

1.6 Amphetamine-type stimulants

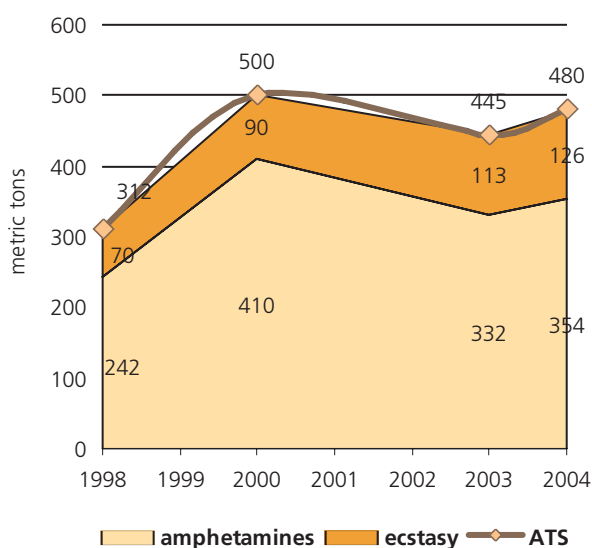
1.6.1 Production

Global ATS production estimated at some 480 metric tons

The group of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) encompasses amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine), ecstasy (MDMA and related substances) and other synthetic stimulants (methcathinone, phenetamine, fenetylline etc.).

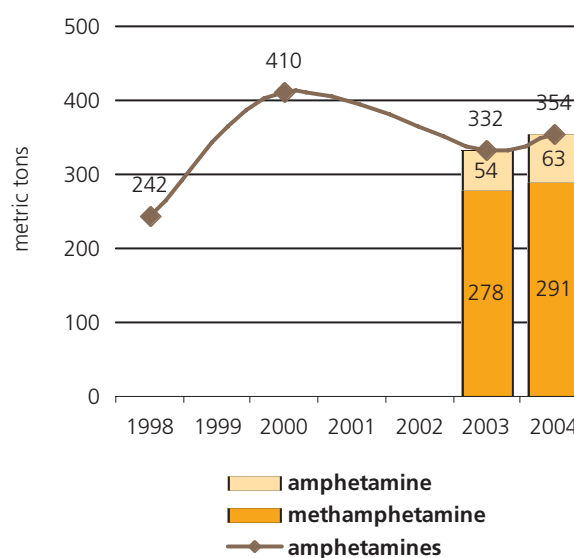
Based on ATS consumption estimates, ATS seizure data and ATS precursor seizures, UNODC estimates total ATS production to have amounted to some 480 tons in 2004 (range: 285 - 1,184 tons).²⁸

Fig. 97: UNODC production estimate of amphetaminetype stimulants



Sources: UNODC estimates based on UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data / DELTA and INCB, 2005 Precursors, March 2006, UNODC, 2005 World Drug Report and UNODC, Ecstasy and Amphetamines – Global Survey 2003.

Fig. 98: Production estimate of amphetamines



Sources: UNODC estimates based on UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data / DELTA and INCB, 2005 Precursors, March 2006, UNODC, 2005 World Drug Report and UNODC, Ecstasy and Amphetamines – Global Survey 2003.

Most of the production is ‘amphetamines’ (290 tons of methamphetamine and 63 tons of amphetamine), followed by ecstasy (mainly MDMA, about 126 metric tons). While these estimates are slightly higher than those published in the 2005 World Drug Report (445 tons), they are somewhat lower than those for 2000. Following a continuous increase in ATS production throughout the 1990s, production peaked in 2000, before dropping off over the 2001-2003 period and regaining strength in 2004. The increase in the overall production estimate was largely due to more production of ecstasy in 2004.

Several conflicting indicators cloud the dynamics of the ATS market. This is particularly true for amphetamines. Reports of record seizures for precursors used in the pro-

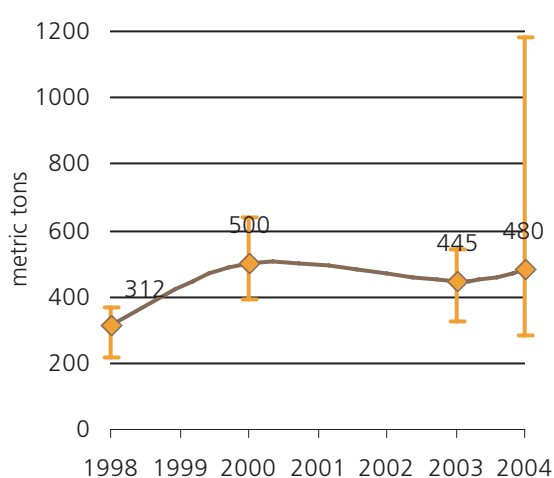
²⁸ Production of ATS can only be estimated indirectly. The methodology for establishing ATS production estimates was first outlined in Ecstasy and Amphetamines - A Global Survey 2003 (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2004).

duction of amphetamines and dismantled clandestine laboratories appear to point to an expansion in production. However, declining seizures of amphetamines and Member States reporting lower abuse levels suggest a stable market. As a result of these inconsistencies, the margin of error for the current amphetamines production estimate is higher than it has ever been (between an estimated 227 and 978 tons). This may also explain why perceptions of trends regarding the development of the amphetamines markets diverge, for the time being, among experts and policy makers across the world.

Taking drug prices and purities as a point of departure, two possible scenarios emerge. One scenario suggests a reduction in amphetamine production due to the large scale dismantling of laboratories and the record precursor seizures. The subsequent decline in end-product seizures would have supported this scenario, as less production would also mean less trafficking and thus less seizures. However, if this had been the case, amphetamines prices should have risen substantially in 2004 and purity levels should have dropped. The available price and purity data fail to support this scenario.

The alternative scenario would have been one of large-scale increase in amphetamines production in 2004, reflecting the dramatic rise in precursor seizures and dismantling of laboratories. Under this scenario, amphetamines prices should have dropped substantially and purity levels should have increased. Again, this did not happen. A rather stable trend was observed for these indicators at the global level, showing some moderate increases in purities and some moderate declines in prices.

Fig. 99: ATS production estimates and potential margins of error



Sources: UNODC estimates based on UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data / DELTA and INCB, 2005 Precursors, March 2006, UNODC, 2005 World Drug Report and UNODC, Ecstasy and Amphetamines – Global Survey 2003.

Thus, the most likely scenario is one of a relatively stable or just slightly increasing production trend. This seems to be essentially reflected in UNODC production estimates for amphetamines for 2004, derived from consumption, end-product seizures and precursor seizures. Improved international cooperation is likely to have increased the seizure rate of precursors. Although the number of dismantled laboratories has risen, dismantling of so-called super-labs has actually declined. Therefore a large increase in laboratory seizures in 2004 did not necessarily have to indicate any significant increase in production levels.

The upward trend for ecstasy is more robust. Though production may have well declined in the largest ecstasy producing centre (Netherlands) and consumption definitely declined in the world's single largest ecstasy market (United States), there seem to be, nonetheless, less discrepancies with regard to the overall upward trend in global ecstasy production. UNODC estimates suggest that ecstasy production increased from between 34 and 141 tons in 2003 to between 81 and 206 tons in 2004. Though – theoretically – production margins are still large enough to allow for a decline in production, this would seem to be extremely unlikely as all underlying indicators moved clearly upwards in 2004: UNODC prevalence estimates rose by 22 per cent, ecstasy seizures rose by 87 per cent and seizures of ecstasy precursor chemicals rose by 113 per cent, largely due to important seizures of 3,4-MDP-2-P (also known as PMK), the main precursor for ecstasy.

ATS production occurs mostly in North America, East and South-East Asia and in Europe

The increasing number of countries where clandestine ATS laboratories are dismantled indicates that ATS production is spreading in geographical terms. Nonetheless, clear concentrations of ATS production can be still identified. While proportions differ depending on the specific indicator used and the specific substances analysed, all available indicators suggest that ATS production continues being concentrated in North America, East and South-East Asia and in Europe. Most of the amphetamine production takes place in Europe; most of the methamphetamine production occurs in North America and East and South-East Asia and most ecstasy is produced in Europe and in North America.

While seizures decline, the number of dismantled ATS laboratories rises

The number of globally dismantled ATS laboratories, as reported to UNODC, increased from 547 in 1990 to

Table 12: Production estimates of amphetamine-type stimulants, 2004

| Based on | 'Amphetamines' (methamphetamine, amphetamine) | | Ecstasy | | Total | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Estimate | Range | Estimate | Range | Estimate | Range |
| Consumption | 272 | 227-318 | 136 | 121-151 | 408 | 348-469 |
| Drug seizures | 247 | 204-291 | 98 | 81-115 | 346 | 285-406 |
| Precursor seizures | 541 | 456-978 | 144 | 96-206 | 685 | 552-1184 |
| Average of all estimates | 354 | 227-978 | 126 | 81-206 | 480 | 285-1184 |

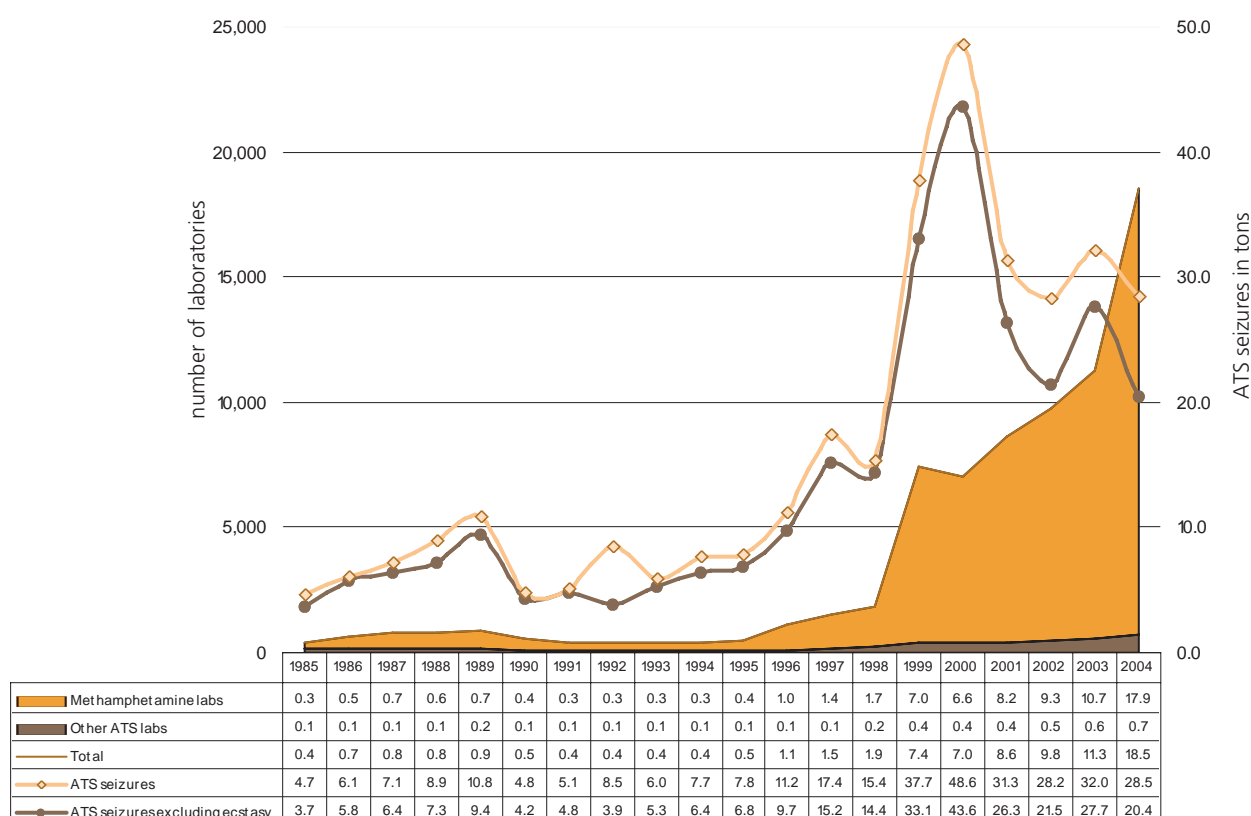
Sources: UNODC estimates based on UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data / DELTA and INCB, 2005 Precursors, March 2006.

7,028 in 2000 and to a record high of 18,532 in 2004. Out of all globally dismantled laboratories, 64 per cent produced ATS in 2004, up from 60 per cent a year earlier, 50 per cent in 2000 and 19 per cent in 1990.

Much of the increase in the 1990s was a reflection of the growth in ATS production. Whether this is, however, still the case, is less clear as the large-scale dismantling of laboratories may have helped to reduce, at least, the expansion of ATS production at the global level. After having risen strongly in the 1990s, global ATS seizures

declined by 11 per cent in 2004 and by 41 per cent since 2000. Seizures of amphetamines (methamphetamine and amphetamine) fell by 26 per cent in 2004 and by 53 per cent over the 2000-2004 period.

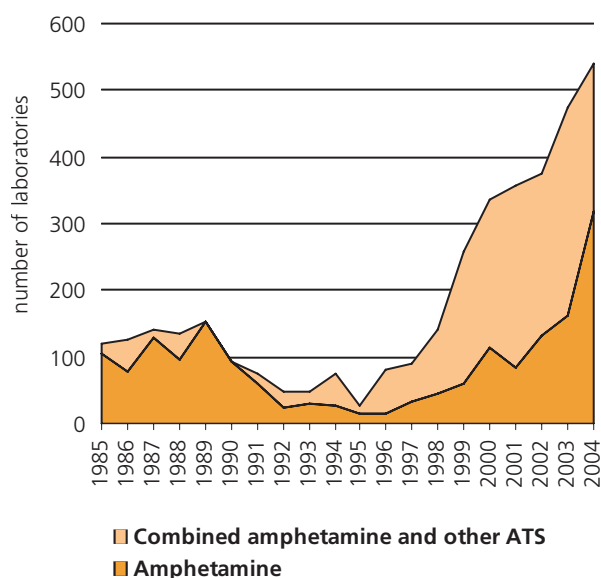
The overwhelming majority of dismantled ATS laboratories were producing methamphetamine (17,851 or 96 per cent of the total in 2004) and the enormous increase in 2004 is largely linked to the dismantling of methamphetamine laboratories.

Fig. 100: Number of dismantled ATS laboratories and ATS seizures, reported to UNODC, 1985-2004

Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data/DELTA.

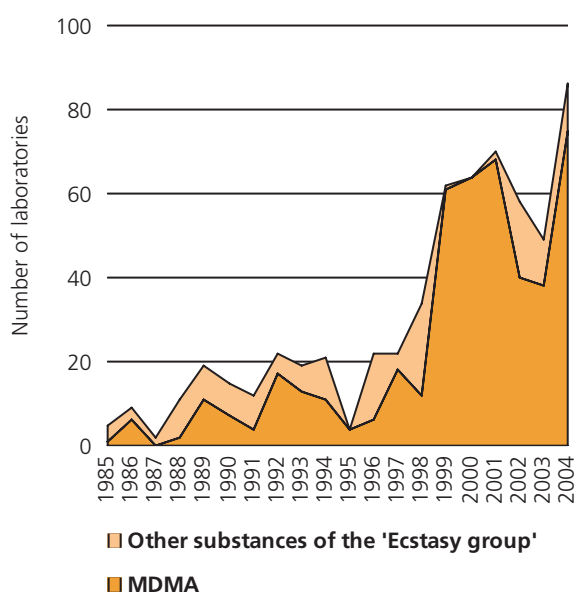
However, the number of laboratories where other ATS were manufactured also increased over the past five years, from 109 in 1990 to 419 in 2000 and 681 in 2004. The number of amphetamine laboratories seized

Fig. 101: Number of dismantled amphetamine laboratories, reported to UNODC, 1985-2004



Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data/DELTA.

Fig. 102: Number of dismantled 'ecstasy' laboratories, reported to UNODC, 1985-2004



Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data/DELTA.

more than doubled over the same period, from 115 in 2000 to 319 in 2004. In addition, 86 'ecstasy' laboratories were seized; up from 64 in 2000 and 15 in 1999.

Most methamphetamine laboratories are dismantled in North America

The overwhelming majority of methamphetamine laboratories (97 per cent) were dismantled in North America, mainly the United States, and, to a lesser extent, Mexico. Methamphetamine laboratories were also dismantled in Oceania, in East and South-East Asia, in Europe (mainly Czech Republic, followed by Slovak Republic and Republic of Moldova) and in South Africa (which appears to be emerging as an important local production centre).

Despite its substantial proportion of global methamphetamine production, the number of methamphetamine laboratories dismantled in East & South-East Asia continues to be low. Just 13 methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled and reported to UNODC from this region in 2004, down from 75 in 2001. Most methamphetamine laboratories seized in Asia over the 2002-2004 period were reported from China, Philippines, Taiwan Province of China, Myanmar, Cambodia (tableting facilities only), Hong Kong SAR of China and Malaysia.

For comparison, according to the International Narcotics Control Board, authorities in South Africa alone, dismantled 28 illicit ATS laboratories, producing either methamphetamine or methcathinone in 2004.

Increasing seizures of ecstasy laboratories in North America indicate shift in production

Most amphetamine laboratories were seized in Europe (61 per cent), mainly Russian Federation, Poland, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Estonia and Lithuania while 39 per cent were dismantled in North America, primarily the United States. As for ecstasy, 48 per cent of all ecstasy laboratories were seized in North America (United States and Canada), 23 per cent in Europe (mainly Netherlands, followed by Belgium and Estonia).

The most striking trend has been the decline of Europe in the proportion of dismantled ecstasy laboratories - from 75 per cent in 2000 to 39 per cent in 2003 and 23 per cent in 2004. The importance of Europe as the world's main ecstasy production centre thus appears to be declining which can be also seen in ecstasy seizure statistics: 81 per cent in 1994; 56 per cent in 2000, 53 per cent in 2004. Some of the production has shifted to North America (mainly United States and Canada).

Increasing ecstasy precursor seizures in North America also point in this direction. In addition, there is a proliferation of ecstasy production in other parts of the world. Over the 2002-2004 period, ecstasy laboratories were dismantled in South-East Asia (Indonesia, China, Hong Kong SAR of China, Malaysia), in Oceania (Australia and New Zealand), in Africa (South Africa and Egypt) and in some south American countries (Argentina (2003) and Colombia (2001)).

ATS precursor seizures reach record levels, exceeding end-product seizures

ATS precursor seizures reached an all-time high in 2004, which also reflects major successes in international cooperation, notably under Project Prism. Targeting ATS precursors, Project Prism is an initiative of the International Narcotics Control Board, carried out by 126 national authorities supported by INCB, Interpol, the World Customs Organization, UNODC and the European Community.

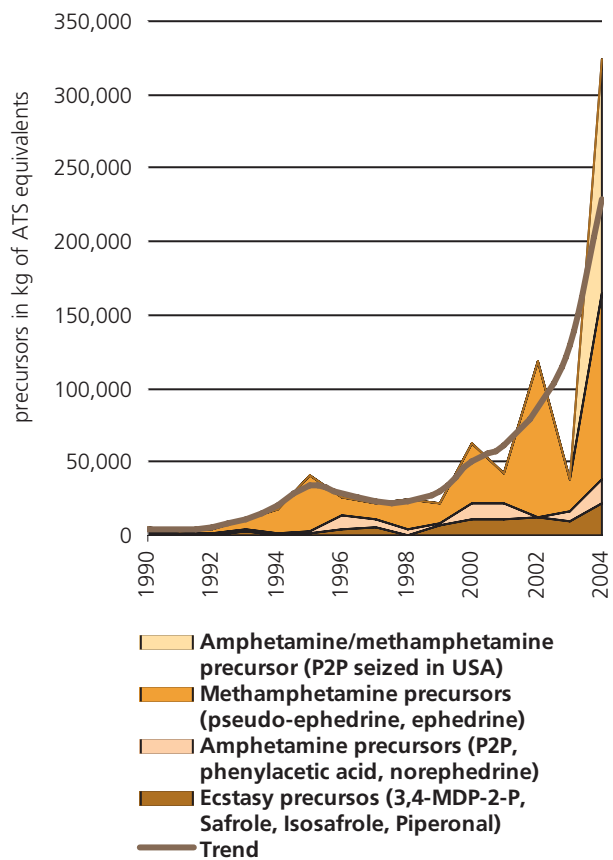
The results of increased international cooperation were reflected in strong increases in precursor seizures, as reported by INCB:

- The main methamphetamine precursors seized in 2004 were pseudoephedrine (176 tons) and ephedrine (15 tons). These are important quantities, given total licit trade in ephedrine of 526 tons and of 1207 tons in pseudoephedrine in 2004. The quantities seized increased from 14 tons of ephedrine and 18 tons of pseudo-ephedrine a year earlier;
- The most important amphetamine precursors were P-2-P (also known as BMK: 349 tons seized in 2004 of which at least 33 tons for amphetamine production) and, to a lesser extent, phenylacetic acid (232 kg); seizures a year earlier amounted to 5.5 tons of P-2-P and 158 kg of phenylacetic acid;
- The main ecstasy precursors are 3,4-MDP-2P (also known as PMK: 17 tons seized in 2004), piperonal (17 tons), safrole (5700 litres) and isosafrole (no seizures in 2004, 23,400 litres reported for 2003). Overall seizures of ecstasy pre-

cursors in 2003 had been substantially lower: no seizures for 3,4-MDP-2P or for piperonal and less seizures for safrole (515 litres).

If these seized precursors had been used for production purposes, they would have been sufficient to produce²⁹ more than 320 tons of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2004, including some 21 tons of ecstasy (10 tons in 2003), some 16 tons of amphetamine (7 tons in 2003), some 128 tons of methamphetamine (22 tons in 2003). Most of the remaining precursors could have produced either amphetamine or methamphetamine (totalling some 155 metric tons).

Fig. 103: Seizures of ATS precursors in ATS equivalents



Sources: UNODC, Ecstasy and Amphetamines, Global Survey 2003 and INCB, Precursor and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, New York 2006.

²⁹ The following conversion ratios were used:

Methamphetamine: 150 kg of ephedrine or pseudo-ephedrine for 100 kg of methamphetamine

Amphetamine: 200 litres of P2P or 150 kg of norephedrine for 100 kg of amphetamine; or

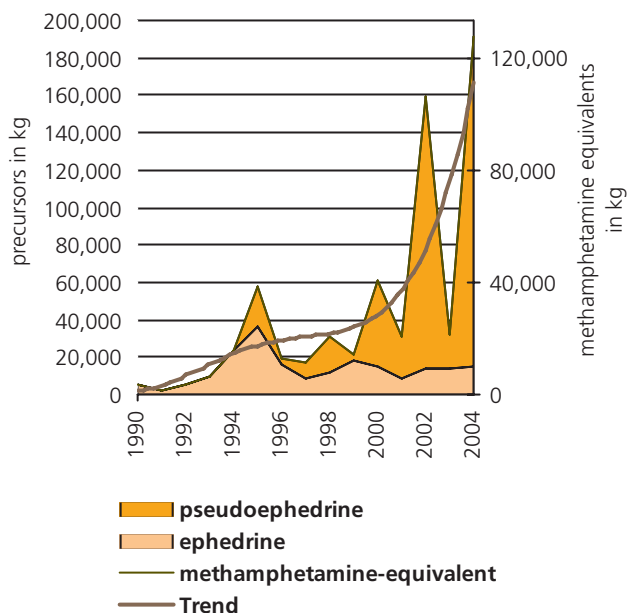
400 kilograms of phenylacetic acid for 100 kg of amphetamine

Ecstasy: 125 litres of 3,4-MDP-2-P for 100 kilograms of MDMA

262.5 kg of piperonal for 100 kg of MDMA, or 237.5 kg of isosafrole for 100 kg of MDMA; or 475 kg of safrole for 100 kg of MDMA

Source: *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, 1988, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.5), New York 2006.

Fig. 104: Seizures of methamphetamine-precursors



Sources: UNODC, Ecstasy and Amphetamines, Global Survey 2003 and INCB, Precursor and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, New York 2006.

Most precursors are seized in North America, Asia and Europe

An analysis of precursor seizures for 2004, collected by the International Narcotics Control Board shows that:

- most of the methamphetamine precursors were seized in North America (92 per cent), followed by East & South-East Asia (6 per cent);
- most amphetamine precursors (Phenyl-acetic acid and P-2-P, excluding the extreme large P-2-P seizures reported by the USA (accounting for more than 90 per cent of global P-2-P seizures in 2004), were seized in Asia (72 per cent) followed by Europe (28 per cent);
- most ecstasy precursors were seized in East and South-East Asia (49 per cent), followed by Europe (43 per cent) and North America (6 per cent) and Oceania (2 per cent)

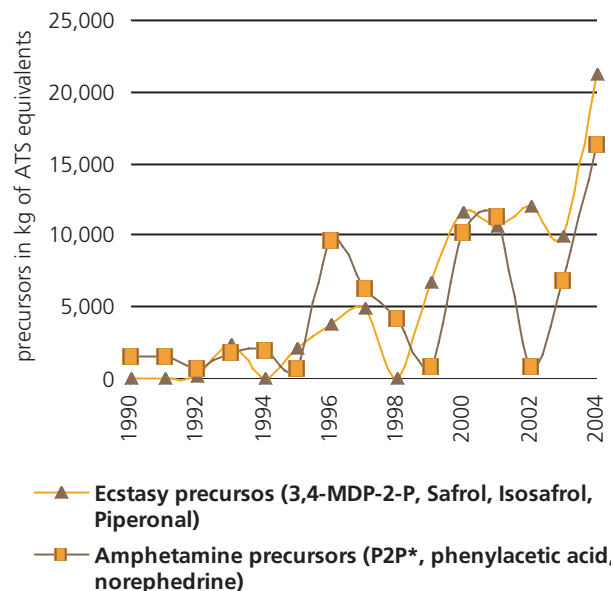
These data tend to reflect the origin of many of the chemical precursors in East- and South-East Asia while large-scale ATS production takes place in North America, East & South-East Asia and Europe. In addition, countries in South-Asia are sometimes mentioned as source countries for ATS precursors.

Asia: China, Myanmar and Philippines continue to be main methamphetamine production sites

Based on information supplied by Member States on the origin of ATS, 26 source countries for the production of methamphetamine could be identified for the 2002/04 period.

The main countries of origin for methamphetamine production in Asia continue to be China, Myanmar and Philippines.

Fig. 105: Seizures of amphetamine and ecstasy precursors



* excluding P2P seizures in the United States over the 2000-2004 period

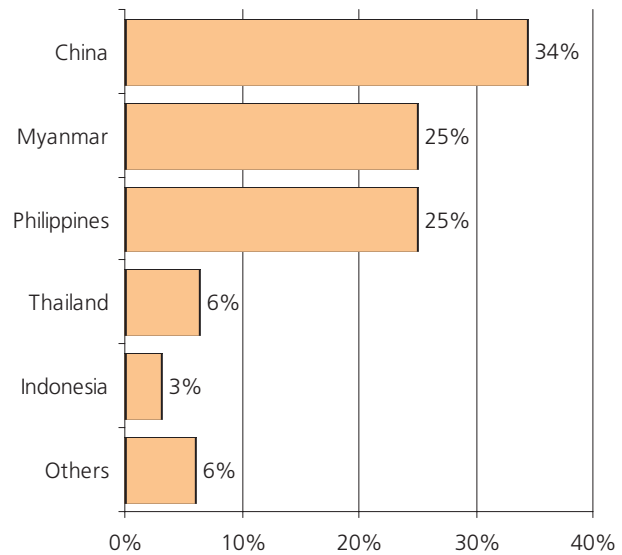
- Most of the methamphetamine production in China is located in south-eastern China, in Guangdong Province (which surrounds Hong Kong SAR of China) and, to a lesser extent in neighbouring Fujian province, located off the coast of Taiwan Province of China. China, together with India, is also one of the main source countries of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, the main precursor chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine.
- Significant quantities of methamphetamine are manufactured in Taiwan Province of China. In 2003, 10 laboratories were dismantled there; local production, however, appears to have declined in

recent years.

- Methamphetamine production in the Philippines appears to have increased in recent years. Four methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled in 2002, 11 in both 2003 and 2004 and 7 in 2005. Production in the Philippines may be operated by local laboratory owners but seems to be closely linked to criminal groups from China and Taiwan Province of China.
- Myanmar also continues to play an important role as a production site for methamphetamine, as reflected in neighbouring countries reports. Illicit markets in Thailand are basically supplied by methamphetamine produced in Myanmar and important parts of the Chinese market (20 per cent) are also supplied by methamphetamine produced in Myanmar. The number of dismantled laboratories, however, has not been particularly impressive in recent years (4 laboratories dismantled in 2002, 1 in 2003, 1 in 2004 and 3 in 2005). On the other hand, Myanmar authorities have stepped up efforts against trafficking in ATS, leading to a number of immense seizures of methamphetamine tablets (12 million tablets in January 2006, four times the total seized in 2005 (3.6 million)). ATS production in Myanmar is mainly encountered in the Shan state (notably in the Wa region), bordering China, though recent reports suggest that production is also taking place in areas controlled by the ethnic Chinese Kokang, the Shan State Army-South and the Kachin Defense Army (KDA). Production is sometimes co-located with heroin refineries.
- According to information provided by the Government of Thailand, methamphetamine production has largely ceased to exist following the crackdown on the market in 2003.

Most South-East Asian methamphetamine is trafficked towards Oceania, notably Australia and New Zealand, and North America. The Philippines and China have been identified as main source countries for South-East Asian methamphetamine found on North American markets. South-East Asian methamphetamine, mostly from Myanmar and the Philippines, transits Thailand before it is trafficked to European destinations, mainly the United Kingdom, Netherlands, France and Switzerland.

Fig. 106: Origin* of methamphetamine as reported by Asian countries, 2002-04



* Number of times a country was identified by other Asian countries as a source country for methamphetamine production over the 2002-04 period, expressed as a proportion of such reports (N = 32) 'Origin' refers to the countries to which drug shipments could be traced back.

Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data / DELTA.

The United States and Mexico are the main production sites in the Americas

The main countries of methamphetamine production in the Americas are the United States, producing exclusively for the domestic market, followed by Mexico and, to a lesser extent, Canada. United States authorities continue to dismantle the largest numbers of methamphetamine laboratories worldwide (17,199 laboratories in 2004). Methamphetamine production in the United States has been traditionally concentrated in California and several neighbouring states, but it has been spreading towards the rest of the country and has already reached most states. A large number of laboratories (several hundred per state) are now being seized in rural America, in several states between Texas and Illinois and along the Mississippi river. Most of the 'super-labs', that is, laboratories capable of manufacturing more than 5 kg of methamphetamine in 24 hours, continue to be located in California. The number of 'super-labs' seized in the United States, has, however, shown a downward trend in recent years, from 245 in 2001 to 55 in 2004 (-77 per cent) and a further decline by 34 per cent over the first half of 2005 as compared to the same period a year earlier. Mexico reported the dismantling of 18 laboratories to UNODC in 2004. Most methamphetamine production takes place in northern Mexico.

Methamphetamine production in Oceania appears to have levelled off, and shows signs of slight decrease

Methamphetamine production in Oceania is concentrated in Australia and, at lower levels, in New Zealand. Reported seizures of methamphetamine laboratories in New Zealand increased from 1 in 1998 and 9 in 2000 to 201 in 2003, before falling back to 182 in 2004. Similarly, the number of ATS laboratories dismantled in Australia rose from 10 in 1990 to 150 in 2000 and 314 in 2003 before declining to 245 (including 24 ecstasy laboratories) in 2004. Rising laboratory seizures in the 1990s did not have much of an impact on prices or purities, suggesting that production was rising. The situation was less clear for subsequent years and in 2004, falling numbers of dismantled laboratories went hand in hand with slightly falling purity levels, indicating that production was losing momentum. In line with increases in laboratory seizures in the 1990s, there were also strong increases in the number of methamphetamine consumers, suggesting increases in production. However, over the 1998-2004 period, household survey results showed some decline and consumption levels appear to have declined further in 2005 as shown in the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) data. Methamphetamine production in Australia takes place in practically all states though it is particularly concentrated in Queensland (35 per cent of all dismantled amphetamines laboratories in 2004, followed by New South Wales (20 per cent) and South Australia (20 per cent)). In addition to locally produced methamphetamine, there are increasing imports of methamphetamine produced in South-East Asia, notably in China and the Philippines, offsetting some the decline in domestic production.

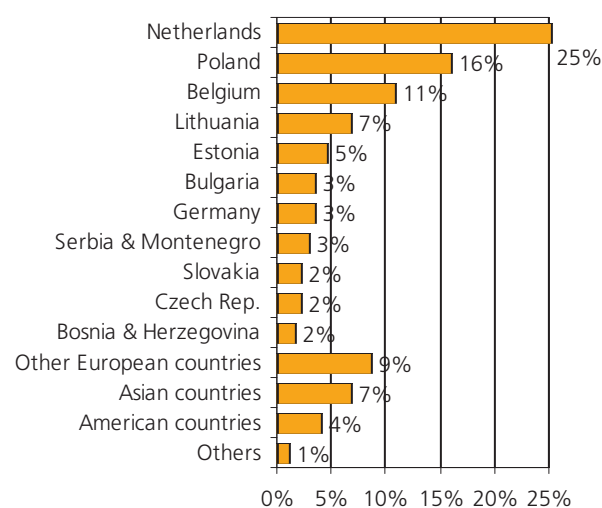
Methamphetamine production in Europe seems to be rising, though continues to be limited...

Large-scale methamphetamine production and consumption in Europe has – thus far - not occurred. European methamphetamine production continues to be largely limited to the Czech Republic and, to a lesser extent, neighbouring Slovak Republic, some of the Baltic states and Moldova. The number of dismantled methamphetamine laboratories in the Czech Republic has increased strongly over the last decade, from 18 in 1995 to 28 in 2000, 188 in 2003 and 248 in 2004. Large numbers of dismantled laboratories were also reported from Moldova (136 in 2004), followed by Slovakia (12 in 2004, up from 3 a year earlier). In addition, limited imports of methamphetamine from South-East Asia (Thailand and Philippines) have been reported in recent years.

... while amphetamine production continues to be largely concentrated in Europe – and increasing

Based on information on the origin of seized drugs, 88 per cent of the replies concerned European countries over the 2002-2004 period, suggesting that amphetamine production continues being concentrated in Europe. The Netherlands, Poland and Belgium, followed by Lithuania and Estonia, Bulgaria and Germany are frequently cited as main sources of amphetamine. In terms of amphetamine laboratories seized, Europe accounted for 77 per cent of all such laboratories over the 2002-2004 period. The number of amphetamine laboratories seized in West and Central Europe increased from 25, on average, over the 1995-99 period to 35 over the 2000-2004 period (47 in 2004). The increase has been even stronger in Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine) where reported laboratory detections increased from 11, on average, over the 1995-99 period to 94 over the 2000-2004 period (141 in 2004). These data suggest that there is a gradual shift of amphetamine production towards Eastern Europe, even though amphetamine production in West & Central Europe continues expanding. It is, however, not always clear whether amphetamine or methamphetamine is produced in Eastern Europe. Both the Russian Federation and Ukraine have regularly reported seizures of ephedrine but not of P-2-P. This would indicate that amphetamines production in these countries is largely focussed on methamphetamine. The largest numbers of amphetamine laboratories seized outside Europe are found in North America. In addi-

Fig. 107: Origin* of amphetamine in 2002-2004



* Number of times a country was identified by other countries as a source country for amphetamine over the 2002-04 period (n = 175), based on information provided by 40 countries

Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data.

tion, significant numbers of amphetamine laboratories are seized in Oceania and a few in East & South-East Asia.

Markets in Africa and South-America mainly supplied by diverted licit ATS

Overall production of ATS continues to be limited in South America and in Africa. The main exception here is South Africa where ATS production, notably production of methamphetamine and methcathinone, has increased substantially in recent years. South Africa used to report, on average, the dismantling of one laboratory per year over the 1995-1999 period. This figure increased to 17 over the 2000-2004 period. Including methcathinone, 28 illicit laboratories were reported (to INCB) as having been dismantled in 2004 and this number is expected to have further increased in 2005.

Though domestic production of ATS is very limited in both Africa (with the exception of South Africa) and South America, drug use surveys conducted in countries of South America and Africa suggest, that ATS use is far from negligible. All of this points to ongoing supply of these markets with diverted licit ATS.

While Netherlands and Belgium remain the most important sources, ecstasy is also produced in regions other than Europe

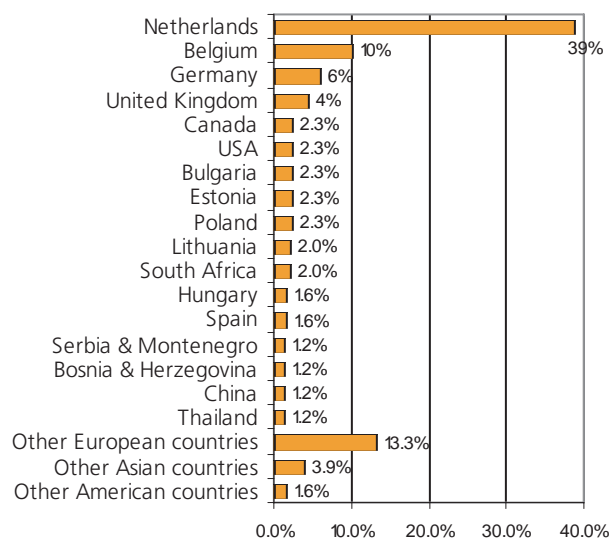
Over the 2002-2004 period a total of 33 ecstasy producing countries were identified by UNODC member states. As in previous years the Netherlands (39 per cent), followed, by Belgium (10 per cent) have been cited by Member States as the main countries of origin for ecstasy imports over the 2002-2004 period. Together, the Netherlands and Belgium accounted for about half of all mentions. But their importance as the main source countries for ecstasy is declining. In 1999 the corresponding proportion of the two countries – using the same methodology – was still 60 per cent. There are additional indications that the position of the Netherlands and Belgium as the world's main source countries for ecstasy are waning, reflecting intensified efforts by the authorities in these countries to address the problem. While in 2001 99 per cent of all 3,4-MDP-2-P (PMK, the main ecstasy precursor) seizures took place in the Netherlands and Belgium, the proportion declined to 60 per cent in 2004 (37 per cent in the Netherlands and 23 per cent in Belgium in 2004). The number of ecstasy laboratories dismantled in the Netherlands and Belgium declined from 29 (41 per cent of the world total) in 2001 to 17 (20 per cent of the world total) in 2004, including 14 laboratories in the

Netherlands and 3 in Belgium. In addition, the US authorities (the USA constitutes one of the biggest ecstasy markets worldwide) reported that the proportion of ecstasy found in the USA, originating in the Netherlands, has declined substantially in recent years.

The decline of ecstasy production in Western Europe, however, appears to have been offset by increasing levels of ecstasy produced in other countries, including other European countries, countries in North America (United States and Canada), in the Oceania region and in East and South-East Asia. The number of dismantled ecstasy laboratories in North America rose from 11 per year over the 1995-1999 period to 24 per year over the 2000-2004 period (41 in 2004); in South-East Asia as well as in the Oceania region the corresponding numbers rose from practically zero to 9 per year over the 2000-2004 period (24 in the Oceania region in 2004), also indicating that a shift towards ecstasy production outside the 'traditional' production centres in Europe is gaining momentum.

Most of the precursors for the manufacture of MDMA, notably 3,4-MDP-2-P (PMK) originate in Asia. The Chinese authorities were, however, successful in seizing substantial amounts of PMK (5,300 litres or 31 per cent of global PMK seizures). In addition, piperonal (a precursor for PMK) has gained in importance. 78 per cent of global piperonal seizures took place in China in 2004. Moreover, safrole, another precursor for PMK, is increasingly used as a pre-precursor for MDMA; according to INCB, 97 per cent of all safrole seizures also took place in China in 2004.

Fig. 108: Origin* of ecstasy in 2002-2004



* Number of times a country was identified by other countries as a source country for ecstasy over the 2002-2004 period (N = 256) based on information provided by 60 countries

Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data.

1.6.2. Trafficking

After huge increases in the 1990s, ATS seizures continue to decline in 2004...

Seizures of ATS declined by 11 per cent in 2004 to 28 tons (in kilogram equivalents), mainly reflecting lower seizures made in East and South-East Asia. The decline is even more marked over the period 2000-2004 over which seizures decreased by 80 per cent. Nonetheless, even now ATS seizures are almost 4 times higher than a decade earlier and 6 times as high as in 1990.

...due to lower seizures across East and South-East Asia

The proportion of seizures made in East and South-East declined from 73 per cent in 2000 to 25 per cent in 2004. Strong declines in ATS seizures over the 2000-2004 period were reported from China (-86 per cent), Singapore (-86 per cent), Brunei Darussalam (-73 per cent), Thailand (-79 per cent), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (-76 per cent), Myanmar (-69 per cent), Malaysia (-48 per cent), Japan (-46 per cent), Philippines (-26 per cent) and Indonesia (-16 per cent). Seizures in the Lao PDR remained stable and increased in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Republic of Korea. The overall decline of seizures in that subregion suggests a sizeable reduction in production and trafficking, possibly as a consequence of improvements in law enforcement cooperation.

Seizures of some 20 tons of amphetamines (methamphetamine, amphetamine and other synthetic stimulants) were reported for 2004 of which most were made in the United States (15 per cent of total), followed by China (14 per cent), Belgium (13 per cent), Thailand (10 per cent), United Kingdom (8 per cent)³⁰, Bulgaria (7 per cent), Mexico (5 per cent), Philippines (4 per cent) and Netherlands (3 per cent).

Some 8 tons of ecstasy were reported seized in 2004. Canada and Belgium both account for 19 per cent of the seizures made, followed by Australia (17 per cent), the Netherlands (13 per cent) and United Kingdom (8 per cent)³¹.

³⁰ UK data refer to 2003.

³¹ UK data refer to 2003.

Methamphetamine continues to most widely seized ATS, followed by ecstasy

Over the 2000-2004 period, methamphetamine accounted for 62 per cent of all ATS seizures, amphetamine for 14 per cent and non-specified stimulants (including amphetamine, methamphetamine, methcathinone and other synthetic stimulants) 7 per cent. Substances of the ecstasy group accounted for the remaining 17 per cent. In 2004, the proportion of ecstasy as part of overall ATS seizures increased to 28 per cent and the proportion of amphetamine to 21 per cent.

While methamphetamine and amphetamine are, by far, the two most important substances in the amphetamines group, trafficking in methcathinone is significant in a number of CIS countries (where it is known as ephedrone), in some parts of the United States, and, as a rather recent phenomenon, in South Africa. Methcathinone is usually domestically produced and trafficked.

Trafficking in fenetylline (captagon) continues to be considerable in the Near and Middle East. Fenetylline is often produced in clandestine laboratories in South-Eastern Europe (mainly Bulgaria) and trafficked via Turkey to Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

In contrast to the ATS precursor trade which is international, trafficking in amphetamine and in methamphetamine continues to be largely intra-regional, although there are some exceptions (notably trafficking of methamphetamine from South-East Asia to Oceania).

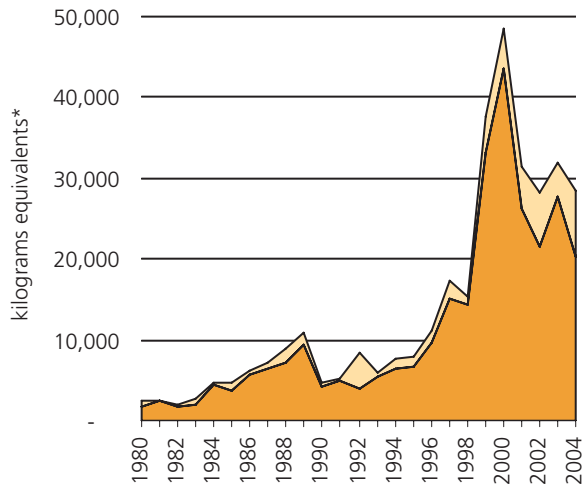
Most ecstasy continues to be trafficked in Europe but with the development of illicit markets for the substance in other regions, trafficking of ecstasy to other regions has increased. However, of late production of ecstasy has been reported from North America, Oceania and South-East Asia. If ecstasy production in regions outside Europe rises, it is likely that, like for other ATS, ecstasy trafficking will become (again) increasingly intra-regional in nature.

Trafficking in methamphetamine

Despite decline in seizures, most methamphetamine continues to be trafficked in East and South-East Asia

Global seizures of methamphetamine fell by 70 per cent between 2000 and 2004 to 11 tons. This decline was entirely due to lower methamphetamine seizures made in East and South-East Asia (-82 per cent). This decline

Fig. 109: Seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants, 1980-2004



■ Ecstasy group**: MDMA (Ecstasy), MDA, MDME
 ■ Methamphetamine, amphetamine, methcathinone and other synthetic stimulants

* Seizures reported in kilograms and in units;

A unit (pill) of ecstasy was assumed to contain on average 100 mg of MDMA; a unit of amphetamine/ methamphetamine was assumed to contain 30 mg of amphetamine/methamphetamine

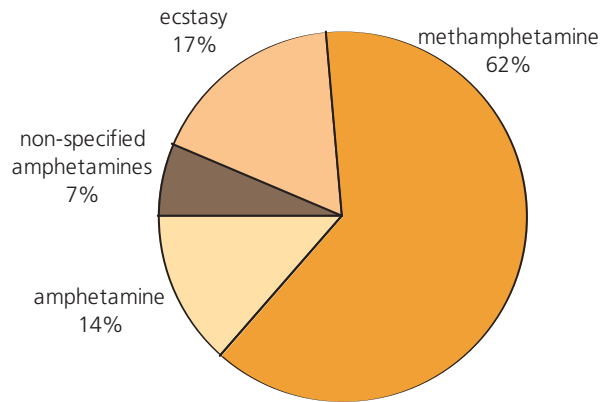
** up until 1999 'other hallucinogens' are also included; the proportion of ecstasy in the total seems to have exceeded 90 per cent in most years (data for 2001-2004: 91 per cent-96 per cent of such a total)

Source: UNODC, Annual Report Questionnaire Data / DELTA

appears to have been a reflection of an underlying decrease in trafficking following the crack-down of several ATS markets (notably Thailand in 2003), some improvements in international precursor control, and better cooperation among law enforcement agencies across the region. A number of regional initiatives may have also contributed to stem the upward tide experienced in East and South-East Asia in the 1990s. Though the proportion of methamphetamine seizures made in East and South-East Asia declined from 89 per cent in 2002 to 76 per cent in 2003 and 58 per cent in 2004, global trafficking in methamphetamine remains concentrated in this area.

Most methamphetamine in South-East Asia is trafficked within the region and some to Oceania and North America. Methamphetamine from outside the region is only rarely seized. Authorities in the Republic of Korea identified the United States as a source country, in 2003 and 2004. The important trafficking routes are:

Fig. 110: Breakdown of ATS seizures, by substance, 2000-2004 (N = 34 tons p.a.)



Source: UNODC, Annual Report Questionnaire Data / DELTA

- from Myanmar to Thailand and to China, or from Myanmar to Lao PDR, for transport to Thailand or Cambodia or Viet Nam; smaller amounts also appear to leave Myanmar for India for local use in the north-eastern provinces;
- from China to Hong Kong SAR of China, Philippines, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Japan;
- from Hong Kong SAR of China, to Japan, Australia and Guam (United States);
- from the Philippines to Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Taiwan Province of China, Japan, Australia, United States (including Guam) and Canada;
- from Thailand to Malaysia, to Taiwan Province of China, Republic of Korea, and to markets outside the region.

The most financially lucrative methamphetamine market in the region remains Japan. There are indications that methamphetamine continues being smuggled into Japan from China, Philippines, Taiwan Province of China as well as from Indonesia. US sources indicate that there have also been methamphetamine shipments from the United States as well as several shipments from Canada to Japan. While there are still suspicions that some of the methamphetamine found on the Japanese market emanated or was trafficked via the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (reported to UNODC in 2002/03), no new evidence emerged in 2004 or 2005.

Methamphetamine trafficking is rising in North America

The proportion of North America in global methamphetamine trafficking has been rising in recent years, from 10 per cent in 2002 and 21 per cent in 2003 to 38 per cent in 2004. Methamphetamine seizures increased

from 1.6 tons in 2002 to 4.6 tons in 2003 before falling slightly to 4.1 tons in 2004.

Trafficking in North America is mostly targeting the United States methamphetamine market. The bulk of the methamphetamine used in the United States is domestically produced and authorities in the United States sees a decline in the domestic supply. However, it appears that large laboratories have emerged in Mexico which are essentially supplying the United States market. The increase of methamphetamine seizures along the along the US Mexican border (1.1 tons in 2002, 1.7 tons in 2003 and 2 tons in 2004) would confirm this trend. Mexico reported to UNODC that 99 percent of local production in 2004 were destined for the US market. To a lesser extent, the United States market is also supplied from Canada.

Increasing seizures are reported – though from lower levels – in other regions

Methamphetamine seizures in Oceania, in Europe, in the Near and Middle East and in Africa have shown an upward trend over the last few years – albeit from low levels. In Oceania, on the other hand, methamphetamine seizures declined in 2004, which appears to be associated with some reductions of methamphetamine trafficking in Australia. Though methamphetamine seizures in Europe are still very small - Europe accounted for just 2 per cent of global methampheta-

mine seizures in 2004 - 20 European countries reported such seizures in 2004, up from 11 countries in 2000.

Trafficking in amphetamine

Most amphetamine continues to be seized in Europe

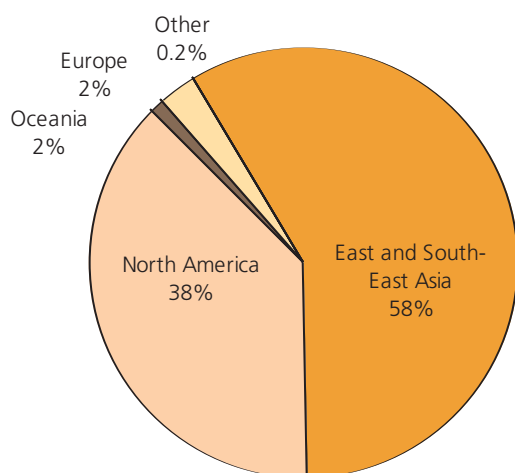
Amphetamine seizures increased to 6 tons in 2004, up from 5.7 tons a year earlier and 3.1 tons in 2000. Throughout the 2000-2004 period amphetamine seizures made in Europe accounted for more than 90 per cent of the world's total (96 per cent in 2004). However, this proportion for Europe may not be realistic as a number of countries outside Europe classified their amphetamine seizures under the broader category of 'amphetamine-type stimulants'.

Europe's amphetamine seizures increased between 1980 and 1997, then declined until 2000 before rising again and exceeding by 2004 the previous record high of 1997. This pattern seems to reflect underlying trafficking activities as seen in a number of additional indicators, suggesting that amphetamine trafficking is, once again, increasing in Europe.

Though amphetamine seizures increased in West and Central Europe in recent years, the proportion of these seizures as part of global reported amphetamine seizures declined, from 86 per cent in 2000 to 67 per cent in 2004. Most of the increase took place in South-East Europe, with seizures rising from 7 per cent of the world's total to 26 per cent in 2004. This increase was mainly due to rising seizures reported by Bulgaria. There have also been increases in seizures reported by Poland while seizures in the Netherlands declined from their peak levels in 1998 and have been fluctuating at lower levels over the 2001-2004 period.

The Netherlands and Poland remained the most frequently mentioned source countries for seized amphetamine in 2004. This was, in particular, the case in West and Central Europe. In South-East Europe, in contrast, this position is held by Bulgaria although Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Serbia and Montenegro appear to have emerged as source countries in this subregion as well. Most neighbouring countries of the Netherlands and Belgium identified the two as the main source countries. The same is true for Poland which is named as a primary source by most of its neighbours. All of this indicates that there are currently several production centres in Europe - producing for the local market and supplying amphetamine, primarily, to neighbouring countries.

Fig. 111: Breakdown of methamphetamine seizures in 2004 (N = 10.9 tons)

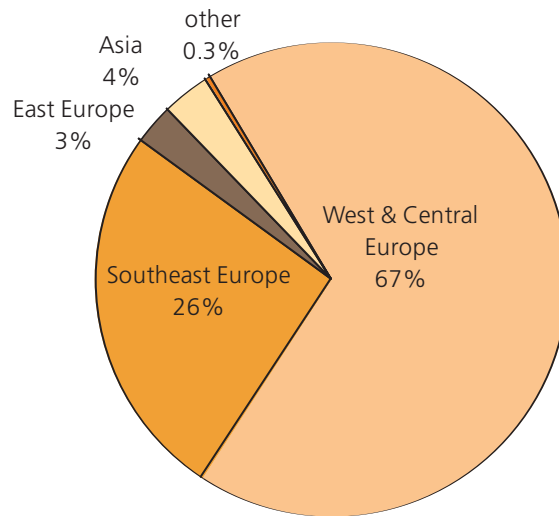


Source: UNODC, Annual Report Questionnaire Data / DELTA

The United Kingdom continues to be Europe's largest amphetamine market. It has the largest number of amphetamine users in Europe (as a rate and in absolute terms) and for the past twenty years, most amphetamine seizures have been reported from the United Kingdom. Over the 2000-2004 period, important quantities were also seized by the Netherlands and Bulgaria (11 per cent each of the world total), Germany (8 per cent), Sweden (6 per cent), Poland (4 per cent) and Belgium (4 per cent). Seizures for 2004 have not yet been reported by the United Kingdom. Assuming similar levels as a year earlier, the United Kingdom is likely to have topped the list again (some 26 per cent of the total) followed by

Bulgaria (24 per cent), the Netherlands (10 per cent), Germany (9 per cent), Sweden (7 per cent), Poland (4 per cent), Norway (4 per cent) and the Russian Federation (3 per cent).

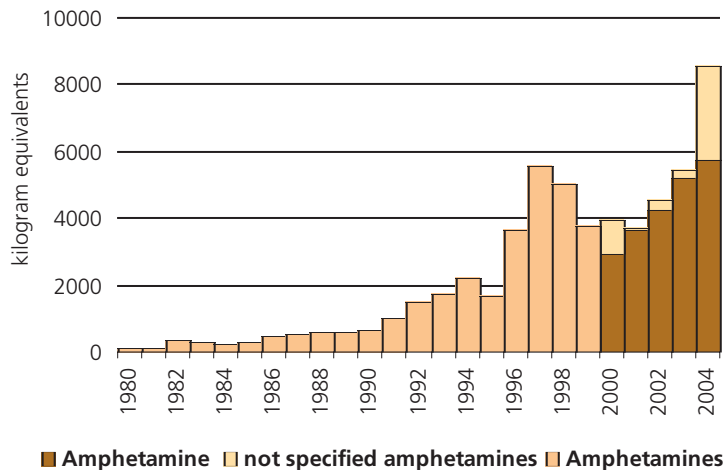
Fig. 112: Breakdown of amphetamine seizures* by sub-region in 2004 (N = 6 tons)



* in kilogram equivalents, assuming a dose/unit to be equivalent to 30 milligrams

Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data.

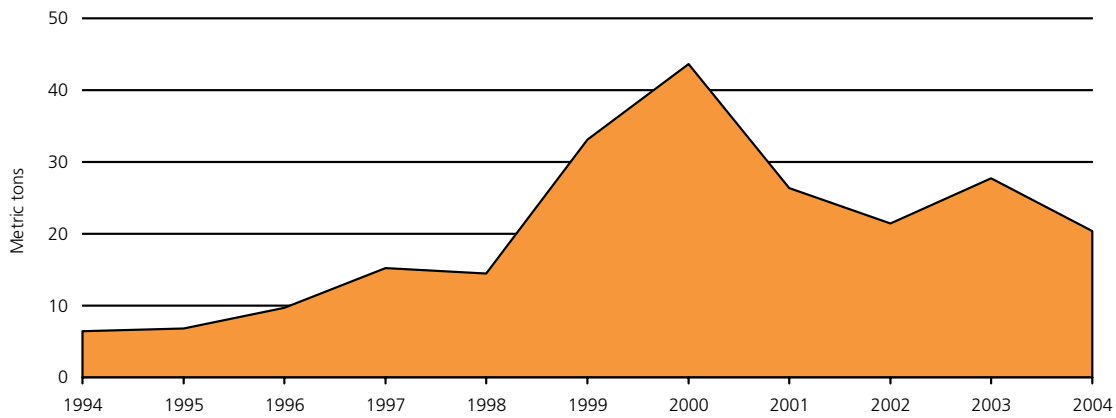
Fig. 113: Amphetamine seizures in Europe, 1980-2004



* in kilogram equivalents, assuming a dose/unit to be equivalent to 30 milligrams

Source: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data.

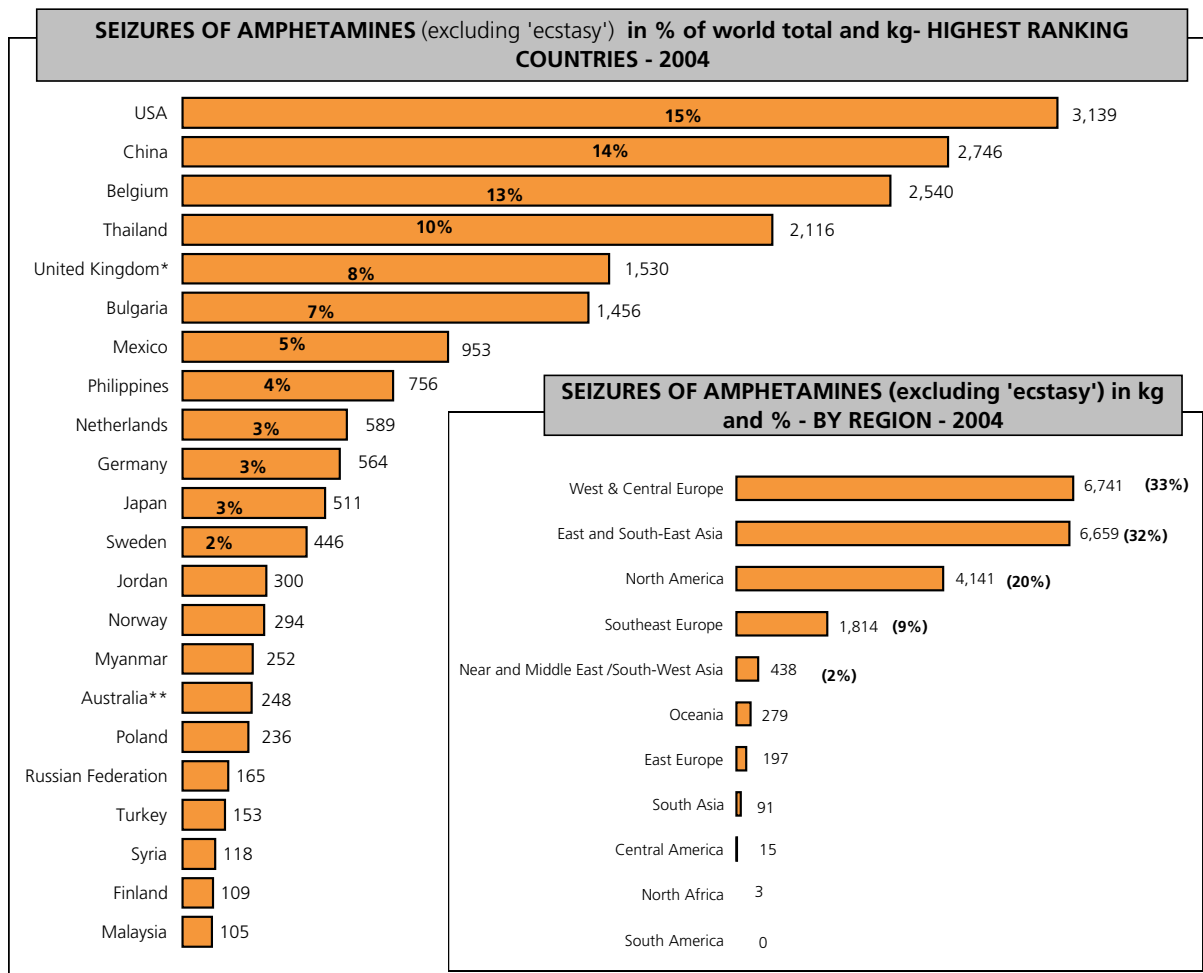
Fig. 114: Global seizures of amphetamines*, 1994 - 2004



* Excluding 'Ecstasy'

| Year | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Metric tons | 6 | 7 | 10 | 15 | 14 | 33 | 44 | 26 | 21 | 28 | 20 |

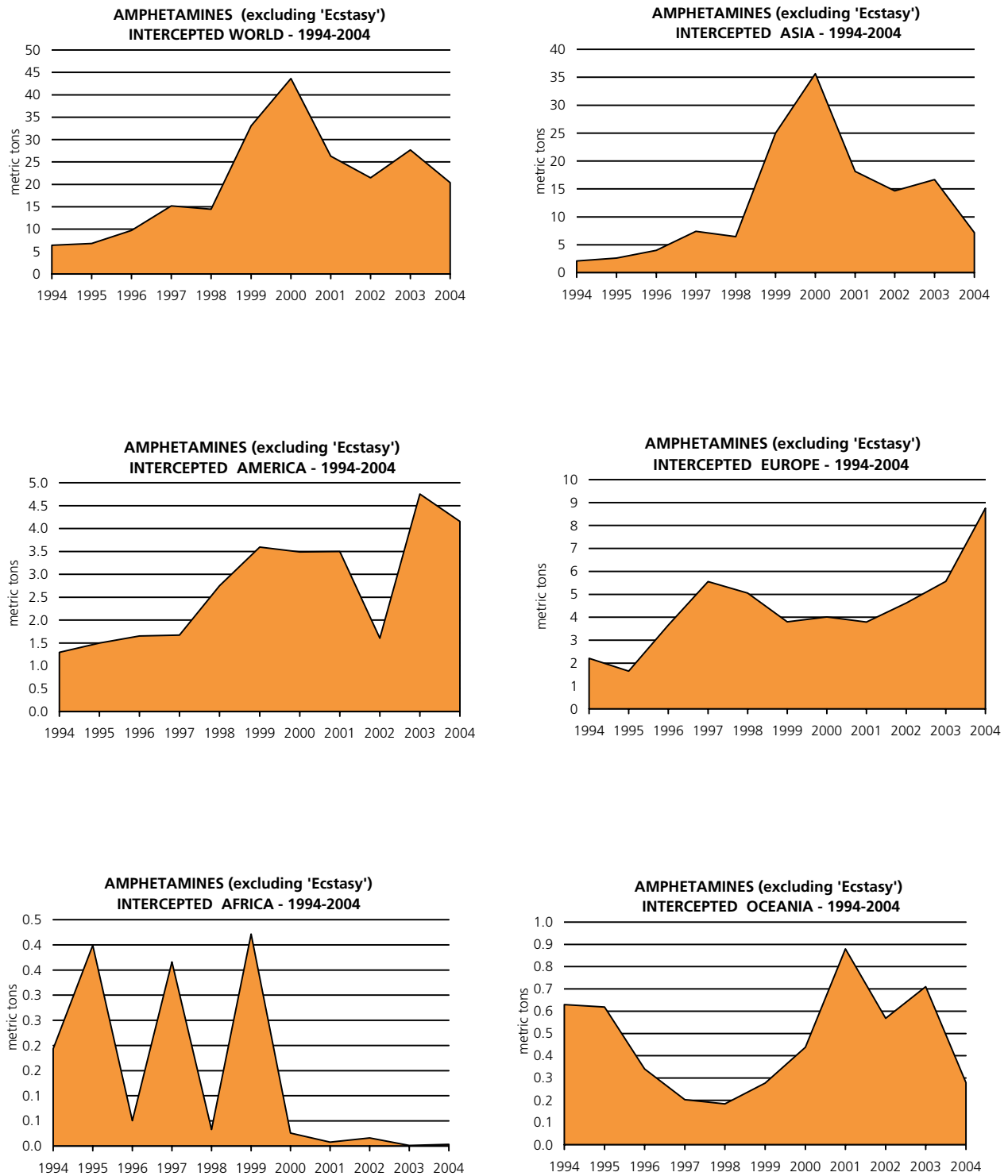
* metric ton equivalents. 1 unit assumed to be equivalent to 30mg.



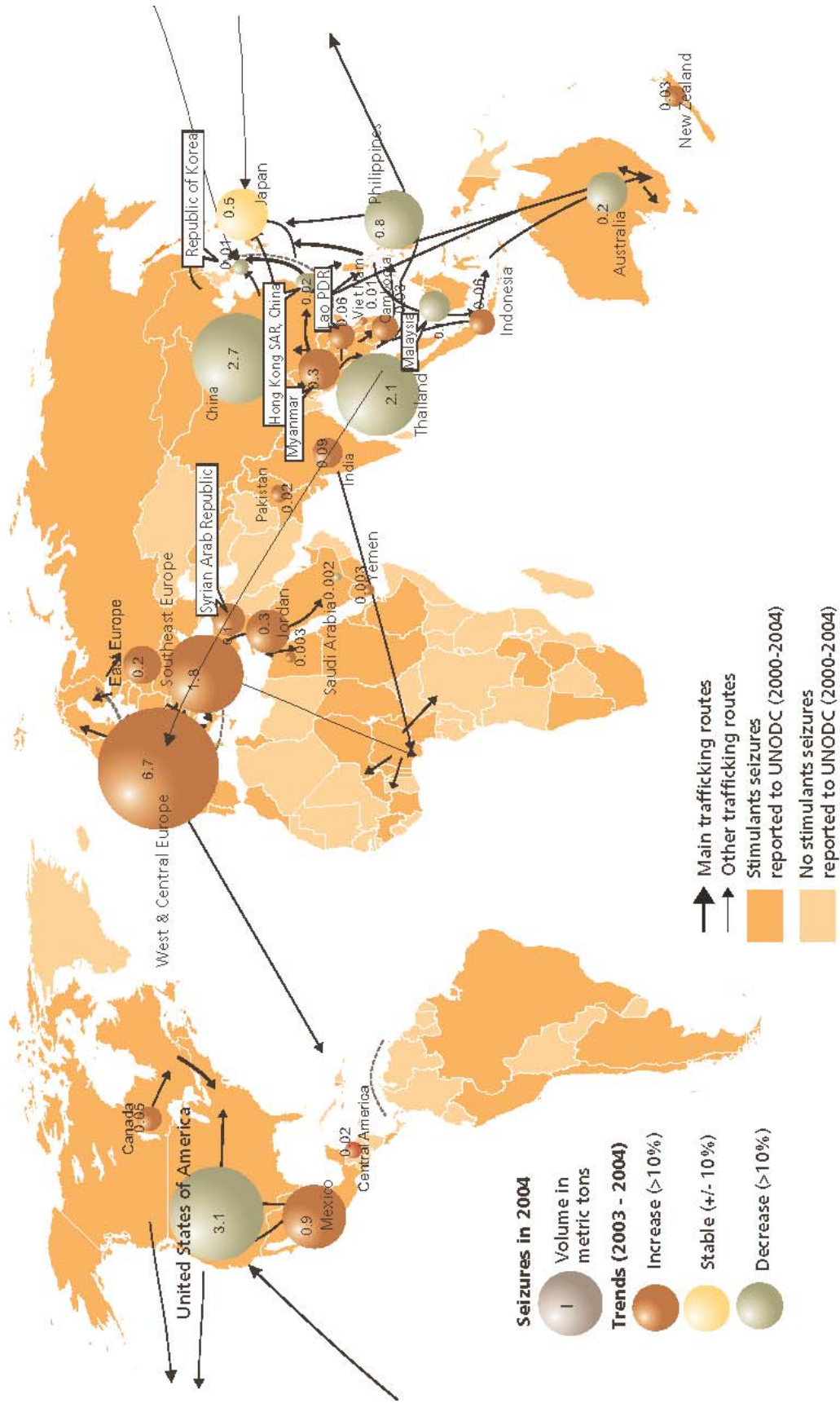
* data refer to 2003

** total seizures reported by national as well as State & Territory law enforcement agencies which may result in double counting.

Fig. 115: Interception of Amphetamines, 1994-2004



Map 20: Seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding ecstasy) 2003 - 2004: extent and trends (countries reporting seizures of more than 10 kg.)



Trafficking in Ecstasy

Ecstasy seizures rise to record high in 2004

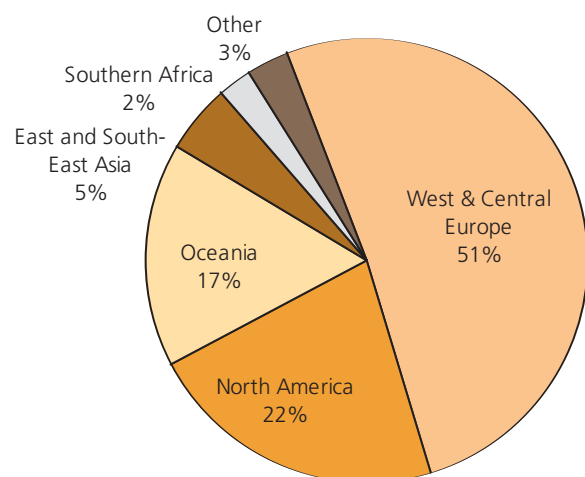
Reported seizures of ecstasy increased by 87 per cent in 2004 and reached a new record of 8 tons (expressed in kilogram equivalents), topping even peak levels recorded in 2002 by 20 per cent.

Seizures of ecstasy rose across all sub-regions, with the strongest increases reported from Southern Africa (+385 per cent) and the lowest in South America (+12 per cent). Over the last decade, ecstasy seizures rose almost 7-fold or 21 per cent per year, a far higher growth rate than for most other drugs.

Most ecstasy continues to be trafficked in Europe, followed by North America

Out of total seizures of 8 tons, 51 per cent were made place in Europe (mostly West and Central Europe), 22 per cent in North America, 17 per cent in Oceania and 5 per cent in East and South-East Asia. In addition, ecstasy seizures were reported – in order of importance - from Southern Africa, South-East Europe, the Near and Middle East, South America, the Caribbean, East Europe, North Africa, Central America, and South Asia.

Fig. 116: Breakdown of ecstasy seizures* by sub-region in 2004 (N = 8.1 tons)



* in kilogram equivalents, using a conversion ratio of 100 mg for an ecstasy pill

Source: UNODC, Annual Report Questionnaire Data / DELTA

Only three regions have not yet filed reports of ecstasy seizures with UNODC: Central Asia, West & Central Africa and East Africa.

European share in global ecstasy seizures continues to fall as production starts in other regions

The proportion of Europe in global ecstasy seizures declined over the last decade, from 81 per cent in 1994 to 51 per cent in 2004; in 2003, Europe still accounted for 58 per cent of global seizures. Together with other information, this suggests that, over the last decade, the expansion of ecstasy has been stronger in markets outside Europe. The proportion of ecstasy seizures rose between 1994 and 2004:

- From 17 per cent to 22 per cent in North America;
- From 0.3 per cent to 17 per cent in Oceania;
- From 0.2 per cent to 5 per cent in East and South-East Asia; and
- From 0.01 per cent to 2 per cent in southern Africa.

However, there was no linear upward trend in these regions. Notably in North America, the proportion of ecstasy seizures, after having increased from 17 per cent of global ecstasy seizures in 1994 to 33 per cent in 2000, fell to 22 per cent by 2004 reflecting an overall declining ecstasy market in North America in recent years.

The importance of the Netherlands and Belgium, traditional source countries for ecstasy appears to be declining, as production in other European countries grows. Outside Europe, ecstasy production has been reported from, inter alia, the United States, Canada, Australia, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong SAR of China, and South Africa.

The intra-regional distribution of ecstasy within Europe - like trafficking in amphetamine - seems to be carried out by a large number of relatively small drug trafficking groups that purchase the substance in the Netherlands and Belgium and traffic the drugs to local re-distribution centres across Europe.

Trafficking of ecstasy from Europe to North America and some other regions has been – for years - controlled by criminal groups of Israeli origin, sometimes with links to Russia, other European countries and the USA. Israeli citizens have been part of international ecstasy trafficking networks in source, transit, and distribution countries and were found in several European countries to serve as brokers and transporters of ecstasy to the United States. These trafficking groups operate mainly outside Israel, though in some instances, they have been also involved in trafficking ecstasy from the Netherlands

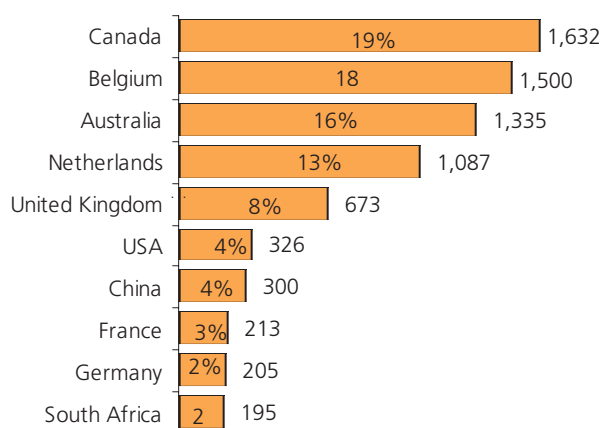
and Belgium to Israel.

Criminal groups from the Dominican Republic continue to be involved in shipping ecstasy in significant quantities from Europe, often via the Caribbean to the United States as indicated by recent reports from Europol.

The strongest expansion in recent years, however, has been among Asian criminal groups, shipping precursors from China to Belgium and the Netherlands for manufacture into ecstasy, and then trafficking the end-product to Canada for further shipment to the United States; more recently such Asian groups, have started trafficking precursor chemicals from China and produce the ecstasy in Canada, to supply major markets in the United States. These groups are now also in the process of building nation-wide distribution channels in the United States, and are attempting to crowd out the Israeli/Russian groups who controlled much of the ecstasy business so far. The emergence of these trafficking networks may also explain why Canada, for the first time ever, reported most ecstasy seizures worldwide in 2004, accounting for 19 per cent of global ecstasy seizures, marginally ahead of Belgium. Most of these seizures were made in the process of detecting such clandestine laboratories.

scale laboratories, with precursors imported from Asia, mostly China. In addition, some ecstasy seized in Australia also appears to originate from Asia. In 2004, Australian seizures of ecstasy exceeded those of the Netherlands (13 per cent of global seizures in 2004).

Fig. 117: Seizures of ecstasy in % of world total and kg - highest ranking countries – 2004

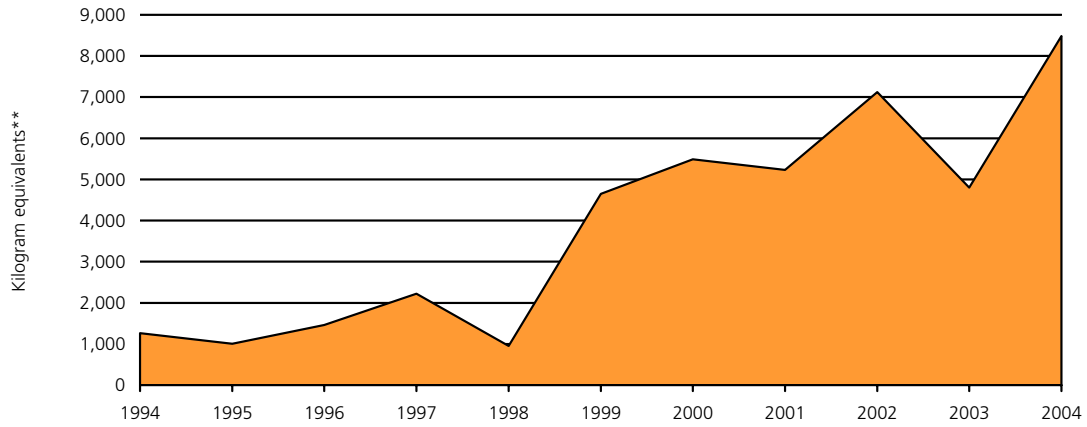


* total seizures reported by national as well as state & Territory law enforcement agencies which may result in double counting.

** data refer to 2003

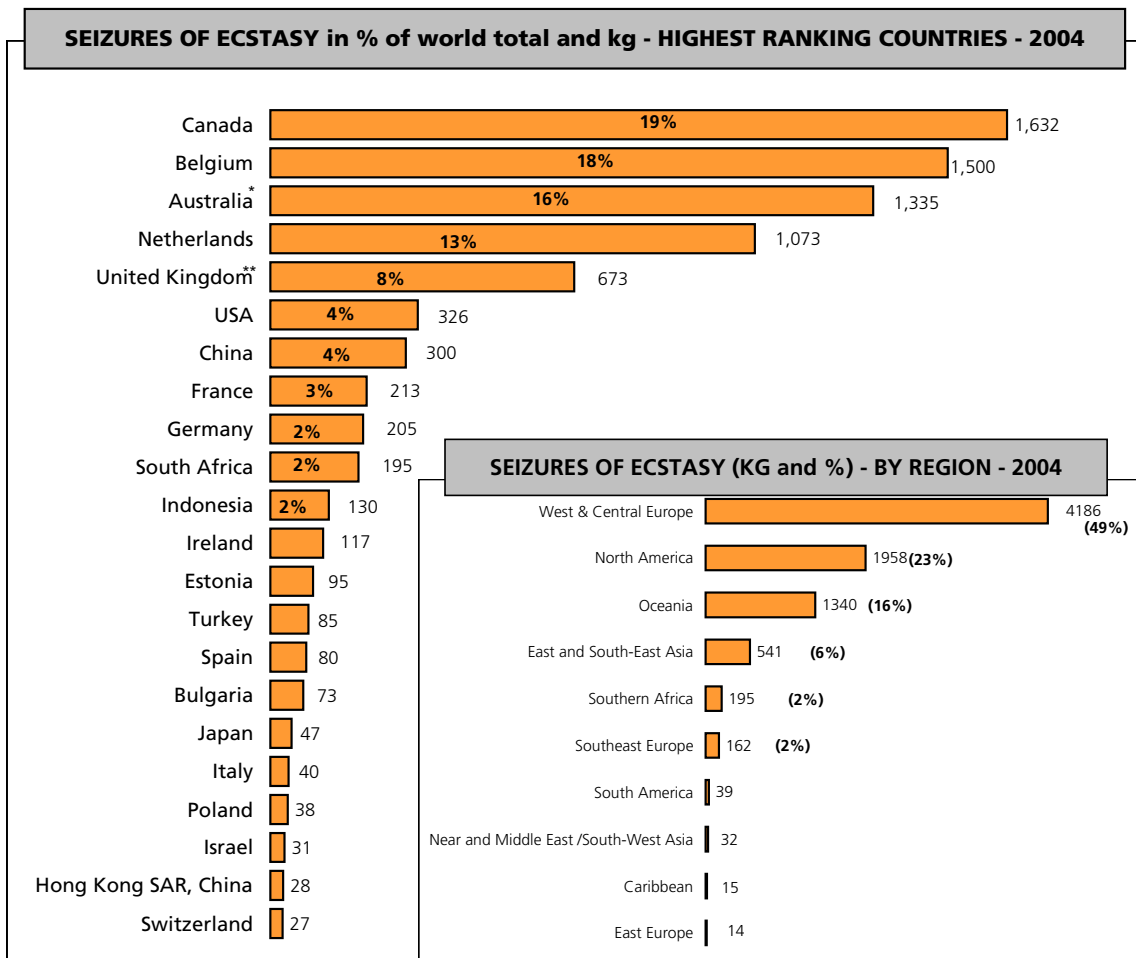
The third largest ecstasy seizures worldwide were reported from Australia in 2004, accounting for 17 per cent of the total. Most of the ecstasy found on the Australian market used to come from Europe. However, of late, production of ecstasy in Australia appears to have increased, as reflected in the dismantling of several large-

Fig. 118: Global seizures of ecstasy*, 1994 - 2004



* Reporting on 'Ecstasy' seizures only started with the new ARQ in 2001; before, Ecstasy seizures were included under the category of 'hallucinogens other than LSD'. Trend data shown above refer to this broader category. In 2004, Ecstasy accounted for 95% of the seizures in this group.

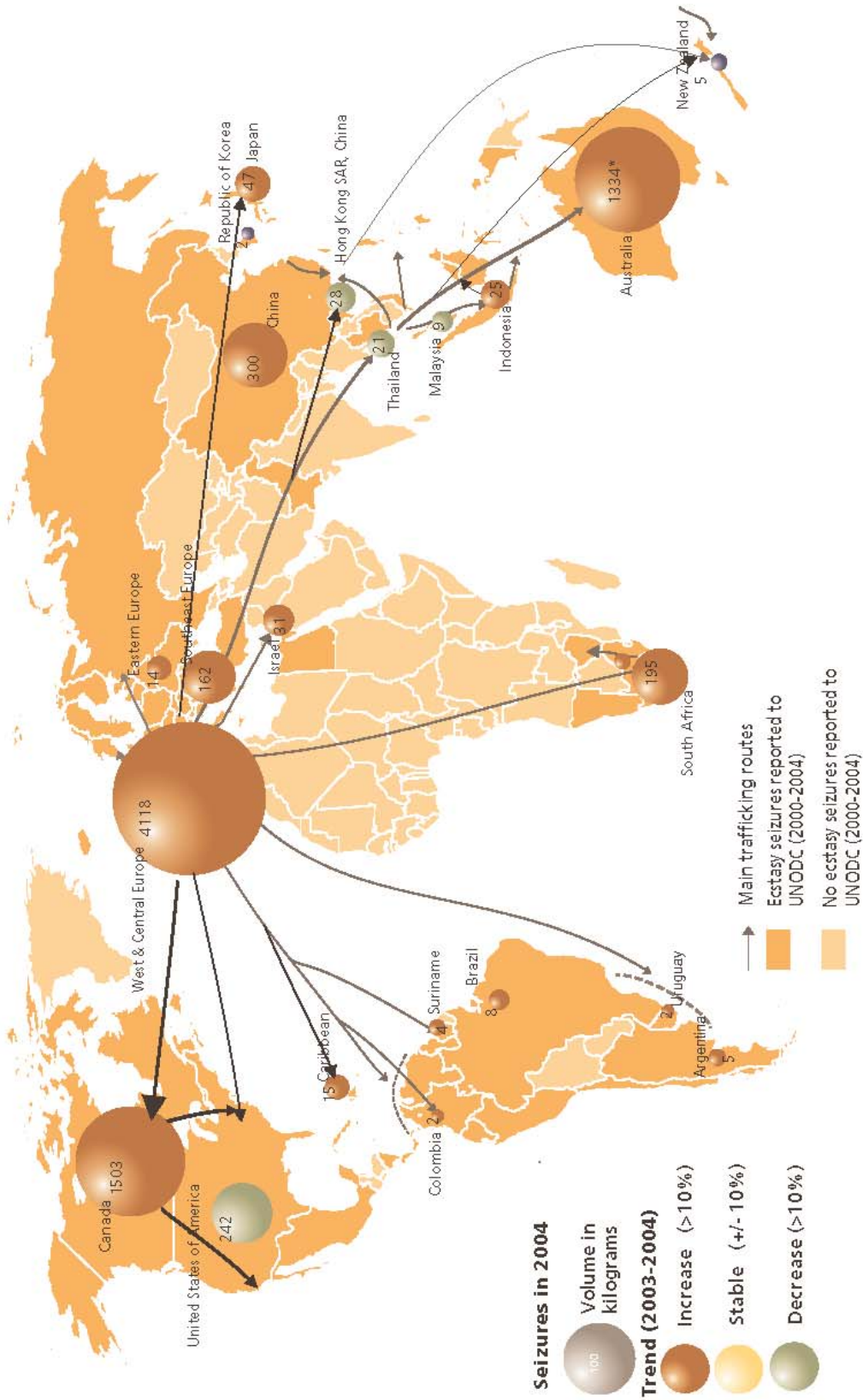
** 1 unit is assumed to be equivalent to 100mg of MDMA.



* total seizures reported by national as well as State & Territory law enforcement agencies which may result in double counting.

** data refer to 2003.

Map 21: Seizures of Ecstasy (MDA, MDEA, MDMA) 2003 - 2004: extent and trends (countries reporting seizures of more than 10 kg.)



Note: Routes shown are not necessarily documented actual routes, but are rather general indications of the directions of illicit drug flows.

Highest annual prevalence rates of amphetamines use at the subregional level are reported from Oceania, followed by East and South-East Asia and North America. The Americas, notably North America, are the second largest market for amphetamines, with more than 4 million users.

1.6.3. Abuse

The group of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) encompasses amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine), other synthetic stimulants (methcathinone, phentermine, fenetylline etc.) and substances of the ecstasy group (MDMA and related substances such as MDA).

Amphetamines and other synthetic stimulants

Most methamphetamine is used in South-East Asia and North America

Some 15 million people or more than 60 per cent of the world's amphetamines users live in Asia, most of whom are methamphetamine users in East and South-East Asia. The highest methamphetamine prevalence rates worldwide have been reported from the Philippines. For many years, Thailand reported the highest prevalence figures for methamphetamine use, but this has changed following the market crack-down in 2003.

Amphetamine use widespread in Europe; methamphetamine use limited

Europe is home to an estimated 2.7 million of amphetamine users. Although declines have been reported, the United Kingdom continues to be the largest amphetamine market in Europe. Methamphetamine use continues to be largely limited to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia and Latvia. Some reports suggest the emergence of methamphetamine use in the United Kingdom, albeit at very low levels.

South Africa emerging as ATS market

The main emergent ATS market in recent years, has been South Africa, where both methamphetamine and methcathinone are produced and used. Otherwise, amphetamines in Africa, like in South America, originate mainly from the diversion of various central nervous stimulants from licit sources.

Fenetylline, locally known as 'Captagon', smuggled into the region from South-East Europe, continues to play an important role in several countries of the Middle East.

Table 13: Annual prevalence of amphetamines use, 2003-2005

| | No. of users | in % of population 15-64 years |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| EUROPE | 2,700,000 | 0.5 |
| West & Central Europe | 2,185,000 | 0.7 |
| South-East Europe | 180,000 | 0.2 |
| Eastern Europe | 335,000 | 0.2 |
| AMERICAS | 4,320,000 | 0.8 |
| North America | 3,190,000 | 1.1 |
| South America | 1,130,000 | 0.4 |
| ASIA | 15,250,000 | 0.6 |
| OCEANIA | 610,000 | 3.0 |
| AFRICA | 2,000,000 | 0.4 |
| GLOBAL | 24,880,000 | 0.6 |

Above global average
 Below global average
 Around global average

Sources: Annual Reports Questionnaire data, various Government reports, reports of regional Bodies, UNODC estimates

Fig. 119 : Breakdown of amphetamines users by region

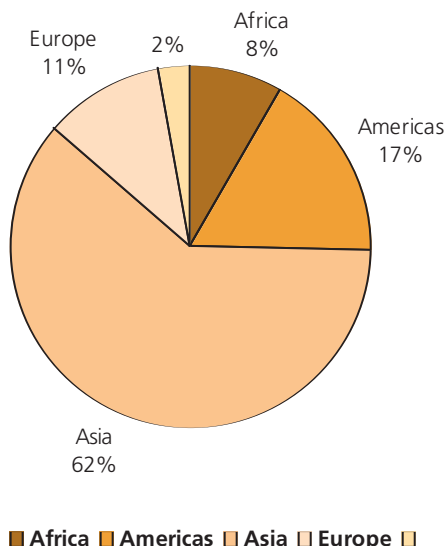
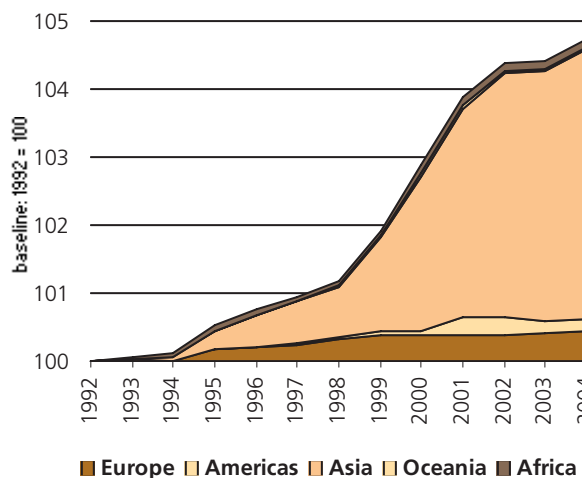


Fig. 121: Twelve-year drug use trends, as perceived by expert: ATS



Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data, Government reports, UNODC Field Offices, UNODC's Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP), EMCDDA, CICAD, HONLEA reports and local studies.

Global ATS market driven by Asia

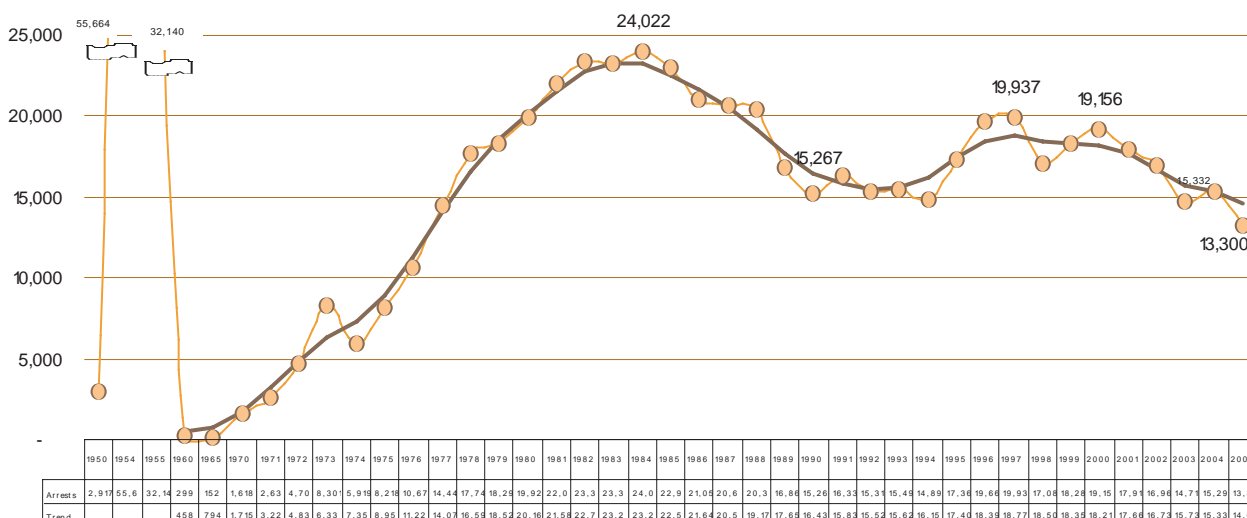
Expert perceptions of drug use trends, suggest that most of the increase of ATS use - at the global level - was linked to higher use in Asia. The increase was particularly pronounced over the 1992-2002 period, but has since lost momentum. Nonetheless, the perceived drug use trend suggests that ATS use in Asia is still rising at higher rates than in any other region.

However, Japan appears to be an exception, as declines

in methamphetamine use have been reported. The ongoing fall in reported violations against the Japanese Stimulants Law seem to confirm this view.

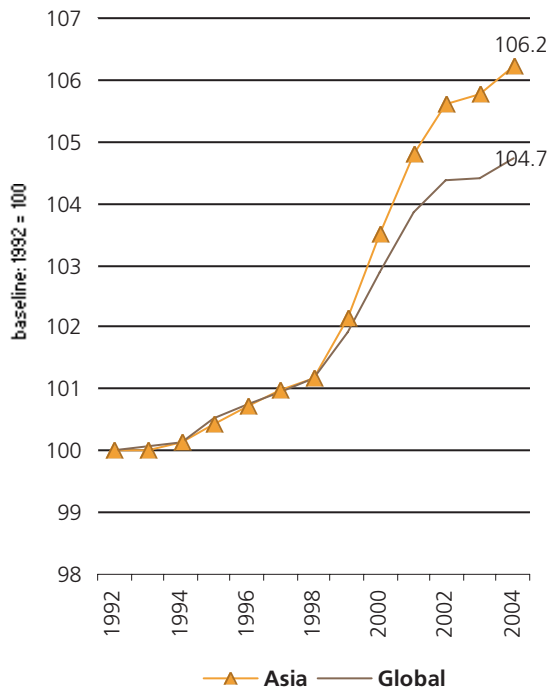
Further declines were also reported by the Government of Thailand. After a concerted effort against drug trafficking in 2003, significantly lower rates of methamphetamine use were reported. Even if official household survey data of 2005 reflect some under-reporting as a result of the severity of crack-down on methampheta-

Fig. 120: Reported violations against the Stimulants Law in Japan, 1950-2005



Sources: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, National Police Agency of Japan, UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data and Statement of the National Police Agency of Japan to the Commission on Narcotics Drugs, March 2006.

Fig. 122: Twelve-year ATS use trends as perceived by experts: Asia



Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data, Government reports, UNODC Field Offices, UNODC's Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP), EMCDDA, CICAD, HONLEA reports and local studies.

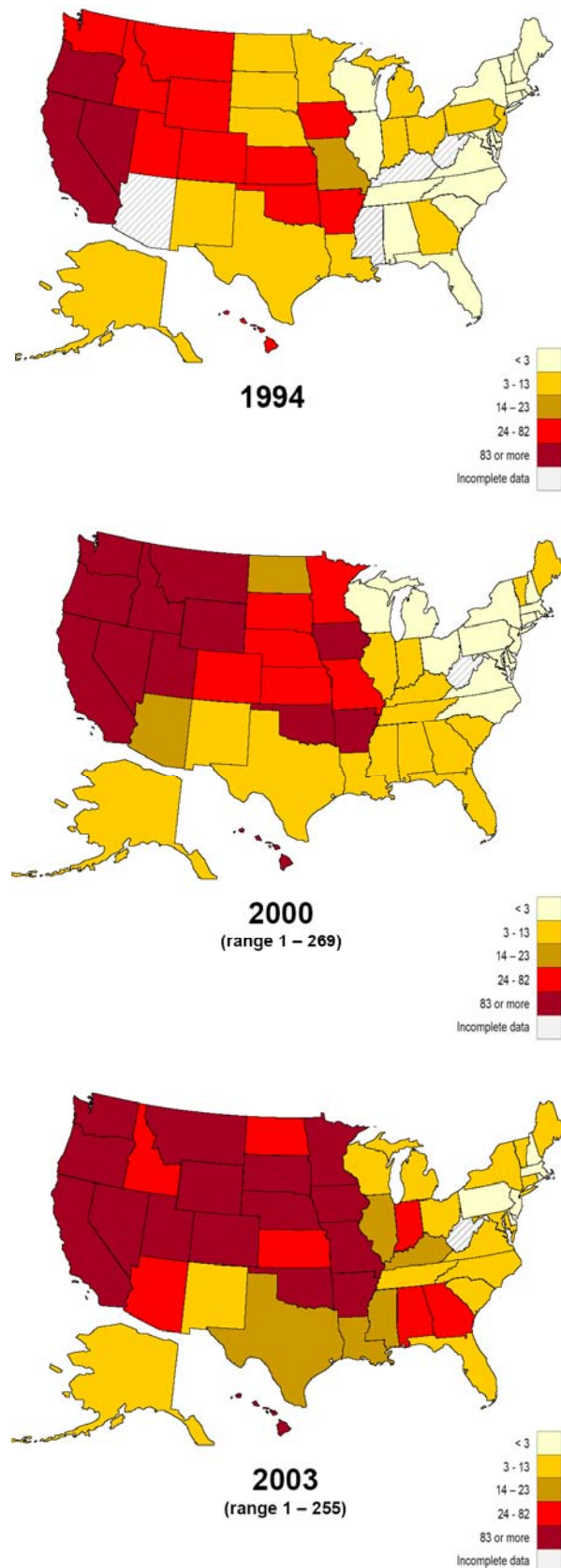
mine, all other available indicators (including treatment data and arrest data) point to sizeable drop in the number of ATS users in the country.

Use of ATS in the Americas reported stable but treatment demand has grown

In 2004, expert perceptions of ATS use indicated a fairly stable trend for the Americas. In the United States, school surveys, an important indicator of emerging drug use problems, have shown declines and general population survey indicate a stable market. However, treatment demand for methamphetamine abuse has increased dramatically.

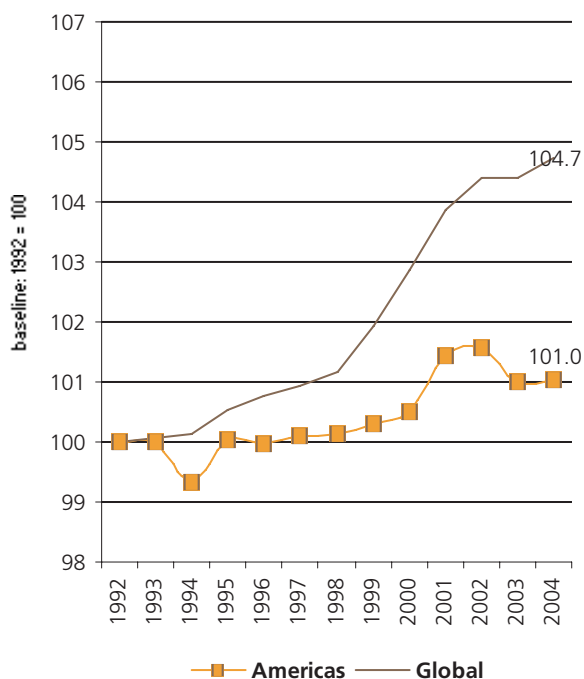
Against the background of such diverging indicators, it is difficult to gauge the direction in which the methamphetamine market in the United States is actually moving. What is, however, evident is that there is an ongoing geographical spread of methamphetamine across the country. While this used to be a localized problem in the West of the United States (California, Nevada and Oregon), abuse has gradually spread eastwards over the last decade.

Map 22: Primary methamphetamine/amphetamine admission rates by State: 1994-2003 (per 100,000 population aged 12 and over)



Source: Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 1993-2003.

Fig. 123: Twelve-year ATS use trends as perceived by experts: Americas



Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data, Government reports, UNODC Field Offices, UNODC's Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP), EMCDDA, CICAD, HONLEA reports and local studies.

ATS drug use in Europe perceived to be growing

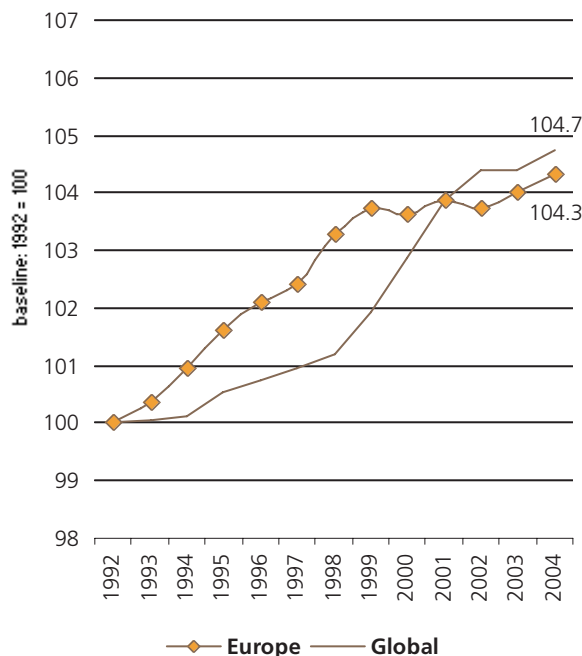
ATS use in Europe is mostly amphetamine use. After strong increases in the 1990s, the overall use level has been relatively stable and below the global average. This may, however, change soon, as increases in amphetamine use have been reported since 2002. This reflects ATS use in Germany, Italy and a large number of Central and East European countries, while a number of other West European countries, including the United Kingdom, France, the Nordic Countries as well as Spain and Portugal reported stable or declining levels.

ATS use in Africa remains constant – except for South Africa

ATS use does not seem to be a growing problem in Africa. It grew in the 1990s, up until 1996, but seems to have been rather stable in subsequent years, possibly a reflection of some improvements in the control regimes of a number of countries to prevent diversion of licit ATS on to the market. The main exception here is South Africa which reported growing levels of both

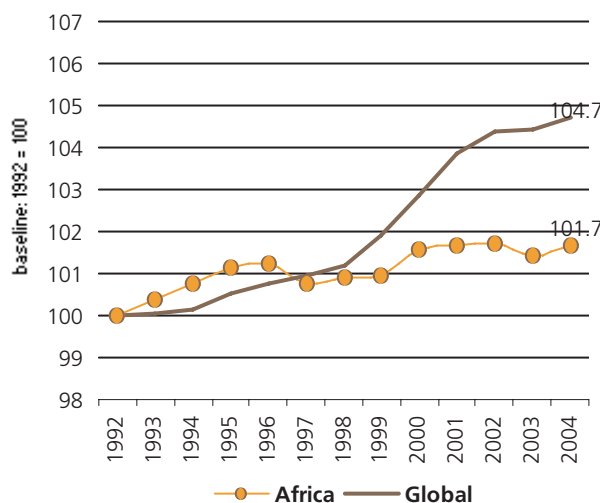
methamphetamine and methcathinone abuse in recent years, coming mainly from local clandestine manufacture.

Fig. 124: Twelve-year drug use trends as perceived by experts: Europe



Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data, Government reports, UNODC Field Offices, UNODC's Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP), EMCDDA, CICAD, HONLEA reports and local studies.

Fig. 125: ATS use trends as perceived by experts: Africa

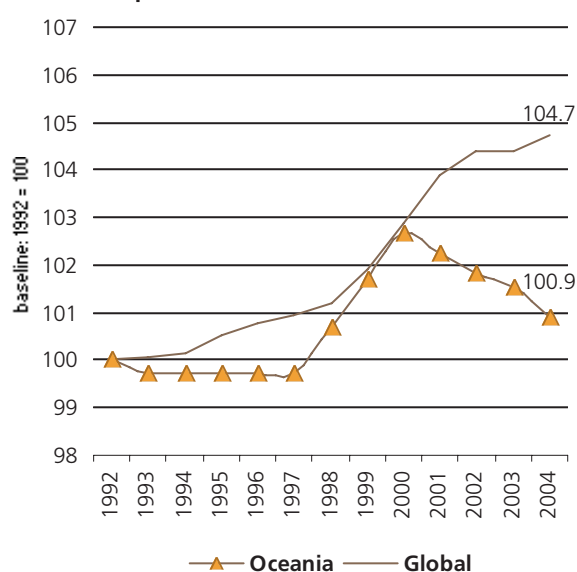


Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data, Government reports, UNODC Field Offices, UNODC's Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP), EMCDDA, CICAD, HONLEA reports and local studies.

In Oceania, ATS use is perceived to be declining significantly

Although Oceania continues to have the highest ATS prevalence rate of any region, use of amphetamines have shown significant declines over the past four years. Data based on the testing of arrested persons across Australia

Fig. 126: Twelve-year ATS use trends as perceived by experts: Oceania



Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data, Government reports, UNODC Field Offices, UNODC's Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP), EMCDDA, CICAD, HONLEA reports and local studies.

(Drug Use Monitoring in Australia) show a fairly stable trend for 2005.

Ecstasy use is still concentrated in Europe, though gaining in importance in other regions

There are more than 3 million ecstasy users in Europe, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all ecstasy users worldwide. The annual prevalence rate of ecstasy use is highest in West & Central Europe (0.9 per cent of the population age 15-64), exceeding that of North America (0.8 per cent), reflecting the decline of ecstasy use in North America over the last few years. While drug use trends in most of Western Europe are largely stable, ecstasy use continues to rise in several East and South-East European countries as well as Italy.

Prevalence rates for ecstasy are still highest in Oceania (3 per cent) and increases have been reported from that region. While prevalence of ecstasy continues to be low in the whole of Asia (0.1%), East and South-East Asia has been the main emerging ecstasy market over the last few years. In addition, some countries in South America have reported rising levels of ecstasy use.

Ecstasy use declines strongly in North America

The most impressive decline in ecstasy use has been reported from countries in North America. Following strong increases in the late 1990s, school surveys in both

Table 14: Annual prevalence of ecstasy use, 2003-2005

| | No. of users | in % of population 15-64 years |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| EUROPE | 3,177,000 | 0.6 |
| West & Central Europe | 2,815,000 | 0.9 |
| South-East Europe | 196,000 | 0.2 |
| Eastern Europe | 167,000 | 0.1 |
| AMERICAS | 2,686,000 | 0.5 |
| North America | 2,165,000 | 0.8 |
| South America | 522,000 | 0.2 |
| ASIA | 2,990,000 | 0.1 |
| OCEANIA | 616,000 | 3.0 |
| AFRICA | 191,000 | 0.04 |
| GLOBAL | 9,660,000 | 0.2 |

Above global average

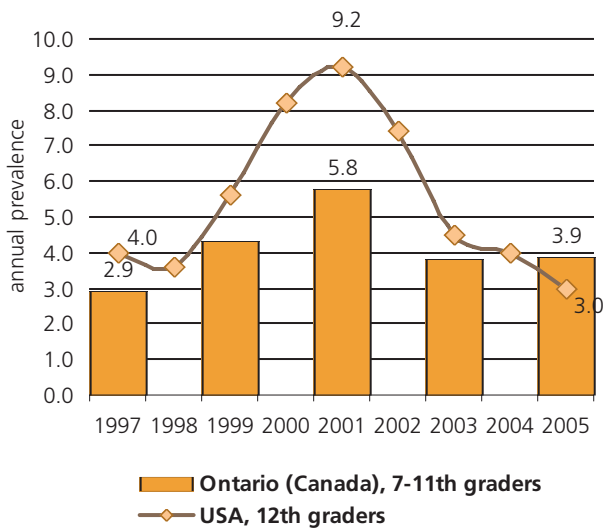
Below global average

Around global average

Sources: Annual Reports Questionnaire data, various Government reports, reports of regional Bodies, UNODC estimates

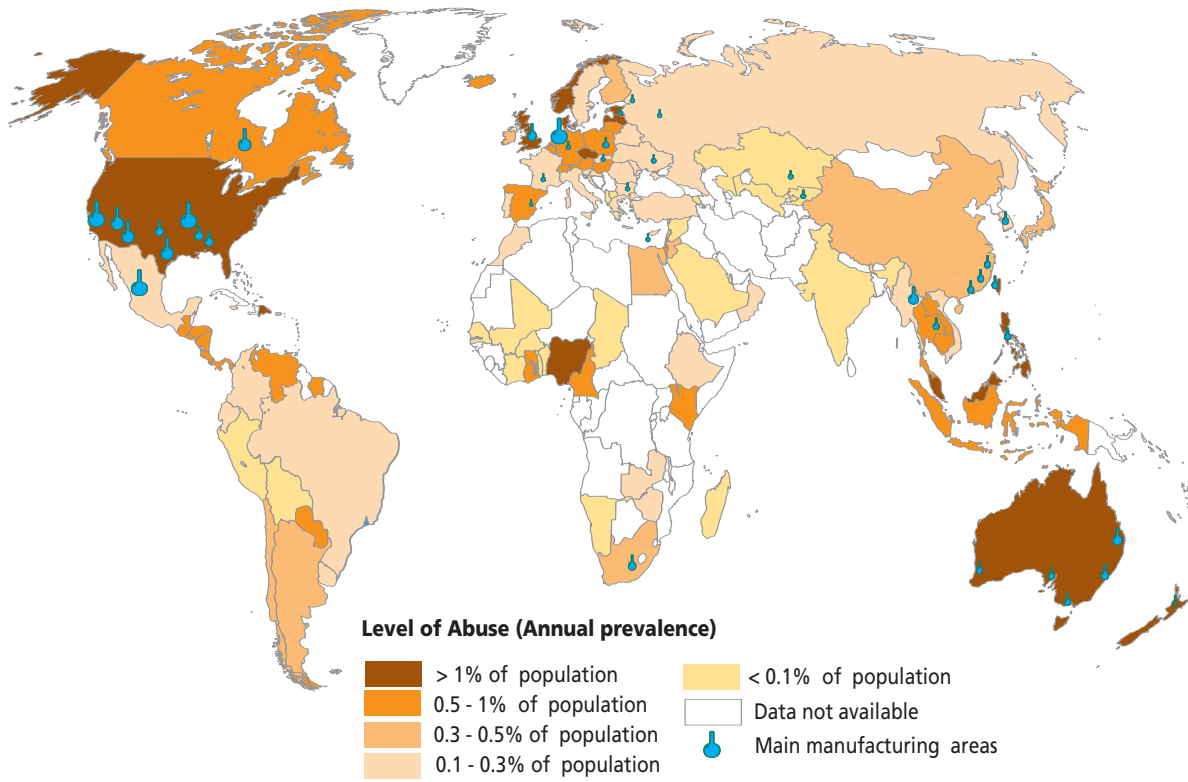
Ontario, Canada, and in the United States showed significant declines in the levels of ecstasy use since 2000. The decline seems to have been associated with a lower availability of the drug, due to lower levels of ecstasy trafficking from Europe, as well as with the perception of an increased risk of potential users of the health hazards related to ecstasy use.

Fig. 127: Ecstasy use among high-school students in the USA and in Canada (Ontario)

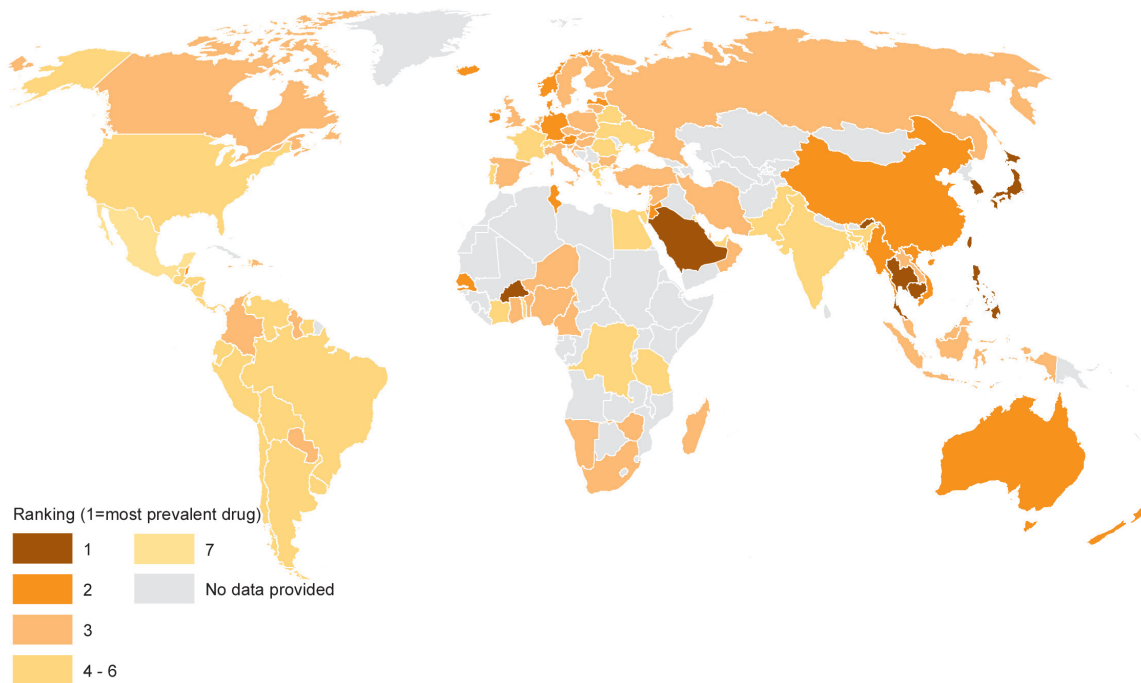


Sources: NIDA, Monitoring the Future – Overview of Key Findings 2005 and CAMH, Drug Use among Ontario Students, Toronto 2005

Map 22: Use of amphetamines in 2004 (or latest year available)

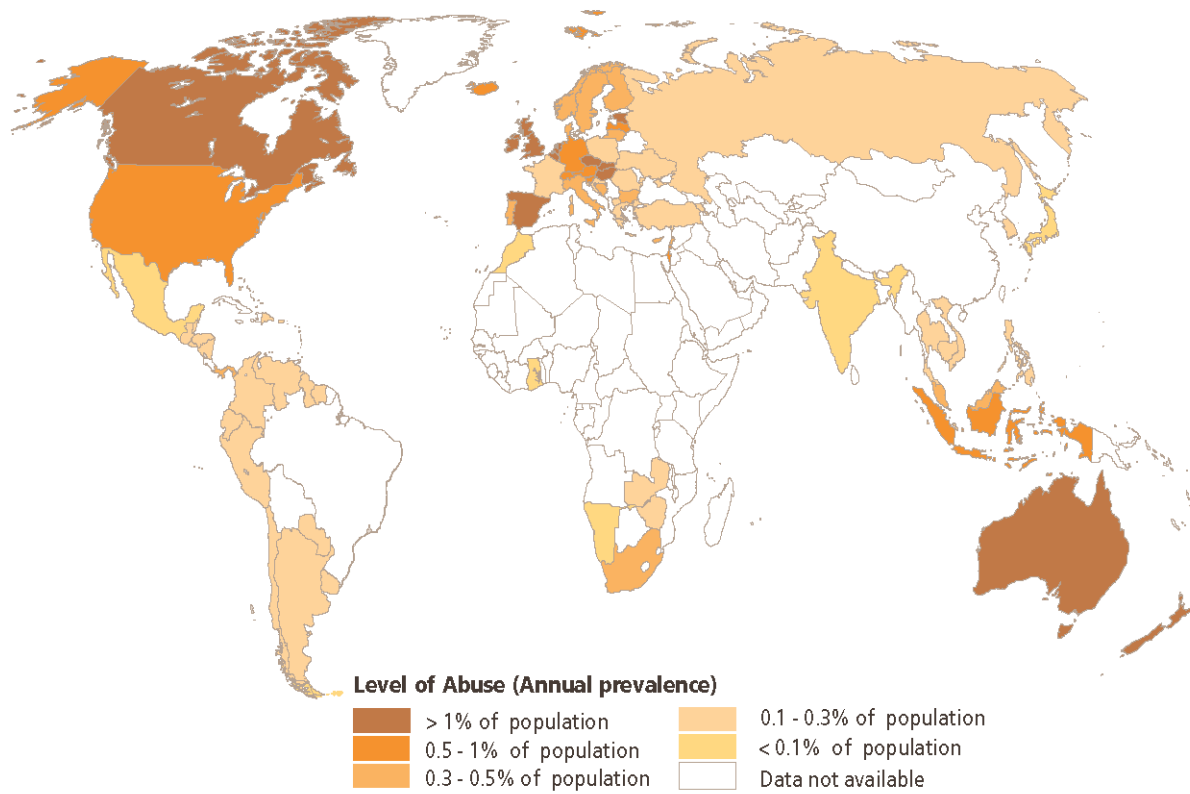


Map 23: Ranking of amphetamine-type stimulants in order of prevalence in 2004 (or latest year available)

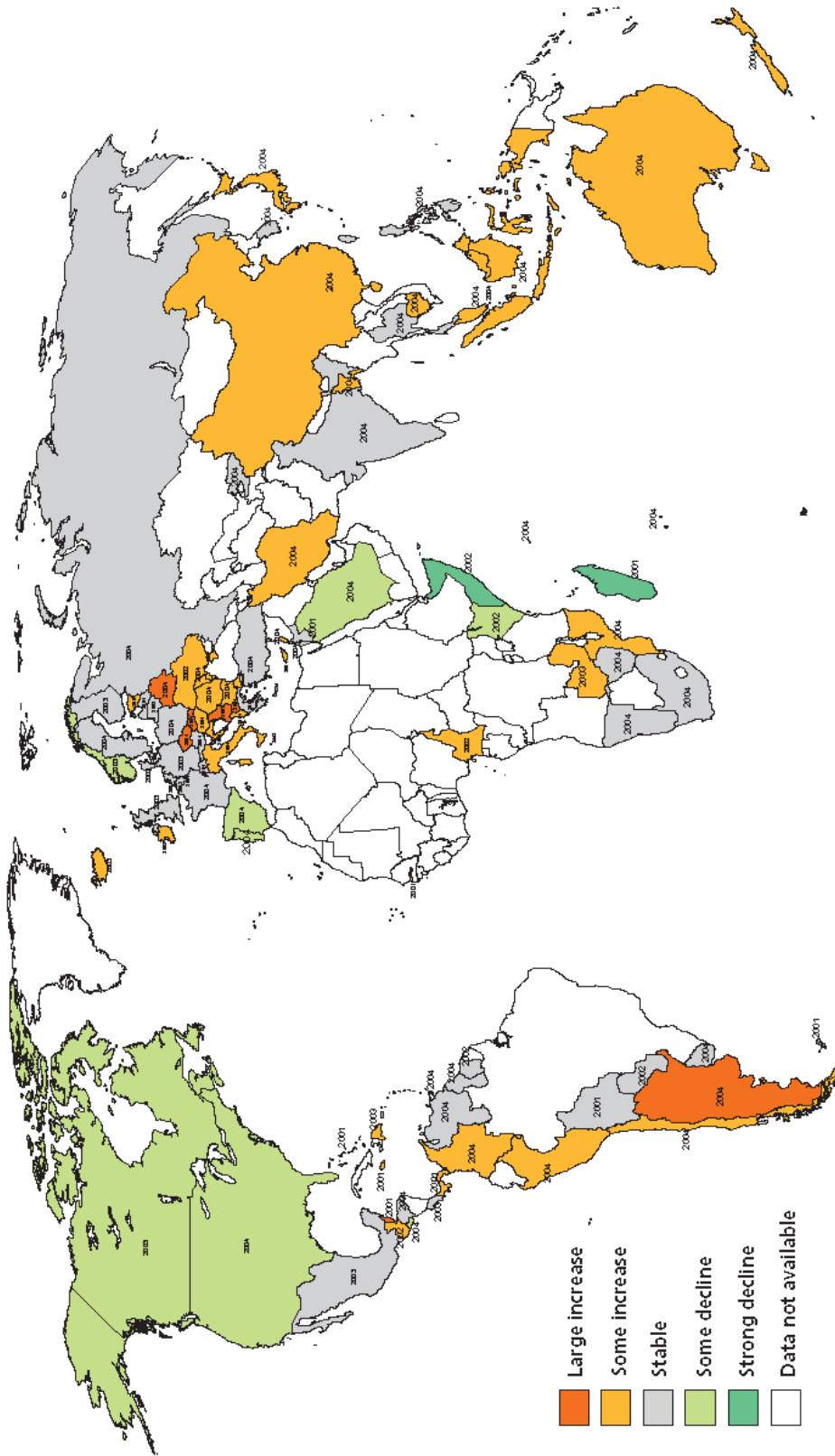


Sources: UNODC Annual Reports Questionnaires data, National Household Surveys on Drug Abuse, UNODC Rapid Assessment Studies, Council of Europe, ESPAD.

Map 24: Use of ecstasy in 2004 (or latest year available)



Map 25: Changes in the use of ecstasy (MDA, MDEA, MDMA), 2004 (or latest year available)



Sources: UNODC Annual Reports Questionnaires data, UNODC (Regional Centre Bangkok) Epidemiology Trends in Drug Trends in Asia (Findings of the Asian Multicity Epidemiology Workgroup, National Household Surveys submitted to UNODC; United States Department of State (Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs) International Narcotics Control Strategy Report; Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) and other Law Enforcement Reports.