

PSYC1022: Psychology of Addiction

Topic 2: Distribution, prevalence and black market value

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- **Outline:**

- Production & distribution
- Prevalence
- Black market value



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War on Drugs

"It's the money, stupid. After 33 years as a police officer in three of the country's largest cities, that is my message to the righteous politicians who obstinately proclaim that a war on drugs will lead to a drug-free America. About \$500 of heroin or cocaine in a source country will bring in as much as \$100,000 on the streets of an American city. All the cops, armies, prisons and executions in the world cannot impede a market with that kind of tax-free profit-margin. It is the illegality that permits the obscene mark-up, enriching drug-traffickers, distributors, dealers, crooked cops, lawyers, judges, politicians, bankers, businessmen."

McNamara (1996).

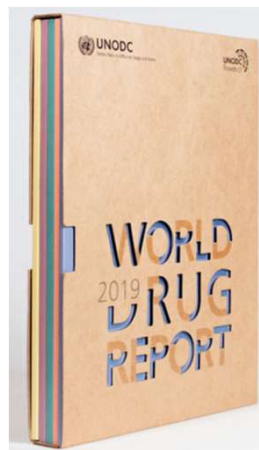


[U.S. War on Drugs Clock](#)

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Global Reporting

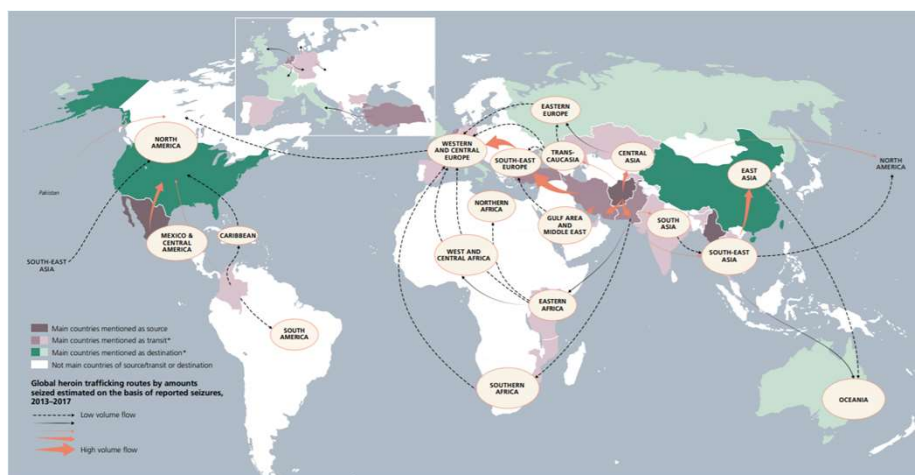
- United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
 - [World Drug Report 2019](#)



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Production & Distribution: Opium/Heroin

- Afghanistan
- Myanmar
- Mexico



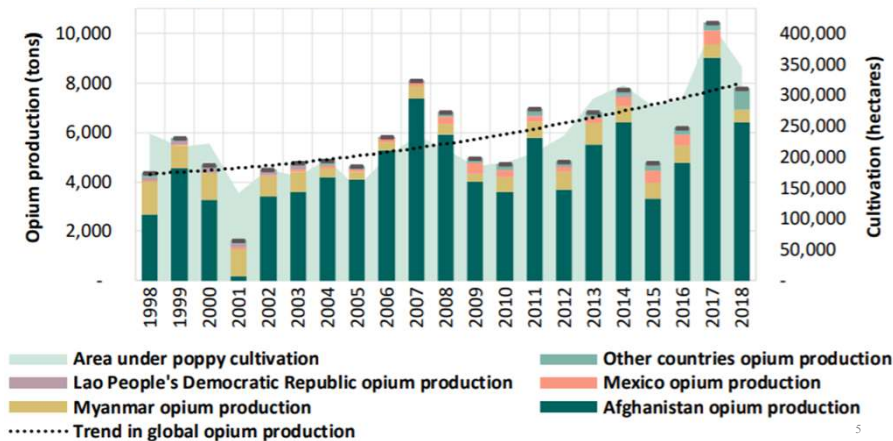
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Production & Cultivation: Opium

Afghanistan: 82% of global production

- 2018 decline in cultivation (20%) & production (29%) from 2017
- Severe drought & drop in price
- Myanmar: 11% of global cultivation & production (7%)
- 2018 decline in cultivation (12%) & production from 2017
- Regional conflict & market competition.

FIG. 17 Opium poppy cultivation and production of opium, 1998–2018*



Production & Cultivation: Cocaine

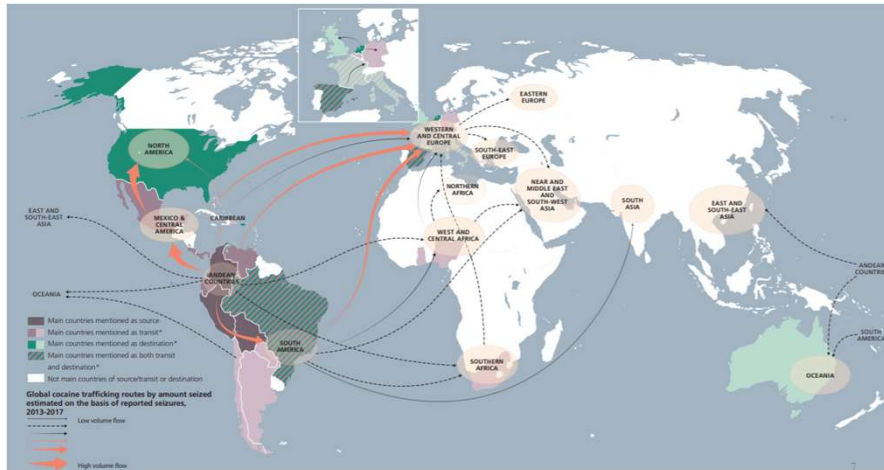
Coca bush cultivation & cocaine manufacture are concentrated in the Andean region of South America, namely, Colombia, Peru & Bolivia.

Map 1: Coca cultivation density in the Andean Region, 2007



Distribution: Cocaine

- Expanding global market
- North America: biggest market
- Primary route: Colombia-U.S.
- Second route: Andean countries-Europe
- Most cocaine in U.S. & Europe originates in Colombia
- 98% of cocaine seized in Oceania is destined for Australia, especially Sydney.

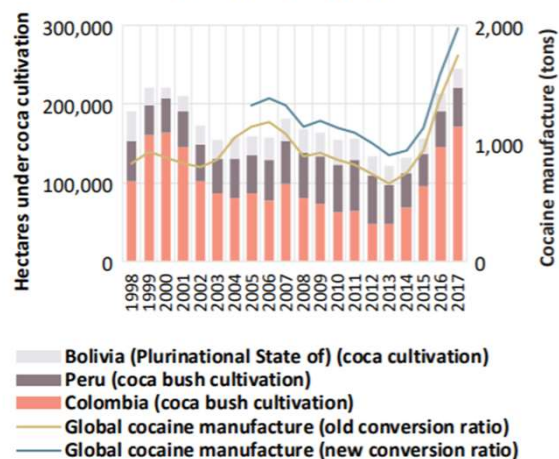


Cultivation: Cocaine

2013-2017: steady increase in coca bush cultivation

- Colombia 70%
 - Concentrated in isolated rural areas with limited infrastructure
- Peru 20%
- Bolivia 10%

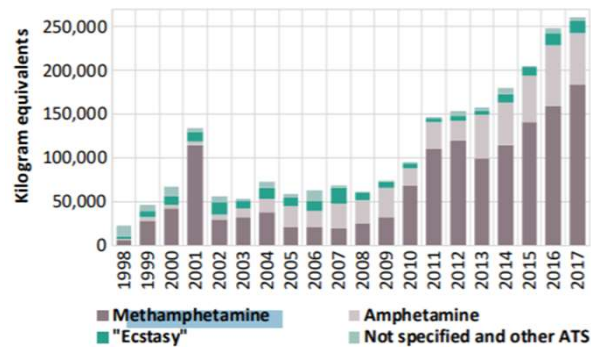
FIG. 2 Global coca bush cultivation and cocaine manufacture, 1998-2017



Production: ATS

- Availability of amphetamine type stimulants has steadily increased since 2009.
- Methamphetamine dominates the market

FIG. 27 Global quantity of amphetamine-type stimulants seized, 1998–2017

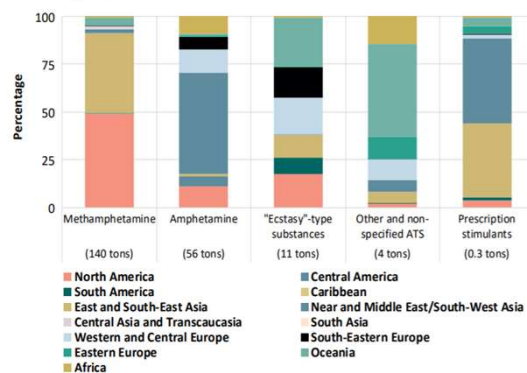


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Production: Methamphetamine

- Methamphetamine production is increasing
 - Most trafficking is intraregional
- Seizures 2007-2016:
 - North America tenfold increase
 - East and South East Asia: eightfold increase

FIG. 29 Regional distribution of the average annual quantity of amphetamine-type stimulants seized, by drug, 2013–2017

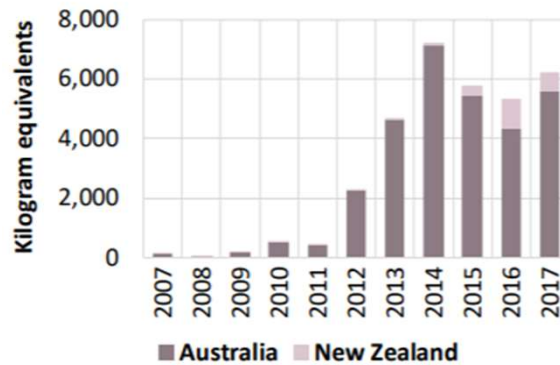


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Production: Methamphetamine

- Australia accounts for 93% of all methamphetamine seized in Oceania during 2013-2017

FIG. 40 Quantity of methamphetamine seized in Oceania, 2007–2017



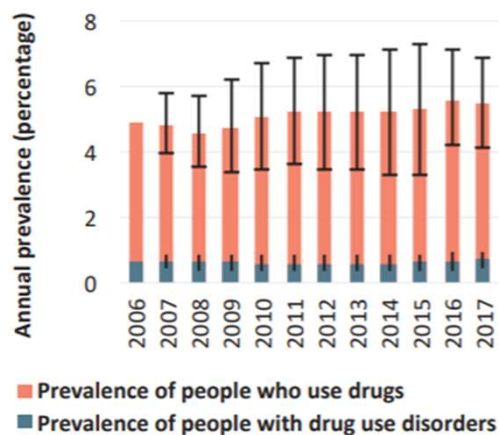
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Prevalence

2017: 5.5% of 15-64 year olds have used drugs at least once in the past year

- 271 million (1 in 18) people
- Prevalence of drug use *overall* has not changed.
- This does not speak in favour of the 'war on drugs' – the predominately punitive approach to drug control operating during this period.
 - [A brief history of the Drug War](#)

FIG. 2 Global trends in the estimated prevalence of drug use and drug use disorders, 2006–2017



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Prevalence

During 2017:

- Cannabis use was by far the most common.
- Of the “hard” drugs, opioids & ATS were most common, followed by ecstasy & cocaine.

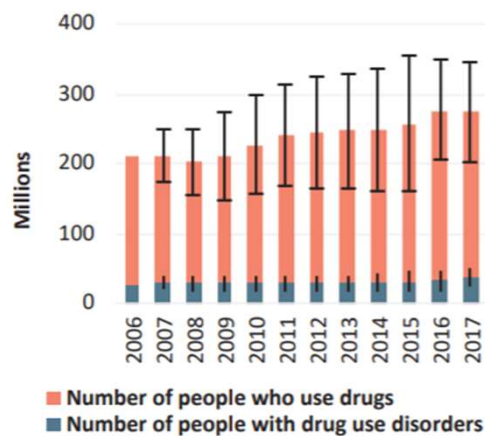
Drug	Prevalence (%) estimate
Cannabis	3.8%
Opioids	1.08%
ATS	0.59%
Ecstasy	0.41%
Cocaine	0.37%

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Prevalence of Problem Drug Users

- ‘Problem drug users’: those who are considered dependent or requiring treatment.
- 2017: 271 million drug users in the global population
 - 35 million are problem drug users
 - around 13%
- Relatively stable

FIG. 1 Global trends in the estimated number of people who use drugs and those with drug use disorders, 2006–2017



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Black market value

[World Drug Report 2009](#): special feature on black market

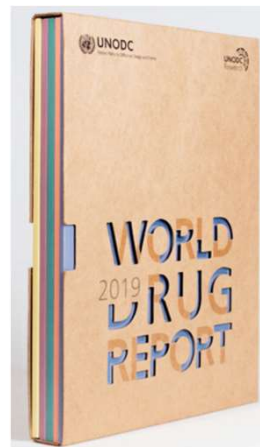
- Cost of drugs increases the further they move from the source of production.
 - Profit margins increase towards the final sale to the end consumer.
- However, the absolute profits for local producers of cocaine & heroin are enormous
 - Afghan Taliban estimated to have acquired an average of \$125 million USD per year over the decade 1998-2008



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Summary

- Knowledge of global production and distribution of opiates, cocaine and ATS
- Understanding of prevalence of drug use and problem drug use globally
- Understanding of black market economics



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