

SINGAPORE

PART I - DRUG AND CHEMICAL CONTROL

I. Summary

The Government of Singapore (GOS) effectively enforces its stringent counternarcotics policies through strict laws (including the death penalty), vigorous law enforcement, and active prevention programs. Singapore is not a producer of precursor chemicals or narcotics, but as a major regional financial and transportation center it is an attractive target for money launderers and drug transshipment. Corruption cases involving Singapore's counternarcotics and law enforcement agencies are rare, and their officers regularly attend U.S.-sponsored training programs (as well as regional fora on drug control). Singapore is experiencing a slight increase in drug-related crime. Ketamine-related offenses still constitute a small portion of overall drug offenses; however, documented Ketamine abuse is on the rise. Singapore is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention.

II. Status of Country

In 2004, there was no known production of illicit narcotics or precursor chemicals in Singapore. The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) works with the DEA to closely track the import of modest amounts of precursor chemicals for legitimate processing and use in Singapore. CNB's precursor unit monitors and investigates any suspected diversion of precursors for illicit use. The CNB also monitors precursor chemicals that are transshipped through Singapore to other regional countries; however, neither Singapore Customs nor the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) keep data on in-transit or transshipped cargo unless there is a Singapore consignee involved in the shipment. Singapore notifies the country of final destination before exporting transshipped precursor chemicals. Abuse of heroin, methamphetamine, and Ketamine is on the rise.

III. Country Actions Against Drugs in 2004

Policy Initiatives. Singapore has continued to pursue a strategy of demand and supply reduction for drugs. This plan has meant that, in addition to arresting drug traffickers, Singapore has also focused on arresting and detaining drug abusers for treatment and rehabilitation. The Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) gives the CNB the authority to commit all drug abusers to drug rehabilitation centers for mandatory treatment and rehabilitation.

Law Enforcement Efforts. Arrests for drug-related offenses registered a sharp decline of 47 percent from 2002 to 2003 (no 2004 information was available). The number of persons detained for trafficking offenses, and arrests for abuse and possession also declined. Arrests of first-time heroin abusers fell by 78 percent. Authorities executed 56 major operations during which they

