



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



ASEAN-NARCO
ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center



SECOND EDITION



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



ASEAN-NARCO
ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center

Edited by:
Manop Kanato
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August 2019

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ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

FOREWORD

This ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2018 is the 4th publication of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network which represents the cooperation of ASEAN Member States in producing a regional report on drug situation. Without the joint cooperation of ASEAN Member States, particularly the team of ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network, ASEAN Secretariat, and Thailand Substance Abuse Academic Network; the formulation of ADM Report 2018 would not have been possible. The ADM report is an instrument for monitoring the illicit drug situation and trend in ASEAN region and at the same time, for promoting the sharing of information on policy and programme initiatives run by ASEAN Member States as well.

ASEAN Member States still face the challenges of illicit drugs within and outside the region. The emergence of synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) is alarming. The ADM Report 2018 gives priority to NPS problem. In 2018, patterns of drug use among ASEAN populations became more varied and complicated. Analysis of only five major drugs (methamphetamine tablet and crystalline, cannabis, heroin, and opium) was unable to comprehensively describe the

incidence and prevalence of drug use. Therefore, ADM Report 2018 extended the analysis to cover the top seven drug types which include ATS, cannabis, CNS (Central Nervous System) depressants, cocaine, hallucinogens, NPS and opioids. According to the data of 2018, ATS continued being the most commonly abused drugs among ASEAN drug users admitted for treatment at more than 70%.

Further steps have been taken to strengthen the ADM Report System - continuing improvement in data collection, data flow, data base, and web-based report system. The draft instruction manual for the online ADM Report System was developed and discussed at the 7th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Operational Workshop held on 5-7 March 2019 in Bangkok and the 8th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Operational Workshop held on 3-5 July 2019 in Bangkok, respectively. The ADMN Team would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the Philippine ADMN team for their contribution to the revision of the first draft of the online ADM Report System manual which was reviewed at the 8th ADMN Operational Workshop. Moreover, the TOR of the ADMN

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

was finalised for submission to the 40th ASOD for consideration. ADMN was finalized for the submission to the 40th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters for consideration and endorsement.

The ADMN Team hopes that the information contained in the ADM Report of 2018 would be beneficial to ASEAN Member States although it is one year behind, it is more progressive than other regional reports. The ASEAN Member States are able to make use of the information in the report to monitor the illicit drug trend and keep watching the changing. Thailand as a coordinator and a facilitator of ASEAN-NARCO and ADMN would like to thank all stake holders who contributed to the success of the ADM Report and to the work of ADMN in particular the ADMN Team, Thailand Substance Abuse Academic Network and ASEAN Secretariat.

The ADMN Team would also like to thank the National Authority for Combatting Drugs (NACD) of Cambodia for organizing the launch of the ADM Report of 2018 on 28th August 2019 at the 40th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) hosted by the National Authority for Combatting Drugs.

Through the cooperative efforts and spirit of partnership, we look forward to the strengthened and continuity of the ADMN.

2nd Edition of ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2018

Upon checking the status of ADMN database, the analyst team found a number of updated data after the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2018 was launched and distributed at the 40th ASOD meeting in August 2019 in Cambodia. These updated data changed the result of earlier analyses to some extent. Despite timeliness being a strong point of ADM report, the project team realized that accountability must also be maintained. Therefore, ASEAN-NARCO decided to revise some parts of ADM Report 2018 as the second edition with the most updated and available data in the ADMN database.

ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network is committed to strengthening collaboration among ASEAN Member States. We will do our best to present the most updated drug situation in ASEAN and move forward as a single entity without leaving anyone behind.

“Securing ASEAN Communities against Illicit Drugs”

ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network

January 2020

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2018 has a few changes both in the production process and the structure of the report. First, this was the first time that ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network actually sat down and went through each chapter of the report together. One objective of this process is to make each ASEAN Member State aware that when Member States did not submit data on time, the analysis and interpretation would be misled as seen together in the group discussion. Participants also had several good chances to ask questions directly to the persons responsible for collecting data and reporting drug situation in each ASEAN Member State. Participants also shared and exchanged opinions on future trends of drugs problem in the region. Even though neighbouring countries shared similar drug problems, there was no blaming or accusation on one another. With this solidarity, ASEAN will tackle and overcome illicit drugs problem together. ADMN members also actively and eagerly helped with the editing and fine tuning the language, which Thailand team truly appreciate the support. ADM Report 2018 also has two main changes.

First, country reports from each individual country are switched to Chapter 3 instead of Chapter 2. Therefore, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 are on drug situation from the regional aspect. Chapter 2 describes 7 types of drugs reported by AMS instead of 5 drugs as in previous years and where data are available, comparisons are made on the basis of six-month period instead of a yearly basis. The Annex is on NPS, an emerging problem in ASEAN.

Next year, ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network will focus on packages. This decision resulted from information shared in the 8th ADMN Operational Workshop of the similarity in concealment of drugs discovered in a few Member States. ADMN hopes that this shared information will help AMS discover illicit drugs in the market more easily. ADMN will also explore the possibility of collecting and sharing information on tool marks to help Member States identify and discover new syndicates.

ADMN editorial team will continue to work under the theme of ASEAN for 2019 – Advancing Partnership for Sustainability to improve our ADM Report.

**ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network
August 2019**

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD

FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1

Overview of ASEAN drug trends and patterns 1

Chapter 2

Major Drug Problems in ASEAN 13

ATS 17

Cannabis 20

CNS depressants 23

Cocaine 26

Hallucinogen 29

NPS 32

Opioid 35

Other 38

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS**Chapter 3**

ASEAN Country Report	39
Brunei Darussalam	41
Cambodia	44
Indonesia	48
Lao PDR	51
Malaysia	54
Myanmar	62
The Philippines	68
Singapore	72
Thailand	74
Viet Nam	76

Chapter 4

Research Knowledge and Innovation	83
-----------------------------------	----

Chapter 5

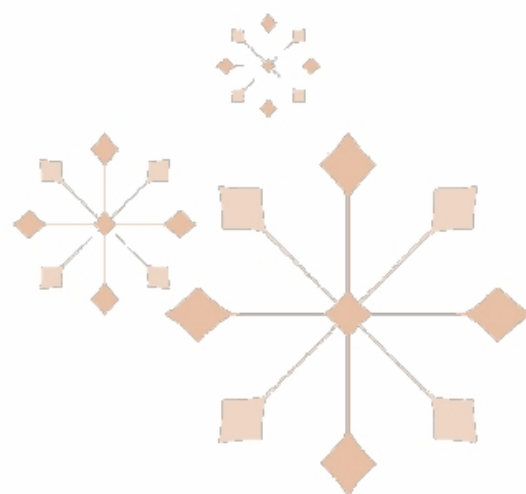
Policy and Implementation Programme	109
-------------------------------------	-----

ANNEX

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)	143
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CHAPTER 1

Overview of ASEAN Drug Trends and Patterns



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

1. BACKGROUND

ASEAN was established in 1967 and launched ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015. The ASEAN Community focuses on effective association among the member states and enhancement of its competitive capacity with other countries. Such focus is subject to 3 pillars - which are security, socio-cultural integration, and economic integration led to regional economic growth based on policy, establishment of free trade area, regional hub for transportation, regional collaboration expansion on convenient transportation and communication, liberal mobilisation of goods, service, capital, investment and labour for the purpose of single market and production base. It is also the common goal of ASEAN Member States to drive the ASEAN Community towards being a drug-free region.

As such, ASEAN has called for the regional meeting among the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) in order to seek the collaboration on the regional drug abuse resolution in five areas: law enforcement, prevention drug education, treatment and rehabilitation, research, and alternative development. There are additional proposals to share information related to drug syndicates and watch-list suspects under the framework of ASOD. The activities include international assistance for ASEAN Member States to

enhance their capability on drug analysis and verification of drugs for intelligence and investigation purposes. The ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center (ASEAN-NARCO) was thus established to be a hub to provide preventive and suppressive measures in the region, and to initiate the proactive prevention and resolution on drug abuse in ASEAN countries effectively.

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) began in June, 2015. ADMN is a project under ASEAN-NARCO and supported by Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Thailand. ADMN provides a platform to share information and analyse the regional drug situation, present a national perspective and incorporating innovative identify and monitor emerging drug problems. The information is provided in the annual ASEAN Drug Monitoring (ADM) Report for timely detection of drug issues, as well as research and policy development in each member states. ADMN annual reports describing drug use trends and emerging issues are available in print and the ASEAN-NARCO website.

ADMN is a system which aims to collect information over time from existing and archival data systems of member states that reflect the situation of drug abuse, such as drug abuse treatment, and arrest reports. These systems tend to indicate new and existing drug abuse patterns within ASEAN and each Member States. Any of these changes is a sign of new

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

patterns of drug abuse that need to explore further. Because data used in ADMN systems are not population-based, it is difficult to develop incidence or prevalence rates from them. However, one can review these data over time, draw conclusions from them about where new drug abuse patterns exist and follow how these patterns spread across Member States.

ADMN has developed a questionnaire to collect drug information since 2015 and created a database through the collaboration of Member States. The questionnaire includes data on drug demand and supply. Analysing the data across time can provide an early warning on new drug patterns and can also provide insights on new spatial drug abuse patterns across Member States. The data was used to develop the first ASEAN Drug Monitoring (ADM) Report in 2015. The ASEAN-NARCO website was utilised for the online database and sharing of information among ASEAN Member States.

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring (ADM) Report 2018 presents a comprehensive overview of the latest drug situation in ASEAN by focusing on the demand and supply of illicit drugs encountered in the region.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the drug situation in ASEAN. Chapter 2 presents drugs of concern in ASEAN, namely Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS), Cannabis, Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants,

Cocaine, Hallucinogens, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), Opioids, and others. Chapter 3 focuses on ASEAN Member States' individual report on their national drug situations. Chapter 4 introduces research knowledge and innovations undertaken by the Member States, and Chapter 5 highlights ASEAN's best practices in policy and implementation programmes.

2. POPULATION

Based on the world population data by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), ASEAN has the third largest population in the world, behind China and India. The population of ASEAN has increased from around 628.7 million in 2015 to around 654.3 million in 2018 at a rate of 0.4%-1.8% per annum. This ranges from 0.4 million in Brunei Darussalam to 266.8 million in Indonesia. ASEAN's population accounts for 8.5% of the world population, with Indonesia representing 40.8% of the ASEAN population. The gender ratio (males: females) in ASEAN is about 1:1, with more than half below the age of 30. 47.7% of ASEAN's population lives in urban areas.

ASEAN is the sixth largest economy in the world, behind the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The average economic growth of ASEAN Member States was 5.2% in recent years. And the average GDP per capita among Member States

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

has increased threefold over the past 20 years. However, according to the World Bank statistics, significant income disparities remain between and across ASEAN Member States. The GDP of Singapore is 50 times higher than the GDP of Cambodia or Myanmar.

3. SITUATIONS

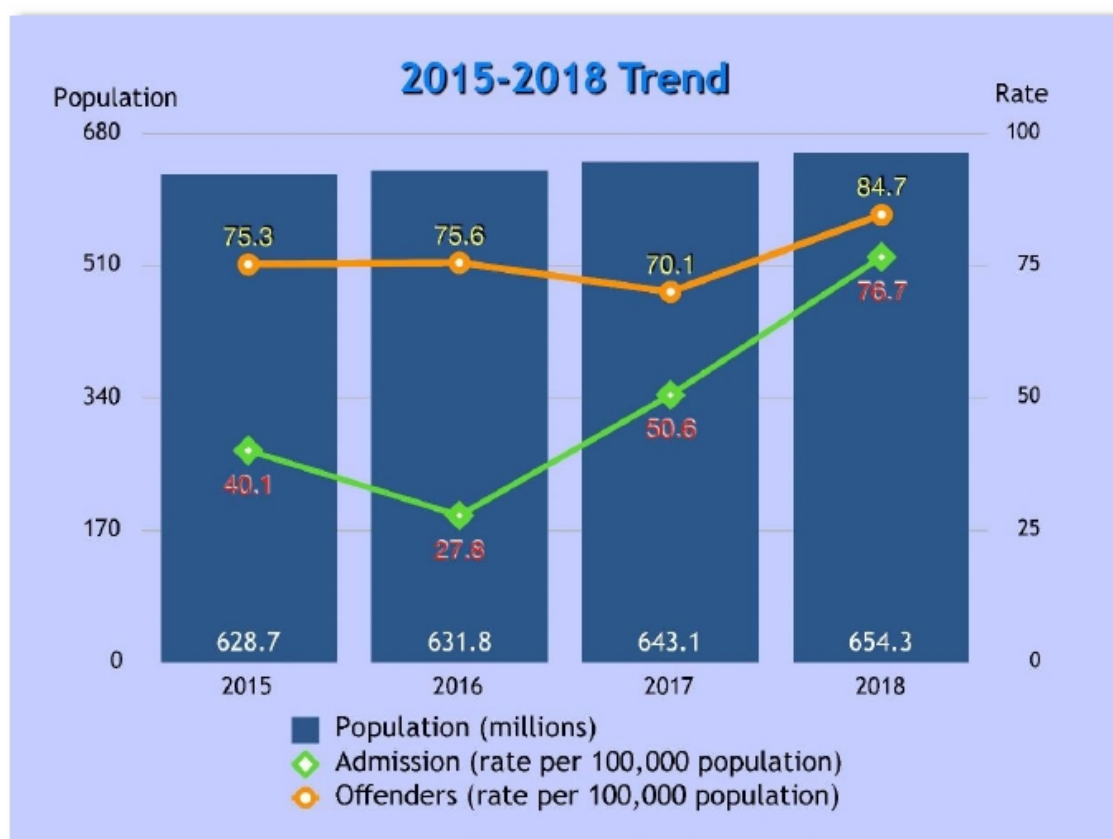


Figure 1: Population and General Trends in ASEAN

Across ASEAN's total population, 76.7 drug users were admitted per 100,000 population in 2018, which was an increase from 50.6 in 2017. The admission in 2018 was higher than 2016 at 176% increase rate.

In addition, there were 84.7 drug offenders arrested per 100,000 population in 2018, which was the highest since 2015 with a 12.4% increase.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Based on country comparison ratios on number of drug users entering treatment in 2018, there were more than 501,710 drug users admitted. Per 100,000 populations, Indonesia was seen the lowest admission rate at 4.1 whereas the highest rate was seen in Viet Nam at 231.1. This is the first year that the highest

rate was not in Thailand. Compared to 2017, trends in treatment admission in 2018 found decreased in Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia but increased in Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, Singapore, and the Philippines. Admission rate in Laos and Viet Nam remained almost stable.

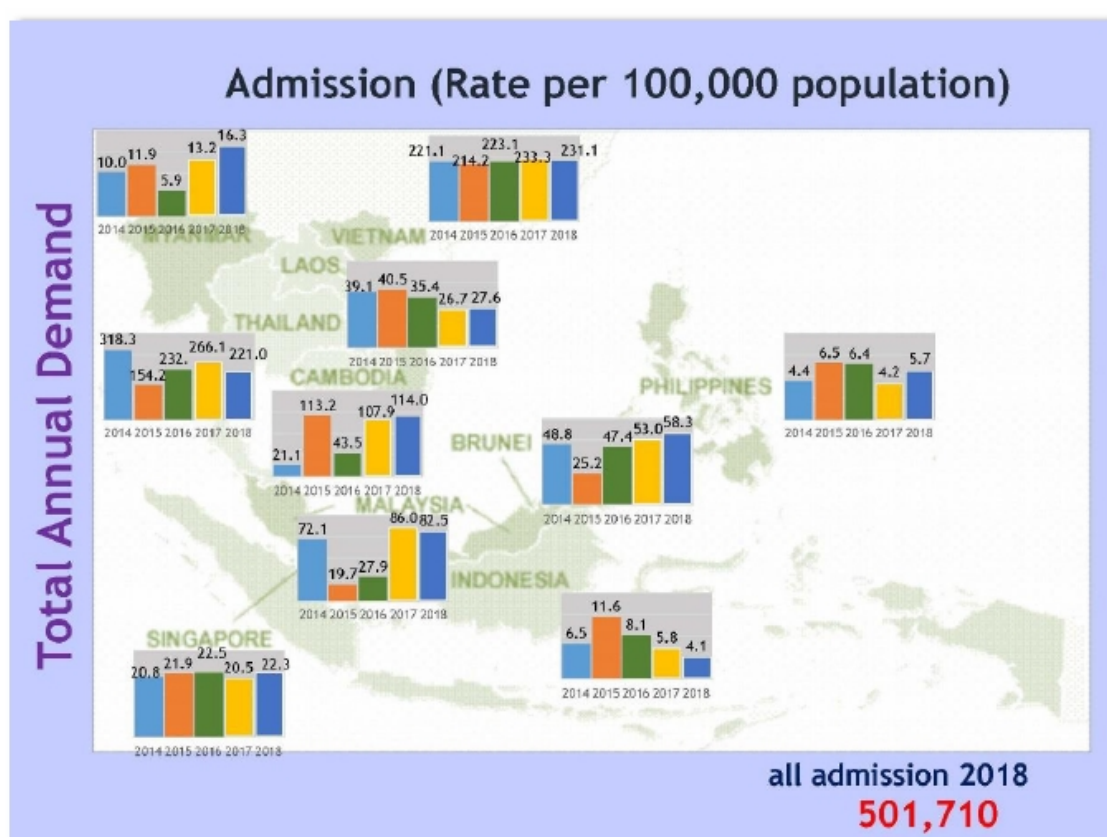


Figure 2: Rate of Admission for Drug Treatment by Member States

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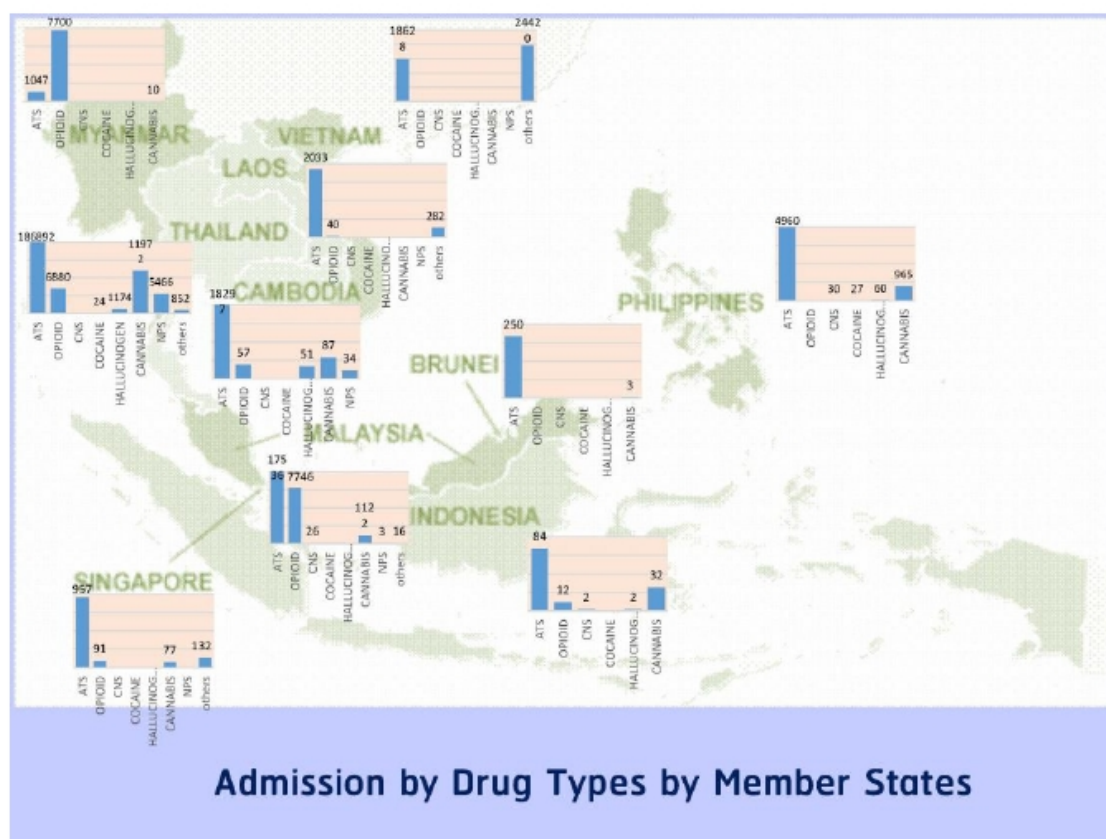


Figure 3: Admission by Drug Types by Member States

In 2018, patterns of drug use among ASEAN population became more varied. The past three reports had limited the analysis to the five major drugs encountered in ASEAN, namely- Cannabis, Opioid, Heroin, Methamphetamine tablets and crystalline Methamphetamine. For a more comprehensive overview of drug incidence and prevalence, analysis was revised to include eight drug types: Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), Cannabis, CNS depressants, Cocaine, Hallucinogen, Opioid, NPS and others. In 2018, ATS was the most commonly abused drug

type among ASEAN drug users admitted for treatment at more than 70% rate. This was followed by Opioid and Cannabis.

In 2018, Thailand had the highest number of ATS admissions, followed by Viet Nam, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia respectively. Treatment of Opioid was the highest in Malaysia followed by Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia. Treatment of Cannabis was the highest in Thailand followed by Malaysia and the Philippines while a few were recorded in

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam. In comparison, admission for Hallucinogens, CNS depressants, Cocaine and NPS were small. Treatment for Hallucinogens were reported in Thailand, The Philippines, Cambodia and Indonesia. Furthermore, treatment for CNS depressants were reported by the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, while treatment for Cocaine was reported by the Philippines and Thailand.

The increasing abuse of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) is an area of concern in ASEAN. Treatment for NPS was recorded in Cambodia and Malaysia, with Thailand recording the highest number of NPS users.

There were 554,234 drug offenders across ASEAN in 2018. The number of drug offenders declined in Thailand, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam but had increased in Myanmar, Malaysia, The Philippines, Indonesia, Laos and Singapore. The remaining countries were almost stable from 2017

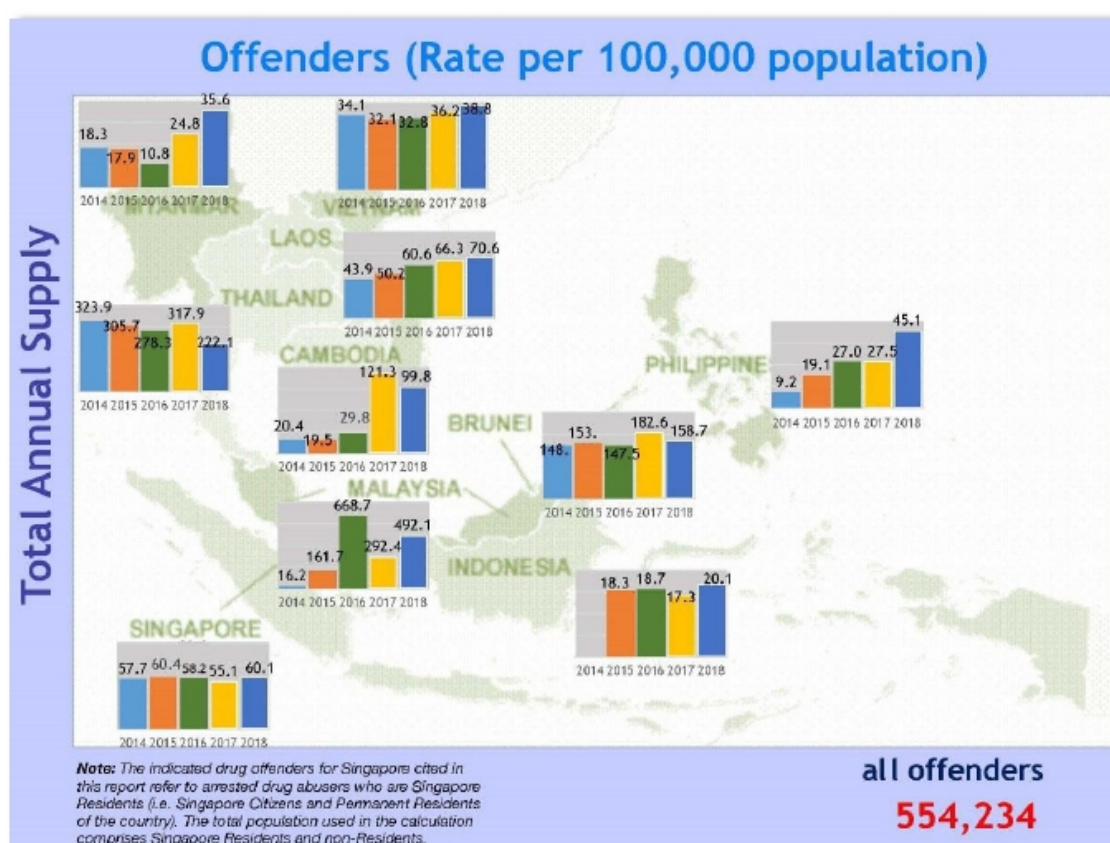


Figure 4: Trend of Offender Rates by Member States

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

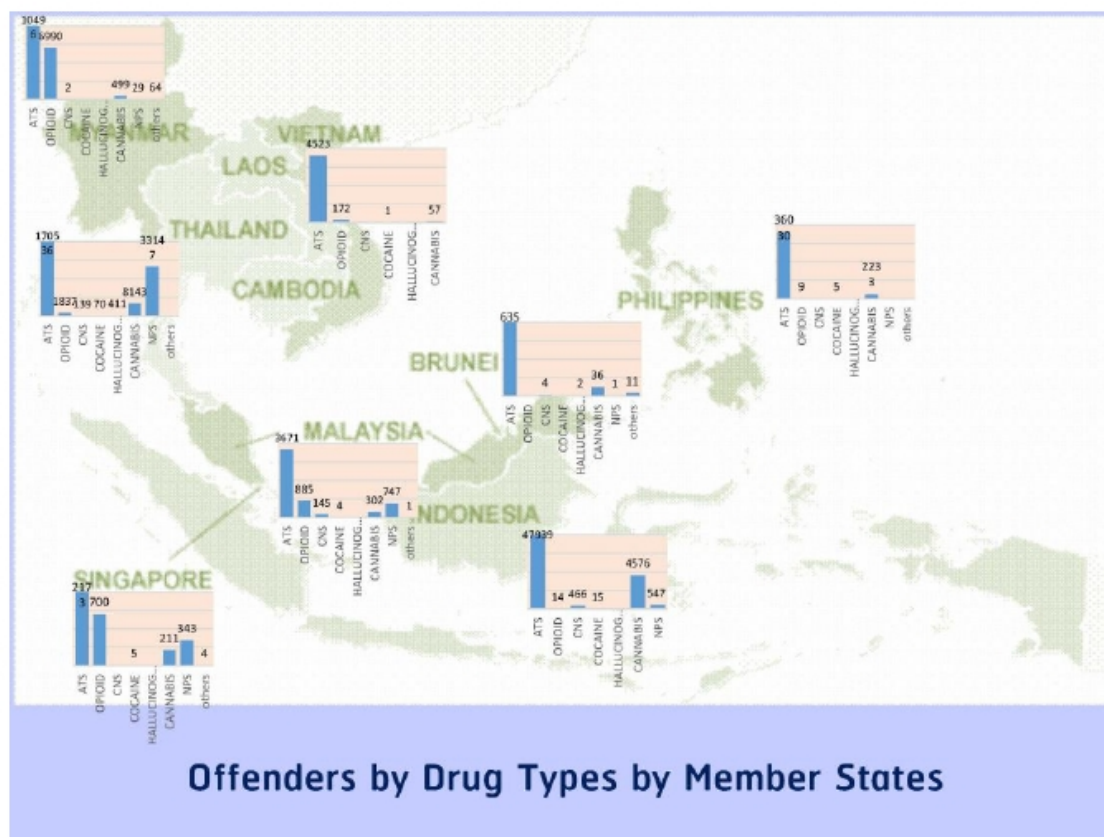


Figure 5: Offenders by Drug Type by Member States

ATS-related crimes were most reported by every country, in particular Methamphetamine in both tablet and crystal forms. Thailand arrested more than 100,000 offenders of ATS-related crimes along with over 10,000 offenders in Indonesia and Myanmar. Opioid-related crimes were reported most in Myanmar followed by Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Laos and a few in

Indonesia and The Philippines. However, Cannabis-related crimes remained a problem in all ASEAN countries and continuous monitoring is therefore necessary. As previously mentioned, NPS poses a challenge in the changing face of recreational drug use with more than 30,000 offenders were arrested in Thailand.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

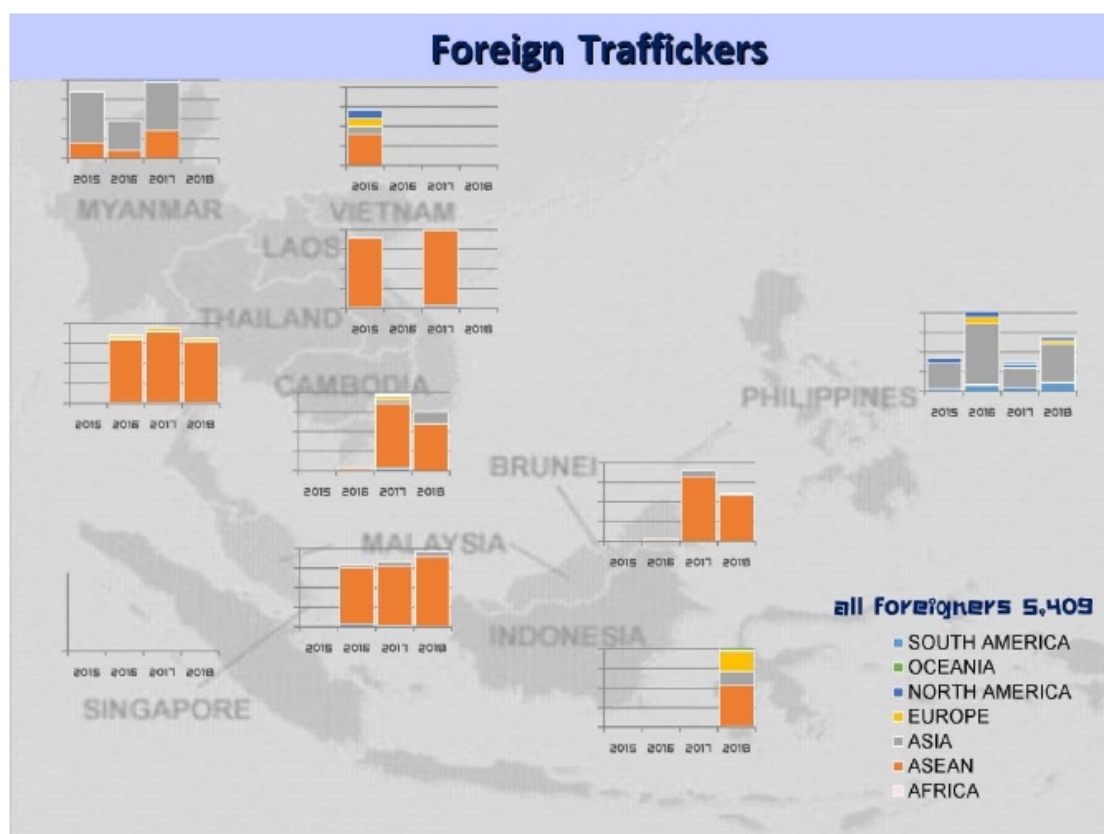


Figure 6: Foreign Traffickers Arrested in Member States Classified by Geographical Zone

The number of drug crimes committed by foreign nationals in ASEAN region dropped in 2018, particularly in Thailand, Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia. However, there was an increase recorded in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. More than 90% of these offenders were Southeast Asian. The remaining were from other Asian and European countries including Africa and America.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

4. REGIONAL COOPERATION

ASEAN Member States have been facing similar illicit drugs problems such as opium cultivation, heroin production and methamphetamine manufacturing in the Golden Triangle. Thailand, Myanmar, and Lao PDR have collaborated with China in the “Safe Mekong Operation” since 2013, which aims to suppress drug trafficking along the Mekong River and nearby Golden Triangle area. In 2015, this international law enforcement

initiative expanded to include Viet Nam and Cambodia.

The “Safe Mekong Operation” emphasises intelligence exchange, joint investigation and operation on interdiction of essential chemicals and precursors, resulting in effective suppression within the Golden Triangle and related areas. As shown, seizures of major drugs and precursors have increased in a short time as a result of this cooperation.

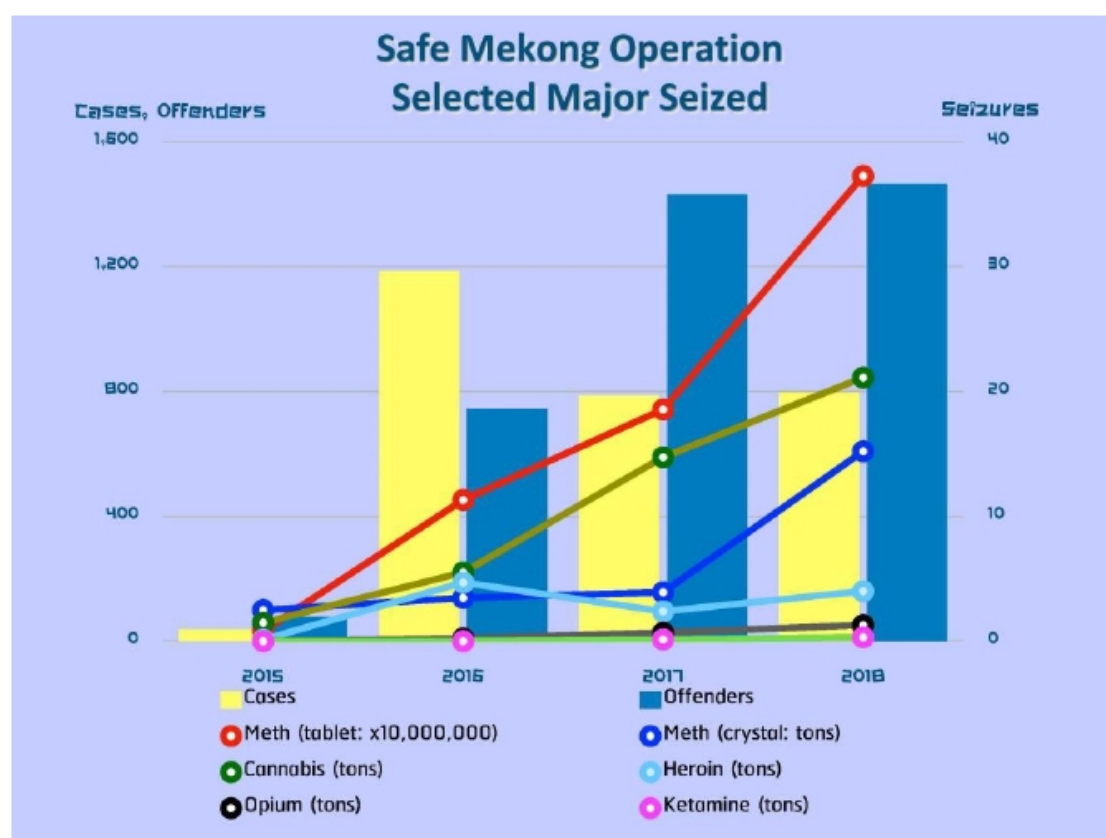


Figure 7: Arrests and Seizures by Safe Mekong Operation

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Member States law enforcement authorities have intercepted drug precursors and chemicals destined for the production sites, resulting in many arrests and seizures.

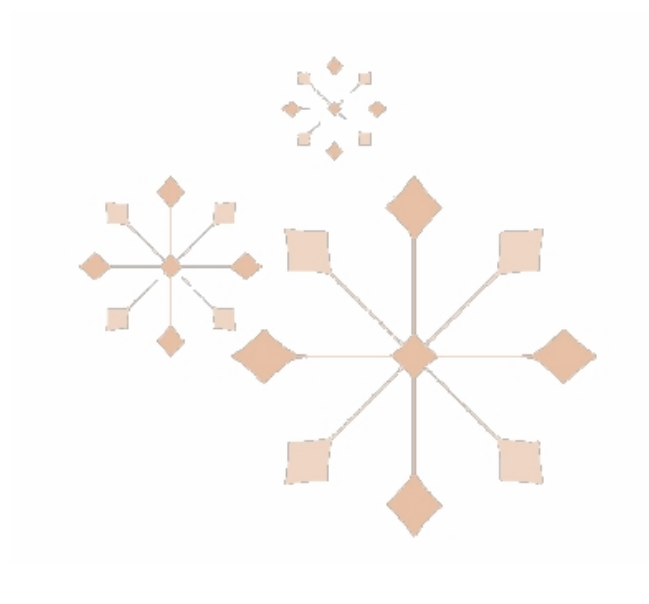
The number of drug offenders arrested has been increasing since 2015 to more than 1,400 people in 2018. Contrarily, number of arrests for drug offenses which were high in 2016, records showed less in 2017 and 2018. Number of arrests for the last two years had no significant difference. It probably implied that big drug cases were

arrested in 2017 and 2018 than in 2016 based on total weight of the substances seized. In addition, there was a large increase in Methamphetamine tablets and crystals, Cannabis and Opium while Heroin and Ketamine showed a slight increase.

However, with the ongoing implementation of alternative developments in some areas of the Golden Triangle, it is expected that the drug production and trafficking situation in the area would improve in the next few years.

CHAPTER 2

Major Drug Problems in ASEAN



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

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OVERVIEW

The number of drug admissions increased in 2018 as compared to 2017, with over 500,000 users recorded. Drug admissions increased by 52% from 50.6 per 100,000 population in 2017 to 76.7 per 100,000 population in 2018. Of these, ATS users accounted for 85% of all admissions in the first half of 2017. Although the total number of admissions decreased in the second half, the proportion of ATS users among all users increased to over 90%. In the first half of 2018, the total number of admissions increased to over 130,000 but the proportion of ATS users decreased to 79%. This proportion remained stable although the admission numbers decreased in the second half of 2018.

Moreover, the number of ATS users was 10 times higher than other drugs in every time period. The second most common drug of use was cannabis. The number of cannabis users was higher in the first half of 2017 and 2018 and lower in the second half of both years. The cause of this periodic fluctuations were not clear at present. Unlike the opioids group (opium, heroin and other derivatives), for which the number of admissions were significantly higher than 2017 in both halves of 2018. Within the same year, the admission number for opioids was stable. The admission number for NPS declined continuously from the first half of 2017 to the second half of 2018 while the admissions for other drugs remained low.

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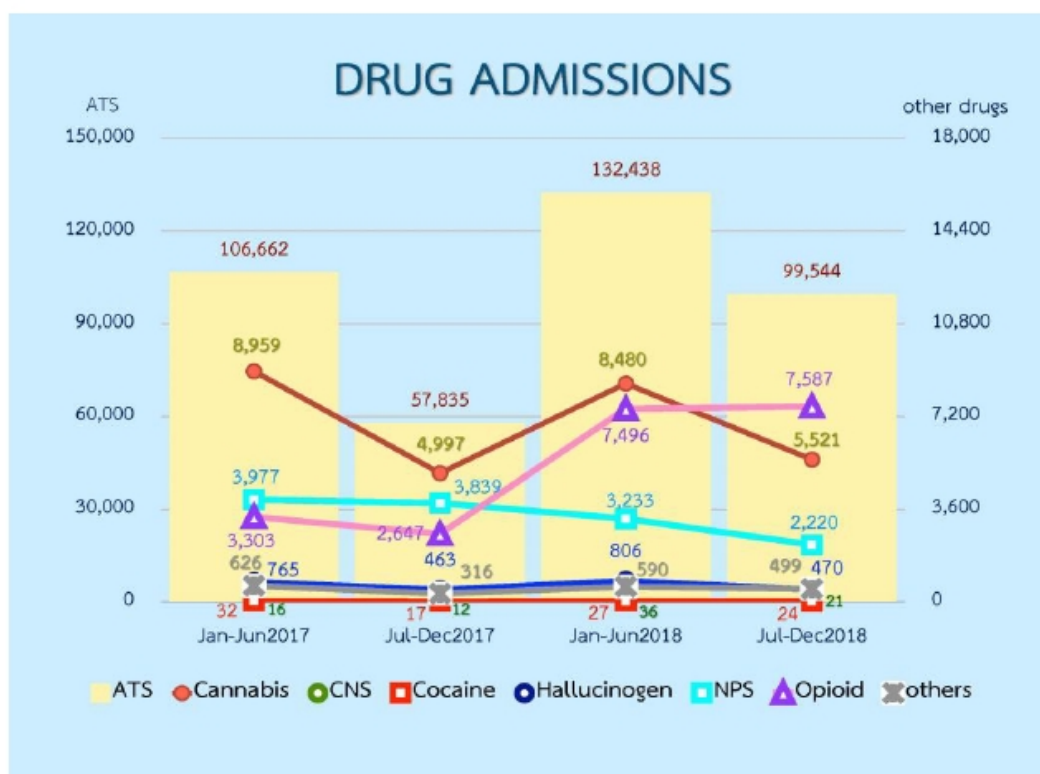


Figure 1: DRUG ADMISSIONS 2017-2018

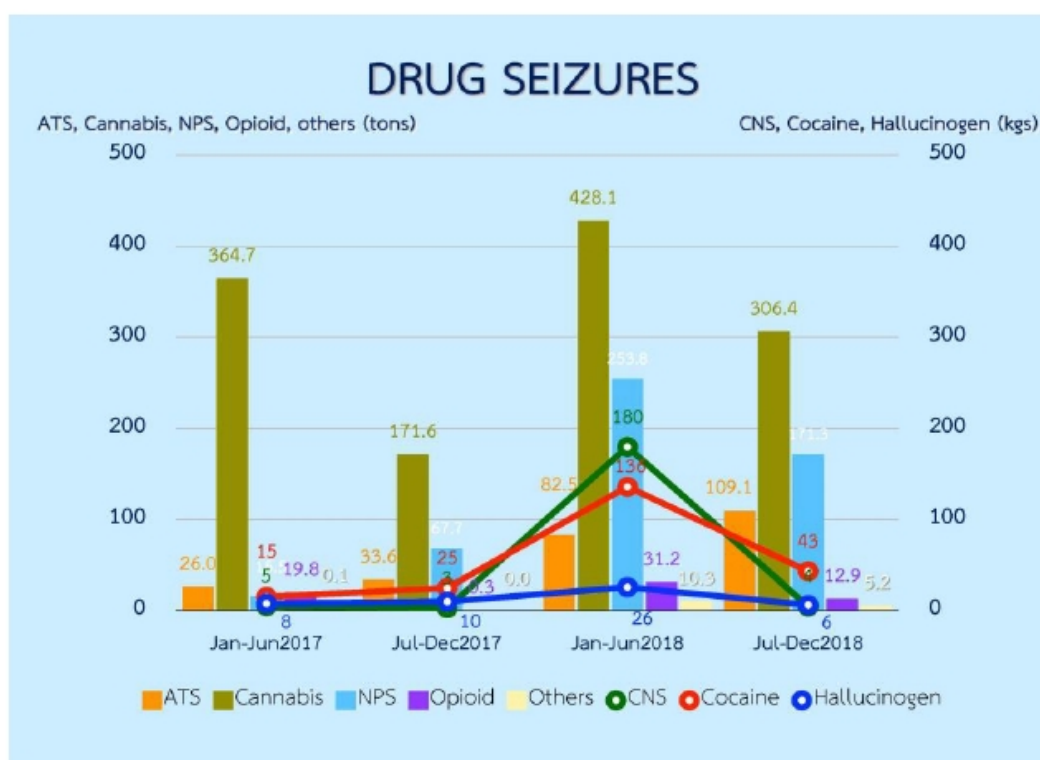


Figure 2: DRUG SEIZURES

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

In terms of weight, cannabis seizures were predominantly higher than other drugs in 2017 and 2018, with greater seizures in the first half of both years as compared to the second half. The lower amount of cannabis seizures and user admissions in the second half of both years suggest variations in the seasonal supply (or harvest cycle) of cannabis. Similar patterns were found for opioid seizures. However, seizures were much smaller. Among other drugs, the amount of NPS seized in the first half of 2018 increased 16 times from the first half of 2017 and reduced by 30% from its peak in the first half of 2018. ATS seizures increased steadily, and increased four folds by the end of 2018. The seizures of other drugs remained low from 2017 to 2018.

Data by each type of drugs are as follows

1. ATS

Amphetamine-type Stimulants (ATS) refer to a group of synthetic drugs whose principal members include Amphetamine,

Methamphetamine and its derivatives. These drugs produce stimulant effects in the central nervous system and can seriously affect the physical and psychological health of users. For instance, ATS can cause severe neurotoxicity. Some short-term effects of ATS include sleep disorder, confusion, depressive symptoms, sleepiness and inability to concentrate. Long-term effects include addiction, depression, anxiety disorder, self-harm, mood swings, psychotic disorders or cognitive dysfunctions. Moreover, ATS abuse and trafficking not only compromise the security of individuals and communities but can also negatively impact the economy.

Among ASEAN Member States, several variations of ATS have been seized. These include amphetamine, methamphetamine in various forms¹, (¹Methamphetamine tablet, also known as 'yaba', methamphetamine crystals, also known as 'ICE' or 'shabu' or 'syabu', methamphetamine powder, methamphetamine liquid), ecstasy (MDMA, MDA, MDE), ephedrine, ephedrine hydrochloride, and pseudoephedrine.

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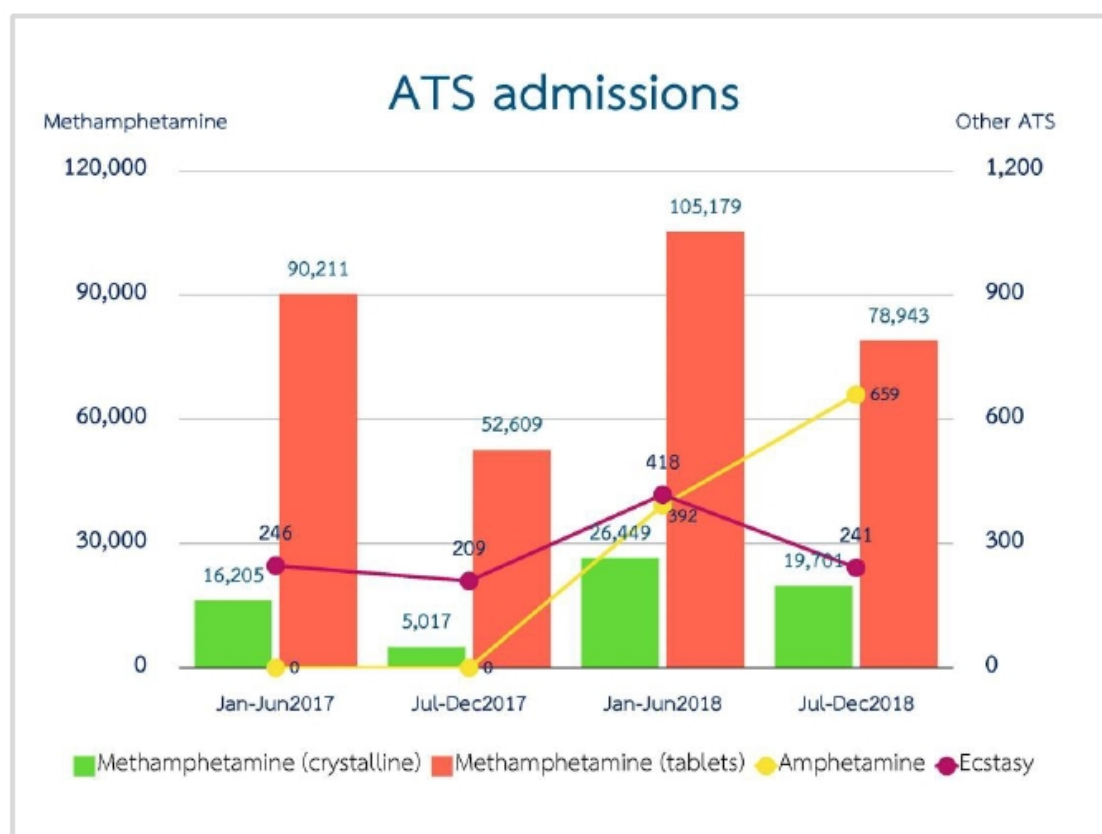


Figure 3: Total ATS Admission in ASEAN

In the first half of 2017, 85% of the total ATS users who received treatment were for methamphetamine tablet. In the second half of 2017, there was a large decrease in the number of methamphetamine tablet users. However, the proportion of methamphetamine tablet users remained high at 91%. The number of methamphetamine tablet users increased to over 100,000 in the first half

of 2018, which was equivalent to 80% of all ATS admission. This proportion was similar to the second half of 2018. A similar pattern was found in the admission of methamphetamine crystalline (also known as 'Shabu' or 'ICE') users. The number of ecstasy users were relatively low for each half of both years, while admissions for amphetamine were recorded for the first time in the first half of 2018.

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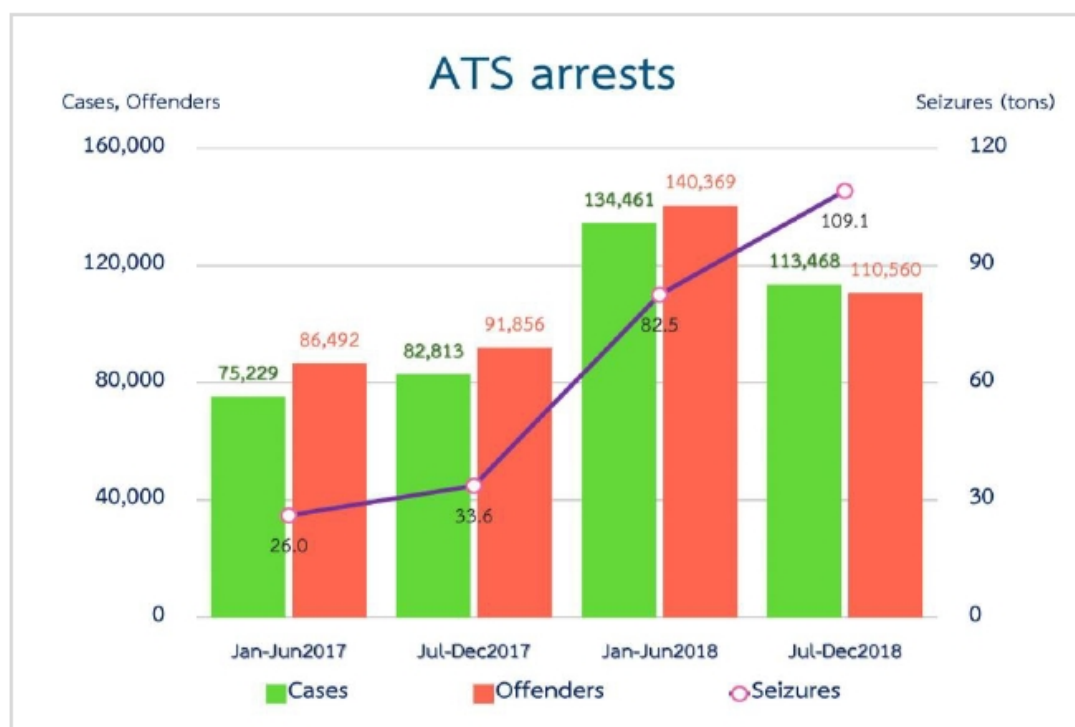


Figure 4: Total Number of ATS Arrests

In the second half of 2017, the number of ATS cases and offenders increased slightly from the first half of 2017. The number of ATS cases and offenders were slightly higher in 2018. There was a massive increase to over 100,000 cases from the second half of 2017 to the first half of 2018. The numbers decreased slightly to the second half of 2018 but there were still over 100,000 ATS cases. In the first half to the second half of 2017, there was a 30% increase in ATS seizure. There was a constant increase in ATS seizure in 2018. The increase was 3 times compared to the second half of 2017.

There was a four-fold increase in methamphetamine tablet seizures from 23 metric tons in the first half of 2017 to

93 metric tons in the second half of 2018. The increase in methamphetamine crystalline seizures was six folds from 6 metric tons in 2017 to 36 metric tons in 2018. Ecstasy was seized in the first and second half of 2017 and 2018. The seizure of ecstasy increased 26 times from 2017 to 2018 from 23.7 kilogrammes to 622.1 kilogrammes. In the first half of 2018, meth-amphetamine liquid and methamphetamine powder were seized for the first time. In the second half of 2018, the seizure for methamphetamine liquid increased from 141 kilogrammes to 264 kilogrammes. In the first half of 2018, seizure of substances such as ephedrine, ephedrine HCL, pseudoephedrine and amphetamine were also reported for the first time.

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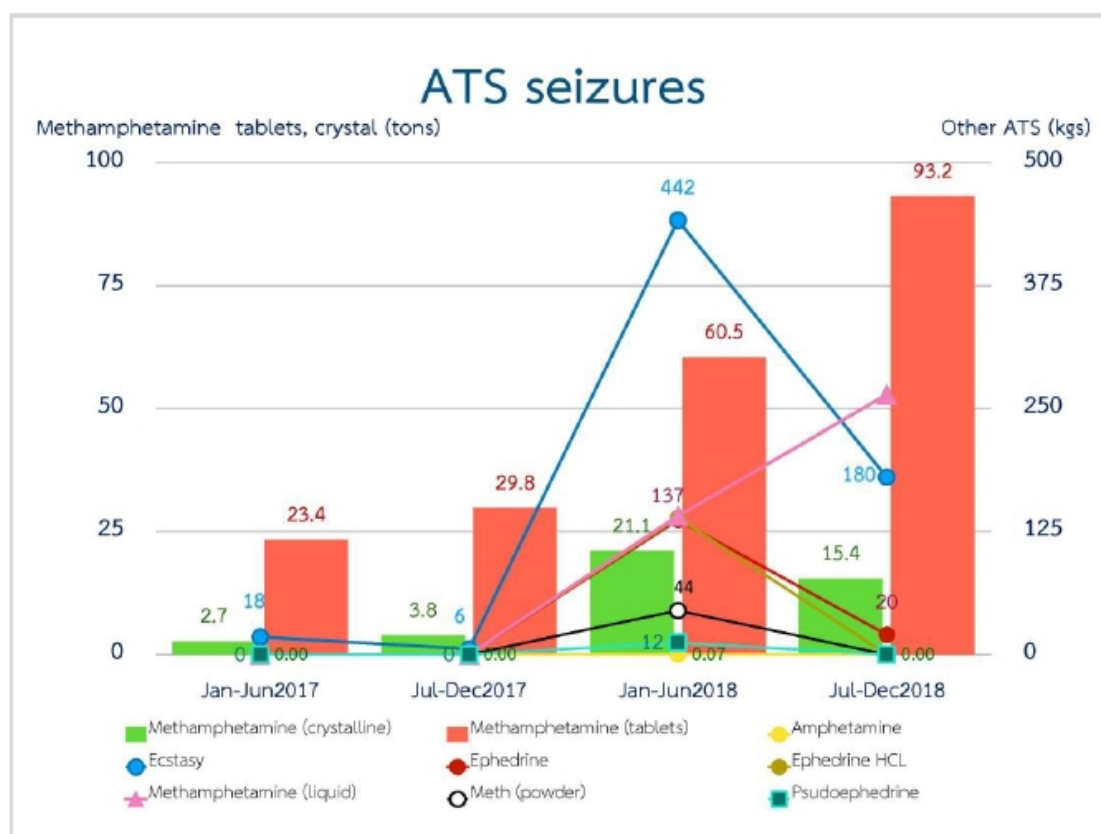


Figure 5: Total ATS Seizures in ASEAN

2. Cannabis

Cannabis is a complex plant with over 400 chemical entities, of which over 60 of them are referred to as cannabinoid compounds. As a result, cannabis can be classified as a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogen that affects the central nervous system. The three major compounds in cannabis are 1) Cannabinoid (CBN), a derivative of THC from oxidation 2) Cannabidiol (CBD) and 3) Tetrahydrocannabinol (delta -9-

tetrahydrocannabinol, THC). THC is the main psychoactive cannabinoid in cannabis which can affect brain function, memory and motor control. Cannabis has now become popular among drug users and been legalised for medical use in some countries.

Among ASEAN Member States, several forms of cannabis have been seized. These include cannabis plants, cannabis dried, cannabis resin, and cannabis seeds.

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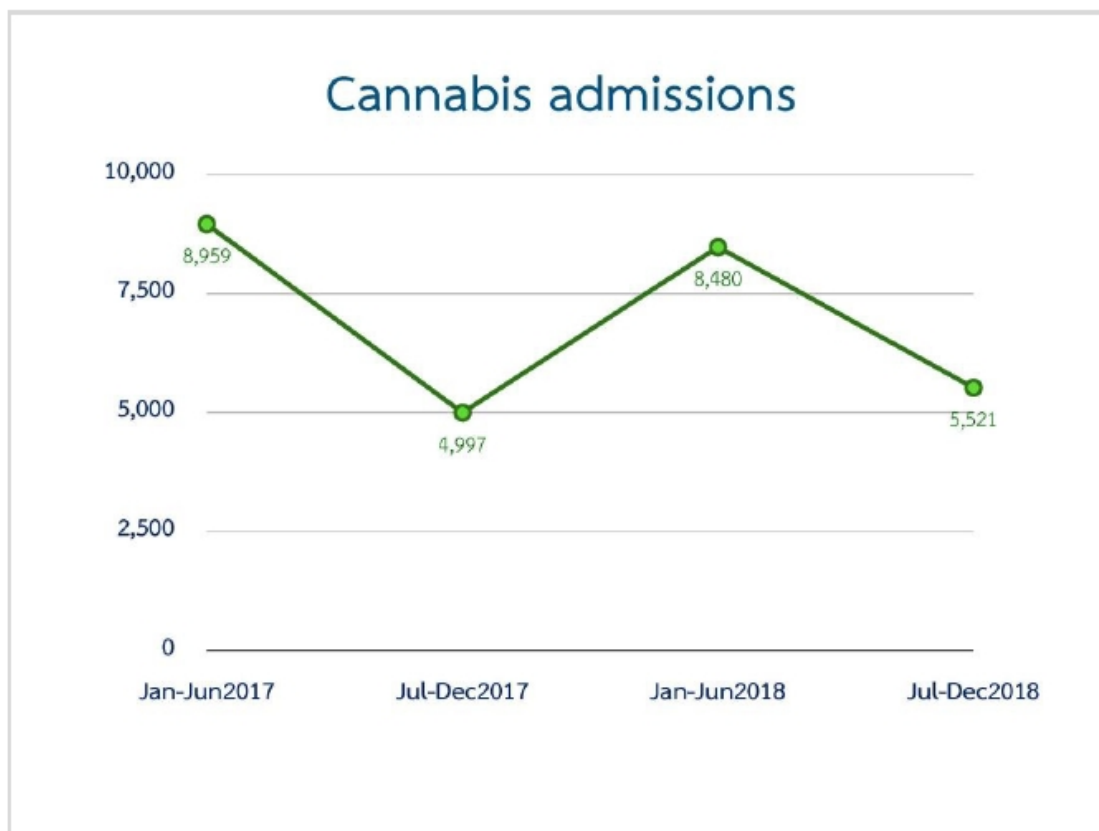


Figure 6: Cannabis admissions

In the first half of 2017, there were 8,959 cannabis users in treatment. In the second half of 2017, there was a large decrease in the number of cannabis users. In the first half of 2018, there was a large increase in the number of cannabis users, then

decreased again in the second half of 2018. It should be noted that the number of cannabis users during the first half were much higher than the second half of both year, however, the total cannabis users for 2018 were slightly lower than 2017.

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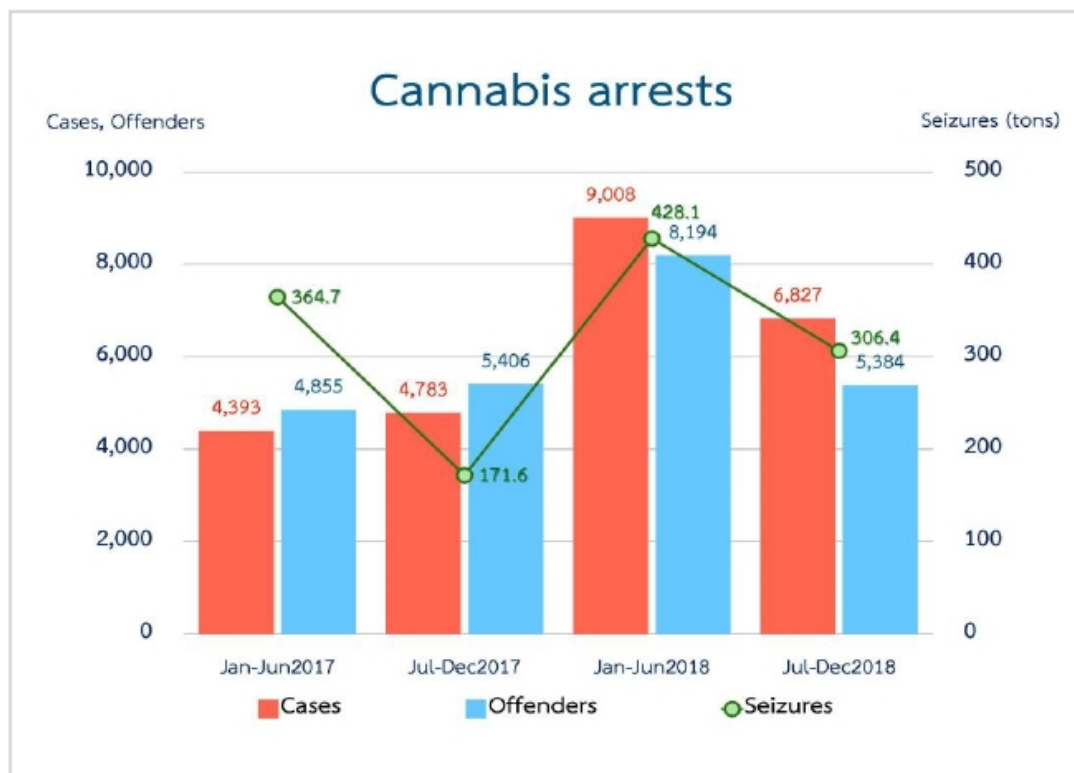


Figure 7: Cannabis arrest

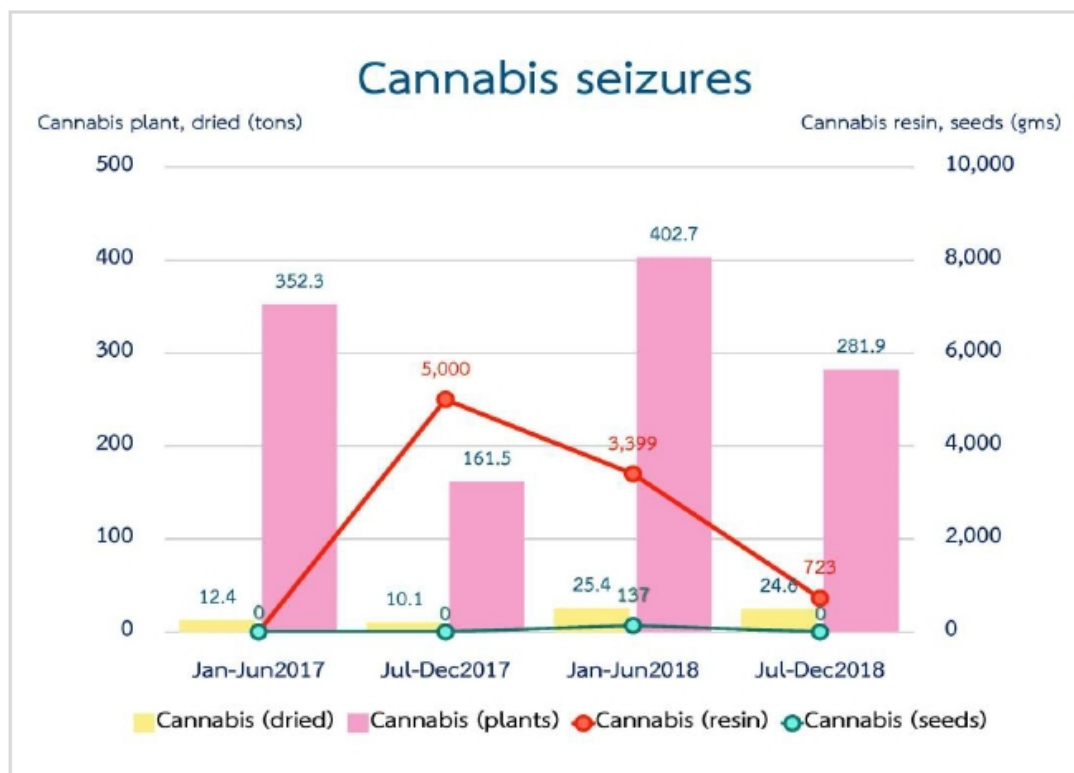


Figure 8: Cannabis seizures

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

In the second half of 2017, the number of cannabis cases and offenders slightly increase from the first half of 2017. However, there was a large increase in the number of cannabis cases and offenders in 2018, with an increase of over 4,000 cases from the second half of 2017 to the first half of 2018. Although the numbers decreased in the second half of 2018, there were still over 6,000 cannabis cases. In 2017, cannabis seizures decreased by more than 50% from the first half of 2017 to the second half of 2017. There was 30% decrease in cannabis seizure from the first half of 2018 to the second half of 2018. Overall there was a 37% increase in cannabis seizures as compared to 2017.

There was 33% increase in cannabis plant seizures from 513 metric tons in 2017 to 683 metric tons in 2018. There was a two-fold increase in cannabis dried seizures from 22 metric tons in 2017 to 50 metric tons in 2018. Cannabis resin was first seized in the second half of 2017 and continued to 2018. The

seizure of cannabis resin decreased 20% from 2017 to 2018 from 5 kilogrammes to 4 kilogrammes. In the first half of 2018, cannabis seeds was seized for the first time.

3. CNS depressants

Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants are medicines that include sedatives, tranquilizers and hypnotics that can slow the brain and central nervous system. Based on their chemistry and pharmacology, CNS depressants can be divided into benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methaqualone and GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutyric). While CNS depressants may be used to treat conditions such as anxiety, acute stress reactions, sleep disorders; an overdose may cause coma, shock and death.

Among ASEAN Member States, several variations of CNS have been seized. These include benzodiazepines, barbiturate, nimetazepam, and other psychotropic pills.

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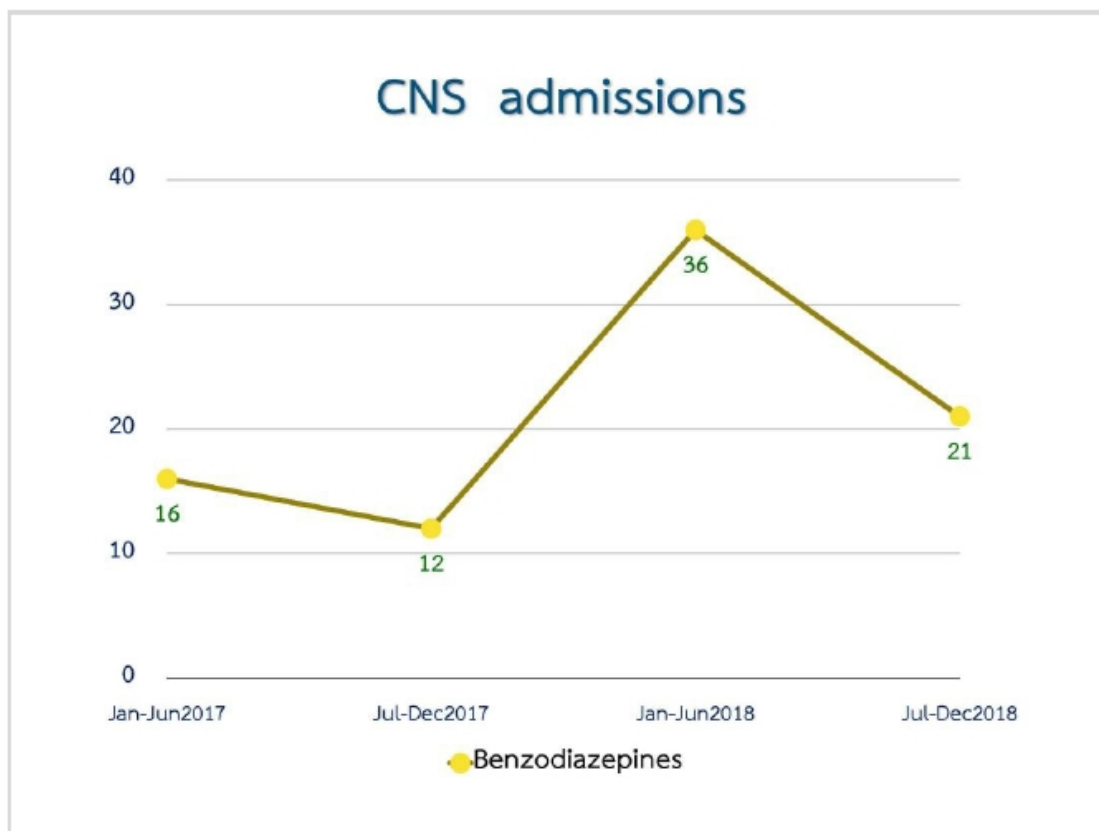


Figure 9: CNS admissions

In the first half of 2017, 16 benzodiazepines users received treatment. In the second half of 2017, there was a decrease in the number of benzodiazepines users. In the first half of 2018, there was a three-fold increase in the number of benzodiazepines users, then a decrease in the second half of 2018. It should be noted that the number of benzodiazepines users during the first half were higher than the second half of both year, however, the total benzodiazepines users of 2018 were two folds higher than 2017.

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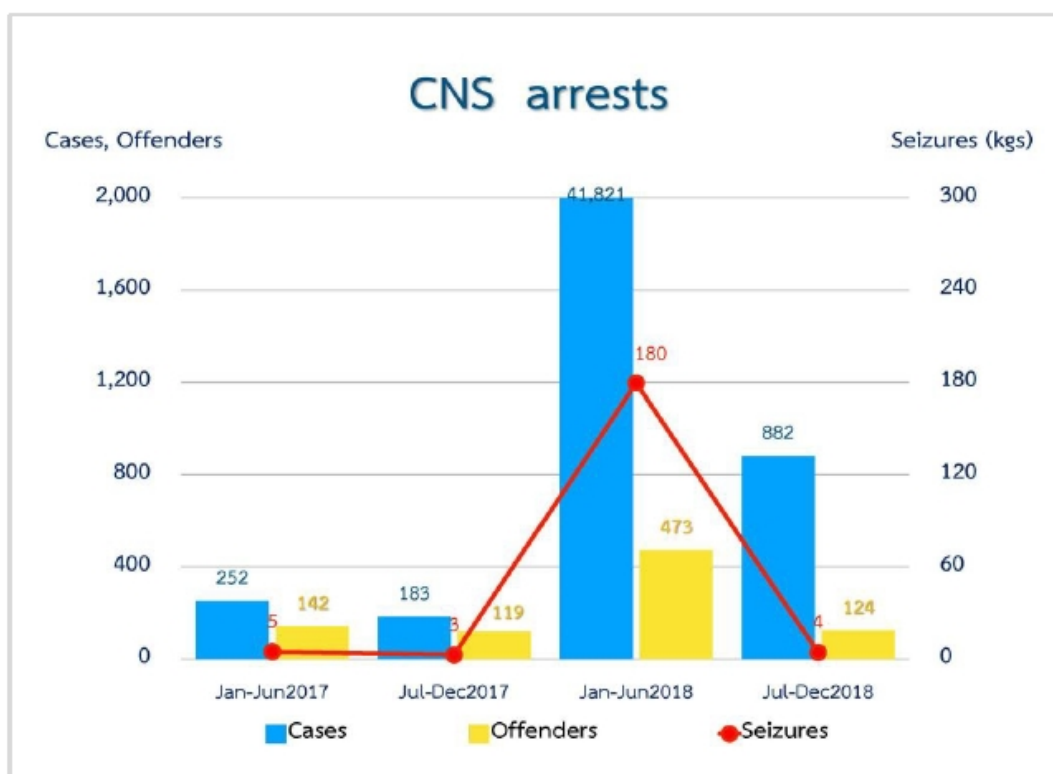


Figure 10: CNS arrest

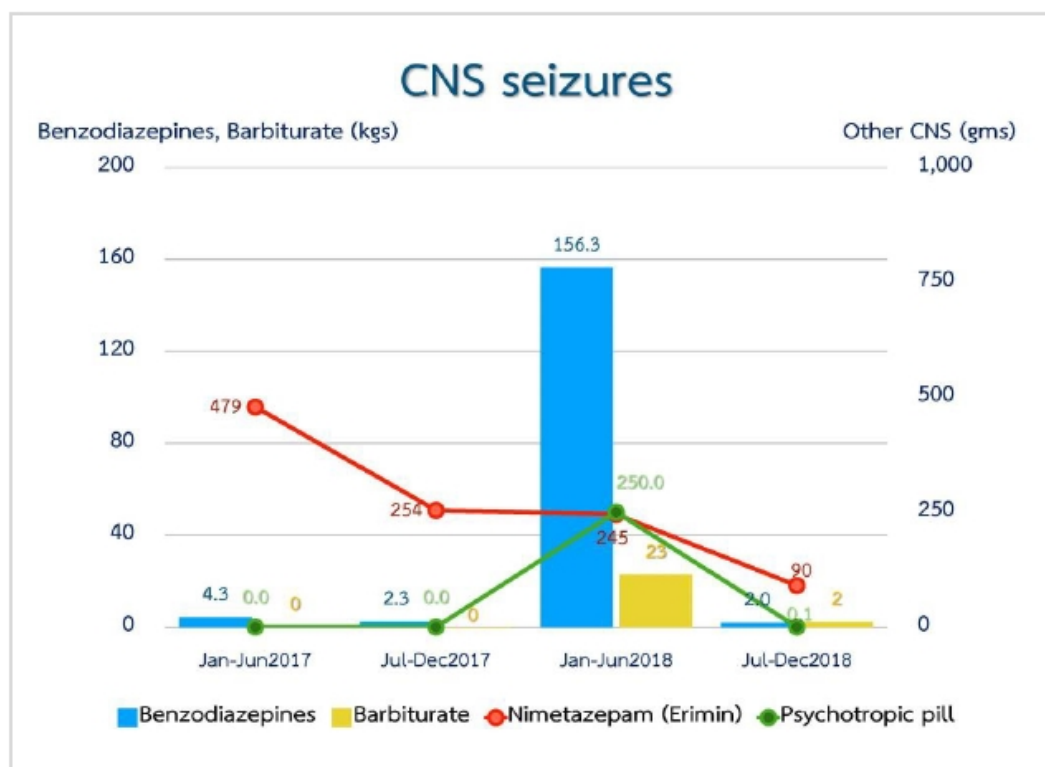


Figure 11: CNS seizures

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In the second half of 2017, the number of CNS cases and offenders decreased slightly from the first half of 2017. There was a large increase in the number of CNS cases and offenders in 2018 to over 40,000 cases from the second half of 2017 to the first half of 2018. The numbers decreased in the second half of 2018. In 2017, 8 kilogrammes of CNS was seized. There was a 23-fold increase in CNS seizure in 2018 as compared to 2017.

There was a 26 - fold increase in benzodiazepines seizures from 6 kilogrammes in 2017 to 158 kilogrammes in 2018. There was a huge increase in barbiturate seizures from 29 grammes in 2017 to 24 kilogrammes in 2018. Nimetazepam (erimin) was seized in the first and second half of 2017 and 2018. The seizure of nimetazepam decreased from 2017 to 2018 from 733 grammes to 335 grammes. In the first half of 2018, other

psychotropic tablets were seized for the first time.

4. Cocaine

Cocaine, scientifically called methyl ester of benzoylecgonine, also known as coke, is a natural substance found in coca leaves for its psychoactive alkaloid. The alkaloid content of coca leaves differs depending on species, climate, height above mean sea level, plant age and other factors. The main psychoactive substance present in coca leaves is cocaine (benzoylecgonine), which is generally present in the range of 0.3-1%. On the street, cocaine comes in either of two forms (1) cocaine hydrochloride salt or 'base' which is a white, odourless crystalline powder, with a bitter, numbing taste and (2) cocaine sulfate or crack or rock which is freebase in white to light brown coloured, waxy rock-like substance.

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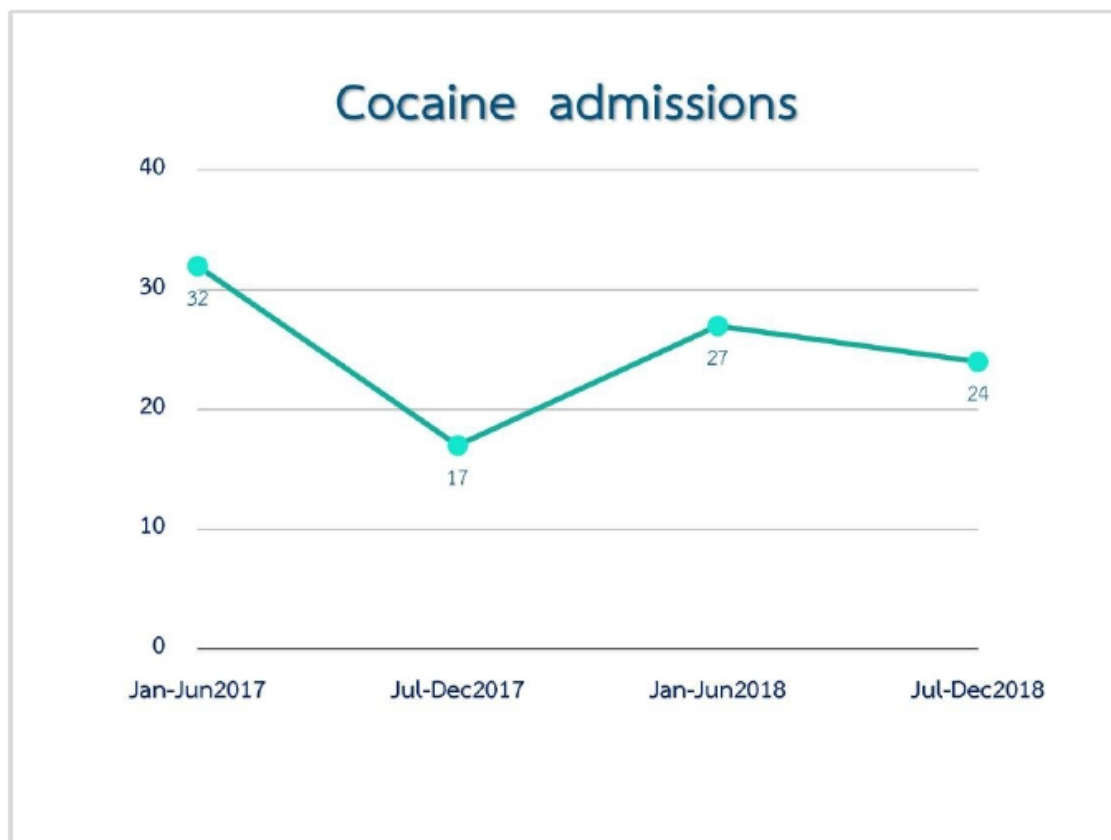


Figure 12: Cocaine admissions

In the first half of 2017, there were 32 cocaine users received treatment. In the second half of 2017, there was a decrease in the number of cocaine users. In the first half of 2018, there was a 60% increase in the number of cocaine users, which decreased slightly in the second half of 2018. It should be noted that the number of cocaine users during the first half were higher than the second half of both year, however, the total number of cocaine users in 2018 were slightly higher than 2017.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

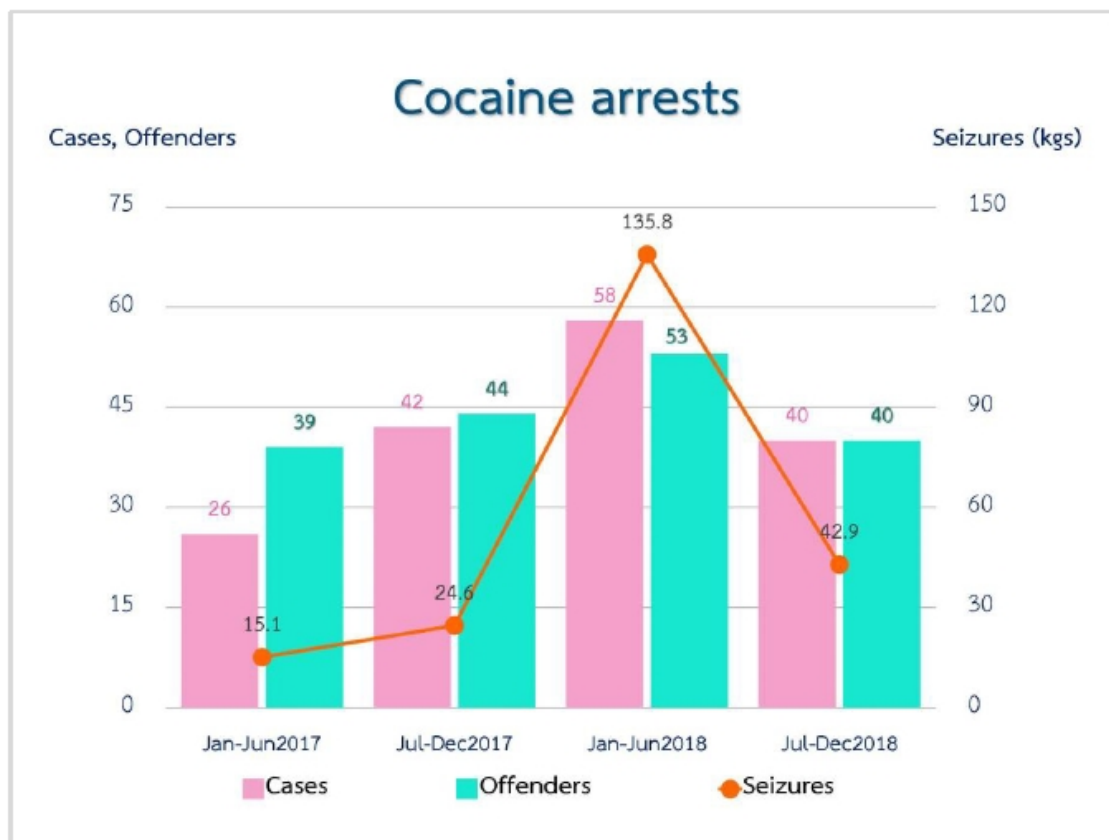


Figure 13: Cocaine arrests

In the second half of 2017, the number of cocaine cases and offenders increased slightly from the first half of 2017. The number of cocaine cases and offenders were slightly higher in 2017. There were 16 more cases in the second half of 2017 than the first half of 2017.

The numbers decreased in the second half of 2018. In 2017, there was 63% increase in cocaine seizure from the first half of 2017 to the second half of 2017. Cocaine seizures increased by four times in 2018 as compared to 2017.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

5. Hallucinogen

Hallucinogens are a psychoactive agent which can cause hallucinations, perceptual anomalies and other substantial subjective changes in thoughts, emotion, and consciousness. The common types of hallucinogen are psychedelics, dissociatives and delirants which can be used for treatment of mood disorders and chronic pain. Hallucinogen affects serotonin, dopamine and glutamate that cause changes in perception, thought, emotion and consciousness, ranging from illusions to hallucination such as hearing voices and distorted vision. Hallucinogenic

drugs are popular for recreational and medical purposes in European countries, the United States and England. It is commonly used by those in the 18-25 age group. Unlike manufactured psychotropic drugs such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), ketamine, etc., psilocybe mushroom, commonly known as magic mushroom, are the most widely used as recreational psychotropic drugs.

Among ASEAN Member States, several variations of hallucinogen have been seized. These include Inhalants, LSD, magic mushroom, and Thionyl Chloride.

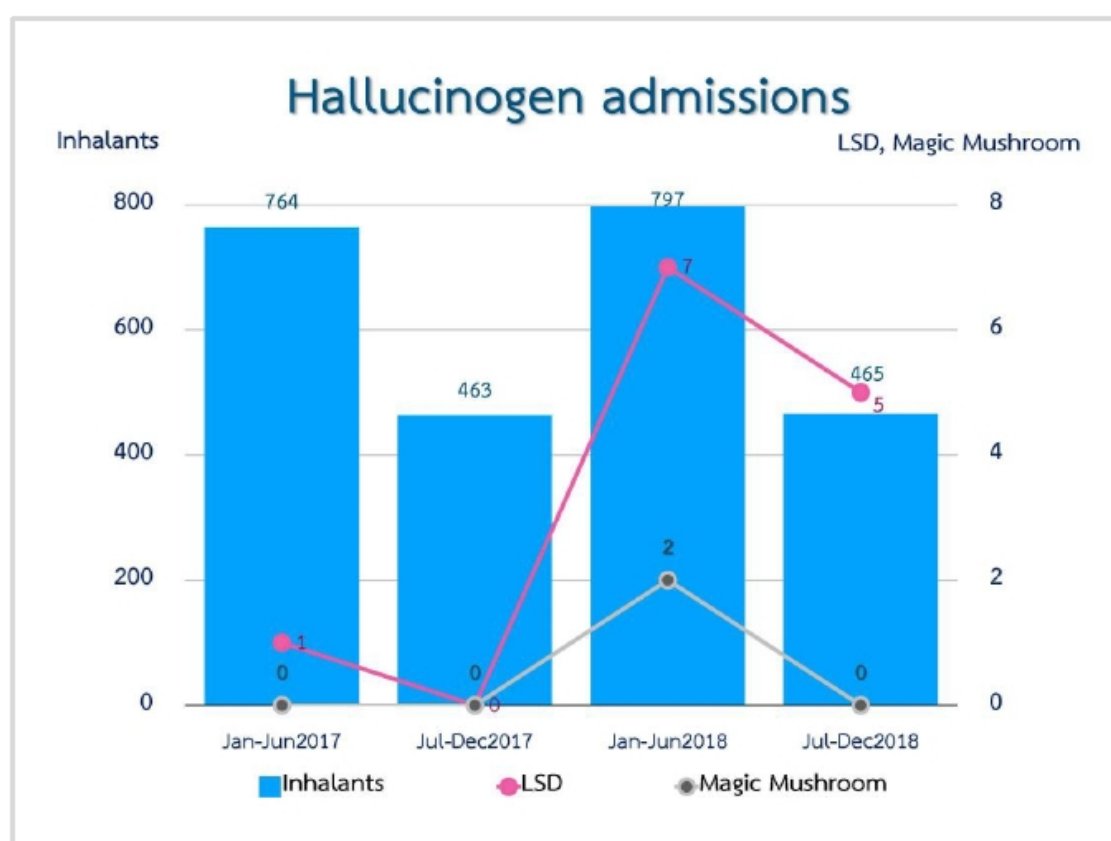


Figure 14: Hallucinogen admissions

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

In the first half of 2017, almost all of the total hallucinogen users who received treatment were for inhalants. In the second half of 2017, there was a large decrease in the number of inhalants. However, inhalants users comprised all of hallucinogen admission during the second half of 2017. The number of inhalants users increased to 797 in the first half of 2018, which was equivalent to 99% of all hallucinogen admission. This proportion was similar to the second half of 2018. A similar wave was found in the admission of LSD users. The number of magic mushroom users was found for the first time in the first half of 2018.

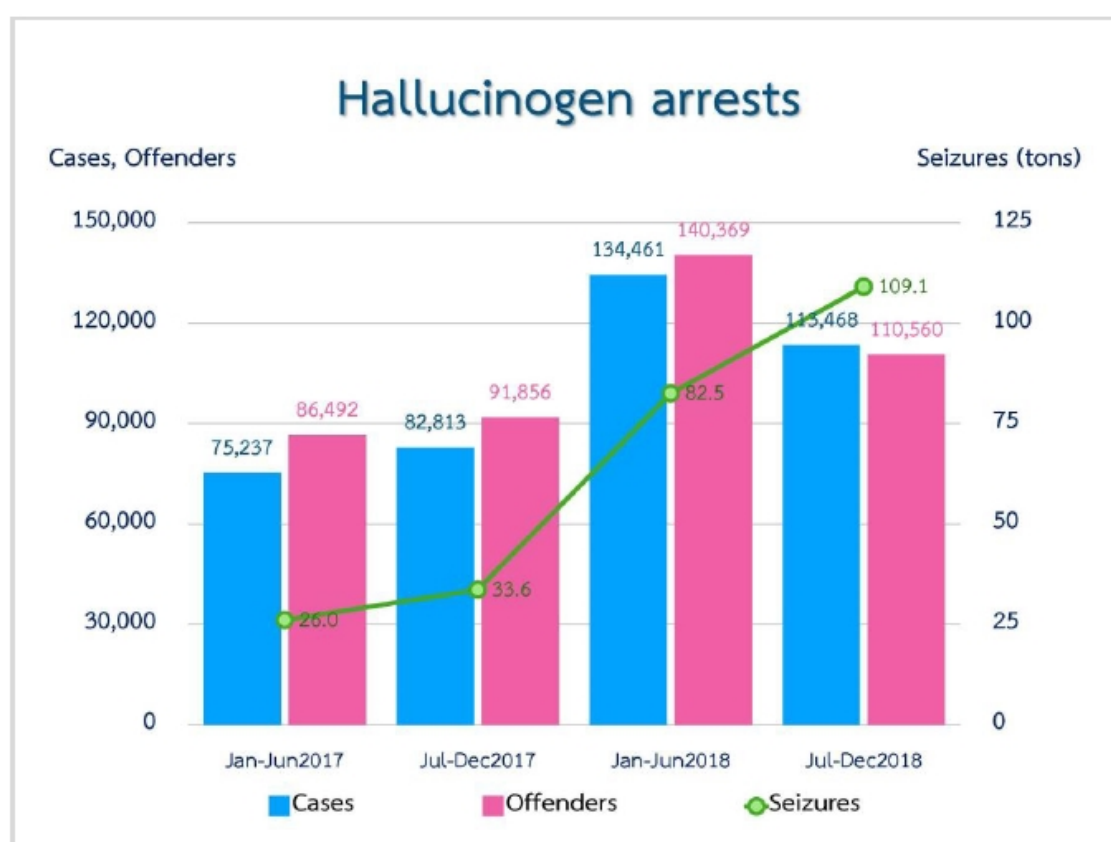


Figure 15: Hallucinogen arrests

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

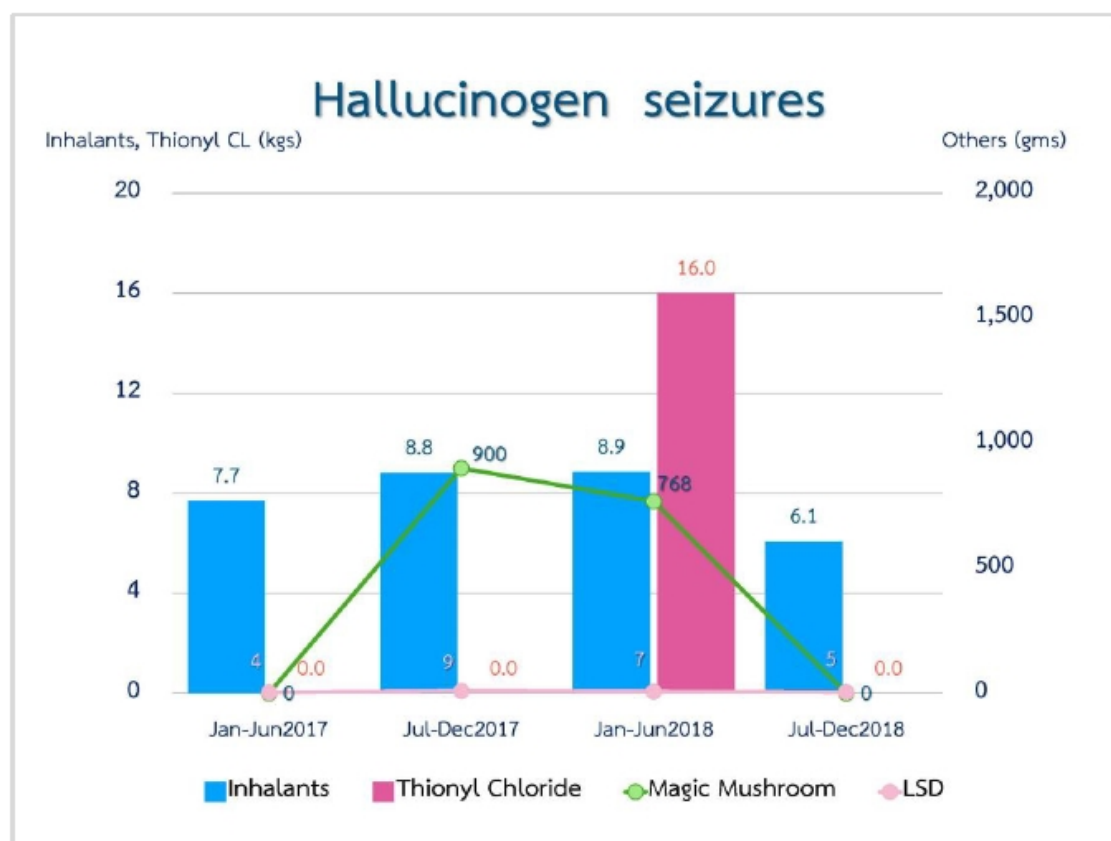


Figure 16: Hallucinogen seizures

In the second half of 2017, the number of hallucinogen cases and offenders increased slightly from the first half of 2017. The number of hallucinogen cases and offenders were higher in 2018. There was a large increase of over 50,000 cases from the second half of 2017 to the first half of 2018. The numbers decreased to the second half of 2018 but there were still over 110,000 hallucinogen cases. In 2017, there was 30% increase in hallucinogen seizures from the first half of 2017 to the second half of 2017. There

was a 20% increase in hallucinogen seizures in 2018. In 2018, there was a three-fold increase in seizures as compared to 2017.

There was a slight decrease in inhalants seizures from 16 kilogrammes in 2017 to 15 kilogrammes in 2018. There was also a slight decrease in magic mushroom seizures from 900 grammes in 2017 to 768 grammes in 2018. The seizure of LSD slightly decreased from 13 grammes to 12 grammes. Thionyl Chloride was seized for the first time in the first half of 2018.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

6. NPS

According to World Drug Report 2013 (UNODC, 2013), New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) is an umbrella term for unregulated (new) psychoactive substances or synthetic substances that produces similar effects to illegal drugs or mimic the effects of controlled drugs not for medical and scientific purposes. Majority of NPS are currently not under international control by the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 or the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic

Drug 1971. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) classifies NPS into seven categories according to pharmacology and health consequences as follows: Synthetic Cannabinoids, Synthetic Cathinones, Ketamine, Phenethylamines, Piperazines, plant-based substances, and miscellaneous substances.

Among ASEAN Member States, several variations of NPS have been seized. These include *mitragyna speciosa* (kratom), ketamine, khat, cathinone, synthetic cathinones (bath salt), synthetic cannabiniods, and others.

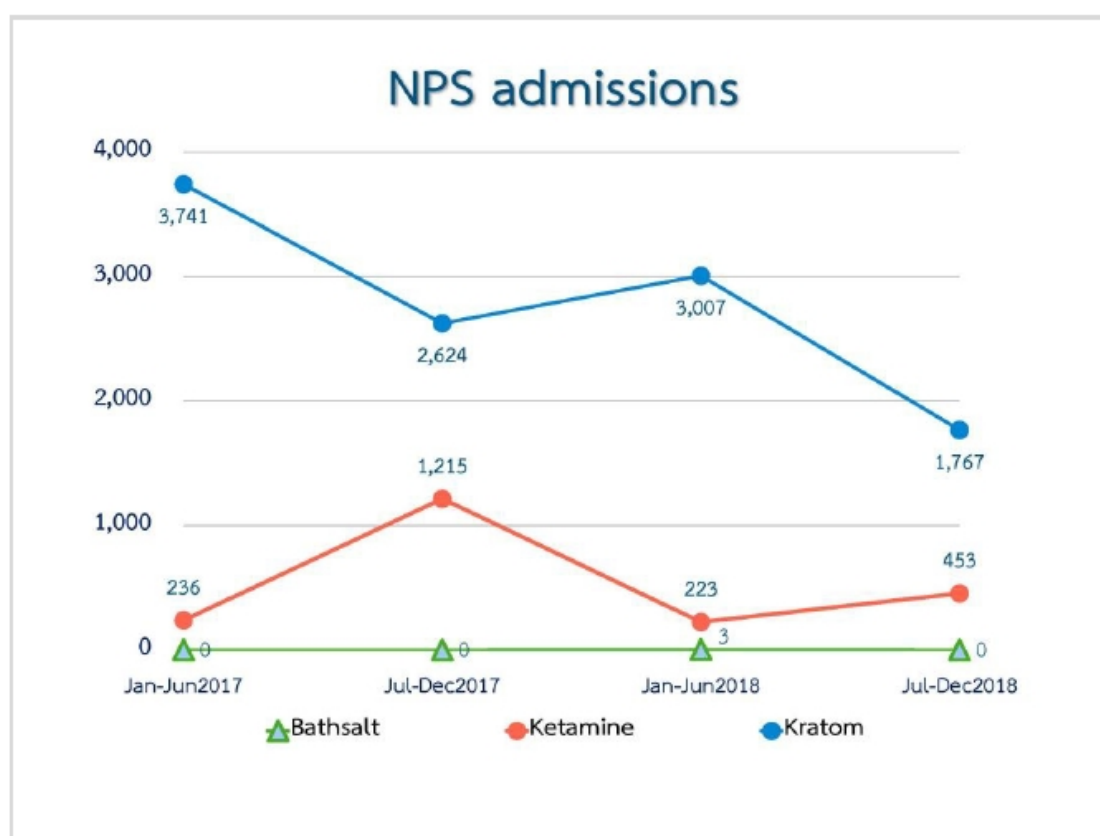


Figure 17: NPS admissions

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

In the first half of 2017, 94% of total NPS users received treatment for kratom. In the second half of 2017, there was a 30% decrease in the number of kratom users. However, the proportion of kratom users remained high at 68%. The number of kratom users increased to over 3,000 in the first half of 2018, which was equivalent to 93% of all NPS admission. This proportion was higher than the 80% of the second half of 2018. The

number of Ketamine users were relatively low in the first half of 2017. In the second half of 2017, there was a five-fold increase in the number of kratom users. The number decreased in the first half of 2018 to the same level as the first half of 2017. In the second half of 2018, there was a two-fold increase, while the admission of bath salt was found for the first time in the first half of 2018.

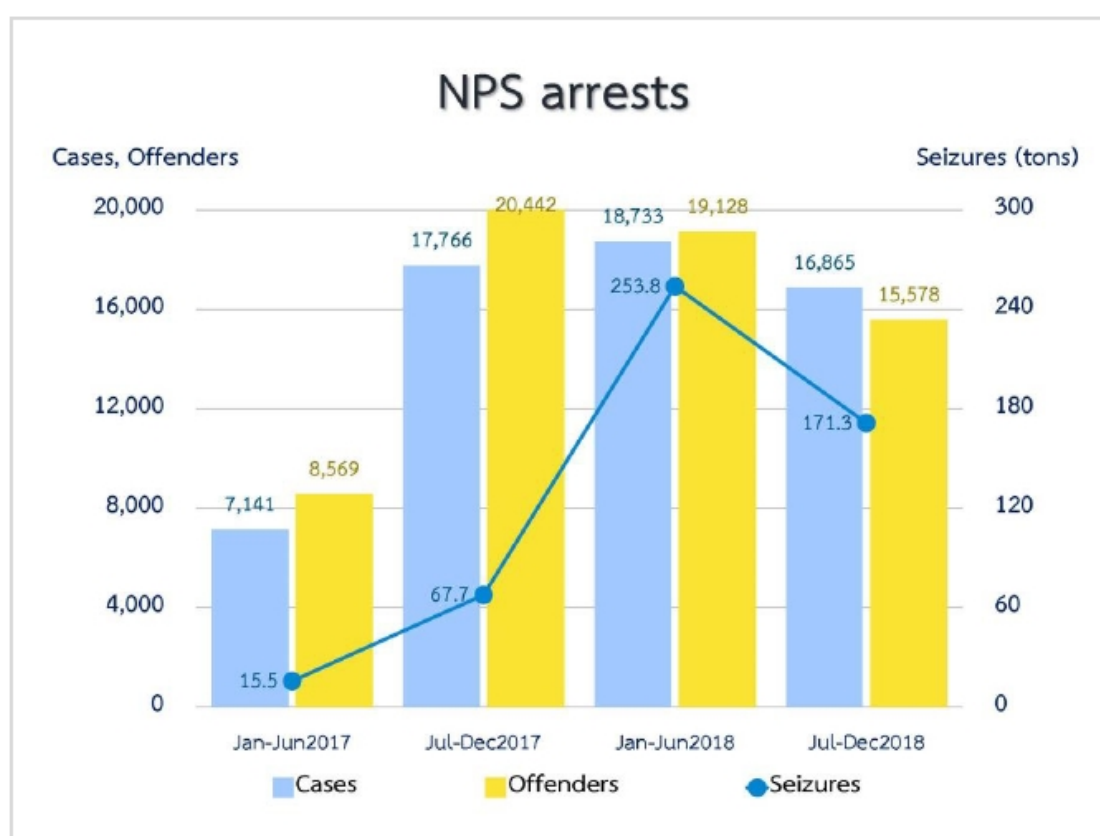


Figure 18: NPS arrests

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

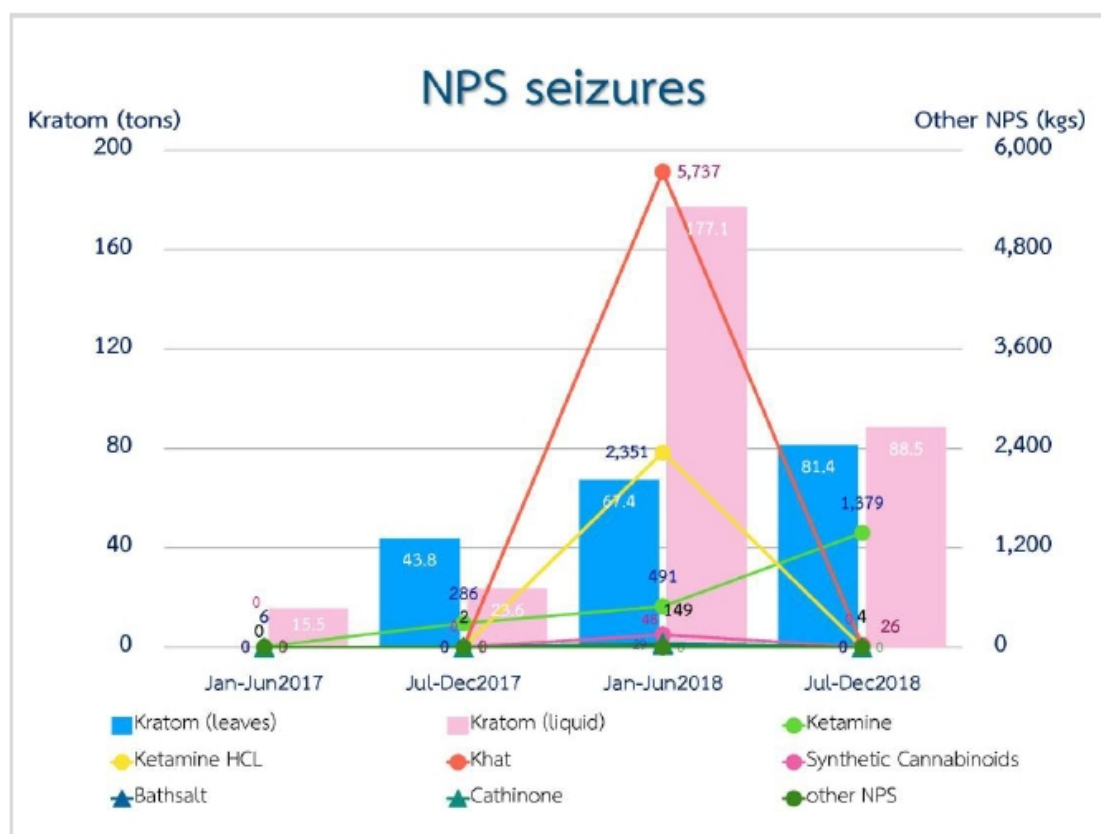


Figure 19: NPS seizures

In the second half of 2017, there was a large increase in the number of NPS cases and offenders as compared to the first half of 2017. The number of NPS cases and offenders increased to over 10,000 cases in the first half of 2018 as compared to the first half of 2017. The number decreased slightly in the second half of 2018 but there were still over 16,000 NPS cases. In 2017, there was four folds increase in NPS seizures from the first half of 2017 to the second half of 2017. These was a reverse direction in NPS seizure in 2018. NPS seizures in 2018 were five times higher than 2017.

There was a six-fold increase in kratom liquid seizures from 15 metric tons in the first half of 2017 to 88 metric tons in the second half of 2018. There was three folds increase in kratom leave seizures from 43 metric tons in 2017 to 148 metric tons in 2018. Ketamine, bath salt, and synthetic cannabinoids were seized in the first and second half of 2017 and 2018. The seizure of Ketamine increased 6 times from 2017 to 2018 from 292 kilogrammes to 1,870 kilogrammes Ketamine hydrochloride, cathinone and khat were seized for the first time in the first half of 2018. Khat was seized in all half year periods.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

7. Opioid

Opium is dried latex obtained from the unripe seedpods of opium poppy plant grown at heights above 3,000 feet. Raw opium is a white milky latex which blackens as it dries to a sticky brown or black resin. It has a heavy smell and bitter taste. On the other hand, the prepared opium is indirectly heated to temperatures at which the active alkaloids, mainly morphine, are vaporized. Poppy seeds are a decent source of nutrients, including protein, fatty acids and minerals. Opium poppy plant contains narcotic alkaloids. The pharmacologically active principles of opium reside in its alkaloids, the most two important

are morphine and papaverine. Morphine is the principal medical alkaloid of opium as a sedative, hypnotic and pain medication. Papaverine is used as a smooth muscle relaxant. Opium is a highly addictive narcotic drugs categorized into three types as follows: 1) natural opiates derived from opium poppy 2) extracted opiates including morphine, heroin and codeine and 3) synthetic opioids including fentanyl, methadone, buprenorphine and nescapine.

In ASEAN Member States, several variations of opiates/opioids have been seized. These include opium, heroin, methadone, morphine, nalbuphine, and codeine.

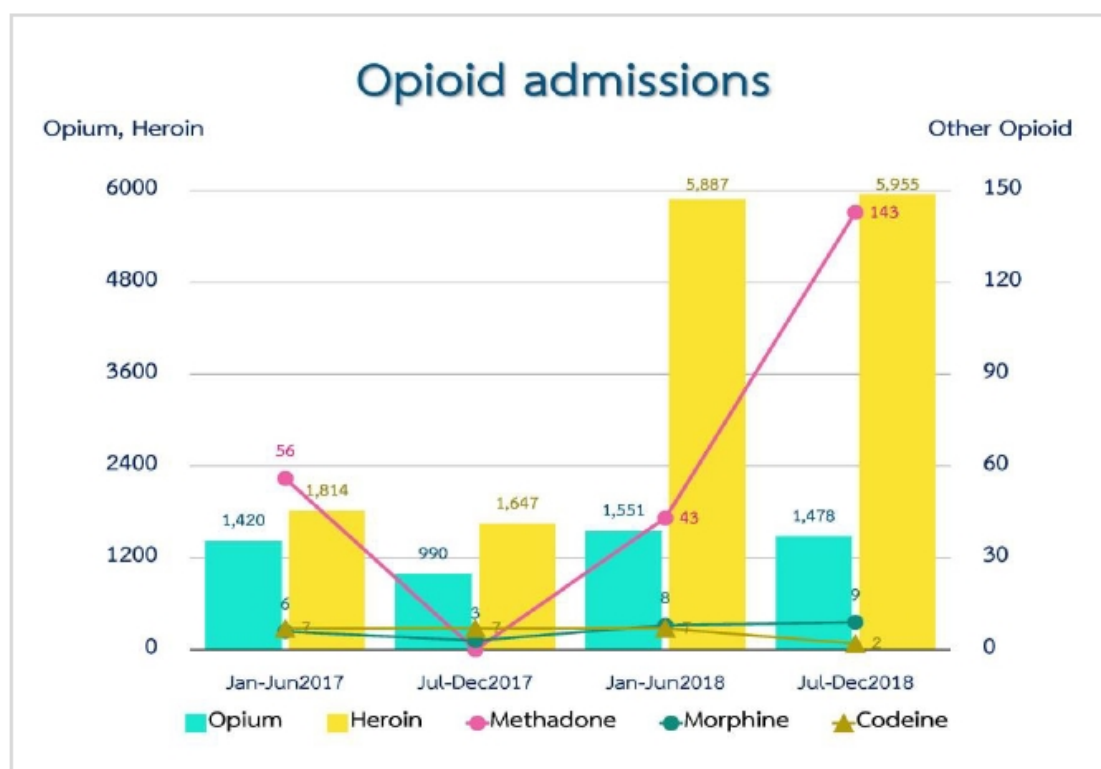


Figure 20: Opioid admissions

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

In the first half of 2017, 55% of opioid users received treatment for heroin. In the second half of 2017, there was a slight decrease in the number of heroin users. However, the proportion of heroin users remained high at 62%. The number of heroin users increased to over 5800 in the first half of 2018, which was equivalent to 78% of all opioid admission. This proportion was similar to the second half of 2018. In the first half of 2017, 43% of opioid users received

treatment for opium. In the second half of 2017, there was a slight decrease in the number of opium users. However, the proportion of opium users remained high at 37%. The number of opium users increased to over 1,500 in the first half of 2018, which was equivalent to 20% of all opioid admission. This proportion was similar to the second half of 2018. The number of methadone, morphine, and codeine users were relatively low for each half of both years.

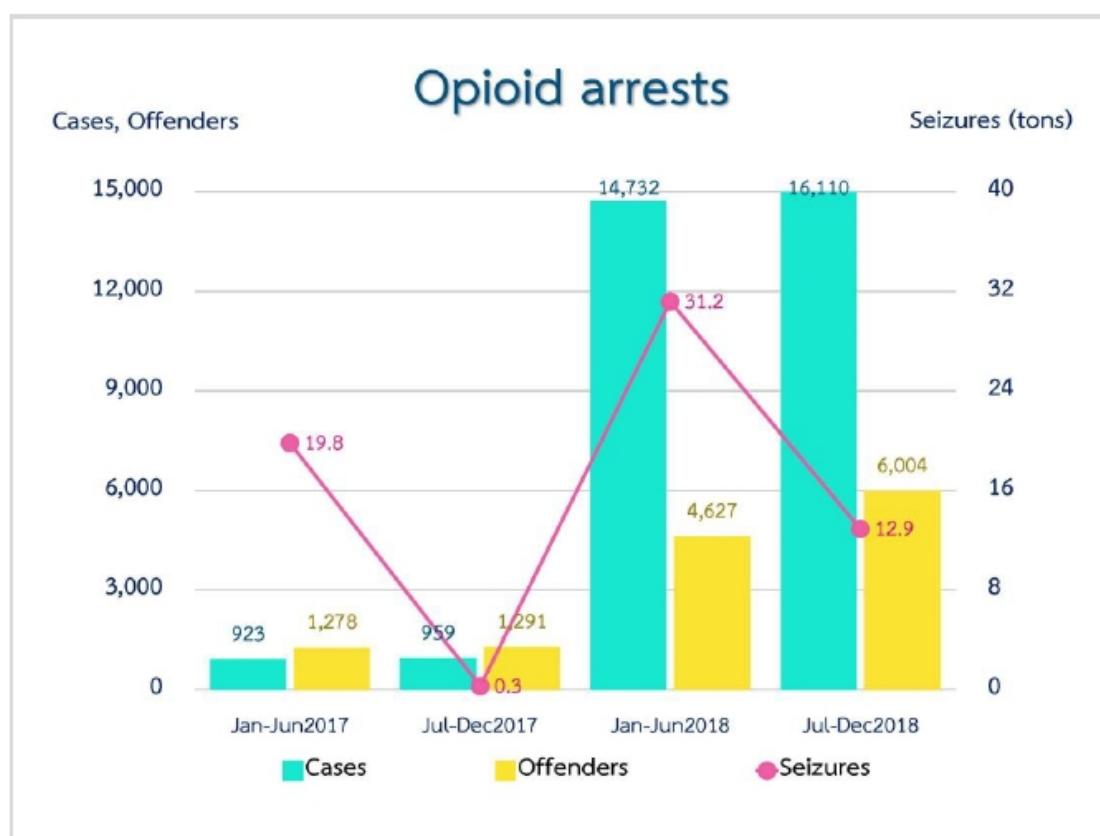


Figure 21: Opioid arrests

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

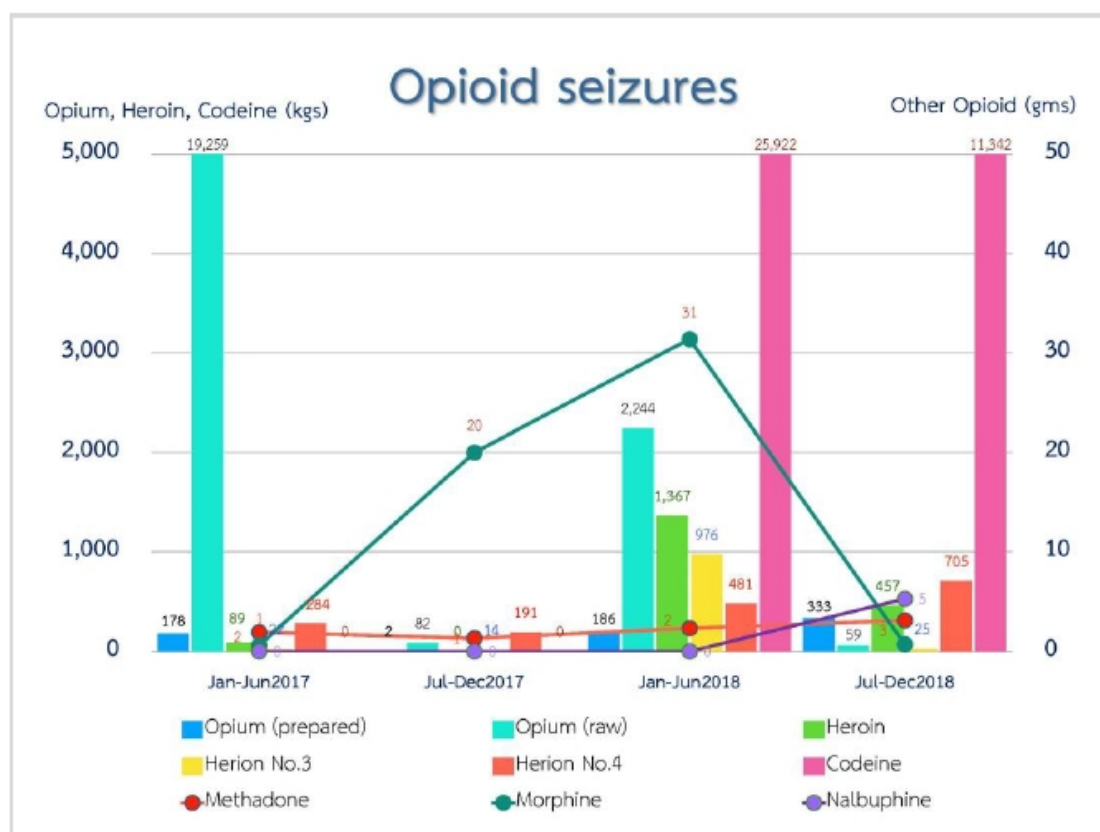


Figure 22: Opioid seizures

In the second half of 2017, the number of opioid cases and offenders increased slightly from the first half of 2017. The number of opioid cases and offenders were higher in 2018 with an increase of over 13,000 cases from the second half of 2017 as compared to the first half of 2018. The numbers increased slightly in the second half of 2018, which recorded over 16,000 opioid cases. In 2017, there was a large decrease in opioid seizures from the first half of 2017 to the second half of 2017. There was a similar decrease in opioid seizures across the same period in 2018. Overall, seizures

increased three-fold in 2018 as compared to 2017.

There was a large decrease in opium seizures from 19 metric tons in the first half of 2017 to 82 kilogrammes in the second half of 2017. There was a thirty-fold increase from the second half of 2017 to 2 metric tons. Heroin seizures decreased by almost half from 395 kilogrammes in the first half of 2017 to 205 kilogrammes in the second half of 2017. There was a ten-fold increase from the second half of 2017 to 2 metric tons. Methadone and morphine were seized in the first and second half of 2017 and 2018, but seizures were

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

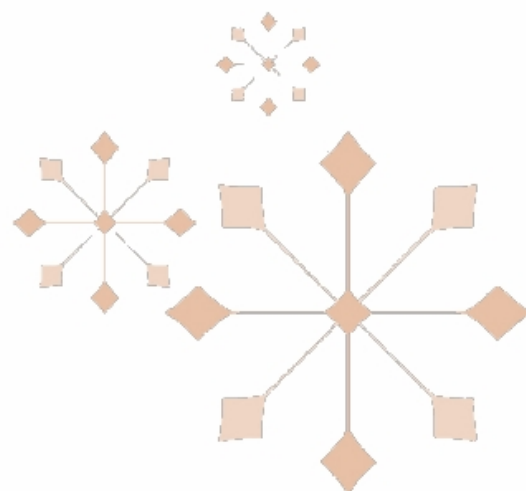
relatively low. In the first half of 2018, codeine was seized for the first time. In the second half of 2018, the seizures for codeine decreased from 25 metric tons to 11 metric tons. In the second half of 2018, nalbuphine was seized for the first time.

8. Others

Among ASEAN Member States, other substances were also seized including Caffeine and various precursors. However, the information was under reported.

CHAPTER 3

ASEAN Country Report



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Overview

For the year 2018, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had made 689 drug arrests with 448 cases investigated under the Misuse of Drugs Act, Chapter 27. In comparison to 2017, statistics compiled by NCB shows that 58% of the total arrests made were new arrests. The drug users arrested constitute about 0.16% of Brunei Darussalam's population.¹

Drug Supply Reduction Strategy

The NCB is responsible in implementing the strategy of reduction of illicit manufacturing, abuse and trafficking of drugs and other drug-related crimes through vigorous enforcement activities and controlling of the entry of narcotic drugs either through legal or illegal point of entry.

Out of the total arrests, 608 were males and 81 were females. Majority of the

arrests were locals and of Malay ethnicity. 54% of the arrests were unemployed and 38% were employed.

The year 2018 had witnessed an increase in the number of students arrested for suspicious of drug related activities. 8% of the total arrests or 54 students comprising of primary to tertiary level of education.

Drug abusers of age group 30-39 years made up the largest group of arrests. Below is the tabulated statistic for arrests made according to age group:

Age group	No. of Person
14 years and below	7
15 – 19 years	53
20 – 29 years	201
30 – 39 years	263
40 - 49 years	141
50 – 59 years	22
60 years and above	2

¹ Population of Brunei Darussalam in 2018 was 442,400 persons.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

In the year 2018, the NCB had made around 572 land and sea operations throughout the country. These include joint operations with other enforcement agencies. Joint operations are aimed at further strengthening inter-agency efficiency in combating criminal related activities in Brunei Darussalam.

In its effort to intercept the trafficking of drugs at the border, NCB are also stationed at the six border control posts in Brunei Darussalam namely at Brunei International Airport, Kuala Lurah Control Post, Ujung Jalan

Control Post, Labu Control Post, Sungai Tujoh Control Post and Serasa Ferry Terminal. In 2018, there were 59 arrests made at the various border check points for a number of drug offences. Out of the total arrests, 44 were of Brunei nationality and 45 were of Malay ethnicity. 81% were charged under Section 6(b) of MDA, Chapter 27 for consumption of controlled drugs. More than one-third of the total arrests made at the border check points were charged under Section 5 of MDA, Chapter 27 for the illegal import and export of controlled drug.

Table 1: Different types of drug trafficking offences committed under the Misuse of Drug Act (MDA), Chapter 27

Misuse of Drug Act (MDA) Chapter 27	Offence	No. of arrests
Section 3A	Possession of controlled drug for the purpose of trafficking	35
Section 5	Import and export of controlled drug	22
Section 6(a)	Possession of controlled drugs	151
Section 6(b)	Consumption of controlled drugs	653
Section 7	Possession of pipes and utensils	167
Section 8	Cultivation of cannabis, opium and coca plant	2
Section 9	Responsibilities of owners and tenants	2

Note: One arrestee may be arrested for multiple offences under Misuse of Drug Act, Chapter 27.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Drug Seizures

Methylamphetamine (methamphetamine crystalline-ICE or Syabu in local language) remains to be the most commonly abused drug in 2018 as 635 out of 689 arrests were caught for consumption and possession of Syabu. Cannabis remains to be the second most abused drug with a total of 36 arrests and about 362 grammes of cannabis seized. Majority of the drug users involved in ICE and cannabis were from the Malay ethnic group in the age range from 30 years old and above and are unemployed.

This year, there was a decrease in arrest made for youth involved with drugs below the age of 20. In 2018, 60 youths were arrested compared to 66 in 2017. This age group is a major concern to NCB. Parents and guardians are urged to closely monitor the movement and activities of their children in an effort of protecting them from negative influences and social issues.

Drug Demand Reduction Strategy

Preventive Drug Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation as well as Aftercare efforts continues to be a key focus of NCB's strategy. In 2018, NCB had reached 19,517 students, 10,051 civil servants and 11,498 members of the public throughout the country.

Throughout the year, NCB had received 456 individuals to undergo supervision scheme, which is an increase by 52% in comparison to 2017. Out of the total admission, 20 of the supervisees registered voluntarily.

In 2018, Al-Islah Rehabilitation and Treatment Centre received 130 individuals to undergo treatment and rehabilitation where 35 were admitted voluntarily. NCB hopes for recovering drugs users to be able to guide themselves towards a successful recovery and reintegration into society.

Table 2: Seizure of drugs in 2018

CLASSIFICATION	DRUG TYPE	GROSS WEIGHT
ATS (crystal methamphetamine)	ICE or SYABU (gramme)	822.91
Cannabis	Cannabis (gramme)	362.27
	Cannabis (plant)	6
Benzodiazepine	Erimin 5 (tablet)	275
	Ketamine (gramme)	20.95

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



CAMBODIA

Overview

Cambodia is not a drug producing country, but it has continuously been affected by illicit drugs production and trafficking in the region and the globe. In 2018, while Cambodia was in the preparation of the 6th Legislation of General Election and our authorities were busy with ensuring the social and public security, drug criminals had attempted to smuggle illicit drugs into Cambodia. As a significant result, the law enforcement authorities had cracked down 51 major cases of organised crimes with 81 arrests.

1. Drug Situation in Cambodia

1.1 Manufacturing, Producing and Cultivating

Cambodian authority found few cases of illicit cannabis plantation where the plantation is hiding in remote mountainous

area and a few cases of reprocessing with small amount of illicit drugs.

1.2 Drugs Trafficking;

Cambodia continues to be affected by the regional and international drugs trafficking all through land, water and air routes. In 2018, Cambodia had interdicted cocaine cases for approximately 5 kilogrammes via air routes arranged by foreign syndicates. Some significant ecstasy cases had been suppressed as a new emerging trend with almost 179 kilogrammes from EU via postal services to Cambodia for foreign markets.

A new illicit crops case had been recorded in 2018. Cambodia law enforcement had seized 3,327 kilogrammes of Khat in a transit attempt from Ethiopia and India to US via postal service.

Cambodia continues to notice that northern land border on the east of the country is very important as a gateway for smuggling synthetic drugs particularly methamphetamine tablets (WY), methamphetamine

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

crystalline (ICE) and heroin from Lao PDR into Cambodia. Official records noted that Cambodia had suppressed a significant case of methamphetamine crystalline (ICE) with an amount of over 306 kilogrammes. In 2018, total seizures of illicit drugs came up to 536 kilogrammes, an increase by 198% from the total seizure of 180 kilogrammes of narcotic substances last year.

1.3 Drugs Abuse

Cambodia had affected by the illicit drugs transiting, thus local consumption is somehow supplied. Local consumption trend seemed to be an outspread from urban to rural areas. Majority of the drug population are methamphetamine tablets and crystalline (WY and ICE) users and accounted for 84% with the age of 18 to 35 years old. From the official record, there were 18,537 drug users in 2018, whereby 18,104 drug users had been recorded in 2017.

2. Achievement;

In summary, ministries and institutions of the NACD's members have put great effort in fulfilling each of their duties to implement the Drug Control Action Work Plan in parallel with the 3rd phase of Anti-Drug Campaign of 2018, with great results. However, there remained a number of issues that should be more strengthened and considered.

2.1 Drug Prevention

Drug prevention has been implemented in four different forms which are: education

through media; education through technical expertise of the ministries and institutions (aiming to make general public better understand the duties and responsibilities of relevant ministries and institutions); education through community focusing on raising public awareness on the issues and the impact of drugs; and training of the key persons in order that they have the basis in passing on the education to members of the community. As a result, in 2018 there were 9,943,985 participants, in comparison to 9,640,021 participants in 2017, which is a slight increase and reached the most high-risk target groups as well as increased the number of trainees.

2.2 Drug treatment, rehabilitation, vocational training, enhancing life skill, social integration, and abstinent from drugs

According to the official record, there were 18,537 drug users in 2018, whereby 18,104 drug users were recorded in 2017. Drug users received treatment as follows:

- 5,392 drug users enrolled in treatment services in district health centres, and commune health centres in Phnom Penh and other provinces as well as in Community-Base Treatment and 126 persons in Methadone Clinic.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

8,399 drug users had integrated back to the community, and the remaining 4,746 persons continued in treatment.

Cambodia also discovered that:

a) About 84% of drug users aged between 18 – 35 years;

b) The major types of drug most commonly used were crystalline methamphetamine or ICE at about 81% followed by methamphetamine tablets (WY) at 10%.

2.3 Strengthening of Law

Enforcement Institutions:

Provided training to enhance capacity of all types of law enforcement

officers. In 2018, there were 946 officers trained domestically and abroad.

The total number of arrested drugs crime in 2018 was 8,002 cases, a decrease by 2.10% in comparison to 8,173 cases in 2107.

Detained in total of 16,216 accused persons (1,333 females), which decreased by 9.76% in comparison to 2017 (17,800 persons).

Vital evidences of seized in total of over 610 kilogrammes (methamphetamine crystalline or ICE, methamphetamine tablets or WY, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine, ketamine, dried cannabis); compared to 2017 was a decrease by 51.42%. Total drug seizure in 2017 was over 296 kilogrammes.

2.4 Main Drugs Seizure by Cambodian Law Enforcement in grammes:

Gramme	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Ecstasy	103.05	1,818.78	133.52	-	3,159.43	21.26	1,652.60	25,063.35	179,760.42
Cocaine	920.68	1,130.00	41,077.50	12,851.00	7,476.20	5,250.00	14,004.86	12,813.38	5,379.75
Meth WY*	7,447.14	22,478.06	10,660.61	17,334.91	8,703.09	26,576.62	44,162.46	33,440.07	6,926.30
Meth ICE**	9,924.11	19,120.14	28,066.47	32,448.82	29,009.38	72,858.36	66,332.07	80,125.42	306,630.83
Heroin	2,356.91	2,070.89	319.06	38,337.68	1,837.46	2,464.79	6,271.95	22,534.46	1,328.62
Cannabis	4,142.98	210,242.96	2,460.00	168,537.00	27,070.92	1,511,454.49	36,961.00	116,291.00	74,042.00
Ketamine	0	0	1.05	1.02	0.62	0.11	1.07	6,253.32	36,328.52
Total	24,894.87	256,860.83	82,718.21	269,510.43	77,257.10	1,618,625.63	169,386.01	296,521.00	610,396.02

*refers to methamphetamine tablet

**refers to methamphetamine crystalline

2.5 Drug related cases in association with offenders:

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Case	309	400	1,005	818	889	1,337	3,061	4,246	8,173	8,002
Offenders	615	864	2,381	1,788	1,830	3,142	7,008	9,933	17,800	16,216

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

2.6 Purity of drugs

Nº	Drug Type	Form	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Meth	Tablet	3 – 19%	3 – 18%	10 – 19%	1.34 - 22.95%	0.46– 22.42%	16%	12%-23%
2	Meth ICE	Crystal	10 – 84%	4 – 84%	3 – 86%	0.71 - 89.27%	1.34– 97.31%	73%	1.5%-80%
3	Ecstasy	Capsule	78%	-	-	-	-		
4	Ecstasy	Tablet	40%	6%	23-39%	34 - 37%		34%	14.63%-43.63%
5	Heroin	Powder	10 – 70%	20 – 84%	33-71%	33.66 - 77.78%	41.59– 80.29%	68%	62.57%-79.72%
6	Cocaine	Powder	70 – 80%	50 – 80%	58-62%	52.15 - 58.13%	-	78%	65.29%-80.41%
7	Ketamine	Tablet	-	-	-	-	-		
8	Ketamine	Powder	10 – 75%	50%-	46-57%	1.04 - 54.89%	1.90- 81,51%	54%	25.87%-50.21%

3. Precursors Control;

NACD has cooperated with the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, Ministry of Health, and Council for the Development of Cambodia in managing, controlling, and following closely the data controlling chemical substances related to List IV of the Law on Drugs Control. These are chemical substances with license from the Council for the Development of Cambodia, technical standard required by Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, and the license from Ministry of Health. Ministry of Health had added Khat to the control list.

4. International Cooperation;

NACD has continued to facilitate, Strengthen the bilateral and trilateral cooperation mechanism with Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam through a visit to study and experience the training courses and workshops with great results. In 2018, Cambodia and Lao PDR had a better cooperation than in previous years which led to the targeting and suppressing a number of major groups. NACD has continued to focus on strengthening and increasing international cooperation through annual meeting and the strengthening of mechanism in implementing many action plans with the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, regional countries, and other development partners.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



INDONESIA

Overview

Cannabis and ATS are still the most challenging drugs problem in Indonesia. From drug seizures in 2018, cannabis and ATS (methamphetamine crystalline or ICE and 3-4 methylenedioxy methamphetamine or MDMA) were mostly seized and increasing. Drug syndicates applied various ways to smuggle these drugs into Indonesia. Modus operandi were ship to ship, covered fishing boat, container, mail/parcel, dark-web transaction. Syndicates were Taiwanese-Myanmar, Chinese-Malaysian, European, Iranian and West African.

Number of drug crimes in 2018

There were 40,958 narcotics cases involving 53,289 offenders and 53 money laundering cases related to drug crimes with 70 money laundering suspects. Major drug seizures were 8 tons of methamphetamine crystalline (Shabu or ICE), 41 tons of cannabis,

1.5 million tablets of ecstasy, 8.4 kilogrammes of cocaine, 1.4 kilogrammes of heroin, 28,016 tablets of PCC/Carisoprodal and 68 kilogrammes of Khat. Assets worth US\$17.6 million in total were seized.

Other than the drugs produced domestically, the most common drugs smuggled into Indonesia are: methamphetamine from Thailand, Myanmar and China; ecstasy from the Netherlands; cannabis from Malaysia and NPS from Hong Kong. Smuggling sea routes often used by drugs syndicates are through Malacca Strait, Sulawesi waterway and the west coast of Sumatra, and Indian Ocean. Smuggling routes by land is from Malaysia on the island of Kalimantan. Drugs smuggling routes by plane are from ASEAN countries, China, Europe and Africa through international airports connected to Malaysia. Cases at entry points in 2018 via airports and mail parcels were increasing from the last two years while smuggling via seaports seems declining. There were also various modus operandi used by drug smugglers such as body wrapping, false

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

concealments, ship crew, container/cargo, passenger baggage, etc.

Trend is 'flying couriers'. In 2017 and 2018, BNN and Customs investigated 'flying couriers' in some domestic and international airports. Each of suspects smuggled 0.5–1 kilogramme of methamphetamine crystalline or ecstasy. There were 20 airports used to smuggle drugs by flying couriers in Sumatra, Java, Bali, and Sulawesi.

In 2018, there were 74 new psychoactive substances (NPS) found, 66 are regulated and 8 are on process of regulation. The most common NPS seized is synthetic cannabinoids by the street name of "tembakau gorilla", in the form of dried leaves ² and in liquid form (vape liquid ingredient). Second most common is cathinone in liquid (4-CMC) and in leaves (Khat).

Drug admission in 2018

About 100,000 drug users were treated for abusing drugs including alcohol. Among drug patients, total of 11,829 were new admissions (10,730 males and 1,099 females) while 93 were re-admission (88 males and 5 females). Amphetamine users were mostly treated with 4,467 patients at the average age of 25 years old. Next was cannabis with 1,620 patients at the average age of 21 years old and

sedative/hypnotic drugs with 791 patients at the average age of 20 years old.

In the framework of prevention starting from rural areas, National Narcotics Board (BNN) together with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Village mutually developed and pioneered a Drug Free Village programme (DESA BERSINAR). This programme involves three village pillars, namely Babinsa (village coaching army), Bhabinkamtibmas (community coaching police), and the Village Head and community health centre.

To increase public understanding of the danger of drugs, BNN has also carried out a "Stop Drugs" campaign and the formation of anti-drug volunteers. The activities are as follows: preparation of regional regulations; socialization such as workshop, seminar, counselling; implementation of early detection; community empowerment; mapping of areas prone to abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotics and narcotics precursors; capacity building for medical rehabilitation services; increasing the participation of related agencies and other parties in conducting vocational activities; and providing data and information regarding the prevention and eradication of the abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotics and narcotics precursors.

² synthetic cannabinoids sprayed on various kinds of dried leaves for smoking

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Addressing the persisting of drug problems, President of the Republic of Indonesia has issued Presidential Instruction No. 6 of 2018 concerning the national action plan to the prevention and eradication of drug abuser and the traffickers of drug (P4GN). Through this, all ministries and institutions as well as local governments must take action on P4GN. This Presidential Decree also encourages

the making of regulations regarding P4GN plan of action in ministries / institutions or regional regulations at the provincial and district / city levels.

Lastly, BNN Indonesia highlighted that fighting drug is our common and shared responsibility. It is not a fight of any single country alone, it should be a collective and comprehensive efforts together in the region.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



LAO PDR

Overview

It is widely recognized that drug problem is a global and serious threat to mankind. It is an obstacle to national social and economic development, an important source of crime and corruption, and a tremendous loss for drug victims and their families. In response to these threats, the Party and the State have always acknowledged the seriousness and importance of drug control and prevention policies and have actively supported their implementation.

Drug problem in the Lao PDR

Geographically, Laos locates in the Centre of the Great Mekong Sub-region. Having a long border with 5 countries has made the country increasingly attractive as transit routes for illicit drugs trafficking from the Golden Triangle through Laos. Laos is still used as a transit country for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), heroin, as well as precursor chemicals. The drugs trafficking through Laos has been increasing with higher frequency and

volume. Northern border is still the main gateway of drug flow to Laos, while border in the southern part of the country has been increasingly used for drug outflow. ATS remains the main drugs of abuse, while the number of opium users remains almost stable. There are four main illicit drug problems in Laos namely opium, ATS, heroin, and cannabis. The government of Laos has a very clear political commitment in addressing illicit drug problem and made great efforts and contribution in containing to Drug Free ASEAN through fruitful cooperation within the existing of bilateral, sub-regional, regional, and international drug control cooperation mechanisms.

Drug Trafficking Routes

Drugs come from the Golden Triangle to the northern province of Laos like Phongsaly, Houaphan, Bokeo and Luangnamtha through to Vientiane Capital and transport to the Central and the Southern provinces (like Savannakhet and Champasak) to third countries and some suppliers in the country.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Five measures have been taken on drug control including civic awareness campaign, alternative development, drug demand reduction, law enforcement and international cooperation.

Civic awareness campaign

LCDC mobilises communities through effective civic awareness campaigns to prevent drug abuse, production, and trafficking. Lao's local drug control agencies have worked actively towards drug prevention by means of drug education and anti-drug campaign to raise drug awareness in society, primarily among young population, of negative impact and danger of drugs in various forms and methods at different levels to raise awareness in society. LCDC and local authorities have strived in establishing families, villages, educational institutions, firms, and other organizations to be drug-free places.

Alternative Development (AD)

Data from Lao-China opium survey showed that opium poppy cultivation in Laos in 2018 was 4,924 hectares while eradication was 486 hectares. Laos has integrated AD programmes into national drug control policy and plan. Joint with China and UNODC, Laos has continuously conducted an annual opium crop monitoring and assessment. AD programme has been implemented in Houaphan Province, northern part of Laos for 2,881 households

with 20,419 people residing in the 38 target villages of 4 districts.

Drug Demand Reduction

In order to save victims of drug use, currently amounting to about 65,932 persons, the authorities of Laos provide 17 standard and non-standard rehabilitation and vocational training centres. Resulting from this enhanced efforts the number of rehabilitated and reintegrated drug users has increased, Laos annually treated between 3,000 - 4,000 users of different kinds of drugs.

At present, Lao PDR also has 28 Community-Based Treatment (CBT) that based at the district hospital, and is exploring the availability of Community-Based Treatment (CBT) for ATS users. Principally, counseling services to a much larger part of the population by enabling hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices and high schools across the country to offer such services are highlighted.

Law enforcement

During 2018 as shown in graphs below, Lao's law enforcement agencies have made achievement in suppressing drug trafficking throughout the country with 3,489 cases, the total number of drug-related arrests was 4,918 offenders (575 females) including 67 non-nationals. The number of methamphetamine tablets seized was 21,036,045 tablets, 281 kilogrammes of heroin, 103 kilogrammes of

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

opium, 450 kilogrammes of cannabis, 1,841 kilogrammes of ICE and 8.3 kilogrammes of cocaine. Over the past few years, the vast majority of drug-related arrests involved ATS.

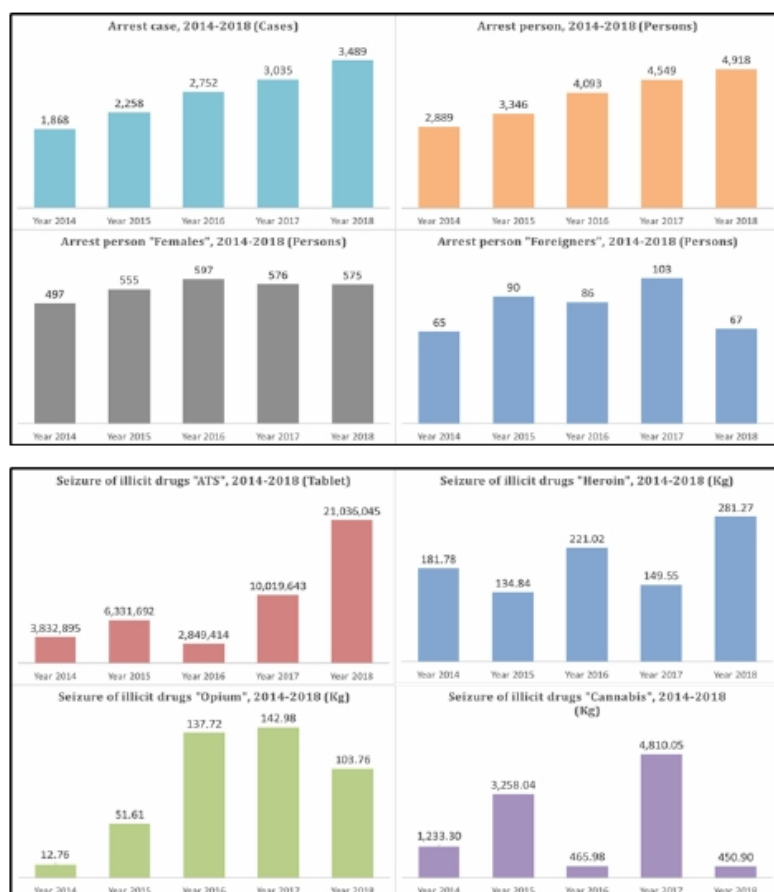
strengthening international cooperation to fight against drugs.

Challenges are as follows; drug prevention by means of drug education, drug law and anti-drug campaigns are still limited,

drug trafficking, opium cultivation area and drug addict as well as relapse cases still remain in the country with limited services in drug treatment and rehabilitation. Drug law enforcement and counter narcotics in some areas have some limitation due to insufficient resources. Drug monitoring, information exchange and cooperation among involved organisations are limited.

In conclusion, Laos is well aware that solution to this drug issue is not an

individual responsibility of any particular country. The cooperation in the field of civic awareness, alternative development, drug demand reduction and law enforcement should focus on sharing of information as well as sharing of good practices and experiences. The success in fighting against illicit drugs would not have been possible without such international cooperation.



International cooperation

Lao PDR pays high attention to regional and international collaboration to combat drug menace and tackle challenges. As drug prevention is considered as a high priority task, the Lao Government pays serious attention to

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



MALAYSIA

Overview

Malaysia views drug abuse with grave concerns and strongly advocates maximum and uncompromised effort on securing communities from illicit drugs. Failure in tackling drug menace in the right and effective approach would lead to negative consequences on Malaysia's aspiration to become a developed nation. Therefore, Malaysia is committed to continuously evaluate its strategies and approaches towards securing its people from the scourge of drugs by increasing the data collection and analysis with the cooperation from strategic partners in governmental departments, academia as well as NGO.

Scenario of Drug Addiction

Table 1 shows the number of drug dependants categorised by case status from 2013 until 2018. In 2018, a total of 25,267 drug dependents were detected showing a decrease of 2.5% compared to the same period in 2017 (25,922 drug dependents). They consisted of 17,474 new drug dependents, a decrease of 5.2% compared to 18,440 for the same period in 2017. There were 7,793 relapse cases, indicating an increase of 4.2% compared to the previous year (7,482)

Table 1: Number of drug dependents categorised by case status, Malaysia, 2013-2018

Year	No. of Drug Dependents		Total
	New	Relapse	
2013	13,481	7,406	20,887
2014	13,605	8,172	21,777
2015	20,289	6,379	26,668
2016	22,923	7,921	30,844
2017	18,440	7,482	25,922
2018	17,474	7,793	25,267

Source: National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), Malaysia

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Table 2: Number of drug dependents categorized by age, Malaysia, 2013–2018

Age category	Age range	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Adolescent	13-15	18	28	45	85	72	42
	16-17	168	206	246	301	248	211
	18	219	388	426	440	374	297
Youth	19	460	579	703	854	678	585
	20-24	3,212	3,751	4,986	5,572	4,706	4,435
	25-29	3,968	4,154	4,977	5,719	4,735	4,621
	30-34	4,022	3,961	4,936	5,849	4,820	4,871
	35-39	3,191	3,247	3,976	4,715	3,884	3,905
Adult	40-44	2,261	2,364	2,724	3,130	2,790	2,813
	45-49	1,672	1,512	1,729	1,972	1,680	1,659
	≥ 50	1,696	1,587	1,920	2,207	1,935	1,828
Total		20,887	21,777	26,668	30,844	25,922	25,267

Source: National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), Malaysia

In 2018, youth aged 19-39 have dominated the number of drug dependents in the country with a percentage of 72.9% (18,417 drug dependents). The numbers of drug dependents detected among youth, teenagers (aged 13-18) and adults (aged 40 and over) decreased by 2.2%, 20.7% and 1.6% respectively when compared between 2018 and 2017 (Table 2).

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Prevalence of Drugs

In 2018, the main trend of drug use in Malaysia has changed from opiate-based (heroin and morphine) to the Amphetamine - Type Stimulant (ATS) category. The use of ATS especially Methamphetamine and ATS tablets has substantially increased in recent years. In 2018, a total of 16,384 drug dependents were detected using methamphetamine (in crystalline and tablet forms), indicating an increase of 10.8% compared to 14,785 in 2017.

In the same period, 7,746 drug dependents were detected using heroin and morphine compared to 10,154 drug dependents in year 2017, indicating a decrease of 23.7%. However, the use of ATS tablets (which includes methamphetamine tablets, ecstasy and amphetamine) have shown significant increase by 50.8% (1,152 drug dependents in 2018 compared to 764 drug dependents in 2017). Cannabis use indicates an increase about 5.3% for 2018 compared to the previous year (1,122 drug dependents in recent year compared to 1,066 in 2017)

Table 3: Number of drug dependents categorized by drug/substance group, Malaysia, 2013–2018

Year	Opiate ¹	Cannabis	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine	Amphetamine-type stimulants ²	Psychotropic Group ³	Others ⁴	Total
2013	16,041	1,885	2,901	107	369	18	40	21,361
2014	14,502	1,919	4,117	1,239	535	8	35	22,355
2015	16,616	1,389	8,133	674	635	7	25	27,479
2016	16,985	1,236	10,107	2,631	764	18	23	31,764
2017	10,154	1,066	10,419	4,366	764	9	13	26,791
2018	7,746	1,122	11,531	4,853	1,152	26	19	26,449

Notes:

¹ Includes Heroin & Morphine

² Includes Ecstasy & Amphetamine

³ Includes Benzodiazepine, Psychotropic pill & Eramine 5

⁴ Includes Kratom, depressants, sedatives, hallucinogens, Inhalants, etc.

*Data on the number of drugs used are not necessarily equal to the number of drug addicts.

This is because drug addicts are usually poly drug users.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Drug Supply Reduction

The latest development of Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) drugs such as methamphetamine, which is the current drug of choice, resulted in the big demand and higher prices in the market. In addition, the country's geographical location has made it particularly attractive for the operation of international drug trafficking syndicates.

Arrests and Seizures

Year of 2018 marked a slight decrease in the number of people arrested for various offences under the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) 1952. In 2018, a total of 157,677 people were arrested under the DDA 1952, showing a 0.45% decrease compared to the previous year, 2017 (158,386 people).

Table 4 below shows the number of arrests under DDA 1952. It includes 6,884 arrested cases under section 39B for trafficking, 3,997 under section 39A (2) for major possession and 14,691 under Sec 39A (1) for minor possession, in 2018. The number of

persons arrested under less stringent sections (Sec.15 (1) (a) and other section under DDA 1952) had decreased with a total of 132,105.

Malaysia's enforcement agencies seized a larger amount of drugs in 2018 as enforcement actions were intensified against International Drug Trafficking Syndicates (IDTS). This includes improving security checks at Malaysian International Airports and the entry points around the country's border.

From the statistics of the drugs seized between 2017 and 2018, there was a hike in drug activities which was mainly contributed to the IDTS. The IDTS are known to use Malaysia as a temporary hub to transport these substances to other countries especially Indonesia, Singapore, China, Japan, Korea and Australia. Enforcement agencies continue to monitor these illicit activities with active enforcement actions and joint operations with local authorities and cooperation from international drug enforcement agencies. This resulted in the numerous successes in operation which contributes to the increased figure of seized drugs in 2018.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Table 4: No. of Arrests Under Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (DDA), 2014-2018

YEAR / SECTION	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sec. 39B – Trafficking	4,923	5,354	5,771	6,759	6,884
Sec. 39A(2) - Major Possession	3,259	3,455	3,706	4,140	3,997
Sec. 39A(1) - Minor Possession	8,023	9,625	11,721	13,583	14,691
Other sec. (under DDA 1952) [Sec.6/Sec.6B/Sec.9/Sec.12(2)]	34,172	38,299	47,002	52,979	56,640
Sec.15(1)(a) – self-administration	81,435	84,205	85,004	80,925	75,465
TOTAL	131,812	140,938	153,204	158,386	157,677

Source: Royal Malaysian Police (RMP), Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC) & Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency

The total value of properties seized (20.81% decrease). However, properties under the Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988 has shown a decrease from 1.68 million (RM 7.036 million) in 2017 to US\$ 27.08 million (RM 113.72 million) in 2017 to US\$ 21.44 million (RM 90.06 million) in 2018.

Table 5: Value of Property Seized under the Forfeiture of Property Law in 2014-2018

Year	Number of Cases Investigated	Value of Properties Seized (RM)	Value of Properties Forfeited (RM)
2014	3,871	RM 67,594,035.37 (US\$ 16,094,139.82)	RM 10,493,841.23 (US\$ 2,498,583.60)
2015	3,980	RM 73,398,482.08 (US\$ 17,476,178.58)	RM 10,168,042.93 (US\$ 2,421,011.02)
2016	4,388	RM 99,388,103.78 (US\$ 23,664,307.51)	RM 15,132,020.24 (US\$ 3,602,934.02)
2017	5,059	RM 113,723,063.66 (US\$ 27,077,461.46)	RM 7,026,984.21 (US\$ 1,673,124.94)
2018	4,961	RM 90,055,516.16 (US\$ 21,442,218.40)	RM 20,649,209.82 (US\$ 4,916,576.86)

Source: Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) Currency Exchange Rate: RM1=US\$ 4.1995 (0.2381)

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Intensified enforcement efforts done by the enforcement agencies had resulted in numerous successes in tackling the supply dimension of the drug problem. However, the IDTS continues to adapt their manufacturing and smuggling strategies in order to avoid detection. This caused the syndicates to change their modus operandi. Rather than conducting their operations in a state-of-the-art drug producing facilities, these syndicates conducts their operations in smaller laboratories to avoid detection by authorities. With drug processing methods at their fingertips, these syndicates resort to construct 'kitchen labs' in order to produce the drugs to cater to their customers. These 'kitchen labs', easily constructed and require less manpower to operate than an advanced clandestine, pose a threat for local drug enforcement agencies as it is far more difficult to be located.

Current Drug Trafficking Threats

In recent years, Malaysia faces worsening drug situation especially on the greater supply of methamphetamine and heroin. There is a serious concern over the increased level of drug trafficking through Malaysia by IDTS. This can be seen by the increase of foreigners arrested in Malaysia for drug trafficking offences which includes Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam nationals.

³ foreign expert chemists

Local Syndicates

NCID's intelligence reveals that the local syndicates are now on the rise in these few years with the absence of many other major syndicates, namely the Nigerian, Iranian and the Pakistani syndicates; due to the intense efforts of NCID in dismantling clandestine laboratories.

The local syndicates are now involving with the importation of drugs from Thailand and Myanmar. The pact made by the local syndicates also comprise of hiring 'roving chemists'³, especially from the Iranian syndicates. NCID has detected that the local syndicates are now capable of processing methamphetamine by utilizing mainly red phosphorus and ephedrine.

Other Syndicates

NCID detected some other syndicates locally such as the Indian, Taiwan, Pakistani, Iranian and Nigerian syndicates. Those syndicates are moving actively in drug activities in the country. They are processing methamphetamine, smuggling ketamine, heroin and ephedrine and some of them are operating at miniscule level. They involve in trafficking heroin, methamphetamine, cannabis, ecstasy and cocaine by recruiting drug mules from various nationals to transport the drugs into Malaysia or using Malaysia as a transit point.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Current Drug Trafficking Trends Illicit Drug Manufacturing

Apart from smuggling in drugs from other countries, syndicates are also resorting to “cook” them locally in makeshift laboratories to avoid detection by authorities and they are willing to take risks due to the lucrative returns. These illicit laboratories are easily constructed and require less manpower to operate than an advanced clandestine, and pose a threat for the local drug enforcement agencies as it is far more difficult to locate. The novice chemist initially learns how to produce drugs from social media. One chemist communicates with another on how to refine the manufacturing process. Some chemicals used for the laboratories process were sourced legally from the suppliers or imported from India and China but were then diverted into illicit drug laboratories. In 2018, a total of 35 manufacturing facilities and tablet processing operations, primarily crystalline methamphetamine and ecstasy facilities were dismantled. Meanwhile, a total of 118 syndicate members were arrested in connection with the manufacturing facilities.

The Influx of Synthetic Drugs from the Source Countries

Having porous borders, Malaysia remains vulnerable to the drug threat due to its close proximity to the drug-producing region of the Golden Triangle. As a result, the IDTS have taken this opportunity to exploit Malaysia as a temporary hub to transport drugs to other countries especially Indonesia and Singapore for methamphetamine and ecstasy. In response, NCID continues to monitor these illicit activities with active enforcement actions and joint operations with local authorities and cooperation with international drug enforcement agencies. Five most popular synthetic drugs that considered to be highly in-demand to be smuggled into the country namely, methamphetamine crystalline packed inside “Guan Yin Wang” refined Chinese tea bags from Myanmar, cannabis from Laos, methamphetamine tablets from Myanmar, erimin 5 from Taiwan and China and ketamine from India.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Malaysia is now faced with the threat of new psychoactive substances (NPS) which give rise to new types of drugs that can produce more dangerous hallucinations compared to traditional and synthetic drugs. Among the NPS, materials used to produce drugs which were detected through tests by the Chemistry Department were mainly from cathinones and phenylethylamines groups. These new drugs are believed to be produced by chemists who abused their knowledge by creating substances which could transform the trend of using traditional and synthetic drugs towards NPS drug addiction. Currently, out of the 739 NPS used abroad, 27 were detected in the country, and 44 have been gazetted under the Poisons Act 1952 and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

Promoting and Selling Drugs through Social Media

Facebook pages calling for the legalisation of cannabis are mushrooming. Cannabis is being sold either as a drug or disguised as various edible products namely oil, cake, honey, chocolate and milk to avoid the authorities and public. After using social media to cut deals, the syndicates will deliver the drugs once the details are finalised on messaging services like WeChat and WhatsApp.

Intelligence revealed that more than 20 Facebook pages have been identified to link with promoting and selling cannabis-based products to the public in the country.

Concealing Methods at Entry Points

To avoid detection, drug traffickers use various concealment methods when transporting drugs at the country's entry points, mainly airports. The common tactics used by drug traffickers when going through Customs includes luggage with secret compartment, glass/photo frames, inside food packages, inside canned food, inside boiling pot, carpet, shoes, swallowing condoms filled with drugs and cosmetic bottles.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



MYANMAR

Overview

National strategy

To effectively manage the problem of narcotic drugs, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) was formed in 1976 headed by the Union Minister for Home Affairs as Chairman and together with 16 members. CCDAC is taking measures to control narcotic drugs. CCDAC has not only formed Drug Abuse Control Committee at all Region/State, District, Township, Ward and Village levels but has also subdivided itself into following ten sectors: Law Enforcement and Administration; Alternative Development; Substituted-Crops; Livestock Breeding; Medical Treatment; Rehabilitation; Educating Students and Youths; Public Awareness; International Relations and; Supervising Controlled Precursor Chemicals. All sectors are actively engaged in reducing the production and use of narcotic drugs.

The Government has adopted the following strategies and tactics to reduce and eventually eliminate narcotic drugs. Two strategies are the designation of narcotic drugs as a national duty and comprehensive

implementation of that strategy and the development and enhancement of the standard of living of the national races in the border areas and total eradication of opium cultivation. National strategy consists of three tactics of supply reduction, demand reduction and law enforcement. Also, three operational modes are applied as follows: (1) Uplift, improve and change the morale, perception and belief of drug users, poppy growers and drug producers, (2) Secure smooth and easy transportation and communications between the nationals residing in highland areas and those in mainland and (3) Uplift the economic and social life of the national races residing in the border areas.

A 15-years drugs elimination programme (1999/2000 - 2013/2014) was developed and implemented in 51 priority townships in three 5-year stages. Although this programme has a level of achievement, the fourth 5-year programme (2014/2015 to 2018/2019) is now underway to further reduce poppy cultivation and to address the new threat of ATS and other psychotropic substances. Programme activities will be implemented all across the

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

country but special priority is being given to 40 townships in Shan States, 6 townships in Kachin, 3 townships in Kayah and 2 townships in Chin States - totaling 51 townships altogether. Programme activities include eliminating supply and demand, taking enforcement measures, encouraging the participation of general population and other organizations and, enhancing international cooperation, all of which are being implemented in a comprehensive manner.

Supply reduction

In 2018, poppy cultivation in Myanmar covered 36,100 hectares or 12 % decreased from 2017, mostly cultivated in southern, eastern and northern parts of Shan State. Potential opium production in 2018 was 520

metric tons, a decrease of 9 % from 2017. Poppy eradication during 2018 to February 2, 2019 was 2,020.3 hectares.

Law enforcement activities in 2018 resulted in the seizure of 13,037 cases with 18,681 suspects. Top five drug types seized were opium, heroin, Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) tablets, cannabis and methamphetamine crystalline (ICE). Seizure of opium was 350 cases at total weight of 2.8 tons. Seizure of heroin was 4,134 cases at total weight of 1.1 ton. Seizure of ATS tablets was 7,596 cases with a total of over 106.7 million tablets. Seizure of cannabis was 287 cases at a total weight of 142 kilogrammes. Seizure of ICE was 147 cases at a total weight of 2.8 tons. Narcotic drugs were concealed in express mail service (EMS) parcels for overseas shipment.

Table 1: Arrests and seizures of top five drugs in 2018

Type of drug	No. of case	Amount of seized drug
Opium	350	2,829 kg.
Heroin	4,134	1,099 kg.
ATS tablets	7,596	106,702,365 tablets
Cannabis	287	142 kg.
ATS crystalline (ICE)	147	2,827 kg.

Total 13,037 cases 18,681 suspects

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Table2: Arrests and seizures of precursor chemicals in 2018

No.	Chemical Names	No. of case	Seized Weight
1	Ethylether	11	203,794 Lt.
2	Hydrochloric acid	9	181,657 Lt.
3	Cyanide	6	23,556 kg.
4	Acetone	5	72,540 Lt.
5	Caffeine	4	207.59 kg.
6	Sulfuric acid	3	62,133 Lt.
7	Ephedrine powder	2	139.71 kg.

In 2018, a total of 8,251 narcotic drug cases were taken for precursor chemical control by the existent law. Ethylether was most seized with 11 cases at almost 203.8 kilolitres, next was hydrochloric acid for 9 cases at 181.6 kilolitres, followed by cyanide for 6 cases at 23.5 tons. Moreover, acetone, caffeine, sulphuric acid and ephedrine (powder) were also seized for 5, 4, 3 and 2 cases at total amount of 72.5 kilolitres, 207 kilogrammes, 62.1 kilolitres and 139.7 kilogrammes respectively.

In 2018, there were 47 cases of drug crime involving 82 foreigners. The majority were Thai (19 cases, 37 offenders), next were Chinese (14 cases, 18 offenders) followed by Indian (9 cases, 15 offenders) and Bangladesh (4 cases, 10 offenders). Others were British and Australians.

Demand reduction

Drug addiction is being viewed as a public health issue and thus, the Ministry of Health is providing treatment for drug users in 26 Major Drug Treatment Centres and 47 Minor Treatment Centres. There are also community based drug treatment centres in many parts of the country. Additionally, there are 46 Methadone Centres: 15 in Kachin State, 14 in Shan State, 12 in Sagaing, 3 in Mandalay and 2 in Yangon Region – providing substitute therapy. CCDAC itself has set up 3 Youth Rehabilitation Centres where both treatment and rehabilitation are provided to drug users. The transmission of blood borne diseases including HIV, which is a negative consequence of injecting drug use, is also addressed through harm reduction interventions.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Welfare, there are 6 rehabilitation centres in Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Lashio,

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Kyaing Tong and Tachileik that are helping drug users who have undergone treatment to reintegrate into the social mainstream. Campaigns are being launched to encourage drug users to get treated at drug treatment centres. While getting treated, drug users and their dependents can receive necessary support, undergo physical and mental rehabilitation, receive vocational training programmes and be part of reintegration programmes that are linked to continuum of care interventions. If they are interested, they can become volunteer drug wardens with proper training.

The Ministry of Education takes the lead in raising awareness on the danger of narcotic drugs among school children and youths. Information on dire consequences of drug use has already been included in the life skills curriculum for children at basic education level. Public debates, exhibitions, competitions and refresher training courses for teachers on the perils of narcotic drugs are also held for in-school youths whereas, community based awareness raising programmes are conducted for out of school/drop out youths.

The Ministry for Information is in charge of raising awareness among the general population on the perils of narcotic drugs and the need to avoid abuse of it. Educational programmes on this menace are disseminated nationwide using all forms of media including radio, television, newspapers, journals, articles,

cartoons and posters with members of Myanmar Anti- Narcotic Association (MANA) travelling far and wide within the country holding preventive education talks and distributing educational booklets that are published on a monthly basis. Additionally, narcotic drugs preventive interventions are also undertaken in cooperation with various UN Agencies, NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs).

International cooperation

Myanmar is cooperating closely with countries within the Greater Mekong Sub Region as well as with ASEAN Member States in striving to combat narcotic drugs. Myanmar has also signed Bilateral Agreements with India, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Russia, Lao PDR, China, Thailand and United States of America to jointly combat narcotic drugs.

Myanmar is a member of Mekong Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Countries and strives to enhance drug elimination and obligated objectives of Safe Mekong Operations. During the Safe Mekong Operation in 2015, Myanmar has been successfully seized and apprehended many drugs and drug related cases which have been prosecuted. Myanmar has also actively participated in 3 year Safe Mekong Operation and shared responsibilities with the Member States. Safe Mekong Coordination Centre (SMCC) was established in 2013. Myanmar also dispatched two officers to

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

work full-time at the center. Myanmar is now conducting SMCC operation center at Kyaing Tong, Shan State from July 1st to September 30th, 2018. Other countries involved in Safe Mekong Operation are requested to send two officers from their respective countries to work at the centre as well.

ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) is one of the important meetings among ASEAN Member States (AMS) and it is a part of ASEAN solidarity. Myanmar actively participated as an observer before joining the ASEAN. Myanmar has joined the ASEAN since 1997 and has actively participated and cooperated with other member states. ASEAN senior officials on Drug Matters Meeting has been held annually among the AMS which takes turn, in alphabetical order, in hosting the meeting by coordinates with ASEAN Secretariat and the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations (IFNGO). Moreover, there can be other back to back meetings simultaneously held with India, Korea, Japan and China during the above mentioned meeting.

The first meeting of the BIMSTEC Counter-Terrorism and transnational Crime was held on 9 December 2004 in New Delhi, India. At that meeting, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor

Chemical was established and was led by Myanmar. The 4th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals was held on 12-13 September 2016 in Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Additionally, there are joint endeavors with Yangon based US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Thailand, Australian Federal Police (AFP) and with National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China. Myanmar has also set up Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) along Myanmar-China, Laos and Thailand borders. These BLOs serve as main centres for exchanging information relevant to cross border narcotic drugs combatting.

Myanmar herself is not only carrying out its resolution adopted by the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) but also carrying out its elements adopted from the resolutions of United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs which was conducted in New York, USA in April 2016. Myanmar existing law, the 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, was amended in line with international standard and norms. Amended law was enacted on February 14th, 2018 by the law No. 6 of Pyi Hta Su Hlutaw, Government of Myanmar. 1995 Rules (draft) amending committee is

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

currently being formed in order to implement conformably with the new amended law.

In conclusion, the problem of narcotic drugs is intrinsically linked to ethnic armed conflicts. Thus, in order to attain peace within the country through reducing armed conflicts, Myanmar has formed a Union Level Central Committee on Peace with the President as the Chairperson and is striving to secure a nationwide ceasefire agreement by holding political dialogues with all parties concerned.

Although Myanmar has made all our efforts in combating narcotic drugs utilising its own resources as well as in cooperation with the international community, the country is still facing constraints and challenges in these strives. However, Myanmar would like to reiterate that, Myanmar is trying its best to face and overcome these constraints and challenges by adopting plans and programmes that conforms to the country's reality.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



THE PHILIPPINES

Overview

The Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy or PADS is a cohesive, comprehensive, and balanced strategy aligned with international and regional frameworks on drug

prevention and control. Cognizant of the multi-dimensionality of the drug problem, the PADS is also anchored on strategies on national security, public order and socio-economic development⁴.

Institutionalising the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy

Executive Order Number 66, Series of 2018, signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on 29 October 2018, institutionalised the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy.

It directs all government offices, departments, bureaus, agencies including Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to implement PADS in accordance with the respective agency mandates.

Salient Features of EO 66, Series of 2018

- Section 2 of the Executive Order tasks the Dangerous Drugs Board to serve as the lead agency in the implementation of PADS.
- Section 3 mandates government agencies to submit within 60 days upon effectivity of EO 66 the implementing and operational plan for PADS.
- Section 4 emphasises the implementation of the Drug Free Workplace Programme and Authorized Drug Testing.
- Section 5 establishes the LGU Support in the implementation of PADS through the:
 - Formulation of implementation and operational plans
 - Establishment and strengthening of Anti-Drug Abuse Councils
 - Support to Barangay Drug Clearing Programme
 - Implementation of the referral system for drug users who surrender for appropriate interventions
 - Allotment and provision of funding support to anti-drug priorities
- Section 6 of the EO prescribed the performance standards for compliance, in which the DDB shall develop standards in consultation with government entities and LGUs to ensure that targets are met, priorities are set and the roll-out of the strategy is in motion.
- Section 7 of the EO prescribes the conduct of the Nationwide Survey to Determine the Drug Abuse Prevalence in the Country with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as the partner agency to provide the necessary technical assistance to the DDB.

⁴ 2018 Dangerous Drugs Board Annual Report

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

In the fulfillment of its mandate, the Dangerous Drugs Board formulates policies which aim to address new and emerging issues on drug prevention and control.

From January to December 2018, the Dangerous Drugs Board has issued thirteen (13) Board Regulations and twelve (12) Board Resolutions.

Board Regulation No. 1, Series of 2018

Amending Section 1 of Board Regulation No. 4, Series of 2005 “Reclassifying Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine as Dangerous Drugs” by including the Isomers and Salts of Isomers of Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine and by including further their Halogenated and Alkylated Forms thereof and the Salts, Isomers, and Salts of Isomers of these forms as well as any material, compound, mixture or preparation containing the same, in the list of Dangerous Drugs

This was issued to amend Section 1 of Board Regulation No. 4, Series of 2005, to include all raw materials of Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine or any of their salts, as well as preparations containing any of the said drugs to be reclassified as dangerous drugs and therefore, subject to all regulatory control measures provided under Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board.

Board Regulation No. 2, Series of 2018

Balay Silangan—Guidelines for Community Involvement in Reforming Drug Offenders into Self-Sufficient and Law-Abiding Members of Society

Provides guidelines for the reformation of drug personalities who voluntarily surrendered to authorities but are not drug users, and the provision of livelihood training, after-care and social reintegration programs through coordination among LGUs, the National Government and private stakeholders.

Board Regulation No. 3, Series of 2018

Amending Section 3 (2) of Board Regulation No. 1, Series of 2014 and creating the Committee on Reclassification, Addition or Removal of any Drug/Substance from the list of Dangerous Drugs/Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals

The regulation entailed the assistance of Committee on Reclassification to gather, collect and analyse data relative to a drug and/or substance under question, taking into consideration the criteria and procedure set forth in Section 93 of Republic Act 9165.

Board Regulations including substances in the list of dangerous drugs

Substances under the list of Dangerous Drugs has also been updated through the issuance of Board Regulations.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Board Regulation	Substances included in the list of Dangerous Drugs	Hallucinogenic Effect*
Board Regulation No. 4, Series of 2018	4 - Methylethcathinone (4- MEC)	Negative effects associated with 4-MEC use include excessive sweating in the armpits, nausea, and vomiting but also jaw clenching, nystagmus, heart palpitations, loss of sight and migraine.
Board Regulation No. 5, Series of 2018	5F – APINACA (5F – AKB – 48)	Long term use of 5F-APINACA is characterized by loss of appetite, cognitive impairment, breathlessness, cardiac conditions requiring medication, skin ablations, tooth decay, lethargy, apathy, tremors and insomnia.
Board Regulation No. 6, Series of 2018	Ethylone	Adverse effects include impaired driving, slurred speech, bloodshot watery eyes, dilated pupils, involuntary muscle movements and elevated pulse and blood pressure.
Board Regulation No. 7, Series of 2018	Ethylphenidate	Ethylphenidate demonstrates effects typical of amphetamine-like stimulants, including tachycardia, hypertension, dilated pupils, palpitations, fever, anxiety, agitation, paranoia and tremor.
Board Regulation No. 8, Series of 2018	MDMB – CHMICA	Use of MDMB – CHMICA has been associated with acute toxicities and serious adverse events including respiratory acidosis, hypothermia, loss of consciousness, severe behavioral and psychological effects.
Board Regulation No. 9, Series of 2018	Methiopropamine (MPA)	Reported adverse effects (including intoxication) include chest pain/tightening, tachycardia, anxiety, panic attacks, perspiration, headache, nausea, difficulty in breathing, vomiting, difficulty urinating and sexual dysfunction. Auditory and visual hallucinations have also been described.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Board Regulation	Substances included in the list of Dangerous Drugs	Hallucinogenic Effect*
Board Regulation No. 10, Series of 2018	Pentedrone	The adverse effects which presented for pentedrone at the emergency room/ department included impaired consciousness, tachycardia, nausea, vertigo, hallucinations, high body temperature and sweating.
Board Regulation No. 11, Series of 2018	XLR-11	Adverse effects associated with XLR-11 included acute kidney injury, low body temperature, rigid muscle tone, back or abdominal pain, elevated peak systolic blood pressure, slurred speech, lack of convergence, and body and eyelid tremors.

* Critical Report of the World Health Organization Committee on Drug Dependence

Board Regulation No. 12, Series of 2018

Amending Section 2, Article II and Section 7(e), Article IV of Board Regulation No. 5 Series of 2003, Entitled: Guidelines in the Implementation of “Operation: Private Eye”, as Further Amended by DDB Regulation No. 1, Series of 2005 and DDB Regulation No. 4 Series of 2007

This updated the provisions governing the manner of selection, removal and terms of office of the members of Operation “Private Eye” Reward Committee.

Board Regulation No. 13, Series of 2018

Establishment and Institutionalization of Drug-free Workplace Policies in all Government Offices, including the Conduct of Authorized Drug-testing for Elective Local Officials and Appointive Public Officers and for Other Purposes

The regulation aims to promote the establishment and institutionalization of drug-free workplace policies in all government agencies and ensure that all public officers, both elective and appointive, remain drug-free through the conduct of authorized drug-testing.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



SINGAPORE

Overview

Methamphetamine, heroin and NPS were the three most commonly abused drugs in 2018, with 93% of drug abusers arrested abusing at least one of these three drugs. For new drug abusers, methamphetamine, cannabis and NPS were the three most commonly abused drugs.

A total of 3,439 drug abusers were arrested by the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) in 2018. This was an 11% increase over the 3,091 drug abusers arrested in 2017. This can be attributed to an increase in the number of NPS and methamphetamine abusers. In particular, the increase in NPS abusers was a result of sustained enforcement efforts targeting NPS abuse and enhancements in detection capabilities.

The number of repeat drug abusers arrested increased by 13% to 2,075 in 2018 from 1,842 in 2017. The number of new drug abusers arrested increased by 9% to 1,364 in 2018 from 1,249 in 2017. Close to two-thirds of new abusers arrested were under 30 years old.

Drug Type

- Methamphetamine and heroin remained the two most commonly abused drugs in Singapore. 2,142 methamphetamine abusers (62%) and 700 heroin abusers (20%) were arrested in 2018.
- NPS overtook cannabis as the third most commonly abused drug, with 343 NPS abusers (10%) arrested in 2018.

Age Group

- 40% (1,370) of all drug abusers arrested in 2018 were below 30 years old. Drug abusers in the 20 to 29 age group continued to form the largest group of abusers in 2018.
- The number of new abusers arrested increased across all age groups. Close to two-thirds (875 or 64%) of all new abusers arrested in 2018 were aged below 30.

Drug Seizures in 2018

There was a 57% increase in seizures of heroin to 58 kilogrammes in 2018, from 37 kilogrammes in 2017. Cannabis seizures saw a 40% increase to almost 62 kilogrammes in 2018, from 44 kilogrammes in 2017. Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine - more

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

commonly known as 'ICE' - saw a 13% decrease to some 19 kilogrammes in 2018, from 22 kilogrammes in 2017.

Sustained Enforcement Efforts to curb Drug Supply and Demand

CNB mounts intensive enforcement efforts against drugs and works closely with Home Team agencies to keep Singapore drug-free. In 2018, together with the Singapore Police Force and the Immigration and Checkpoints

Authority, CNB conducted 19 island-wide operations targeting drug traffickers and abusers as well as 1,575 operations at our checkpoints to intercept attempts to smuggle drugs into Singapore. CNB also carried out several major operations which crippled 26 drug syndicates. CNB actively collaborates with its regional counterparts to tackle the transnational activities of drug syndicates. In 2018, CNB conducted 19 joint operations with its international counterparts.

Drug type	2017	2018	% change in seizure
Heroin No.3	36.92 kg	58.02 kg	+ 57.2%
Methamphetamine ('ICE')	22.18 kg	19.33 kg	- 12.8%
Cannabis	44.05kg	61.77kg	+ 40.2%
Cocaine	66.41g	2,746.81g	+ 4,036.1% ⁵
'Ecstasy'	4,743.5 tablets + 11.43 g	3,898 tablets + 5.50 g	- 17.8% (tablets) - 51.9% (weight)
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	827 tablets	5,236 tablets	+ 533.1%
Ketamine	1.01kg	1.14kg	+ 12.9%
Nimetazepam	19,580 tablets	7,873 tablets	- 59.8%
Buprenorphine ('Subutex')	NIL	NIL	-
New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (e.g. synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones etc.)	642 tablets + 3,543.93g	437 tablets + 8,171.50g + 66 bottles ⁶ + 31 stamps	- 31.9% (tablets) + 130.6% (weight)

⁵ Mainly due to a single large seizure from a transit case

⁶ 66 liquid-filled bottles of various volumes

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



THAILAND

Overview

The annual opium survey found 593.42 rai (approximately 94.94 hectares or 0.95 square kilometres) of poppy plantation scattered in 7 north- and northeastern provinces. All illegal poppy cultivation was eradicated. There was no report of illicit synthetic drugs production in Thailand. Most of the drug smuggling cases into Thailand were arrested along the northern border followed by the northeastern border. In addition, narcotics were transported via international airports as well as via international postal parcels to and from Thailand.

The increasing production of synthetic drugs in the Golden Triangle resulted in the increasing amount of synthetic drugs trafficked into Thailand. This can be seen from the bigger amount of seized synthetic drugs and number of arrests. At the same time, drug syndicates exploited communication technology advancement by promoting and dealing through online social network together with distributing and transporting drugs through private logistic services. These modern technology and services enabled drug syndicates to access wider

market more quickly and easily. Thailand is also a target of foreign drug syndicates. In 2018, Thai authorities arrested 3,644 foreigners from 58 nationals under drug charges.

Drug epidemic in Thailand tends to increase. 115,306 drug users were arrested while 200,644 drug users registered in treatment and rehabilitation programmes. Most of them are new cases, but the proportion of old drug users also increases. 39% of drug offenders and patients are youths, aged between 15-24 years old. The age group of 20-24 years is the biggest. Meth-amphetamine tablet or yaba is the most widespread drug in Thailand, followed by cannabis and ICE. Ketamine should be closely monitored due to the increasing trend of use since 2015.

Drug problem areas:

Thailand has approximately seven thousand sub-districts or 82,034 communities in total where 30 percent of them or about 24,403 communities have been seriously associated with drug problems. Meth-amphetamine tablets or yaba epidemic has long been widespread in Thailand. In 2018,

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

methamphetamine accounted for 80% of the total seized drugs. In 2018, it was reported that 40% of ICE was produced from phenyl -2-propanone (P2P) as precursor and next was ephedrine/pseudoephedrine (Ep/Pep).

In 2018, a number of new packages are found in addition to the Chinese tea bag in green color printed “GUAN YIN WANG” brand in Chinese language which has been the most commonly found package.

In 2018, statistics found number of drug users were 322,201 or 14% increase from 2016. Drug use and offenders were highest in the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups. Yaba was still the most used drug in 2018 at 76%, next were heroin, cannabis and ICE. While ketamine was significantly increased with 643 patients in 2018 compared to 73 patients in 2015, 263 in 2016 and 381 in 2017 respectively. Most of ketamine was seized in small bottles at



Statistics of seized drugs by type of drugs from methamphetamine tablets, methamphetamine hydrochloride, heroin, ketamine, cannabis, cocaine, kratom and ecstasy from 2012 to 2018 are comparatively summarized in bar graphs as follows:

entertainment venues.

Online drugs trade has been expanded via parcel delivery. Online selling of dried cannabis delivered via parcel was found in February 8, 2018. ICE sold by phone and LINE chat application and delivered via parcel was found on July 3, 2018.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



VIET NAM

Overview

In 2018, under the direct impact from international and regional drug situation, especially from neighbouring countries, the drug situation in Viet Nam continued to be complicated and unpredictable. The sources of drug are mainly from abroad, especially the "Golden Triangle" area, where drugs are illegally trafficked and transported into Viet Nam for consumption, or continue to be transported into third countries by road, air or sea routes. Remarkable amount of synthetic drugs (tablets and crystal) from Laos and Cambodia transported into Viet Nam continued to grow (119.1% increase compared to the same period in 2017).

On the Viet Nam-China border, drug trafficking is extremely complex. Heroin is trafficked and transported into Viet Nam, then to China. In contrast, synthetic drugs in crystal form are traded and transported from China to Viet Nam. Recently, due to drastic activities of law enforcement forces of Viet Nam and China, drug transportation from China to Viet Nam has decreased compared to the past, and it tends to shift the production of drugs to the border areas of Laos-Myanmar, Laos-Thailand and

Laos-Viet Nam. From these areas, the crime networks traffic and transport drugs into Viet Nam and then to China through Laos.

Drugs traffic and transportation from Laos into Viet Nam has increased sharply. Viet Nam's law enforcement forces have uncovered many drug cases in bulk. There are still many "hot spots" on this route, where violent drug criminals frequently resort to hot weapons to attack functional forces.

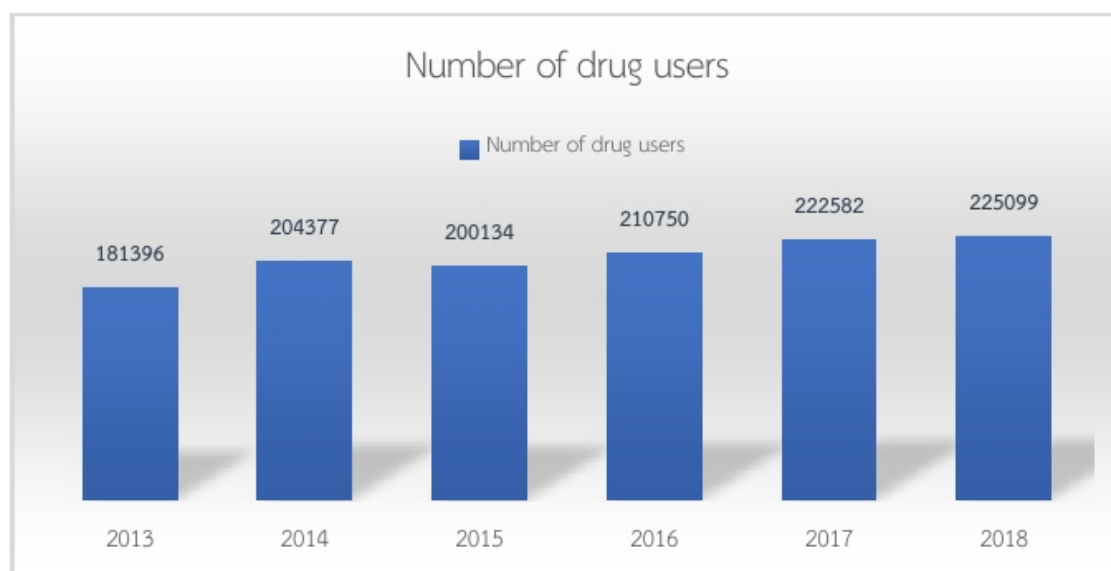
On Viet Nam-Cambodia border lines, functional forces discovered many drugs trafficking routes, mainly across the border. Cambodian drug dealers would hook up with the Vietnamese near border to do business with, most of whom are unemployed, self-employed or regular gamblers at the casinos in border areas.

Some drug transports via air, postal service or by sea have been uncovered, especially express mail service from the USA, the Netherlands, Australia, and Canada to Viet Nam. Notably, international drug trafficking networks would use sea routes to transport huge amounts of drugs from the Middle East and Africa into Viet Nam or a third country for consumption.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

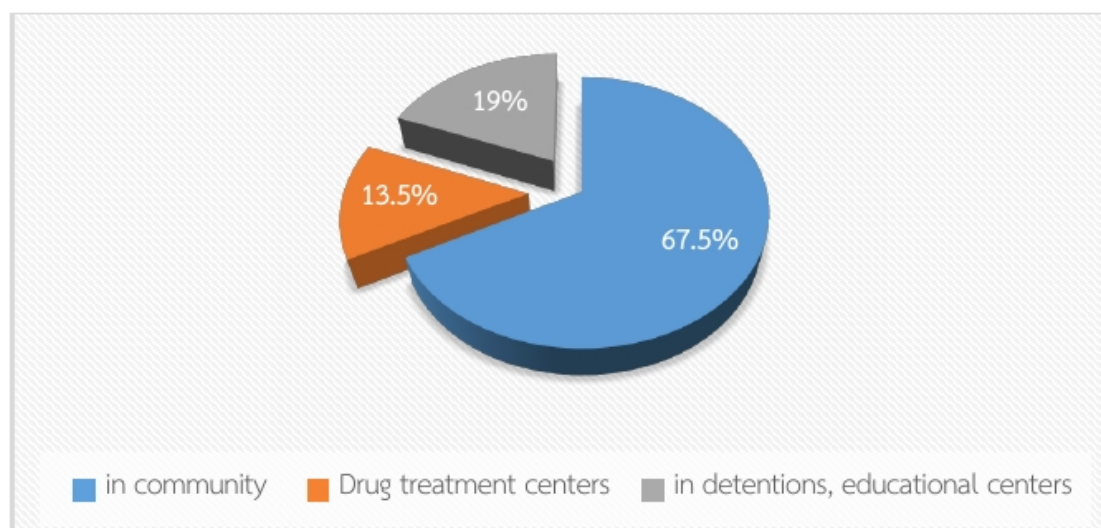
Drugs use situation

Until 15/11/2018, the total number of drug addicts in Viet Nam was 225,099 people, an increase of 2,517 compared to 2017 (222,582 people).



Number of drug addicts from 2013 to 2018

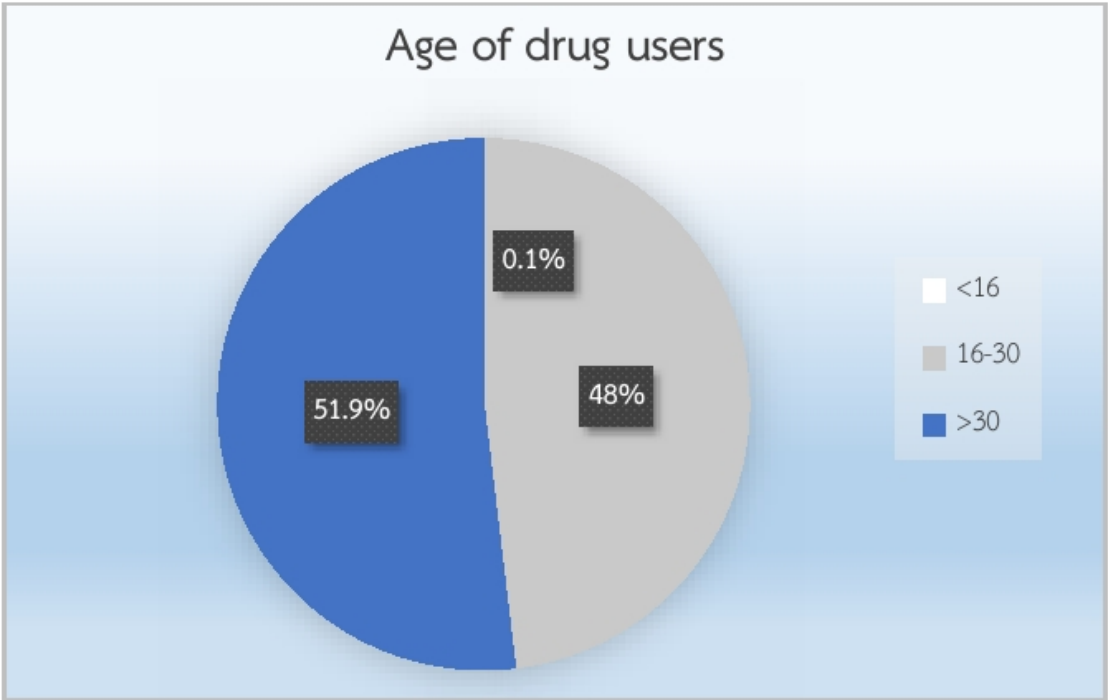
13.5% of addicts are being managed in rehabilitation facilities, 19% are in prisons, detention houses, educational facilities, and 67.5% are living in community.



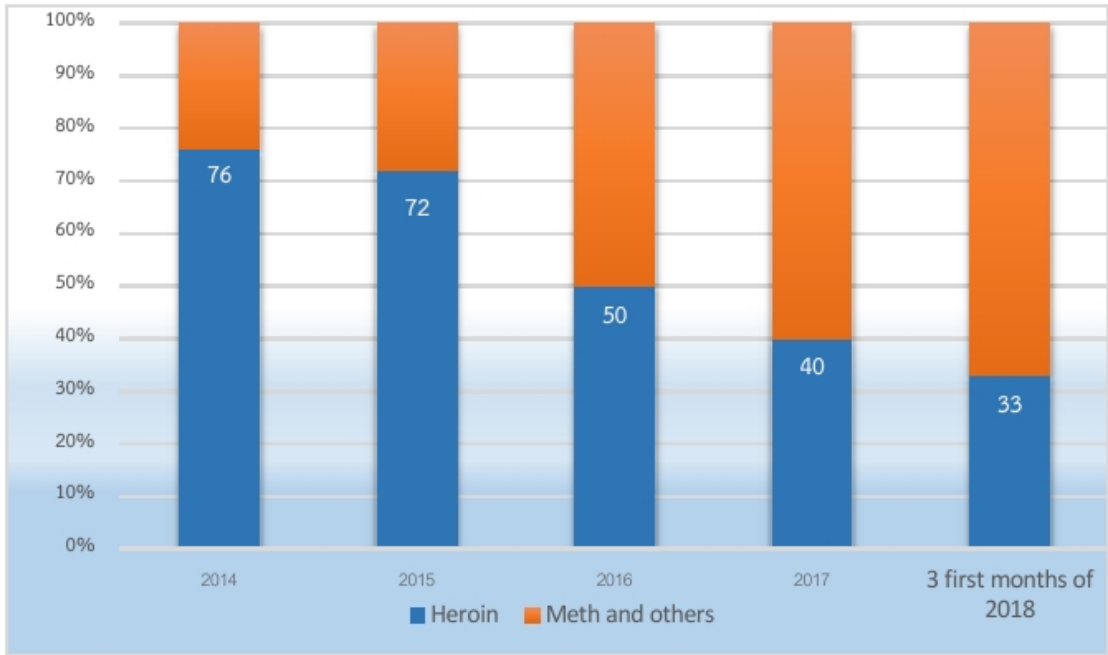
Age: 0.1% under 16; 48% from 16 to under 30; 51.9% from age 30 and older.

Gender ratio: 96% male, 4% female.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



Age of drug users



Type of drug used

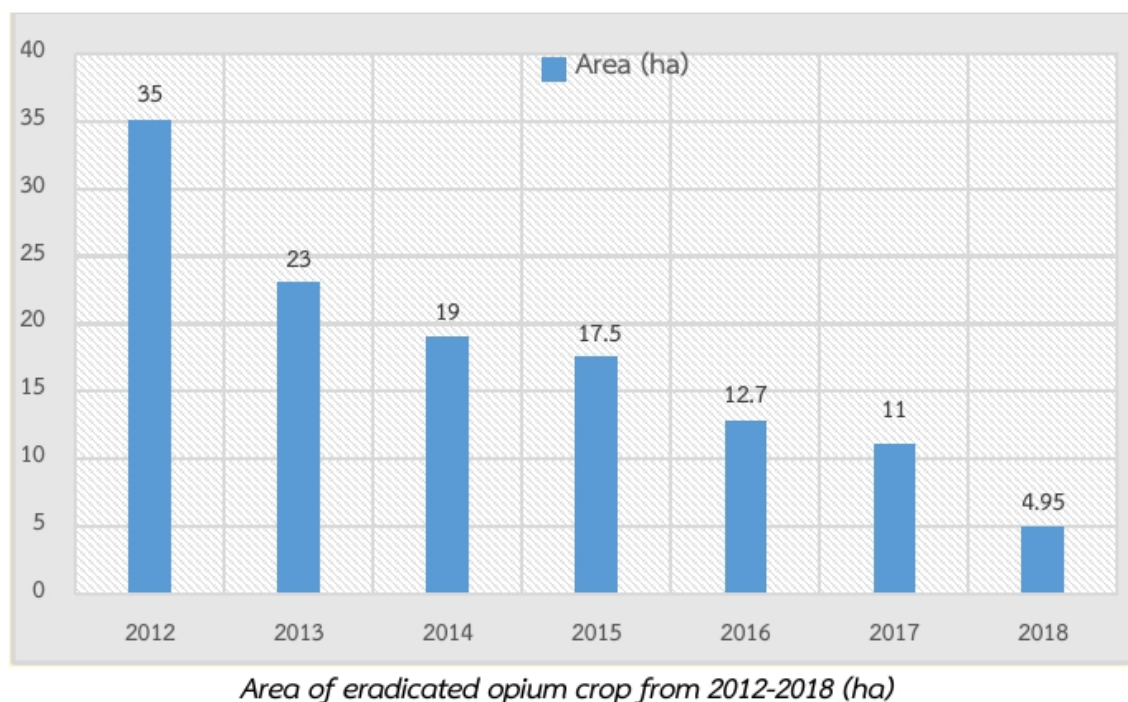
ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

ACHIEVEMENTS**Law Enforcement**

As of 15/11/2018, the drug law enforcement forces of Viet Nam has uncovered 24,552 cases, arrested 37,842 subjects related to drug crimes, seized 1,584.36 kg heroin, 136.98 kg cocaine, 196.65 kg opium, 254.4 kg dried cannabis, 4.62 kg synthetic cannabinoids (XLR-11), 6.23 kg ketamine, 1,755.74 kg and over 1.36 million tablets of synthetic drugs, 133 guns, 2,044 bullet types, over 82 billion VND or approximately US\$ 3.6 million along with other related properties. Compared to 2017, there has been a rise of 10.53% in the number of cases, 10.59% in the number of subjects; heroin seized rose 102.52%, synthetic drugs increase by 125.14%.

Narcotic plants Eradication

In 2018, Viet Nam has detected and eradicated about 49.6 square kilometres of narcotic crops, 33 square kilometres less compared with the same period in year 2017. These narcotic crops included almost 40 square kilometres of opium and almost 10 square kilometres of cannabis, mostly in the mountains of the North and one in the South-western area and the Highlands.



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation

In 2018, the total number of people entered into treatment was 6,438 persons. Among them, 3,230 were in compulsory treatment by court order; 1,200 were voluntarily treated in public centres; 610 in private centres and 1,398 were in social facilities. (Some registered in more than one programme.)

The total number of people remained in addiction treatment in 2018 has increased from the year 2017 by 6.8% to 36,368 persons. This number includes 25,400 in mandatory treatment under court order; 6,043 in voluntary treatment in public establishments; 22,937 persons (2,230 more compared with the same period in 2017) in home-based treatment; 54,255 persons in Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT).

Beside MMT, Viet Nam has implemented a pilot model of Maintenance Treatment using oriental medicine produced by Viet Nam such as: Cedemex, Lotus, Heantos.

Precursor Control

Viet Nam has about 600 enterprises engaged in production, sales, import and export and usage in industrial precursors. In 2018, the Ministry of Industry and Trade has granted an import-export license for 11,500 precursors. The amount of precursors and chemical substances containing precursor

imported is about 530,000 tons and 450,000 liters. The number of imported precursors has annually increased about 10-15%.

In 2018, Viet Nam has handled 450 Pre-Export Notification for export shipments from foreign countries import and made 25 Pre-Export Notification (PEN) for sulfuric acid shipments and toluene, exported from Viet Nam to Laos, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and Fiji.

Preventive Education

In the year 2018, Viet Nam has well organized information dissemination activities focusing on the key areas, high-risk subjects, especially teenagers and students.

Notable activities: the Ministry of Information and Communication produced 2 radio messages about drug prevention broadcasted on the Voice of Viet Nam; produced 2 documentaries aired on Viet Nam Multimedia Corporation (VTC); press agencies, social networks and other media have posted 98,895 pieces of news and articles regarding the prevention, fight against drugs; edited and released 1,500 copies of the book “Drug addiction-what you should know”.

The Ministry of Education and Training held a seminar on “Drug prevention, fighting against addiction and social evils among students”. The Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs organised a training on synthetic drug treatment for staffs working on drug

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

addiction; as well as workshops on models of psychosocial pre-trial support related to drug;

The Ministry of Health organised information dissemination with the theme “Protect the Younger Generation from Dangers of Drugs” with the participation of 250 students of Thanh Hoa Medical College and a large number of students from high school in locality;

Ministry of Industry and Trade held a conference to disseminate and raise awareness about drug prevention and prostitution for students at Quang Ninh Industrial University; distributing 2,000 leaflets on HIV / AIDS prevention and control work; People's Courts at all levels organised 1,672 court sessions to handle mobile cases of drug crimes;

The People's Procuracy at all levels of Viet Nam launched the campaign “Take Action in Response to Drugs” in their websites. The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union organised training on drug control for Union officials in the northern mountainous areas. Viet Nam Farmers' Union cooperated with police agencies at all levels to propagate to members, people and students about prevention of crimes and drugs. 12,524 people participated in AIDS prevention activities. The Veterans Association of Viet Nam held 5,917 training on crimes prevention and drugs prevention for 686,511 members.

International cooperation on drug control

Viet Nam authorities promote effective implementation of multilateral and bilateral cooperation agreements and strengthen international cooperation activities on drug control with regional, international countries and international organizations.

In 2018, Viet Nam hosted many meetings on drug control cooperation, such as the 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters; coordinated with the Lao PDR's Ministry of Security to organize periodic briefings on drug prevention; organised a meeting with representatives of foreign Police Forces on drug control based in Viet Nam; the 4th Viet Nam - Myanmar bilateral conference on drug control cooperation; Workshop on sharing experiences in drug forensic between Viet Nam and Thailand; organising six training courses to improve capacity for drug law enforcement officers; appointing more than 60 delegations (with over 200 officers) to attend conferences, workshops, training and international cooperation forum on drug control; welcomed 67 delegations (over 500 delegates) to work and attend conferences and trainings, etc.

Viet Nam has supported Cambodia to build a voluntary drug treatment facility for

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

drug addicts in Preah Sihanouk province; The Ministry of Health studied and supported Bong Sen drug – drug treatment medicine to Laos. Law enforcement forces in the border areas have strengthened coordination with relevant units of Laos, Cambodia and China to maintain meetings and exchange delegations at all levels. The three countries have strengthened and improved information exchange, joint investigation and joint patrol along the border areas resulting in the suppression of several big cases.

The way forward

Viet Nam has a strong determination in

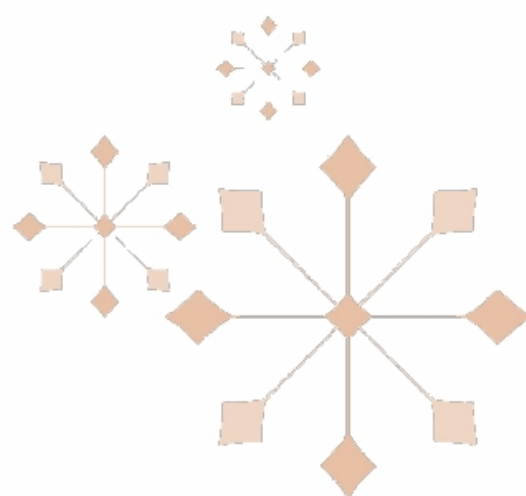
- Completing the review report of 19-year (2000 - 2018) of the Law on Drug Control implementation;
- Promulgating legal documents to guide the implementation of the Criminal Code 2015

(amended and supplemented in 2017); Law on drug control; Law on Handling of Administrative Violation in order to promptly remove difficulties and obstacles for localities in the struggle with drug-related crimes and drug treatment.

- Organizing a census to estimate the number of drug users nationwide.
- Organizing inspection teams for drug and prostitution prevention and HIV / AIDS in units and localities.
- Coordinating with the authorities of China, Laos, and Cambodia to deploy attack peaks to suppress drug crimes, focusing on fighting and destroying inter-provincial and transnational drug trafficking networks.
- Strictly controlling import and export of precursors and addictive drugs.

CHAPTER 4

Research Knowledge and Innovation



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Malaysia

The Use of Social Media in Helping the Government to Curb the Misuse of Drugs among the Youth in Malaysia

About the Research

This study was carried out in 2017 – 2018 by a group of researchers from University Sains Malaysia under the National Anti-Drugs Agency's (NADA) Research Grant Programme. The group comprised of experts in the field of communications and social media.

Objectives

The main reason of conducting this study is to find the best and effective approach to curb the misuse of drugs among the youth. Particularly, it intended to study the following objectives:

1. To study the knowledge, attitude and practice of the youth towards drug addiction issues in Malaysia;
2. To identify communication medium which appropriate in educating and hindering the youth from the misuse of drugs; and
3. To identify the potential of social media to curb the drug addiction problems among the youth in Malaysia.

The Importance of the Study

This study is important to be carried out because it can help the government to identify the most appropriate medium in preventive drug education work. Selecting the right medium to spread the anti-drugs messages is definitely an important aspect so that the messages will reach the target effectively. Other than that, this study will look into the potential of social media as one of the tools to curb the drug addiction problems among the youth. This is because youth particularly in Malaysia are dependent on the use of social media in their daily life. Therefore, it is important to use them to spread the ill-effects of drugs to the youth.

Methodology

The mix method approach was used, i.e. quantitative and qualitative. It involved giving out survey forms to 500 clients who were undergoing treatment and rehabilitation programmes at NADA facilities and 500 youth who lived in the high risk areas. The data was then analyzed using the SPSS. To further scrutinise the information obtained from the

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

survey method, in-depth interviews were carried out to 14 informants among the NADA's Clients under Supervision. The data was then analysed using the thematic analysis. In all occasions, the selected respondents' age group were between 15 – 25 years old.

Key Findings

1. Knowledge and attitude of the youth towards drug addiction issues in Malaysia is moderate. Majority of them had good understanding and knowledge about the factors that lead to addiction and the ill-effects of drugs. However, some of them were not sure of the factors that lead to drug addiction and its effects. Most of them showed their concern about the issues but some of them kept blaming others for not taking actions against drug addiction problems. The practice of youth regarding this issues is also moderate. Most of the respondents showed their support and willingness to help in curbing the problem. However, some of them were doing nothing and were not sure regarding this issue.

2. Three types of medium were appropriate in spreading the anti-drugs messages, i.e. social media, television (owned by corporate company) and television (owned by government). Those three medium were the most used by the youth in getting the anti-drugs information.

3. The potential of social media as a tool to spread the anti-drugs messages are undeniable. The use of social media among the youth were very high. They were confident with social media's ability to help spreading the messages to vast audiences. The respondents also believed that social media can influence the youth to change their attitude and behavior.

Recommendations

1. Preventive drug education must be implemented continuously and aggressively as to make sure all the youth will get information, and finally able to change their beliefs and attitudes towards the misuse of drugs.

2. The use of social media such as Facebook must be utilized extensively. The researchers proposed that Facebook is used as the platform to spread the anti-drugs campaign. The messages posted on the Facebook or other social media should be concise, informative, and attractive and based on facts.

3. Spreading messages also can be done through uploading the short videos to social media. This study found that an awareness video will get the highest hits, likes and shares. Therefore, it is important for the anti-drug videos to tell the truth and facts about drugs addiction.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

4. Collaboration with famous bloggers and well-known web sites will also spread the messages effectively. The well-known social media will help boosting the anti-drugs messages to all followers especially the youth. There are few national social media platform which were suggested such as BeautifulNara, Siakap Keli, OhMedia!, Penang Lang and others.

In a nutshell, the social media has a very big influence on the youth and hence, it must be used effectively to prevent drug abuse.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

The Philippines

Establishing and enhancing systems to monitor and measure anti-drug efforts

Monitoring and evaluation of programmes and initiatives are critical components of measuring the efforts and determining our next steps. With this, the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) of the Philippines spearheads the establishment and enhancement of systems that can help the government determine the success of the campaign against drugs. In these efforts, Information Technology is utilised.

Integrated Drug Monitoring and Reporting Information System or IDMRIS

This is a web-enabled system to collect, manage and analyse data and information on drug abuse prevention. This will help monitor the implementation of anti-drug policies and programmes of different national agencies, local government units, and partner groups and organizations. It will also serve as a venue for reporting drug abuse prevention and control efforts of programme

implementers. The use of this system is aimed to result in a more informed and evidence-based policy-making and strategy formulation⁷.

The system is already in place and users are now being trained starting from focal persons of Local Government Units who shall report on the monitoring of interventions and programmes provided to drug surrenderers, in response to the OPLAN SAGIP and community-based treatment and rehabilitation.

Treatment Rehabilitation Admission and Information System (TRAIS) (Formerly Integrated Drug Abuse Data and Information Network or IDADIN Form 6-06)

TRAIS is an online drug data pooling and collection system used by Treatment and Rehabilitation Facilities nationwide to report

⁷ 2017 DDB Annual Report, page 41

TRAIS replaced the Integrated Drug Abuse Data and Information Network or IDADIN Form 6-06.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

data on drug treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare of drug dependents. Through this system, admission and relapse rate can be identified and profile of drug users be determined.

The system undergoes continued updates to enhance its functionality and ensure its suitability to current needs and requirements.

DDB's Certified Quality Management System

The DDB Secretariat has established a Quality Management System, which has been certified to conform to the requirements and standards of ISO 9001:2015.

The DDB Secretariat is committed to consistently and reliably assist the Board in policy formulation, development and implementation. It is also keen on continually improving its quality management system to ensure the well-being and satisfaction of stakeholders.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Singapore

Female Adolescent Drug Offenders (FADOs):

An Insight into Their Risks

Background

There is an ever-increasing body of literature demonstrating the differences by which males and females come into contact with the criminal justice system. In particular, the pathways perspectives make salient the roles that females' experiences of victimisation and abuse, marginalisation, mental illness, dysfunctional relationships and substance abuse play in their offending behaviours.

In Singapore, a study conducted by Singapore Prison Service (SPS) on the pathways to drug offending by female adult offenders revealed their use of substances for the purposes of coping, enhancement and bolstering relationships with intimate partners. Nonetheless, the generalisability of the SPS findings to female adolescent drug offenders and the way in which the various aspects of females' experiences contribute specifically to substance use have not been studied in Singapore.

Additionally, a recent research conducted by the Central Narcotics Bureau Psychological Unit (CPU) demonstrated the higher risk scores of female adolescent drug offenders on Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0 and Level of Service/Case Management Inventory⁸ compared to their male counterparts. However, the nature of risks manifested by the female adolescent drug offenders is unclear.

CPU thus conducted a study to elucidate the nature of risk profiles of Singaporean female adolescent drug offenders, and to understand the interface of these experiences of victimisation and abuse, marginalisation, mental illness, dysfunctional relationship with their substance use.

Psychologists from CNB adopted a qualitative design of archival document review from drug risk assessments of 35 first-time female adolescent drug offenders arrested between 2014 and 2016.

⁸ Risk assessment tools to assess the risk of re-offending.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Main Findings

The findings of this study illustrate that the following are important experiences that contribute to female adolescents' drug use:

1. Adverse childhood experiences (e.g. abuse, neglect, exposure to domestic violence);
2. Dysfunctional intimate relationships (e.g. inclined towards older, anti-social partners, relationship characterised by insecurities, jealousy, hostility);

3. Victimisation and marginalisation (e.g. accommodation instability, financial difficulties, parentified child, early pregnancy);

4. Individual characteristics (e.g. low education achievement, maladaptive coping mechanisms).

These findings can be used to inform and enhance current drug preventive education and drug intervention efforts by incorporating a gender-responsive element.

Effects of Drug Type and Drug Use Frequency on Youths' Attitudes towards Drug Users

Background

Recent findings from a survey done by the National Council against Drug Abuse (NCADA, 2017) revealed an increase in the presence of liberal attitudes towards drugs amongst youths in Singapore. This is in line with the normalisation thesis, which observes an increasing normalisation towards drug use in many other countries. However, studies based on the normalisation thesis are only relevant for recreational drug use, as they found that attitudes towards regular or heavy drug use still remain negative.

In relation to this, a study conducted in 2015 found that Singaporean youths

differentiate various types of drugs; specifically, they perceived cannabis use to be associated with lower levels of risk. With the rise in new abusers under age 30 arrested for drug use, as well as the rise in cannabis users arrested, there is a need to understand how attitudes towards drug use could translate into actual drug use within Singaporean context.

The Central Narcotics Bureau Psychological Unit (CPU) thus aimed to explore if Singaporean youths' attitudes differ across various forms of drug use, namely drug use frequency and the type of drug used.

CPU surveyed a total of 117 Singapore undergraduates on their attitudes towards drug

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

users of various forms. They were randomly assigned to respond on either cannabis users or methamphetamine users. In the online survey, participants were asked about their perception of drug users who use drugs occasionally, regularly, or have previously experimented with drugs.

Main Findings

The study found that youths' attitudes toward drug users differ based on their frequency of drug use. Specifically, youths expressed increasingly negative attitudes towards drug users with increasing frequency of use. However, there was no difference in their attitude towards the type of drug used (i.e. methamphetamine VS cannabis).

Given that there exists a differentiation in the various forms of drug use, future research

needs to consider these different levels of drug use to obtain a more nuanced understanding. Studies could also consider exploring not just attitudes towards different forms of drug use, but actual drug use behaviour of different frequencies.

In addressing drug use in preventive education, current strategies tend to focus on heavy drug use, where users are portrayed to use drugs regularly, sometimes to the point of addiction. As the study found that youths are able to differentiate drug use – they maintained a negative attitude towards heavy drug use – preventive drug education could consider addressing experimental drug use as youths appear to have less negative attitudes toward this form of drug use.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Thailand

Surveillance of Prescription Drug Abuse in Thailand*

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The study on surveillance of prescription drug abuse in Thailand aims to examine behaviour and impact of prescription drug abuse, including relationship of prescription drug abuse and illicit drug networks. The target populations are 12-40 years old Thai with prescription drug abuse behaviour. The snowball sampling was used in data collection of 711 quantitative samples and 40 qualitative samples in four parts of Thailand.

The most abused prescription drugs are analgesic (34.6%) and cough syrup (27.4%). The average age for first abuse is 17-18 years old. More than 90% of abusers usually take drugs orally. Most of abusers (87.5%) are persuaded by friends, 40.2% had free initial supply, and 28.3% bought and shared drugs with their friends. Most of abusers (32.3%) abused prescription drug at their friend's house, followed by dormitory, apartment, condominium and their own house respectively.

43.3% bought prescription drug from drug stores. Abusers also acquired prescription drug from friends, clinics and hospitals. Reasons for use were intoxication (55.1%), easy to buy (24.1%) and drug use behaviour (32.2%). 20.0% used prescription drug along with or mixed with illicit drugs (i.e. sedative mixed with yaba, smoking marijuana after drinking kratom cocktail mixed with cough syrup, crushed analgesic mixed with yaba, ICE mixed with cough syrup, cough syrup mixed with kratom cocktail and tonic, sedative mixed with cough syrup and kratom cocktail, muscle relaxant mixed with kratom cocktail, anti-histamine mixed with methadone, sedative mixed with methadone, drinking kratom cocktail mixed with anti-histamine while smoking marijuana, or crushed sedative mixed with heroin). 11.3% used prescription drug interchangeably with illicit drug (i.e. sedative and yaba or analgesic/anti-histamine and marijuana.)

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

The relationship of prescription drug abuse network mostly started from friends in the same educational institutes, followed by colleagues at work who acted as persuaders and co-users as well as dealers and providers.

34.7% of abusers have abnormal symptoms. Most abusers have moderate risk of

health problems as 60.6% have high risk of severe problems, and 3.7% are likely to have addiction. Prescription drug abusers in Pattani have higher risk of severe problem with high potential for addiction when compared to abusers in other areas.

Effectiveness of Life Skills Training and Promoting Family Environment to Prevent Substance Abuse of Youth: A Study in Khon Kaen, Thailand**

**Srikongphlee V, Luvila V, Kanato M. EFFECTIVENESS OF LIFE SKILLS TRAINING AND PROMOTING FAMILY ENVIRONMENT TO PREVENT YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE: A STUDY IN KHON KAEN, THAILAND. International Journal. 2018 Oct 1;15 (50):88-94.

Substance abuse is a major health problem in Thailand, despite prevention programmes of local government administration. Training in enhancing life skills in combination with promoting family environment has been found to effectively reduce drug abuse in many countries but has not been investigated in Thailand.

The purpose of this study was to assess the effectiveness of life skills training in combination with promoting a family environment to prevent drug abuse among the youth. A quasi-experimental study was conducted from October 2014 to September 2015. Participants consisted of 969 youths from different sub-districts were randomly allocated

to either intervention programme (life skills training and family environment promoting) or control group (prevention programme by local government organisation). Data were collected through self-report questionnaires at 3 months and 6 months.

There were significant differences between the mean scores of family environment subscale; the p-value for cohesion was <0.001, and p-value for conflict was 0.05. The proportion of new drug users was significantly lower in the intervention group (mean difference 0.54, 95%CI: 0.009-0.1) but no significant difference in the proportion of new drug users between the two groups at 6-months follow-up. Absolute Risk Reduction

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

(ARR) of the intervention group to reduce new drug abuse at the period of both 3 and 6 months was 0.54, the number needed to harm was 18.4. The life skills training in combination with family environment promotion was effective in preventing drug abuse at least during the 6 months follow up.

Health, Economic, and Social Effects of Cannabis Use in Thailand**

**Ritmontree S, Kanato M, Leyatikul P. The health, economic, and social effects of cannabis use in Thailand. F1000Research. 2019 May 3;8.

Background: The harm and benefit of cannabis use is very controversial. This research aimed to examine the health, economic, and social effects of cannabis use in Thailand.

Methods: From a prospective cohort of 261 cannabis users in Kalasin province, Thailand, 45 cannabis users were followed over one year. Quantitative and qualitative data on the health, social, and economic consequences were gathered. In-depth interviews, participant observation by researchers during home visits, and self-report instruments were utilised. Data were also collected from 10 health personnel, 16 community leaders, and 480 laypeople.

disability-adjusted life years of cannabis users was calculated and found a total loss of 120.09 years with a mean loss of 0.78 years. The possible economic impacts of cannabis treatment include medical expenses, loss of revenue for both cannabis users and their caregivers, and costs due to law enforcement and possible lawsuits. The economic costs during the study period totaled 1,561,460 baht, of which 1,347,950 was attributed to the costs of law enforcement and legal prosecution. However, no cost from accidental losses was found. Cannabis appears to not cause conflicts or crimes in community. Still, cannabis use remains a social problem, and has been associated with outbreaks of illegal drug use.

Results: This study showed that cannabis use caused health problems. The

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

THAILAND FORENSIC DRUG ADDICTION MONITORING NETWORK**

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Drug monitoring from forensic medical examination is a very reliable method in providing a scientific-based evidence that can confirm the type of drug used by a person. The information is based on the mandatory post-mortem examination of unnatural deaths, covering homicide, suicide, and death by animals, accident, or death with an unknown cause.

There are about 40,000 unnatural deaths in Thailand each year. According to Article 148 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, there must be a forensic physician to conduct a post-mortem examination with the investigating police officer. If an unnatural death is suspected of being related to substance abuse, officers have the authority to trace for substance use from the body. About 10,000 cases of drug-related deaths are detected every year. Substances can be traced in the dead bodies from fluid or secretion, such as blood, urine, stomach content, vitreous humor (in the eyes), or hairs, etc.

Forensic physicians collaborated in this project are from 29 institutions i.e. the Royal Thai Police Institute of Forensic Medicine, Central Institute of Forensic Science (Ministry of Justice), 9 university hospitals and 18 public hospitals under Ministry of Public Health. These institutes have the facility to do post-mortem examination and examination of toxic substances or drugs.

Forensic medicine and forensic science institutions have formed a "Forensic Drug Addiction Monitoring Network" with support from the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) since 2007. A database and a system for compiling and analysing data has been developed which all network institutes can use and share their findings. This tool helps in detecting and illustrating the overall drug situation, trend, and the epidemic in Thailand.

From 2007 to 2014, there were 63,286 deaths examined for drugs and substances use. 6,659 cases (10.52%) were found with at least one drug. Most (19.94%) was found in the

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

year 2013, followed by 2014 at 14.57%. The rise of narcotics detected during the year 2012-2013 coincided with the period of political disruption in Thailand. Drugs were found in males (10.87%) more than females (8.80%) and most commonly found from cases in the age 26-35 years (12.99%) and 19-25 years (11.94%).

The most common narcotics equally detected (4.15%) were methamphetamine/amphetamine and the sedative group (benzodiazepine). Less common types of narcotics detected were morphine, mitragynine (kratom), codeine, heroin, and cannabis at 0.77, 0.61, 0.33, 0.18 and 0.13%, respectively. Rare types of drug detected were ketamine, cocaine and MDMA/MDA at 0.06, 0.04 and 0.02%, respectively (Figure 1).

From the total 6,659 deaths with drugs detected, 6.16% were found with two types of drug. The most commonly found was a combination of methamphetamine and benzodiazepine (25.61%), followed by amphetamine and morphine (13.90%), benzodiazepine and kratom (13.66%) and morphine combined with benzodiazepine (11.22%). In addition, 0.80% were found with three types of drugs. The most common was the use of methamphetamine together with benzodiazepine and morphine. 0.11% or 7 cases were found with 4 types of drug. The most common was methamphetamine with benzodiazepine, morphine and codeine (which may be a metabolite of heroin).

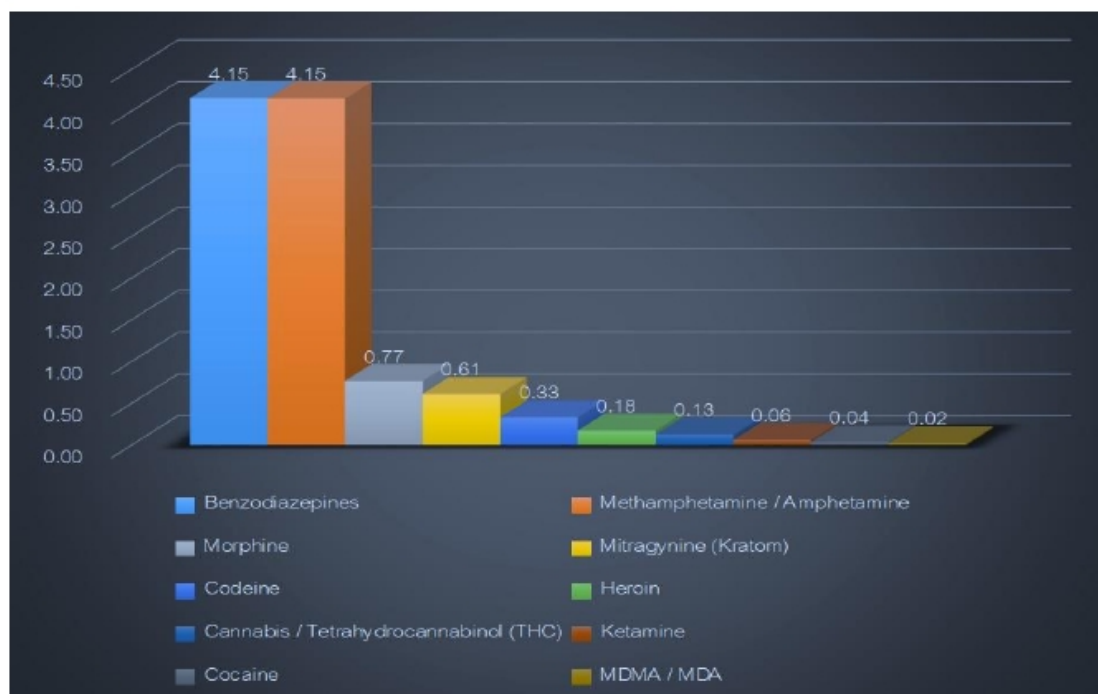


Figure 1: Percentage of narcotics found in the death cases

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Narcotics were traced largely in violent death cases, i.e. from gunshot 17.32%, followed by hanging 15.48%, wounds from blunt objects 14.96% and sharp objects 13.31%.

The trend of narcotics found in unnatural death cases, which can reflect the 'demand' side, was in the same direction as

the number of arrested drug-related cases reported by ONCB, which reflects the 'supply' side. Therefore, scientific evidence from post-mortem examination could complement and make the analysis of drug epidemic more accurate.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Viet Nam

Methadone Maintenance Treatment Reduces the Vulnerability of Drug Users on HIV/AIDS in Vietnamese Remote Settings: Assessing the Changes in HIV Knowledge, Perceived Risk, and Testing Uptake after a 12-Month Follow-Up

Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) programme has been considered a medium through which human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) risks assessment and prevention on drug use/HIV-infected population can be effectively conducted. Studies concerning the implementation of such idea on patients in remote, under-developed areas, however, have been limited. Having the clinics established in three mountainous provinces of Viet Nam, this study aimed to evaluate the changes in knowledge of HIV, perceived risk, and HIV testing uptake of the patients. A longitudinal study was conducted at six MMT clinics in three provinces with a pre- and post-assessments among 300 patients. Outcomes of interest were compared between baseline and after 12 months. The magnitude of changes was extrapolated. The proportion of participants reporting that their HIV knowledge was not good fell by 4.4% (61.3% at the baseline vs. 56.8% at 12 months). The significant improvement seen was in the knowledge that needle sharing was a mode of

transmission (82.7% vs. 89.6%). Nevertheless, the majority of participants reportedly considered mosquitoes/insect and eating with the HIV-infected patient were the route of transmission at both time points (84.7% vs. 89.1%, 92.2% vs. 93.3%, respectively). This study found a limited improvement in HIV knowledge and testing uptake among MMT patients following a 12-month period. It also highlighted some shortcomings in the knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of these patients, in particular, incorrect identification of HIV transmission routes, among patients both at programme initiation and follow-up. The findings lent support to the argument for enhancing education and counseling efforts at MMT clinics regarding HIV, as well as for improving access to preventive and health care services through the integration of MMT/HIV services.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

1. Introduction

Methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) is seen globally as one of the most effective methods, both in terms of cost and patient outcome, to help people withdraw from using opioid drugs. Many countries have introduced MMT programme to assist in reducing the number of people using opioid drugs so as to prevent not only direct opioid-related morbidity and mortality but also co-morbidities such as infection. MMT has shown efficacy in improving the quality of life of drug users and reducing their need to use other drugs in several studies worldwide, such as in China and the US. In 2007 in the US, intravenous drug use was estimated to cause an economic burden of US\$193 billion, mainly due to loss of productivity and absenteeism. Reducing this economic burden of drug use through methadone maintenance is seen as highly advantageous, in and can lead to greater numbers of drug users in the workforce and therefore greater productivity.

In Viet Nam, there are roughly 260,000 HIV patients and 180,000 people who inject drugs (PWID). Both groups are strongly interlinked as around 30% of the HIV positive population are PWID. HIV in Viet Nam is largely concentrated among the drug using population so targeting of this group through MMT services to reduce HIV is of benefit. Services for both have been rapidly increased in recent years to

now include 364 HIV outpatient centres and 251 MMT centres. This improvement has been mainly fueled by investment from international AID organisations, such as PEPFAR and the Global AIDS fund; however, funding has recently declined. Maximising the public benefit from both services is therefore very important. Using MMT services to target HIV patients or those at risk of HIV has already been studied in Viet Nam. While drug use and HIV transmission have already been linked, alterations to drug usage through MMT programmes have been shown to improve HIV/AIDS patient quality of life within the country. MMT services could, therefore, be used to assess HIV risks and prevention among this vulnerable group of patients.

Currently, most data in Viet Nam regarding MMT services in relation to HIV knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) focuses mainly on urban areas and cities. There is substantially less information regarding MMT and HIV in mountainous provinces. People here have been identified as having increased rates of health problems, including drug use and HIV among others. Access to services in these areas is also limited giving rise to a larger hidden drug using population (those who have not presented to medical professionals as drug users) and more people who do not know their HIV status. As more patients utilise MMT services in these regions, the hope is that information regarding HIV will also become

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

more prevalent. To maximise health services resources, examining the effectiveness of MMT programmes in improving the KAP of HIV/AIDS is important. Ideally, as patients utilise the services, they should improve their KAP towards HIV and take this into the community to reduce the transmission and risk of HIV/AIDS among the hidden drug using population as well. This study aimed to evaluate the changes in HIV knowledge, perceived risk and HIV testing uptake among MMT patients follow a year of treatment. This could help to identify areas where improvements are needed.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Setting and Population

Pre- and post-assessments with no control group from December 2014 to December 2015 in six clinics in three mountainous provinces namely Dien Bien, Lai Chau, and Yen Bai province. Six clinics were selected, including Provincial AIDS Centres in Dien Bien, Lai Chau, and Yen Bai City; and District Health Centres in Thanh Xuong, Phong Tho and Nghia Lo. We invited patients who met following inclusion criteria: (1) Initiating MMT service at one of the selected clinics at the time of the baseline assessment in 2014; (2) volunteering and agreeing to participate in research by giving written consent; and (3) having good physical and mental health to be able to answer the questionnaire. MMT patients were interviewed

in the first month and 12th-month of MMT program.

In this study, the sample size was calculated using the formula for estimating the difference between two population means. With absolute precision $\Delta = 0.05$ and standardised mean difference = 0.18, the sample size required in each province was 100. The total sample size was 300 patients. The study first screened 300 patients participating in the MMT programme; after 12 months of treatment, 56 patients withdrew, and 244 patients remained. When compared results in the first month and 12thmonth of 244 remaining patients, the percentage of male participants in the sample was 100% because only male patients registered at the selected clinics at the time of investigation.

2.2. Measures and Instruments

Face-to-face interviews were conducted by well-trained researchers at the Hanoi Medical University using a structured questionnaire in Vietnamese. The questionnaire was tested in the small group with 10 patients. After receiving feedback from patients regarding logical, language and text perspectives, the questionnaire was revised to make sure that the content was appropriate to the context of study, as well as the quality of data. Socio-demographic characteristics were collected consisting of age, gender, ethnicity, education, marital status, and occupation.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

• Knowledge of HIV Treatment and Prevention

The knowledge included: (1) HIV/AIDS transmission; (2) susceptibility to HIV infection; and (3) HIV prevention according to five questions set by the Viet Nam Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2007. The respondents were asked to answer five True/False questions. According to the guideline of the MOH, MMT patients had good knowledge if they correctly answered all of five questions, while others did not have good knowledge if any one of five questions was answered incorrectly.

• Attitudes of HIV Treatment and Prevention

The attitudes included: (1) Self-assessed HIV status; (2) reasons for risk of HIV/AIDS infection; and (3) reasons for no risk of HIV/AIDS infection.

• Practices of HIV Prevention and Treatment

The practices included (1) Using HIV Testing and Counselling Services before beginning MMT, (2) provider-initiated testing and counseling, (3) HIV Testing, and (4) HIV Testing result.

2.3. Statistical Analysis

This study described frequency (n) and prevalence (%) of variables at the baseline and in follow-up data. Chi-squared test and Fisher's exact test were used to assess the difference between before and after MMT intervention. Statistical significance was set at p-value < 0.05. The effect size was performed to determine the effect of MMT programme. Phi was used to estimate the extent of the

relationship between two binary variables (2×2) and Cramér's V was used with variables having more than two levels. In the context of effect size level classification, very small, small, medium and large effect sizes equating to the values 0.01, 0.2, 0.5 and 0.8, respectively were used. Data analysis was performed by using STATA software version 12.0.

2.4. Ethics Approval

This study was approved by the Viet Nam Authority of HIV/AIDS Control's Scientific Research Committee.

3. Results

Among 244 patients in this study, majority belonged to the Kinh ethnic background (56.8%), had less than high school education (56.8%), living with spouses or partners (57.5%) and worked as freelance (79.7%).

Table 1 compares the change in knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment among MMT patients over 12 months. Most participants thought a healthy-looking person cannot be HIV infected, both at the start of the study (86.4%) and after 12 months (87.9%). Significantly more participants at 12 months (89.6%82.7% at baseline) knew that sharing needles and syringes was a method of HIV transmission, the effect size of change for this indicator was 0.022. There were 94.7% and 96.7%, respectively, of participants at baseline and 12 month time point identified injecting drug users as being susceptible to HIV. Majority of participants at both time points identified not changing sex partner (88.0% at baseline 89.6%) and condom use (97.9% at baseline

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

92.9%) as being protective against HIV, modes of transmission. Fewer participants at however, they also incorrectly identified 12 months said their knowledge was not good mosquitoes (84.7% at baseline 89.1%) and (56.8% at baseline 61.3%). sharing food (92.2% at baseline 93.3%) as

Table 1: Change in knowledge of HIV prevention and treatment among methadone maintenance treatment patients.

Characteristics	Baseline		12 Month Follow-Up		p-Value	Effect Size
	n	%	n	%		
A healthy-looking person can be HIV-infected						
No	210	86.4	211	87.9	0.62	0.022
Yes	33	13.6	29	12.1		
HIV/AIDS transmission route						
Blood Transfusion Unsafety	170	70.0	174	72.2	0.59	0.025
Sharing needles and syringes	201	82.7	216	89.6	0.03	0.100
Pass from mother to child	117	48.2	123	51.0	0.53	0.029
Unprotected sex	217	89.3	224	93.0	0.16	0.064
Susceptibility to HIV infection						
Injection drug users	230	94.7	231	96.7	0.28	0.049
Sex workers	187	77.3	183	76.6	0.86	0.008
Long distance highway drivers	13	5.4	21	8.8	0.14	0.067
Multiply sex partners	78	32.2	98	41.0	0.05	0.091
Faithfulness to partners: A mean to prevent HIV infection						
False	29	12.0	25	10.4	0.57	0.026
True	212	88.0	215	89.6		
The correct use of condom reduces the risk of HIV infection						
False	5	2.1	17	7.1	0.01	0.122
True	238	97.9	221	92.9		
A heathy or Heathy-looking person can be HIV-positive						
False	49	20.3	66	27.7	0.06	0.088
True	193	79.8	172	72.3		
Mosquitoes/insect can transmit HIV						
False	37	15.3	26	10.9	0.16	0.065
True	205	84.7	212	89.1		
HIV infection is transmitted eating with a person with HIV-infection						
False	19	7.9	16	6.7	0.62	0.023
True	223	92.2	224	93.3		
Knowledge about HIV/AIDS						
Not good	93	38.8	102	43.2	0.32	0.045
Good	147	61.3	134	56.8		

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

The changes to attitudes of HIV risk among MMT patients at 12 months are described in **Table 2**. Most patients at both times point perceived that they were not at risk of HIV (54.3% and 54.6%). Drug injecting was the most common reason identified for increased risk of HIV (75% and 72.1%) while 15.2% and 17.4% at 12 months also identified sex without using condoms as a reason for risk. 72.7% and 70.7% at 12 months identified not sharing needles as the main reason for no risk of HIV. Not changing sex partner, using condoms and not having sex with female sex workers were other common reasons for no risk.

Table 2: Change in perceived HIV risk among methadone maintenance treatment patients.

Characteristics	Baseline		Follow-Up		p-Value	Effect Size
	n	%	n	%		
Self-assessed HIV status						
No risk	121	54.3	114	54.6	0.94	0.018
Low risk	50	22.4	49	23.4		
High risk	52	23.3	46	22.0		
Reasons for risk of HIV/AIDS infection						
Many partners	17	17.2	11	12.8	0.41	0.061
Sex without using the condom	15	15.2	15	17.4	0.67	0.031
Drug injection	73	75.0	62	72.1	0.65	0.033
Receiving blood transfusions	6	6.1	7	8.1	0.58	0.041
Reasons for no risk of HIV/AIDS infection						
Being faithful	58	40.6	70	50.0	0.11	0.095
Using condom	32	22.4	37	26.4	0.43	0.047
Not sharing needles	104	72.7	99	70.7	0.71	0.022
Not sharing friends with HIV/AIDS infection	10	7.0	12	8.6	0.62	0.029
Not sharing anal sex	16	11.2	16	11.4	0.95	0.004
Not sharing sex with female workers	46	32.2	44	31.4	0.89	0.008
Not sharing blood transfusions	6	4.2	11	7.9	0.20	0.077

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Table 3: Change in the uptake of HIV testing services among methadone maintenance treatment patients.						
Characteristics	Baseline		Follow-Up		p-Value	Effect Size
	n	%	n	%		
Using HIV Testing and Counselling Services						
No	45	18.6	31	13.3	0.11	0.073
Yes	197	81.4	23	86.8		
Provider-initiated testing and counselling						
Many partners	20	8.2	14	5.9	0.31	0.046
Sex without using the condom	223	91.8	225	94.1		
HIV Testing result						
Positive	38	17.1	46	20.3	0.14	0.094
Negative	170	76.6	175	77.1		
N/A	14	6.3	6	2.6		

Table 3 depicts the changes to practices of MMT patients for HIV treatment and prevention. Slightly more patients had used HIV testing and counseling services at 12 months than at the start (86.8%81.4%). District level health bureaus were used by 91.8% of patients at the start and 94.1% of patients at 12 months for provider-initiated testing and counseling.

4. Discussion

This study aimed to assess the level of the knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) regarding HIV/AIDS of MMT patients in mountainous areas and possible improvement after one year of following MMT programme. In general, the majority of participants

displayed fairly sufficient knowledge regarding HIV transmission and prevention, appropriate HIV risk perception and adequate HIV testing update. However, very limited changes were found regarding the KAP at 12 month follow up compared to programme initiation. This highlighted the difficulties of enhancing HIV/AIDS KAP in less developed areas and called for greater educational and counseling efforts.

Over the course of 12 months, the only significant KAP improvement was seen in the knowledge of MMT patients about sharing needles as HIV transmission mode, with a small effect size of the change. Such finding was in line with a study in China examining the

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

long-term effects of methadone maintenance treatment that also demonstrated improvements in knowledge with regards to needles sharing. Another study in Nepal concerning safer drug use interventions, such as sterile injecting equipment and education, also showed that knowledge of HIV of participants increased while unsafe practices decreased as they progressed with the intervention programme. Nonetheless, although MMT services have been expected to be a potentially beneficial route for targeting HIV risk and prevention as HIV prevalence among PWID was substantial, literature looking specifically into how MMT impacts the KAP of HIV have been limited. The lack of improvement in KAP found in this study suggested that there were probably insufficient educational efforts at MMT clinics to enhance HIV-related knowledge of MMT patients. This research found that in mountainous MMT clinics, patients gained information mostly through health staffs-provided informal advice and routine counselling when coming for their daily MMT dose. Organized, formal educational campaigns on HIV-related issues were scarce.

In addition, while most participants correctly identified main HIV modes of transmission and methods of protection—transmission via needles sharing, protected by safe sex etc., a substantial proportion of respondents reportedly considering mosquitoes and food sharing as HIV transmission route. This suggests potentially

serious shortcomings in HIV knowledge of those in mountainous areas, which could also be a result of the shortage of educational and counseling activities/programmes available that otherwise should be included in MMT clinics. While MMT services may have been adequate at providing the actual methadone treatment, they seem to lack a holistic service and complete healthcare intervention for the patients. As the HIV epidemic in Viet Nam is concentrated among PWID, to improve HIV testing uptake among PWID and to maximize the expenditure on services, it would be beneficial for the patients to have access to both MMT and HIV-related services simultaneously. MMT patients have also indicated their desire for integrated and decentralized services and one study has demonstrated that when MMT services are integrated with HIV centres, HIV testing and counseling rates increase. Such integrated approach to tackle HIV-related issues in drug-using patients would be of even greater help for a mountainous population in Viet Nam, as previous studies have shown that geographical barriers, such as distance to services, which likely to undermine adherence to MMT programme, would also hinder HIV service uptake.

Several implications can be drawn from this study. Greater efforts should be spent on improving the knowledge of MMT patients with regards to HIV risks, probably

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

through educational and counseling programmes provided by the staffs of the MMT clinics. Potentially more beneficial is the integration of MMT and HIV services within an MMT clinic, so that an MMT clinic would offer a comprehensive package of services covering MMT, HIV testing and HIV counseling. In the Viet Nam context, the benefits of such comprehensive services-offering clinics have been appraised by different parties involving in these services, including clinic directors, providers, staffs, and patients. Policy and clinical-level movements are recommended to be conducted, including issuing legal framework and policies facilitating integration, staff training and improving collaboration across different services providers to tackle documented barriers to such integration. In addition, our findings suggested some directions for further researches on the subject of HIV-related KAP- in particular the sources from which patients obtain HIV-related information, the basis of their beliefs with regard to this knowledge, or whether there were any other influences during the time between points of data collection.

5. Limitations

Of 300 patients, only 244 participants completed the survey as 56 withdrew before the 12-month period was over. The withdrawal of patients, typically those with lower adherence to MMT and worse KAP toward HIV risks and prevention, may lead to bias in the

changes seen. The patients that completed the study and adhered to treatments may already have better KAP about HIV risks and prevention even in absence of MMT enrolment, implying that there would be greater positive changes if the 56 patients were included. Although the sample was quite small, six centres across provincial and district level services were chosen hopefully making the data representative of MMT users generally in mountainous areas. There is a risk that the sample is slightly skewed towards people who know more about HIV than the general drug using population as these patients are actively seeking medical care and therefore may care more about their health than the remaining hidden drug using population.

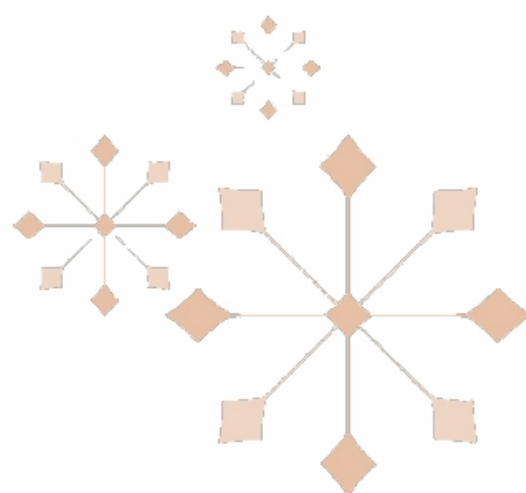
6. Conclusions

In conclusion, this study found a limited improvement in HIV knowledge and testing uptake among MMT patients following a 12-month period. It also highlighted some shortcomings in the KAP of these patients, in particular, incorrect identification of HIV transmission routes, among patients both at programme initiation and follow-up. The findings lent support to the argument for enhancing education and counseling efforts at MMT clinics regarding HIV, as well as for improving access to preventive and health care services through the integration of MMT/HIV services.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

CHAPTER 5

Policy and Implementation Programme



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Policy and Implementation Programme in Brunei Darussalam

1. USAGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is inevitably one of the most crucial tools in this era in which it is being used for advertising, sharing of information, entertainment and many more.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) also utilises this tool through Facebook and Instagram, amongst others, to promote preventive drug activities to the public as well as sharing facts and information on the misuse of drugs and international drug syndicates in the form of posters, pictures and video.

At the moment, NCB is actively using the social media as an extended platform for dissemination drug awareness information to the public. It was also found that the usage of Facebook and Instagram are the most common for all age groups in Brunei Darussalam. Therefore, it is believed to be one of the most influential tools.

Online booking for lectures and programmes through the preventive drug education website, www.pde.narcotics.gov.bn and email via pde@narcotics.gov.bn also provides the public easier and faster access to the preventive drug education services.

Latest update on any related activities such as visits to schools, public roadshows and

talks by the Preventive Drug Education Division can be found on the official Instagram and Facebook account of the NCB, “No Drugs At All”.

2. ANTI-DRUG VIDEO COMPETITION

NCB has organized a short 30 second anti-drug video competition which involves participation from tertiary level students. The competition aims to spread awareness on the misuse of illicit drugs in visual settings and at the same time to create opportunities to creativity talents to be involved in the process of disseminating illicit drug awareness information.

3. COLLABORATION WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

This is an ongoing collaboration between Counselling and Career Division, Ministry of Education and other relevant agencies. The SINAR Programme is aimed at identified high risk students which involve students from Year 5 and Year 7 only. Other agencies involved in this programme include The Royal Brunei Police Force, Community Development Department (JaPeM), Prison Department and NCB.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The National Service Programme is a requirement for the country to train and produce excellent disciplined youths. It is in line with the goals of the National Youth Policy to create more resilient youths. The annual anti-drug programmes conducted by the NCB for the youth participants is held over two days.

In 2018, another programmes was added onto the Community Outreach Programmes known as the Informative Community Programmes which involves the community of the Brunei National Housing Programmes and with the cooperation of the Information Department of the Prime

Minister's Office. The programmes includes lectures, talks and activities related to preventive drug education.

5. DIGITAL ADVERTISING

NCB also uses digital advertising to convey and share any facts and information on drugs. Standing digital display units located in a number of strategic locations around the country, showcases preventive drug education messages by Narcotics Control Bureau.

Through this digital advertising, NCB is able to disseminate any information on the dangers of drug abuse and advertise anti-drugs promo which is prepared by NCB, together with Radio Television Brunei, the state broadcaster of Brunei as well as digital advertising companies themselves.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

**6. INTERNATIONAL DAY
AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND
ILLICIT TRAFFICKING 2018**

NCB hosted an appreciation ceremony for its strategic partners in commemorating International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held at Wafa Hotel, Annajat Complex in Gadong, on the 28 July 2018.

The guest of honour, Acting Director of NCB, Mr. Mohd Jaffari bin Haji Mahadi presented certificates to 22 strategic partners comprising of government and private agencies.

"The Narcotics Control Bureau as the main agency to prevent drug abuse in the country will continue to strive to eradicate these negative symptoms through various efforts including legislation, treatment and

rehabilitation as well as raising public awareness on the danger of drugs," he said.

He added that "the duties and responsibilities of NCB in handling drug abuse is very challenging and the community should work together with the Government especially law enforcement authorities in combating drugs in the country".

While urging current strategic partners of NCB to continue collaborating with the bureau, he said "any agencies intending to provide assistance are welcome in accordance with their capabilities, fields and expertise".

A prize presentation to the top three winners of the NCB logo and slogan competition was also held during the ceremony.



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Policy and Implementation Programme in Cambodia

Implementation Plan and Goals in 2019

Base on the achievement and the implementation of the campaign plan to combat illicit drug, the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), in line with the strategic measures stipulated in the National Plan on Drug Control, sets out the following goals for implementation in 2019:

1. Awareness raising, prevention, stop and rejection of drugs:

- Continue to conduct education activities for most at risk and vulnerable population as well as youth, mobile and migrant workers, construction workers, factory workers, truck drivers, bus drivers, and entertainment workers etc., to raise public awareness about harms caused by drugs.

- Continue to organize educational poem writing, drawing, sport, song, and music contests on topics related to drugs; and to mainstream drug education messages through concert and advertisement made by private companies. In addition, efforts will be made to continue to organize events such as



during major national and international festivals to disseminate the Law on Drug Control and to sensitize about harms caused by drugs.

- Develop activity plan and monitoring and evaluation plan to monitor progress of public awareness raising work; organise trainings for focal person in various ministries/institutions at national and subnational levels, especially for those at Commune/Sangkat level in order for them to serve as frontline people to raise awareness, prevent and stop drug issues at their own localities.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

- Continue to conduct awareness raising activities through distribution of leaflets, education booklets and posters or other education messages at education facilities, factories, enterprises, construction sites, farms, worker dormitories and on vehicles, etc.

2. Drug treatment, rehabilitation, vocational training, life skills, reintegration and Keep-away from drugs:

- Continue the construction of the national centre for voluntary community-based drug treatment services in Rithy 2 Village, Keo Phos Commune, Steung Hav District, Sihanouk Province and explore the possibility to build another drug treatment and rehabilitation centre for the north-eastern provinces.

- Continue to promote community-based drug treatment and rehabilitation provided through mental health and drug services of the Ministry of Health.

- Continue to develop national plan and policies for drug treatment and rehabilitation, including key and necessary documents to ensure multisectoral and systematic drug treatment and rehabilitation service delivery.

Meanwhile, continue to update accurate and reliable data of drug users to serve as a basis to improve treatment quality and effective services delivery.

- Continue to provide comprehensive support, particularly with regard to drug user referrals for treatment, rehabilitation, vocational training, life skills and reintegration to their families and communities.



- Develop specific policies for reintegration of drug user and to follow-up with them when they are back to the communities, including those detainees in municipal/provincial correction centres and prisons.



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

3. Strengthen effectiveness of law enforcement institutions:

- Promote more effective enforcement of UN conventions on drugs, including Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) as amended by its protocol in 1972; Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971); United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs (1988); and United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.



- Continue to strengthen and expand the Border Liaison Office (BLO) and develop technical capacity of law enforcement officers and drug laboratory officers. Continue to strengthen law enforcement with an aim to provide support to harm reduction programs.

- Increase cooperation to prevent drug-related issues and strengthen effectiveness of law enforcement institutions.

- Prioritise efforts to prevent drug inflow through Cambodia-Laos border, airports and postal mail. Strengthen efforts to collect information/intelligence from all sources to

identify criminals inside and outside of the country with an aim to suppress such drug trafficking networks. In addition, attention shall be paid to high-risk areas such as entertainment places, Sihanouk Airport and seaport.

4. Examining the chemical substances:

- Increase control on chemical substances used for drug manufacturing and psychotropic substances.

- Encourage the development of legislation and plans to control chemical and psychotropic substances and provide skill training for law enforcement institutions.

5. International cooperation with neighbouring countries:

- Continue to promote cooperation with neighbouring countries through all possible means to strengthen the control mechanisms and prevent drug trafficking on land, waterway and airway.

- Continue to strengthen and expand the Border Liaison Office for Cambodia-Laos, Cambodia-Thailand, and Cambodia-Viet Nam based on the recommendation provided by the leadership of the Royal Government of Cambodia regarding the deployment of officers at border check-points and the establishment and functioning of this office

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

in line with the Royal Government's safe village/ commune policy.

- Strengthen international cooperation with other countries at the global and regional levels and with neighbouring countries through all possible means, including bilateral, tri-lateral, and multi-lateral mechanism, to prevent trafficking and use of drugs at the border. Enforce the white Commune/Sangkat, areas free from drugs along the border of Cambodia. For the immediate terms, province/ municipality next to the border are requested to select one commune per province to implement the plan for white village and Commune/Sangkat, areas free from drugs. In addition, cooperation with national and international organizations shall be continued to support the work to combat drugs in Cambodia.

- Continue to strengthen drug control through seaport and at the airport of Sihanouk Province.

6. International cooperation with countries in the region and development partners:

- Continue to improve international cooperation with different countries to seek support for drug control activities, especially to strengthen cooperation with national and international partner organisations to mobilise funding support for community-based

treatment efforts provided to addicted drug users.

- Continue to mobilise support from different countries and development partners, particularly UNODC, to support drug control activities in Cambodia through the implementation of activities among countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

- Continue to strengthen and expand the implementation of obligation as stated in agreements and international drug conventions and establish international cooperation with different countries to mobilise support for drug control activities.

7. Strengthen drug control mechanisms at national and subnational levels:

- Strengthen the mechanism to implement multi-sectoral efforts to combat drugs at municipal/provincial, district/Khan, commune/Sangkat levels to ensure good results and sustainability through reporting and assessment of drug situation, etc.

- Continue to implement policies to provide incentive for organisation and individual with outstanding performance in combating drugs including those who are outstanding in awareness raising activities, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement, and those who are outstanding in providing encouragement for drug users, their families and communities.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

- Continue to promote enforcement of laws related to drug control more effectively.
- Continue to strengthen ownership and high responsibility of drug control mechanisms both at national and subnational levels, and to contribute actively in the Royal Government's safe village/Commune policy.
- Continue to implement policies and provide incentive for institutions/individuals with genuine achievements in combating drugs at ministries/institutions and relevant organisations, including private sector.
- NACD secretariat team and the management team of safe Village/Commune policy shall include member of committee in charge of White Village, Commune/Sangkat, committee, areas free from drug and committee to support the treatment and rehabilitation of addicted drug users at Commune/Sangkat into steering committee and implement the safe Village/Commune policy at all levels.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Policy and Implementation Programme in Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

1. Drug abuse is a very complex issue and had become the main concern of Malaysian government since 1983. In that year, the government had launched a national campaign which was called “Drugs Are Number One Enemy”. At that time, drug addiction was not only regarded as a social problem but also a threat to national security. Since then, Malaysia is committed to address the drug problem through a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach.

THE 2017 NATIONAL DRUG POLICY (NDP 2017)

2. In an effort to deal with the developments of the drug situation and acknowledge the implementation of evidence-based approaches, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Anti-Drugs Agency conducted a review of the NDP 2017 which was approved by the Cabinet in March 2017.

3. NDP 2017 is an extensive policy that incorporates both demand and supply reduction approaches and underlines the five thrusts i.e. Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Law Enforcement, Harm Reduction; and International Cooperation.

4. It now serves as a guideline for all relevant governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and various community sectors involved in tackling drug-related issues. It provides a more holistic and comprehensive approach in reducing the supply and demand of drugs so as to significantly reduce the drug threats and protect Malaysia from the scourge of drug.

5. In order to make sure that it can be applied in all efforts taken by the government agencies, the private sectors, and non-governmental organisations, the NDP 2017 has outlined its Plan of Action to Curb against Drugs 2017 – 2022. This 5 years national plan entails the commitment of 9 ministries and 15 governmental agencies accordingly, through which 23 strategies and 90 initiatives were determined extensively.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS ON DRUG MATTERS

6. Along with the NDP 2017, Malaysia's continuous effort in combating drugs is also evidenced in its national legislations that tackle the drug problem in a multi-angle approach. The four national legislations which are listed below empower the government to

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

take strict measures against all kinds of drug trafficking activities in the country:

- Dangerous Drugs Act 1952;
- Poisons Act 1952;
- Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985;
- Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988; and
- Drug Dependents (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983.

Amendment of Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (DDA 1952) – Drug Trafficking

7. Prior to the amendment to sec. 39B DDA 1952 in 2017, drug trafficking is punishable by death at which a person found guilty of the offence will be punished with mandatory death penalty. The amendment was approved by the parliament in November 2017 and enforced since 15 March 2018. The new provisions of Section 39B DDA 1952 did not entirely remove the death penalty. The court is allowed to use its discretion to impose a sentence (life imprisonment and not less than 15 strokes), other than the death penalty. This is in tandem with the principle of sentencing. Although the court has discretionary power, it is subject to certain conditions before the court exercise its sentencing discretion.

8. The most important condition is, to satisfy the court beyond reasonable doubt that the accused had assisted the enforcement agencies in disrupting drug trafficking in Malaysia or outside of Malaysia. The amendment should be viewed as a proactive measure for the government to ensure justice for those who should not be subjected to the mandatory death sentence. With this amendment, the accused has an option as to whether to cooperate with the enforcement agencies to get a lighter sentence or vice versa.

9. In recent developments Malaysia is reviewing its stance on the abolishment of death penalty under the purview of the Prime Minister's Office and the Attorney-General Office.

DEMAND REDUCTION APPROACHES

Treatment and Rehabilitation

10. There are three (3) scopes of services in treatment and rehabilitation, namely:

- Institutional-based;
- Community-based; and
- Aftercare programmes.

11. Within the scope of treatment and rehabilitation, Malaysia implements various evidence-based programmes and best practices. The objectives of these programmes are to decrease relapse rate, to provide job opportunities for recovering drug dependents,

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

to reduce community stigma and to collaborate with the private sector in the implementation of programmes. Some of those recently implemented programmes are:

- Psycho-spiritual module - Islamic Spiritual Rehabilitation Approach (ISRA). It is a psychological and spiritual treatment method based on divine sources and Islamic practices. This module is based on the guidance from the Holy Qur'an and the Sayings of Prophet Muhammad SAW. This module is implemented in 8 drug rehabilitation centres and has shown some positive results in clients' recovery. The number of clients successfully completed this program since 2015 until 2018 were 2,458.

- Cure & Care Recovery Index (CCRI). This is a recovery tool which is used to measure the recovery rates among those who are under supervisory programme in the community. 8,449 clients (55%) out of 15,249 people under the supervisory programme in community have succeeded in maintaining their recovery in 2018. The assessment is based on 6 important recovery index such as the use of drugs, social support and networking, employment, social functions, readiness to change and psychological and mental wellbeing.

- Adolescent Education Access Programme. NADA is working very closely with the Ministry of Education in the notion of providing the young clients with formal education whilst they are attending treatment

and rehabilitation in the drug rehabilitation centres. This initiative gives young clients a second chance to continue their education and enroll into some important national standard examination in the secondary school. There were 80 clients involved in this programme.

Prevention

12. Preventive Drug Education are carried out within four settings such as Family, School and Higher Learning Institution, Community and Workplace. There are three strategies that have been implemented i.e. focused – prevention programme, volunteerism and public awareness. The main objective of prevention is to spread and educate people about the ill-effects of drugs. On top of that, prevention intervention also aims to prevent the use of drugs among the high risk youth in the future.

13. Malaysia implements various evidence-based programmes and best practices. Some of the recently implemented programmes are as following:

- All-out Campaign against Drugs. This campaign has started in 2016 in which only 14 high risk areas were involved. In 2018, the campaign of 3.0 version has covered 178 high risk areas throughout the country. There are 6 strategies used in the campaign such as following:

- a.) Omnipresence: among the activities are - walking message, static messages,

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

walkabout, to make NADA visible and people can have access to our services.

b.) Ops Nest: is done with Police Department.

c.) Detect and detention of people who use drugs.

d.) Publicity and Promotion through mass media.

e.) Using local icons as spokespersons. (youth leader, sportsmen, local professionals, religious leaders)

f.) Community Empowerment.

• NADA has strengthened its strategic partnership with the Ministry of Education. In 2018, several engagements have resulted in better and organised co-operation between the two important departments. Ministry of Education has played a vital role in drug

prevention programmes and activities among the students, teachers and parents association.

NADA also provided trainings for the school counsellors and district anti-drugs officers in the Ministry of Education through Certified Prevention Education (CPE). Some of the officers also attended the Universal Prevention Curriculum for National Trainers together with NADA officers.

• NADA has embarked a new co-operation with Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG). This strategic co-operation has expanded the commitment of MAG to establish itself as a drug free workplace by implementing a drug free policy in all its subsidiaries such Malaysia Airline Berhad (MAB), Firefly, MASwings, MAB Kargo, Aero Darat Services Sdn.Bhd, MAB Engineering dan MAB Academy.

Poster of All-out Campaign against Drugs



Among the activities implemented in PDH

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



Enforcement

14. There are four main enforcement activities, namely:

- Action based on the reports of drug addiction and drug abuse received through public complaints;
- Operations for the detections and detentions of drug dependents;
- Managing Individuals Under Supervision (IUS);
- Investigation and Prosecution of cases under Drug Dependent Act (Treatment and Rehabilitation) 1983

15. The objectives of the enforcement approaches are:

- Detection and detention of drug dependents for treatment and rehabilitation according to existing law;
- Maintaining public security and safety;
- To offer drug dependents opportunity to undergo treatment and rehabilitation;

- Getting cooperation from communities, local leaders and relevant agencies in combating drugs issues; and
- Detection and legal action against Individuals under Supervision for breach of provision.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2018

International Drug Talk Series

NADA in collaboration with the Centre for Drug research, Malaysia Science University has organised the International Drug Talk Series on 16 January 2018. The speaker invited was Professor Peter Reuter from School of Public Policy and the Department of Criminology, University of Maryland, USA. Prof. Reuter has delivered a talk titled, "What do we know about effective and humane drug control? Drawing lessons from the past two decades of global experience". A total of 180 representatives from various government agencies, universities and NGOs have

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

participated in this forum. The participants certainly benefitted from the talk given by Prof. Reuter, and the dialogue session that follows.

Fulbright Specialist Programme: Psychological Interventions for Addiction Problem

Fulbright Specialist Programme is a Fulbright programme sponsored by the Government of United States of America through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. The Fulbright programmes are offered all around the world with its objectives to help countries that need expertise and guidance from established researchers and professionals from the United State of America in various fields and backgrounds.

Taking this opportunity, Malaysia through NADA has implemented the first Fulbright Specialist Programme with a specific

project, Psychological Interventions for Addiction Problem in an effort to seek an expert assistance in to improvise the implementation of drug treatment and rehabilitation. Having Dr. Susan M. Esp from Boise University, Idaho, United State of America as the Fulbright Specialist for six (6) weeks, the objectives of this project are: To increase capacity building among anti-drugs workforce specifically treatment and rehabilitation as well as prevention intervention training; to upgrade treatment and prevention programmes in line with international standard and evident-based; and to establish relationship and cooperation between NADA and substance abuse professionals from the outside.

Among the findings from this programmes is a suggestion that NADA should explore the alternatives in drug user's screening and assessment with evident-based as some of the drugs users tend to experience co-occurring disorders.



The Fulbright Specialist is delivering a talk to officers from NADA and related agencies



Dialogue session with HIV Team Unit, Ministry of Health

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Drug Treatment Training for ASEAN Member States (DDTAMS)

As a Chairman of Treatment and Rehabilitation Working Group in ASOD Meeting, Malaysia has taken initiative to organise the Drug Treatment Training for ASEAN Member States on 29 July – 4 August 2018. 27 participants from six (6) ASEAN Member States involved in this training. Participants included representatives from various agencies such as National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA-Malaysia), State Education Department (Malaysia), Malaysia Prisons Department (Malaysia), Thanyarak Songkhla Hospital (Thailand), Central Narcotics Bureau (Singapore), Singapore Prison Service (Singapore), Drug Treatment Center of Quangninh Province (Vietnam), Thanh Da Drug Treatment & Rehabilitation Center (Vietnam), Narcotics Control Bureau (Brunei), National Narcotics Board (Indonesia).

This training aimed to enhance capacities of treatment practitioners on evidence-based interventions on substance use treatment and rehabilitation; updating knowledge and skills related to substance used treatment and rehabilitation; enhancing exchange of knowledge and experience as well as existing cooperation among ASEAN Member States in substance use treatment and rehabilitation; and facilitating and enhancing

the implementation of strategies and action lines related to treatment and rehabilitation as stated in ASEAN work Plan to Secure Communities.



The opening speech on the first day of DDTAMS



Group photo session in DDTAMS

Fulbright Specialist Programme: Developmental Approach in Preventive Drug Education

NADA has implemented the second Fulbright Specialist Programme with a project called Developmental Approach in Preventive Drug Education. The programme has taken

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

place for four (4) weeks, from 16 September to 13 October 2018. The expert consultant, Dr. Catherine Michele Hockaday was an experienced and professional trainer from the Iowa State University, United States of America, has shared her expertise and knowledge in human development and family studies. She is also specialised and served as Programme coordinator and Master Trainer for internationally recognised Strengthening Family Programme: For Parent and youth 10-14. This programme promotes cooperation including in sharing best practices, and enhance common determination to solve addiction problems. Among the objectives of the implementation if this Fulbright Specialist project are:

1. To assess/review the effectiveness of preventive drug education programme in NADA
2. To help develop effective, evidence-based preventive drug education program using developmental stage approach
3. To help develop a systematic monitoring and evaluation of preventive drug education program



The first day of Fulbright Specialist Programme: Developmental Approach in Preventive Drug Education - group photo session



Dr. Catherine held a Strengthening Family Programme workshop

HARM REDUCTION

16. Malaysia has implemented the harm reduction approach since 2005 primarily to reduce HIV infection among people who inject drug. People who inject drug are one of main key population for HIV infection in Malaysia. There are two (2) main components of harm reduction programmes, namely:

- Medication-assisted therapy (methadone, piloted in October 2005)

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

- Needle-syringe exchange programme (NSEP, piloted in February 2006)

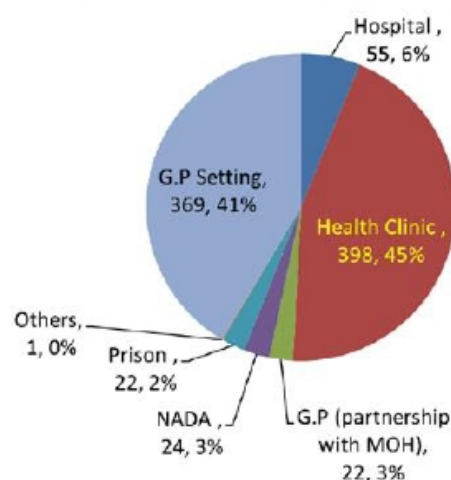
17. These approaches had been successful in reducing incidence rate of HIV infection in Malaysia. Due to overlapping implication of these approaches on drug addiction field, the programmes were up-scaled and enhanced to complement other demand reduction approach.

18. Malaysia has its sight set on the beginning of the end of AIDS in the country through the new National Strategic Plan on Ending AIDS for 2016 – 2030 including fast-track-treatment target of 90–90–90; with 90% of those living with HIV know their status, 90% living with HIV will receive antiretroviral treatment and 90% receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression. However, this programme is in the context of drug treatment aimed at minimising the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, and with a view to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use.

19. The programmes are implemented by government agencies as well as private clinics and non-government agencies. Breakdown of facilities that provide harm reduction services in 2017 are as the following:

- Medication-assisted therapy (methadone) (2017).

DST FACILITIES, MALAYSIA 2017



Total: 891 facilities (Government: 522 & Private GP: 369)

*DST-Drug Substitution Therapy

- Needle-syringe exchange programme (NSEP, 2017), 477 sites (325 NGO and 152 health clinics).

SUPPLY REDUCTION AND RELATED MATTERS

20. Drug trafficking is a problem that continues to plague the world including Malaysia. A threat to the social and economic structures, international drug trafficking syndicates act without restrictions in their criminal activities. The effects of illicit drugs activities and the associated problems have affected numerous countries of the world and it is found to be more prominent in the South East Asia due to its close proximity to the Golden Triangle.

21. In Malaysia, the Narcotics Crime Investigations Department (NCID) of the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) is the main agency for

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

the enforcement of drug laws. The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) is also involved in enforcing the drug laws and the task is carried out by its Narcotics Division. Additionally, the Pharmacy Enforcement Division (PED) of the Ministry of Health enforces the Poisons Act 1952 and its regulations and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and its regulations which controls the sale, import and export of dangerous drugs (narcotics), poisons (including psychotropic substances), precursors and essential chemicals.

22. The latest development of Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) drugs such as methamphetamine, which is the current drug of choice, resulted in the big demand and higher prices, not only locally but also in the global market. In addition, the country's geographical location has made it particularly attractive for the operation of international drug trafficking syndicates. As a result, IDTS have taken this opportunity to target Malaysia as a transshipment point. In response, NCID continues to monitor these illicit activities with active enforcement actions and joint

investigations with local authorities and international drug enforcement agencies. There are several initiatives that have been implemented to curb the supply of drugs nationally, namely;

- Active enforcement actions and joint operations with local authorities
- Cooperation from international drug enforcement agencies
- Improving security checks at Malaysian International Airports and the entry points around the country's border
- Numerous successes in operation contributing to the increased figure of seized drugs in 2017.
- Bilateral meetings, working group meetings and operational meetings are conducted in a timely manner in order to exchange vital information and intelligence on the activities of any international drug trafficking syndicate members
- Enforces the Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988 (DDFOP) Act 1988 to combat the illegal proceeds derived from illegal drugs activities.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Policy and Implementation Programme in The Philippines

Programmes on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Educating and empowering the people

Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) has a range of programmes and services to educate the public on the evils of dangerous drugs and



provide them with the necessary skills to protect themselves from its lures. These programmes are designed to cater to the needs of every sector of the society such as youths, parents, employers, workers, educators, and health professionals, among others. Some of these are as follows:

OPLAN SAGIP

This is an offshoot of the issuance of Board Regulation No. 4, Series of 2016 providing for the guidelines on handling voluntary surrender of drug users and institutionalisation of community-based treatment and rehabilitation.

Local government officials, programme implementers, and volunteers from faith-based groups and non-government organisations are trained on how to manage drug surrenderers and how to provide appropriate programmes or interventions.

Barkada Kontra Droga (Peer Group against Drugs)



This is a programme created to respond to issues on peer pressure as one of the primary reasons why people especially the youth abuse drugs. The negative connotations of “Barkada” or “Peer” are turned into a positive concept with the BKD programme. This group shall be composed of individuals who will serve as catalysts within their peer groups in advocating a healthy and drug-free lifestyle through involvement in positive and wholesome activities.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Campus Tour on Drug Prevention for Kids

This is a primary prevention activity for kids ages 7 to 10 designed to inculcate the skills of saying “No” as a firm foundation for preventive drug education.



Drug Abuse Prevention Seminar in the Workplace

Pursuant to Article V Section 47 of RA 9165 which mandates the DDB with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to develop, promote and implement a national drug abuse prevention programme in the workplace, the DDB conducts seminars in different private organisations and government agencies to increase workers’ awareness on the detrimental effects of drug abuse in the workplace and ways to prevent those.

Drug Abuse Prevention Seminar for Transport Groups

A one-day seminar for public transport groups designed to ensure the safety and well-being of commuters and pedestrians by having drug-free transport personnel such as drivers and conductors.

Seminar Workshop on the Dangerous Drugs Law for Judges, Prosecutors and Law Enforcers

This is a three-day seminar-workshop implemented by the DDB in collaboration with the Philippine Judicial Academy (PhiJA) wherein judges, prosecutors and law enforcers are convened to address the problems on dismissal of drug cases and operations lapses.



Drug Abuse Prevention for Faith-based Organizations

The religious sector is also tapped in the fight against drugs. The DDB believes that spirituality works as an intervention strategy among drug dependents and as a powerful weapon on drug abuse prevention.

Continuing consultative meetings with leaders of Faith-Based organisations are also conducted to seek their help in providing interventions to people who use drugs who voluntarily surrendered to authorities.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Continuing Seminar on Anti-Illegal Drug Operations and Investigation

The DDB also facilitates training for drug law enforcement officers of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Philippine National Police (PNP), to enhance their skills in the conduct of anti-drug operations. Seminars were organised benefitting law enforcement officers.

Training of Trainers on the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) on Substance Use

The UPC was designed to meet the current demand for a comprehensive training package in the field of drug use prevention, rooted on evidence-based principles.

It is founded on the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention that was developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The UPC is written by prevention researchers who are specialists in drug use epidemiology and evaluation, and in prevention strategies that are delivered to families; within schools, the workplace and the community; and through the media and public policies.

Filipino prevention practitioners are among the first beneficiaries of this programme. Some are even recognized internationally as trainers and are helping the DDB train more prevention workers on the Universal Prevention Curriculum.

In partnership with the Colombo Plan and the International Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE). To date, DDB was able to train 337 drug abuse prevention workers.



Providing support to treatment and rehabilitation centres

The DDB provides financial assistance for the construction, operation and maintenance of Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (TRC). There was a number total of requests granted for the construction/repair of TRCs, requests for the daily subsistence of patients, and requests for the construction of community-based TRCs.

Assisting drug dependents and their families in the filing of petitions for admission in treatment and rehabilitation centers

As set forth by law, a court order must be secured for a drug dependent to be allowed admission in treatment and rehabilitation centres. The DDB provides assistance in the filing of petition for confinement of drug dependents.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Enlisting more and more Filipinos in the anti-drug fight

The DDB continues to conduct advocacy programmes and information campaigns to increase public consciousness



on the evils of illegal drugs and elicit their support in the campaign against drugs.

“REHABINASYON” – A Unified Campaign against Illegal Drugs

Last June, 2018, the DDB, with all the members of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD), held a public forum on the unified campaign against illegal drugs.

Through the campaign dubbed as “REHABINASYON”, a combination of rehabilitation and nation, the government takes on a single voice of hope towards the realization of a drug-free nation. This campaign features three components - #RealNumbers, #RealSolutions and #RealStories and will focus on the whole government approach to strengthen initiatives in information dissemination, treatment and rehabilitation and alternative development.



Celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking or IDADAIT

The DDB spearheaded the IDADAIT celebrations on June 26, 2017 and on June 26, 2018. With the help of the Local Government of Bacolod City and Compostela Valley, respectively, the celebration was participated in by an estimated total of 22,000 anti-drug advocates.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Policy and Implementation Programme in Singapore: Social Media Campaigns

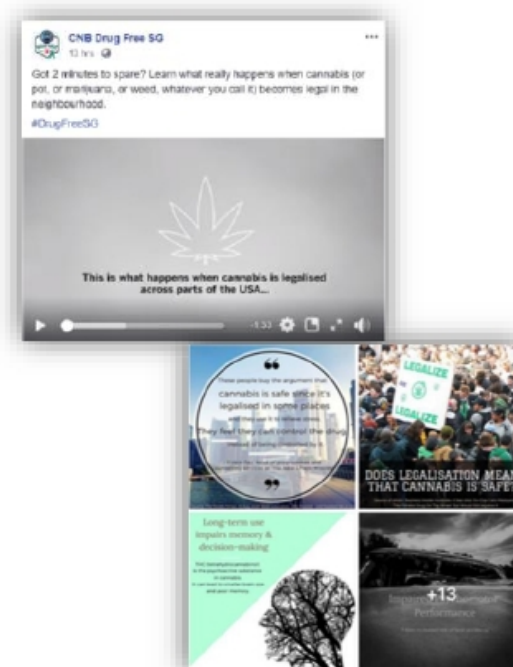
Between November 2017 and February 2018, CNB produced three sets of infographics and digital visual displays featuring our Anti-Drug Advocates. The infographics and digital visual displays were published on social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram), on websites that are popular with youths, as well as at selected bus-stop shelters.



#TheStruggle social media series featured stories from ex-drug offenders to emphasise the negative impact and consequences of drug abuse. The videos conveyed messages on the harms of drug abuse through first-person accounts and heartfelt sharing from ex-drug offenders.



CNB produced videos and infographics which addressed misconceptions about cannabis. These were featured on the CNB.DrugFreeSG social media handles to reach out to a wide audience.

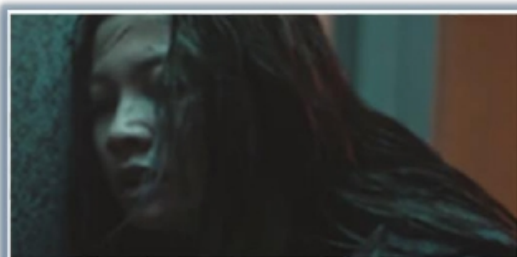


ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Online Videos on the Harms of Drug Abuse

Between December 2017 and February 2018, CNB launched a series of three videos to bring home the message on the harms that drug abuse cause to abusers and other silent victims.

- **“Unattended”** is a Malay language short film told from the point of view of the children of drug abusers, and highlighted the impact of drug abuse on the young and vulnerable.
- **“Chasing Butterflies”** followed a protagonist as she spiralled downwards from abusing ‘ICE’ (or methamphetamine).
- In **“Enoch”**, Enoch Teo revealed his troubled past with gangs and drugs, and shared an emotional moment as he spoke of the loss of a close friend to drugs. Enoch is now the director and co-founder of Garcons – a restaurant chain serving French cuisine, and is committed to guiding troubled youths in finding their passion.

Anti-Drug Video Competition 2018

Held between February and June 2018, the Anti-Drug Video Competition offered youths interested in video production an avenue to creatively express their understanding of the harms of drugs. A workshop was also held in March 2018 for participants to learn filmmaking techniques from a professional videographer before the competition. As a post-competition publicity, a Say #Slay social media contest was held in August 2018 to



showcase the winning entries and raise public awareness.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Collaboration with Institutes of Higher Learning for Preventive Drug Education (PDE) videos

CNB collaborated with ITE College West's Digital Audio and Video Production students to produce a PDE video as part of their final year project. Through the students' perspective, the short film, titled "Dian", emphasises how one can always make the right choice to stay away from drug abuse. The video is targeted to be launched on CNB's social media platforms in 2019.



Community Roadshow @ Bedok

CNB's first Community Roadshow was held at Bedok Town Square on 7 and 8 April 2018 as the start of efforts to establish a strong drug-free presence in the heartlands and actively engage the community. The event featured a series of fun and interactive activities to promote adoption of a drug-free lifestyle and garner support for the Drug-Free Singapore movement. More than 3,000 members of the public attended the roadshow.



PDE illustrated book for young children

CNB collaborated with young illustrators, Ms. Jillian Khoo and Ms. Teh Yu Yin, who are alumni of Nanyang Polytechnic, to conceptualise, design and produce an illustrated book for children between 7 and 9 years old. Titled "Captain Drug Buster vs Dr. Wacko: The Final Showdown", the book is a useful anti-drug resource for parents to better engage their



young children on the topic of drugs, and can also serve to help educate them on the harms of drug abuse and how to avoid getting involved with drugs. The book was launched in December 2018 and is available for loan from public libraries. It will be distributed to all primary

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

school libraries in early 2019. An online version is also available on the CNB corporate website.

PDE Virtual Reality Simulation – Paranoia

Paranoia, a single-user Virtual Reality (VR) simulation, was developed in collaboration with Nanyang Polytechnic's School of Interactive and Digital Media, and officially launched at the CNB Workplan Seminar in May 2018. The simulation replicated the physiological effects of methamphetamine (or 'ICE') abuse. The simulation sought to offer youths a slice of 'reality' at how drug abuse can adversely impact their well-being, and the simulated physiological effects included paranoia, hallucination, and a loss of balance and co-ordination. Two scenarios with different endings were developed for the simulation, to enhance gameplay.



3D Anti-Drug Lift Stickers at Institutes of Higher Learning

In order to increase anti-drug awareness in educational institutions and public spaces, CNB produced 3D anti-drug lift stickers to dispel the myth that drugs bring about a sense of euphoria. The stickers highlight how drugs can adversely affect one's perception of reality. Users see a calming visual of clouds as they stand in front of the lift exterior, but step onto a skyscraper's ledge upon entering the lift, which gives them the illusion that they are falling. The lift stickers were installed in eight educational institutions between May and December 2018, and in three public shopping malls in early 2019.



Anti-drug Ambassador Activity (AAA) booklet

- The Anti-drug Ambassador Activity (AAA), in the form of an activity booklet, serves to impart anti-drug messages to children aged between 10 and 12. Distributed annually to primary schools and community organisations, the booklet has interactive and self-exploratory activities designed to

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

engage and equip the children with relevant knowledge on the dangers of drug abuse. In 2018, a total of 113 schools/organisations and close to 44,500 children took part in these activities.



- An anti-drug montage competition was also held alongside the activities for the children to show their strong support for the Drug-Free Singapore cause through their artwork.

Youth Anti-Drug Advocate (ADA) Programme

- The ADA programme identifies and equips youth advocates with the knowledge to spread anti-drug messages. Advocates are encouraged to speak out on the anti-drug cause and to generate support within their own circle of friends as well as other youths. Youths who sign up will gain an understanding of Singapore's drug policies and the harmful effects of drugs. As part of the experiential learning, they will also visit halfway houses and drug rehabilitation centres to hear first-hand accounts of the harms of drug abuse.

- Ms. Tan Ruo Lin, one of the ADAs, conceptualised the design of an anti-drug water bottle label. She led in the distribution of 300 exam welfare packs in NUS in November 2018 which included water bottles with the anti-drug label. This initiative sought to remind students to adopt a drug-free lifestyle amidst the stressful exam period.



- In March 2018, Ms. Nur Afikah Norazmi became our first youth delegate to represent Singapore at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Youth Forum. She was selected for her passion and dedication in advocating for a drug-free Singapore. Afikah continues to reach out to her peers to join the fight against drug abuse and has published an anti-drug article on the Youth Initiative Magazine.



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

United Against Drugs Coalition (UADC)

The United Against Drugs Coalition (UADC) continues to be an effective anti-drug alliance that rallies support from local firms to raise awareness on drug abuse in our society. There are now more than 60 organisations in the UADC.

**Anti-Drug Abuse Advocacy (A3) Network**

The Anti-Drug Abuse Advocacy (A3) Network was established by the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) in 2016. It brings together individuals who are passionate about keeping Singapore drug-free, and provides them with advocacy training and updates on



local drug issues and trends. This allows them to stay updated on the local drug situation, and facilitates their efforts in garnering support

for a drug-free Singapore. There are now more than 550 A3 advocates.

Dadah Itu Haram Campaign

The Dadah Itu Haram (DIH) campaign is a ground-up community initiative which supports the anti-drug efforts within the Muslim community. It aims to rally the Muslim community and strengthen its resilience against the harms of drug abuse. The campaign has made significant strides since its launch in April 2017. Around 300 volunteers and advocates have come on board and they have reached out to over 100,000 people. Campaign partners have also demonstrated strong support in helping to spread the anti-drug message to various segments of the community. In November 2018, cycling group Flowriders and Al-Mawaddah mosque collaborated to organise cycling events to encourage students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and to stay away from drugs.

**Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign (ADAC)**

- The Year 2018 marked CNB's 23rd ADAC, organised in conjunction with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June every year.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

• DrugFreeSG Light-Up event

- For the very first time, iconic landmarks and buildings in the Marina Bay vicinity as well as HarbourFront (Sentosa) were illuminated in green and white on 26 June 2018 in support of the anti-drug cause. Donned in the colours of the Anti-Drug Ribbon, the inaugural DrugFreeSG Light-Up was held in conjunction with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, as a symbolic act of our united stand against drugs in Singapore. A flash mob featuring 30 dancers and a roving social media contest “#illumin8” held in the vicinity also encouraged the public to come forth and pledge for a drug-free Singapore.

**• DanceWorks! Competition**

- Held in conjunction with the annual ADAC, DanceWorks! is an anti-drug dance competition that provides a vibrant platform for youths to spread anti-drug messages through dance. The 20th edition of DanceWorks! was held at Clarke Quay over two days on 7 and 8 July 2018. The competition aimed to encourage youths to lead a drug-free lifestyle through dance, and was open to youths from schools and community organisations in Singapore. Participants were encouraged to incorporate anti-drug messages to develop a constructive storyline for their performance. Danceworks! 2018 also saw the continuation of the ‘2 vs 2 All Styles Battle’ section, which promotes anti-drug awareness to older youths. It featured a duo dance battle format, requiring older participants to pair with younger ones for the competition.



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Launch of Drug-Free Zone (DFZ) decals

In January 2018, CNB collaborated with Assumption Pathway School to conduct a design competition for their Year 3 and 4 Publications CCA students to design a decal for the Drug-Free Zone Campaign. The campaign aimed to promote the anti-drug message to students, to develop students' potential and to publicise their works to United Against Drugs Coalition partners and members of the public. The decal was launched at CNB's first Community Roadshow in Bedok.

ASEAN PDE Portal

At the 37th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) meeting in August 2016, CNB mooted the idea of developing a PDE resource portal to facilitate the sharing of resources and best practices in content development and delivery among the ASEAN PDE community. The project could also help member countries with a less advanced media industry to develop PDE resources, and achieve cost savings in design and planning. On 19 February 2018, the ASEAN PDE Portal [www.aseanpde.org] was fully deployed online as a proof-of-concept with curated PDE resources from CNB and Thailand. CNB will continue to solicit contributions from member countries for the portal, so that they can build on one another's experiences to collectively strengthen the PDE efforts within ASEAN.



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Policy and Implementation Programme in Viet Nam

Viet Nam commemorated the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the National Action Month on Drug Prevention and Control in 16 June 2018 in Hanoi. H.E. Vu Duc Dam, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the National Committee for HIV/AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution Prevention and Control and H.E. Kamal Malhotra, the United Nations Resident Coordinator joined leaders from related ministries including Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of Justice. Other mass organizations were presented including civil society organizations, the media and hundreds of polices and students from the Hanoi National University.

The theme of 2018's International Day is "Listen First – Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and

safe". Speaking at the event, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr. Kamal Malhotra, urged everybody to "listen to the children and youth with warmth and care, provide them with skills and opportunities, and invite them to be part of the solution." He also expressed wish that "the government, ministries, communities, families, schools, civil society, businesses, religious organizations, the media and the entire society continue doing everything possible to raise awareness of the harm caused by illicit drugs and provide support for people who are affected by drug use and dependence." He reiterated that "those who suffer from drug use dependence can be supported through evidence-based, voluntary treatment. Punishing or stigmatising people who use drugs is not a solution."



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018



The year of 2018's national action month, themed "Protecting children and young people from drug danger", aims to intensify coordination between related ministries, sectors and offices to raise public awareness on drug abuse, drug-related crimes and their negative impacts, and increase the community's responsibility for the fight against drugs. Speaking at the event, Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam stressed that protecting the public, especially the youths from drug use and dependence is an important and urgent task that requires synchronous and effective measures. He also asked that each and every youth will become an anti-drug advocate and will say NO to drug possession and use.

At the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problems in 2016, member states, including Viet Nam, unanimously agreed on an outcome document containing over 100 recommendations for

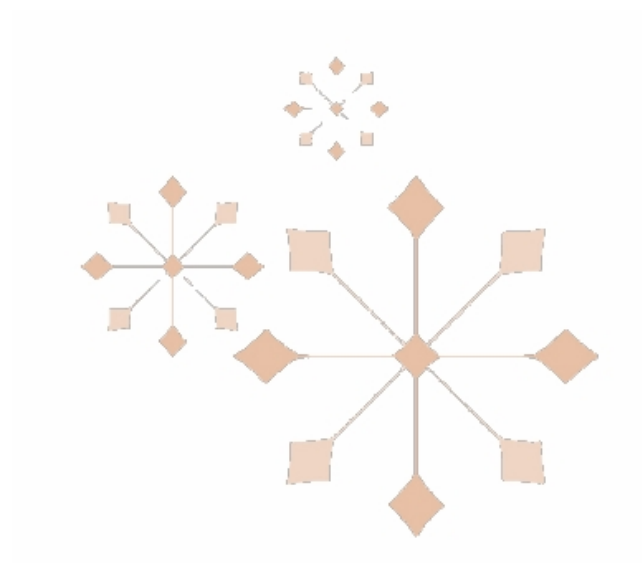
implementing balanced, comprehensive and integrated approaches to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem. Viet Nam has made commitments to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages as well as its target 3.5 which is focused on strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

The United Nations in Viet Nam in general and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) in particular have been working closely with the Government of Viet Nam in various areas from developing policy to finding legal and sound medical ways to address the challenge of illicit drug dependence.

(Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6265999/>)

ANNEX

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

The Philippines

Through the quasi-judicial function of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), the following New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) have already been classified as dangerous drugs. However, these substances remain to be classified as NPS under international standards.

1. Ketamine (Board Regulation No. 3 series of 2005);
2. Benzylpiperazine or BZP (Board Regulation No. 5, series of 2009);
3. Salvia Divinorum (Board Regulation No. 3, series of 2013);
4. Piperazine (Board Regulation No. 6, series of 2016);
5. Synthetic cathinones like Methylethcathinone (Board Regulation No.4, series 2018);
6. Apinaca or synthetic cannabinoid, commonly known as Flakka (Board Regulation No. 5, series of 2018).

Singapore

Similar to the global NPS situation, synthetic cannabis and synthetic cathinones are the most commonly abused in Singapore. To address the challenges that NPS poses, Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) of Singapore works on the enforcement, technological and legislative front. While sustained enforcement efforts are made to target NPS abuse, CNB also works closely with the Health Science Authority (HSA) to enhance NPS detection capabilities. In 2013, CNB amended the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) and adopted two approaches to deal with the increasing types of NPS.

Legislative Approach

The first amendment was the introduction of the generic listing approach. Under this approach, the parent molecular structure and specific substitution patterns of that molecule are described. This allows for a large number of NPS which share the same core structure to be rendered as controlled drugs. Figures 1 and 2 refer. This generic listing is in addition to the individual listing method used to describe unique NPS.

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

Figure 1: Example of a generic listing in the MDA

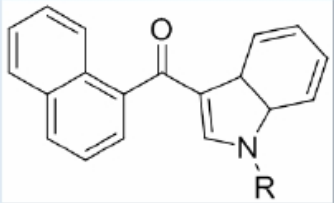
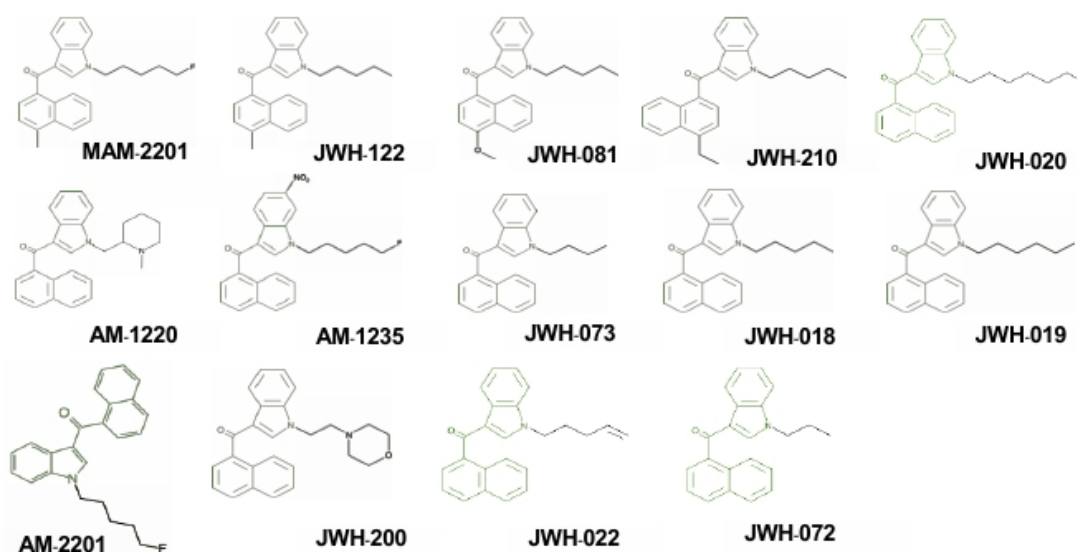
Class	Description at Para 8 Part I First Schedule
 Naphthoylindoles	8. Any compound containing a 3-(1-naphthoyl) indole structure with substitution at the nitrogen atom of the indole ring by an alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, 1- (N-methyl-2-piperidyl) methyl or 2-(4-morpholinyl) ethyl group, and any derivatives of the above compounds containing hydroxyl and/or carboxylic acid groups, whether or not further substituted in the indole ring to any extent and whether or not substituted in the naphthyl ring to any extent, including any salt or stereoisomeric form of the above compounds or derivatives, and any preparation or product containing the above compounds or derivatives.

Figure 2: Example of NPS controlled under the naphthoylindoles group



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

The second amendment was the introduction of the Fifth Schedule in the MDA which allows for the temporary listing of NPS for a period of one year. The Fifth Schedule allows CNB to seize temporarily listed NPS to restrict the circulation of such substances. However, the trafficking, manufacture, import, export, possession or consumption of these substances will not constitute an offence under the MDA. While the NPS are under the temporary listing, industrial consultation will take place to determine if there are licit industrial or medical uses for these substances, and whether they should be placed on the permanent listing. This provides a way for CNB to react to substances which have emerged in the market.

Since 1 May 2013, a number of NPS have been listed under the Fifth Schedule of the MDA as temporarily listed drugs, as well as under the First Schedule as controlled drugs. 31 NPS were listed under the First Schedule in 2018 as Class A controlled drugs and 5 were listed in 2017. 5 NPS were also listed under the Fifth Schedule in 2018. As of 1 May 2019, there were 12 generic groups of NPS, and 120 individually listed NPS which are considered as Class A controlled drugs.

Viet Nam

Three new NPS uncovered in Viet Nam

1. N-Ethylpentylone:

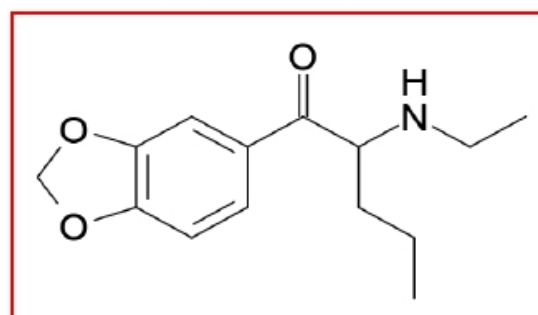
* **General characteristic:** Round, pink cylindrical tablets, with the symbol of Mitsubishi submerged on one of the tablet, average tablet weight 0.195 gramme.



Photo 1: Tablets contains N-Ethylpentylone

* **Chemical characteristics:**

- Number CAS: 17763-02-9
- Name: N-Ethylpentylone
- Scientific name: (1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(ethylamino) pentan -1-one)
- Molecular formula: $C_{14}H_{19}NO_3$
- Molecular weight: 249,31g/mol
- Structural formula:



ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

2. 5F-MDMB-PICA:

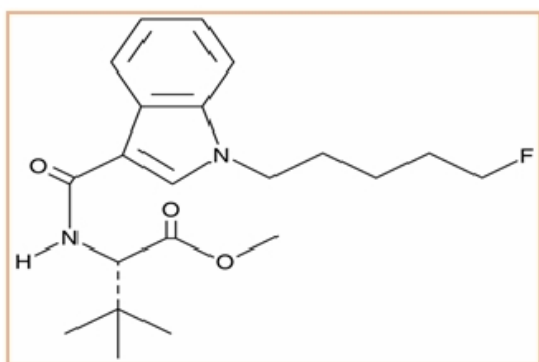
* **General characteristic:** Fibrous dried plants are contained in a silver plastic package, with KENT Tobacco text on the outside.



Photo 2: Fibrous dried plants are contained 5F-MDMB-PICA

* Chemical Characteristics:

- Number CAS: 1971007-88-1
- Name: 5F-MDMB-PICA
- Scientific name: (N-[[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]carbonyl]-3-methyl-L-valine, methyl ester)
- Molecular weight: 376,46g/mol
- Molecular formula: $C_{21}H_{29}FN_2O_3$
- Molecular structure:



3. FUB - 144:

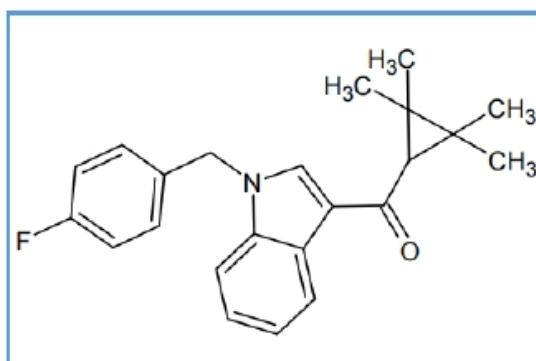
* **General characteristics:** Shredded dried plants are stored in black plastic, with AZTEC text on the outside.



Photo 3: Shredded dried plants contains FUB - 144

* Chemical characteristics:

- Number CAS: N/A
- Name: FUB - 144 or FUB - UR - 144
- Science name: [1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indol-3-yl](2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl) methanone
- Molecular weight: 349,44 g/mol.
- Molecular formula: $C_{23}H_{24}FNO$.
- Molecular structure:



Source: Drugs Forensic Center, The Science Forensic Institute, Ministry of Public Security

ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2018

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36. Asst.Prof.Dr.Apinun Aramratana	Thailand
37. Ms. Rachanikorn Sarasiri	Thailand
38. Ms. Chuanpit Choomwattana	Thailand
39. Mr. Sithisak Kalayanamitr	Thailand
40. Mr. Kriengkrai Peungchuer	Thailand
41. Dr. Poonrut Leeyatikul	Thailand
42. Mrs. Jairat Jaturapataraporn	Thailand
43. Mr. Veeradech Saenvandee	Thailand
44. Ms. Sirima Supalaksana	Thailand
45. Ms. Warakorn Jungjanlong	Thailand
46. Mrs. Niramol Charoenvorakiet	Thailand
47. Ms. Varistha Borkird	Thailand
48. Ms. Warangkana Nopparit	Thailand
49. Ms. Weleeporn Simtaiyin	Thailand
50. Ms. Pimchanok Rattamongkol	Thailand
51. Mr. Narasak Sittichoom	Thailand
52. Ms. Kanittha Charoenwong	Thailand

