

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Overview of drug trends in East and Southeast Asia

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Presenting slides developed by
Gary Lewis and the Global SMART Programme, UNODC

The SMART Programme

- Built upon the SE Asian regional programme DAINAP
- Began in September 2008, coordinated from Vienna globally, but there is a well established team in Bangkok overseeing East and South East Asian monitoring
- Primary stated focus is amphetamine type stimulants and other synthetic drugs
  - In reality, all drugs are considered
- Reports are provided by drug control agencies and supplemented with national reports, and data from research

Structure

1. Overview of general drug trends in East and South-East Asia

2. ATS trends in East and South-East Asia

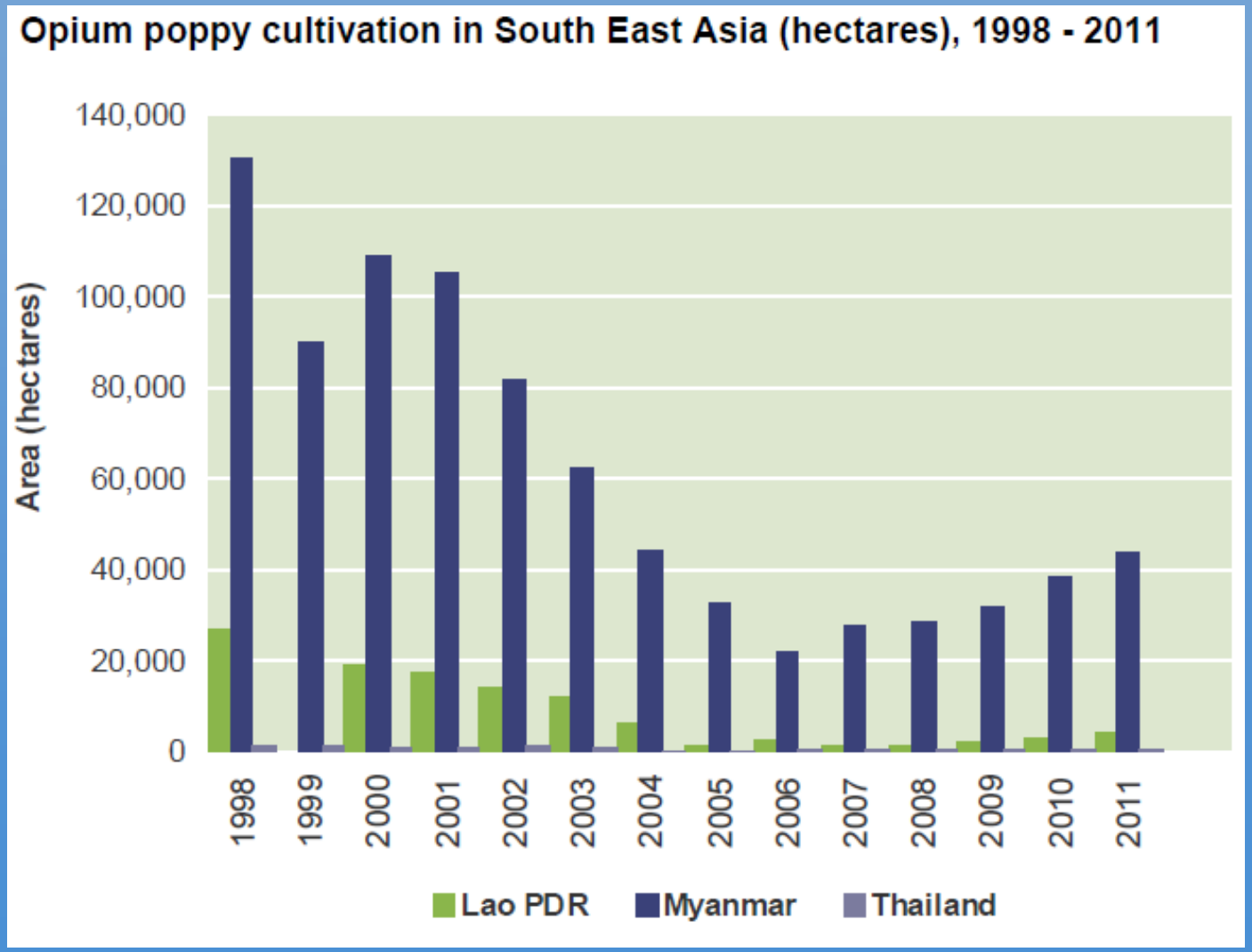
3. Key points

General drug trends

- Opium: resurgence of poppy cultivation
- Heroin: re-emerging availability and use
- Cannabis: use remains at high levels
- Inhalants/solvents: young users
- Cocaine: likely expansion of market in E/SE Asia

Source: DAINAP

CULTIVATION: South-East Asia



Source: UNODC, South-East Opium Survey, December 2011

Heroin

Heroin seizures (kg)

	2010	2011
China	5,353	6,593
Malaysia	299	755
Thailand	139	554
Singapore	49	73

Source: DAINAP

E / SE Asia cocaine market

- 650 kg seized in HK in July 2012
- Destined for South-East Asia
- Links to Mexican and Colombian cartels



Source (photo): Associated Press

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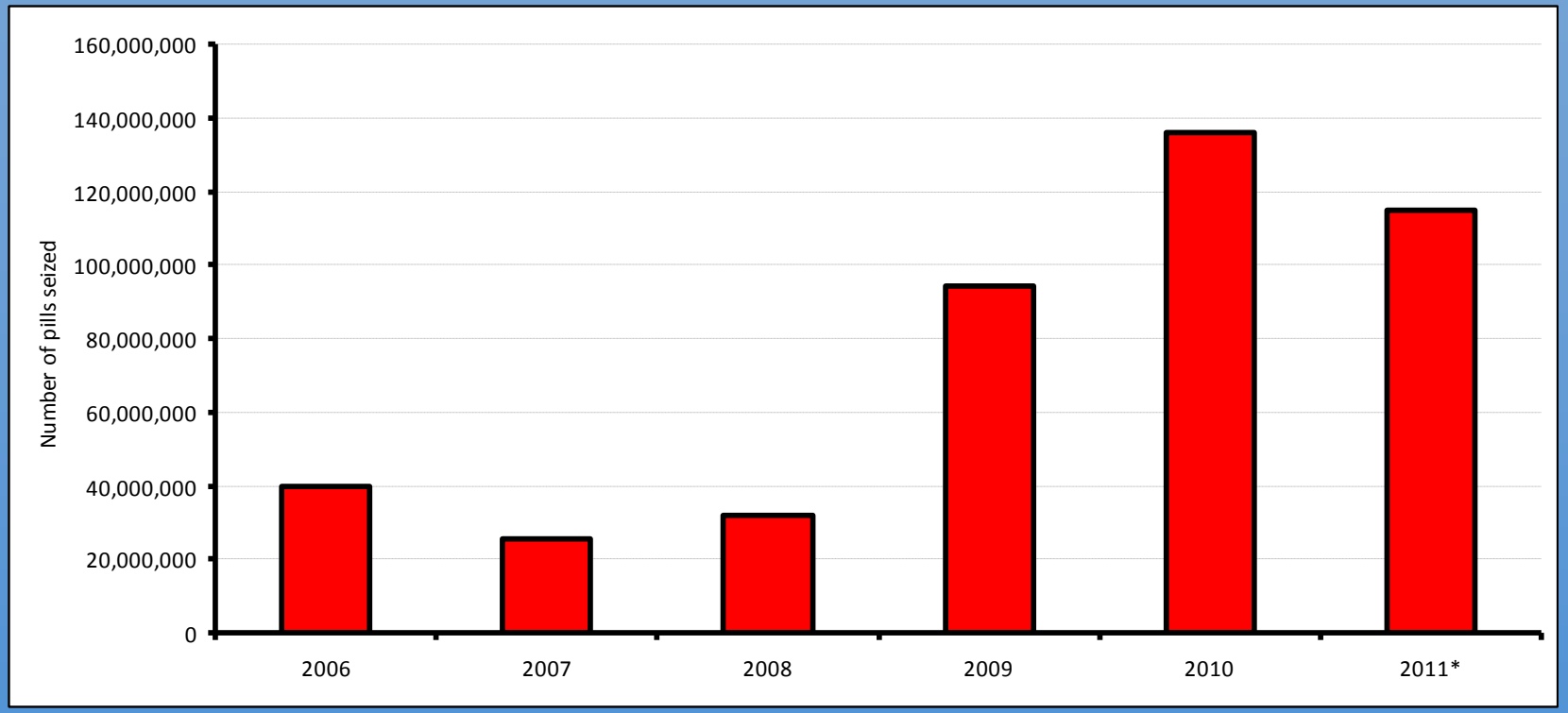
Key emerging ATS trends identified 2011

1. ATS rank in top 3 drugs in region
2. High levels of ATS manufacture
3. Meth spillover from Myanmar
4. Shift in precursor sourcing
5. Injecting meth use
6. Lack of ATS treatment services
7. TOC activity – local, African, Iranian
8. Emerging new synthetic substances

Key ATS trends 2011

- ATS are considered the primary drugs of concern in E/SE Asia
- E/SE Asia: half of world's meth seizures and meth users
- Crystalline meth: rapidly expanding in new markets
- High levels of ATS manufacture
- ATS treatment demand and arrests continue to rise
- Precursor sourcing continually evolving

Methamphetamine pill seizures (2006-2011)

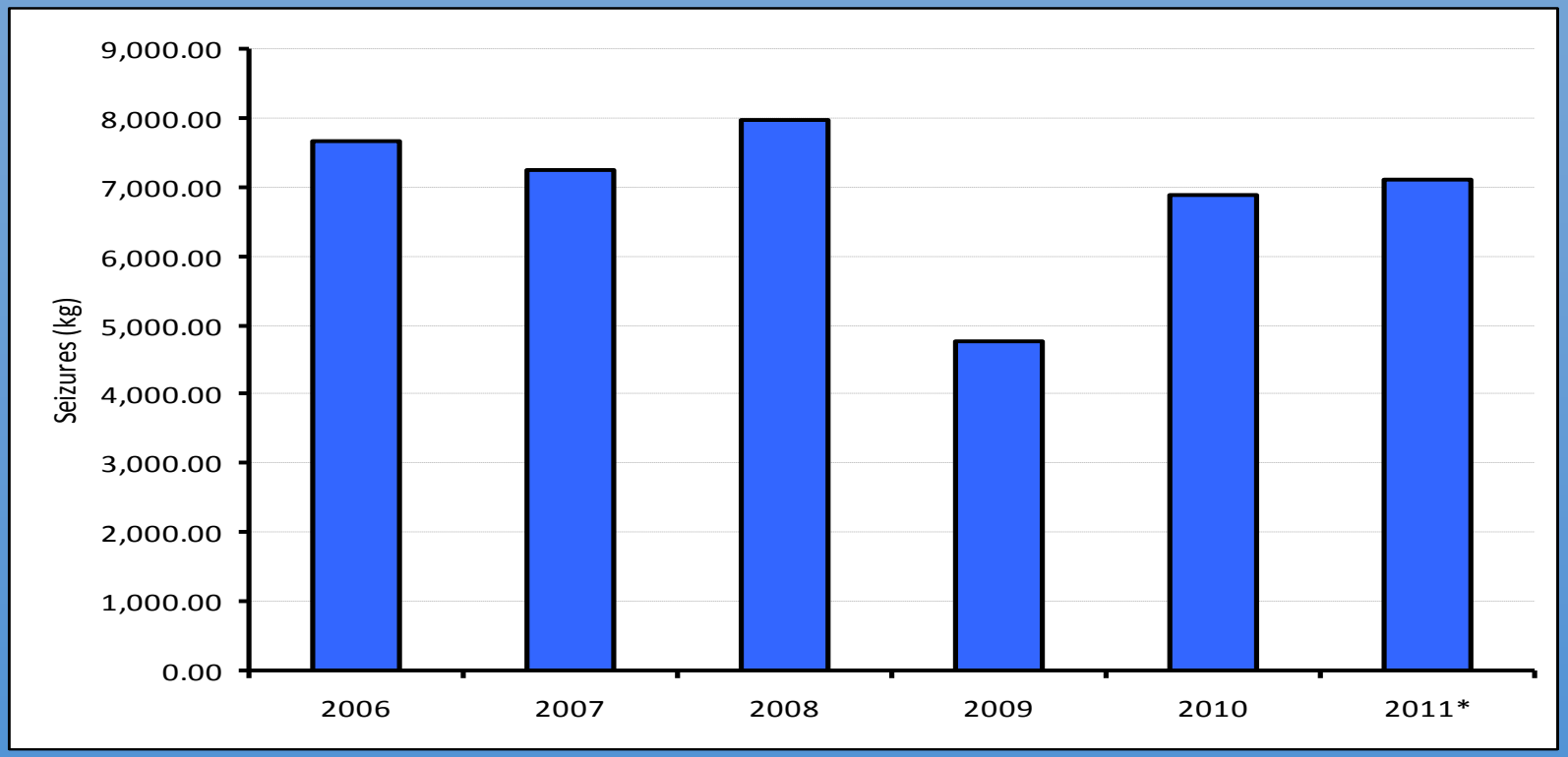


* 2011 data are preliminary and likely to be revised upward

- **2011: Total seizures 115 million**
- **2010: Total seizures 136 million**

Source: DAINAP

Crystalline meth seizures (2006-2011)



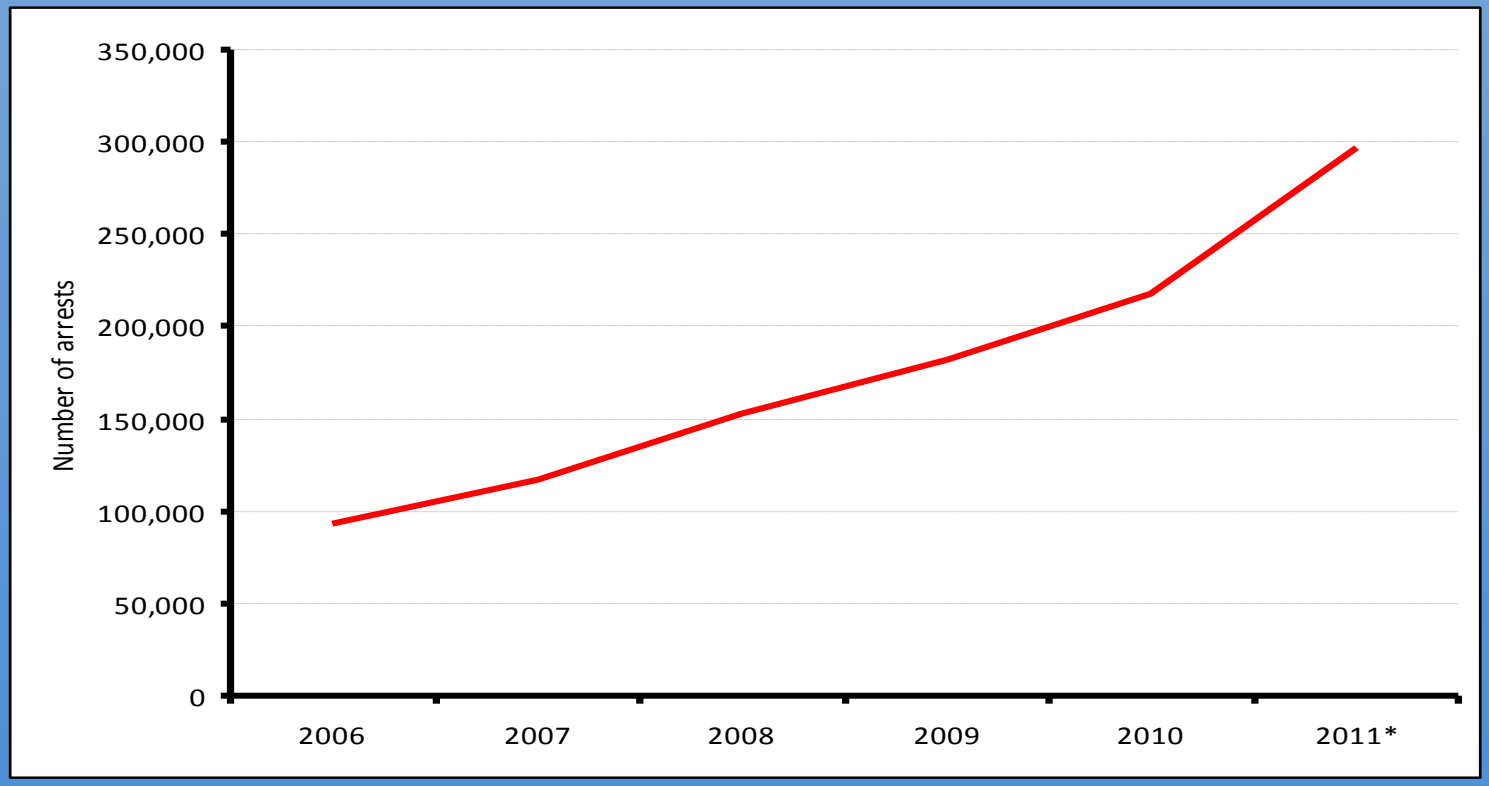
* 2011 data are preliminary and likely to be revised upward

- **2011: Total seizures 7.1 metric tons**
- **2010: 6.1 metric tons**

Source: DAINAP

Methamphetamine-related arrests

ASEAN + China (2004-2011**)

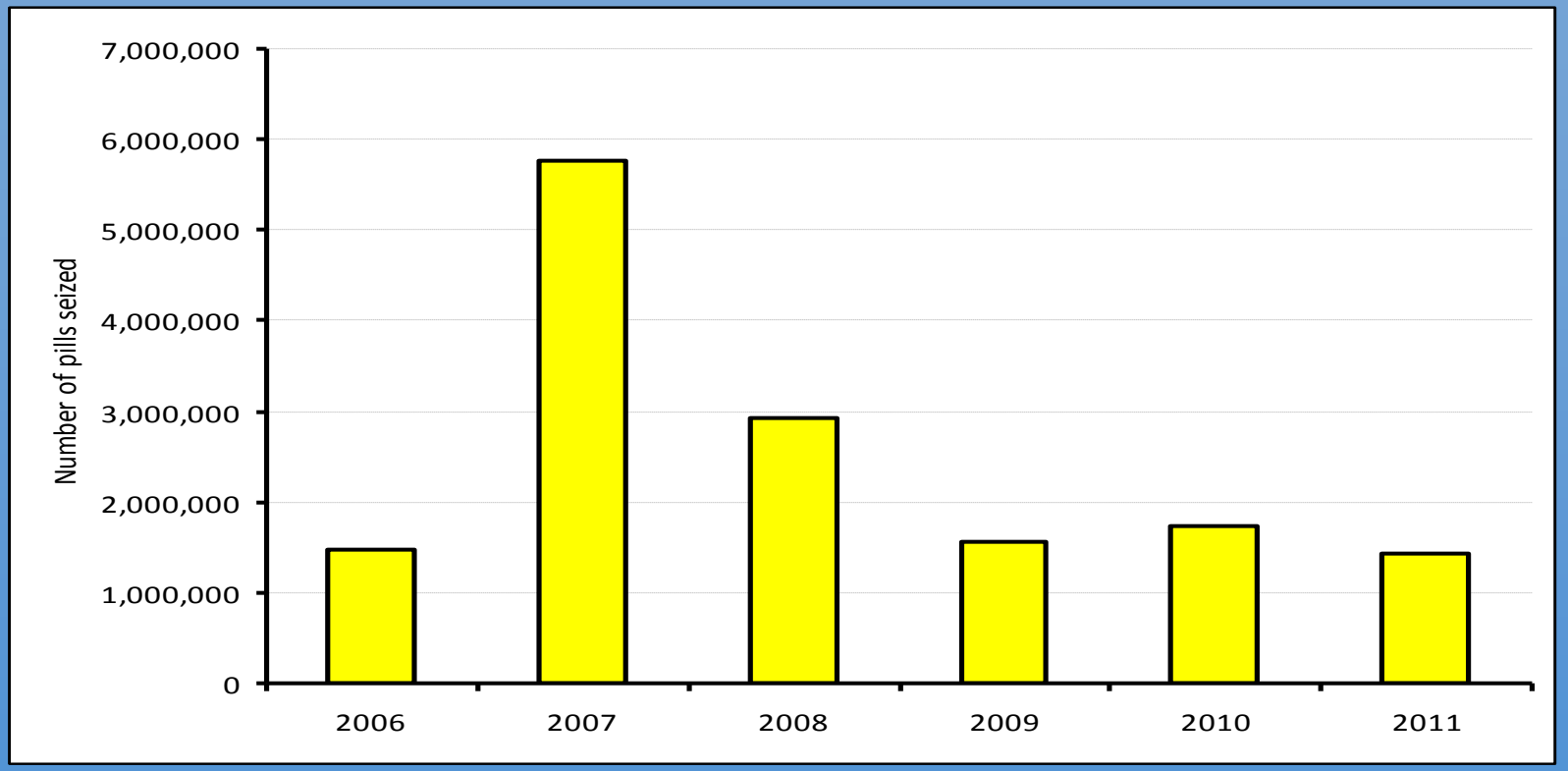


* 2011 data are preliminary and likely to be revised upward

**For countries which provided disaggregated arrest data by drug type.

Source: DAINAP

Ecstasy pill seizures (2006-2011)



* 2011 data are preliminary and likely to be revised upward

- **2011: Total seizures 1.4 million pills**

Source: DAINAP

Ecstasy appears to be declining

HOWEVER ...

- **Limited manufacture in Indonesia and Malaysia**
- **Likelihood of manufacture in China**
- **Demand remains high - Mimic 'ecstasy' gaining popularity**
- **Illicit trade in safrole-rich oils remains a concern**

Structure

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1. ATS rank in top 3 drug in the region

…for the third consecutive year ?

Methamphetamine pills

BRU	CAM	CHI	IND	LAO	MAL	MYA	PHI	SIN	THA	VIE
•	1	2	•	1	9	3	•	•	1	2

Crystalline methamphetamine

BRU	CAM	CHI	IND	LAO	MAL	MYA	PHI	SIN	THA	VIE
1	2	2	1	•	3*	•	1	2	7	2

Ecstasy

BRU	CAM	CHI	IND	LAO	MAL	MYA	PHI	SIN	THA	VIE
•	•	3	5	•	5	•	•	8	9	2

= increasing trend = stable trend = decreasing trend = no trend reported

Source: DAINAP

Note: Numbers denote drugs of concern in ranking order. "1" refers to the top drug of concern as perceived by experts in respective countries. "•" indicates no ranking reported.

2. High levels of ATS manufacture

	2006	2010
ATS labs seized in E/SE Asia	83	442

5-FOLD INCREASE



Meth pill press seized outside of Bangkok – Sep 2011

Source: DAINAP; The Nation (Thailand)

3. Expansion of crystalline meth market

2011 seizures among the highest ever



Cambodia
- 19.1 kg = highest total ever reported



Singapore
- 14 kg = highest total ever reported



Indonesia
- 1,169 kg = highest total in past 5 years



Malaysia
- 1,236 kg = highest total in past 5 years

Source: DAINAP

3. Expansion of crystalline meth market

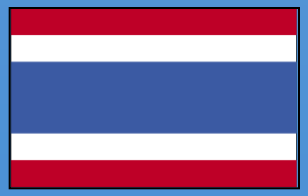
'Golden Triangle' region



China
- 2011: nearly 4.5 mt seized



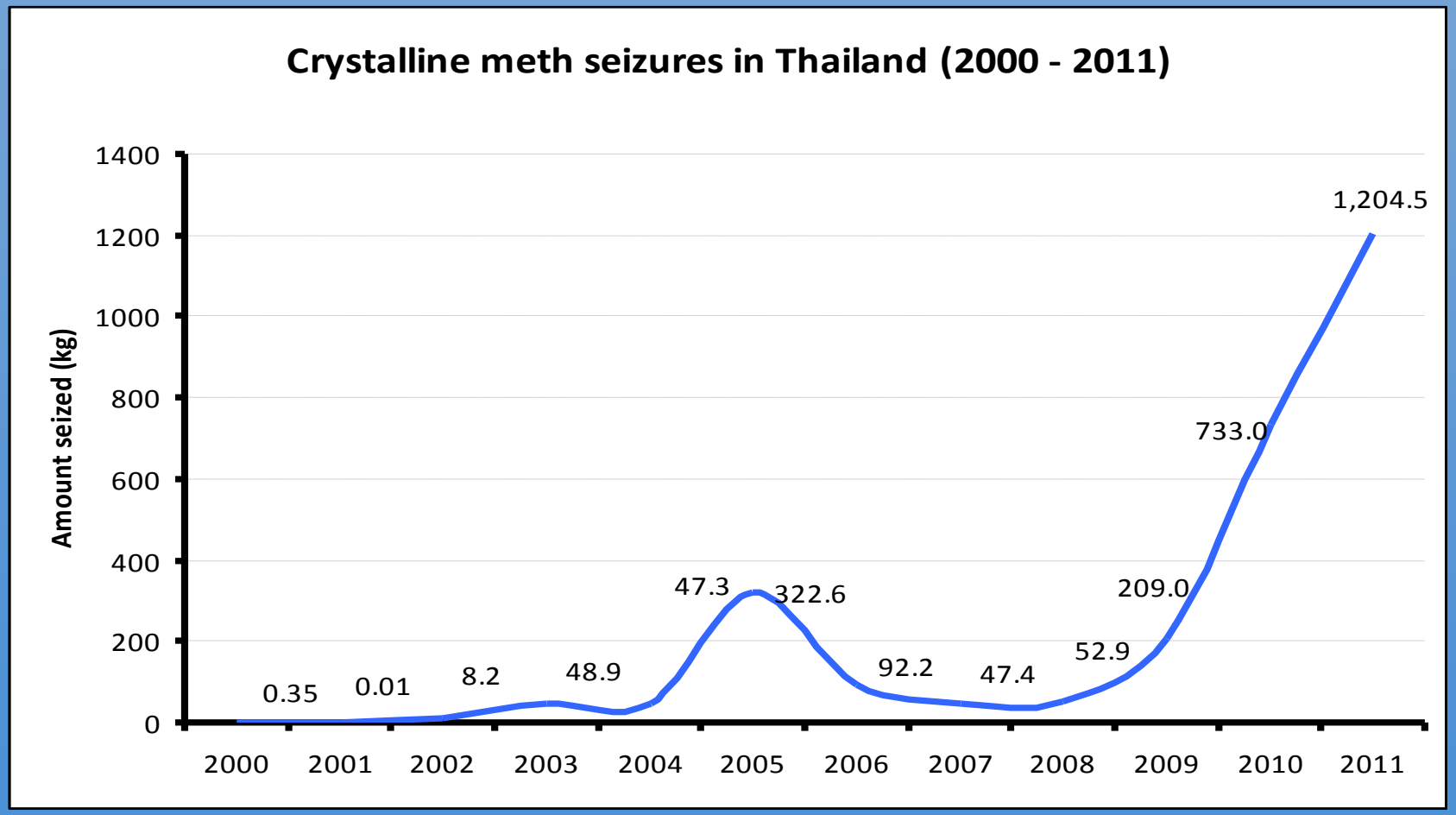
Myanmar
- 2012: largest ever bust – 73 kg + 274 kg of liquid meth



Thailand
- 2011: seizures of 1.2 mt
- Massive 5-year increase (47 kg seized in 2007)

Source: DAINAP

3. Expansion of crystalline meth in Thailand



Source: DAINAP; ONCB Annual reports 2010 and previous years

4. Transnational organised crime activity related to ATS

Groups from the Islamic Republic of Iran

- Declining in some markets – Japan, Malaysia
- Indonesia: trafficking up 200% in 2011
- Involved in meth manufacture
  - 2010 – Japan
  - 2011 – Thailand
  - 2012 – Malaysia

Source: DAINAP; UNODC 2011

4. Transnational organised crime activity related to ATS

West African Drug Syndicates

- Active in SE Asia since 1980s
- Smuggled Golden Triangle heroin to Europe and USA
- WA males as drug couriers
- Mid-1990s: shifted to Afghan heroin
- Cocaine trafficking to E/SE Asia
- SE Asian nationals as couriers
- Region-wide networks

Source: Global SMART Programme, ADEC 2012

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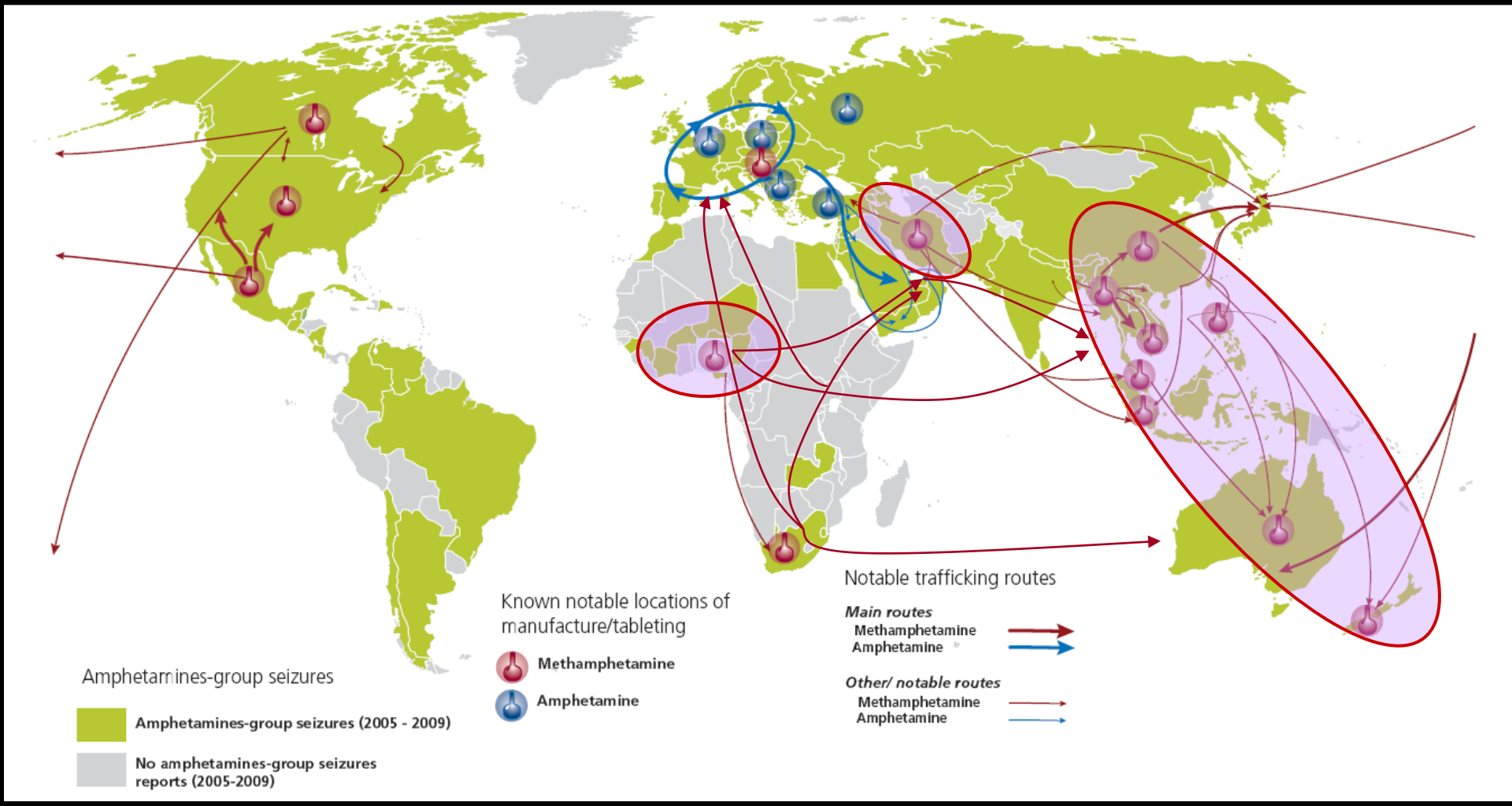
West African Drug Syndicates

- 2008: Meth trafficking to E/SE Asia first detected from South Africa
- Late-2009: Meth trafficking to E/SE Asia from West Africa, by air passenger couriers
- 2009: number and quantity of meth seizures in Asia from Africa tripled
- Key destinations: Japan, Rep. of Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, China

Source: Global SMART Update, Vol. 4, October 2010

4. WADS activity related to ATS

Notable locations of ATS manufacture & trafficking routes



Sources: UNODC World Drug Report 2011 & Global ATS Assessment 2011

5. Shift in precursor sourcing



- Precursors in new physical forms
- Use of non-controlled licit chemicals
- Diversion of pharmaceutical preparations
- Stricter national controls on EPH and PSE
- New substances – i.e. P-2-P

Source: ONCB, IDEC 2011

5. Shift in precursor sourcing

Meth (pre-)precursors

- APAAN
- P-2-P
- Phenylacetic acid

Ecstasy precursors

- Piperonal – MDA
- Safrole-rich oils – MDMA

Conversion of APAAN to P-2-P



P-2-P bisulfite adduct



Source: Global SMART Update 2012, Vol. 7

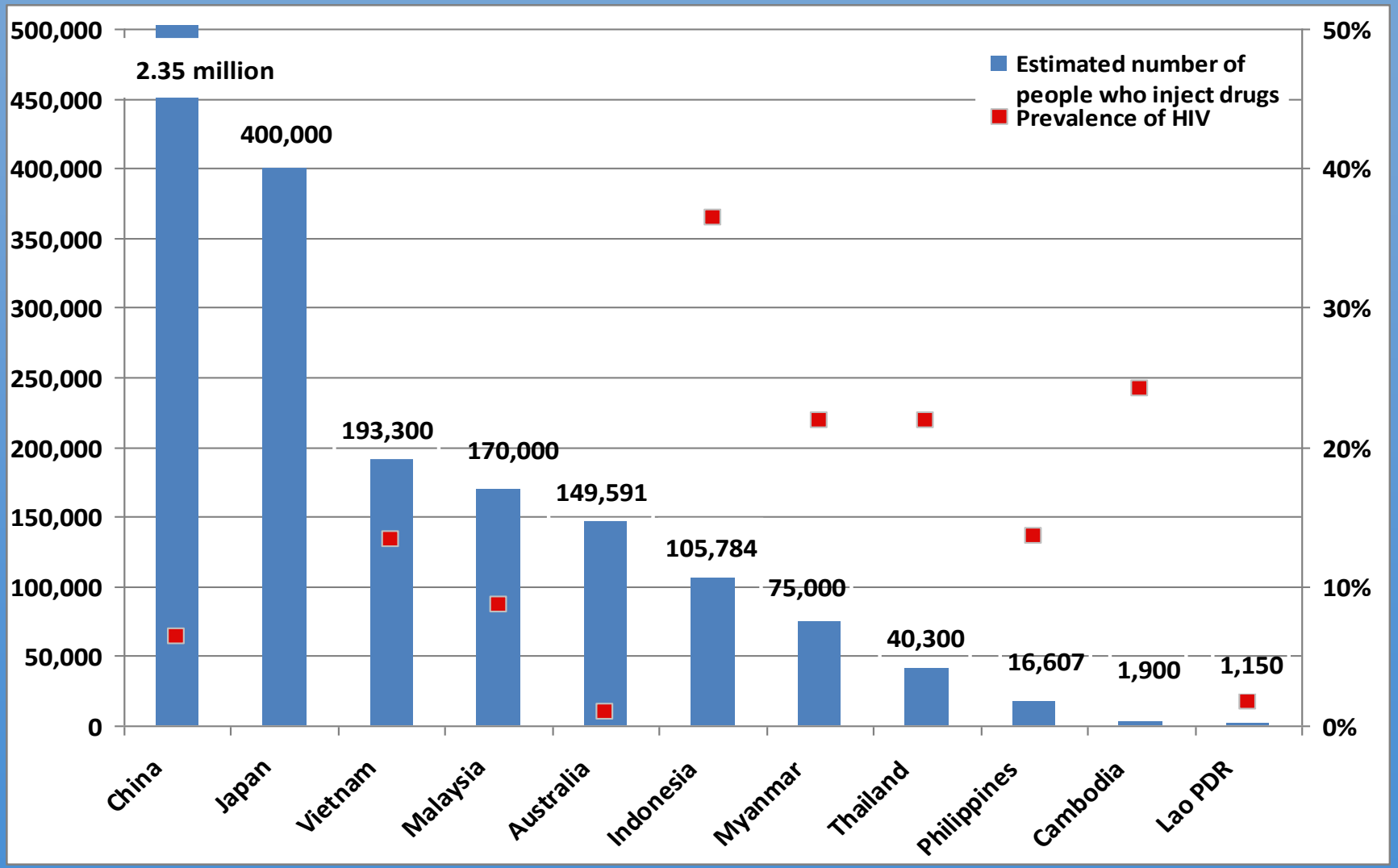
5. Shift in precursor sourcing

Pharmaceutical seizures
(millions of pills containing pseudoephedrine)

	Cambodia	Myanmar	Thailand
			
2008	0	9.8	0.7
2009	0	9.4	1.9
2010	19.3	4.4	33.0
2011	n/a	1,680 kg	9.6

Source: DAINAP; ONCB

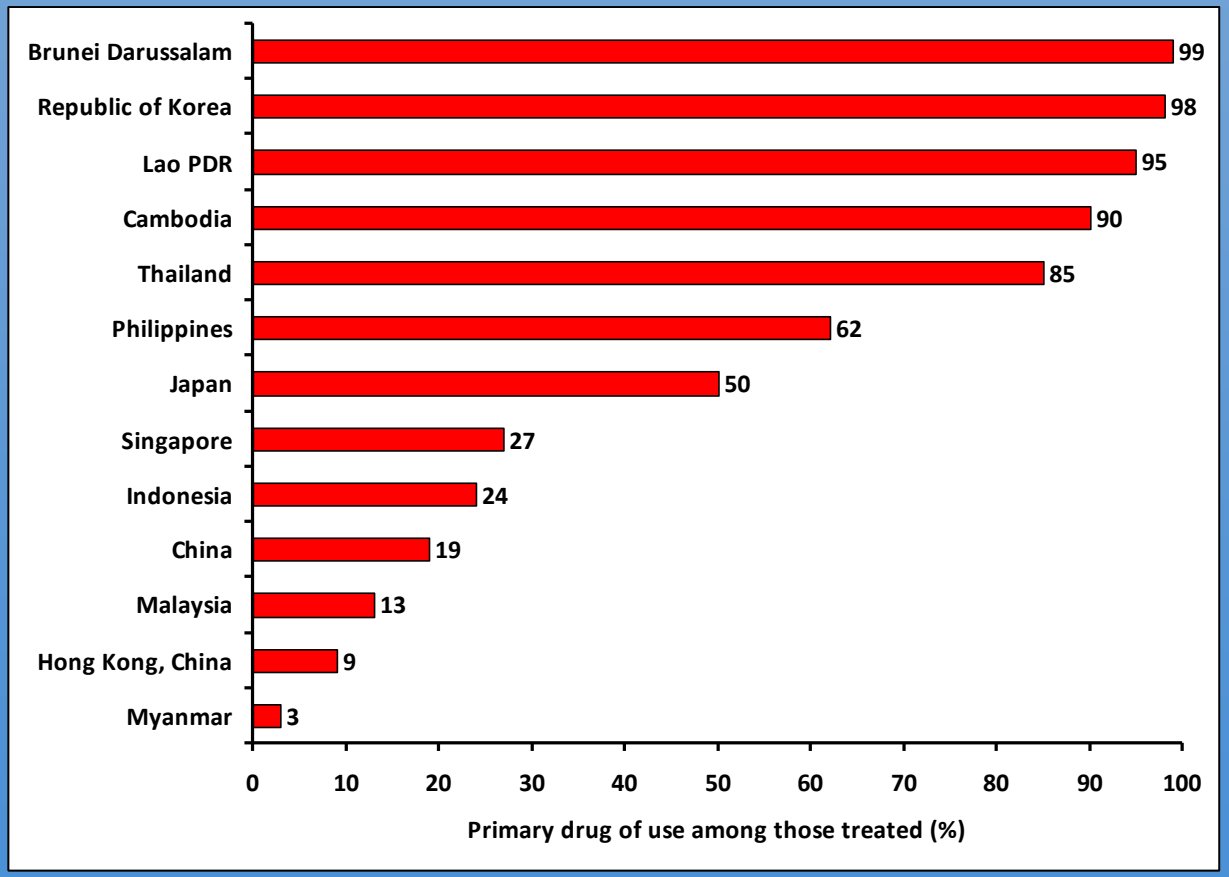
6. Injecting drug use



Source: UNAIDS 2012

7. ATS treatment demand rising

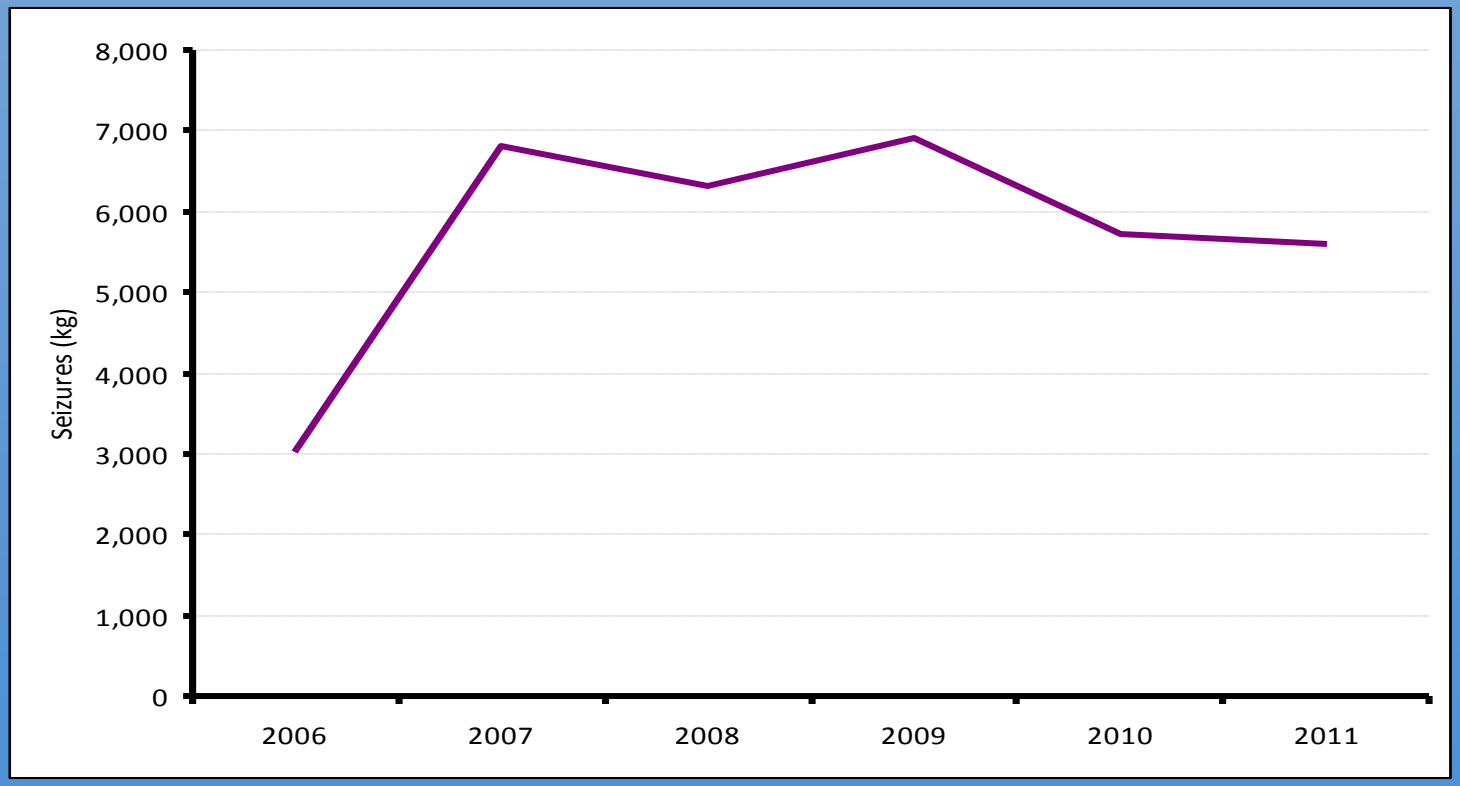
Methamphetamine treatment demand in E/SE Asia



Source: DAINAP; 2011 World Drug Report, UNODC

8. Ketamine use and trafficking

Ketamine seizures in East and South-East Asia (2006-2011)



- **2011: Total seizures 5.6 metric tons**

Source: DAINAP

9. Emerging synthetic substances

- Piperazines
  - Benzylpiperazine (BZP)
  - Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP)
  - meta-Chlorophenylpiperazine (m-CPP)
- Mephedrone
- 2C-B – first identified in Viet Nam in 2007
- Synthetic cannabinoids – JWH
- Often marketed as ‘legal highs’

Discussion and conclusions

- Clearly there is ongoing dynamism in illicit durg markets in the region
- Increasing involvement of new crime groups in trafficking ATS to this region
- The emergence of synthetic substances is consistent with trends in high income countries
- Many gaps in surveillance remain, with data on use and harms less available and more poorly collected
  - Capacity building is one of the aims of the SMART programme

THANK YOU

For more information, updates and reports, see:

www.apaic.org

www.unodc.org/eastasiaandpacific