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Police Drug Seizures & Drug Purity Narratives

Western Australia, 2002

Drug and Alcohol Office, Department of Health

Chemistry Centre of WA

WA Police Service

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Police Drug Seizures & Drug Purity Narratives

Western Australia, 2002

Drug Trends Focus Group

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1. Introduction

The Drug and Alcohol Office, the Chemistry Centre and the WA Police Service have recently established the Drug Trends Focus Group to provide an interagency procedure for identifying drugs of current concern and monitoring patterns in the availability and purity of major illicit drugs. This is their first report providing information about seizures in Western Australia (WA) in 2002 of selected illicit drugs.

The monitoring trends in purity levels provides information about the availability of drugs such as heroin (diacetylmorphine), methylamphetamine, amphetamine and ecstasy (MDMA). This data can also monitor trends in purity to determine the impact of drug law enforcement activities.

Public health campaigns can also be enhanced to provide up to date information about the availability of different drugs, their purity levels and the presence of adulterants and dilutants to support education campaigns.

This publication is based on an analysis by the Chemistry Centre of selected drugs from samples of seizures by the West Australian Police Service in the year 2002. Samples of the drugs that were analysed were obtained by either an arrest of an offender charged with an offence or through controlled buying of drugs through covert operations by police.

The report is in three parts. The first part concerns the results of analyses by the Chemistry Centre in 2002 to determine the identity of substances and their purity. Additional narrative information from Chemistry Centre has also been included to provide a greater level of understanding about the presence of adulterants and dilutants detected in illicit drugs in this State.

The second part presents summary information about drugs seized by WA Police in 2002. The WA Police Service Offender Information System (OIS) includes a reporting function about quantities and amounts of drugs seized by the police. Police enter details of offences and related information into the OIS at the time they process an offender. The following descriptors are used by the OIS to record drug identity when a record is created for the first time.

amphetamine	heroin	morphine
cannabis	LSD	opium
cocaine	MDA	other specified
dexamphetamine	MDMA	unknown powder
flunitrazepam	methylamphetamine	not specified

As at the time a record is created police are not able to verify the identity of drugs that have been seized, information about each drug entered into the OIS is based on the offender's description of the purported identity of the substance.

As the OIS does not update the initial description of the drug type to take account of the results of the analysis by the Chemistry Centre, this means there are discrepancies between police counts of types of drug seizures and final determinations from analyses by the Chemistry Centre.

Samples which are analysed by the Chemistry Centre may not be representative of all seizures. It is the usual practice that drugs seized involving offences which have small quantities of drugs are not routinely analysed unless an offender pleads not guilty.

The third part contains images of designs on tablets seized in 2002 which indicate that in some instances designs are elaborate and well produced. The variety of substances detected in the tablets illustrated shows that end users cannot be certain which adulterants were present and what dilutants were used in the manufacture of the tablets.

2. Drug purity narratives

2.1 Heroin

2.1.1 Introduction

Heroin (diacetylmorphine) is derived from the opium poppy and belongs to the opioid group. The addition of two acetyl groups to the morphine molecule produces heroin, which is able to penetrate the blood brain barrier more readily. 'Homebake' is another form of heroin and is made from codeine extracted from pharmaceutical products.

2.1.2 Summary

A total of 47 specimens of heroin (diacetylmorphine) powder were analysed by the Chemistry Centre in 2002 (Table 1.1). These were in the form of powder. It should be noted that the term 'seizures' also means that some of these samples were acquired through controlled buying of heroin by police.

The average heroin purity of these 47 samples was 19.8%. Overall, just over eight out of 10 (80.8%) of these samples had purity levels of less than 30%, with 12 (25.5%) samples with purity of levels of less than 10% (Figure 1.1).

A total of 17 (36.2%) of these samples weighed 10 grams or more (Figure 1.2) and it is likely that heroin in these larger quantities is from samples involving persons operating at higher levels in the heroin market (Figure 1.2).

Investigations for the presence of other drugs found that acetylcodeine and monoacetylmorphine were commonly detected in all samples of diacetylmorphine, being present in more than 9 out of 10 samples (Table 1.2). Out of the 47 samples of heroin, caffeine was detected in 20 (42.6%) samples, codeine was detected in 4 (8.5%) samples and morphine in 2 (4.3%) samples. In two samples the 'other' detected were Paracetamol, Antipyrine (an analgesic) and Carbetapentane (an ingredient used in cough suppressants) were detected.

Caffeine can be used as an adulterant to provide a bitter taste to deceive users that the product has higher levels of diacetylmorphine. Dilutants such as glucose and mannitol are also added to heroin to increase the bulk of the product to mask cutting that commonly occurs at different distribution stages.

Monoacetylmorphine and acetylcodeine are both by products of the manufacturing process and both are typically present if the heroin has been synthesised from codeine by the 'homebake' manufacturing process.

Figure 1.1:
Analysis of diacetylmorphine (heroin) seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution of purity (%) in 47 samples

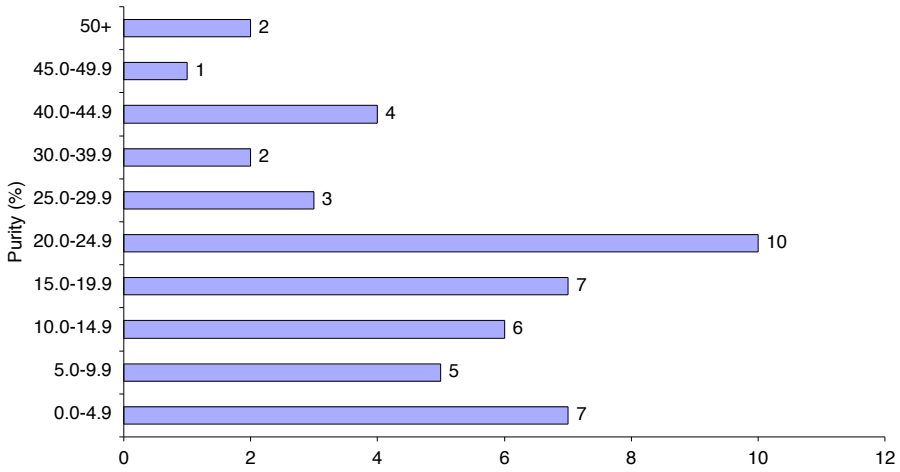

Table 1.1:
Analysis of diacetylmorphine (heroin) seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution of purity (%) by weight (gms) in 47 samples

	Purity (%)						
Weight (gms)	0.0.9.9	10.0-19.9	20.0-29.9	30.0-39.9	40.0-49.9	50+	Total
0-0.4	4	-	3	1	1	-	9
0.5-0.9	1	1	-	1	-	-	3
1.0-1.4	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
1.5-1.9	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
2.0-2.9	-	-	3	-	1	-	4
3.0-3.9	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
4.0-4.9	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
5.0-5.9	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
6.0-6.9	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
7.0-7.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.0-8.9	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
9.0-9.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.0-49.9	2	7	4	-	-	1	14
50.0+	-	2	-	-	-	1	3
Total	**12**	**13**	**13**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**47**

Source: Chemistry Centre.

Figure 1.2:
Analysis of diacetylmorphine (heroin) seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution of weight (gms) in 47 samples

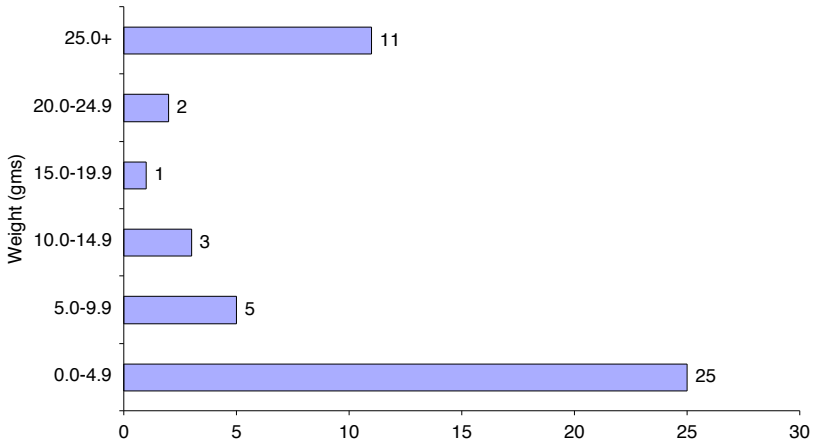

Table 1.2:
Analysis of diacetylmorphine (heroin) seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution of drugs detected in 47 samples

Drug	n	%
Diacetylmorphine	47	100.0
Monoacetylmorphine	43	91.5
Acetylcodeine	45	95.7
Caffeine	20	42.6
Codeine	4	8.5
Morphine	2	4.3
Other	2	4.3

Source: Chemistry Centre.

2.2 Amphetamine type stimulants

2.2.1 Introduction

The synthesis of amphetamine is a complex series of stages involving the transformation from an oily base, to a putty like substance and then conversion into a crystalline powder which may be white, yellow or brown.[4] As end users of 'amphetamines' are not able to readily distinguish whether the synthesis has reached the methylamphetamine stage, users are likely to be using amphetamine in the mistaken belief that it is methylamphetamine.

Methylamphetamine[5] is usually produced as a powder, though it can be a purple/red liquid. Crystalline methylamphetamine hydrochloride, a purified form of methylamphetamine is often called 'ice' and is a transparent rock-like crystal with a clear hue which dissolves in water.

[4] Australian Crime Commission. *Australian illicit drug report 2001-02*. Canberra, Australian Crime Commission, 2003, 45.
[5] Also known as methamphetamine.

Many of the street names, such as ice, 'crystal', 'meth' and 'speed', are used interchangeably. Paste or 'base' methylamphetamine is generally a lower purity form of the drug and usually found as an orange/brown putty like substance or gel containing little dilutant or cutting agent. (The base would need to be further refined to produce the higher purity crystalline form.)

The 2001-02 Australian illicit drug report suggests that the primary method of producing ATS in Australia was from pseudoephedrine, using the hypophosphorous acid method. Other methods also noted in the report are the hydriodic acid/red phosphorous method, the phenyl-2-propanone method and the 'Nazi' method.

The "Nazi' method is believed to be the preferred means of manufacture in Western Australia, involving dissolved metal reduction. This process results in an extremely hazardous reduction as metals such as sodium and lithium react violently with water creating heat and releasing hydrogen gas and therefore has the potential to cause explosions.[6] The process also released large quantities of ammonia gas which is very toxic to those present and those in the near vicinity.

As a major source of pseudoephedrine is from tablets that are available as Schedule 3 over the counter (OTC) drugs, measures have been implemented in recent years to restrict the sale of these products from pharmacies.

A national voluntary system of practice for Australian chemical manufacturers, importers and distributors and suppliers of scientific equipment and instruments, known as the ***Code of Practice for Supply, Diversion into Illicit Manufacture***, was introduced in June 2002 following an agreement between law enforcement agencies, the Plastics and Chemical Industries Association and Science Industry Australia.

2.2.2 Summary

A total of 676 specimens of methylamphetamine were analysed by the Chemistry Centre in 2002 (Table 2.1). These consisted of 1,087 samples of powder, 210 samples of crystal and 161 other samples such as liquid. It should be noted that the term 'seizures' also means that some of these samples were acquired through controlled buying of ATS substances by police.

The average methylamphetamine purity of samples of ATS seized varied markedly depending on the form in which the drug was available, ranging from an average of 1.9% for tablets, an average of 6.3% for liquid and an average of 23.3% for powder. Overall, just under two thirds of these samples had purity levels of less than 20%, with 219 (32.4%) of samples having a purity level of less than 10% and 143 samples (21.2%) having a purity level between 10.0% and 19.9% (Table 2.1; Figure 2.1).

A frequency distribution of seizures by weight shows that 363 (53.7%) weighed less than 2 grams and that 129 (19.1%) which involved amounts between 2 grams and 4.9 grams. This indicates that nearly three quarters (72.8%) of all methylamphetamine seizures in Western Australia involved seizures which weighed less than 5 grams (Figure 2.2).

The descriptive narrative of this analysis by the Chemistry Centre found that ephedrine/pseudoephedrine was present in just under half of methylamphetamine analysed, being detected in 295 (43.6%) of samples (Table 2.2). There were low frequencies of phenyl-2-propanone (a common by product and precursor to the methylamphetamine stage), amphetamine, caffeine and MDMA, being detected in 25 (3.7%), 28 (4.1%), 22 (3.3%) and 6 (0.9%) of all samples respectively.

There were 23 samples in which a number of other drugs were detected – paracetamol (6), ketamine (4), triplodine (3), nicotinamide (3), lignocaine (2) and 1 sample each where cocaine, doxylamine and codeine were detected.

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[6] Australian Crime Commission. *Australian illicit drug report 2001-02*. Canberra, Australian Crime Commission, 2003, 50.

Figure 2.1:
Analysis of methylamphetamine, 2002
Frequency distribution of purity (%) in 676 samples

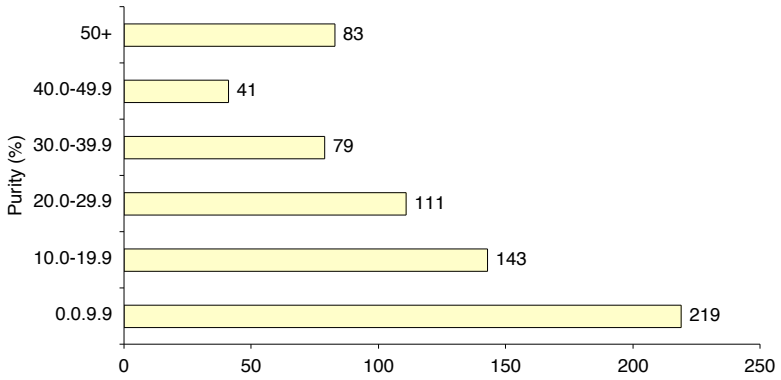


Table 2.1:
Analysis of methylamphetamine, 2002
Frequency distribution of purity (%) by weight (gms) in 676 samples

	Purity (%)						
Weight (gms)	0.0.9.9	10.0-19.9	20.0-29.9	30.0-39.9	40.0-49.9	50+	Total
0-0.4	95	40	22	12	7	24	200
0.5-0.9	32	25	19	10	9	3	98
1.0-1.4	17	12	2	3	-	4	38
1.5-1.9	10	7	3	3	2	2	27
2.0-2.9	14	6	14	7	2	11	54
3.0-3.9	11	12	15	14	3	6	61
4.0-4.9	1	2	4	3	1	3	14
5.0-5.9	5	2	6	3	2	2	20
6.0-6.9	1	4	3	2	3	5	18
7.0-7.9	4	-	2	2	-	1	9
8.0-8.9	1	-	1	1	1	2	6
9.0-9.9	3	3	-	4	-	1	11
10.0-49.9	19	25	20	11	4	12	91
50.0+	6	5	-	4	7	7	29
Total	**219**	**143**	**111**	**79**	**41**	**83**	**676**

Source: Chemistry Centre.

Figure 2.2:
Analysis of methylamphetamine, 2002
Frequency distribution of purity (%) in 676 samples

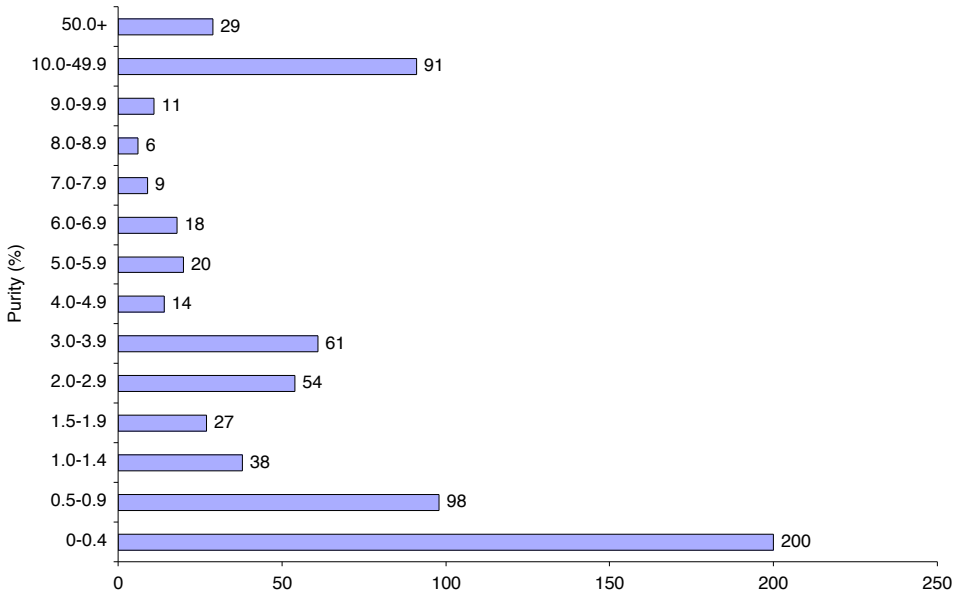


Table 2.2:
Analysis of methylamphetamine, 2002
Frequency distribution of drugs detected in 676 samples

Drug	Form of drug				Total	%
	Tablets	Liquid	Crystal	Powder		
Methylamphetamine	9	12	1	641	664	98.2
Ephedrine/pseudoephedrine	1	2	1	291	295	43.6
Phenyl-2-propanone	-	-	-	-	25	3.7
Amphetamine	-	-	-	28	28	4.1
Caffeine	-	-	-	22	22	3.3
MDMA	2	-	-	4	6	0.9
Other	3	-	-	20	23	3.4

Source: Chemistry Centre.

2.3 Phenethylamines

2.3.1 Introduction

Ecstasy or MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethylamphetamine) belongs to the family of drugs known as phenethylamines which share a chemical similarity to the stimulant amphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline.

MDMA is a synthetic drug and a central nervous system stimulant with hallucinogenic like effects. Although chemically related to amphetamine, MDMA is not a derivative and is produced by a different chemical process.[7]

2.3.2 Summary

A total of 109 samples of ecstasy were analysed by the Chemistry Centre in 2002. These consisted of 73 tablets and 36 samples of powder. The average ecstasy purity of ecstasy tablets was 34.7% and the average ecstasy purity of powder samples was 30.2% with an overall purity of 33.2% for all samples.

Purity analysis of the 109 samples shows that all had a purity between 10% and 49.9%, with 65 (59.6%) having a purity of between 30% and 49.9% (Table 2.3).

The Chemistry Centre investigated the presence of other drugs in the 109 samples of ecstasy (Table 2.4). This analysis shows that methylenedioxymetamphetamine was present in all 109 samples. The descriptive narrative also found that caffeine was present in 25 (22.9%) samples.

There were low frequencies of methylamphetamine, ephedrine/pseudoephedrine and 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine, being detected in 9 (8.2%), 7 (6.4%) and 4 (3.7%) of all samples respectively. Amphetamine was detected in 1 sample.

There were 2 samples which contained ketamine, paracetamol, chlorpheniramine and dextromethorphan.

[7] Australian Crime Commission. *Australian illicit drug report 2001-02*. Canberra, Australian Crime Commission, 2003, 69.

Table 2.3:
Analysis of MDMA, 2002
Frequency distribution of purity (%) by weight (gms) in 109 samples

	Purity (%)						
Weight (gms)	0.0.9.9	10.0-19.9	20.0-29.9	30.0-39.9	40.0-49.9	50+	Total
0-0.4	-	8	5	12	11	-	36
0.5-0.9	-	-	1	2	5	-	8
1.0-1.4	-	3	1	2	6	-	12
1.5-1.9	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
2.0-2.9	-	1	3	1	4	-	9
3.0-3.9	-	-	2	1	3	-	6
4.0-4.9	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
5.0-5.9	-	1	2	-	4	-	7
6.0-6.9	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
7.0-7.9	-	-	2	1	2	-	5
8.0-8.9	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
9.0-9.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.0-49.9	-	2	5	3	1	-	11
50.0+	-	1	5		2	-	8
Total	**-**	**18**	**26**	**22**	**43**	**-**	**109**

Source: Chemistry Centre.

Table 2.4:
Analysis of MDMA, 2002
Frequency distribution of drugs detected in 109 samples

Drug	Form of drug		Total	%
	Tablets	Powder		
Methylenedioxymetamphetamine (MDMA)	73	36	109	100.0
Caffeine	19	6	25	22.9
Methylamphetamine	7	2	9	8.2
Ephedrine/pseudoephedrine	6	1	7	6.4
3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	4	-	4	3.7
Amphetamine	1	-	1	0.9
Other	2	-	2	1.8

Source: Chemistry Centre.

2.4 Other drugs

2.4.1 Introduction

Ketamine is a short acting anaesthetic used primarily for veterinary surgical procedures. As the drug is complicated to manufacture and its precursor chemicals are not readily available, it is believed that the majority of illicit ketamine has been diverted from legitimate medical or veterinary sources. It has been found in liquid, crystalline and pill form.

2.4.2 Ketamine

The Chemistry Centre analysed 21 samples of ketamine in 2002. Purity analysis of the 21 samples shows that almost all samples had a purity of less than 30% (Table 2.5).

Analysis for the presence of other drugs in the 21 samples of ketamine found that ketamine and methylamphetamine was present in all samples, caffeine was present in just under half (47.6%) of samples and ephedrine/pseudoephedrine was present in 1 sample. Paracetamol and clonazepam were present in 4 samples (Table 2.6).

Table 2.5:
Analysis of ketamine, 2002
Frequency distribution of purity (%) by weight (gms) in 21 samples

	Purity (%)						
Weight (gms)	0.0.9.9	10.0-19.9	20.0-29.9	30.0-39.9	40.0-49.9	50+	Total
0-0.4	1	2	2	1	-	-	6
0.5-0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.0-4.9	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
5.0-9.9	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
10.0-49.9	1	-	3	-	-	-	4
50.0+	3	3	-	-	-	-	6
Total	**6**	**8**	**6**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**21**

Source: Chemistry Centre.

Table 2.6:
Analysis of ketamine, 2002
Frequency distribution of drugs detected in 21 samples

Drug	Form of drug		Total	%
	Tablets	Powder		
Ketamine	6	15	21	100.0
Caffeine	2	8	10	47.6
Methylamphetamine	6	15	21	100.0
Ephedrine/pseudoephedrine	1	-	1	4.8
Other	1	3	4	19.0

Source: Chemistry Centre.

3. Drug seizures

3.1 Introduction

The information in this section is based on charges laid in 2002 provided by the Crime Information Unit of the WA Police Service. This data is a count of the number of seizures where an offender has been processed in the OIS. As there may be multiple seizes of drugs for each offence, duplicate seizures have been removed so that the count is based on the most serious processed offence.

The OIS groups offences into 'possession' offences, refers to the offences of possession, use or administration of drugs under the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1981*[8] and 'trafficking' offences such as cultivation, manufacture or possession with intent to sell or supply.[9] which are indictable offences. However, this classification by the OIS does not separately identify the simple offence of cultivating less than 25 plants which is classified as 'trafficking' but not 'possession'.

In WA in 2002 there was a total of 11,294 separate seizures of drugs by the WA Police Service, of which 8,397 (74.3%) were cannabis seizures and 1,393 (12.3%) were amphetamine seizures (Table 3.1). There were relatively few seizures involving other types of drugs, with 464 (4.1%) seizures of 'unknown powders', 249 (2.2%) MDMA/MDA seizures, 169 (1.5%) dexamphetamine seizures, 148 (1.3%) methylamphetamine seizures and 129 (1.1%) heroin seizures.

Of the total 11,294 seizures in 2002, there were 9,275 (82.1%) seizures which involved 'possession' offences and 2,019 (17.9%) involved 'trafficking' offences (Table 3.2). The distinction between possession and trafficking offences is intended to differentiate between those apprehended for those using illicit drugs compared to those selling illicit drugs.

There were differences according to the type of drug when seizures were broken down by the proportion of seizures which were possession offences, with the highest being cannabis (83.6%), amphetamine (81.0%), heroin (71.3%), MDMA/MDA (64.3%) to the lowest being methylamphetamine (64.2%).

Table 3.1:
Seizures by type of drug, WA Police, 2002

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Total	%
Amphetamine	405	369	320	299	1,393	12.3
Cannabis	2,260	2,301	1,978	1,858	8,397	74.3
Cocaine	6	2	3	3	14	0.1
Dexamphetamine	39	31	46	53	169	1.5
Flunitrazepam	0	1	1	0	2	<0.1
Heroin	33	41	37	18	129	1.1
LSD	5	4	6	7	22	0.2
MDMA/MDA	60	49	55	85	249	2.2
Methylamphetamine	36	36	34	42	148	1.3
Morphine	15	15	16	10	56	0.5
Opium	1	2	0	4	7	0.1
Other specified	1	15	1	0	17	0.2
Unknown powder	106	128	112	118	464	4.1
Not specified	65	56	57	49	227	2.0
Total	**3,032**	**3,050**	**2,666**	**2,546**	**11,294**	**100.0**

Source: Crime Information Unit, WA Police Service.

[8] Defined in the legislation as simple offences which are dealt with summarily.
[9] Defined in the legislation as indictable offences which are dealt with by Higher Courts.

Table 3.2:
Possession and trafficking seizures by type of drug, WA Police, 2002

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Total	%
Possession						
Amphetamine	321	297	265	246	1,129	12.2
Cannabis	1,837	1,959	1,710	1,514	7,020	75.7
Cocaine	4	2	1	2	9	0.1
Dexamphetamine	31	23	36	39	129	1.4
Flunitrazepam		1	1		2	0.0
Heroin	23	31	22	16	92	1.0
LSD	3	4	5	6	18	0.2
MDMA/MDA	37	31	36	56	160	
Methylamphetamine	22	22	23	28	95	1.0
Morphine	14	14	12	7	47	0.5
Opium	1	1		1	3	0.0
Other specified	1	14	1		16	0.2
Unknown powder	82	103	96	95	376	4.1
Not specified	50	44	44	41	179	1.9
Total	**2,426**	**2,546**	**2,252**	**2,051**	**9,275**	**100.0**
Trafficking						
Amphetamine	84	72	55	53	264	13.1
Cannabis	423	342	268	344	1,377	68.2
Cocaine	2		2	1	5	0.2
Dexamphetamine	8	8	10	14	40	2.0
Flunitrazepam					0	0.0
Heroin	10	10	15	2	37	1.8
LSD	2		1	1	4	0.2
MDMA/MDA	23	18	19	29	89	
Methylamphetamine	14	14	11	14	53	2.6
Morphine	1	1	4	3	9	0.4
Opium		1		3	4	0.2
Other specified		1			1	0.0
Unknown powder	24	25	16	23	88	4.4
Not specified	15	12	13	8	48	2.4
Total	**606**	**504**	**414**	**495**	**2,019**	**100.0**

Source: Crime Information Unit, WA Police Service.

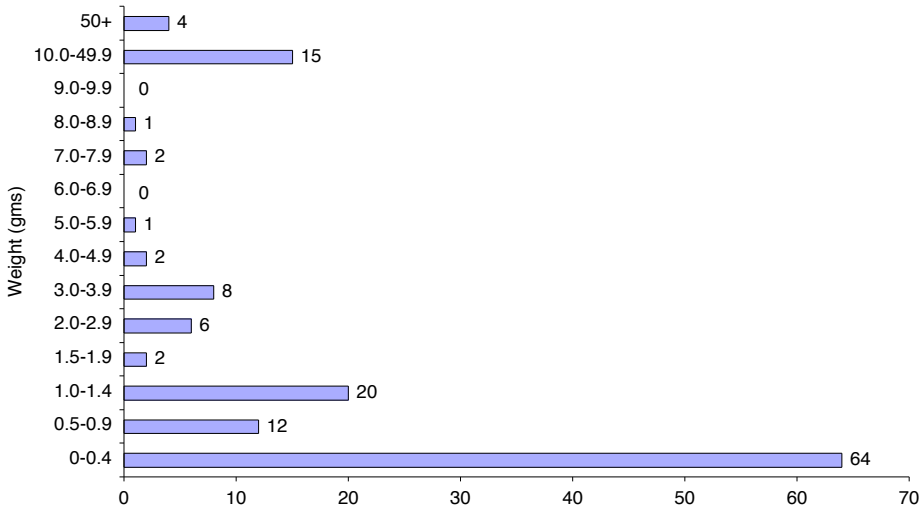
3.2 Heroin

Under the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1981* possession of less than 2 grams of heroin[10] is regarded as a simple offence. As a simple offence this attracts a penalty of a fine of up to $2,000 or imprisonment for up to 2 years or both, whereas possession of amounts of 2 grams or greater is the indictable offence of 'possession with intent to sell or supply', which has a penalty of a fine of up to $100,000 or imprisonment for up to 25 years or both.

In 2002 the West Australian Police Service made 137 separate seizures of heroin, of which 85 (62.0%) were in the form of a bag/packet, with the remaining seizures involving other forms such as a block, in foil, in a capsule, etc (Table 3.3).

A frequency distribution of these seizures by weight shows that 88 (64.2%) weighed less than 2 grams, that 16 (11.7%) which involved amounts of between 2 grams and 4.9 grams and 23 (16.8%) involved amounts of 5 grams or more. This indicates that in 2002 three quarters of heroin seizures in WA involved seizures with amounts of less than 5 grams (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1:
Heroin seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution by weight (gms)



[10] Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 Schedule 5.

Table 3.3:
Heroin seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution of type of product by weight (gms)

Weight (gms)	Bag/ packet	Block	Foil	Syringe	Capsule	Other	Total (n)	Total (%)
0-0.4	41	-	2	5	-	16	64	46.7
0.5-0.9	7	-	2	1	-	2	12	8.8
1.0-1.4	12	-	3	2	1	2	20	14.6
1.5-1.9	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1.5
2.0-2.9	5	-	-	-	-	1	6	4.4
3.0-3.9	6	1	-	1	-	-	8	5.8
4.0-4.9	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1.5
5.0-5.9	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	0.7
6.0-6.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.0-7.9	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1.5
8.0-8.9	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.7
9.0-9.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.0-49.9	9	2	-	2	-	2	15	10.9
50+	1	1	-	-	-	2	4	2.9
Total	**85**	**4**	**8**	**12**	**2**	**26**	**137**	**100.0**

Source: Crime Information Unit, WA Police Service.

3.3 Amphetamine type stimulants

In 2002 the West Australian Police Service made 1,458 separate seizures of amphetamines, of which 1,087 (74.6%) were in the form of powders, 210 (14.4%) were in crystal form and 161 (11.0%) were in other forms (Table 3.4).

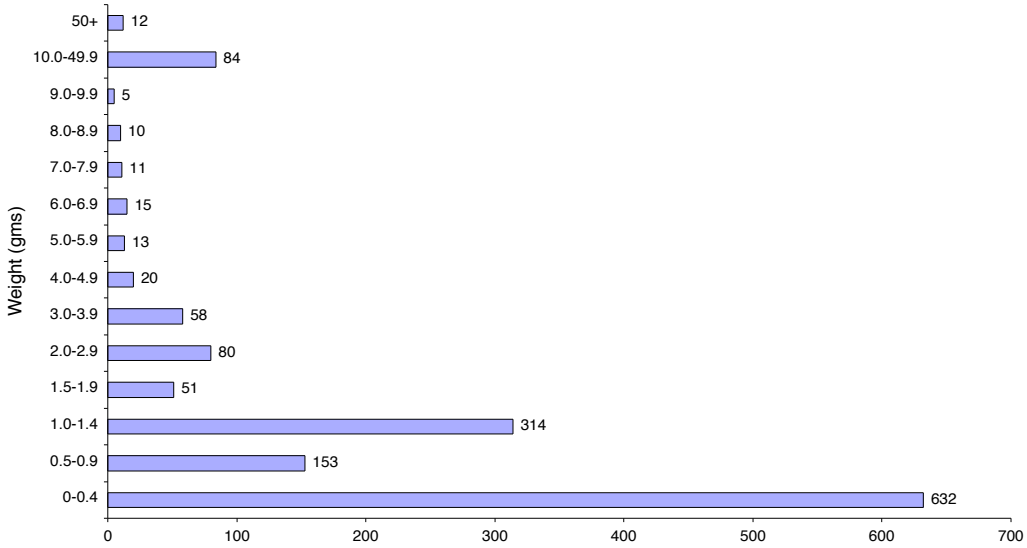
A frequency distribution of these seizures by weight shows that 1,150 (78.9%) weighed less than 2 grams, 158 (10.8%) which involved amounts between 2 grams and 4.9 grams and 150 (10.3%) weighed 5 grams or more. This indicates that nine out of ten of all amphetamine seizures in WA involved seizures with amounts less than 5 grams (Figure 3.2).

Table 3.4:
Amphetamine seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution of drug form by weight (gms)

Weight (gms)	Powder	Crystal	Other	Total (n)	Total (%)
0-0.4	454	89	89	632	43.3
0.5-0.9	120	23	10	153	10.5
1.0-1.4	232	49	33	314	21.5
1.5-1.9	38	9	4	51	3.5
2.0-2.9	62	12	6	80	5.5
3.0-3.9	51	4	3	58	4.0
4.0-4.9	16	1	3	20	1.4
5.0-5.9	9	3	1	13	0.9
6.0-6.9	12	3	-	15	1.0
7.0-7.9	7	2	2	11	0.8
8.0-8.9	9	-	1	10	0.7
9.0-9.9	4	-	1	5	0.3
10.0-49.9	65	11	8	84	5.8
50+	8	4	-	12	0.8
Total	**1,087**	**210**	**161**	**1,458**	**100.0**

Source: Crime Information Unit, WA Police Service.

Figure 3.2:
Amphetamine seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution by weight (gms)



3.4 Phenethylamines

In 2002 the West Australian Police Service made 218 separate seizures of ecstasy (MDMA), of which 174 (79.8%) were in tablet form, 28 (12.8%) were in the form of a bag/packet, with relatively few samples seized in other forms such as a capsule (Table 3.5).

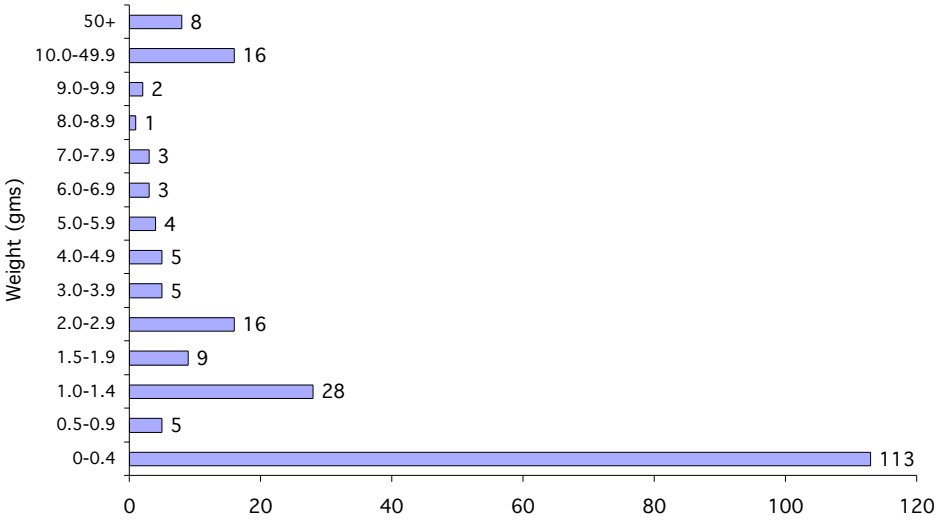
A frequency distribution of these seizures by weight shows that 155 (71.1%) weighed less than 2 grams, 26 (11.9%) which involved amounts of between 2 grams and 4.9 grams and 37 (17.0%) weighed 5 grams or more. This indicates that just over 8 out of 10 ecstasy seizures in WA involved seizures with amounts less than 5 grams (Figure 3.3).

Table 3.5:
MDMA seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution of type of product by weight (gms)

Weight (gms)	Bag/ packet	Capsule	Foil	Tablet	Other	Total (n)	Total (%)
0-0.4	5	4	1	99	4	113	51.8
0.5-0.9	-	-	-	5	-	5	2.3
1.0-1.4	4	-	-	23	1	28	12.8
1.5-1.9	1	-	-	8	-	9	4.1
2.0-2.9	4	-	-	12	-	16	7.3
3.0-3.9	2	-	-	3	-	5	2.3
4.0-4.9	2	-	-	3	-	5	2.3
5.0-5.9	2	-	-	2	-	4	1.8
6.0-6.9	1	-	-	2	-	3	1.4
7.0-7.9	-	-	-	2	1	3	1.4
8.0-8.9	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.5
9.0-9.9	-	-	-	-	2	2	0.9
10.0-49.9	6	-	-	10	-	16	7.3
50+	1	-	-	5	2	8	3.7
Total	**28**	**4**	**1**	**174**	**11**	**218**	**100.0**

Source: Crime Information Unit, WA Police Service.

Figure 3.3:
MDMA seizures, 2002
Frequency distribution of type of product by weight (gms)



4. Examples of designs of tablets seized, 2002

30% 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine(MDMA)
Caffeine Detected

Pseudoephedrine Detected
Triprolidine Detected

39% 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine(MDMA)

10% Ketamine
1.4% Methylamphetamine
Caffeine Detected

Methylamphetamine
Caffeine Detected

Methylamphetamine
Caffeine Detected

28% 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine