

August 2003



# Guam

## Drug Threat Assessment



National Drug Intelligence Center  
U.S. Department of Justice



# Guam Drug Threat Assessment

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## Preface

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This report is a strategic assessment that addresses the status and outlook of the drug threat to Guam. Analytical judgment determined the threat posed by each drug type or category, taking into account the most current quantitative and qualitative information on availability, demand, production or cultivation, transportation, and distribution, as well as the effects of a particular drug on abusers and society as a whole. While NDIC sought to incorporate the latest available information, a time lag often exists between collection and publication of data, particularly demand-related data sets. NDIC anticipates that this drug threat assessment will be useful to policymakers, law enforcement personnel, and treatment providers at the federal, state, and local levels because it draws upon a broad range of information sources to describe and analyze the drug threat to Guam.

# Guam Drug Threat Assessment

## Executive Summary

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Most drugs are transported to Guam through the Guam International Air Terminal. Drugs typically are seized from passengers, baggage, and cargo. Guam's location provides opportunities for Pacific Rim smugglers to transport drugs via maritime vessels. Open oceans and a lack of natural choke points offer an environment conducive to the transshipment of illicit drugs. Limited quantities of drugs are transported to Guam via package delivery services.

**Methamphetamine**, specifically high purity crystal methamphetamine, poses a serious illicit drug threat to Guam. Crystal methamphetamine is readily available, and abuse of the drug has increased over the past decade. Methamphetamine-related violence is a concern on Guam, where law enforcement officials attribute a rise in violent crime to the corresponding increase in methamphetamine abuse. Crystal methamphetamine available on Guam is produced in and transported from the Philippines, as well as from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and South Korea. Asian criminal groups dominate the distribution of crystal methamphetamine in the territory.

**Marijuana** poses a significant threat to Guam. Despite considerable law enforcement efforts and eradication initiatives, the drug remains readily available and frequently abused. Typically, the marijuana available on Guam is smuggled from the Republic of Palau or is produced locally. Locally produced marijuana generally is less potent than marijuana smuggled from outside sources and generally is intended for personal use rather than distribution. Wholesale distribution of the drug is limited in the territory and appears to be controlled by organized criminal groups.

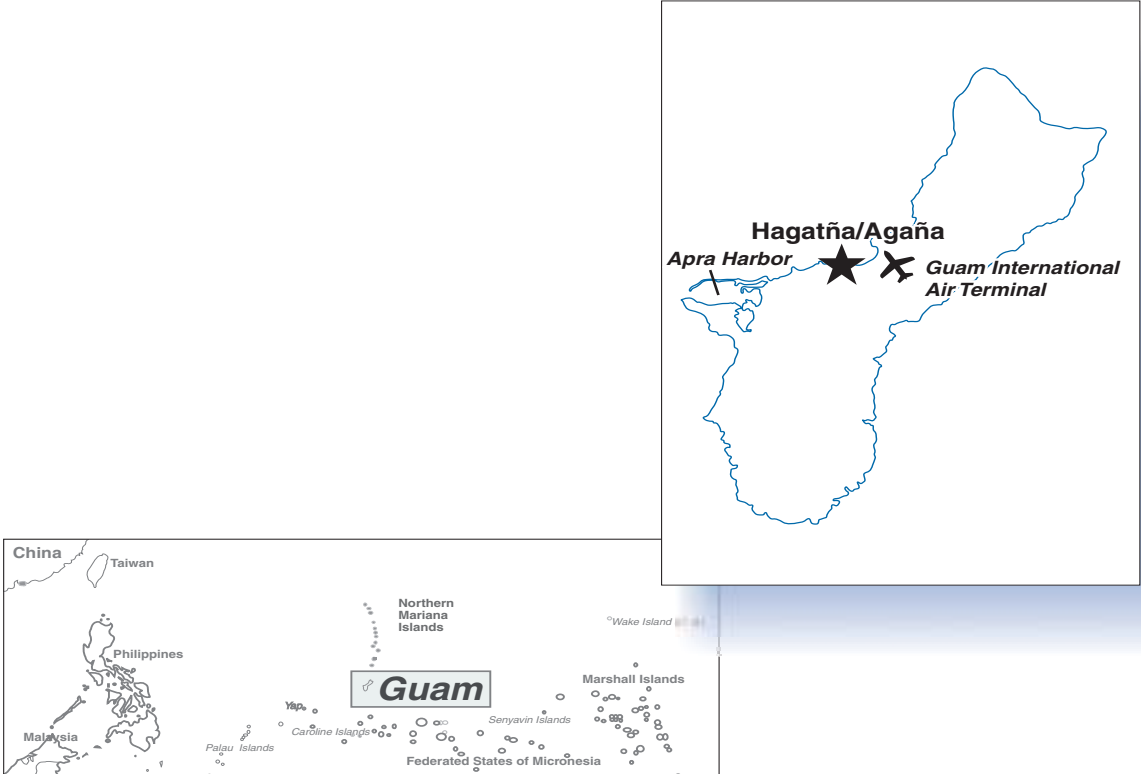
**Heroin** poses a relatively minor threat to Guam compared with methamphetamine and marijuana. Abuse of heroin is limited on Guam, and abusers typically are tourists rather than residents of the territory. The drug, which is available in limited quantities, generally is high quality Southeast Asian heroin. In the past, Guam has been exploited by drug transporters as a transshipment point for heroin destined for markets on the United States mainland and in Canada.

**Cocaine** poses a minor threat to Guam primarily because abuse of the drug is minimal and availability is limited. The cocaine abused on Guam is powdered cocaine; crack cocaine is not converted or abused in the territory. Typically the small quantities of the drug that are available on Guam are transported there by individual users, generally tourists, for their own consumption.

**Other dangerous drugs** including MDMA, inhalants, and diverted pharmaceuticals are a small but growing threat to Guam. MDMA is increasingly available and abused in the territory. Inhalants and diverted pharmaceuticals pose a potentially serious threat because of their ready availability.

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Guam.

Note: This map displays features mentioned in the report.



# Guam

## Drug Threat Assessment

### Overview

Although small—209 square miles—Guam is the largest and southernmost island of the Mariana Islands chain, and it is the westernmost U.S. territory. Guam has been a strategic U.S. military location in the Western Pacific since World War II, and the United States maintains an extensive Air Force and Navy presence on the island.

The territory maintains internal self-rule but participates in the U.S. Government by sending one nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Residents of Guam have been U.S. citizens since 1950 but are not eligible to vote in federal elections. Guam is under the jurisdiction of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. The capital city is Hagatña, previously known as Agaña.

The population on Guam numbers nearly 155,000. Its labor force is composed primarily of immigrants, both legal and illegal, from the Philippines, China, and Korea. The island's culture is a mixture of native Chamorro, Micronesian, American, and Asian. English is the official language in the territory.

The flow of goods and people into Guam presents opportunities for drug smuggling into the territory. Guam imports more than 75 percent of its food and industrial goods from the U.S. mainland. Tourism is a significant source of revenue in

### Fast Facts

#### Guam

Population (2000)	154,805
Land area	209 square miles
Capital	Hagatña/Agaña
Principal industries	Military support, petroleum refining, ship repair, tourism

the territory. Over the past 20 years the tourist trade has grown rapidly, creating many jobs in the construction industry as the need increased for new hotels and other structures.

The transportation infrastructure on Guam is limited. There are 170 miles of paved roads and nearly 620 miles of unpaved roads. The island has a 77-mile coastline, and Apra Harbor is the major port. There are three airports with paved runways, but the island has no rail system.

Most drugs are transported to Guam through the Guam International Air Terminal; seizures are made from passengers, baggage, and cargo. Couriers transport drugs on their bodies or in their luggage. Other transporters conceal drugs in a variety of ways, for example, in false-bottomed coolers and suitcases, inside frozen fish, intermingled with



woodcarvings, and hidden in other airfreight cargo. Limited quantities of drugs are transported to Guam through package delivery services; smuggling via this method is not common because the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency inspects all mail entering Guam from foreign countries.

The drug problem on Guam continues to evolve. Historically, marijuana was the primary drug available in the territory; however, crystal methamphetamine has become more prominent on Guam over the past decade. Most current drug investigations involve the distribution of crystal methamphetamine from the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and South Korea and marijuana from the Republic of Palau.

In 1999, the most recent year for which these data are available, there were 447 adult drug-related arrests on Guam, compared with 423 in 1998. Also in 1999 there were 45 juvenile drug-related arrests, compared with 43 in 1998. Methamphetamine-related offenses accounted for nearly 75 percent (333) of the adult drug-related arrests in 1999, and marijuana-related offenses accounted for 22 percent (99). Heroin- and cocaine-related

## Methamphetamine

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Methamphetamine, specifically high purity crystal methamphetamine, poses a serious illicit drug threat to Guam. Authorities report that crystal methamphetamine abuse has increased on Guam during the past decade. Half of the individuals admitted for substance abuse treatment in 1997 and 1998 (the most recent data available) were methamphetamine users. The increase in abuse of the drug is attributed to multiple factors including its ready availability, low cost (less than heroin or cocaine), and the duration of its euphoric effects, which can last 12 hours or more—considerably longer than the effects associated with many other illicit drugs. Crystal methamphetamine is often called poor man’s cocaine due to its relatively low cost and similar effects.

On Guam crystal methamphetamine is known as shabu and typically is smoked in a glass pipe or

### Intelligence Gaps Numerous

Intelligence gaps concerning the threat of illegal drugs to Guam are numerous and wide-ranging. Government officials lack the resources necessary to track trends in drug trafficking and abuse; therefore, the picture of the drug situation on Guam is incomplete. Most national databases such as the Treatment Episode Data Set, Drug Abuse Warning Network, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and National Household Survey on Drug Abuse do not include Guam in the data collection. Often the territory is given only cursory mention, making quantification of the drug threat difficult.

offenses combined accounted for less than 1 percent of adult drug-related arrests.

Southeast Asian heroin is transported through Guam to the United States and Canada on vessels used to smuggle illegal aliens. The smuggling of undocumented Chinese aliens through Guam has increased during the past several years. However, information regarding the extent of drug smuggling to and through Guam via maritime vessels is very limited.

### Crystal Methamphetamine

Crystal methamphetamine is a colorless, odorless, smokable form of d-methamphetamine resembling glass fragments or ice shavings. Its production (a process of crystallizing powdered methamphetamine) and distribution typically are associated with Asian traffickers.

glass vial. Users heat the glass pipe or vial with a lighter and inhale the methamphetamine vapors.

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) and law enforcement officials report that crystal methamphetamine abuse is evident throughout Guam’s population. Methamphetamine abuse spans all ethnic, cultural, and age groups—some abusers are as young as 12. Of the students in grades 7 through 12 who completed a 1999 drug use survey conducted by

DMHSA, more than 7 percent reported having used methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime.

Crystal methamphetamine is readily available on Guam in gram to kilogram quantities because of a steady supply of the drug from the Philippines as well as from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and South Korea. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports that the price of crystal methamphetamine at the retail level—while still high by mainland standards—decreased during the past few years. The price of 1 gram of crystal methamphetamine decreased from a range of \$600 to \$1,000 in fiscal year (FY) 1999 to \$250 to \$500 in FY2000 and FY2001, according to DEA. Ounce prices for crystal methamphetamine remained stable at around \$8,000 from FY1999 through FY2001, and kilogram prices ranged from \$180,000 to \$200,000 during that period. Purity ranged from 97 to 100 percent.

The significance of the methamphetamine problem on Guam is reflected in the number of drug-related arrests and the number of drug samples submitted to laboratories for analysis. Methamphetamine-related arrests increased from 47 in 1994 to 333 in 1999. In 1999 methamphetamine-related arrests constituted nearly 75 percent of the 447 adult drug-related arrests in the territory. Of the 558 drug samples submitted to the Guam Police Department Crime Laboratory by all law enforcement agencies in 1999, 335 were analyzed as methamphetamine. In addition, the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) seized 7,423.22 grams of amphetamines in 2001, more than any other drug that year and an increase from 3,994 grams seized in 2000.

The Guam CQA conducts more investigations related to amphetamines than to any other drug type except marijuana. In 2001, the agency conducted 12 amphetamine-related investigations, which represented 17 percent of all investigations conducted. In 2000, the agency conducted 26 amphetamine-related investigations, which represented 15 percent of all investigations conducted.

Methamphetamine accounts for the majority of drug-related federal sentences on Guam. Each

year from FY1997 through FY2001, methamphetamine-related federal sentences constituted over 90 percent of all drug-related federal sentences on Guam, according to U.S. Sentencing Commission (USSC) data. Of the 188 drug-related federal sentences during this period, 178 were methamphetamine-related. During the same period methamphetamine-related federal sentences nationwide accounted for a much smaller percentage. (See Table 1.)

**Table 1. Percentage of Federal Drug-Related Sentences for Methamphetamine Violations Guam and United States, FY1997–FY2001**

	Guam	United States
<b>FY1997</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>10.2</b>
<b>FY1998</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>FY1999</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>12.8</b>
<b>FY2000</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>14.5</b>
<b>FY2001</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>14.2</b>

Source: USSC.

Guam law enforcement authorities believe that the increase in drug abuse and distribution, most of which is related to crystal methamphetamine, has contributed to rising levels of violent crime. The number of robberies involving the use of a firearm increased 228 percent, from 32 in 1990 to 105 in 1998—the most recent year for which data are available. Since January 1993 Guam Police Department officers have seized over 75 firearms and 10 hand grenades in drug-related incidents. Authorities, through undercover drug purchases, have confiscated additional firearms from drug distributors. Law enforcement authorities believe that crystal methamphetamine abuse also has contributed substantially to increases in domestic violence.

There is no evidence to suggest that crystal methamphetamine is produced on Guam. The Philippines, which serves as both a production and transshipment area, remains the main source of the crystal methamphetamine available on

**Arrestees Linked to String of Violent Crimes**

In February 2002 seven individuals were arrested in connection with five robberies and a burglary. One of the arrestees was charged with attempted murder for committing a shooting during one of the robberies. In one of the robberies approximately 25 guns were stolen from a local shooting range; the thieves later exchanged many of the guns for crystal methamphetamine. During the execution of a search warrant at the residence of one of the arrestees, local police officers seized bullets and 19 packets of crystal methamphetamine with an estimated street value of \$3,000.

Source: Guam Police Department.

Guam; however, the drug also is produced in and transported from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and South Korea. DEA reports that the transportation of crystal methamphetamine from these locations is increasing; however, as of the second quarter of FY2002, there had not been any recent significant seizures of crystal methamphetamine being transported from these countries. According to DEA, Asian organized crime groups are suspected of transporting multikilogram quantities of crystal methamphetamine to Guam from Hong Kong, and smaller quantities from other Asian countries.

**Crystal Methamphetamine Seized**

On November 30, 2000, agents from the DEA Guam Resident Office and the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency seized 2.65 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine that had been smuggled via commercial airlines from the Philippines. The agents arrested a Guamanian national and an Italian national following the seizure.

Source: DEA.

The primary means by which crystal methamphetamine is transported to Guam is by couriers or “mules” bodycarrying the drug on commercial airline flights. The drug often is wrapped in duct tape and plastic, smeared with a topical analgesic to evade canine detection, and strapped to the

body with gauze. Couriers transport 1 to 6 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine per trip. Other methods by which crystal methamphetamine is transported to Guam include shipment in U.S. mail, express service parcels such as FedEx and UPS, concealment in air and sea cargo, and smuggling by private vessels operating between Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Direct airline flights from the Philippines to Guam provide distributors on Guam with easy access to crystal methamphetamine suppliers in the Philippines. In addition, in April 2000 an Asian airline expanded service by opening a new route from Taipei to Guam, providing a direct connection to suppliers in Taiwan. Crystal methamphetamine transporters also transship the drug via commercial airlines through Saipan, the capital city of the CNMI, en route to markets on Guam, Hawaii, and other locations in the Pacific, according to law enforcement authorities in the CNMI.

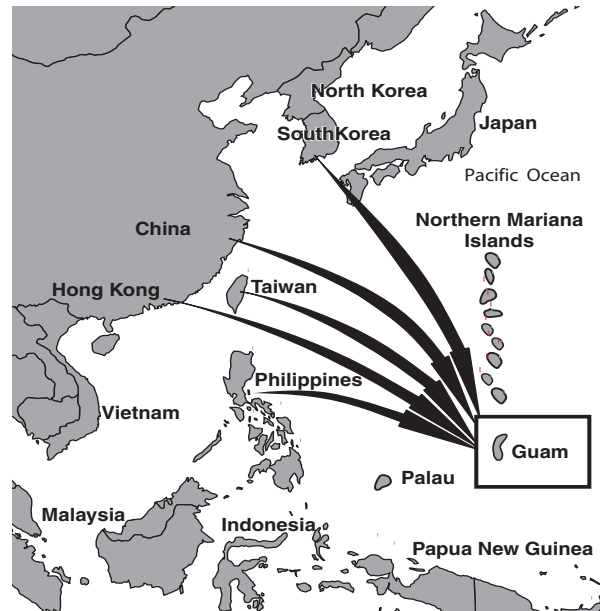


Figure 1. Methamphetamine transportation from the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and South Korea to Guam.

Limited quantities of methamphetamine also are transported into Guam via package delivery services. U.S. Customs Service (USCS) officials on Guam report that the Korean and Japanese criminal groups that employ this method of transportation are becoming increasingly sophisticated. These

criminal groups ship liquid methamphetamine in medicine bottles, liquor bottles, and canned goods, all of which appear to be factory-sealed. USCS also reports that packages sometimes are sent from the Philippines to European countries where they are repackaged and sent to Guam so that they do not appear to have been shipped from a known methamphetamine source country.

### **Methamphetamine Smuggling**

In early 2000 a joint investigation involving Guam and Hong Kong law enforcement agencies resulted in the arrests of three individuals and the seizure of more than 17 kilograms of methamphetamine that had been sent to Guam from China via a package delivery service.

Source: DEA.

In 1999 two Philippine beauty pageant contestants were arrested in two separate incidents for drug possession at the Guam International Air Terminal. The first arrestee was carrying about 1 ounce of crystal methamphetamine in the pendant on her necklace, and the second had crystal methamphetamine residue and drug paraphernalia in her bag.

Source: Guam CQA.

Mexican criminal groups based in California occasionally transport crystal methamphetamine to Guam. According to the DEA Guam Resident Office, in the second quarter of FY2002 there were three significant seizures of crystal methamphetamine on Guam totaling approximately 8 kilograms. The crystal methamphetamine was transported via commercial airlines from two sources in California.

## **Marijuana**

Marijuana poses a significant threat to Guam. The drug is commonly abused and readily available on Guam despite considerable law enforcement and eradication initiatives. Marijuana abuse by young people is a particular concern. Of students in grades 7 through 12 who completed a

Asian criminal groups dominate all levels of crystal methamphetamine distribution on Guam. Wholesale distributors usually sell to individuals within their own ethnic group; however, midlevel and retail distributors will sell to those outside their own ethnic group. Midlevel distributors typically purchase kilogram quantities of crystal methamphetamine; however, they occasionally purchase 100- to 500-gram quantities.

Midlevel distributors frequently accept items of value instead of cash in exchange for crystal methamphetamine. They provide gram quantities of crystal methamphetamine to retailers in return for merchandise such as guns, television sets, cars, collectible coins, stereos, and computers. In one case, a retail distributor attempted to trade a pit bull for crystal methamphetamine.

Crystal methamphetamine is not cut with other substances at any level of distribution; thus, purity remains very high. The drug typically is distributed in clear straws or small plastic resealable bags called plates. A clear straw, which is heat-sealed at both ends, contains 1 to 2 grams of crystal methamphetamine. A plate is available in two sizes: 0.05 gram, which costs \$50, or 0.1 gram, which costs \$100.

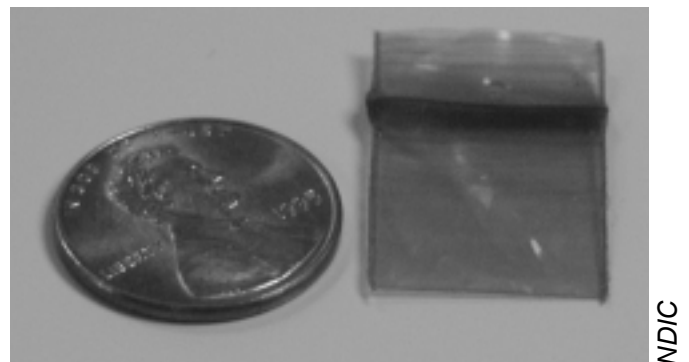


Figure 2. Size comparison of a penny and a plate.

1999 survey conducted by DMHSA, almost 33 percent reported having smoked marijuana at least once in their lifetime.

Enhanced eradication, interdiction, and street-level law enforcement initiatives caused a significant increase in marijuana prices in the early

1990s, and prices have remained high. In 1991 the price for 1 pound of marijuana increased from \$2,500 to between \$5,000 and \$8,000. According to DEA, in the second quarter of FY2002 marijuana sold for \$12,800 per pound. In addition, marijuana sold for \$800 per ounce, and \$20 per joint. The drug typically is distributed at the retail level in machine-rolled joints. In spite of law enforcement efforts, marijuana is more readily available on Guam than in Japan. As a result, many young Japanese tourists seek the drug during their visits. The price of one machine-rolled joint for sale to a Japanese tourist ranges from \$150 to \$200, considerably more than the \$20 paid by local users.

Marijuana commonly has been seized on Guam. From 1995 through 1997, annual seizures of marijuana ranged from 339 to 638 pounds. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, law enforcement agencies seized more than 350 pounds of marijuana. The Guam CQA seized 113.79 grams of marijuana in 2001, a decrease from 9,918 grams seized in 2000.

The significance of the marijuana problem on Guam is reflected in the number of drug-related arrests and the number of drug samples submitted to laboratories for analysis. Of the 447 adult drug-related arrests in 1999 on Guam, 98 were for marijuana-related offenses. Of the 558 drug samples submitted by law enforcement agencies to the Guam Police Department Crime Laboratory in 1999, 151 (27%) were analyzed as marijuana.

The Guam CQA conducts far more investigations related to marijuana than to any other drug type. In 2001, the agency conducted 48 marijuana-related investigations, which represented 69 percent of all investigations conducted. In 2000, the agency conducted 147 marijuana-related investigations, which represented 83 percent of all investigations conducted. Amphetamine-related investigations were second each of these years;

the agency conducted 12 amphetamine-related investigations in 2001 and 26 in 2002.

Despite the widespread availability of marijuana, the number of marijuana-related federal sentences on Guam remained very low from FY1997 through FY2001. According to USSC data, Guam had two marijuana-related federal sentences in FY1997, one in FY1998, none in FY1999, none in FY2000, and one in FY2001.

Cannabis is cultivated both outdoors and indoors on Guam, primarily for personal consumption. Because of the poor soil, domestically produced marijuana has lower THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) levels than marijuana produced in other source areas. In order to combat local cannabis cultivation, DEA has established the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) on Guam. During 2001 three sophisticated indoor grow operations and over 800 plants were eradicated by the DCE/SP program on Guam.

Violence is occasionally associated with cannabis cultivation on Guam. Law enforcement authorities encounter a significant number of small cannabis plots in remote areas, and cannabis growers occasionally booby-trap these cultivation sites, endangering both law enforcement officers and the general public.

Marijuana typically is smuggled into Guam from the Republic of Palau and, to a lesser extent, from Hawaii and the Federated States of Micronesia via package delivery services or in commercial air cargo. Often the relatives of Guam residents who are of Palauan descent ship large coolers containing fish or yams with 5 to 10 pounds of marijuana hidden inside the coolers' walls. Bodycarriers aboard commercial aircraft also transport marijuana into Guam. Drug-detection dogs are used as an effective measure against this method, according to DEA.

Wholesale distribution of marijuana is limited, and appears to be controlled by organized criminal groups. In February 2000 Guam police arrested a 35-year-old man and seized 15 bags of dried marijuana leaves. Police later seized nine additional bags from his residence. Although the total weight was not documented, the marijuana was estimated to be worth more than \$100,000 at the street level. Police believe that the man was connected to an organized crime syndicate operating from Palau.



Figure 3. Marijuana transportation from Palau to Guam.

## Heroin

Heroin poses a relatively minor threat to Guam compared with methamphetamine and marijuana. The Guam Attorney General's Office reports that heroin abuse is a relatively minor concern and occurs infrequently. Although there is a lack of statistical information regarding the demographics of Guam's heroin user population, law enforcement authorities report that abusers typically are tourists rather than residents of the territory. There is, however, a very small population of resident heroin abusers on Guam.

Although the drug is relatively uncommon on Guam, most of the heroin that is available is of high quality from Southeast Asia. According to DEA, Mexican black tar heroin also is reportedly available on Guam, but to a lesser extent. In 2000, the wholesale purity of Southeast Asian heroin was approximately 85 percent, and street level purity averaged 69 percent. Aggressive enforcement operations have kept heroin prices high and availability low. In FY2000 a gram of heroin cost \$1,000 on Guam, according to DEA—much higher than prices on the U.S. mainland. In 1998 local law enforcement authorities seized

approximately 100 grams of heroin on Guam. The Guam CQA seized 60.3 grams of heroin in 2001, an increase from 1 gram seized in 2000. DEA reported no heroin seizures from FY1999 through FY2001.

The low levels of heroin distribution and abuse on Guam are reflected in the number of drug-related arrests and the number of drug samples submitted to laboratories for analysis. In 1999, 5 of the 447 adult drug-related arrests on Guam were for heroin-related offenses. In the same year, none of the 558 drug samples submitted by law enforcement agencies to the Guam Police Department Crime Laboratory were analyzed as heroin.

The number of heroin-related federal sentences on Guam remained low from FY1997 through FY2001. According to USSC data, Guam had no heroin-related federal sentences in FY1997, two in FY1998, one each in FY1999 and FY2000, and none in FY2001.

Despite the low levels of heroin-related arrests and federal sentences, heroin abuse is occasionally associated with violent crime on

Guam. Heroin's highly addictive nature forces users to resort to crime to obtain the money needed to purchase the drug. These users often commit theft and burglary and engage in prostitution to fund their purchases of the drug.

Although heroin is not commonly transported into Guam for distribution, Guam has served as a transshipment point for heroin destined for the U.S. mainland and Canada from Southeast Asia. Typically, small quantities of heroin are transshipped through Guam on commercial aircraft;

however, large quantities have been seized from commercial aircraft. Additional quantities are transported through Guam to the United States and Canada aboard maritime vessels used to smuggle illegal aliens.

There is limited information regarding the types of groups that distribute heroin on Guam. It is likely that Asian groups responsible for crystal methamphetamine distribution on Guam also are involved in heroin distribution to some extent.

## Cocaine

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Cocaine poses a minor threat to Guam; abuse of the drug is minimal, and availability is limited. The powdered cocaine supply on Guam was largely eliminated in 1990 when several successful operations by Guam law enforcement agencies resulted in the seizure of significant amounts of the drug as well as the arrests of several key individuals. These operations effectively dismantled the existing distribution infrastructure, and current law enforcement information indicates that it has not been replaced. According to the most recent seizure information, a total of one-quarter kilogram of powdered cocaine was seized by law enforcement agencies in 1998, slightly less than the one-third kilogram seized in 1997.

The cocaine abused on Guam is in powdered form—crack cocaine is not abused. There is a very small cocaine user population on Guam, and law enforcement authorities report some cocaine use among tourists. Information regarding the demographics of the cocaine user population is not available.

The price of powdered cocaine varies based on widely fluctuating availability. Before 1990 cocaine sold for \$120 to \$150 per gram. As a consequence of increased law enforcement efforts, the price per gram increased overall to \$1,000 in 2000. The average purity level was 86 percent.

The low levels of cocaine availability, distribution, and abuse on Guam are reflected in the number of drug-related arrests and the number of drug samples submitted to laboratories for analysis. In 1999, 5 of the 447 adult drug-related arrests on Guam were for cocaine-related offenses. In the same year, 5 of the 558 drug samples submitted to the Guam Police Department Crime Laboratory by all law enforcement agencies were analyzed as cocaine. In addition, the Guam CQA seized only 0.01 gram of cocaine in 2001, a decrease from 16 grams seized in 2000.

Cocaine-related federal sentences are uncommon on Guam. According to USSC data, there was one cocaine-related federal sentence from FY1997 through FY2001.

Statistical information pertaining to a correlation between violent crime and cocaine distribution and abuse on Guam is not available. However, law enforcement authorities generally acknowledge that drug abusers often turn to crime to obtain money to support their addictions.

Coca is not cultivated nor is cocaine produced on Guam, and there is no evidence to suggest that powdered cocaine is converted to crack in the territory. Typically the small quantities of the drug that are available on Guam are transported there by individual users, generally tourists, for their own consumption. Other individuals transport powdered

cocaine through Guam in transit to other locations. For example, a resident of the CNMI was arrested at the Guam International Air Terminal in March 1990 after attempting to transport 14 grams of cocaine from Hawaii through Guam to the CNMI.

This 14-gram seizure was the largest on Guam to date.

Current information regarding the distribution of cocaine on Guam, including the types of groups or individuals involved, is not available.

## Other Dangerous Drugs

Other dangerous drugs including MDMA, inhalants, and diverted pharmaceuticals are a small but growing threat to Guam. MDMA is increasingly available and abused in the territory. Inhalants and diverted pharmaceuticals pose a threat because of their ready availability.

**MDMA.** The availability and abuse of MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy) on Guam are increasing. Authorities on Guam suspect that some U.S. military personnel are responsible for transporting small quantities of MDMA from the mainland into Guam and possibly to other islands in the area. DEA participated in several investigations with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in 2000 and 2001 that resulted in the seizure of small quantities of MDMA from Navy personnel.

**Inhalants.** Many young people on Guam experiment with easily accessible inhalants such as glue, gasoline, typewriter correction fluid, lacquer thinner, fabric protector, nonflammable fluorocarbon, spray paint, cooking spray, nitrous oxide, and butane.

**Diverted Pharmaceuticals.** Although there are no data available to determine the extent of pharmaceutical diversion, abusers are known to obtain prescription drugs via illegal means such as forgery, theft, fraud, and threats to physicians. Some physicians also engage in indiscriminate prescribing practices. The Guam CQA seized 3,177 grams of anabolic steroids in 2001, after not seizing any in 2000.

### MDMA

MDMA, also known as Adam, ecstasy, XTC, E, and X, is a stimulant and low-level hallucinogen. Sometimes called the hug drug, MDMA purportedly helps abusers to be more "in touch" with others and "opens channels of communication." However, abuse of the drug can cause psychological problems similar to those associated with methamphetamine and cocaine abuse including confusion, depression, sleeplessness, anxiety, and paranoia. The physical effects can include muscle tension, involuntary teeth clenching, blurred vision, and increased heart rate and blood pressure. MDMA abuse also can cause a marked increase in body temperature leading to muscle breakdown, kidney failure, cardiovascular system failure, stroke, or seizure as reported in some fatal cases. Research suggests that MDMA abuse may result in long-term and sometimes permanent damage to parts of the brain that are critical to thought and memory.



## Outlook

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The abuse and availability of crystal methamphetamine is likely to continue to increase on Guam, leading to more violent crime. A similar pattern of abuse and violence is now occurring in Hawaii and American Samoa. Crystal methamphetamine will continue to be produced in and smuggled to Guam from the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and South Korea.

Marijuana will continue to be commonly abused on Guam. Cannabis most likely will continue to be cultivated for personal consumption, but most marijuana will be transported from the Republic of Palau.

The abuse of heroin will remain low and confined to a small population of local users and tourists. Smugglers are likely to continue to exploit the territory's location to transship Southeast Asian heroin to North America.

The distribution and abuse of cocaine will likely remain limited on Guam. Users will continue to smuggle small quantities of the drug into the territory for personal consumption.

Other dangerous drugs including inhalants and diverted pharmaceuticals will continue to pose a comparatively minor threat; however, law enforcement authorities expect an increase in availability and abuse of MDMA as the drug becomes popular in Asia and Australia.

Intelligence gaps regarding the drug threat in the territory will remain significant. Local authorities recognize that the drug problem is becoming more severe, which hopefully will lead to efforts to better quantify the drug situation on Guam. These efforts, in turn, will yield more comprehensive and accurate information on which to base future assessments.

## *Sources*

### **Territory**

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*Guam Pacific Daily News*

Territory of Guam

- Attorney General's Office
- Bureau of Planning
- Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency
- Guam Police Department
  - Crime Laboratory

### **National**

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Executive Office of the President

- Office of National Drug Control Policy

U.S. Department of Commerce

- Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Defense

- Department of the Navy
  - Naval Criminal Investigative Service

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- National Institutes of Health
  - National Institute on Drug Abuse
    - Community Epidemiology Work Group

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

- Coast Guard
- Directorate of Border and Transportation Security
  - Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (formerly U.S. Customs Service)
  - Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Department of Justice

- Drug Enforcement Administration
  - Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program
  - El Paso Intelligence Center
    - Operation Jetway

## Guam Drug Threat Assessment

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Los Angeles Division

Guam Resident Office

Honolulu District Office

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

U.S. Attorney's Office

U.S. Sentencing Commission

## Other

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*Agence France-Presse*

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