraction operations. New Zealand dismantled 109 clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories.

• **Methamphetamine seizures remained high in 2011.** A total of 122.8 million methamphetamine pills were seized in East and South-East Asia in 2011, a decrease (9%) compared to the 134.4 million pills seized in 2010. Most pills were seized in China (62 million) and Thailand (49 million), which accounted for 89% of the total in 2011. Significant seizures were also made in Myanmar (5.9 million) and Lao PDR (4.6 million).

While methamphetamine pill seizures decreased, the total amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized in the region rose by 23% in 2011, to 8.8 mt.<sup>4</sup> Record level seizures were reported in a number of countries during the year. Half of the region's total seizures were made in China, where 4.5 mt were seized in 2011. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand reported seizures of more than 1 mt of crystalline methamphetamine. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures also increased significantly in Cambodia and Singapore.

• **Ecstasy has been in decline in recent years, although there are signs at the global level that the 'ecstasy' market is in recovery.** Reported ecstasy use has shown a stable or declining trend in most countries in the region over the past few years. In addition, seizure and arrest data related to ecstasy have also shown declines. However, in 2011 ecstasy seizures showed an increase in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand. Ecstasy manufacture continues to be reported in the region, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia. In the past, manufacture in the region has consisted primarily of pill pressing and re-pressing operations. However, some MDMA production facilities have been dismantled in Indonesia during the past few years. In addition, safrole-rich oils, which can be used to manufacture MDMA, continue to be smuggled from Cambodia and China.

Demand for synthetic stimulants in the region remains high. While the availability of MDMA has shown a decline in recent years, a large portion of the seized drugs marketed on the street as 'ecstasy' in the region contain psychoactive substances other than

<sup>3</sup> Nimetazepam is a benzodiazepine derivative, controlled in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, often marketed under the brand name Erimin.

<sup>4</sup> One metric ton is equal to 1,000 kg.

### Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and their varieties

While ATS drugs pose serious human security and public health threats across the globe, the types of amphetamine-groups substances used in different regions varies considerably. In Europe, amphetamine is the main substance used within this group. In the Near and Middle East, the use of amphetamine tablets sold as Captagon is more common. In the East Asia and Pacific region, the predominant substance used within this group is methamphetamine, in pill, powder and crystalline forms.

Methamphetamine is a white, odourless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that dissolves easily in water or alcohol. It can be ingested, smoked, snorted, sniffed and injected. Ecstasy (MDMA) is ingested almost exclusively in pill form. In addition, a variety of other psychoactive substances such as ketamine are sold on ATS markets in the region, while in recent years a number of new psychoactive substances have emerged which include piperazines such as BZP as well as analogues of methcathinone including 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC, known as mephedrone).

MDMA, such as ketamine or methamphetamine. There are indications that drug users still seek to use psychoactive stimulants, including BZP<sup>5</sup> and other new psychoactive substances, which are most prevalent in New Zealand and Australia but also emerging in some countries in East and South-East Asia, for example, Viet Nam.

- **A range of new psychoactive substances has emerged in the region in recent years.** In the Philippines, use of pills sold as ‘ecstasy’ but which contain BZP instead of MDMA (or its analogues) has been identified as a concern. The Government of Viet Nam has reported the emergence of a number of new psychoactive substances such as MDA<sup>6</sup> and ketamine as well as PMMA<sup>7</sup> and mCPP.<sup>8</sup> The new psychoactive substance mephedrone,<sup>9</sup> a synthetic cathinone, has been identified in China and Thailand as an emerging drug of concern. In 2010 and 2011, China also reported the emergence of various piperazines, such as BZP,<sup>10</sup> TFMPP<sup>11</sup> and mCPP, which are often used as a substitute for ‘ecstasy’. In addition, synthetic cannabinoids, such as JWH-018 and its analogues, have been identified as an emerging problem in the Republic of Korea.

- **Cocaine traffickers are targeting the large and untapped cocaine market in East and South-East Asia.** Large quantities of cocaine have been seized in several countries in recent years and Cambodia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Hong Kong, China, have emerged as transit locations for cocaine trafficking. In Hong Kong, China, authorities seized a record 650 kg of cocaine in a shipping container sent from Ecuador in 2012. Most of the cocaine was believed to be destined for markets in China and South-East Asia.

- **Organized criminal groups from Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic methamphetamine and other illicit drugs into the region.** West African drug trafficking organizations, which used to traffic primarily cocaine and heroin, are increasingly involved in methamphetamine trafficking. Trafficking of methamphetamine by African groups has been reported by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Nigeria, by far the largest country in West Africa, both in terms of population and surface area, is most frequently cited as the origin for methamphetamine trafficking (UNODC 2012c).

Transnational organized criminal groups from the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to traffic quantities of methamphetamine to various countries in the region, including Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand.

<sup>5</sup> BZP refers to benzylpiperazine, a stimulant that mimics the effects of ecstasy.

<sup>6</sup> MDA refers to 3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine.

<sup>7</sup> PMMA refers to 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-methylpropan-2-amine, also known as paramethoxymethamphetamine.

<sup>8</sup> mCPP refers to meta-Chlorophenylpiperazine.

<sup>9</sup> 4-methylmethcathinone.

<sup>10</sup> BZP refers to Benzylpiperazine.

<sup>11</sup> TFMPP refers to Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine.

<sup>12</sup> Based on drug treatment data reported to DAINAP. Methamphetamine-related drug treatment data are not uniformly reported in the region. Some countries report data only from select drug treatment centres.

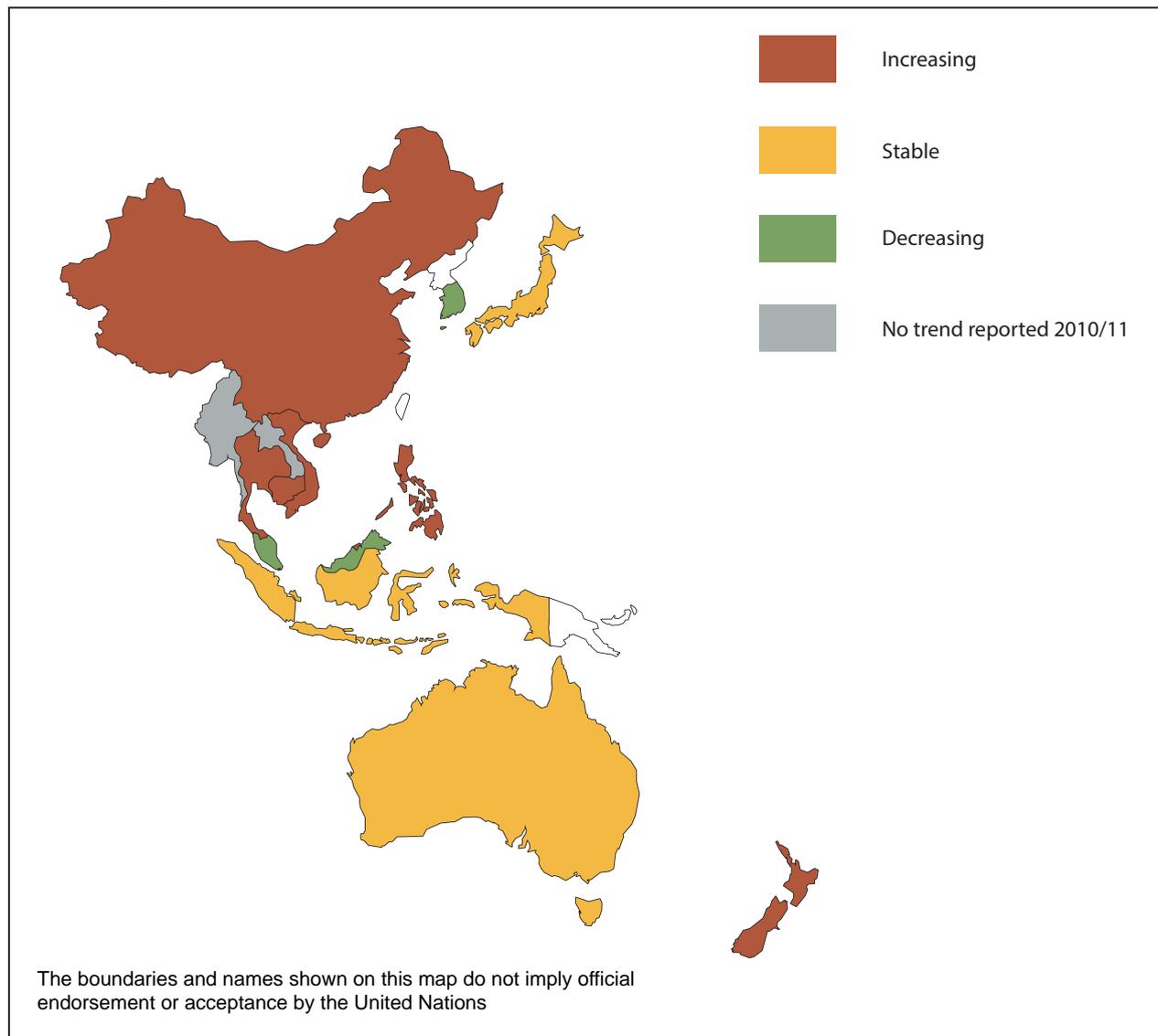
• **Drug treatment demand related to methamphetamine remains high in the region.**

ATS were the primary drugs of use for 70% of all persons in drug treatment in 2011.<sup>12</sup> During the year, about two-thirds of the persons in treatment in the Philippines were crystalline methamphetamine users, roughly the same proportion as in each of the previous ten years. In addition, the proportion of women in treatment for crystalline methamphetamine in the Philippines increased to 75% in 2011 (compared with 62% in 2010). The number of methamphetamine users in treatment in Singapore increased sharply to the highest level reported during the past five years. As a proportion of all persons in drug treatment, crystalline methamphetamine users accounted for about 44% compared with 30% in 2010. Crystalline

methamphetamine was also the primary drug of use among persons who received drug treatment in Brunei Darussalam (96%). Methamphetamine pills continued to be the most common drug of use among persons in treatment in Lao PDR (98%) and Thailand (86%). In addition, the number of crystalline methamphetamine users in treatment in Thailand in 2011 showed a near three-fold increase and accounted for about 4% of all persons in drug treatment.

Most drug treatment services in the region are aimed at users of heroin, opium and cannabis. In addition, in several countries in the region, a large number of persons in drug treatment are arrested drug users who are sent to compulsory drug treatment facilities, most of which do not provide ATS-specific drug treatment services.

Figure 2. Crystalline methamphetamine use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

## Methamphetamine

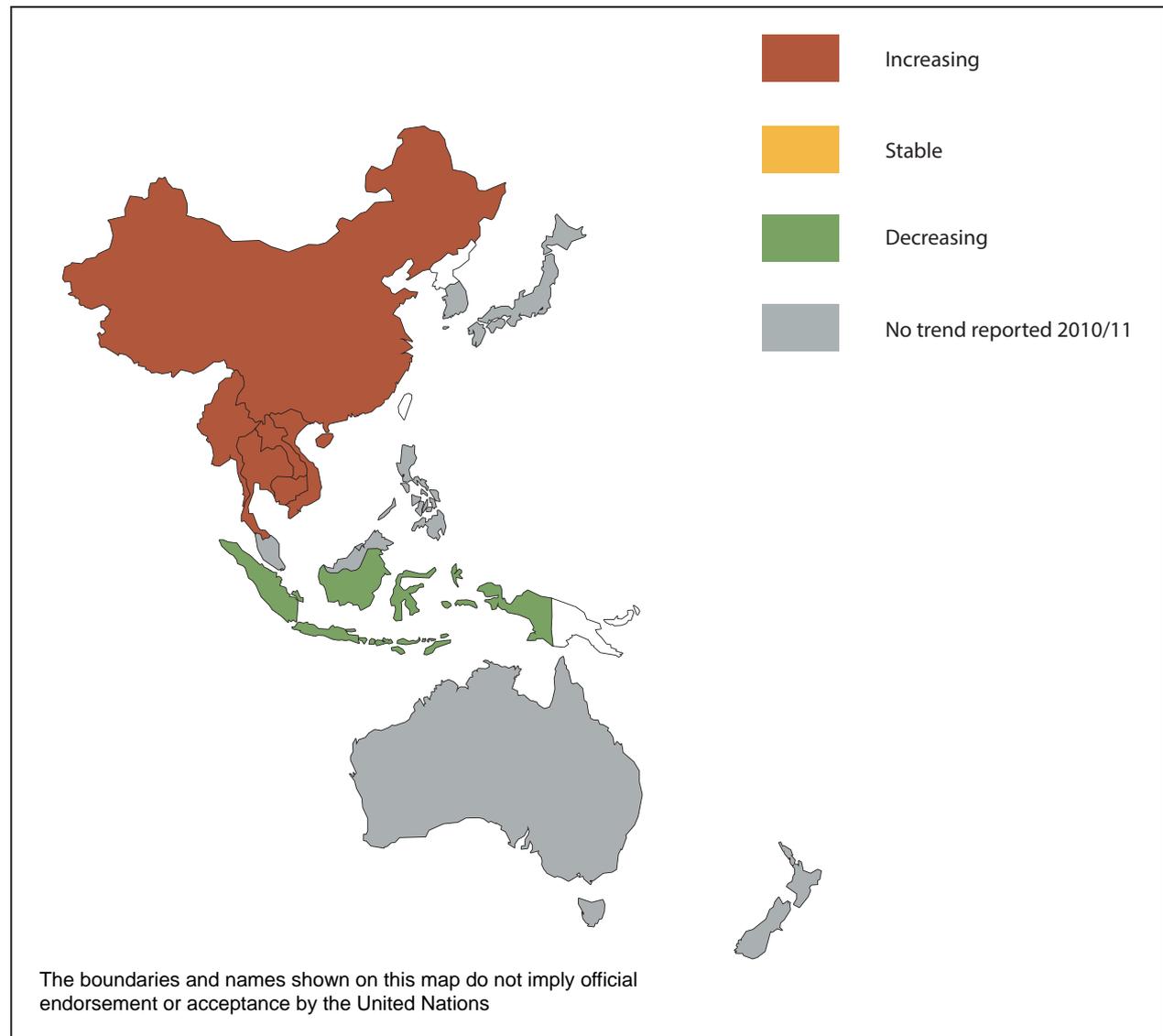
**Methamphetamine use** – All countries in the region report the use of methamphetamine, with 13 countries reporting it as the primary or secondary drug of use: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Seven countries reported the use of methamphetamine pills – Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam – while all but two countries (Lao PDR and Myanmar) reported the use of crystalline methamphetamine.

Crystalline methamphetamine use has rapidly be-

come more prevalent throughout the region, expanding in countries that previously had experienced only limited or no use, such as in Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. In 2011, increasing use of crystalline methamphetamine was reported in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

In Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, methamphetamine use has shown overall stable or declining trends over the past few years. Methamphetamine in crystalline form is the most common form of the drug in Japan and the Republic of Korea and the second most common form in Australia and New Zealand, after methamphetamine powder.

**Figure 3. Methamphetamine pill use trend, 2011**

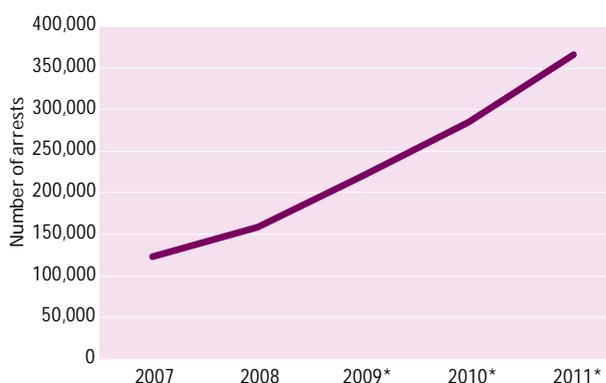


Source(s): DAINAP

Methamphetamine pills are almost exclusively a concern in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Small quantities of lower purity methamphetamine pills are found elsewhere in the region. Methamphetamine pills are the primary drugs of use in Lao PDR and Thailand and the secondary drugs of use in Cambodia, China and Viet Nam, according to government expert perception. In 2011, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam reported increasing methamphetamine pill use.

**Methamphetamine-related arrests** – Methamphetamine-related arrests<sup>13</sup> in East and South-East Asia have increased each year since 2004. In 2011, almost 367,000 methamphetamine-related arrests were recorded in the region, a 29% increase compared with 2010 and the highest total ever reported. However, this figure excludes detailed information from Cambodia, Philippines and Viet Nam, which did not provide disaggregated arrest data in 2011. During the year, methamphetamine accounted for more than three fourths of all drug-related arrests in Brunei Da-

**Figure 4. Methamphetamine-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**



\*Includes arrest data from China, which prior to 2009 did not report disaggregated drug-related arrest data to DAINAP.  
Source(s): DAINAP

russalam (86%), Japan (86%), Philippines (77%), Republic of Korea (79%) and Thailand (77%).

Australia reported a total of 12,897 arrests related to ATS in 2010-2011, representing about 15% of all illicit drug-related arrests, second only to cannabis.

**Table 1. Methamphetamine-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**

Country	Number of methamphetamine arrests				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	662	498	411	489	508
Cambodia	246	371	•	•	•
China	•	•	31,907	39,231	44,920
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	747	874	788	726	732
Indonesia	8,651	8,685	10,185	12,463	15,766
Japan	12,211	11,231	11,873	12,200	12,083
Lao PDR	147	344	581	1,007	1,749
Malaysia <sup>14</sup>	1,235	1,443	1,131	42,701	66,736
Myanmar	745	943	1,317	1,008	1,269
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	8,521	7,457	7,965	6,771	7,226
Singapore	221	404	542	702	1,157
Thailand	90,809	127,195	153,929	168,146	214,779
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,475</b>	<b>159,445</b>	<b>220,629</b>	<b>285,444</b>	<b>366,925</b>

• = Not reported  
Source(s): DAINAP

<sup>13</sup> Methamphetamine-related arrest figures are not reported uniformly in the region. Some countries report the arrests of methamphetamine users only and do not include methamphetamine traffickers and manufacturers. Arrest figures for other countries include all such groups.

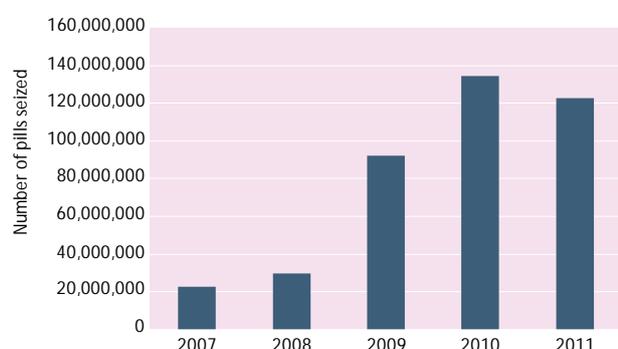
<sup>14</sup> Methamphetamine-related arrest data for Malaysia (from 2007-2009) refer only to the number of methamphetamine users arrested and do not include methamphetamine traffickers and manufacturers. Arrest figures for 2010 and 2011 include all such groups.

ATS-related arrests in Australia have increased by 62% during the past decade. In New Zealand, ATS-related offences accounted for nearly 13% of all drug-related arrests in 2011, unchanged from the previous year.

**Methamphetamine seizures** – The number of methamphetamine pills seized in the region continued at a high, albeit slightly declining, level. In 2011, a total of 122.8 million methamphetamine pills were seized, representing a 9% decrease from the 134.4 million pills seized in 2010. However, the total represents a 33% increase compared with 2009 (92.1 million seized) and a five-and-a-half fold increase

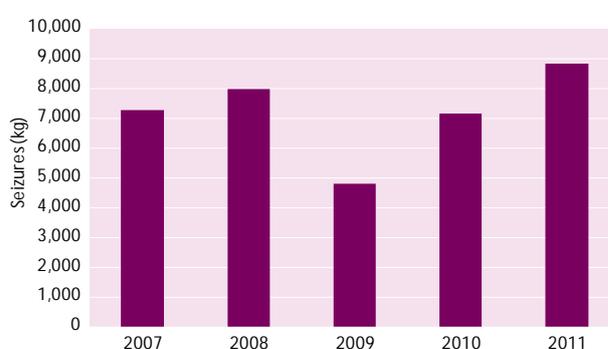
compared with 2007 (22.4 million pills seized). The number of pills seized in China (61.9 million), Thailand (49.4 million), Myanmar (5.9 million) and Lao PDR (4.6 million) accounted for 98% of the total during the year (as these four countries did in 2010). The largest relative increases were reported from Cambodia (189%) and Myanmar (169%). A large increase (120%) was also reported from Singapore; though the number of methamphetamine pills seized in Singapore is low by regional standards, it is high by national standards. In addition, Viet Nam also reported a large increase (65%) in methamphetamine pill seizures in 2011, with 366,000 synthetic drug

**Figure 5. Methamphetamine pill seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**



Source(s): DAINAP

**Figure 6. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**



Source(s): DAINAP

**Table 2. Methamphetamine pill seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**

Country	Number of methamphetamine pills seized				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	420,287	116,772	137,249	82,746	238,994
China	7,620,322	6,255,658	40,460,038	58,443,666	61,942,559
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	•	•	•	•	•
Japan	•	•	•	•	•
Lao PDR	1,272,815	1,227,205	2,335,330	24,530,177	4,609,729
Malaysia	121,629	281,343	107,952	107,963	364,909
Myanmar	1,666,141	1,102,199	23,899,156	2,192,263	5,894,188
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	196	151	1	5	5
Singapore	498	1,135	1,237	352	772
Thailand	12,783,761	20,023,705	24,638,320	48,793,951	49,365,700
Viet Nam	29,679	850,000*	564,515**	221,685***	366,000****
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,415,328</b>	<b>29,858,168</b>	<b>92,143,798</b>	<b>134,372,808</b>	<b>122,782,856</b>

• = Not reported. \*Reported as 60kg plus 70,000 pills. \*\*Reported as 500,000 pills and 5.87 kg. \*\*\*Reported as 221,685 pills plus 22 kg.

Source(s): DAINAP

**Table 3. Crystalline methamphetamine seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011**

Country	Amount of crystalline methamphetamine seized				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.8
Cambodia	6.8	1.9	4.6	9.9	19.1
China	5,863.0	5,523.0	2,479.0	4,186.0	4,458.0
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	40.8	23.9	40.1	101.8	38.4
Indonesia	492.9	709.9	239.5	649.1	1,161.3
Japan	359.0	402.6	369.5	310.7	350.9
Lao PDR	●	●	●	●	●
Malaysia	69.2	357.0	1,160.0	887.3	1,235.6
Myanmar	3.4	15.9	124.3	226.1	33.4
Philippines	368.9	853.5	149.3	63.6	254.3
Republic of Korea	23.7	25.6	15.2	11.9	23.5
Singapore	1.5	1.8	3.7	5.6	14.1
Thailand	48.3	54.3	213.2	706.0	1,232.0
Viet Nam	0.7	●	3.9	●	●
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,278.5</b>	<b>7,969.8</b>	<b>4,802.6</b>	<b>7,158.8</b>	<b>8,821.4</b>

● = Not reported  
Source(s): DAINAP

pills seized, most of which were likely methamphetamine pills. However, methamphetamine seizure data are not uniformly reported from Viet Nam, making year-by-year comparisons in that country difficult.

Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine in 2011 reached their highest level during the past five years. In 2011, a total of approximately 8.8 mt of crystalline methamphetamine were seized in the region, representing a 23% increase over the approximately 7.2 mt seized in 2010. Record level seizures were reported from Malaysia (1.2 mt) and Thailand (1.2 mt). In addition, the 1.2 mt of crystalline methamphetamine seized in Indonesia in 2011 is the highest total reported during the past five years. Record seizures were also reported from Cambodia (19.1 kg) and Singapore (14.1 kg), although the amounts seized are comparatively low by regional standards. The largest portion of crystalline methamphetamine seizures continued to be made in China, where the 4.5 mt seized in 2011 accounted for half of the regional total.

## Ecstasy

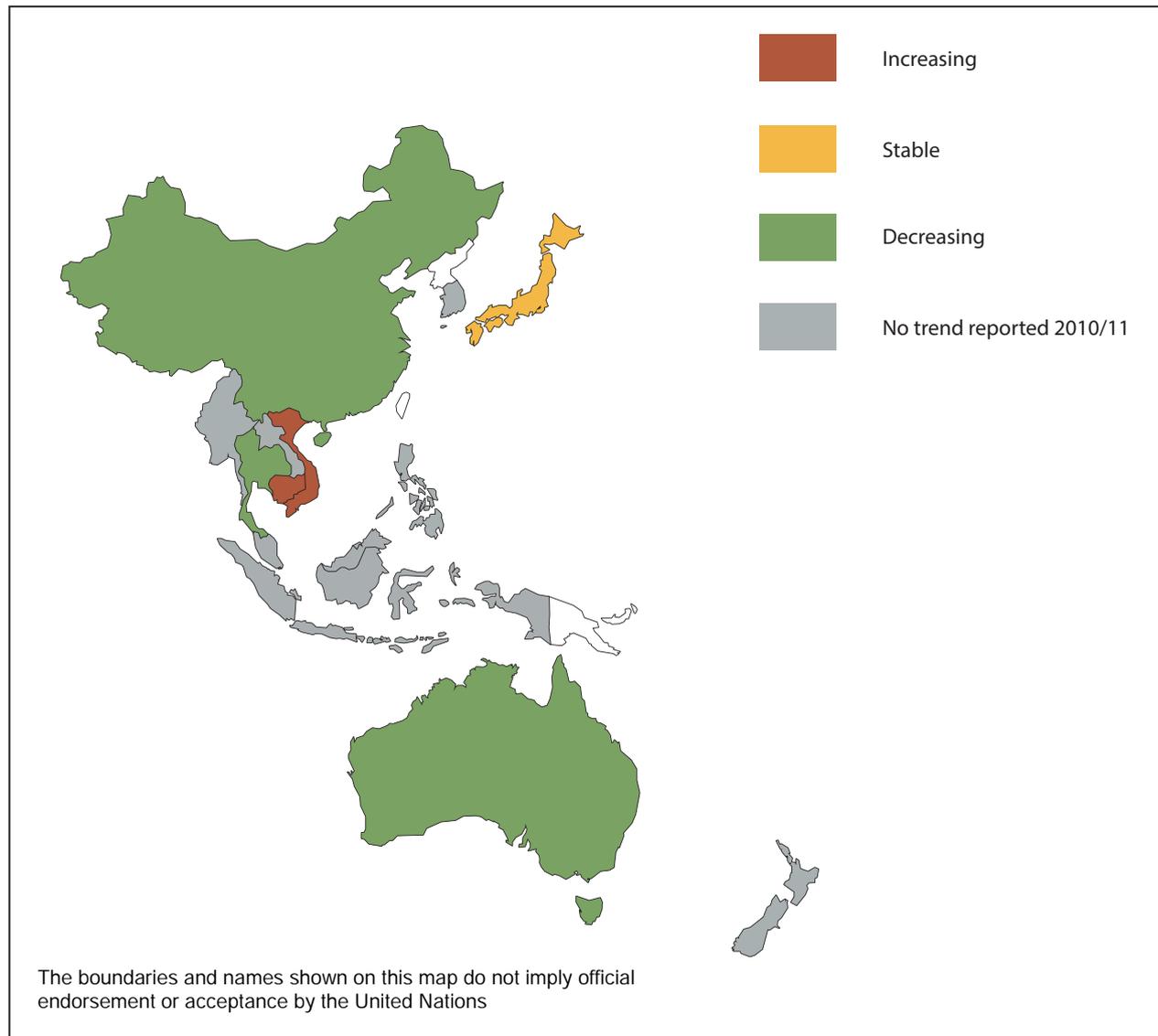
**Ecstasy use** – Ecstasy use continues to decline in the region, in line with the global trend. However, whereas

many countries in the region reported a continued low availability of MDMA in the ‘ecstasy’ market in 2011, at the global level, there are signs that the ‘ecstasy’ market is beginning to recover, including the increasing availability of ‘ecstasy’ in North America and Europe. Many of the seized drugs marketed on the street as ‘ecstasy’ in the region contain psychoactive substances other than MDMA,<sup>15</sup> such as methamphetamine or ketamine and other new psychoactive substances such as piperazines. Hence, caution should be exercised when assessing statistics related to ecstasy in countries which do not have ATS data and classification systems or the appropriate forensic and analytical facilities. In 2011, Cambodia, Singapore and Viet Nam all reported increases in ecstasy use. All other countries that reported ecstasy use trend data to DAINAP reported stable or decreasing use of the drug. Ecstasy is not reported as the most common drug of use in any country in the region but is the second most common illicit drug of use in Australia and New Zealand and the third most common drug of use in China and the Republic of Korea.

**Ecstasy-related arrests** – Only 1.8% of the ATS-related arrests in the region involved ecstasy in 2011.

<sup>15</sup> 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, or one of its related analogues.

Figure 7. Ecstasy use trend, 2011



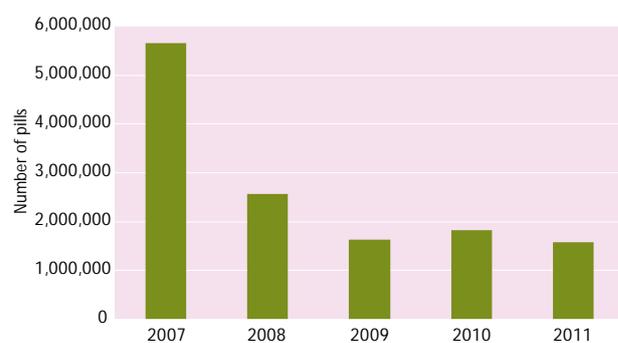
Source(s): DAINAP

During the year a total of 6,984 ecstasy-related arrests were reported compared with 10,512 arrests in 2010, a 34% decline. Nearly all countries able to report ecstasy arrests showed a decline in figures for 2011; only Brunei Darussalam and Singapore reported increases during the year. However, ecstasy use and the number of ecstasy pills seized in those two countries remain comparatively insignificant. The largest numbers of ecstasy-related arrests continue to be reported from Malaysia, which accounted for 73% of all ecstasy-related arrests in the region in 2011 and 78% in 2010.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Ecstasy-related arrest data for Malaysia (from 2007-2009) refer only to the number of ecstasy users arrested and do not include ecstasy traffickers and manufacturers. Arrest figures for 2010 and 2011 include all such groups.

New Zealand and Australia did not report disaggregated arrest data for ecstasy.

Figure 8. Ecstasy seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011



Source(s): DAINAP

**Table 4. Ecstasy-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**

Country	Number of ecstasy-related arrests				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0	3	10	0	1
Cambodia	1	7	•	•	•
China	•	•	1,287	816	627
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	224	315	157	34	25
Indonesia	3,415	2,947	1,919	1,087	965
Japan	312	311	140	93	86
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	182	119	83	8,248	5,071
Myanmar	8	6	0	0	0
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	•	•	•	•	•
Singapore	78	110	39	17	22
Thailand	453	592	496	217	187
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>4,410</b>	<b>4,131</b>	<b>10,512</b>	<b>6,984</b>

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

**Table 5. Ecstasy seizures in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**

Country	Number of ecstasy pills seized				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	12	15	•	349
Cambodia	300	33	3,352	1,056	7,855
China	2,219,353	1,077,552	1,062,173	1,272,904	317,886*
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	65,539	11,984	7,146	5,810	983
Indonesia	1,247,302	1,091,204	318,935	434,660	1,096,249
Japan	1,278,354	217,883	91,960	18,246	27,187
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	709,888	80,788	75,515	60,713	98,751
Myanmar	2,690	108	5	0	0
Philippines	122	513	2,090	336	993
Republic of Korea	18,323	714	894	486	562
Singapore	7,035	7,415	8,986	8,085	3,213
Thailand	92,336	49,833	61,089	16,647	21,115
Viet Nam	•	19,000	•	•	•
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,641,242</b>	<b>2,557,039</b>	<b>1,632,160</b>	<b>1,818,943</b>	<b>1,575,143</b>

• = Not reported. \*Reported as 71,533 ecstasy pills plus 73.9 kg; converted into estimated pill equivalents at 300 mg per pill.

Source(s): DAINAP

**Ecstasy seizures** – Ecstasy seizures in the region have fluctuated over the years. In 2011, seizures of ecstasy pills decreased by 13%, with almost 1.6 million pills seized, the lowest total reported during the past five

years. The vast majority of seizures continue to be made in China, where the number of ecstasy pills seized declined by 75% in 2011, and in Indonesia, which showed a two-and-a-half-fold increase to about

1.1 million pills seized during the year. In 2011, the two countries accounted for about 90% of all ecstasy pill seizures in East and South-East Asia (and about 94% in 2010, 85% in 2009, 85% in 2008 and 61% in

2007). Large increases in ecstasy pill seizures were also reported in Cambodia (644%), Philippines (196%), Malaysia (63%), Japan (49%) and Thailand (27%) in 2011. Brunei Darussalam reported a total of 349

**Table 6. Illicit methamphetamine manufacturing facilities dismantled, 2007-2011**

Country	Methamphetamine				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	2	•	5	11	2
China	75	•	•	•	•
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	•	•	2	1	•
Indonesia	7	•	•	11	17
Japan	•	•	•	1	•
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	•	•	•	6	3
Myanmar	5*	1*	•	•	2
Philippines	9	10	9	7	6
Republic of Korea	•	•	•	4	•
Singapore	•	•	•	•	•
Thailand	•	•	2*	6*	4*
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>

• = Not reported. \*Pill pressing operation.

Source(s): DAINAP

**Table 7. Illicit ecstasy or undefined ATS manufacturing facilities dismantled, 2007-2011**

Country	Ecstasy or undefined ATS				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	•	•	•	•	•
Cambodia	•	•	•	•	•
China*	•	244*	391*	378*	357*
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	16	21	37	15	7
Japan	•	•	•	•	•
Lao PDR	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	9	12*	11	1	3
Myanmar	•	•	3**	•	•
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	2	•	•	•	•
Singapore	•	•	•	•	•
Thailand	•	•	1	1	•
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>367</b>

• = Not reported. \*Not specified by laboratory type; includes ketamine and non-synthetic drugs. \*\*Pill pressing operation.

Source(s): DAINAP

ecstasy pills seized in 2011, low by regional standards but the highest total ever reported in the country.

Whereas the amount of ecstasy seized in New Zealand nearly tripled in 2011, the amount seized at the borders in 2011 showed a large decrease compared with the previous year. The overall increase in the number of 'ecstasy' pills seized in 2011 is likely due to the growth of domestic supply. In Australia, the number and weight of ecstasy (MDMA) border detections showed substantial increases in 2010-2011.

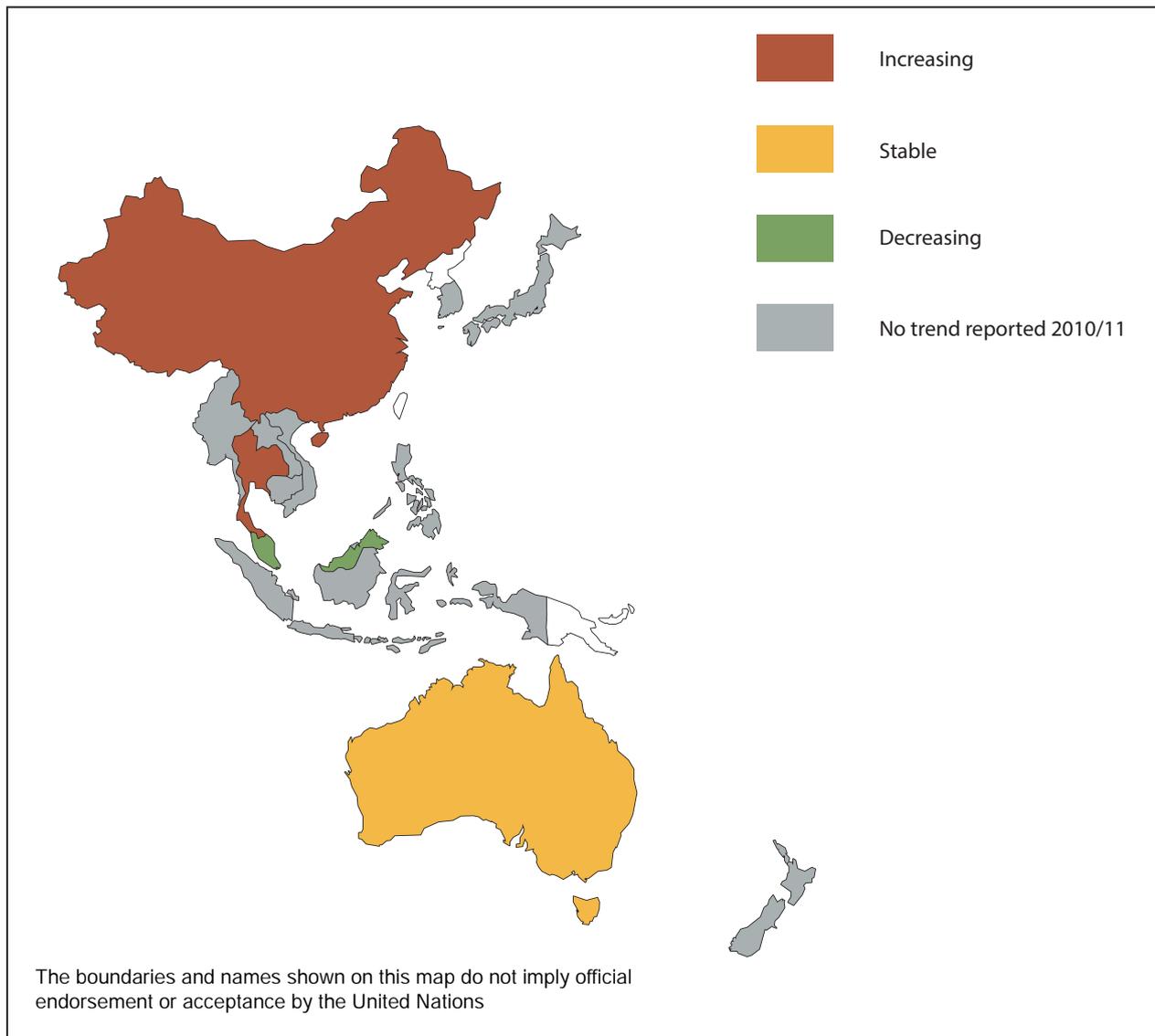
### ATS manufacture

Large-scale ATS manufacture takes place in Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand and the Philippines. Limited and small-

scale illicit ATS manufacture or ATS pill pressing operations have been reported in recent years from Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. Ecstasy manufacture has been reported from Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand and possibly also in Myanmar. A large number of illicit drug manufacturing laboratories dismantled during the past few years have been smaller and relatively mobile facilities based in private residences. In addition, the global trend of extracting ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from pharmaceutical preparations in the manufacture of methamphetamine also occurs in East and South-East Asia as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

In 2011, some 401 synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were dismantled in East and South-East Asia, most of which were manufacturing methamphetamine. The number of illicit ATS manufacturing facilities

Figure 9. Ketamine use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

dismantled in 2011 is lower (9%) than the number of facilities seized in 2010 and about 13% lower than the number of illicit ATS facilities seized in 2009, the year in which clandestine laboratory seizures peaked (461). Myanmar is the primary source of methamphetamine pills and one of the sources of crystalline methamphetamine. The seizure of only a small number (12) of pill pressing machines during the five-year reporting period (2007-2011) is inconsistent with the number of methamphetamine pills seized in neighbouring countries and with the amount of Myanmar-manufactured crystalline methamphetamine seized in the northern part of Thailand. In 2011, two methamphetamine pill pressing operations were dismantled in Myanmar; and in 2012, Myanmar officially reported its first ever seizure of a crystalline methamphetamine facility.

China continued to report high, albeit slightly declining, levels of illicit synthetic drug manufacture in 2011. However, illicit synthetic drug manufacture has spread throughout China, and in 2011 clandestine laboratories were detected in nearly all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the country. In Hong Kong, China, no illicit ATS manufacturing facilities were seized in 2011.

Cambodia continued to dismantle facilities that were manufacturing methamphetamine or producing precursor chemicals for the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA. In the first half of 2012, six clandestine ATS laboratories were dismantled.

In the maritime countries of South-East Asia, ATS manufacture has been dominated by the illicit manufacture of crystalline methamphetamine and, to a lesser but still significant extent, ecstasy. Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have seized a number of smaller, more mobile home-based ATS laboratories.

In addition, Malaysia also seized one ketamine laboratory, one illicit nimetazepam (Erimin 5) producing facility and nine facilities related to the processing of low-purity heroin.

### Ketamine

**Ketamine use** – Use of ketamine,<sup>17</sup> a hallucinogenic substance used mainly in veterinary medicine, remains widespread in some countries in East and South-East Asia but appears to have stabilized in recent years. In

**Table 8. Ketamine seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011**

Country	Amount of ketamine seized (kg)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0.005 *	0.001**	0.01	0.04	0.4
Cambodia	●	495***	1.1	0.001	●
China	6,101.7	5,271.1	5,323.0	4,905.0	5,380.0
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	96.4	423.3	472.3	189.1	276.3
Indonesia	●	19.8	6.1	116.9	49.3
Japan	●	●	●	●	●
Lao PDR	●	●	●	●	●
Malaysia	267.9	553.1	1,070.6	334.1	202.5
Myanmar	●	●	1,500.0	●	1.4
Philippines	325.0	10.2	9.0	0	0
Republic of Korea	●	●	●	●	●
Singapore	11.0	14.0	8.7	12.2	7.9
Thailand	2.8	18.5	20.6	166.7	78.0
Viet Nam	●	5.7	●	●	●
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,804.8</b>	<b>6,315.7</b>	<b>8,411.4</b>	<b>5,724.0</b>	<b>5,995.8</b>

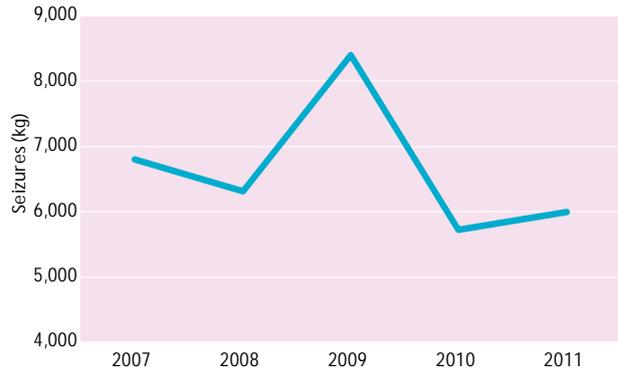
● = Not reported. \*Reported as 0.005 kg and 9 pills. \*\*Reported as 0.001 kg and 2 pills. \*\*\*Reported as 495 small bottles of undefined weight. Source(s): DAINAP

<sup>17</sup> Ketamine comes in bottled liquid, whitish powder and pill forms. It is sometimes sold in East and South-East Asia as 'amphetamine' or 'ecstasy' or is mixed with MDMA.

2011, ketamine use was reported in Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. In Hong Kong, China, ketamine users accounted for roughly 36% of all drug users and an estimated 80% of all drug users below the age of 21. Ketamine use was reported to have increased in 2011 in China.

**Ketamine seizures** – Ketamine seizures showed a slight (5%) increase in 2011, with 6.0 mt seized during the year compared with 5.7 mt seized in 2010. However, total seizures may actually be higher as several countries report ketamine seizures in the categories of ‘other drugs’, ‘synthetic drugs’, or not at all since it is not an internationally controlled substance. Almost 90% of the ketamine seized in the region in 2011 was seized in China. China and India have been cited as sources of ketamine and illicit ketamine manufacture has been reported from Malaysia and

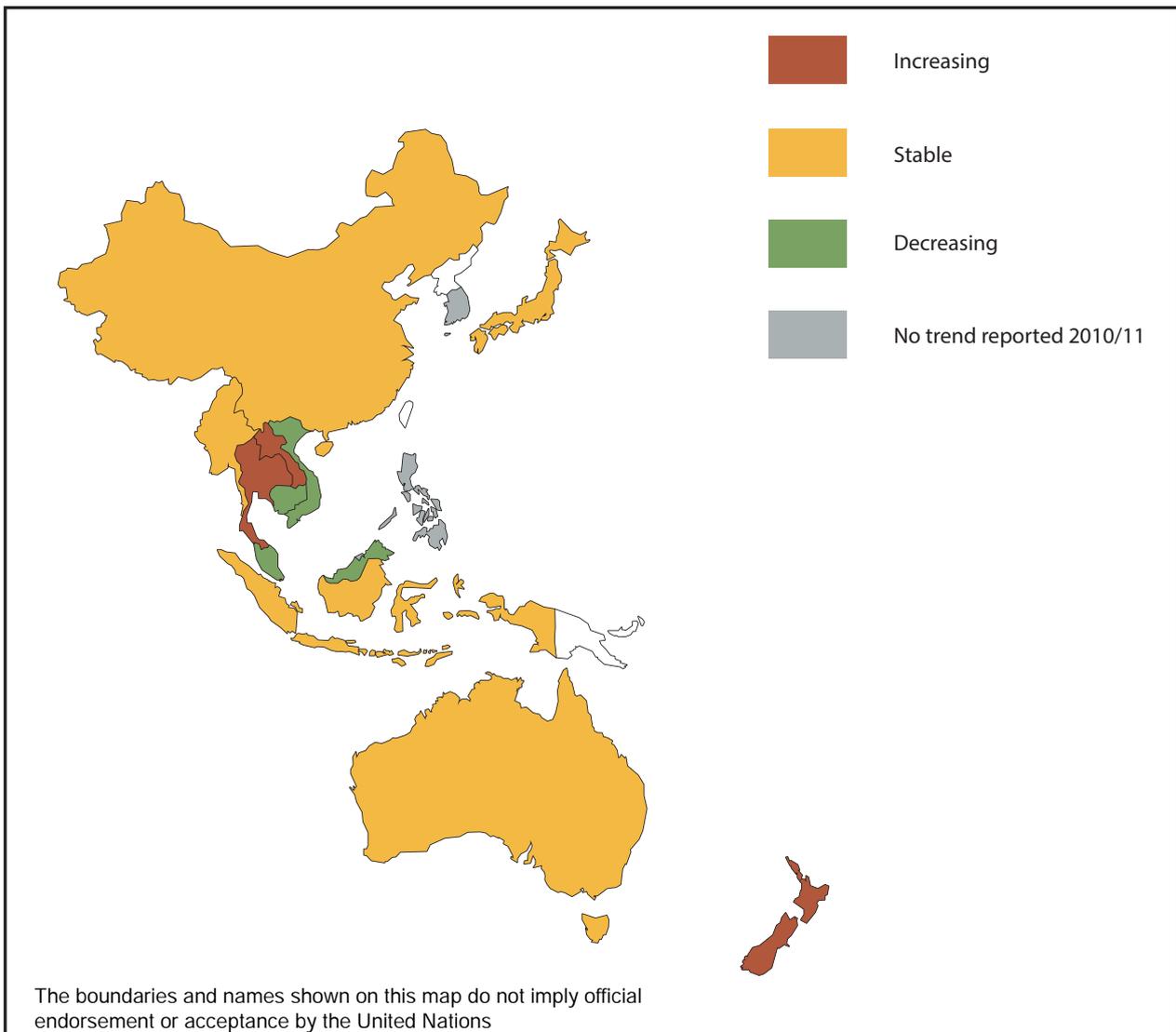
**Figure 10. Ketamine seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011**



Source(s): DAINAP

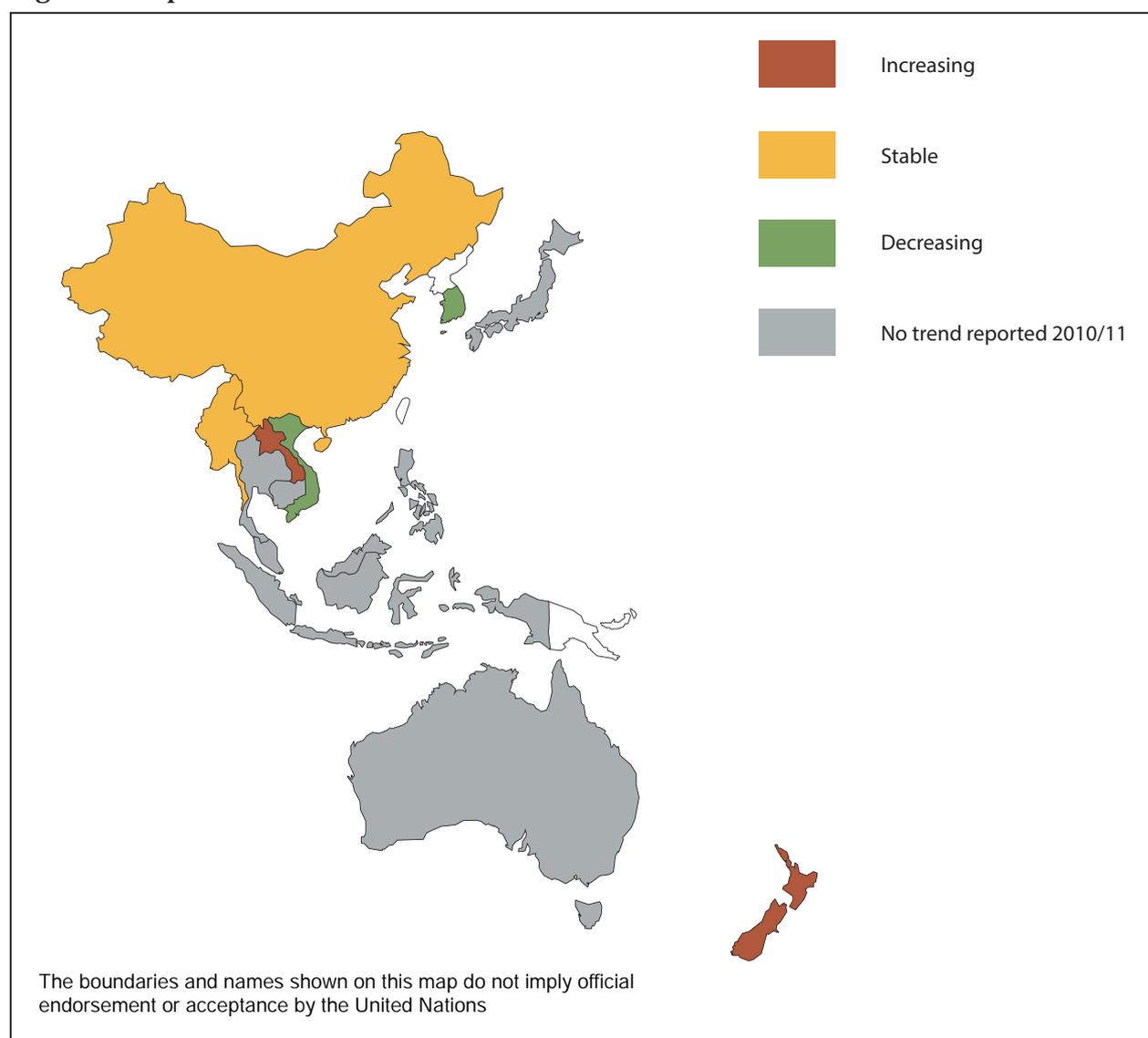
the Philippines. Ketamine seizures increased by about 11% in China (including Hong Kong, China) to 5.7 mt in 2011 compared with 5.1 mt in 2010. Notable

**Figure 11. Heroin use trend, 2011**



Source(s): DAINAP

Figure 12. Opium use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

declines were recorded in Indonesia (58%), Thailand (53%), Malaysia (39%) and Singapore (35%).

### Opiates

Illicit opium poppy cultivation continues to take place primarily in Myanmar and Lao PDR. As with opium poppy cultivation, heroin use in the region had also stabilized in recent years. However, since 2009, heroin trafficking and use has re-emerged as a threat.

Heroin remains the primary drug of concern in China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam. In addition, heroin accounted for a substantial number of problem drug users in treatment in Australia, Chi-

na, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore. In 2011, reported heroin use increased in Lao PDR, Singapore and Thailand. Reported opium use increased in Lao PDR. In New Zealand, the use of opiates including morphine and 'homebake heroin'<sup>18</sup> as well as synthetic opioids increased.

Opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia (mainly in Myanmar and Lao PDR) is at far lower levels than in the mid-1990s but has increased in each of the past six years. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in the region increased by 21% from about 48,000 ha in 2011 to 58,000 ha in 2012, 88% of which was cultivated in Myanmar. Lao PDR reported the

<sup>18</sup> 'Homebake heroin' is a street substance which is created from pharmaceutical opiates such as morphine or codeine through a simple chemical process using acetic anhydride.

**Table 9. Opiate-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**

Country	Number of opiate-related arrests*				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	1	0	0
Cambodia	8	6	•	•	•
China	•	•	•	•	48,392
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	1,601	1,378	1,145	888	771
Indonesia	3,561	1,813	925	759	698
Japan	62	36	44	45	31
Lao PDR	36	45	94	•	•
Malaysia	9,169	8,693	8,488	25,094	68,340
Myanmar	2,015	2,059	2,613	1,689	1,933
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	954	1,389	2,189	1,124	755
Singapore	690	1,216	1,425	1,787	1,924
Thailand	1,485	1,388	1,859	1,681	1,853
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,581</b>	<b>18,023</b>	<b>18,783</b>	<b>33,067</b>	<b>124,697</b>

• = Not reported. \*Also includes heroin, opium, morphine and other opiates.

Source(s): DAINAP

**Table 10. Heroin seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011**

Country	Amount of heroin seized (kg)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	1.1	0	0
Cambodia	11.0	5.3	26.7	2.4	2.1
China	4,594.0	4,332.3	5,838.0	5,353.0	7,080.0
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	37.4	46.4	37.1	68.5	171.7
Indonesia	17.2	29.1	12.3	25.0	28.8
Japan	2.0	1.0	1.2	0.3	3.6
Lao PDR	23.8	17.5	29.2	84.3	43.4
Malaysia	243.3	297.1	283.4	299.3	755.5
Myanmar	68.4	88.2	1,076.1	88.5	42.4
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	0	0	1.9	0.1	0
Singapore	17.2	44.5	29.1	49.0	72.7
Thailand	294.6	199.9	143.1	137.6	547.5
Viet Nam	160.2	156.2	213.0	316.8	309.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,469.1</b>	<b>5,217.5</b>	<b>7,692.2</b>	<b>6,424.8</b>	<b>9,056.7</b>

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

cultivation of 6,800 ha in 2012 compared with 4,100 ha in 2011, representing a 66% increase. Far smaller amounts of opium poppy are cultivated in the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Arrests involving opiates (heroin, opium, morphine and codeine) in the region nearly quadrupled in 2011 compared with the previous year. The 124,697 opiate-related arrests reported in 2011 is the high-

**Table 11. Opium seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011**

Country	Amount of opium seized (kg)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	0	0
Cambodia	•	•	•	•	•
China	1,184.6	1,375.0	1,303.0	1,015.0	823.0
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	•	182.7	•	•	•
Indonesia	•	•	•	•	•
Japan	19.6	6.6	3.2	3.7	7.6
Lao PDR	14.2	11.8	50.0	86.5	63.4
Malaysia	7.4	13.9	10.1	4.4	0.9
Myanmar	1,173.8	1,463.4	752.0	922.0	828.3
Philippines	2.5	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0
Singapore	•	0.5	•	•	0.2
Thailand	72.6	117.9	111.1	157.9	42.7
Viet Nam	63.4	18.8	69.8	28.2	76.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,538.2</b>	<b>3,190.8</b>	<b>2,299.4</b>	<b>2,217.8</b>	<b>1,842.1</b>

• = Not reported  
Source(s): DAINAP

est total ever reported from the region. However, the increase is due to the large number of arrests in China, which reported opiate-related arrest data for the first time in 2011, and in Malaysia, where prior to 2010 only the number of drug users arrested was reported.

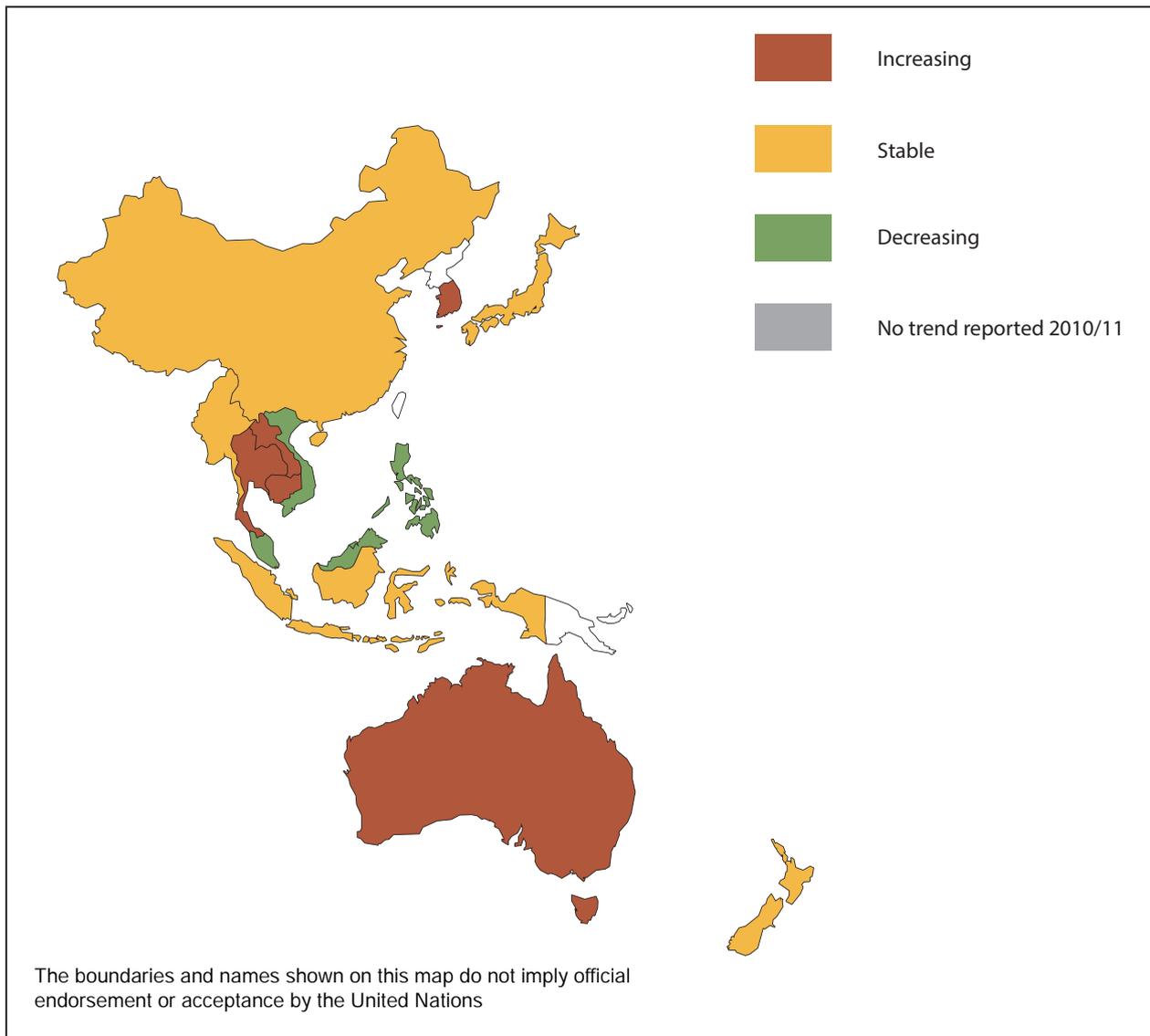
Since 2010, Malaysia has also included arrested drug manufacturers and traffickers in its drug-related arrest data. Hence, making year-by-year comparisons for opiate-related arrest data is difficult.

**Table 12. Cannabis-related arrests in East and South-East Asia, 2007-2011**

Country	Number of arrests				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	27	28	5	44	31
Cambodia	8	6	•	•	•
China	•	•	•	•	634
<i>Hong Kong, China</i>	541	544	543	325	256
Indonesia	18,142	11,581	12,001	9,630	7,841
Japan	2,375	2,867	3,087	2,367	1,759
Lao PDR	2	26	40	•	•
Malaysia	3,385	514	5,207	6,567	15,220
Myanmar	217	240	490	146	275
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Korea	1,170	1,045	1,712	1,837	1,189
Singapore	102	88	126	131	127
Thailand	12,851	13,168	18,600	15,281	13,737
Viet Nam	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,820</b>	<b>30,107</b>	<b>41,811</b>	<b>36,328</b>	<b>41,069</b>

• = Not reported  
Source(s): DAINAP

Figure 13. Cannabis use trend, 2011



Source(s): DAINAP

Heroin seizures in the region increased by 41% in 2011, from 6.4 mt seized in 2010 to 9.1 mt seized in 2011, the highest total reported during the past five years. The majority of seizures was made in China (including Hong Kong, China), with nearly 7.3 mt seized during the year. Substantial increases were reported from Thailand (298%), Malaysia (152%), Hong Kong, China (151%), Singapore (48%) and China (33%).

Myanmar and China reported the majority of opium seized in the region (as in previous years), with 828 kg of opium seized in Myanmar and 823 kg seized in China, accounting for 90% of the total opium seizures in the region in 2011. A significant increase was reported in Viet Nam (170%). Thailand and Lao PDR reported substantial decreases.

The amount of heroin detected at the Australian border increased by 241%, from 117.5 kg in 2009-2010 to 400.2 kg in 2010-2011, the highest total recorded since 2001-2002. The quantity of national heroin seizures showed a five-fold increase, from 74.7 kg in 2009-2010 to 375.5 kg in 2010-2011, the highest amount recorded since 2002-2003. The illicit trafficking and use of heroin or opium is not widespread in New Zealand as most opiate users in the country use 'homebake heroin', or diverted medicines such as oxycodone. Prescribing records and seizure data indicate that the use of the prescription opiate oxycodone in New Zealand is increasing.

**Table 13. Cannabis seizures in East and South-East Asia (kg), 2007-2011**

Country	Amount of cannabis seized (herb and resin) (kg)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brunei Darussalam	0.1	0.6	1.6	6.3	0.6
Cambodia	10.0	5.0	3.8	1.2	210.2
China	•	•	•	3,186.0	3,580.0
<i>Hong Kong (SAR)</i>	257.4	261.0	107.0	14.3	43.1
Indonesia	35,464.6	140,496.3	110,722.7	12,661.2	20,259.7
Japan	560.5	415.7	224.8	195.6	169.5
Lao PDR	2,302.8	804.6	976.0	3,521.0	1,617.0
Malaysia	1,482.6	874.8	2,351.8	1,064.0	1,054.0
Myanmar	104.3	170.2	284.6	205.6	196.4
Philippines	1,200.0	3,724.0	1,660.0	1,129.4	596.5
Republic of Korea	23.0	94.7	123.0	44.5	83.7
Singapore	30.3	3.3	7.1	8.5	12.9
Thailand	17,227.8	21,135.8	26,081.0	22,470.6	14,374.5
Viet Nam	8,000.0	8,928.8	332.0	211.3	7,500.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,663.4</b>	<b>176,914.8</b>	<b>142,875.4</b>	<b>44,719.5</b>	<b>49,698.1</b>

• = Not reported

Source(s): DAINAP

## Cannabis

Cannabis continues to be widely used in East and South-East Asia. Increasing cannabis use was reported in Australia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea and Thailand. All other countries reported stable or declining trends.

Cannabis-related arrests in the region in 2011 increased by 13% compared with 2010. The 41,069 arrests is the second highest total reported in the past five years. Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia accounted for the majority of the region's cannabis-related arrests in 2011 (90%).

Cannabis seizures increased by 11% in 2011 to 50 mt compared with 36 mt seized in 2010. The majority of cannabis seizures continued to be reported from Indonesia and Thailand, which accounted for 70% of the total amount of cannabis seized in the region. Viet Nam reported a dramatic increase, from 211 kg in 2010 to 7.5 mt in 2011. Significant increases in cannabis seizures were also reported in Indonesia (60%) and Republic of Korea (88%).

## Other substances

Apart from ATS, cannabis, heroin, opium and ketamine, a range of other illicit drugs are used in the region, although to a far lesser extent.

Cocaine use in Asia remains limited, though the substantial quantities of cocaine seized during the past two years may possibly indicate that organized crime groups are trying to develop the potentially large market in the region. The most common form of cocaine in the region is the powdered hydrochloride salt form, which is typically snorted but can also be dissolved in water and then injected. A record amount of cocaine was seized in Hong Kong, China (776.5 kg) in 2011. Significant increases were also reported in Australia and Japan in 2011.

The non-medical use of benzodiazepines, in particular nimetazepam<sup>19</sup>, is a problem in some countries in the region. Use of nimetazepam, sometimes in combination with methamphetamine, is particularly prevalent in peninsular South-East Asia, including Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

<sup>19</sup> Nimetazepam is a benzodiazepine derivative, controlled in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, often marketed under the brand name Erimin.

### **An example of globalization at work – the impending impact of the ASEAN Economic Community**

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at their 12th ASEAN Summit in 2007 reiterated their commitment to the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015. The AEC will create a single regional common market of more than 600 million persons and will facilitate the free flow of goods, services, investment, capital and labour.

However, regional integration under the AEC will doubtless also make possible the increased mobility of illicit goods, including drugs. The ASEAN region continues to be one of the most rapidly developing parts of the planet. And while the AEC will bring positive and welcome changes and provide the region with unrivaled access to knowledge and the power to communicate, it will simultaneously provide opportunities for transnational organized crime to expand.

Already, several ASEAN governments have given priority to upgrading cross-border infrastructure links, in particular the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link as well as a number of road networks that include the North-South corridor from southern China through Myanmar, Thailand and Lao PDR to Viet Nam; the East-West corridor linking Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam; and the South-South corridor linking proposed and existing deep seaports in Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar. Under the AEC, trade and customs procedures along these routes will be harmonized, standardized and simplified.

Organized criminal groups may utilize the improved transportation connections and take advantage of the streamlined border controls to smuggle illicit goods throughout the region and beyond.

The use of kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*), a substance derived from the leaves of the Rubiaceae tree, which produces both stimulant and sedative effects, is most prevalent in Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand. The most frequent mode of administration is making tea out of the dried leaves. It is a controlled substance in several Asian and European countries. In 2011, Thailand seized nearly 33 mt of kratom while Malaysia and Myanmar each seized roughly 1 mt of kratom.

During the past few years, a range of new psychoactive substances has emerged on ATS markets in the region. These psychoactive substances include piperazines such as BZP or m-chlorophenylpiperazine (mCPP), as well as analogues of methcathinone such as 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC, known as mephedrone) or MDPV (methylenedioxypropylvalerone). Whereas the use of these substances has been reported in Australia and New Zealand for some time, they have also more recently emerged in China, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

A similar development has been observed with regard to synthetic cannabinoids which have appeared in some countries. Sold on the Internet and in specialized shops, synthetic cannabinoids have been referred to as 'legal alternatives' to cannabis, as they are not under international control. The Republic of Korea

has reported increasing synthetic cannabinoid seizures during the past few years, albeit at low levels. In Thailand, the synthetic cannabinoid 'spice' is available in some of the larger urban areas. The substances are not under international control and the control status of these compounds differs significantly from country to country.

The use of inhalants and solvents remains an issue of concern in several countries in the region, particularly among young drug users.