

UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform Brief:

Latest patterns and trends in drug trafficking modi operandi of heroin and methamphetamine originating in Afghanistan

Introduction

This brief examines dimensions of seizure event data to enable early assessments of possible changes in trafficking patterns. It builds on earlier efforts of the UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform, including analysis of trafficking groups by country of nationality of traffickers arrested in Afghan heroin and methamphetamine-related seizure events.¹

This analysis is based on select countries situated along the southern route in East and Southern Africa and along the Balkan, Caucasus, and northern routes, particularly observations within 2,000 km of Afghanistan.

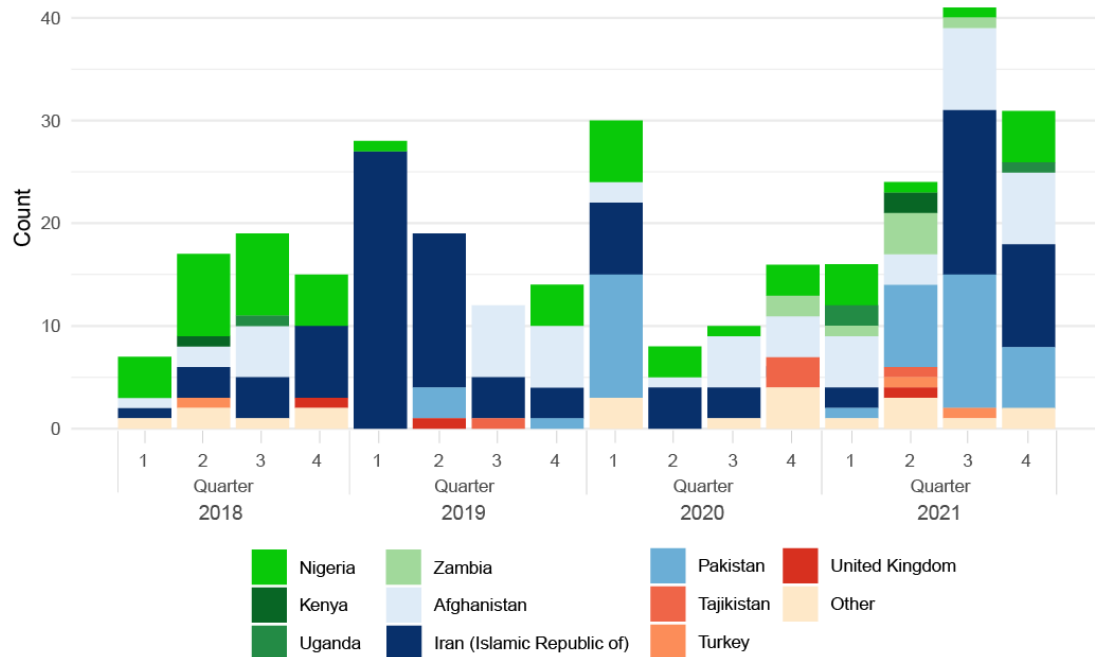
¹ The analysis contained here is based on a continually updated set of individual drug seizure data captured by the Drugs Monitoring Platform. The Drugs Monitoring Platform and its analytical outputs aim at providing knowledge based on a constantly evolving and expanding

dataset, bearing in mind that several data caveats should be considered (see Scope and limitations of the data used in the analysis).

1

Foreign traffickers arrested in the proximity of Afghanistan show a shift to greater national diversity since late 2020, including a broader range of traffickers from African countries, also coinciding with an increase in heroin and methamphetamine seizure events in and around East and Southern Africa.

MOST COMMON TRAFFICKERS BY FOREIGN NATIONALITY INVOLVED IN INDIVIDUAL HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZURES UP TO 2,000 KILOMETERS FROM AFGHANISTAN, 2018-2021



Note: Retail seizures have been omitted from this analysis. Home country nationals in their country of citizenship are excluded. Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform

2

There was a marked increase in seizures of heroin and methamphetamine in land vehicles starting in 2021, which rose throughout the year. Seizures occurring in residences increased substantially from 2020 and into 2021, likely reflecting COVID-19 measures.

QUARTERLY COUNTS OF INDIVIDUAL HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZURE EVENTS BY PHYSICAL SEIZURE LOCATION UP TO 2,000 KILOMETERS FROM AFGHANISTAN, 2018-2021



Note: seizure weight categories for heroin and methamphetamine are: Small 0.05-5kg; Medium = 5-50kg; Large = 50kg+. Retail seizures have been omitted from this analysis. Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform

To read more, please visit <https://dmp.unodc.org/>

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