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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

FORTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION
May 4 - 6, 2011
Paramaribo, Suriname

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.49
CICAD/doc.1875/11
3 May 2011
Original: English

SYNTHETIC DRUG AND PRECURSOR CHEMICAL TRENDS IN THE AMERICAS
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Synthetic Drug and Precursor Chemical Trends in the Americas

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
(CICAD) – 49th Regular Session
Paramaribo, Suriname
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*Globally there are more users of
amphetamine-type stimulants
(ATS) than heroin and cocaine
combined*

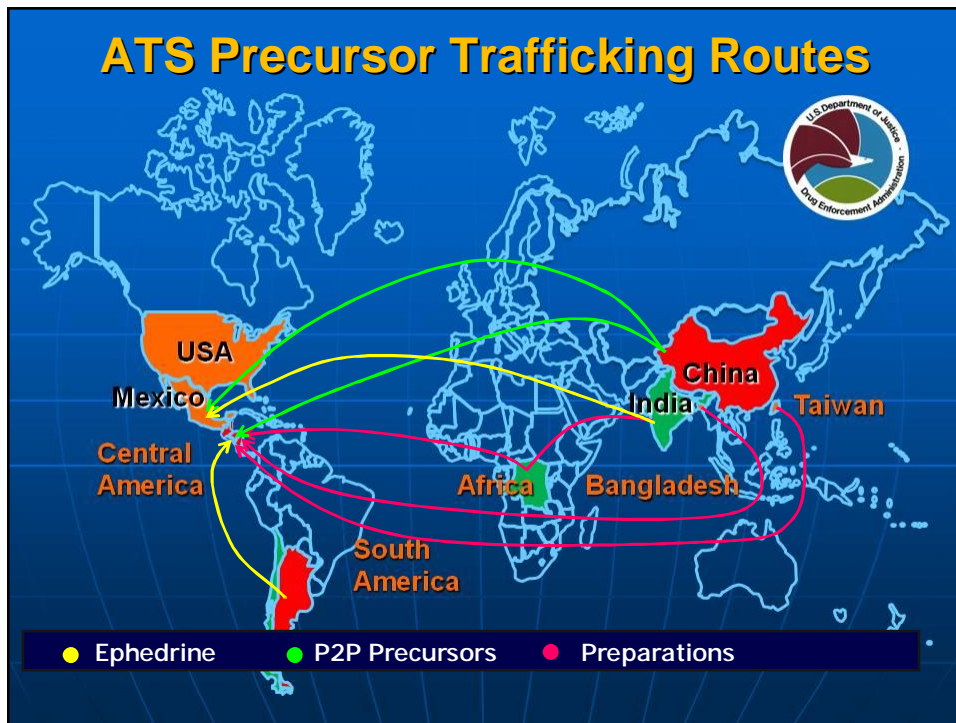
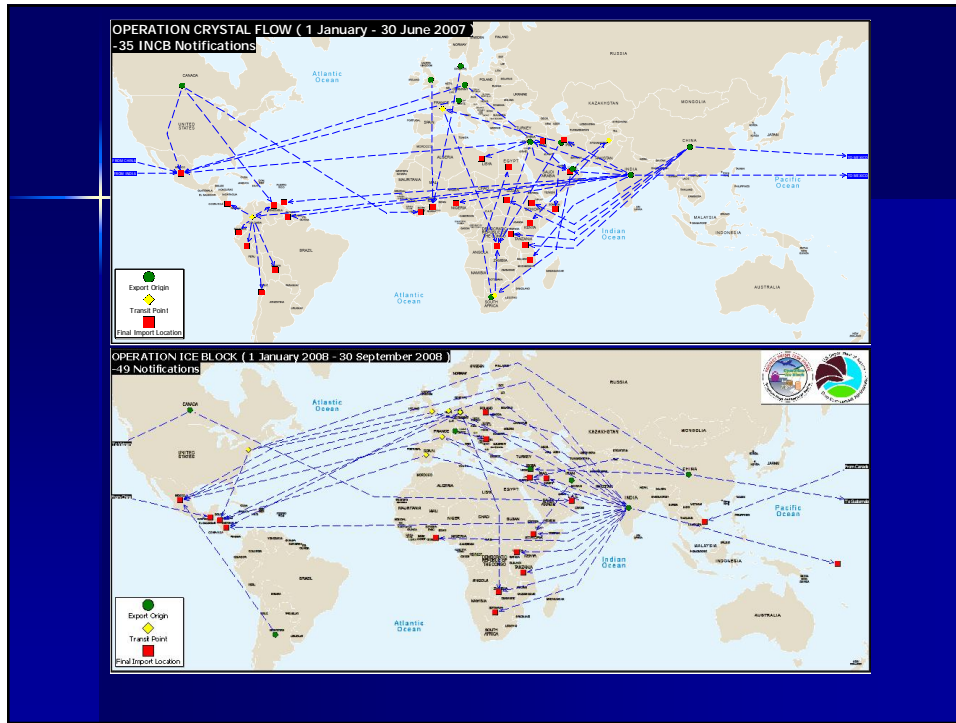
UNODC-GLOBAL SMART

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Quotes

- n In response to stronger controls in many regions, traffickers have been forced to seek non-scheduled chemical substances for the illicit manufacture of drugs.
 - INCB, "Precursors," 2009
- n The supply routes through which diverted preparations travel are now more complex than raw material shipment routes previously identified
 - INCB, "Precursors," 2009
- n Mexico was the leading importer by far of PAA (declared in PENS), importing 2242mt in 2009 from five countries (400mt amongst the other 13 countries)
 - INCB, "Precursors," 2009
- n Amphetamine-group substances rank as the second most commonly used drug, followed by cocaine and opiates
 - UNODC, "World Drug Report," 2010
- n ATS have come to represent a major and evolving threat for present and future drug control efforts
 - UNODC, "World Drug Report," 2010
- n But there are indications that the traffickers are adapting yet again, identifying new sources of precursors, new techniques for synthesizing the drug, and new countries in which to locate manufacturing
 - UNODC, "World Drug Report," 2010

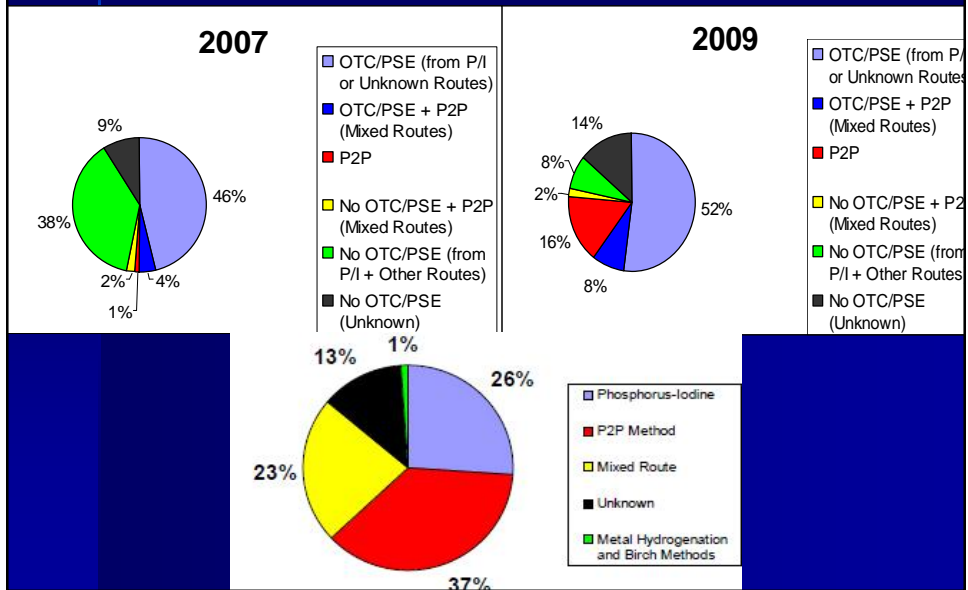
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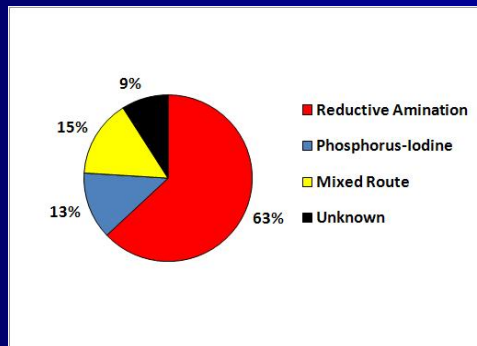
International Progression of Meth Precursors

- § Bulk powder
- § Diverted preparations
- § Smuggled/mislabeled preparations
- § Emergence of PAA for illicit P2P

DEA Forensic Sciences Methamphetamine Profiling Program (MPP)

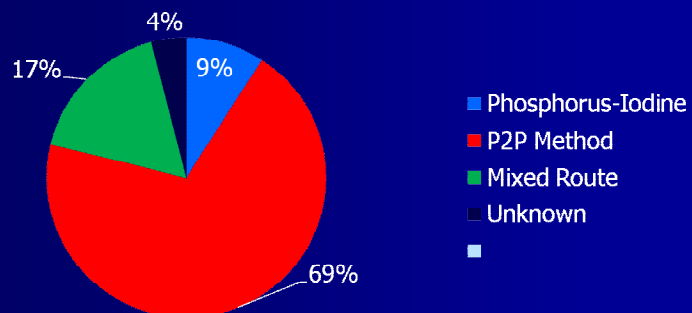


3Rd Quarter 2010 MPP



DEA Forensic Sciences Methamphetamine Profiling Program (MPP)

4th Qtr 2010



Changing Paths – Chemical Precursors

- Decreased overt shipments into countries with adequate chemical control mechanisms
- Manifest data no longer lists pills / cold medicine / brand names
- Increased use of cover loads (smuggling)
 - n Fire Extinguishers
 - n Luggage
- The precursor is treated as illicit and moved outside standard commercial shipping mechanisms

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Belize PAA Seizure

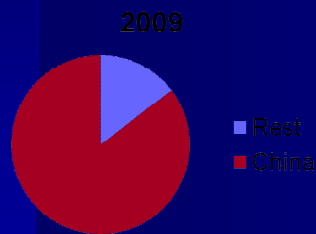
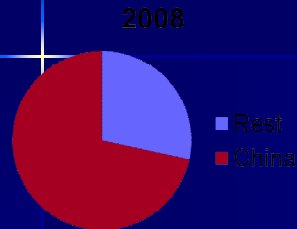


- n 15 Oct 2010: Belizean Customs announce seizure a 40-foot container with 320 drums of PAA shipped from Shanghai, China
- n Shipment consigned to *Secret Garden*, health food company in the Corozal Free Zone
 - The container arrived on October 5; however, company did not clear the container
- n Importation of PAA not illegal in Belize
 - False Customs declaration may be only charge resulting from seizure
- n May 2010, Customs returned two PAA containers to China, shipped to another company in the Corozal Free Zone
 - The containers not permitted to enter Belize

Source: Belizean Press

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PAA Mexico Imports



MT	2010 (Jul)	Rest	3
		China	1539
	2009	Rest	366
		China	2132
2008		Rest	715
		China	1802



Source: Datamyne.com

Conclusions

n Ephedrines Threat

- Multiple source countries for acquisition
- Pseudoephedrine preparation manufacturing locations throughout Asia and Middle East
- Increasing occurrence of pseudoephedrine extraction labs taking advantage of pharmaceutical availability

n Other Meth Precursors

- Shifting distribution patterns of PAA and Methylamine to Central America
- Ephedrine precursors – L-PAC, Benzaldehyde, Methylamine – next chemicals of concern

Asian precursor chemicals drive methamphetamine production in North America and Southeast Asia

K2 / Spice

What are Synthetic Cannabinoids?

- § Synthesized in early 1980's for research, which are similar to THC found in marijuana
- § Marketed as herbal incense that are sold under the names Spice, Amsterdam Gold, Herbal Smokes, K2, Yucatan Fire, Genie, Magma, Dream, Hard Core, and many others
- § "not for human consumption"
- § Sold in 3-5 gram packages and can be purchased thru many sites on the internet, at head shops, gas stations, and other retail outlets
- § There may be in excess of 100 cannabinoid products that have yet to be introduced to the marketplace

K2 / Spice

Effects

- § Synthetic cannabinoids produce effects similar to THC, the main psychoactive substance found in marijuana
- § Produces a high similar to marijuana with periods of euphoria and altered consciousness
- § Side effects include hallucinations, seizures, and dependency/addiction not usually associated with cannabis users



Bath Salts / Plant Food

What are they?

§ Products sold typically contain one of the following substances, which are a potent central nervous system stimulant

§ MDPV, Mephedrone, Methyone

§ Originally synthesized as “research chemicals” and not approved for human consumption

§ Now marketed as “plant food” and “bath salts”

§ Sold under the names Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky, Energy-1, Ocean Wave, White Lightning, Hurricane Charlie and many others

§ Sold at smoke shops, head shops, convenience stores, adult book stores, gas stations and through the internet

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Bath Salts / Plant Food

(MDPV, Mephedrone, Methyone)

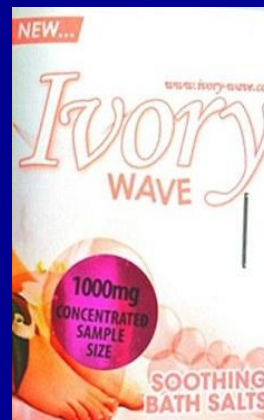
Effects

§ Produces a high similar to methamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine

§ Abusers experience chest pain, increased blood pressure, agitation, panic attacks, hallucinations, paranoia, and delusions

§ Users self-administer the drugs by snorting the powder, smoking it, or injecting themselves intravenously

§ The products are typically sold in packets of 250 mg for about \$25 to 500 mgs for \$50



THANK YOU



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