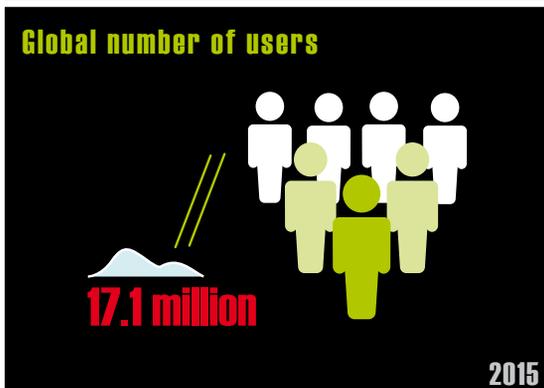
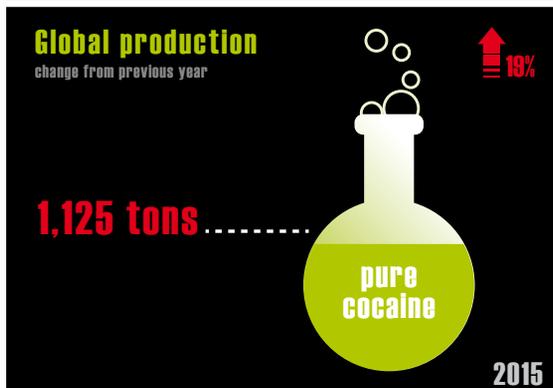
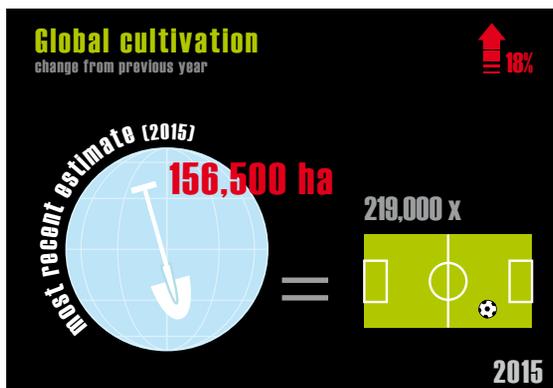


B. THE COCAINE MARKET



Note: Data refer to 2015. Seizures are of cocaine of varying purity. Estimates of illicit cultivation and eradication of coca bush, manufacture of cocaine and prevalence of cocaine use are available in the annex of booklet 2.

Coca bush cultivation on the increase in the last two years

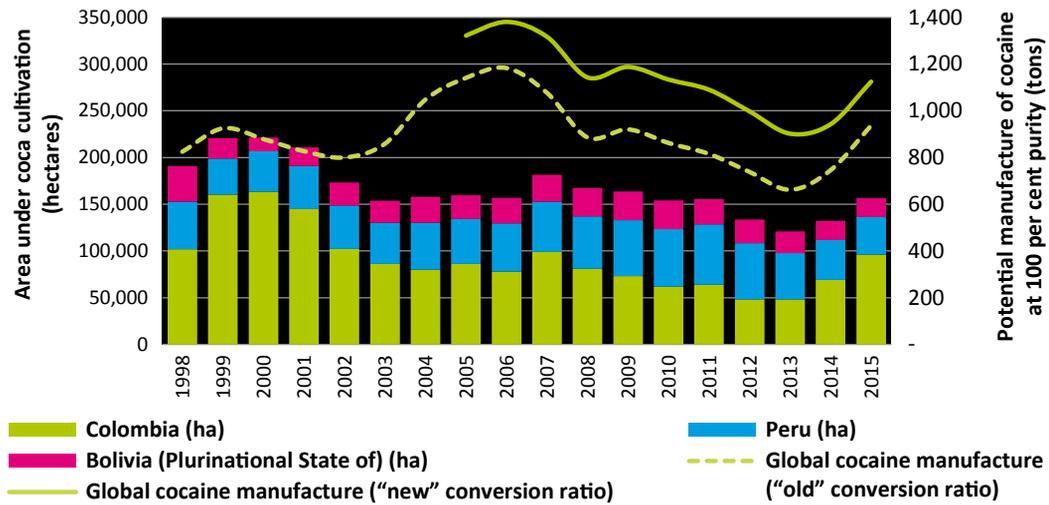
Coca bush cultivation fluctuated within an overall downward trend from its peak in 2000 to 2013. The trend was then reversed, with the total area under coca bush cultivation increasing by 30 per cent over the period 2013-2015, to return to the level reported in 2011. That increase was driven by a doubling of the area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia — by 44 per cent in 2014 and by 39 per cent in 2015, to reach 96,000 ha. This may have been a consequence of different dynamics: a decrease in the perception among farmers of the risk of being affected by eradication (aerial spraying fell by 33 per cent from the previous year to 37,200 ha in 2015, and in October 2015 aerial eradication was completely abandoned by the Colombian Government); local phenomena affecting the licit economy (for example, drought in Antioquia and southern Bolivar in 2015); and higher coca leaf prices. The increase

was also related to the peace negotiations that led to expectations among farmers that they would benefit from alternative development and be in a stronger position to negotiate with the authorities if engaged in coca bush cultivation.¹⁹ Nonetheless, coca bush cultivation in Colombia in 2015 was still 41 per cent lower than at its peak in 2000, a consequence of initially strong eradication efforts in combination with improved alternative development activities, particularly after 2007.²⁰

In Peru, the area under coca bush cultivation decreased after 2011, dropping to 40,300 ha in 2015, which may have been the result of improved alternative development activities and increased eradication efforts (as reported by the Government).

19 UNODC and Colombia, *Colombia: Coca Cultivation Survey 2016* (July 2016), p. 13 and *Colombia: Coca Cultivation Survey 2014* (July 2015), p. 13.

20 *World Drug Report 2015* (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.15.XI.6), p. 113.

FIG. 15 | Global coca cultivation and cocaine manufacture, 1998-2015

Sources: UNODC, coca cultivation surveys in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, 2014 and previous years.

Such efforts reached a record level of 35,900 ha of eradicated coca bush cultivation in 2015, up from 12,000 ha in 2010.²¹ Similarly, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, coca bush cultivation over the period 2010-2015 fell by 35 per cent, to 20,200 ha, reflecting, inter alia, its “políticas de control social en coordinación con las organizaciones sociales productoras de coca”²² (policy based on “voluntary” reductions in coca cultivation in the coca-growing areas, limiting cultivation to a maximum of 1 cato per family),^{23, 24, 25, 26} which went in parallel with

eradication (as reported by the Government), particularly in national parks and other areas outside accepted cultivation areas. Overall, coca bush eradication almost doubled in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, from around 6,000 ha per year over the period 2005-2009 to around 11,000 ha per year over the period 2011-2015.²⁷

The total level of cocaine manufacture worldwide is estimated based on the area under cultivation, coca yield estimates and cocaine lab efficiency. The 2015 estimate (expressed at 100 per cent purity) for the three Andean countries, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, increased to 1,125 tons²⁸ and thus returned to the level seen in 2008. Global cocaine manufacture (based on the new conversion ratios)²⁹ was 19 per cent higher than in the previous year and 25 per cent higher than in 2013.

21 UNODC and the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs of Peru, *Perú: Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca 2015* (July 2016).

22 UNODC and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, *Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia: Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca 2015* (July 2016).

23 Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ministry of Rural Development, Agriculture and the Environment, “Acuerdo entre el gobierno nacional y los productores de hoja de coca”, 14 September 2008.

24 Robert Lessmann, “Bolivien: zwischen Modellfall und Unregierbarkeit”, in *Bolivien Staatszerfall als Kollateralschaden*, Thomas Jäger, ed. (Wiesbaden, Germany, VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 2009), p. 54.

25 One cato is 0.16 ha in Chapare and 0.25 ha in the Yungas region, as farmers in the Yungas argue that the coca plant yield is less in the Yungas than in the Chapare. (Linda C. Farthing and Kathryn Ledebur, *Habeas Coca: Bolivia's Community Coca Control* (New York, Open Society Foundations, July 2015).

26 Kathryn Ledebur, Coletta A. Youngers, *From Conflict to Collaboration: An Innovative Approach to Reducing Coca*

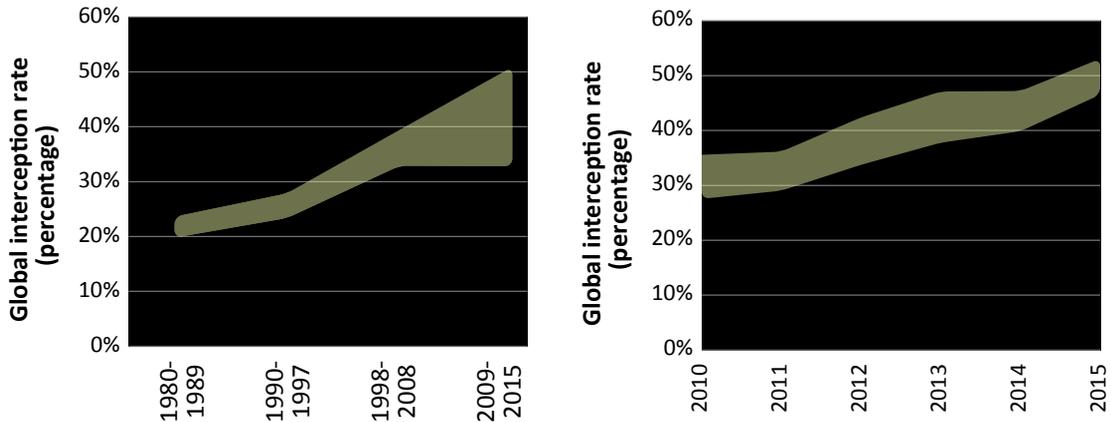
Cultivation in Bolivia, *Stability: International Journal of Security & Development*, 2(1), (2013).

27 UNODC and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, *Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia: Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca 2015*, issue of July 2016 and previous years.

28 Based on the new conversion ratios, as discussed in the methodology section of the online version of this report.

29 For more information on the new conversion ratios, see the methodology section of the online version of this report.

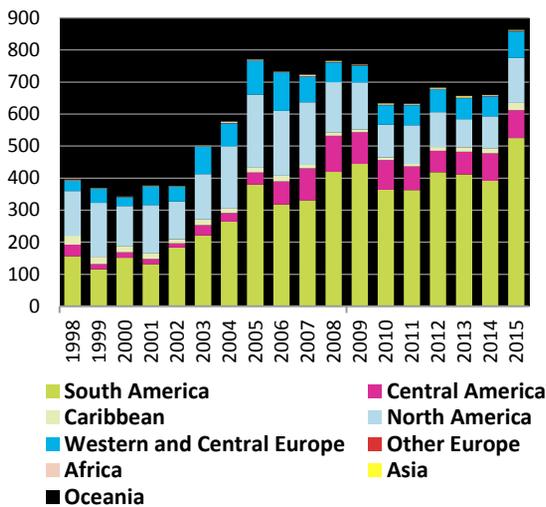
FIG. 16 | Estimated global cocaine interception rates, 1980-2015



Sources: UNODC calculations, based on coca bush cultivation surveys, responses to the annual report questionnaire; and government reports.

Note: Purity adjustment of seizures based on average unweighted purities at the global level. For details of the calculation methods, see the online methodology section of the present report.

FIG. 17 | Global quantities of cocaine seized,^a by region, 1998-2015



Distribution of seizures in 2015

Oceania:	0.1%
Africa:	0.1%
Asia:	0.2%
Western and Central Europe:	10%
East and South-East Europe:	0.2%
Caribbean:	3%
Central America:	10%
North America:	16%
South America:	61%

^a Includes cocaine hydrochloride, coca paste and base, and “crack” cocaine; not adjusted for purity.

Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

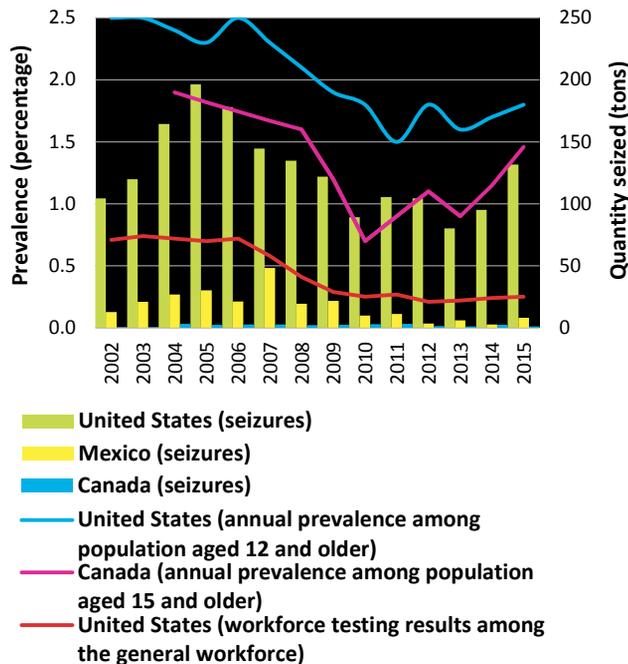
Record cocaine seizures in 2015, trafficked primarily from South America to North America, Western and Central Europe

In 2015, global cocaine seizures rose 32 per cent from the level of the previous year to reach 864 tons (of varying purity), the highest level ever reported. The global interception rate nearly doubled from 20-24 per cent in the 1980s to 34-53 per cent over the period 2009-2015; it reached 40-47 per cent in 2014 and increased to 45-55 per cent in 2015, a record level.

A total of 153 countries from all regions reported cocaine seizures over the period 2010-2015, suggesting that trafficking in cocaine is a global phenomenon. Nevertheless, 90 per cent of the cocaine intercepted in 2015 was in the Americas, most notably in South America, where production and, increasingly, consumption take place; in North America, the main consumer market worldwide; and in the transit regions of Central America and the Caribbean. The next largest portion of total quantities seized was reported in Europe (10 per cent), particularly in Western and Central Europe. Quantities intercepted in Asia, Africa and Oceania accounted for a minor proportion (0.5 per cent of the total).

The largest increases from the previous year in quantities seized were reported in Oceania (63 per cent),

FIG. 18 Quantities of cocaine seized in North America and annual prevalence of cocaine use in the United States and Canada, 2004-2015



Sources: Responses to the annual reports questionnaire data; the United States National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health; Quest Diagnostics, "Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index", full year 2015 tables" (September 2016), and previous years; the Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CTADS) 2015 and, for previous years, Health Canada, Canadian Alcohol and Drug Monitoring Surveys (CADUM).

the Caribbean (51 per cent), North America (40 per cent) and Europe (35 per cent) in 2015.

Global figures on cocaine use mask important regional patterns and trends

At the global level, cocaine use in terms of annual prevalence has remained stable in recent years, at around 0.4 per cent of the population aged 15-64 years, although levels differ substantially among the subregions. The highest annual prevalence rates in 2015 were reported in North America (1.8 per cent), Oceania (1.5 per cent) and Western and Central Europe (1.1 per cent). The largest number of cocaine users worldwide was found in North America (33 per cent of the global total), followed by Western and Central Europe (20 per cent) and South America, together with the Caribbean and Central America (17 per cent).

Changes in the North American cocaine market

North America, the world's largest cocaine market, has shown an upward trend in the last few years following a sharp decline between 2006 and 2012. Several indicators document the decrease and subsequent increase in cocaine use in the United States, including use in the general population and in the workforce. Similarly, data from Canada signalled strong declines in cocaine use in the second half of the first decade of the new millennium, followed by a subsequent increase, most of which occurred between 2013 and 2015.³⁰ Those declines and subsequent increases in cocaine use are thought to be at least partly the result of changes in cocaine manufacture in Colombia, which fell by 50 per cent over the period 2006-2012 (from 660 tons to 333 tons), before almost doubling again (to 646 tons) in 2015.³¹ As a result, the availability of cocaine in the United States was reported to have increased in 2015.³²

This development is reflected in the quantities of cocaine seizures reported in North America, which fell by more than 50 per cent, from 202 tons in 2006 to 87 tons in 2013, before rebounding to 141 tons in 2015. Accounting for 93 per cent of all quantities of cocaine seized in North America, the largest cocaine seizures in North America in 2015 were reported by the United States, followed by Mexico (6 per cent) and Canada (1 per cent).

Cocaine trafficking to the United States

As in previous years, the vast majority (90 per cent in 2015) of the cocaine trafficked to the United States originated in Colombia, while around 7 per cent of the coca leaf used in the manufacture of the cocaine found in the United States market appeared to have originated in Peru. However, forensic analysis indicated that less than 1 per cent of the cocaine samples in the United States market could be linked to cocaine hydrochloride actually manufactured in Peru: most of the samples trafficked

30 Health Canada and Statistics Canada, Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey: 2015 summary.

31 UNODC, *Colombia: Coca Cultivation Survey 2015*, p. 11; and issues of previous years.

32 United States Drug Enforcement Administration, *2016 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary*, p. 87.

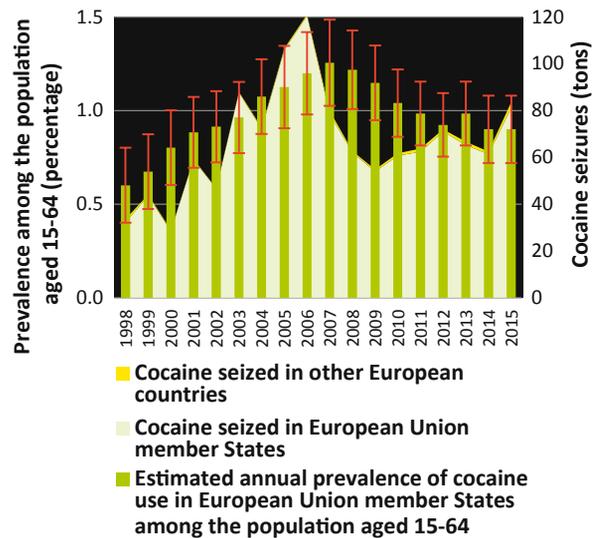
as cocaine from Peru showed chemical signatures consistent with those of cocaine hydrochloride produced in laboratories controlled by Colombian organized crime groups.³³ This suggests that either some of the coca paste or cocaine base produced in Peru may be subsequently transformed into cocaine hydrochloride in Colombia before being shipped to the United States. It could also mean that Colombian controlled laboratories operating in other countries in the subregion, and using the same chemicals and production methods as in Colombia, were processing Peruvian coca paste and cocaine base into cocaine hydrochloride.

DEA estimates suggest that 76 per cent of the cocaine departing South America transited the eastern Pacific in 2015, often by ship or semi-submersible vessel, entering either Central America or Mexico before being transported overland to the United States. It then entered the country via major hub cities located in Arizona, California and Texas before being transported along interstate highways to various other hub cities, including Atlanta, Chicago and New York. Smaller amounts were transhipped through the western and eastern Caribbean (14 and 9 per cent, respectively), often using “go-fast” vessels and, to a lesser extent, aircraft. While cocaine transported across the western Caribbean typically transits Mexico before entering the United States, cocaine shipped across the eastern Caribbean mainly enters the United States mainland via Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic before reaching Miami or New York. The trafficking of cocaine via both the eastern Pacific and the Caribbean was reported to have increased in 2015.³⁴

Early signs of growth in the European cocaine market

Cocaine seizures in Europe declined from a peak in 2006 before starting to recover again over the period 2009–2015. The supply of cocaine to Europe, prompted by production declines in Colombia, decreased after 2006 before recovering after 2009 as traffickers started to make use of alternative sources from Peru and, to a lesser extent, the Plurinational State of Bolivia in order to offset the shortfall in supply from Colombia. In recent years,

FIG. 19 Quantities of cocaine seized in Europe and annual prevalence of cocaine use in the European Union, 1998–2015



Sources: UNODC calculations based on responses to the UNODC annual report questionnaire; and EMCDDA, Statistical bulletin 2016 and previous years.

however, Colombia, in line with large increases in cocaine manufacture in the past two years, appears to have re-emerged as the main supplier to Europe.

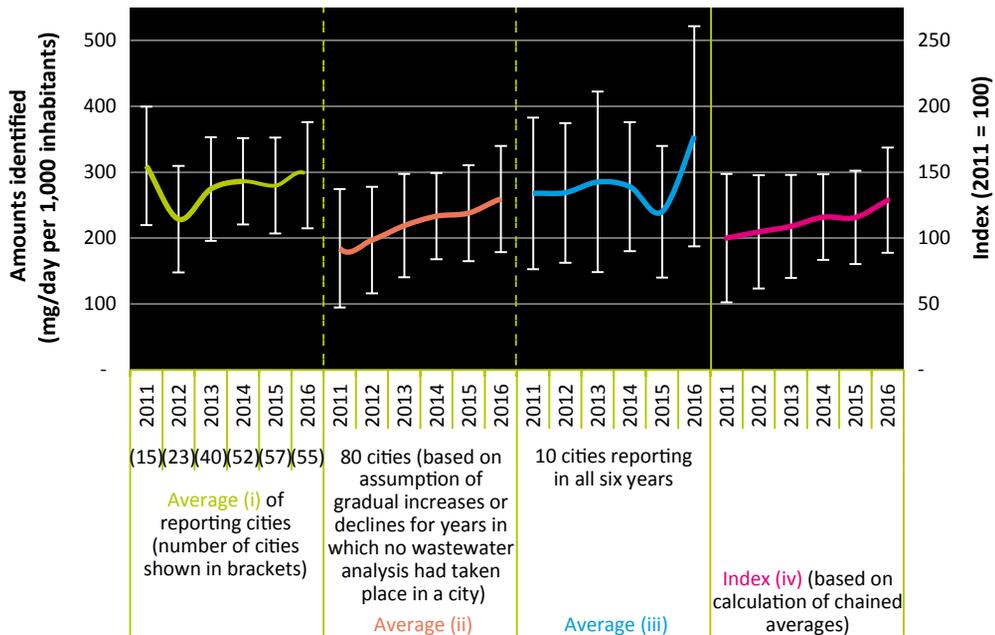
Overall supply of cocaine to Europe thus appears to be increasing again. However, data on cocaine use in the European Union, so far, only partially follow that trend. The overall prevalence of cocaine use in the European Union appears to have declined from a peak of around 1.3 per cent of the population aged 15–64 years (about half the rate reported in the United States) in 2007, before stabilizing, and affecting around 0.9 per cent of the population aged 15–64 years over the period 2011–2015.

Data on cocaine use in individual countries across Europe continue to show a mixed picture with no clear overall trends emerging. Some countries with a high prevalence of cocaine use, such as the United Kingdom, Spain and Italy (by order of prevalence), as well as other countries in Western and Central Europe, including Germany, Austria, Denmark, Belgium, Czechia, Slovakia and Poland (by order of prevalence), have reported declines in recent years. However, cocaine use appears to have increased in a number of other countries in the subregion, including the Netherlands, France and Switzerland,

³³ Ibid., p. 90.

³⁴ Ibid., pp. 96–98.

FIG. 20 Benzoyllecgonine (cocaine metabolite) found in wastewater per 1,000 inhabitants in Europe (based on data from 80 European cities), 2011–2016



Source: Calculations based on Sewage Analysis CORE Group Europe (SCORE).

Note: The wastewater analysis took place in 26 countries over the period 2011–2016. All city results have been weighted by the population served by the respective drug treatment plants. The analysis in each city was based on the amounts of benzoyllecgonine identified in wastewater over a seven-day period, which allowed for the calculation of a daily average of benzoyllecgonine per 1,000 inhabitants living in the area served by the respective wastewater treatment plant. For details of the calculation methods, see the online methodology section of the present report.

and some of the countries in South-Eastern Europe (Croatia and Romania). Overall, nine European countries perceived stable levels of cocaine use in 2015, five perceived a decline, and five perceived an increase in the number of cocaine users, with large increases in 2015 being reported by Portugal and Romania.

The analysis of benzoyllecgonine (a cocaine metabolite) in wastewater, which can provide information about trends in cocaine consumption (i.e., tons consumed), shows a somewhat different picture. Based on data from 80 cities (accounting for 7 per cent of the population in the 26 participating European countries), results point to an increase in cocaine consumption since 2011, by some 30 per cent or more, depending on the methodology used. This is in line with quantities of cocaine seized that show an increase of more than 30 per cent over the period 2011–2015 in Europe. In 2016, levels of benzoyllecgonine found in wastewater turned out to be

higher in 32 cities than in the previous year and lower in 8 cities. When the average for all the cities is used, cocaine consumption appears to have remained stable, although this is primarily the result of the wider coverage of surveillance sites over the years.

The analysis at the city level shows high values of benzoyllecgonine in wastewater per 1,000 inhabitants in Antwerp, London, Zurich, Barcelona and Amsterdam, as well as in other cities in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Denmark and Italy (by level of benzoyllecgonine). Differences within countries can, however, be large, as reflected in the high level of benzoyllecgonine found in Dortmund, in western Germany, and the low level found in Dresden, in the east of the country. Levels too low to be detectable were reported in some cities in Finland and Romania, while low levels were found in some cities in Greece, Poland and Sweden.

Estimating the size of the European cocaine market based on wastewater analysis

The analysis of wastewater in 80 European cities in 2016 (or latest year available), covering a population of some 37 million people, the equivalent of around 7 per cent of the total population of the countries where the analyses took place (504 million people), suggests that an average of 259 mg of benzoylecgonine per 1,000 inhabitants per day was found in wastewater in those cities (95 per cent confidence interval: 179–340 mg).^a

Using such per capita figures for the European Union, countries of the European Free Trade Association and Balkan countries not members of the European Union (with a total population of 538 million people) and the multipliers (correction factors) found in the literature, to convert benzoylecgonine found in wastewater into cocaine consumption equivalents (a ratio of between 2.3 and 3.59),^b cocaine consumption in Europe may have ranged from 117 tons of pure cocaine to 183 tons (depending on the correction factors found in the literature) per year in 2016. When taking into consideration the 95 per cent confidence intervals of per capita use of benzoylecgonine, the range increases to 81–240 tons for 2016.

An important caveat is that the cities were not randomly selected. As most of the cities are in Western Europe, where cocaine use is relatively high (and bearing in mind that cocaine use is still more of an urban phenomenon than a rural one), the application of ex-post stratifications with regard to the location of the cities suggests that this estimate needs to be adjusted downwards. Given the information currently available, it appears likely that, based on wastewater data, actual cocaine consumption in the European Union, countries of the European Free Trade Association and Balkan countries not members of the European Union falls somewhere within a broad range of 64–208 tons. (For more details, see the online methodology section of this report.)

a UNODC calculations based on the Sewage Analysis CORE Group Europe.

b EMCDDA, *Assessing Illicit Drugs in Wastewater: Advances in Wastewater-based Drug Epidemiology*, Sara Castiglioni, ed., Insights Series No. 22 (Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2016), pp. 37–39.

total quantity intercepted in the region over the period 2010–2015, followed by Belgium and the Netherlands.

Increasing trafficking in South America linked to growing Colombian cocaine production

Some of the most striking increases in cocaine seizures worldwide over the period 2010–2015 were reported in South America, where seizures rose from 364 tons in 2010 and 392 tons in 2014 to 526 tons in 2015, a rise of 34 per cent from the previous year. This rise can be linked to increased cocaine production in Colombia and increasing trafficking activities out of Colombia. A sharp increase in quantities of cocaine seized in 2015 was reported by Colombia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ecuador, Suriname and Guyana (58 per cent overall from the previous year). Colombia again reported the largest quantities of cocaine seized worldwide in 2015 (34 per cent of the global total) and accounted for 57 per cent of all cocaine seized in South America, followed by Ecuador (12 per cent) and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (12 per cent). This suggests

that more than 80 per cent of cocaine seizures made in South America were linked to cocaine produced in Colombia. By contrast, the countries mostly affected by the trafficking of Peruvian and Bolivian cocaine in 2015, including Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, reported an overall decrease of 21 per cent in the quantity of cocaine seized, compared with the previous year.

Identified by countries in the Americas over the period 2010–2015, the main cocaine destination country in North America was the United States, followed by Mexico and Canada; in South America, it was Brazil. In Europe, the main destination countries, by number of reports, were Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Cocaine trafficking stable via Central America while increasing via the Caribbean

Based on seizures, cocaine trafficking via Central America appears to have remained relatively stable in 2015, when a total of 86 tons of cocaine were

seized, roughly the same quantity as in the previous year and down slightly from the quantity seized in 2010 (93 tons). The largest quantity seized in 2015 was reported by Panama (53 tons or 62 per cent of all cocaine seized in Central America), followed by Costa Rica (20 per cent) and Guatemala (7 per cent). In 2015, the quantity of cocaine seized in Panama (all from Colombia) increased by more than 50 per cent from the previous year.

In the Caribbean, the quantity of cocaine seized rose from 8 tons in 2010 to 15 tons in 2014 and 23 tons in 2015, with most seizures being reported by Puerto Rico, followed by the Dominican Republic. Cocaine arriving in Puerto Rico is almost exclusively destined for the United States mainland, often entering the country via Florida,³⁷ while cocaine transiting the Dominican Republic is destined for the United States and Canada, as well as Europe, with Belgium, Italy, Spain and Switzerland reporting the Dominican Republic to be a significant transit country for cocaine trafficking.

Limited Information on cocaine trafficking via Africa

Reflecting the rapidly growing importance of Africa, particularly West Africa, as a transit area for cocaine trafficking, the total quantity of seized cocaine reported by countries in Africa increased from 0.8 tons in 1998 to 5.5 tons in 2007, before falling to 3.4 tons in 2010 and 1.2 tons in 2015. Among the non-European transit countries for cocaine mentioned in the replies to the annual report questionnaire, countries in Africa accounted for 9 per cent over the period 2010-2015, mostly West Africa, and a further 3 per cent concerned countries in the Gulf region. The decline in quantities of cocaine intercepted in Africa in recent years has gone in parallel with a decrease in the number of reports in Europe of African countries being used as transit areas. This trend may, however, be the result of a poor capacity of detection and reporting rather than a decrease in the flow of cocaine, as reflected in some significant seizures of cocaine shipments destined for Africa. For example, in March 2015, the Bolivian authorities seized 5.9 tons of cocaine that would have been destined for West Africa (Ghana and

Burkina Faso). More recently, in January 2016, the Bolivian authorities reported the seizure of 8 tons of cocaine (within a shipment of 80 tons of barium sulphate) destined for West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire) via Argentina and Uruguay. In January 2017, Djibouti authorities reported the seizure of 0.5 tons of cocaine from a container on route from Brazil to Spain, its final destination. This was the single largest cocaine seizure in East Africa since 2004, when 1.1 tons of cocaine were seized in Kenya.

African countries report Brazil (58 per cent) as the most frequent departure/transit country for cocaine trafficked to Africa in the period 2010-2015, followed by Colombia (20 per cent), Chile (10 per cent) and Peru (8 per cent). As for countries in the same region, they report Nigeria as the most frequent transit country in Africa, followed by South Africa, Ghana, Mali and the Niger. Cocaine transiting Africa over the period 2010-2015 was reported to be destined mainly for countries in Europe (80 per cent; notably Italy, Spain, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands), followed by destinations in North America (15 per cent; mainly the United States) and Asia (4 per cent; China and Malaysia).

Most of the cocaine seized in Africa over the period 2010-2015 was intercepted in West and Central Africa (83 per cent), while 11 per cent was intercepted in North Africa. The largest seizures were reported by Cabo Verde, followed by the Gambia, Nigeria, Chad and Ghana, which are all located in West and Central Africa.

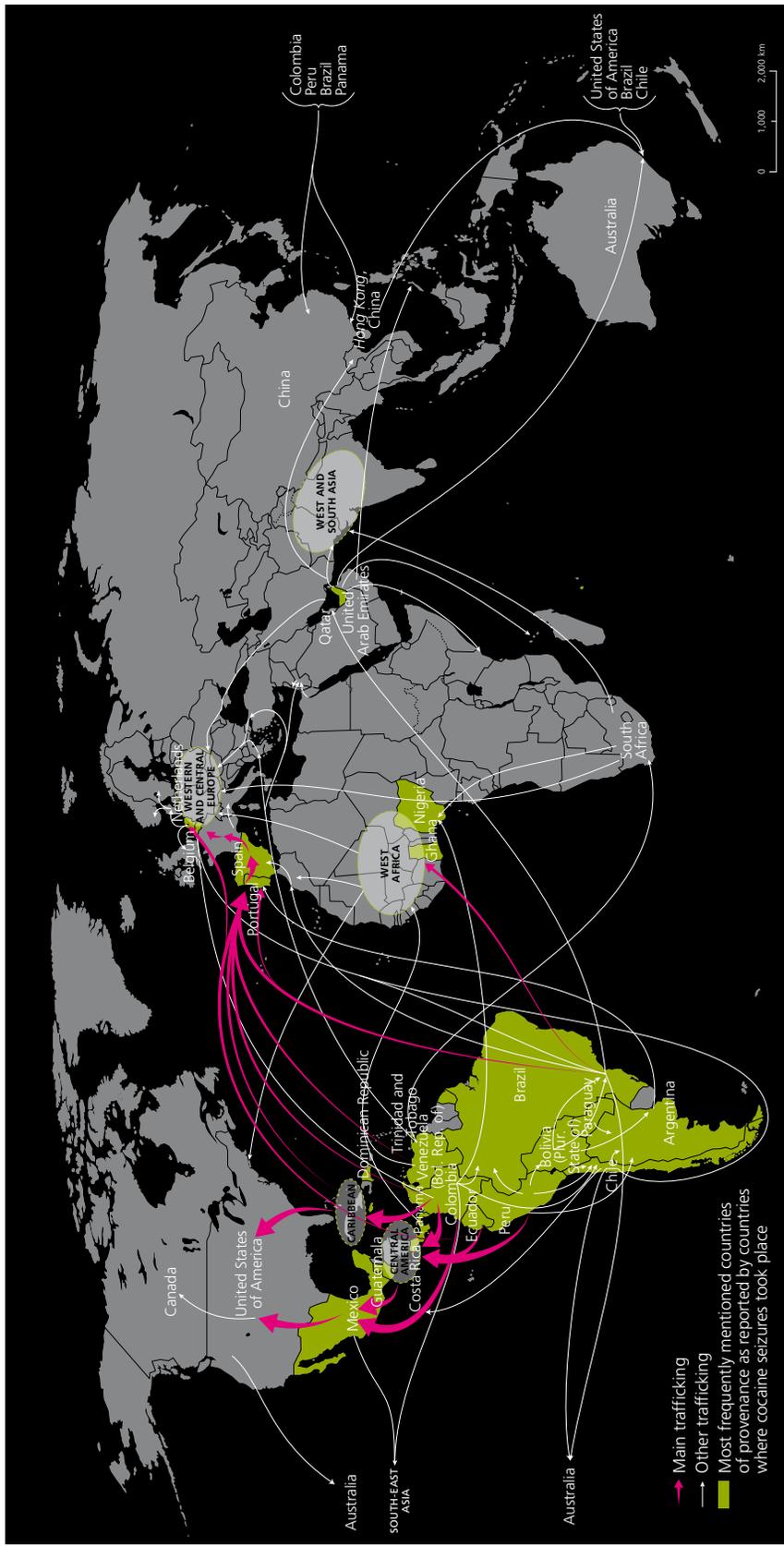
Signs of increase in the trafficking of cocaine to Asia

Cocaine seizures in Asia increased from 0.4 tons in 1998 to 1.2 tons in 2014 and 1.7 tons in 2015. Overall, in 2015, quantities of cocaine intercepted in Asia increased by more than 40 per cent from the previous year, with increases reported in all subregions. Although still comparatively small overall, there are indications that cocaine consumption among the upper socioeconomic groups in several Asian countries continues to rise.³⁸

37 United States Drug Enforcement Administration, 2016 *National Drug Threat Assessment Summary*.

38 UNODC annual report questionnaire data; Tim Lindsey and Pip Nicholson, *Drugs Law and Legal Practice in South-east Asia: Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam*, (Oxford, Hart Publishing Ltd, July 2016); Sania Farooqui, "India becomes

MAP 2 | Main cocaine trafficking flows, 2011-2015



Source: UNODC elaboration, based on responses to annual report questionnaire and individual drug seizure database.

Notes: The trafficking flows are determined on the basis of country of origin/departure, transit and destination of seized drugs as reported by Member States in the annual report questionnaire and individual drug seizure database: as such, they are to be considered as broadly indicative of existing trafficking routes while several secondary flows may not be reflected. Flow arrows represent the direction of trafficking: origins of the arrows indicate either the area of manufacture or the one of last provenance, end points of arrows indicate either the area of consumption or the one of next destination of trafficking.

The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

The largest cocaine seizures in Asia over the period 2010-2015 were made in East and South-East Asia (56 per cent) and in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia (40 per cent). More recently, in two individual cases, 0.2 tons of cocaine was seized from a container shipped from Brazil (November 2016) and 0.9 tons, being shipped from Ecuador to India (December 2016), were seized in Sri Lanka. A number of smaller cocaine seizures were made in various locations in India, in Pakistan, in Hong Kong, China, Shenzhen, China, Taiwan Province of China, and Lebanon in 2016.

Among all Latin American countries, Brazil was the most frequently reported as the country of departure/transit of cocaine shipments to Asia over the period 2010-2015 (37 per cent), followed by Colombia (19 per cent), Peru (10 per cent), the Plurinational State of Bolivia (10 per cent), Mexico (8 per cent) and Argentina (8 per cent). Many of those shipments transited Africa, mainly through Nigeria and South Africa, while, in Asia, transit through the Near and Middle East (United Arab Emirates, followed by Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic) and South and South-East Asia (Thailand; Hong Kong, China; and India) were most frequently reported. Cocaine shipments to Asia were mostly reported as being destined for Israel, Lebanon, China and Indonesia (by number of reports).

Cocaine market in Oceania potentially growing again

Cocaine seizures in Oceania increased from around 0.1 tons in the late 1990s to 1.9 tons in 2010, before falling to 0.8 tons in 2014, then recovering to 1.2 tons in 2015. Australia accounted for 99 per cent of cocaine seized in Oceania over the period 1998-2015, including in 2015. The largest quantity of cocaine was seized in New South Wales, with Sydney remaining the main entry point of cocaine into the country³⁹ and the location with the highest level of

cocaine consumption (almost seven times the national average based on wastewater analysis).⁴⁰

Annual prevalence of cocaine use among the general population aged 14 years and older in Australia doubled from 1 per cent in 2004 to 2.1 per cent in 2010 and remained at that level in 2013 — a very high level by global standards: five times the global average and twice that in the European Union. Moreover, there are indications that cocaine consumption might have increased in Australia over the period 2013-2015, based on the median number of days “ecstasy” users and injecting drug users consumed cocaine, the number of cocaine-related arrests, the proportion of detainees having used cocaine and wastewater analysis.⁴¹ Cocaine prices were reported to have declined slightly in the reporting year 2014/15, to 185,000–240,000 Australian dollars per kilogram, while cocaine purity increased slightly, suggesting that cocaine availability may have increased.⁴²

Nevertheless, actual consumption of cocaine (the quantity consumed), as opposed to the prevalence of cocaine use (number of users) seems to be still quite limited in both Australia and New Zealand. This may be due to the very high price of cocaine in that part of the world.⁴³ The demand for treatment for cocaine use continues to be low despite high rates of prevalence of use. This pattern is also reflected in wastewater analysis: while the annual prevalence of cocaine use in Australia is around twice that in the European Union, wastewater data in Australia suggest that actual cocaine consumption per 1,000 inhabitants is clearly below the average for the European Union.⁴⁴

cocaine trafficking centre as drugs follow rise of rich”, *The Guardian* (London), 1 October 2015; Bryan Harris “Mexican cartel smuggling cocaine into Hong Kong amid booming demand for drugs”, *South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong), 2 February 2014.

39 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, *Illicit Drug Data Report 2014-15*, pp. 89-101.

40 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, University of Queensland and University of South Australia, *National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program*, Report No. 1 (Canberra, March 2017), p. 36.

41 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, *Illicit Drug Data Report 2014-15*, p. 97.

42 *Ibid.*, pp. 96-98.

43 UNODC annual report questionnaire data, and Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, *Illicit Drug Data Report 2014-15*.

44 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, the University of Queensland and University of South Australia, *National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program*, Report 1, March 2017, p. 42.

Forensic analysis of cocaine intercepted in Australia revealed that in 2015 most of the cocaine in the Australian market continued to originate in Colombia. The origin of 49 per cent of the cocaine seized by the Australian Federal Police was reported to be Colombia, while 40 per cent was of Peruvian origin, compared with, respectively, 69 per cent and 21 per cent in cocaine seizures reported by custom authorities.⁴⁵

The most frequently reported departure/transit countries in the Americas for cocaine shipped to Oceania in the period 2010-2015 were (in order of importance) the United States, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Panama and Mexico; in Asia, they were Hong Kong, China; mainland China; and Thailand. In the reporting year 2014/15, the Australian authorities reported as key embarkation points, in terms of quantities of cocaine seized, the United States, followed by Brazil; Hong Kong, China; Malaysia; the United Arab Emirates; Trinidad and Tobago; France; India; and Thailand.⁴⁶

45 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, *Illicit Drug Data Report 2014-15*, Canberra 2016, p. 93.

46 *Ibid.*, p. 91.