



MONTHLY REPORT

DRUG MONITORING CENTRE (DMC)

SEPTEMBER 2021

DRUG MONITORING CENTRE (DMC)

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Introduction

Based in Lausanne, Switzerland DMC is a global centre aiming at Researching and Analysis of different aspects of drugs and narcotics including, Addiction; Education; Prevention; Harm Reduction; and Drug Policy. Monthly Reports are essential parts of DMC's mission. Although small in size, as an ambitious and growing platform DMC is consistently enlarging its areas of focus by including more countries and regions under consideration and analysis. The current report of September 2021 addresses the drugs and narcotics circulation in France and North Africa (Morocco); Caucasus, and North Asia (Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan); Portugal and Italy; India and Bangladesh; and Turkey.

Note: Representations with the mention [Own elaboration] refers to representations developed by the author of this report, based on collected facts values, which sources are listed on the DMC home page, Facts and Figures section (<https://drugmonitoringcentre.org/>)

SOUTH ASIA (NEPAL, INDIA, AND BANGLADESH)

From June to September 2021, Nepal, India, and Bangladesh experienced significant drug seizures, in which almost 958.25 kgs of drugs and 50257 methamphetamine pills were seized, and a total of 70 people were arrested. The detailed drug share across the countries is listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Aggregated value at country level

Country	Total seized drug weight (kg)	Total seized portions	Total seized drug pill (#)	Total Cash converted in \$	Total Number of arrests	Total Number arrested Under-aged (< 18)	Total Number of injuries	Total Number of deaths	Total Number of facts
Bangladesh	9.00		50,151		3			3	3
India	938.35		106	\$21,503	49		1	2	20
Nepal	10.90			\$609	18				3
Total	958.25		50,257	\$22,112	70		1	5	26

The main drugs popular in the area are cannabis, cocaine, heroin, opioids, and psychotropic drugs. Figure A1. illustrates the frequency of various types of drug seized in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

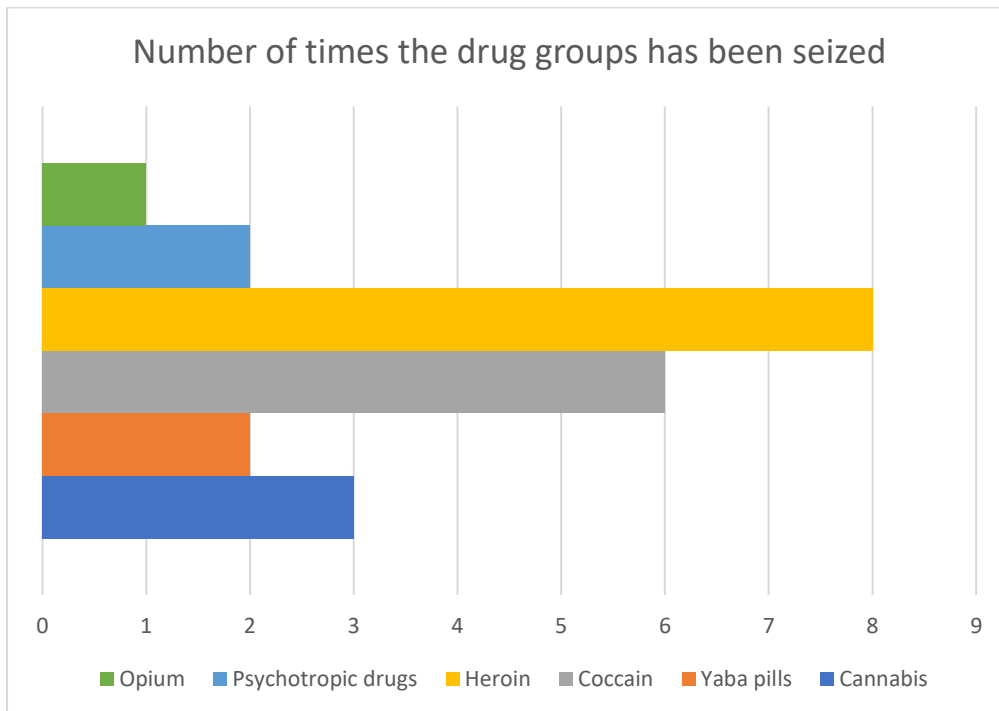


Fig A1. The number of times a drug group has been seized

Heroin reported the highest time seizure i.e., 8 times followed by cocaine i.e., 6 times. Cannabis reported 3 seizures and Psychotropic drugs and Yaba (methamphetamine) pills reported 2 seizures each and Opium only once.

India

India reported the highest number of drug-related cases compared to Nepal and Bangladesh. Ports in India seem to be a recent place for drug smuggling. Recent reports indicate that drug smuggling cases are on the rise in Indian harbors. The following figures show some of the confiscated drug cases in India during June and September 2021



Fig A2. [283kg heroin](#) smuggled to Jawaharlal Nehru port Mumbai from Iran



Fig A3. [3000 kg of heroin](#) recovered from Mundra port in Gujarat

The border cities in South of Asia seem to be becoming transit hubs for drug peddlers. Illegal drug smuggling is on the rise in India-Pakistan cross borders. From June to September 2021, large amounts, i.e., around 41 kg of drugs were recovered from the border as shown in fig A4.



Fig A4. [Recovered drugs from India-Pakistan border](#)

NORTH AMERICA (USA AND CANADA)

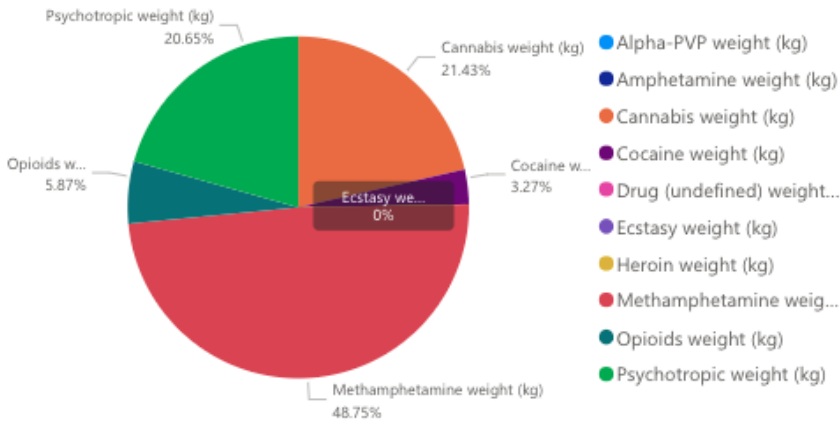
In accordance with the Drug Monitoring Centre (DMC) media analysis, in September 2021 Canada and US in North America experienced a total of 285.68 (kg), 15,354 portions and 28,272 pills of illegal drugs seizures. The number of drug-related arrests totaled 170.



CANADA

The largest share (weight) of illegal drugs seized in Canada was methamphetamine, accounting for nearly half (48.75%). The next biggest share was illegal cannabis with 21.43% followed closely by psychotropic drugs at 20.65%. Psychotropic drugs make up a larger portion this month after a huge seizure of [30 kgs of “Magic Mushrooms”](#) in Vancouver.

Weight share



The largest drug bust this month was located in the Toronto area and resulted in the arrest of 44 people. More than 30 kg of illegal cannabis, 6 kg of Fentanyl, and 4.2 kg of Cocaine were seized. Opioids were the most frequent drug seized in Canada and nearly all drug seizures in pill form were opioids.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

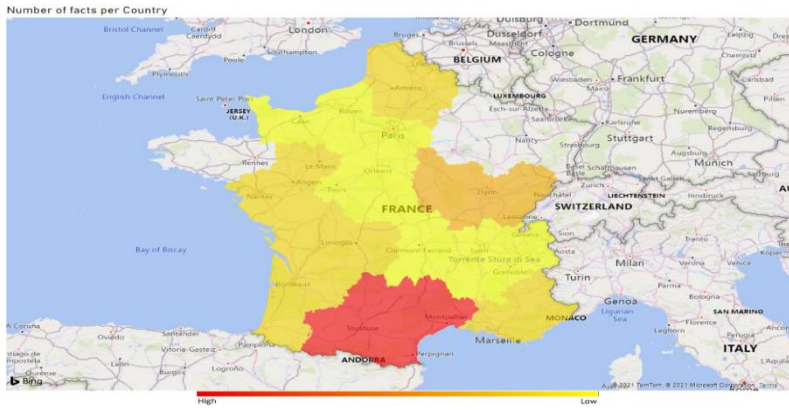
50% of the drugs seized in the US were methamphetamine, 17% 16.52% and 15.13% were cocaine, heroin and opioids. Interestingly, like in Canada, nearly all pills seized were opioids. The largest drug bust recorded for a California county occurred this month resulting in the seizure of [60 pounds of methamphetamine](#), [7 pounds of cocaine and heroin](#) and [25,000 fentanyl pills](#). California and Texas continue to be hotspots for major drug activity in the USA. Although news coverage can be less frequent, large and significant drug busts occur here more often than anywhere else in the US.

FRANCE AND NORTH AFRICA

Country	Total seized drug weight (kg)	Total seized portions	Total seized drug pill (#)	Total Cash converted in \$	Total Number of arrests	Total Number arrested Under-aged (< 18)	Total Number of injuries	Total Number of deaths	Total Number of facts
Algeria		23	161	\$508	4				1
France	755.35			\$429,759	75	3	3	1	22
Morocco	10,002.00		26,200		11				3
Tunisia	0.52				1				1
Total	10,757.87	23	26,361	\$430,267	91	3	3	1	27

Drug circulation in France and North Africa in September 2021

In Europe, France stands in first place in terms of a no-tolerance strategy towards illegal drug trafficking and consumption. This can be shown by the impressive number of arrests (75) related to drugs. It is also only in France where one can observe a non-null number (3) of underaged arrested dealers but also physical impact on people (three injuries and one death).

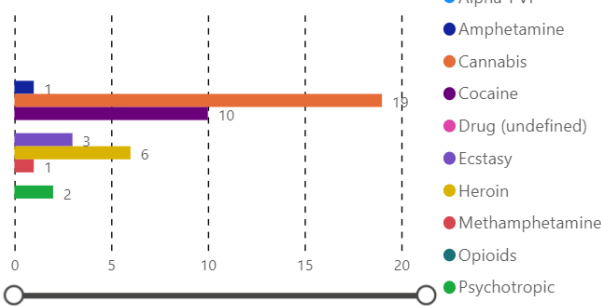


France

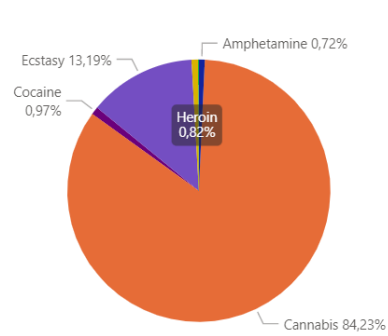
The most affected part of France is “Occitanie”, the southern west administrative region of metropolitan France bordering with Spain and known to be a transit region for the rest of Europe. The major seizure that took place in Occitanie,

specifically Toulouse province, included 104 kg of cannabis.

Number of times a drug group has been seized



Weight share (kg)



The number of times a drug group has been seized in France

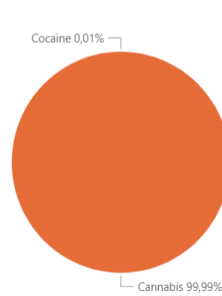
North Africa

In the month of September 2021 North Africa experienced significant incidents related to drugs: Moroccan police forces seized 10 tons of cannabis as well as 26'200 psychotropic pills, which are almost the only seized drugs (plus cocaine seized once with a very small amount).

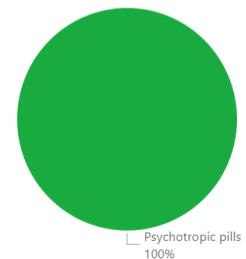
Number of times a drug group has been seized



Weight share (kg)



Pills share

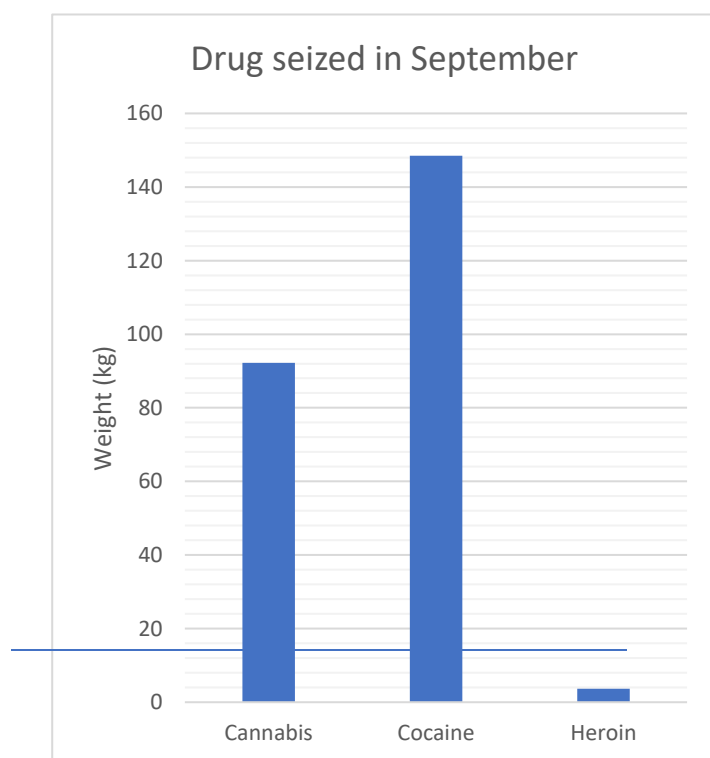


The number of times a drug group has been seized in North Africa

PORTUGAL

In September, Portugal recorded expressive amounts of drug seizure: more than 250 kg. It is interesting to note in the map below the areas where the presence of drugs was more expressive this month. As expected, urban areas like Porto and Lisbon as well as borders and coastal regions. As usual urban areas like Porto and Lisbon as well as borders and coastal regions have experienced significant events related to drugs, see the graph and the map.

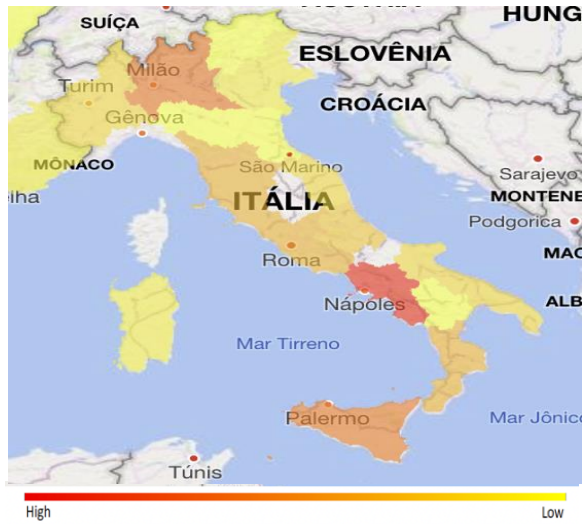
The most common drugs seized were cannabis and cocaine, however, cannabis plants, heroin, and ecstasy tablets were also present in the confiscations. Some \$ 115,000.00. was also confiscated from suspects.



Drug seizure in Portugal during the month of September

ITALY

In September, almost 600 kg of drugs were seized in Italy. The major type of substance confiscated was cannabis (577 kg) and nearly 10 kg of cocaine. The regions more affected by the traffic of drugs in Italy in September were Campania, Sicilia, and Lombardia. Although the amount of money seized was impressive, an amount of almost \$130,000.00.



177 kg cannabis seized in Italy

TURKEY



128 roots of cannabis plants and 71 kilograms of herbal cannabis were seized in Turkey

According to DMC collected data, cannabis is considered as the most trafficked and consumed drug in Turkey. The seizure operations showcased that growing cannabis plants has become an important illicit monetary gain for some in Turkey. Particularly in the North of the country Marmara region. The production process is not reported to be led by organised criminal groups but rather it is considered as a means of improving individual economic earning. For example, on 9 September a chicken farm was

raided, and as an outcome, [128 roots of cannabis plants and 71 kilograms of herbal cannabis were seized](#). The suspect was not reported to be in relation to any major drug-selling networks. here it is important to not mention a too general claim in another case which occurred On September 23, [5 cannabis plants were reportedly seized on a farm in Düzce](#). Like the first example incident, the individual who was guilty of selling and producing illicit drugs was a single entrepreneur. Based upon these given examples, one could examine the cannabis growing action as an individual and economical practice in the North of the Marmara region. Even though more incidents shall be evaluated in order to assert that cannabis growing is a prerequisite for the people of the region, incidents in September show that it is more common than in other parts of Turkey.

Another aspect that made the given cases congener was the possession of weapons by drug suspects. Throughout September 2021 weapon seizures were quite frequent. Half of them were pistols and the

other half were shotguns. The comparison of the data collection from May and September illustrates how the weapon possession of illicit drug sellers and producers has increased. One of the simultaneous anti-drug selling police operations on September 2 against local dealers that ended up with 6 weapon seizures in Saray/ Tekirdağ is a major example of the increase in weapon possession of minor level illicit narcotics-related suspects.

In these simultaneous operations, 4 unlicensed shotguns and 2 unlicensed pistols were seized. The suspects were all reportedly involved in drug trafficking.



128 roots of cannabis plants and 71 kilograms of herbal cannabis were seized.



4 unlicensed shotguns and 2 unlicensed pistols seized in Turkey

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The number of arrested persons in the Russian Federation has an ascendant trend with an official number bigger than 500 persons. The majority of the arrested people are street dealers. Based on the collected information during a few months the law enforcement authorities seized more than 550 kg of Cannabis or related products. Moreover, The operation conducted by the police detected more than 56 000 illegal plants of Cannabis or Marijuana. Do we have any specific date and Another very popular drug used in Russian Federation Heroin was seized in a quantity of more than 35 kg.

The majority of Heroin is coming in the country from the South but with unspecified origin. Cocaine is also a popular drug especially in the central part of the country, the quantity seized being bigger than 25 kg in the previous months.

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

In September 2021 the confiscation of 3500 portions of Amphetamine was reported .

The most popular drug on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan seized was more than 17 500 kg of Cannabis and/or related products. The number of portions seized rose to more than 75 000 portions of Cannabis-related products.

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

During September Azerbaijan police arrested more than 250 persons related to drug crimes.

The most popular drug based on the quantity seized is Cannabis, the officials have seized more than 18 000 kg of Cannabis and/or related products. Moreover, more than 75 500 units were seized.

Heroin also is a popular substance in the Republic of Azerbaijan the total quantity seized included more than 215 kg.