ASEAN DRUG MONITORING REPORT 2026



ASEAN-NARCO
ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center

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FOREWORD

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report (ADM Report) 2026 marks the eleventh publication of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN), following the launch of the first ADM Report in 2016 during the 37th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. Since then, the ADM Report has been published annually and has become an important regional mechanism under ASEAN-NARCO for collecting, sharing, and analyzing drug-related data among ASEAN Member States.

The ADM Report provides a comprehensive overview of drug demand and drug supply in the ASEAN region. It covers key areas such as drug treatment, drug seizures, arrests, precursor chemicals, new psychoactive substances, research, policy measures, and drug control programmes implemented by ASEAN Member States. Data submitted through the ADM Report System are reviewed, analyzed, and interpreted to provide evidence-based information for regional monitoring, early warning, and strategic planning.

Beginning with the 2026 edition, the report title has been adjusted to reflect the year of publication, while the analysis continues to be based on data from the preceding calendar year. Accordingly, the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2026 presents and analyzes the regional drug situation based on 2025 data. This adjustment is intended to make the report more timely, relevant, and useful for monitoring emerging drug trends, supporting early warning, and informing policy decisions among ASEAN Member States. The 2026 report also reflects an important milestone for ASEAN and the ADMN, as Timor-Leste has been welcomed as a new member of ASEAN and the ADMN. It is expected that data from Timor-Leste will be included in the next ADM Report of 2027.

After more than a decade of implementation, the ADM is moving beyond monitoring toward stronger anticipation and early warning, enabling ASEAN Member States to better understand current trends and prepare for future drug threats. The 2025 data presented in this report show a continued rise in drug demand across ASEAN. The treatment rate for drug-related disorders reached 126.3 per 100,000 population, increasing sharply from 40.1 per 100,000 population in 2015. In total, 871,403 individuals received treatment for substance use disorders in 2025, representing the highest number ever recorded in the history of the ADMN.

Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) remained the predominant drug category among treatment records classified by primary drug type in 2025, accounting for 56.05% of classified cases. Opiates and opioids accounted for 14.99%, followed by cannabis at 3.01% and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) at 1.76%. Other substances and polydrug use together represented 23.69% of classified treatment records. These findings confirm that ATS continues to be the main substance category represented in treatment data, while polydrug

use and emerging substances remain important challenges for public health and treatment systems.

At the same time, supply-side indicators also point to an increasingly active and resilient drug market across the region. Total drug seizures in ASEAN increased sharply to 1,210 metric tons in 2025, more than double the 2024 figure (541.2 tons). A total of 560,192 drug cases and 620,747 offenders were reported. Cannabis accounted for the largest share of total seized weight at 55.2%, reflecting the continued movement of plant-based drugs across borders. However, ATS remained the dominant synthetic drug threat in the region. ATS seizures increased from 239 metric tons in 2024 to 397 metric tons in 2025, accounting for 32.8% of total seizures. Methamphetamine tablets and crystalline methamphetamine together represented 95.7% of all ATS seizures by weight. The report also notes continuing concerns over opiates and opioids, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), ketamine, other substances, precursor chemicals, and polydrug use. Although some categories showed a decline in seizure volume compared with the previous year, their evolving patterns require continued attention, particularly as criminal networks adapt their methods of production, trafficking, and distribution.

The ADMN meetings in 2026 provided an important platform for ASEAN Member States to review the 2025 drug situation, follow up on data submissions, and discuss key directions for improving the ADM mechanism. Singapore hosted the 20th ADMN Meeting online on 31 March 2026 to review the overall drug situation in 2025 for the formulation of the ADM Report 2026 and to follow up on data submissions through the ADM Report System. During the meeting, three working groups on Supply, Demand, and Data Management were convened to discuss practical recommendations for strengthening the implementation of the ADM. Thailand subsequently hosted the 21st ADMN Meeting online on 1 July 2026. The meeting provided an opportunity for ASEAN Member States to share relevant data and updates for the first half of 2026, covering the period from January to June. It also considered the draft Chapters 1 and 2 of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2026, particularly the regional overview and key analytical findings drawn from the 2025 data. Through these discussions, the ADM data were not only used to describe past trends, but also to identify strategic signals that could help ASEAN Member States anticipate future drug threats. Based on the analysis of the 2025 drug situation and the data submitted through the ADM Report System, Assoc.Prof. Manop Kanato, Ph.D., ADM Technical Advisor, observed that the ADM data projected six strategic signals shaping the drug situation in ASEAN:

Signal 1: ASEAN has entered the Synthetic Drug Era.

Signal 2: Treatment demand and drug seizures are rising simultaneously.

Signal 3: Crystal methamphetamine is rapidly expanding across ASEAN.

Signal 4: Polydrug use is on the rise.

Signal 5: Criminal networks are becoming more efficient.

Signal 6: ASEAN must prepare for the next wave of drug threats.

These six strategic signals require close attention from policymakers, public health leaders, and law enforcement authorities across ASEAN Member States. They clearly show that ASEAN must act on the evidence provided by the ADM data before emerging trends become more serious challenges. The ADM is therefore not merely a record of past trends, but a strategic tool for monitoring current developments, anticipating future threats, and supporting more timely and coordinated drug control responses. The full presentation on the six strategic signals is included as an annex to this report. The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2026 is scheduled to be launched during the 47th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD), hosted by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Thailand, from 3 to 6 August 2026 via video conference. Thailand, as the coordinator of ASEAN-NARCO and the ASEAN Drug Monitoring (ADM) mechanism, wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the ADMN Teams of ASEAN Member States, ASOD Leaders, ASEAN Ministers on Drug Control, the ASEAN Secretariat, and all relevant stakeholders for their valuable contributions to the formulation of the ADM Report 2026. Their continued cooperation has played a vital role in advancing the ADMN's work and strengthening regional drug monitoring for the benefit of ASEAN Member States. Special appreciation is also extended to the Thailand Substance Abuse Academic Network, led by Assoc. Prof. Manop Kanato, Ph.D., and his team for their data analysis and technical advice in preparing this report. Thailand also acknowledges the continued support of the ONCB and ASEAN-NARCO in improving the ADM Report System, which has enhanced regional data collection and analysis, as well as the annual formulation of the ADM Report.

Last but not least, the ADMN Team hopes that ASEAN Member States will make full use of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2026 not only for monitoring and surveillance of emerging drug trends in the region, but also as a practical reference for policy formulation and decision-making in drug control. ASEAN-NARCO looks forward to further strengthening the ADM and the ADMN through continued collaboration and the spirit of ASEAN partnership toward a drug-free ASEAN. The ADM remains a shared achievement and a source of pride for all ASEAN Member States.

“Securing ASEAN Communities against Illicit Drugs”

ASEAN-NARCO
ASEAN Drug Monitoring Team
August 2026

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CHAPTER 1

Overview of ASEAN Drug Trends and Patterns

1. Introduction and Geo-Political Background

1.1 Geographical Subregions of Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is a region characterized by its profound geographical, cultural, and political diversity. Geographically situated south of the People's Republic of China, east of the Republic of India, and northwest of the continent of Australia, this strategic crossroads is conventionally divided into two major subregions:

Mainland Southeast Asia consists of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. This contiguous landmass is bound by shared river systems—most notably the Mekong River—and extensive, porous land borders that have historically facilitated both legitimate trade and illicit trafficking.

Maritime Southeast Asia: Comprising Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and the eastern territories of New Guinea. This archipelagic subregion is defined by vast maritime boundaries, thousands of islands, and critical global shipping lanes such as the Strait of Malacca, presenting distinct security and law enforcement challenges compared to its mainland counterpart.

1.2 Evolution of ASEAN and the Institutional Framework

The political and economic architecture of the region is centered on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), established on 8 August 1967 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration). Originally founded by five Member States, ASEAN has evolved into a cohesive regional intergovernmental organization. A major milestone in its expansion was achieved on 26 October 2025, when Timor-Leste formally entered as the 11th ASEAN's Member State during the 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Today, ASEAN comprises eleven Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.

The primary mandate of ASEAN is to foster comprehensive economic, political, and security cooperation among its member states, promoting regional peace, stability, and prosperity. Over nearly six decades, this cooperation has transitioned from foundational diplomatic dialogue into deeply integrated institutional mechanisms designed to address transnational challenges that respect no national borders.

1.3 The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the Drug-Free Vision

In 2015, a significant milestone was reached with the formal launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The AEC was designed to transform ASEAN into a single market and production base, highly competitive on the global stage, through economic liberalization, extensive infrastructure development, and the free flow of goods, services, investment, capital, and skilled labor.

While the AEC has been highly successful in accelerating regional GDP growth and trade volumes, the dramatic expansion of transport infrastructure, regional logistics hubs, and cross-border corridors has inadvertently created new vulnerabilities. Transnational organized crime syndicates have proven highly adept at exploiting these enhanced trade routes to move illicit commodities rapidly across the region. Recognizing this threat, the AEC's foundational blueprint explicitly integrates a strategic vision for a drug-free region. This vision establishes that sustainable economic integration cannot be decoupled from robust regional security architectures and public health protections

2. Institutional Framework for Regional Drug Control

2.1 The Role of ASOD and Its Five Core Pillars

To operationalize the vision of a drug-free region and coordinate responses to drug abuse and trafficking, ASEAN established the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD). As the bloc's premier intergovernmental body for drug control policy, ASOD is responsible for designing, implementing, and monitoring regional strategies. ASOD facilitates collaborative interventions structured across five distinct pillars:

I. Law Enforcement

This pillar focuses on strengthening cross-border operational cooperation, intelligence sharing, and joint interdiction efforts. It coordinates efforts to contain illicit drug supply routes and targets the financial structures of transnational criminal syndicates.

II. Preventive Drug Education

Recognizing that supply suppression must be balanced with demand reduction, this pillar focuses on evidence-based educational initiatives. It aims to build resilience within vulnerable populations, particularly youth, by deploying targeted awareness campaigns across educational institutions and community networks.

III. Treatment and Rehabilitation

This pillar promotes the development, standardization, and expansion of healthcare services for individuals with substance use disorders. It advocates for evidence-informed treatment methodologies, moving away from purely punitive measures toward public health-oriented interventions.

IV. Research

The research pillar is tasked with gathering scientific data, conducting epidemiological studies, and evaluating the effectiveness of ongoing drug control interventions. It provides the empirical foundation upon which regional policies are formulated.

V. Alternative Development

This pillar addresses the socioeconomic root causes of illicit crop cultivation, primarily in remote subregions. By introducing viable, sustainable economic alternatives—such as cash crop substitution, infrastructure improvement, and community development programs—it seeks to permanently detach rural populations from the illicit drug economy.

Beyond these five pillars, ASOD serves as an essential channel for high-level information exchange regarding international drug syndicates, specialized regional watchlists, and emerging trafficking methods. It plays a pivotal role in strengthening regional drug forensic analysis, reinforcing intelligence operations, and harmonizing cross-border investigative practices, often in close coordination with international partner organizations and global law enforcement bodies.

2.2 ASEAN-NARCO and the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN)

Complementing the policy-level functions of ASOD is the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center (ASEAN-NARCO), which acts as the centralized regional platform for both preventative and suppressive drug control measures. ASEAN-NARCO coordinates daily operational communications, manages regional repositories of drug-related data, and oversees technical capacity-building initiatives across Member States.

In June 2015, a major step forward in regional data governance occurred when ASEAN-NARCO, backed by technical and institutional support from Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), launched the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN). Prior to the ADMN's inception, regional analysis was hindered by fragmented national reporting systems, disparate data definitions, and inconsistent collection intervals. The ADMN was explicitly tasked with collecting, harmonizing, analyzing, and disseminating regional drug data, thereby establishing a unified mechanism to identify emerging drug patterns and structural trends across ASEAN.

2.3 Methodological Foundations and Constraints of the ADM Report

The findings compiled by the ADMN are published annually in the highly regarded ASEAN Drug Monitoring (ADM) Report, available in both print and digital formats via the official ASEAN-NARCO portal. This comprehensive report integrates national perspectives, specialized legislative updates, and innovative monitoring practices to inform policy design and academic research across the region.

From a methodological standpoint, readers and policy analysts must understand the specific nature of the data presented within the ADM Report. The metrics collected by the ADMN are primarily derived from national administrative databases, institutional registries, and archival law enforcement sources. Consequently, the data focuses predominantly on official treatment admissions, arrest records, and illicit drug seizure volumes.

Important Analytical Caveat: The indicators compiled within this report reflect institutional interactions with illicit drug markets rather than direct, population-based prevalence rates. These metrics serve as highly sensitive indicators of regional trends, market dynamics, and operational enforcement priorities. They should be interpreted collectively to build a comprehensive view of changing drug patterns rather than as direct estimates of total consumption or absolute illicit production volumes.

To minimize reporting biases and cross-country discrepancies, the network has utilized a standardized questionnaire since its inception. This tool systematically compiles data on both drug demand and supply indicators and maintains a shared regional database. This longitudinal database supports early warning mechanisms and geographical trend analysis, providing a reliable historical baseline spanning from the inaugural ADM Report 2015 to the current 2025–2026 reporting cycle.

2.4 Structural Overview of the 2026 Report

The 2026 ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report provides a comprehensive overview of the illicit drug challenges confronting the region. To ensure a logical flow of information, the report is structured into five core chapters:

- **Chapter 1:** The Regional Drug Landscape provides a comprehensive overview of regional trends, integrating supply and demand metrics to outline the current phase of the regional drug situation.
- **Chapter 2:** Key Substances of Concern: Delivers detailed, substance-specific market analyses focusing on Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS), Opiates/Opioids, Cannabis, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), Cocaine, Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants, and Hallucinogens.

- **Chapter 3:** National Reports from ASEAN Member States: Contains granular country-by-country profiles detailing localized epidemiological shifts, legislative updates, and specific enforcement actions.
- **Chapter 4:** Ongoing Research and Innovations: Highlights cutting-edge methodologies, forensic advancements, and epidemiological models being developed within the region.
- **Chapter 5:** Exemplary Practices in Policy and Implementation: Evaluates successful policy models, community-based interventions, and international collaborations to guide future strategic replication.

3. Evolving Regional Context

The illicit drug situation across ASEAN does not exist in a vacuum; it continues to evolve within a rapidly changing regional environment shaped by macro-demographic transitions, intensifying economic integration, rapid technological development, and the growing sophistication of transnational criminal networks.

3.1 Impact of Demographic Transitions and Economic Integration

Southeast Asia's steady demographic growth, expanding middle class, and rapid urbanization have profoundly impacted the dynamics of the drug market. Concentrated urban centers, growing industrial labor forces, and marginalized migrant populations present diverse consumer segments that illicit drug syndicates actively exploit.

Concurrently, physical connectivity infrastructure developed under the master plans for ASEAN connectivity—including high-speed rail lines, expanded deep-sea ports, and regional economic highways—has significantly reduced cross-border transit times. While these developments have vastly improved legitimate commerce, they have also streamlined the logistical operations of transnational criminal groups, enabling them to move illicit products across multiple jurisdictions with greater efficiency.

3.2 Technological Disruption in Illicit Markets

Technological advancements have radically transformed both the supply and demand dimensions of the regional drug trade. Organized criminal networks now leverage sophisticated, end-to-end encrypted communication applications, decentralized autonomous networks, and specialized darknet marketplaces to coordinate complex cross-border logistics while minimizing detection by law enforcement.

At the consumer level, retail distribution has increasingly shifted from traditional face-to-face transactions toward digital platforms. E-commerce models, social media applications, and encrypted messaging platforms, integrated with digital mobile payment systems and localized courier services, have made illicit substances highly accessible. This digital shift presents a formidable challenge to traditional maritime interdiction and land-based border checkpoint strategies.

3.3 Structural Shift from Plant-Based to Synthetic Narcotics

Over the past decade, the most defining structural transformation within the regional drug landscape has been the transition from plant-based narcotics—such as opium, heroin, and traditional cannabis—to synthetic drugs, particularly Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS). While the cultivation of illicit crops requires extensive land use, favorable agricultural conditions, vulnerability to aerial surveillance, and lengthy growth cycles, synthetic drugs can be manufactured in hidden, industrial-scale laboratories located in remote border zones or urban industrial parks.

The large-scale production, low manufacturing costs, highly resilient chemical supply chains, and expansive profit margins of synthetic substances have structurally altered the illicit drug economy throughout Southeast Asia. Criminal syndicates are no longer dependent on agricultural seasons; they can scale production rapidly in response to market demand or law-enforcement pressure.

However, the continued presence of traditional opioids, cannabis, ketamine, and an expanding array of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), alongside increasingly complex patterns of polydrug use, demonstrates that the regional drug situation cannot be understood through a single-substance perspective. Instead, the region faces a multi-layered market where synthetic stimulants dominate, but older or newly modified substances persist, interacting to create highly complex usage patterns.

3.4 Post-Pandemic Acceleration of Trends

The COVID-19 pandemic represented an unprecedented disruption to both public health systems and law enforcement operations across the ASEAN region. Strict border closures, international travel restrictions, domestic lockdowns, and reassigned police resources temporarily disrupted established trafficking routes and altered localized drug availability. Yet, post-pandemic data compiled across 2024 and 2025 indicates that long-term trafficking and consumption trends have not only resumed but have significantly accelerated.

Synthetic drug production has returned to record-breaking levels, trafficking networks have adapted with alternative maritime and subregional land routes, and regional treatment infrastructure is experiencing renewed operational pressure. This post-pandemic landscape

underscores the critical need for sustained, systematic surveillance and the continuous integration of high-quality data to inform timely policy interventions at both national and regional levels.

4. Drug Demand Analysis in ASEAN (2015–2025)

4.1 Longitudinal Trends in Aggregated Treatment Demand

Drug treatment admissions reported through the ADMN serve as a sensitive barometer for measuring regional drug demand dynamics. Looking back across the ten-year period from 2015 to 2025, the aggregated data demonstrates a sustained and substantial expansion in regional treatment demand.

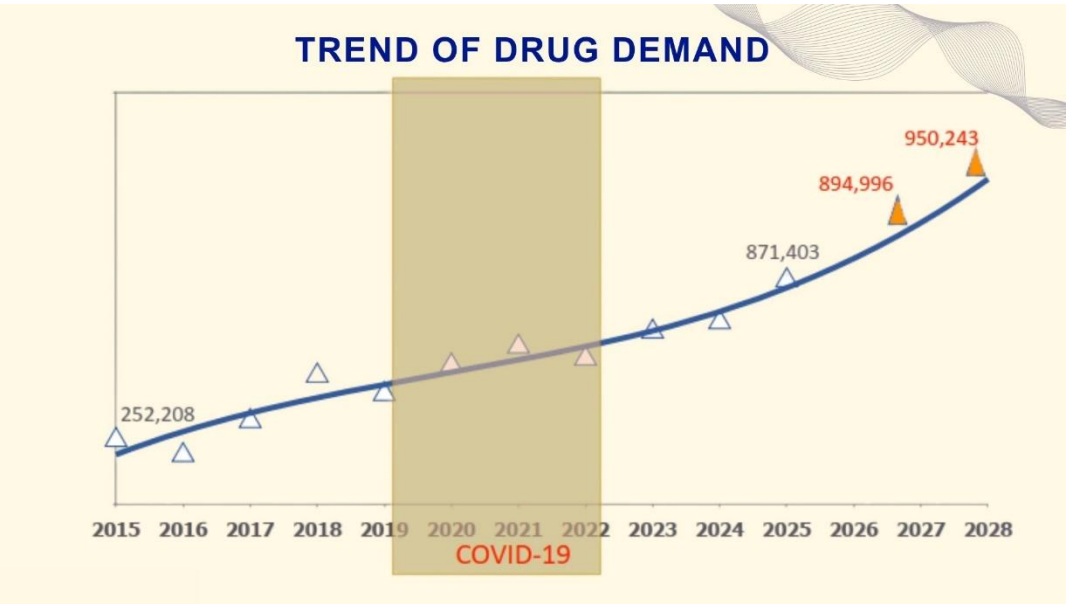


Figure 1. Trend of Drug Demand in ASEAN

As illustrated in Figure 1, the total number of individuals receiving treatment for substance use disorders across ASEAN rose from 252,208 in 2015 to 871,403 in 2025, representing one of the highest levels ever recorded by the monitoring network. While short-term fluctuations occurred during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic—primarily due to restricted access to healthcare facilities and altered administrative reporting routines—the long-term trajectory has remained consistently upward.

If current market conditions and policy environments persist, predictive models and statistical forecasts indicate that regional treatment demand will continue to climb, approaching approximately 895,000 individuals in 2027 and exceeding 950,000 by 2028.

4.2 Complex Drivers of Expanding Admissions

When interpreting this significant increase in treatment admissions, policy analysts must use caution and avoid attributing the trend to a single driver. The growth in reported admissions is a complex phenomenon shaped by the interaction of several contributing factors:

- Shifts in Consumer Patterns: The widespread availability and decreasing retail prices of highly addictive synthetic stimulants have led to an increase in the absolute number of individuals developing severe substance use disorders.

- Expansion of Healthcare Access: Over the past decade, several ASEAN Member States have made substantial investments to expand their public health infrastructure, establishing new specialized treatment centers and expanding outpatient psychiatric services.

- Evolution of Reporting Protocols: The continuous technical maturation of the ADMN has led to more rigorous data collection, reducing historical underreporting and improving data capture across provincial and municipal clinical networks.

- Legislative and Policy Reforms: A structural shift is underway in several jurisdictions, moving toward decriminalization or compulsory diversion models that direct drug consumers into medical treatment facilities rather than traditional correctional institutions.

Irrespective of the shifting weight of these underlying drivers, the empirical findings highlight increasing pressure on regional treatment infrastructure, reinforcing the absolute necessity for sustainable, long-term investment in evidence-based treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation systems.

4.3 Comparative Analysis: Population Growth vs. Epidemic Rates

To better understand the scale of the drug situation, it is necessary to analyze the relationships between macro-demographic changes, treatment demand, and criminal justice indicators. Figure 2 presents a standardized longitudinal comparison, tracking total regional population growth alongside treatment rates and offender numbers per 100,000 population between 2015 and 2025.

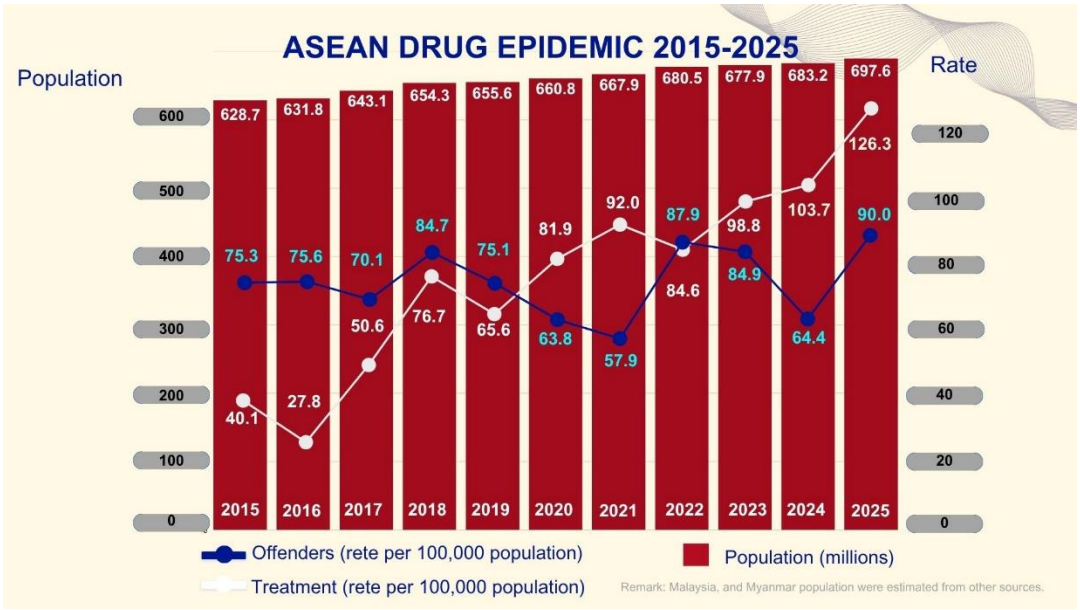


Figure 2. Population and Drug Epidemic in ASEAN (2015–2025)

The data shows a clear divergence in these trends. While the regional population grew at a steady, linear rate, the treatment rate grew substantially faster, rising from 40.1 per 100,000 in 2015 to 126.3 per 100,000 in 2025. This trend confirms a growing epidemiological burden on national healthcare frameworks, proving that the drug problem is expanding faster than the underlying population baseline.

By contrast, the regional offender rate—defined as drug-related arrests per 100,000 population—exhibited considerable volatility over the same period. The offender rate started at 75.3 in 2015, spiked temporarily to 84.7 in 2018, dropped significantly to a ten-year low of 57.9 in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, and then rebounded sharply to 90.0 in 2025.

These distinct fluctuations show that criminal justice data does not directly mirror consumption trends. Instead, offender rates reflect changes in law enforcement environments, shifting operational priorities, and macro-political interventions. Taken together, these trends confirm that the regional drug situation cannot be understood solely through criminal justice indicators. The steady rise in treatment demand emphasizes the importance of managing substance use disorders as a major public health crisis. This requires sustained funding for prevention, clinical treatment, and community reintegration alongside traditional law enforcement supply-reduction efforts.

4.4 Demand Segmentation by Substance Category

A granular analysis of treatment admissions broken down by substance categories reveals the specific drug markets driving regional demand. As illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) maintain a clear dominance within the regional treatment landscape. In 2025, out of the 871,403 individuals receiving treatment across the region, ATS accounted for 354,916 treatment episodes, equivalent to approximately 41% of all reported treatment admissions and 56.05% of treatment records classified by primary drug type.

Concurrently, traditional plant-based narcotics and associated pharmaceuticals continue to place a heavy burden on national systems. Opiates and opioids—primarily heroin and illicitly diverted synthetic opioids—accounted for 94,909 cases in 2025, showing a persistent concentration of chronic opioid dependence in specific Member States.

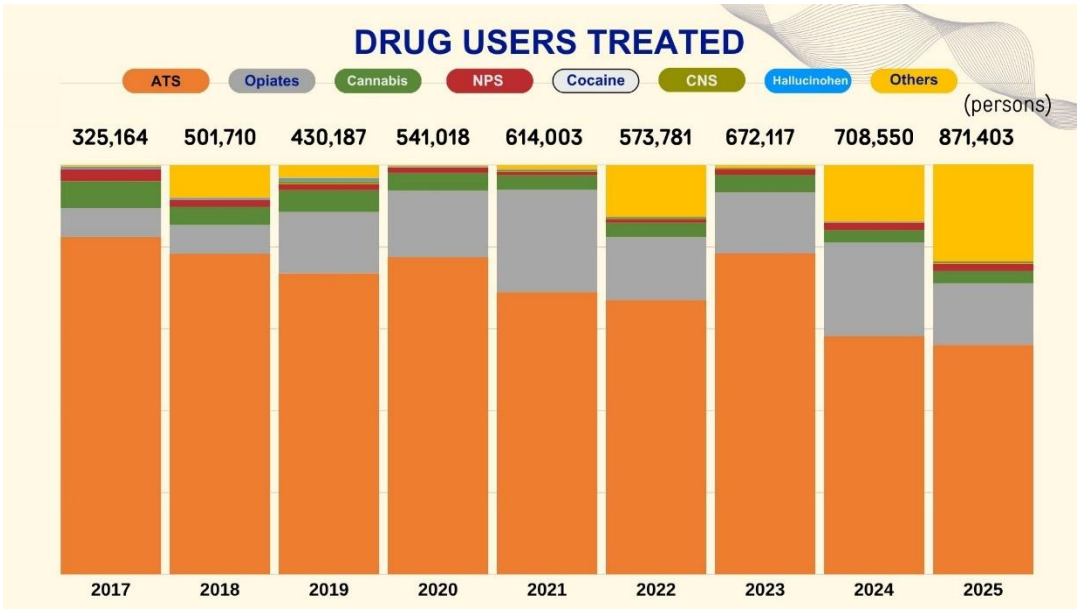


Figure 3. Annual Drug Demand and Drug Users Treated by Drug Types

The most alarming epidemiological development in the 2025 dataset is the sharp increase in the "others/polydrug use" category, which reached 149,982 cases. This indicates a major shift toward complex consumption patterns where individuals regularly consume multiple illicit substances simultaneously (e.g., combining synthetic stimulants with CNS depressants or ketamine). This development complicates clinical management, as traditional single-substance detoxification protocols are often inadequate for treating complex polydrug dependencies.

4.5 National Heterogeneity Across Member States

While regional aggregates provide a helpful macro-perspective, the ADMN data reveal significant differences among individual ASEAN Member States. Annual treatment rates vary widely across the region, reflecting differences in local drug patterns, available healthcare resources, national data collection capacity, and overarching legislative frameworks.

- Mainland States (e.g., Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR): Show a heavy concentration of ATS admissions, particularly involving crystalline methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets (locally known as yaba). For instance, Thailand has experienced a significant expansion in public health treatment tracking due to policy adjustments that prioritize community-based health interventions over incarceration.
- Maritime States (e.g., Indonesia, the Philippines): Display a more diversified demand profile. While ATS remains a major concern in urban areas, these nations report distinct, localized challenges with cannabis consumption, pharmaceutical misuse, and specific cohorts of chronic opioid users.

This diversity highlights the need to strengthen standardized regional data collection while maintaining the flexibility required for national policy implementation.

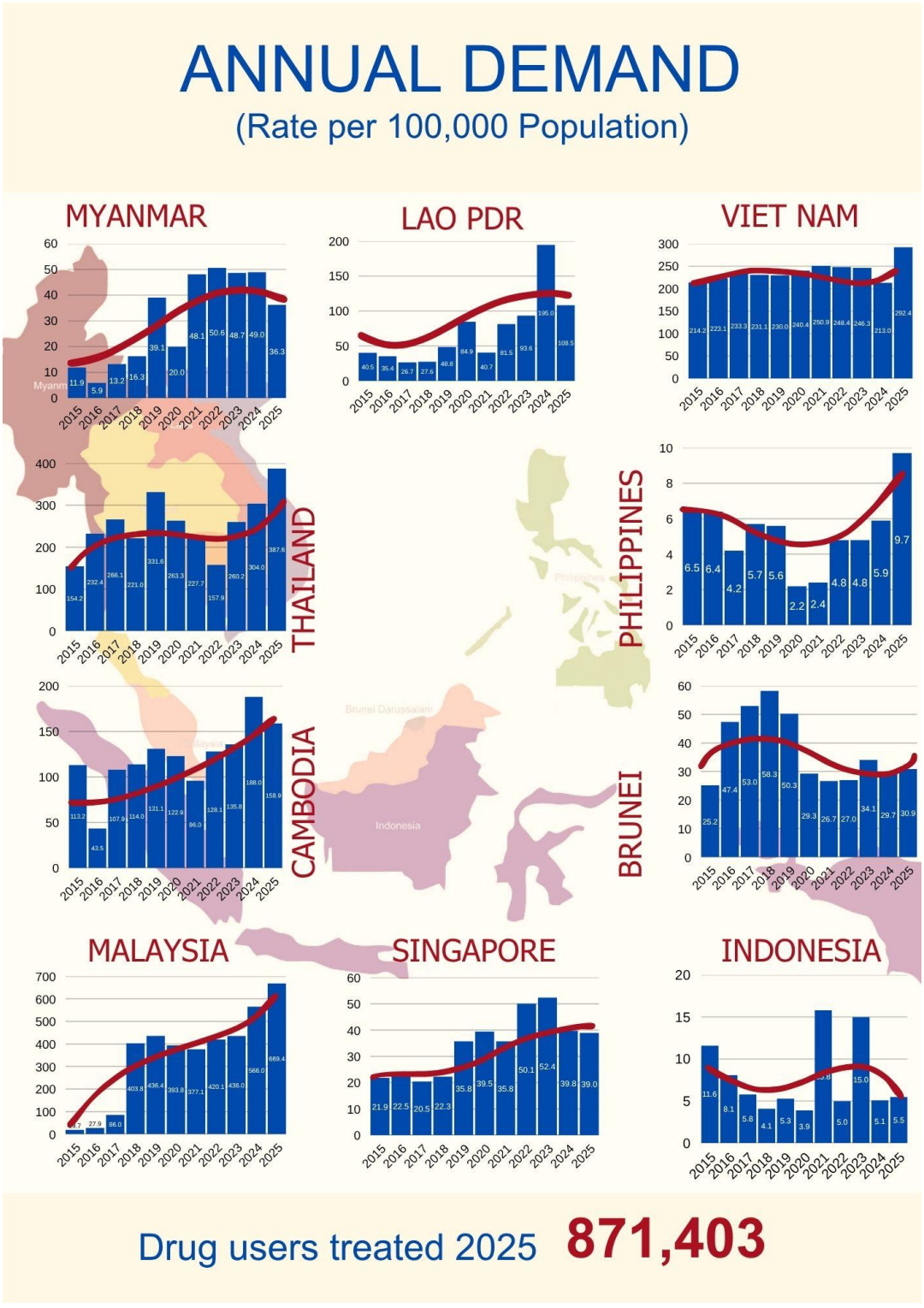


Figure 4. Annual Drug Demand and Drug Users Treated Across Member States

5. Drug Supply and Trafficking Analysis in ASEAN

5.1 Evaluation of Supply-Side Indicators

The regional drug supply situation within ASEAN is expanding in both scale and complexity, driven by the interaction between illicit production hubs, transnational trafficking networks, law enforcement interventions, and regional security cooperation. Data reported through the ADMN confirms that 2025 was a high-volume year, marked by significant increases in trafficking cases, offender numbers, and total drug seizure volumes. These trends reinforce concerns that synthetic drug markets remain a major strategic challenge for the region.

When analyzing these supply-side metrics, policymakers and law enforcement officials must use a sophisticated analytical approach. Law enforcement arrests and seizure statistics are proxy indicators rather than direct measures of the total size or production capacity of illicit drug markets, and they should not be evaluated in isolation.

For example, a sharp escalation in annual seizure volumes can be interpreted in two ways: it may demonstrate enhanced law enforcement capabilities and more effective cross-border interdiction operations; conversely, it could indicate an expansion in total manufacturing volume and an increased supply of illicit drugs moving through regional trafficking pipelines. Therefore, these metrics must be interpreted collectively within their broader operational and policy contexts to accurately understand market dynamics.

5.2 Detailed Analysis of Seizure Trends (2017–2025)

Figure 5 provides a detailed breakdown of reported trafficking cases, offender numbers, and total seizure volumes from 2017 to 2025, illustrating the scale of supply suppression efforts across the region.

The data shows significant volatility across the reporting period:

- The 2017–2019 Surge: Total regional drug seizures rose sharply from 1,010.6 tons in 2017 to an unprecedented historical peak of 3,238.5 tons in 2019, driven by massive interdictions of crystalline methamphetamine and herbal cannabis.
- The Pandemic Contraction (2020–2023): Following the onset of the pandemic, reported seizures fell, dropping to 1,693.2 tons in 2020, 1,188.1 tons in 2021, and hitting a low of 480.9 tons in 2023. This contraction reflects disrupted supply chains, altered border enforcement regimes, and data collection gaps caused by pandemic containment measures.

The 2024–2025 Resurgence: Post-pandemic data shows a rapid recovery in trafficking activity. Seizures rose to 541.2 tons in 2024 and surged to 1,210.4 tons in 2025.

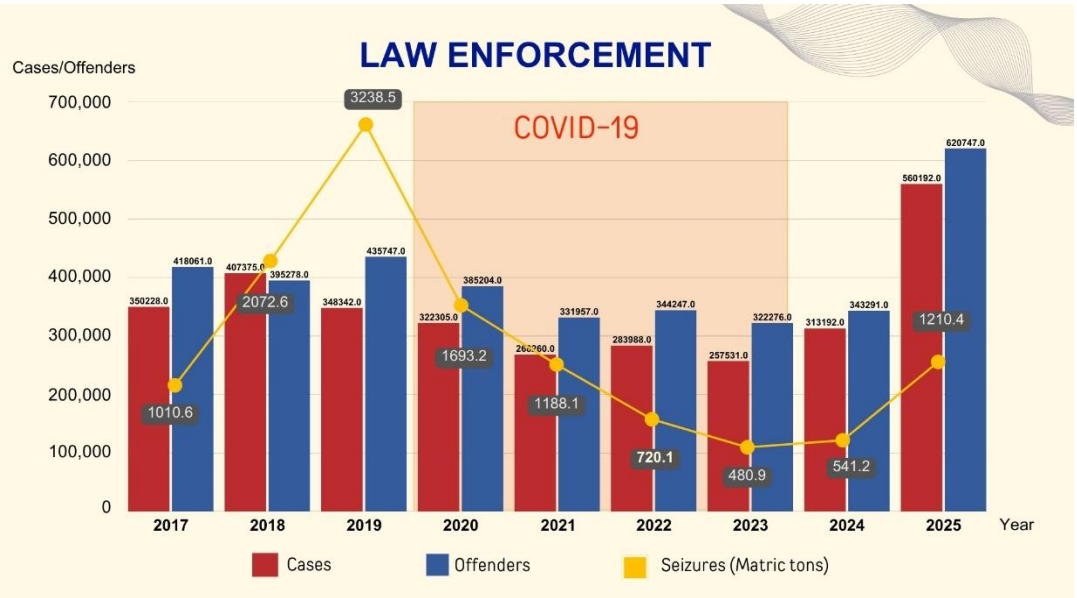


Figure 5. ASEAN Drug Supply Trends and Seizure Patterns

This dramatic resurgence in 2025 was accompanied by a significant increase in law enforcement actions, with total drug-related cases rising to 560,192 and the number of arrested offenders climbing to 620,747 individuals. This collective data shows that despite intensive enforcement efforts, the regional drug supply remains highly active, demonstrating the resilience and adaptability of transnational organized crime groups operating across the ASEAN region.

5.3 Composition and Evolution of Illicit Commodities

An analysis of the composition of drug seizures highlights the continued dominance of synthetic substances within Southeast Asia's illicit economies. As illustrated in Figure 6 and 7, Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) have consistently accounted for the largest share of reported seizures over the past decade. The 2025 data confirms this trend, showing a significant expansion in the volume of both methamphetamine tablets and high-purity crystalline methamphetamine.

This long-term expansion of ATS seizures demonstrates that synthetic drug production and trafficking remain key challenges for ASEAN Member States. The steady increase observed over successive reporting cycles aligns with an expansion of synthetic

manufacturing capacity and the adaptive logistics of transnational criminal syndicates operating across national borders.

Simultaneously, traditional cannabis, ketamine, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), and various precursor chemicals contribute to an increasingly diverse and complex regional drug supply. While the volume of these secondary substances varies by country, driven by local market demand and geographic factors, their persistent presence underscores the importance of maintaining comprehensive surveillance systems to identify emerging market threats.

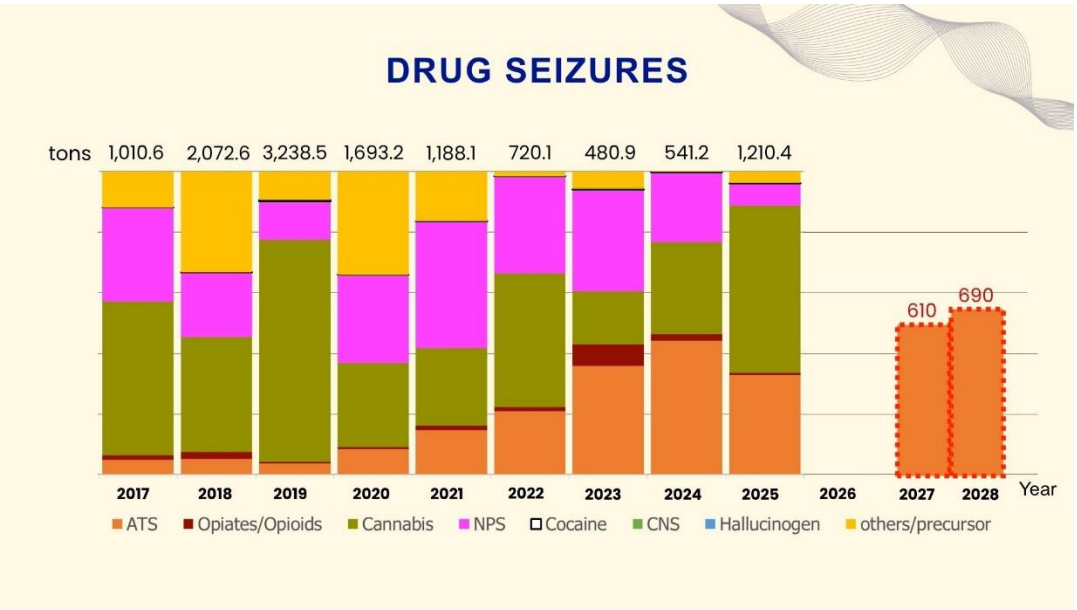


Figure 6. Composition and Evolution of Drug Seizures

Figure 6 presents the composition of reported drug seizures from 2017 to 2025. Data for 2026 were not yet available at the time of preparation. The projected ATS seizure volumes for 2027 and 2028—610 and 690 tons, respectively—suggest that synthetic stimulants are expected to remain the dominant supply-side challenge in the region. These projections apply exclusively to ATS and do not represent total projected seizures across all drug categories.

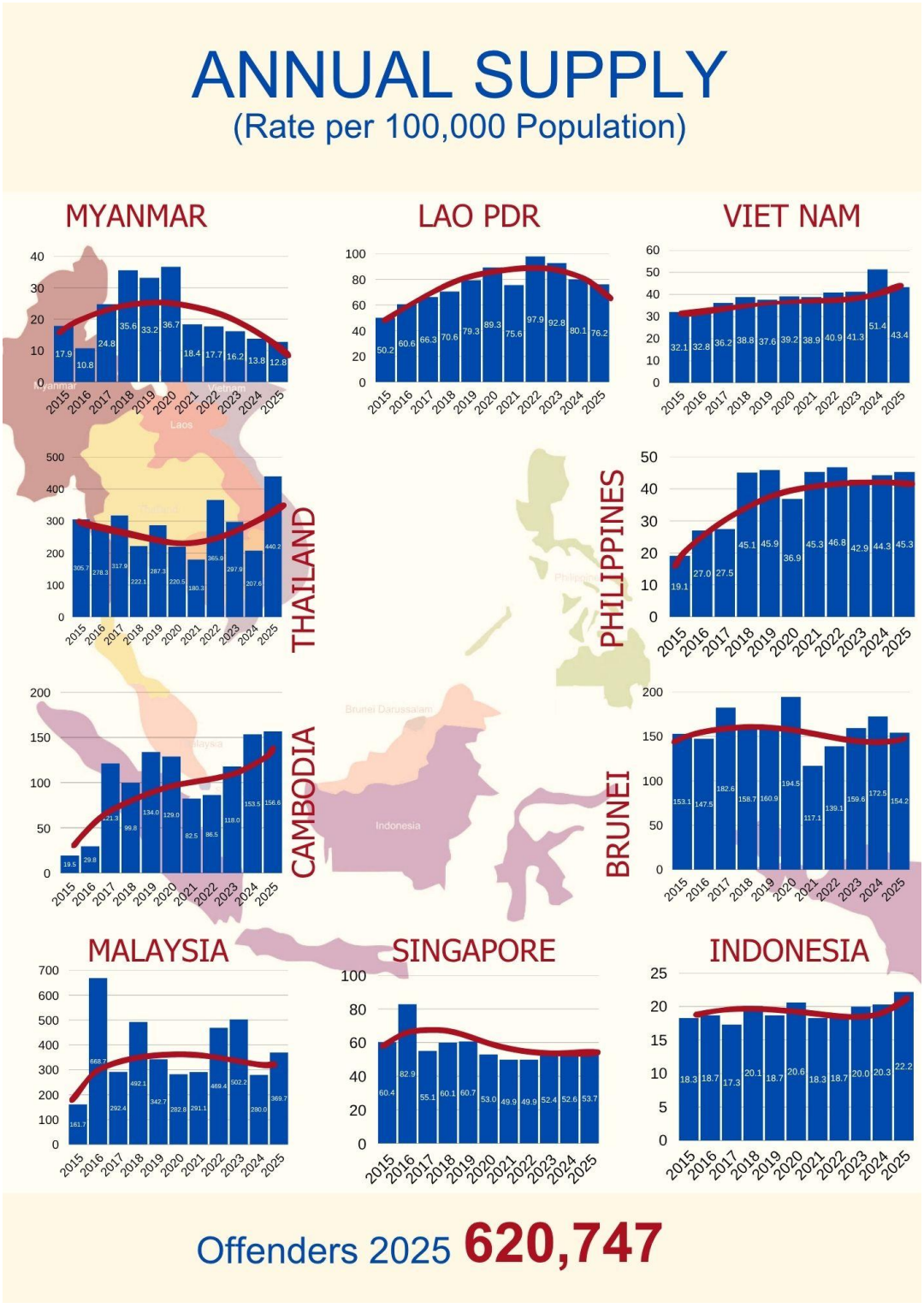


Figure 7. Annual Drug Offenders Across Member States

Figure 7 presents the annual drug offender rates reported by ASEAN Member States from 2015 to 2025. The figure demonstrates substantial variation across countries, reflecting differences in national drug situations, enforcement practices, and reporting systems. These trends should therefore be interpreted primarily as indicators of changes within each Member State over time rather than as direct measures for comparing enforcement performance between countries.

5.4 Profiling Transnational and Foreign Traffickers

Understanding the organizational structure of these trafficking networks requires analyzing the demographic profiles of individuals arrested for cross-border drug smuggling. Figure 8 tracks the total number and regional origins of foreign traffickers arrested within ASEAN between 2017 and 2025, providing insights into the evolving networks of transnational crime.



Figure 8. Foreign Traffickers Arrested in ASEAN (2017–2025)

The longitudinal data reveal a steep upward trend in foreign national arrests over most of the decade, rising from 13,728 individuals in 2017 to 14,194 in 2018, and 16,617 in 2019. Arrests rose to 35,891 in 2020, then fell sharply to 7,632 in 2021 due to pandemic border controls, before surging to 63,077 in 2022 and reaching an all-time high of 72,670 in 2024.

Throughout this period, offenders originating from Asia and the ASEAN region consistently accounted for the largest share of arrests, reflecting the influence of intra-regional criminal syndicates leveraging shared cultural, linguistic, and logistical networks.

However, the 2025 dataset reveals an anomalous shift, with reported foreign trafficker arrests dropping sharply to just 2,057 individuals. This significant statistical divergence should be interpreted with caution, pending further verification of national reporting practices, potential changes in law-enforcement tracking, or structural shifts in trafficking routes by organized crime groups.

Transnational syndicates may be adjusting their tactics by increasingly using localized proxies or automated courier networks to insulate international operators from direct exposure to law enforcement. This changing geographical profile highlights the highly adaptive nature of transnational organized crime and illustrates the limitations of isolated, country-specific enforcement strategies.

6. Subregional Cooperation: The Safe Mekong Operation

6.1 Strategic Context of the Mekong Subregion

The Mekong subregion—encompassing territories within Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and southern China—remains a critical focus for regional drug control initiatives. The remote border areas within this subregion, historically associated with the illicit opium trade, have transitioned into a primary global hub for the industrial-scale manufacturing of synthetic drugs, particularly methamphetamine.

The rugged terrain, combined with uneven administrative coverage in certain border zones, provides an ideal environment for organized crime syndicates to establish large-scale manufacturing facilities and manage extensive trafficking networks.

6.2 Longitudinal Analysis of Operational Outcomes (2015–2025)

To counter this concentrated threat, subregional Member States launched the Safe Mekong Operation, a multilateral enforcement framework designed to disrupt supply chains through joint intelligence sharing, synchronized border interdictions, and coordinated law enforcement actions. Figure 9 tracks the operational outcomes and specific substance interdictions achieved under this framework between 2015 and 2025.

The longitudinal data illustrates a clear structural shift in the subregional drug market:

- Methamphetamine Tablets and Crystal: Seizures have shown significant, long-term growth, reflecting the expansion of synthetic drug manufacturing within the subregion. In 2025, methamphetamine tablet interdictions reached their highest recorded level under the operation, while crystalline methamphetamine ("Ice") maintained a steady upward trajectory.

- Heroin and Opium: By contrast, seizures of plant-based opiates remained low and stable throughout the decade, fluctuating at a fraction of the volume of synthetic drugs. This trend confirms that synthetic stimulants have surpassed traditional opiates as the primary supply-side challenge in the Mekong subregion.
- Ketamine: Seizures have increased substantially in recent years, pointing to an emerging synthetic threat that requires close monitoring within the Safe Mekong framework.

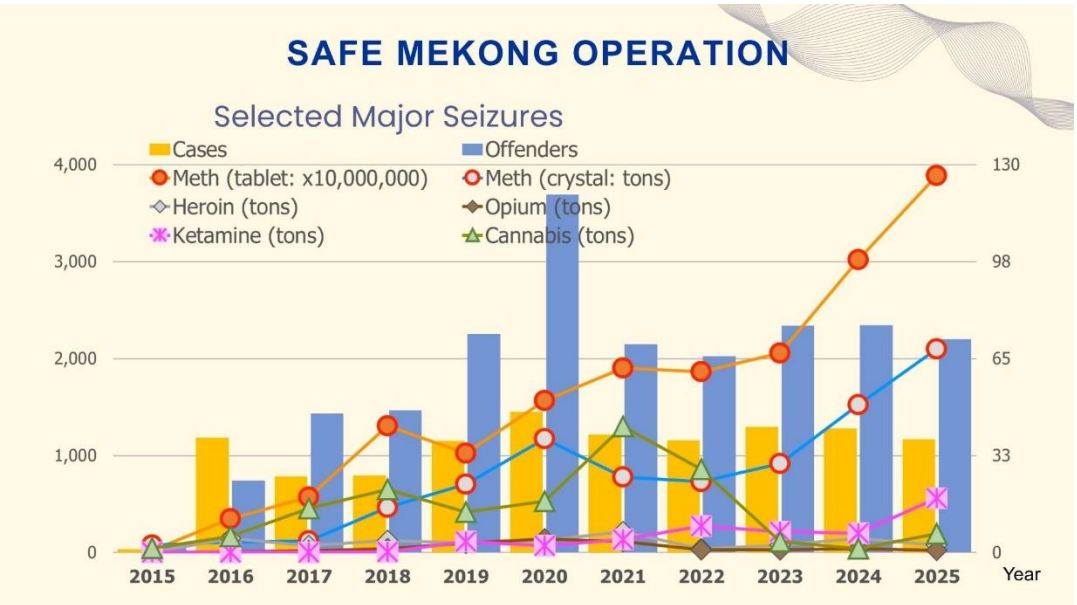


Figure 9. Safe Mekong Operation: Trends and Strategic Implications

6.3 Policy Implications of Subregional Enforcement Data

The data gathered through the Safe Mekong Operation provides critical insights for regional policymakers. The persistent rise in seizure volumes indicates that the Mekong subregion remains a highly active manufacturing and trafficking hub for synthetic drugs. This trend highlights that high seizure volumes should not be interpreted simply as a sign of enforcement success; they also reflect an overall increase in production capacity and an expansion of transnational trafficking networks.

Consequently, the continued growth of synthetic drug markets requires a strategic shift in regional law enforcement approaches. Relying solely on reactive border interdictions is insufficient to disrupt highly capitalized criminal organizations.

Instead, future regional strategies must transition toward intelligence-led, technology-supported, and regionally coordinated interventions. These efforts should focus on tracking the diversion of industrial precursor chemicals, conducting financial investigations to freeze criminal assets, and dismantling the cross-border organizational structures of transnational syndicates.

7. Strategic Policy Implications and Regional Priorities

7.1 Harmonized Strategy Matrix

To systematically address the trends identified in the 2025 dataset, regional drug control efforts should align across three main policy dimensions.

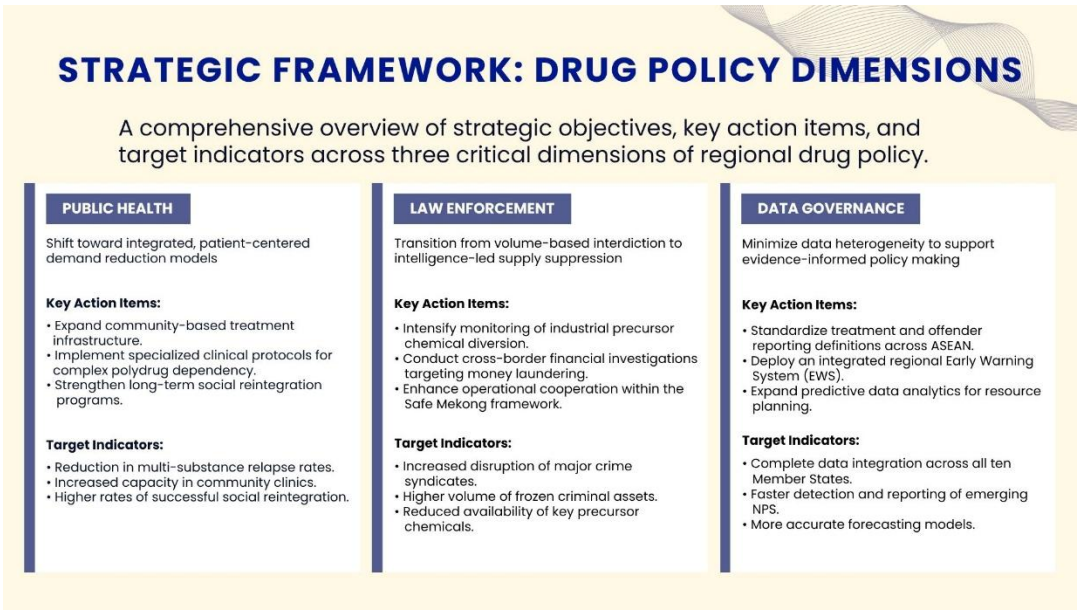


Figure 10. ASEAN Strategic Framework

7.2 Comprehensive Strategic Policy Priorities

I. Public Health and Demand Reduction Priorities

- De-silo Regional Treatment Infrastructure: National health systems should transition away from single-substance treatment approaches toward integrated clinical models designed to address complex polydrug use and co-occurring mental health disorders.

- Expand Community-Based Recovery Networks: Member States should increase investment in trained medical personnel, local clinic infrastructure, and community-managed rehabilitation programs. This approach shifts the management of substance use disorders away from punitive detention centers, reducing strain on criminal justice systems while supporting long-term social reintegration.
- Establish Standardized Outcome Indicators: The ADMN should work to develop uniform regional standards for measuring treatment performance, clinical retention rates, and long-term recovery outcomes across Member States.

II. Law Enforcement and Supply Suppression Priorities

- Focus on Precursor Chemical Supply Chains: Operational priorities should shift toward monitoring the international trade and domestic diversion of industrial precursor chemicals, essential acids, and non-regulated pre-precursors used in synthetic drug manufacturing.
- Enhance Financial and Asset Investigations: National law enforcement agencies should integrate financial intelligence into anti-trafficking operations, utilizing anti-money laundering (AML) frameworks to identify, track, and freeze the financial assets of transnational crime syndicates.
- Strengthen Subregional Operational Frameworks: Member States should maintain synthetic drugs as the highest regional priority, using the infrastructure of the Safe Mekong Operation to enhance real-time cross-border intelligence exchange and coordinate joint field operations.

III. Data Integration and Regional Governance Priorities

- Deploy an Integrated ASEAN Early Warning System (EWS): ASEAN should build a unified digital platform that connects national forensic laboratories, emergency healthcare services, border enforcement agencies, and the ADMN. This system will support the rapid detection, chemical profiling, and regional reporting of emerging New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and high-potency adulterants.
- Harmonize Cross-Border Data Standards: Member States should standardize definitions and reporting protocols for drug-related treatment cases, law enforcement actions, and offender demographics across the region. This standardization will help reduce data heterogeneity, support accurate cross-country comparisons, and enable predictive analytics for strategic resource planning across ASEAN.

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CHAPTER 2

Major Drug Problems in ASEAN

1. Regional Overview: Macro-Epidemiological and Supply-Side Dynamics

1.1 Background and Macro-Market Shift

The contemporary illicit drug landscape within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc is characterized by an unprecedented convergence of expanding production capacities, evolving transnational logistics, and escalating public health burdens. Over the past decade, the region has transitioned into a highly synchronized, market-driven drug economy. While traditional, plant-based narcotics continue to maintain localized consumer segments, the definitive feature of the current era is the complete entrenchment of synthetic drug economies. This macro-level transformation has re-shaped the region into a critical global hub for chemical synthesis and illicit commodity distribution.

This structural market evolution is fundamentally driven by continuous innovations within clandestine laboratories—predominantly situated in the subregional borders of the Golden Triangle—which rapidly scale up manufacturing outputs while optimizing the use of non-regulated pre-precursor chemicals. Concurrently, regional economic integration corridors, cross-border infrastructure projects, and end-to-end encrypted digital supply platforms have streamlined distribution across both mainland and archipelagic corridors.

From an analytical perspective, the 2025 dataset demonstrates that ASEAN Member States are no longer dealing with isolated, country-specific drug problems. Instead, the region faces a deeply integrated, highly adaptive transnational market where supply-side surges directly drive sudden, severe expansions in domestic demand and multi-substance dependency patterns.

1.2 Aggregated Demand and Longitudinal Treatment Surveillance

Aggregated Admission Profile

In 2025, Among the 633,206 treatment records classified by primary drug type in 2025, Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) accounted for 56.05%, followed by opiates and opioids at 14.99%, cannabis at 3.01%, and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) at 1.76%. CNS depressants, hallucinogens, and cocaine together represented less than 1% of classified cases, while the others/polydrug category accounted for 23.69%.

Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS): Remain the undisputed driver of regional demand, capturing 56.05% of treatment records classified by primary drug type..

Opiates and Opioids: Maintain a significant, long-standing burden on regional healthcare systems, accounting for 16.3% (cases) of admissions.

Cannabis: Comprises 4.3% of the regional annual block.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS): Account for 1.5% (cases) of individuals captured in formal registries.

Minor Categories: CNS Depressants, Hallucinogens, and Cocaine: Accounted for 0.3%, 0.3%, and 0.1% of treatment cases, respectively, representing only a marginal share of the formal treatment environment.

Others & Polydrug Combinations: Represent an escalating challenge at 5.3% (cases) of the clinical intake.

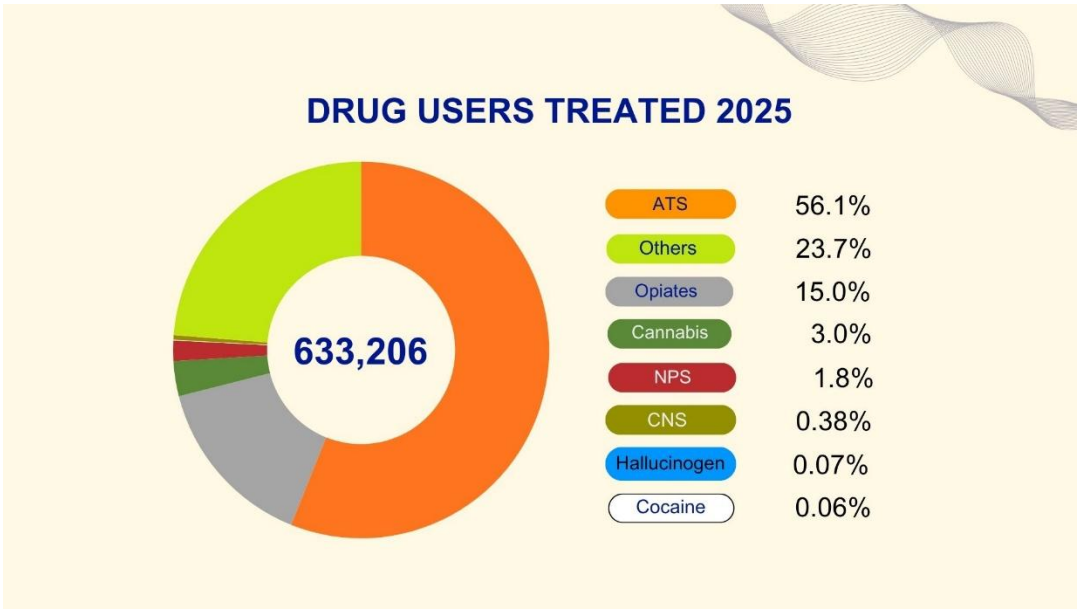


Figure 11. Drug Users Treated in 2025

Note: Percentages are calculated from treatment records with an identified primary drug category (n = 633,206) rather than the total number of treatment admissions (n = 871,403).

Longitudinal and Seasonal Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis across a multi-year surveillance window confirms an accelerating upward trend line in absolute service utilization. Total clinical admissions have grown steadily from earlier baselines, establishing a continuous upward trajectory that reflects persistent pressure on national healthcare infrastructure.

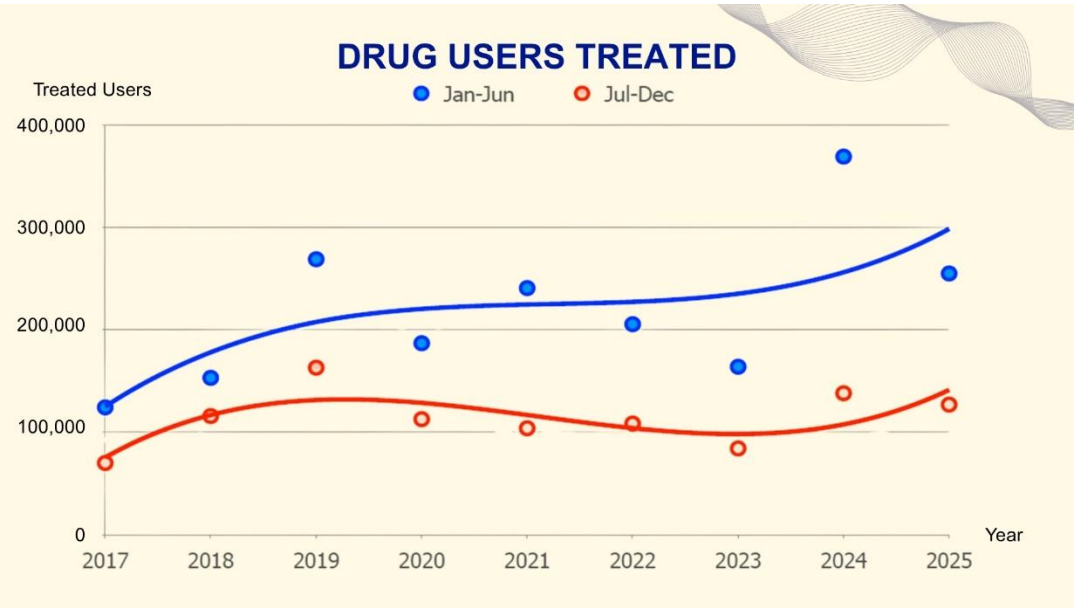


Figure 12. Drug Users Treated

As visualized in the seasonal distribution matrix (Figure 12: Drug Users Treated), the demand market displays a highly standardized, predictable periodic fluctuation. Across nearly all longitudinal data points since 2017, case registrations documented during the first half of the calendar year (January–June) systematically outpace those recorded during the final half (July–December). While this variation is shaped by a mix of institutional enrollment cycles, seasonal budget allocations, and police operations, it gives national health ministries a reliable empirical framework to allocate medical personnel, behavioral assets, and detoxification supplies.

Structural Evolution of the Demand Market

The longitudinal composition matrix (Figure 13: Drug Users Treated by Drug Types) reveals a deep structural transformation within the treatment environment. While ATS has historically claimed the absolute majority of seasonal volume, the post-2021 landscape is marked by a clear increase in complexity. Traditional plant-based narcotics have stabilized or narrowed, while the "others/polydrug" category has expanded significantly, especially in the 2025 data blocks.

This trend indicates a major shift toward multi-substance use patterns, where consumers regularly blend synthetic stimulants with prescription sedatives, synthetic opioids, or dissociative compounds. This growing complexity makes traditional, single-substance addiction treatment models inadequate, requiring a comprehensive shift toward integrated, patient-centered psychiatric care.

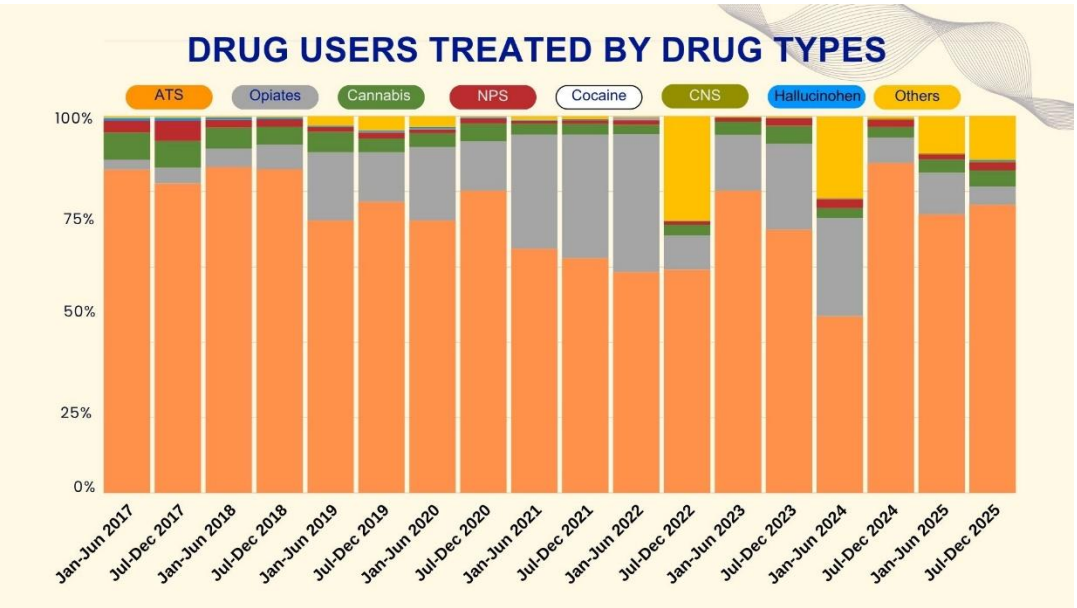


Figure 13. Drug Users Treated by Drug Types

1.3 Analysis of Aggregated Supply, Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Commodity Profiling of Interdictions

Supply-side indicators tracked by regional border control, customs, and counter-narcotics agencies show a massive, high-volume illicit market. In 2025, aggregated regional law enforcement actions culminated in a historic total of 1,210 metric tons of illicit drugs seized across the ASEAN bloc. A structural evaluation of this gross interdicted weight (Figure 14: Drug Seizures in 2025) reveals a significant divergence when compared directly with demand-side metrics:

- Cannabis Products: Accounted for the largest gross physical volume at 55.2% of seized weight, reflecting the massive transportation of raw agricultural materials across porous borders.
- Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS): Comprised 32.8% of gross weight (tons), representing an exceptionally large volume for a highly potent, refined synthetic chemical class.
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS): Captured 7.3% (tons) of the gross interdicted mass, heavily driven by subregional ketamine and bulk botanical trafficking.

- Refined Narcotics: Traditional opiates (0.7%), CNS depressants (0.2%), cocaine (0.1%), and hallucinogens (0.003%) constitute low percentages of total mass, reflecting their concentrated chemical forms and specialized smuggling profiles.
- Other Controlled Commodities: Unclassified precursors and multi-substance compounds made up 3.7% of the total.

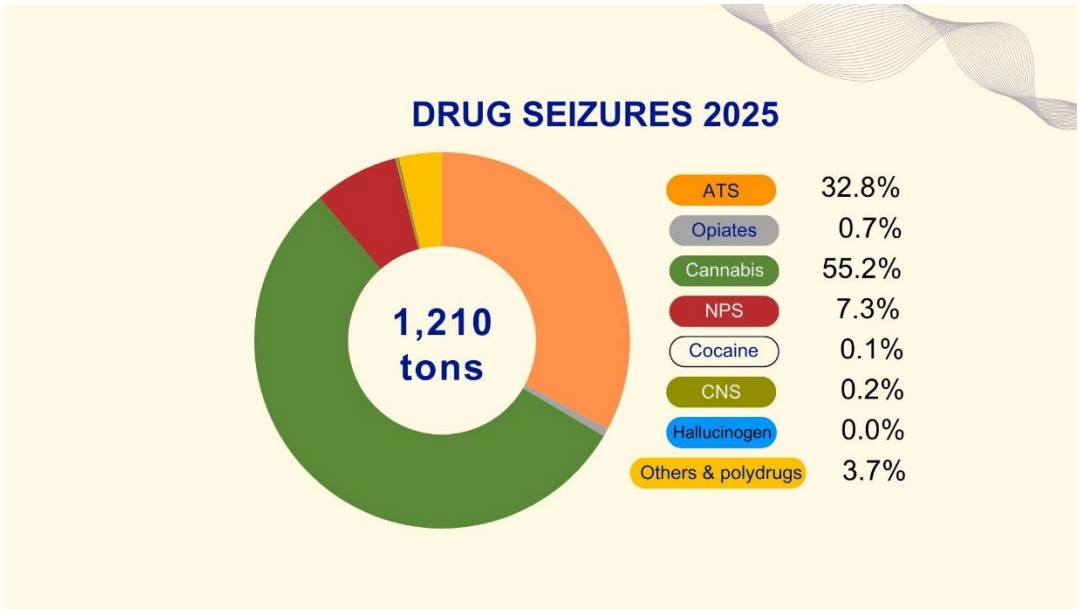


Figure 14. Drug Seizures in 2025

Enforcement Divergence and Network Resilience

A comparative evaluation of macro-level enforcement data exposes an important divergence between active investigations, offender arrests, and gross interdicted mass (Figure 15: Drug Seizures). Over the 2017–2025 longitudinal timeline, the regional supply chain has shown significant volatility.

Gross seizures rose to an early peak in 2019 (tons), driven by widespread cannabis and crystal methamphetamine interdictions, before contracting significantly during the pandemic containment phase to a low of tons in 2023. However, the post-pandemic era reveals an unprecedented resurgence, with total seizures surging to 1,210.4 tons in 2025.

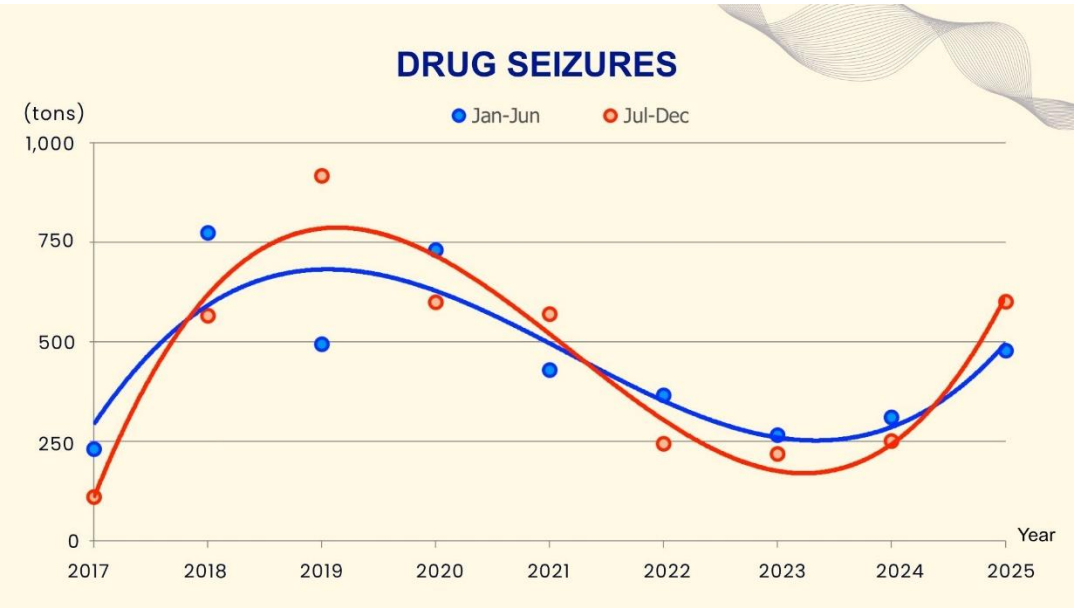


Figure 15. Drug Seizures

Crucially, this recent supply surge was accompanied by an expansion in active law enforcement cases, which reached 560,192 distinct cases, and absolute offender counts, which climbed to 620,747 arrested individuals in 2025. This parallel growth across arrests, cases, and volume proves that illicit manufacturing networks are operating at high capacity.

Transnational organized crime syndicates have successfully re-optimized their logistics chains in the post-pandemic landscape, maintaining a highly resilient supply architecture that can scale up output to absorb sustained law enforcement pressure.

Evolving Supply Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis of the periodic seizure composition matrix (Figure 16: Drug Seizures by Drug Types) highlights a major shift within subregional supply chains. The early reporting blocks (2017–2018) were heavily dominated by high-bulk plant narcotics and traditional opiates.

However, the post-2022 landscape reveals a distinct transition, where synthetic ATS formulations and high-potency NPS compounds have claimed the primary share of periodic seizures. This pattern confirms that clandestine networks are optimizing their logistics by focusing on high-value, chemically concentrated commodities. This shift allows syndicates to maximize profit margins while reducing the bulk weight exposed to law enforcement check-points along established air, land, and maritime corridors.

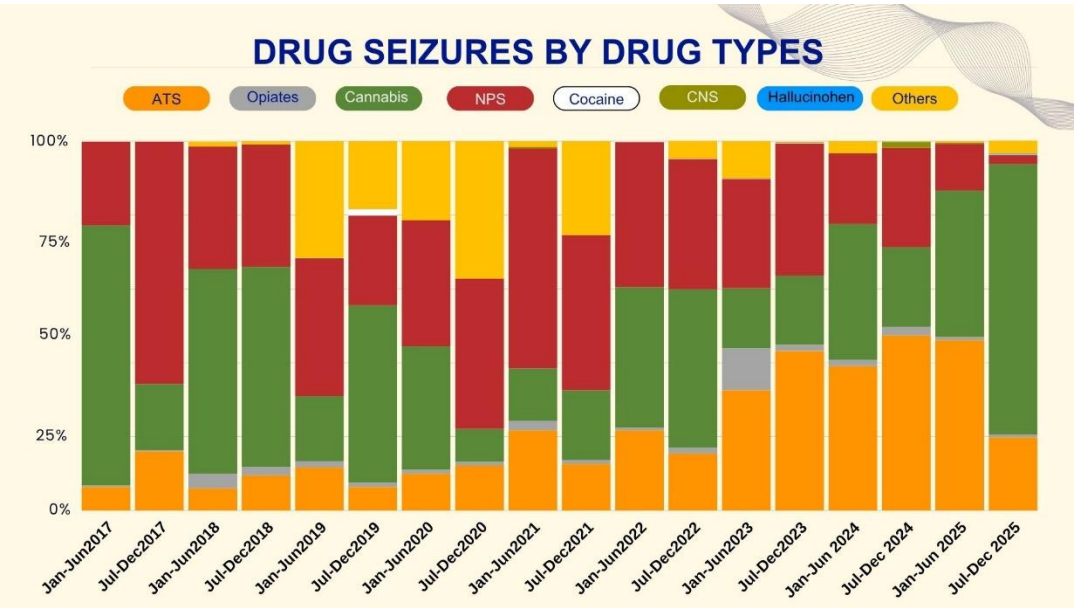


Figure 16. Drug Seizures by Drug Types

1.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of aggregated regional demand registries and supply-side metrics confirms that the ASEAN region faces a highly sophisticated, interconnected, and resilient illicit drug market. Three main trends emerge from this overview:

1. Absolute Dominance of the Synthetic Model: Synthetic drug economies—dominated by amphetamines and designer analogues—have achieved complete market entrenchment across both public health and law enforcement sectors, driving the majority of regional cases.

2. Escalating Complexity in Consumption: The steady expansion of polydrug demand profiles indicates that the regional consumer market is becoming increasingly sophisticated. This shift creates complex dependencies that significantly complicate traditional, single-substance treatment and detoxification protocols.

3. Advanced Agility of Supply Logistics: The rapid recovery of gross seizure volumes alongside rising arrest metrics demonstrates that transnational organized crime groups are highly adaptable. These networks easily bypass traditional border interdictions by modifying trafficking routes and changing chemical compositions.

These findings underscore the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must move beyond isolated national operations toward data-driven, regionally harmonized policies. This approach should combine real-time precursor tracking, financial investigations (anti-money laundering), and specialized forensic intelligence

with sustainable investments in integrated, evidence-based community treatment and early warning architectures. Without synchronized, multilateral initiatives addressing both supply routes and demand dynamics simultaneously, the regional drug trade will remain a major threat to security and public health across ASEAN.

2. Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS)

2.1 Background and Structural Market Transformation

Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) continue to constitute the most critical and complex illicit commodity threat confronting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. Over the past two decades, the regional illicit drug market has experienced a profound structural shift, transitioning away from traditional, plant-based narcotics toward highly resilient synthetic drug economies, with methamphetamine serving as the definitive market feature. This macro-level transition is fundamentally driven by clear supply-side economic advantages: exceptionally low manufacturing costs, streamlined synthetic production methodologies, the ready diversion of key precursor chemicals, and the high organizational adaptability of transnational criminal syndicates.

The regional ATS landscape is heavily dominated by two primary formulations: low-purity methamphetamine tablets (admixed with caffeine, locally known as Yaba) and high-purity crystalline methamphetamine (Ice or Shabu). Highly capitalized, industrial-scale illicit manufacturing hubs situated in remote border zones—predominantly within the Golden Triangle and its surrounding peripheries—maintain a continuous supply pipeline servicing both intra-regional consumer bases and lucrative international export markets. Concurrently, this expanding supply chain is significantly accelerated by rapid improvements in regional transportation infrastructure, the proliferation of end-to-end encrypted digital communication platforms, and intensifying cross-border trade corridors.

From an epidemiological and socioeconomic perspective, chronic ATS consumption triggers severe adverse public health outcomes. These include acute stimulant-induced psychosis, cardiovascular disease, substance dependence, increased rates of road traffic injuries, and domestic violence—collectively resulting in diminished labor productivity and substantial escalations in national healthcare expenditures. Consequently, the ATS crisis represents a profound public health emergency overlapping with a core regional security challenge.

2.2 Analysis of ATS Demand and Treatment Trends

Aggregated Admission Profile

In 2025, administrative registries across ASEAN Member States documented a total of 354,916 individuals receiving clinical treatment for ATS-related disorders, reinforcing its position as the largest single drug category among all treatment admissions reported through the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN). A granular breakdown of this cohort (Figure 17: ATS Users Treated 2025) highlights the internal dynamics of the stimulant market:

- Methamphetamine Tablets (Yaba): Accounted for 61.6% of all ATS-related treatment episodes, remaining the dominant modality of stimulant consumption across the region due to its widespread geographic distribution, low retail cost, and high affordability.
- Crystalline Methamphetamine (Ice): Constituted 14.0% of reported admissions, signaling the persistent penetration of high-purity, highly addictive stimulants into domestic consumer segments.
- Other ATS Formulations: Unspecified amphetamines and related synthetic variations collectively accounted for 24.2% of admissions.
- Ecstasy (MDMA): Represented a minor statistical fraction, accounting for only 0.24% of the regional treatment cohort.

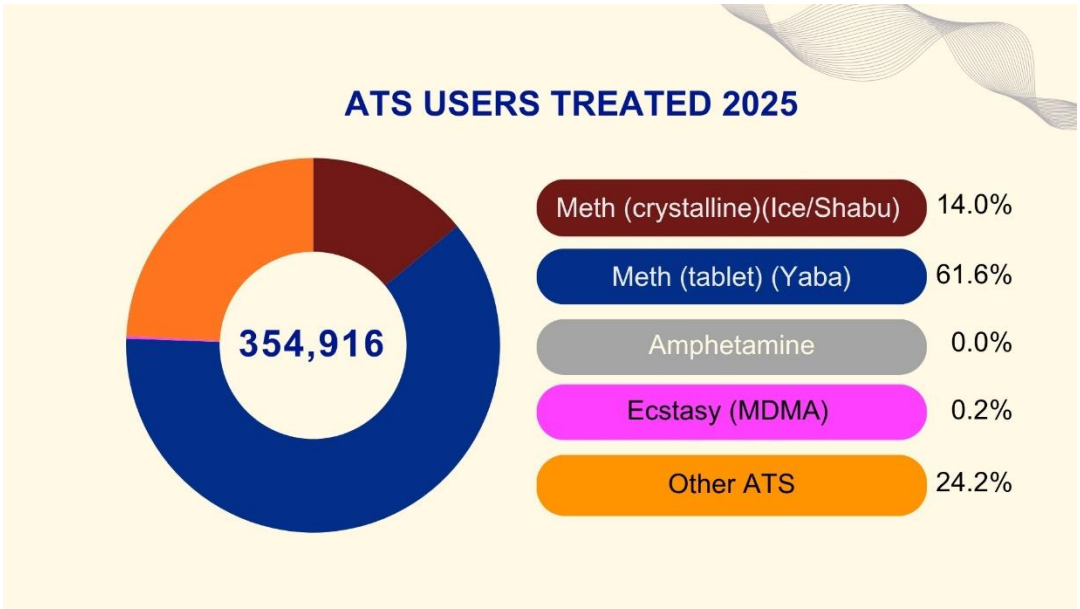


Figure 17. ATS Users Treated in 2025

Longitudinal and Seasonal Dynamics

Longitudinal surveillance data compiled between 2017 and 2025 demonstrates a sustained, expanding demand for specialized ATS treatment infrastructure across the bloc, with absolute admissions rising from approximately 167,000 users in 2017 to nearly 290,000 users by 2025 (Figure 18: ATS Users Treated). While the market experienced brief administrative and operational disruptions during the COVID-19 containment period, the post-pandemic trajectory reveals persistent pressure on national healthcare delivery systems.

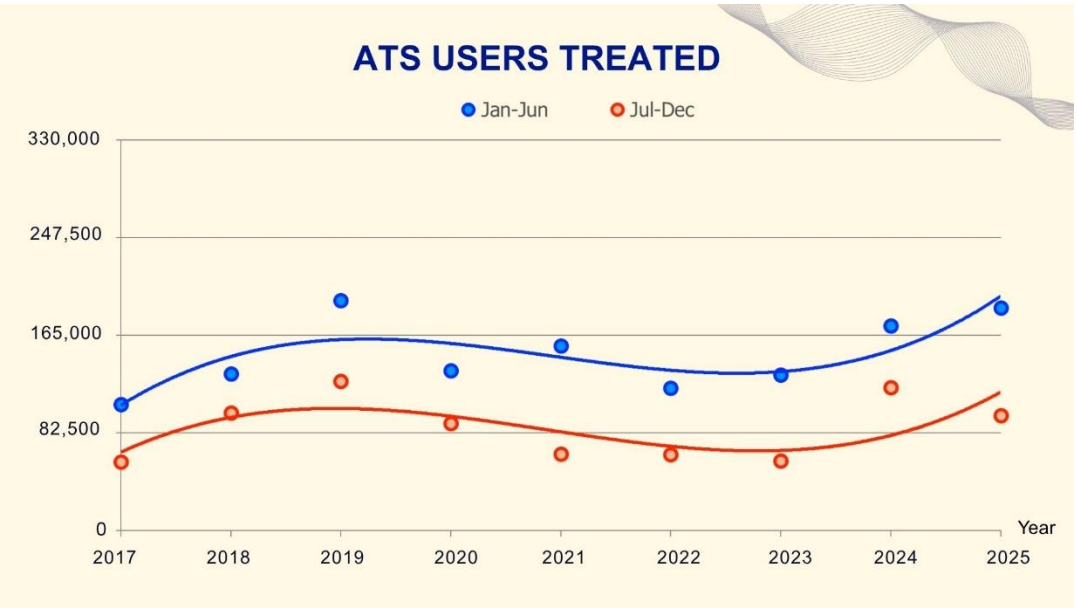


Figure 18. ATS Users Treated

Of significant interest for strategic resource planning is a highly consistent seasonal fluctuation observed across multiple reporting cycles. Administrative data reveals that treatment admissions documented during the first half of the calendar year (January–June) systematically exceed those in the second half (July–December). In 2025, for example, first-half admissions exceeded 190,000 individuals, whereas second-half admissions dropped to approximately 100,000 individuals a cyclical trend documented continuously since 2017.

While this discrepancy is shaped by an intersection of institutional enrollment cycles, seasonal law enforcement crackdowns, localized clinical capacity, and changing reporting protocols, it provides an empirical baseline for national health ministries to predictably allocate medical personnel and detoxification assets.

Structural Evolution of the Demand Market

As visualized in the periodic composition matrix (Figure 19: ATS Users Treated by Drug Types), the structural makeup of the demand market has shifted over time. Although low-purity tablets (Yaba) consistently maintain the largest overall volume, crystalline methamphetamine has shown highly volatile, periodic spikes, approaching nearly 50% of the reported ATS intake in specific reporting intervals.

This expanding footprint of crystalline methamphetamine is highly concerning to clinical epidemiologists. Its elevated pharmacological potency and severe addictive potential are directly correlated with acute psychiatric emergencies, severe cognitive deficits, and elevated overdose risks, which severely complicate traditional demand-reduction strategies. The parallel expansion of both tablet and crystal formulations indicates a highly diversified, sophisticated regional ATS market.

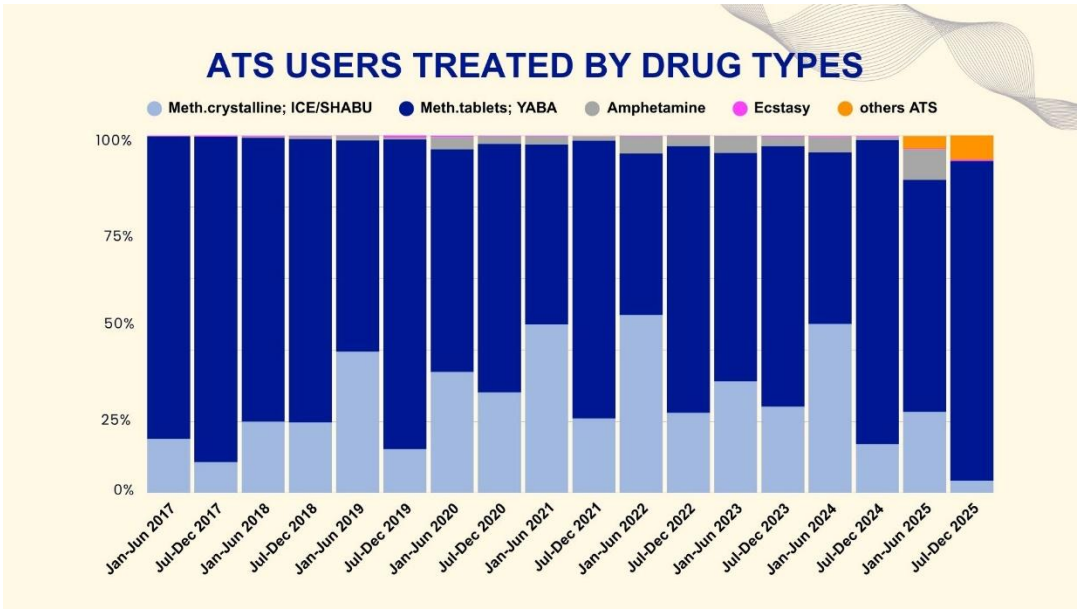


Figure 19. ATS Users Treated by Drug Types

2.3 Analysis of ATS Supply, Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Commodity Profiling of Seizures

Supply-side data compiled by regional law enforcement bodies points to a continuous expansion of ATS trafficking networks within the ASEAN bloc. In 2025, aggregated interdictions culminated in approximately 397 metric tons of ATS seized, marking one of the highest volumes ever recorded by the ADMN (Figure 20: ATS Seizures in 2025).

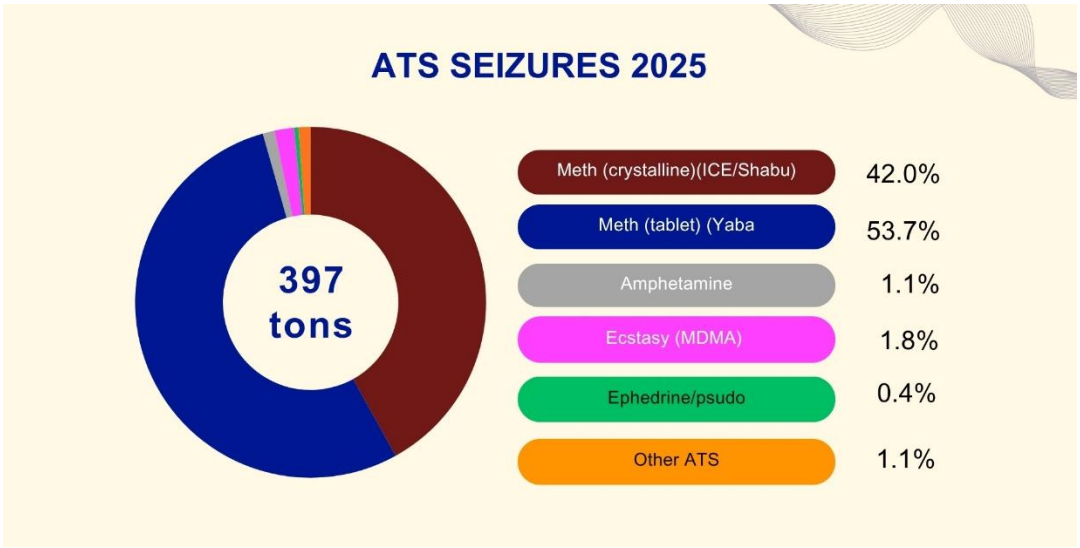


Figure 20. ATS Seizures in 2025

This distribution profile tightly mirrors regional demand data, confirming that methamphetamine remains the primary driver of the regional synthetic trade. Together, tablet and crystalline formulations accounted for 95.7% of all reported ATS seizures by weight in 2025. Other synthetic variants—including methamphetamine powder, MDMA, diverted ephedrine/pseudoephedrine shipments, and miscellaneous new stimulant variations—collectively accounted for less than 5% of the total volume.

Enforcement Divergence and Network Resilience

A comparative evaluation of operational law enforcement data reveals a critical divergence between institutional interventions and absolute market supply (Figure 21: ATS Cases, Offenders and Seizures). During 2025, ASEAN Member States documented approximately 233,000 distinct ATS-related cases, resulting in the arrest of over 259,000 offenders. Crucially, while the absolute number of cases and arrests remained relatively stable compared to previous operational baselines, total seizure volumes expanded significantly.

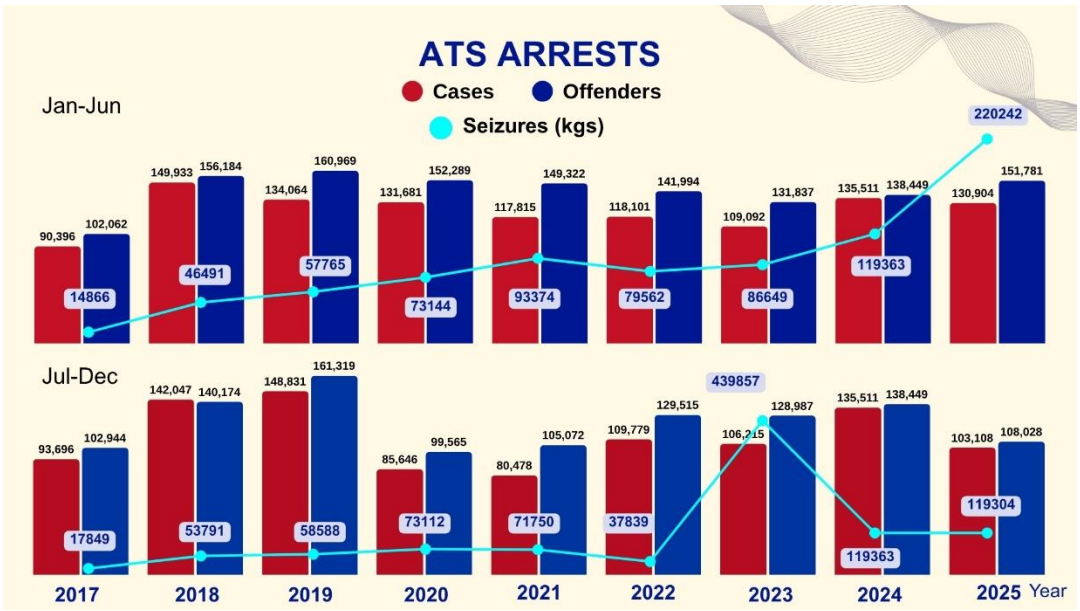


Figure 21. ATS Cases, Offenders and Seizures

This clear statistical divergence indicates that transnational trafficking networks are adjusting their logistics by moving significantly larger bulk quantities per shipment along established air, land, and maritime corridors. This trend points to industrial-scale production efficiencies, highly optimized cross-border logistics, and advanced operational capabilities among syndicates. It further demonstrates that these transnational organizations maintain high institutional resilience, successfully absorbing sustained law enforcement pressure by scaling up manufacturing output.

Evolving Supply Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis of seizure composition (Figure 22: ATS Seizures by Drug Types) highlights a clear shift within the supply market. While tablet variations have historically dominated gross seizure weights, crystalline methamphetamine has claimed a steadily increasing share of the total volume, particularly in the post-2022 landscape.

This trend reflects an optimization strategy by organized crime groups. Because crystalline formulations yield substantially higher profit margins per kilogram compared to low-purity tablets, syndicates are increasingly prioritizing this high-purity product segment to maximize revenues. Concurrently, the steady appearance of liquid amphetamines, precursor alternatives, and novel stimulant profiles—though small in total volume—indicates continuous chemical experimentation within clandestine laboratories, presenting an ongoing challenge for customs and forensic intelligence frameworks.

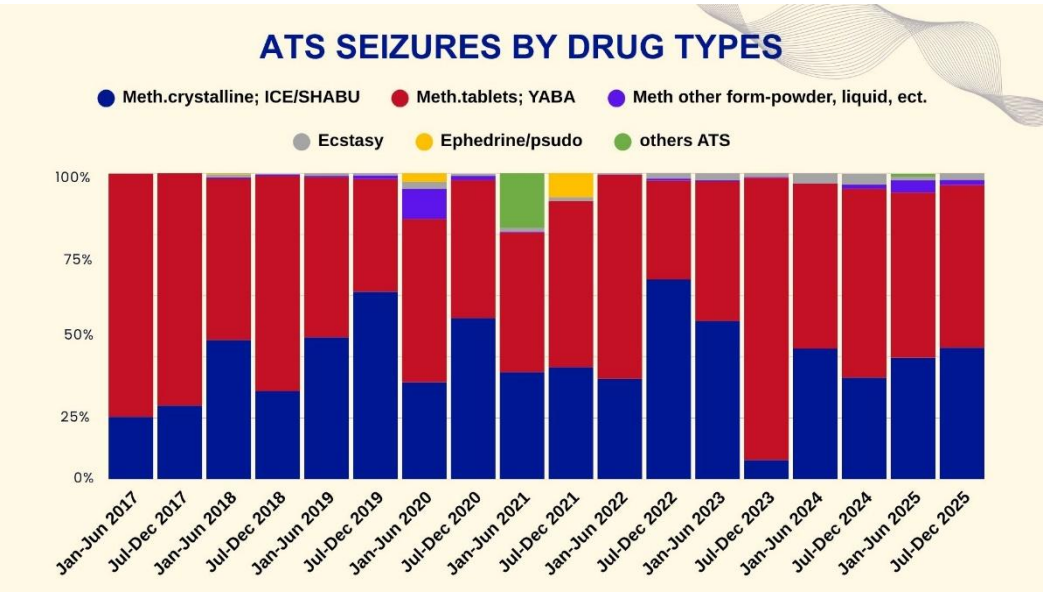


Figure 22. ATS Seizures by Drug Types

2.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of regional demand and supply indicators confirms that ATS remains the primary, defining threat to the security and public health architecture of the ASEAN region. Three structural trends emerge from this analysis:

1. Absolute Entrenchment of Methamphetamine: The regional drug market is locked into a synthetic stimulant model. Both public health registries and law enforcement data confirm that methamphetamine tablets and crystalline variations account for the overwhelming majority of all drug-related activity within the bloc.

2. Advanced Market Sophistication: The steady rise of crystalline methamphetamine points to an escalating public health crisis. High-purity products accelerate chemical dependence, trigger severe psychiatric disorders, raise overdose risks, and require highly specialized, resource-intensive medical detoxification models.

3. High Agility of Supply Networks: The continuous expansion of gross seizure volumes alongside flat arrest rates indicates that criminal organizations are highly adaptable and capable of rapidly scaling up manufacturing capacity. The regional ATS market has proven insulated against short-term law enforcement disruptions, adapting swiftly to counter-narcotics interventions.

These empirical findings underscore the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must integrate public health programs and evidence-

based clinical models with strict precursor chemical controls, cross-border financial investigations, and real-time operational intelligence sharing. Without synchronized, multilateral initiatives addressing both supply lines and demand dynamics simultaneously, ATS will remain the dominant security threat and public health challenge across ASEAN for the foreseeable future.

3. Opiates and Opioids

3.1 Background and Structural Market Transformation

Opiates and opioids continue to represent a deeply entrenched and highly challenging illicit commodity category within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. Historically dominant across Southeast Asia due to traditional poppy cultivation and processing networks within the Golden Triangle, the market for plant-based opiates has faced significant structural pressures from the rapid expansion of synthetic stimulants. Nevertheless, traditional opiates—primarily heroin and raw opium—alongside an increasingly diverse array of prescription opioids, synthetic variations, and targeted analgesics, maintain a significant footprint across both mainland and archipelagic supply corridors.

The contemporary opiate/opioid landscape is characterized by a dual market structure. On one side, high-purity heroin and traditional raw opium remain major substances of concern, supplied by persistent illicit agricultural activities and local refining labs. On the other side, the market has seen a growing penetration of pharmaceutical-grade opioids, codeine formulations, and diverse analgesics, which are frequently diverted from legitimate medical supply chains or illicitly manufactured to meet localized demand.

From an epidemiological standpoint, chronic opiate and opioid use triggers severe, long-term public health and socioeconomic burdens. Injection drug use within this category is strongly linked to the transmission of blood-borne pathogens, including HIV and Hepatitis C, while chronic dependency frequently results in fatal respiratory depression and overdose emergencies. The profound health risks, coupled with the systemic overextension of specialized detoxification assets and lost economic productivity, ensure that the opiate/opioid situation remains a critical public health and regional security concern.

3.2 Analysis of Opiate/Opioid Demand and Treatment Trends

Aggregated Admission Profile

In 2025, administrative registries across ASEAN Member States documented a total of 94,909 individuals receiving clinical treatment for opiate- and opioid-related disorders, confirming its status as a major clinical burden within the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN). A granular evaluation of this treatment cohort (Figure 23: Opiate/Opioid Users Treated in 2025) reveals the internal composition of the demand market:

- Heroin: Remains the absolute dominant modality of consumption within this drug group, accounting for 64.1% of all opiate/opioid treatment admissions due to its long-standing availability and high dependency rates.
- Morphine: Constituted a substantial 28.8% share of the regional treatment registry.
- Opium: Accounted for 6.7% of reported admissions, reflecting a localized baseline of traditional use.
- Analgesics: Represented a minor statistical segment at 0.30% of the clinical cohort.
- Methadone: Accounted for 0.17% of individuals captured in treatment records.
- Codeine: Comprised a minor statistical fraction at 0.01% of total admissions.

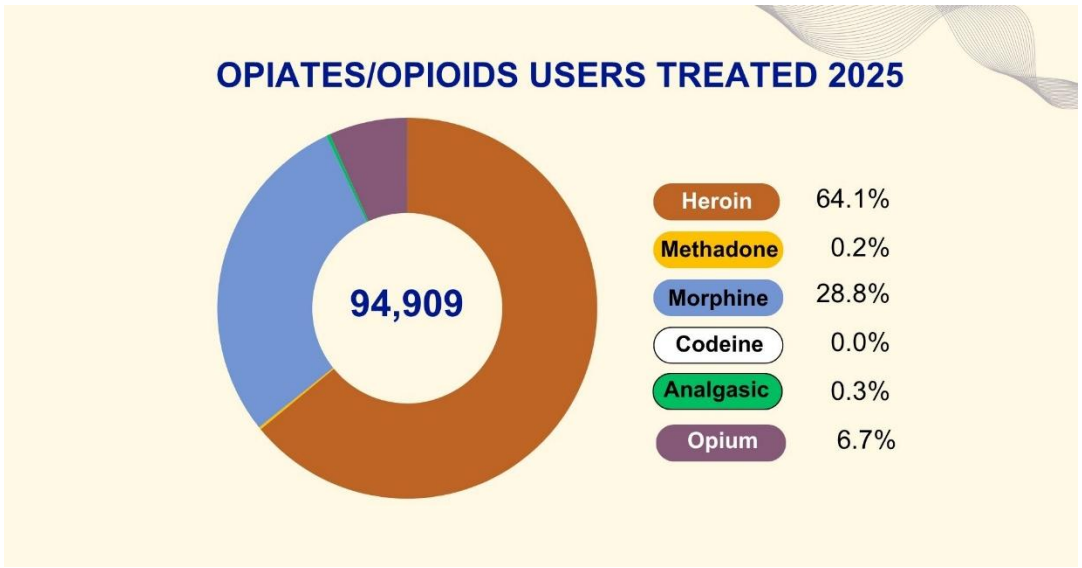


Figure 23. Opiate/Opioid Users Treated in 2025

Longitudinal and Seasonal Dynamics

Longitudinal surveillance data compiled between 2017 and 2025 reveals a distinct polynomial curve in treatment registrations (Figure 24: Opiates/Opioids Users Treated). Unlike the linear, upward trajectory seen in synthetic drug markets, opiate/opioid treatment demand expanded significantly from a low baseline in 2017, peaked mid-decade around 2021–2022, and subsequently experienced a downward shift in total clinical admissions through 2025.

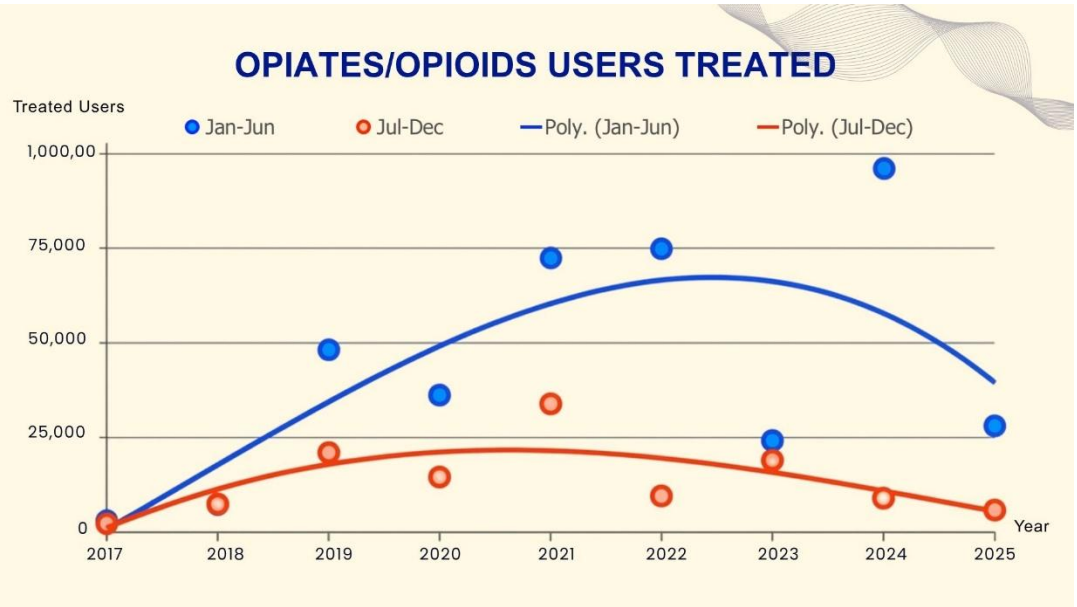


Figure 24. Opiate/Opioid Users Treated

Aligning with the seasonal anomalies identified across other drug groups, the administrative records for opiate/opioid treatment display a highly consistent periodic split. Admissions tracked during the first half of the calendar year (January–June) systematically outpace those reported in the second half (July–December) across nearly all longitudinal data points. In 2025, first-half admissions approached approximately 40,000 individuals, while second-half registrations dropped sharply to around 6,000 individuals. This predictable administrative cycle provides national health authorities with an empirical basis for allocating specialized detoxification resources and scheduling maintenance therapies.

Structural Evolution of the Demand Market

As visualized in the longitudinal composition matrix (Figure 25: Opiates/Opioids Users Treated by Drug Types), the structural makeup of the demand market has shifted over successive reporting intervals. While heroin has historically maintained the clear majority of total treatment volume, raw opium and morphine have exhibited periodic fluctuations.

Notably, a prominent spike in opium admissions occurred in the first half of 2025, temporarily accounting for over 50% of the substance-specific intake for that reporting period before adjusting back to historical baselines in the subsequent half. The parallel persistence of chronic heroin addiction alongside sharp, periodic variations in raw opium and morphine use demonstrates that the regional opiate market is highly dynamic, requiring flexible, multi-layered clinical protocols to address both traditional plant-based habits and high-potency addictions.

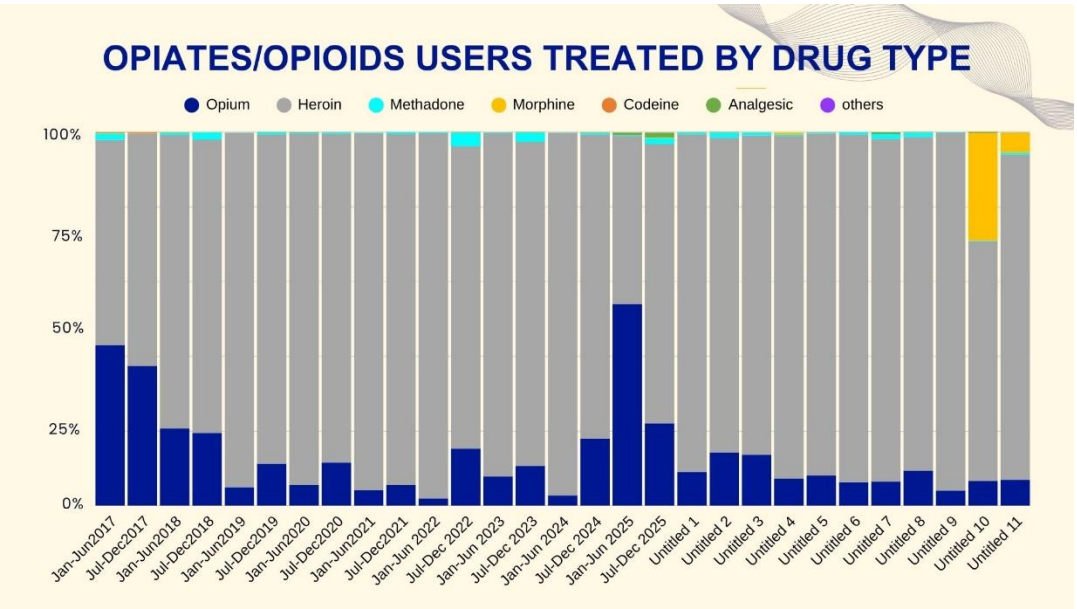


Figure 25. Opiates/Opioids Users Treated by Drug Types

3.3 Analysis of Opiate/Opioid Supply, Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Commodity Profiling of Seizures

Supply-side data compiled by regional customs and law enforcement bodies indicates a complex supply landscape across the ASEAN bloc. In 2025, aggregated interdictions culminated in a total of 8.6 metric tons of opiates and opioids seized (Figure 26: Opiates/Opioids Seizures in 2025). A commodity breakdown by weight highlights that illicit trafficking remains heavily focused on refined end-products:

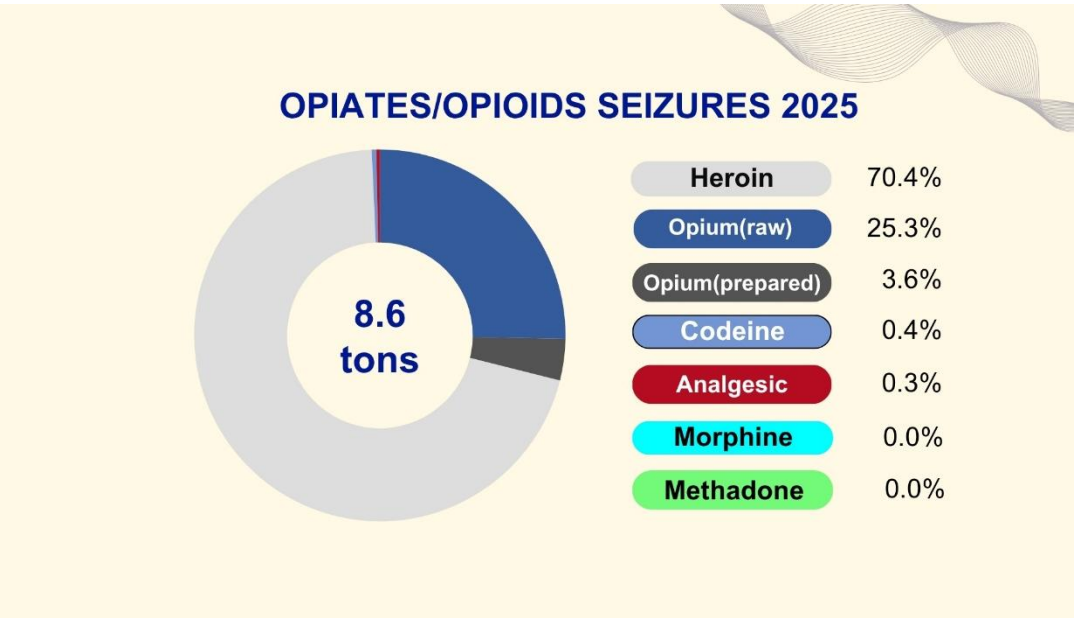


Figure 26. Opiate/Opioid Seizures in 2025

Figure 26 shows the distribution of opioid treatment cases by opioid subtype in 2025. Heroin remained the predominant opioid, accounting for 70.40% of classified opioid treatment cases, followed by raw opium (25.34%) and prepared opium (3.57%). Other opioid substances, including codeine (0.44%), analgesic opioids (0.25%), morphine (<0.01%), and methadone (<0.01%), together represented less than 1% of opioid treatment cases. These findings indicate that heroin continues to be the principal opioid requiring treatment across ASEAN, although traditional opium use remains an important component of the opioid treatment burden in several Member States.

Enforcement Divergence and Network Resilience

A comparative analysis of operational enforcement metrics tracks the relationship between investigative volume, arrested individuals, and total interdicted weight (Figure 27: Opiate/Opioid Cases, Offenders, and Seizures). During 2025, regional law enforcement agencies maintained a steady operational tempo, documenting approximately 12,875 cases and arresting 15,910 offenders during the January–June period, and closing the year with 1,434 cases and 1,831 arrests during the July–December interval.

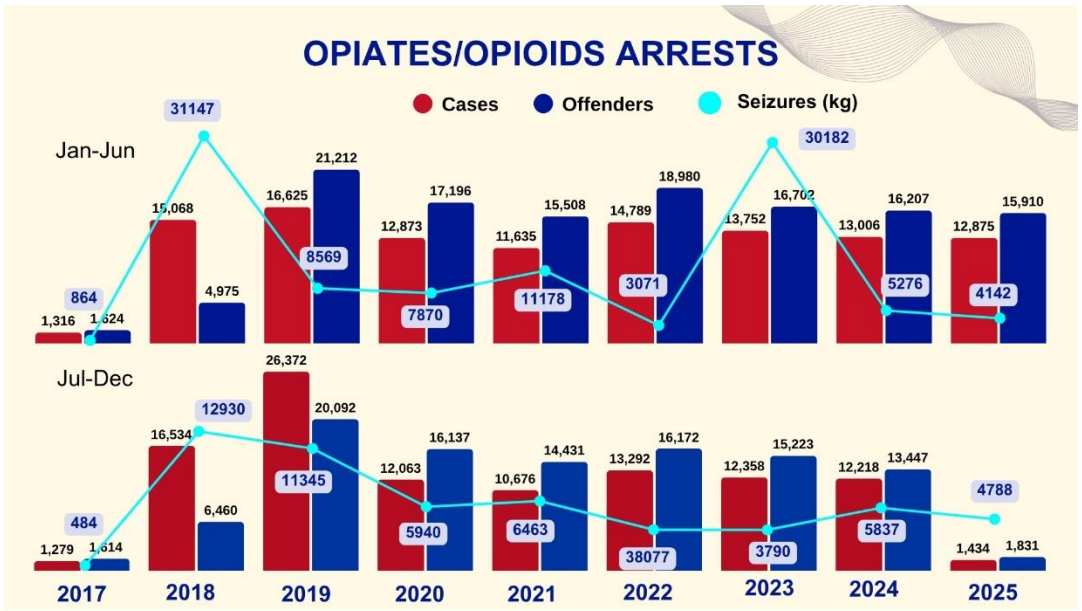


Figure 27. Opiate/Opioid Cases, Offenders, and Seizures

The data reveals that gross seizure weights peaked sharply in 2018 (kg in the first half and kg in the second half) and again in 2023 (kg in the first half), before stabilizing at lower volumes through 2024 and 2025. This stabilization, occurring alongside fluctuating case volumes, indicates that while bulk cross-border shipments of plant-based opiates have leveled off compared to historical peaks, trafficking syndicates maintain highly reliable, specialized networks capable of maintaining steady supply pipelines despite ongoing law enforcement pressure.

Evolving Supply Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis of seizure composition (Figure 28: Opiates/Opioids Seizures by Drug Types) confirms a clear evolution in regional supply dynamics. While heroin and raw opium historically dominated gross seizure metrics, codeine formulations have claimed a significantly larger share of the total volume in recent years—particularly dominating multiple reporting cycles between 2018 and 2021.

This trend reflects a clear diversification strategy by organized crime networks, who increasingly exploit the high profit margins and lower legal penalties associated with pharmaceutical diversion and chemical preparation. Concurrently, the sporadic emergence of illicit analgesics and refined opium variants underscores the persistent chemical agility within subregional manufacturing zones, presenting an ongoing challenge for border security and pharmaceutical regulatory frameworks.

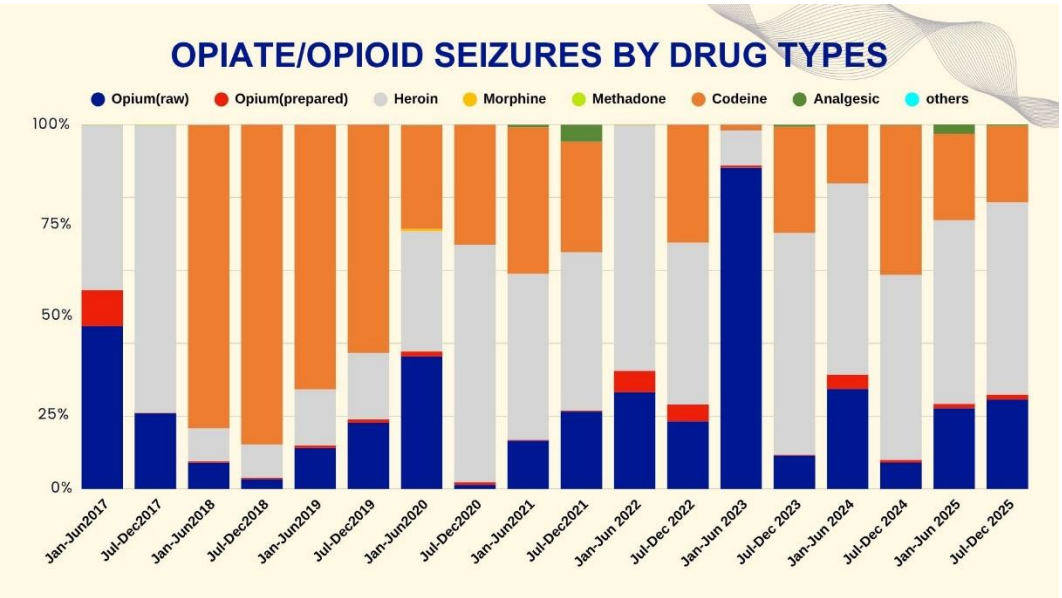


Figure 28. Opiate/Opioid Seizures by Drug Types

3.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of regional demand and supply indicators confirms that opiates and opioids continue to pose a persistent, structural challenge to the health and security architectures of the ASEAN region. Three main trends emerge from this comprehensive analysis:

1. Continued Entrenchment of Heroin: Despite the rapid expansion of synthetic stimulant markets, heroin remains firmly entrenched as the primary refined opiate commodity across both law enforcement and public health matrices, driving the majority of chronic clinical admissions.

2. Diversification of the Opioid Market: The steady presence of codeine and specialized analgesics in recent seizure weights points to a more sophisticated, diversified market. Syndicates are increasingly augmenting traditional plant-based smuggling routes with pharmaceutical diversion and synthetic opioid alternatives.

3. High Strain on Treatment Networks: The extreme seasonal variations and volatile spikes observed in raw opium and morphine admissions highlight the complexity of regional demand patterns. These dynamics create unpredictable resource strain, requiring highly adaptive, patient-centered clinical detoxification and maintenance models.

These findings highlight the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must combine evidence-based harm reduction programs and specialized clinical treatment with strict controls on pharmaceutical supply chains, targeted

border management, and cross-border intelligence sharing. Without synchronized, multilateral initiatives addressing both traditional trafficking routes and pharmaceutical diversion pathways simultaneously, opiates and opioids will continue to represent a severe public health burden and long-term security challenge across ASEAN.

4. Cannabis

4.1 Background and Structural Market Transformation

Cannabis products and their derivatives continue to represent an exceptionally fluid, complex, and politically sensitive illicit commodity category within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. Historically managed under strict prohibitory regional frameworks, the cannabis market has undergone a significant structural transformation over the past decade. This evolution is driven by starkly contrasting national policy paths, shifting consumer demographics, and changing production techniques across the bloc.

The regional market is heavily bifurcated between bulk plant-based cultivation—consisting of dried cannabis flowers and whole cannabis plants—and a highly specialized selection of refined extracts, resin (hashish), and cannabis-infused liquids, jellies, or oils. This sector is heavily influenced by a major legislative pivot: the formal legalization of cannabis in Thailand in mid-2022. While this policy shift fundamentally altered domestic availability and clinical tracking parameters in the mainland subregion, adjacent ASEAN Member States have maintained strict criminalization policies. This cross-border legislative friction creates a highly complex regulatory environment, presenting unique tracking and enforcement challenges for regional custom networks, forensic intelligence units, and public health surveillance frameworks.

4.2 Analysis of Cannabis Demand and Treatment Trends

Aggregated Admission Profile

Longitudinal data compiled through the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) highlights the long-term impact of regional legislative changes on public health infrastructure. Looking back across the 2017–2025 surveillance cycle, cannabis-related treatment admissions have shown severe fluctuations that directly align with macro-political shifts.

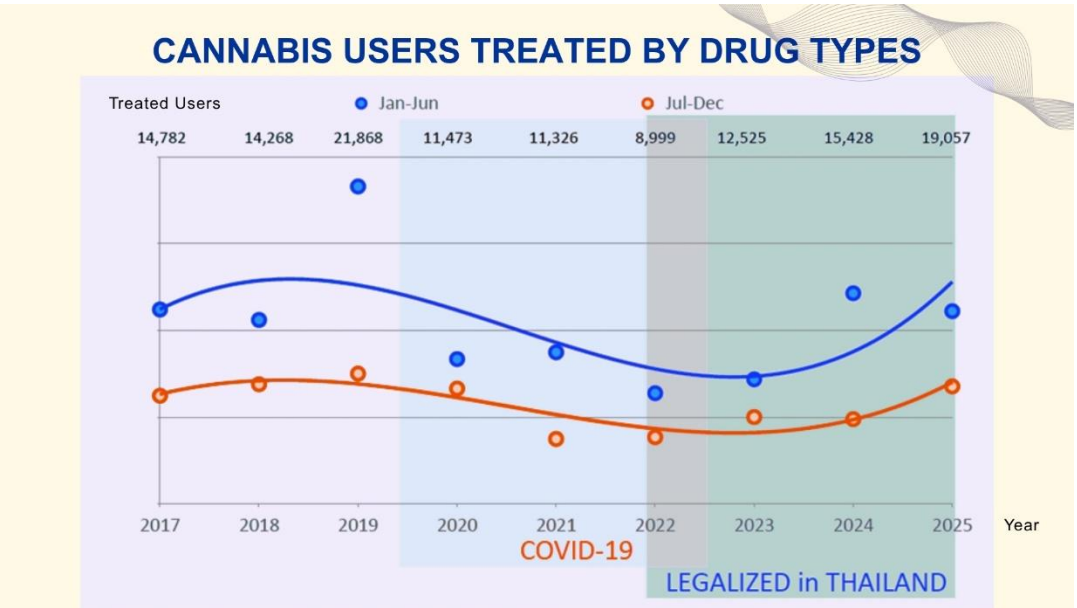


Figure 29. Cannabis Users Treated by Drug Types

Longitudinal and Seasonal Dynamics

As visualized in the periodic trend matrix (Figure 29: Cannabis Users Treated by Drug Types), the market experienced a sharp contraction during the COVID-19 pandemic and the immediate post-legalization block (2020–2022), with formal annual admissions bottoming out at 8,999 individuals in 2022. This decline was driven by a combination of pandemic healthcare reallocations and the removal of compulsory clinical diversion mandates in specific jurisdictions. However, the 2023–2025 post-legalization landscape reveals a steady resurgent trend, with aggregated treatment demand climbing back to 19,057 individuals by 2025.

Aligning with institutional patterns identified in major stimulant classes, cannabis registries display a highly consistent seasonal variation, where admissions documented during the first half of the calendar year (January–June) systematically outpace those reported in the final half (July–December). This predictable periodic split provides national health ministries with an empirical foundation to predictably allocate counseling and psychiatric treatment resources.

Structural Evolution of the Demand Market

The sharp initial spike in the first half of 2019—reaching a record seasonal peak of 21,868 total treated individuals—proves that cannabis has historically driven significant volume within regional public health networks. The subsequent drop and subsequent recovery through 2025 show a changing consumer landscape.

The parallel expansion of both treatment registrations and open market availability indicates that while absolute legal penalties have eased in specific zones, the increased potency of high-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) dried flower variations continues to cause acute

public health issues, including cannabis-induced psychosis, severe dependency patterns, and adolescent mental health complications. This evolving pattern places ongoing pressure on voluntary outpatient clinics and community rehab facilities across the region.

4.3 Analysis of Cannabis Supply, Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Commodity Profiling of Seizures

Supply-side data compiled by regional customs and border enforcement agencies points to a massive physical trade. In 2025, aggregated regional interdictions culminated in a total of 667 metric tons of cannabis seized. A granular commodity breakdown by weight (Figure 30: Cannabis Seizures 2025) confirms that the regional supply chain remains heavily focused on traditional dried agricultural materials:

- Cannabis (Dried): Accounted for 88.3% of gross seizure weight, remaining the primary refined cannabis commodity trafficked through regional distribution networks.
- Cannabis (Plants): Comprised 11.6% of the gross interdicted weight, reflecting a substantial domestic cultivation footprint within specific subregions.
- Cannabis (Resin): Constituted 0.18% of the total volume.
- Cannabis (Liquid/Jelly/Oil): Represented an exceptionally compact segment at 0.001% of gross weight, though carrying high value and elevated THC density.
- Cannabis (Seeds)/Others: Accounted for a minor statistical fraction at 0.02% of the recorded annual weight.

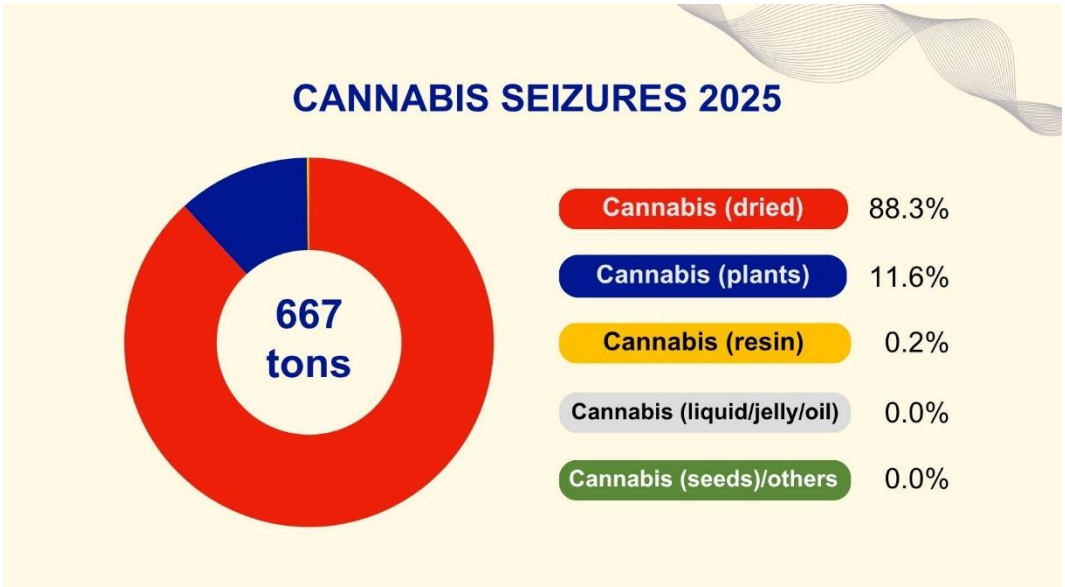


Figure 30. Cannabis Seizures in 2025

Enforcement Divergence and Network Resilience

A comparative evaluation of operational law enforcement data reveals a critical divergence between active investigations, offender arrests, and gross interdicted weight (Figure 31: Cannabis Cases, Offenders and Seizures). Over the ten-year period, the timeline is marked by massive supply resurgences.

Gross seizure weights peaked dramatically in the first half of 2018 (kg) and again during a historic surge in 2025—culminating in 189,427 kilograms in the first half and a historic peak of 440,829 kilograms in the final half. Crucially, while 2019 recorded the highest number of offenders (in the first half) alongside a lower seizure volume (kg), the massive volume surges in 2025 occurred while case files and offender counts remained low and stable (and arrests per respective half).

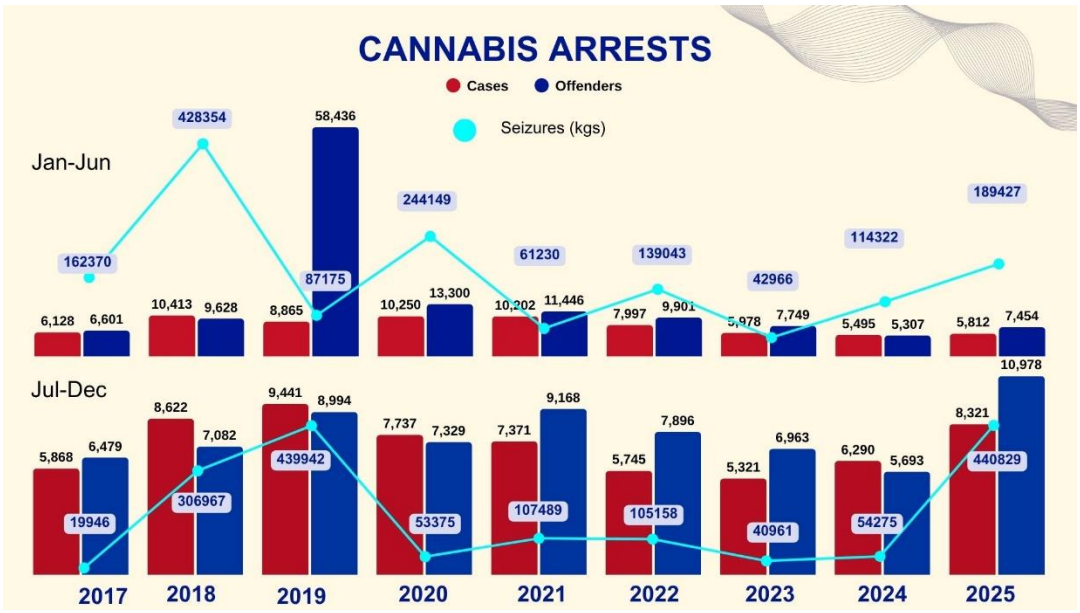


Figure 31. Cannabis Cases, Offenders and Seizures

This clear statistical divergence indicates that trafficking networks are moving massive bulk quantities per shipment along established distribution corridors. This trend points to advanced operational capabilities among syndicates, demonstrating that these organizations can scale up bulk supply lines independently of low-level enforcement interventions.

Evolving Supply Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis of the periodic seizure composition matrix (Figure 32: Cannabis Seizures by Type) confirms a major transition within subregional supply chains. From 2017 through mid-2020, gross regional seizures were heavily dominated by whole cannabis plants.

However, the post-2020 matrix reveals a profound structural shift. Dried cannabis flowers and commercial end-products expanded to capture a steadily increasing share of the total volume. This trend culminated in the 2025 reporting blocks, where dried cannabis captured near-total dominance of the periodic seizure share. This pattern proves that clandestine suppliers and commercial networks are increasingly focusing on refined, high-potency product segments to maximize cross-border revenues, posing a persistent challenge for border customs and regional intelligence frameworks.

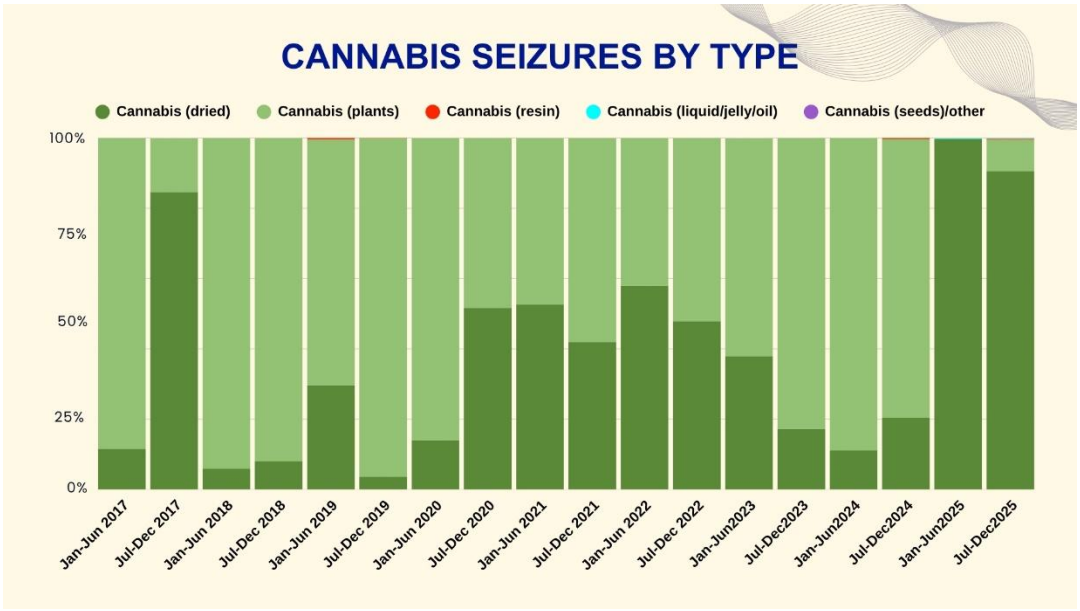


Figure 32. Cannabis Seizures by Type

4.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of regional demand registries and supply-side metrics confirms that cannabis continues to present a highly fluid, structurally complex challenge to the health and security architectures of the ASEAN region. Three main trends emerge from this comprehensive analysis:

1. Absolute Entrenchment of Dried Flowers: Refined dried cannabis flower has decisively overtaken raw plant cultivation as the dominant commodity across both law

enforcement and clinical demand matrices, driving the majority of recent seizures and clinical admissions.

2. Impact of Regional Policy Friction: The sharp legislative divergence between Member States has created an active regional gray market. Syndicates exploit varying legal frameworks to establish industrial-scale supply pipelines, leading to an unprecedented post-legalization surge in bulk border interdictions.

3. Advanced Logistical Agility of Supply Lines: The recurrent, massive spikes in bulk seizure weight alongside flat arrest metrics indicate that trafficking organizations are highly resilient and capable of moving large, high-volume shipments. These supply pipelines have proven insulated against short-term enforcement interventions, adapting swiftly to counter-narcotics strategies.

These empirical findings underscore the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must prioritize the integration of standardized border management protocols with evidence-based clinical treatment models, specialized forensic tracking, and cross-border regulatory harmonization. Without synchronized, multilateral initiatives addressing both traditional trafficking routes and commercial diversion pathways simultaneously, cannabis will remain a major public health threat and a complex security challenge across ASEAN.

5. New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

5.1 Background and Structural Market Transformation

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and associated botanical materials represent the most highly dynamic, rapidly evolving, and unpredictable commodity category emerging within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. Over the past decade, the regional market has experienced a significant expansion in this sector, driven by chemical innovation, legal gray areas, and the tactical diversification of transnational criminal syndicates. The regional NPS landscape is fundamentally bisected by two distinct product segments: traditional traditional/botanical enhancements—chiefly involving Kratom (Mitragyna speciosa) in both raw leaf and liquid decoction formats—and high-potency synthetic compounds, most notably ketamine, alongside volatile rotations of synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones.

The proliferation of these substances is significantly accelerated by clandestine chemical synthesis laboratories operating on the peripheries of the Golden Triangle, combined with specialized digital supply networks that leverage encrypted messaging

services and domestic courier distribution. From an epidemiological perspective, the consumption of high-potency synthetic NPS is strongly correlated with acute psychiatric emergencies, including severe agitation, substance-induced delirium, unpredictable cardiovascular toxicity, and high dependency rates. This rapidly shifting landscape places an exceptional burden on regional custom frameworks, forensic detection facilities, and psychiatric treatment networks, rendering the NPS market both an acute public health threat and a highly complex regulatory challenge.

5.2 Analysis of NPS Demand and Treatment Trends

Aggregated Admission Profile

In 2025, administrative registries across ASEAN Member States documented a total of 11,137 individuals receiving clinical treatment for NPS-related disorders, highlighting an expanding domestic consumer footprint. A granular profiling of this clinical cohort (Figure 33: NPS Users Treated in 2025) underscores the severe pressure exerted by synthetic dissociative anesthetics over botanical alternatives in a clinical setting:

Ketamine: Constituted the clear majority of the clinical cohort, accounting for 59.1% of all NPS-related treatment admissions, signaling its high abuse potential and severe clinical impact.

Kratom: Accounted for 33.6% of reported admissions, representing a stable baseline of individuals seeking support for botanical dependence.

Other NPS Formulations: Unspecified designer synthetic compounds, synthetic cannabinoids, and cathinone variations collectively comprised 7.3% of the treatment cohort.

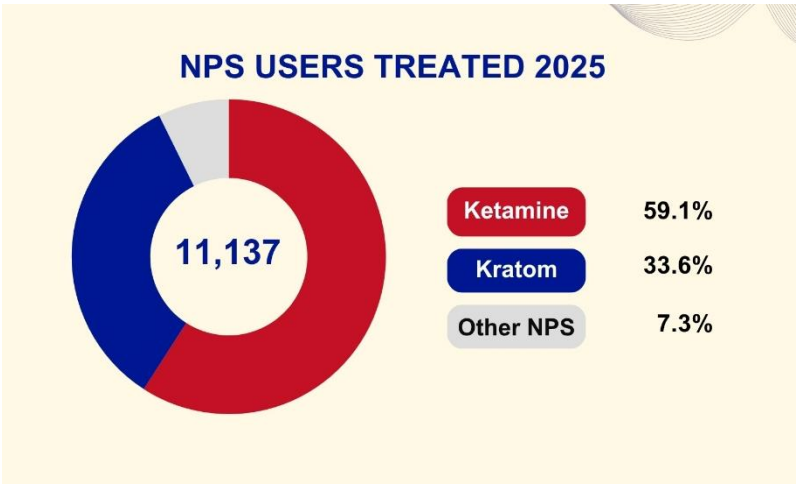


Figure 33. NPS Users Treated in 2025

Longitudinal and Seasonal Dynamics

Longitudinal tracking between 2017 and 2025 reveals a distinct parabolic trend line split across periodic intervals (Figure 34: NPS Users Treated). The demand market experienced an initial contraction during the pre-pandemic and mid-pandemic periods (2018–2021), bottoming out due to widespread containment measures and supply chain disruptions. However, the post-pandemic era has seen a steady, resurgent upward trend in clinical intake through 2024 and 2025.

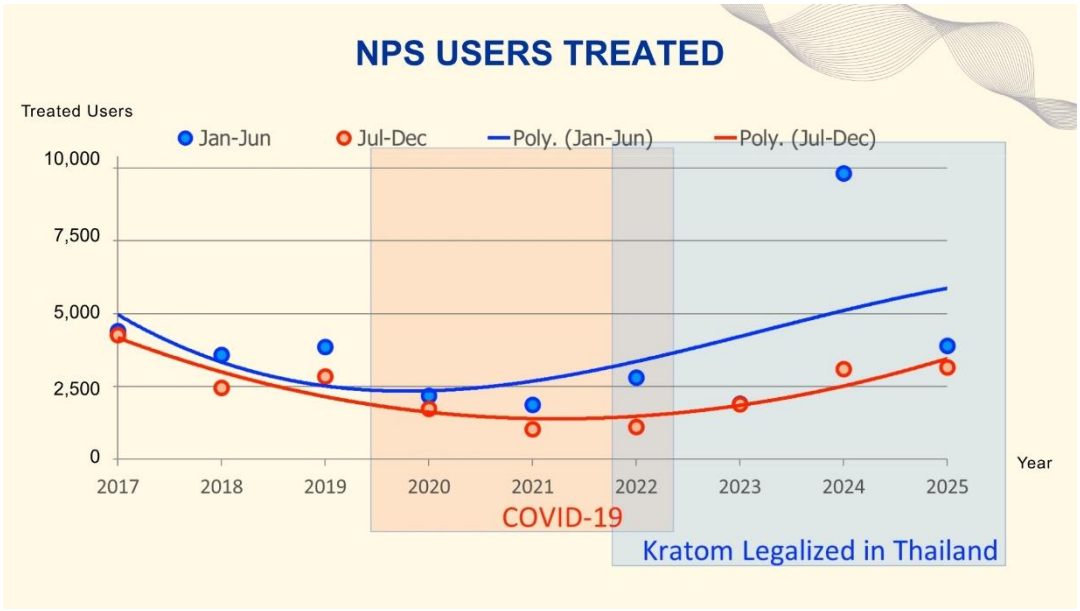


Figure 34. NPS Users Treated

Aligning with the institutional patterns observed in adjacent drug classes, NPS treatment registries exhibit a predictable seasonal variation, with the first half of the calendar year (January–June) systematically exceeding the latter half (July–December). In 2025, first-half admissions approached approximately 4,000 individuals, while second-half registrations declined slightly to roughly 3,200 individuals.

Structural Evolution of the Demand Market

As visualized in the longitudinal line matrix (Figure 35: NPS Users Treated by Drug Types), the demand market experienced a profound structural shock following a major legislative pivot in the region—the formal legalization of Kratom in Thailand around mid-2022. Prior to this regulatory shift, Kratom treatment admissions regularly constituted the largest volume of NPS clinical demand. Following legalization, institutional tracking for Kratom stabilized or declined, while synthetic compounds experienced dramatic escalations.

Most notably, the first half of 2024 (Jan–Jun 2024) witnessed an unprecedented, historic surge in ketamine treatment admissions, spiking to approximately 7,500 distinct clinical episodes within a single six-month interval. This volatile spike underscores the capacity of synthetic NPS markets to expand exponentially, causing sudden, acute resource strain across regional psychiatric treatment assets.

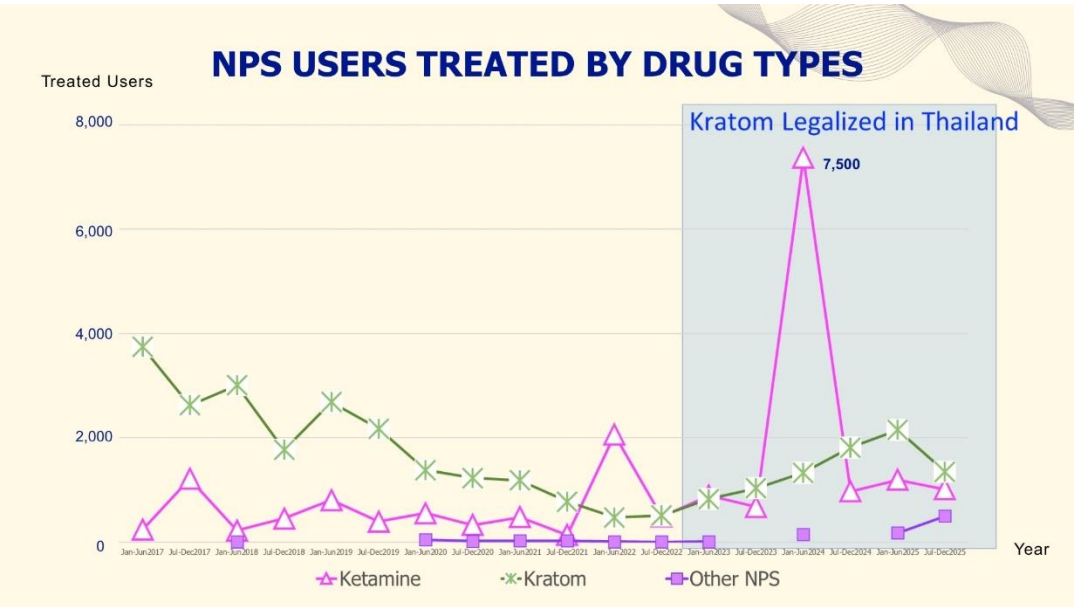


Figure 35. NPS Users Treated by Drug Types

5.3 Analysis of NPS Supply, Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Commodity Profiling of Seizures

Supply-side data compiled by regional customs and border security agencies reflects the massive physical volume of the domestic trade. In 2025, gross regional interdictions culminated in a total of 88 metric tons of NPS seized (Figure 36: NPS Seizures in 2025). An evaluation of this volume by weight reveals a stark divergence between raw material mass and chemical distribution:

Kratom: Accounted for 93.2% of gross seizure weight, reflecting the massive bulk transport of organic leaves and liquid extracts across contiguous land borders.

Ketamine: Comprised 5.6% of the gross interdicted weight, which represents an exceptionally large volume for a highly potent, refined synthetic chemical compound.

Other Synthetic NPS: Emerging designer compounds, synthetic cannabinoids, and cathinones accounted for the remaining 1.2% of seized mass.

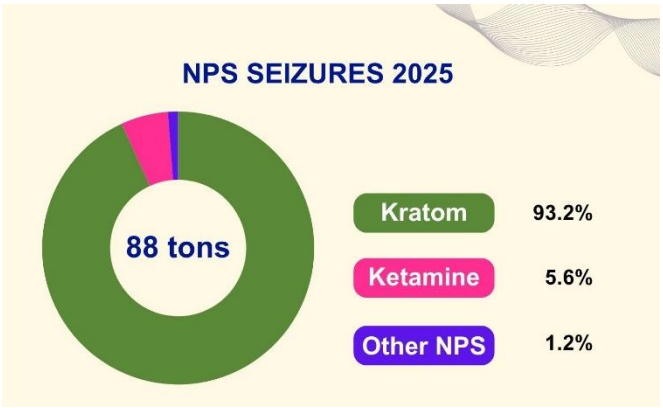


Figure 36. NPS Seizures in 2025

Enforcement Divergence and Network Resilience

A comparative evaluation of operational law enforcement data reveals a long-term stabilization pattern following severe historical supply fluctuations (Figure 37: NPS Cases, Offenders, and Seizures). The timeline is marked by massive, bulk supply interdictions between 2018 and 2021, with seasonal peaks exceeding 250,000 kilograms per half-year period (e.g., 257,111 kg in Jan-Jun 2018 and 255,737 kg in Jan-Jun 2021).

In the post-2022 landscape, absolute seizure volumes stabilized at lower levels, matching a parallel contraction in total case files and offender counts. During 2025, law enforcement agencies processed 6,629 cases involving 9,992 offenders in the first half of the year, dropping to 2,547 cases and 3,592 offenders during the final half.

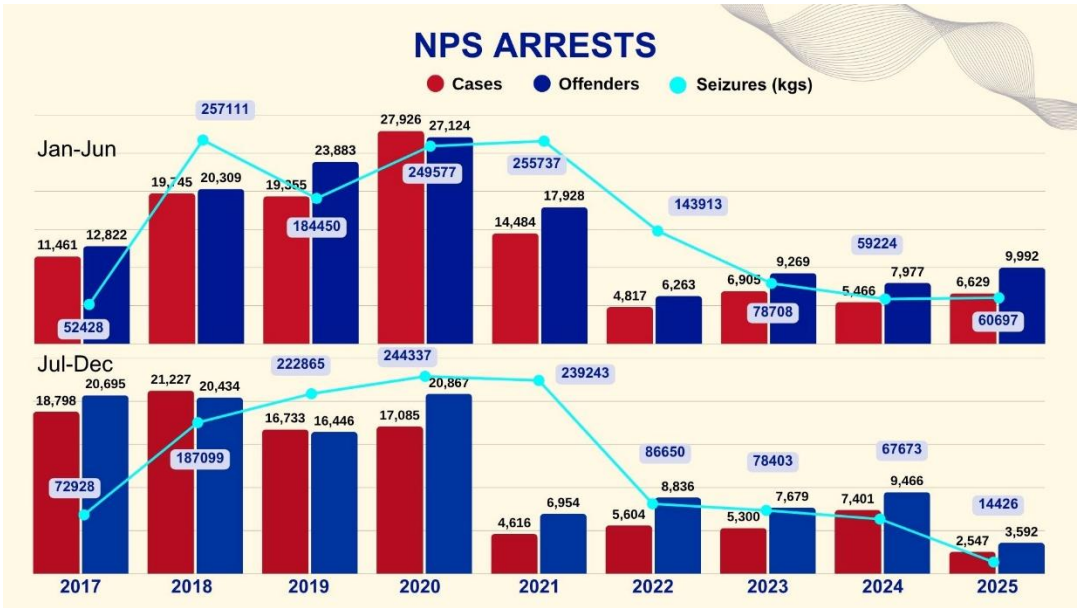


Figure 37. NPS Cases, Offenders, and Seizures

This overall reduction in gross seizure weight alongside steady synthetic demand suggests a logistical optimization strategy by trafficking syndicates: moving away from high-bulk botanical trafficking toward more highly concentrated, low-weight, high-value synthetic compounds that easily bypass traditional checkpoint infrastructure.

Evolving Supply Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis of periodic seizure composition (Figure 38: NPS Seizures by Drug Types) highlights a major transition within the supply chain. From 2017 through mid-2022, gross regional seizures were almost exclusively composed of Kratom leaves and liquid formulations.

However, the post-2023 matrix reveals a dramatic transition, with ketamine expanding to capture the absolute majority of periodic seizure share by the latter half of 2025. Concurrently, the regular appearance of specialized synthetic cannabinoids (visible in the late 2024 and 2025 reporting blocks) and synthetic cathinones proves that clandestine labs are continuously modifying chemical profiles to evade standard regional tracking schedules, posing a persistent challenge for border customs and forensic intelligence frameworks.

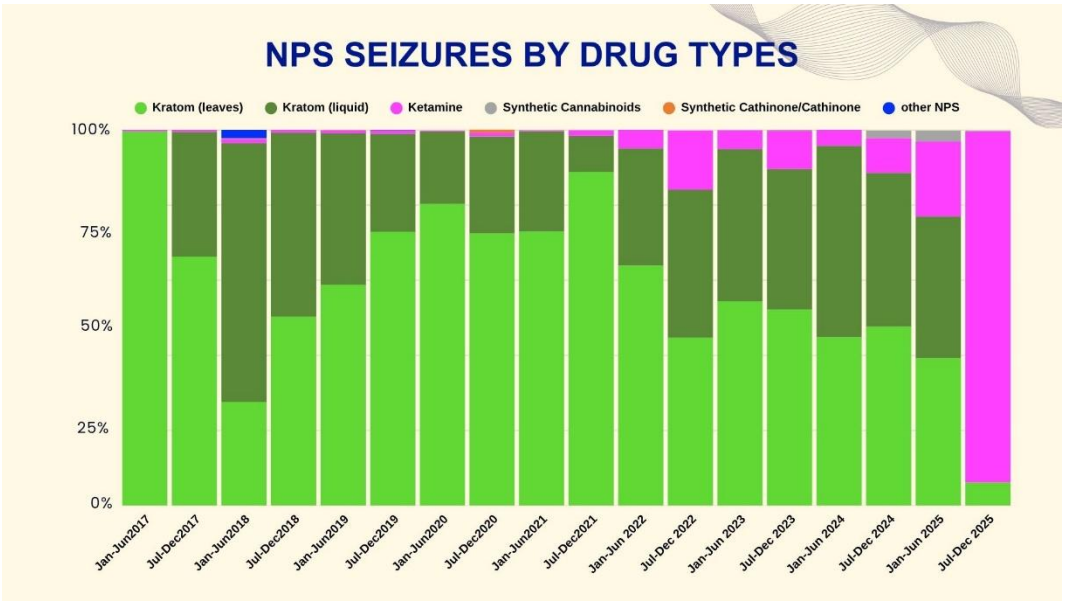


Figure 38. NPS Seizures by Drug Types

5.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of regional demand registries and supply-side metrics confirms that New Psychoactive Substances represent a highly volatile, rapidly adapting sector of the Southeast Asian drug market. Three main trends emerge from this comprehensive analysis:

1. Absolute Entrenchment of Ketamine: Ketamine has decisively transitioned from an emerging threat to the dominant substance within the regional NPS demand matrix, driving nearly 60% of specialized clinical admissions and capturing an expanding share of law enforcement interdictions.

2. Value Density and Logistical Optimization: The structural shift from bulk botanical seizures to high-potency synthetic alternatives demonstrates that trafficking networks are optimizing their logistics. Syndicates increasingly favor concentrated chemical products that maximize profit margins while reducing risk of law enforcement detection.

3. High Vulnerability to Regulatory Shifts: The structural changes following Kratom legalization, alongside volatile spikes in ketamine admissions, show the extreme agility of the synthetic market. Clandestine manufacturing networks adapt instantly to localized legislative modifications, rapidly filling supply vacuums with new, potent chemical variations.

These empirical findings underscore the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must prioritize the deployment of a synchronized regional Early Warning System (EWS) to quickly identify emerging synthetic variations, backed by enhanced forensic laboratory capabilities, flexible clinical detoxification frameworks, and intelligence-led cross-border investigations targeting chemical precursors. Without unified, multilateral data integration and regulatory harmonization, the rapid evolution of synthetic NPS will remain a critical public health threat and long-term security challenge across ASEAN.

6. Cocaine

6.1 Background and Structural Market Transformation

Cocaine products and their associated illicit distribution pipelines constitute a specialized, high-value commodity category within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. Historically restricted to affluent urban consumer niches and international transit hubs rather than driving mass domestic consumption patterns like synthetic stimulants, the regional cocaine market has nonetheless exhibited increasing structural dynamics. This development is driven by the growing presence of transnational criminal syndicates attempting to establish new retail frontiers and exploit expanding logistics networks across the bloc.

The regional cocaine market is defined by a reliance on long-distance trans-continental trafficking routes, primarily originating from South America, which funnel refined cocaine hydrochloride into major regional hubs via maritime containers and commercial air couriers. From an epidemiological and clinical perspective, cocaine consumption is associated with acute public health risks, including severe cardiovascular emergencies, acute myocardial infarction, stimulant-induced psychiatric disorders, and high risks of dependency. The compact physical nature of this high-value commodity, combined with the sophisticated concealment methods used by international networks to bypass traditional border checks, makes cocaine an ongoing challenge for customs frameworks, border interdiction forces, and specialized health screening systems across ASEAN.

6.2 Analysis of Cocaine Demand and Treatment Trends

Aggregated Admission Profile

Longitudinal data reported through the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) highlights the volatile, low-volume baseline that characterizes cocaine clinical registrations within the region. An evaluation of the 2017–2025 surveillance cycle demonstrates that absolute annual treatment demand remains a minor fraction of the total regional treatment footprint, though it remains prone to sudden administrative and epidemiological shocks.

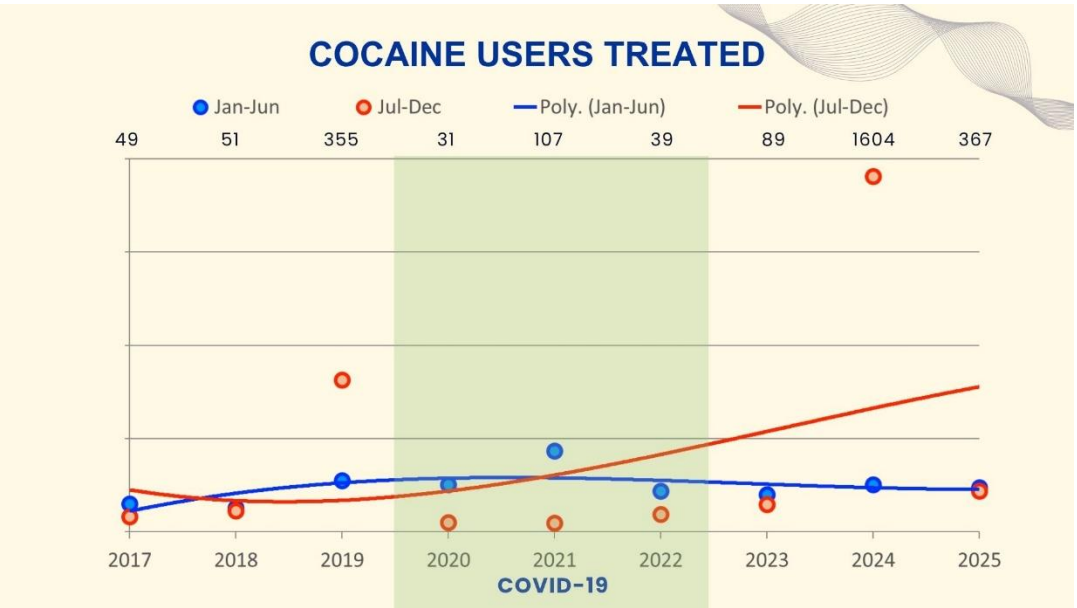


Figure 39. Cocaine Users Treated

Longitudinal and Seasonal Dynamics

As visualized in the periodic trend matrix (Figure 39 : Cocaine Users Treated), the demand market maintained a stable, minor baseline from 2017 through 2023, excluding a brief spike in 2019 (users) and an acute contraction to just 31 users in 2020 due to pandemic-related international travel restrictions. However, the post-pandemic landscape witnessed an unprecedented structural shock in 2024, with annual admissions surging to a historic peak of 1,604 individuals, driven almost entirely by an anomalous spike in the latter half of the year (July–December 2024). By 2025, the demand market adjusted back toward historical baselines, registering a total of 367 individuals in treatment.

In contrast to major synthetic drug groups that display a dominant first-half seasonal surge, the longitudinal baseline for cocaine displays an evenly balanced or counter-cyclical pattern. Admissions registered during the first half of the calendar year (January–June) regularly track closely with or fall behind the final half (July–December), as seen in the synchronized trends of 2017, 2018, 2023, and 2025. This distinct cyclical profile helps national health systems differentiate cocaine dependency demographics from traditional domestic stimulant patterns.

Structural Evolution of the Demand Market

The sharp, massive peak recorded in late 2024 proves that cocaine demand can experience sudden expansions, likely linked to the interception or localized distribution of large international transit shipments within urban centers. The parallel stabilization observed in 2025 indicates that while the absolute consumer base remains compact, the market remains highly vulnerable to supply-driven shocks. This pattern requires clinical infrastructure to maintain flexible, specialized psychiatric treatment protocols that can adapt quickly to sudden influxes of chronic high-potency dependencies.

6.3 Analysis of Cocaine Supply, Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Evaluation of Operational Metrics

Supply-side data compiled by regional customs and counter-narcotics agencies indicates a highly volatile, transit-driven trafficking profile. A comparative evaluation of operational law enforcement data reveals a critical relationship between active investigations, offender arrests, and gross interdicted weight across distinct periodic intervals (Figure 40: Cocaine Cases, Offenders and Seizures).

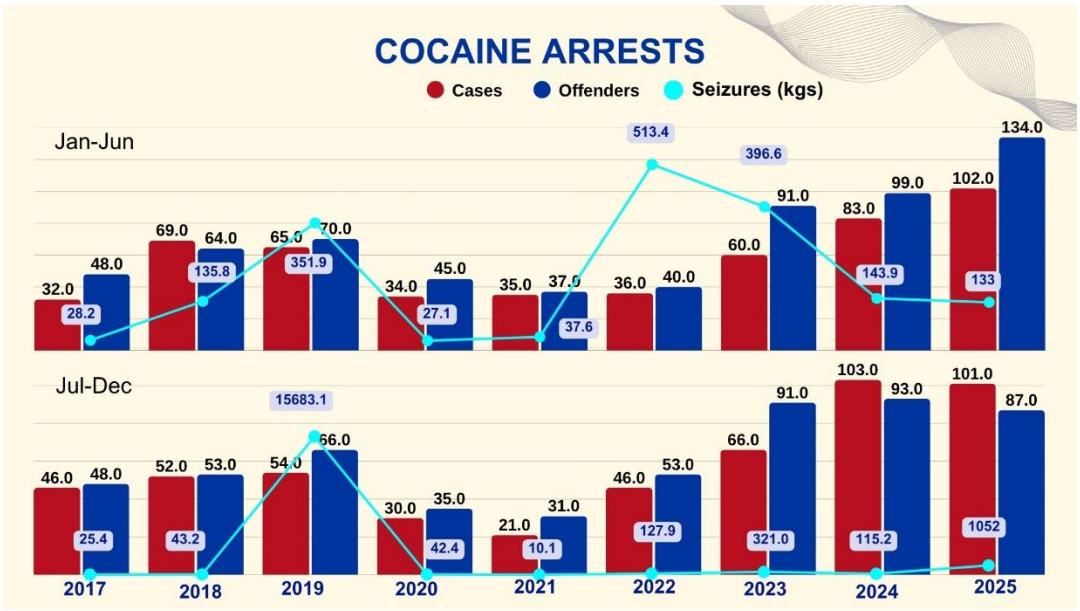


Figure 40. Figure 40. Cocaine Cases, Offenders and Seizures

During 2025, regional enforcement agencies maintained a steady operational tempo, processing 102 cases and arresting 134 offenders while interdicting 133 kilograms during the January–June block. The year concluded with 101 cases, 87 arrests, and 1,052 kilograms seized during the final half of the calendar year (July–December 2025).

Enforcement Divergence and Network Resilience

The long-term timeline highlights a massive statistical divergence between institutional interventions and absolute supply volumes. Gross seizure metrics peaked dramatically in the final half of 2019, surging to an unprecedented 15,683 kilograms, while case files and absolute offender numbers remained low at 54 cases and 66 arrests. Similarly, the first half of 2022 recorded 513 kilograms interdicted alongside only 36 cases and 40 offenders. Conversely, the latter half of 2025 witnessed a sharp seizure resurgence to 1,052 kilograms matching a lower profile of 101 cases and 87 arrests.

This clear statistical divergence indicates that international trafficking networks operate through high-volume bulk shipments concealed within maritime cargo or industrial channels, rather than relying on distributed networks of low-level couriers. This trend points to advanced operational capabilities among syndicates and underscores the high institutional resilience of global organized crime groups, which can scale up bulk supply pipelines independently of low-level enforcement interventions.

Evolving Supply Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis confirms that cocaine availability in ASEAN is highly episodic and heavily dependent on the interception of bulk maritime transit shipments destined for adjacent international markets. While case files and offender rates have shown a steady, linear expansion in the post-2023 landscape (with first-half offenders rising from 91 in 2023 to 134 by 2025), gross seizure weights have fluctuated significantly.

The sudden resurgences—such as the spike to 1,052 kilograms in late 2025—prove that global trafficking organizations continue to test regional transit routes. This shifting pattern demonstrates that international syndicates view the ASEAN bloc as a viable secondary transshipment corridor, creating a persistent challenge for border controls, maritime customs, and port security frameworks.

6.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of regional demand registries and supply-side metrics confirms that cocaine represents a highly volatile, transit-driven sector of the Southeast Asian drug market. Three main trends emerge from this comprehensive analysis:

1. High Vulnerability to Global Transit Routes: The regional cocaine market is fundamentally shaped by international shipping logistics, with the bloc serving as a key transshipment zone for global syndicates targeting lucrative Pacific markets.

2. Supply-Driven Demand Shocks: The historic demand-side spike observed in 2019 and 2024 proves that domestic consumption patterns are vulnerable to supply spillover, where intercepted transit shipments or altered maritime routes lead to sudden, acute availability in regional urban centers.

3. Advanced Logistical Agility of Supply Lines: The recurrent, massive spikes in bulk seizure weight alongside low case counts indicate that trafficking organizations are highly resilient and capable of moving large, high-volume shipments. These supply pipelines have proven insulated against short-term enforcement interventions, adapting swiftly to counter-narcotics strategies.

These empirical findings underscore the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must prioritize the integration of advanced port container screening and real-time maritime customs intelligence with evidence-based clinical treatment models, specialized forensic tracking, and cross-border regulatory harmonization. Without synchronized, multilateral initiatives addressing international trafficking routes, cocaine will remain a persistent regulatory challenge and a highly volatile security concern across ASEAN.

7. Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants

7.1 Background and Structural Market Transformation

Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants, psychotropics, and prescription sedatives constitute a highly complex and structurally unique illicit commodity category within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. Historically managed as highly regulated pharmaceutical products, the regional market for CNS depressants has experienced a significant expansion due to pharmaceutical diversion, illicit manufacturing, and tactical exploitation by transnational criminal networks. The regional CNS depressant landscape is primarily split between classic pharmaceutical sedatives—dominated by benzodiazepines (such as alprazolam, midazolam, and clonazepam) and residual barbiturates—and a highly volatile rotation of illicitly manufactured tranquilizers, specialized analgesics, and emerging synthetic psychotropic compounds.

The expansion of this market is heavily accelerated by industrial diversion pipelines, gray-market online pharmacies, and cross-border trade corridors that streamline the distribution of diverted medical supplies alongside illicit analogues. From an epidemiological perspective, chronic non-medical consumption of CNS depressants carries severe public health risks, including acute respiratory depression, profound physical dependence, severe cognitive impairment, and high overdose risks when combined with alcohol or opioids in polydrug usage patterns. This rapidly evolving landscape presents distinct detection challenges for customs authorities, forensic tracking agencies, and emergency healthcare infrastructure, establishing CNS depressants as both a critical regulatory hurdle and an acute public health concern

7.2 Analysis of CNS Depressant Demand and Treatment Trends

Aggregated Admission Profile

In 2025, administrative registries across ASEAN Member States documented a total of 2,379 individuals receiving clinical treatment for CNS depressant-related disorders (Figure 41: CNS Users Treated in 2025). A granular assessment of this cohort underscores the total dominance of a single therapeutic class within specialized addiction infrastructure:

- Benzodiazepines: Accounted for 100.0% of the recorded substance-specific treatment admissions, indicating their widespread availability, high dependency liability, and absolute entrenchment within clinical demand matrices.

- Barbiturates & Other CNS Depressants: Registered negligible statistical shares within the aggregated formal treatment registries for this specific annual block.

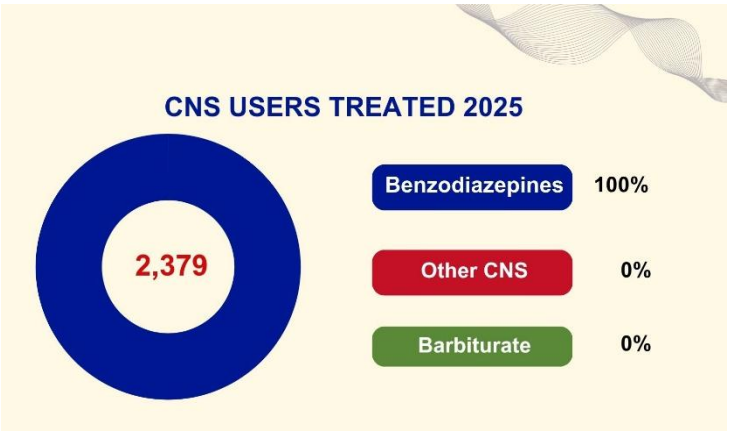


Figure 41.
CNS Users Treated in 2025

Longitudinal and Seasonal Dynamics

Longitudinal tracking between 2017 and 2025 reveals an accelerating exponential trend split across distinct reporting intervals (Figure 42: CNS Users Treated). The demand market maintained a very low, flat baseline during the pre-pandemic era (2017–2018), before showing a steady upward trajectory starting in 2019. The post-pandemic period has seen a steep acceleration, with clinical admissions climbing to their highest historical levels by 2024 and 2025.

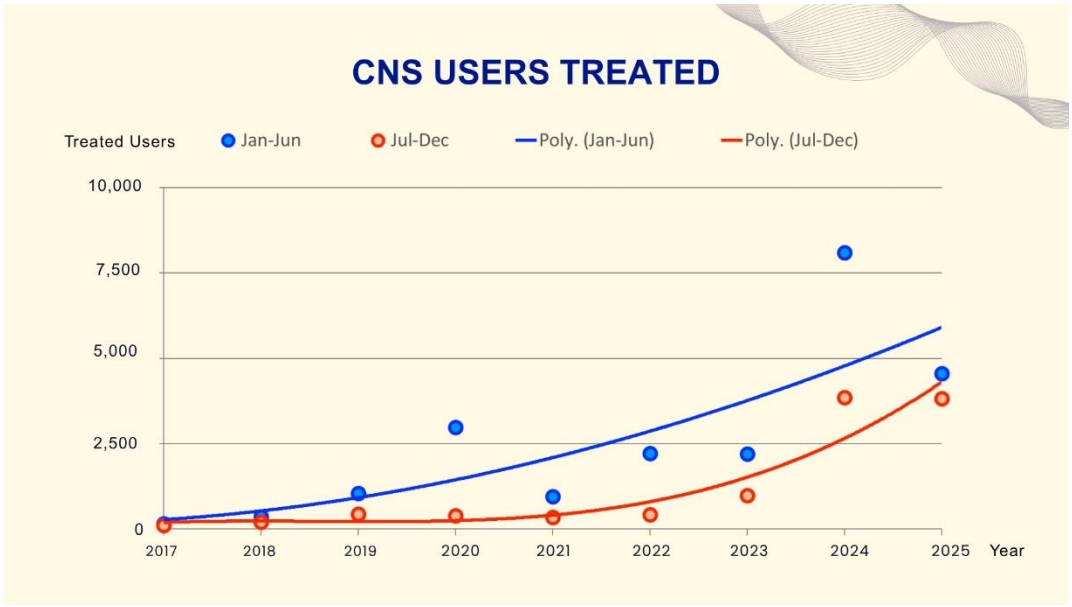


Figure 42. CNS Users Treated

Aligning with the institutional cycles observed across adjacent drug classes, CNS depressant treatment registries show a predictable periodic fluctuation. Admissions tracked during the first half of the calendar year (January–June) systematically exceed those reported in the final half (July–December). In 2025, first-half admissions approached 450 individuals, while second-half registrations adjusted to approximately 380 individuals.

Structural Evolution of the Demand Market

As visualized in the periodic tracking matrix (Figure 43: CNS Users Treated by Drug Types), the structural composition of the demand market has shifted over successive reporting intervals. While benzodiazepines have consistently maintained the clear majority of total clinical volume, other CNS depressant formulations have shown sporadic, volatile spikes.

Notably, the first half of 2024 (Jan–Jun 2024) witnessed an unprecedented, historic surge in benzodiazepine admissions, spiking to nearly 500 distinct clinical episodes within a single six-month window, accompanied by a parallel peak of approximately 300 cases for unspecified "Other CNS" compounds. The coexistence of massive benzodiazepine demand alongside sudden spikes in alternative psychotropics demonstrates that the regional sedatives market is highly dynamic, placing unpredictable resource strain on specialized psychiatric tracking assets.

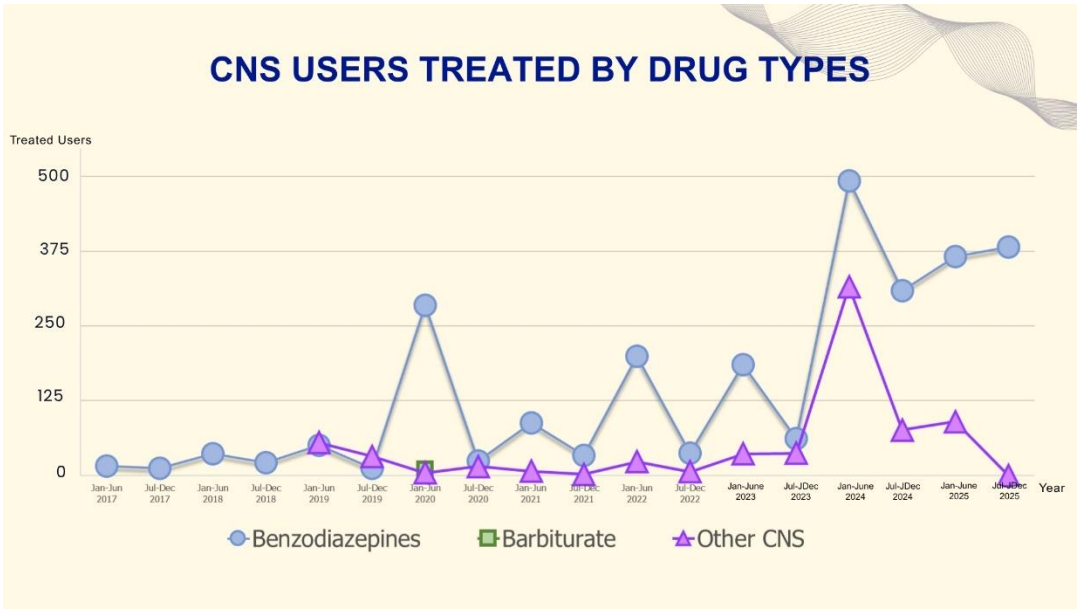


Figure 43. CNS Users Treated by Drug Types

7.3 Analysis of CNS Depressant Supply, Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Commodity Profiling of Seizures

Supply-side data compiled by regional law enforcement and pharmaceutical regulatory bodies highlights a diversified illicit trade. In 2025, aggregated interdictions culminated in a total of 2.1 metric tons of CNS depressants seized (Figure 44: CNS Seizures in 2025). A commodity breakdown by weight highlights that illicit distribution networks balance pharmaceutical sedatives with unclassified designer compounds:

- Benzodiazepines: Accounted for 51.6% of the gross seizure weight, confirming their position as the primary refined sedative commodity trafficked across regional distribution corridors.
- Barbiturates: Represented 4.0% of total seizures by weight.
- GHB and Unclassified Analgesics: Collectively comprised the remaining 0.1% of the interdicted volume.
- Other CNS / Psychotropic Compounds: Comprised 44.3% of the interdicted mass, pointing to an expanding supply market for novel designer sedatives and non-scheduled tranquilizers.

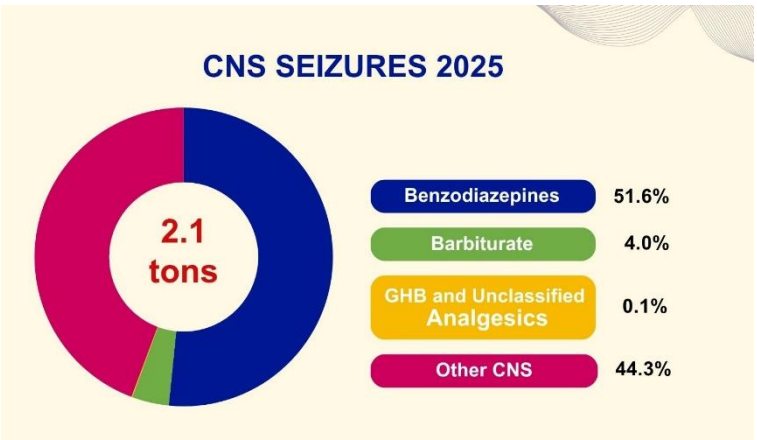


Figure 44.
CNS Seizures in 2025

Enforcement Divergence and Network Resilience

A comparative evaluation of operational law enforcement data reveals an exceptionally volatile supply landscape characterized by sudden bulk interdictions (Figure 45: CNS Cases, Offenders, and Seizures). The operational matrix reveals three distinct, high-volume seizure peaks across the decade: a major surge in the first half of 2021 (Jan–Jun 2021) reaching 1,989 kg, a sharp increase in the second half of 2024 (Jul–Dec

2024) spiking to 3,804 kg, and a recent post-stabilization surge in the first half of 2025 (Jan–Jun 2025) hitting 1,235 kg..

Crucially, these massive volume spikes often occurred alongside flat or counter-cyclical arrest metrics. For instance, the record peak of 3,804 kg seized in late 2024 occurred while offender arrests remained stable at 2,068 individuals, and the 2025 resurgence to 1,235 kg took place alongside 1,220 arrests.

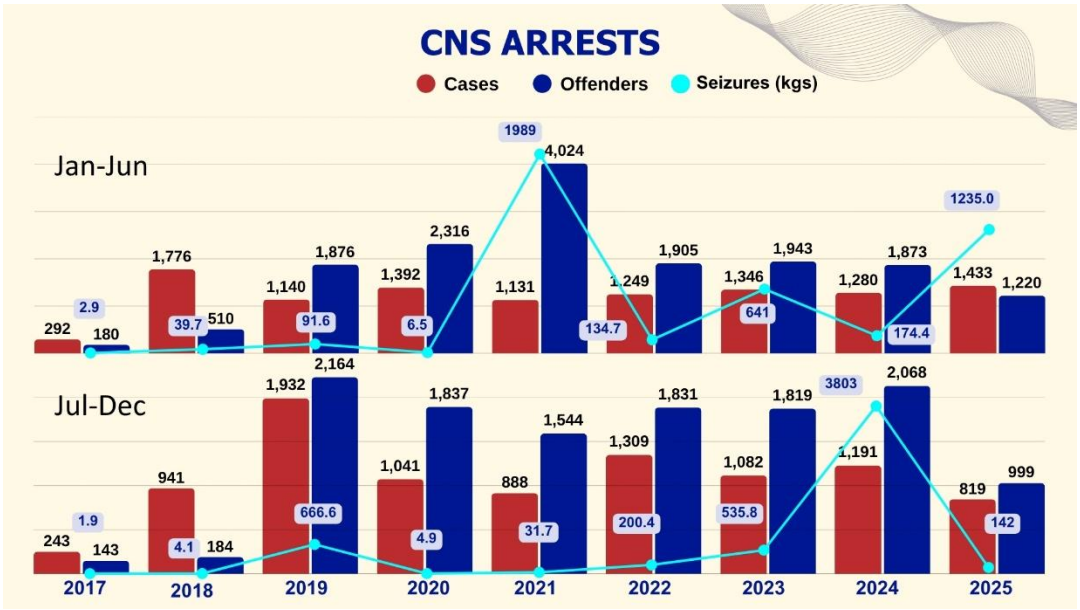


Figure 45. CNS Cases, Offenders, and Seizures

This clear statistical divergence indicates that trafficking networks are increasingly optimizing their supply logistics, moving massive bulk quantities per shipment along established air, land, and maritime corridors. This trend points to highly organized diversion schemes and advanced operational capabilities among syndicates, demonstrating that these networks can scale up bulk supply lines independently of low-level law enforcement interventions.

Evolving Supply Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis of the seizure composition matrix (Figure 46: CNS Seizures by Drug Types) highlights a major evolution within subregional supply chains. The early reporting blocks (2017–2018) were heavily dominated by benzodiazepines and traditional barbiturates.

However, the post-2022 landscape reveals a profound structural shift. Specific reporting blocks are marked by sudden, total dominance of unclassified analgesics (as observed in late 2019, late 2022, and throughout 2024), while the final half of 2025 shows a near-total transition to unspecified psychotropics and other CNS variants capturing the absolute majority of periodic seizure share. This shifting pattern proves that clandestine suppliers and diversion networks are continuously rotating chemical profiles to exploit regulatory loopholes, presenting a moving target for customs control and forensic intelligence frameworks.

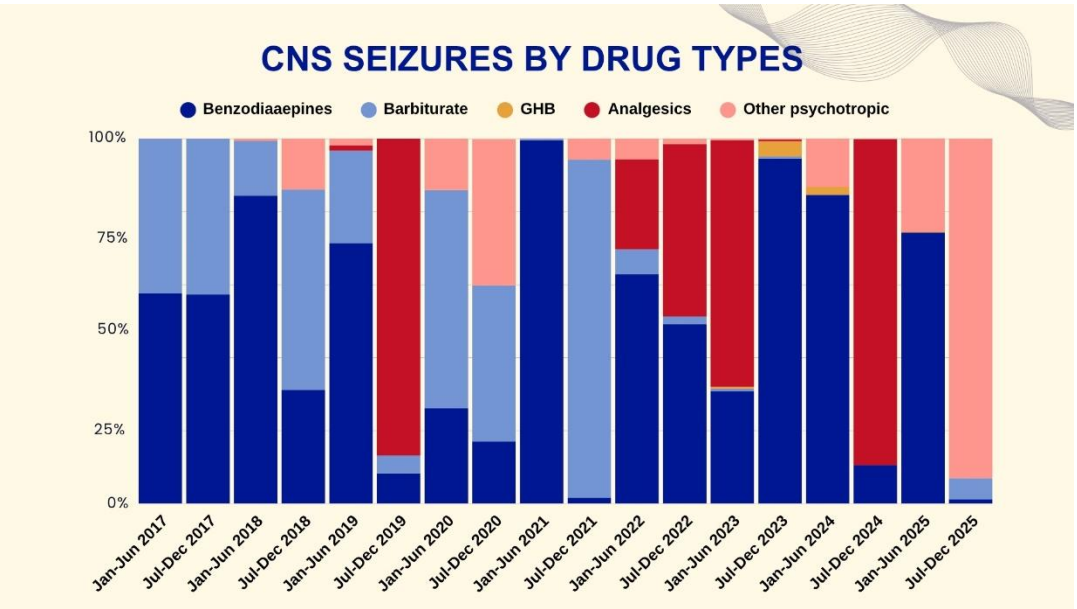


Figure 46. CNS Seizures by Drug Types

7.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of regional demand registries and supply-side metrics confirms that Central Nervous System depressants pose a highly fluid, structurally complex challenge to the health and security architectures of the ASEAN region. Three main trends emerge from this comprehensive analysis:

1. Absolute Monopoly of Benzodiazepines in Demand: Formal public health registries show a complete concentration around benzodiazepines, which drive 100% of dedicated clinical admissions within this drug group. This trend highlights a severe, widespread dependence on prescription sedatives that requires specialized medical protocols.

2. Rapid Chemical and Commodity Rotation: The sudden shifts in gross seizure shares—moving rapidly between benzodiazepines, unclassified analgesics, and novel psychotropic variants—point to a highly agile supply network. Syndicates continuously exploit regulatory lags by rotating compounds to bypass national scheduling systems.

3. Advanced Logistical Agility of Supply Lines: The recurrent, massive spikes in bulk seizure weight alongside flat arrest metrics indicate that trafficking organizations are highly resilient and capable of moving large, high-volume shipments. These supply pipelines have proven highly insulated against short-term enforcement interventions, adapting swiftly to counter-narcotics strategies.

These empirical findings underscore the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must prioritize the integration of pharmaceutical supply chain monitoring and strict digital prescription tracking with evidence-based clinical treatment models, specialized forensic intelligence, and cross-border regulatory harmonization. Without synchronized, multilateral initiatives addressing both traditional pharmaceutical diversion routes and emerging designer psychotropic supply lines simultaneously, CNS depressants will remain a major public health threat and long-term regulatory challenge across ASEAN.

8. Hallucinogens

8.1 Background and Structural Market Transformation

Hallucinogens and related volatile psychotropic materials constitute a highly niche but distinct illicit commodity category within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. Historically characterized by localized consumption patterns rather than large-scale industrial distribution, the regional market for hallucinogenic substances is primarily split into two distinct operational profiles: low-cost, highly accessible organic inhalants and volatile solvents, and a specialized selection of classic psychedelics—most notably Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) and psilocybin-containing organic fungi (Magic Mushrooms).

The distribution network for these substances relies heavily on a combination of chemical diversion of common industrial solvents, localized harvesting of wild botanical products, and high-purity synthetic chemical imports that enter the market through specialized digital marketplaces and international courier chains. From an epidemiological and clinical perspective, the non-medical consumption of hallucinogens presents acute public health risks, including substance-induced psychosis, severe perceptual distortions, erratic behavior leading to accidental injuries, and irreversible neurological deficits stemming from chronic inhalant use. While the absolute volume of this market is lower than that of major synthetic stimulants, its operational agility and the severity of its psychiatric complications ensure that

hallucinogens remain a persistent target for regional law enforcement and public health surveillance networks.

8.2 Analysis of Hallucinogen Demand and Treatment Trends

Aggregated Admission Profile

In 2025, administrative registries across ASEAN Member States documented a total of 459 individuals receiving clinical treatment for hallucinogen-related disorders. A granular evaluation of this clinical cohort demonstrates that a single, highly accessible sub-category drives the overwhelming majority of dedicated medical admissions:

- Inhalants: Accounted for 93.5% of the recorded substance-specific treatment registrations, confirming that volatile substances remain the primary driver of formal clinical demand within this category due to their low retail cost and ready availability.
- Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD): Constituted a notable 5.9% share of the regional treatment registry.
- Magic Mushrooms: Represented a minor statistical fraction, comprising only 0.7% of the regional annual clinical block.

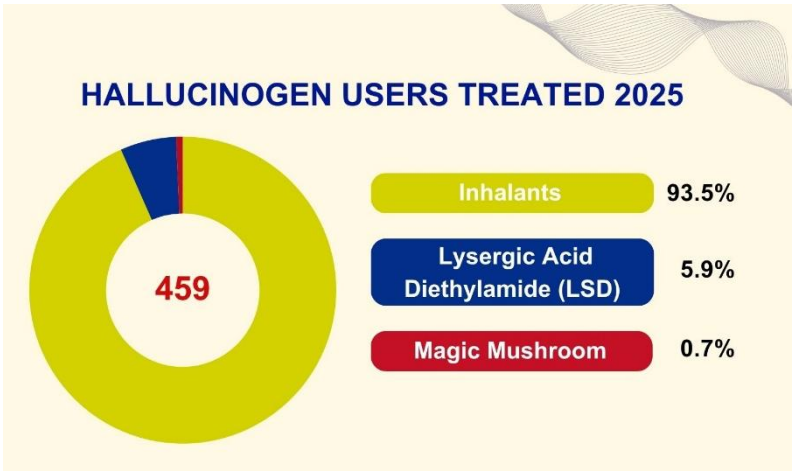


Figure 47. Hallucinogen Users Treated in 2025

Longitudinal and Seasonal Dynamics

Longitudinal surveillance data compiled between 2017 and 2025 reveals a distinct U-shaped curve in treatment registrations. Total clinical admissions started from a high baseline between 2017 and 2019, experienced a prolonged multi-year contraction that bottomed out around 2022–2023, and subsequently showed a resurgent upward trend through 2024 and 2025.

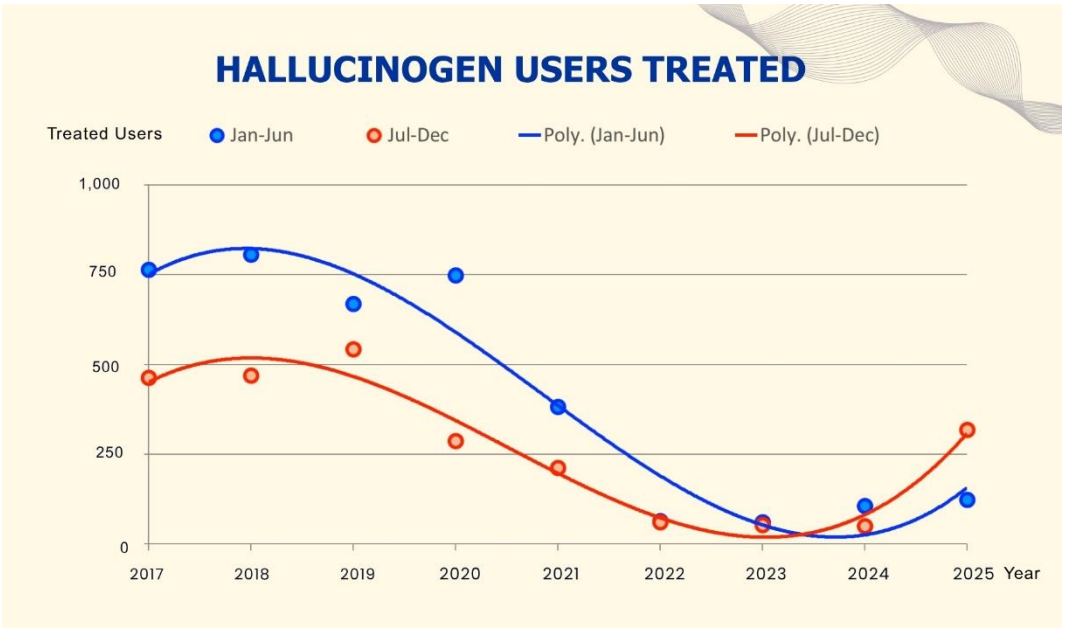


Figure 48. Hallucinogen Users Treated

Crucially, while major synthetic markets show a surge in admissions during the first half of the calendar year, the hallucinogen data reveals a counter-cyclical pattern in the post-2023 landscape. In 2025, treatment admissions documented during the first half of the year (January–June) reached approximately 125 cases, whereas registrations during the second half (July–December) expanded significantly to over 310 cases. This seasonal surge provides national health authorities with a predictable timeline to allocate psychiatric personnel and behavioral intervention resources.

Structural Evolution of the Demand Market

As visualized in the longitudinal line matrix (Figure 49: Hallucinogen Users Treated by Drug Types), the structural composition of the demand market has shifted over successive reporting intervals. While inhalants have consistently maintained the primary volume of total clinical demand across the decade, other hallucinogenic compounds have exhibited highly irregular, periodic spikes.

Most notably, the first half of 2020 (Jan–Jun 2020) was marked by a sudden, volatile surge in LSD admissions, spiking to nearly 300 distinct clinical episodes within a single six-month reporting window. Concurrently, organic fungi (Magic Mushrooms) have maintained a persistent, low-volume baseline since 2019, spiking briefly in the first half of 2024 before stabilizing. This parallel presence of chronic inhalant dependency alongside highly volatile spikes in synthetic psychedelics underscores the complex nature of the hallucinogen market in the region.

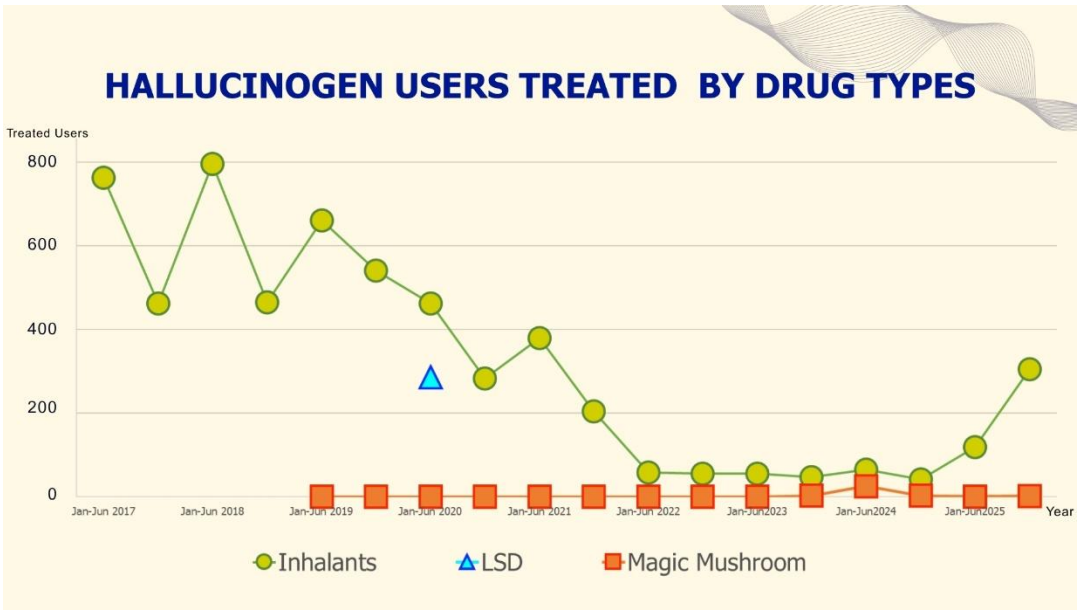


Figure 49. Hallucinogen Users Treated by Drug Types

8.3 Analysis of Hallucinogen Supply, Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Commodity Profiling of Seizures

Supply-side data compiled by regional customs and enforcement bodies highlights a highly specialized market profile. In 2025, gross interdictions across ASEAN member states culminated in a total of 30.7 kilograms of hallucinogens seized. An evaluation of this volume by weight demonstrates that while inhalants drive public health demand, synthetic trafficking is heavily focused on concentrated products:

- Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD): Accounted for 80.7% of the gross seizure weight, confirming its status as the primary synthetic psychedelic trafficked through regional distribution networks.
- Magic Mushroom: Comprised 18.8% of the interdicted mass, highlighting a resilient illicit market for organic psilocybin products.
- Inhalants: Accounted for a minor statistical fraction at 0.5% of the total seizure weight, as industrial solvents are rarely captured by mass-weight indicators due to localized sourcing and lack of traditional cross-border tracking.

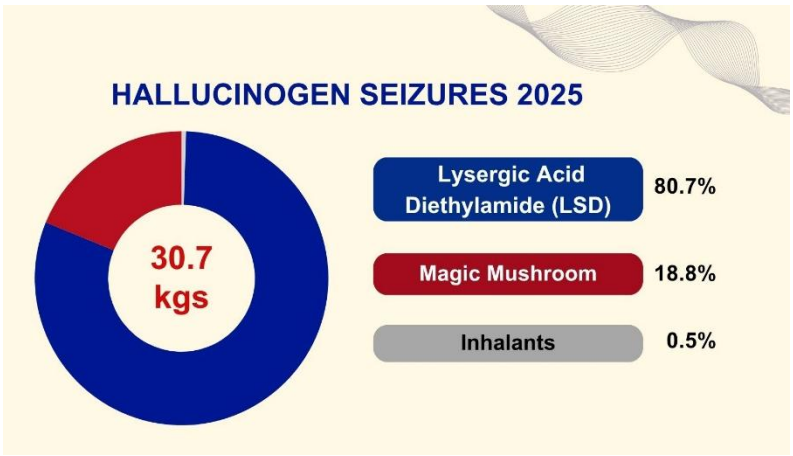


Figure 50. Hallucinogen Seizures in 2025

Enforcement Divergence and Network Resilience

A comparative evaluation of operational law enforcement data reveals a complex relationship between active cases, arrested individuals, and gross interdicted weight (Figure 51: Hallucinogen Cases, Offenders and Seizures). During 2025, regional agencies maintained a stable counter-narcotics cadence, logging 32 cases and 30 arrests during the January–June block, and concluding the year with 24 cases and 29 arrests during the final half of the calendar year.

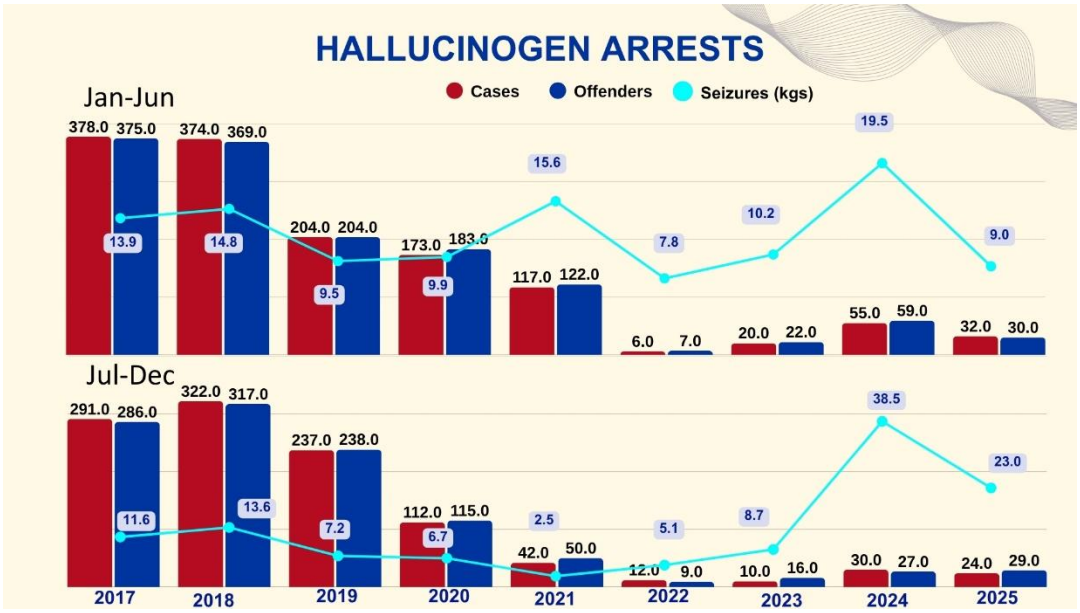


Figure 51. Hallucinogen Cases, Offenders and Seizures

The data reveals that gross seizure weights peaked sharply in 2024, surging to 19 kg in the first half and a historic peak of 38 kg in the second half, before returning to stabilized levels in 2025 (kg and kg per respective half). Crucially, the massive seizure spikes in 2024 occurred while case files and absolute offender numbers remained low and stable. This clear statistical divergence indicates that trafficking networks are moving larger bulk quantities per shipment along established distribution corridors. This trend points to advanced operational capabilities among syndicates, demonstrating that these organizations can scale up bulk supply lines independently of low-level enforcement interventions.

Evolving Supply Dynamics

Longitudinal analysis of the periodic seizure composition matrix (Figure 52: Hallucinogen Seizures by Drug Types) confirms a significant evolution in regional supply dynamics. The early reporting blocks (2017–2021) were heavily dominated by bulk inhalant interdictions and sporadic variations of organic psychedelically active materials.

However, the post-2022 landscape reveals a profound structural shift. Specific reporting blocks are marked by sudden, total dominance of refined synthetic compounds. LSD captured the absolute majority of periodic seizure share throughout 2022 and 2023, while Magic Mushrooms expanded to claim a near-total dominance across 2024. By the final half of 2025, the supply matrix shifted rapidly once again, with Magic Mushrooms and LSD balancing each other out as inhalants dropped to negligible levels. This highly fluid pattern proves that illicit suppliers and distribution networks are continuously rotating chemical profiles to exploit regulatory gaps and shifting consumer demographics across the ASEAN bloc.

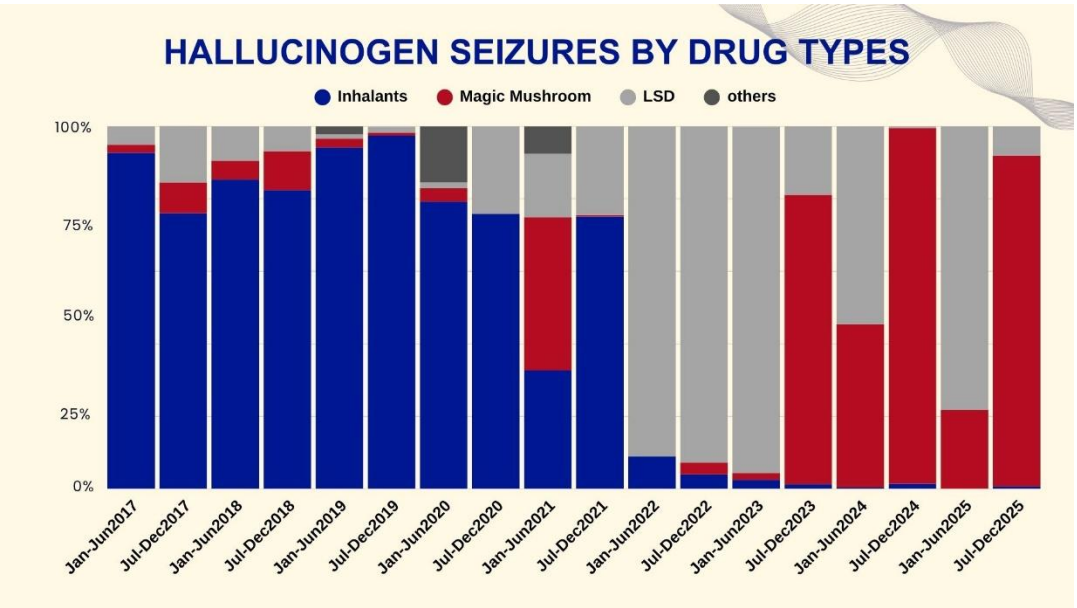


Figure 52. Hallucinogen Seizures by Drug Types

8.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of regional demand registries and supply-side metrics confirms that hallucinogens continue to present a highly fluid, structurally complex challenge to the health and security architectures of the ASEAN region. Three main trends emerge from this comprehensive analysis:

1. Absolute Entrenchment of Inhalants in Demand: Formal public health registries show an overwhelming concentration around inhalants and volatile solvents, which drive over 93% of dedicated clinical admissions within this category. This trend highlights a widespread, low-cost dependency crisis that requires specialized community-based prevention and targeted public health programs.

2. Rapid Chemical and Commodity Rotation: The sudden shifts in gross seizure shares—moving rapidly between refined LSD sheets and organic psilocybin mushrooms—point to a highly agile supply network. Syndicates continuously exploit regulatory lags and changing consumer trends by rotating compounds to bypass national scheduling systems.

3. Advanced Logistical Agility of Supply Lines: The recurrent, massive spikes in bulk seizure weight alongside flat arrest metrics indicate that trafficking organizations are highly resilient and capable of moving large, high-volume shipments. These supply pipelines have proven insulated against short-term enforcement interventions, adapting swiftly to counter-narcotics strategies.

These empirical findings underscore the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must prioritize the integration of stricter chemical retail tracking for volatile industrial solvents with evidence-based clinical treatment models, specialized forensic intelligence, and cross-border regulatory harmonization. Without synchronized, multilateral initiatives addressing both traditional inhalant diversion routes and emerging synthetic psychedelic supply lines simultaneously, hallucinogens will remain a serious public health threat and a complex regulatory challenge across ASEAN.

9. Precursors and Other Controlled Commodities

9.1 Background and Structural Market Transformation

Precursor chemicals, unclassified psychotropic formulations, and miscellaneous synthetic analogues constitute the final critical commodity sector evaluated within the 2025 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) registry. As regional synthetic drug markets have transitioned into highly streamlined, industrial-scale systems, the acquisition and diversion of chemical raw materials have become the primary

focus of both law enforcement and policy operations. Rather than functioning as a standalone consumer market, this category represents the foundational chemical baseline that sustains the entire regional illicit drug economy.

The contemporary landscape is defined by an ongoing chemical evolution within clandestine synthesis operations. Criminological and forensic intelligence reports show that transnational syndicates are increasingly utilizing non-regulated pre-precursors and essential industrial solvents to bypass traditional international watchlists. This dynamic is further complicated by the emergence of unclassified custom chemical blends and highly adaptive polydrug decoctions (such as localized combinations known as Happy Water).

From an analytical and regional security perspective, monitoring these materials presents exceptional technical challenges. These commodities move through large-scale industrial commercial networks, gray-market online suppliers, and cross-border logistics lanes, requiring advanced chemical profiling and real-time tracking systems across the ASEAN bloc.

9.2 Analysis of Demand, Treatment Registries, and Polydrug Cohorts

Aggregated Admission Profile

In 2025, administrative registries compiled across ASEAN Member States documented a total of 149,982 individuals receiving clinical treatment for unclassified dependencies and multi-substance combinations, reinforcing the growing complexity of the regional demand landscape. A granular evaluation of this specific intake block (Figure 53: Others Users 2025) reveals a distinct split in patient profiling:

- Unclassified Compounds: Accounted for 66.2% of the recorded admissions, capturing individuals whose dependencies involve novel, non-scheduled psychotropics or unspecified chemical mixtures that fall outside traditional drug classes.
- Polydrug Combinations: Comprised 33.8% of the registry, representing individuals actively seeking treatment for simultaneous, multi-substance dependencies.

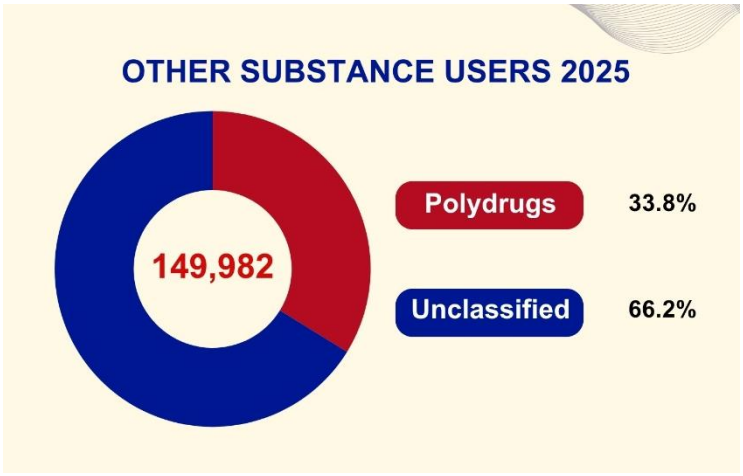


Figure 53.
Other Users 2025

Strategic Clinical Implications

The substantial volume of individuals seeking treatment within this category represents an alarming shift for regional epidemiologists. The high prevalence of polydrug consumption models introduces severe clinical challenges, as standard single-substance detoxification protocols are often inadequate for patients experiencing simultaneous dependencies on multiple chemical classes. This trend underscores the urgent need for regional health ministries to shift away from rigid, siloed clinical frameworks toward integrated, patient-centered psychiatric care capable of managing complex multi-substance profiles.

9.3 Analysis of Supply, Precursor Seizures, and Law Enforcement Metrics

Precursor Chemical Seizure Profiling

Supply-side data compiled by regional customs agencies, industrial regulatory bodies, and border counter-narcotics units points to a highly active chemical diversion trade. In 2025, aggregated regional interdictions culminated in a total of 1.3 metric tons of bulk precursor chemicals seized. A granular commodity breakdown by weight (Figure 54. Precursor Chemicals Seizures in 2025) highlights the primary chemical compounds driving illicit manufacturing pipelines:

- Acetone: Accounted for 69.8% of gross seized weight, remaining the primary essential industrial solvent interdicted within regional smuggling corridors.
- Caffeine: Comprised 14.5% of the interdicted mass, highlighting its extensive availability as a primary adulterant used in the bulk production of low-purity methamphetamine tablets (Yaba).

- Acetone and Toluene Blends: Represented 13.4% of total seizures by weight.
- Thionyl Chloride: Accounted for 1.2% of interdicted volume.
- Hydrochloric Acid: Comprised 1.14% of the recorded annual weight.

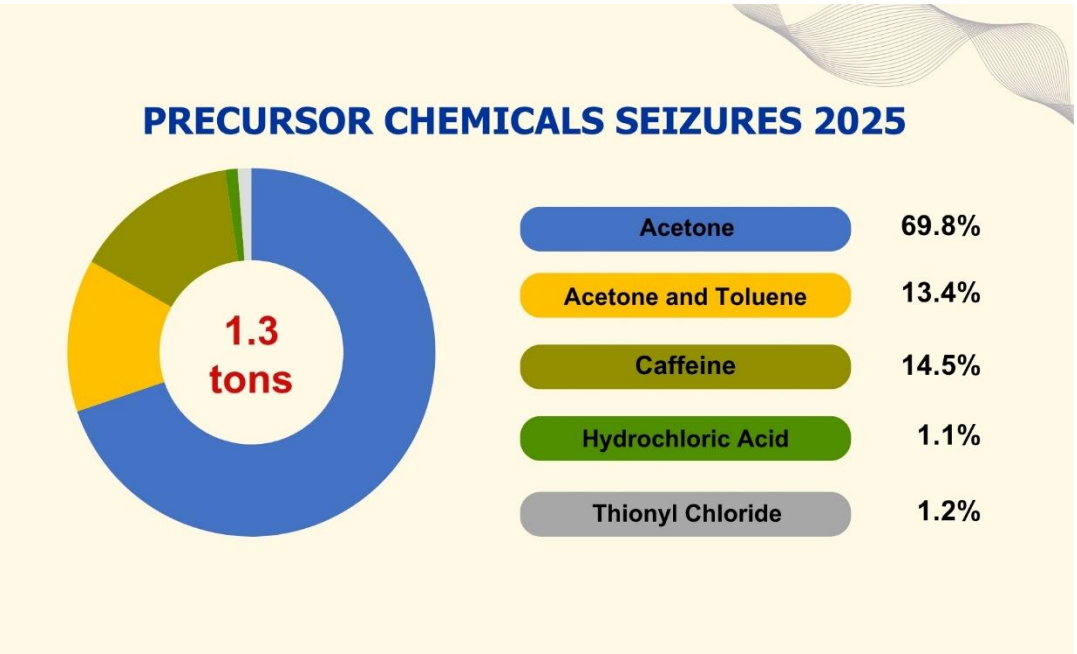


Figure 54. Precursor Chemicals Seizures in 2025

Miscellaneous and Unclassified Seizure Profiling

Simultaneously, law enforcement interdictions targeting non-traditional end-products culminated in a total of 43.5 kilograms of miscellaneous controlled commodities seized in 2025. An evaluation of this volume (Figure 55: Miscellaneous and Unclassified Seizures in 2025) highlights the ongoing diversification of the illicit chemical trade:

- Unclassified Mixtures: Dominated this specific data block at 97.0866% of gross weight, reflecting a significant volume of unidentified chemical materials or non-scheduled designer compounds requiring advanced forensic profiling.
- Others: Comprised 2.4% of the interdicted mass.
- Happy Water: Accounted for 0.5% of seizures, pointing to the persistent distribution of high-potency synthetic drug cocktails.
- Multiple Drugs: Comprised a minor statistical fraction at 0.0052% of total mass.

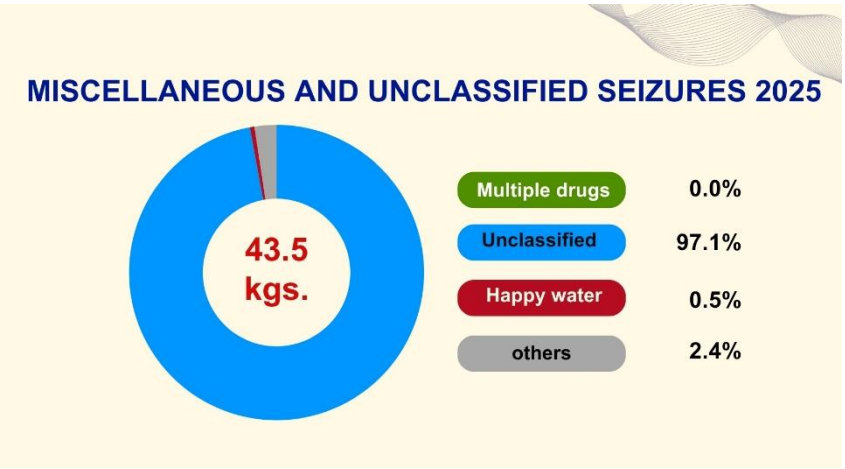


Figure 55. Miscellaneous and Unclassified Seizures in 2025

9.4 Strategic Implications and Analytical Conclusions

The integration of precursor interdiction data and unclassified clinical registries confirms that this category represents an exceptionally fluid, high-risk sector of the Southeast Asian drug market. Three main trends emerge from this comprehensive analysis:

1. Absolute Centrality of Industrial Solvent Diversion: Bulk industrial solvents—predominantly acetone—remain the core driver of the regional chemical trade, highlighting that future enforcement strategies must focus on regulating legitimate industrial supply chains.

2. Escalating Clinical Complexity: The large share of unclassified dependencies and polydrug combinations within regional healthcare infrastructure proves that the demand market is shifting toward complex, multi-substance use patterns, which strains traditional medical treatment models.

3. Advanced Chemical Agility of Supply Lines: The massive share of unclassified chemical mixtures and alternative pre-precursors indicates that trafficking syndicates are highly resilient. Clandestine laboratories quickly adapt to international watchlists by shifting to non-regulated chemical alternatives.

These empirical findings underscore the critical need for a balanced, multi-sectoral regional strategy. Future interventions must prioritize the integration of standardized industrial chemical licensing and digital end-user verification systems with specialized forensic laboratories, flexible polydrug treatment protocols, and cross-border intelligence sharing. Without synchronized, multilateral initiatives addressing both precursor diversion networks and emerging designer compounds simultaneously, this chemical sector will continue to sustain the expansion of synthetic drug economies across the ASEAN bloc.

10. Regional Synthesis and Cross-Commodity Market Conclusions

10.1 The Polydrug Convergence Metric and Clinical Vulnerabilities

The primary analytical conclusion emerging from the substance-specific profiles evaluated throughout Chapter 2 is that the Southeast Asian drug market can no longer be effectively addressed through single-substance interventions. While administrative registries historically track admissions by primary drug categories, epidemiological indicators point to a profound cross-commodity convergence.

The sharp escalations documented in unclassified psychotropics, designer tranquilizers, and multi-substance categories show that consumer populations regularly combine high-potency synthetic stimulants (ATS) with CNS depressants, botanical extracts, or designer dissociatives (ketamine) to manipulate pharmacological effects. This convergence multiplies the severity of psychiatric emergencies, increases the risk of poly-substance overdoses, and severely overextends existing regional detoxification infrastructure, which remains largely structured around single-substance treatment modules.

10.2 Logistical Integration of Transnational Supply Pipelines

On the supply side, law enforcement interdiction data reveals that transnational organized crime syndicates have achieved total logistical integration across Southeast Asia. Rather than operating isolated supply corridors for specific substances, criminal networks utilize identical maritime containers, cross-border commercial trade routes, and encrypted digital distribution architectures to move diverse portfolios of illicit goods simultaneously.

The synchronization of industrial-scale precursor chemical diversion—particularly bulk industrial solvents like acetone—directly feeds the parallel manufacturing expansion of both ATS and synthetic NPS variants within subregional border zones. Consequently, supply suppression strategies must shift away from volume-heavy border seizures of individual end-products toward multi-lateral chemical tracking, shared forensic profiling, and cross-border financial investigations targeting the leadership structures of these highly capitalized syndicates.

10.3 Unified Regional Strategic Forecast

Ultimately, the data compiled throughout the 2025 reporting cycle serves as an empirical warning for the upcoming intergovernmental policy cycle. The high resilience of synthetic supply networks, alongside rising polydrug healthcare admissions, suggests that the regional drug market is expanding in value density, chemical sophistication, and operational agility. To prevent further institutional strain on national criminal justice and healthcare delivery

networks, ASEAN Member States must prioritize the immediate operationalization of an integrated regional Early Warning System (EWS).

By unifying forensic chemical profiling with real-time emergency healthcare data sharing, the bloc can transition from a reactive enforcement model into a predictive, evidence-informed regional governance framework capable of anticipating and neutralizing emerging synthetic threats before they achieve market entrenchment. While this chapter has evaluated regional macro trends and substance-specific profiles, the following chapter (Chapter 3) provides granular, localized context through the independent national reports submitted by individual ASEAN Member States.

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CHAPTER 3

ASEAN Country Report



Brunei Darussalam

Drug Arrests

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), as the leading law enforcement agency in combating illicit drug related crimes in Brunei Darussalam, had made **709** drug arrests in 2025 for various offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act, Chapter 27 which constitute 0.15 % of the population of Brunei Darussalam[1]. Out of the total arrests, 573 were males and 136 were females. Majority of the arrests were locals and of Malay ethnicity.

Age group	No. of Arrest
14 years and below	0
15 - 19 years	13
20 - 29 years	162
30 - 39 years	226
40 - 49 years	216
50 - 59 years	75
60 years and above	17

Individuals in the age group of 30-49 years make up the largest group of arrestees as tabulated below:

The following are the different types of drug offences committed under the Misuse of Drug Act (MDA), Chapter 27 in the year 2025:

Misuse of Drug Act (MDA) Chapter 27	Offence	No. of Arrests
Section 3A	Possession of controlled drug for the purpose of trafficking	32
Section 5	Import and export of controlled drug	35
Section 6(a)	Possession of controlled drugs	144
Section 6(b)	Consumption of controlled drugs	698
Section 7	Possession of pipes and utensils	223

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

[1] Population of Brunei Darussalam in 2025 was 458,600 persons.

Drug Seizures

Methamphetamine remains the choice of drug abuse in Brunei Darussalam, accounting for 90.8% of drug related arrests involving Methamphetamine. In contrast, drug arrest involving other types of drugs remains low, comprising of 9.2%of the total arrests. Drug seizures made in 2025 are tabulated below:

Type of Drugs	Gross weight
Methylamphetamine	4,263.61 g
Cannabis	2,796.43 g 01 plant04 units disposable pod vape
Ketamine	81.75 g
Erimin 5 (Nimetazepam)	56.49 g 44 tablets
Ecstasy	32.75 g
Mitragyna speciose (ketum)	2,277.75 ml
Liquid vape	07 bottles of vape liquid

In addition to the above seizures, Brunei Darussalam continues to be exploited as a drug transit hub by transnational drug trafficking syndicate. Using a similar modus operandi involving virtual office, Narcotics Control Bureau recorded another seizure in 2025 amounting to 12,456.41 g of Methylamphetamine (12.46 kg). The drugs were concealed in two (02) parcels that were smuggled into Brunei Darussalam via air freight consignment.

Previously, in 2024, a total of 36,728.38 g of Methylamphetamine (36.73 kg) were seized in connection with the same modus operandi, highlighting the continued attempts by international drug syndicates to traffic illicit drugs.

Major Operations

13 major operations were conducted in 2025 targeting drug trafficking networks in Brunei Darussalam resulting in a total of **160 arrests** and the following drug seizures:

- 1,814.97 g Cannabis
- 3, 655.91 g Methylamphetamine
- 32.75 g Ecstasy pill
- 80.77 g Ketamine
- 07 bottles of vape liquid
- 04 units disposable pod vape
- 0.27 g Erimin 5
- 20 pills Erimin 5

Drug Cases at the Borders

In its effort to intercept drug trafficking into Brunei Darussalam through the border,the Bureau work closely with other law enforcement agencies, under an inter-agency approach to strengthen border security and monitoring. NCB officers are stationed at six border control posts in Brunei Darussalam namely at Brunei International Airport, Kuala Lurah Control Post, Ujong Jalan Control Post, Labu Control Post, Sungai Tujoh Control Post and Serasa Ferry Terminal.

In 2025, 62 were arrested at various border control posts for drug related offences. Out of the total arrests, 36 were Bruneians, 03 permanent resident and 23 foreigners. The following drugs were seized at various border control checkpoints.

Type of Drugs	Gross weight
Methylamphetamine	424.69 g
Cannabis	724.43 g
Ketamine	56.16 g
Erimin 5 (Nimetazepam)	56.49 g 14 tablets
Ecstasy	1.71 g
Others	2,277.75 ml Ketum 7 bottles of vape liquid

Supervision Scheme

Supervision as an aspect of aftercare services is considered in Brunei Darussalam to be vital for the true realisation of the Rehabilitation Process. Continuous aftercare support and encouragement to the supervisees help them reintegrate fully into the society.

Supervision Scheme is compulsory in Brunei Darussalam and is legally provided by the Misuse of Drugs (Approved Institutions and Treatment and Rehabilitation) Regulations, 1987. The supervision scheme is a two-year programme comprising of two phases. Throughout the supervision period, supervisees are required to vigilant supervision programme, intake assessment, urine screening, home visits and family interviews. In addition, further enhancement to the supervision programme is being introduced with the establishment of Counselling and Psychology Units.

In 2025, a total of 243 supervisees were registered to the Supervision Scheme as follows:

Gender	No. of Supervisees
Male	209
Female	34

Treatment and Rehabilitation

Al-Islah Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre is the only approved treatment and rehabilitation of drugs centre in Brunei Darussalam which adopts the Psycho-social model focusing on behavioural changes through Therapeutic

Community Program, spiritual therapy, life skills and vocational training. Section 33 of the MDA empowers the Minister to commit a drug abuser for treatment and rehabilitation.

The centre adopts Therapeutic Community (TC) as the treatment mode for its residents aiming to reinforce positive behaviour. Therapeutic Community is a group-based approach which aims to treat its clients (residents) from emotional disturbances in a communal atmosphere and emphasizes the role of peers in securing safe-environment through the process of learning and support amongst themselves. It also emphasizes on family responsibility which encourage behavioural shaping and management, emotional and psychological support, intellectual and spiritual support as well as vocational and survival skills.

In 2025, a total of 142 residents were referred to Pusat Al-Islah as tabulated below:

Gender	No. of Supervisees
Male	113
Female	29



Cambodia

Drug Situation

The drug situation, both internationally and regionally, remains a serious and evolving challenge with alarming dangers. Geopolitical competition, global insecurity, political instability, and the global economic crisis have led criminals to seize the opportunity to increase drug cultivation and production, as well as the clandestine, smuggling of illegal precursor chemicals for the production of synthetic drugs, especially in the South America, the Golden Crescent, and the Golden Triangle. In this situation, the demand for synthetic drugs has also risen sharply, particularly in the types of methamphetamines (gram, powder, vitamin, and ecstasy).

In particular, Cambodia continues to be threatened by the aforementioned global drug situation, especially from the Golden Triangle. In 2025, the overall crime suppression rate increased by 1.06%, but the amount of drugs seized decreased by 60.45% compared to 2024. Of these, approximately 54% were trafficked across land borders (North East: Preah Vihear and Stung Treng provinces approximately 48%) and Northwest: Banteay Meanchey and Battambang provinces approximately 6%), by air approximately 1%, by postal mail approximately 1%, processing and production cases approximately 39%, and cases of storage, trafficking, distribution, and facilitation for domestic use approximately 5%. Among the seized drugs, the main types were methamphetamine, ketamine, and heroin, originating from the Golden Triangle, while cocaine originated from South and Central America, and some ketamine and ecstasy originated from Europe.

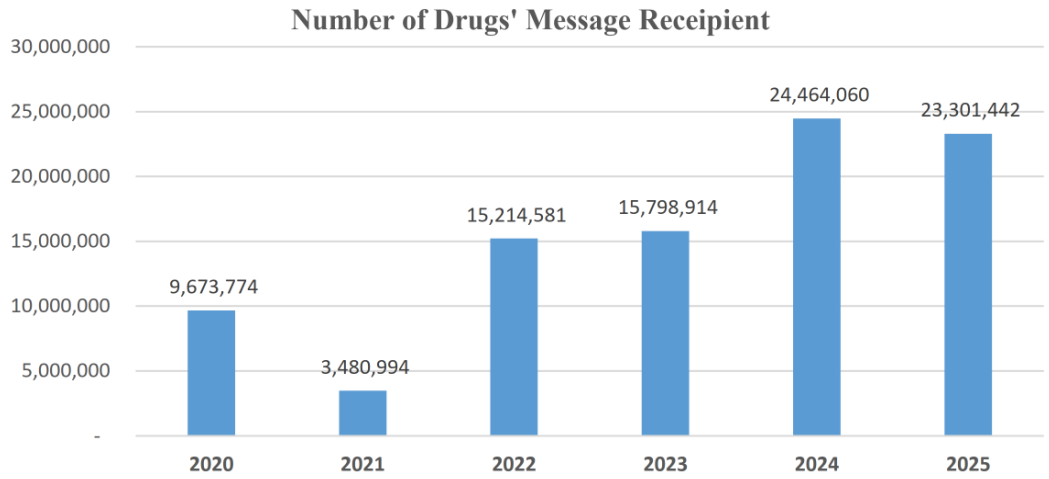
Combating Drugs Accomplishment

With the highly attentive participation of leaders and civil servants from Ministries, Institutions, and member units of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) in implementing the five priority directions recommended by His Excellency Dr. Neth Savoeun,

as well as the directions set out at the 2024 conference, including the implementation of the action plan for the 10th Campaign Plan Against Illegal Drugs, we have achieved the following remarkable results:

1. Dissemination, education, prevention, and rejection of drugs:

In various forums, we conducted educational outreach, both directly and indirectly, covering a total of 23,301,442 participants (in 2024: 24,464,060 participants), which is less than 1,162,618 participants, a decrease of 4.75% compared to 2024.



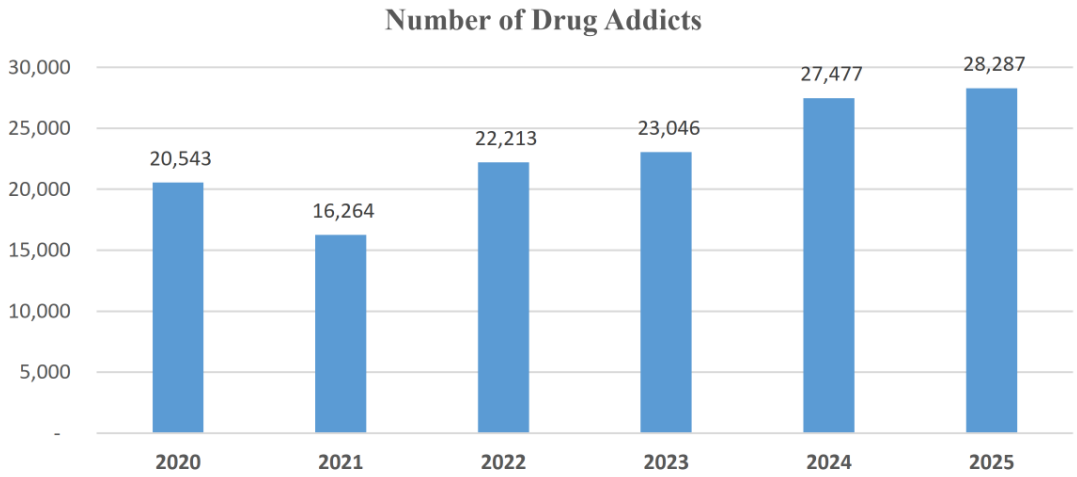
By organizing various events such as the celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26, the River Festival, school leaflet distribution campaigns, community outreach, and street parades, etc., approximately 8,033,623 individuals/persons participated. Regardless of the number of indirect recipients of educational messages through advertising billboards, leaflets, broadcasts on radio and television, the website of the National Authority for Combating Drugs, the NoDrug mobile application, as well as through other social media platforms.

Through the NoDrug mobile application, which has been actively involved, nearly 70,000 people have downloaded, used, and participated in reporting on drug issues.

2. Treatment, rehabilitation, and integration of drug addicts:

The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, and relevant institutions have continued to strengthen the effectiveness of treatment, rehabilitation, and integration of drug addicts by managing 28,287 addicts and users (in 2024, there were 27,477 people), an increase of over 810 people, or 2.95%. This includes:

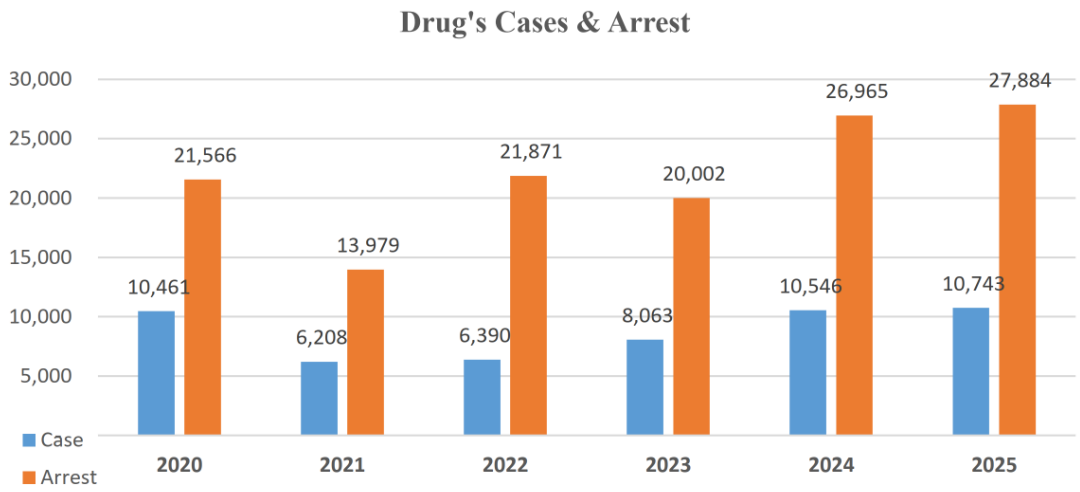
- 8,788 people have been receiving treatment and rehabilitation services at the center.
- 10,640 people reintegrated into the community
- 7,428 drug addicts received treatment at public health facilities
- 1,431 drug users sent to court.



3. Strengthening the effectiveness of law enforcement institutions

Law enforcement agencies and relevant institutions have cooperated both nationally and internationally to strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement, leading to the destruction of drug criminal organizations, with the following results:

- The number of suspects arrested in 2024 was 10,743, an increase of 113 cases or 1.06% compared to 2024. A total of 27,884 suspects were arrested, an increase of 813 people or 3% compared to 2024.
- 5 tons 897 kg of drugs seized (in 2024, 14 tons 909 kg), a decrease of 9 tons 012 kg or 60.45% compared to 2024
- 12,212 cannabis plants were destroyed (17,785 in 2024), a decrease of 5,573 plants.
- Seized 525 kg of dried cannabis (142 kg in 2024), an increase of 383 kg.
- 42 tons and 814 kg of chemical substances were seized (354 kg in 2024), an increase of 42 tons and 469 kg.



Statistics of Narcotics Seizure						
Drugs (Kgs)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Meth. WY	3.89	6.31	27.24	5.33	136.69	66.51
Meth. ICE	863.52	647.95	1,076.75	1,436.75	9,514.70	1,126.64
Ecstasy	73.57	556.31	198.54	324.26	1,923.54	2,370.97
Heroin	299.02	275.58	70.8	166.6	153.42	254.15
Cocaine	0.51	1.99	0.05	8.74	1.35	36.86
Ketamine	112.52	2,782.77	13,504.50	1,040.30	3,177.44	2,040.40
Nime	9.38	11.73	29.54	6.9	2.21	1.54
Total	**1,362.41**	**4,282.64**	**14,907.42**	**2,988.88**	**14,909.35**	**5,897.07**

With this, in addition to the above crackdown results, we have implemented a total of 14,946 administrative measures (in 2024, there were 1,092 cases), an increase of 13,354 cases, including:

- The closure of 12 businesses, equivalent to 2 destinations (guest houses and KTVs).
- Education: 14,194 business locations, equivalent to 5 cows (hotels, guesthouses, rental houses, bars, KTVs, and clubs).
- The Ministry of Commerce invited business owners to attend 740 meetings, with 34,707 participants (17,257 women).
- There were 1,163 rapid tests for narcotic substances in urine on the target group, with clues of drug use, on 13,796 targets, and 1,510 people tested positive for narcotics.

4. Control of narcotic substances and chemical precursors

Relevant ministries and institutions have issued licenses to import a total of 255,435 tons and 411 kg of narcotics and chemical substances (in 2024, there were 97,249 tons and 612 kg), an increase of 158,185 tons and 799 kg, accounted for 162.66%.

5. International cooperation with regional and international bordering countries

The National Authority for Combating Drugs has continued to cooperate in coordinating the implementation of anti-drug cooperation partnerships to ensure the effective implementation of the contents of various agreements within bilateral and multilateral frameworks with neighboring countries, sub-regions, regions, and internationally. This includes 40 meetings: 15 overseas meetings, 8 domestic meetings, 3 virtual remote (online) meetings, 2 facilitated visits,2 workshops, 8 training courses, and 2 coordinated meetings.

6. Strengthening anti-drug mechanisms at national and sub-national levels.

The National Authority for Combating Drugs, ministries, institutions, capital and provincial drug control committees, and all relevant units have continued to strengthen their staffing mechanisms to implement and lead multi-sectoral work for the fight against drugs at the national and sub-national levels. In particular, they have been promoting the implementation of Order No. 01 BB on the Issuance of Strict Measures to Combat Illegal Drugs in Ministries, Institutions, and Bub-national Administrations. Concurrently, we have also disseminated and implemented Order No. 02 BB on the Issuance of Measures Prohibiting The Import, Distribution, Sale, Advertising, Use, Possession, Production, Storage of Electronic Devices and Chemicals for Smoking and Consumption, and the Implementation of the 10th Campaign Plan to Anti-Illicit Drugs, which has been carried out very actively and vigorously.

Outstanding Work Achievements

In response to the inclusion of the fight against drugs in the core of the 1st Phase of the Royal Government's Pentagon Strategy, the outstanding achievements of the National Authority include:

1. Implementation of Government Order No. 01 BB: In order to implement the principles of "cleaning our house" and "cleaning the lake surface," as of now, 131,473 civil servants have undergone rapid tests for narcotics in water samples. Among them, 104 individuals were found to be positive, 103 were dismissed, and 1 person is currently undergoing legal procedures. Specifically, in 2025, 12,766 individuals underwent rapid tests for narcotics in water samples, with 5 positive cases found and 5 individuals dismissed.
2. Implementation of Royal Government Sub-decree No. 02 BB: With the aim of prohibiting the import, distribution, sale, advertising, use, possession, production, and storage of electronic devices and chemicals for smoking and consumption, which cause serious harm to social welfare, we have also disseminated and implemented these measures with satisfactory results.
3. Celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: By organizing events such as exhibition booths, talk shows, and the Cambodia-Vietnam International Volleyball Tournament in the spirit of fighting drugs, 6,000 people participated in person and received educational messages.

4. The NoDrug mobile application: This application has become a modern and popular means for the general public to communicate with competent authorities and report drug offenses occurring in communities, requesting intervention from competent authorities to help resolve issues in a timely manner. To date, approximately 70,000 people have downloaded this application for use. Specifically, through the NoDrug mobile application, specialized units have received reports on various issues and drug offenses at the local level, totaling 2,920 cases. Of these, 1,723 cases have been resolved, 356 cases are being resolved, 216 cases are false information, 91 cases are being tested, 183 cases are other information, and 351 cases are the same information.
5. The signing of Memoranda of Understanding with associations and the private sectors has contributed to promoting educational activities on drug issues in an attractive manner and has received significant support from young people.
6. Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts: Established and Disseminated Operational Procedures for Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers and Digital Data Collection Centers to improve the quality and effectiveness of drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation.

Conclusion and Evaluation

Over the past year, we have identified the following strengths, challenges, and shortcomings:

A. The Strengths

Following the principles and sharp recommendations from Samdech Thipadei, the Prime Minister of the Royal Government, the important mission in the fight against drugs is on the right track to achieve the goal of “Narcotics will no longer be an obstacle to national development”.

- The establishment of the "Prominent National Movement and Common Spirit to Fight Against Drugs" by considering the drug problem as a common problem that must be solved together and actively participated in by all strata and all sectors of society.
- The policy encourages drug users to voluntarily access treatment and rehabilitation services, treats drug users as victims, and encourages state and private entities to participate in providing treatment and rehabilitation services for drug addicts.
- The continued active attention of law enforcement officials in preventing, combating, and suppressing cross-border drug offenses, especially drug use in communities and entertainment clubs. By strengthening law enforcement mechanisms, establishing and enhancing the capacity of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Drug and Chemical Control, and improving the capacity of law enforcement officials, Cambodia has gained support from all national and international circles and has been removed from the FATF's grey list in combating money laundering cases related to drug offenses.

- The use of professional-technical measures combined with experience in research, investigation, and suppression of drug offenses by law enforcement officers, leading to the arrest of many suspects and subsequent arrests of ringleaders, including network members, to be punished according to the law.
- Has strengthened and expanded cooperation, coordination, and implementation in partnership with neighboring countries, sub-regions, regions, and internationally in the fight against drugs.
- The development of policies, strategic plans to combat drugs, and regulations of the Royal Government, along with numerous legal documents supporting the fight against drugs, has made the drug control mechanism more comprehensive and the results of drug control work commendable.

B. The Challenges and Shortcomings

Although the NADD has achieved many important results and accomplishments, there are still the following challenges and shortcomings:

- Global insecurity, political instability, and economic crises, both globally and regionally, have led criminals to seize the opportunity to continue cultivating and producing drugs, both natural, semi-synthetic, synthetic and illegally trafficking precursor chemicals for drug production.
- The geographical situation and border infrastructure, especially in the northeastern border regions of Cambodia and Laos, continue to cause cross-border drug trafficking into Cambodia due to the lack of geographical location, close patrols, and technical equipment to support specialized work.
- The performance of duties is still limited within its jurisdiction for some law enforcement officers, causing drug trafficking, transportation, trading, and storage to continue to happen in the community, especially cross-border trafficking.
- Vulnerable target groups due to drugs, such as homeless children, unemployed youth, unregulated residents, mobile workers, migrant workers, truant students, transport drivers, and workers, still find it difficult to provide outreach and education.
- Encouragement to download and use the NoDrug mobile application by a number of ministries, institutions, and sub-national administrations is still limited. With this, the participation of ministries, institutions, and relevant units in producing content for the NoDrug mobile application is not yet self-sufficient.

- Cooperation on the management, monitoring, and control of the use and storage of narcotic substances and chemical precursors in companies, factories, and enterprises of ministries, specialized institutions, and provincial and municipal authorities has not yet been implemented in accordance with the SOP content.
- There is no scientific data management system for drug addicts, so treatment, rehabilitation, and integration plans have not yet responded to the actual situation.
- International cooperation and support from development partners, both technical and material, are declining, while the general situation of drugs in the region and the world remains complex.

Anti-illicit drug work direction for 2026

1. Educational Outreach:

- Continue to promote and inspire work to educate about the dangers of drugs by jointly transforming this activity into a good tradition, starting from an individual, a family, to the entire community.
- Continue to inspire a strong national movement and a united spirit from all relevant stakeholders of society to actively participate in raising public awareness of the devastation of drugs by continuing to strengthen and develop educational outreach methods that are modern, up-to-date, and highly attractive.
- Continue to strengthen the mechanisms of ministries, institutions, and sub-national administrations to actively promote education and encourage citizens to use the NoDrug mobile application more widely.

2. Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Integration:

- Continue to strengthen and enhance the professional capacity of relevant officials in providing treatment, rehabilitation, and integration services so that victims achieve high quality and efficiency in all service delivery processes.
- Continue to strengthen the efficiency of data collection for drug addicts at treatment and rehabilitation centers for drug addicts and at public health facilities.
- Continue to strengthen mechanisms to support and encourage local drug users to access treatment and rehabilitation services.

- Continue to promote the implementation of relevant legal documents to enhance the effectiveness of treatment, rehabilitation, and integration of drug addicts.
- Develop the Standard Operation Procedures for Treatmenr and Rehabiliation Centers.
- Develop the Digital Database System for Drug Addicts in Treatmenr and Rehabiliation Centers.

3. Strengthening the effectiveness of law enforcement institutions:

- Continue to strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement to prevent and suppress all forms of drug offenses by cutting off chains and destroying drug criminal organizations to their roots.
- Continue to strengthen the implementation of administrative measures in complex and risky destinations such as guesthouses, rental houses, rental rooms, entertainment clubs, karaoke, and unregulated areas, etc.
- Continue to pay attention to solving and eradicating drug offenses in the community and at the local level in accordance with the policy of safe villages, communes, and Sangkats.

4. Control of narcotic substances and chemical precursors:

- Continue to strengthen the mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial working group on drug and chemical control and continue to strengthen the implementation of the spirit of the decision on the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on drug and chemical control.

5. International cooperation with neighboring countries

- Continue to participate in and coordinate the implementation of drug control cooperation mechanisms within bilateral and trilateral frameworks with bordering countries.
- Continue to participate in the implementation of the Mekong River safety project on drug control cooperation.
- Promote the establishment of mechanisms to implement the policy of drug-free villages, communes, and districts through human resource training, operational equipment provision, and capacity building of the Border Liaison Office (BLO).

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

- Continue to implement in partnership with countries in sub-regions, regions, and internationally in drug control cooperation.
- Continue to strengthen and open up bilateral and multilateral cooperation with regional and international countries to exchange information in a timely manner, share experiences, and mobilize assistance.

7. Strengthening the Drug Control Mechanisms at National and Sub-national levels

- Strengthen the implementation of Order No. 01 BB of the Royal Government on the implementation of strict measures to combat illegal drugs in ministries, institutions, and sub-national administrations.
- Strengthen the implementation of Directive No. 02 BB of the Royal Government on the issuance of measures to prohibit the import, distribution, sale, advertising, use, possession, production, and storage of electronic devices and chemicals for smoking and consumption.
- Promote and strengthen the implementation of the action plan on the implementation of the 11th Anti-illegal drug campaign plan.



Indonesia

Introduction

Indonesia's drug situation in 2025 remained a major national security and public health concern, with authorities reporting high levels of trafficking, widespread methamphetamine circulation, and increasing transnational syndicate activity.

The President and Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, carries 8 missions called Asta Cita, which contain strengthening ideology to democracy. One of the eight mission which is mission number seven is Strengthening political, legal, and bureaucratic reforms, as well as enhancing the prevention and eradication of corruption, narcotics, gambling, and smuggling. The priority program number 6 is preventing and eradicating of narcotics.

Because of the priority program, BNN working closely with other stakeholders with "ANANDA BERSINAR". This initiative is dedicated to protecting the younger generation, particularly children, from the threats and dangers of narcotics.

Drug and Trafficking Situation

One of the fundamental issues faced by Indonesia is the development of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Globally, **1,411** NPS substances had been identified as per January 2026, according to the UNODC Early Warning Advisory.

So far, the Indonesian Ministry of Health has regulated a total of 177 NPS substances. 99 NPS identified circulating in Indonesia. Among them, 95 have been included in the Ministry of Health Regulations, while 4 substances remain unregulated: ketamine, kratom, MDMB-5methyl-INACA and AB-INACA.

In 2025, the prevalence of drug abuse in the past year reached **2.11%**, equivalent to **4.15 million** Indonesians aged 15-64. Meanwhile, the prevalence of ever use reached **2.77%**, equivalent to **5.43 million** Indonesians aged 15-64 who had abused drugs at least once in their lifetime. Compared to 2023, the prevalence rate in 2025 shows an **increase**.

Law Enforcement

Throughout 2025, Through firm and measured actions by the law enforcement consisting of BNN, Indonesian National Police (INP), Indonesian Armed Force, Directorate General Customs and Excise, and related stakeholders, about 51,261 cases with 67,687 offenders. The evidence seized includes 12.38 tons of crystal methamphetamine, 2.35 million tablets of Ecstasy (MDMA), and 576,48 ton of dried cannabis.

Regional/International Cooperation

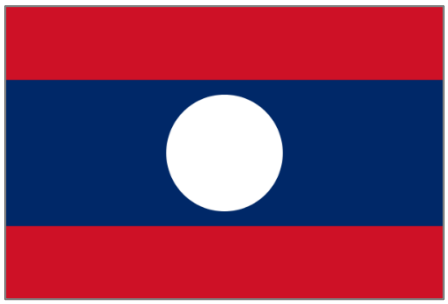
Increasing and strengthening cooperation among ASEAN countries is crucial in addressing the illicit trafficking and circulation of narcotics. By hosting and attending bilateral, regional, and multilateral meetings, Indonesia consistently collaborates with all ASEAN Member States and international organizations to secure the region from the trafficking and circulation of narcotics.

Strong collaboration between government institutions and components of society at the national, regional and international levels is one of many crucial components in the successful implementation of BNN strategy. BNN as the focal point in the handling of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Indonesia has signed 62 cooperation documents at the national level, consisting of 41 cooperation documents with government institutions, and 21 documents with private sector institutions.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

Throughout 2025, BNN RI, together with 417 partner institutions, provided rehabilitation services to 18,919 clients which consists of 2,076 inpatient, 10,116 outpatient, and 6,727 aftercare patients.

Various breakthroughs are continuously being made to optimize rehabilitation programs, one of which is the establishment of Community-Based Interventions (IBM). IBM has proven to be an effective strategy by involving communities as active partners in efforts to prevent and address drug abuse. Currently, BNN RI has established 418 IBM units across 34 provinces. These units are manned by recovery agents from the community who are tasked with outreach, mentoring, and guidance for drug abusers.



Lao PDR

Introduction

The Lao PDR is a landlocked country in the center of the Greater Mekong Sub-region that shares long borders with China, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Due to its geographic and topographic location and the rapidly emerging economies of some its neighbors, the Lao PDR become as a transit route for drug trafficking as well as precursor chemicals in the sub-region unavoidably. The drug trafficking through Lao PDR has been increasing with higher frequency and volume. The northwest border still being the main gateway of drug flow to Lao PDR, while the border in the Southwest part of the country has been increasingly used for drug outflow. Methamphetamine tablet (ATS) remains the main drugs of abuse, while the number of opium users remains almost stable.

In response, the government of the Lao PDR prioritized the fight against drug trafficking and drug use and instructed line sectors, local administrations, and the public to focus on the successful implementation of national legislative strategies against drugs such as the Law on Narcotics, and the National Drug Control Master Plan. The Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) has effectively strengthened its monitoring efforts during the past several years.

Legislation/National Drug Control Policy

The Government of the Lao PDR is constantly adjusting and improving legislative instruments and mechanisms to enable relevant authorities to respond effectively and immediately to the existing situation. The National Agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control 2021-2025, and now we are writing The National Plan for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control 2026-2030.



Measures taken on Drug Control

1) Civic Awareness Campaign.
2) Alternative Development.
3) Drug Demand Reduction.
4) Law Enforcement.
5) International cooperation.

Preventive Education

LCDC mobilizes communities through effective civic awareness campaigns to prevent drug abuse, production, and trafficking. The authorities concerned have worked actively towards drug prevention by means of drug education and anti-drug campaign to raise drug awareness in society, primarily among the youth population of negative impact and danger of drugs. LCDC and local authorities have strived for establishing families, villages, educational institutions, firms, and other organizations to be drug-free places.

Attention has been made to awareness raising and dissemination in different forms to create awareness amongst people in the society to acknowledge and understand the rule of law and understand the danger of drugs. A number of people of all ethnicities have been mobilized to participate in drug control and prevention. In 2025, the effects of drugs were advertised in colleges, schools, and villages along the border with a total of 2,058 participants.



To contribute to the implementation of the Government Policy on Three Builds Directive connected with the development of the village as a development unit, each locality has actively paid attention to the implementation of the drug free village development plan.The drug free families, villages, education institutes, and communities have contributed to the reduction of drug use to a certain extent.

Alternative Development

LCDC integrated Alternative Development programmes into national drug control plans and policies. LCDC of Lao PDR and NNCC of China have jointly conducted an annual opium poppy cultivation survey, monitoring and assessments in 11 provinces of Northern and Central part of Lao PDR. In 2025, the opium poppy cultivation in Lao PDR was 5,656 hectares, and opium poppy eradication in Lao PDR was 97 hectares.

LCDC has cooperated with China and UNODC to implement an Alternative Development Program with in Northern Provinces of Lao PDR. Actually, our local authorities in the Northern part of the country have supported ex-opium poppy farmers in remote areas to gain better living conditions by introducing sustainable Alternative Development and lawful livelihoods.



Treatment, Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centers

At present the concerned authorities of the Lao PDR provide 15 standard and non-standard treatment, rehabilitation and vocational training centers while three are under construction. The authorities concerned plan to expand the availability of Community-Based Treatment (CBT) for ATS users including the access to counseling services to all citizens by enabling hospitals, and health facilities to offer these services.

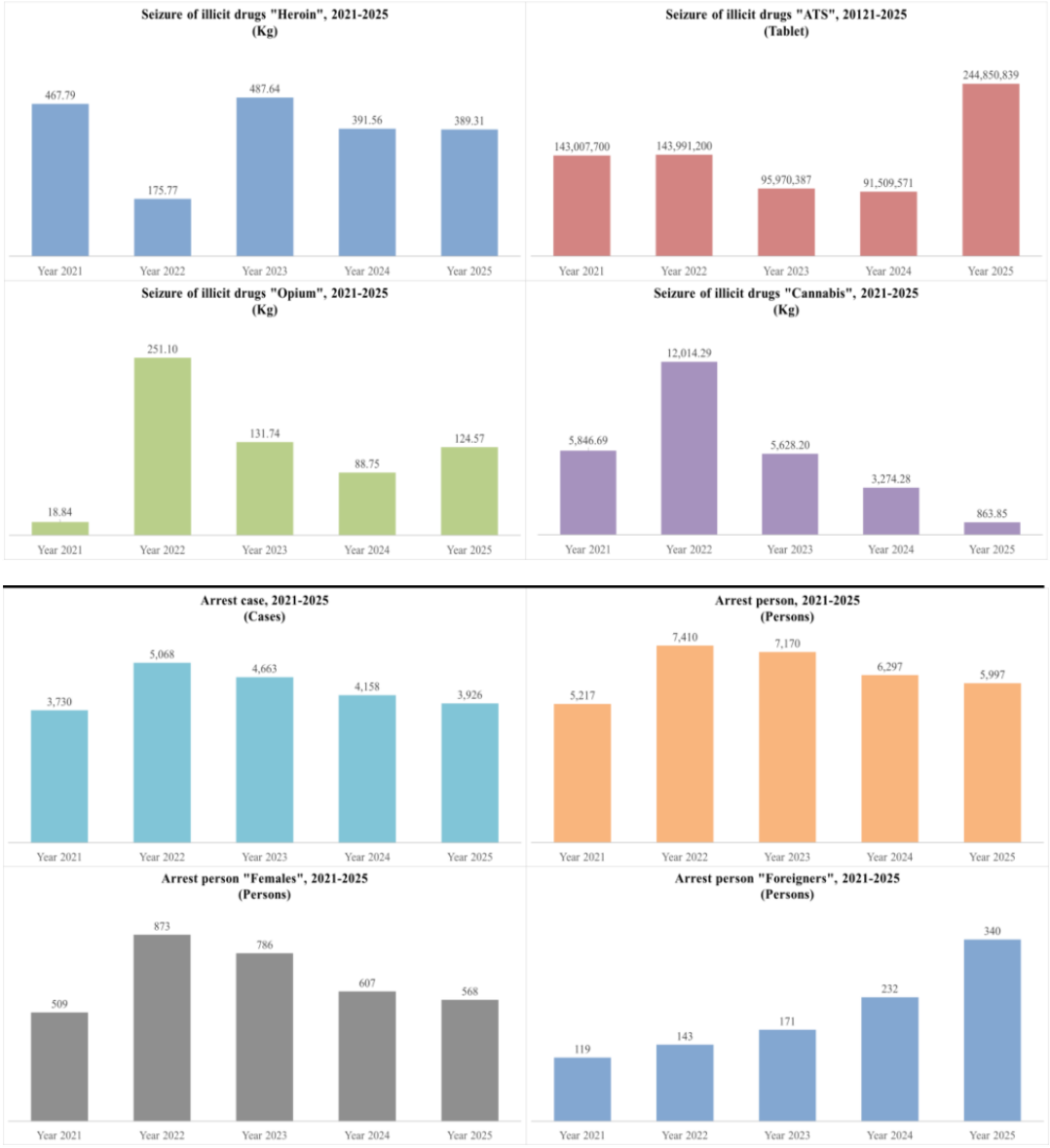
We paid attention to drug addict treatment in drug treatment and habitation centers, hospitals, community-based treatment, and family levels in order to help drug victims to normalize their health. In addition to the physical and mental treatment, about 4,000 to 5,000 patients/times were also provided with basic vocational training. This is to provide them with job opportunities after reintegrating to their families.

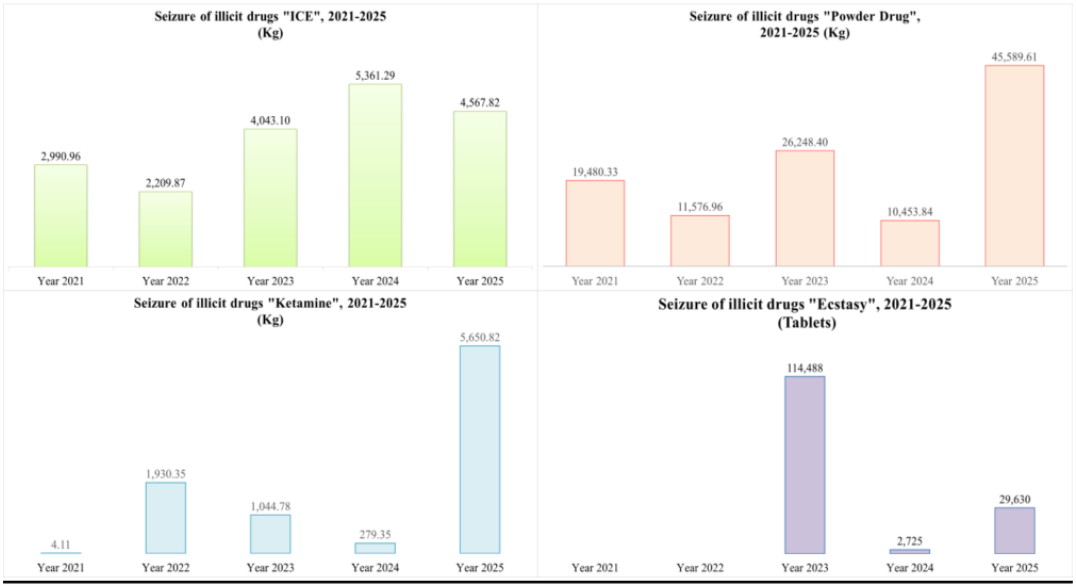


Law Enforcement

Capacity enhancement of law enforcement agencies, increasing border surveillance, and the intelligence, ability to detect, investigate and prosecute illicit trafficking and related crimes are key priorities of the Government of the Lao PDR.

Police officials have cooperated with concerned sectors at different levels to carry out their functions with high responsibility. This could be seen from the crackdown of in 2025:3,926 cases, arrests of 5,997 suspects of which 568 females and 340 foreigners, seizures of 389 Kg of Heroin, 244,850,839 Tablets of Methamphetamine (ATS), 124 Kg of raw Opium, 863 Kg of dry Cannabis, 4,567 Kg of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice), 45,589 Kg of Powder for mixing, and producing drugs, 5,650 Kg of Ketamine, 29,630 Tablets of Ecstasy. In addition, vehicles, weapons and other equipment were also seized.





International relation and cooperation

The Lao PDR pays high attention to the implement 3 single United Nations Convention, The ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016 – 2025, and international collaboration to combat the drug menace and tackle challenges. As drug prevention is considered as a first priority task the Lao government pays seriously attention to strengthening international cooperation and implementing bilateral agreements on narcotic drug cooperation, as well as implementation of community-based projects on drug demand reduction.

Lao PDR has implemented existing bilateral and multilateral agreements on drug control cooperation, exchange of information and intelligence and against drug trafficking with ASEAN countries, friendly countries and with international organizations. Regional cooperation such as the joint operation “Safe Mekong” strengthened networks and collaboration at regional level between Lao PDR, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

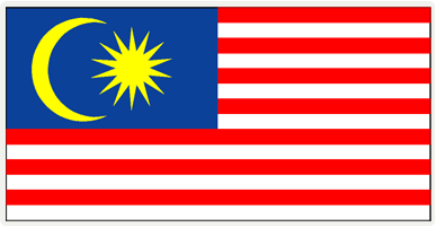
As we know that drugs are common problems in the region and in the world,international cooperation especially with the neighbor countries and ASEAN member’s states to share lessons and data and information has been highlighted. These countries host regular meetings at national and local levels on rotational basis. We participated in the implementation of a drug control related crime project jointly with 5 bordering countries.



Conclusion

After the Lao government organized the implementation of The National Agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control 2021 to 2025 to solve the drug problem observed that the results have been fruitful since the implementation of the agenda, making the dealer and trafficker of drugs feared, and law enforcement officers can arrest and seize any kinds of drugs and precursor chemicals have been in large quantities.

The drug problem is not a person or single state can solve, it needs more cooperation to assist each other, and this can get a win-win for everyone. Law enforcement is a mechanism to use force for preventing and arresting drug trafficking in the criminal justice system. Therefore, this is the only way how to stop drug dealers. The Government of Lao PDR is undertaking considerable efforts to ensure the sustainability of opium elimination as well as to address the threats from other drugs by integrating Alternative Development program nationwide and supporting the development of alternative sustainable livelihoods for former and opium poppy-growing farmers, drug addicts' treatment, but also for other vulnerable communities.



Malaysia

Malaysia remains steadfast in its commitment to shield the nation from the dangers of illicit drugs, with particular focus on safeguarding youth and vulnerable groups. A holistic and balanced strategy is pursued, integrating enforcement, preventive education, and comprehensive rehabilitation programmes. These efforts are strengthened through close collaboration with government agencies, grassroots movements, and civil society, ensuring a united and resilient approach in confronting the drug menace.

Prevalence of Drug Abuse

The National Drug and Substance Abuse Data Collection Taskforce reported that in 2025, a total of 191,832 individuals were identified as substance abusers and drug addicts in Malaysia. The collected data compiled is categorized into four (4) main groups as follows:

I. Arrest made under Section 15 (1) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 by the Royal Malaysia Police;
II. Clients undergoing treatment and rehabilitation at the National Anti-Drugs Agency under the Drug Dependants (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983;
III. Patients receiving addiction treatment at Ministry of Health facilities; and
IV. Individuals treated and rehabilitate in Private Drug Rehabilitation Centres

In comparison to 2024, Malaysia recorded a slight decline of 0.5% in the number of identified substance abusers and drug addicts, bringing the total to 191,832 individuals in 2025. One of the key factors contributing to this decline was the successful crackdown and closure of rat routes and smuggling trails in Kelantan, a major entry point for drug supplies in Malaysia.

The year also saw a notable increase in voluntary admissions to rehabilitation centres, reflecting greater awareness and willingness among People Who Use Drugs (PWUD) to seek help. Based on current data, the prevalence rate in 2025 stood at 560 individuals per 100,000 population, equivalent to one individual for every 178 Malaysians.

Table 1 presents the number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts in Malaysia from 2021 to 2025, with a total of 191,832 individuals recorded in 2025.

Table 1: Number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts, 2021 – 2025

Year	Total
2021	123,139
2022	137,176
2023	145,526
2024	192,857
2025	**191,832**
2025/2024 (%)	**-0.5**

Note: Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency, Royal Malaysia Police, Ministry of Health Malaysia and Private Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

In 2025, individuals aged 19 to 39 years constituted the largest demographic of drug and substance abusers in Malaysia, totalling 112,632 individuals or 58.7% of all identified users. This reflects a decline of 3.1% compared to the previous year. The adult category, comprising those aged 40 and above, represented the second-largest group with 77,987 individuals, accounting for 40.7% of individuals. Adolescents between 13 and 18 years formed the smallest segment, with 1,213 individuals or 0.6% of the total.

Table 2: Number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts Categorised by Age Category, 2021 – 2025

Age Category	Age range	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025/2024 (%)
Child	≤ 12	2	2	1	3	0	-100
Adolescent	13-15	135	92	78	82	101	23.2
	16-17	776	609	550	438	458	4.6
	18	1,050	970	823	735	654	-11.0
Youth	19	1,880	1,692	1,435	1,330	1,204	-9.5
	20-24	16,062	15,592	15,171	17,627	15,640	-11.3
	25-29	20,759	22,149	23,391	29,955	29,049	-3
	30-34	20,868	22,943	24,781	33,319	33,378	0.2
	35-39	21,543	24,191	25,742	34,014	33,361	-1.9
	40-44	16,277	19,675	21,634	30,051	30,650	2.0
Adult	45-49	11,004	13,440	14,737	20,828	21,647	3.9
	≥ 50	12,678	15,821	17,183	24,475	25,690	5
No Information	-	105	-	-	-	-	-
Total		**123,139**	**137,176**	**145,526**	**192,857**	**191,832**	**-0.5**

Note: Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), Malaysia

These figures, as shown in Table 2, highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions and preventive strategies, particularly among the youth population.

In 2025, a total of 141,817 individuals, representing 73.9% of identified cases, were recorded as users of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS). This was followed by 38,899 individuals, or 20.3%, who consumed opiates, while 6,248 individuals, accounting for 3.3%, were identified as marijuana users. These figures, as reflected in Table 3, illustrate the distribution of drug and substance abusers in Malaysia according to specific categories of drugs and substances.

Table 3: Number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts Categorised by drug/substance group, 2021 – 2025

Year	Opiate[1]	Opium	Marijuana	Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)[2]	Psychotropic Group[3]	Others[4]	Total
2021	39,048	52	3,179	79,816	347	697	**123,139**
2022	37,686	56	3,858	93,610	813	1,153	**137,176**
2023	33,761	18	4,358	104,122	1,488	1,779	**145,526**
2024	39,875	20	7,121	139,909	2,789	3,143	**192,857**
2025	38,899	33	6,248	141,817	1,867	3,001	**191,832**
2025/2024 (%)	**-2.5**	**65**	**-12.3**	**1.4**	**-33.1**	**-4.5**	**-0.5**

Notes:
[1] Refers to Heroin & Morphine
[2] Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) refers to:
- i) Methamphetamine (Crystalline): Syabu, Ice and Stone (Batu)
- ii) Methamphetamine (Tablet): Horse (Pil Kuda), YABA, YAMA, and Bomb Pills
- iii) Ecstasy
- iv) Amphetamine

[3] Includes Benzodiazepine, Psychotropic pills & Eramine5
[4] Includes Kratom, Depression, Dissociative, Hallucinogens, Inhalant etc.
Source of Information from National Anti-Drugs Agency, Royal Malaysia Police, Ministry of Health Malaysia and Private Drug Rehabilitation Centre

In terms of ethnicity, Table 4 shows that Malays dominated with 75.6 per cent, followed by Indians at 7.5 per cent, Chinese with 7.3 per cent, Sabah Indigenous at 4.7 per cent, Sarawak Indigenous at 3.5 per cent, and other ethnicities at 1.4 per cent.

Table 4: Number of Drug & Substance Abusers and Addicts by Ethnicity, 2021 – 2025

Year	Malay	Chinese	Indian	Sabah Indigenous	Sarawak Indigenous	Others	Total
2021	97,068	8,559	7,573	5,984	2,447	1,508	**123,139**
2022	108,705	9,561	8,206	6,584	3,159	961	**137,176**
2023	111,124	10,696	9,607	7,787	4,642	1,670	**145,526**
2024	145,877	14,861	14,935	9,322	5,530	2,332	**192,857**
2025	**145,058**	**14,021**	**14,426**	**8,958**	**6,730**	**2,639**	**191,832**
2025/2024 (%)	**-0.6**	**-5.7**	**-3.4**	**-3.9**	**21.7**	**13.2**	**-0.5**

Additionally, based on educational attainment in 2025, 29.5% of identified substance abusers and drug addicts had no formal education, while 8.1% had completed primary education. In addition, 57.4% were recorded as having completed secondary education, and 2.5% possessed tertiary-level qualifications. **Furthermore**, these figures highlight the significant concentration of cases among individuals with secondary-level education, underscoring the importance of targeted preventive and rehabilitative measures across different educational groups.

Table 5: Statistics of Drug and Substance Abuse and Addicts by Educational Level, 2021 – 2025

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No formal education	28,025	35,406	33,066	58,659	**56,650**
Primary education	10,712	11,611	12,755	14,773	**15,554**
PMR or equivalent[b]	34,612	36,236	37,321	42,545	**43,141**
SPM/SPMV or equivalent[b]	43,863	47,951	55,855	70,102	**67,048**
STPM or equivalent[b]	610	644	703	762	**748**
Diploma	2,333	2,405	2,692	3,098	**3,467**
Bachelor Degree/ Master/ PhD	584	602	717	817	**637**
Others[a]	2,400	2,321	2,417	2,101	**3,363**
TOTAL	**123,139**	**137,176**	**145,526**	**192,857**	**191,832**
2025/2024 (%)	**-4**	**11.4**	**6.1**	**32.5**	**-0.5**

Notes: [a]Including Matriculation, Basic Non-MLVK Skills Certificate, Advanced Non-MLVK Certificates, Non-Technical Skills Certificate, MLVK Skills Certificate and other related skills certificates
[b]Including Secondary education at level PMR, SPM and STPM

Drug Supply Reduction

In Malaysia, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) of the Royal Malaysia Police serves as the primary agency responsible for enforcing drug laws. Supporting this mandate, the Narcotics Division of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) plays a vital role in enforcement activities. Additionally, the Pharmacy Enforcement Division (PED) under the Ministry of Health enforces the Poisons Act 1952 and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, together with their respective regulations. These frameworks govern the sale, import, and export of dangerous drugs, poisons (including psychotropic substances), precursors, and essential chemicals, ensuring strict control and compliance.

Furthermore, the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) functions as the sole maritime law enforcement body tasked with enforcing federal laws within Malaysia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Established in November 2005, one of its key objectives is to combat the distribution and smuggling of drugs across maritime borders. To maintain the EEZ as a drug-free zone, the agency conducts targeted maritime operations in identified hotspots based on intelligence, while also engaging in joint operations with other enforcement bodies. In addition, MMEA is working towards establishing cooperative arrangements with coastguards from neighbouring countries such as Singapore and Indonesia, further strengthening regional collaboration in maritime drug enforcement.

Table 6: The Number of People Arrested for Various Offences Under the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) 1952 in 2021 – 2025

YEAR/ SECTION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025/2024 (%)
Sec. 39B – Trafficking	7,250	6,657	6,225	6,314	6,113	**-3.2**
Sec. 39A (2) – Major Possession	3,336	3,389	1,535	4,378	2,947	**-32.7**
Sec. 39A (1) - Minor Possession	14,664	17,267	17,726	17,131	20,252	**18.2**
Other sec. (under DDA 1952) Sec.6 /Sec. 6B/ Sec.9 /Sec.12(2)]	44,853	56,824	57,129	63,757	69,527	**9**
Sec.15(1)(a) – self-administration	52,631	69,122	85,004	156,869	152,637	**-2.7**
TOTAL	**122,734**	**153,259**	**167,619**	**248,449**	**251,476**	**1.2**

Note: Source of information: Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) & Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA)

Arrests and Seizures

In 2025, enforcement under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 resulted in a total of 251,476 arrests, marking an increase of 1.2% compared to 248,449 arrests recorded in 2024, as reflected in Table 6. Of these, 6,113 individuals were apprehended under Section 39B for drug trafficking offences, while 2,947 cases were registered under Section 39A(2) for major possession. A further 20,252 arrests were made under Section 39A(1) for minor possession. In addition, 69,527 individuals were detained under other provisions of the Act, including Sections 6, 6B, 9, and 12(2). The largest proportion of arrests, amounting to 152,637 cases, was recorded under Section 15(1)(a) for self-administration, underscoring the persistent challenge of drug consumption at the individual level.

Table 7: Drug Seizures in 2021 – 2025

DRUGS/ SUBSTANCE	UNIT	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025/2024 (%)
CANNABIS							
Marijuana (Herb)	kg	3,728.28	8,120.89	4,800.45	4,024.74	7,110.07	**76.7**
Plant	plant	64	185	39	154	5	**-96.8**
ILLICIT OPIOIDS							
Heroin	kg	2,166.49	717.72	950.06	589.93	540.47	**-8.4**
Opium (Raw and Prepared)	kg	0.08	1.38	10.21	0.001	8.50	**849,900**
Codeine	litres	6,451.86	3,255.40	1,582.59	3,237.89	1,389.50	**-57.1**
COCAINE							
Salt (Cocaine HCl, Powder Cocaine)	kg	5.84	20.07	293.66	181.24	88.65	**-51.1**
AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS							
Methamphetamine (crystalline)	kg	9,682.07	8,298.41	10,345.72	8,728.54	44,421.96	**408.9**
"Ecstasy" – Type Substances	kg	1,033.65	335.77	6,863.33	1,746.27	4,471.53	**156.1**
Methamphetamine (Tablet)	kg	357.45	383.63	245.88	1,517.71	128.79	**-91.5**
Methamphetamine (Liquid)	kg	188.52	49.59	585.75	1,834.31	73.92	**-96**
SEDATIVES AND TRANQUILIZERS							
Erimine 5	kg	2,030.65	158.72	573.25	549.36	1,094.35	**99.2**
Psychotropic Pill	kg	3.31	10.49	4.24	23.30	3.65	**-84.3**
DRUGS UNDER NATIONAL BUT NOT INTERNATIONAL CONTROL							
Ketamine	kg	474.61	3,000.27	1,540.74	349.12	15,673.85	**4,389.5**
Kratom (Leaf)	kg	368,040.39	128,285.88	80,508.61	56,768.90	54,610.28	**-3.8**
Kratom (Liquids)	litres	76,212.79	78,909.89	61,236.46	57,600.33	60,426.28	**4.9**

As presented in Table 8, Malaysia recorded a 5.2% decrease in the number of property seizure and forfeiture cases investigated in 2025. Despite this decline in case volume, the value of properties seized rose by 47.8%, while the value of properties forfeited registered a significant increase of 159.1.

The successful forfeiture of assets contributes directly to national revenue, as wealth accumulated through drug trafficking activities is typically not subject to taxation. Property forfeiture, carried out under preventive laws and the Dangerous Drugs Act, remains an effective measure to dismantle the operational capabilities of syndicates and individuals engaged in drug smuggling and distribution.

The double-digit growth in the value of seized and forfeited properties reflects the continued dedication and effectiveness of NCID officers and personnel in ensuring that assets linked to drug trafficking activities are successfully confiscated, thereby weakening the financial foundations of criminal networks.

Table 8: Value of Property Seized Under Dangerous Drugs Act (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988 in 2021 – 2025

Year	Number of Cases Investigated	Value of Properties Seized (RM)	Value of Properties Forfeited (RM)
2021	4,949	162,979,893.58	19,152,234.06
2022	5,282	122,981,431.26	24,615,556.36
2023	4,766	104,007,647.09	14,158,023.33
2024	4,848	97,432,940.45	11,831,183.57
2025	4,597	144,003,526.34	30,655,390.94
2025/2024 (%)	**-5.2**	**47.8**	**159.1**

Note: Source of information: Royal Malaysia Police (RMP)

Intensified enforcement efforts by Malaysia's enforcement agencies have yielded significant successes in addressing the supply dimension of the drug problem. Nevertheless, international drug trafficking syndicates (IDTS) continue to adapt their manufacturing and smuggling strategies to evade detection, prompting changes in their modus operandi. Instead of operating large, state-of-the-art drug production facilities, syndicates increasingly rely on smaller, concealed laboratories to avoid enforcement scrutiny. Equipped with readily accessible drug processing methods, these groups resort to establishing so-called "kitchen laboratories" to meet market demand. Such laboratories are relatively easy to construct, require minimal manpower, and operate with far less visibility than advanced clandestine

facilities. Their mobility and simplicity make them particularly difficult for enforcement agencies to detect, thereby posing a heightened threat to local drug control efforts.

Table 9: Clandestine Laboratories Dismantled in 2021 - 2025

YEAR	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025/2024 (%)
Cases	19	15	22	12	21	**75**
Arrests	85	50	64	44	55	**25**

Note: Source of information: Royal Malaysia Police (RMP)

Table 10: Number of illicit drug manufacturing facilities dismantled in Malaysia by drug type in 2021 - 2025

Drug type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025/2024 (%)
Methamphetamine	3	3	4	1	1	**0**
Heroin	7	5	12	8	3	**-62.5**
Ecstasy	4	3	4	2	7	**250**
Benzodiazepines	1	0	1	0	0	**-**
Ketamine	4	4	1	1	1	**0**
Cocaine	0	0	0	0	3	**-**
Other drugs*	0	1	1	0	6	**-**
Total	**19**	**16**	**23**	**12**	**21**	**75**

Notes: Source of information: Royal Malaysia Police (RMP)
*Other drugs: Oil Cannabis , Benzodiazepines includes Erimine 5

Drug Trafficking Threats

Drug trafficking and abuse continue to pose critical challenges for Malaysia. Illicit drug use has long been recognized as a major social menace and has been officially declared the nation's foremost enemy due to its extensive impact on public safety and national security. Malaysia's strategic geographical position, located near the Golden Triangle, has historically rendered the country a transit hub for international drug trafficking syndicates.

With the post-pandemic recovery of global trade and mobility, drug trafficking and smuggling activities have resurged. Traffickers have exploited the increased movement of goods and people to facilitate the entry and distribution of illicit substances. At the same time, the economic downturn triggered by the pandemic may have contributed to heightened demand, as individuals turn to drugs as a coping mechanism for financial stress and related hardships.

Moreover, intensified enforcement efforts have produced notable operational successes, which in turn contributed to a higher number of reported cases in 2025. These developments underscore the urgent need for sustained multi-agency collaboration and strategic interventions to effectively counter the evolving drug threat.

Drug Trafficking Trends

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) are synthetic chemical compounds with psychoactive properties, developed by modifying the chemical structure of existing drugs. They are specifically designed for sale on the illicit market and to circumvent existing regulations on controlled substances. These substances produce effects similar to conventional controlled drugs, and their rapid proliferation on the global market poses significant risks to public health while presenting complex challenges for drug policy. Concerns persist that NPS may serve as alternatives to controlled substances, particularly when newly emerging compounds have not yet been scheduled under national legislation.

In Malaysia, a total of 88 NPS have been formally gazetted under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and the Poisons Act 1952. The inclusion of these substances under the Dangerous Drugs Act is a critical step toward strengthening enforcement measures and enabling legal action against individuals involved in their distribution and abuse. This proactive approach underscores Malaysia’s commitment to safeguarding public health and maintaining effective control over emerging drug threats.

Drug Smuggling by Road

Drug distribution and addiction has been one of the most serious threats to Malaysia's national security. The threat of cross-border crime between countries is difficult to control due to various constraints in terms of geographical factors, logistics, enforcement, and many more. In relation to that, Malaysia's land and sea borders are strengthened through the five-front approach, which involves the northern border of Kedah and Kelantan, the southern states, Sabah, and Sarawak, in an effort to combat cross-border crime.

Drug Smuggling by Sea

Drug smuggling from countries surrounding the Mekong region continues to persist, primarily due to the presence of rat routes and unregulated border crossings. These activities are facilitated by fishermen who act as intermediaries for drug syndicates at sea. Their awareness of maritime patrol schedules enables syndicates to evade detection along sea routes. **Consequently**, many of these groups rely on illegal jetties to conduct their operations, making enforcement efforts more complex and allowing smuggling networks to sustain their activities despite ongoing surveillance.

Local Drug Couriers Arrested Overseas

Many awareness campaigns have been organised to raise citizens awareness of the dangers being involved in drug trafficking activities. However, it is not uncommon to hear of Malaysians being arrested abroad for trying to smuggle drugs. In many cases, the pursuit of an easy life causes Malaysians to voluntarily become drug mules for international syndicates, and most of them are aware of what they carry. Social media has also been exploited by IDTS to recruit drug mules, some from various nations. Besides easy money, they are easily tempted by the promise of marriage or the opportunity to travel, which has been reported by arrested Malaysian drug couriers.

From 2010 until 2025, a total of 1,035 Malaysian citizens were detained in foreign countries for their involvement in the drug trade. In 2025, a total of 55 Malaysian citizens were arrested abroad with the drug in their custody. The most popular drugs seized are Methamphetamine (crystalline), Cannabis (dried and resin) and heroin. In the pursuit of an easy life, many Malaysians voluntarily become drug mules for international syndicates. The drug mules carry drugs by swallowing, strapping the drugs to their bodies, concealing them in luggage, and many other methods.

Malaysia as Transit Country

Drug trafficking syndicates continue to employ diverse methods to smuggle illicit substances into and out of Malaysia, posing a persistent threat to national security. This challenge has long been a priority for the NCID, which actively conducts enforcement operations to disrupt smuggling activities. In support of these efforts, NCID collaborates closely with courier service companies to exchange intelligence on concealment techniques and delivery tactics.

Malaysia's porous borders and strategic proximity to the Golden Triangle, a major drug-producing region, have made the country vulnerable to transnational trafficking. IDTS exploit this location by using Malaysia as a transhipment hub to reroute drugs to other destinations. Common trafficking methods include air routes through cargo and parcels, as well as maritime routes via shipping containers and vessels.

To counter these threats, enforcement at both domestic and international airports has been intensified. Measures include stricter checks at entry and exit points, enhanced cargo terminal inspections, and improved screening to detect drug mules. Investigations have uncovered numerous smuggling cases through domestic airports, particularly between Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, as well as international shipments disguised as commercial packages. Therefore, periodic inspections of outbound cargo suspected of containing illicit substances remain a critical preventive measure to strengthen enforcement and safeguard Malaysia's borders.

Local Syndicates

One of the most prominent emerging crime trends in Malaysia is cybercrime, where information technology tools such as computers, mobile devices, and internet networks are

exploited as mediums to commit offences. Within the narcotics context, criminal activities such as the sale and promotion of illicit drugs are increasingly rampant across social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and Telegram, as well as on e-commerce sites such as Lazada, Shopee, and Carousell.

In the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0), advancements in communication technologies and internet connectivity, driven by wireless innovations such as 3G, 4G, and most recently 5G, have significantly altered the modus operandi of drug dealers. Distribution activities are now facilitated through e-commerce websites, mobile applications like WhatsApp and Telegram, social media pages, and even the dark web. As a result, illicit financial flows have become more difficult to trace, with syndicates increasingly resorting to digital currencies to conceal proceeds and profits from their operations.

In Malaysia, abuse through social media and communication services can be addressed under the provisions of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998. This issue requires urgent attention, as internet usage spans across all age groups and carries the risk of attracting teenagers to experiment with drugs, potentially leading them into involvement with narcotics activities.



Myanmar

Introduction

The massive global surge in illicit drug production, trafficking, and abuse today is undermining the political, economic, and social stability, as well as the rule of law, in many nations, while posing grave dangers to future generations. Furthermore, drug abuse inflicts severe physical and mental harm on individuals. Unless effective measures are implemented to suppress drug manufacturing and reduce consumption, this issue will continue to pose an enduring threat to society as a whole.

Drug Problem in Myanmar

Beyond the historical legacy of opium cultivation and production, which originated during the British colonial era, Myanmar is now facing the global challenge of synthetic drug production, similar to other nations worldwide. The illicit production, trafficking, and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances within the country are largely driven by certain ethnic armed organizations and insurgent groups. The illicit earned money from these activities serve as a primary funding source for these groups, facilitating their operations, including the procurement of arms, ammunition, food, medical supplies, and logistical support.

New National Drug Control Policy

In accordance with the recommendations of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the world drug problem, which emphasized for formulation of drug control policies through multi-sectoral approaches, the new National Drug Control Policy was promulgated on 20 February 2018 comprising the following five domains:

(a) Reduction of production and alternative development
(b) Demand and harm reduction
(c) International cooperation
(d) Enhancement of research
(e) Compliance with human rights provisions.

National Drug Control Strategy Plan

To ensure the modern implementation of Myanmar's New National Drug Control Policy, the Ministry of Home Affairs has formed a Strategic Plan Review and Drafting Steering Committee, led by the Deputy Minister. The Committee is engaging in the review and redrafting of the National Strategic Plan on Drug Control, which expired in 2024.

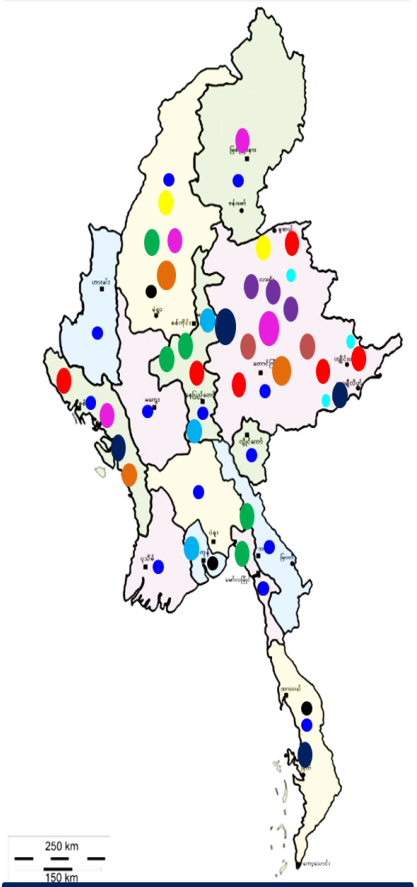
Formation the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC)

To effectively address the drug problem, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has reconstituted the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) consisting of 19 members. Furthermore, Drug Control Committees have been established at the region/state, district, township, ward, and village levels. The CCDAC carries out its mandates through 11 working sectors: namely as Suppression and Administration Sector, Controlled Precursor Chemicals Supervision Sector, Alternative Development Implementation Management Sector, Crop Substitution Sector, Livestock Breeding Sector, Student and Youth Awareness Sector, Public Awareness Sector, Medical Treatment Sector, Rehabilitation Sector, Social Welfare Activities Sector and International Relations Sector.

Supply Reduction

In Myanmar, drug law enforcement operations are primarily conducted by the Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw), the Myanmar Police Force, and the Customs Department. Within the Myanmar Police Force, Drug Enforcement Division (DED) has been established to effectively carry out anti-narcotics operations nationwide. By analyzing trends in drug seizure including production, storage, trafficking, and shifts in trafficking routes, special anti-narcotics operations have been conducted. Consequently, a total of 41 special operations were successfully conducted from 2013 to 2025 leading to significant advancements in detection, apprehension, and legal enforcement.

Special Operations



Total Operation 41 times

Operation of Regions and states

	2013 2 time	Thidar Operation Shwe Li Operation	Sagaing Region Southern Shan State
	2014 5 time	Chindwin Operation Yadanarbon Operation-1 Yadanarbon Operation-2 Zwekabin Operation Yarmanya Operation	Sagaing Region Mandalay Region Mandalay Region Kayin State Mon State
	2015 6 time	Shwe Li Operation Maekhong Operation-1 Maekhong Operation-2 Thanlween Operation Paung Laung Operation Danyawaddy Operation	Southern Shan State Eastern Shan State Eastern Shan State Northern Shan State Naypyitaw Union Territory Rakhaing State
	2016 3 time	Yadanarbon Operation-3 Dagon Operation Paung Laung Operation-2	Mandalay Region Yangon Region Naypyitaw Union Territory
	2017 4 time	May Yu Operation Shan Yoma Operation ChindwinOperation-2 Ayar Oo Operation	Rakhaing State Shan State Sagaing Region Kachin State
	2018 4 time	Palae Min Operation May Yu Operation – 2 Man-Kanbawza Operation Myanmar - Thai Operation	Tanintharyi Region Rakhaing State Shan State and Mandalay Region Eastern Shan State
	2019 3 time	Kispanadi Operation Shan Yoma – 2 Operation Chindwin-Ayar Operation	Rakhaing State Shan State, Kayah State and Taungoo Sagaing Region, Kachin State and Mandalay Region
	2020 3 time	1511 Operation Shan Yoma-3 Operation Man-Kanbawza-2 Operation	Shan State Shan State and related Region and State Mandalay Region, Shan State and related Region and State
	2021 4 time	Shan Yoma-4 Operation Save Maekhong Operation Plan(Thailand-Myanmar-Lao PDR) Man-Kanbawza-3 Operation Shan Yoma-5 Operation	Shan State and related regions and states Mandalay Region, Shan State and related Region and State Shan State and related Region and Stae
	2022 4 time	Man-Kanbawza-4 Operation 1511/22 Operation Man-Kanbawza (5) Operation Shan Yoma-6 Operation	Shan State and related regions andStates Laos, Myanmar(Eastern Shan State of Techileik. **Kengtung and Mingsat Destract)**,Thai Mandalay Region, Shan State and related Region and State Shan State and Kayar State
	2023 1 time	Operation 39	Nationwide
	2024 1 time	**Operation 39/24(2024)**	Nationwide
	2025 1 time	**Information Gathering**	Nationwide

Drug Type / Items	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Opium (kg)	1,256.17	2,829.04	1,552.69	3,882.91	2,632.01	1,209.77	581.25	1,719.15	1,155.84
Heroin (kg)	570.63	1,099.12	690.24	1,853.36	2,526.11	1,345.49	1,873.36	1,978.63	2,130.95
Methamphetamine Tablets (Million)	72.82	106.70	108.72	382.41	198.19	169.07	253.34	227.79	377.1
ICE / Crystal Meth (kg)	1,107.49	2,827.54	9,426.19	17,363.88	13,815.78	23,401.92	17,829.34	21,048.25	37,815.78
Kratom Powder (kg)	651.13	1,833.89	2,542.60	2,632.72	1,058.48	766.48	1,769.94	170.69	301.91

Drug Type / Items	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Cannabis / Marijuana (kg)	198.83	142.38	364.82	737.60	503.72	929.43	686.74	1,185.08	879.99
Happy Water (kg)	-	-	-	-	-	159.93	296.16	216.44	204.96
Ketamine (kg)	75.23	2,360.21	1,095.96	888.53	762.02	2,328.62	4,053.78	1,651.58	15,397.37
Ecstasy Tablets	645,882	2,686.75	27,995	2,437	146,414	674,542	65,382	214,452	65,212
Total Cases	9,544	13,037	13,000	13,960	6,990	6,759	6,539	5,593	5,370
Total Suspects	14,000	18,681	18,407	19,994	10,063	9,600	8,853	7,828	7,562

In 2024, law enforcement authorities successfully intercepted and prosecuted 5,593 cases involving 7,828 suspects, seizing narcotics and precursor chemicals valued at over 998 billion MMK. In 2025, action was taken in 5,370 cases involving 7,562 suspects, with seizures of narcotics and precursor chemicals totaling a valued over 1,761 billion MMK. A comparative analysis of these seizures reveals that while the number of cases involving methamphetamine tablets, crystal methamphetamine (ICE), and ketamine decreased, the total volume of substances seized has increased. This indicates that the production, trafficking, and distribution of synthetic drugs remain at high levels and have not declined.

The details of the seized opium dens and tableting machines are as follows:

Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Opium Refineries	1	-	-	3	3	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Synthetic Drug Labs	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	1	1	2	7	-	3
Tablet Presses	-	2	6	3	2	3	2	2	2	15	27	1	7	15	-	7

According to the 2025 Myanmar Illicit Opium Poppy Cultivation and Production Survey, conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), opium poppy cultivation increased by 17 percent, rising from 45,200 hectares in 2024 to 53,100 hectares in 2025. Opium production rose by 1 percent, from 995 metric tons

in 2024 to 1,010 metric tons in 2025. Conversely, the opium yield per hectare decreased by 13 percent, falling from 22 kilograms in 2024 to 19.2 kilograms in 2025.

The current status of opium poppy cultivation, production, and eradication operations in Myanmar is presented as follows:

Activities / Years	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Cultivation (Hectares)	41,000	37,300	33,100	29,500	30,200	40,100	47,100	45,200	53,100
Production (Metric Tons)	550	520	508	405	423	795	1,080	995	1,010
Eradication (Hectares)	3,536.96	2,578.52	2,459.91	2,026.58	4,632.97	1,403.27	2,357.70	2,501.41	4,700.73

The Supervisory Committee for Controlled Precursor Chemicals was established in 1998 comprising 14 members from relevant ministries. In alignment with UN Conventions, Myanmar currently monitors and controls 149 types of narcotic drugs, 173 types of psychotropic substances, and 61 types of controlled chemicals are being controlled. Relevant notifications and orders pertaining to these substances are published on the official website: https://drugmuseum.gov.mm.

Precursor chemicals utilized in the manufacturing of illicit narcotics are trafficked across borders from neighboring countries. Details regarding the seizures and enforcement actions taken against these activities are as follows:

Chemical Name	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Caffeine (kg)	5,885	20,759.49	19,226	11,371.9	9,355	9,036.01	25,592.5	24,045.15	22,750
Ephedrine (kg)	0.0015	139.71	4.02	630	-	1	-	-	-
Pseudo ephedrine (kg)	31	7.6	-	2.7	-	-	-	-	-
Pseudo ephedrine Tablets (Lakhs)	39.01	4.5	-	15	-	30.5	0.8	-	-

Chemical Name	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Acetic Anhydride (Litre)	1,318.34	40	4,140.11	12,240	-	-	1,710	-	-
Hydrochloric Acid (Litre)	106,720	181,657	106,411.46	53,827	20	9,200	71,400	560	60
Sulfuric Acid (Litre)	11,034.9	62,135	77,883.08	15,104.8	18,340	22,550	47,260	27,846.65	45
Ethyl Ether (Litre)	-	203,794.25	26,674	6,180	-	360	80	-	-
Ammonium Nitrate (kg)*	-	-	-	103,585.03	74,434	567,201	82,549	409,845	48,654
Toluene (Litre)	-	4,602	16,680	18,080	50,400	41,910	111,800	440	5,040.5
Sodium Cyanide (kg)	19,000	23,550	4,640	107,870	48,620	15,400	1,135	30,780	2,346

An analysis of the aforementioned data confirms an upward trend in synthetic drug manufacturing. Notably, despite a significant surge in seizures of narcotic drugs, the confiscation of precursor chemicals remains disproportionately low. This strongly indicates a shift in drug manufacturing methodologies, reflecting a definitive change in the types of chemical precursors being utilized.

Regarding the import of controlled chemicals, Myanmar strictly adheres to the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) system of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to ensure timely monitoring and prevent the diversion of controlled substances. In 2025, out of 74 notifications processed, 59 were approved and 15 were objected to. Furthermore, for non-controlled chemicals not listed under the 1988 UN Convention, Myanmar utilizes the PEN Online Light system for communication with member states. In 2025, a total of 130 communications were conducted, resulting in 54 approvals and 76 objections.

Alternative Development

Under alternative development initiatives, comprehensive activities have been implemented, including healthcare services, agricultural and livestock development, veterinary care, commercial forestry, value-added manufacturing, socio-economic assessments, and capacity-building training. Additionally, to expand alternative development activities, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in February 2022 between the Central

Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand. Consequently, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation of Thailand is implementing an alternative development project in Naung Tayar area, Pinlaung Township, Southern Shan State.

Under a UNODC program, an alternative development project funded by Germany and Finland (US$5.9 million) was carried out in 75 villages within Loilem, Hopong, and Ywangan Townships in Southern Shan State. Under the auspices of UNODC, an agreement was signed between the Green Gold Coffee Farmers Cooperative and the Malongo Coffee Company to facilitate the export of premium-grade coffee to international markets. From 2018 to 2025, a total of 1,041.88 tons of premium coffee was successfully exported through this partnership.

The Crop Substitution and Livestock Groups are actively operating in 55 townships where opium cultivation has historically occurred. Key activities include the establishment of agricultural education centers, the distribution of high-yield crop seeds, perennial saplings, and fertilizers, the cultivation of demonstration plots, and the provision of vocational training. Additionally, these groups provide livestock assistance, conduct educational outreach on animal husbandry, and organize training courses on beekeeping.

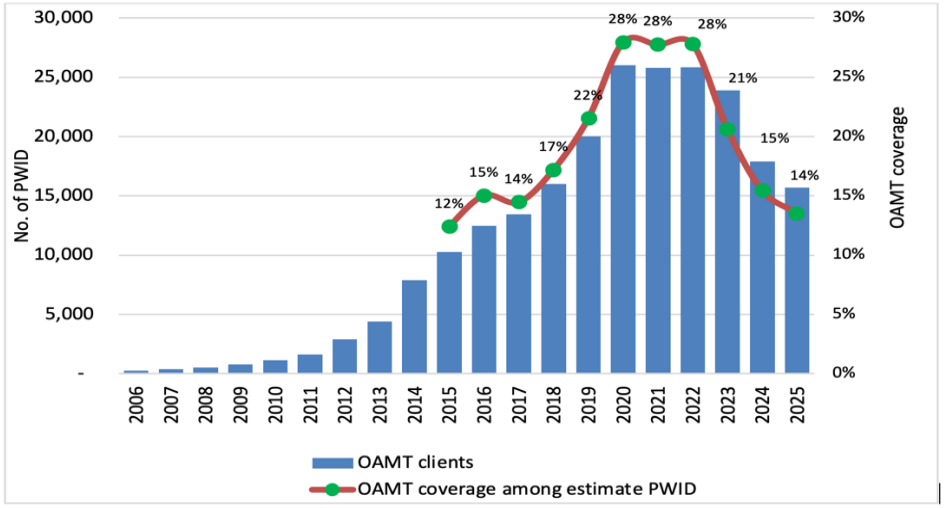
Demand Reduction and Harm Reduction

The Student and Youth Awareness Sector, operating under the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), is led by the Ministry of Education. To strengthen drug prevention awareness, curricula addressing the dangers of substance abuse have been integrated into the 'Life Skills' subject. Additionally, advocacy programs have been extended to out-of-school youth through specialized non-formal education initiatives.

In 2025, drug prevention awareness programs were conducted across 92,944 educational institutions nationwide, including universities, degree colleges, colleges, and basic education schools in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory, regions, and states. These initiatives reached a total of 8,282,975 individuals, comprising 7,756,244 students, 153,845 teachers, and 372,886 parents.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Information, which oversees public awareness and advocacy, collaborated with five departments including the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), the News and Periodicals Enterprise, the Printing and Publishing Enterprise, and the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare alongside the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA). Collectively, they conducted 13,526 drug awareness and advocacy campaigns for the general public.

The Ministry of Health manages 29 major and 56 minor drug dependence treatment facilities in addition to community-based treatment centers. In 2025, a total of 18,243 patients received treatment, consisting of 2,847 new patients and 15,396 returning patients. Methadone maintenance treatment has been provided since 2006, recording 26,964 patients in 2024. Additionally, buprenorphine treatment is administered to 195 patients across three specialized drug dependence treatment units.



Methadone Maintenance Therapy (2006-2025)

Under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, 14 rehabilitation centers have been established to facilitate recovery. These centers provide comprehensive support services, including outreach program for substance users, family support systems, physical and psychological therapy, and vocational training.

International Cooperation

As a signatory to the UN drug control conventions, Myanmar remains committed to global counter-narcotics efforts. Myanmar actively collaborates with ASEAN member states, Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) nations, BIMSTEC member states, neighboring countries, and various international anti-drug organizations. Additionally, Myanmar cooperates with the UNODC office in Yangon, the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), China's National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), and Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB). To facilitate intelligence sharing and joint suppression efforts, Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) have been established along the Myanmar-Bangladesh, Myanmar-China, Myanmar-India, Myanmar-Laos, and Myanmar-Thailand borders.

Myanmar has signed bilateral agreements on drug control cooperation with Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam. Furthermore, efforts are currently underway to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indonesia.

To enhance the professional capacity of the Drug Enforcement Division (DED), Myanmar actively engaged with international partners in 2025. This included the participation

of 56 personnel in 5 domestic meetings, discussions, and workshops, and 31 personnel in 7 virtual meetings, discussions, workshops, and training courses held with international counterparts. Additionally, 63 personnel were deployed abroad to participate in 18 international meetings, conferences, discussions, workshops, and study tours.

Legislation

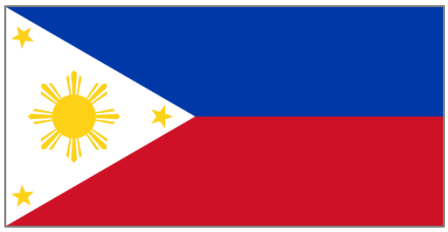
The 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was amended to ensure alignment with UN conventions, international standards, and national policies, as well as to expand access to treatment. The law was amended and enacted for the first time on 14 February 2018, and for the second time on 31 December 2025.

To facilitate the effective implementation of the amended law, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rules (1995) were officially revised and issued on 13 December 2023. Further efforts are currently underway to amend and promulgate the corresponding rules to ensure consistency with the latest legislative amendments.

Conclusion

The drug problem in Myanmar is intricately linked to ethnic armed conflicts. Accordingly, the State is actively striving to reduce armed conflict through negotiation, with the ultimate objective of achieving lasting peace throughout the country.

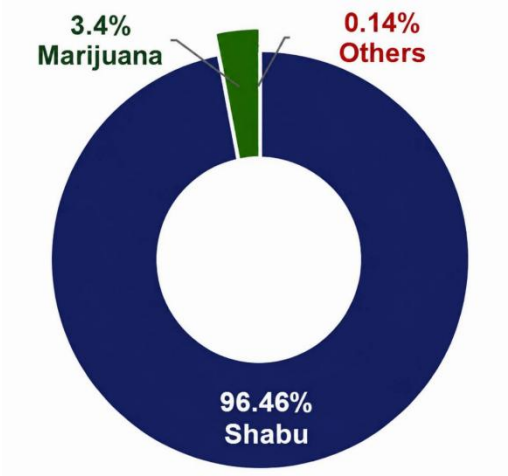
Myanmar is accelerating collaborative efforts with the international community, alongside the mobilization of domestic resources, to counter the threat of illicit drugs. Despite the numerous difficulties and challenges inherent in anti-drug operations, Myanmar remains firmly committed to addressing these issues. By implementing strategic work plans tailored to the nation's current situation, Myanmar continues to apply every effort to overcome these challenges and ensure a drug-free society.



The Philippines

The Philippines remains committed to a balanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the drug problem, implementing programs that reduce the supply of and demand for illegal drugs while also strengthening health, social, and developmental services to support affected individuals and communities.

Drug Situations and Tren



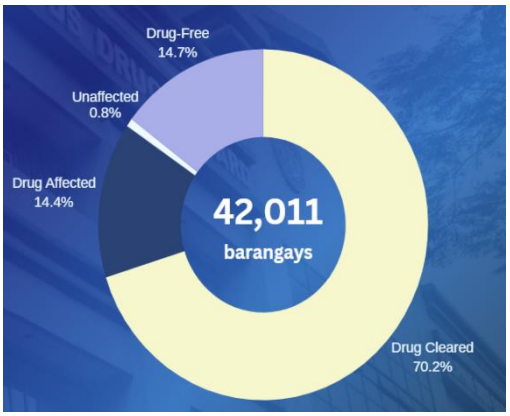
Shabu continues to be a top drug of concern in the country. 96% of those arrested were involved in shabu-related activities. Marijuana follows at 3%, while only 0.14% were associated with other dangerous drug

Based on the seized volume of dangerous drugs in 2024, the majority of items measured in pieces were Marijuana Plants, accounting for 95.60%, followed by Marijuana Seedlings (3.68%) and Ecstasy tablets (0.72%).

Meanwhile, for items measured in kilograms, the largest portion was Dried Marijuana Leaves and Bricks at 36.30%, followed by Shabu (29.99%), Marijuana Stalks (21.92%), and Marijuana Kush (11.04%).

Barangay Drug Clearing Program

The Philippines continues to implement the Barangay Drug Clearing Program as part of its efforts to reduce drug affectation at the community level. As of December 31, 2025, a total of 5,522 out of 42,011 barangays, or 13%, are still considered drug-affected. Of these, 71% are classified as moderately affected, 24% are slightly affected, and 5% are seriously affected. Since the program started, the rate of drug-affected barangays has significantly decreased. Now at just only 13% from 58% in 2017, reflecting a total reduction of 45%.



Compared to last year's drug affectation rate of 14%, the 2025 affectation data also reflects a 1% decrease, showing continued progress in addressing illegal drugs at the local level.

Drug Entry Points

Illegal drugs continue to enter the country through multiple channels, including coastlines, airports, seaports, and the mail and parcel system. Given the Philippines' archipelagic geography, these entry points remain highly vulnerable to smuggling activities.

Airport

In 2025, PDEA and other law enforcement agencies intercepted 13 drug smuggling attempts in international airports, resulting in the seizure of around 95 kilograms of shabu, almost 147 kilograms of marijuana kush, and 4.5 kilograms of cocaine and the arrest of 16 drug personalities originating from South Africa, Brazil, Thailand, Malaysia, Canada, and Madagascar.



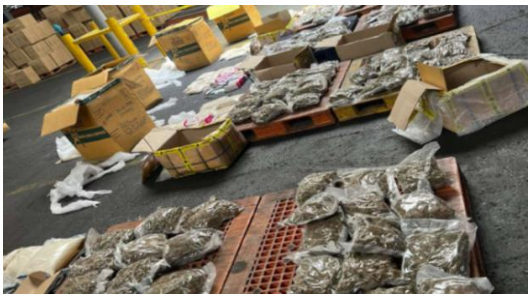
Mail and Parcel



Drug syndicates continue to exploit the mail and parcel system for the transportation of illegal drugs. In 2025, a total of 57 incidents were recorded, resulting in the arrest of 4 drug personalities. These operations led to the seizure of around 230 kilograms of shabu, 10,347 pieces of ecstasy, around 31 kilograms of marijuana kush, and 9.24 kilograms of cocaine.

Seaport

Large-scale smuggling activities through seaports remain a significant concern. A total of 20 incidents were documented, which resulted in the arrest of 4 drug personalities and the confiscation of around 706 kilograms of shabu, 3,627 pieces of ecstasy tablets, and 213 kilograms of kush.



Maritime



Significantly, in 2025, a total around 2,500 kilograms of shabu were seized during 3 anti-illegal drug operations involving shipments smuggled through the country's maritime waters. These results demonstrate that entry points remain high-risk channels for drug trafficking, and at the same time, high-impact areas for enforcement.

Drug Trends: Concealment Method

Part of this evolution is not only in the routes being used, but also in the methods of concealment. This brings us to the current drug trends in packaging and concealment. Drug syndicates continue to devise innovative ways to conceal shabu. This year, PDEA recorded at least 5 new packaging designs, including foil packs resembling durian-flavored products and those marked with distinctive symbols such as animal imprints and Chinese characters. These markings include animal figures such as a rat, horse, koi fish, and turtle.



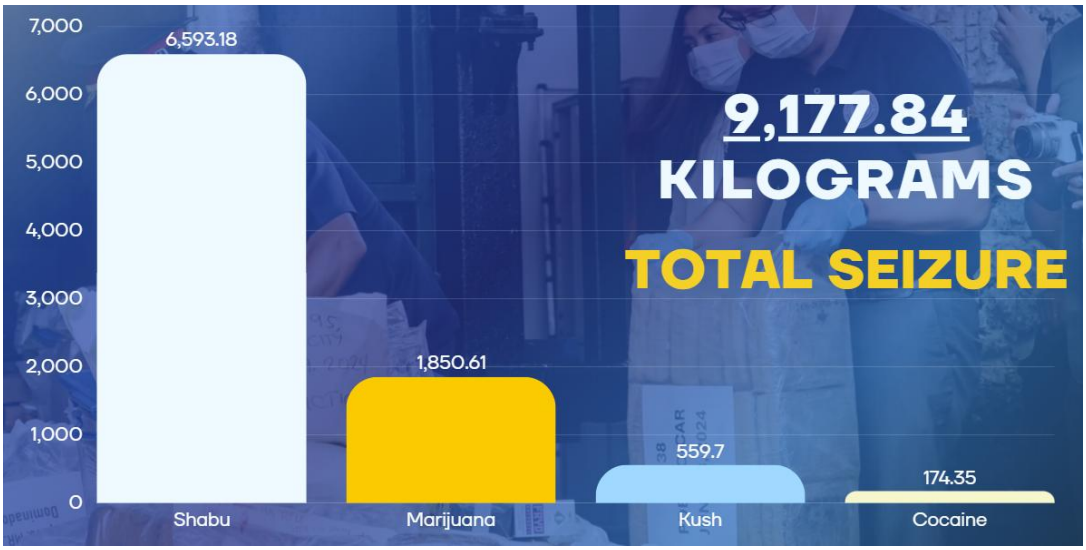
Anti-Illegal Drug Accomplishments



In 2025, the country's law enforcement agencies conducted a total of 39,492 anti-illegal drug operations that resulted in the arrest of 51,614 drug personalities. When we compare this with 2024 with a total of around 38,500 anti-drug operations conducted, we see that operational tempo was not only sustained but slightly increased. Arrests also slightly rose — from 51,275 in 2024 to 51,614 in 2025. This shows that enforcement efforts remained consistent and aggressive, despite evolving trafficking methods.

Dangerous Drugs Seized

For the period, we have recorded a total seizure of around 6,600 kilograms of shabu, an estimate of 1,850 kilograms of dried marijuana leaves, almost 560 kilograms of kush, and around 174 kilograms of cocaine.



With a total seizure of around 9,177 kilograms, this was the highest seizure recorded in the last five years. Compared to the 2024 data, shabu seizures significantly increased — from almost 2,600 kilograms to an estimate of 6,600 kilograms. Cocaine seizures also rose sharply, from around 33 kilograms in 2024 to almost 175 kilograms in 2025. On the other hand, dried marijuana leaves decreased from 3,088 kilograms to 1,850 kilograms. Similarly, marijuana kush declined from almost 940 kilograms to almost 560 kilograms.

High-Impact Operations Conducted



Aligned with the thrust to conduct intelligence-driven operations, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, together with other law enforcement agencies, conducted a total of 877 high-impact operations aimed at disrupting the supply of illegal drugs.

These included 449 dismantled drug dens, 83 marijuana eradication operations, 339 high-volume seizures, and 6 dismantled clandestine laboratories. While the total number of high-impact operations were higher at 997 in 2024, what is particularly notable in 2025 is the

increase in dismantled clandestine laboratories — from only one in 2024 to 6 this year. Dismantled drug dens also slightly increased from 444 to 449.

High-Value Targets Arrested

High-Value Targets Arrested	Number	High-Value Targets Arrested	Number
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS	231	FOREIGN NATIONAL	47
DRUG DEN MAINTAINERS	455	OTHER HVTS	313
ARRESTS FROM HIO	1,694	REGIONAL TARGET-LISTED PERSONALITIES	198
TARGET-LISTED PERSONALITIES	182	RESURGENT	27
LEADER/MEMBER OF DRUG GROUP	12	ARMED LEADER/ MEMBER OF DRUG GROUP	1
WANTED-LISTED PERSONALITY	1		
CLAN LAB WORKER	7	**Total**	**3,168**

Through intensified efforts, PDEA and other law enforcement agencies arrested 3,168 high-value drug targets, effectively disrupting syndicates and reducing illegal activities. Arrests included 1,694 from High Impact Operations, 455 drug den maintainers, 313 other high-value targets, and 231 government officials and employees.

Foreign National Arrested					
AMERICAN	1	GERMAN	1	SOUTH AFRICAN	4
AUSTRALIAN	1	HUNGARIAN	2	SWEDISH	1
BRAZILIAN	1	INDIAN	1	TAIWANESE	1
BRITISH	1	INDONESIAN	1	UGANDAN	1
BRUNEIAN	1	KOREAN	7	VIETNAMESE	2
CANADIAN	2	MALAYSIAN	2	-	-
CHINESE	13	NIGERIAN	4	**Total**	**47**

Recent numbers show an increase in top-level arrests compared to 2024. Strengthening the implementation of internal accountability, there is an increase in the number of arrested government officials and employees, from 193 in 2024 to 231 in 2025. Foreign nationals are also part of the high value targets. In 2025, a total of 47 foreign nationals were arrested.

Major Drug Hauls

This section highlights several major drug seizure operations conducted from January to December 2025. These operations significantly contributed to the overall volume of confiscated illegal substances during the period, reflecting the continued efforts of authorities to combat drug-related activities.



105.95 kilograms of shabu were seized during an interdiction operation conducted by PDEA and other law enforcement agencies on July 7, 2025 at the MICP, Tondo, Manila



117.62 kilograms of shabu were recovered by PDEA and other law enforcement agencies along the shoreline of Mariveles, Bataan on August 14, 2025.



51 kilograms of shabu were seized during an interdiction operation conducted by PDEA and other law enforcement agencies on September 2, 2025 at LBC Express Warehouse Inc., Tondo, Manila



132.91 kilograms of marijuana kush were seized during an interdiction operation conducted by PDEA and other law enforcement agencies on September 7, 2025 at NAIA Terminal 3, Pasay City. Four (4) drug personalities were arrested during the said operation



Seizure of 1,019.50 kilograms of Meth and arrest of two (2) drug personalities on October 2-3, 2025 in Bugallon and Labrador, Pangasinan



Seizure of 84.94 kilograms of Meth on October 14, 2025 at LBC Central Exchange, C5 Extension, Barangay Moonwalk, Parañaque City



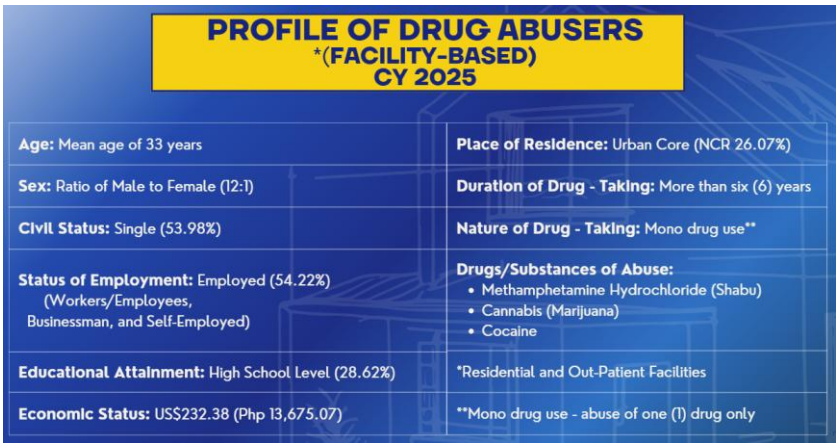
Seizure of 71.08 kilograms of Meth on October 26, 2025 at the LBC Central Exchange, Barangay Moonwalk, Parañaque

Treatment and Rehabilitation Admission Data

In addition to enforcement and supply reduction efforts, the Philippines continues to strengthen its approach to treatment and rehabilitation as a key pillar in addressing the drug problem. Through its network of treatment and rehabilitation facilities, the government

provides care and support for individuals recovering from drug use, ensuring access to appropriate interventions and services.

This section presents data on treatment and rehabilitation in the Philippines, based on information collected from both residential and outpatient facilities.



The data shows that the mean age of a typical person who uses drugs is 33 years old, and drug use remains predominant among males, with a male-to-female ratio of 12 is to 1. Most of those admitted are single and employed, working across various sectors, including business.

However, educational attainment is generally limited, with approximately 29% having reached only the secondary level. Economically, the average monthly family income among those admitted is about 232 US dollars, highlighting financial constraints that could affect access to rehabilitation services. Geographically, the urban core - particularly the National Capital Region - remains an area of concern, accounting for around 26% of recorded cases. Drug use patterns also reveal long-term engagement, with most individuals having used drugs for more than 6 years.



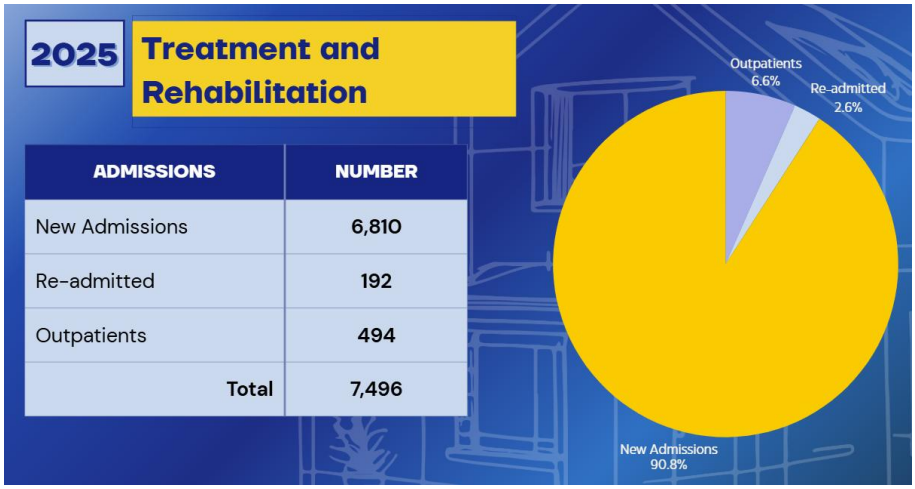
Additionally, a significant trend is the prevalence of mono drug use, where most users abuse a single substance rather than multiple drugs.

In 2025, shabu or meth-amphetamine hydrochloride and marijuana or cannabis remained the two most commonly abused substances in the country, followed by cocaine as the third drug of choice. The primary routes of administration reported include inhalation, sniffing, and oral ingestion.



In 2025, a total of 99 Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers across the country have been accredited by the Department of Health. These facilities are required to submit regular reports to the Treatment and Rehabilitation Admission Information System (TRAIS) to support data-driven planning and monitoring.

From January to December 2025, Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DATRCs) nationwide reported a total of 7,496 admissions. Of these, 6,810 were new admissions and 192 were re-admissions. Moreover, outpatient centers recorded 494 admissions during the same period.





Singapore

Overview

In 2025, CNB arrested 3,280 drug abusers. This was a 3% increase from the 3,175 drug abusers arrested in 2024.

The number of repeat drug abusers arrested decreased by 4% from 2,179 in 2024 to 2,092 in 2025. The number of new drug abusers arrested increased by 19% from 996 in 2024 to 1,188 in 2025. One in two new abusers arrested in 2025 were under 30 years old.

Methamphetamine, heroin, and cannabis were the three most commonly abused drugs in 2025, with 95% of drug abusers arrested abusing at least one of these three drugs. For new drug abusers, methamphetamine, cannabis and 'Ecstasy' were the three most commonly abused drugs, with 93% of new drug abusers arrested abusing at least one of these three drugs. Out of the 3,280 drug abusers arrested in 2025, 665 abusers (20%) were poly-drug abusers who abused more than one type of drug.

Sustained Drug Enforcement

CNB continued to launch enforcement operations against drugs and worked closely with Home Team[2] agencies to deter and detect the flow of drugs into and within Singapore.

In 2025, together with the Singapore Police Force and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, CNB conducted 11 island-wide operations targeting drug traffickers and abusers, as well as 1,417 operations at our checkpoints to intercept attempts to smuggle drugs into Singapore. CNB also carried out major operations that crippled 25 drug syndicates.

[2] The Home Team is a collective term for 11 law enforcement agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs that work together to keep Singapore safe and secure.

Drug Seizures

The drugs seized in 2025 were estimated to have a street value of about S$23.06 million. Heroin seizures saw a 32% increase to 91.9kg in 2025, from 69.61kg in 2024. Cannabis seizures saw a 21.7% increase to 122.98kg in 2025, from 101.03kg in 2024. Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine (more commonly known as 'Ice') saw a 3.3% increase to 40.82kg in 2025, from 39.53kg in 2024.

Local Drug Seizures in 2025					
Drug type	**2024**	**2025**	**% change in seizure**	**Estimated market value 2024**	**Estimated market value 2025**
Heroin No.3	69.61kg	91.90kg	+32%	≈S$15.66 million	≈S$23.06 million
Methamphetamine ('Ice')	39.53kg	40.82kg	+3.3%		
Cannabis	101.03kg	122.98kg	+21.7%		
Cocaine	196.89g	13,044.77g	+6,525.4%		
'Ecstasy'	5,610 tablets + 3,985.94g	4,119 tablets + 864.44g	-26.6% (tablets) -78.3% (weight)		
Methamphetamine tablets ('Yaba')	3,330 tablets	423 tablets	-87.3%		
Ketamine	10.42kg + 3,833 tablets	4.48kg + 3,349 tablets	-57% (weight) -12.6% (tablets)		
Erimin-5	26,596 tablets	10,959 tablets	-58.8%		
New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (e.g. synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones)	280 tablets + 1,578.76g + 165 bottles	50 tablets + 5,408.63g + 162 bottles	-82.1% (tablets) +242.6% (weight) -1.8% (bottles)		



Thailand

Overview

In 2025, the drug situation in Thailand remained severe and increasingly complex, driven primarily by the continued expansion of synthetic drug production in the Golden Triangle. Methamphetamine trafficking continued to intensify, while transnational criminal networks demonstrated greater adaptability in trafficking methods, logistics systems, and distribution channels. YABA (Methamphetamine tablets) remained the most significant drug threat in Thailand. Seizure volumes continued to rise substantially, reflecting both the large-scale production capacity of drug syndicates and the increasing intensity of law enforcement operations.

In addition, an increasing trend in the smuggling of ICE (crystal methamphetamine) via maritime routes has been observed, particularly in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. This trend indicates the growing adaptation of transnational trafficking networks in response to intensified border interdiction measures along traditional land routes. Maritime transportation, commercial logistics systems, parcel delivery services, and postal channels have increasingly been exploited as alternative trafficking methods due to their flexibility and lower detection risks.

Thailand also observed a continued shift toward online-enabled drug trafficking. Drug networks increasingly use social media platforms, encrypted communication applications, e-commerce channels, and digital payment systems to facilitate drug distribution and financial transactions. In addition, parcel and courier services became increasingly important distribution mechanisms for illicit drugs, particularly for methamphetamine, ketamine, cannabis products, and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

Another emerging concern in 2025 was the increasing prevalence of polysubstance abuse involving methamphetamine, ketamine, cannabis, kratom, and substances mixed with essential oils or liquids used in electronic cigarettes. Of particular concern was the emergence of Etomidate-laced vaping products, which spread among teenagers and nightlife groups

through online platforms and entertainment venues. In response to this growing threat, the Ministry of Public Health reclassified Etomidate as a Category 2 controlled psychotropic substance under Thailand's Narcotics Code on 12 June 2025. Etomidate was added as Item No. 45 to the appendix of the 2022 Ministerial Notification on Category 2 controlled psychotropic substances to strengthen control over its illegal production, distribution and misuse.

Drug Trafficking and Epidemic Situations

There are four main drugs seized in Thailand: YABA, Crystal Methamphetamine (ICE), Ketamine, and Heroin. Recent law enforcement operations have resulted in the confiscation of approximately 137,000 kilograms of YABA, 73,986 kilograms of ICE, 8,364 kilograms of Ketamine, and 2,395 kilograms of Heroin. These figures indicate that synthetic drugs, particularly methamphetamine in both tablet and crystalline forms, continue to dominate the regional drug market. Combined, YABA and ICE accounted for approximately 95.2% of the total seized drug weight, reflecting the industrial-scale production capacity of transnational drug trafficking organizations operating in the Golden Triangle.

The high proportion of YABA seizures further indicates that methamphetamine tablets remain the primary drug consumed within Thailand. The widespread availability and relatively low street price of YABA continue to contribute significantly to domestic drug abuse, social instability, and drug-related crime across the country. Meanwhile, the substantial volume of ICE seizures reflects Thailand's continuing role as both a transit and destination country for high-purity crystal methamphetamine destined for regional and international markets. Recent trends also suggest increasing adaptation by trafficking networks through maritime transportation, parcel delivery systems, commercial logistics channels, and online-enabled distribution methods.

Although Ketamine and Heroin accounted for smaller proportions of the overall seizure profile, both substances remain significant emerging concerns. Ketamine abuse has increasingly been associated with nightlife settings, entertainment venues, and polysubstance use among young people, while heroin trafficking continues to reflect the persistence of traditional trafficking routes linked to the Golden Triangle

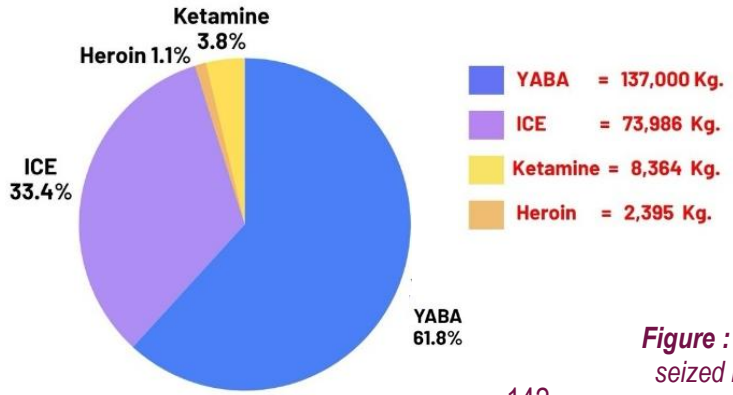


Figure : *The prevalence of drugs seized in Thailand during 2025*

In 2025, the Airport Interdiction Task Force (AITF) and the Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF) continued to play important roles in strengthening drug interdiction efforts at international transport hubs in Thailand. Despite these efforts, drug smuggling through airports and seaports remained a significant concern.

A comparison between 2024 and 2025 shows that the number of drug-related cases increased from 165 to 268 cases, while the number of suspects decreased from 70 to 40 persons. This trend suggests a shift from individual courier-based smuggling toward more organized trafficking operations using international parcel services, online platforms, and social media to coordinate cross-border drug distribution while reducing the risk of detection.

In terms of drug seizures, Ecstasy (MDMA) increased sharply from 8,355 to 39,063 tablets. Heroin and Cocaine also increased, from 235 to 298 kilograms and 35 to 44 kilograms. On the other hand, YABA decreased significantly from 57,981 to 14,542 tablets, and Ketamine dropped sharply from 335 to 9 kilograms. ICE also decreased slightly from 541 to 488 kilograms.

Air transport remained the primary trafficking route. Of the 268 cases detected in 2025, 262 cases occurred at airports, including 223 parcel cases and 39 passenger cases, while only 6 cases were detected at seaports. The main destination countries by air were Australia, the Netherlands, and the Republic of Korea, while maritime trafficking cases were mainly linked to the Philippines and Australia.

Drugs seizure at Airports/Seaports

2024 - 2025

Drug seizure at Airports/Seaports	2024	2025	
Cases	165	268	
Suspects	70	40	
ICE (kg.)	541	488	
Heroin (kg.)	235	298	
YABA (tablets)	57,981	14,542	-75%
Ecstacy (tablets)	8,355	39,063	+368%
Cocaine (kg.)	35	44	
Ketamine (kg.)	335	9	

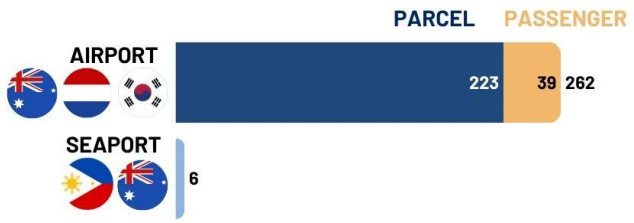


Figure : *Drug Seizures at Airports and Seaports in Thailand, 2024–2025*

Law Enforcement

The Thai government adopted a comprehensive and decisive approach to addressing drug-related problems across all stages of the supply chain. Key measures included strengthening cooperation with neighboring countries to disrupt drug production and trafficking networks, enhancing border interdiction to prevent illicit drug smuggling, and intensifying

nationwide enforcement operations against major trafficking organizations. These efforts were further reinforced through the expansion of border suppression operations under the "Seal Stop Safe" initiative, which integrated multi-agency operations across 14 border provinces and 52 border districts to strengthen surveillance, interdiction, and rapid response capabilities along major trafficking routes.

In 2025, Thailand recorded a total of 344,422 drug-related cases and 289,692 offenders, representing a significant increase compared to 2024, which reported 127,169 cases and 136,921 offenders. This increase is largely attributed to intensified law enforcement efforts following the designation of drug control as a national priority policy in 2025.

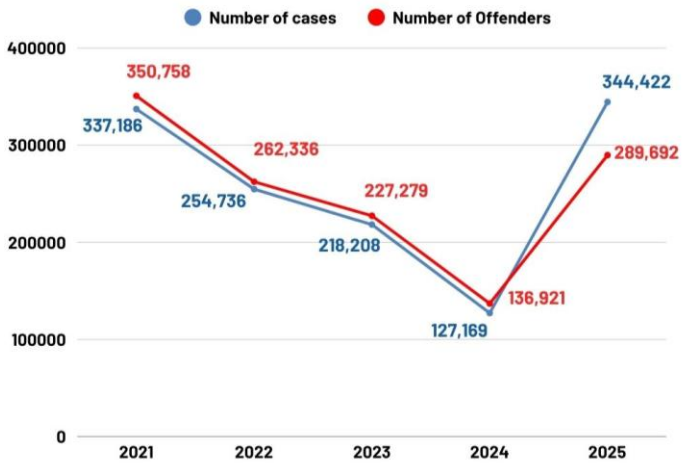


Figure : *Statistics on Drug-Related Cases and Offenders in Thailand, 2021–2025*

Year	YABA (Million tablets)	Heroin (Kilogram)	ICE (Kilogram)	Ecstasy (Tablet)	Ketamine (Kilogram)	Cocaine (Kilogram)	Dried Cannabis (Kilogram)	Kratom (Kilogram)
2021	598.82	3,439.82	22,135.65	580,000	1,031.90	37.35	56,087.45	60,105.71
2022	552.34	850.01	9,846.90	460,000	1,898.31	50.21	11,211.89	66.50
2023	648.59	1,098.20	26,390.97	160,000	6,385.34	34.69	-	-
2024	1,172.86	2,050.98	34,622.33	*51.70 Kg.	4,942.37	26.72	-	-
2025	1,369.60	2,395	73,966	*316.15 Kg.	8,364	73.33	-	-

Table : *Statistics on Drugs Seized in Thailand, 2021 - 2025*
(YABA in million tablets; Heroin, ICE, Ketamine, Cocaine, and Kratom in kilograms; Ecstasy in tablets for 2021 - 2023 and kilograms in 2024; Dried Cannabis in kilograms)

Note: The reporting unit for Ecstasy changed in 2024 from tablets to kilograms due to the variety of forms in which Ecstasy was seized, making it impossible to standardize the data in tablet units.

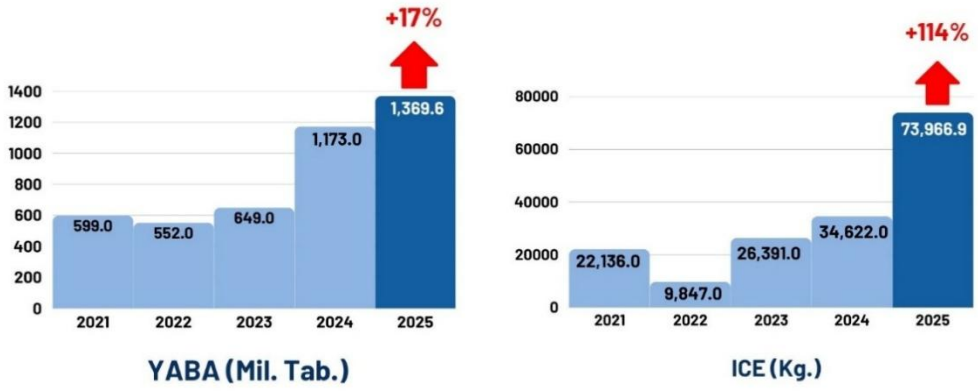


Figure : Quantities of YABA and ICE Seized, 2021–2025
(YABA in million tablets; ICE in kilograms)

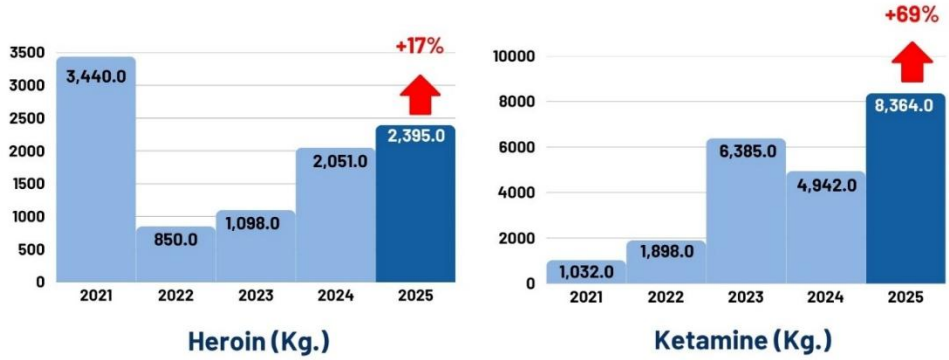


Figure : *Quantities of Heroin and Ketamine Seized in Thailand, 2021–2025*
(Both Heroin and Ketamine in kilograms)

Drug seizure data over the past five years demonstrate both the increasing severity of the drug situation in Thailand and the evolving trafficking patterns of transnational criminal networks. Overall seizure trends indicate that synthetic drugs, particularly YABA and ICE, continue to dominate the regional drug market and remain the most significant drug threat affecting Thailand.

YABA seizures increased significantly from 599 million tablets in 2021 to 1,369.6 million tablets in 2025, representing a 17% increase from 2024. ICE seizures rose sharply from 22,136 kilograms in 2021 to 73,965.9 kilograms in 2025, including a 114% increase from the previous year, reflecting the continued expansion of industrial-scale methamphetamine production and trafficking in the Golden Triangle.

Heroin seizures showed fluctuating trends but increased to 2,395 kilograms in 2025 (+17%), while Ketamine seizures rose significantly to 8,364 kilograms (+69%), indicating changing trafficking patterns and growing demand for synthetic party drugs and

polysubstance use. Ecstasy and Cocaine seizures also increased substantially, suggesting stronger connections with international trafficking networks and urban nightlife markets.

In 2025, Thailand continued strengthening its efforts to dismantle major drug trafficking networks through asset-based enforcement measures. A significant development was the expansion of legal authority allowing asset-related investigations and confiscation proceedings to be conducted independently from criminal cases, enabling faster and more effective action against illicit gains. The legal framework also expanded the application of value-based confiscation, allowing authorities to seize assets equivalent to the value of profits obtained through drug-related activities. In addition, substitute asset seizure mechanisms empowered law enforcement agencies to confiscate alternative assets when original illicit proceeds or properties had been hidden, transferred, or laundered through criminal financial networks.

Reflecting these intensified efforts, the total value of seized assets increased from 9,389.93 million Baht in 2024 to 11,234.59 million Baht in 2025. The continued high level of asset seizures demonstrates Thailand's stronger focus on financial investigations, anti-money laundering measures, and the disruption of criminal financial networks linked to drug trafficking activities.

Value of Seizures/Assets	
Year	Million Baht
2021	7,346.82
2022	11,003.02
2023	21,610.89
2024	9,389.93
2025	11,234.59

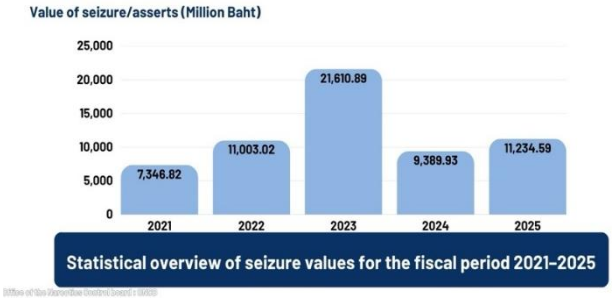


Table : *Value of Seizures/Assets (Million Baht), 2021–2025*
Figure : *Value of Seized Assets in Drug Cases, 2021–2025 (Million Baht)*

Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation

In 2025, a total of 249,315 patients entered Thailand's drug treatment and rehabilitation system, representing an increase of approximately 24% compared to 201,009 patients in 2024. This continued rise reflects sustained demand for treatment services and demonstrates the effectiveness of policies aimed at encouraging drug users to access care. Of the total number of patients in 2025, 137,440 persons (53.9%) were newly admitted, while 117,640 patients (46.1%) were continuing treatment.

Methamphetamine, particularly YABA, remained the primary drug associated with treatment admissions. YABA accounted for approximately 87% of all treatment cases, followed by cannabis (4%), ICE (3%), heroin (2%), opium (1%), and other drugs (3%). These figures confirm that YABA continue to be the most serious drug abuse problem in Thailand.

Treatment admissions by age group showed that the majority of patients were within the working-age population. Patients aged 25-39 accounted for the largest proportion at 46%, followed by those aged 40-59 at 33%. Youth aged 15–24 represented 18% of all patients, while children under 15 accounted for 1% and elderly persons aged over 60 represented 3%.

These findings indicate that drug abuse continues to significantly affect Thailand's labor force and economically active population. At the same time, the continued presence of youth patients highlights the need for stronger prevention, early intervention, and community-based rehabilitation measures targeting young and vulnerable groups.

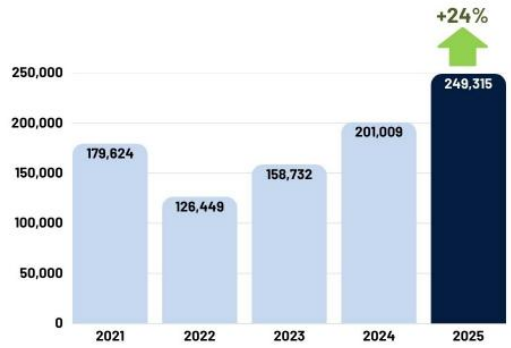


Figure : *Number of Patients entering Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation System, 2021 – 2024*

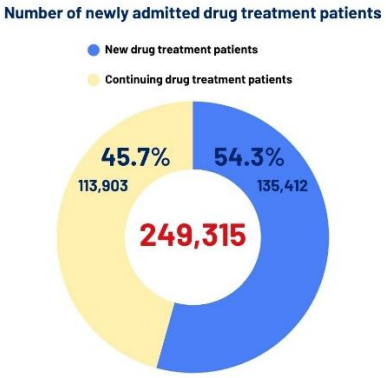


Figure : *Number of Newly admitted and Continuing drug treatment patients, 2025*

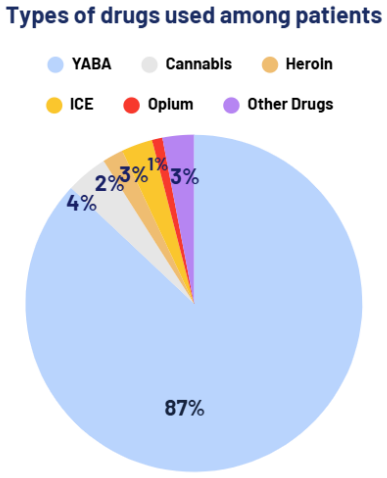


Figure : *Common Types of Drugs Used by Patients in 2025*

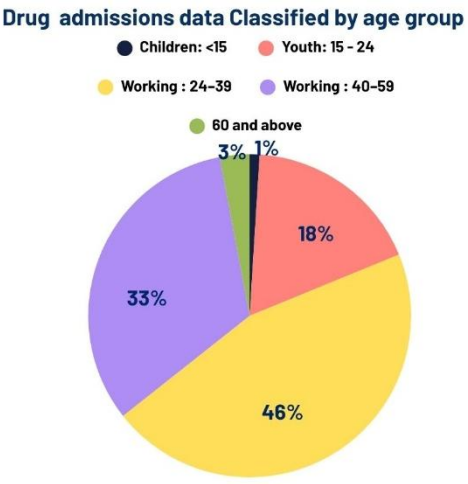


Figure : *Proportion of Drug Patients by Age Group in 2025*

Drug Prevention

In 2025, Thailand continued to strengthen its drug prevention strategies through a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach targeting key population groups and high-risk environments. Target groups included children and youth, laborers in both formal and informal sectors, vulnerable groups, families, and the general public.

Thailand continued to strengthen its drug prevention strategies through a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach, targeting key population groups and high-risk environments. The main prevention actions undertaken are summarized as follows:

Prevention efforts among children and youth remained a key priority. Thailand implemented various awareness and capacity-building activities, including the 4th Youth Network on Drug Prevention Program held in Thailand and Cambodia, which aimed to strengthen youth leadership and regional cooperation in drug prevention. Early prevention measures were also reinforced through the integration of Executive Functions (EF)-based approaches into educational and child development systems, emphasizing early childhood development as a protective factor against drug use.



Picture: *Launch and implementation of the EF Model School Manual for life skills development and drug prevention through family and community participation*

In the workplace, drug prevention measures were expanded through cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and relevant agencies, covering both formal and informal sectors, as

well as entertainment venues and service establishments. Targeted interventions were also undertaken among vulnerable and at-risk populations to address drug-related risk factors, enhance resilience against drug problems, and facilitate access to treatment, rehabilitation, and sustainable social and workforce reintegration for people with drug use problems.



Picture: *Drug prevention activities and awareness campaigns conducted among workers and service-sector employees through collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and related agencies*

At the community level, Thailand strengthened village-based prevention mechanisms under the Mother of the Land Fund Operational Plan (2025–2027), supporting community participation and local drug prevention activities nationwide. Authorities also intensified surveillance and prevention efforts in high-risk areas, including entertainment venues, hotels, restaurants, pubs, bars, and areas surrounding educational institutions.



Picture: *The "Mother of the Land Fund 2025" was held on Monday, 4 August 2025. The event was graciously presided over by Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana.*

In addition, Thailand increasingly utilized digital platforms and social media to promote drug prevention awareness among youth and the general public. Campaigns such as "Hugs Against Drugs" and the "2nd Be Smart, Say No to Drugs" TikTok Campaign were launched to expand public engagement and strengthen preventive communication through online platforms.



Picture : *Hugs Against Drugs event*



Picture: *Award ceremony for the "2nd Be Smart, Say No to Drugs" initiative on TikTok*

Illicit Crop Cultivation

Illicit opium cultivation in Thailand showed a renewed upward trend in 2025 following several years of decline. The total cultivation area increased from 11.39 hectares in 2024 to 13.32 hectares in 2025, representing an increase of approximately 17%. Most cultivation areas continued to be concentrated in remote mountainous areas in northern Thailand.

The persistence of opium cultivation remains linked to several factors, including the relatively high market value of opium compared to alternative agricultural crops, limited economic opportunities in remote communities, and difficult access to government services and alternative development programs. In addition, cultivation methods have become increasingly sophisticated and more difficult to detect.

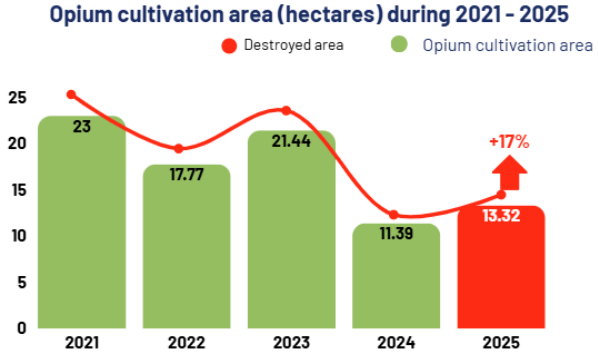


Figure : *Opium Cultivation and Destroyed Areas in Thailand, 2021–2025*

Drug Analysis

The Narcotics Analysis and Technical Service Institute (NATSI) of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) is responsible for forensic drug analysis to support investigations, intelligence gathering, and law enforcement operations. NATSI examines both the physical and chemical characteristics of seized drugs, including packaging, markings, purity levels, active substances, and precursor chemicals, in order to identify production methods, trafficking patterns, and possible origins of illicit drugs.

Based on Thailand's 2025 fiscal year data, NATSI analyzed a significant proportion of drug seizures nationwide, including approximately 61.11% of YABA seizures, 69.17% of ICE seizures, 75.25% of heroin seizures, 52.85% of cocaine seizures, and 67.77% of ketamine seizures. These figures reflect NATSI's important role in supporting nationwide drug enforcement and intelligence operations.

The analysis results confirmed that methamphetamine in both YABA and ICE continued to dominate Thailand's illicit drug market, reflecting the continued expansion of synthetic drug production and trafficking networks in the Golden Triangle region.

The analysis results for the most commonly seized drugs in Thailand during fiscal year 2025 are summarized as follows:

1. YABA

Analysis of the physical characteristics of methamphetamine tablets in major seizure cases (10,000 tablets or more) was conducted based on 239 drug cases involving 677 samples, with a total quantity of approximately 709.54 million tablets submitted for forensic examination.



Picture : *Stamps and colors of Yaba found in Thailand*

Physical characteristics of methamphetamine tablets in major cases: Methamphetamine tablets are typically round and flat in shape, most found in shades of orange and green. The tablets have an approximate diameter of 0.6 cm, a thickness of 0.25 cm, and an average weight of 90-100 milligrams per tablet. The majority bear the "WY" logo, accounting for 99.81%, while other markings account for 0.19%



Picture : *Stamps and colors of Yaba found in 2025*

Most YABA tablets were packaged in blue resealable plastic bags containing approximately 200 tablets per bag. The bags were typically bundled together with rubber bands into groups of 10 bags and wrapped with mulberry paper before being sealed into larger packages containing approximately 2–5 bundles. The outer layer of the packages was commonly coated with yellow candle wax for waterproofing and concealment purposes.

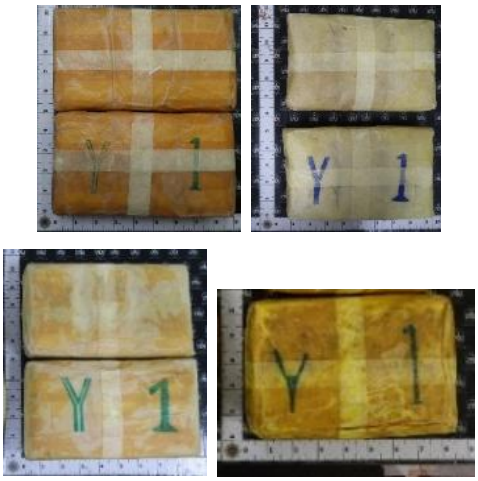
Three main packaging patterns were identified: wax-coated packages containing five bundles, wax-coated packages containing three bundles, and single-bundle packages wrapped with mulberry paper or wax-coated paper. The packages were typically marked with stamps, symbols, letters, or numbers in blue, red, or green ink, while some markings were handwritten.

Based on the markings on the packages, five main packaging types were identified as follows:

1. 999" marking: 455,698,300 tablets (72.46%)
2. "Y1" marking: 74,028,279 tablets (11.77%)
3. "1 or 2" marking: 2,236,000 tablets (0.36%)
4. Other markings: 96,734,500 tablets (15.38%)
5. No marking: 223,200 tablets (0.03%)



999



Y1



Other stamps



1 or 2



No stamp

Picture : *Examples of yaba packaging, categorized by the stamps found on the packets.*



"999" packaging type 9 new stamps identified

"Other stamp" packaging type 4 new stamps identified

Picture : *Newly identified packet stamps found in 2025 Fiscal Year.*

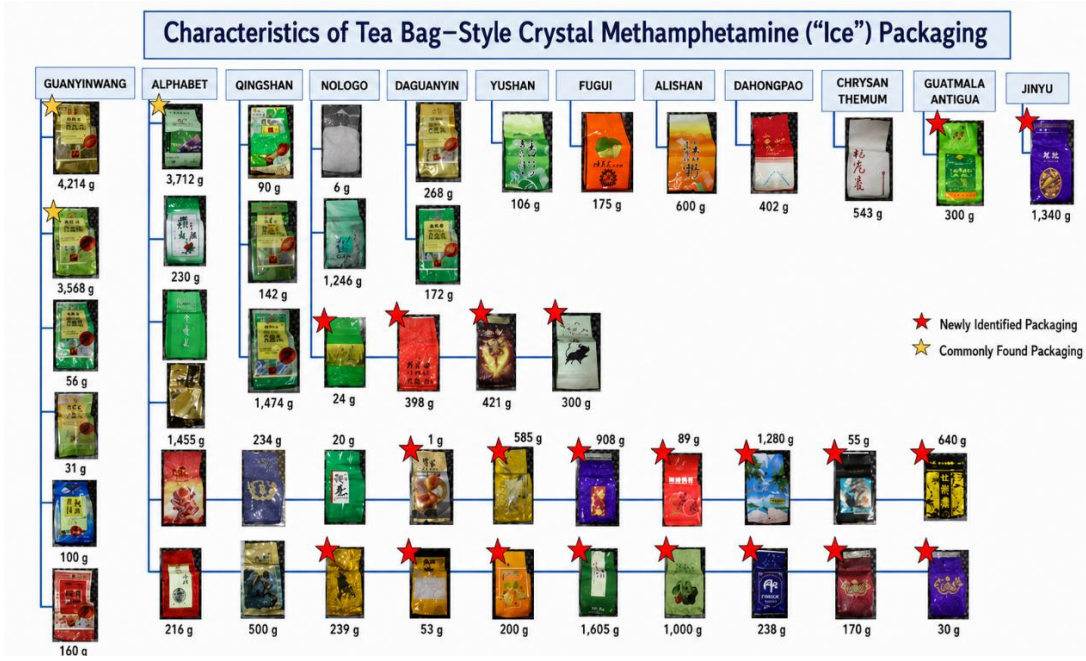
Chemical analysis of YABA in major seizure cases showed that methamphetamine hydrochloride remained the primary active substance, with purity levels ranging from 0.01% to 30.00%. The most commonly detected purity range was 15.01%–20.00%, accounting for 86.62% of analyzed tablets. Caffeine was also widely detected, with purity levels ranging from 60.01% to more than 90.00%, most commonly within the 75.01%–80.00% range, accounting for 50.73% of analyzed tablets.

Analysis of precursor chemicals indicated that Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine (Ep/Pep) remained the primary precursor used in YABA production, accounting for 21.37% of cases, followed by Phenyl-2-Propanone (P2P) at 1.53%, while 77.10% could not be clearly identified. Compared with 2024, both the chemical composition and precursor patterns remained largely unchanged.

2. ICE

A study of the characteristics of Crystal Methamphetamine (ICE) in major seizure cases (1 kilogram or more) was conducted based on drug exhibits submitted to the Narcotics Analysis and Technical Service Institute (NATSI) between January and December 2025. The analysis covered both physical characteristics, including packaging and concealment methods, and chemical characteristics, including purity levels, impurities, and precursor substances used in the production process. A total of 118 cases, comprising 32,668 bags with a combined weight of approximately 32,615.52 kg..

Physical Characteristics: Seized Ice typically consists of large, white crystals packaged in clear, vacuum - sealed plastic bags, often disguised as Chinese tea packages. Each package is approximately 3.5 to 6.5 inches wide and weighs around 1 kilogram. The packaging varies in terms of brands, symbols, and colors, which allows for classification into 12 distinct groups based on the markings or brand logos printed on the tea bags.



Picture : *ICE Packages found in Thailand*

Chemical analysis of ICE in major seizure cases showed that methamphetamine hydrochloride remained the primary active substance, accounting for approximately 96.49% of the total weight. Most samples had purity levels above 90% , with the 98.00%-100.00% range most frequently detected. The average purity was 93.56%, indicating a continued increase in methamphetamine purity compared to 2024.

However, authorities identified several irregular samples in November 2025, involving approximately 508.19 kilograms of ICE with unusually low purity levels below 10%. These samples showed irregular physical characteristics, including unusually large and hard crystals, different coloration, and package weights of approximately 1.5 kilograms instead of the typical 1 kilogram. Chemical analysis also detected contamination with alum, likely added to increase product volume for sale.

Analysis of precursor chemicals indicated that Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine (Ep/Pep) remained the primary precursor used in ICE production, accounting for 55.62% of analyzed samples, followed by Phenyl-2-Propanone (P2P) at 3.93%, while 40.45% of samples could not be clearly identified. Compared with 2024, precursor patterns remained generally unchanged, although the number of unidentified precursor samples increased significantly, consistent with the higher purity levels observed in 2025.

International Cooperation

International cooperation remains a cornerstone of Thailand's efforts to address the drug problem, supporting both operational effectiveness and policy development across all levels. Thailand actively engages with neighboring countries, regional partners, and the broader international community to strengthen collaboration in drug law enforcement, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and alternative development. To reflect evolving drug situations, cooperation frameworks have been continuously enhanced through joint operations, intelligence-sharing, and capacity-building initiatives. Thailand's international cooperation can be categorized into three main levels:

(1) Bilateral Cooperation

In 2025, Thailand continued to strengthen bilateral cooperation with key partner countries through both domestic and overseas engagements. High-level and technical meetings were convened with Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, China, and Viet Nam to enhance intelligence sharing, precursor control, border management, and coordinated responses against transnational drug trafficking networks.

Key bilateral engagements included the 15th Thailand–Cambodia Drug Control Meeting held in Krabi on 14 May 2025, the 1st Thailand–India Drug Control Meeting in Bangkok on 27 May 2025, the official meeting between ONCB and the Lao Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) on 11 June 2025, the 20th Thailand–China Drug Control Meeting on precursor and non-scheduled chemicals in Harbin, China on 30 July 2025, and the 17th Thailand–Viet Nam Drug Control Meeting in Viet Nam on 14 August 2025. In addition, Thailand hosted study visits and policy discussions for delegations from Ghana and Nigeria in September 2025 to exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation on drug policy and trafficking control.



Picture : *The 15th Thailand - Cambodia Drug Control Meeting, held in Krabi on 14 May 2025*



Picture : *The 1st Thailand–India Drug Control Meeting, held in Bangkok on 27 May 2025*



Picture **:** *The official meeting between LCDC (Lao PDR) and ONCB Thailand, held on 11 June 2025*



Picture : *The 20th Thailand–China Drug Control Meeting on precursor and non-scheduled chemicals, held in Harbin, China, on 30 July 2025*



Picture : *The 17th Thailand–Viet Nam Drug Control Meeting, held in Viet Nam on 14 August 2025*



Picture : *ONCB hosted delegations from Nigeria and Ghana for discussions on drug policy and drug trafficking on 23 September 2025*

(2) Regional and Multilateral Cooperation

At the regional level, Thailand continued to play a proactive role in strengthening cooperation frameworks within the Mekong Subregion and ASEAN. Thailand, together with Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, continued supporting the Safe Mekong Coordination Center (SMCC) as a key regional mechanism for combating transnational drug trafficking through real-time intelligence sharing and coordinated operations.

Within ASEAN, Thailand continued actively contributing to key regional mechanisms, including the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). Thailand also supported ASEAN-NARCO initiatives, including the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN), the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF), and the ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF). .

Thailand further strengthened regional capacity-building through advanced intelligence and technical training programmes. In 2025, Thailand organized the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report System Training to strengthen technical capacity and improve regional drug data reporting and information-sharing mechanisms among ASEAN Member States. Thailand also co-hosted advanced intelligence training programmes with international partners, including the New Zealand Police and Customs Service, to enhance operational and intelligence capabilities of drug law enforcement officers in the Mekong region.



Picture : *The 27th Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC 27), held in Tokyo, Japan, from 28–29 January 2025*



Picture : *The UNODC Drug and Precursor Threat Assessment Mission, conducted from Vientiane, Lao PDR, to Kunming, China, from 19–23 May 2025*



Picture: *The Advanced Intelligence Training Course, supported by New Zealand, held in Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 19–23 May 2025*



Picture : *The 46th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD), held in Singapore from 26–28 August 2025*



Picture: *The 18th and 19th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) Meetings, held in Manila, Philippines, and Bangkok, Thailand, on 8–9 April and 15 July 2025*

(3) Global Cooperation

At the global level, Thailand remains an active member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and continues to support international drug control efforts under the relevant international conventions, reaffirming its commitment to balanced drug policies and international cooperation.

In 2025, Thailand further expanded its global engagement through active participation in international forums and strengthened cooperation with international organizations and partner countries. Beyond law enforcement cooperation, Thailand hosted the 2025 International Conference on Drug Policy (ICDP), focusing on YABA, methamphetamine, and synthetic drugs, to promote international knowledge exchange and reinforce Thailand's role as a regional hub for academic and policy dialogue on drug issues.



Picture : *The High-Level Segment of the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna, Austria, from 10 –14 March 2025*



Picture: *The International Conference on Drug Policy (ICDP), held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 August 2025*



Viet Nam

Vietnam continues to be affected by the complex drug situation in the world and the region, especially from the “Golden Triangle” area. Domestically, types of drugs, particularly synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, are increasingly diverse; the operating methods of drug criminals are becoming more sophisticated, exploiting cyberspace and electronic payments to buy, sell, and transport drugs.

In that context, the Counter Narcotics Police Department has thoroughly grasped and strictly implemented the directives of the Party, the State, the Ministry of Public Security, and key work programs for 2025; proactively and synchronously deployed preventive measures and effectively fought drug crimes, contributing to maintaining security and order.

1. The commitment and determination of the Party, the State, the Ministry of Public Security, and the People of Vietnam in drug prevention and control

- Vietnam has amended the Law on Drug Prevention and Control to institutionalize the policy of streamlining the apparatus and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of state management; transferring the function of managing drug rehabilitation and post-rehabilitation management to the Ministry of Public Security. Regulations on the management of illicit drug users, rehabilitation, and post-rehabilitation management have been amended to be more stringent and rigorous, addressing practical difficulties and obstacles.

- Notably, the 2025 Law on Drug Prevention and Control stipulates the application of electronic monitoring measures for individuals undergoing rehabilitation at home and in the community, individuals receiving addiction treatment with substitute medications, and individuals under post-rehabilitation management. This is a significant step forward in applying science and technology to manage nearly 100,000 drug-related individuals, contributing to transforming management from traditional to modern methods, effective from July 1, 2026.

- Additionally, Vietnam is implementing the National Target Program on Drug Prevention and Control until 2030, aiming to create “Drug-Free Provinces and Cities”.

Regulations, criteria, and guidelines for drug-free areas have been issued; simultaneously, authorities are conducting crackdowns, reviewing, strictly managing illicit drug users, and guiding localities to synchronously implement solutions suitable to the practical situation.

2. Synchronized implementation of supply reduction, demand reduction, and international cooperation in drug prevention and control:

2.1. Supply Reduction

- Implemented prevention and crackdown on drug crimes on key routes and areas, focusing on the Northwest, Northeast, Central, and Southwest regions; launched a peak campaign to attack and suppress drug crimes in response to the 2025 Drug Prevention and Control Action Month.

- Coordinated with the Lao Police Force for Drug Prevention and Control to enhance basic investigation and grasp the situation on key drug routes and areas related to Vietnam; deployed joint task forces for drug prevention and control in Laos and Cambodia to intercept drug supply early, from afar, and at the point of origin.

- In 2025, C04 successfully coordinated in many transnational investigations, including coordinating with Laos to dismantle 6 special cases, seizing over 1 ton of synthetic drugs; coordinating with Cambodia to dismantle 3 special cases, seizing over 300kg of drugs.

2.2. Demand Reduction

- Vietnam issued and implemented Plan 483 on the peak period for comprehensive review, detection, statistics, and management of drug addicts, illicit drug users, individuals under post-rehabilitation management, and combating and eliminating complex drug hotspots and gathering points, aiming to better manage addicts, clearly identify management targets, those required to take methadone, post-rehabilitation individuals, and combat and eliminate complex drug spots and points in the area. The implementation of Plan 483 by the Ministry of Public Security has created clear positive changes in many localities. Not only does it reduce demand through strict management of key target groups, but provinces and cities also simultaneously block supply through specific investigations and cases; thereby contributing to reducing criminal offenses and gradually forming “drug-free areas”.

- Local police regularly review, compile, and accurately determine the number of illicit drug users; drug addicts; individuals under post-rehabilitation management; individuals illegally buying and selling drugs; locations organizing or harboring illicit drug use; and update the Target Management software, ensuring accuracy, completeness, data integrity, real-time updates, objectivity, and honesty.

2.3. International cooperation in drug prevention and control

In 2025, Vietnam's international cooperation in drug prevention and control continued to be strengthened and achieved many positive results, contributing to enhancing the effectiveness of the fight against transnational drug crime. Vietnam effectively implemented agreements, memoranda of understanding, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms with countries and international organizations; maintained regular information exchange, joint investigation, joint case crackdowns, training, and capacity-building support for law enforcement forces.

With neighboring countries such as China, Laos, and Cambodia, cooperation was implemented substantively and effectively through annual conference mechanisms, hotlines, Border Liaison Offices (BLOs), and coordinated crackdowns on major drug cases.

Vietnam also actively expanded cooperation with partners such as the United States, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and Russia in areas such as transnational drug crime investigation, controlled delivery via sea routes, air routes, and cyberspace. Many bilateral conferences, training courses, and professional exchange activities were organized to enhance the capacity of Vietnam's drug prevention and control forces.

Within the framework of multilateral cooperation, Vietnam continued to actively participate in ASEAN, Mekong Sub-region, United Nations mechanisms, and international organizations such as UNODC and INCB; at the same time, successfully hosted many regional conferences on drug prevention and control. Furthermore, Vietnam continued to effectively leverage international aid sources for equipment, training, and technical support for domestic drug prevention and control.

3. Results of the Apprehension, Investigation, and Prosecution of Drug Crimes

Following the directive of the Ministry's leadership with the viewpoint of preventing and stopping drugs early, from afar, and at the source, in 2025, Vietnam's drug prevention and control forces issued plans and synchronously applied professional measures, increasing manpower and means to effectively organize and implement the fight against drug crimes.

3.1. Management of Illicit Drug Users, Drug Addicts, and Individuals under Post-Rehabilitation Management

- As of May 14, 2026, Vietnam had 119,372 illicit drug users, drug addicts, and individuals under post-rehabilitation management in the community (a decrease of 11,401 people compared to December 15, 2026). Specifically:

+ Illicit drug users: 30,456 people (decrease of 15,394);

+ Drug addicts: 41,199 people (decrease of 5,222);

+ Individuals under post-rehabilitation management: 46,717 people (increase of 9,215).

3.2. Crackdown on Drug Crimes

With the viewpoint of preventing and stopping drugs early, from afar, at the source; proactively grasping the situation, establishing special cases, dismantling entire networks, arresting masterminds and leaders, avoiding wrongful convictions, ensuring no criminals escape justice, and preventing Vietnam from becoming an international drug transit point, over the past year, the drug prevention and control forces achieved many positive results in fighting drug crimes, cybercrimes, and transnational crimes, specifically as follows:

-In 2025, drug investigation police forces nationwide successfully cracked down on 21,998 cases, arrested 44,354 drug offenders; seized 276 kg of heroin, 1,280 kg of cannabis, 4,396 kg and 2,096,259 tablets of synthetic drugs. Compared to 2024, the number of cases decreased by 15.79% and the number of offenders decreased by 3.16%. Among these, 148 cases involving 1,391 organized and transnational crime-related offenders were dismantled.

-Specifically, on air routes, 52 cases were detected, 57 offenders arrested, seizing 01 kg of heroin, 95 kg of cannabis, 422 kg of synthetic drugs, and 3 kg of cocaine; on postal routes, 14 cases were detected, 63 offenders arrested, seizing approximately 15 kg of heroin, 156 kg of cannabis, 145 kg and 36,000 tablets of synthetic drugs; on sea routes, 14 cases were detected, 03 offenders arrested, seizing approximately 10 kg of heroin, 154 kg of cannabis, 82 kg of synthetic drugs, and 3 kg of cocaine.

-Regarding foreigners committing drug crimes in Vietnam, in 2025, 77 cases involving 98 offenders of various nationalities were detected and arrested, with the highest numbers being Chinese (17 cases/22 offenders), Laotians (15 cases/17 offenders), South Koreans (13 cases/16 offenders), and Americans (8 cases/9 offenders).

4. Key tasks of Vietnam's law enforcements during the 2026 peak campaign

Given the continuously complex developments of drug crime, in the following time periods, the Counter Narcotics Police Department, Ministry of Public Security, proposes several solutions to effectively implement the peak campaign for propaganda, coordinated attack, and suppression of drug crimes among the four countries Vietnam, China, Laos, and Myanmar, specifically:

First, enhance information exchange, coordinate arrests and handling of drug crime networks and individuals, as well as the buying, selling, and transporting of chemical precursors across borders; improve the effectiveness of BLO operations, especially maintaining regular briefings for exchanging information on drug prevention and control and cross-border crime.

Second, coordinate strict control over land border gates, seaports, and airports; coordinate and assist each other in exiting, entering, arresting, and handing over drug offenders in priority or urgent cases, as agreed and decided by the Parties on a case-by-case basis.

Third, strengthen control over chemical precursors, prevent the diversion of precursors; prevent the abuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; proactively prevent, detect, and thoroughly handle acts related to the cultivation of plants containing narcotic substances and the illicit production of drugs, especially synthetic drugs.

Fourth, enhance joint investigations into transnational drug cases, including: considering sending task forces to host countries for coordinated investigation expansion and evidence collection to dismantle entire drug buying, selling, and transporting networks; apply controlled delivery measures and tracing financial flows to dismantle entire illegal drug networks.

Fifth, strengthen propaganda and educational prevention to raise public awareness of the law and the harms of drugs, and encourage people's participation in the fight against drug crimes.

CHAPTER 4

Research Knowledge and Innovation

Indonesia

Measurement of Drug Abuse Prevalence in Indonesia, 2025

Background and Objectives of the Survey

The results of a previous survey conducted by the National Narcotics Board (BNN) in collaboration with the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and Statistics Indonesia (BPS) in 2023 indicated that the prevalence of drug abuse in Indonesia was 1.73%. This figure is equivalent to 3,337,911 individuals among the population aged 15–64 years within the past year.

The large number of drug users in Indonesia requires serious attention. The widespread distribution of drug abuse is highly concerning, as it poses a significant threat to the quality of human resources, national resilience, and the future of the Indonesian nation.

It is essential to understand the issue of drug abuse in Indonesia through regularly conducted surveys, as well as to monitor changes and developments occurring within society. Therefore, in 2025, a follow-up survey study was conducted with the objectives to: 1. measure the national prevalence of drug abuse, 2. analyze patterns of drug abuse, and 3. examine the factors influencing drug abuse.

Research Methodology

This study employed a quantitative approach using a cross-sectional survey design. The research was conducted across 34 provinces, 134 regencies/cities, and 3,380 census blocks. The study population consisted of Indonesian residents aged 15–64 years.

A total sample of 67,600 individuals was targeted, with 65,825 respondents successfully interviewed, resulting in a response rate of 97.4%.

Data collection was carried out through face-to-face interviews conducted by trained enumerators using a structured questionnaire, supported by a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) system.

Data analysis was performed using both descriptive and inferential methods. Descriptive analysis was used to present patterns of drug abuse and prevalence rates based on urban/rural classification, age groups, gender, main activities, and income per capita groups.

Inferential analysis was conducted using a bivariate approach to examine patterns and relationships among individual, family, and social environmental factors with respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, categorized as a binary variable (drug users and non-drug users).

Respondent Characteristic

Out of a total of 65,829 survey respondents, the proportion of females (62.16%) was higherthan that of males (37.84%). The majority of respondents (72.02%) were in the younger agegroup (15–39 years).

A total of 57.59% of respondents resided in urban areas, while 42.41% lived in rural areas. Most respondents reported working as their main activity (41.75%), followed by those engaged in household duties (28.96%), attending school (17.29%), and those not working (12.00%).

In terms of educational attainment, the largest proportion of respondents had completed senior high school or its equivalent (SMA/MA) at 43.12%, followed by junior high school or equivalent (SMP/MTs) at 23.15%, primary school or equivalent (SD/MI) at 15.39%, and those with a diploma (D4), bachelor's degree, or higher at 9.47%.

Regarding economic status, the majority of respondents in urban areas belonged to the middleincome per capita group (41.20%), while in rural areas, the largest proportion came from the low-income per capita group (53.32%).

Prevalence of Drug Abuse

The prevalence of drug abuse refers to the proportion of the population who have ever used or are currently using drugs within a specific period, namely lifetime prevalence and past-year prevalence.

The 2025 survey results show that the past-year prevalence of drug abuse reached 2.11%, equivalent to approximately 4,151,848 individuals among Indonesia's population aged 15–64 years. Meanwhile, the lifetime prevalence was recorded at 2.77%, or approximately 5,437,859 individuals within the same age group.

Compared to the previous survey conducted in 2023, the prevalence rates have increased. The past-year prevalence rose from 1.73% (2023) to 2.11% (2025), while the lifetime prevalence increased from 2.20% (2023) to 2.77% (2025).

By place of residence, the prevalence of drug abuse in urban areas increased by 0.25 percentage points for past-year use (from 2.10% in 2023 to 2.35% in 2025) and by 0.48 percentage points for lifetime use (from 2.77% to 3.25%). A similar upward trend was observed in rural areas, where past-year prevalence rose from 1.20% to 1.72% (an increase of 0.52 percentage points), and lifetime prevalence increased from 1.39% to 1.98% (an increase of 0.59 percentage points).

Both male and female groups experienced increases in prevalence rates for both past-year and lifetime use. Among males, past-year prevalence increased from 2.41% to 2.55% (an increase of 0.14 percentage points), while among females it rose more significantly from 1.03% to 1.67% (an increase of 0.64 percentage points). Similarly, lifetime prevalence among males increased from 3.30% to 3.77%, and among females from 1.07% to 1.74%.

Overall, the increase in prevalence was higher among females than males, both in urban and rural areas.

By age group, the largest increase in past-year prevalence occurred among individuals aged 15–24 years (from 1.81% in 2023 to 2.53% in 2025, an increase of 0.72 percentage points), followed by those aged 25–49 years (from 1.81% to 2.24%, an increase of 0.43 percentage points). A similar pattern was observed for lifetime prevalence.

In urban areas, increases in past-year prevalence were observed among the 15–24 and 25–49 age groups, while a decline was recorded among those aged 50–64 years for both past-year and lifetime prevalence. In contrast, in rural areas, increases in both past-year and lifetime prevalence were observed among individuals aged 25–49 and 50–64 years.

Based on respondents' main activities, increases in both past-year and lifetime prevalence were observed across all groups. In urban areas, the highest increase occurred among those whose main activity was schooling, rising from 1.35% (2023) to 2.27% (2025), an increase of 0.92 percentage points. In rural areas, the highest increase was found among those who were not working, rising from 1.10% to 2.20%, an increase of 1.10 percentage points.

By per capita income group, the highest prevalence of drug abuse—both for past-year and lifetime use—was found among the high-income group (2.67% for past-year and 3.66% for lifetime). This pattern was consistent in both urban and rural areas, with urban figures at 2.69% (past-year) and 3.79% (lifetime), and rural figures at 2.59% (past-year) and 3.10% (lifetime).

Conclusions

a. In 2025, drug abuse increased compared to 2023, both for past-year and lifetime prevalence, in both urban and rural areas. However, the increase was relatively higher in rural areas than in urban areas. The rise occurred among both males and females, with a more pronounced increase among females.

b. The increase in drug abuse was observed among the 15–24 and 25–49 age groups, with the highest increase occurring in urban areas. In rural areas, a notable increase was also observed among those aged 50–64 years. Drug abuse increased across all main activity groups, with the highest rise among students in urban areas and among the unemployed in rural areas.

c. The increase in drug abuse during the 2023–2025 period was driven by several key factors, including: increased vulnerability among younger age groups, urbanization dynamics and urban social environments, socio-economic pressures among the productive-age population, the expansion of drug distribution into rural areas, changing lifestyle patterns, and limited access to prevention and rehabilitation services.

d. The average age of first drug use at the national level is 18 years.

e. The three most commonly used drugs are cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants (including methamphetamine), and misused prescription drugs.

f. The primary sources of first-time drug acquisition, in both urban and rural areas, are peer networks and free distribution.

g. In urban areas, drug use most commonly occurs in private residences (homes, rooms, apartments, boarding houses, or dormitories), while in rural areas it predominantly occurs in public or open spaces (such as parks, gardens, forests, cemeteries, fields, vacant land, or beaches).

h. Individual-level risk factors, particularly alcohol consumption, are a dominant contributor to increased vulnerability to drug exposure. Permissive attitudes toward drug use also play a significant role.

i. At the family level, lack of trust in sharing personal problems with family members is a key factor increasing vulnerability to drug exposure.

j. Social environmental factors—particularly the presence of social problems in the community and the existence of drug dealers or distributors—are dominant contributors to increased risk of drug exposure. The majority of users live in environments characterized by multiple social issues, including alcohol abuse, drug-related activities, theft, gambling, and street violence.

k. Most living, educational, workplace, and community environments are not safe from drug-related risks. Urban environments are relatively more vulnerable to such risks.

l. Only a small proportion of drug users have accessed treatment or rehabilitation services, whether medical or non-medical. In rural areas, the main barriers include limited accessibility, lack of awareness of rehabilitation programs, and high costs.

Malaysia

Meta-Analysis of Treatment and Rehabilitation for Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) Drug Abuse

This study provides a comprehensive meta-analysis on the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation approaches for individuals affected by Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) abuse. Drawing upon empirical evidence from international research, the analysis evaluates the impact of both medical and non-medical interventions across key rehabilitation outcomes to identify approaches that demonstrate potential effectiveness in addressing ATS-related problems. The findings provide an evidence base for strengthening treatment and rehabilitation practices and informing the development of more integrated approaches to ATS recovery.

Building on these findings, the study developed the INSPIRA Model, an evidence-informed rehabilitation framework designed to support the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA) Malaysia in strengthening treatment and rehabilitation services for ATS users. The model translates evidence from the meta-analysis into a structured, holistic approach that integrates interventions across the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of recovery. It further emphasises continuity of care across the recovery process, from treatment and rehabilitation to community reintegration towards a long-term recovery.

Research Background

This research was carried out under the Scientific Research Grant of the NADA, Ministry of Home Affairs Malaysia. The project was spearheaded by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in collaboration with researchers from Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), UCSI University, and officers from NADA Malaysia. Supported through the NADA Scientific Research Grant, the study was successfully completed on 31 January 2026.

Led by Dr. Mohamad Naqiuddin Dahamat Azam, the study assessed the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation approaches for ATS abuse through a comprehensive meta-analysis of empirical studies. The research team comprised a multidisciplinary group of experts from academia and NADA Malaysia, including specialists in social sciences, rehabilitation, psychology, and addiction treatment, ensuring a holistic evaluation of intervention strategies.

Importance of the Study

The increasing prevalence of ATS abuse has become a major public health and social issue worldwide. In Malaysia, ATS has emerged as the most dominant category of abused

drugs. Official statistics reported by NADA showed that 83,698 ATS users were identified in 2020, representing 65.2% of total drug abuse cases. The number increased to 85,707 cases in 2022, accounting for 66.4% of all recorded drug abuse cases nationwide.

ATS abuse is associated with various physical, psychological, and behavioural consequences, including craving, depression, anxiety, psychosis, relapse, treatment dropout, and risky sexual behaviour. The increasing use of ATS has placed substantial pressure on existing treatment and rehabilitation systems, particularly because ATS addiction involves complex neurobiological and psychosocial mechanisms that differ significantly from opioid addiction.

Despite the introduction of numerous treatment and rehabilitation interventions worldwide, there remains no clear consensus on the most effective approach for addressing ATS abuse. Existing research often yields inconsistent findings, largely due to variations in intervention design, treatment duration, implementation settings, and cultural contexts. This lack of uniformity has created significant gaps in determining best practices for ATS rehabilitation.

This study utilizes a systematic meta-analysis of empirical data to identify interventions that effectively reduce ATS-related symptoms and enhance rehabilitation outcomes. Ultimately, these findings offer a strong empirical foundation to guide policy decisions and optimize the treatment and rehabilitation services administered by NADA.

Recognizing the complex, multidimensional nature of ATS recovery, the study acknowledges that simply identifying effective treatments is insufficient, as individual needs and targeted outcomes fluctuate across different stages of rehabilitation. Consequently, the research translates these meta-analytical insights into a comprehensive framework that strategically aligns complementary interventions throughout the entire recovery process.

This effort culminated in the development of the INSPIRA Model, an evidence-based framework designed to holistically address the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of recovery. By doing so, the model ensures a seamless continuum of care, supporting individuals from initial clinical treatment through to successful community reintegration and long-term recovery.

Objectives of the Study

a) To identify treatment and rehabilitation approaches for ATS addiction based on existing literature.
b) To synthesis quantitative evidence in evaluating the effectiveness of ATS treatment and rehabilitation interventions.
c) To propose a practical alternative treatment and rehabilitation model for NADA in addressing ATS addiction.

Methodology

This study employed a rigorous meta-analytical approach to synthesize empirical data from prior research on ATS treatment and rehabilitation. To ensure comprehensive transparency, systematic reporting, and methodological integrity, the review strictly adhered to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) 2020 guidelines.

A systematic literature search was conducted across multiple academic databases, utilizing targeted keywords and search strings focused on ATS treatment, rehabilitation, craving, depression, anxiety, relapse, retention, and risky sexual behavior. Applying stringent inclusion and exclusion criteria, the final meta-analysis incorporated 55 empirical studies that evaluated diverse medical and non-medical interventions on a global scale.

The analysis systematically measured primary treatment outcomes, specifically evaluating:

- ATS-related cravings
- Depression and anxiety levels
- Treatment retention rates
- Continued drug use and relapse
- Risky sexual behaviors

Advanced statistical evaluations were performed, encompassing subgroup, moderator, and sensitivity analyses, alongside publication bias assessments utilizing funnel plots. Furthermore, the research appraised overall treatment efficacy, stratified by intervention modality and geographic region.

Building upon these quantitative findings, the identified effective intervention components were synthesized and integrated into a comprehensive rehabilitation framework. This framework holistically addresses the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of recovery, prioritizing interventions that target craving reduction, psychological well-being, behavioral modification, treatment engagement, relapse prevention, and successful community reintegration. Ultimately, this evidence synthesis laid the empirical foundation for the INSPIRA Model, establishing a structured and tailored framework for ATS treatment and rehabilitation within the Malaysian context.

Research Findings

The study identified three major categories of ATS treatment and rehabilitation approaches:

a) Medical treatment
b) Non-medical rehabilitation approaches
c) Integrated or combined interventions

The findings showed that ATS treatment and rehabilitation interventions generally demonstrated positive effects on several treatment outcomes.

a) Craving Reduction

The meta-analysis demonstrated that treatment and rehabilitation interventions were effective in reducing craving toward ATS drugs. Psychological and behavioural interventions such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), contingency management, and physical exercise interventions showed positive outcomes in reducing craving symptoms.

b) Depression

Treatment interventions also demonstrated effectiveness in reducing depressive symptoms among ATS users. Depression was identified as one of the most common psychological effects associated with ATS addiction, and integrated interventions were found to improve emotional regulation and psychological wellbeing.

c) Anxiety

The findings indicated that treatment and rehabilitation programmes contributed to reductions in anxiety symptoms among ATS users. Anxiety was recognised as a major psychological factor associated with relapse and treatment failure.

d) Treatment Retention

The study found that treatment retention was strongly associated with positive rehabilitation outcomes. Individuals who remained longer in treatment programmes demonstrated better emotional stability, lower relapse tendencies, and improved psychosocial functioning.

e) Drug Use Reduction

Treatment interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing the continued use of ATS. Behavioural and psychosocial approaches, in particular, have contributed to strengthening self-control, preventing relapse, and supporting long-term recovery outcomes among individuals undergoing rehabilitation.

f) Risky Sexual Behaviour

The findings further showed that ATS treatment interventions contributed to reductions in risky sexual behaviour among users. ATS use was closely associated with impulsive behaviour, reduced self-control, and unsafe sexual practices that increase the risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

Collectively, these findings indicate that no single intervention is sufficient to address the multidimensional needs associated with ATS addiction. Different intervention approaches demonstrate benefits across different treatment outcomes, supporting the need for an integrated rehabilitation framework that combines effective intervention components and delivers them according to individual needs and stages of recovery. This evidence provided the foundation for the development of the INSPIRA Model.

Proposed Alternative Rehabilitation Model for NADA

Based on the empirical findings of the meta-analysis, the study proposed an alternative rehabilitation framework known as the INSPIRA Model for implementation by NADA Malaysia. The model adopts a holistic bio-psycho-social-spiritual approach that integrates physical exercise, targeted pharmacotherapy, psychological interventions, psychosocial support, family involvement, community-based recovery, and continuing care. It emphasizes strength-based recovery and the continuity of treatment from institutional rehabilitation to community reintegration, with the aim of promoting long-term recovery and preventing relapse among ATS users.

The model integrates evidence-based interventions, including:

- Physical exercise-based interventions
- Pharmacotherapy support
- Psychological and behavioural rehabilitation
- Psychosocial support
- Structured rehabilitation phases
- Holistic recovery approaches

The INSPIRA Model emphasises a holistic and integrated rehabilitation framework that addresses the physical, psychological, emotional, behavioural, and social dimensions of ATS addiction. The model also supports long-term recovery and relapse prevention through structured intervention phases and multidisciplinary collaboration.



Recommendations

The study recommends that the NADA enhance ATS treatment and rehabilitation programmes by integrating effective medical, psychological, behavioural, and psychosocial interventions. Emphasis should be placed on holistic rehabilitation strategies that promote long-term recovery and relapse prevention, ensuring comprehensive support for individuals undergoing treatment.

The study further recommends:

a) Enhancing multidisciplinary collaboration in ATS rehabilitation services
b) Expanding structured psychosocial and behavioural interventions
c) Strengthening mental health support for ATS users
d) Increasing evidence-based rehabilitation programmes within institutional and community settings
e) Piloting and evaluating the INSPIRA Model as an evidence-informed rehabilitation framework for ATS users, followed by phased implementation based on empirical evaluation and contextual adaptation

Overall, the findings of this study contribute significantly to the development of evidence-based policies and rehabilitation strategies for ATS addiction management in Malaysia.

The research team is composed of:

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Myanmar

Study Report on Effectiveness and Efficacy of Implementation Project on Buprenorphine Maintenance Treatment for Opioid Dependence in Myanmar

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Introduction

Myanmar faces a high burden of opioid dependence, with an estimated 93,000 people who inject drugs most of whom use heroin. Approximately one-third of people who use drugs are living with HIV, underscoring the urgent need for effective harm reduction interventions. While methadone maintenance therapy has been the only available opioid agonist maintenance treatment (OAMT) option in Myanmar, it has limitations including accessibility barriers, long induction periods, and side effects that reduce acceptability and coverage.

Buprenorphine (BPN) is widely recognized as a safe and effective alternative to methadone for opioid agonist maintenance therapy and is endorsed by the World Health Organization as a first-line treatment (WHO, 2009). Compared with methadone, buprenorphine demonstrates superior safety due to its partial agonist profile, resulting in lower risk of respiratory depression and overdose (Mattick et al., 2014; Strain et al., 2011). It offers greater efficiency and flexibility in service delivery through shorter induction periods, alternate-day dosing, and supervised take-home options, thereby reducing the burden of daily attendance (Krook et al., 2002; Carrieri et al., 2006). Buprenorphine also provides improved tolerability and patient acceptability, with fewer drug–drug interactions, less cognitive impairment, and reduced misuse potential compared to methadone (Lintzeris et al., 2006; Soyka et al., 2017). Evidence from Asia and other regions further highlights higher levels of patient preference and treatment satisfaction, citing its milder side-effect profile and better compatibility with daily functioning (Tran et al., 2018; Ambekar et al., 2018). Collectively, these attributes underscore buprenorphine's superior efficacy, efficiency, and patient-centeredness, making it a strong option for scaling up treatment in resource-limited and conflict-affected settings such as Myanmar.

Methodology

This study adopted a prospective observational design in quantitative approach. Quantitative data were collected from 220 participants (52 in Yangon, 32 in Mandalay, 136 in Myitkyina) through structured questionnaires and Drug Treatment Information Cards (DTICs).

Participants were recruited using convenience sampling for quantitative and assessed based on established criteria for opioid dependence Data analysis was conducted using Stata 14 for quantitative data. The study adhered to ethical standards, with informed consent obtained and confidentiality maintained.

Findings

The mean age of participants was 35 years, with most being male (97.3%). Heroin was the predominant drug used (94.5%), with injecting as the main route of administration (71.8%). Risk behaviors were common, including needle sharing (23.2%) and history of overdose (10.4%). Baseline assessments showed moderate to severe opioid dependence, with most participants initiated on BPN at 4–6 mg.

At the study endpoint, 27.7% remained active in treatment, 7.3% had transitioned to methadone, and 61.8% were lost to follow-up, with small numbers completing treatment (1.8%) or recorded as deceased (1.4%). Retention declined from 57.3% at three months to 28.2% at twelve months, with Yangon performing somewhat better than the other sites. Self-reported heroin use was nearly universal at baseline (99.6%) but dropped sharply following treatment initiation, with only 1.6% reporting ongoing use at twelve months. Urine testing coverage increased markedly after baseline and remained high, peaking at 90.4% at month six. Morphine positivity showed the most consistent decline, from 84.6% at baseline to 2.5% at twelve months. Other substances, including cannabis and diazepam, also decreased to complete absence by the end of follow-up, while amphetamine use declined from 24.6% to 5.0% with a minor fluctuation at month nine. Methadone was rarely detected throughout. Collectively, these findings demonstrate that buprenorphine treatment was associated with meaningful reductions in opioid and poly-drug use, with moderate retention under challenging operational and security conditions.

Overall, the study demonstrated that buprenorphine maintenance treatment is feasible, acceptable, and effective in Myanmar. While retention challenges remain, BPN offers distinct advantages over methadone, making it a vital option for scaling up OAMT and strengthening HIV prevention efforts among people who use drugs.

The Philippines

Policy and Research

In 2025, the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), through the Policy Studies, Research and Statistics Division (PSRSD), sustained its role as the government's repository of data and information on drug abuse prevention and control by advancing evidence generation, knowledge dissemination, and policy reform initiatives grounded in a public health and human rights-based approach.

A key milestone under this thematic area was the annual publication of the DDB Policy and Research Bulletin. This initiative served as a strategic knowledge product aimed at translating research findings into accessible and actionable insights for policymakers, program implementers, local government units, and development partners. By consolidating relevant data, emerging trends, and policy perspectives, the Bulletin strengthened the evidence base supporting national and local interventions on drug demand reduction and related areas.

Complementing this effort, the DDB also convened its annual Policy and Research Forum initiative, which served as a platform for presenting and critically examining ongoing studies and policy-relevant research. The Dangerous Drugs Board has also undertaken in-depth research initiatives on Understanding the Relationship Between Employment and Drug Use Among Filipinos Undergoing Treatment and Rehabilitation: A Preliminary Study, which explored the intersection of socio-economic factors and substance use, underscoring the importance of employment as a protective and rehabilitative factor. Another significant study was the Process Evaluation of the Consolidated Revised Rules Governing Access to Treatment and Rehabilitation, which identified gaps in policy design and implementation, providing concrete recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, coherence, and responsiveness of existing regulatory frameworks.

At the policy development level, the DDB played a central role in the ongoing review of Republic Act No. 9165, particularly its contributions in the inter-agency discussions. The review process covered a broad spectrum of proposed reforms, including the strengthening of drug prevention and control strategies, enhancement of the functionality of local anti-drug abuse councils, rationalization of penalties for low-level drug offenses, establishment of special courts for drug-related cases, refinement of drug testing procedures, and the regionalization of enforcement mechanisms.

The proposed reforms emphasize the integration of a public health-centered and human rights-based approach in shaping legislative reforms. Key policy considerations that emerged included the need to update legal definitions to address evolving challenges such as online drug-related activities and the proliferation of new psychoactive substances; the expansion of diversion programs and community-based rehabilitation for low-level offenders; the strengthening of inter-agency data sharing mechanisms; and the institutionalization of clear procedural safeguards to uphold due process and protect individual rights.

These policy and research initiatives collectively reflect the government's continuing efforts to transition toward a more balanced, evidence-based, and people-centered drug policy framework. They are firmly aligned with the Enhanced Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS), which anchors national action on three core pillars: drug demand reduction, supply reduction, and health, social, and developmental services.

Management, Maintenance, and Enhancement of Data Collection:

Parallel to its policy and research initiatives, the DDB intensified efforts to strengthen data governance and digital infrastructure systems to support evidence-informed decision-making. Central to this is the ongoing enhancement of the Treatment and Rehabilitation Admission Information System (TRAIS), the national data management platform for monitoring admissions, treatment modalities, discharge status, and aftercare interventions for persons who use drugs (PWUDs), is being enhanced to improve data collection and analysis.

This ongoing activity involves updating the list of accredited Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DATRCs) reporting to the TRAIS. As of 31 December 2025, ninety-nine (99) accredited DATRCs are under monitoring.

DOH Accredited Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (As of 31 December 2025):

Classification	Residential	Non-Residential	Residential with Out-Patient Services	Total
Government	12	8	16	36
Non-Government	60	1	2	63
Total	**72**	**9**	**18**	**99**

As of 31 December 2025, a total of ninety-nine (99) Department of Health-accredited Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DATRCs) are monitored under TRAIS, comprising both government and non-government facilities across residential and non-residential modalities. This expanded coverage reflects sustained efforts to improve the completeness and reliability of national treatment data.

As part of continual improvement, a series of consultative meetings was held to enhance data collection. One effort is to develop methods to improve data collection on drug consumption and related matters.

A focused consultation meeting was held in a hybrid format on April 28-30, 2025, to identify challenges, issues, and concerns encountered when using the system and when reporting. Likewise, recommendations from the DATRCs were collected to improve data quality and reporting.

The kick-off meeting for the development of TRAIS v.2 and the migration of the legacy database was held on October 20, 2025. End-user training for the National Capital Region (NCR) batch was also held on December 2-4, 2025, to equip authorized and alternate personnel to use the system.

On December 12, 2025, a consultative meeting was held to review the dashboard for TRAIS data and information. This will help top-level management access information more easily.

The DDB, through the Policy Studies, Research and Statistics Division (PSRSD), maintains the Anti-Drug Abuse Council Reporting System (ADAC-RS). The system serves as a repository for persons who use drugs (PWUDs) reported by Local Government Units (LGUs) nationwide. It was established to record the number of drug surrenderers nationwide and those enrolled in the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program (CBDRP). The City and Municipality Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (ADACs) have used the system since 2016. The system is currently being enhanced to better meet stakeholder needs. A policy guideline review was conducted in 2025 to provide end-users with guidance on using the system and to clarify their roles and responsibilities.

Furthermore, Form 7-06 of the DDB's Integrated Drug Abuse Data Information Network (IDADIN) is intended to be developed and renamed the Drug Analysis and Profiling Information System (DAPIS). It concerns data on the analysis, profiling, and composition of seized drugs, controlled precursors, and essential chemicals, along with the corresponding laboratory reports of qualitative and quantitative analyses, including a list of equipment, instruments, apparatus, and paraphernalia; these are to be reported quarterly by forensic laboratories. A series of consultative meetings was held to identify law enforcement needs. The system's users are the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the Philippine National Police, and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate the DDB's sustained commitment to strengthening data ecosystems and digital infrastructure in support of a more coordinated, data-driven, and responsive national drug control strategy. Through the combined efforts of the Policy Studies, Research and Statistics Division, and the Management Information Systems Division, the Board continues to institutionalize systems that enhance data integrity, interoperability, and accessibility, ultimately contributing to more effective policy development, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

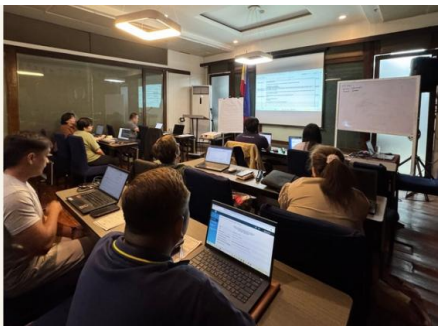
Information System Innovations and Training

The Philippines also prioritizes information system innovations and capacity-building initiatives for personnel to improve data management and intelligence capabilities. These programs strengthen the skills of law enforcement and service providers while fostering partnerships that support a coordinated, evidence-based, and technology-driven response to the drug problem.

In line with these efforts, several information systems have been developed to support implementation, such as the Anti-Drug Abuse Council Reporting System, which facilitates the streamlined submission of reports from local anti-drug abuse councils on interventions and services provided to Persons Who Use Drugs (PWUDs).

User Acceptance Testing (UAT) were conducted to assess the functionality and usability of the Anti-Drug Abuse Council Reporting System, focusing on identifying system issues, validating core features, and gathering feedback to support continuous improvement of the reporting process.





This ensures improved system performance, accurate data submission, and more efficient reporting operations.

The Treatment and Rehabilitation Information System (TRAIS) is also utilized to monitor admissions in residential and outpatient facilities. System users were trained on its features and processes to ensure accurate monitoring of admissions and efficient data management.





Two web-based systems were also developed as part of regulatory measures. The Online Application for Certification and Exemption Information System streamline the application, processing, and issuance of certificates for non-controlled chemicals and exemptions for products containing controlled substances.

Meanwhile, the Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals Monitoring System tracks imports, exports, and production to prevent the diversion of these substances from legitimate use.

In a separate initiative, training sessions were conducted to familiarize stakeholders and system users with the features and processes of these online regulatory systems, ensuring accurate data entry, efficient application processing, and effective monitoring.



Singapore

Lifetime Costs of Drug Abusers in Singapore

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Background/Aims

The study uses primary data collected from a sample of drug abusers in Singapore to estimate the lifetime loss of income due to drug abuse. This represents the first attempt in Singapore to quantify such costs using primary data collected through a well-designed survey on drug abusers. In this report, we estimate private costs to individuals measured through lifetime wage loss using fixed-effects regressions to isolate the causal impact of drug offences on wage loss. This analysis focuses specifically on quantifying the private costs borne by individuals measured through direct wage penalties potentially due to employment disruptions, human capital depreciation from skill atrophy, and opportunity costs of incarceration.

Methodology

We collected primary data through a self-administered survey questionnaire distributed at four Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) reporting centres across Singapore. A total of 80 participants were recruited: individuals arrested two times (DRC-2) as well as three times (DRC-3) or more, who were aged 21 and above with basic English proficiency. Participants were recruited evenly across the centres to ensure regional representation. The survey, which took around one hour to complete, examined participants' drug-related experiences and the associated financial impacts.

Our analysis draws upon panel dataset consisting of 80 individuals with a total of 696 observations. The sample composes of repeat abusers, whom we have classified into two primary groups for analytical purposes: (1) two-time abusers with n=27 and (2) three-time or more abusers with n=53.

To estimate the private economic cost of drug abuse, we focus on nominal wages forgone resulting from reduced labour market participation and human capital depreciation due to atrophy of skills. Figure 1 illustrates the dynamic impact of drug abuse over time highlighting key phases: active addiction before first arrest (characterised by possibility of declining productivity or even increasing productivity to finance drug taking), period of incarceration (characterised by zero formal earnings) and post-recovery (characterised by

potential wage scarring[3]). This allows us to have a more precise estimation of cumulative income losses over the individual's lifecycle due to drug abuse.

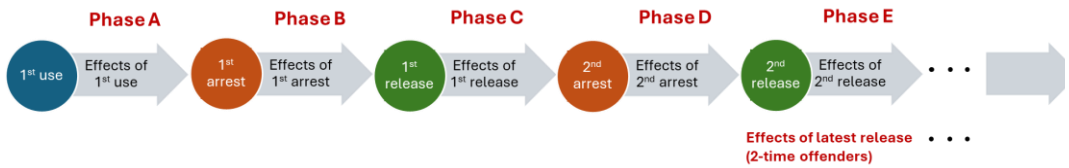


Figure 1: Timeline of drug abuse

We examine how wages change as individuals progress through sequential stages of drug abuse from initial use to potential recidivism. To answer this question, we use a fixed-effects regression framework to isolate the impact of each critical phase on logarithmic nominal monthly wages.

Findings

Table 1 summarises the key findings and reveals that initial drug use is associated with a short-term 6.97% increase in earnings. This is possibly due to intensified labour to fund drug consumption. Moving forward, first-time arrests lead to a 10.4% decline in wages upon release, though this estimate is statistically insignificant. Post-release, first-time abusers experience a 2.42% annual wage growth which is lower than the 3.5% national benchmark for comparable non-abusers. The effects compound for subsequent arrests. A second arrest is associated with a 26.7% decline upon release and annual wage growth slows to only 2.35%. Chronic abusers with three or more-time arrests experience near-stagnant wage trajectories with an annual growth rate of 1.28%.

Table 1: Growth rate of annual nominal wages at different phases

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	1st use	1st arrest	1st release (1-time)	2nd arrest	Latest release (2-time)	Latest release (3-time or more)
Average change per year	6.97%	-10.4%	2.42%	-26.7%	2.35%	1.28%

Notes. Annual wage growth is 3.5% for comparable non-abusers.

[3] Wage scarring refers to the negative long-term impact of an individual's future wage earnings potential after experiencing unemployment (may be due to incarceration or other disruptive labour market events such as prolonged illness or addiction) even after they return to work. It is essentially a lasting scar on an individual's earnings trajectory due to a period of unemployment. This phenomenon can lead to lower wages, reduced job quality and persistent income losses compared to those who did not face such disruptions.

Benchmarking against the Ministry of Manpower nominal wage growth average of 3.5% (2001-2023) (Ministry of Manpower, 2024), we estimate the cumulative lifetime income losses as shown in Table 2. We find that the compounding effect of these declines and diminished recoveries creates an irreversible economic divergence. By the retirement age of 63, cumulative income losses are S$598,306 for first-time abusers, S$1.05 million for two-time abusers, and more than S$1.25 million for chronic abusers with three or more arrests. It is noted that these estimates are conservative as adopting the national nominal wage growth average of 3.8% (2014-2024) would yield even greater losses.

Table 2: Lifetime nominal wage losses per drug abuser

	1-time	2-time	3-time or more
Cumulative wage loss per abuser	S$598,306	$1,050,342	S$1,250,528

Two critical patterns emerge: (1) persistent wage penalties for drug offences accumulate non-linearly, and (2) the capacity for post-release wage recovery diminishes with recidivism. The window between first release and second arrest estimated in this study appears as a critical window for targeted policy interventions to disrupt this downward trajectory.

In addition to the wage loss associated with drug abuse, the average annual spending on drugs before the first, second, and most recent (third or subsequent) arrests is estimated at S$7,620, S$6,537 and S$6,243 respectively. When these annual expenditures are multiplied by the number of years individuals reported using drugs before each arrest, the total spending amounts to S$22,861 prior to the first arrest, S$19,611 prior to the second arrest, and S$24,971 prior to the most recent arrest, as summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Total spending on drugs at different life stages

	Before 1st arrest	Before 2nd arrest	Before latest arrest (3rd or more)
Annual spending on drugs	S$7,620	S$6,537	S$6,243
Number of years before arrest	3	3	4
Total spending on drugs	S$22,861	S$19,611	S$24,971

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest dollar for presentation. Hence, there may be slight difference in the actual values.

Table 4 presents the cumulative drug expenditure for different types of abusers. For individuals with one-time arrest, the total cost which corresponds to the amount spent before their first arrest is estimated at S$22,861. For those who were arrested for the second time, cumulative spending includes expenditures incurred before both the first and second arrests, amounting to S$42,472 which is computed by adding S$22,861 with S$19,611. Following the same logic, drug abusers arrested for the third time or more incur a total spending of S$67,443.

Table 4: Cumulative spending on drugs by type of abuser

	1-time	2-time	3-time or more
Cumulative spending on drugs	S$22,861	S$42,472	S$67,443

Notes: For 3-time or more offenders, the above shows cumulative spending for their latest arrest. For instance, for a 3-time abuser, it is the spending for 1st time+2nd time+3rd time. For a 4-time abuser, it is the spending for 1st time + 2nd time + 4th time. To be more accurate, it should have been 1st time + 2nd time + 3rd time + 4th time. However, we only have data for their latest arrest.

We use cost estimates from Quah and Chia (2013) to approximate the value of psychological pain and suffering (VPS) experienced by family members. As in the previous study commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), we assume that drug abusers with no additional criminal offences cause the least psychological harm, followed by those who have committed other crimes. Divorced abusers, regardless of whether they committed other crimes, are assumed to cause the most psychological distress, given the heightened emotional dependency of family members on a single parent. Table 5 summarises them into the three categories along with the corresponding estimated costs of family psychological pain and suffering.

Table 5: Psychological pain on drug abusers' families

	Non-divorced	Non-divorced with other crimes	Divorced
Number of observations	14 (19%)	17 (23%)	42 (58%)
2024 cost per abuser	S$45,733	S$293,428	S$380,118

Notes: In the 1st wave of our survey, respondents were not asked if they committed other crimes. This explains the missing observations.

Table 6 presents a comprehensive estimation of the unit value of lifetime cost associated with drug abuse, disaggregated by the characteristics of abusers. The total cost per abuser is calculated by summing the individual cost (including wage loss and drug expenditure) and family psychological cost across nine distinct categories of abusers. These categories are based on combinations of the number of arrests, marital status and criminal behaviour in addition to drug abuse. Based on this analysis, we highlight some key findings:

(a) Repeated drug abusers incur significantly higher lifetime wage losses of up to S$1.25 million per person.
(b) Cumulative drug expenditure increases with the number of arrests, with three-time or more abusers spending an average of S$67,443 on drugs.
(c) Divorced drug abusers impose the highest psychological costs on their families, estimated at S$380,118 per abuser.
(d) The unit value per drug offence ranges widely, starting from a minimum of S$666,900 to as much as S$1.7 million, depending on the abuser's profile.

(e) By combining the proportion of abusers in each category with the corresponding unit value of lifetime cost, it is possible for us to estimate the total cost attributable to drug abuse.

Table 6: Unit value of lifetime cost of drug abuse by type of abuser

	(a) Non-divorced		
	1-time	**2-time**	**3-time or more**
Wage loss	S$598,306	S$1,050,342	S$1,250,528
Cumulative drug expenditure	S$22,861	S$42,472	S$67,443
Cost of pain and suffering to family	S$45,733	S$45,733	S$45,733
Total cost	S$666,900	S$1,138,547	S$1,363,704
	(b) Non-divorced with other offence		
	1-time	2-time	3-time or more
Wage loss	S$598,306	S$1,050,342	S$1,250,528
Cumulative drug expenditure	S$22,861	S$42,472	S$67,443
Cost of pain and suffering to family	S$293,428	S$293,428	S$293,428
Total cost	S$914,595	S$1,386,242	S$1,611,399
	(c) Divorced		
	1-time	2-time	3-time or more
Wage loss	S$598,306	S$1,050,342	S$1,250,528
Cumulative drug expenditure	S$22,861	S$42,472	S$67,443
Cost of pain and suffering to family	S$380,118	S$380,118	S$380,118
Total cost	S$1,001,285	S$1,472,932	S$1,698,089

Notes: Our figures are calculated using the hypothetical scenario where one first took drugs at the age of 21 and retires at the age of 63.

Implications

Wage loss is by far the largest cost component of drug abuse. Chronic drug abuse substantially weakens long-term earning potential, likely due to reduced productivity, employability and career advancement. This suggests the economic rationale for early intervention and rehabilitation at it could generate larger economic returns by preserving

labour market attachment. Additionally, the escalating wage and cumulative drug-related costs confirm a nonlinear progression of harm where the economic damage from a third-time abuser is disproportionately severe. Consequently, prevention efforts should extend beyond first-time abusers to target repeat abusers more intensively.

The repercussions of drug abuse extend beyond the abuser. It imposes significant burdens on spouses, children and broader family networks. This study provides supports for holistic treatment strategies that include family counselling, parenting programs, and targeted support for children of drug abusers. Although drug spending rises with repeated use, our findings suggest that this spending never exceeded 6% of total lifetime cost, even among the most chronic abusers. This means that the direct cost of drugs constitutes only a small fraction of the total economic cost, the majority stems from indirect costs, such as lost wages and family breakdowns. Estimates that focus only on out-of-pocket drug expenses would thus significantly underestimate the societal cost of drug abuse and addiction. This highlights the important of incorporating opportunity costs and social externalities to better reflect the true economic costs of drug abuse.

In summary, this study reinforces that the true cost of drug abuse is multifaceted – economic, social and psychological, and grows disproportionately with repeated use. Effective public policy must prioritise early intervention, intensity efforts to curb recidivism, mitigate familial and social spillovers, and address it as a systemic economic threat with intergenerational consequences.

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Thailand

National Prevalence and Characteristics of Substance Use in Thailand: A 2024 Update

Manop Kanato, Poonrut Leyatikul, and Rungsiya Wonguppa

Introduction

Substance abuse continues to pose a formidable global challenge, profoundly impacting public health, social stability, and economic development (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2024). In 2022, an estimated 292 million individuals aged 15 to 64 years reported illicit drug use worldwide. This figure includes 228 million cannabis users, 60 million opium users, 30 million amphetamine users, 23.5 million cocaine users, and 20 million ecstasy users (UNODC, 2024). These statistics highlight the pervasive nature of drug use and underscore the urgent need for empirically grounded interventions to mitigate its multifaceted consequences.

Historically, the use of psychoactive substances, particularly those derived from plants, dates back approximately 50,000 years (Merlin, 2003). In Southeast Asia, evidence of such practices extends over 15,000 years (Sullivan et al., 2002), initially serving medicinal and ritualistic purposes. Over time, these practices evolved to encompass recreational consumption, reflecting broader sociocultural transitions (Courtwright, 2001).

In Thailand, opium was introduced during the Sukhothai era, leading to significant societal consequences in the Ayutthaya period. Concerns over addiction-related dysfunctions, notably the erosion of economic productivity, prompted King Ramathibodi I to enact punitive measures, codified in the Royal Code of Criminal Offenses (B.E. 1609) (Office of the Narcotics Control Board [ONCB], 2011). Successive monarchs continued this regulatory trajectory through a series of legislative instruments, including the Act of Prohibiting the Purchase of Opium (1811), the Decree of Prohibition of Smoking Opium (1819), and the Opium Tax Act (1871) (ONCB, 2011). Thailand's drug policy has since transitioned from colonial-era opium regulation to contemporary legislative frameworks such as the Narcotics Act (1979), the Psychotropic Substances Act (2016), and the Decree on Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention (1990) (ONCB, 2023a).

Despite sustained legal efforts, Thailand's substance use problem has not abated. Instead, it has diversified, shifting from traditional substances like opium, cannabis, and kratom to synthetic drugs and misused pharmaceuticals (Kanato et al., 2020; ONCB, 2021). This trend highlights the resilience and adaptability of the illicit drug market and underscores

the necessity for dynamic, integrated policy responses addressing both supply- and demand-side factors (Degenhardt & Hall, 2012).

The current legal architecture in Thailand primarily targets substances with high abuse potential, delineated in four key statutes: the Narcotic Act (B.E. 2522), the Psychotropic Substances Act (B.E. 2559), the Decree on Volatile Substance Prevention (B.E. 2533), and the Commodity Control Act (B.E. 2495) (ONCB, 2023b). Notably, these laws exclude regulated legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and caffeinated beverages, thereby emphasizing the distinct public health risks associated with illicit drugs.

Recent data further reinforce the gravity of the situation. In 2019, the UNODC (2021) reported that 275 million individuals globally—approximately 5.5% of the population aged 15–64—had used drugs in the previous year, with 36.3 million requiring treatment for substance use disorders. Regionally, the 2019 ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report indicated that 430,187 individuals accessed drug treatment services, with 73.8% of cases involving amphetamine-type stimulants (ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report, 2020). In Thailand, a national household survey estimated that 1.91 million individuals, or 2.62% of those aged 12–65, had used at least one illicit drug that year (Kanato et al., 2020).

Comprehensive and up-to-date epidemiological data are imperative to understand the evolving drug landscape and to inform evidence-based policy and intervention strategies. The first formal effort to estimate Thailand's drug-using population dates back to 1985, via Hirunrak and Piranpitak's pilot study using the Key Informant Survey System (Hirunrak & Piranpitak, 1985). This was followed by the 1993–1994 study by the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), which employed mixed methods to estimate 1.27 million drug users (Thailand Development Research Institute, 1994). Despite their contributions, these studies faced limitations in sampling representativeness and methodological precision.

In response, the ONCB partnered with the Administrative Committee on Substance Abuse Academic Network (ACSAN) in 2001 to initiate a nationally representative household survey, based on World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed population-based methodologies (ACSAN, 2001). This survey, covering nine substances and sampling 40 provinces, estimated over 7.3 million lifetime users and identified 1.94 million past-year users, particularly of methamphetamine, cannabis, and kratom (ACSAN, 2001).

Subsequent national surveys were conducted in 2004, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2016, and 2019, providing invaluable trend data and informing national prevention and treatment initiatives (Kanato et al., 2020; ONCB, 2021). Yet, the rapid evolution of drug use across age groups, regions, and substance types necessitates continuous monitoring. Recognizing this, a new nationwide survey has been scheduled for 2024 to provide updated and actionable data for public health and policy stakeholders.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this study are to:

1. Estimate the number of individuals in Thailand engaged in drug use in 2024.
2. Determine the prevalence of substance use, disaggregated by specific drug categories and usage patterns.

Methods

1. Study Design

This study employed a descriptive, cross-sectional design utilizing a nationwide household survey to estimate the prevalence and distribution of drug use in Thailand in 2024. The methodology aligns with best practices recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for generating population-level data on substance use behaviors (World Health Organization, 2003).

2. Population and Sample

2.1 Target Population

The target population comprised Thai nationals registered in the national population database. As of mid-2024, the total population was 64,753,796, with 49,055,591 individuals aged 12 to 65 years, the defined age range for survey eligibility. Geographically, 16.6 million resided in urban municipalities (including Bangkok), while 32.4 million lived in non-municipal (rural) areas. The population was nearly evenly distributed by gender: 24.15 million males and 24.91 million females (National Statistical Office, 2024). Eligible households were identified from updated community maps and included only those occupied for at least six months prior to the survey date.

2.2 Sample Size and Inclusion Criteria

The study sample included Thai residents aged 12–65 who had lived in the household for at least three months within the past year. The final sample consisted of 34,410 individuals from 17,205 households across 27 provinces. Sample size estimation was based on prior prevalence rates (ranging from 17.48 to 240.72 per 1,000), a margin of error of 1%, and a design effect of 8 to accommodate complex sampling structures (Kish, 1965).

2.3 Sampling Methodology

A five-stage stratified cluster sampling approach was employed to ensure national representativeness:

Stage 1 – Province Selection: Thailand was divided into 10 strata based on the ONCB's operational zones. A total of 27 provinces (including 17 districts within Bangkok) were selected using probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling.

Stage 2 – Sub-district Selection: From the selected provinces, 533 sub-districts were systematically sampled based on population distribution.

Stage 3 – Community Selection: From these sub-districts, 1,165 communities or villages were selected via PPS-sampling.

Stage 4 – Household Selection: Within the sampled communities, 17,205 households were chosen using systematic PPS methods.

Stage 5 – Participant Selection: Within each selected household, eligible residents were stratified by gender. One male and one female participant were selected using simple random sampling (via random number tables), yielding a final sample of 34,410 individuals.

3. Data Collection

Trained field researchers conducted structured, face-to-face interviews between March and October 2024. The questionnaire was standardized and aligned with WHO guidelines for substance use surveys (World Health Organization, 2003). Participants under 12 years of age were excluded due to potential cognitive and communicative limitations. To account for gender-based differences in substance use patterns, the survey ensured equal representation of male and female respondents.

3.1 Data Collection Teams

Data collection was coordinated by six regionally assigned academic research teams:

- Northeastern Region: Center for Addiction Science, Vongchavalitkul University
- Northern Region: Health Sciences Research Institute, Chiang Mai University
- Eastern Region: Social Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University
- Central Region: College of Public Health, Chulalongkorn University
- Southern Region: Southern Academic and Research Network on Substance Abuse, Prince of Songkla University
- Bangkok/Western Region: ISAN Substance Abuse Academic Network, Khon Kaen University

3.2 Data Collection Procedures

Fieldworkers underwent extensive training, including mock interviews and evaluations, to ensure methodological consistency (Groves et al., 2004). Each team comprised eight field staff supervised by a senior researcher. Participants were given a full day to consider participation after being informed of the study's purpose. If a participant was

unavailable, up to three follow-up appointments were scheduled. Non-participation after the third attempt was recorded as a refusal. Completed interview forms were reviewed daily for completeness and accuracy by the field supervisor and independently validated by another team member before submission.

4. Data Management and Analysis

The data management process involved several phases: validation (checks for completeness, logical consistency, and missing data), coding (using a predefined codebook for standardized variable coding), entry (employing a double-entry method to minimize transcription errors, followed by discrepancy reconciliation), and quality assurance (flagging and correcting outliers and inconsistencies). Descriptive statistics (frequencies, means, medians, interquartile ranges) and point estimates were generated using statistical software to assess prevalence and demographic patterns (IBM Corp., 2023).

5. Ethical Considerations

The study funded by ONCB which received ethical approval from the Vongchavalitkul University Ethics Committee (Reference No. 050/2567). Informed consent was obtained from all participants; for minors, parental or guardian consent was also required. Confidentiality was strictly maintained, and data were used solely for research purposes, adhering to international ethical standards (World Medical Association, 2013).

Results

The 2024 national household survey revealed that substance use remains a significant public health concern in Thailand. Approximately 9.40 million individuals (19.16% of the population aged 12–65 years) reported lifetime use of at least one illicit substance. Past-year use was reported by 6.01 million individuals (12.24%), while past-month use involved 4.44 million individuals (9.06%). Furthermore, 1.83 million individuals (3.73%) were classified as habitual users, defined as consuming drugs on at least 20 days in the past month.

Substance-Specific Prevalence

Methamphetamine tablets (Yaba) remained the most frequently used drug across all temporal measures, with 3.08 million lifetime users and over 1.57 million past-year users.

Other substances with notable prevalence, in descending order of lifetime use, included crystal methamphetamine (Ice), ecstasy, heroin, ketamine, cocaine, opium, and inhalants. Polydrug use was reported by approximately 1 million individuals, highlighting a growing complexity in drug use patterns.

Following their recent decriminalization, kratom and cannabis displayed distinct and high prevalence patterns. Kratom was reported by 5.93 million lifetime users, 3.85 million past-year users, and 1.32 million frequent users. Cannabis showed 3.66 million lifetime users, 1.59 million past-year users, and 353,000 frequent users. These figures represent a notable increase compared to pre-legalization baselines, suggesting an upward shift in normalization and accessibility.

Demographic Profile of Past-Year

Users Among past-year users (6,005,450):

Gender: The majority were male (80.15%), with a male-to-female ratio of approximately 4:1. Females constituted 19.85% of past-year users.

Age: The largest proportion (52.97%) fell within the working-age adult group (26–50 years). Youth (18–25 years) accounted for 17.57%, and adolescents (12–17 years) represented 5.80%.

Education: Most users had primary (31.36%) or lower secondary (33.19%) education. Only 7.65% held a bachelor's degree or higher.

Occupation: Basic laborers formed the largest occupational group (55.93%), followed by formal employees (13.73%), students and retirees (18.47%), and self-employed workers.

Psychological Risk Assessment and Comorbidities

The WHO Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) revealed significant psychological risk among users:

Among amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) users, 266,643 (15%) were classified as high-risk, while 1.06 million (60%) fell into the moderate-risk category.

For opioid users, 13,000 were high-risk, and 119,274 were moderate risk.

Cannabis and kratom users also demonstrated considerable mental health overlap, with over 295,000 and 261,000 moderate-risk users, respectively.

Regarding observed mental health comorbidities

405,623 individuals (6.75%) exhibited observable psychiatric symptoms.

An additional 2,196,475 individuals (36.57%) were at risk of developing mental disorders.

Geographically, Northeast showed the highest concentration of users with reported psychological symptoms.

These results underscore the growing dual burden of substance use and mental health disorders, highlighting significant implications for integrated treatment planning.

Discussion

The present findings underscore the evolving and entrenched nature of substance use in Thailand. While historical analyses have largely focused on legislative efforts and enforcement (ONCB, 2011), this study reveals a complex interplay of individual, structural, and socio-cultural determinants, each contributing to the resilience of drug use across diverse population segments.

The pervasive prevalence of methamphetamine use, in particular, can be interpreted through the lens of ecological systems theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979), which emphasizes how behavior is shaped by multiple layers of environmental influence—from immediate family and peer groups to broader societal norms and policies. The widespread accessibility of Yaba and the increase in habitual users suggest breakdowns not only at the individual or familial level but also in institutional and policy-based protective systems (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2020).

Furthermore, social learning theory (Bandura, 1977) helps explain the persistent clustering of substance use within demographic groups, especially among youth and marginalized communities. Repeated exposure to drug use within peer networks, combined with perceived social rewards and lack of negative consequences, normalizes consumption patterns and reinforces risky behaviors (Akers, 1998).

From a public health ethics perspective, the increase in habitual and polydrug use also highlights systemic gaps in treatment accessibility and stigma reduction (Room, 2005). The dual burden of addiction and mental illness observed in nearly half of past-year users reflects a profound failure of integration between mental health and substance use services, as predicted by syndemic theory (Singer, 1994). This theory posits that social inequities exacerbate interconnected health issues, creating a synergistic effect that compounds public health challenges (Stenner et al., 2019).

The sharp increase in heroin use over the past decade, mirroring global trends (UNODC, 2021), may further reflect shifting drug market economies. This aligns with supply-demand theory and risk environment frameworks (Rhodes, 2002), where changes in enforcement, price, or availability can redirect consumption patterns toward more potent or cost-effective alternatives. For instance, increased interdiction of certain synthetic drugs might inadvertently push users towards more traditional, yet equally harmful, substances like heroin (Collins & Lapsley, 2019).

In sum, the Thai drug landscape is shaped not by isolated behavioral choices but by dynamic systems of inequality, policy, peer influence, and psychological vulnerability. This necessitates a paradigm shift from punitive deterrence to evidence-based, multilevel interventions that address the root causes and contributing factors of substance use (McKenzie et al., 2010).

Conclusion

The 2024 National Household Survey reveals that substance use in Thailand is both prevalent and multifaceted, with increasing rates of methamphetamine, heroin, cannabis, and kratom use. Habitual use and psychiatric comorbidities are rising, particularly among men and working-age adults. The evolving patterns of drug consumption—especially the rise in polydrug use and the normalization of legalized substances—require a strategic reevaluation of current prevention and treatment models. Rather than isolated or static, drug use in Thailand is an adaptive phenomenon shaped by structural vulnerabilities, historical trajectories, and evolving normative frameworks. Comprehensive, theory-informed responses are urgently needed to disrupt the ongoing cycle of addiction and societal harm.

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From Data to Future Surveillance: The Development of the Thai Monitoring the Youth Drug Situation (TMDS) System

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Abstract

Background and Objective: The global and national landscape of adolescent substance use is rapidly transforming due to the expansion of digital environments and shifting societal norms, rendering traditional, reactive data collection insufficient. This paper details the development and implementation of the Thai Monitoring the Youth Drug Situation (TMDS), a continuous longitudinal surveillance infrastructure designed to track behavioral trends and inform evidence-based public health policy.

Methods: Employing a Research and Development (R&D) methodology, the project transitioned from face-to-face interviews to a self-administered online survey framework to mitigate social desirability bias, increase school cooperation, and ensure ethical compliance. The pilot phase was implemented across 627 schools nationwide, yielding a robust dataset of 8,616 respondents ranging from late primary to vocational education levels.

Results: The findings indicate that youth substance use predominantly initiates with socially normalized "gateway" products, such as alcohol and e-cigarettes, prior to transitioning to illicit substances. An "information inversion" phenomenon was identified, demonstrating that increased access to digital media does not equate to accurate drug literacy or heightened risk perception. Youth consistently underestimated the risks of emerging substances, with usage driven by developmental milestones—such as curiosity and peer acceptance—rather than criminal intent, while social stigma remains a significant barrier to early intervention.

Conclusion: The TMDS paradigm shifts Thailand's epidemiological surveillance from static, cross-sectional snapshots to proactive, longitudinal forecasting. By tracking shifts in risk perception and early behavioral signals, the system functions as a critical early warning mechanism, empowering policymakers to anticipate and mitigate future drug-related challenges before they manifest into public health crises.

Significance of the Problem

Over the past decade, the global landscape of youth substance use has undergone structural transformations, with significant shifts in behavior, the types of substances used, usage patterns, and accessibility. The digital environment and social media platforms have unprecedentedly facilitated youth access to drug-related information and digital markets (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2023). According to the World Drug Report, youth represent the demographic experiencing the most rapid changes in consumption patterns, characterized by an increase in synthetic drugs, vaping products, and poly-substance use (UNODC, 2023).

Evidence from established longitudinal monitoring systems in developed nations corroborates these trends. The Monitoring the Future (MTF) project in the United States highlights that adolescent substance use trends shift rapidly in response to policy environments and societal risk perceptions, noting a substantial increase in e-cigarette and cannabis use among 13-18 year olds following 2019 (Johnston et al., 2022). Similarly, the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) reported a post-COVID-19 surge in cannabis experimentation and online substance access among youth (ESPAD Group, 2020). The World Health Organization's HBSC initiative further identified that risk perception and ease of access are critical predictors of adolescent substance use initiation (World Health Organization [WHO], 2021).

Developmental neuroscience demonstrates that between the ages of 10 and 18, the brain's decision-making centers remain underdeveloped while the reward-response system is highly sensitized, predisposing adolescents to risk-taking behaviors more than adults (Steinberg, 2015; Casey et al., 2019). Consequently, substance use typically initiates between the ages of 13 and 15, with behavioral patterns stabilizing during late adolescence (Steinberg, 2015).

Southeast Asia remains a critical epicenter for synthetic drugs, notably methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances (NPS), with domestic markets continuously expanding (UNODC, 2022). Regional trends also point to the rising non-medical use of prescription medications, the social normalization of substances like kratom and cannabis, and the proliferation of cross-border online trade (ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center, 2021). Despite these challenges, most ASEAN member states lack continuous youth behavioral monitoring systems, relying heavily on arrest or clinical treatment data that capture the problem in its late stages rather than detecting early behavioral signals (UNODC, 2022).

Thailand is currently navigating significant social and policy transitions—such as digital media expansion, evolving perceptions of cannabis and kratom, and surging youth e-cigarette use—that profoundly influence adolescent behavior (Office of the Narcotics Control Board [ONCB], 2022). Current national data systems, which depend primarily on treatment and law enforcement statistics, are insufficient to reflect early youth behaviors or perceptual shifts (Babor et al., 2018). When compared to established frameworks like the MTF and ESPAD, Thailand lacks a nationally representative, longitudinal data system capable of tracking annual behavioral trends (Johnston et al., 2022; ESPAD Group, 2020). Therefore, the development of the Thai Monitoring the Youth Drug Situation (TMDS) marks a vital transition toward an evidence-based, longitudinal monitoring infrastructure.

Methodology

The development of the TMDS employed a Research and Development (R&D) methodology conducted between 2021 and 2024. Historically, data collection on youth risk behaviors faced significant barriers; traditional face-to-face school interviews yielded a school

cooperation rate of less than 5% and student/parental consent rates below 20%, limiting the data's representativeness.

To mitigate ethical concerns, social stigma, and social desirability bias, the research team transitioned to a self-administered online survey platform. This methodological pivot successfully increased school participation rates to over 80% and student response rates to approximately 75%. The survey instrument encompasses five core dimensions: demographic data, attitudes and beliefs, risk perception, opinions on substances, and experience/access. Pilot testing across 40 schools nationwide demonstrated high internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = 0.86) and temporal stability over a 4-week interval (test-retest reliability = 0.89), validating the tool's standardization for a longitudinal national database.

Findings

The system was implemented in 627 schools nationwide, encompassing 8,616 respondents from late primary to vocational education levels. The pilot study yielded several critical insights:

• Gateway Behaviors: Substance use among Thai youth rarely begins with potent illicit drugs; instead, it initiates with easily accessible and socially normalized substances, such as alcohol and e-cigarettes, before progressing to other substances.

• Sentinel Site Indicators: In-depth data collected from high-risk or sentinel settings revealed prevalence rates exceeding the national average; these figures serve as crucial "behavioral signals" rather than absolute population estimates.

• Information Inversion: Drug literacy inversely correlated with age, wherein younger youth exhibited higher correct understanding than their older counterparts. This "information inversion" suggests that increased access to digital media does not inherently equate to accurate comprehension, and risk perception remains a primary determinant of experimentation.

• Risk Perception Gap: A substantial proportion of youth systematically underestimated the dangers of e-cigarettes, kratom, and alcohol, categorizing them as social activities rather than drug use. Drops in risk perception consistently precede actual increases in substance use.

• Developmental Context: Reported motivations for substance use—curiosity, peer acceptance, stress relief, and novelty-seeking—align with neurodevelopmental evidence regarding adolescent reward-seeking and risk assessment, indicating the necessity of public health and preventive interventions over purely punitive measures.

• Stigma as a Barrier: Despite low general support for substance use among youth, the social acceptance of users within educational settings remains poor, indicating high levels of stigma that can delay help-seeking and timely harm reduction interventions.

Discussion

Interpreting the TMDS findings alongside established international longitudinal systems, namely the US MTF and European ESPAD, provides a comprehensive view of the youth drug landscape.

• Similarities in Normalization: Consistent with data from the MTF and ESPAD, Thai youth initiate substance use via socially "normalized" products like nicotine and alcohol (Johnston et al., 2022; ESPAD Group, 2020). Prevention strategies focusing solely on illicit drugs are insufficient if they fail to address these foundational gateway behaviors.

• Rapid Behavioral Transitions: While foundational patterns align globally, Thailand demonstrates a highly accelerated behavioral transition—particularly regarding e-cigarettes, kratom, and online access—driven by socio-legal changes. Unlike Western nations with established continuous monitoring, the lack of robust tracking in ASEAN often results in delayed policy responses (UNODC, 2022).

• Cultural Context of Risk Perception: Both MTF and ESPAD indicate that diminished risk perception predicts increased substance use (Johnston et al., 2022; ESPAD Group, 2020). However, in Thailand, this phenomenon features a unique cultural nuance: youth often do not classify vaping, kratom, or alcohol as "drugs," dictating that risk communication must encompass the social meaning of these substances rather than just medical facts.

• Proactive Policy Implications: A primary lesson from the MTF and ESPAD is the capacity to evaluate policy impacts over time. The TMDS shifts the national strategy from reacting to late-stage problems to forecasting behavioral trends, acting as an essential public health and social security infrastructure.

Conclusion

The youth drug situation in Thailand is not merely fluctuating in prevalence; it is fundamentally transforming in its morphology. The knowledge, beliefs, and social environments of youth are evolving at a pace that outstrips traditional preventive methodologies. Transitioning from cross-sectional snapshots to a continuous longitudinal system, the TMDS acts as a "motion picture" capable of detecting early warning signals. This system represents a paradigm shift in Thailand's epidemiological surveillance, empowering policymakers to foresee and mitigate the future of the drug problem before it fully materializes.

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CHAPTER 5

Policy and Programme Implementation

Brunei Darussalam

Preventive Drug Education (PDE) in Brunei Darussalam forms part of the country's comprehensive approach towards drug demand reduction, with emphasis placed on awareness, advocacy and early prevention initiatives. In support of Brunei Darussalam's zero-tolerance policy against drugs, preventive efforts are aimed at fostering a safe, healthy and drug-free society.

Implemented by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), the programme seeks to enhance public awareness and understanding of the harmful effects of drugs,promote healthy lifestyles and strengthen resilience against drug abuse among all members of society. Preventive Drug Education programmes are delivered through various awareness and educational initiatives targeting different groups within the community to encourage informed and responsible decision-making.

As part of early intervention efforts, these programmes also aim to address the root causes of drug abuse, prevent involvement in drug-related activities and strengthen community awareness through the continuous dissemination of anti-drug messages.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Preventive Drug Education programmes in Brunei Darussalam are implemented through advocacy and publicity initiatives aimed at strengthening public awareness, promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing involvement in drug-related activities among all segments of society.

SCHOOL-BASED



School-based prevention programmes are implemented to enhance students' wareness and understanding of the harmful effects of drugs and the importance of adopting healthy and drug-free lifestyles.The programmes target students across various educational levels, including primary schools, secondary schools, tertiary institutions and universities.

Activities conducted include:

- Drug prevention awareness talks
- Educational exhibitions
- Interactive learning activities





The programmes provide information on the harmful consequences of drug abuse and drug-related offences,while encouraging informed and responsible decision-making among students. Special emphasis is placed on early preventive education for primary school students,including age-appropriate awareness on recognising risky situations, developing confidence to refuse drugs and building the ability to resist peer pressure or unwanted influence from others. Students are encouraged to make safe and responsible choices by learning practical refusal skills and understanding the importance of saying no to drugs.



STATISTICAL REPORT 2025 (JANUARY – DECAMBER)

School-Based

Type of Activities/Programmes	No. of Activities	No. of Audience
Talks	70	8315
Roadshow	4	1176
Exhibitions	12	1327
Visits to Mini PDE Gallery	16	585
Total	**102**	**11403**

COMMUNITY-BASED



Community-based prevention programmes are conducted to increase public awareness and understanding of drug-related issues through outreach and engagement initiatives involving various sectors of society. These programmes target government agencies, private organisations, workplaces,mosques, communities and organisations requesting preventive drug education programmes.

Activities conducted include:

- Drug prevention awareness talks at workplaces, government and private organisations and communities.
- Educational mini exhibitions in public areas and community programmes.
- Visits to the Mini PDE Gallery.
- Community outreach and engagement activities.





These programmes aim to enhance public understanding of the harmful effects of drugs, increase awareness of drug-related offences and promote informed and responsible decision-making while encouraging active community participation in drug prevention efforts. Community awareness sessions also provide guidance on appropriate actions when encountering suspected drugs or drug utensils, including avoiding direct contact, refraining from handling the items and promptly reporting the matter to the relevant authorities.

STATISTICAL REPORT 2025 (JANUARY – DECAMBER)				
	Community-Based		Work Place-Based	
Type of Activities/Programmes Conducted	No. of Activities	No. of Audience	No. of Activities	No. of Audience
Talks	9	544	25	1439
Roadshow	5	710	7	2025
Exhibitions	4	41	3	18
Visits to Mini PDE Gallery	2	83	7	208
Total	**20**	**1378**	**42**	**3690**

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME

Public awareness and publicity programmes are implemented through mass media and digital platforms to ensure the wide dissemination of anti-drug messages to various segments of society.

These initiatives are delivered through multiple communication channels,including social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, Radio Television Brunei (RTB) programmes, as well as the production and distribution of educational publications and printed materials.

Key activities include:

- Production of anti-drug songs, videos and infographics.
- Media coverage, including video and photography documentation of preventive drug education programmes.
- Drug prevention quizzes conducted in conjunction with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (HAD) awareness campaign.
- Preparation of Friday sermon texts in conjunction with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (HAD) awareness campaign.



In addition, educational materials such as brochures and information leaflets on drug prevention are developed and distributed to enhance public awareness and understanding of the harmful effects of drugs, as well as the legal consequences of drug abuse.



INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING (HAD),2025 PROGRAMMES

In conjunction with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (HAD) 2025, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) organized several programmes to strengthen public awareness on drug prevention, recovery and healthy lifestyles.

The initiatives aimed to promote community participation, strengthen family support and encourage a drug-free lifestyle while supporting the reintegration of former drug users into society.

RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

A Religious Ceremony was held on 26 June 2025 at NCB Headquarters to strengthen moral and spiritual values in supporting anti-drug efforts.

The programme included congregational prayers,recitation of Surah Yaasin and religious activities aimed at strengthening faith, unity and commitment towards preventing drug abuse and trafficking.

The initiative also reinforced the importance of collective responsibility in supporting prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation efforts.



BUKIT PATOI CHALLENGE



The Bukit Patoi Challenge was organised on 17 August 2025 at Bukit Patoi Forest Recreational Park, Temburong District, as part of HAD 2025 activities.

The programme aimed to raise public awareness on the dangers of drug abuse while promoting healthy lifestyles through physical activities and community participation

The event involved 76 participants, with an estimated attendance of approximately 250 people, including members of the public, officers and event personnel.

The initiative encouraged healthy living and strengthened community engagement in drug prevention efforts.



INTERNATIONAL RECOVERY DAY LAUNCH



On 11 October 2025, NCB organized the International Recovery Day Launch under the theme “Sinar Menuju Pemulihan” (Light Towards Recovery) in conjunction with HAD 2025.

The programme aimed to strengthen public awareness on recovery and rehabilitation and encourage family and community support for former drug users to reintegrate into society.



As part of the initiative, awareness materials promoting recovery and family support were introduced to encourage public understanding and acceptance of individuals undergoing recovery.

A two-day exhibition on recovery services and anti-drug awareness was also organized and attracted approximately 250 visitors.

MUNAJAT NIGHT PROGRAMME





The Munajat Night Programme was organized on 18 October 2025 in collaboration with the Ministry of Religious Affairs to strengthen spiritual support for individuals undergoing recovery and raise awareness on rehabilitation and reintegration.

The programme involved participation across all four districts through physical and virtual platforms involving NCB headquarters, regional offices and rehabilitation facilities.

A total of 419 participants joined the programme, reflecting encouraging public participation and inter-agency collaboration in supporting drug prevention and recovery efforts.

Indonesia

ASTA CITA – PRESIDEN PRABOWO'S POLICY



The vision of the administration of Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabuming Raka is "Together for a Prosperous Indonesia, Towards a Golden Indonesia in 2045", which is articulated through the eight missions of Asta Cita as the direction for national development, encompassing the strengthening of ideology, defence, the economy, human resources, downstream industrialisation, equitable distribution, reform, and environmental and social harmony; in the context of the National Narcotics Board's duties, the seventh mission is particularly relevant as a foundation for strengthening political, legal and bureaucratic reform, whilst simultaneously promoting more effective, integrated and sustainable efforts to prevent and eradicate drugs

NATIONAL MOVEMENT "ANANDA BERSINAR"

The ANANDA BERSINAR 2025 National Movement is a strategic policy initiated by the National Narcotics Board (BNN) under the direction of the Head of the BNN as an effort to strengthen drug prevention and eradication by transforming the P4GN programme into a national movement that is more humane, educational, and focused on families and the younger generation. This movement emphasises that efforts to combat drugs must begin at a young age by making the family, school, and community the main bulwarks, whilst encouraging the active participation of all elements of the nation in building sustainable resilience against the threat of drugs. In its implementation, ANANDA BERSINAR focuses not only on prevention but also encompasses education, rehabilitation, and community empowerment as part of a comprehensive strategy to create a healthy, principled, and drug-free generation of Indonesians.





BNN GOES TO SCHOOL



The BNN Goes to School programme is a priority initiative under the “Ananda Bersinar” scheme (National Anti-Drug Campaign and National Resilience Starting with Children), with the education sector as its primary focus. In schools, the BNN provides facilities ranging from urine testing stations to exhibition booths. During these activities, the Head of the Indonesian BNN interacts directly with pupils and teaching staff, providing education on

the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of building character, discipline and resilience. He also emphasised that pupils are national assets who must be protected from the threat of narcotics. At the end of the event, the Head of the BNN appointed two students from SMPN 70 as Anti-Drug Ambassadors. This symbolises the school's commitment to realising the 'Bersinar School' initiative.

INTEGRATION OF THE 'BERSINAR' ANTI-DRUGS CURRICULUM (IKAN BERSINAR)



The National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (Kemendikdasmen) have agreed to strengthen drug prevention in educational settings through curriculum integration, with the implementation of the IKAN BERSINAR programme (Integration of the Anti-Drug Curriculum) as a concrete manifestation of President Prabowo Subianto's 7th Asta Cita in the effort to prevent drug use through a soft power approach. Anti-drug education must begin at an early age, starting from early childhood education (PAUD/TK), primary school (SD), lower secondary school (SMP), up to upper secondary school (SMA/SMK) and equivalent levels, whilst also addressing the significant challenge posed by the emergence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) or new types of narcotics that often trigger violence and abuse among students. Through this programme, anti-drug material is no longer merely delivered in separate awareness-raising activities, but is integrated into the syllabus and Lesson Plans (RPP) for various subjects.



In addition to formal education, informal education involving the participation of the wider community, including parents and civil society organisations, is also vital, as is support for the “7 Habits of Great Indonesian Children” programme, so that Indonesian children can grow up strong and healthy. As a follow-up, the launch of the IKAN BERSINAR programme is scheduled to take place in East Java in mid-December 2025. Related educational materials will also be integrated into the “Rumah Pendidikan” digital platform to ensure they are easily accessible to teachers and pupils across Indonesia.

MINISTERIAL REGULATION NO. 15 OF 2025 ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF NARCOTICS

Ministry of Health Regulation No. 7 of 2025, promulgated on 30 June 2025, has added two new types of psychoactive substances, namely ALPHA-PROPYLAMINOPENTIOFENONE, also known as a-PROPYLAMINOPENTIOFENONE, N-PROPYLPENTEFRON, 2-PROPYLAMINO-1-PHENYLPENTANONE and 3,4-METHYLENEDIOXY-PV8, also known as MD-PV8 and MDPEP, to Schedule I of the Narcotics Act. Schedule I narcotics are substances that may only be used for scientific research purposes and not for therapeutic use, and which have a very high potential to cause dependence.

Subsequently, on 28 November 2025, Minister of Health Regulation No. 15 of 2025 was promulgated; this regulation repealed Minister of Health Regulation No. 7 of 2025 concerning Amendments to the Classification of Narcotics, specifically by adding one new psychoactive substance, Etomidate, to Category II of narcotic substances. Schedule II narcotics are medicinal narcotics used as a last resort and may be used in therapy and/or for scientific research purposes, whilst possessing a high potential for dependence.

As a follow-up to the Minister of Health Regulation Number 15 of 2025, The BNN's operation led to the seizure of 3000 cartridge tanks, 3000 cartridge caps, 1 glass bottle containing 4.9 liters of liquid containing etomidate, and the arrest of a distributor, emphasizing the evolving drug trafficking methods targeting young users through seemingly harmless products. The case underscores the serious health risks associated with etomidate and the importance of avoiding illegal substances

Malaysia

Introduction

Malaysia continues to strengthen its national drug policy through a balanced, evidence-based approach encompassing prevention, enforcement, treatment, and rehabilitation. A significant milestone was the amendment to the Drug Dependants (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983, which has been renamed the Drug Dependants and Drug Abusers (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983 [Act 283]. The amended legislation came into force on 22 August 2025, marking a pivotal step in modernizing Malaysia's legal framework for drug control and rehabilitation.

The amendment is based on the diversion policy, shifting the response to drug use from imprisonment to treatment and rehabilitation for eligible individuals. This reform seeks to balance public health priorities with public safety, while maintaining the integrity of the criminal justice framework. It does not decriminalize drug use or remove drug-related offences. Malaysia continues to regard drugs as the nation's foremost threat, with law enforcement agencies taking firm action against offences involving possession, trafficking, and distribution in line with existing laws.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), through the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), remains committed to a comprehensive and balanced strategy that integrates prevention, enforcement, treatment, and rehabilitation to address drug abuse and substance misuse nationwide.

Through these reforms and programme initiatives, Malaysia continues to advance a balanced, evidence-informed, and people-centred approach to drug demand reduction. At the same time, the country maintains firm enforcement against trafficking and other serious drug-related offences, underscoring its commitment to safeguarding public health, public safe-ty, and national security.

TREATMENT AND REHABILITATIO

Malaysia Reinforcing Drug Demand Reduction with Royal Advoca-cy and Community Engagement

NADA sets a new benchmark in community support through the organization of the 2025 Recovery Appreciation Day, themed "Aku, Keluarga dan AADK" (Myself, Family, and NADA), held at the Raia Hotel & Convention Centre on 23 November 2025. The event

was graced by His Royal Highness (HRH) the Raja Muda of Kedah, Tengku Sarafudin Badlishah, in the presence of Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail and Kedah Chief Minister Dato' Seri Muhammad Sanusi bin Md Nor.

The active involvement of HRH the Raja Muda of Kedah reflects the royal institution's strong commitment to advancing Malaysia's drug de-mand reduction agenda. In his royal address, HRH emphasized the need to eliminate stigma and extend collective, empathetic support to ensure recovering individuals are not marginalized.

The highlight of the event was the recognition of 500 individuals as "Heroes of Recovery" (Wira Kepulihan) for their success in maintaining long-term sobriety. The convention also featured the Sokongan Untuk Kepulihan Anda (SUKA) program, showcasing creative products developed by NADA clients to enhance economic empowerment and connect them with employment opportunities.

Overall, this strategic support initiative, strongly endorsed by the royal institution, has effectively reinforced the vital role of families and communities in providing a second chance for former addicts. It has enabled their seamless reintegration into society, ensuring recovery efforts are sustained through collective responsibility and compassionate engagement.



HRH Tengku Sarafudin Badlishah Ibni Al-Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin, the Raja Muda of Kedah, graces the Success Stories Exhibition of Recovering Addicts



Photo Session Featuring HRH the Raja Muda of Kedah, the Minister of Home Affairs, and the Chief Minister of Kedah with NADA's Top Management and Guests



NADA Recovery Appreciation Day 2025 Guest Panelists for the Recovery Talk Session

NADA Diversifies Through Art Therapy Approaches

Research consistently demonstrates that rehabilitation programmes integrating art therapy achieve higher levels of participant engagement and retention. As a non-verbal and non-confrontational therapeutic tool, art therapy bypasses psychological defense mechanisms and denial, while enabling clients to reconstruct a positive self-identity beyond the stigma of addiction. This process fosters emotional regulation and strengthens long-term relapse prevention strategies.

Recognising its clinical impact, NADA launched a strategic initiative in 2025 by training 31 rehabilitation officers as a pioneer cohort. Delivered through a comprehensive three-part Training of Trainers (ToT) programme, the initiative formalised officers' competencies in structured treatment and rehabilitation consultations using an art therapy frame-work. To ensure clinical rigor, the programme was curated and led by Madam Jamaida binti Jamaluddin, a Registered Counselor and promi-nent art therapy expert.

This institutional empowerment culminated in the official launch of the NADA Art Therapy Module by His Royal Highness the Raja Muda of Kedah, Tengku Sarafudin Badlishah, on 23 November 2025. Guided by expert mentorship and the newly institutionalised module, the pioneer cohort is now fully equipped to translate empirical research into practical field-level execution.

This initiative represents a significant milestone for NADA, driving a par-adigm shift towards a holistic, dynamic, and client-centred treatment de-livery system aligned with international best practices in addiction reha-bilitation.



Interactive Group Workshops and Module Formulation During the NADA Art Therapy Training of Trainers (ToT)

PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION

NADA adopts a comprehensive drug prevention strategy structured around two core pillars: Preventive Drug Education (PDE) and the Public Awareness Programme (PAP).

Guided by evidence-based methodologies and international best practices, the PDE framework seeks to reduce drug demand, particularly among new and at-risk individuals, through a holistic four-pronged societal approach: Drug-Free Family, Drug-Free Educational Institution, Drug-Free Workplace, and Drug-Free Community.

Complementing this, PAP strengthens nationwide advocacy by promot-ing accurate information, countering stigma, and mobilising collective responsibility. Through campaigns, outreach activities, and strategic partnerships, the programme enhances public understanding of the dangers of drug abuse while fostering community resilience against drug-related threats.

Institutional Advancement: The Drug-Free Workplace Programme

In 2025, the NADA achieved a landmark in workplace health and safety with the international certification of its TEKAD Programme. This recognition was formalised through the award of a Certificate of Conformance as an Endorsed Training Provider (ETP) by NIOSH Certification Sdn. Bhd.

The endorsement validates TEKAD's compliance with globally recognised standards, including:

- NIOSHCERT Appendix 1 – ETP Assessment
- ISO/IEC 17024:2012 – Competence Management Standards
- ISO 9001:2015 – Quality Management Systems Criteria



NIOSHCert

CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMANCE

Certificate No.: ETP-0022/26 | Initial Certification Date: 6 January 2026 | Valid Until: 5 January 2029

This is to certify that the management system of

AGENSI ANTIDADAH KEBANGSAAN,
KEMENTERIAN DALAM NEGERI
Ibu Pejabat Agensi Antidadah Kebangsaan,
Jalan Maktab Pengunan Islam,
43000 Kajang,
Selangor

has been found to conform to the Endorsed Training Provider (ETP) Assessment standard :

NIOSHCERT APPENDIX 1 – ETP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA, ISO/IEC 17024:2012, ISO 9001:2015

approval is hereby granted for registration providing the rules and conditions related to certification are observed at all time.

Scope of Conformance:

Provision of the Program Tempat Kerja Bebas Dadah (TEKAD), Encompassing Training Module Delivery, Trainer Competency Management, and Administrative Procedures within Wilayah Tengah region under Bahagian Pencegahan, AADK.

Place and date issued :
BANDAR BARU BANGI, SELANGOR; 6 January 2026

SYAMSUL ZAHRIN BIN ZAINUDIN
Chief Executive Officer

The achievement of International Certification Standards (ISO) for the TEKAD training modules demonstrates NADA commitment to excellence and best practice in workplace safety and health

By successfully meeting these rigorous international criteria, the NADA has proven that the delivery quality of the TEKAD training modules and the professional competence of its trainers are fully aligned with globally recognised standards. This recognition elevates the credibility and authority of NADA's workplace initiatives, while significantly enhancing the overall effectiveness of drug prevention programmes across corporate and industrial sectors.

Educational Sector: Strategic School-Based Interventions

To protect the student population and address substance abuse within educational institutions, NADA has established a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Education. This collaboration is designed to drive systemic transformation through a structured three-pronged approach, strengthening preventive education, institutional resilience, and commu-nity participation.

- Policy and Program Enhancement

  The core of this strategy involves updating the Drug Prevention Education (PPDa) programme. By actively analysing current data on student drug trends, NADA and the Ministry of Education brainstorm modern proposals and develop targeted resolutions to overcome existing implementation constraints at the school level.



Strategic collaboration between NADA and the Ministry of Education to revamp the Drug Prevention Education (PPDa) policies in schools

- Teacher and Counsellor Empowerment

  Through the Guru Teraju Organisasi Cemerlang (GTO) seminar series, PPDa and school counselling teachers are equipped with advanced intervention capabilities. Training covers evolving threats including illicit drugs, cigarettes and vaping trends - enabling educators to effectively manage discipline and maintain secure learning environments.



The Guru Teraju Organisasi Cemerlang (GTO) seminars

- Direct Student Interventions

  Age-specific identity-building camps are deployed to cultivate personal resilience. Notable localized programmes include:

  - Eksplorasi Potensi Murid (EPM) Camp: Tailored for secondary school students.
  - PINTAR 2.0 Camp: Designed for primary school students.

Grassroots Mobilization: Anti-Drug Squad

At the community level, the Anti-Drug Squad operates as a dedicated volunteer force committed to protecting the Malaysian public from substance abuse through a blend of public engagement, strategic planning, technology and corporate alignment.

Operational Strategy	Key Implementation & Initiatives
Mass Public Engagement	NADA leverages high-impact social and sports events to engage at-risk demographics. For instance, the Anti-Drug Squad Dua Roda led the Karnival Sabah Motor Day 8.0, reaching over 60,000 motorcycle enthusiasts to deliver critical awareness messages on drug prevention.
Strategic & Policy Support	NADA collaborates with government agencies and NGOs to design systematic local action plans. This includes intensive brainstorming sessions in direct support of the Perak Dadah Terkawal 2030 state initiative.
Technological Modernization	To maintain digital relevance in outreach campaigns, NADA emphasized at its 3rd National Assembly the importance of equipping volunteer members of the Anti-Drug Squad with advanced skills. Volunteers received specialized AI training to enhance the effectiveness and reach of digital campaign dissemination.



The 3rd National Assembly in Penang convened 260 leaders, focused on skill-building and technological integration for the future of volunteerism



The highly successful outreach efforts targeting youth and high-risk demographics, notably the Sabah Motor Day 8.0 which engaged over 60,000 motorcycle enthusiasts

Royal Patronage: Driving Strategic Impact in Anti-Drug Campaigns

Royal endorsements significantly strengthen Malaysia's national anti-drug mission by providing high-level moral authority and inspiring broad community participation. These endorsements advance the mission in several critical ways, inspiring recovery, championing grassroot values, and strengthening the community bonds.

- Inspiring Recovery Through Royal Patronage

Royal involvement provides exclusive moral support from the pal-ace to individuals undergoing rehabilitation under NADA. For ex-ample, the presence of HRH the Sultan of Pahang at the closing ceremony of the Jelajah Pahang Teguh Dadah Terkawal (PTDT) served as a powerful source of inspiration and motivation, reinforcing the recovery journey of participating clients.



HRH the Sultan of Pahang's presence at the closing ceremony of the Jelajah Pahang Teguh Dadah Terkawal (PTDT)

- Championing Grassroots Values Through Royal Leadership

Royals actively advance anti-drug efforts at the community level. For example, HRH the Crown Prince of Kedah officiated a seminar that underscored the importance of strengthening personal identity and moral values as society's foremost defense against drug abuse.



The Crown Prince of Kedah officiated a seminar

- Strengthening Community Bonds Through Royal Engagement

Direct royal participation in public recreational events helps bridge the gap between authorities and the community. For example, HRH the Crown Prince of Perlis joined senior NADA leadership in the Kayuhan Berinformasi, using this hands-on approach to promote healthy lifestyles while reinforcing collaboration between government agencies and local communities.



HRH the Crown Prince of Perlis participated directly alongside top NADA management in the Kayuhan Berinformasi cycling event

ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

Malaysia has intensified its enforcement efforts through several strategic initiatives aimed at curbing drug abuse and trafficking.

Malaysia's Strategic Initiatives Against Drug Trafficking

1. Enhancing Enforcement Through Logistics Collaboration (proposed sub-title)

Authorities have intensified security measures at international airports and cargo checkpoints. By partnering with courier services, enforcement agencies strengthen their ability to detect drug mules and intercept illicit shipments concealed within commercial logistics networks.

2. Integrated Tactical Operations

Led by RMP, joint operations are disrupting trafficking syndicates. Mobile enforcement teams conduct inspections in high-risk areas, while rigorous checks on international parcels are carried out to uncover narcotics concealed within global logistics channels.

3. Advancing Regional Security Through International Coopera-tion (Syor)

Malaysia actively engages in ASEAN dialogues and global summits, fostering partnerships that enable intelligence sharing and the standardisation of enforcement protocols. These collabora-tions strengthen collective capacity to combat transnational drug cartels effectively.

4. Eyes in the Sky: NADA's High-Tech Approach to Substance Abuse Intervention

The NADA has modernized its enforcement framework by conduct-ing the Remote Pilot Certificate of Competency (Basic)

- RCOC-B training program from 21 to 26 October 2025 at Tun Hussein Onn University of Malaysia, Batu Pahat, Johor. 15 officers completed intensive training to integrate aerial technology into op-erational strategies.

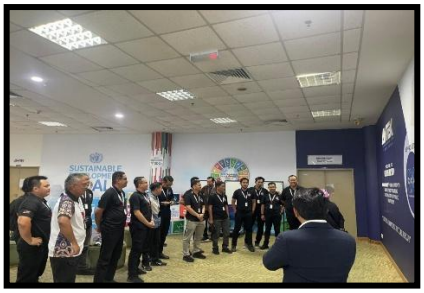
The program provided foundational drone knowledge, strict adherence to aviation regulations, and practical handling techniques. Upon completion, all officers were officially certified by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM), marking a strategic advancement in enforcement capacity.

The primary objectives of this initiative were to equip NADA officers with foundational knowledge of drones, including strict adherence to current aviation rules and regulations. Furthermore, the program focused on imparting essential theories and practical techniques for drone handling, ensuring that officers developed the core skills required to operate and fly drones safely. Upon completion, these 15 officers achieved official recognition as certified drone operators by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM).

This certification enables NADA to deploy drones equipped with high-resolution cameras, thermal sensors, and real-time tracking, enhancing surveillance, intelligence gathering, and operational safety. Drones allow monitoring of remote or concealed areas, covert reconnaissance, and reduced risks for ground personnel during raids.

Backed by CAAM accreditation, every deployment adheres to the highest standards of safety, accountability, and compliance. Ultimately, this initiative represents a paradigm shift, modernizing enforcement methods and reinforcing NADA's role in safeguarding the nation against drug threats.





INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Malaysia remains firmly committed to advancing bilateral, regional, and international cooperation as a cornerstone of its national drug control strategy. Recognising the transnational nature of drug challenges, Malaysia continues to build strategic partnerships with neighbouring countries, ASEAN Member States, international organisations, and key stakeholders to ensure coordinated and effective responses.

In 2025, Malaysia pursued collaborative initiatives through bilateral and multilateral platforms, including intelligence sharing, capacity building, technical cooperation, policy dialogue, and the exchange of best practic-es. These efforts underscore Malaysia's dedication to regional solidarity and ASEAN's collective response to the drug problem.

i) 68th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Malaysia participated in the 68th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), held from 10 to 14 March 2025 in Vienna, Austria. The del-egation was led by Dato' Haji Abdul Halim bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Deputy Secretary-General (Security), Ministry of Home Affairs, alongside senior officials and agencies. NADA was represented by Dato' Ruslin bin Jusoh, Director General.

The CND convenes annually to deliberate on global drug control policies. Malaysia delivered an intervention outlining national, re-gional, and international follow-up actions, highlighting strength-ened inter-agency cooperation in line with the 2019 Ministerial Dec-laration and the 2024 Midterm Review.

At the national level, Malaysia has reinforced legislative and institu-tional frameworks to combat drug abuse and trafficking, ensuring alignment with international commitments.





ii) The 18th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) Meeting

The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) of the Philippines hosted the 18th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) Meeting from 7 to 11 April 2025. Malaysia's delegation was led by Ms. Hafidah binti Mohd @ Ma'asom, Principal Assistant Director of the Treatment, Medical and Rehabilitation Division, accompanied by Ms. Nur Di-yana binti Jamaluddin from the Prevention Division and ASP Khairul Hamizi bin Desa from the Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department, RMP.

The ADMN Meeting, convened twice annually, serves as a platform for ASEAN Member States to exchange updated data and statisti-cal information on national drug situations. It also facilitates dia-logue on the administration and enhancement of the ADMN Sys-tem, with the objective of strengthening regional monitoring and improving information-sharing mechanisms.



iii) 4th Youth Network on Drug Prevention Programme (YNDPP)

Malaysia participated in the 4th Youth Network on Drug Prevention Programme (YNDPP), organised by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Thailand, from 30 January to 8 February 2025. The Malaysian delegation comprised one mentor from NADA and four students representing both public and private universities.

The programme fostered collaboration and strengthened relation-ships among youth networks in the region, offering young partici-pants valuable opportunities to learn, exchange knowledge, and gain practical experience in drug control and prevention. Activities included group discussions, presentations, and knowledge-sharing sessions focused on community and youth-based initiatives.

As part of the programme, participants also undertook a study visit to Cambodia, where they observed and learned about the country's strategies and approaches to drug prevention.



Malaysian delegates led by Mr. Ahmad Faizal (Mentor) with representatives of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) of Cambodia



Participants in study visit and working group session

iv) 46th ASEAN Senior Official on Drug Matters Meeting (ASOD) and Its Related Meeting

The Malaysian delegation, led by the Director General of NADA, at-tended the 46th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drugs (ASOD) Meeting alongside senior agency officials. During the meeting, Malaysia chaired the Working Group on Alternative

Development (AD), where ASEAN Member States presented updates on the implementation and progress of their respective AD initiatives.

Malaysia also participated in a consultation session with ASEAN Dialogue Partner, China, focusing on strengthening ASEAN-China strategic collaboration and enhancing multilateral cooperation through the ASOD platform.

The ASOD Meeting reviews the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs, facilitates the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices through its Working Groups, and reinforces regional cooperation, policy coordination, and partnerships. This comprehensive and balanced approach enables ASEAN Member States to address the evolving drug situation more effectively.



Malaysian Delegates was led by Director General of NADA



The Heads of Delegation meeting with Mr. K. Shanmugam, Coordinating Minister for National Security & Minister for Home Affairs of Singapore



The plenary session in progress on the second day of meeting

v) Collaboration with Princess Mother National Institute on Drug Abuse Treatment (PMNIDAT), Thailand

Through the Competency Enhancement Initiative Programme for Public Training Institute Instructors (IMPAK), NADA collaborated with the Princess Mother

National Institute on Drug Abuse Treat-ment (PMNIDAT), Thailand to conduct a short-term course entitled Enhancing the Capacity of Personnel in the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) from 26 to 30 Oc-tober 2025.

The programme aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge and competencies in delivering treatment and rehabilitation services, particularly for clients with dual diagnoses linked to ATS use disor-ders. Sessions were conducted by a multidisciplinary team of ex-perts, including medical officers, clinical psychologists, counsellors, and social workers. Participants also undertook study visits to treatment facilities in Thailand to observe best practices and ap-proaches in service delivery.

The Malaysian delegation comprised four NADA officers: Mr. Ru-jhan bin Ramli, Ms. Ruziliza binti Ibrahim, Ms. Zuraidah binti Ayub, and Ms. Norhuda binti Mohamad Hamidi.



Participants visited the detoxification ward



Closing ceremony and presentation of certificates to participants



Experience-sharing session by a female client undergoing drug treatment and rehabilitation at the PMNIDAT

vi) Interaction Professional Program, NADA – CNB of Singapore

The Professional Interaction Programme between NADA Malaysia and the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) Singapore was held on 27 February 2025 at Le Méridien Putrajaya. The programme aimed to reinforce bilateral cooperation and facilitate the exchange of ex-periences and best practices in combating drug abuse.

The CNB delegation, comprising six members and led by Mr. Leon Chan, Acting Director of CNB, attended alongside senior officials. The Malaysian delegation was led by the Director General of NA-DA, accompanied by senior management and agency officials.

Both countries underscored the importance of adopting a balanced approach between rehabilitation and enforcement in addressing drug addiction. Malaysia highlighted its voluntary treatment model, which encourages individuals to seek treatment without criminal prosecution, while Singapore reaffirmed its strong enforcement measures combined with rehabilitation initiatives to support long-term recovery and prevent relapse.



Malaysia and Singapore shared programmes and strategic initiatives, while outlining future plans to reinforce cooperation in addressing the drug problem.

CONCLUSION

Malaysia strongly advocates for enhanced international cooperation, particularly in the exchange of information and intelligence, as well as accurate reporting of illicit trafficking incidents. The country actively sup-ports efforts at the national, regional, and international levels to combat drug trafficking and mitigate its societal impacts. Effective responses re-quire coordinated and integrated collaboration across countries of origin, transit, and destination. Key measures include capacity building, tech-nical cooperation, and the sharing of best practices to strengthen collec-tive resilience against the illegal drug trade.

The Philippines

Policy and Implementation Programs

The Dangerous Drugs Board continues to formulate responsive policies to address new and emerging challenges in drug abuse prevention and control. From January to December 2025, the Board adopted and promulgated a total of eighteen (18) Board Regulations.

Eight regulations focus on the inclusion of newly identified substances in the official list of dangerous drugs, following actions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and in response to the continued emergence of synthetic drugs and their precursors.

These issuances ensure that such substances, including their compounds, mixtures, and derivatives, are placed under the regulatory and control framework of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended.

The remaining regulations support regulatory and public health mechanisms, including the creation of a committee to assess seized controlled chemicals and laboratory equipment, and the temporary authorization of ordinary prescriptions for dangerous drugs in response to emerging public health concerns.

Alongside the adoption of these policies, the DDB also works with its partner agencies in the implementation of drug prevention programs and advocacy campaigns to inform and empower its citizens to resist the lures of drug abuse

BOARD REGULATIONS

Board Regulation No. 1, Series of 2025

Inclusion of Butonitazene in the List of Dangerous Drugs

Butonitazene has a chemical structure and pharmacological action similar to those of drugs under Schedule I of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and belongs to a series of 2-benzylbenzimidazole derivatives with analgesic properties, originally synthesized in the late 1950s.

Board Regulation No. 2, Series of 2025

Inclusion of 3-Chloromethcathinone (3-CMC) in the List of the Dangerous Drugs

3-CMC is a synthetic stimulant of the cathinone family and has been associated with eight deaths in Sweden and more than 30 cases of drug-impaired driving investigations. It has been made available for sale through online retailers and street drug markets. International

forensic data indicate evidence of polydrug use with 3-CMC often found in combination with other substances, including its isomer 4-CMC.

Board Regulation No. 3, Series of 2025

Inclusion of Dipentylone in the List of Dangerous Drugs

Dipentylone is a synthetic cathinone with chemical structure and pharmacological effects similar to those of other Schedule I synthetic cathinones and Schedule I and Schedule II psychostimulants. It exhibits binding affinity to the dopamine transporter similar to that of cocaine, and it is approximately twice as potent in inhibiting dopamine uptake as cocaine or MDMA but less potent than methamphetamine.

Board Regulation No. 4, Series of 2025

Inclusion of 2-Flourodeschloroketamine in the List of Dangerous Drugs

2-Flourodeschloroketamine is an arylcyclohexylamine chemically related to the dissociative anesthetic ketamine and contains a chiral center, potentially existing as (R)- and (S)-enantiomers. Studies on its pharmacodynamics suggest its abuse potential, with in vivo research demonstrating ketamine-like effects, including conditioned place preference in mice, discriminative stimulus effects, locomotor sensitization in rats, and intravenous self-administration with patterns characteristic of abused drugs.

Board Regulation No. 5, Series of 2025

Inclusion of Bromazolam in the List of Dangerous Drugs

Bromazolam has been analytically confirmed in post-mortem toxicology reports in Canada, Finland, and the USA, with detection in over 250 toxicological cases between 2019 and 2022 in the USA alone, of which a significant portion involved co-detection with fentanyl. It has been found in illicitly marketed tablets mislabeled as other benzodiazepines, such as falsified alprazolam and diazepam, raising concerns about its unregulated distribution and potential health risks.

Board Regulation No. 6, Series of 2025

Inclusion of 4-Piperidone and 1-BOC-4-Piperidone in the List of Dangerous Drugs

4-Piperidone is a vital early-stage precursor in the synthesis of fentanyl and its analogues while 1-BOC-4-Piperidone is a chemically protected derivative of 4-piperidone which can be utilized in the production of 1-BOC-4-AP and, subsequently, Norfentanyl, both of which are also listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention.

Board Regulation No. 7, Series of 2025

Inclusion of P-2-P Methyl Glycidic Acid and Eight of its Esters (Methyl Ester, ethyl Ester, Propyl Ester, Isopropyl Ester, Butyl Ester, Isobutyl Ester, Sec-Butyl Ester, and Tert-Butyl Ester) in the List of Dangerous Drugs

P-2-P Methyl Glycidic Acid and Eight of its Esters are highly suitable for the illicit manufacture of P-2-P, a precursor already listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention and is subsequently used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine. Incidents of illicit manufacture and trafficking involving P-2-P Methyl glycidic acid have been documented since 2012, its methyl ester since 2016, and its ethyl esther since 2023. Reports indicate a rising frequency and increasing amounts of these substances since late 2022.

Board Regulation No. 8, Series of 2025

Inclusion of Ethyl Ester of 3, 4-MDP-2P Methyl Glycidic Acid "PMK Ethyl Glycidate" and its Six Additional Esters (Propyl Ester, Isopropyl Ester, Butyl Ester, Isobutyl Ester, Sec-Butyl Ester, Tert Butyl Ester) in the List of Dangerous Drugs

Ethyl Ester of 3, 4-MDP-2P Methyl Glycidic Acid is an immediate precursor of 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone, a substance listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention. The specified substance is illicitly utilized in the production of MDMA and related compounds, including their salts and optical isomers, all of which are classified under Schedule I of the 1971 Convention.

Board Regulation No. 9, Series of 2025

Creation of a Committee for the Assessment of Seized Controlled Chemicals and Laboratory Equipment for Medical, Scientific, Training, and Other Lawful Purposes

The committee is mandated to determine seized controlled chemicals are laboratory equipment is suitable for medical, scientific, training, and other lawful purposes, recommend whether to sell it in public auction to holders of appropriate PDEA licenses or to donate the same to government agencies in need, and recommend the manner of its destruction in accordance with law.

Board Regulation No. 10, Series of 2025

Preemptive Response to Emerging Public Health Concerns through Temporary Authorization of Ordinary Prescriptions for Dangerous Drugs

This regulation refers to the preemptive response of the Board to emerging public health concerns through the temporary authorization of ordinary prescriptions for dangerous drugs, remaining in force until June 30 2026.

The regulation applies to medical practitioners with a valid and subsisting S2 license.

Board Regulation No. 11, Series of 2025

Amending Dangerous Drugs Board Regulation No. 2, Series of 2020 Re: Guidelines in the Nationwide Implementation of Drug Clearing Program in Controlled Facilities for Persons Deprived of Liberty

The regulation amended certain provisions of the said guidelines to ensure accurate, up-to-date, and efficient implementation of the program that is responsive to drug prevention and control campaign of the government.

Board Regulation No. 12, Series of 2025

Creation of the Cyber and Information Technology Service in the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

This regulation pertains to the creation of the cyber and information technology service in the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, in response to the challenges of rapid technological and cyber evolution, as well as increasing cyber threats such as attacks on government platforms, surge of emerging digital crimes, and the growing use of cyberspace for illegal drug operations.

Board Regulation No. 13, Series of 2025

Inclusion of MDMB-4en-PINACA in Schedule II of the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances

MDMB-4en-PINACA is a potent synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist with a similar mechanism of action, and similar effects to a number of other synthetic cannabinoids that are controlled under Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. It has been associated with severe adverse effects, including fatal intoxications and cases of impaired driving. It has been identified in seized material formulated for smoking and found as white to yellow/brown powder. This substance is clandestinely manufactured, poses a risk to public health and has no recognized therapeutic use.

Board Regulation No. 14, Series of 2025

INCLUSION OF 4-AP, 1-Boc-4-AP AND NORFENTANYL TO THE LIST OF CONTROLLED PRECURSOR AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS

4-AP is a substitute chemical for N-Phenethyl-4-Piperidone (NPP) to synthesize 4-Anilino-N-Phenethylpiperidine (ANPP) which itself is and immediate precursor for the manufacture of fentanyl and some of its analogues. 1-Boc-4-AP is a chemically protected derivative of 4-AP, which can be converted to norfentanyl or a number of norfentanyl analogues. Norfentanyl is an immediate precursor of fentanyl and a number of fentanyl analogues and an immediate chemical intermediary in a synthesis process currently used by clandestine laboratory operators for the illicit manufacture of fentanyl.

Board Regulation No. 15, Series of 2025

RECLASSIFICATION OF 4-PIPERIDONE AND I-BOC-4-PIPERIDONE FROM THE LIST OF DANGEROUS DRUGS TO THE LIST OF CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS

This regulation pertains to the reclassification of 4-Piperidone and I-BOC-4-piperidone from the list of dangerous drugs to the list of controlled precursors and essential chemicals. Reclassification as a Controlled Precursor and Essential Chemical allows for proportionate control that focuses on preventing diversion for illicit manufacture, while at the same time preserving availability for legitimate stakeholders thus, ensuring illegal diversion is still prevented.

Board Regulation No. 16, Series of 2025

RECLASSIFICATION OF P-2-P METHYL GLYCIDIC ACID AND EIGHT OF ITS ESTERS (METHYL ESTER, ETHYL ESTER, PROPYL ESTER, ISOPROPYL ESTER, BUTYL ESTER, ISOBUTYL ESTER, SEC-BUTYL ESTER AND TERT-BUTYL ESTER) FROM DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS

The Board decided that the appropriate classification of these substances be as Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals (CPECs) to ensure proportionality of regulatory measures, enhance enforcement efficiency, and prevent undue burden on legitimate industry and research; and subsequently reduce the quantity of amphetamine and methamphetamine manufactured illicitly from them.

Board Regulation No. 17, Series of 2025

RECLASSIFICATION OF 3,4-MDP-2-P METHYL GLYCIDIC ACID AND ITS SEVEN ESTERS (ETHYL ESTER, PROPYL ESTER, ISOPROPYL ESTER, BUTYL ESTER, ISOBUTYL ESTER, SEC-BUTYL ESTER, TERT-BUTYL ESTER FROM THE LIST OF DANGEROUS DRUGS TO THE LIST OF CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS

Upon further international and scientific review, the DDB recognizes that these substances are not themselves abused as finished drugs but are chemical intermediates/precursors. It is imperative to align domestic schedules with international standards, ensure clarity for enforcement and judicial authorities, and sustain effective monitoring of these chemicals as controlled precursors, thereby strengthening national and regional capacity to interdict their diversion to the illicit manufacture of MDMA and related substances.

Board Regulation No. 18, Series of 2025

Amending Section 6(f) of Board Regulation No. 1, Series of 2002, entitled “Guidelines on the Custody and Disposition of Seized Dangerous Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals, and Laboratory Equipment”

This regulation pertains to the amendment to Section 6 (f) of the Guidelines on the Custody and Disposition of Seized Dangerous Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals, and Laboratory Equipment.

The amendment seeks to further support compliance to RA 6969, RA 8749, DENR

regulations, environmental safety requirements, international disposal standards, and internal accountability safeguards of PDEA, including the issuances of sworn certifications, presence of witnesses, and mandatory reporting to the Board.

Preventive Education and Capacity-Building Programs

In 2025, the Philippines, through the Dangerous Drugs Board, implemented various capability-building and advocacy programs across multiple sectors.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

Training of Trainers on Life Skills Enhancement on Drug Abuse Prevention

This training aims to enhance the capacities of individuals to face life's pressures and resist drugs, and to train a core group of trainers in the enhancement of life skills.

Throughout 2025, these initiatives reached key stakeholders such as educators, government employees, healthcare professionals, students, and law enforcement officers across multiple regions in the Philippines, fostering a broad network of trained individuals equipped to support their communities.



The Training of Trainers on Life Skills Enhancement in Drug Abuse Prevention was conducted on 12 to 14 August 2025 at Pulsar Premier Suites, Buntun Highway, Tuguegarao

Seminar on the Universal Prevention Curriculum for the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

This training program focuses on the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC), which consists of seven (7) curricula designed for prevention practitioners across various settings, including family, school, workplace, media, community, and environment.



A five-day in-house training was conducted for 42 Regional PDEA-PECIS personnel from 24 to 28 February 2025 at Madison 101 Hotel + Tower, Madison Street, Aurora Boulevard, New Manila, Quezon City.

Regional Seminar-Workshop on Genderizing IEC Materials on Drug Prevention for Information Officers

This is a two-day workshop for ADAC representatives focused on the development and review of existing Information, Education, and Communication materials to ensure that these are gender-sensitive and inclusive, while strengthening participants' capacity to produce effective IEC resources for their communities.



55 Information Officers participated in the seminar-workshop Held from 26 to 28 February 2025 at Widus Hotel, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga

Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention Education for the At-Risk Population and Indigenous People in the Province of Benguet

This is a primary prevention program intended to mobilize out-of-school youth and indigenous peoples in the prevention and control of the drug problem. It seeks to raise awareness and encourage active community participation in promoting drug-free lifestyles.



Participants from various municipalities in the Province of Benguet took part in this two-day training on 13 to 14 March 2025 held at Orchard Hotel, Baguio City.

Community-Based Training on Traditional and Complementary Medicine

This is a three-day training on the use of herbal medicine and the practice of acupressure in the community resulting not only in health and economic benefits and increased accessibility of needed health remedies, but also in positive attitudinal changes, including building people's confidence and self-image.



Medical Officers, Nurses, Municipal Health Officers, Doctors to the Barrio, and Rural Health Physicians from the Province of Pangasinan participated in the activity held on 19 to 21 March 2025 at Lenox Hotel, Dagupan City

5th National Barkada Kontra Droga (BKD) Convention on Drug Abuse Prevention Education (DAPE)

A program designed for learners to maximize youth empowerment in the fight against the drug problem and to develop a new generation of youth leaders with a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to promote positive change and active community involvement.



158 youth, parents, and senior citizens representing NCR, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao attended the Convention held on 23 to 28 March 2025 at The Luxent Hotel, Quezon City.

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

This program provides an environment for cohesive discussion and openness on the problems and solutions that require priority attention in the handling of court cases involving illegal drugs and drug abuse. It also promotes better coordination among stakeholders to improve case management and related processes.



Representatives from criminal justice agencies in Region III participated the seminar-workshop held on 14 to 16 October 2025 at Quest Hotel, Clark, Pampanga.

National Orientation on Special Drug Education Center (SDEC)

This is a five-day activity spearheaded by the DSWD, with funding assistance from DDB, aimed at equipping the participants with the required knowledge, skills and attitude relative to the establishment, operationalization, and maintenance of SDEC.



50 Regional Trainers from DSWD Field Offices nationwide participated in the activity held on 24 to 28 March 2025 at Sequoia Hotel, Quezon City.

Trainer's Training on Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)

This is a three-day training program designed for parents about effective parenting which includes modules, among others, on responsible parenthood, disciplining children, communicating with children, children-rearing practices, handling children's misbehavior.



50 parents from Sorsogon City attended the training held from 23 to 24 April 2025 at Villa Luisa Celeste Beach Resort, Bulusan, Sorsogon.

Orientation Seminar for the Prospective DDB Authorized Representatives for PDEA Officers

This activity is designed to recruit more DDB Authorized Representatives to effectively carry out the provision of legal assistance for first-time minor drug offenders, including proper representation in court and the filing of petitions for voluntary and compulsory confinement nationwide

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85 Preventive Education and Community Involvement Service (PECIS) Officers and PDEA Regional Office Intelligence Officers participated in the activity held on 8 to 9 May 2025 at Madison 101 Hotel, Quezon City.

Training on Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

This is a training designed to capacitate DSWD personnel on the various guidelines and regulations in drug treatment and rehabilitation pursuant to DDB Regulation No. 7, series of 2019.



31 DSWD personnel as well as the LGU of Mindoro and local governments of Occidental Mindoro and Zamboanga del Sur, participated in the activity held on 19 to 23 May 2025 at Ace Hotel and Suites, Pasig City.

Lasag Linang Capability Program for Barkada Kontra Droga National High Schools of Santiago City

This is a one-day capability-building program designed to train and equip students in conceptualizing DAPE programs and developing well-structured project proposals. It aims to enhance their planning, critical thinking, and program development skills to support effective and sustainable drug abuse prevention initiatives in their respective schools and communities.



14 secondary schools participated in the activity held on 24 May 2025 at Mango Suites, Brgy. Calao East, Santiago City.

Capability Enhancement for Various Stakeholders on DAPE (for Interfaith-based groups of MIMAROPA)

This is a two-day program on drug abuse prevention education designed to empower the participants as anti-drug advocates and members of the DDB pool of trainers.



43 pastors, leaders, and catechists from nine various faith-based groups in MIMAROPA and the Batangas area participated in the activity held on 28 to 29 May 2025 at Club Balai Isabel, Talisay, Batangas.

Youth Camp Against Drug Use (YCADU)

This is a three-day activity designed to develop a new generation of young leaders with a strong sense of civic responsibility and commitment. It aims to enhance their leadership skills, values formation, and active participation in community development initiatives that promote positive social change.



Youth advocates from Sta. Rosa, Laguna Participated the youth camp on 28 to 30 May 2025 at Caliraya Resort Club, Lumban, Laguna

2025 Regionwide Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Person Who Use Drugs (PWUDs)

A three-day activity that seeks to streamline and align the various processes of stakeholders involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of PWUDs, strengthen inter-agency coordination, foster knowledge-sharing and enhance the holistic treatment and rehabilitation of PWUDs in the region.



160 participants from various sectors attended the activity held on 3 to 5 June 2025 at Ynad's Place Hotel and Resort Inc., San Fernando, La Union.

Continuing Seminar on Anti-Illegal Drug Operations and Investigation

A five-day live-in seminar designed for law enforcers to provide updates on anti-illegal drug operations and related policies, with the aim of enhancing their competence and effectiveness in the performance of their duties. It also strengthens their operational knowledge and skills in addressing drug-related cases and enforcement challenges.



57 PNP and PDEA personnel participated in the five-day live-in seminar held on 21 to 25 July 2025 at Winn Hotel, Zamboanga City

Seminar on Parent-Youth Resource Against Drug Abuse

This activity was designed to organize a well-informed parent-youth resource against drug abuse. It also aims to discuss common issues and concerns among parent and youth relating to drug abuse.



Parents and youth leaders from various sectors in Olongapo City
Attended the activity held on 6 to 7 August 2025 at Subic Bay Travelers Hotel and Event Center, Zambales.

Colloquium on Drug Prevention and Control for the Five Pillars of the Criminal Justice System

This is a two-day activity focused on drug-related issues and concerns between and amongst the five pillars of the criminal justice system (court, prosecution, law enforcement, correction, and the community). It also provides an environment of cohesive discussion, openness in identifying problems and solutions, and an ambiance that shall create better understanding, unified action and possible areas of collaboration.



80 participants from Courts, Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Corrections, and the Community; Club Balai Isabel, Talisay, Batangas; 16-17 September 2025

Seminar on Board Regulation No. 2 Series of 2023 or the Revised Protocol on Handling Children Allegedly Involved in Dangerous Drugs for SDEC Facilitators and Implementers

This is a three-day program conducted in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Central Office, participated in by representatives from the three pilot testing centers of the Special Drug Education Center (SDEC), namely Muntinlupa, Mindoro, and Zamboanga.

A total of 42 SDEC facilitators and implementers attended the activity held on 23 to 25 September 2025 at Orient de Galera, Brgy. Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention and Skills Development for the Out-of-School Youth

This is a three-day training aimed to effectively empower the OSY to share the appropriate knowledge and information on the prevention of drug use to the marginalized sector of the population.



A total of 57 Out-of-School Youth from Pasig City and Quezon City
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Attended the seminar held on 7 to 9 October 2025 at Ace Hotel and Suites, Pasig City

Training for Pag-abot Program Staff on the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

This capacity-building program was requested by the Pag-abot NPMO of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral Treatment (SBIRT) is an important component of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention Education Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to build the capacity of implementers under the Pag-abot Program.



31 participants composed of Social Welfare Officers, Nurses,
Project Development Officers, and
Pag-abot LGU focal persons
Held on 21-24 October 2025 at Ace Hotel and Suites, Pasig City

Facilitators' Training on Personal and Interpersonal Skills Against Drug Use

This project is a two-day activity for youth facilitators, student leaders and educators designed to strengthen their resolve and ability to move away from the lures of dangerous drugs.

56 participants composed of Sangguniang Kabataan officials and SAMAKA Youth from the municipality of Mataas na Kahoy attended the activity held on 22–23 October 2025 at Shercon Resort and Ecology Park.

Training on Effective Planning and Implementation of Drug Prevention Programs

This is a two-day capacity-building program spearheaded by the DDB in collaboration with the ASEAN Training Center for Preventive Drug Education, specifically intended for Anti-Drug Abuse Council representatives from NCR. The program aims to strengthen participants' knowledge, skills, and coordination in implementing effective community-based drug prevention initiatives and related programs.



50 Anti-Drug Abuse Council representatives from 16 Cities and Municipalities Attended the training held at Ace Hotel and Suites, Pasig City on 29-30 October 2025

Training on Yakap Bayan Program (YBP)

This is one of the initiatives of DSWD in line with the implementation of PADS aimed at equipping LGU-Based implementers with knowledge and skills to effectively carry out the program and strengthen the delivery of recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration interventions at the community level.

30 participants representing various local government units and partner agencies—including Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices (MSWDOs), Municipal and City Health Offices, police units, and other LGU offices from Laguna, Batangas, Cebu, Abra, Albay, Mindoro, and Masbate—participated in the activity held from 24–28 November 2025.

Capability Enhancement Training on Drug Abuse Prevention for Interfaith Organizations

This is a two-day in-person training requested by the Local Government of Teresa, Rizal to strengthen the anti-drug abuse campaigns of their different denominations by capacitating their interfaith leaders on drug abuse prevention education topics.



47 interfaith organization leaders, youth leaders, and community leaders anticipated in the activity held on 4–5 December 2025 at Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center along Marilaque Highway.

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

Drug-Free Workplace Program

This is an advocacy program to promote drug-free workplaces both in government and non-government agencies/organizations. It was designed to encourage workplaces to implement DAP activities towards the creation of drug-free workplaces.







DDB Conducts seminars on Drug-Free Workplace Programs through both face-to-face and online platforms to promote awareness and strengthen workplace prevention initiatives.

Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention Education

This is a half-day activity designed to raise awareness on the hazardous effects of drug abuse, highlighting its physical, psychological, social, and legal consequences. It also aims to strengthen understanding on the importance of prevention and control measures related to drug use, while promoting informed decision-making, healthy lifestyles, and community responsibility in addressing substance abuse issues.

80 Senior High and College students from Systems Plus Computer College Foundation, Inc., E. Rodriguez, Quezon City attended a half-day drug abuse awareness activity on 27 January 2025.

Orientation Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention for Senior Citizens

This seminar aims to raise awareness among senior citizens about the negative consequences of drug use, including its effects on health, family life, and community well-being. It also seeks to enhance their knowledge and skills in drug abuse prevention and control, empowering them to become informed advocates and active contributors in promoting a safe and drug-free environment.



110 senior citizens from various barangays of Olongapo City participated in the activity held at Subic Bay Travelers Hotel, Olongapo City, on 11 February 2025.

Awareness Seminar on Substance Abuse

This is a whole-day program designed to update the students of Dr. Yanga's Colleges, Inc. (DYCI) on the latest developments regarding drugs, smoking, the current drug situation, and other related public health and safety issues.

200 participants attended the morning and afternoon sessions, representing various colleges, held at Scientia Hall 2, Dr. Yanga's Colleges, Inc. (DYCI), Bocaue, Bulacan, on 17 June 2025.

Orientation Webinar on Drug Abuse and Mental Health

This orientation webinar provides participants with essential knowledge on substance use, its effects on physical and mental health, and its connection to overall well-being.



Orientation Webinar in progress on drug abuse awareness and mental health

Seminar on Special Concerns and Updates on RA 9165

This is a half-day advocacy program initiated by the Office of the Solicitor General – Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Committee (OSG-PADC) for the new and senior lawyers of OSG.



50 new and senior lawyers of the OSG attended the activity held at Convergys One Building, Makati City on 10 July 2025.

3rd Drug-Free Workplace Summit

This is an activity spearheaded by the Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Advisory Council (QCADAAC) specifically targeting different sectors such as business owners and human resource staff, and several other business establishment staff who are at risk of substance use disorder or drug dependence such as KTV bars, night clubs, super clubs, spas, massage parlors, disco houses, bars, restaurants, as well as businesses like BPOs, construction, transportation services.

It was conducted for two days for different batches of participants. 241 business owners, human resource personnel, and other business establishment staff identified as at risk of substance use disorder or drug dependence participated in the activity held on 13 August while 230 attended the activity on 14 August.

Orientation-Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control for the Elementary Occupation Workers

This is a one-day seminar which focuses on drug prevention among Elementary Occupation Workers that refers to individuals employed in basic, often manual, or routine jobs that require limited formal education or specialized skills (i.e. ambulant vendors, street hawkers, barbers, on-call manicurists/ pedicurists, junkshop workers, fare collector, dispatcher, etc.) who may be vulnerable to the deleterious effects of drug abuse.



56 Ambulant Workers participated in the activity held at the Old BIR/COMELEC Building, Pasig City Hall on 27 August 2025.

Campus Tour for Kids

This is a half-day drug abuse prevention seminar conducted by the Pasig City Anti-Drug Abuse Office (PCADAO). The activity catered to Grade V and VI students from both public and private grade schools in Pasig City.



Elementary students in Pasig City participated in the DDB Campus Tour for Kids, a fun and engaging drug prevention campaign promoting awareness and empowering children to confidently say no to drugs.

Youth Summit Against Drugs

This half-day activity, organized by the Cabuyao Youth and Sports Development Office (CYSDO), aimed to support and strengthen the government's commitment to promoting safe, healthy, and drug-free communities.



286 participants from Pamantasan ng Cabuyao attended the activity held on 30 August 2025 in Cabuyao.

Drug Abuse Prevention Seminar for the Students of National University, East Ortigas Campus

This program, organized in partnership with the Guidance Services Office and the NSTP Office of National University – East Ortigas, was dubbed "Together for a Safe, Drug-Free Tomorrow: Drug Awareness and Prevention Seminar," aiming to promote awareness and prevention of drug abuse among students.

743 students and youth participants from National University – East Ortigas attended the activity held on 19 September 2025.

Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Teachers

This is a one-day activity which highlighted the continuous efforts of the Department of Education to strengthen and sustain the implementation of school-based drug prevention and intervention programs. The activity aimed to equip teacher-advisers with relevant knowledge and strategies in promoting drug awareness, prevention, and early intervention within the school community, while fostering safe and supportive learning environments for students.

84 elementary and high school teacher-advisers participated in the activity held on 20 September 2025 at the DepEd SDO Conference Hall.

Drug Abuse Prevention Seminar for the Students of National University, Clark Campus

This is an advocacy program requested by NU Clark as part of its awareness campaign on the dangers of illegal drugs and substances.

154 students, faculty members, and key stakeholders from National University – Clark participated in the online activity via Zoom on 24 September 2025.

Orientation-Seminar on the Update of DDB Board Regulations for Doctors, Pharmacists, and other Allied Professionals

This one-day advocacy program was designed for medical professionals to strengthen the promotion of drug-free workplace policies and provide updates on the latest regulations issued by the Dangerous Drugs Board.

77 doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and other allied health professionals from Taguig-Pateros District Hospital participated in the one-day advocacy program held on 25 September 2025, which focused on promoting drug-free workplace policies and updates on regulations issued by the Dangerous Drugs Board.

Formulation of San Juan City 2025-2028 Peace and Order and Public Safety (POPS) Plan

This event is designed to enhance drug-free workplace policies and guidelines, along with other activities aligned with the mandate of the San Juan City Peace and Order Council – Technical Working Group.

56 members of the San Juan City Peace and Order Council Technical Working Group; Washington Residences, Brgy. Greenhills, San Juan City; 7 October 2025

Orientation Seminar on the Barkada Kontra Droga Program

This is an advocacy program which aims to orient DepEd Pampanga teachers from its seven (7) clusters about the BKD Program.

138 participants composed of DepEd Pampanga teachers attended the activity held on 10 October 2025 at Otel Pampanga.

Webinar on Role of Parents in Drug Abuse Prevention

This is a half-day webinar for parents that aims to raise awareness on their important role in preventing drug abuse and promoting a safe, drug-free environment for their children.

948 participants composed of National Intelligence Coordinating Agency employees, including both parents and single individuals, attended the webinar via Zoom on 5 November 2025.

DLSU Peace Seminar in Celebration of the 2025 DAPC Week

As part of De La Salle University's celebration of the 2025 Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week, SDFO Paragons, a student volunteer organization, conducted a peace seminar, interactive workshop, and open forum for the university's student body and requested a resource person from the Dangerous Drugs Board.

59 students from De La Salle University, Taft Avenue, Metro Manila joined the activity on 12 November 2025

Seminar on the Responsible Roles of the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) in implementing Programs and Services

The activity is in line with the City Government of Valenzuela's Observance of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week and their commitment to promote a healthy, safe, and productive work environment.



Participants, including Barangay Community Service Coordinators (BCSCs), Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) representatives from the 33 barangays of Valenzuela, and representatives from various agencies, attended the activity held on 16 November 2025 at the Valenzuela City Auditorium

Webinar on Mental Health in the Workplace

In line with DAPC Week 2025 and as part of the DOLE-BWC's program, the webinar is streamed live every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. via DOLE Bureau of Working Conditions Facebook Page.

On 19 November 2025, the session recorded 216 live viewers, 76 shares, and reached 8K views via Zoom and the official Facebook page of the Department of Labor and Employment – Bureau of Working Conditions.

Youth's Choice: A Drug-Free Life

In line with the DILG's efforts to support the administration's campaign against illegal drugs and pursuant to Republic Act 9165 and Executive Order No. 66, DILG – NCR launched a nationwide advocacy initiative entitled "Youth's Choice: A Drug-Free Life."



200 students and faculty members from various public secondary schools in the National Capital Region and partner agencies participated in the activity held on 20 November 2025 at the Marikina Convention Center.

Learning Session of the Maritime Safety Services Command (MSSC) of the Philippine Coast Guard

This activity is part of MSSC's observance of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control (DAPC) Week, highlighting efforts to promote awareness, prevention, and collective action against drug abuse in the community.

69 Personnel from the Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS), students from the Vessel Traffic Services Operators Course Class 01-2025, and attendees from its Navigational Safety Service participated in the activity via Zoom on 3 December 2025

SPECIAL EVENTS

Observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of Drugs (IDADAIT)

IDADAIT or World Drug Day is an annual event observed simultaneously every 26th day of June by UN Member Countries. In the Philippines, it is mandated by Presidential Proclamation No. 264, Series of 1988.

"The Evidence is Clear: Invest in Prevention, Break the Cycle" is this year's IDADAIT theme which is a strengthened version of the previous advocacy. It continues to highlight the vital role of evidence-based strategies in preventing drug abuse and addressing its root causes. Additionally, the theme emphasizes the importance of sustained investments in prevention programs, community-based initiatives, and policy reforms aimed at breaking the cycle of drug dependence. It also stresses the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination against persons who use drugs, and to support their reintegration into society as productive and empowered community members.

The highlight of this year's observance is the Parade of Youth Advocates Against Drugs in partnership with the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte and the City Government of Batac, Ilocos Norte. The activity was attended by 2,030 participants, including members of the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Sangguniang Kabataan Chairpersons and members from various cities and municipalities, youth advocates such as Kabataan Kontra Droga at Terorismo, students from different schools across Ilocos Norte, and representatives from various anti-drug advocacy groups.





Another activity conducted is the blessing and inauguration of the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation and Treatment Facility in Batac City, Ilocos Norte.

A colloquium was also spearheaded by the Dangerous Drugs Board, in partnership with the DILG Ilocos Norte Provincial Office, with the aim of fostering dialogue, sharing best practices, and strengthening collaborative efforts in implementing effective and sustainable drug prevention and rehabilitation strategies within the province. It was attended by 500 participants composed of key officials from the LGUs, ADAC members, and other stakeholders and partners.

A milestone of the annual celebration is the Songwriting Contest launched by DDB among aspiring and seasoned songwriters. Among the entries submitted, the song entitled "Tayo na Tungo sa Malusog at Ligtas na Lipunan" composed by Ms. Ariana Escanillas from Zamboanga emerged as the winning entry of the IDADAIT 2025 Songwriting Contest.

Celebration of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control (DAPC) Week

The Dangerous Drugs Board led the annual observance of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control (DAPC) Week from November 16-22, 2025 which carries the theme "Sa Bagong Pilipinas, Kalusugan ay Pinapahalagahan, Droga ay Inaayawan."

The commitment to this initiative is anchored on Presidential Proclamation No. 124 issued in 2001 which declares the third week of November of every year as "Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week." Memorandum Circular No. 105, Series of 2025 was also issued by the Office of the President directing all government agencies to support and participate in the annual observance of the DAPC Week.

Various activities leading to DAPC Week and beyond were conducted.

Kick-Off Activity: Drug Awareness Fun Run





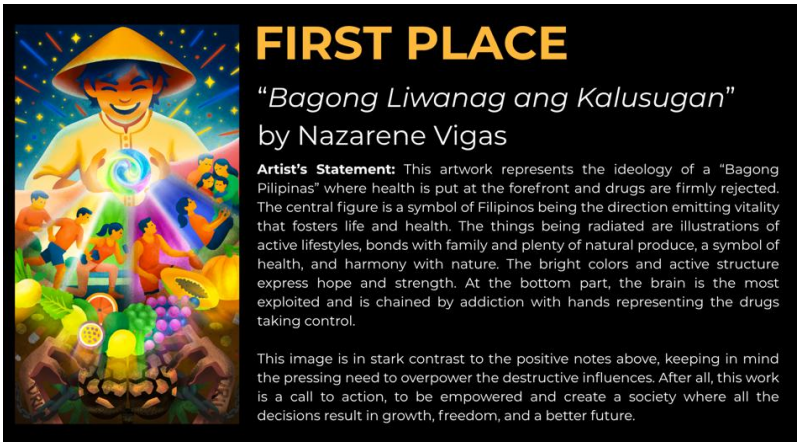
Spearheaded by the National Youth Commission (NYC), the activity was held at the Plaza Moriones, Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila on November 15, 2025. The last leg of NYC's Drug Awareness Fun Run in Manila marked the kick-off activity for the 2025 DAPC Week. The Fun Run was part of NYC's commitment to youth empowerment, wellness, and the national anti-illegal drug campaign. The event was designed to promote healthy, disciplined, and drug-free lifestyle. Selected DDB employees joined the said activity.

DDB National Digital Poster-Making Competition

The Nationwide Digital Poster-Making Contest highlighted the importance of prioritizing health and rejecting illegal drugs while encouraging Filipino youth to become advocates of positive change. The contest was open to all Filipino in-school and out-of-school youth aged 16–25.

The judging session was conducted on 14 November 2025 at the Social Hall of the Dangerous Drugs Board Extension Office. The panel of judges was composed of representatives from the DDB, the ASEAN Training Center for Preventive Drug Education, Commission on Higher Education – National Capital Region, and the DDB Employees' Union.

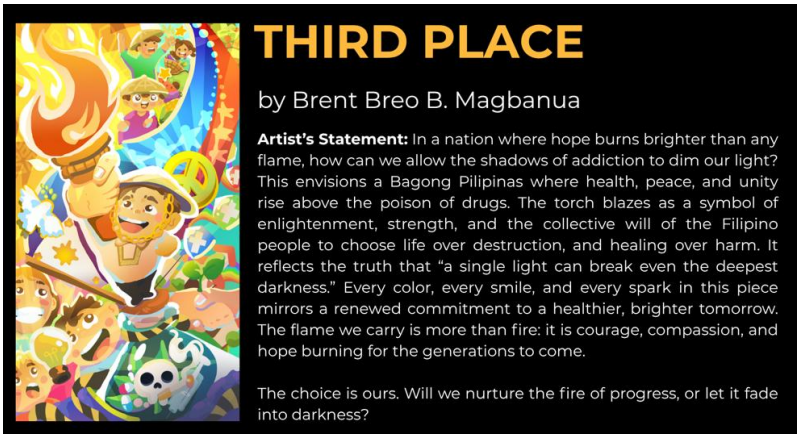
A total of 13 finalists were selected from the shortlisted and conditional entries. Following the final deliberation and tabulation of scores, the top three winners were declared.



NAZARENE RICO D. VIGAS
21 Years Old, Batangas State University



RIHMARC M. BORBON
17 Years Old, Eguia National High School



BRENT BREO B. MAGBANUA
18 Years Old, Mindanao State University

International Forum on Drug Abuse Prevention Education

This activity was conducted in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education Region 1 and was attended by 68 participants composed of foreign students and teacher chaperones from Lorma Colleges, Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation, Lyceum Northwestern University, University of Northern Philippines, St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur, Divine Word College of Vigan, and Philippine Institute for Maritime Studies and Technology College.





The activity featured discussions on the Enhanced Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy, the National Drug Situation, Global Drug Situation: Evidence-Based Policies and Interventions, and Engaging the Youth on Drug Abuse Prevention Education, delivered by representatives from the Dangerous Drugs Board, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Philippines.

Barkada Kontra Droga (BKD) Orientation

The Dangerous Drugs Board, in partnership with the Department of Education – Schools Division Office Dagupan and the Department of Health – Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Dagupan, conducted the Barkada Kontra Droga (BKD) Orientation as part of its youth-centered drug abuse prevention initiatives. The activity aimed to strengthen awareness and encourage active youth participation in promoting drug-free schools and communities through education, peer support, and school-based programs.

The activity commenced with the “Lakad Kontra Droga” (Walk Against Drugs) parade and “Zumba Kontra Droga,” (Dance Againts Drugs) participated in by approximately 700 learners from various public elementary and high schools in Dagupan.

The main orientation program was subsequently held at the DepEd SDO Dagupan Division Training Center, attended by more than 600 high school and senior high school students from different schools in Dagupan City. Topics discussed included the Barkada Kontra Droga Program, the role of youth in drug abuse prevention and control, and digital citizenship.

Padyak Kontra Droga





The Department of Health – Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Dagupan, in partnership with the Dangerous Drugs Board, spearheaded the conduct of "Padyak Kontra Droga" on 22 November 2025 as part of the celebration of Drug Abuse Prevention and Control (DAPC) Week. Since 2014, the activity has served as an advocacy initiative aimed at raising public awareness on drug abuse prevention and promoting healthier, drug-free communities.

Around 350 bikers and participating organizations gathered at the CSI Stadia Parking Area for a short program before proceeding to the 2-kilometer motorcade route leading to the DOH-DTRC Gymnasium. Accompanied by lively music from a band, the activity drew the attention of residents, pedestrians, and motorists, helping spread awareness about the advocacy campaign.

The event culminated in the recitation and signing of a Pledge to Promote Safe and Healthy Communities, led by Undersecretary Osit. The pledge symbolized the participants' commitment to support the government's anti-drug campaign, remain drug-free, and help build safer and healthier communities.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

3rd Workshop on the Development of ASEAN Projects for ASOD Focal Points

This is an online workshop designed to provide participants with knowledge on the development and implementation of an ASEAN Cooperation Project (ACP), including the availability of funding and partner resources, the stages of the ACP cycle, and the application of a results-based approach in project implementation.

73 Delegates from the ASEAN Member States joined the activity via Zoom on 26 February 2025.

Hosting of the 18th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) Meeting

This is a three-day meeting of focal persons from the ten (10) ASEAN Member States (AMS), composed of the Drug Demand Focal Person, Drug Supply Focal Person, and National Focal Person. The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) meeting is conducted bi-annually through plenary and breakout sessions to discuss updates, initiatives, and collaborative efforts on regional drug monitoring and drug control concerns.



36 delegates representing nine ASEAN Member States participated in the meeting held from 8–10 April 2025 at Dusit Hotel

46th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and Other Related Meetings

This is an annual ASEAN Drug Experts Meeting chaired by the host country and composed of various working groups that discuss issues on drug abuse and strategies for combating illegal drugs across the region, including collaborative efforts among member states.



Senior officials and representatives from the ten ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, and dialogue partners participated in the annual ASEAN Drug Experts Meeting held from 26–28 August 2025 at Shangri-La Hotel Singapore.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs 68 Intersessional Meeting Thematic Discussions

The first intersessional meeting of the 68th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) included thematic discussions focused on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, with particular emphasis on follow-up actions to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

ASEAN Virtual Training on Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Tools for Preventive Education

This is a virtual training program conducted every Wednesday throughout the month of November, designed to strengthen participants' skills in using digital tools for integration into preventive drug education. The program is spearheaded by the ASEAN Training Center for Preventive Drug Education in partnership with the Dangerous Drugs Board, with the aim of enhancing innovative and technology-driven approaches to drug prevention education.

71 participants representing ASEAN countries joined the virtual sessions conducted via Zoom on 5, 12, 19, and 26 November 2025, with the largest group coming from the Philippines, followed by Cambodia, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

Singapore

Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act

The New Psychoactive Substances ("NPS") situation remains a concern for countries globally, with novel NPS continuing to emerge across the world annually. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Early Warning Advisory on NPS, there were at least 1,396 substances reported from 153 countries and territories as of October 2025. NPS abuse has been associated with adverse health reactions, including paranoia, seizures, hallucinations, and even death. CNB continues to review its strategies to improve the detection of NPS, enforcement against its illicit use, and will continue to proactively monitor the global and local NPS situation.

As part of the reviews done in 2025, CNB has identified and listed an additional seven NPS as Class A controlled drugs in the First Schedule.

For more information on the substances listed in 2025, please refer to:

- https://www.cnb.gov.sg/mediaroom/news/amendments-to-the-first-schedule-of-the-misuse-of-drugs-act-2025/

PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

Preventive Drug Education (PDE) remains a cornerstone of Singapore's commitment to a drug-free society. In 2025, Singapore continued to strengthen its PDE efforts by adopting a whole-of-government approach, expanding its network of partners, and cultivating an active core of volunteers. The following highlights key education and advocacy initiatives over the past year.

Whole-of-Government Approach

Established in August 2023, the Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC) on Drug Prevention for Youths provides strategic direction by leveraging resources and touchpoints across sectors, including education, social and family development, community, and health. This coordinated approach enables sustained engagement with youths throughout their formative years and ensures a holistic response to youth drug abuse.

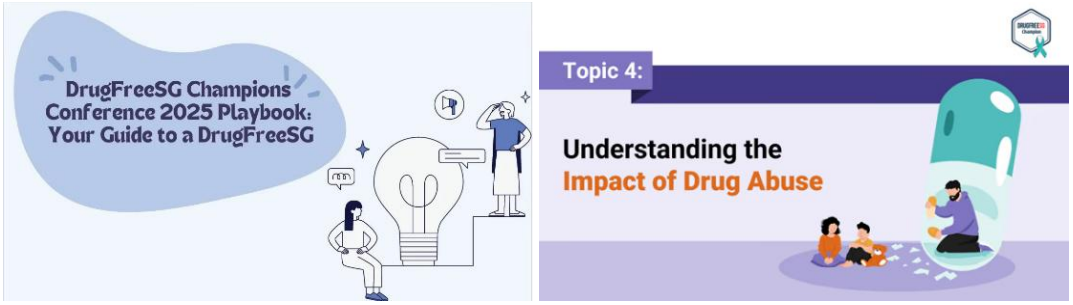
In its second year, the IMC continued to empower and mobilise DrugFreeSG Champions, comprising educators, student leaders, counsellors, youth workers, and members of the National Service and healthcare communities. To strengthen their

capabilities, the DrugFreeSG Champions Conference was organised. The conference featured an opening address by Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Digital Development and Information and then Second Minister for Home Affairs, and a keynote by Professor Bertha K. Madras, Professor of Psychobiology at Harvard Medical School. The conference provided insights into global and local drug trends, the impact of cannabis on youth brain development, and strategies for parental engagement. The conference was attended by over 700 participants. Additionally, it included an exhibition of ongoing PDE initiatives.



[Left] Opening Address by Minister for Digital Development and Information, and then Second Minister for Home Affairs Mrs Josephine Teo
[Right] Panel Discussion with Keynote Speaker Professor Bertha Madras, moderated by then-Senior Consultant Psychiatrist and Chief of the Addiction Medicine Department at the Institute of Mental Health Dr Lambert Low

Extensive materials and resources, including playbooks, videos, and presentation slides, were also developed and disseminated to the Champions. These resources, available on CNB's website, were designed to support the Champions in their advocacy efforts.



Materials and Resources disseminated to Champions

To raise public awareness, the IMC first introduced Drug Victims Remembrance Day (Remembrance Day) in 2024 to recognise the impact of drug abuse on victims, including abusers, their family members, and society as a whole. Since then, Remembrance Day has been observed on the third Friday of May each year. The 2025 observance featured the traditional candle-lighting ceremony and was held alongside the 'Museum of Us' exhibition.

Agencies under the IMC supported the initiative across multiple fronts: all schools conducted PDE activities in May; students from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts contributed a wall mural that was displayed at the exhibition; and all agencies disseminated campaign materials. The event's regional significance was underscored by the attendance of counterparts from ASEAN Member States – Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Thailand – along with more than 100 international non-governmental organisation representatives. Public engagement was strong, with over 180,000 pledges to stay drug-free collected.



Guests at the Remembrance Day 2025

Expanding Network of Community Partners

Singapore continued to strengthen community collaboration through its year-long DrugFreeSG Campaign, working closely with partners to amplify outreach and advocacy efforts.

'Uninfluenced' Campaign. The 'Uninfluenced' Campaign aims to build community resilience and challenge prevailing perceptions of drug use in youth culture through non-traditional engagement methods. The campaign kicked off with an interactive theatre and escape room experience where participants navigated three integrated game rooms, following a fictional storyline, solved puzzles, and uncovered clues revealing the playbook of an unethical drug company marketing a new drug to Singaporean influencers. This experience illustrated the micro-, meso-, and macro-level influences surrounding drug use in contemporary society, and was well received by Institutes of Higher Learning as an effective and engaging approach. The campaign's popularity was evident, with all 1,900 escape room slots booked out within the first week of release.



Scenes from the Escape Room Experience

'What's the News?' Interactive Quiz and Travelling Exhibition Showcase. The 'What's the News?' Interactive Quiz programme promotes media literacy and critical thinking on current affairs, including drug issues. The programme is conducted in partnership with a local media organisation and comprises a preliminary online quiz, a telematch, and a final game show, each incorporating PDE elements. Complementing the quiz, a travelling exhibition was also deployed to schools and public spaces to further engage students and the public, including a dedicated panel on drugs. In 2025, the programme reached over 6,000 students from 51 educational institutions.



What's the News Telematch Games and Finals

Building Core of Volunteers

Singapore continued to strengthen a dedicated volunteer network to support the drug-free Singapore cause and achieve sustained, community-driven advocacy. The DrugFreeSG Advocacy Network brings together volunteers who identify with and promote the drug-free cause. To support their advocacy roles, CNB organised engagement sessions and training in areas such as public speaking, content creation, and design thinking. In 2025, two engagement sessions and a learning journey were conducted, and volunteers were featured at key events such as Remembrance Day and community roadshows, as well as across media and social media platforms.



Engagement sessions on public speaking and video editing

Thailand

1. Development of Drug-Related Legislation

Thailand has continuously strengthened its drug-related legal framework to respond to the evolving drug situation and improve the effectiveness of drug control, prevention, and harm reduction measures, thereby minimizing future risks. In 2025, the following laws and measures were introduced:

1.1 The Royal Decree Designating Experimental Areas for the Cultivation and Extraction of Active Substances from Opium Poppies and Psilocybin Mushrooms ("Magic Mushrooms") for Research Purposes, B.E. 2568 (2025) came into effect on 24 March 2025

This Royal Decree was initiated following a proposal by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) under the Thai Opium for Medical Security Initiative and the research project on the cultivation of Psilocybin mushrooms for future medical applications within a controlled system, pursuant to Section 55 of the Narcotics Code.

The Royal Decree aims to designate experimental areas for the cultivation and extraction of active substances from opium poppies and psilocybin mushrooms for research purposes, while establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework for monitoring and controlling such activities. The key provisions are summarized as follows:

(1) Designation of Areas for the Experimental Cultivation and Extraction of Active Substances from Opium Poppies. Certain areas within the International Narcotics Control College under the ONCB, as well as designated areas of the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO), have been designated as experimental cultivation sites for opium poppies for research purposes.

(2) Designation of Areas for the Experimental Cultivation and Extraction of Active Substances from Psilocybin Mushrooms. Certain areas within the International Narcotics Control College under the ONCB, together with laboratory and research facilities at seven universities, have been designated as experimental cultivation sites for psilocybin mushrooms for research purposes.

(3) Establishment of Control Measures for the Cultivation of Opium Poppies and Psilocybin Mushrooms. The Royal Decree designates responsible authorities and prescribes control and monitoring measures for experimental cultivation activities, including the sourcing of plant materials, cultivation processes, security and safety measures, storage, transportation, destruction, and reporting requirements.

(4) Establishment of Control Measures for the Extraction of Active Substances from Opium Poppies and Psilocybin Mushrooms. The Royal Decree designates responsible authorities and prescribes control and monitoring measures for extraction activities, including extraction procedures, security measures, storage, transportation, destruction, and reporting requirements.



Figure : Outdoor and Indoor Cultivation Facilities at the International Narcotics Control College (INCC), Chiang Rai Province.

1.2 Announcement of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Health on the Determination of Prohibited Places, Methods, or Conditions for the Sale of Kratom Leaves, B.E. 2568 (2025) (Kratom is not classified as a narcotic drug; however, it remains subject to specific control measures.)

Due to the increasing sale and misuse of Kratom leaves and Kratom-infused boiled beverages, as well as the growing practice of mobile vendors and roadside stalls selling Kratom products in public areas and near educational institutions, children and young people have gained easier access.

This trend has made effective regulation and enforcement increasingly challenging, contrary to the original intent of the law.

In addition, authorities found that commercially available kratom-infused beverages contained elevated concentrations of Mitragynine. Excessive consumption may adversely affect consumers' health. Therefore, the Government of Thailand has established regulations specifying prohibited places, methods, and conditions for the sale of kratom leaves and kratom-infused boiled beverages.

These measures aim to protect public health, prevent the misuse of kratom products, and reduce factors that facilitate access among children and youth.

The Ministry of Justice, through the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), and the Ministry of Public Health jointly issued the Announcement of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Health on the Determination of Prohibited Places, Methods, or Conditions for the Sale of Kratom Leaves, B.E. 2568 (2025).

The announcement was signed by the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Public Health on 11 September 2025 and published in the Royal Thai Government Gazette on 12 September 2025. The regulation came into effect 30 days after its publication. The key provisions are as follows:



(1) Proximity Ban: The sale of kratom products, including kratom leaves and kratom-infused beverages, is prohibited within a 1,000-meter radius of schools and educational institutions.

(2) Prohibited Sales Methods and Penalties: The sale of kratom products through mobile stalls, vehicles, street peddling, vending machines, or temporary stands in public areas is prohibited. Violators are subject to fines of up to 50,000 Baht (approximately USD 1,500).

Figure : Public Awareness Poster on the Prohibition of Selling Kratom Leaves in Restricted Areas

1.3 Strengthening Drug Control Measures through the Reclassification of Etomidate

Misuse of Etomidate in E-Cigarettes

There is increasing evidence of the widespread misuse of etomidate, particularly through e-cigarettes among children and youth. The Ministry of Public Health has officially reclassified etomidate, a fast-acting intravenous anesthetic, from a “specially controlled drug” to a Category 2 psychotropic substance.

Category 2 psychotropic substances are substances used for medical purposes that carry a high risk of abuse or misuse. The reclassification was introduced to prevent the misuse of etomidate, which is normally used only by specialized medical personnel in healthcare facilities for anesthesia and surgical procedures.

However, authorities have found discovered that etomidate had been illegally mixed into e-cigarette liquids and distributed, particularly among children and young people, for recreational purposes. Misuse of etomidate may cause loss of consciousness, respiratory depression, respiratory arrest, or death.

Under Section 149 of the Narcotics Code, any person who manufactures, imports, exports, sells, or possesses etomidate without authorization is subject to imprisonment of up to seven years and/or a fine of up to 700,000 baht (approximately USD 20,000). If the offense is committed for commercial purposes, the penalty increases to imprisonment for one to fifteen years and a fine ranging from 100,000 to 1,500,000 baht (approximately USD 3,000 to 45,000).



Figure: Illicit Etomidate Identified and Seized Evidence

2. Promoting Research, Academic Cooperation, and Innovation to Support Drug Policy Implementation

Thailand has continued to promote academic development, knowledge exchange, and innovation to support the implementation of drug policies, strengthen institutional capacity, and enhance evidence-informed approaches to addressing drug-related challenges.

2.1 The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on academic cooperation for the development of a drug-related academic network with seven universities, namely Chiang Mai University, Khon Kaen University, Chulalongkorn University, Prince of Songkla University, Mahidol University, Srinakharinwirot University, and Vongchavalitkul University.

The MOU is effective for a period of five years, from 19 February 2025 to 18 February 2029. The cooperation focuses on advocacy, research, drug treatment, system development, surveillance, prevention, and the development of various techniques and approaches to addressing drug-related problems. It also promotes the development of human resource capacity in the field of drug studies, monitoring and evaluation of drug prevention, treatment, and problem-solving initiatives, as well as research to support strategic directions and national drug policies.

In addition, the cooperation supports the development of strong and resilient communities that are safe from drug-related problems, promotes knowledge and information sharing, and strengthens academic toxicology networks related to narcotic drugs. The primary objective of this cooperation is to ensure that communities and the public are protected from drug-related problems and their impacts.



Figure: MOU Signing Ceremony on Academic Cooperation between ONCB and Seven Universities

2.2 Knowledge and Experience Exchange among National and International Experts

Thailand organized a platform for knowledge and experience exchange among national and international academics to promote studies on yaba (methamphetamine tablets) and support the development of policy recommendations on yaba. The initiative aims to foster integrated responses at both national and regional levels.

This effort was carried out through the 2025 International Conference on Drug Policy: Yaba, Methamphetamine, and Synthetic Drugs, held from 6–8 August 2025 at the Eastin Grand Hotel Phayathai, Bangkok.

As a follow-up to the conference, Thailand plans to convene expert group meetings to exchange views and discuss developments, progress, and research findings on a continuous basis. The initiative will also promote drug use monitoring, harm reduction approaches, capacity-building and training for personnel, and measures that prioritize vulnerable populations and gender equality.

In addition, cooperation with civil society organizations will be strengthened to reduce barriers to accessing services and to develop treatment and care models for people with stimulant use disorders, including both pharmacological and psychosocial interventions, as well as specialized services for stimulant users.

Thailand also plans to organize a side event at the next session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and present the outcomes of the conference at the 46th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) Meeting. These activities aim to support international research collaboration and professional networking, promote international collaborative research, and facilitate the development of common research standards.



Figure: The 2025 International Conference on Drug Policy (ICDP): Yaba, Methamphetamine, and Synthetic Drugs

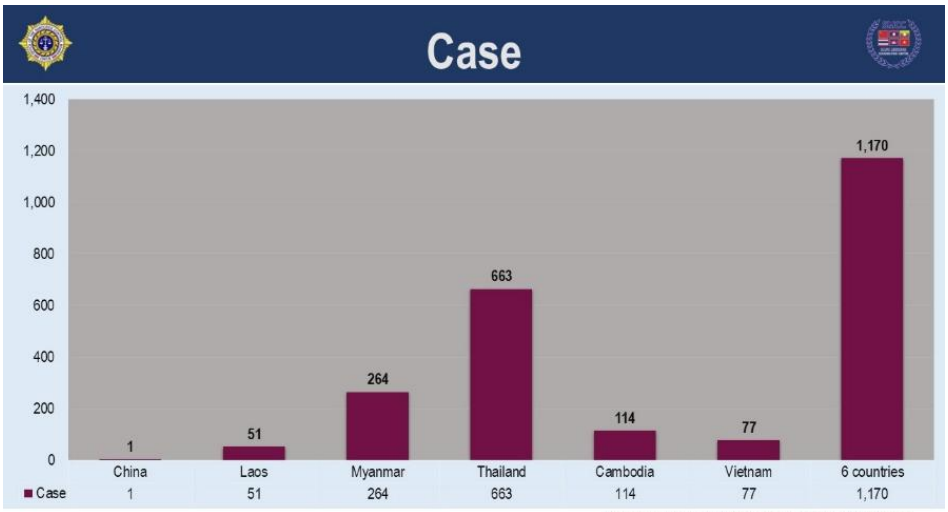
ANNEX

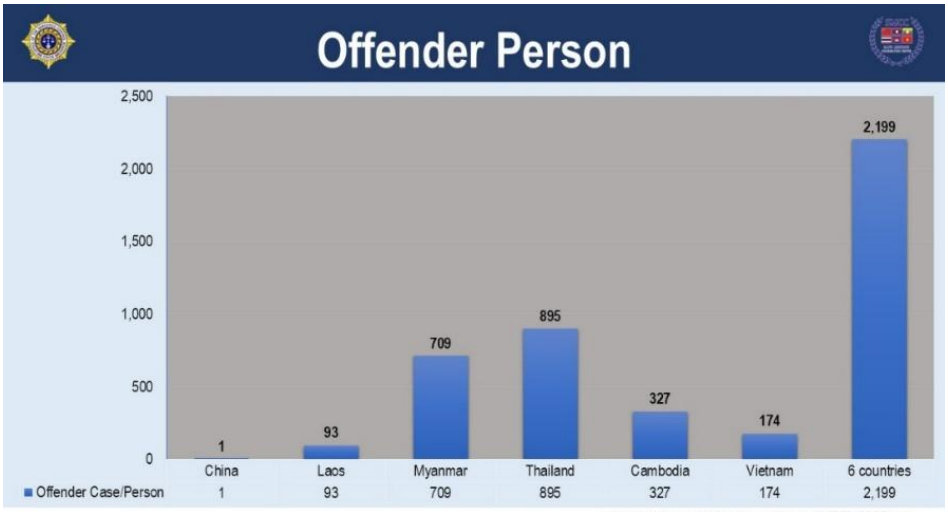
Drug seizure statistics, precursors and chemicals in 6 countries 2025

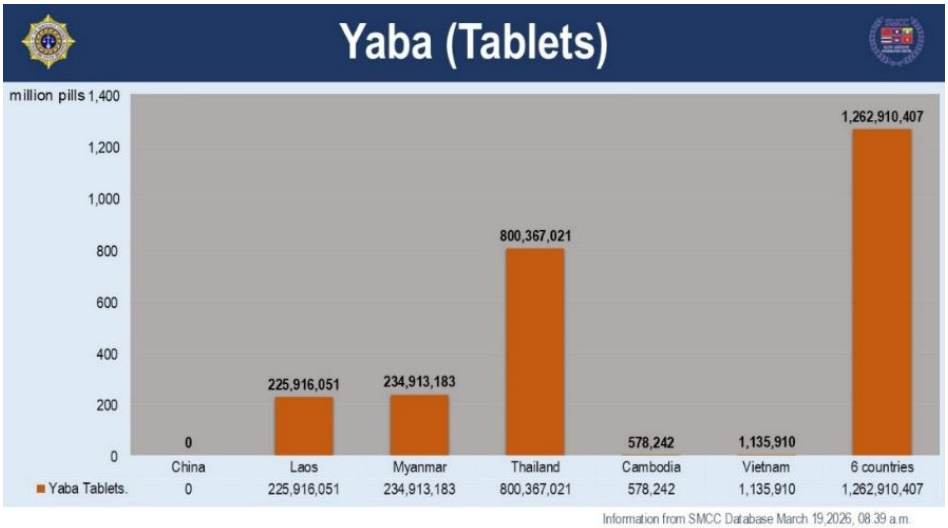
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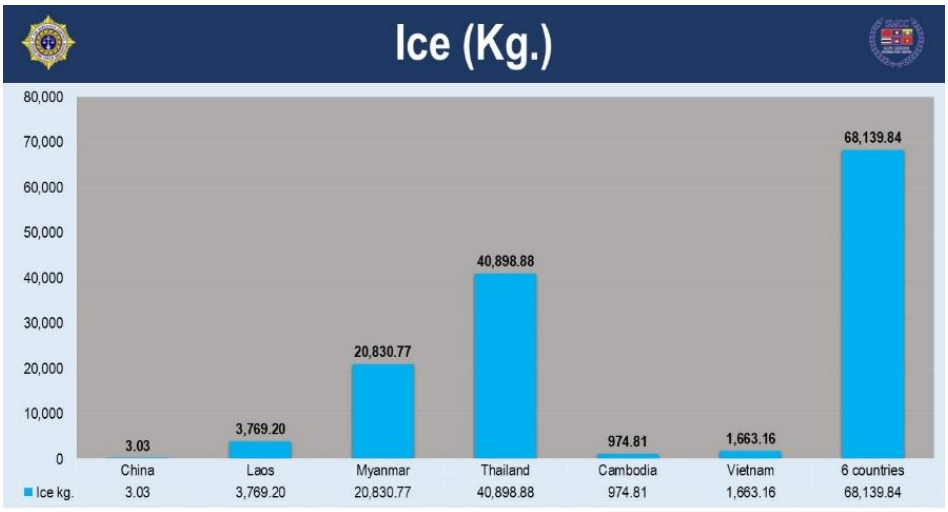
List	(Between January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025)						
	China	Laos	Myanmar	Thailand	Cambodia	Vietnam	6 countries
Narcotics arrest (case)	1	51	264	663	114	77	1,170
Offender (person)	1	93	709	895	327	174	2,199
Exhibit							
- Yaba (tablet)	-	225,916,051	234,913,183	800,367,021	578,242	1,135,910	1,262,910,407
- Ice (kg.)	3.03	3,769.20	20,830.77	40,898.88	974.81	1,663.16	68,139.84
- Cannabis (kg.)	-	-	3.30	5,094.30	523.86	714.28	6,335.74
- Heroin (kg.)	-	28.00	1,718.22	521.18	119.63	157.31	2,544.34
- Opium (kg.)	-	-	623.28	90.00	138.43	1.20	852.91
- Ketamine (kg.)	-	5,367.00	6,333.80	2,975.82	1,935.80	1,578.44	18,190.86
- Ecstasy (tablet)	-	-	17,413	337,105	1,645,028	247,574	2,247,120
- Caffein (kg.)	-	-	19,675.00	-	3.50	-	19,678.50
- precursor (kg.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	235
- Chemical (kg.)	-	4.00	241.65	991,952.00	20,530.75	17,166.00	1,029,894.40
Psychotropic substances							
- Erimin 5 (tablet)	-	-	23,300	-	-	-	23,300
- Methanol Nitric Acid (liter.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Happy Water (Kg.)	-	-	105.77	32.9	30.25	4.20	173.12
- Precusor (kg.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Methylamine (kg.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

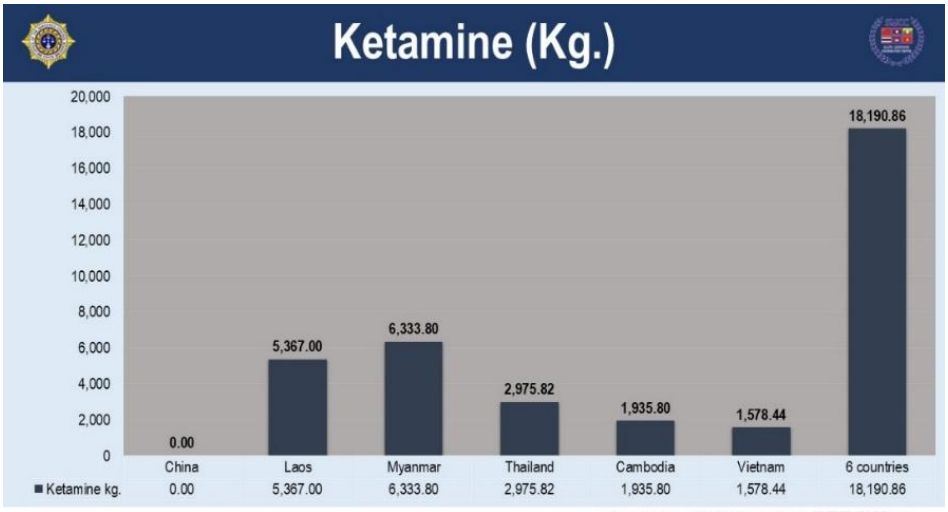
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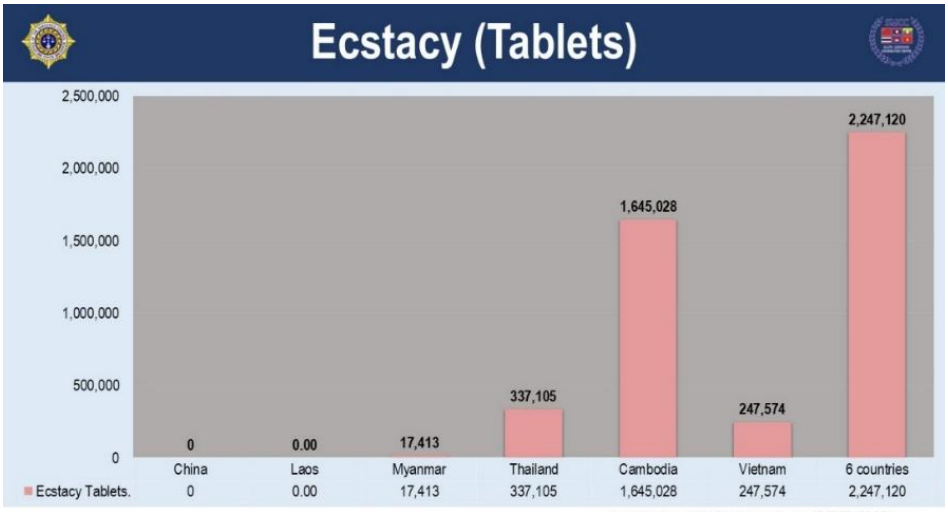

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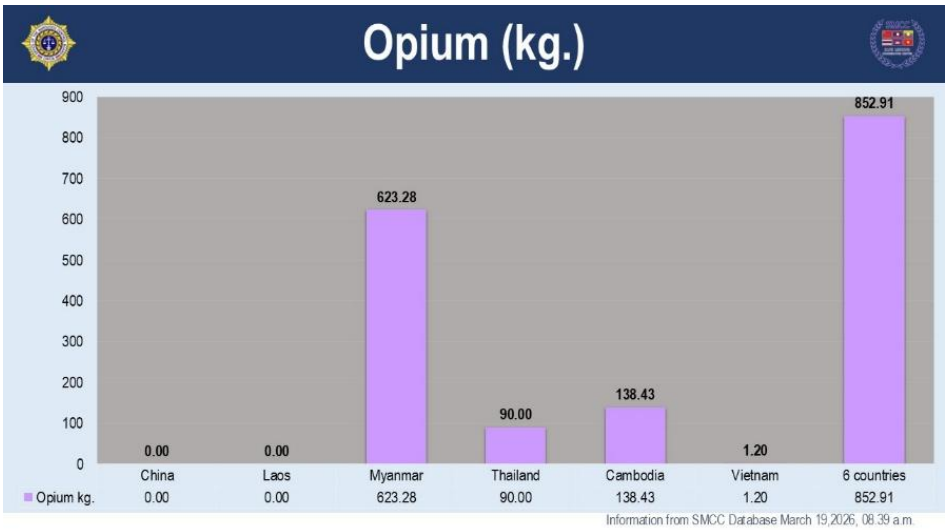

Offender Person
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Thailand
Cambodia
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Offender Case/Person
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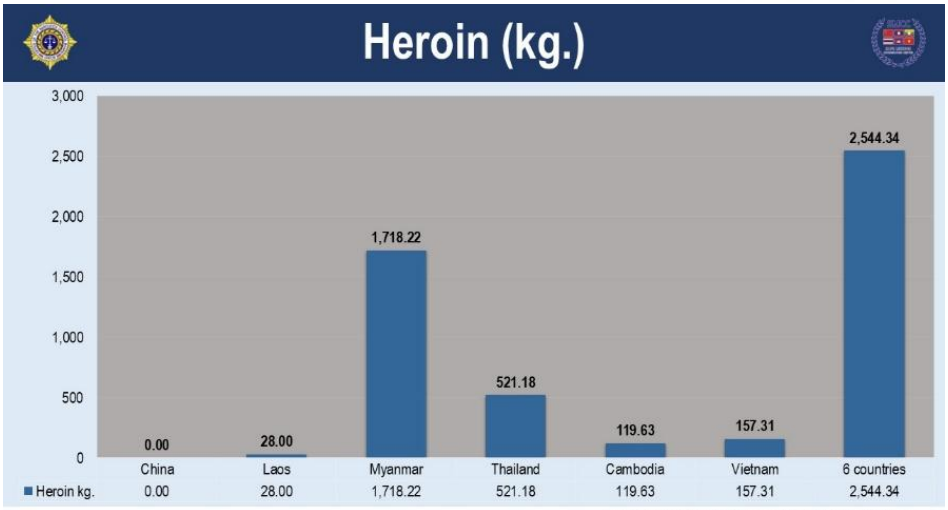

Yaba (Tablets)
million pills
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China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
Yaba Tablets.
0
225,916,051
234,913,183
800,367,021
578,242
1,135,910
1,262,910,407
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08:39 a.m.

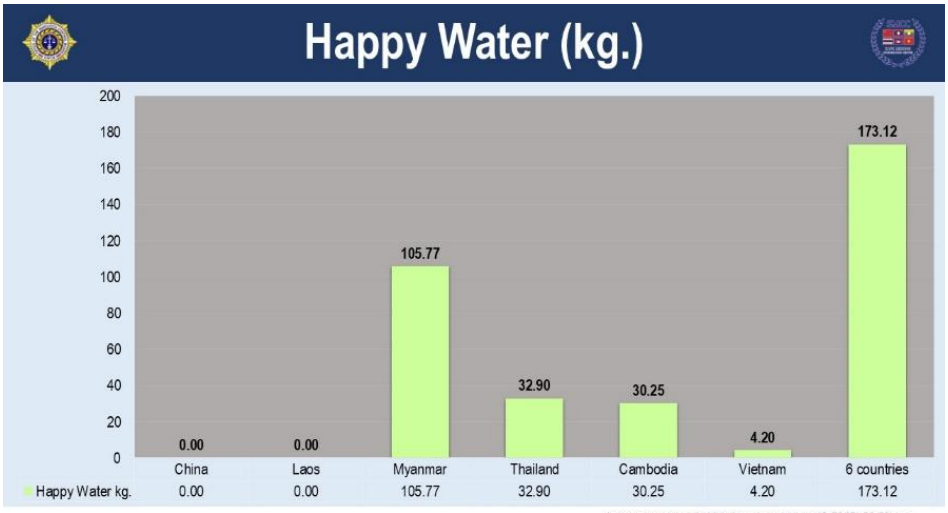

Ice (Kg.)
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
3.03
3,769.20
20,830.77
40,898.88
974.81
1,663.16
68,139.84
China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
Ice kg.
3.03
3,769.20
20,830.77
40,898.88
974.81
1,663.16
68,139.84
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08:39 a.m.

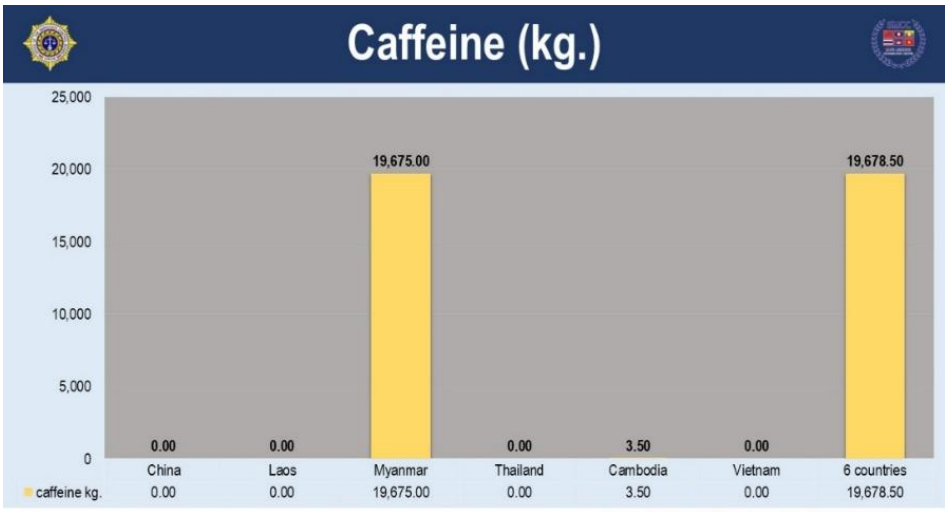

Ketamine (Kg.)
20,000
18,000
16,000
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
0.00
5,367.00
6,333.80
2,975.82
1,935.80
1,578.44
18,190.86
China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
Ketamine kg.
0.00
5,367.00
6,333.80
2,975.82
1,935.80
1,578.44
18,190.86
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08:39 a.m.

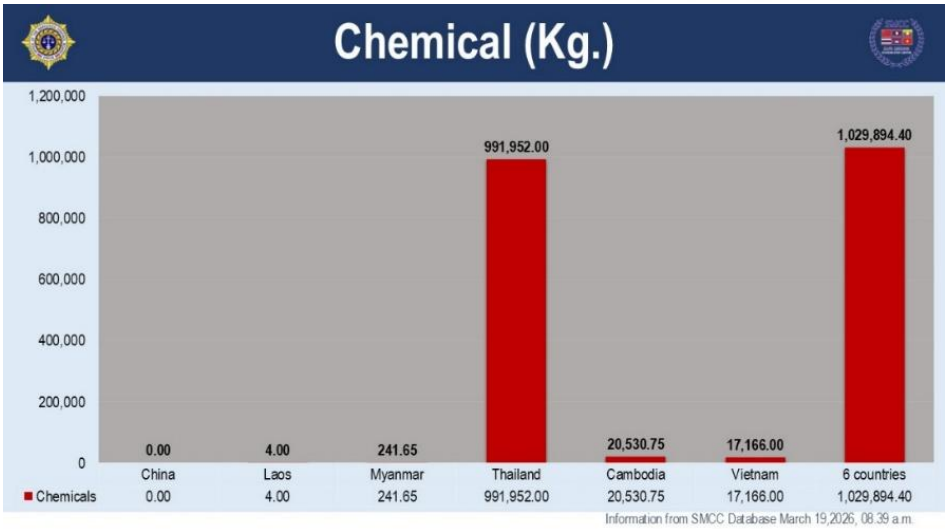

Ecstacy (Tablets)
2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0
0
0.00
17,413
337,105
1,645,028
247,574
2,247,120
China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
Ecstacy Tablets.
0
0.00
17,413
337,105
1,645,028
247,574
2,247,120
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08:39 a.m.


Opium (kg.)
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
0.00
0.00
623.28
90.00
138.43
1.20
852.91
China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
Opium kg.
0.00
0.00
623.28
90.00
138.43
1.20
852.91
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08.39 a.m.


Heroin (kg.)
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
0.00
28.00
1,718.22
521.18
119.63
157.31
2,544.34
China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
Heroin kg.
0.00
28.00
1,718.22
521.18
119.63
157.31
2,544.34
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08.39 a.m.


Happy Water (kg.)
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
0.00
0.00
105.77
32.90
30.25
4.20
173.12
China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
Happy Water kg.
0.00
0.00
105.77
32.90
30.25
4.20
173.12
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08.39 a.m.


Caffeine (kg.)
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
0.00
0.00
19,675.00
0.00
3.50
0.00
19,678.50
China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
caffeine kg.
0.00
0.00
19,675.00
0.00
3.50
0.00
19,678.50
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08.39 a.m.


Chemical (Kg.)
1,200,000
1,000,000
800,000
600,000
400,000
200,000
0
0.00
4.00
241.65
991,952.00
20,530.75
17,166.00
1,029,894.40
China
Laos
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
6 countries
Chemicals
0.00
4.00
241.65
991,952.00
20,530.75
17,166.00
1,029,894.40
Information from SMCC Database March 19,2026, 08.39 a.m.



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WHY ADMN MATTERS

Most organizations stop at monitoring — they collect data, track metrics, and react to what already happened. ADMN is built to go further. The following six signals represent our deliberate progression from observation toward foresight.

1 **Monitor**
What happened?
Track events, measure outcomes, and surface anomalies across key dimensions in real time.

2 **Interpret**
What does it mean?
Contextualize signals, identify patterns, and translate raw data into actionable intelligence.

3 **Anticipate**
What comes next?
Project trajectories, stress-test assumptions, and position for what's ahead — before it arrives.

The six signals that follow are ADMN's structured attempt to move the organization from monitoring toward genuine anticipation — turning data into decisions before the moment demands it.



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WHAT SURPRISED US IN 2025?

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network has accumulated more than a decade of regional intelligence. But 2025 is not a year for routine reporting. The data are sending signals—six of them—that demand strategic attention from policymakers, public-health leaders, and law-enforcement commanders alike.

Signal 1
ASEAN has entered the Synthetic Drug Era

Signal 2
Treatment & seizures rising simultaneously

Signal 3
Crystal Methamphetamine Is Rapidly Expanding Across ASEAN

Signal 4
Polydrug use on the rise

Signal 5
Criminal networks growing more efficient

Signal 6
Preparing for the Next Wave of Drug Threats

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SIGNAL 1: ASEAN HAS ENTERED THE SYNTHETIC DRUG ERA

THE SCALE OF ATS DOMINANCE

ATS accounted for **354,916 treatment admissions** in 2025 — a figure that dwarfs every other drug category in the region. This is not a trend to watch. It is the defining reality of ASEAN's drug challenge today.

- ATS dominates both treatment and seizure indicators
- No other substance category comes close in regional burden
- Every ASEAN member state is affected — without exception

⚠ ATS is no longer one drug among many. It has become the **defining drug challenge for the entire ASEAN region.**

THE POLICY MISMATCH RISK

Many regional frameworks, legal instruments, and treatment models were developed during the heroin era — when opiates were the primary concern. The synthetic drug era demands different interventions:

- Different pharmacology requires different treatment protocols
- No substitution therapy exists for methamphetamine
- Production is domestic and decentralized — not import-dependent
- Psychosis and violence complicate both health and justice responses

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SIGNAL 2: TREATMENT DEMAND AND DRUG SEIZURES ARE INCREASING TOGETHER

From **252,208 treatment admissions in 2015** to **871,403 in 2025** — a 245% increase in a decade. Simultaneously, total regional seizures reached **1,210 tons in 2025.** Both indicators are moving in the same direction, at the same time. This is the paradox that should animate every strategic conversation at AMS.

1 2 3

Hypothesis 1: Supply Expansion

Production capacity in the Golden Triangle and beyond may be growing faster than enforcement can interdict — meaning seizures increase without reducing availability.

Hypothesis 2: Better Treatment Access

ASEAN investment in treatment infrastructure may be driving more people into care — a genuine public health success that paradoxically inflates admission numbers.

Hypothesis 3: Trafficking Efficiency

Criminal networks moving larger shipments per event create higher seizure volumes without requiring more traffickers — a sign of structural sophistication, not vulnerability.

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SIGNAL 3: CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE IS QUIETLY GAINING GROUND

The gap between treatment data and seizure data tells a story of a market in transition. In treatment wards, YABA still dominates at **61.5%** but crystal meth seizures have reached **42% of ATS seizure volume**, closing fast on YABA's 53.7% share. Supply is shifting toward higher potency before demand has fully followed. That lag will not last.

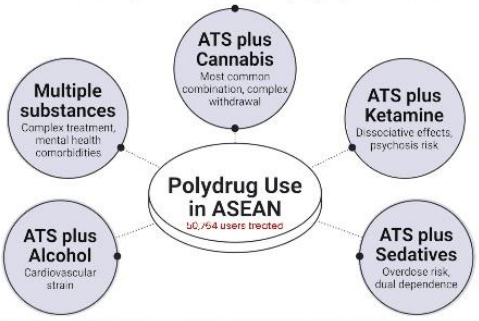
More Severe Psychosis	Deeper Dependence	Greater Social Harm	Higher Treatment Costs
Crystal meth triggers psychotic episodes at higher rates and with greater severity than tablet-form ATS — placing acute burden on psychiatric services.	Higher bioavailability means faster addiction onset and more severe withdrawal — extending treatment duration and reducing recovery rates.	Violence, family disruption, and criminal behavior associated with crystal meth use exceed those of tablet ATS — amplifying community-level consequences.	Longer stays, psychiatric comorbidities, and higher relapse rates make crystal meth patients significantly more expensive to treat than YABA users.

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SIGNAL 4: POLYDRUG USE IS EMERGING AS THE NEXT CHALLENGE

The fastest-growing category in ADMN treatment data is not a single substance — it is the **"Others/Polydrug" category**, reflecting patients who present with multiple substance dependencies simultaneously. This is not an edge case. It is a structural shift in drug use patterns that treatment systems are fundamentally ill-prepared to address.



⚠ Treatment systems designed around single-drug protocols are facing patients with **multiple substance dependencies and co-occurring mental health conditions.** The structural mismatch is already here — and it will only deepen.

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SIGNAL 5: CRIMINAL NETWORKS APPEAR TO BE ADAPTING AND EVOLVING

The enforcement data of 2025 present a deeply uncomfortable picture for regional law enforcement strategists. More drugs are being seized than at any point in ADMN history — yet the number of cases and offenders has not risen proportionally. This is the signature of **industrialized, logistics-optimized criminal enterprise**, not disorganized trafficking.

What "More Efficient" Means

- **Larger shipments per event** — fewer transactions, higher volumes
- **Industrial-scale production** — factory-style labs with mass output
- **Logistics optimization** — professional supply chain management
- **Reduced exposure** — fewer personnel handling more product
- **Corruption insulation** — organizational structures that protect leadership

The Strategic Implication

Traditional enforcement models assume a relatively linear relationship between arrests and disruption. When criminal networks professionalize and industrialize, that assumption breaks down entirely.

ASEAN may need to shift from **quantity-of-arrest metrics** toward **network disruption metrics** — measuring the degradation of organizational capability, not simply the volume of arrests or seizures.

> The challenge is no longer *more traffickers* — it is *smarter traffickers*.

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SIGNAL 6: THE NEXT MAJOR THREAT MAY NOT BE ATS

Every dominant drug era in modern history ended — and the transition was rarely visible until it was well underway. ADMN data are beginning to show the early signals of what may come next. None of these threats has yet achieved ATS scale — but each is moving in a direction that demands strategic attention now, not after the inflection point.



Ketamine

Seizures are rising across multiple member states. Once a niche club drug, ketamine is showing organized trafficking patterns and a broadening user base. Its harm potential — including bladder destruction and psychosis — is frequently underestimated.



New Psychoactive Substances

NPS are structurally designed to evade scheduling controls. Each enforcement response triggers a new chemical generation. The regulatory game is inherently reactive — and NPS producers are always one step ahead.



Digital Drug Markets

Online platforms and encrypted messaging apps are becoming preferred retail channels across ASEAN's urban centers. These markets are borderless, anonymous, and resistant to conventional enforcement tactics.

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WHAT KEEPS US AWAKE AT NIGHT?

These five concerns share a defining characteristic: **none of them are fully visible in conventional surveillance systems.** By the time they register clearly in standard indicators, the window for proactive policy response may have already closed. This is precisely the gap that ADMN must be empowered to fill.

1. **Crystal Meth Expansion**
   A market-wide shift toward higher-potency product will amplify psychiatric burden, violence, and treatment costs across all member states — simultaneously.
2. **Polydrug Use**
   Multi-substance dependency is becoming the norm. Treatment systems designed for one drug at a time face a structural mismatch with the patients already arriving at their doors.
3. **Ketamine Growth**
   Rising seizures and broadening use indicate organized trafficking interest — not just recreational experimentation. Harm profiles are severe and frequently underappreciated.
4. **Online Drug Markets**
   Digital platforms are decentralizing retail drug supply, making traditional street-level enforcement progressively less relevant to actual drug availability.
5. **Synthetic Opioids**
   Synthetic opioids remain a low-prevalence but potentially high-impact threat requiring continued monitoring.

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DIRECTION

Among all the data ADMN can present, three findings stand apart in their power to shift a room from passive reception to active strategic debate. These are the slides that challenge assumptions, signal transitions, and elevate the conversation from reporting to foresight.

1. **Treatment ↑ and Seizures ↑ Simultaneously**
   Challenges the foundational enforcement assumption that more seizures reduce use. Demands a new definition of what "success" looks like for regional drug strategy.
2. **Crystal Meth Is Quietly Replacing Tablets**
   Signals a fundamental market transition — from a mass-consumer stimulant market toward a high-potency product with far more severe health and social consequences.
3. **What Is ASEAN's Next ATS?**
   Moves the entire discussion from retrospective reporting to strategic foresight — exactly the role a regional monitoring network should play at the AMS table.

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WHAT ADMN CAN TELL US — AND WHAT IT CANNOT

Presenting data with intellectual honesty is not weakness — it is the foundation of long-term credibility with policymakers. ADMN's value as a strategic instrument depends on clear-eyed acknowledgment of what the data can and cannot support.

ADMN Strengths

- **Long-term trend monitoring** across all ASEAN member states
- **Regional comparability** enabling benchmarking and performance tracking
- **Early identification** of emerging substances and shifting patterns
- **Policy monitoring** — tracking the effects of regional interventions over time
- **Strategic foresight** — moving from reporting to anticipation

ADMN Limitations

- **Treatment ≠ Prevalence**: admissions reflect access to care as much as drug use rates
- **Seizures ≠ Market size**: seizure data measure enforcement activity, not total supply
- **Reporting heterogeneity**: different national systems affect cross country comparability
- **Causality gaps**: correlation between indicators cannot establish policy impact

ADMN is a **decision-support tool**. Used with appropriate context, it is one of the most powerful regional intelligence instruments ASEAN possesses.

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LOOKING AHEAD: ASEAN 2030

The drug challenge of 2030 will not resemble the drug challenge of 2025 — just as 2025 looks nothing like 2015. The forces already visible in ADMN data suggest a future characterized by compounding complexity, adaptive criminal enterprise, and public health burdens that will test every system in the region.

Synthetic Dominance

ATS and next-generation synthetic drugs will likely remain the primary threat with crystal meth potentially displacing tablet forms as the market's defining product.

Digital Trafficking

Online drug markets will increasingly dominate retail supply chains requiring new digital intelligence capabilities, cyber-enforcement frameworks, and cross border data cooperation.

Unknown Emerging Threats

The next major drug crisis may already be forming in spaces where current surveillance has no visibility. Anticipatory capacity — not reactive response — will define ASEAN's preparedness.

1 2 3 4 5

Polydrug Complexity

Multi-substance use will become standard clinical presentation, demanding integrated treatment models that address mental health, social, and multiple pharmacological dependencies simultaneously.

Industrial Criminal Networks

Trafficking organizations will continue to professionalize, scale, and insulate their leadership — requiring enforcement strategies built around network disruption rather than individual arrest metrics.

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FINAL MESSAGES

Six signals. One urgent message: **the time to act on what the data are telling us is now — not after the inflection point has passed.** ADMN is not simply a record of the past. It is ASEAN's most important instrument for shaping what comes next.

1. **ATS remains ASEAN's dominant drug challenge**
   With 354,916 treatment admissions and 1,210 tons seized in 2025, ATS defines the regional burden — and demands policy frameworks specifically designed for the synthetic drug era.
2. **Treatment demand and drug supply continue to rise simultaneously**
   The classical enforcement model — more seizures equals less use — is not holding. ASEAN needs a new metric of success that accounts for expanding production capacity.
3. **Crystal methamphetamine is becoming increasingly important**
   The seizure-treatment gap signals a market in transition. At 42% of ATS seizures, crystal meth is approaching tablet volumes — with far more severe health consequences per user.
4. **Polydrug use is emerging as a structural challenge**
   Multi-substance dependency is already arriving at treatment doors. Systems built around single-drug models must adapt — or face a widening gap between patient needs and available care.
5. **Trafficking networks are industrializing faster than enforcement is adapting**
   Stable arrests plus skyrocketing seizures equals a more efficient, more professional criminal enterprise. Enforcement doctrine must evolve to match the threat.
6. **ASEAN must build capacity to anticipate — not just respond**
   Ketamine, NPS, synthetic opioids, and digital markets are already moving. The region that invests in early warning and strategic foresight today will be far better positioned in 2030

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THE PURPOSE OF ADMN

Not to describe the past.
To help ASEAN anticipate the future.

The six signals in this presentation are not data points. They are strategic warnings — early indicators of transitions already underway in the ASEAN drug landscape. The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network exists precisely to surface these signals before they become crises.

> "ADMN data are sending six strategic signals that ASEAN should pay attention to." — That framing elevates every conversation from reporting to policymaking. From description to anticipation. From reaction to leadership.

The question for every leader in this room: What will ASEAN do with these six signals — before 2030 makes the answer unavoidable?



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