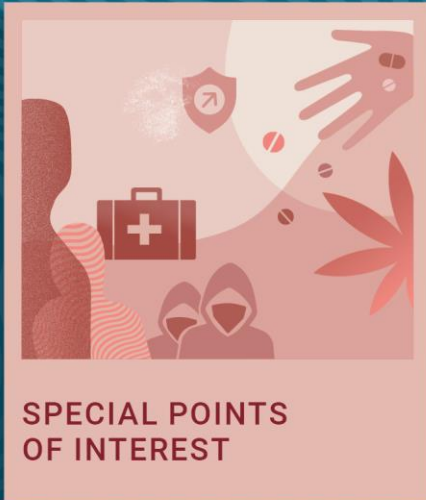




United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime



**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST**



HIGHLIGHTS



**IMPACT OF DRUG USE ON
SAFETY AND SECURITY**



**DRUG MARKET
PATTERNS AND TRENDS**

World Drug Report 2026

Presentation of main findings
18 June 2026

Overall data

People who use drugs, 2024

331
million people

↑ 34%
over 10 years



cannabis

256
million



opioids

63
million



amphetamines

32
million



cocaine

25
million



"ecstasy"

21
million

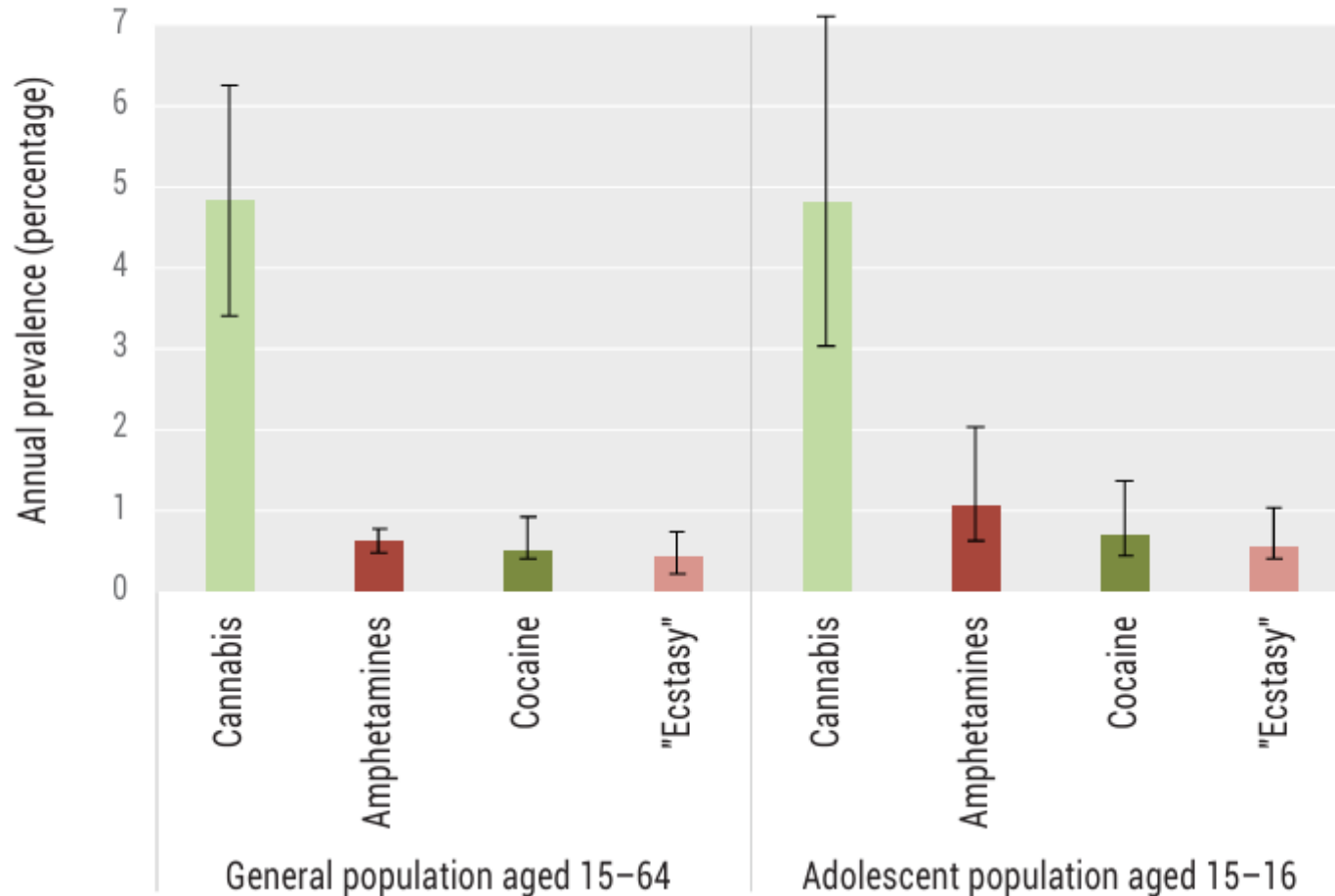
The increase in the number of people who use drugs results from

- *increase in drug use*
- *better data*
- *population growth*

Cannabis remains the most used drug, followed by opioids

Drug use among adolescents remains high

Drug use among adolescents and the general population at the global level, 2024



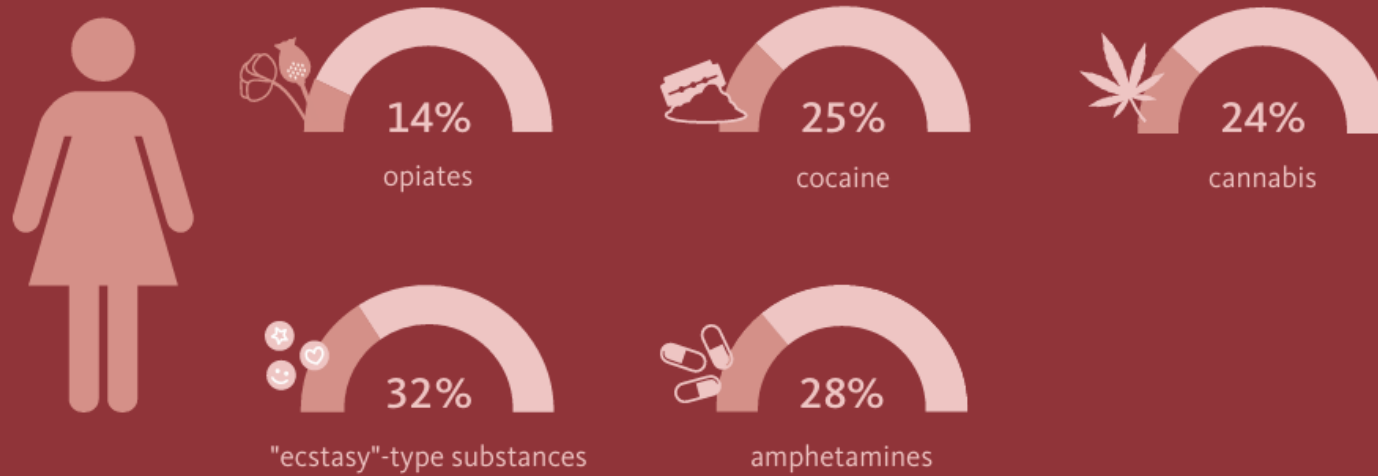
Adolescence is a critical period when the brain is still developing.

Levels of drug use in adolescents are high or comparable to those of adults

However, cannabis use is decreasing among adolescents in some high-income countries.

Women use less drugs, but consequences of use are worse

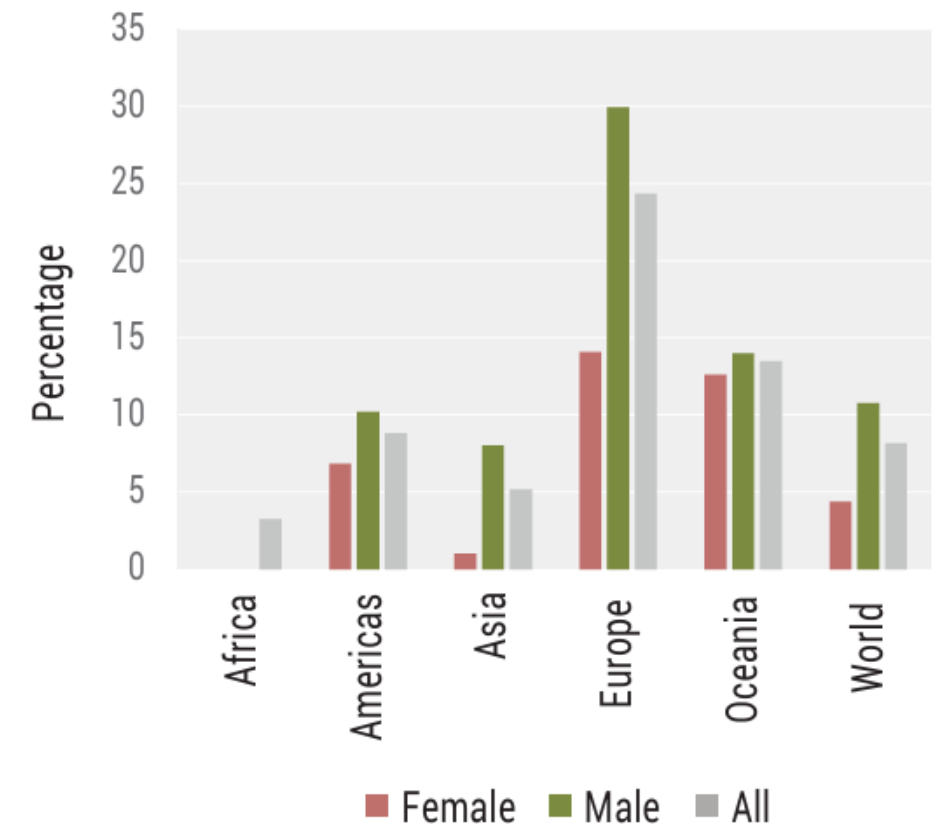
Women among people who use drugs, 2024



Globally, about three times more men than women use drugs

Women progress towards drug dependence faster, have less access to drug treatment and carry a heavier burden of health and social consequences than men

Estimated proportion of people with drug use disorders who receive drug treatment, by sex and region, 2024



Most people with drug use disorders are not in treatment

People with drug use disorders, 2024

63

million people

population

1 in 12

in treatment

or

8.2%

among women with drug use disorders

1 in 23



among men with drug use disorders

1 in 9



Despite the need, most people suffering from drug use disorders worldwide continue not to access, or have very limited access to, drug treatment services

Health burden of drug use remains high: HIV, hepatitis C

People who inject drugs, 2024

14

million people
who inject drugs

among whom:

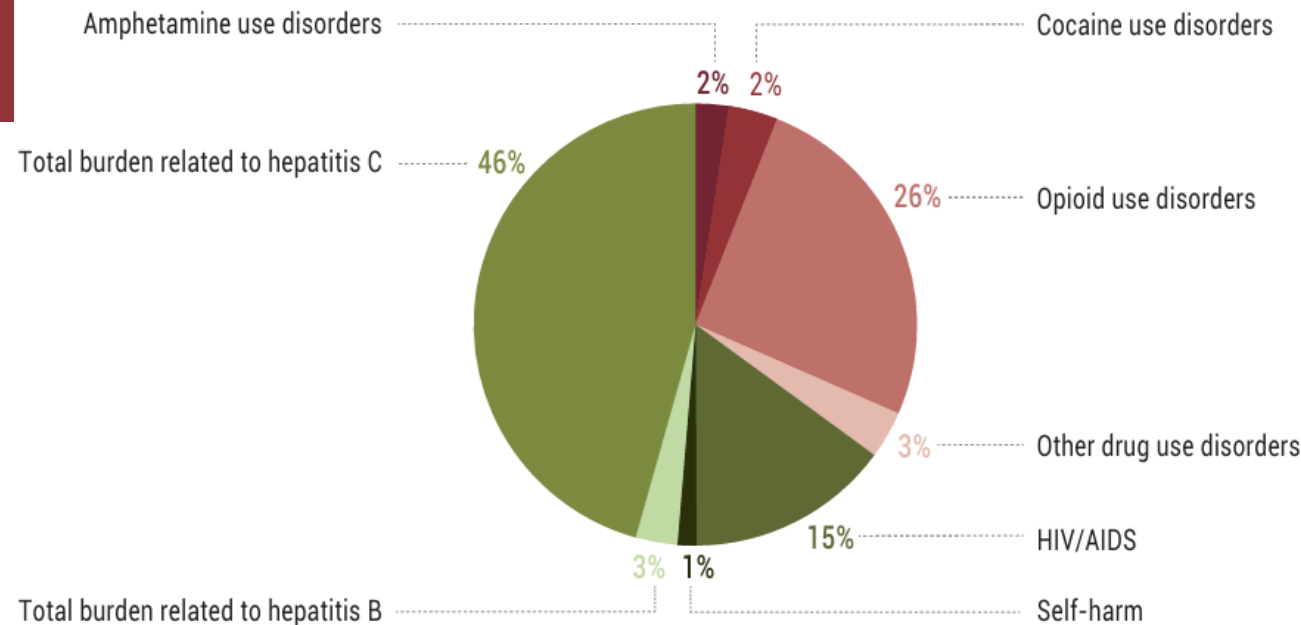
6.9 million
living with hepatitis C

1.7 million
living with HIV

1.5 million
living with HIV and hepatitis C

Southern Africa, South-West Asia and Eastern Europe have the highest rates of HIV among people who inject drugs

Causes of direct and indirect drug-related deaths globally, 2023



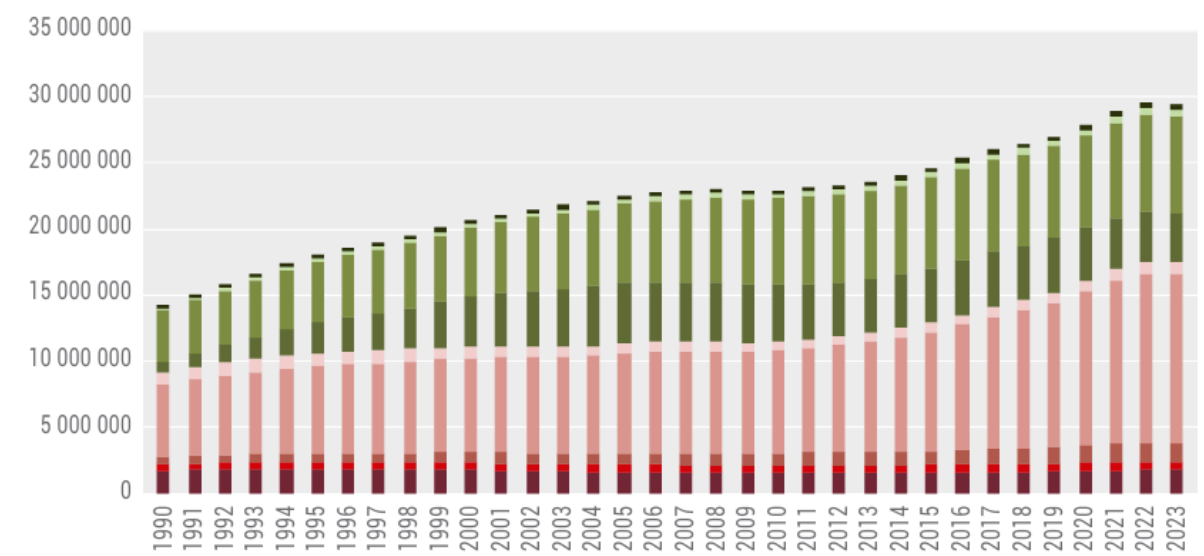
Two thirds of drug related deaths are due to infectious diseases

Injecting drug use continues to be a significant driver of the global hepatitis C epidemic

Health burden of drug use remains high: disability, mortality

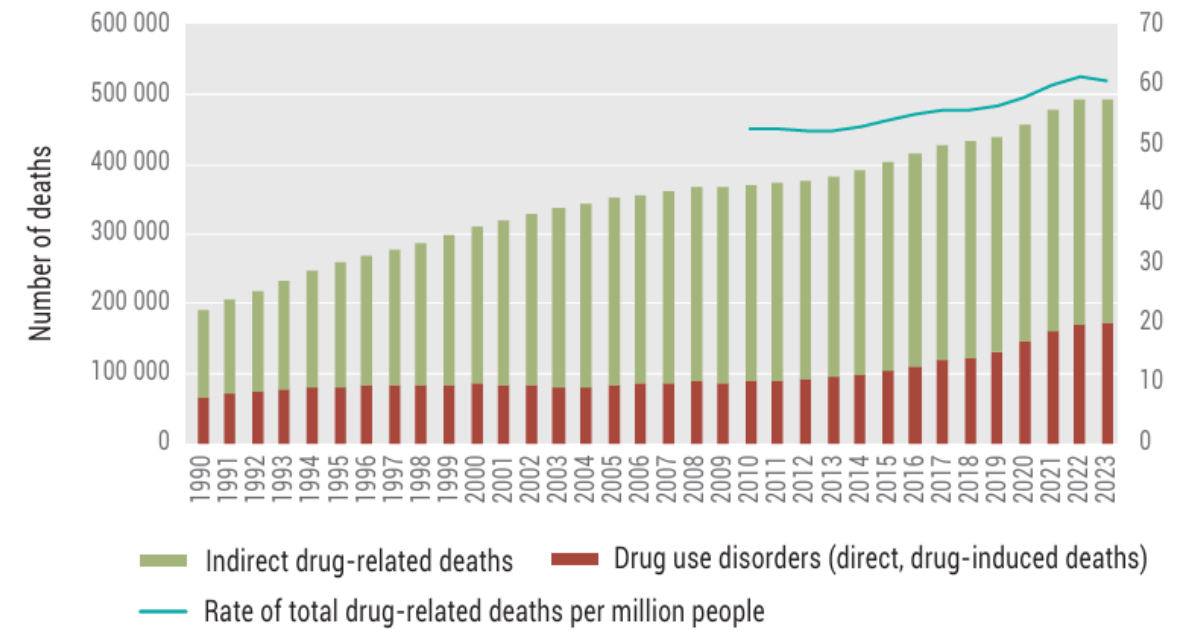
Nearly 30 million years of “healthy” life were lost in 2023 due to disability or premature death related to drug use, largely due to opioid use disorders

Years of “healthy” life lost attributable to the use of drugs at the global level, 1990–2023



- Indirect: Self-harm
- Indirect: Hepatitis B (acute and chronic including cirrhosis and liver cancer)
- Indirect: Hepatitis C (acute and chronic including cirrhosis and liver cancer)
- Indirect: HIV/AIDS
- Direct: Other drug use disorders
- Direct: Opioid use disorders
- Direct: Cocaine use disorders
- Direct: Cannabis use disorders
- Direct: Amphetamine use disorders

Global estimates of the numbers of deaths directly or indirectly related to drug use, 1990–2023



- Indirect drug-related deaths
- Drug use disorders (direct, drug-induced deaths)
- Rate of total drug-related deaths per million people

Half a million deaths were attributed to drug use in 2023, mostly as a result of cirrhosis and liver diseases due to hepatitis C

Special chapter

The impact of drug use on safety and security is complex



But this association is not deterministic

It is mediated by contextual, social and policy environments and depends on individual factors and situations

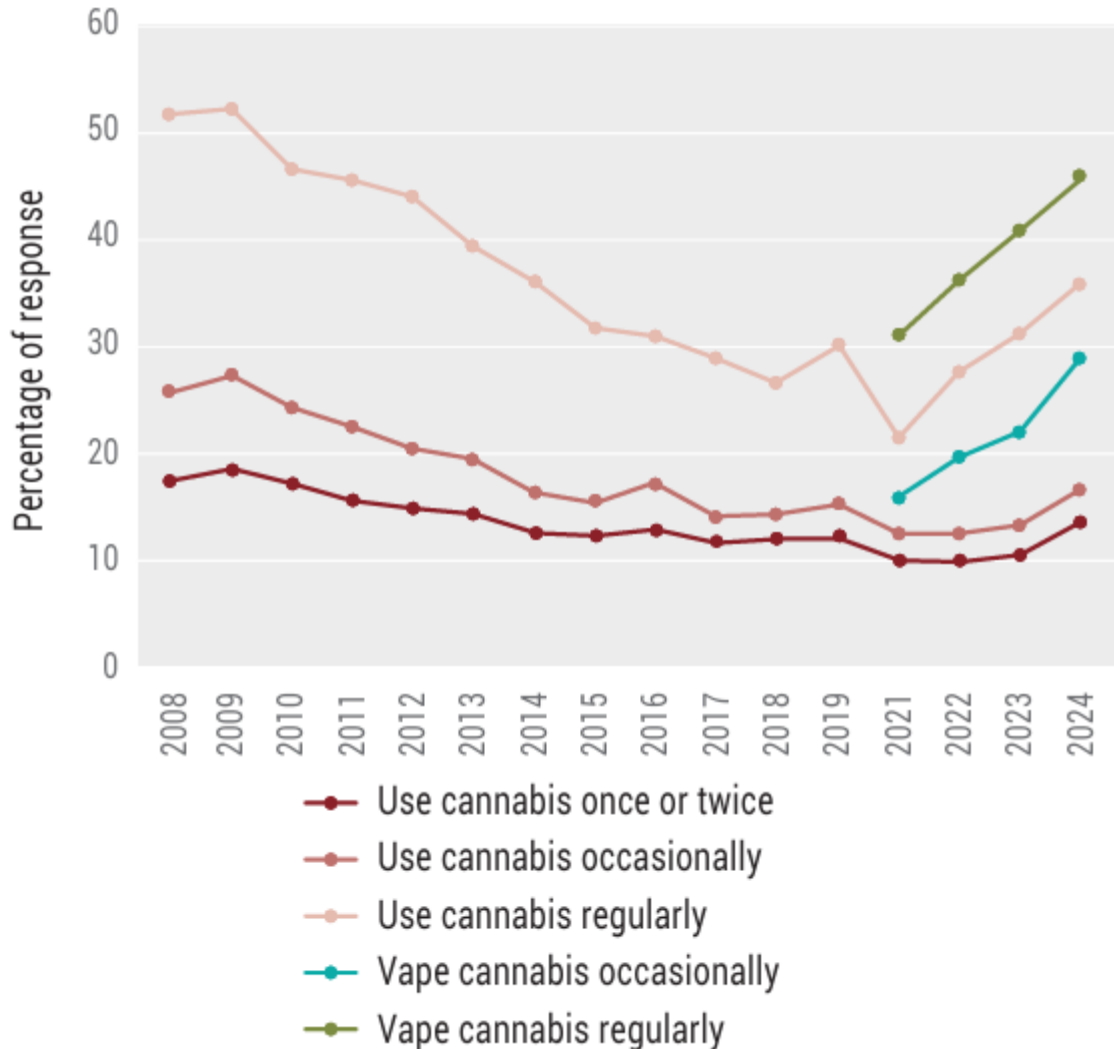


Drug use can be associated with acquisitive crime, violence and victimization

Trends of different drugs

Social norms regarding cannabis may be changing

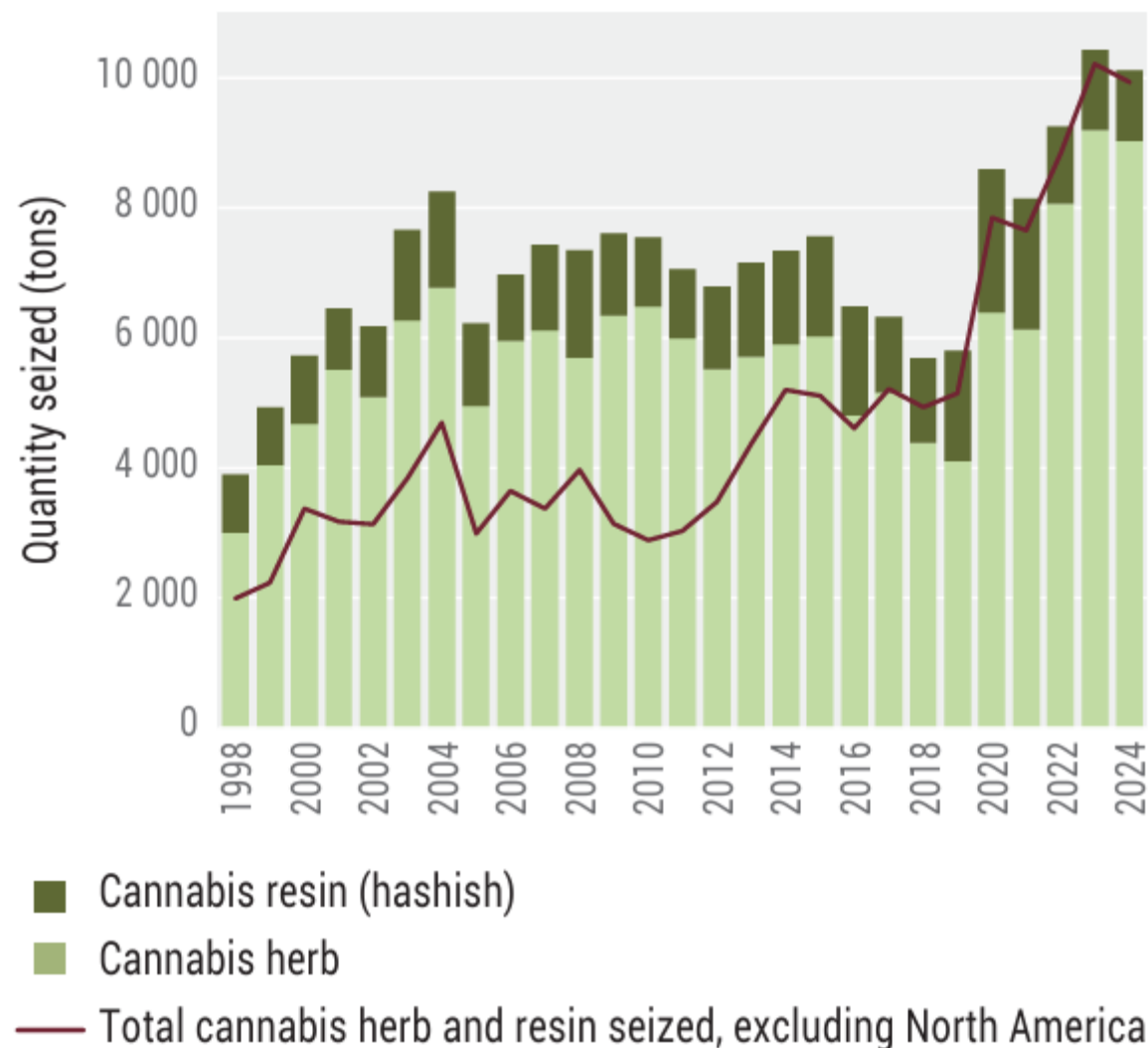
Risk perception of the harmfulness of cannabis use among 12th graders in the United States, 2008–2024



Non-medical use of cannabis has been increasingly perceived as harmful in the US, a change in attitudes that may influence public health outcomes

Cannabis trafficking is becoming more intraregional

Global quantities of cannabis seized, 1998–2024

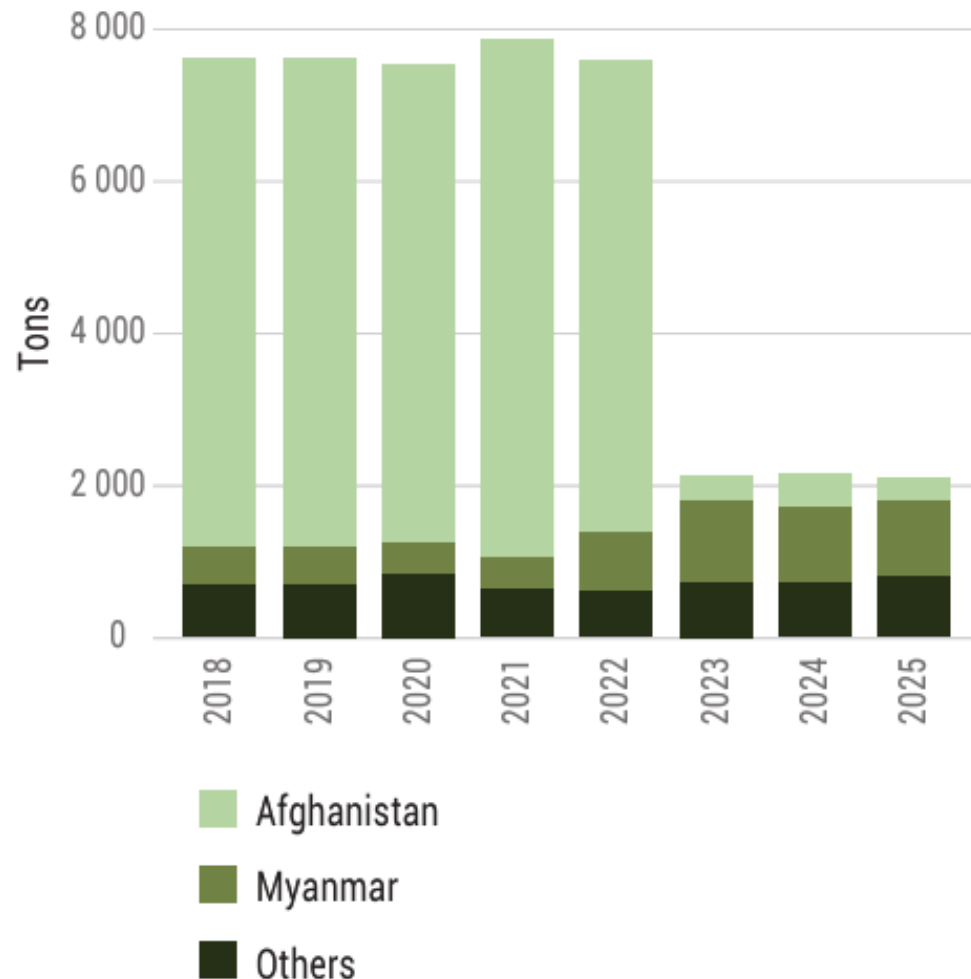


Traffickers are reacting to changes in legal and social norms

Market competition in legalized and illegal settings is likely contributing to an ever-broader variety of cannabis products and to increasing potency levels.

The opioid market may be at a turning point

Estimated global illicit opium production, 2018–2025



The sharp decline in opium production in Afghanistan (by 95%) is creating a global supply shock with long-term implications

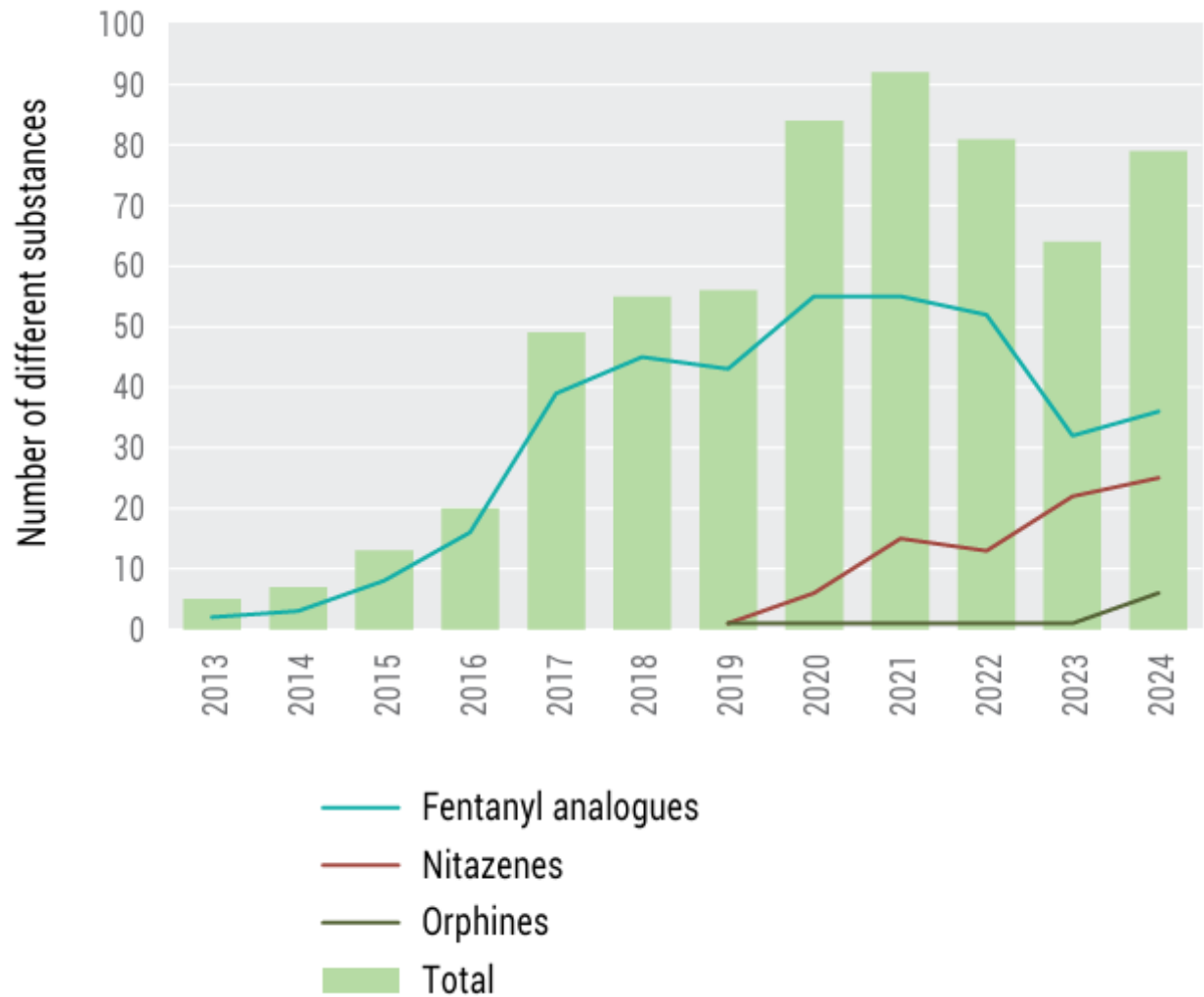
Stocks of opiates from Afghanistan may last until end 2026

Early signs of shortage are reported in some destination markets

Substitution by synthetic opioids, often more harmful, are likely risks

Emerging synthetic opioids bring substantial risks

Number of individual NPS opioids reported for the first time worldwide, 2013–2024

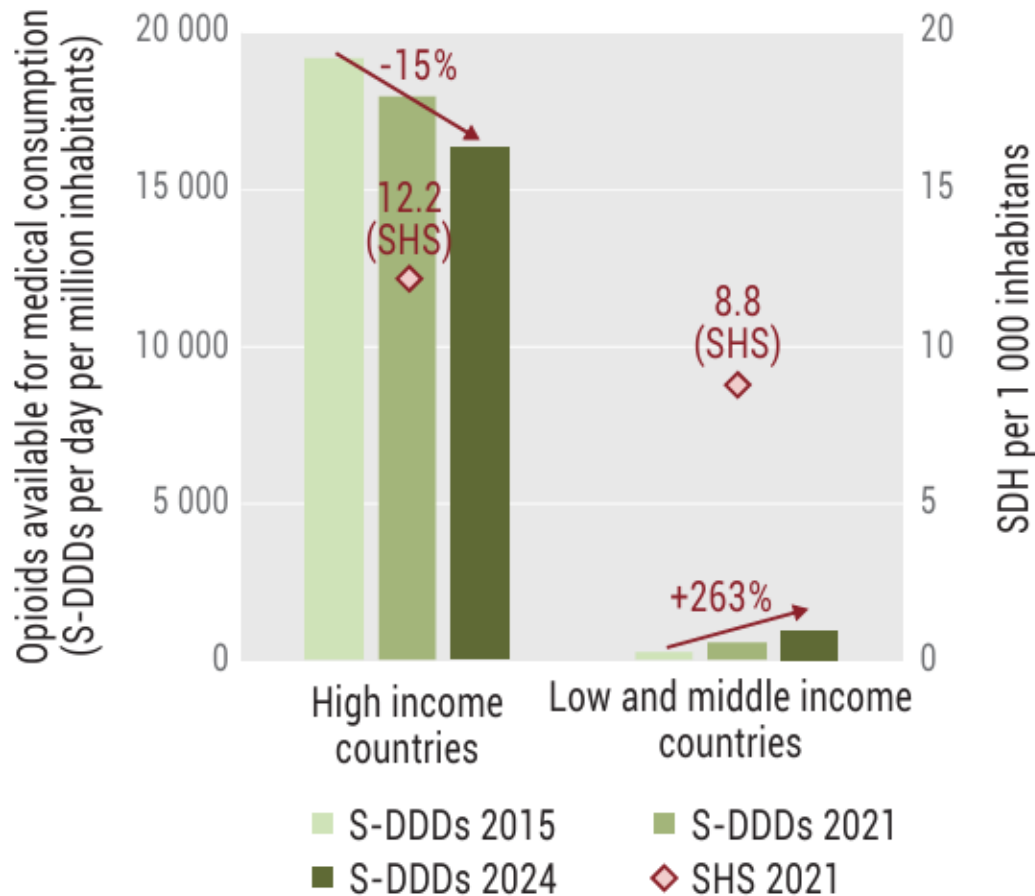


- *Fentanyl analogues in North America (peak in 2022-2023)*
- *Non-medical use of tramadol in West, Central and North Africa*

But the arrival of nitazenes and orphines, often more potent than fentanyl analogues, has led to acute emergencies and fatal outcomes in a more diverse set of countries

Medical use of opioids remains too limited in many countries

Serious health-related suffering (SHS), 2021, and internationally controlled opioids (excluding preparations) available for medical consumption, 2015–2024



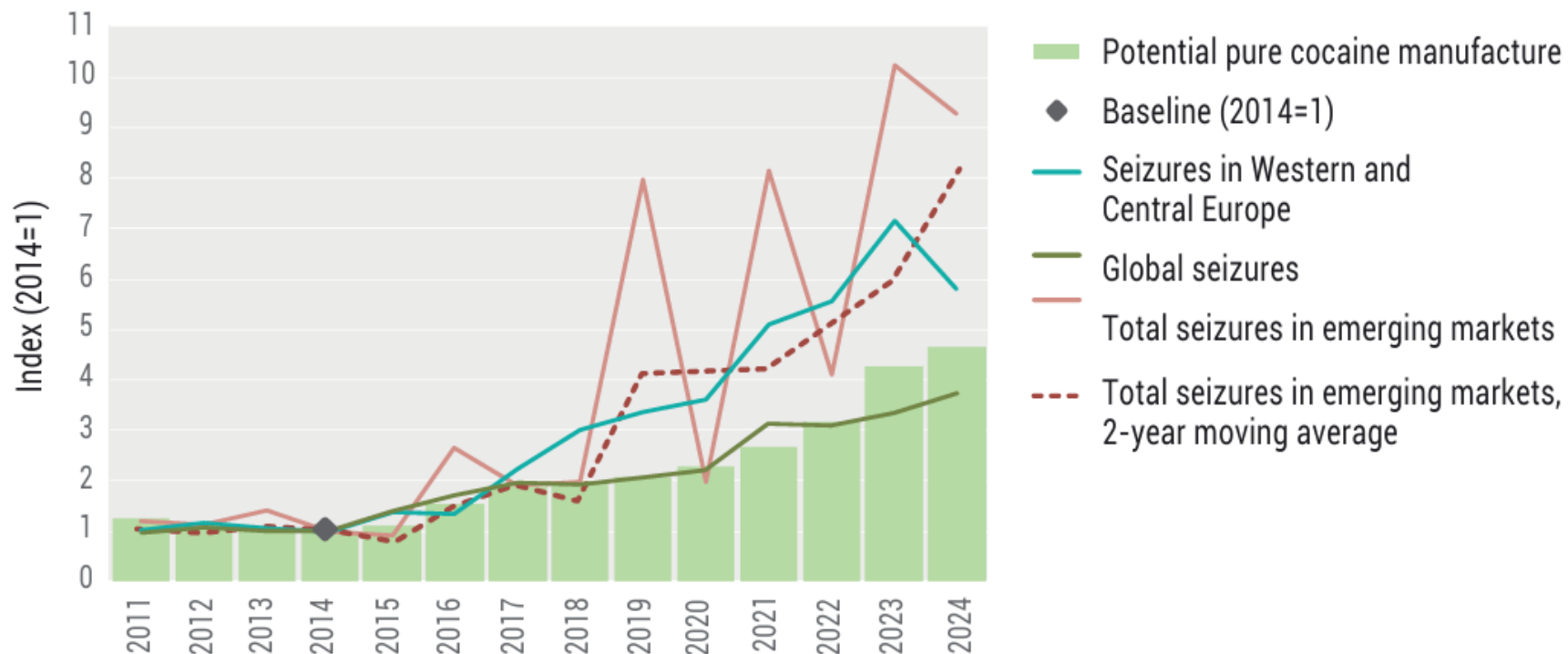
The availability of pharmaceutical opioids for pain management and palliative care remains extremely low in most low- and middle-income countries, despite some progress in the past decade

In some higher-income countries, availability outstrips the actual need

Barriers to access remain – problems in sourcing, lack of training of healthcare professionals

The cocaine market continues to expand

Trends in quantities of cocaine seized, globally and in selected markets, and in global cocaine manufacture, 2011–2024 (indexed, 2014=1)

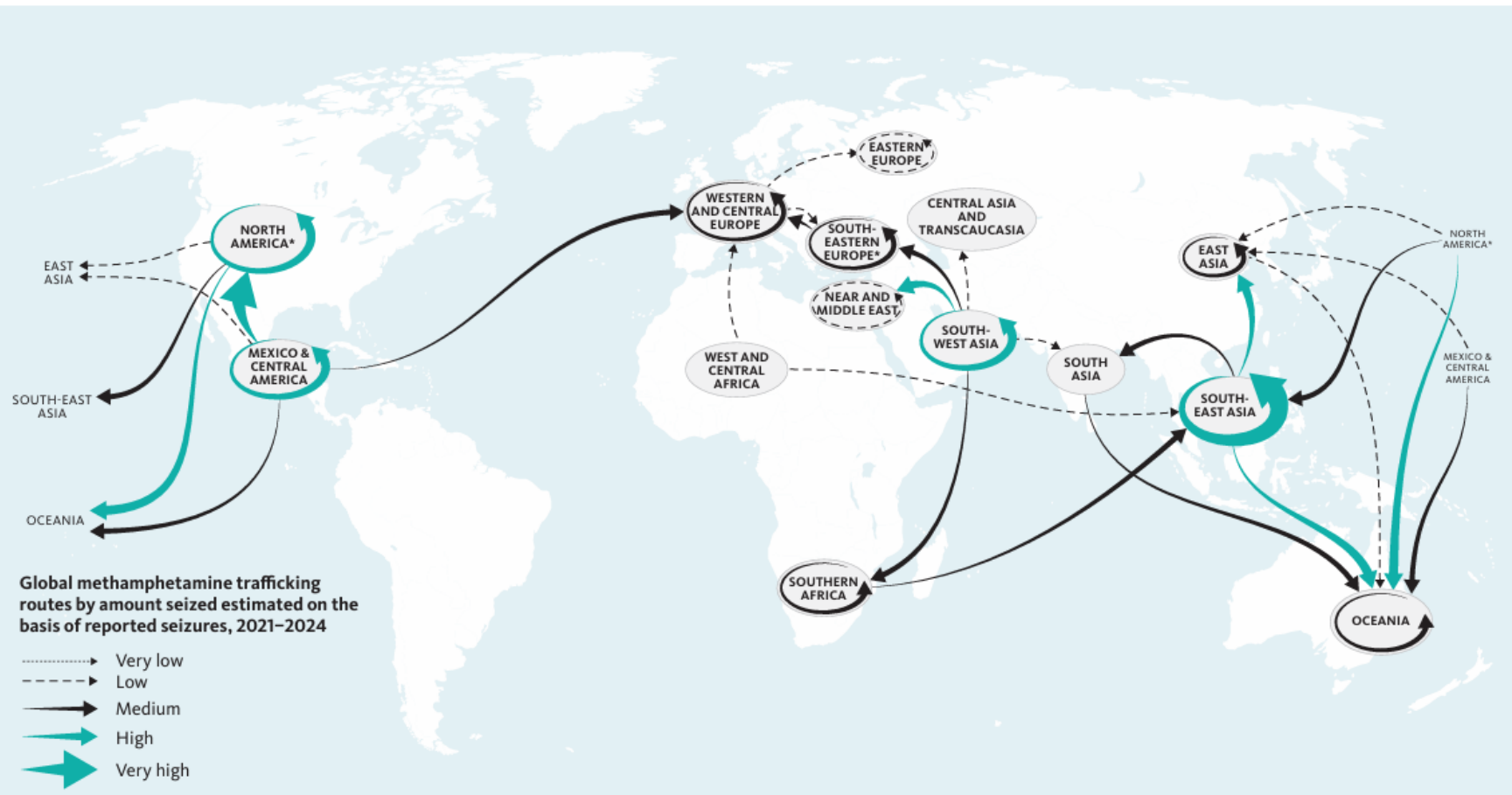


Increasingly large quantities of cocaine are trafficked towards established and emerging destination markets

More harmful use patterns are emerging and there is expansion to new market segments

Methamphetamine is reaching global ubiquity

7.2.1 Main methamphetamine trafficking flows as described in reported seizures, 2021–2024



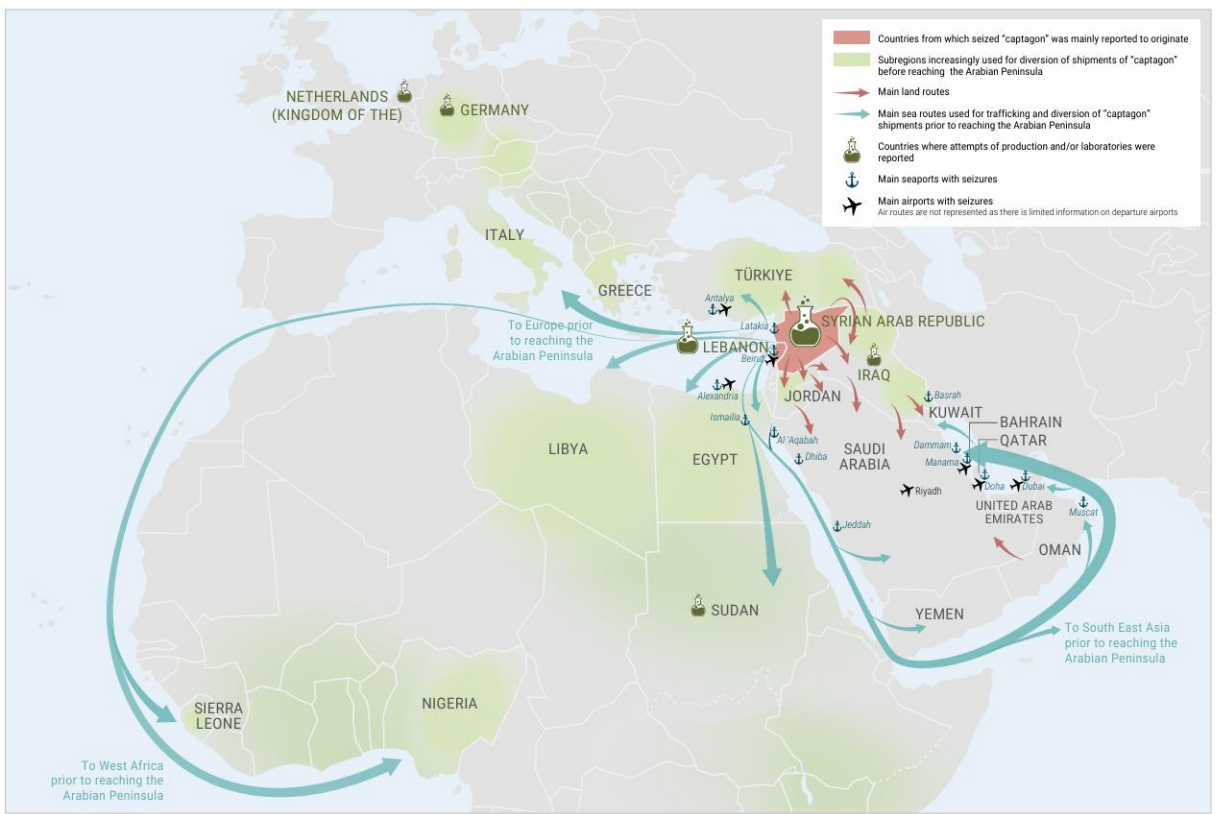
The methamphetamine market is the largest synthetic drug market globally

It continues to expand beyond traditional markets (North America, East and South East Asia and Australia and New Zealand) to new markets, approaching global reach

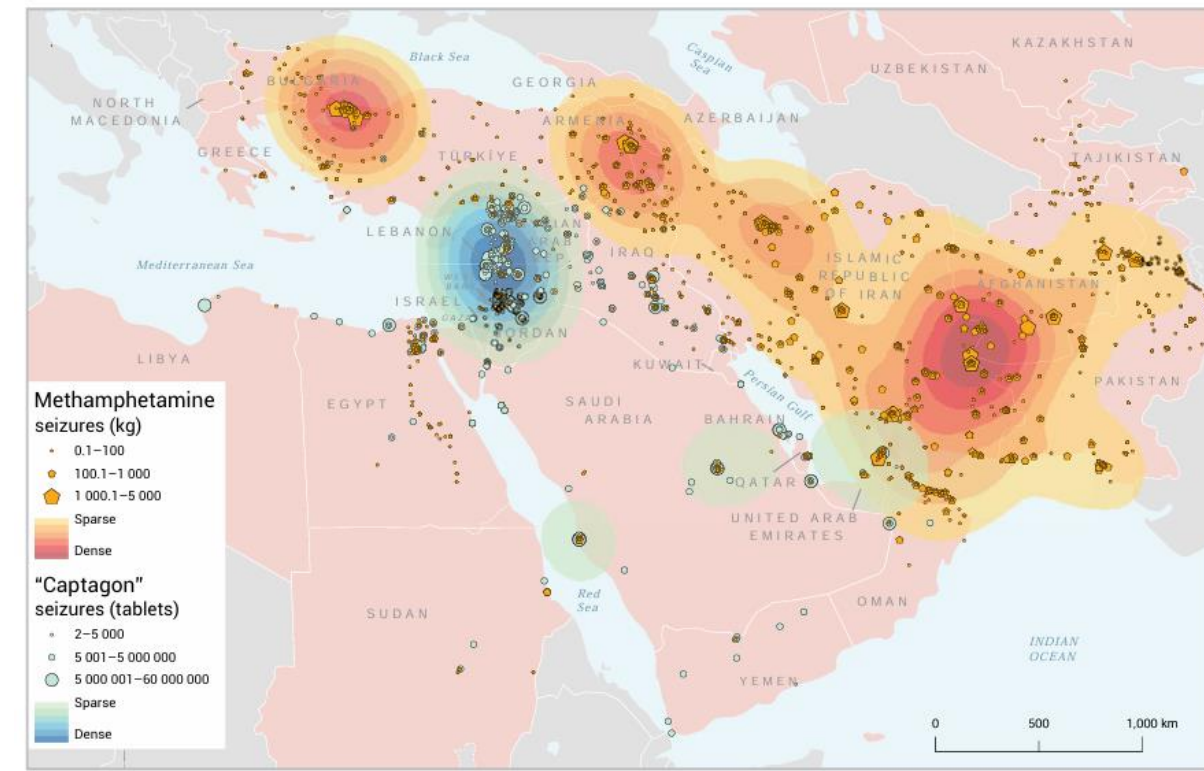
The “captagon” market is likely disrupted in the Middle East

The end of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic has disrupted “captagon” production and weakened the networks that sustained the market

Main trafficking routes for counterfeit “captagon”, 2021–2025



Main seizures of methamphetamine and “captagon” reported in and around the Near and Middle East/ South-West Asia, 2021–2025



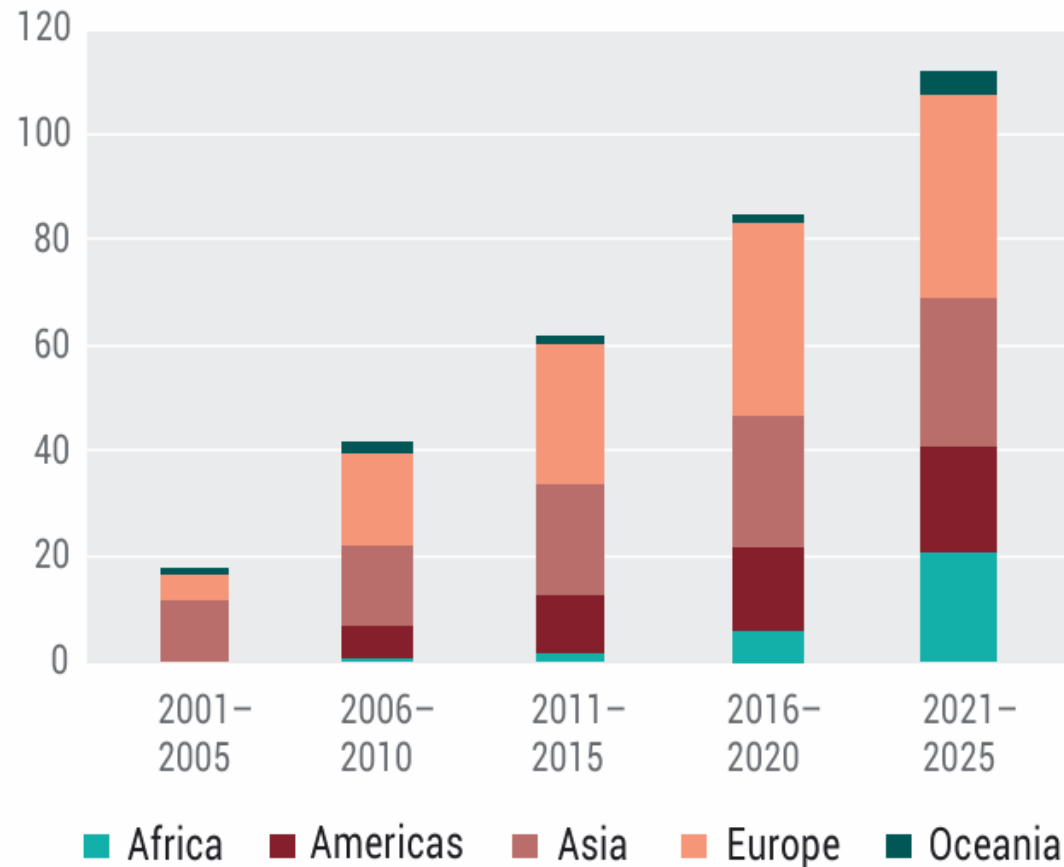
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Methamphetamine is increasingly becoming entrenched in the Near and Middle East

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Ketamine supply and use is expanding geographically

Number of countries reporting seizures of ketamine, 2001–2025



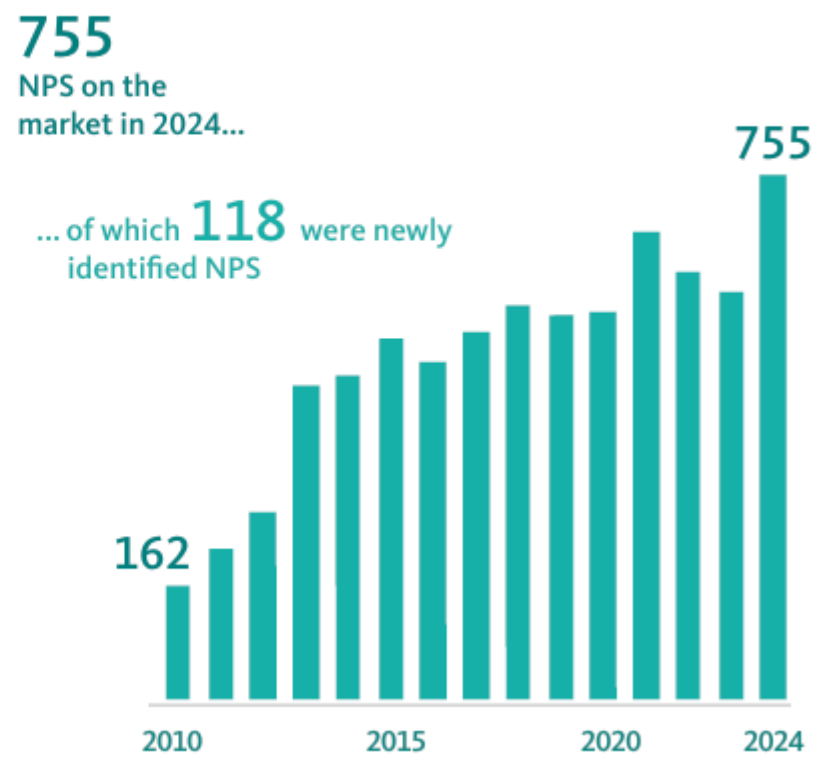
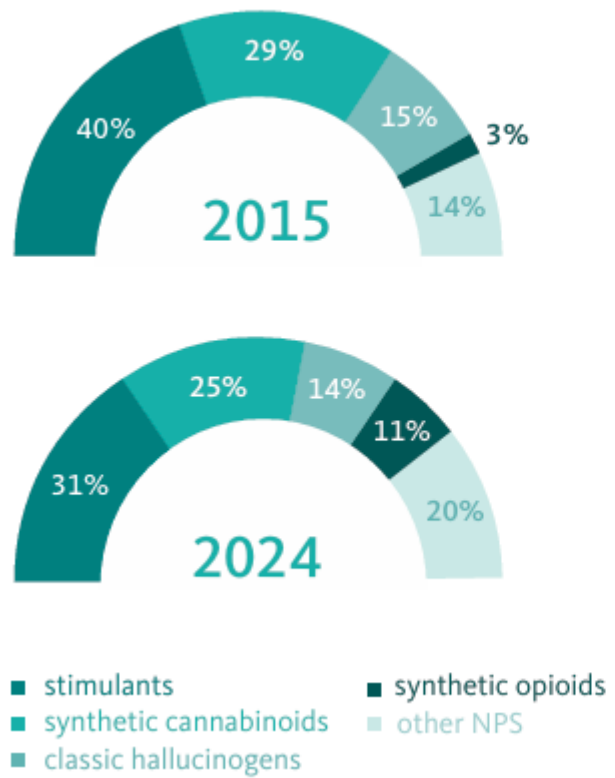
The non-medical use of ketamine is increasing in several parts of the world, while sourcing and trafficking continue to diversify.

New psychoactive substances are emerging faster

Traffickers continue to innovate, with a record high of new psychoactive substances on the global market in 2024

Most are stimulants (synthetic cathinones) and synthetic cannabinoids, but novel NPS opioids are emerging fast

New psychoactive substances (NPS) on the global market

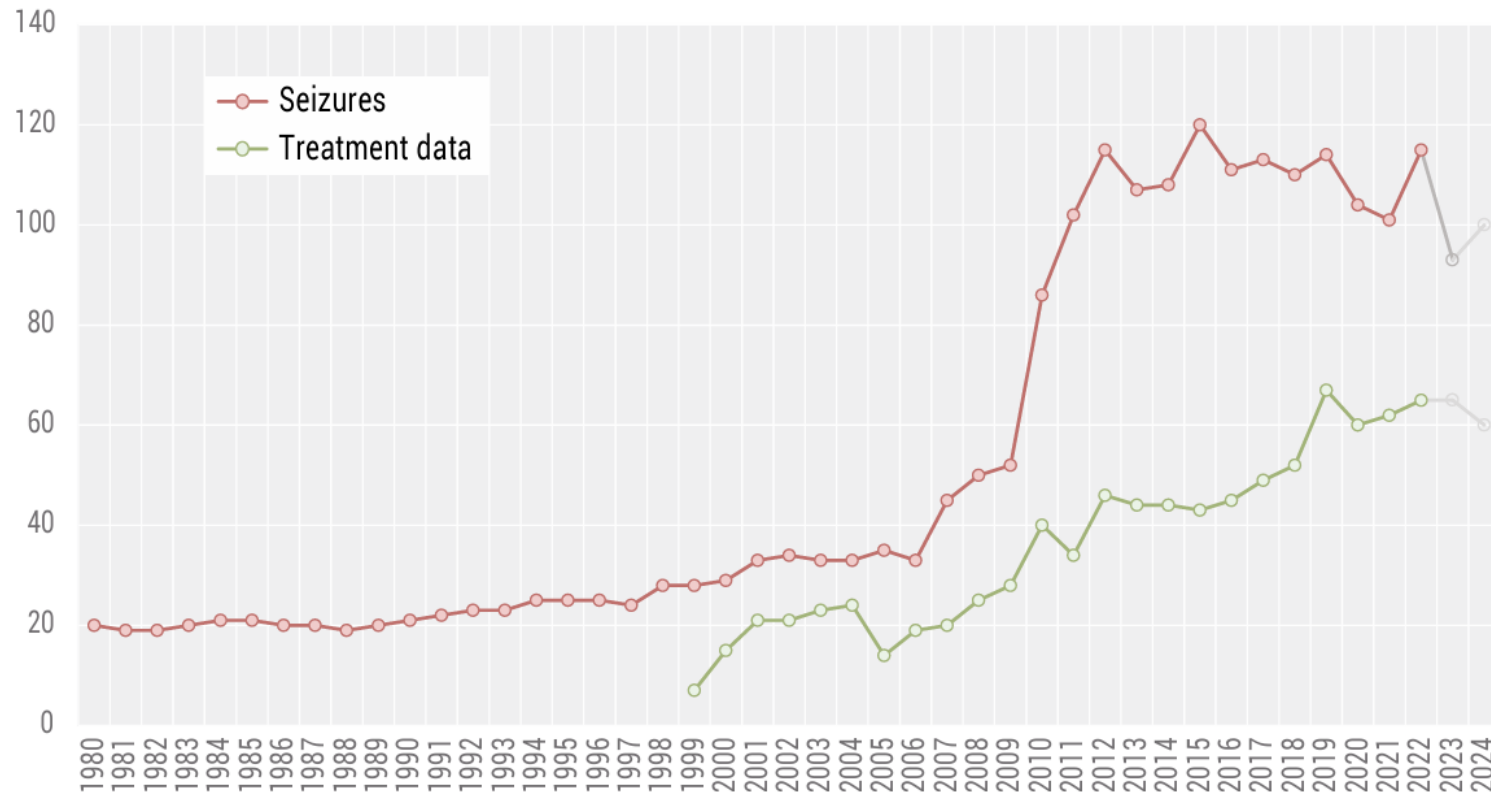


Use of NPS is very risky, but despite the acute episodes of harm, the aggregated harm has been largely contained to date at global level as their use remains lower than any controlled drug

Drug markets are increasingly diversifying

Drug markets have become more complex and characterized by rapid changes, with a broadening array of drug products, including mixtures, being offered to consumers

Trend in the number of drug types reported in seizures and in drug treatment globally, 1980–2024



Drug mixtures may contain controlled drugs, pharmaceutical drugs, NPS, adulterants, often unknowingly to the user

**Where does this leave us as
professionals of drug
prevention, treatment and
recovery?**

Prevention of drug use



CH·A·M·P·S

Children Amplified Prevention Services

A unique initiative to amplify the resilience of children from birth to adolescence
to prevent the use of drugs and other psychoactive substances

Healthy and safe development of children at all ages, all levels of risk and in all settings



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

Recovery-oriented services for people who use drugs and people with drug use disorders



- Strong integrated system providing a range of quality services
- Poly-drug use
- Stimulant Use Disorders



THANK YOU FOR YOUR LISTENING!



www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2026.html



SCAN ME!



SCAN ME!

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wdr-drug-market-patterns-trends.html