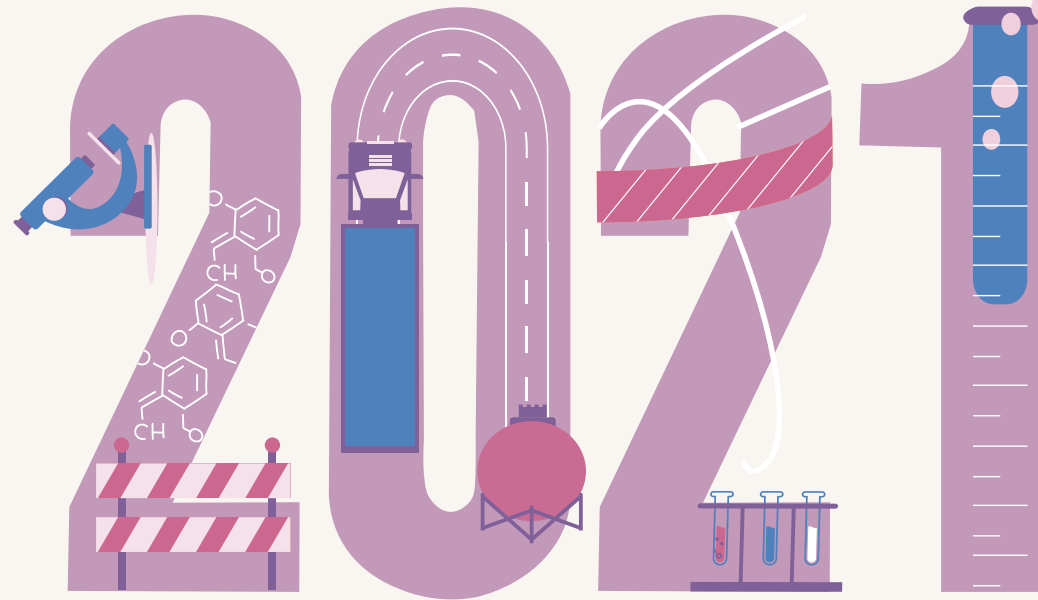




International Narcotics Control Board  
**Precursors Control Section**



## PRECURSORS ANNUAL REPORT

Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of  
narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

**ILLUSTRATED SUMMARY**

Read the full report [here](#)

# PRECURSOR

/noun/

In general, a starting material used to manufacture a narcotic drug, psychotropic substance or another precursor; sometimes used to refer exclusively to the substances in Table I and Table II of the 1988 Convention.

3 new chemicals proposed for international scheduling in 2021

BOC-4-AP

4-AP

NORFENTANYL

## SCHEDULING HISTORY

### Initial List of 1988

Acetic anhydride | Acetone  
| Anthranilic acid | Ephedrine |  
Ergometrine | Ergotamine  
| Ethyl ether | Lysergic acid | P-2-P  
| Phenylacetic acid | Piperidine  
| Pseudoephedrine

1992

3,4-MDP-2-P | Hydrochloric acid  
| Isosafrole | Methyl ethyl ketone  
| *N*-Acetylanthranilic acid | Piperonal  
| Potassium Permanganate | Safrole  
| Sulphuric acid | Toluene

2000

Norephedrine

2014

*Alpha*-Phenyl-  
acetoacetonitrile  
(APAAN)

2017

4-Anilino-*N*-phenethylpiperidine (ANPP)  
| *N*-Phenethyl-4-piperidone (NPP)

2019

3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate  
("PMK glycidate") | 3,4-MDP-  
2-P methyl glycidic acid ("PMK  
glycidic acid") | *Alpha*-Phenyl-  
acetoacetamide (APAA)

2020

Methyl *alpha*-phenylacetoacetate (MAPA)

1988

1998

2008

2018

# SEIZURE

/noun/

Prohibiting the transfer, conversion, disposition or movement of property or assuming custody or control of property on the basis of an order issued by a court or a competent authority; it may be temporary or permanent (i.e. confiscation); different national legal systems may use different terms.

106,000 L

**106,000 litres of acetic anhydride, a key chemical used to illicitly manufacture heroin, were seized.**

Seizures were reported in countries such as Iran, Pakistan and United Arab Emirates and remained unaffected by the restrictions on movement resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

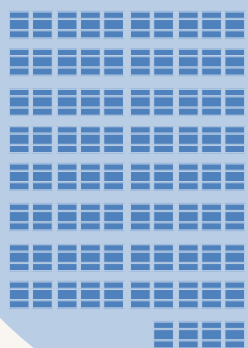
814 kg

**814 kilograms of chemicals used to illicitly manufacture fentanyl were seized,**

including continuing seizures of ANPP (440 kg), 4-AP (310 kg), and boc-4-AP (75kg).

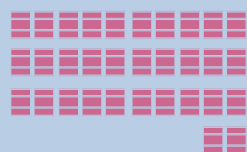
84

**84 tons of potassium permanganate seized** and localized in countries in South America. This principal precursor used for the illicit manufacture of cocaine is illicitly manufactured or is diverted from domestic distribution channels rather than international trade.



32

**32 tons of MAPA seized,** indicating a shift towards the use of designer precursors in illicit amphetamine and methamphetamine manufacture. Scheduled in Table I of the 1988 Convention in November 2020, seizures of this substance were reported for the first time outside of Europe.



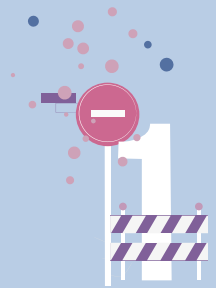
10

**10 tons of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine seizures reported globally,** confirming the declining trend observed in recent years, in contrast with high levels of seizures of ephedrine-based methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia.



## CONCLUSION

# Urgent need to accelerate the global momentum in addressing the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals



Non-scheduled chemicals not included in the Tables of the 1988 Convention are increasingly found in illicit drug manufacture. Alternative, non-scheduled chemicals now appear across all drug classes and in all regions of the world. The need to address the challenge through a strengthened and broader approach is progressively gaining momentum and INCB continued addressing this issue in 2021 through a series of activities.



**Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all chemicals communicated through PICS were non-scheduled chemicals.**

## CONCLUSION

# Comprehensive and timely data underpin the capacity to address emerging trends effectively and proactively

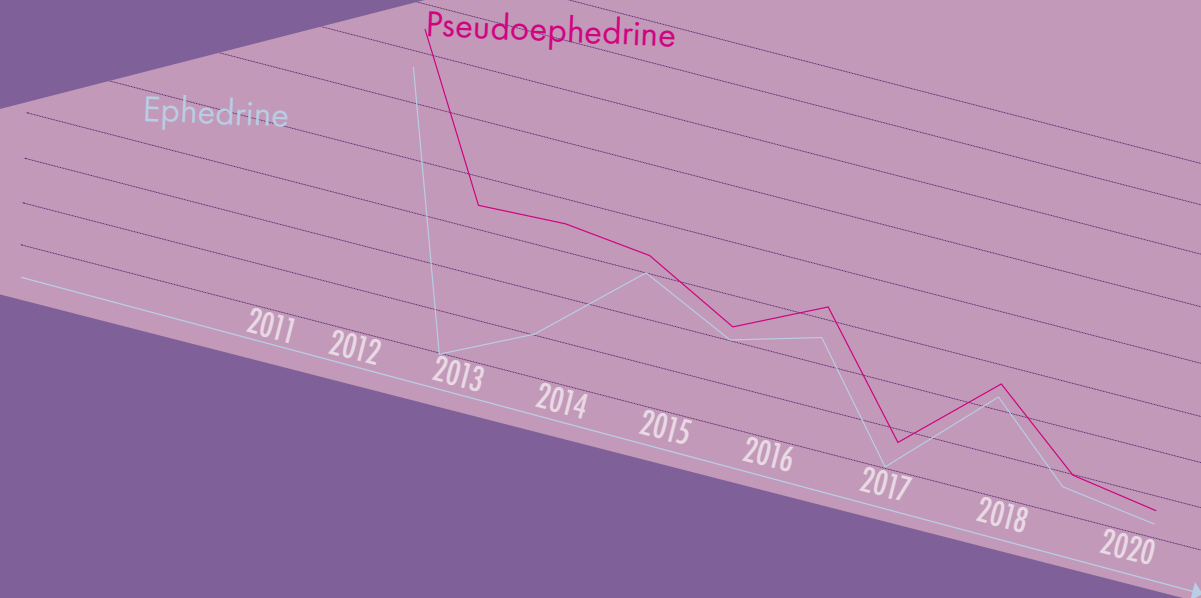
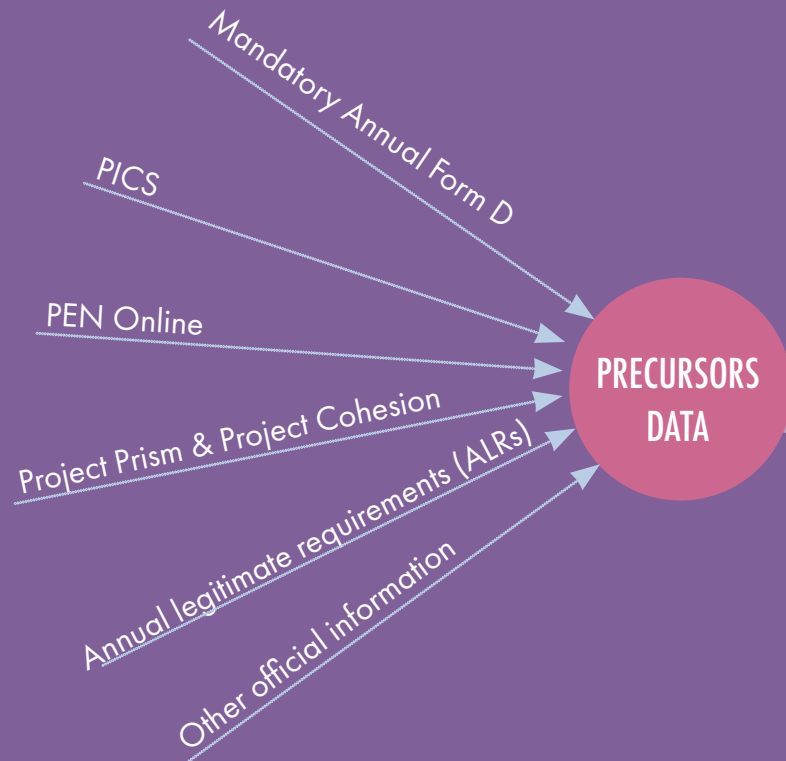


Continuing divergence between the amounts of drugs manufactured illicitly and the reported amounts of seized chemicals remains problematic.

Large and consistent seizures of end products, methamphetamine reported in some regions.



Reported amounts of seized ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are going down every year.



## CONCLUSION

# The focus on domestic manufacture and distribution channels remains critical to tackling diversion through domestic channels



The past 15 years of international precursor control have shown that, as a result of more effective control and monitoring, the diversion of precursors for illicit activities has evolved from being perpetrated through international trade to now being largely domestic in nature.

A world map in a light blue color. A red circular callout containing the fraction '1/4' is positioned over the Americas. A red line extends from the bottom of the circle to a red arrow-shaped callout box pointing to the text below.

1/4

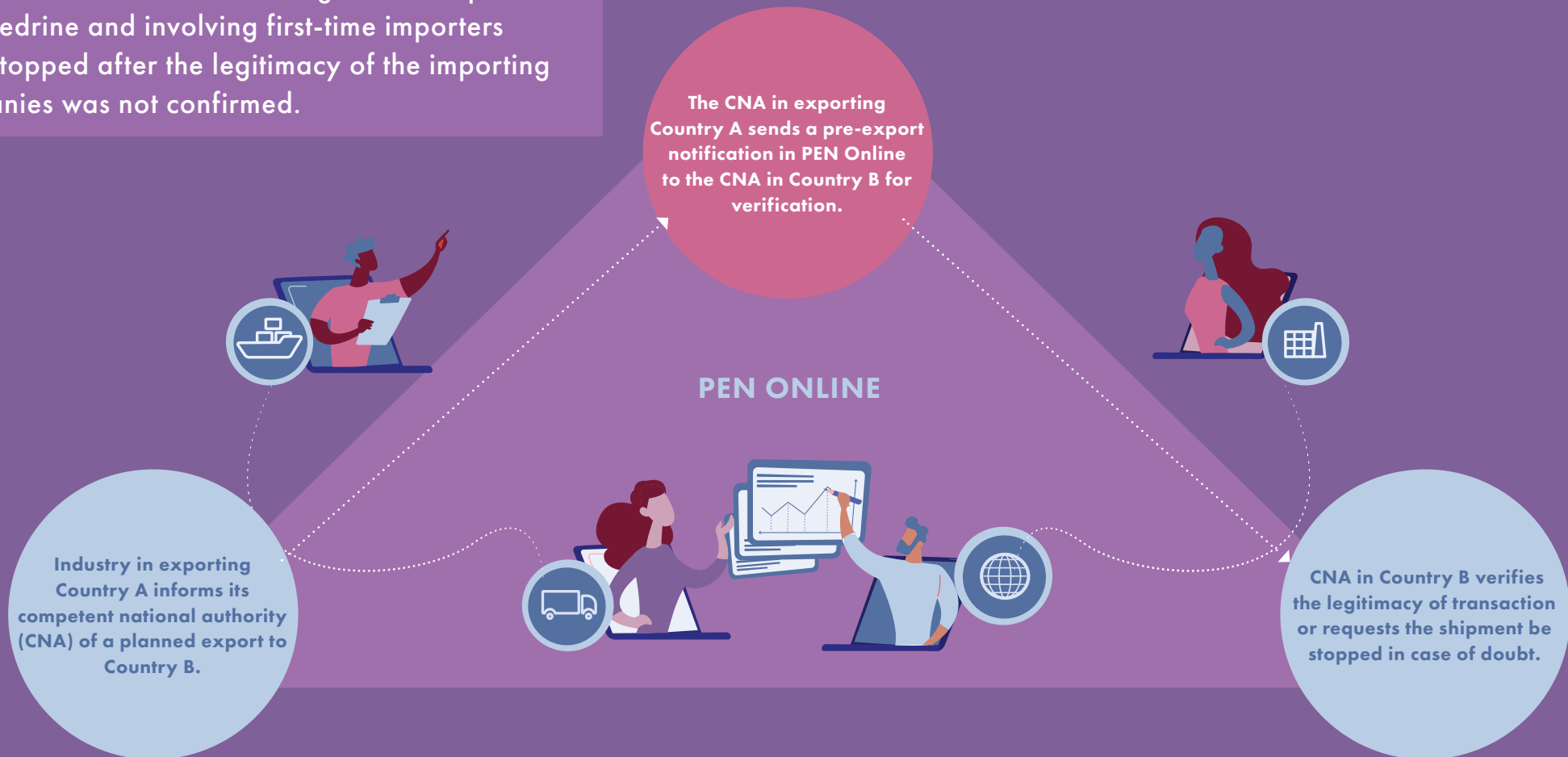
**About 1/4 of the Governments responding to INCB survey in 2021 stated lack of control over domestic trade in and distribution of one or more substances included in Table I of the 1988 Convention.**

## CONCLUSION

# Need for systematic use of PEN Online and continued vigilance after diversion attempts through legitimate international trade



Although less frequent, diversion attempts of precursors through legitimate international trade channels can still occur. Two large-scale shipments of ephedrine and involving first-time importers were stopped after the legitimacy of the importing companies was not confirmed.



## CONCLUSION

# Need to mainstream cooperation with industry as a key component of the strategy to prevent the diversion of precursors



Industry cooperation is not only limited to the chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries but also to industries concerned in any way with the supply, trade and distribution of the substances and B-2-B Internet platforms.

