The Global S.M.A.R.T. Programme:
Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends

The situation of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)

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Structure of presentation

• What are amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)?

• Why are Latin America and Caribbean countries vulnerable?

• Filling the knowledge gaps- Global SMART

• Expanding Global SMART’s reach
Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS)

Two Groups:

(i) Amphetamines-group substances include predominantly amphetamine (including fake Captagon) and methamphetamine – in various forms, also methcathinone.
Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS)

Two Groups:

(ii) Ecstasy-group substances include MDMA (and its analogues) and substances containing or thought to contain MDMA – in various forms used different ways
How are ATS manufactured?

• ATS manufacture requires key chemicals (precursors - 1988 Convention)
  – Ephedrine/pseudoephedrine
    • Amphetamine/methamphetamine
  – Safrole/isosafrole (sassafras tree)
    • Ecstasy
Routes of ephedrine/pseudoephedrine diversion cases, 2006/07 and 2008/09

Other government sources include: ACC (2009), DEA-ODC (2008), INSC (2010), NDDB (2009), RCMP (2009 and previous years) and WCO (2009 and previous years)

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Lines represent origin and intended destination, not necessarily exact route, and include completed or stopped trafficking attempts. Modes of transit include by air, sea, overland, or any combination thereof.

Source: UNODC, 2010 World Drug Report, June 2010
The story so far

- **Manufacture:** Reported in more than 80 countries.
- **Trafficking:**
  - Continuous increase over past decade, global seizures 52 mt (2008), 39 mt (1999)
  - Precursors trafficked globally
- **Use:**
  - More users of ATS than cocaine & heroin combined

“Tip of the iceberg” = Significant information gaps exist
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Why are Latin American and Caribbean Countries vulnerable?

- Close proximity to major ATS markets (millions of potential customers, spill-over effect similar cocaine)
- Porous maritime borders
- Limited law enforcement capacity
- Limited awareness of the problem
Critical importance of drug monitoring systems

• Drug monitoring systems should be in place BEFORE a problem occurs
• Drug monitoring systems should be comprehensive (health and law enforcement data)
• Drug monitoring systems should facilitate a proactive response
Critical importance of ATS problem in Latin America and the Caribbean

• One of the main problems related to ATS consumption is due to lack of knowledge and the lack of information on this subject among authorities, technicians and the general population.
• Most surveys show that people connect synthetic drugs to medicine use, they don’t ascribe risk to its consumption and they consider it a problem far from their own reality.
• Police officers and customs agents consider the detection of this kind of drugs less important during the mandatory checks at ports, airports and border crossings.
• In Latin America, drug problems are still being considered as centered on cocaine and its derivatives, and cannabis. The rest of the substances are of less care in consumption terms as well as in control of the illegal drug market.
Risk of increase of ATS problem in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Last World Drug Report showed an increase of 20% of clandestine laboratories and, for the first time, the existence of these kind of labs in Argentina, Brazil and Guatemala, a fact registered previously in Canada, Mexico and the United States only.

- In South America there is frequently an undue use of pharmaceutical stimulants, according to studies on the general population, students, detention centres and emergency rooms. However, there is no laboratory analysis of detected substances in order to determine the actual chemical composition of synthetic drugs consumed in this Subregion.
Chile: more positive tests for methamphetamine used by arrestees - Nov, 2010

Source: http://www.pazciudadana.cl/prensa_interior.php?idPub=143
Lifetime use of Ecstasy-group and Amphetamine-group among secondary students in select South American countries - 2007

Source: MEM/CICAD /OAS

* Amphetamine or Methamphetamine without medical prescription
Lifetime, Past 12 months and Past 30 days use of Ecstasy-group and Amphetamine-group among undergraduates in Brazil - 2010

Source: SENAD, I Levantamento Nacional sobre o Uso de Álcool, Tabaco e outras drogas entre Universitários das 27 Capitais Brasileiras - Brasília, 2010
Studies realised among Andean undergraduates and qualitative studies on youth confirm synthetic drugs use in the Region.

- In contrast to other regions and countries it is not a high level of use, but high enough for concern.
- Main users are young people, and consumption – mainly **ecstasy** and **LSD** - is related to recreational situations like party and similars.
- Alcohol abuse is significantly high in Andean Region and it’s evident a high level of dependency and a polyconsumption associated to this abuse among youth as well.
ANNUAL PREVALENCE OF ANY SYNTHETIC DRUG USE AMONG UNDERGRADUATES – FOUR ANDEAN COUNTRIES-

Source: Estudio Epidemiológico Andino sobre Consumo de Drogas Sintéticas en la Población Universitaria, DROSICAN, EU/Andean Community, octubre, 2009
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• What are amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)?

• Why are Pacific Island countries vulnerable?

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Objective: Member States are able to make effective evidence-based decisions to counter the problem of synthetic drugs

Outcome 1: Generate and manage information on ATS.

Outcome 2: Drug information analysed and reported on at national, regional and global level.

Outcome 3: ATS information is used by countries for evidence-based policies and strategic interventions.
SMART Investments in Capacity

- Regional and national capacity building
- National trainings and review sessions
- On-line data collection
- Data verification and quality assurance
- Country situation reports
- Regional assessments
Supported by UNODC forensic science programme

- Field detection kits
  - precursor chemicals
  - synthetic drugs
- Computer-based training material
- New multi-lingual precursor dictionary
Global SMART – accomplishments to date

- Global ATS Assessment, September 2008
- Global SMART Update v1, March 2009
- SMART Advisory Group Meeting, March 2009
- Global SMART programme staffed, July 2009
- Regional East and South-East Asia workshop, July 2009
- National workshops (Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines), December 2009; Malaysia, June 2010
- Global SMART Update v2, October 2009
- East and South-East Asia Regional Report, November 2009
- Global SMART at SYNDEC4 Conference, November 2009
- Global SMART Update v3, March 2010
- Commission on Narcotic Drug 53rd session, Global SMART side-event, March 2010
- SMART Advisory Group Meeting, March 2010
- Global SMART Update v4, October 2010
- SMART Advisory Group Meeting, March 2011
- Global SMART Update v5, March 2011
Regional context

Patterns and Trends of ATS in East and South-East Asia
2009 (includes section on Pacific)

2010 - Patterns and Trends of ATS and Other Drugs
Asia and the Pacific
SMART currently operates in East and South-East Asia and Latin America.
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- Why are Pacific Island countries vulnerable?
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GLOBAL SMART PROGRAMME IN LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN

• The expansion of the Global SMART includes Latin America and the Caribbean countries.
• As it has been working with East and Southeast Asia, the incorporation of these countries will be gradual.
• The countries will be integrated gradually according to:
  1. The detection of the problem, both use or trafficking of ATS
  2. The interest in countering the problem of synthetic drugs
  3. Generate and manage information on ATS
  4. Interest in developing national publications on the subject and contribute to the development of regional and global publications
  5. Interest in using this information to develop policies and intervention programmes based on evidence.
Since January 2011, SMART is present in Latin America. In March, it was held the first coordination meeting with three countries:

- Argentina
- Chile
- Uruguay
Thank you very much for your attention

More sources for ATS information

www.unodc.org
www.apaic.org