Drugs and Precursors Trafficking Trends in Brazil: The Role of the Brazilian Federal Police

Brazilian Federal Police
May/2023

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS
Quito/Ecuador

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Drugs and Precursors Trafficking
Brazilian Federal Police

- Article 144 of the Brazilian Constitution:
  1. To investigate criminal offenses against political and social order, or against goods, services and interests of Brazilian federal government, its organs and companies, as well as interstate and international crime in a need of uniform repression in Brazil;
  2. To prevent and repress smuggling and drug trafficking;
  3. To be Brazil's maritime police, air transport enforcement agency, immigration agency and border patrol;
  4. To combat federal and interstate crime.
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- Chemical Analysis, Forensic Reports
- Police Investigation and Operations
- Chemicals Administrative Control and Regulation
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Brazilian Federal Police

- Networks of labs and offices
  - Brasília and Brazil States

- Sharing information
  (Chemicals, NPS, Synthetic routes)

- Trends are evaluated
  - New police operations
  - Changes in regulation and control
- Cocaine Hydrochloride
  - High Purity (>90%)
  - Adulterant (diltiazem)
  - Same occluded solvents (acetates)

New Correlation! New Investigation!
Chemical Profiling
Qlik Sense Database

Teores de Cocaína

Teor médio da Cocaína (%)

Teor Médio Cocaína

77%

Número de Amostras

8.154
Cocaine Chemical Profiling

Adulterants

- 9 adulterants quantified:
  1. Aminopyrine
  2. Phenacetine
  3. Levamisole
  4. Caffeine
  5. Lidocaine
  6. Benzocaine
  7. Procaine
  8. Hydroxyzine
  9. Diltiazem
Cocaine Chemical Profiling
Street Cocaine - Pernambuco

Pernambuco State apprehensions – Cocaine HCl:

- Brazilian Federal Police -
  Purity: 93%

- State Police -
  Purity: 16%
Cocaine Chemical Profiling
Traffic Cocaine - Pernambuco

Adulterants - Cocaine Base (State Police) - 2021 - n=23

Uncut samples - 87%

4% Fenacentina
9% Cafeina

Uncut
Cocaine Chemical Profiling
Street Cocaine - Pernambuco

Adulterants - Cocaine HCl (State Police) - 2021 - n=60

- Uncut samples

- Acetaminophen: 3%
- Phenacetine: 9%
- Caffeine: 69%
- Lidocaine: 42%
- Levamisole: 11%
- Uncut: 22%
Cocaine Chemical Profiling
Street Cocaine

State Polices: DF, GO, SP, BA, AC

Chemical Profiling of Street Cocaine from Different Brazilian Regions

Adriano O. Maldaner; Élio D. Botelho; Jorge J. Zacca; Raimundo C. A. Melo; José L. Costa; Ivomar Zancanaro; Celinalva S. L. Oliveira; Leonardo B. Kasakoff; Thiago R. L. C. Paixão

Trend: **Boric Acid** used as diluente cocaine
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS DIVERSION REPRESSION SECTOR – SEDQ

BRASÍLIA

- 01 manager
- 01 expert (chemist)
- 04 agents (investigators)

Office Routine

- Support for other Government Organizations
- Requests from Other Countries
- Development of Police Investigations against Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering based on the identification of Controlled Chemical Products Diversion.

Full cycle (Initial Reports, Investigation Development, Deflagration, Conclusion)
April 12th

1.5 tons of BORIC ACID.

Presentation:
White shining crystals

Known as:
“mineíta”, “brilho”,
"escala mágica"
October 18th

168 tons of BORIC ACID

The biggest seizure in Brazil

Six trucks (from Peru, arriving through Bolivia/Brazil border)
Applied Investigation Techniques

➢ Contact with large distributors (‘informants’) and surveillance
Follow up with veiled vigilance
Applied Investigation Techniques

➢ Directed seizures
Chemical Products Control Division.

DCPQ’s Mission

Coordinate and apply nationally the activities of control, surveillance and repression of improper use of substances and chemicals that can be used in the manufacture of illegal drugs.
Legislation

- Ordinance MJSP 204/2022
- Pharmaceutical products and precursors are controlled from 1g or 1mL
- Over 140 substances controlled, divided into 7 Lists
Boric Acid

• First identified as an adulterant in cocaine in 2017.
  – By then, it wasn’t controlled by the Federal Police.

• Controlled in 2019
  – included and became a controlled substance as a result of the information provided by the forensics analysis and seizures
• New trends (including 2023 street drug analysis):
  - Does not indicate boric acid used as adulterant
• Indicates important results in controlling the substance
• Boric acid is vastly used in many industries (e.g. fertilizers)
  - DCPQ begins analyzing the effects of controlling or not controlling the substance.
Drugs and Precursors Trafficking
Brazilian Federal Police

- Enhance the sharing of information
  - In-house, national and international players
Regarding the 2021 Synthetic Drugs Report, almost 78% of the positive identifications lay on “classic synthetic drugs” such as: amphetamins, DMT, GHB, morfine, LSD, MDA and MDMA.
In 2021, 32 different psicoactive substances were identified, amongst them, 22 were considered NPS’s:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>First Time Identified in Brazil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-Cl-4,5-MDA*</td>
<td>25B-NBOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADB-Butinaca*</td>
<td>25B-NBOMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADB-FUBIATA*</td>
<td>5-MeO-DMT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4F-MDMBButinaca</td>
<td>BMDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25B-NBOH</td>
<td>2C-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25I-NBOH</td>
<td>JWH-210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25I-NBOMe</td>
<td>Nbutilpentilona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cetamina</td>
<td>Salvinorina A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psilocina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* First time identified in 2021 in Brazil
Gráfico 02: Número de detecções por ano das Drogas Sintéticas mais analisadas pelos laboratórios de Química Forense da PF
• In 2021, Brazil had a significant raise on seizures of methamphetamine;
• Decrease of MDMA seized and raise of MDA;
• More identifications of synthetic cannabinoids;
• Significantly raise on detections of psychedelic drugs such as LSD and NBOHs.
Cocaine

• Main focus on adulterants commonly used:
  • Caffeine, tetracaine, levamisole, phenacetin, dipyrone, aminopyrine, lidocaine and benzocaine.
  • Identification of irganox as an adulterant – a new challenge to be faced.
Drugs and Precursors Trafficking
Brazilian Federal Police

- Brazilian Federal Police
- CICAD/OAS staff

Thank you!
Gracias!
OBRIGADO!