

# **SOUTH AFRICA**

## **Country Profile on Drugs and Crime**

**2002**



**Regional Office  
for Southern Africa**

**United Nations  
Office on Drugs and Crime**

As of 1 October 2002, the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) was renamed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (ODC). It is comprised of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Centre of International Crime Prevention (CICP).

*Second printing*

Contact details

The Representative

Regional Office for Southern Africa

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1059 Schoeman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

P.O. Box 12673

Hatfield 0028

South Africa

Telephone: +27-12-342-2424

Facsimile: +27-12-342-2356

e-mail: [mail@unodc.org.za](mailto:mail@unodc.org.za)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOREWORD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	i
1. CONTEXT .....	1
1.1 General Background Statistics .....	1
1.2 Major Characteristics of the Country .....	2
2. OVERVIEW OF THE DRUG SITUATION .....	7
3. DRUG SITUATION .....	11
3.1 Cultivation and Production .....	11
3.2 Manufacture .....	15
3.3 Diversion of Precursors .....	17
3.4 Trafficking .....	18
3.5 Diversion of Drugs .....	33
3.6 Drug Prices .....	33
3.7 Demand .....	35
3.8 Treatment Consequences .....	41
4. POLICY .....	44
5. OVERVIEW OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE .....	53
6. SUMMARY STATISTICS .....	55
6.1 Crimes Recorded .....	55
6.2 Further Case Processing .....	56
6.3 Budget and Financial Resources .....	57
7. CRIME SITUATION .....	58
7.1 Main Characteristics .....	58
7.2 Specific Crime Trends .....	59
7.3 Victimization Patterns .....	62
7.4 Issues of Specific Concern .....	67
8. POLICY, LEGISLATION AND ORGANIZATION .....	73
8.1 Main Characteristics of the National Crime Prevention Strategy .....	73
8.2 Legislation .....	73
8.3 Anti-Terrorism .....	77
8.4 Crime Control Institutions .....	80
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	90

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This Country Profile reflects the work of many dedicated individuals and organizations whose work we acknowledge throughout the text, and we are grateful for their contributions. In this sense, it is indeed a collaborative undertaking. I would like to offer a personal word of thanks both to all my colleagues in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at our headquarters in Vienna, Austria and to the current and former staff members of our Regional Office for Southern Africa, especially Ugi Zvekic, Gary Lewis and Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, for without all their efforts this work would not have been possible.

## FOREWORD

At the dawn of the new millennium, the unfortunate reality is that drug abuse, drug trafficking, crime, terrorism and corruption are global problems that touch every corner of the world. Moreover, they are inseparably linked to each other. Thus, not only do these phenomena cause havoc domestically, particularly for vulnerable nations striving to meet the basic development needs of their people, but they also threaten international prosperity and stability in the ever-increasing interconnected world in which we live. Fortunately, policy makers are beginning to recognize that combating these evils is not simply a matter of law enforcement, but also one of prevention. In this global market place that trades in human misery, there must be a reduction in demand as well as supply if the international community is to prevail over these evils.

South Africa is an important link in this international network. Today, the country is fully engaged in the activities of the region and the African continent, indeed, in the activities of the world. As a result, eight years after its new democracy burst onto the global stage, South Africa finds itself with a significant drug and crime challenge, as do many other nations. In South Africa's case, however, it finds itself having to confront the additional burden of serving as the regional hub for these illicit and dangerous activities. As with any nation, this in turn makes it more difficult for South Africa to pursue its goals of empowering its citizens and improving their lives. It also inhibits the attainment of broader goals, such as those of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as the effort of countering drugs and crime must compete for limited resources and energy that also are needed for such challenges as creating employment opportunities and stopping the devastating spread of HIV/AIDS. The good news is that although South Africa is facing this increasingly difficult challenge, it has recognized the need to meet it, and positive steps have been taken to meet it.

This Country Profile is intended to present a picture of South Africa's current drug and crime situation, as well as the related problems of terrorism and corruption, and the countermeasures being undertaken to oppose them. In some sense, it is meant to be a snapshot of today's reality, but in fact, wherever possible, we have endeavored to indicate both how that reality came about and how it is likely to evolve. In a similar vein, we also have tried to show a panorama of the wide range of social, economic and other demographic influences that bear on both the nature of these complex problems as well as their potential solutions.

Our hope is that this Country Profile will assist the people and Government of South Africa in their quest to reduce the problems of drugs and crime, both at home and abroad. We also hope that it will provide the international community with insights into the challenge facing South Africa so that informed international cooperation and assistance will be enhanced. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will continue to support these efforts.



Rob Boone  
Representative  
Regional Office for Southern Africa  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## DRUGS

**South Africa in the Regional Context.** South Africa is by far the largest market for illicit drugs entering Southern Africa. Drug trafficking and abuse have escalated in recent years, with the point of escalation traceable to the liberalization of most aspects of society in the years immediately surrounding the country's first democratic elections in 1994. This recent period also witnessed a concomitant relaxation of strict controls of land, air and sea borders, the enhancement of international trade and commerce, and the influx of new cultural trends among the more affluent segments of the population.

**Consumption Trends.** Cannabis is the most prevalent illicit drug used in South Africa. "Mandrax" (methaqualone) is the second most commonly-used illicit drug. Although the use of heroin, cocaine and ecstasy is less prevalent, this has increased notably since the mid-1990s. Since 2000, heroin use has also increased significantly in major urban areas, particularly in Gauteng (which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria) and Cape Town. In 2001, among treatment patients reporting heroin as their primary drug of abuse, evidence points to 51% of such patients in Cape Town reporting some injecting (or 'intravenous') use and 36% doing so in Gauteng. One risk associated with injecting heroin is the spread of HIV/AIDS. The second half of 2001 also witnessed the appearance of heroin users among the impoverished Black/African communities in South Africa's urban and peri-urban areas.

**Ethnic Segmentation.** Although increasing social ethnic integration is evident, the drug consumption markets of South Africa remain ethnically differentiated. The extreme income inequalities between the different broad ethnic segments affect drug affordability and thus consumer choice.

**Drug Use and HIV/AIDS.** Ongoing research in South Africa is demonstrating a link (other than that related to injecting drug use) between substance abuse and the spread of HIV/AIDS. It indicates that adolescents who use alcohol and other drugs are more likely to engage in sex and in unsafe sex than are adolescents who abstain from using them.

**Prevention and Treatment.** Official funding for both prevention and treatment is very limited. The health and education sectors have been only minimally involved in prevention activities. The non-governmental community plays an active role in both sectors. There is currently no national programme for primary prevention or awareness campaign.

**Trafficking Trends.** The drug trafficking activities of organized crime groups are linked to numerous other criminal acts, ranging from car hijackings and robberies, to the smuggling of firearms, stolen cars, endangered species and precious metals. South Africa now features prominently in international drug trafficking networks.

**Law Enforcement.** South Africa has the necessary legislative infrastructure to effect drug countermeasures and is aware of current production and trafficking trends. The specialized investigation units are being phased out of the police force. The impact of this on the country's medium- to long-term capacity to deal effectively with the threat posed by organized criminal groups dealing in drugs is unclear.

## CRIME

**General Trends.** Overall levels of crime began to increase in the mid-1980s and continued throughout the 1990s. There are some indications, however, that the steep increase in crime has been abated in the last year or two; nevertheless, South Africa remains among the most crime-ridden and crime-concerned societies in the world. Also, organized crime, with clear international and regional links, has increased. Recently, the government has increased its criminal justice budget considerably.

**Geographic Variations.** The two most developed provinces, Gauteng and Western Cape, with high concentrations of business, public administration and urban centres (Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town), are the two most crime-ridden, with the highest rates for violent, property and commercial crime. Among rural crimes, stock (livestock) theft is high in the remaining seven provinces.

**Socio-economic Variations.** Crime does not affect all people uniformly, and the risk of being a crime victim is strongly influenced by gender, ethnicity, age, income and place of residence. Ethnicity is still one important factor patterns in South Africa due to the legacy of the apartheid regime's policy of using race to determine much of one's socio-economic status. Thus, for example, while Blacks/Africans are at a higher risk for individual violent crimes, non-Blacks/Africans are at higher risk for property-related household crimes. Property and violent crimes pose the greatest risk for urban residents.

**Violent Crime.** Violent crimes, such as attempted murder, aggravated robbery, serious and common assault, and in particular violence against women and children (including rape of children), has shown a general increase since 1994 with a slight down turn in 2001-2002. Reported rates of rape are at the most serious levels in the world, and there is much concern about the increase in violence against women and in particular against children. Murder rates, by contrast, have been declining since 1994, by almost 30%. Much of the violence is attributed to the proliferation of firearms, both as a cross-border organized crime trafficking problem and as they are illegally appropriated for domestic criminal purposes.

**Organized Crime.** Organized crime in its many manifestations is highly present in South Africa and comprises a range of criminal activities from trafficking in drugs, firearms, persons and stolen vehicles, to smuggling of precious materials and endangered species, involving local, transnational and foreign organized crime groups. Recently instituted organized crime countermeasures, including a new strategy, laws, asset forfeiture operations, and investigative and prosecutorial structures, have made considerable achievements in dismantling certain organized crime groups and monitoring trends in syndicate activities and targets.

**Corruption.** Facing an ever-increasing public concern about corruption, the government has adopted a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy for the public sector, new anti-corruption legislation is under consideration, and considerable efforts to unveil corruption's roots and to promote "good governance and transparency" are being undertaken. There remain considerable problems in the coordination of the various agencies with anti-corruption mandates.

**Crime Prevention.** Fear of crime has resulted in an enormous growth in the private security industry and in reforms within the police force. The police are introducing new approaches to policing (“crackdown police areas” and “sector” policing), as well as the creation of metropolitan police services and the promotion of more police involvement with the local communities. There are some indications of increasing citizen confidence in the police, which over the past few years has been reflected in the increased reporting of crimes to the police.

**Criminal Justice Reform.** The entire criminal justice system has undergone substantial and substantive transformation and reorganization in the post-apartheid era. While much improvement has been achieved, there are still considerable problems in processing crimes and offenders through the criminal justice system, with particularly acute blockages at the judicial and correctional levels.

**International Cooperation and Anti-Terrorism.** South Africa has signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as two of its protocols: trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and smuggling of migrants. It also is a signatory to new two SADC (Southern African Development Community) protocols on corruption and firearms. South Africa has ratified most of the international anti-terrorism conventions.



# 1. CONTEXT

## 1.1 General Background Statistics

<b>SUMMARY STATISTICS</b>			
<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>Developed Countries Avg.</b>	<b>Developing Countries Avg.</b>
<b>Human Development Index / Rank (2002)</b>	<b>107<sup>th</sup> of 173 countries</b>		
<b>Land</b>			
Size of country (square km)	<b>1,221,037</b>		
Arable land (square km)	<b>147,530</b>		
<b>Population</b>			
Population (million) (2001)	<b>44.3</b>		
Population growth (%) (2000)	<b>1.6</b>	0.3 (1998)	1.4 (1998)
Life-expectancy at birth (2000)	<b>52.1</b>	76.8	64.7
Population age 0-14 (%) (2000)	<b>34.0</b>		
Population age 15-64 (%) (2000)	<b>62.4</b>		
Population age 65+ (%) (2000)	<b>3.6</b>		
Share of urban population (%) (2001)	<b>57.6</b>	78.1 (1998)	39.0 (1998)
<b>Economic Development</b>			
GDP Growth (%) (2001)	<b>2.2</b>	1.0 (1999)	2.5 (1999)
GDP per capita, US\$ (2000)	<b>2,988</b>	21,770 (1998)	3,260 (1998)
GDP per capita, PPP US\$ (2000)	<b>9,401</b>	23,410	3,530
GNP per capita, US\$ (2000)	<b>3,020</b>		
GNP per capita, PPP US\$ (2000)	<b>9,160</b>		
Trade: Imports as share of GDP (%) (2001)	<b>25.3</b>	21.7 (1998)	30.2 (1998)
Trade: Exports as share of GDP (%) (2001)	<b>27.8</b>	22.7 (1998)	31.7 (1998)
Share of agriculture in GDP (%) (2000)	<b>3.2</b>	2.5 (1998)	13.5 (1998)
Total external debt, % of GNP (1998)	<b>18.9</b>		42.80
<b>Poverty and Unemployment</b>			
Population living on less than US\$1/day (1993-1999)	<b>11.5</b>		
Income distribution ratio (20% richest / 20% poorest) (2002)	<b>22.6</b>		
Income distribution ratio (Gini Index) (1993/94)	<b>59.3</b>		
Unemployment rate (2002)	<b>24.9</b>		
Unemployment rate, extended definition (see page 4) (2000)	<b>40.9</b>		
Youth unemployment rate (men, 15-24 years) (%) (2000)	<b>57.9</b>		
Youth unemployment rate (women, 15-24 years) (%) (2000)	<b>53.3</b>		
<b>Health</b>			
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP) (1990-1998)	<b>3.3</b>	6.2	2.2
Population with access to health services (%) (1999)	<b>80</b>		
Doctors per 100,000 people (1999)	<b>56</b>	246.0	78.0
Number of people living with HIV/AIDS (2001) (million)	<b>5</b>		
HIV prevalence rates: Women at antenatal clinics (%) (2001)	<b>24.8</b>		
Deaths due to AIDS (%) (2000)	<b>25</b>		
Deaths due to AIDS (15-49 years) (%) (2000)	<b>40</b>		
Deaths due to AIDS per annum (thousand) (2001)	<b>360</b>		
HIV prevalence (%) (2000)	<b>12</b>		
<b>Education</b>			
Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and above) (2000)	<b>85.3</b>	98.5 (1998)	72.3 (1998)
Combined enrollment ratio (%) (1999)	<b>93</b>	91.0	61.0
Radios per 1,000 people (2000)	<b>335</b>	1,005 (1995)	185 (1995)
Televisions per 1,000 people (2000)	<b>127</b>	621 (1998)	162 (1998)
Telephone lines per 1,000 people (2000)	<b>114</b>	524 (1998)	58 (1998)
Mobile phones per 1,000 people (2000)	<b>190</b>		

**Sources:** World Bank, UNDP, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), FAO, Statistics South Africa, USAID, UNAIDS, South African Institute for Race Relations, Medical Research Council (SA).

**Note:** for the period October 2001 - October 2002, the value of the South African rand to the US dollar hovered between 10 and 11 rand per dollar.

---

## 1.2 Major Characteristics of the Country

In its eighth year of democratic government, South Africa is a major power in Africa, carrying with it an enormous burden of regional leadership on most political and economic issues. Difficulties of social transformation in South African society are exemplified by the somewhat slower than expected pace of the redistribution of economic power throughout the society. Huge gaps remain in the distribution of wealth. Social transformation is also hampered by the harsh reality of an HIV/AIDS pandemic whose impact is falling principally upon the Black/African community. The medium to long-term effects on social capital of a generation of "AIDS orphans" are only now being calculated. South Africa combines, in many respects, the characteristics of a highly industrialized country with those of a developing country in sub-Saharan Africa. The following description highlights some of those characteristics and explains the special vulnerability of the country to drug abuse, drug trafficking and crime in general.

### Geography

From the 1960s onwards, South Africa's geographical distance from the world's main drug production and consumption zones, coupled with its political and economic isolation, prevented the country from emerging as a major drug transit point. However, the country's re-integration into the international community in the 1990s has permitted its developed transportation and communications systems and advanced banking structure to be used for the purpose of illicit trafficking of many commodities, including drugs.



Map 1: South Africa





















---

that there was a decline in cultivation. By contrast, the US Drug Enforcement Administration, based on information received from South Africa, estimated an expansion of cannabis cultivation to between 20,000-30,000 Ha in 1993-94 (DEA 1996). If correct, this would have been more than all cannabis cultivation in Latin America (16,000-17,000 hectares) in the period 1993-94 according to US estimates (INCSR 1999). This high level of cultivation was subsequently also reported by the South African Police Service (SAPS). In the mid-1990s, an official SAPS report identified 56,000 acres under cannabis cultivation (equivalent to 22,700 Ha or 0.1% of the arable land) in 1994 (SAPS 1995).

Thereafter, estimates went even beyond levels that could be considered realistic. For 1995, South African authorities estimated the area under cannabis cultivation to have increased to more than 82,000 Ha, which would amount to 0.5% of arable land (SAPS 1996). These high figures did not go uncontested within the police force. The South African Narcotics Bureau (SANAB) continued to estimate that only about 2,200 Ha were being dedicated to cannabis cultivation,<sup>10</sup> in contrast to the higher figure (see also Oosthuysen 1998) which pegged cultivation at 82,734 Ha. SANAB claimed that the higher figure had been the result of a calculation error. This claim was subsequently proved correct, but only following publication of the figures. Nonetheless, based on the higher figure, the authorities – applying a yield of 2,120 kg/Ha – estimated total cannabis production to amount 175,000 tonnes. This figure was subsequently also quoted for several years by other international organizations, including Interpol, INCB and various national organizations such as the UK Home Office and the German Bundeskriminalamt (BKA). Such a level of production would have meant that South Africa would have been – by far – the world’s largest producer of herbal cannabis. However, the estimate has not withstood the process of verification and critical validation.<sup>11</sup>

In 1997, SAPS officially informed ODC that the 1995 estimate had been too high. Estimates were subsequently lowered from more than 80,000 Ha to levels of around 2,000 Ha, while the extent of cultivation was considered to have remained stable. The figure for 1998 estimates cultivation at 1,300 Ha reflecting some decline over the previous year. Based on South Africa’s standard yield of 2,120 kg/Ha, cannabis output was thus estimated at 2,760 tonnes in 1998 (roughly equivalent to some 830 tonnes of marijuana). The cultivation figure reported by SAPS for 2000 is 1,247 Ha.<sup>12</sup> A recent unpublished ODC study of the cannabis

---

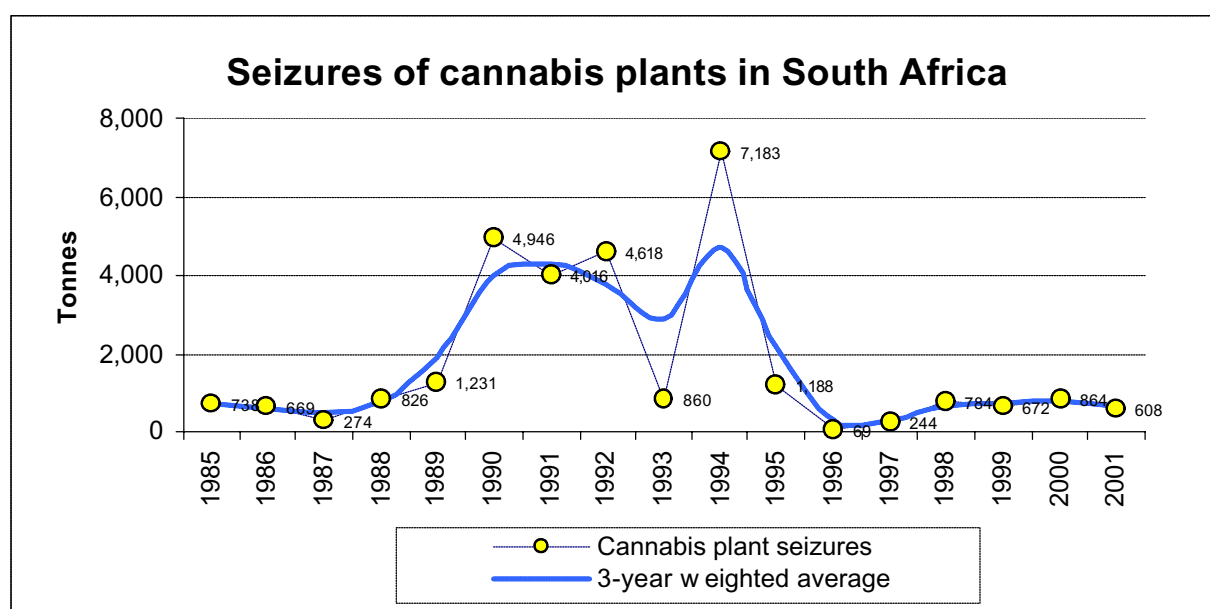
<sup>10</sup> SANAB (1998) Arrest and seizure data. Pretoria, (Unpublished statistics).

<sup>11</sup> First, the yield figures used in South Africa do not appear to reflect cannabis herb (marijuana) production but the overall weight of dry cannabis plant material, and are thus not directly comparable with cannabis herb production figures, as used in many other countries. In official South African publications it is mentioned that only 30% of cannabis production is “for smoking”, suggesting that cannabis herb accounts for about 30% of cannabis production (SAPS 1995). The actual marijuana yield would thus fall from 2,120 kg/ha to 636 kg marijuana per hectare -- a figure in line with yields reported from Latin America (some 660 kg/ha on average). Even taking this into account, South Africa would have still produced some 53,000 tonnes of cannabis herb in 1995. Considering the reported export rate of 70%, the actual amount for consumption in South Africa would have amounted to 16,000 tonnes of cannabis herb. The question therefore arises whether such levels of consumption are possible, as consumption in South Africa would have been six to ten times higher than overall marijuana consumption in the USA (1,600-2,400 tonnes p.a.) even though South Africa’s population is considerably smaller.

<sup>12</sup> South African Police Service, “Today’s Situation: Globalization and the Risk of Transnational Organizations” paper presented by S. Superintendent George Mason, at SACENDU report back session October 2000.

situation in South Africa indicated that the current SAPS estimate of 1,000-1,200 Ha appears to be accurate (Aziz 2001). This study found, *inter alia*, the following:

- The average size of a cannabis field in South Africa is 300 square meters. A good quality field of this size will yield approximately 10 kg of flowering tops and leaves and approximately 25-30 kg of poor quality marijuana (Majat). If the farmer sells the marijuana immediately after the harvest, the revenue will be approximately R700 for the top quality and approximately R500 for the remaining poor quality marijuana.
- Extrapolating to a hectare size field, the returns will be R40,000 from a total mass of between 1,155-1,320 kg of “usable” plant comprising 330 kg (flowering tops) plus 825-990 kg (dried leaves).
- In the cannabis growing areas of Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, the cannabis farmers are almost exclusively subsistence farmers, farming small plots of poor quality land. Cannabis is usually the only cash crop that they grow. The average annual household cash income from cannabis ranges between R1,200-2,000.



**Figure 1:** Seizures of cannabis plants in South Africa (1985-2001).

Sources: ARQs; SAPS. Note: While the remainder of the seizure statistics used in this report have been sourced from the records of the SAPS Forensic Science Laboratory, this is not the case for cannabis. Unlike other illicit drugs, cannabis seizures represent a low-value, high-bulk product. As a result, only a small percentage of cannabis cases are actually forwarded to the National Forensic Science Laboratory for analysis. For this reason, the cannabis statistics used in the above graph have been supplemented with information available from the South African Narcotics Bureau (SANAB).

The precise amount of land dedicated to cultivation remains a matter of dispute, as is the total quantity of cannabis produced, in view of the varying estimates of the number of crops harvested per year (typically between two and four). While intermittent eradication operations conducted by the SAPS do provide accurate details on the scope of these operations themselves<sup>13</sup>, they do not actually go further to indicate the totality of what is occurring with regard to cannabis cultivation in South Africa. Nonetheless, even at currently reported levels,

<sup>13</sup> See for example, SAPS 1999 for details on Operation Motokwane (October - December 1999). More recently, cannabis eradication operations were conducted in the Umtata and Lusikisiki areas of Eastern Cape (October 2001).

---

South Africa is still one of the world's largest producers (UNODCCP 2001 and UNODCCP 2002). Though production estimates for other countries also have to be interpreted with considerable caution, South Africa's importance in the cultivation and production of cannabis internationally can be extrapolated from the huge quantity of seizures the country makes each year (see section 3.4). According to Interpol, South Africa is among the world's top four source countries for herbal cannabis (Interpol 2001).

### 3.2 Manufacture

After the Second World War, mandrax emerged as another important psychoactive substance. Following the identification of its abuse potential, mandrax was removed from the legal market and classified as a prohibited dependence-producing drug in part I of the schedule of the South African narcotics law (Act 41 of 1971). However, following its official withdrawal from the local market, mandrax tablets were diverted from international distribution channels – mostly originating in India and China. In recent times, they have also been illicitly manufactured in neighbouring African countries as well as in South Africa itself. Abuse was originally primarily concentrated in South Africa's ethnic Indian/Asian population. However, it is has since spread to other ethnic groups, notably the Coloured community, but also the country's Black/African population. There is hardly any use of this substance reported among Whites. In geographical terms, its use is heavily concentrated in the Western Cape province where there is a large Coloured population base.

Mandrax is today the second most widely abused illicit substance in South Africa after cannabis (SACENDU: all reports). Its use started to become a general problem for South African society in the late 1980s. There is evidence that the apartheid state promoted drug use as a form of chemical control (“pacification”) against the democratic resistance (Leggett 2001, especially Chapter 4). During the late 1980s and early 1990s, apartheid agents reportedly produced one thousand kilograms of both mandrax and MDMA (henceforth ecstasy)<sup>14</sup>, and diverted massive amounts of the former drug from law enforcement seizures, allegedly for use in “crowd control”. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has expressed the view that these drugs were ultimately sold on the streets.<sup>15</sup> There have been indications from the Truth and Reconciliation hearings that a “cosy relationship” existed between the apartheid government and certain criminal groups and that the apartheid government may have acquiesced in, if not encouraged, the trafficking in narcotics to some ethnic groups as a means of social and political control (INCSR 1999). Finally, allegations have also been made that, among the groups opposing the apartheid regime, some may have been involved in the trafficking of mandrax in the late 1980s and early 1990s to finance weapons purchases.<sup>16</sup>

Although South Africa does not currently appear to be a major manufacturing site for illicit drugs, there is firm evidence that clandestine manufacturing of illicit drugs has been taking place in the country for more than a decade. The trend is increasing.

---

14 MDMA is 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine, commonly known as ecstasy.

15 TRC 1999, Volume 2, Chapter Six.

16 These allegations concern some groups linked to the Pan African Congress which are reported to have imported mandrax via Mozambique into South Africa (OGD 1996).















South Africa. A review of cocaine and heroin seizures by Johannesburg International Airport SANAB during 2000 versus drug quantities seized by all other SAPS components nationally is striking, as shown in Table 4.

<b>Table 4. Prominence of Johannesburg International Airport in Drug Trafficking in South Africa (2000)</b>			
Drug	Total Quantity Seized	Quantity Seized by JIA SANAB	% seized by JIA SANAB
Cocaine	91.2 kg	59.4 kg	65 %
Heroin	15.4 kg	13.7 kg	89 %
ATS (incl. ecstasy)	297,021 tablets	195,679 tablets	66 %

Source: South African Police Service.

### Trafficking in cannabis

Seizures of cannabis herb in South Africa in volume terms, as reported to ODC have been subject to major annual fluctuations over the last decade (see also Figure 1 in Section 3.1). Once the data are smoothed, the overall seizure trend from the mid-1990s is steeply downwards, stabilizing at a lower level with minor fluctuations in that lower range. The magnitude of South Africa’s cannabis production and its related enforcement measures nonetheless testify to the country’s importance in international trafficking terms. As Figure 5 demonstrates, in 2000 – the latest year for which comparative figures exist – South Africa’s cannabis herb seizures accounted for almost 68% of all cannabis herb seizures in Africa. At the global level, South Africa’s cannabis herb seizures were almost 16% of the world total. In the year 2000, South Africa (718 metric tons) ranked second behind Mexico (2,050 mt) in terms of cannabis tonnage seized (UNODCCP 2002). In Africa, only Malawi (312 mt) and Nigeria (212 mt) came close.

Cultivation and domestic transport of cannabis herb from the farm gate to the distribution centres within South Africa are generally controlled by rural Blacks/Africans with links to both the farm gate and the urban market. Domestic trafficking in cannabis is also mainly in the hands of Blacks/Africans (Leggett 2000; ISS 2002). The large Black/African former “townships” (sometimes referred to as “disadvantaged communities” and especially the hostels located there) tend to serve as cannabis storage and redistribution centres (e.g., Soweto and Alexandra in Johannesburg, Bambayi in Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Inanda and

KwaMashu in Durban, and Gugulethu in Cape Town) (see also OGD 1997, OGD 1998).

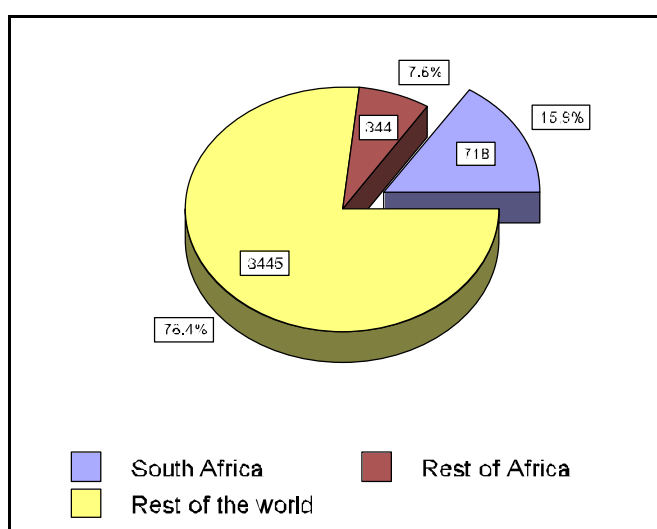


Figure 5: World cannabis herb seizures in 2000 (figures in metric tons). Source: UNODCCP 2002.























































































































































