

Unofficial translation

NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS IN COUNTER-NARCOTICS (based on mass media reports)

04.11 – 10.11.2019

№ 44

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



CANINES TRAINED TO FIND SYNTHETIC DRUGS

KAZINFORM - Police officers in North Kazakhstan region have been conducting a five-month preventive and operational exercise aimed at detecting drug crimes, Kazinform correspondent reports.

According to press service of the police department, officers of the department for combating drug-related crime inspected vehicles, registered contingent, worked out operational information, monitored the Internet.

"In agreement with Marat Tulebayev, head of the Police Department, a new level of interaction with government agencies, whose responsibilities also include combating drug-related crime, has been achieved. One result of our co-operation with the regional DKNB was the arrest of two North Kazakhstanis for selling 17.5kg of cannabinoids," said Zhandos Basybayev, director of the department.

Police say there is an increase in the sale of psychoactive substances. Last year 4 facts were registered, this year - 13. And we are talking about large and especially large consignments.

"According to the analysis of drug situation in the region, artificially synthesized psychoactive substances are replacing traditional types of drugs from the "black market". Emphasis has been placed on combating the spread of this type of psychoactive substance. For the first time in the region, police used search dogs to find them," the press service said.

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OTHER COUNTRIES

USA



METH 2.0: A POWERFUL NEW DRUG IS SPREADING IN THE U.S. THAT KILLS FASTER THAN OPIOIDS

New methamphetamine - stronger and cheaper than previous versions - is called Meth 2.0 and has already taken over the United States.

As the U.S. opioid epidemic began to show signs of decline, a purer version of

methamphetamine emerged - and quickly established itself as the preferred drug of choice for Americans, writes The Daily Mail, citing law enforcement agencies.

According to the authorities, this is caused by Mexican super-laboratories run by cartels. Now they produce 90% of the methamphetamine used in the United States. The drug is becoming more powerful, cheaper and available in larger quantities than ever before.

"It's very similar to Breaking Bad," says Tim Lomar, St. Charles County Attorney, Missouri.

In the story of the series, chemistry teacher Walter White establishes an illegal meth empire to save his family from financial collapse. White uses his knowledge to produce a particularly powerful and pure version of methamphetamine.

"If you're familiar with this show, you know that the purity of methamphetamine and the ease of mass production have made it so exciting and relatively cheap," says Lomar.

"These Mexican labs produce very pure methamphetamine," said the prosecutor. - They don't look like old-fashioned labs in the basement.

Missouri was once considered the capital of methamphetamine production in the United States. Lomar says that cartels are now more popular because of effectiveness of their illegal operations.

"They can produce methamphetamine on a mass scale and distribute it at a reduced price, which results in an increase in local consumption," he said.

Traffickers tend to dilute methamphetamine with dangerous additives in an effort to make more money from drug sales. These include lithium metal, hydrochloric and sulphuric acids, and red phosphorus, according to the American Addiction Treatment Centers, the largest rehabilitation network in the country.

But methamphetamines from Mexico are distributed in pure form.

"The methamphetamine selected through the DEA profiling program is almost 97% pure, while prices remain low and stable," adds William Callahan, Drug Enforcement Special Agent for St. Louis.

The state still has a few small laboratories, but the vast majority of methamphetamines entering Missouri come from south of the border, reports The Fix.

The surge in methamphetamine-related deaths in the past two years has been stronger than the increase in opioid-related deaths 20 years ago, when the crisis began. During the first decade of the epidemic, overdose deaths increased from 3,400 in 1999 to 13,500 in 2009, according to data from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, the number of deaths from Meth 2.0 immediately became higher due to cheaper and more powerful imported version. Overdose deaths increased from 2600 in 2012 to 10300 in 2017, USA Today reported.

Drug treatment specialists argue that in addition to purity, methamphetamine bypasses other drugs at a price that in some areas is only \$20 per gram.

Once a person is "hooked", it becomes very difficult to resist drug addiction.

<https://www.forumdaily.com/meth-2-0-v-ssha-rasprostranyaetsya-novyj-moshhnyj-narkotik-ubivayushhij-bystree-opioidov/>