

10 August 2011

Original: English

Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 3-7 October 2011

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures**Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide****Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

The present note by the Secretariat provides an overview of the current trends in illicit drug production and trafficking in the Americas and worldwide, based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The report provides information on illicit drug cultivation and production for 2009 and 2010 and statistics on drug seizures for 2009, and where available, 2010.

Substantial amounts of cannabis were grown in the Americas. In 2009, 70 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures were made in North America. Trafficking of cannabis herb within North America was mainly intra-regional.

Opiates production in North America was found in Mexico, whose opium production accounted for 5 per cent of the global total in 2009. Heroin seized in the United States continued to dominate the regional trend of heroin seizures in the Americas.

Almost all global coca leaf production was found in South America, with recent declines mainly driven by reductions in Colombia. In 2009, 92 per cent of the global cocaine seizures took place in the Americas. The trafficking of cocaine in the Americas usually involved shipments from the Andean region destined for the United States and Canada.

* UNODC/HONLAC/21/1.



The manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) (mostly methamphetamine and to a lesser extent, “ecstasy”) took place in all three North American countries. It has also emerged in some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean with little or no previous history of reported manufacture.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	4
II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs	5
A. Cannabis	5
B. Opium	6
C. Coca	7
D. Amphetamine-type stimulants	9
III. Trends in drug trafficking	9
A. Cannabis	9
B. Opiates	13
C. Cocaine	17
D. Amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic psychotropic substances	19
Table	
Drug seizures: Latin America and the Caribbean and worldwide, 2008 and 2009	10
Figures	
I. Global illicit opium production, 1999-2010	7
II. Global illicit coca bush cultivation, 1999-2010	8
III. Cannabis herb seizures: Mexico, United States of America and worldwide, 1999-2009	11
IV. Cannabis herb seizures: Latin America and the Caribbean, 1999-2009	12
V. Breakdown of global cannabis resin seizures, 1999-2009	13
VI. Global seizures of opiates, 1999-2009	14
VII. Distribution of global seizures of opiates, 2009	14
VIII. Heroin seizures: the Americas and United States of America, 1999-2009	16
IX. Distribution of global cocaine seizures, 1999-2009	17
X. Cocaine seizures: the Americas, 1999-2009	18
XI. Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants, 1999-2009	20
XII. Seizures of methamphetamines: Mexico, United States of America and worldwide, 2001-2009	21
XIII. Seizures of “ecstasy”-group substances: United States of America, North America and worldwide, 2000-2009	22

I. Introduction

1. The present report gives an overview of the developments in the production and trafficking of the main illicit drugs in the Americas and worldwide, with specific focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. Analysis is based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. The report addresses the illicit cultivation of cannabis, opium poppy and coca bush and the illicit production of cannabis derivatives, opium and cocaine for the years up to and including 2010. With regard to drug trafficking, the report concentrates on seizure statistics for 2009 and, where available, 2010 and provides an update on trafficking trends for cannabis derivatives, opiates, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS).¹
3. The objective of the report is to support national governments in the combat of illicit drug production and trafficking and to improve the coordination of countermeasures at the regional and subregional levels.
4. Information on illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs has been drawn from the latest illicit crop monitoring surveys published by UNODC. The primary source of information on drug trafficking were the replies to part III (illicit supply of drugs) of the annual reports questionnaire (ARQ) submitted by Governments. Replies to the ARQ for 2009 were submitted by 108 Member States and territories, including 18 states in the Americas.² At the beginning of July 2011, 50 replies for 2010 have been received, including 8 from the Americas.³ Supplementary sources of information included reports on significant drug seizures and official government reports.
5. Whilst drug seizure statistics offer valid, indirect indicators of trafficking trends, they also reflect different reporting practices and are dependent upon the effectiveness of law enforcement capacities. In light of the above, caution should be paid when interpreting these figures.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants, as defined by UNODC, consist of: (a) amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine); (b) “ecstasy” (methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)) and related substances such as methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) (the “ecstasy”-group substances); and (c) a number of other synthetic stimulants such as methcathinone, phentermine and fenetylline.

² They include: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

³ They include: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs

A. Cannabis

6. Due to the different cultivation methods involved, a precise estimation of cannabis cultivation and production level is challenging. Nevertheless, latest UNODC estimates continue to suggest that cannabis remains the most widely cultivated, trafficked and consumed drug in the world in 2010.⁴

7. The cultivation of cannabis herb is widespread, mainly for domestic or regional consumption. This, together with the lack of comprehensive data, makes an exact estimation of its current cultivation level difficult. Latest UNODC estimates suggest a production range of 13,300 to 66,100 tons in 2008.⁵ In addition, its relatively stable seizure trend lends support towards to a stable production level.

8. While outdoor cultivation of cannabis herb can be found all over the world, its indoor cultivation is limited to the developed countries of North America, Europe and Oceania.

9. When compared with cannabis herb, cannabis resin is produced in fewer countries and trafficked over longer distances. Major source countries identified by consumer markets include: Afghanistan, Morocco, Lebanon and Nepal and India.

10. According to the latest Afghanistan Cannabis Survey, 9,000 to 29,000 hectares (ha) of cannabis resin were cultivated in Afghanistan in 2010, roughly the same as that in 2009 (10,000-24,000 ha).⁶ Its cannabis resin production was estimated at 1,200-3,700 tons, also similar to that in 2009 (1,500-3,500 tons). Although cultivation and production remained stable, cannabis cultivation appeared to be more dispersed within the country. Furthermore, a higher cannabis price might push up its future cultivation level even higher.

11. Substantial amounts of cannabis (mainly cannabis herb) are grown in the Americas. In 2009, 70 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures were found in North America. Within the subregion, important exports are directed from Mexico to the United States of America, and to a lesser extent, from Canada to the United States. Greenhouse cultivation of cannabis, however, is still limited to the United States and Canada.⁷

12. Many of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have significant levels of cannabis production. In 2009, 70 per cent of global cannabis plant seizures (an indirect indicator of cannabis eradication) occurred in this subregion — mostly South America. Cannabis production therein seems to be mainly for domestic use.⁸

⁴ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2011*, June 2011.

⁵ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2009*, June 2009.

⁶ UNODC, *Afghanistan Cannabis Survey 2010*, June 2011.

⁷ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2011*, June 2011.

⁸ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2011*, June 2011.

B. Opium

13. The total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation rose by about 5 per cent from 185,935 ha in 2009 to 195,677 ha in 2010. Whilst the majority of cultivation continued to concentrate in Afghanistan (around 63 per cent), the latest rise came from increased cultivation in Myanmar (from 31,700 to 38,100 ha) and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (from 1,900 to 3,000 ha).

14. The Annual Afghanistan Opium Survey concluded that the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2010 stayed the same (123,000 ha).⁹ The stability halted a declining trend that began in 2007. Although cultivation at the national level did not change, regional changes did emerge. An increase of 97 per cent (from 557 ha in 2009 to 1,100 ha in 2010) was found in the Northeastern region. Owing to resistance from anti-government forces, proper eradication did not take place in Nagnarhar province.

15. In Myanmar, opium cultivation in Shan State (eastern part of the country) accounted for 92 per cent of its national cultivation in 2010. Most of the latest increase took place in North Shan and South Shan.¹⁰

16. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, total area under opium cultivation amounted to 3,000 ha in 2010, a 58 per cent rise over 2009. Yet, it only constituted about 2 per cent of the global total and remained low when compared with Afghanistan, Myanmar and Mexico.

17. Increases in opium poppy cultivation have been recorded in Mexico over the past few years. Total area under opium poppy cultivation went up from 6,900 ha in 2007 to 15,000 ha in 2008. It increased further to 19,500 ha in 2009, accounting for 10 per cent of the global total and became the third-largest opium poppy cultivation area worldwide.

18. Regardless of the slight increase in total opium poppy cultivation, global illicit opium production continued to fall, down from 7,853 tons in 2009 to 4,860 tons in 2010 (see figure I). The reduction was mainly driven by lower plant yield in Afghanistan. A severe plant disease which affected opium fields in the major growing provinces caused a sharp decline in its production.¹¹ Illicit opium production therein dropped from 6,900 tons in 2009 to 3,600 tons in 2010.

19. Opium production in Myanmar in 2010 was estimated at 580 tons, higher than that in 2009 (330 tons). The increased cultivation together with a higher yield led to greater production.

20. Between 2002 and 2007, opium production became more concentrated in Afghanistan and its share in global opium production rose from 75 per cent to 92 per cent. In 2010, opium production in Afghanistan took up 74 per cent of the global total, followed by Myanmar (12 per cent).

⁹ UNODC, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2010*, December 2010.

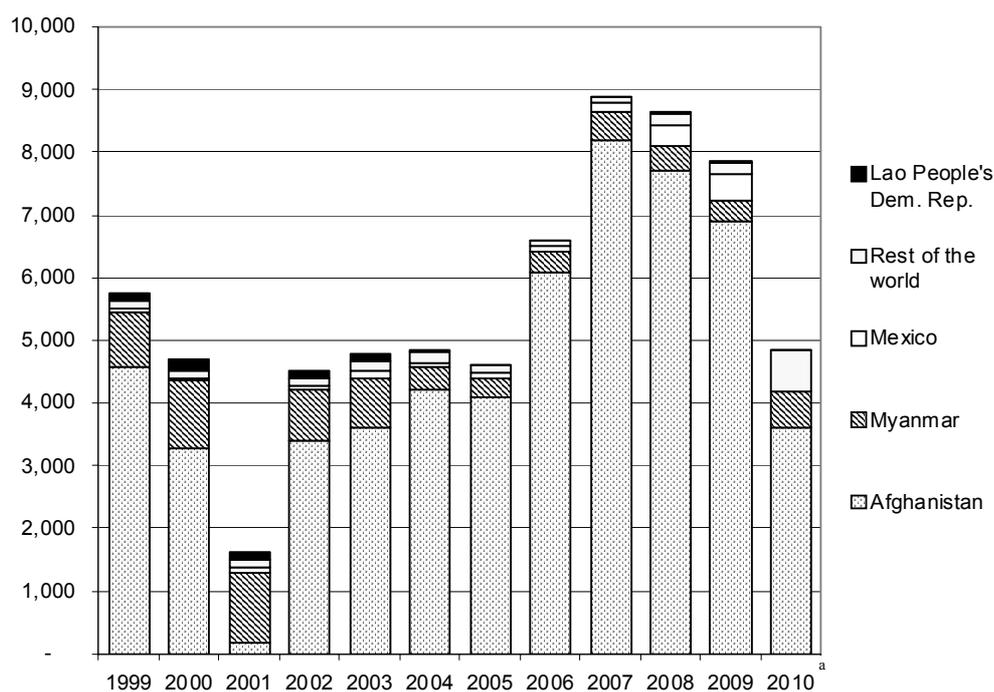
¹⁰ UNODC, *South-East Asia Opium Survey 2010 — Lao PDR, Myanmar*, December 2010.

¹¹ The average opium yield in Afghanistan dropped from 56.1 kg per ha in 2009 to 29.2 kg per ha in 2010 (*Afghanistan Opium Survey 2010*).

21. Production of opiates in North America only takes place in Mexico. Mexico's opium production accounted for 5 per cent of the world total in 2009,¹² but that in other parts of the Americas remained insignificant at the global level.

22. Looking ahead, the latest assessment¹³ indicates that overall cultivation in Afghanistan is expected to drop in 2011. However, the current high price of opium may lead to an increase in opium cultivation in some of its northern provinces, reducing the number of poppy free provinces.

Figure I
Global illicit opium production, 1999-2010
(Tons)



^a Production data for 2010 are available for some countries only.

C. Coca

23. Among all major illicit drugs, production in Latin America and the Caribbean is primarily linked to coca. At the time of writing, the 2010 estimates for global coca bush cultivation are based on the 2010 figures for Colombia and Peru and the 2009 figure for the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

24. Total area under coca bush cultivation dropped from 158,800 ha in 2009 to 149,100 ha in 2010, a reduction of 6 per cent (see figure II). This is principally

¹² Data for opium production in Mexico in 2010 is not yet available.

¹³ UNODC, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2011, Winter Rapid Assessment all regions, Phases 1 and 2*, April 2011.

caused by noticeable decrease in Colombia. Since 2007, significant reduction in Colombia had been the major source of diminution in global coca bush cultivation.

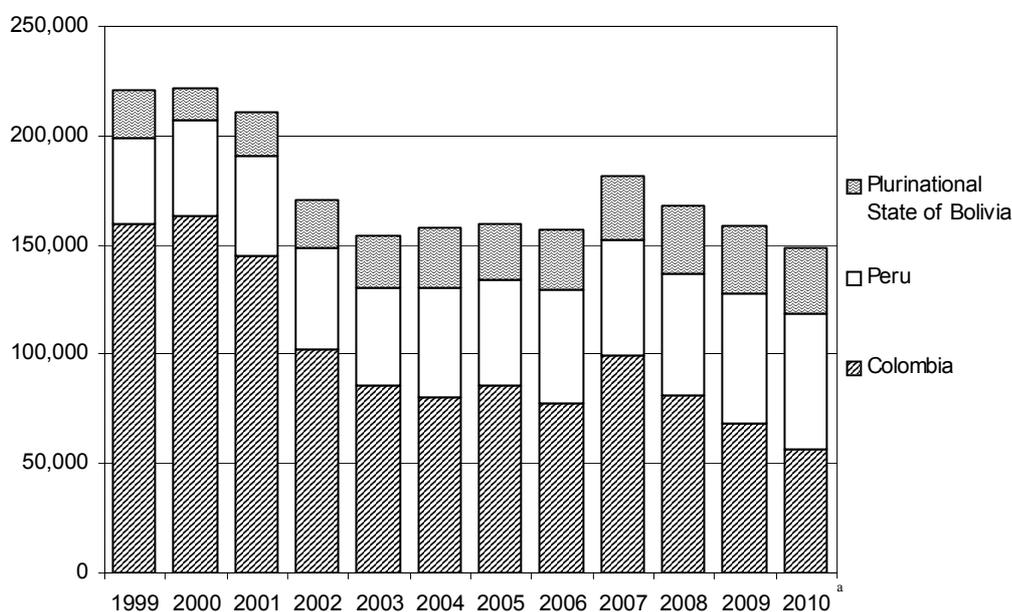
25. The area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia fell from 68,000 ha in 2009 to 57,000 ha in 2010. All major growing regions recorded reduction, but the Pacific region remained the largest coca bush cultivation region (42 per cent of the coca bush cultivation in Colombia). The Central and Meta-Guaviare regions accounted for another 25 per cent and 14 per cent of its national cultivation respectively.

26. In Peru, the area under coca bush cultivation amounted to 61,200 ha in 2010, largely the same as that in 2009 (59,900 ha). Considerable increases were registered in the Apurímac-Ene region, making it the largest growing region in Peru (32 per cent of the national total).

27. Owing to the ongoing review of conversion factors, point estimates for cocaine production in 2009 and 2010 are not available. Instead, cocaine production for these two years was estimated as ranges: 842-1,111 tons for 2009 and 786-1,054 tons for 2010.

28. South America continues to be a subregion known for its large-scale cocaine production. The three Andean countries, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru are responsible for almost all of the global coca leaf production. Cocaine manufacture in clandestine laboratories also takes place largely in the Andean countries. Cocaine production in other countries within the region stays insignificant.

Figure II
Global illicit coca bush cultivation, 1999-2010
(Hectares)



^a As the 2010 data for the Plurinational State of Bolivia are not yet available, 2009 data have been used.

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

29. Unlike the cultivation of opium poppy and coca plant, the manufacture of ATS is not limited to particular geographical locations, and ATS laboratories tend to be located close to the consumption markets. Precursors and other required chemicals are usually trafficked across regions to facilitate the manufacture of ATS.

30. In 2009, the seizures of about 10,600 ATS-related laboratories were reported worldwide — higher than that in 2008 (8,400 laboratories). Among all types of ATS, methamphetamine continues to be the most widely manufactured ATS. The number of its laboratories jumped from 8,300 in 2008 to 10,200 in 2009.

31. The manufacture of ATS (mostly methamphetamine and to a lesser extent, “ecstasy”) takes place in all three North American countries.¹⁴ Some 99 per cent of all methamphetamine laboratories worldwide are dismantled in North America, notably in the United States. Significant amount of methamphetamine continue to be shipped from Mexico to the United States. Manufacture of “ecstasy” is mainly concentrated in Canada and the United States and a significant share of the Canadian “ecstasy” production is destined for the United States market.¹⁵ Meanwhile, the manufacture of ATS has also emerged in some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean with little or no previous history of reported manufacture.

III. Trends in drug trafficking

32. The table shows the reported quantities of seized drugs for selected drug types in 2008 and 2009. Seizures attributable to countries and territories in Latin America and the Caribbean are expressed both in terms of total weight and as a percentage of the global total for the corresponding drug type. In terms of the proportion of global seizures that took place in Latin American and the Caribbean countries, the most prominent drug types were: (i) cocaine, (ii) crack and (iii) cannabis herb.

A. Cannabis

1. Cannabis herb

33. Global cannabis herb seizures rose from 5,510 tons in 2008 to 6,022 tons in 2009, an increase of 9 per cent (see figure III). The majority of the increases came from North America. In particular, significantly more cannabis herb was seized in the United States (an increase of 539 tons) and Mexico (an increase of 447 tons). On the other hand, noticeable reduction was recorded for Africa (a reduction of 296 tons) and South America (a reduction of 198 tons).

34. North America took up the largest share of global cannabis herb seizures (70 per cent), followed by Africa (11 per cent), South America (10 per cent), Asia (6 per cent) and Europe (3 per cent).

¹⁴ This includes: Canada, the United States and Mexico.

¹⁵ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2011*, June 2011.

35. Given its relative widespread cultivation, the trafficking pattern of cannabis herb is rather localized. Among the 68 countries that submitted their ARQ replies for 2009, 44 of them had some or all cannabis herb originating in their own country.

36. Total cannabis herb seizures in the Americas went up from 4,063 tons in 2008 to 4,808 tons in 2009, largely because of considerable increases in Mexico and the United States. In 2009, cannabis herb seizures in the two countries reached 2,105 tons and 2,049 tons respectively, and continued to report the largest and second-largest cannabis herb seizures worldwide.

Drug seizures: Latin America and the Caribbean and worldwide, 2008 and 2009

Drug type	2008			2009		
	Latin America and the Caribbean (kilograms)	Global (kilograms)	Percentage	Latin America and the Caribbean (kilograms)	Global (kilograms)	Percentage
Cannabis						
Cannabis herb	857,534	5,510,065	15.6	619,786	6,021,927	10.3
Cannabis resin	385	1,647,590	0.0	277	1,261,293	0.0
Coca						
Cocaine ^a	522,498	722,698	72.3	540,748	731,472	73.9
Crack	541	665	81.4	322	612	52.6
Opiates						
Opium ^b	300	646,219	0.0	74	653,009	0.0
Morphine	1	17,265	0.0	17	23,710	0.1
Heroin	1,335	73,706	1.8	1,159	75,995	1.5
ATS						
Amphetamine	11	29,636	0.0	163	33,341	0.5
Methamphetamine	30	21,540	0.1	0	31,174	0.0
“Ecstasy” ^c	46	5,991	0.8	54	5,435	1.0
Non-specified	0	3,730	0.0	3	290	1.1

^a Cocaine base and cocaine salts.

^b Raw opium and prepared opium.

^c Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), 3,4-methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

37. Since the United States remained a major consumer market, trafficking of cannabis herb in North America is mostly intra-regional, with considerable seizures occurring along the United States-Mexico border and the United States-Canada border. Also, domestic shipments of locally produced cannabis herb across different states in the United States were reported.

38. Unlike North America, the amount of cannabis herb seized in Latin America and the Caribbean recorded a slight drop recently (see figure IV). Seizures of cannabis herb within the region fell from 858 tons in 2008 to 620 tons in 2009, with more prominent reduction coming from South America (from 796 tons to 598 tons). At the same time, seizures of cannabis herb in the Caribbean also dropped from 50 tons to 15 tons while that in Central America fell from 11 tons to 6 tons.

39. A significant proportion of cannabis herb seized in South America was reported in Colombia (209 tons in 2009), followed by Brazil (131 tons). However, the greatest reduction in cannabis herb seizures came from Paraguay. Cannabis herb seized in the country fell from 208 tons in 2008 to 84 tons in 2009, contributing to the majority of the decline in South America.

40. Taking seizures of different forms of cannabis together (cannabis herb, plant, resin, oil and seed), the Plurinational State of Bolivia had a consistent increase between 1998 and 2009. Total cannabis seizures rose from 320 kg in 1998 to 1,937 tons in 2009. Preliminary data also pointed to a seizure total of 1,073 tons in 2010.

Figure III
Cannabis herb seizures: Mexico, United States of America and worldwide, 1999-2009
 (Tons)

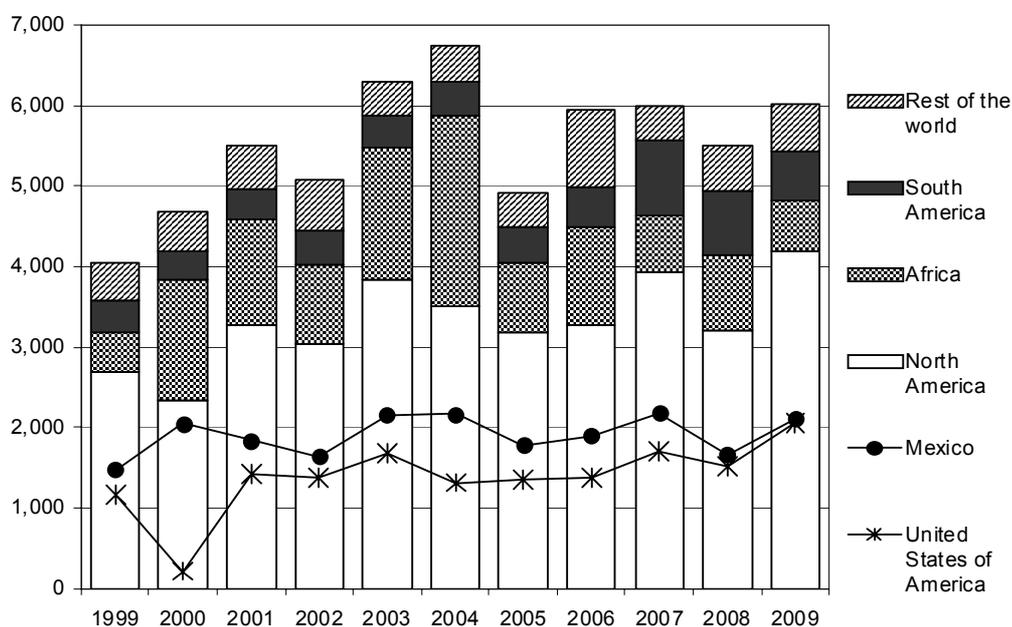
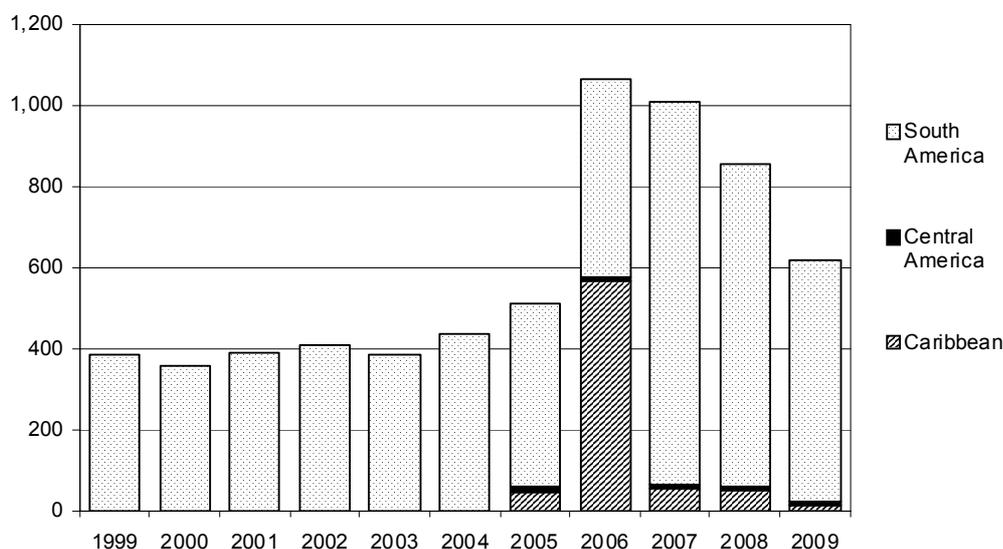


Figure IV
Cannabis herb seizures: Latin America and the Caribbean, 1999-2009
 (Tons)



2. Cannabis resin

41. Global cannabis resin seizures declined from 1,648 tons in 2008 to 1,261 tons in 2009, a reduction of 23 per cent (see figure V). The drop was mainly driven by significant decreases in Western and Central Europe, and Near and Middle East/South-West Asia.

42. The exceptionally high level of cannabis resin seizures in 2008 was partly due to large seizures in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia.¹⁶ Amounting to 230 tons in 2009, cannabis resin seized in the region was much less than that in 2008 (527 tons).

43. Despite a considerable decline in the amount of cannabis resin seized (from 683 tons in 2008 to 445 tons in 2009), Spain continued to have the greatest annual cannabis resin seizures worldwide. The majority of these cannabis resins came from Morocco.

44. Continuing to make up a significant share of global cannabis resin seizures (48 per cent in 2009), the portion attributable to Western and Central Europe shrank over the past few years nevertheless. Meanwhile, more cannabis resin had been seized in North Africa. Its share rose from 7 per cent in 2004 to 23 per cent in 2009, marking an important shift in seizures away from the consumer market (Western and Central Europe) to the source region for cannabis resin.

45. In the Americas, regardless of a moderate rise in 2009, cannabis resin seizures remained limited. Seizures of cannabis resin in the Americas jumped from 1930 kg

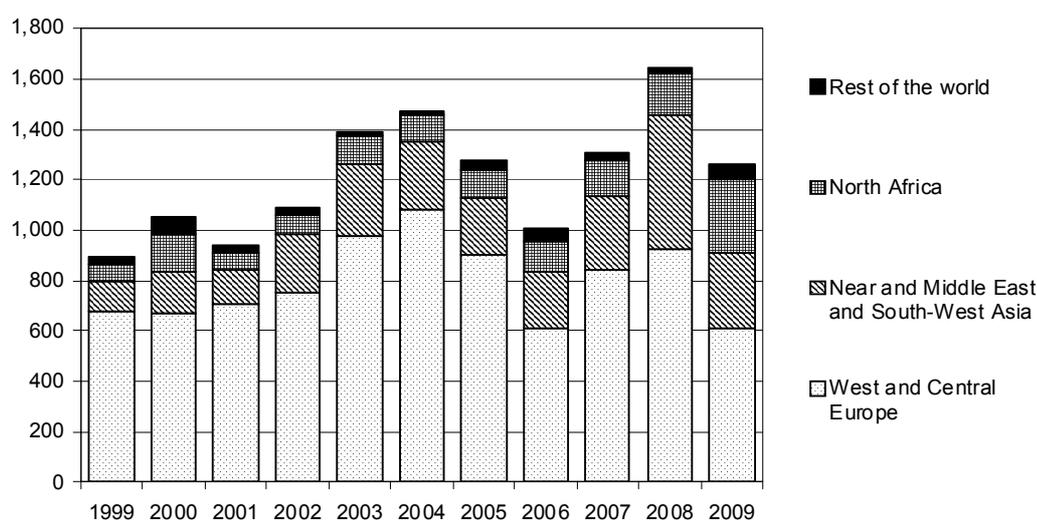
¹⁶ An extraordinarily large seizure of 236.8 tons was made by Afghan authorities in Kandahar province in June 2008.

in 2008 to 10,765 kg in 2009, largely because of large increase in Canada (from 899 kg to 9,667 kg). Amounting to less than 1 per cent of the global total, however, cannabis resin seized within the region remained insignificant.

46. Canada had a sizeable consumer market for cannabis resin. In 2008, almost half of the cannabis resin seizures reported in the Americas were made by Canada, and the ratio reached 90 per cent in 2009. Its trafficking route also appeared to undergo major changes recently. While Caribbean, North Africa and South-East Asia were identified as the source countries in 2008, they were replaced by Southern Africa and South-West Asia in 2009.

47. For other countries in the Americas, the amount of cannabis resin seized demonstrated a mixed pattern. Whereas the amount of cannabis resin seized in the United States rose from 367 kg in 2008 to 811 kg in 2009, that in Mexico and Brazil dropped. After reaching their respective highs of 279 kg and 301 kg in 2008, cannabis resin seizures in Mexico and Brazil fell to 11 kg and 204 kg in 2009 respectively. Constituting about 0.02 per cent of the global total, the cannabis resin seized in Latin America and the Caribbean was minimal.

Figure V
Breakdown of global cannabis resin seizures, 1999-2009
(Tons)



B. Opiates

48. Continuing the rising trend since 2002, global opiates seizures exhibited some stability in recent years (see figure VI). Total seizures of opiates edged up from 737 tons in 2008 to 753 tons in 2009. Similar to the previous years, the largest opiate seizures were found in Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Seizures of opium and morphine continued to be more concentrated in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, while that of heroin remained more dispersed (see figure VII).

49. In 2009, the amount of opiates seized in Latin America and the Caribbean remained low. Both opium and morphine seizure levels stayed negligible at the global level, while that of heroin amounted to around 1.5 per cent of the global total.

Figure VI
Global seizures of opiates, 1999-2009
 (Tons)

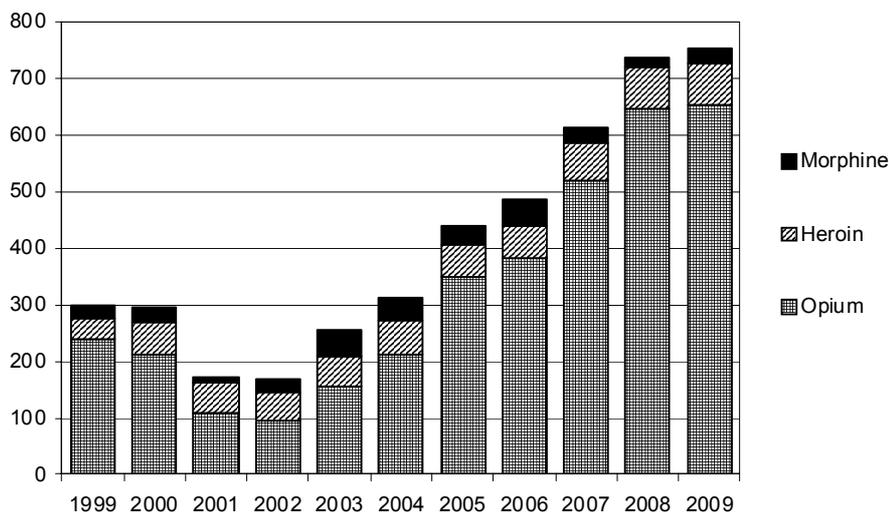
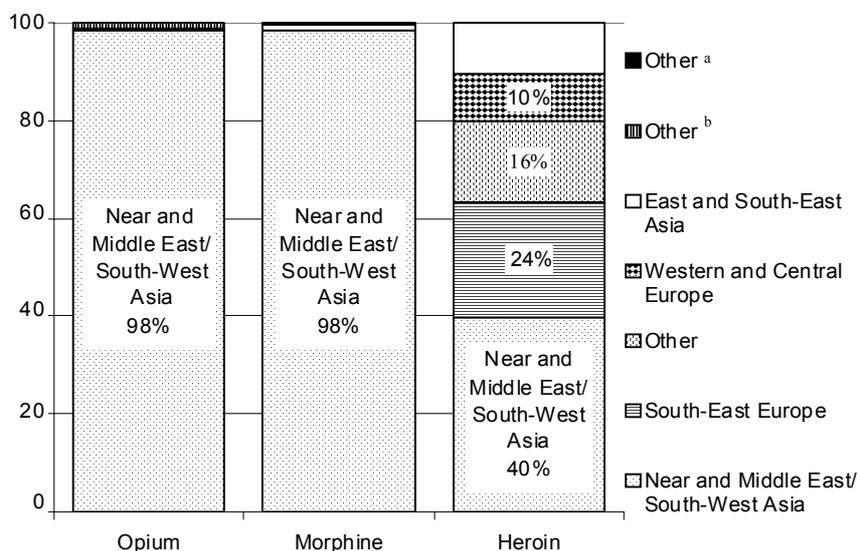


Figure VII
Distribution of global seizures of opiates, 2009
 (Percentage)



^a Including Western and Central Europe and South-East Europe.

^b Including Western and Central Europe, South-East Europe and East and South-East Asia.

1. Opium

50. Global opium seizures went up from 646 tons in 2008 to 653 tons in 2009, principally owing to seizure increases in the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the other hand, significant reductions were registered for Afghanistan, Myanmar and Pakistan. Opium seized in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan accounted for 98 per cent of the global total in 2009 (see figure VII).

51. Opium seized in the Americas accounted for only 0.3 per cent of the world total and was mainly found in North America (in particular the United States and Mexico). Between 2008 and 2009, opium seized in the United States and Mexico increased from 332 kg to 907 kg; and from 174 kg to 803 kg respectively. Meanwhile, opium seized in Latin America and the Caribbean dropped from 300 kg to 74 kg.¹⁷

2. Heroin

52. Similar to opium, global seizures of heroin rose slightly in 2009, from 74 tons to 76 tons. Greater increases were found in China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar and Turkey. Although geographically speaking, heroin seizures were more dispersed than opium seizures, heroin seized in seven countries alone made up around 75 per cent of the global total.¹⁸

53. Global heroin-producing countries supply different markets. While heroin from Myanmar is mainly trafficked to China, Mexican heroin is mostly targeted towards the United States. Heroin originated in Afghanistan, however, was trafficked to every parts of the world apart from Latin America.¹⁹

54. Amounting to only 2.2 tons in 2009, heroin seizures in Afghanistan accounted for only 2.9 per cent of the global heroin seizures. Its neighbouring country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, replaced Turkey as the country having the largest heroin seizures worldwide starting from 2006. Continuing to seize the largest and the second-largest amount of heroin worldwide in 2009 (25 tons and 16 tons respectively), heroin seizures in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey have lately exhibited some signs of stability.

55. Heroin seizures in Central Asia and Eastern Europe have been erratic in recent years. Yet, there was a distinct increase over the longer term. Specifically, heroin seizures in Eastern Europe were much higher over 2003-2009 than in previous years.²⁰

56. Unlike the raising trend in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey over the past few years, annual heroin seizures in Western and Central Europe have stabilized at a lower level, ranging between 7.5 tons and 7.9 tons from 2005 onwards.

¹⁷ Caution should be paid, however, that the drop in opium seizures in Latin America and the Caribbean was also partly a result of the lack of data from Colombia in 2009.

¹⁸ The seven countries with the highest amount of heroin seized in 2009 were (in descending order): Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, China, Russian Federation, United States, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

¹⁹ For a more detailed description of the different trafficking routes and volume, please refer to *World Drug Report 2011*.

²⁰ From 2003 onwards, annual heroin seizures in Eastern Europe amounted to 3.5 tons on average while it was less than 1.0 tons before.

57. In Asia and the Pacific, new trafficking route has been emerging in China. Instead of getting its supply from South-East Asia (mainly Myanmar), a significant amount of heroin from Afghanistan was seized within the country. According to Chinese authorities, heroin seizures originating in Afghanistan jumped from 390 kg in 2008 to 1.5 tons in 2009.²¹

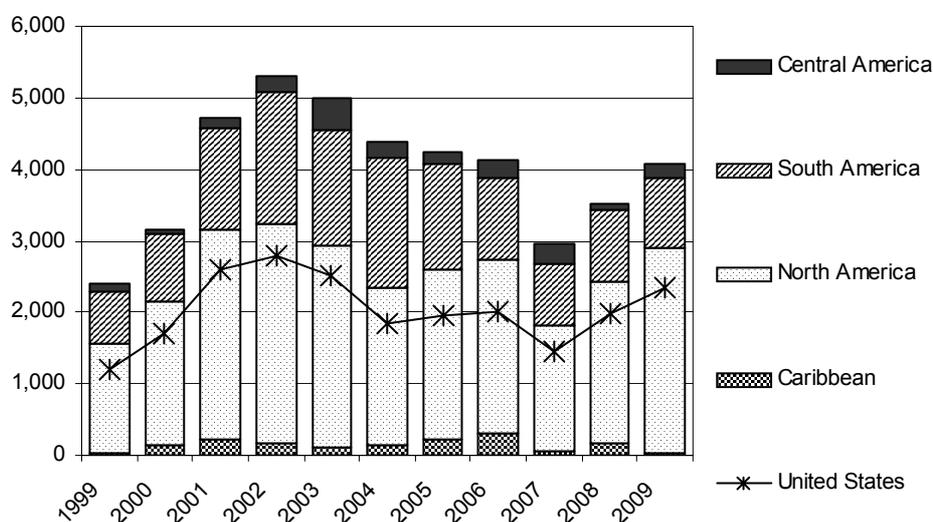
58. Between 1999 and 2009, heroin seized in the Americas took up on average 7 per cent of the global total. In 2009, heroin seizures within the region (4,027 kg) constituted about 5 per cent of the world total. Majority of these heroin seizures took place in North America, in particular the United States (2,356 kg). On the other hand, seizures of heroin in South America remained low (995 kg), and those in Central America and the Caribbean were almost negligible at the global level.

59. Over the past 10 years, the amount of heroin seized in the United States has dominated the regional trends of North America. Recently, seizures in heroin in the United States increased from 1,446 kg in 2007 to 2,356 kg in 2009. Both the results of the Heroin Signature Program of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and an increased amount of heroin seized along the United States-Mexico border suggested a greater availability of heroin from Mexico.²²

60. In 2009, relatively large heroin seizures were also reported in other countries in the Americas, like Colombia (735 kg), Mexico (283 kg), Canada (213 kg) and Ecuador (177 kg). Unlike heroin seized in the United States, most of the heroin seized in Canada was originated from South Asia.

Figure VIII

Heroin seizures: the Americas and United States of America, 1999-2009
(Kilograms)



²¹ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2011*, June 2011.

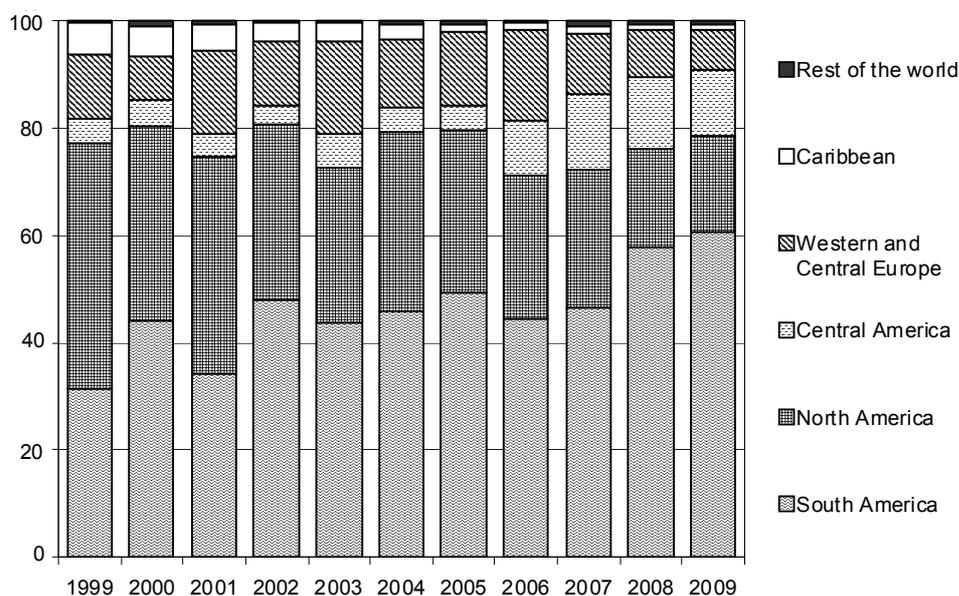
²² Ibid.

C. Cocaine

61. After reaching its recent peak of 769 tons in 2005, global cocaine seizures remained stable at around 700 tons between 2006 and 2009. In 2009, total cocaine seized increased slightly from 723 tons in 2008 to 731 tons in 2009.

62. From 2006 onwards, seizures have shifted away from the consumer markets of North America and Western and Central Europe, towards to the source regions of South America (see figure IX). The recent increases were more concentrated in some South American countries.

Figure IX
Distribution of global cocaine seizures, 1999-2009
 (Percentage)

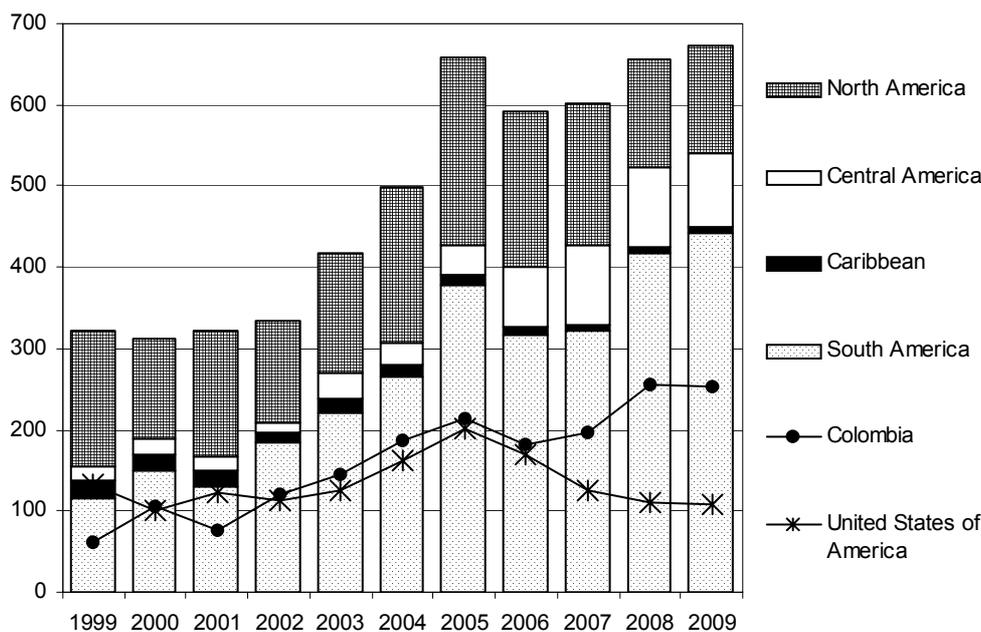


63. Cocaine seized in South America amounted to 442 tons in 2009 and took up about 60 per cent of the global total. At the same time, cocaine seizures in North America and Western and Central Europe experienced sizeable reductions, standing at 132 tons and 55 tons respectively. For 2009, cocaine seized in North America constituted 18 per cent of the global total, followed by Central America (12 per cent) and Europe (8 per cent). Seizures outside the Americas and Europe only accounted for 0.3 per cent of the global total.

64. Since the cultivation of coca bush was mainly concentrated in the Andean region, trafficking of cocaine to some consumer markets involved transportation over long distances. Among the three major markets (North America, Europe and South America), cocaine originating from Colombia was more commonly found in North America and Europe, while cocaine produced in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru was more prevalent within countries of the Southern Cone.

65. With total cocaine seizures of 673 tons in 2009, the Americas accounted for more than 90 per cent of the global total. Within the region, the bulk of cocaine seizures was found in South America (442 tons), followed by North America (132 tons) and Central America (90 tons). The largest cocaine seizures were reported in the United States and Colombia. Starting from 2007, however, cocaine seized in Colombia was almost twice as that in the United States (see figure X).

Figure X
Cocaine seizures: the Americas, 1999-2009
(Tons)



66. In 2009, 253 tons of cocaine was seized in Colombia, similar to that in 2008 (256 tons). According to Colombian authorities, 48 per cent of the cocaine seizures in 2009 were made in territorial waters. In addition, large quantities that may be used in the extraction and processing of naturally occurring alkaloids were seized.

67. A substantial rise in cocaine seizures was reported in Ecuador — seizures of cocaine jumped from 28 tons in 2008 to a record high of 65 tons in 2009. According to Ecuadorian authorities, cocaine was trafficked into Ecuador across the Colombia-Ecuador border into the consumer markets in North America and Europe. Reports of cocaine consignments seized in Europe involving Ecuador also registered a significant increase — from 6 seizure cases in 2005 (25 kg of cocaine) to 67 in 2009 (2.5 tons of cocaine).

68. Moderate increases were also found in Brazil and Mexico. Cocaine seizures went up from 21 tons in 2008 to 24 tons in 2009 for the former, and that for the latter increased from 19 tons to 22 tons. In terms of the number of seizures (for

cocaine consignments seized in Europe), Brazil was the most prominent transit country in the Americas. The number of seizure cases involving Brazil as a transit country rose from 25 in 2005 (339 kg) to 260 in 2009 (1.5 tons). On the other hand, Mexico continued to be a key transit country for cocaine trafficked into the United States. Almost three quarters of the cocaine seizures in 2009 was seized on the maritime route.

69. Cocaine seizures in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru experienced some reduction in 2009; after reaching their respective higher levels in 2008, cocaine seizures in the three countries scaled back to 28, 27 and 21 tons respectively. Data from the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia suggested that more than 95 per cent of the cocaine trafficking into its territory occurred by land. In contrast, trafficking organizations in Peru preferred to use maritime routes more.

70. Majority of the cocaine seized in Central America came from Panama and its cocaine seizures were the third largest in Latin America and the Caribbean (52 tons) in 2009. Considerable amount was also seized in Costa Rica (21 tons). According to Costa Rican authorities, there has been a significant increase in the quantities of cocaine seized on the sea route in recent years.

71. In Argentina, cocaine seizures rose slightly from 12 tons in 2008 to 13 tons in 2009 and trafficking of cocaine from Argentina to Chile was reported by both countries. With 194 cases reported as a transit country for cocaine consignments seized in Europe, Argentina was also prominent in cocaine trafficking to Europe. However, the total amount of cocaine trafficked to Europe remained small (217 kg), in comparison with that towards other countries.

72. Based on the assessment of the World Customs Organization, the most important secondary distribution countries in 2009 were: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina.²³ For cocaine reaching Europe, the high quantity of cocaine arriving from Ecuador and the increasing amount from Brazil and Suriname were also noted. As for cocaine reaching Africa, Brazil was the only South American country mentioned as a departure country for cocaine seizures in Africa in 2009.

73. Global crack-cocaine seizures went down from 665 kg in 2008 to 612 kg in 2009. The majority of seizures came from reports in the Americas, in particular Panama (194 kg), the United States (163 kg) and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (80 kg).

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic psychotropic substances

74. ATS can be broadly classified into two types: (i) the amphetamines group (which includes amphetamine, methamphetamine and non-specified amphetamines) and (ii) the “ecstasy”-group. Total ATS seizures rose significantly in 2009, up from 61 tons to 70 tons (see figure XI). This is mainly driven by a substantial amount of methamphetamine seizures — from 22 tons in 2008 to 31 tons in 2009 (44 per cent

²³ Ranked in the order of the total weight of seized consignments departing from a given country.

of the total ATS seizures). Meanwhile, global seizures of amphetamines also experienced a moderate rise and went up from 30 tons to 33 tons. Seizures of non-specified amphetamines and the “ecstasy”-group amounted to 290 kg and 5.4 tons respectively.

75. Although the trafficking and consumption of ATS has affected countries across the globe, different types of ATS prevail in different regions. In Europe, “ecstasy” and amphetamine have dominated the seizures of ATS in the past. However, between 2007 and 2009, seizures of “ecstasy” fell sharply while that of methamphetamine climbed to record high. In North America, methamphetamine and “ecstasy” continued to dominate the ATS seizures. In Latin America and the Caribbean, seizures of “ecstasy” remained important.

76. The significant rise in global methamphetamine seizures in 2009 was mainly driven by substantial increase in North America, particularly Mexico (see figure XII). Total methamphetamine seized within the region reached 13,692 kg in 2009, with that in Mexico alone rose from 341 kg in 2008 to 6,077 kg in 2009. Seizures of methamphetamine in the United States remained high and rose from 7,374 kg to 7,521 kg. On the contrary, such seizures in Canada dropped from 372 kg to 95 kg.

77. Over the past ten years, the share of methamphetamine seized in North America in global total went up while that of East and South-East Asia dropped. In 1999, methamphetamine seized in North America and East and South-East Asia amounted to 11 per cent and 89 per cent respectively. Latest figures showed that the respective ratio was 44 per cent and 51 per cent in 2009. This reflected significant changes in the relative dominance of methamphetamine within the two regions.

Figure XI

Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants, 1999-2009

(Tons)

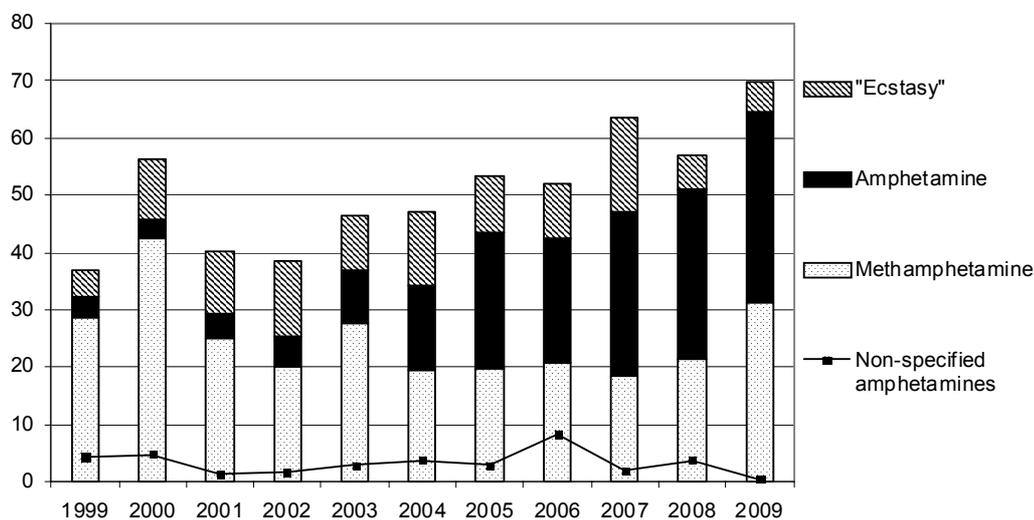
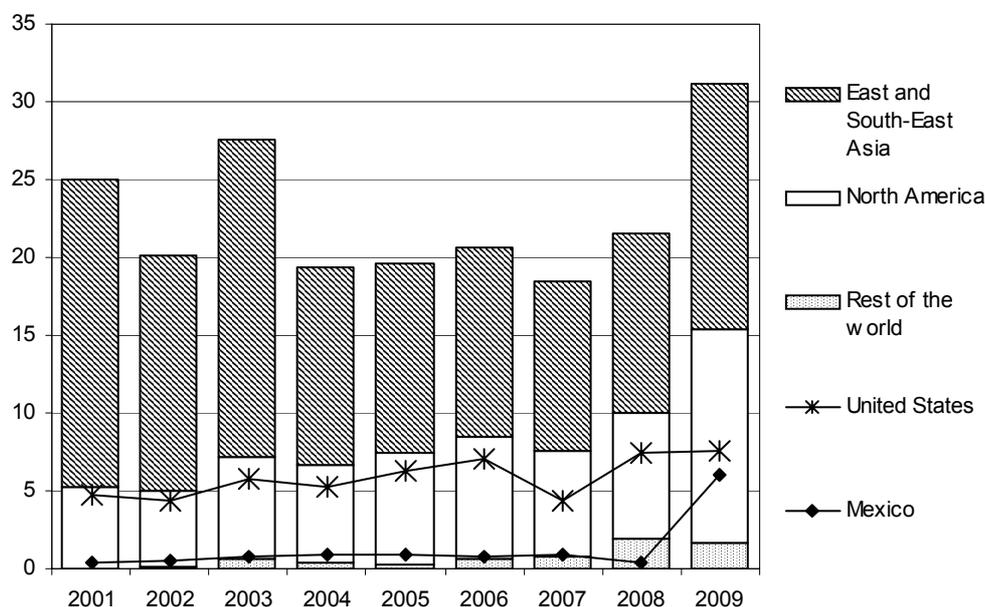


Figure XII
Seizures of methamphetamines: Mexico, United States of America and worldwide, 2001-2009
 (Tons)



78. Both the amount of methamphetamine seized along the United States-Mexico border and the number of methamphetamine laboratories reported in Mexico pointed to an increased methamphetamine manufacture in Mexico. Based on the data of the United States Government, methamphetamine seizures along the Mexico border increased by about 87 per cent, up from 1,860 kg in 2007 to 3,478 kg in 2009.²⁴ In addition, a total of 191 methamphetamine laboratories were reported by Mexico in 2009, up from a mere of 21 in 2008.

79. In Latin America and the Caribbean, methamphetamine seizures remained low overall, more or less in line with the overall trend of ATS seizures in the region. Methamphetamine seized in Latin America and the Caribbean dropped from 30 kg in 2008 to 0 kg in 2009.

80. Global amphetamine seizures increased sharply in 2005, largely because of reports in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia and Western and Central Europe. Total amphetamine seizures rose from 30 tons in 2008 to 33 tons in 2009, with seizures reported in the two regions constituting 74 per cent and 21 per cent of the global total respectively. The majority of the increases were found in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Saudi Arabia.

81. The amount of amphetamine seized in Latin America and the Caribbean increased from 11 kg in 2008 to 163 kg in 2009. The majority of this amphetamine was seized in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.

²⁴ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2011*.

82. Amounting to 5.4 tons in 2009, global seizures of “ecstasy” were lower than in 2008 (6.0 tons). Contrary to the trend in global seizures, “ecstasy” seized within the United States increased from 2.6 tons in 2008 to 3.4 tons in 2009 and accounted for 63 per cent of the global total.

83. A total of 12 MDMA laboratories were reported by Canada in 2009. Although its “ecstasy” seizures dropped from 715 kg in 2008 to 405 kg in 2009, an increase in MDMA powder shipments was detected.

84. Within Latin America and the Caribbean, seizures of “ecstasy” remained limited but a greater number of “ecstasy” laboratories were reported. Total “ecstasy” seizures in Latin America and the Caribbean increased from 46 kg in 2008 to 54 kg in 2009. In Argentina, seizures of “ecstasy” tablets rose from 11,072 in 2008 to 136,550 in 2009 and one “ecstasy” laboratory was reported in 2008. In Brazil, a total of 2,740 “ecstasy” tablets were seized in 2010 and one “ecstasy” laboratory was reported in 2009. In Colombia, a total of 23,477 “ecstasy” tablets were seized in 2009.

85. Being an important trans-shipment location of “ecstasy”, seizures of “ecstasy” in the Dominican Republic fell from 20,861 units in 2007 to 10,166 in 2009. However, more than 409,000 pseudoephedrine tablets in a shipment en route to Guatemala were seized in the Dominican Republic.

Figure XIII

Seizures of “ecstasy”-group substances: United States of America, North America and worldwide, 2000-2009

(Tons)

