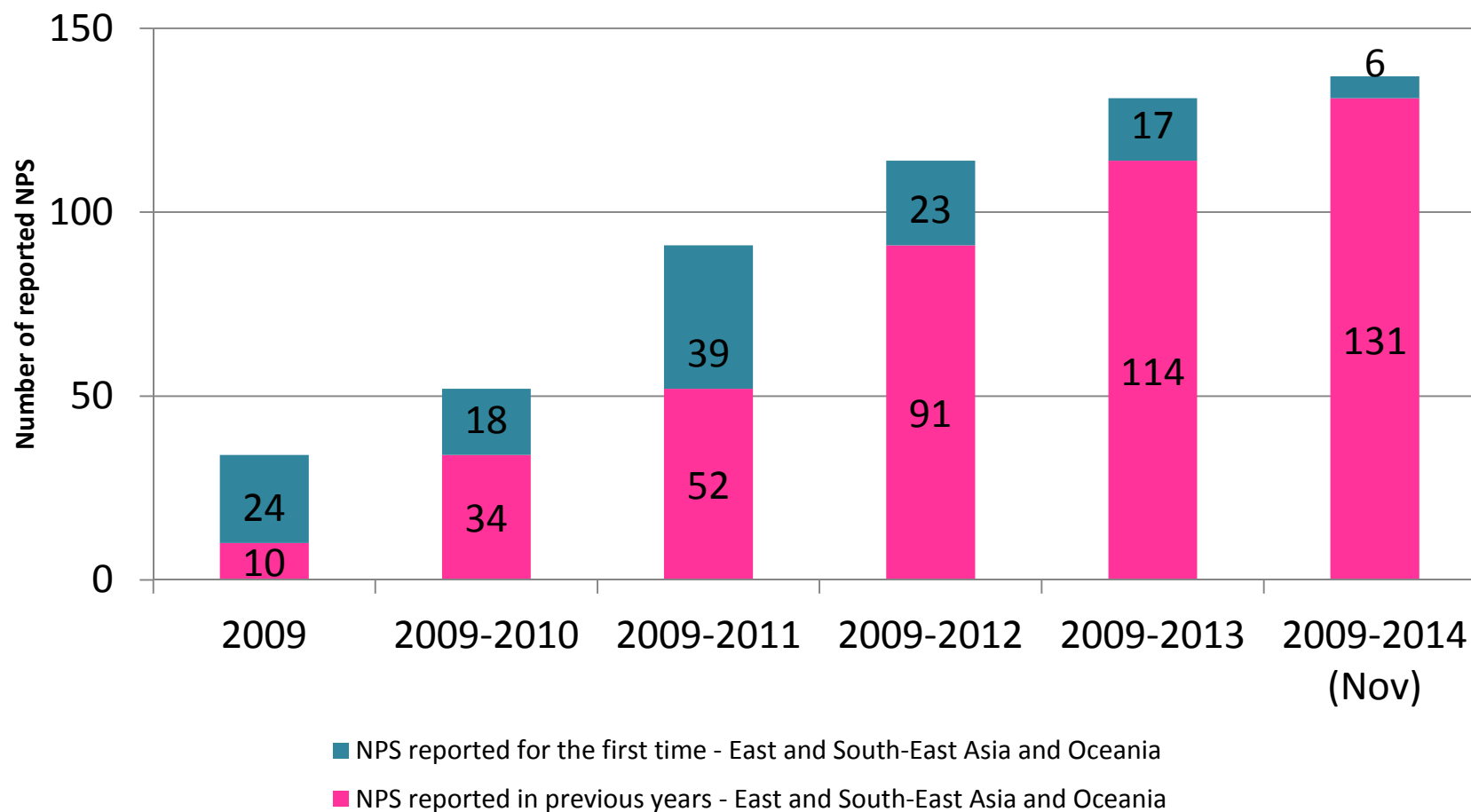




New Psychoactive Drugs in Malaysia

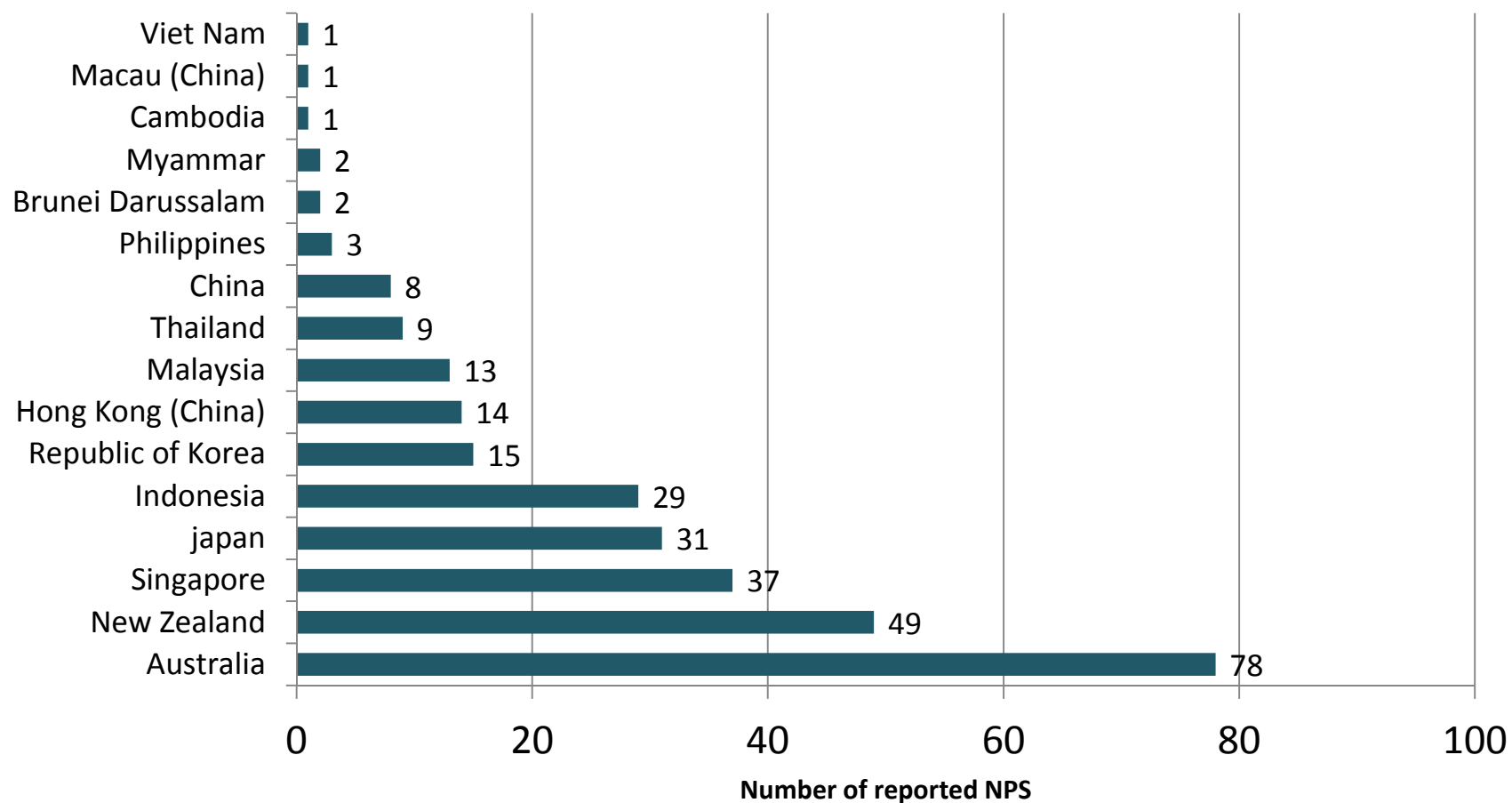
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Number of NPS reported in East and South-East Asia and Oceania up to 2014 (Nov)



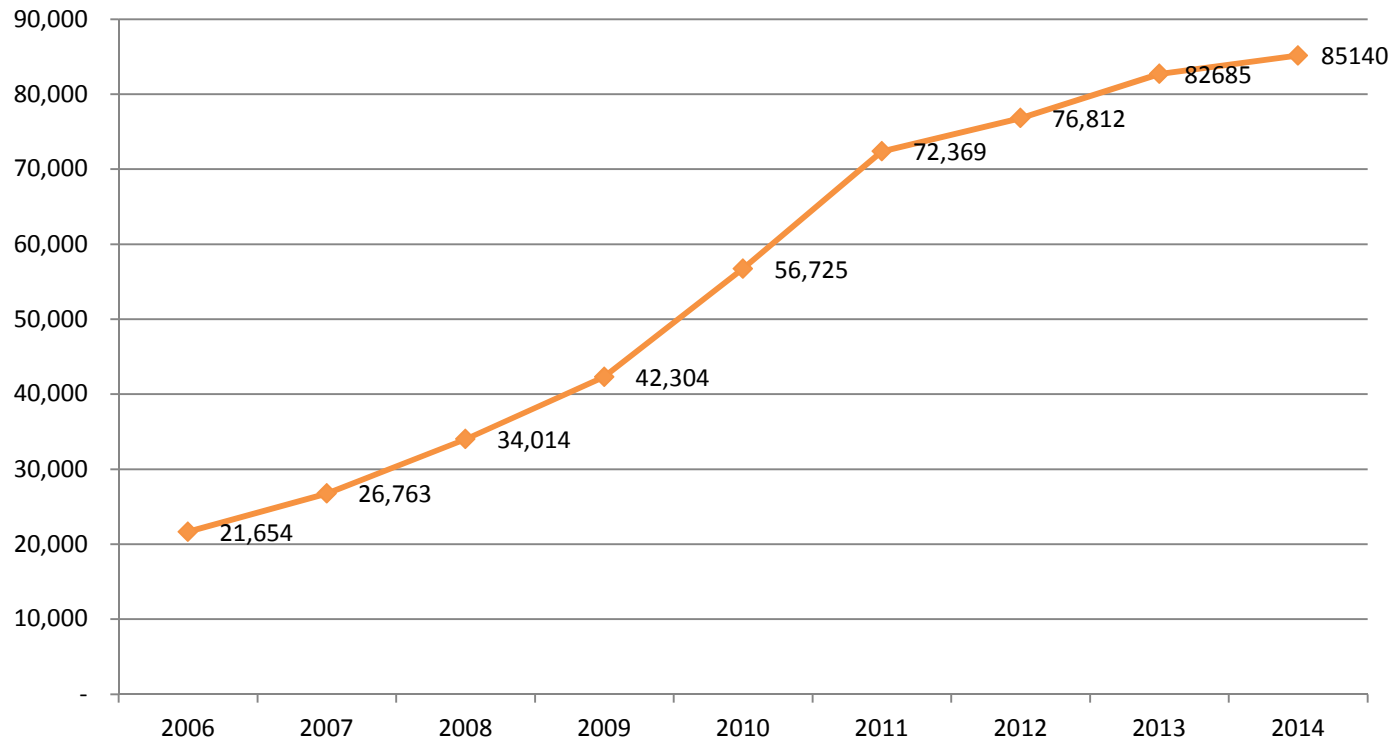
Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Early Warning Advisory on new psychoactive substances 2014 (Nov)

Number of NPS reported in East and South-East Asia and Oceania by country up to 2014 (Nov)



Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Early Warning Advisory on new psychoactive substances 2014 (Nov)

Arrest under section 15(1)(a) Dangerous Drug Act 1952 (DDA) related to Amphetamine Type Stimulant (ATS) and Ketamine Drug use from 2006 – 2014



Source: Royal Malaysia Police (2015)

Drug Seizures in Malaysia (2011-2014)

		2011	2012	2013	2014
Heroin	kg	445.13	362.67	638.61	381.40
Cannabis	kg	796.05	751.80	539.30	578.19
Crystal	kg	830.29	608.67	1245.63	761.71
methamphetamine					
Liquid	kg	122.60	27.96	76.69	1,260.09
Methamphetamine					
Ketamine	kg	106.75	118.07	139.23	216.61
Amphetamine powder	kg	26.53	457.36	674.62	53.69
Ecstasy	pills	47,761	634,573	335,984	117,702
Yaba	pills	364,879	521,384	524,966	557,336
Erimin 5	pills	87,012	5,175,069	177,916	467,133

Source: Royal Malaysian Police, 2015

Kratom
(*Mitragyna speciosa*)
Use in Southeast Asia



Kratom

Mitragyna speciosa Korth (*M. speciosa*) from the Rubiaceae family is a tropical plant and mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine are the active compounds of *M. speciosa*.

Both these alkaloids produce dose-dependent narcotic effects, stimulant effects at lower doses and sedative-like effects at higher doses.

Fresh leaves are boiled and consumed as a tea in Asia and dried leaves are powdered for export to the West.

- Traditionally kratom or ketum are consumed to enhance tolerance for hard work and for medicinal purposes.
- Currently, kratom is being used by youths for recreational purposes and as a substitute in the self-treatment of opiate addiction.
- There is also evidence from experimental animal models supporting analgesic, muscle relaxant, anti-inflammatory as well as strong anorectic effects.
- In humans, regular consumption may escalate, lead to tolerance and opiate like withdrawal symptoms.

- In 2014, six youths in Malaysia died in a concert due to hyperthermia and is suspected to have used NPS. The emergency services and laboratories were not equipped to treat the effects of NPS and the delay in diagnosing these symptoms caused the deaths of these people (The Star, 24 March 2014).
- Anecdotal reports suggests that NPS drugs in Malaysia is largely purchased from the internet making it very difficult for authorities to detect these users.

Challenges of NPS

- Difficulty of obtaining prevalence data of national NPS data.
- Difficulty in classifying NPS legal status.
- Limited laboratory testing capacity
- Currently no treatment protocols developed.