

population in the 15-64 age group. The total number reported from those subregions is estimated to account for 24 per cent of the total number of people who inject drugs worldwide, with the majority of them registered in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Among people who inject drugs in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, HIV prevalence is particularly high, estimated at more than 22 per cent.

E. Oceania

1. Major developments

773. The illicit market for amphetamine-type stimulants in Oceania, particularly in Australia and New Zealand, is dominated by methamphetamine, with evidence suggesting a growing prevalence of abuse and an increase in purity and in the affordability and availability of the substance. The high volume of seizures in both countries reflects the situation, with record levels of methamphetamine seized in New Zealand. Methamphetamine seizures in other countries of the region, such as Fiji, indicate that they are used as trafficking transit points but may also indicate local abuse of the substance.

774. The *Drug Harm Index* has been developed in New Zealand to estimate the social costs to community and individuals arising from drug abuse, taking also into account the cost of health, education and law enforcement interventions. The second edition of the *New Zealand Drug Harm Index 2016* was published under the auspices of the Ministry of Health in July 2016. It was estimated that cannabinoids, followed by amphetamine-type stimulants, then opioids and sedatives, were responsible for the greatest proportion of social costs (including intervention costs) associated with drug abuse.

2. Regional cooperation

775. At its eighteenth annual conference, held in Tuvalu in June 2016, the Oceania Customs Organization adopted the Regional Information and Intelligence Sharing Framework and the Regional High-Level Understanding on Information and Intelligence Sharing. The conference endorsed the concept of a joint Pacific law enforcement conference, to be explored with the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat and the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference. Among other things, members of the Organization noted the

importance of potential threats to border security posed by transnational crime and "e-crime", and welcomed further discussions on the regional efforts to develop a common data model to enhance an integrated border approach.

776. The Forum Regional Security Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum met in Suva in June 2016 to discuss human security, threats resulting from natural disasters, and transnational organized crime. In May 2016, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat, in partnership with the Government of New Zealand and UNODC, held a workshop with policy, law enforcement and legislative drafting experts from the countries of the region to revise the Forum's Model Provisions on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime from 2002. The outcome of the workshop was to be presented to the Forum's Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime at its meeting held in June 2016.

777. The Pacific Police Dog Programme, which facilitates in-country training of dog handlers from the Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga, was expanded to include the detector dog project in Fiji, which became operational in 2016. The project is aimed at stemming the flow of drugs trafficked into Fiji and is a joint venture between the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority, the Fiji Police Force, the New Zealand Customs Service and the New Zealand Police.

778. Cooperation between Australia, Fiji and New Zealand in addressing drug trafficking continues to be strengthened. A joint operation between the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority, the Fiji Police Force, the New Zealand Customs Service and the Australian Federal Police in July 2015 resulted in a seizure of 80 kg of methamphetamine. In June 2016, the authorities of the three countries participated in the INTERPOL Operation Pangea IX, which targeted the online sale of counterfeit medicines.

3. National legislation, policy and action

779. Oceania remains the region of the world with the highest level of non-adherence to the international drug control treaties. Kiribati and Tuvalu have not adhered to any of the three international drug control conventions, while the Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa and Vanuatu are not parties to the 1961 Convention or the 1971 Convention. Solomon Islands is not a party to the 1971 Convention or the 1988 Convention, and Palau and Papua New Guinea are also not yet party to the

1988 Convention. Given the emerging role of countries in Oceania, particularly the Pacific island States, as transit points for drug trafficking, and the role of some of those States as offshore financial centres that may be vulnerable to the laundering of proceeds of drug-related crime, the lack of adherence to and implementation of the conventions renders the countries particularly vulnerable to drug trafficking and its consequences. The International Narcotics Control Board urges the countries of the region to set in place the necessary processes to accede to the conventions and offers its support in that regard. The Board also calls upon the international community to support those countries in efforts to fully adhere to and implement the treaties.

780. In October 2016, the Narcotic Drugs Amendment Act 2016 entered into force in Australia, providing a legislative framework that enables cannabis cultivation, permits access to cannabis for medical purposes and ensures that the cultivation of cannabis and the manufacture of cannabis products for medical purposes are in compliance with the 1961 Convention. The Amendment Act establishes a licensing scheme for the cultivation of cannabis for medical and related scientific purposes and includes measures to ensure security and prevent overproduction. Under the legislation, a system of licences and permits along the chain from patient to manufacturer to cultivator will control the amounts that can be cultivated and manufactured. Medicinal cannabis products are to be supplied under medical prescription; prescribing doctors will require authorization from the Government.

781. Owing to the high levels of abuse and trafficking of methamphetamine in Australia and its consequences, the National Ice⁶⁸ Taskforce, comprising health and law enforcement experts, was established in April 2015 to coordinate local, state and federal action. The National Ice Action Strategy, adopted in December 2015, outlines measures on support for families and communities, targeted prevention, investment in treatment, focused law enforcement and better research and data. In addition, the National Organised Crime Response Plan 2015-2018 outlines initiatives to address the illicit supply of methamphetamine, while the National Law Enforcement Methamphetamine Strategy facilitates a nationally coordinated operational response to the drug by defining roles and aligning responsibility for enforcement, intelligence collection and awareness. In response to a recommendation of the National Ice Taskforce, a new ministerial drug and alcohol forum will be established to oversee the development, implementation and monitoring of the

national drug policy framework, including the National Ice Action Strategy. That Strategy forms a key component of the Australian National Drug Strategy 2016-2025.

782. The Australian Federal Police recommitted to close working relationships with Cambodia, China and Viet Nam to address the shared threat of transnational organized crime and to improve understanding of concealment methods, trafficking routes and criminal networks facilitating the trafficking of drugs into Australia. For example, Taskforce Blaze was established by the authorities of Australia and China in November 2015 to address the international illicit market for methamphetamine. Two separate operations involving the Taskforce led to seizures totalling 720 litres of liquid methamphetamine and more than 300 kg of crystalline methamphetamine in Australia between February and July 2016. In March 2016, the Australian Federal Police and the Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore agreed to enter into a memorandum of understanding on combating transnational crime and developing police cooperation.

783. In 2016, the customs authorities of Fiji and Vanuatu adopted the World Customs Organization National Customs Enforcement Network, becoming the only two customs administrations in the Pacific region, among only 20 other countries worldwide, to have implemented the system.

784. The Government of Samoa is establishing an alcohol and other drugs court, with a view to facilitating the rehabilitation of people who reoffend in connection with their dependency on alcohol and drugs. Expert advice on the establishment of the court is being provided by New Zealand.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

785. Cannabis remains the most widely trafficked and abused drug throughout Oceania. Although the number of cannabis seizures in Australia, both at the border and within the country, reached a record high during the period 2014-2015, the weight of cannabis seized within the country decreased from over 7 tons during the period 2013-2014 to around 6 tons during the period 2014-2015, and the weight of cannabis seized at the border decreased from 158 kg to 60 kg over the same period. The amount of cannabis herb seized in New Zealand increased from

⁶⁸“Ice” is a colloquial term for methamphetamine.

518 kg in 2014 to 692 kg in 2015. The six-month National Cannabis and Crime Operation, held in New Zealand during the 2015-2016 growing season, resulted in the eradication of more than 130,000 cannabis plants and almost 80 kg of cannabis herb, the second highest amount seized in the past nine years. In Fiji, law enforcement Operation Cavuraka had, by June 2016, eradicated more than 38,000 cannabis plants found on 15 farms in the Navosa highlands.

786. The amount of heroin seized at the Australian border increased by 168 per cent, from 118.9 kg during the period 2013-2014 to 318.7 kg during the period 2014-2015, with the predominance of South-East Asia as the source of the heroin seized increasing to 98.1 per cent in the first half of 2015. The amount of heroin seized within Australia also increased, from 158 kg during the period 2013-2014 to 477 kg during the period 2014-2015, the second highest level in the past decade. In 2015 in New Zealand, a small amount of heroin (38.4 g) was seized, significantly less than the 16 kg seized in 2014, but a similar level to that seized in 2013.

787. Australia, which accounted for 99 per cent of total cocaine seizures in Oceania between 1988 and 2014, saw an increase in the frequency and amount of cocaine seized, with seizures at the border increasing from 245.6 kg during the period 2013-2014 to 368.9 kg during the period 2014-2015. Seizures within the country also increased, from 317.4 kg during the period 2013-2014 to 514.4 kg during the period 2014-2015, still around half the one ton seized in 2012-2013. While cocaine seized at the Australian border in 2013 had predominantly come from Peru, the prominence of Colombia as a source country has re-emerged, with 69.4 per cent of cocaine seized at the border in the first half of 2015 originating in Colombia, compared with 21.1 per cent originating in Peru.

788. Following a decrease in the amount of cocaine seized in New Zealand, from 10.2 kg in 2014 to 129 g in 2015, a record seizure of the drug was made in May 2016: a shipment of 35 kg from Mexico. Other significant seizures of cocaine in the Pacific, such as 50 kg in Fiji in 2015 and 680 kg from a yacht in French Polynesia in February 2016, suggest the existence of various trafficking routes through the region, likely destined for Australia or New Zealand.

(b) Psychotropic substances

789. A record 12.6 tons of amphetamine-type stimulants, comprising 49 per cent amphetamines and 48.3 per

cent MDMA, were seized in Australia during the period 2014-2015, having more than tripled from 4.1 tons during the period 2013-2014, and representing just over half (53.6 per cent) of the weight of drugs seized in the country. The amount of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding "ecstasy") detected at the Australian border almost doubled, from 1.8 tons during the period 2013-2014 to a record 3.4 tons during the period 2014-2015; crystalline methamphetamine accounted for 76.4 per cent of the weight of amphetamine-type stimulants seized at the border during the period 2014-2015.

790. In New Zealand, the quantity of methamphetamine seized more than tripled, from 98.8 kg in 2014 to a record amount of 334.3 kg in 2015; however, one large shipment of 79.3 kg of methamphetamine seized by customs authorities was suspected to be destined for Australia. That trend appears to be continuing, with a record seizure of 494 kg methamphetamine made in New Zealand in June 2016. Seizures of methamphetamine reported elsewhere in the region, for example Fiji, suggest the use of those countries as transit points for the trafficking of methamphetamine to Australia and New Zealand, but also indicate, given some seizures of small quantities, abuse of the substance in those countries.

791. The amount of "ecstasy" seized at the Australian border increased to 2 tons during the period 2014-2015, the second-highest reported level in the previous decade, compared with 94.8 kg during the period 2013-2014. A single seizure of 1.92 tons of "ecstasy" that had been concealed in sea cargo accounted for 95.8 per cent of the "ecstasy" seized at the border during the period 2014-2015. The amount of the substance seized within the country also increased, to 6.1 tons during the period 2014-2015. In New Zealand, the trend in seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances has fluctuated, decreasing in 2014 after a record in 2013, and increasing to 5.17 kg in 2015.

(c) Precursors

792. The majority of methamphetamine seized in Australia was primarily manufactured from ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, with the proportion of samples manufactured from 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P) decreasing. The weight of amphetamine-type stimulant (excluding "ecstasy") precursors seized at the Australian border decreased from 1.5 tons during the period 2013-2014 to 0.5 tons during the period 2014-2015. It remains to be seen whether that trend will continue: a significant seizure, of 340 kg of ephedrine, was made in Sydney

in January 2016. In contrast, the weight of “ecstasy” precursors seized at the border increased from 1.24 kg in the period 2013-2014 to 288 kg in the period 2014-2015.

793. The number of clandestine laboratories detected in Australia has decreased since 2011, and during the period 2014-2015 it reached the lowest level (667 laboratories) since 2008-2009. The proportion of smaller, “user-based” clandestine laboratories detected increased during the period 2014-2015, to 60.9 per cent. While the majority of the facilities were being used to illicitly manufacture amphetamines, the number of laboratories manufacturing “ecstasy” increased from 3 during the period 2013-2014 to 18 during the period 2014-2015.

794. In New Zealand, the trend seen in 2014 towards ephedrine, rather than pseudoephedrine, becoming the main precursor used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine continued in 2015 and into 2016, accounting for 92 per cent of the 966.6 kg of methamphetamine precursors seized in 2015. Record seizures of ephedrine were made in New Zealand in October 2015 and April 2016 (95 kg and 200 kg, respectively). The number of clandestine laboratories dismantled in New Zealand decreased from 82 in 2014 to 69 in 2015.

795. A comprehensive review of the situation with respect to the control of precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the region can be found in the report of the Board for 2016 on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention.

(d) Substances not under international control

796. New psychoactive substances were increasingly detected at the Australian border, with a record number of seizures made during the period 2014-2015 (551 compared with 92 during the period 2013-2014). However, the total weight of new psychoactive substances seized decreased, from 543 kg during the period 2013-2014 to 52.7 kg during the period 2014-2015, the second-lowest amount on record. The majority (by weight) of samples analysed were cathinone analogues (71.1 per cent), followed by synthetic cannabinoids (22.8 per cent). The number of ketamine detections at the border increased from 155 during the period 2013-2014 to a record 218 during the period 2014-2015, with the international mail stream accounting for 97.2 per cent of ketamine detections.

797. Increased illegal importation of new psychoactive substances has been reported in New Zealand.

5. Abuse and treatment

798. Of the internationally controlled substances, cannabis remains the most widely abused substance in Oceania, with estimated annual prevalence at about 10 per cent, well above the global estimate of 3.8 per cent. In recent years, the abuse of cannabis has been reported to be relatively stable, albeit at a high level, in Australia and New Zealand, the countries for which recent data are available.

799. Although prevalence of abuse of amphetamines (i.e., amphetamine and methamphetamine) appears to have remained somewhat constant over recent years in both Australia and New Zealand, with annual prevalence among adults in those countries estimated at 2.1 per cent and 0.9 per cent, respectively, methamphetamine consumption has strongly increased in Australia. The number of people in Australia who used methamphetamine in the previous year is, according to household survey data, reported to have doubled, from an estimated 100,000 in 2007 to 200,000 in 2013, representing 1.1 per cent of the adult population. The proportion of detainees testing positive for methamphetamine more than doubled between the periods 2009-2010 and 2014-2015 in Australia. Between the periods 2009-2010 and 2013-2014, the number of hospitalizations related to methamphetamine increased fivefold and the number of specialized drug treatment cases concerning amphetamines tripled.

800. An Australian study utilizing indirect prevalence estimates based on treatment and hospitalization data, which was designed to include “more hidden and stigmatized” groups of drug users, indicated that the level of methamphetamine use was at its highest level, with the monthly prevalence among adults increasing from 1.03 per cent during the period 2002-2003 to 2.09 per cent during the period 2013-2014, and with methamphetamine addiction increasing from 0.66 per cent during the period 2002-2003 to 1.24 per cent during the period 2013-2014. Furthermore, the study estimated dependent use at 1.14 per cent and 1.50 per cent among those aged 15 to 24 years and 25 to 34 years, respectively.

801. Wastewater analysis in Australia suggested threefold to fivefold increases between 2009 and 2015 in per capita methamphetamine consumption in two population groups in Queensland. Such analysis also indicated that abuse of amphetamines has exceeded that of “ecstasy” and

cocaine since 2010 in large parts of Queensland and South Australia, and indicated a decline in levels of “ecstasy” use in a number of population groups between 2014 and 2015.

802. The level of abuse of cocaine is reported to be relatively stable, albeit at a high level, in Australia and New Zealand, with annual prevalence among adults of 2.1 per cent and 0.6 per cent, respectively. Annual prevalence of “ecstasy” abuse among adults in both Australia and New Zealand was reported to have declined to 2.5 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, by 2013.

803. In New Zealand, the prevalence of abuse of amphetamines was found to be higher among the Maori population than among the non-Maori population. Similarly, in Australia, annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines in indigenous communities was estimated at 5 per cent, higher than the national average. Reported levels of annual prevalence of drug abuse among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia have been consistently higher than among non-indigenous

people. Such data should be taken into account in the design and implementation of prevention and treatment programmes.

804. The rate of accidental overdose deaths due to opioids among those aged 15 to 54 in Australia decreased from 49.5 per million in 2011 to 44.7 per million in 2012; 70 per cent of the accidental opioid deaths in Australia among those aged 15 to 54 in 2012 were due to pharmaceutical opioids, with the remainder of such deaths due to heroin, which was relatively stable with respect to the previous year. Annual prevalence of heroin abuse declined in Australia from 0.2 per cent in 2010 to 0.1 per cent in 2013.

805. Noting the lack of recent data on drug abuse and treatment in the other countries of Oceania, the Board reiterates its call to the Governments of those countries to step up their efforts to increase the collection of data on drug abuse and treatment. The Board invites the international community and regional and bilateral partners to provide support to those countries to that end.

