



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



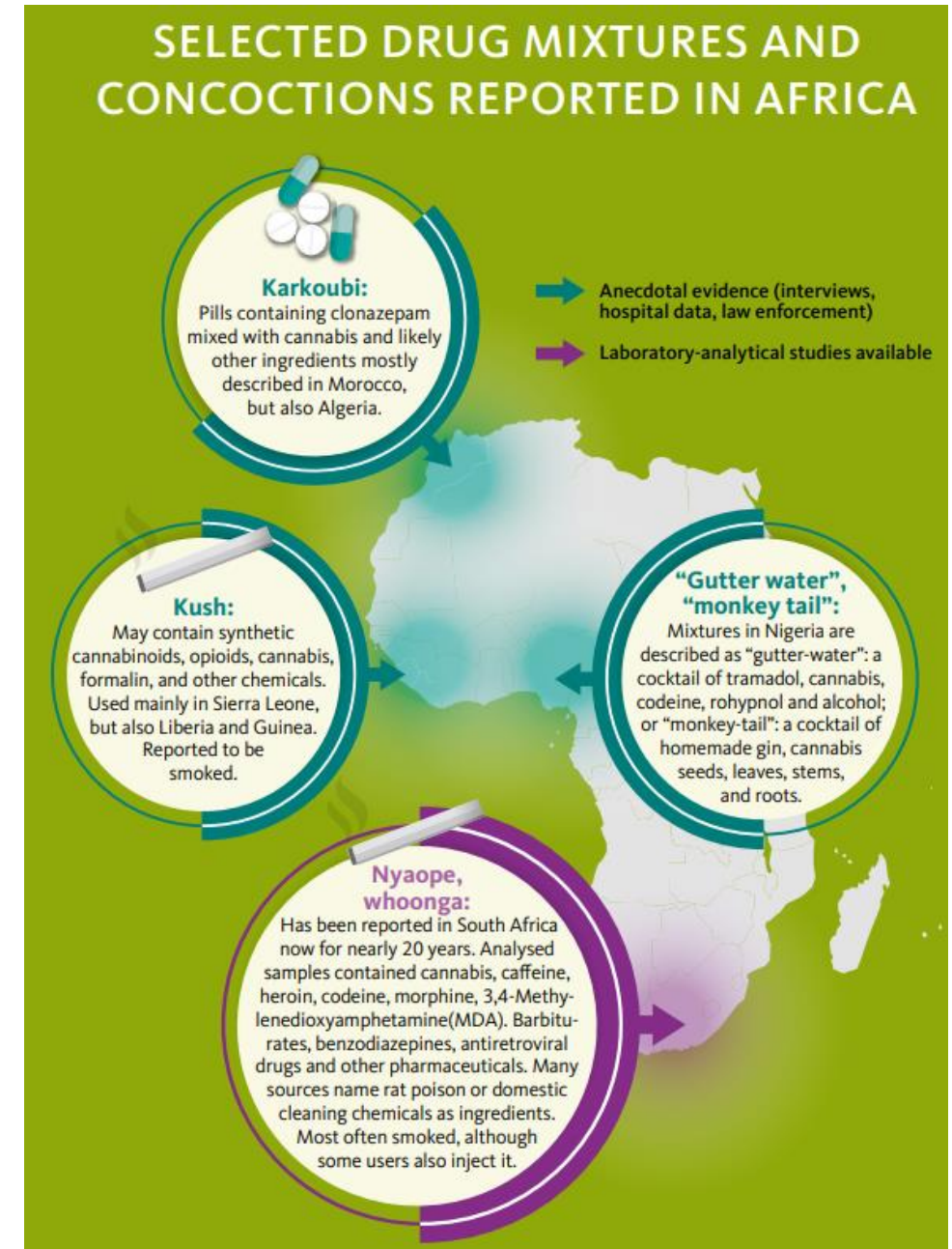
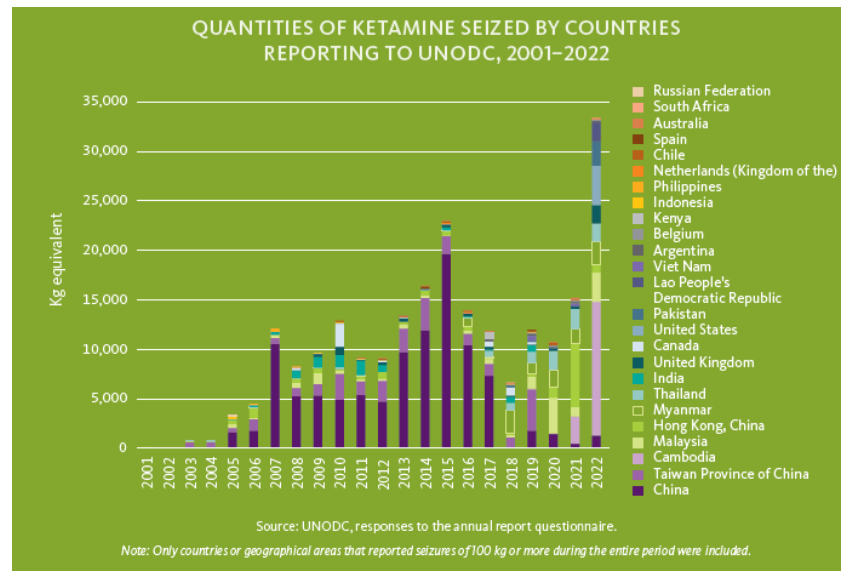
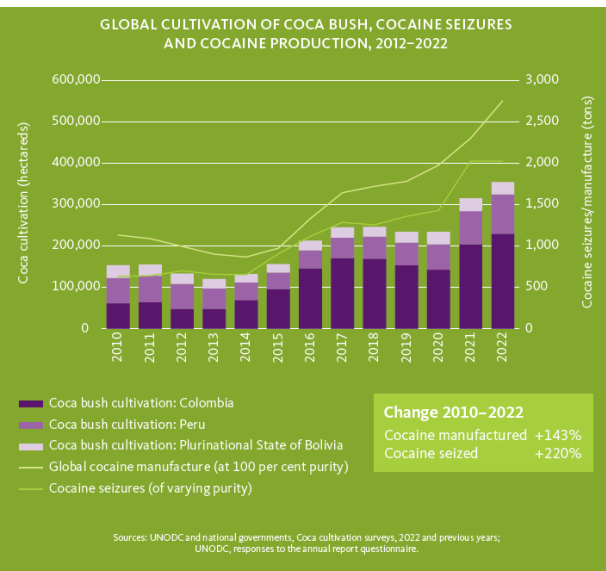
WDR 2024 Highlights

• **Dr. Thomas Pietschmann**
Research and Knowledge Production
Section (RKPS)

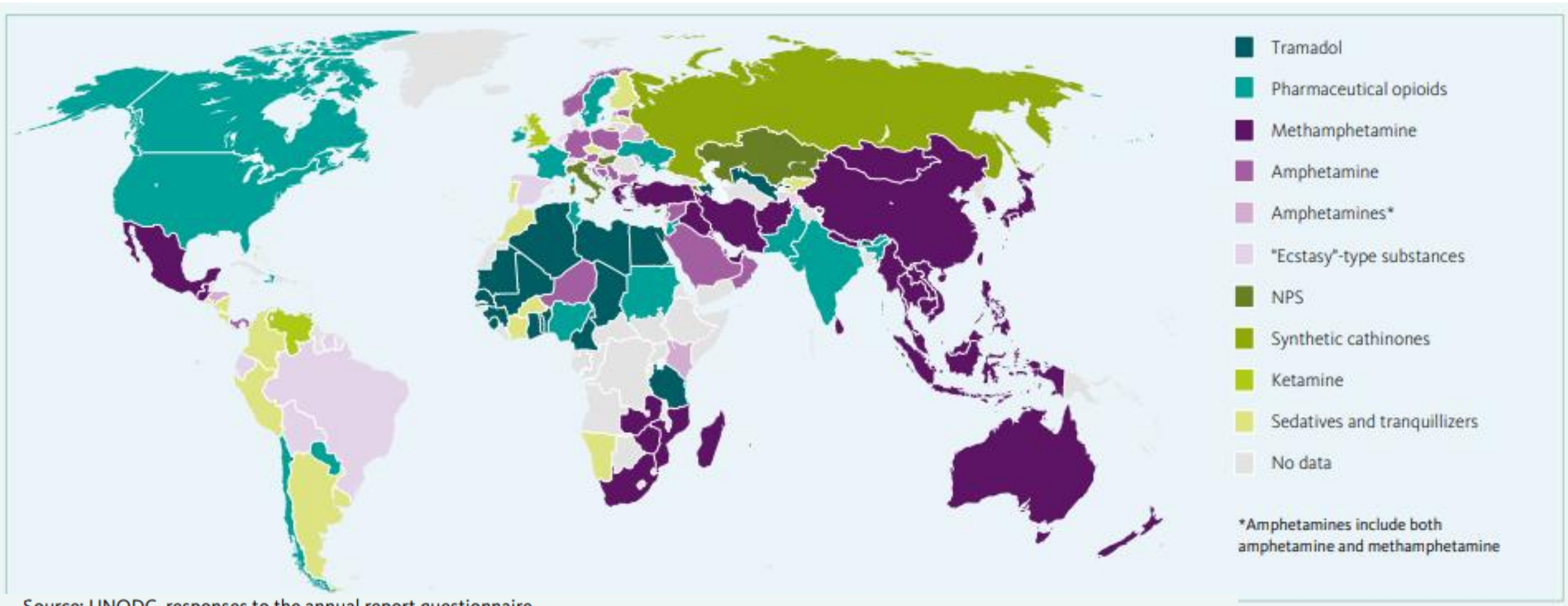
25 July 2024

Drug supply rising globally

- **Cocaine** supply reached a record high in 2022, with more than 2,700 tons of cocaine manufactured; 20 per cent more than a year earlier and three times the amount manufactured in 2013.
- The market for **ketamine** is rapidly expanding into new geographical areas.
- In the Near and Middle East, “**captagon**” and **methamphetamine** markets seem to be converging, with a sharp increase in seizures reported and an expansion outside traditional markets.
- Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants (**ATS**) remain at historically high levels as a number of “**emerging markets**” continue growing.
- Countries in **Africa** are increasingly affected by drug trafficking and the use of new and dangerous **drug “cocktails”**.



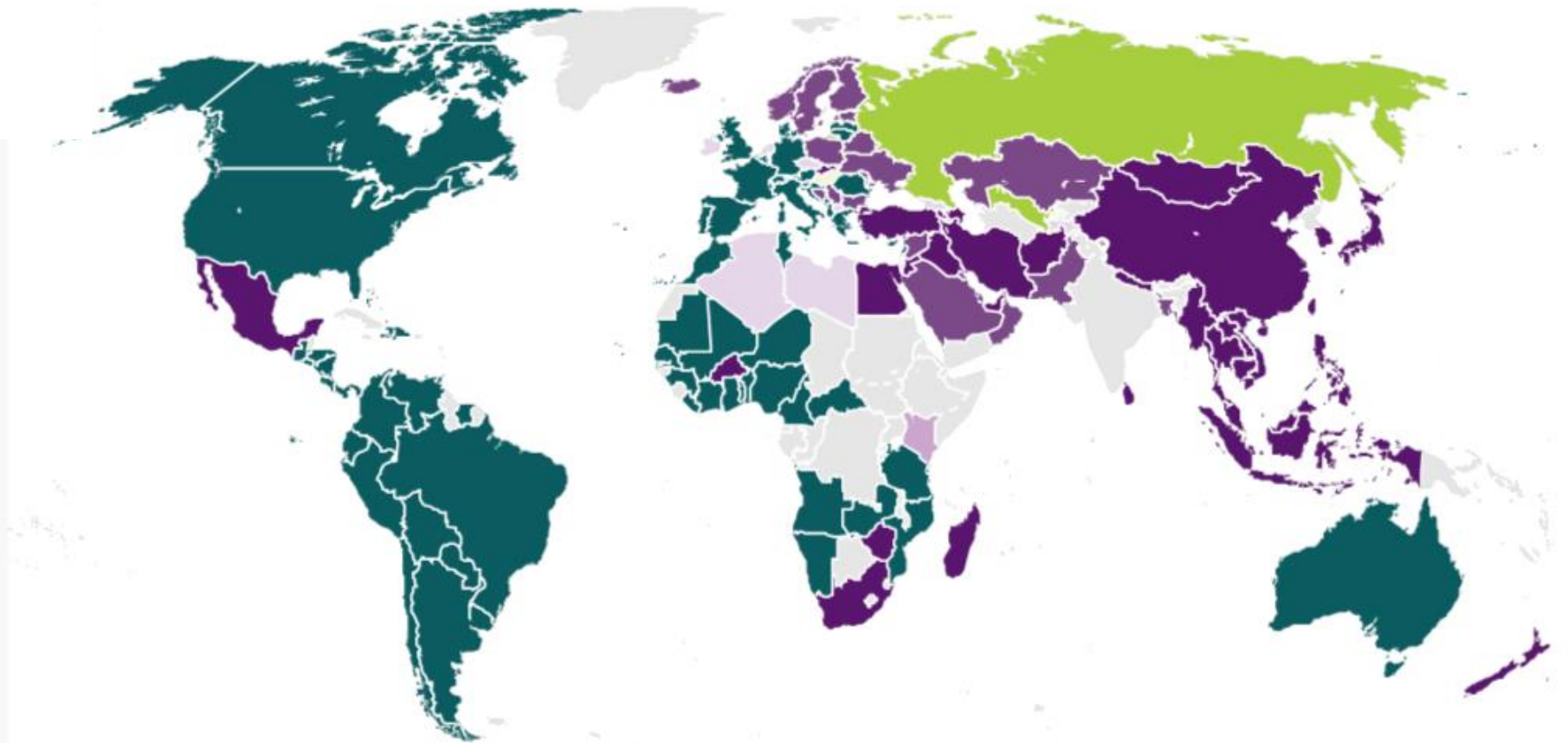
Most commonly used synthetic drugs, by drug type, 2022 or latest year for which data was reported



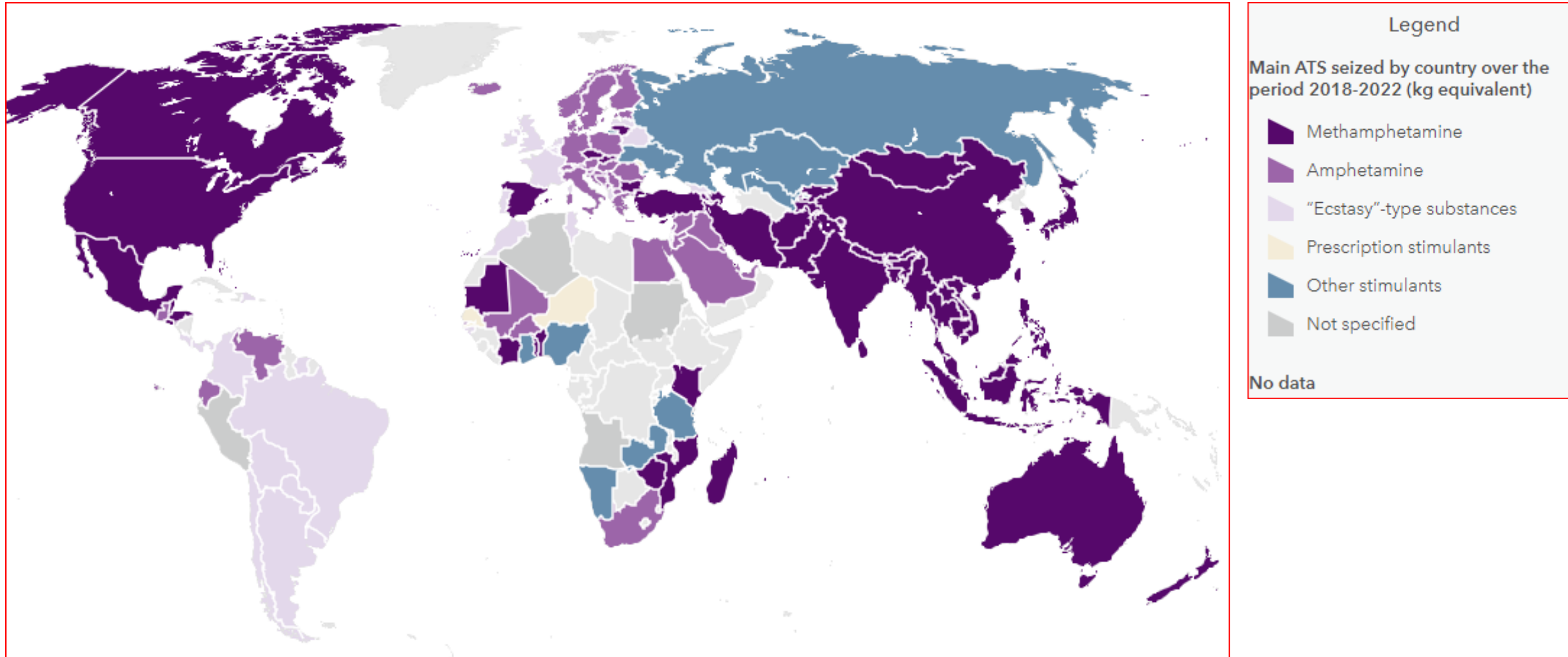
Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Note: The most common synthetic drug ranked for a country is based on the group, class of a drug or a specific drug that was reported by a country. The category amphetamines includes methamphetamine and amphetamine, and the term was used where a country did not specify or reported equal ranking for methamphetamine and amphetamine as the most commonly used synthetic drug.

Most commonly used stimulant drug, in terms of number of past-year users, 2022 or latest year for which data are available

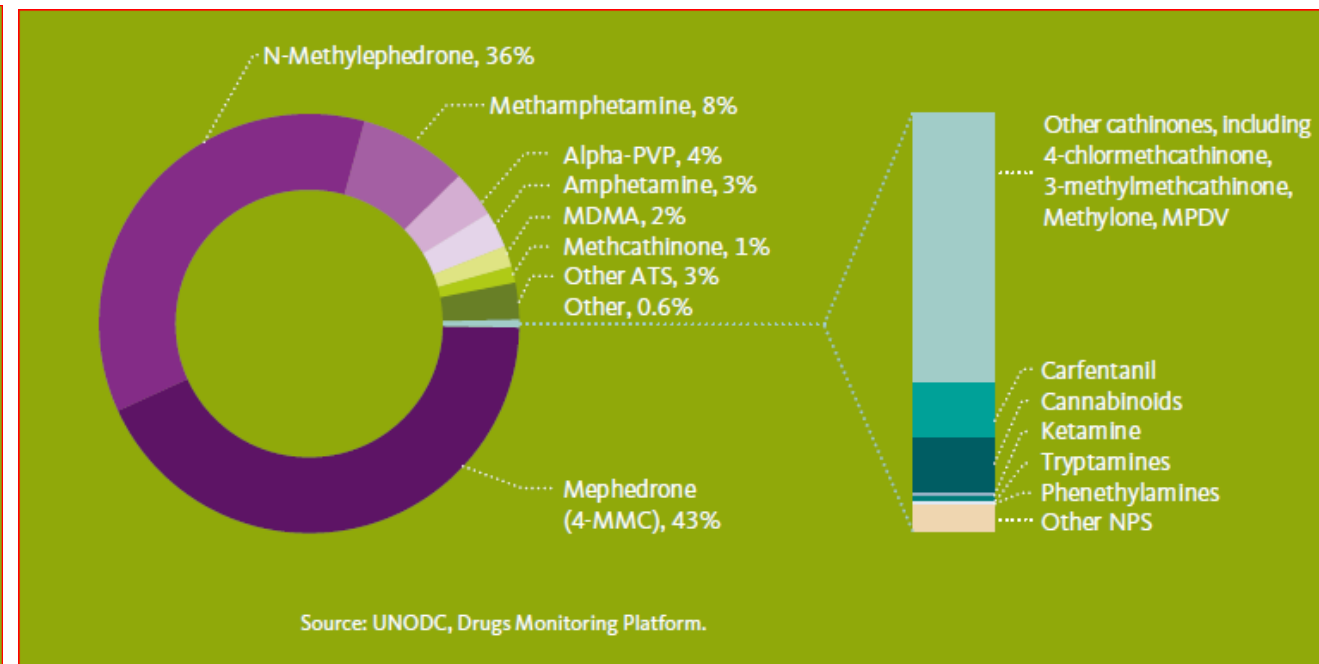
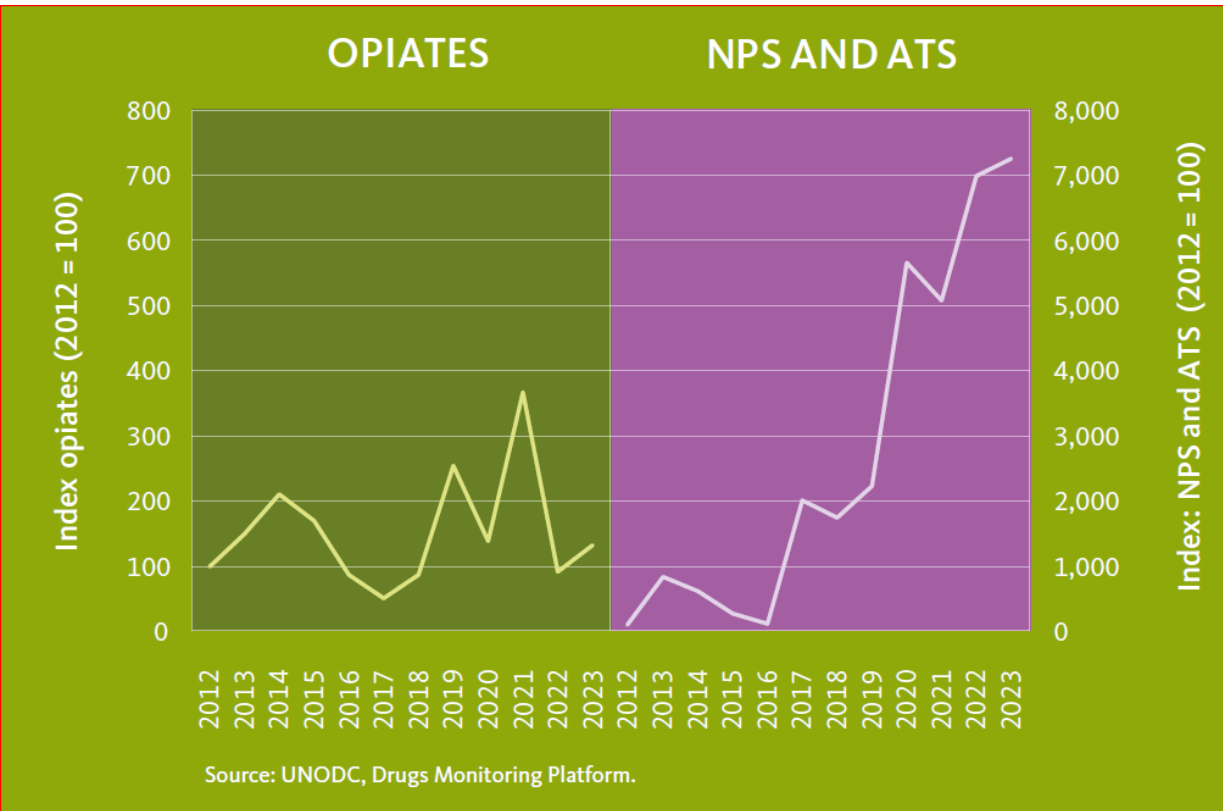


Most commonly ATS seized by country, based on kg equivalents seized during 2018-2022

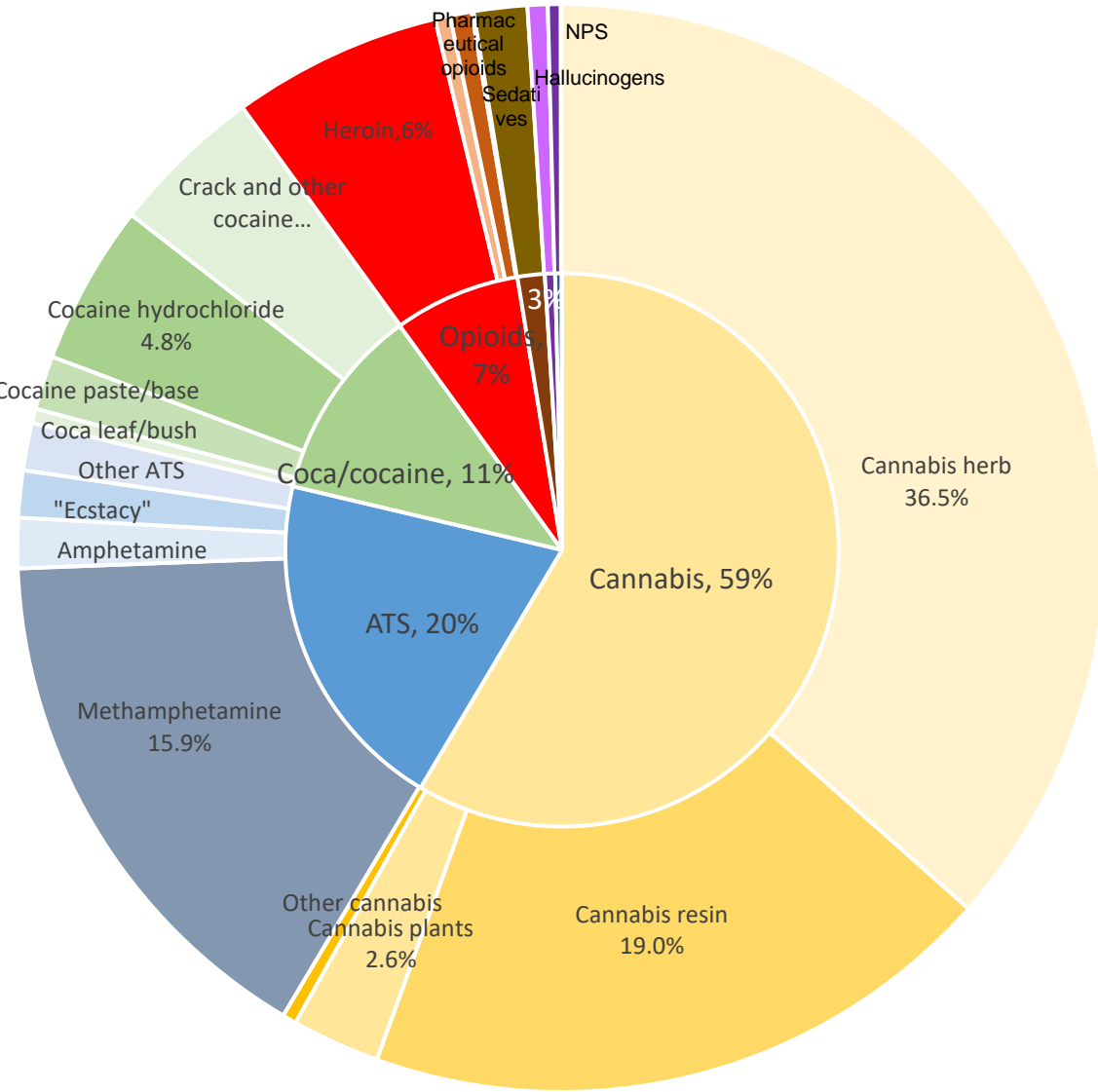


TREND IN INDIVIDUAL SEIZURES OF OPIATES AND OF NPS AND ATS IN CENTRAL ASIA, TRANSCAUCASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE, 2012–2023

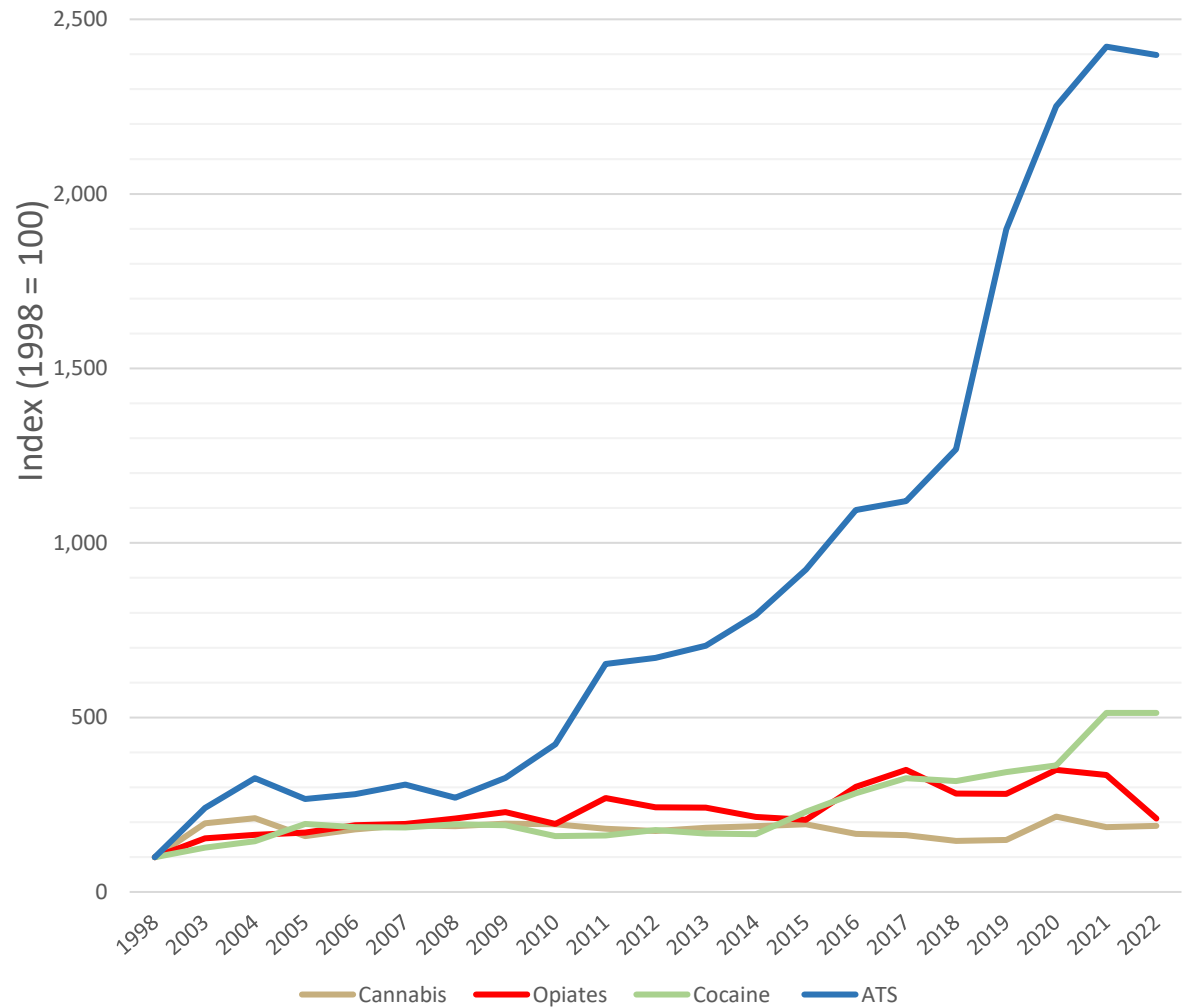
DISTRIBUTION OF NPS AND ATS REPORTED IN INDIVIDUAL DRUG SEIZURES IN EASTERN EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA AND TRANSCAUCASIA, 2020–2023



Global distribution of drug seizure cases, 2021-2022

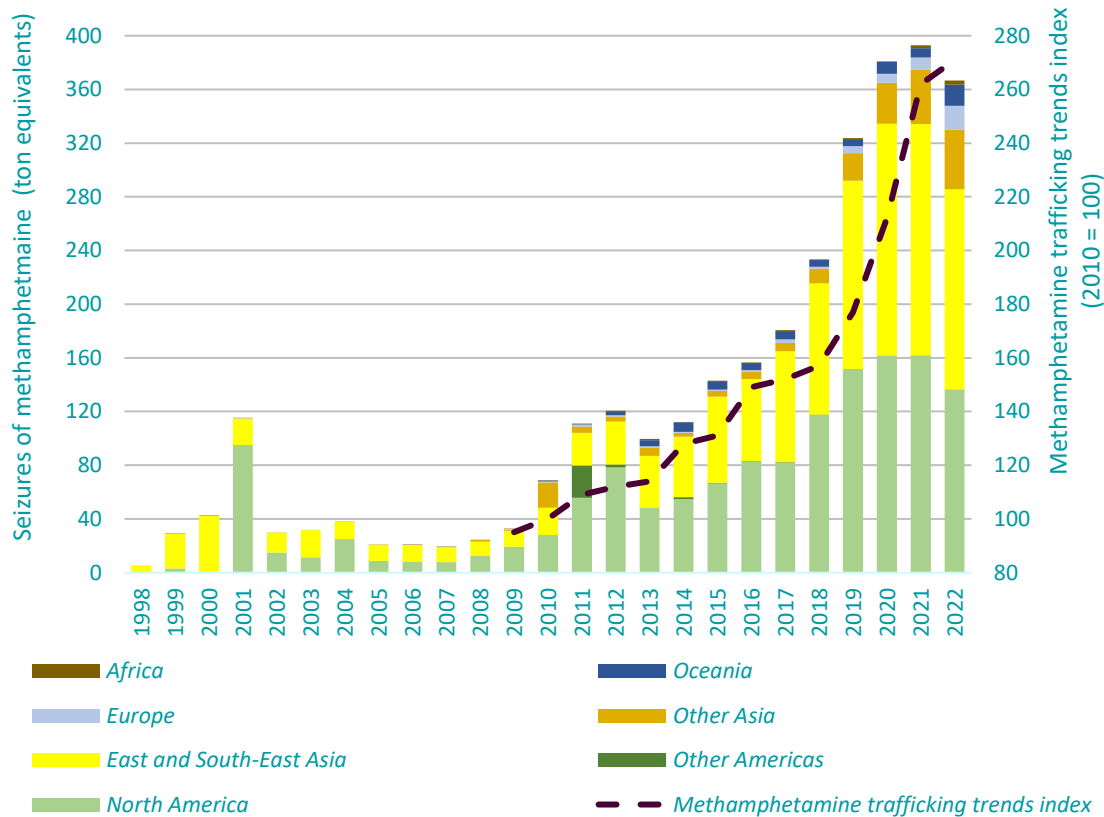


Long-term trends in quantities of drugs seized, 1998-2022

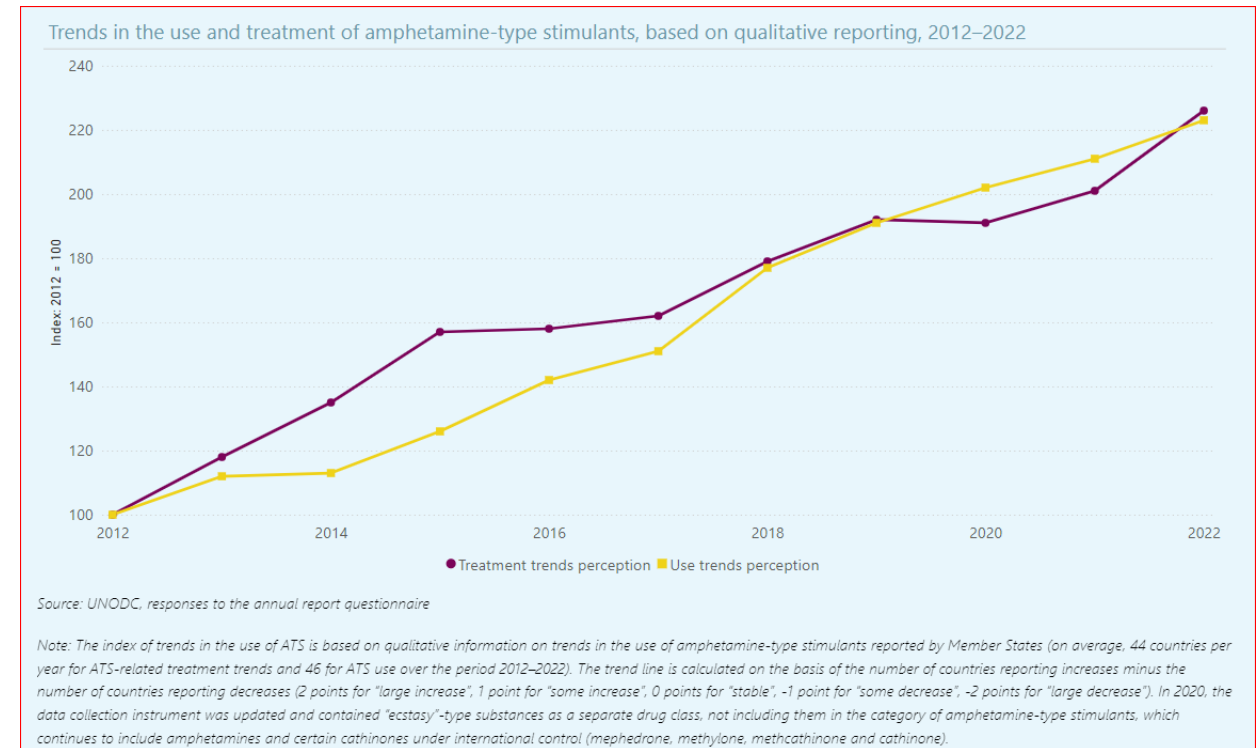


Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire

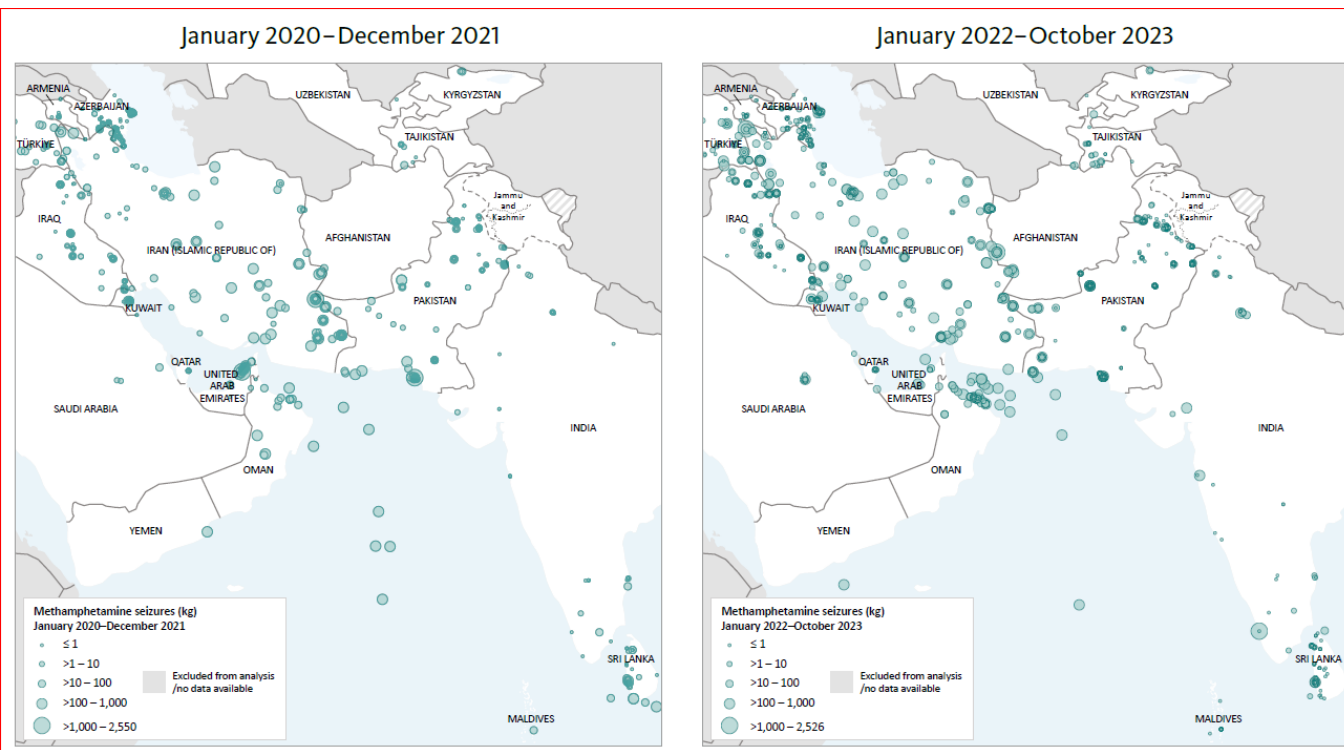
Quantities of methamphetamine seized, by region and subregion, and reported qualitative trends in methamphetamine trafficking, 1998–2022



Trends in the use and treatment of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), 2012–2022

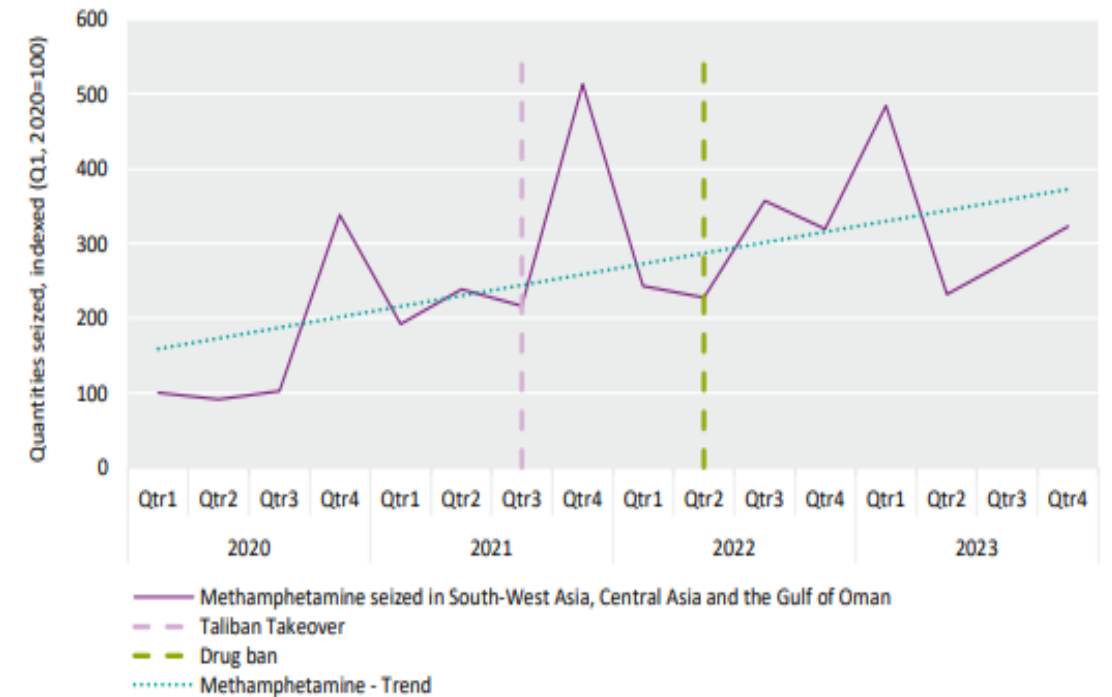


Significant individual seizures of methamphetamine in South-West Asia and neighbouring subregions, excluding Afghanistan, 2020–2023



Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform.

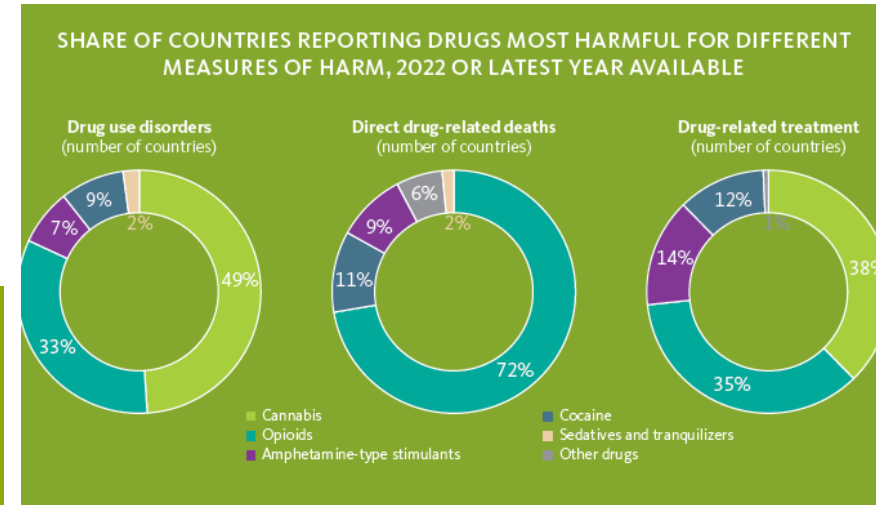
Trend in the quantities of methamphetamine seized in significant seizure events in South-West Asia, Central Asia and the Gulf of Oman, 2020–2023



Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform.

Drug use continues to increase and harm people, particularly young people

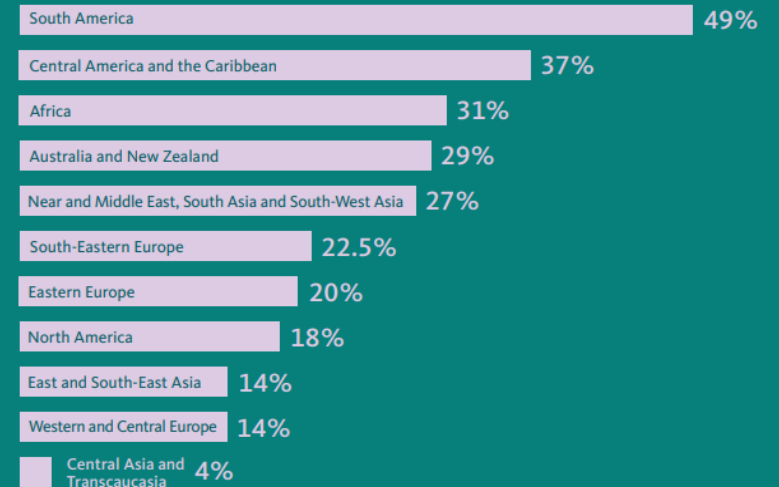
- Almost 292 million people have used a drug in the past year (5.6% of population aged 15-64), 20% more than a decade before (5.2%; prevalence rate now 8% higher)
- An estimated 64 million people were suffering from drug use disorders in 2022 (1.2 per cent of population aged 15-64), slightly up from 59 million in 2015.
- Most drug use disorders and drug treatment are related to the harmful patterns of use of cannabis and opioids while most drug related deaths are related to opioids, followed by [sedatives] cocaine and ATS.
- An estimated 13.9 million people injected drugs (0.3%) in 2022 of which 6.8 million live with hepatitis C and 1.6 million with HIV and 1.4 million with HIV and hepatitis C. The risk is higher for those who inject drugs than for those who do not inject drugs.
- Revival of stimulant drug use such as cocaine and “ecstasy”, following the pandemic;
- Drugs are still used more by men (76%) than women (24%); synthetic drugs are used more by men (84%) than women (16%);
- New means of drug delivery are negatively impacting young people, particularly those affected by drug use.



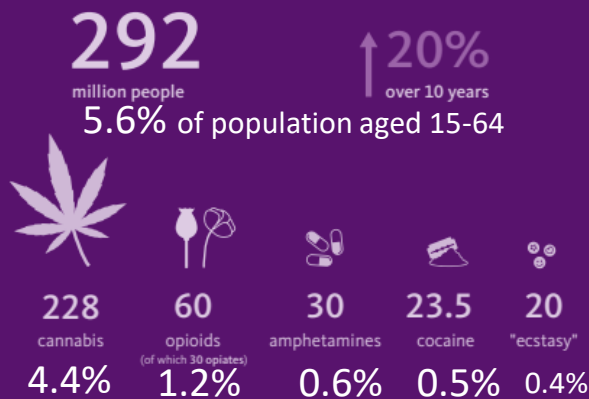
TOXICOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN REPORTED CASES OF OVERDOSES IN 66 COUNTRIES, 2022 OR LATEST YEAR AVAILABLE



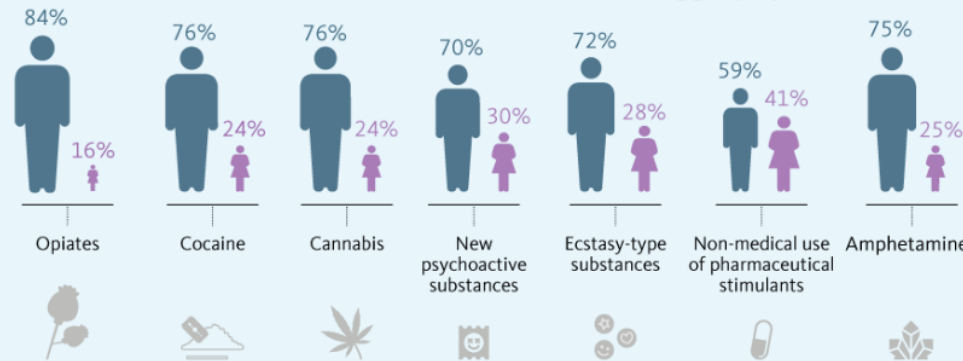
People under 25 years old in treatment, 2022



People who use drugs, 2022 (in million)

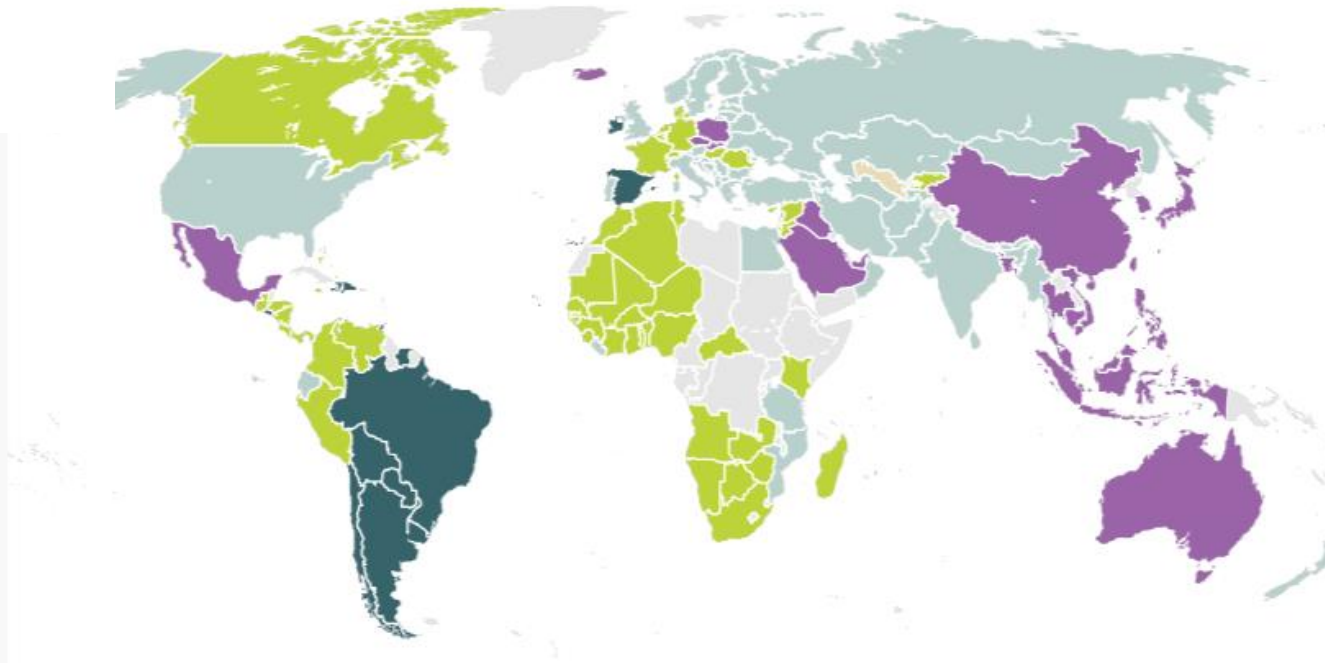
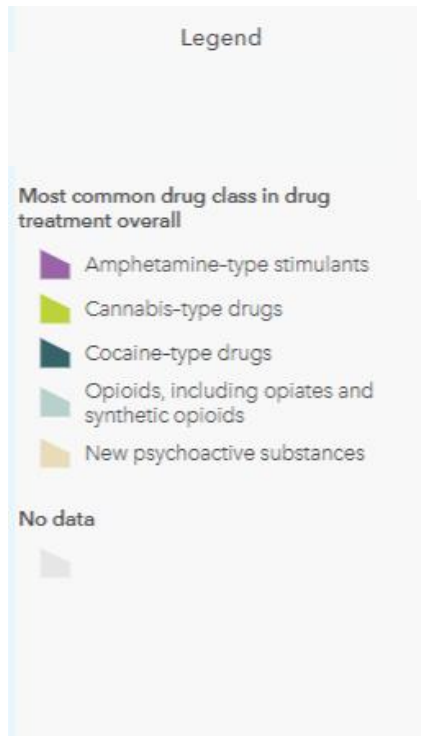


Users of selected drug groups by sex

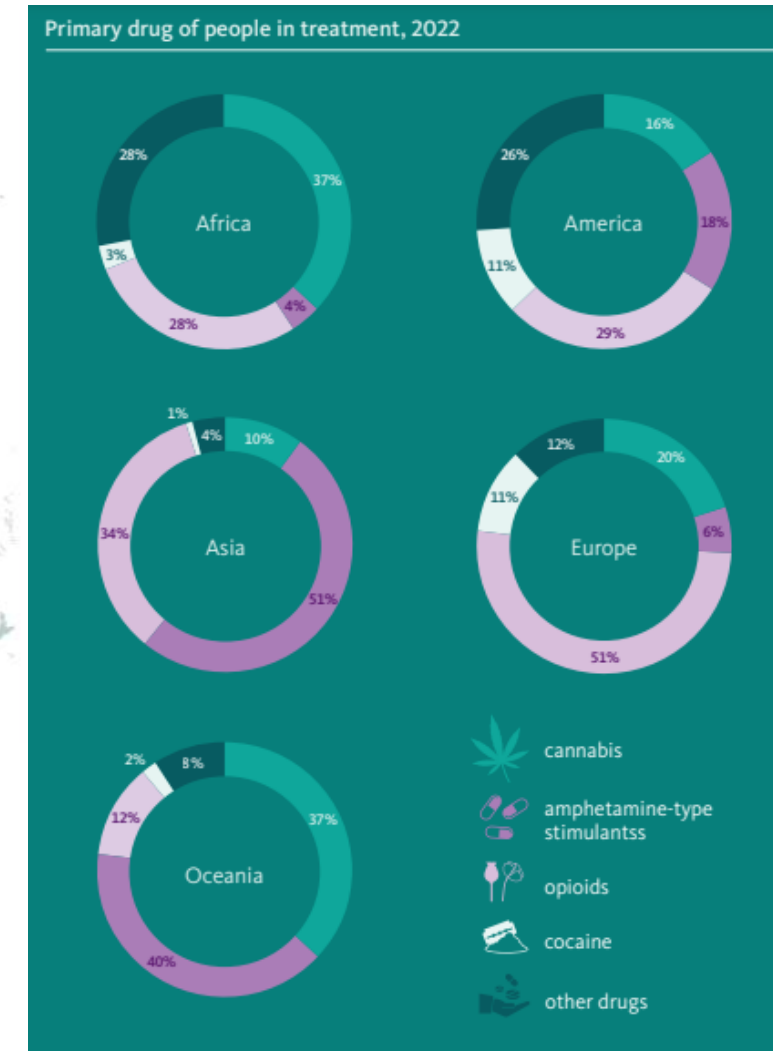


Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Most common drug in drug treatment, 2022 (or latest year for which data was reported)

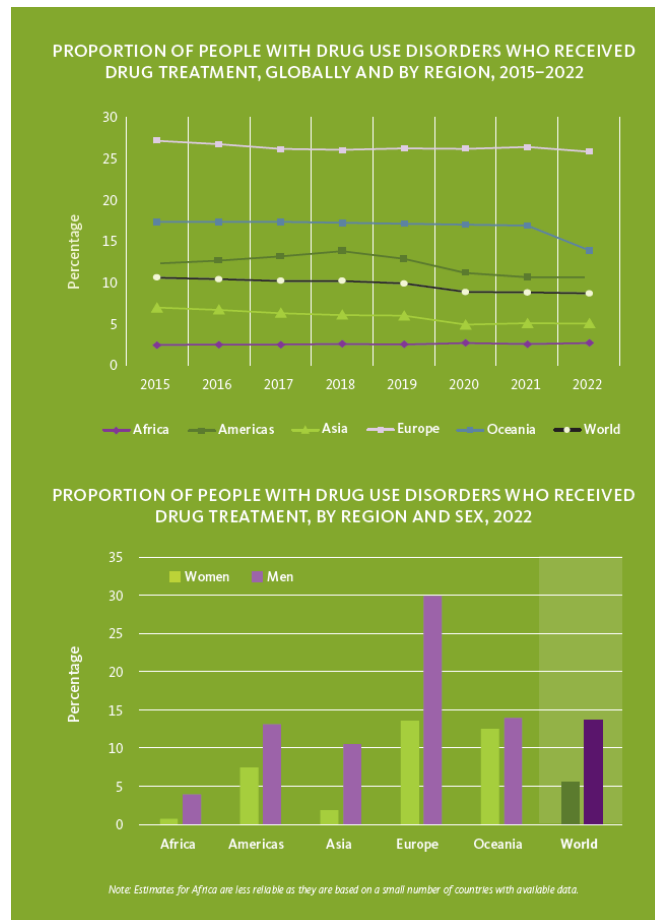


Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire



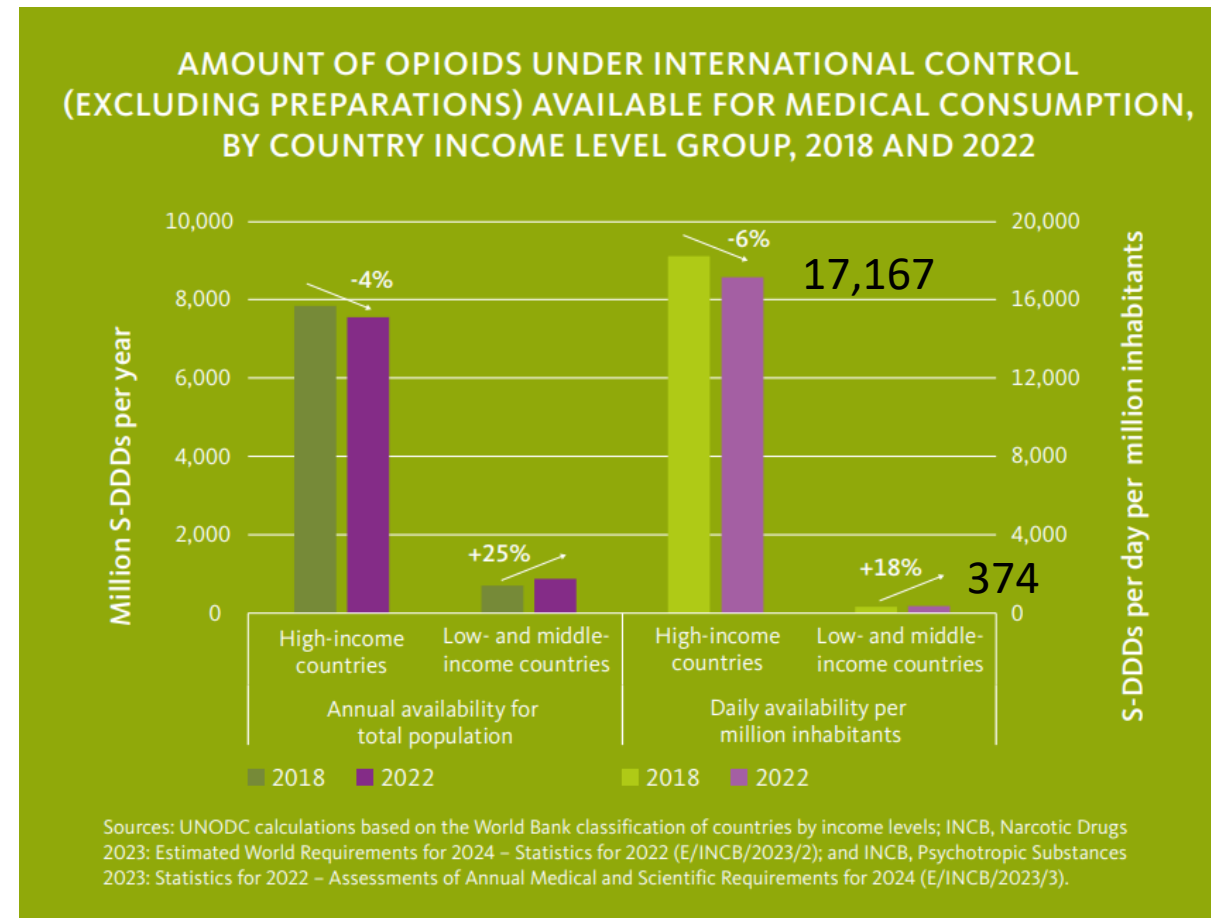
Significant treatment gap

- Only about 1 in 11 people with drug use disorders received drug treatment in 2022 globally, a decrease from 2015.
- Drug-related treatment coverage is lower amongst women than it is amongst men in all five global regions. About 1 in 18 women with drug use disorders received treatment globally in 2022, while the ratio was 1 in 7 for men.



Access to controlled medicines remains limited

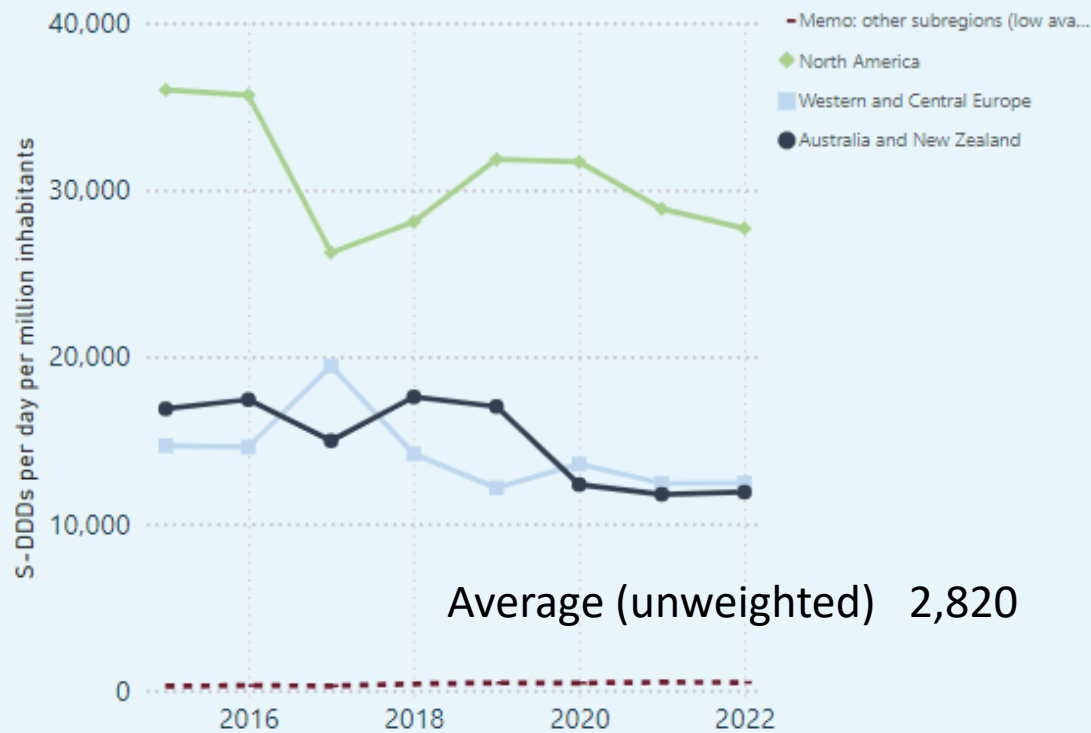
- The availability of opioids for medical consumption remains limited in the global South;
- Some 87 per cent of the world's population do not have adequate access to pharmaceutical opioids for pain relief and care.



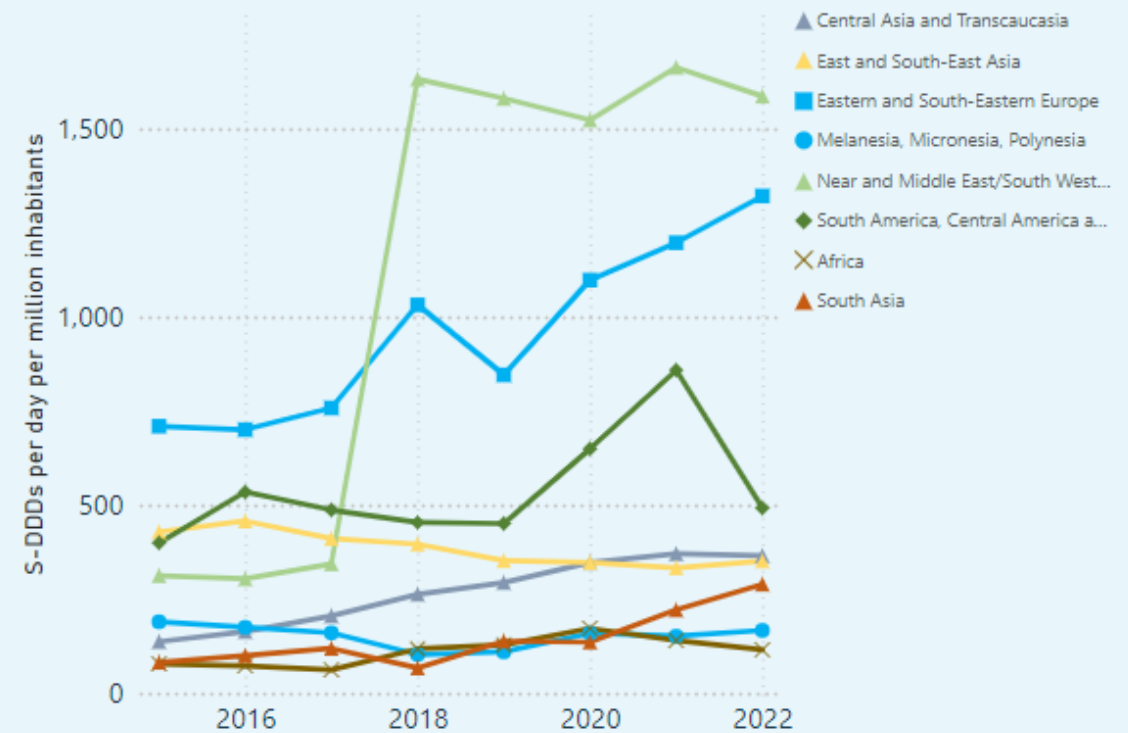


Trends in the availability of opioids under international control (excluding preparations) for medical consumption, by region and subregion, 2015–2022

High-availability subregions

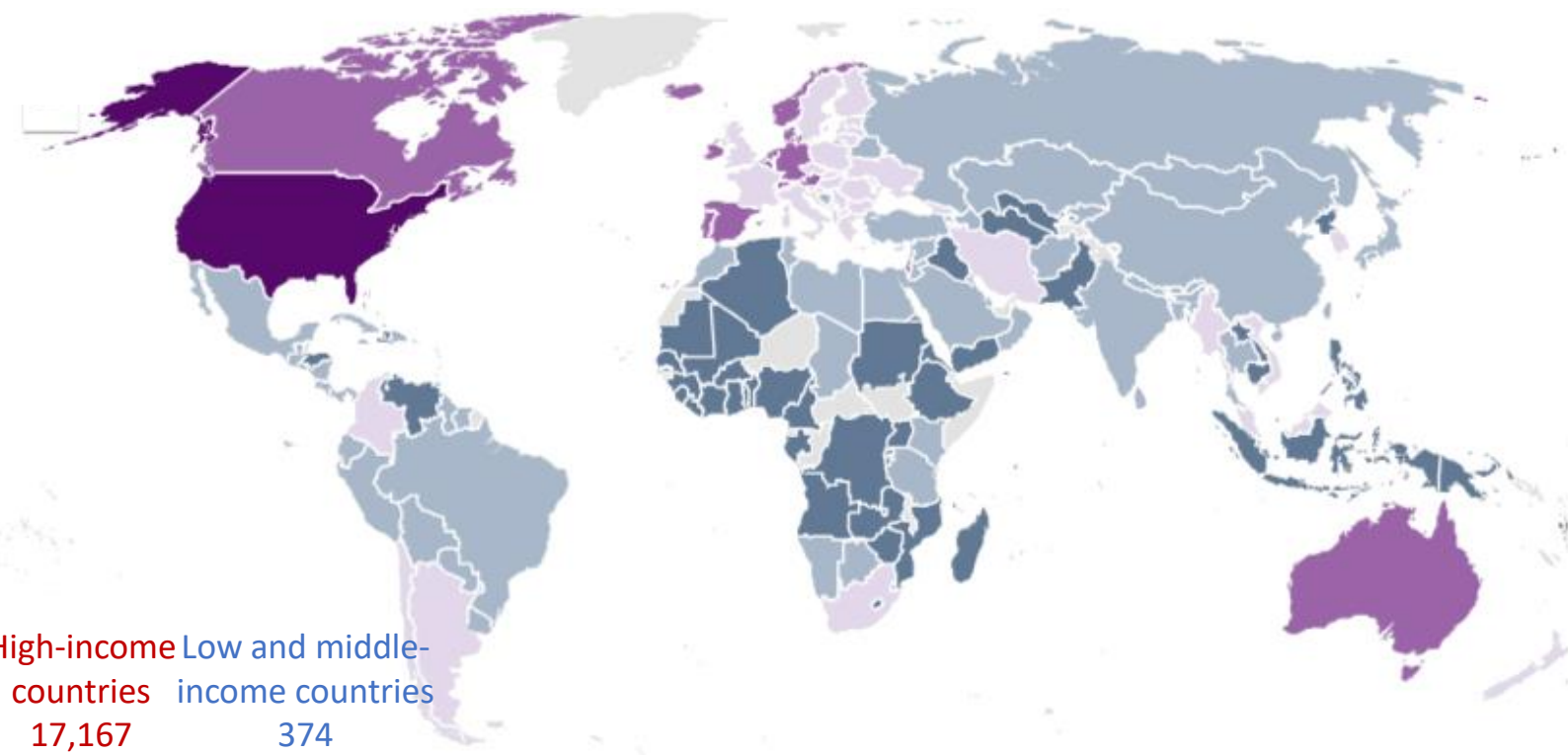
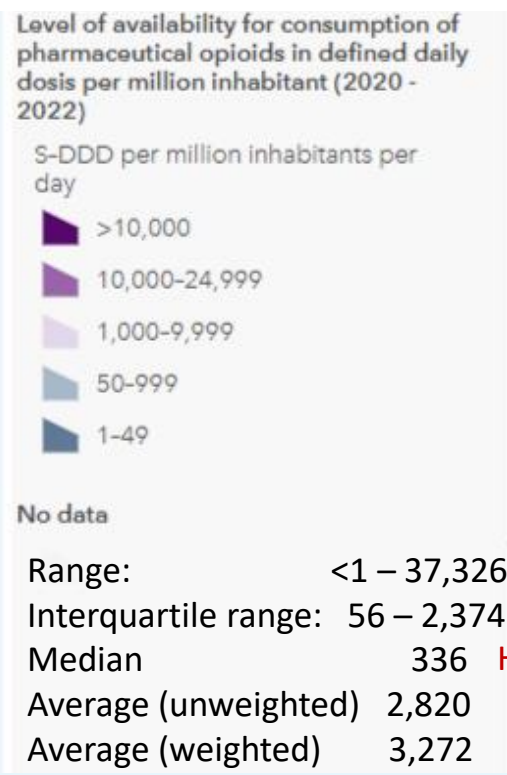


Low-availability subregions



Source: UNODC calculations based on the following INCB reports: *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2023 – Statistics for 2021 (E/INCB/2022/2)*, and previous years; and *Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2021 – Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substance of 1971 (E/INCB/2022/3)*, and previous years.

Level of availability for consumption of pharmaceutical opioids in defined daily doses for statistical purposes per million inhabitants per day, 2020-2022 (or latest year available)



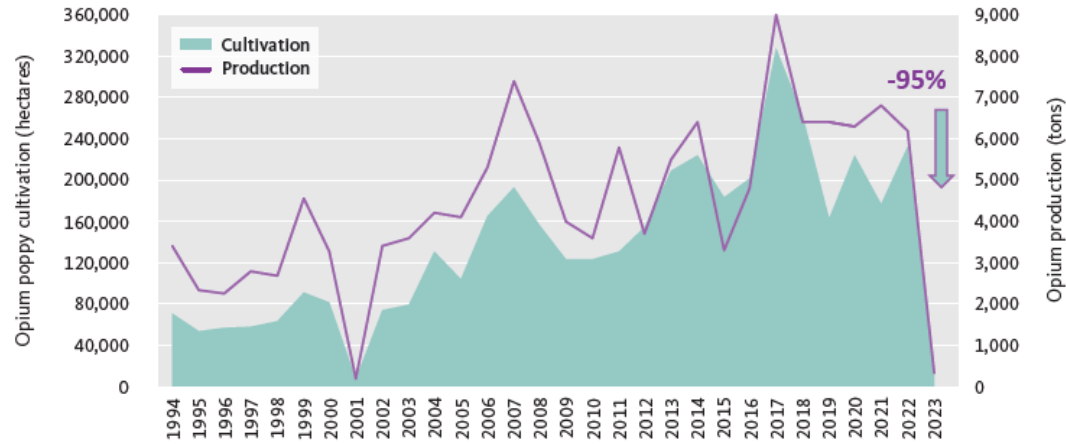
1961 Single Convention:
Preamble:
... Recognizing that the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provision must be made to **ensure the availability** of narcotic drugs for such purposes...

Art. 9: The Board, in co-operation with Governments... shall endeavour to limit the cultivation, production, manufacture and use of drugs to an adequate amount required for medical and scientific purposes, to ensure their availability for such [medical and scientific] purposes...

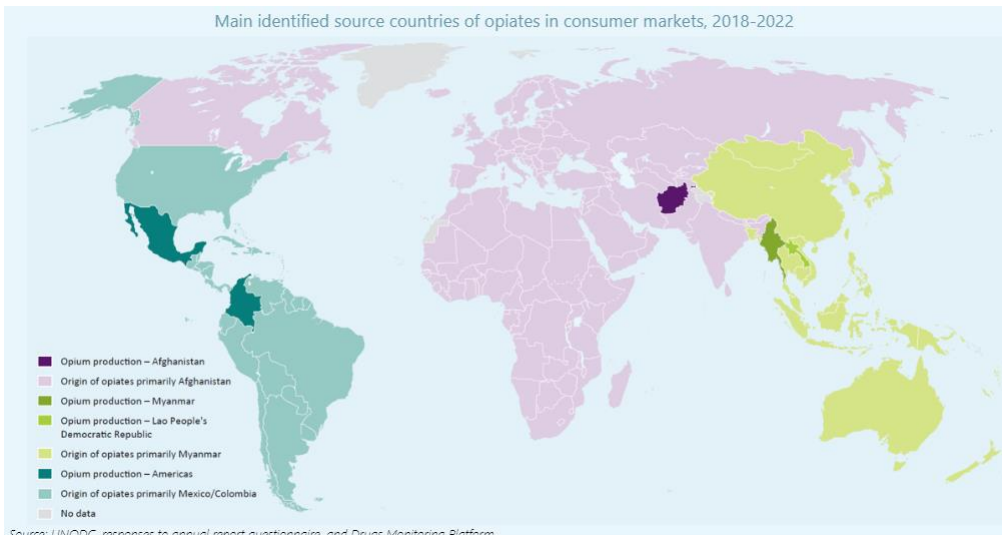
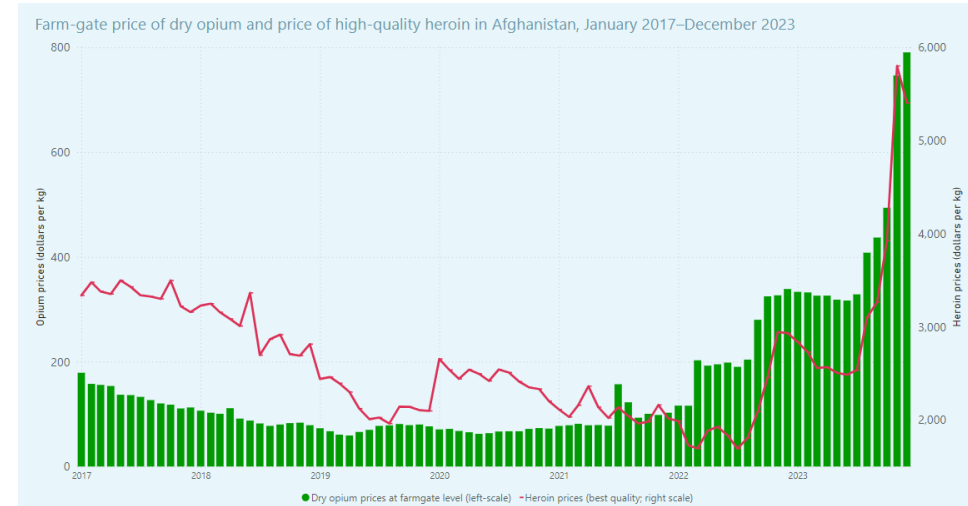
Source: UNODC calculations based on the following INCB reports: *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2023 – Statistics for 2021 (E/INCB/2022/2)*, and previous years; and *Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2021 – Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substance of 1971 (E/INCB/2022/3)*, and previous years.

Drastic contraction of the Afghan opiate market

FIG. 3 Opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan, 1994–2023



Source: UNODC, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2023*, August 2023.



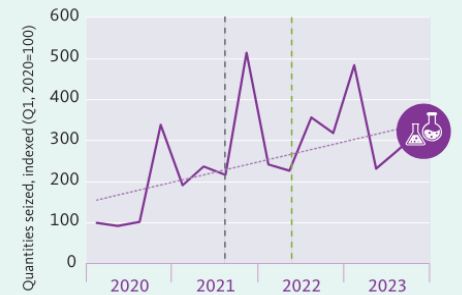
Source: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire, and *Drugs Monitoring Platform*

TREND IN THE QUANTITIES OF HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZED IN SIGNIFICANT SEIZURE EVENTS, POTENTIALLY LINKED TO PRODUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN, 2020–2023

Heroin seized in South-West Asia, South Asia, Near and Middle East, Southern and Eastern Africa and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe



Methamphetamine seized in South-West Asia, Central Asia and Oman

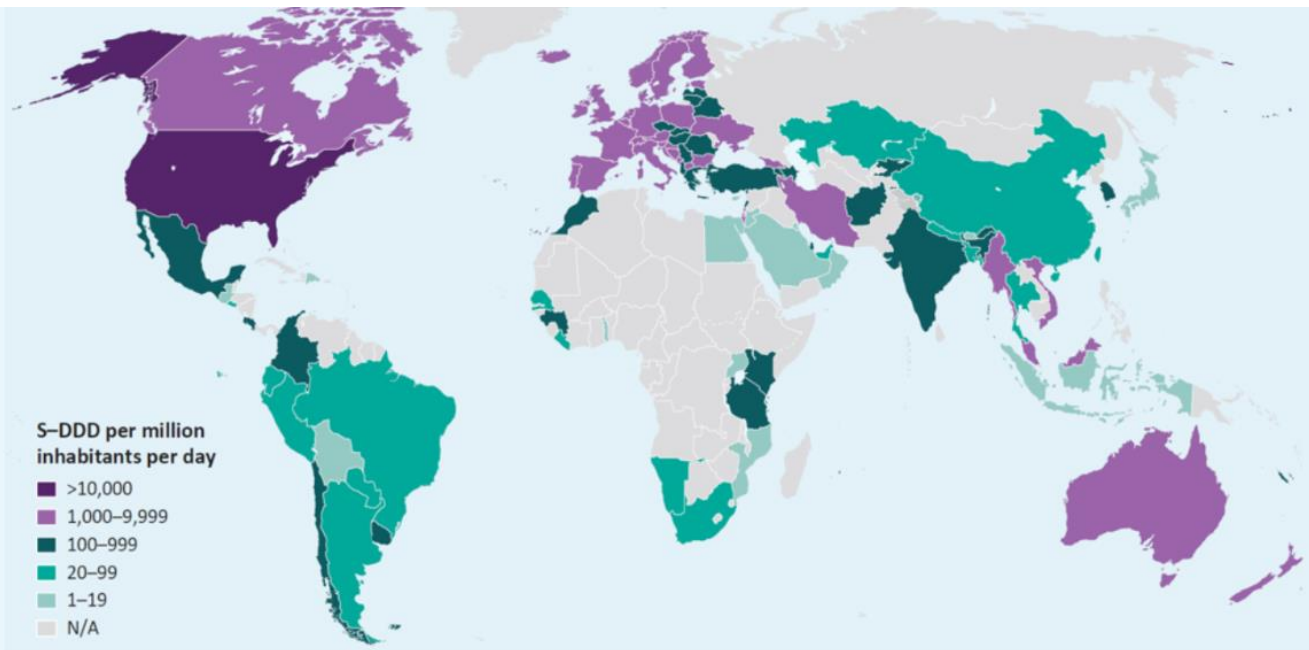


— Heroin - - - Taliban Takeover
- - - Heroin-Trend - - - Drug Ban
— Methamphetamine - - - Taliban Takeover
- - - Methamphetamine-Trend - - - Drug Ban

Source: UNODC, *Drugs Monitoring Platform*.

Potential consequences of the contraction of the Afghan opiate market

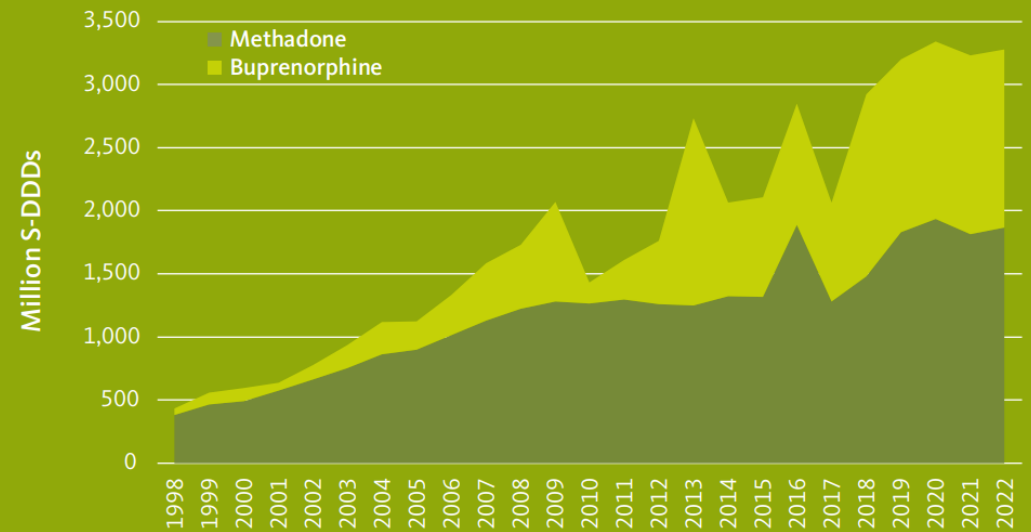
Legal consumption of methadone and buprenorphine (mostly used in opioid substitution treatment), 2020-2022



Source: INCB, Narcotic Drugs; Estimated World Requirements for 2024; Statistics for 2022 (E/INCB/2023/2).

Note: S-DDDs refers to "defined daily doses for statistical purposes" as defined by INCB. They are technical units of measurements for the purpose of statistical analysis and are not recommended daily prescription doses; actual doses may differ depending on treatments required and medical practices.

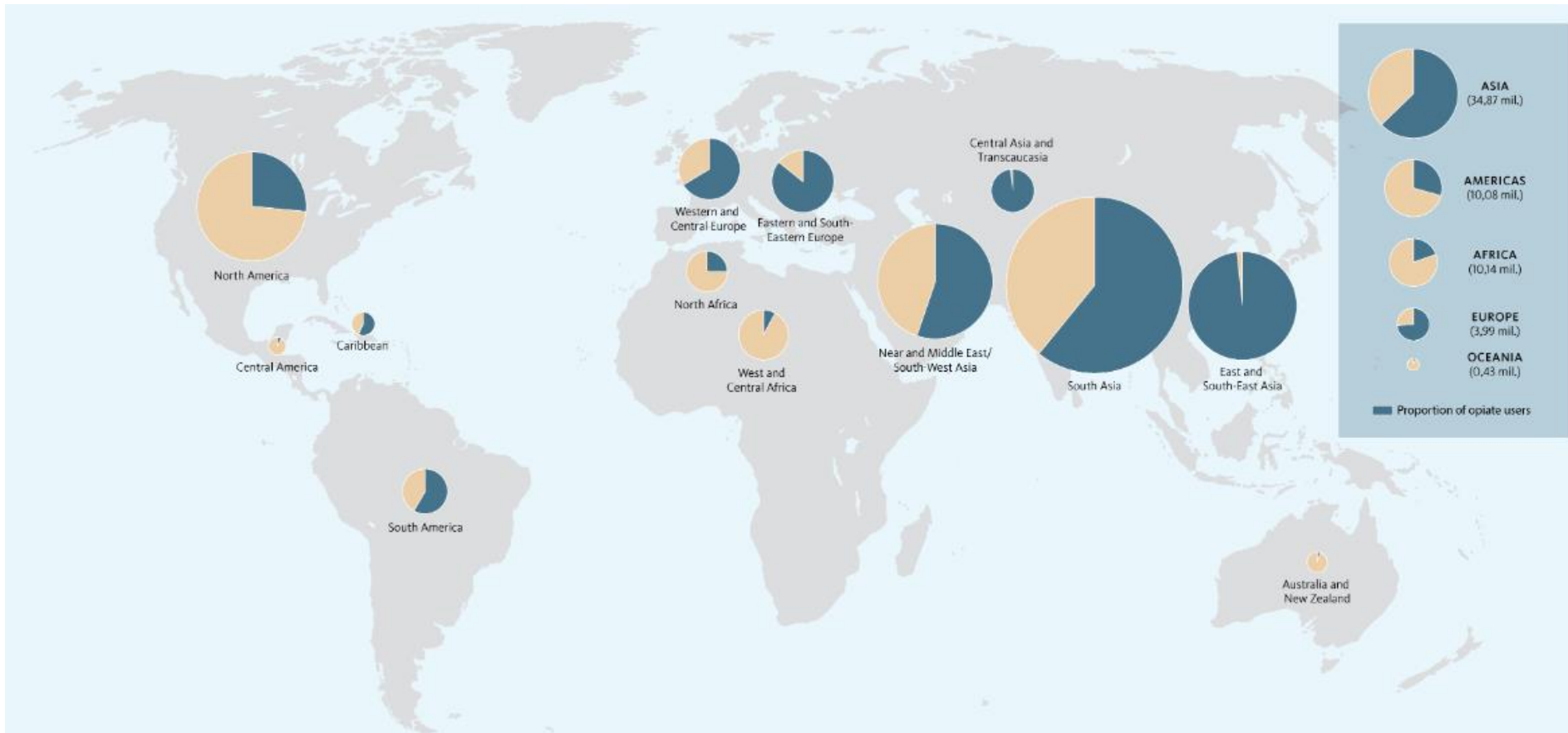
METHADONE AND BUPRENORPHINE AVAILABLE FOR MEDICAL CONSUMPTION (EXCLUDING PREPARATIONS), 1998-2022



Sources: UNODC calculations based on the World Bank classification of countries by income levels; INCB, Narcotic Drugs 2023: Estimated World Requirements for 2024 – Statistics for 2022 (E/INCB/2023/2); and INCB, Psychotropic Substances 2023: Statistics for 2022 – Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for 2024 (E/INCB/2023/3).

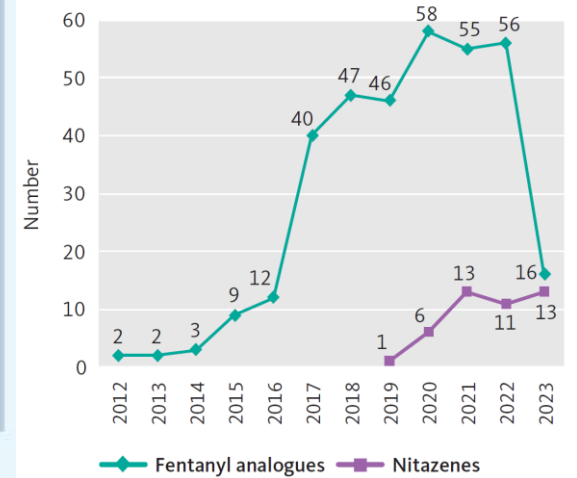
Potential consequences of the contraction of the Afghan opiate market

Number of opioid users and proportion of opiate users thereof, 2022 (or most recent year)



Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

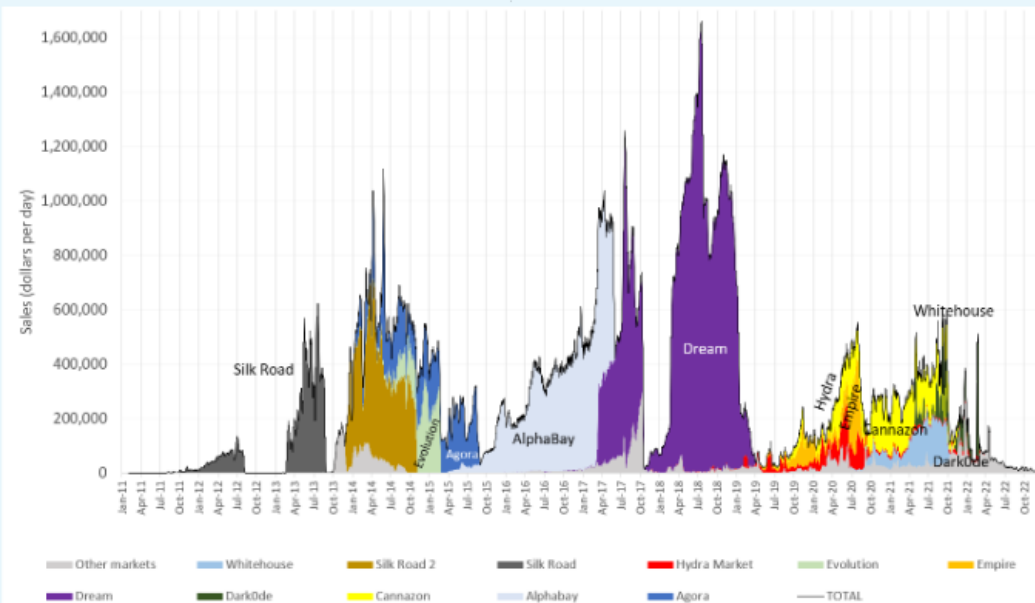
FIG. 14 Number of unique fentanyl analogues and nitazenes reported to the UNODC Early Warning Advisory at the global level, 2012–2023



Emergence of new synthetic opioids poses lethal risks, particularly nitazenes, a group of synthetic opioids

Drug supply via the darkweb

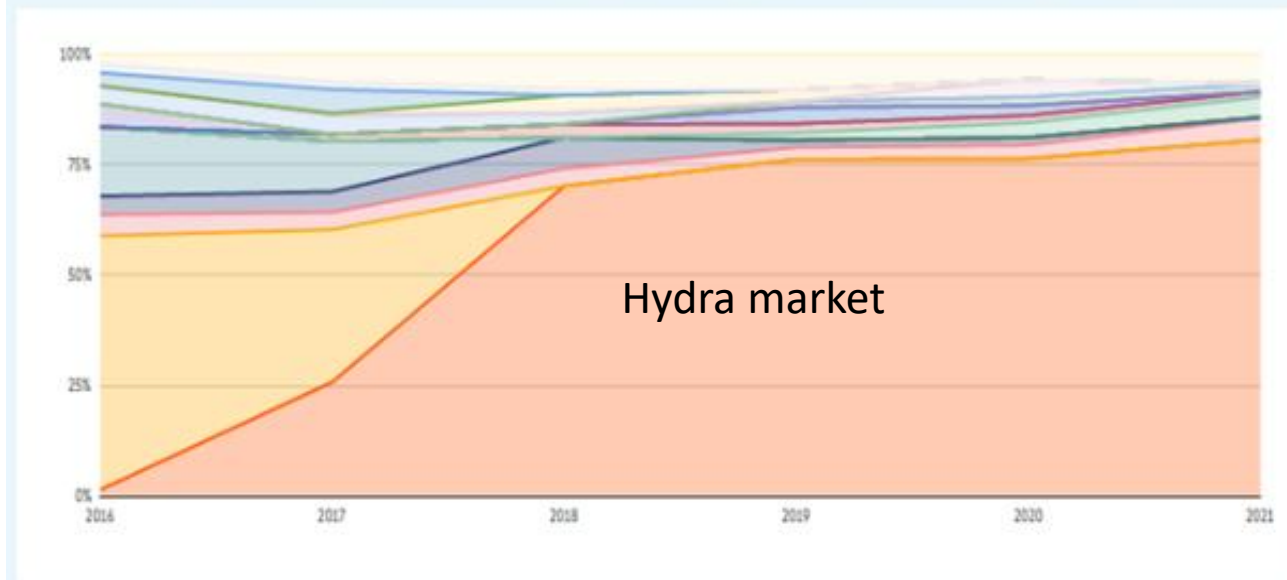
Observed minimum daily sales (mostly drugs) on 39 major darknet markets, 2011-2022



Source: Hikari labs data.

Note: Data refer to minimum stacked market sales of different products and services, of which drugs accounted for some 90 per cent, and are presented as seven-day averages. All data shown reflect minimum sales as the current web-crawler techniques do not cover all sites on a specific market and because not all customers leave feedback information which is used to arrive at total sales figures. Recent data shown are grossly under-represented (due to low coverage ratios), notably for Hydra market, the world's largest darknet market prior to its dismantling in April 2022.

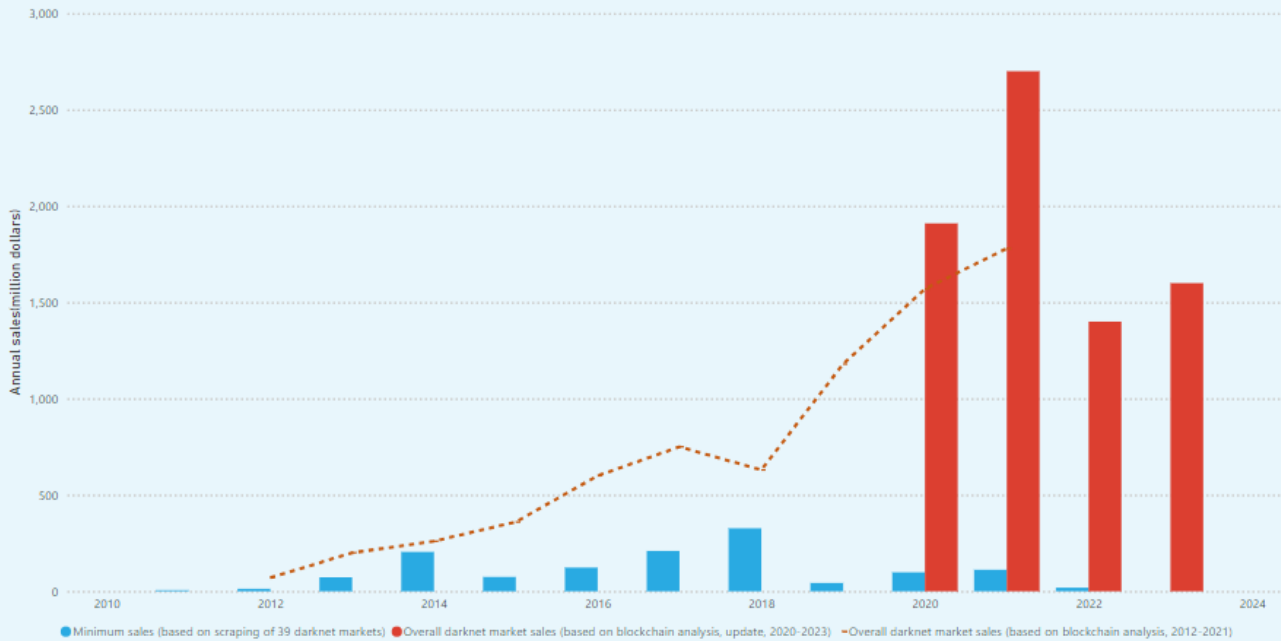
Distribution of darknet market sales identified via blockchain analysis, 2016-2021



Source: Chainalysis, The 2022 Crypto Crime Report.

Drug supply via the darkweb

Estimates of overall darknet market sales (mostly drug-related) based on analysis of blockchain and observed minimum sales on 39 major darknet markets (mostly drug-related), 2011-2023

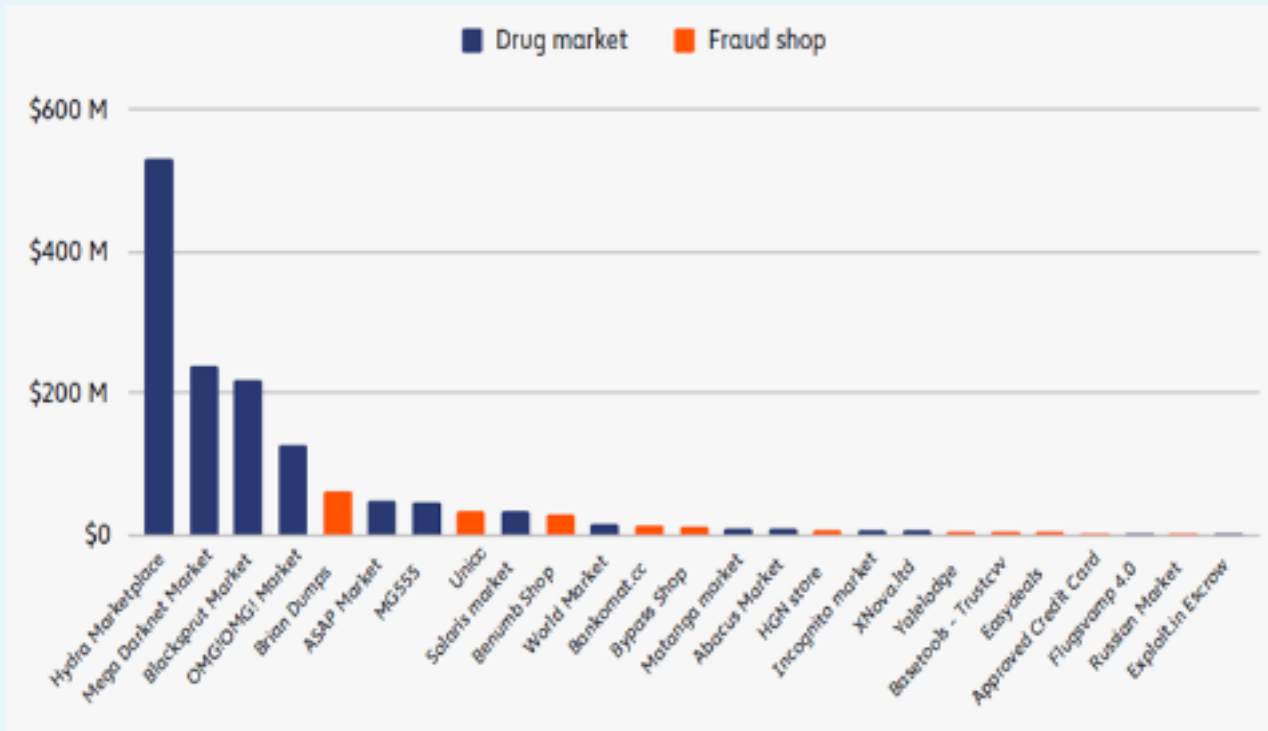


Daily revenues for darknet markets in 2020-2023



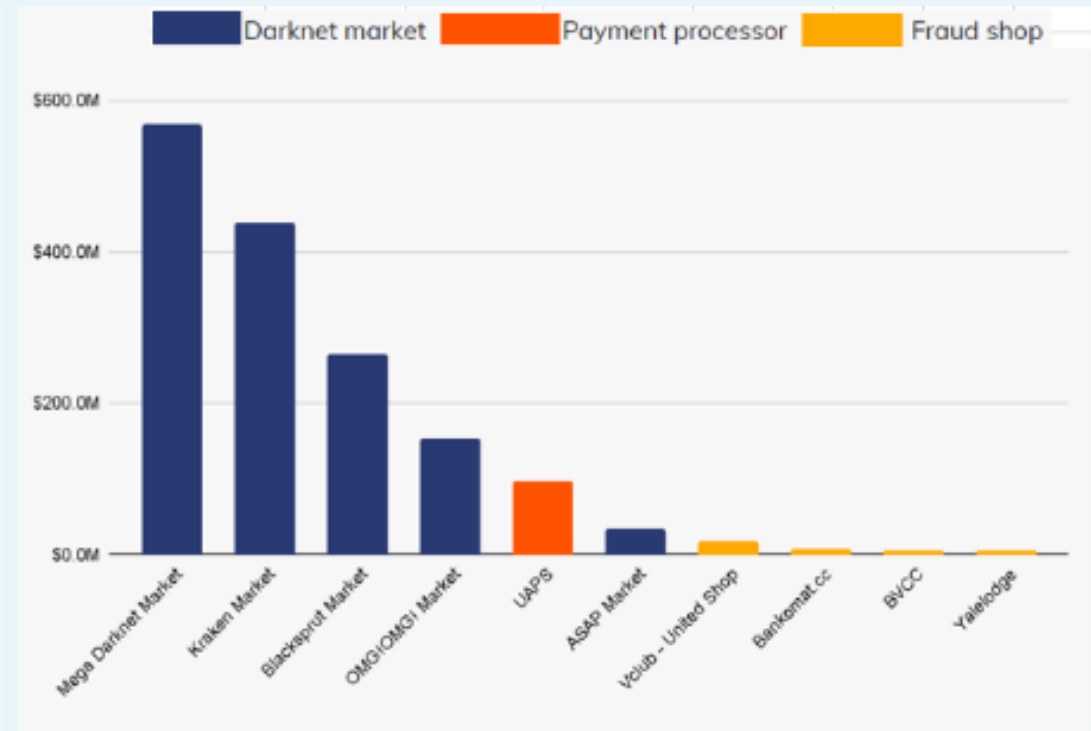
Drug supply via the darkweb

Main darknet markets and fraud shops identified via the blockchain analysis, 2022



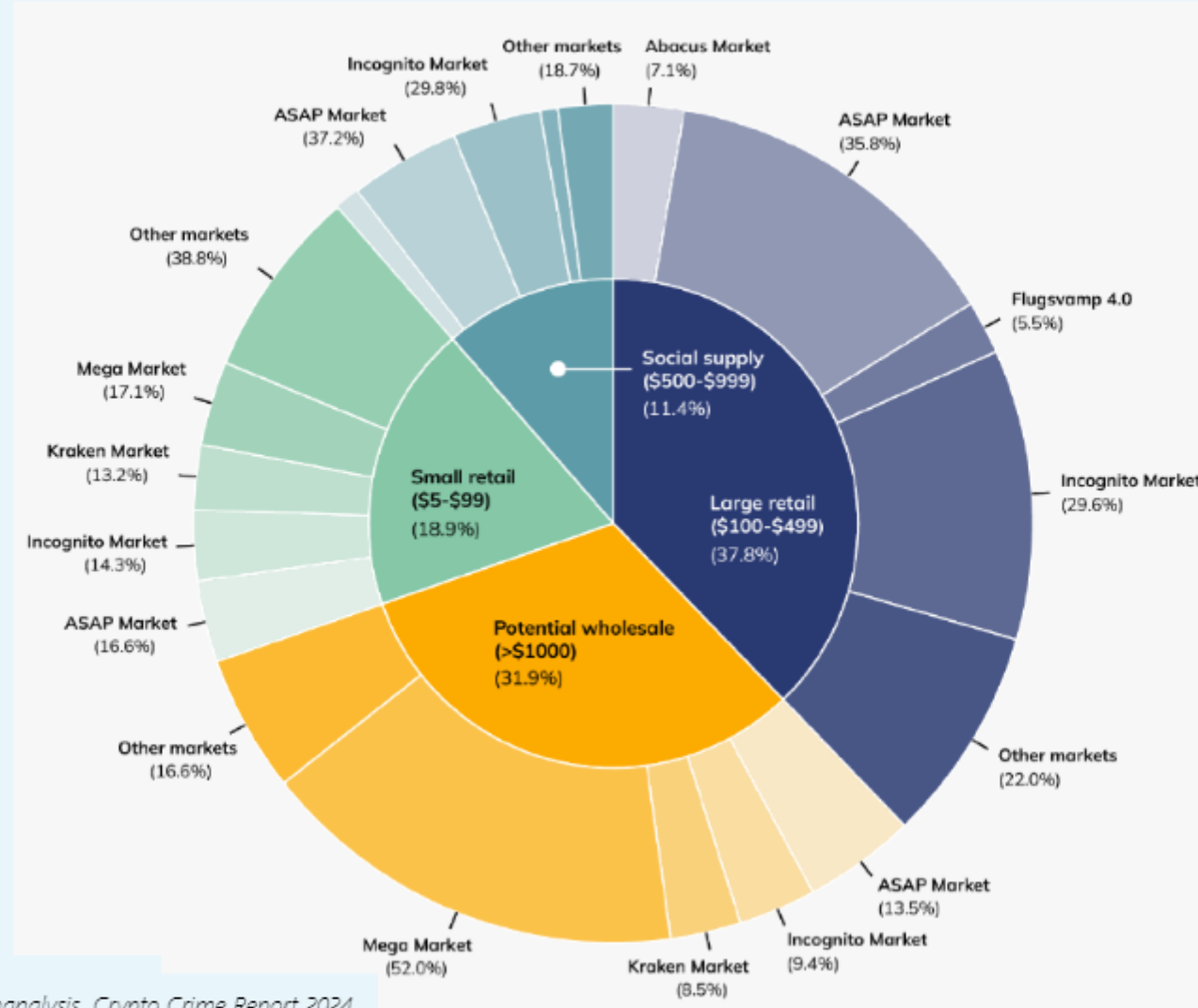
Source: Chainalysis, The 2023 Crime Report (February 2023)

Main darknet markets and fraud shops identified via the blockchain analysis, 2023



Source: Chainalysis, Crypto Crime Report 2024.

Crypto inflows from Western-domiciled exchanges to darknet markets, analyzed via blockchains, 2023



Source: Chainalysis, Crypto Crime Report 2024.



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



WDR 2024 Highlights

- **Dr. Thomas Pietschmann**
Research and Knowledge Production Section (RKPS)

25 July 2024