



OAS | **CICAD**



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

SEVENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

December 11-14, 2023

Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.

CICAD/doc.2826/23

13 December 2023

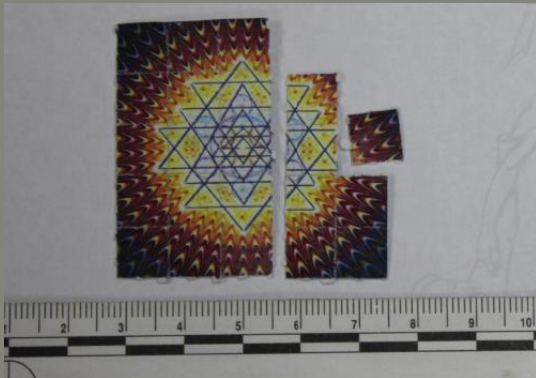
Original: Spanish

**National, regional, and international efforts to facilitate the exchange of
information between drug testing laboratories**

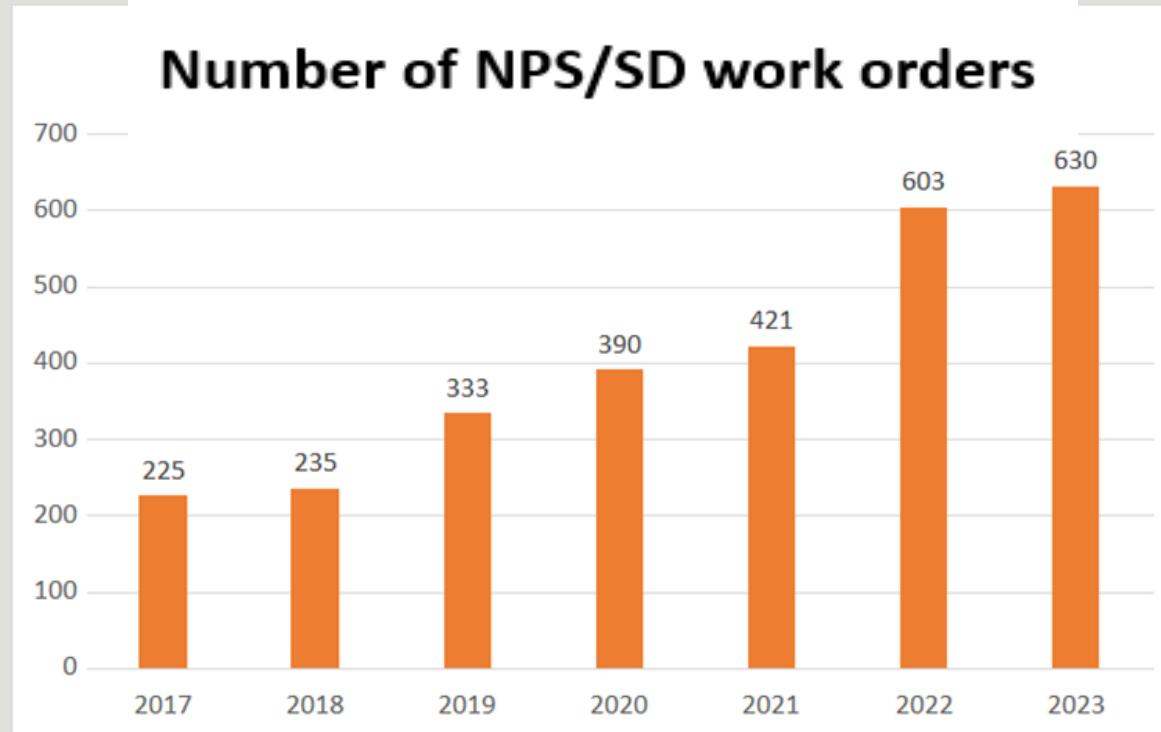
*National, regional, and international efforts
to facilitate exchanges of information
between drug testing laboratories*

CICAD 74
December 11 to 14, 2023
ES-CICAD/OAS, Washington D.C.

Costa Rica: Karen Hooker Forbes, Judicial Expert 2
Department of Forensic Sciences (DCF, by its Spanish acronym)
Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ, by its Spanish acronym), Judicial Branch



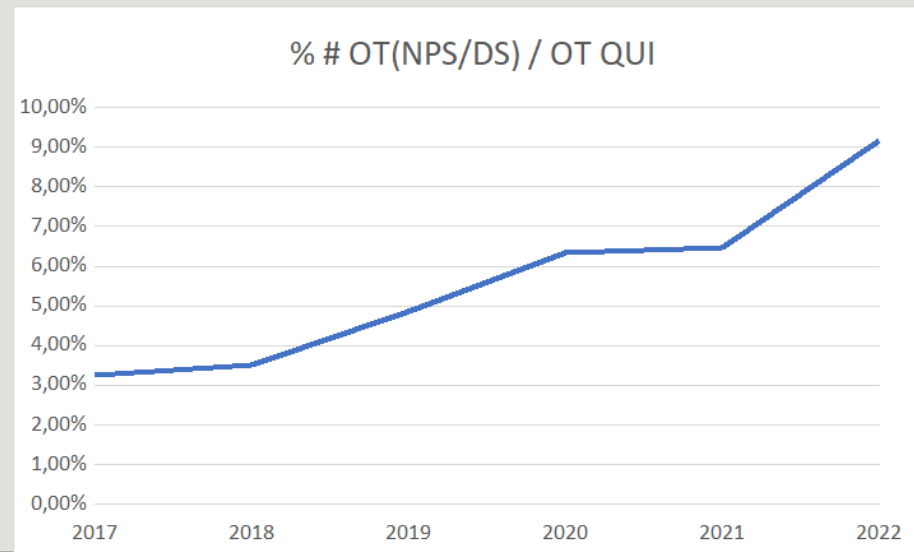
Current situation with NPS and SD



Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ), Department of Forensic Sciences (DCF), synthetic drugs (SD) and new psychoactive substances (NPS)

Current situation with NPS and SD

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
# OT Total QUI	6950	6699	6871	6157	6502	6579
# OT(NPS) QUI	225	235	333	390	421	603
%	3.24%	3.51%	4.85%	6.33%	6.47%	9.17%
# OT(NPS) Top 6	189	226	307	367	404	564
% Top 6 (Total)	2.72%	3.37%	4.47%	5.96%	6.21%	8.57%



Current situation with NPS and SD

2023		
Count	Drug	Presentation
370	MDMA	Tablets
73	Methamphetamine	solid, tablets, crystal, fragments
61	Ketamine	powder, liquid, fragments, crystals
23	LSD	Paper, stamps, liquid, plastic
21	MDMA+ketamine	crystals, powders, tablets, fragments,
14	Delta-8-THC	candy, liquid

Previous years (2017-2022)

1. Ketamine
2. MDMA
3. Methamphetamine
4. Clonazepam
5. LSD
6. Ketamine+MDMA



Regulatory Measures and Early Warning Systems



Executive Branch

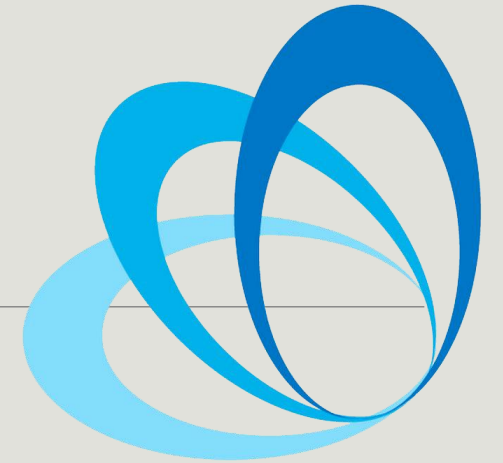


JUNTA DE VIGILANCIA
DE DROGAS

Ministerio
de **Salud**
Costa Rica



P.C.D.



ICD
Instituto Costarricense sobre Drogas

Ministry of Health (MS), Ministry of Public Security (MSP), Ministry of Justice and Peace (MJP)

Judicial Branch



Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) and Public Prosecution Service (MP)

Law No. 8204: Law on narcotics, psychotropic substances, drugs of unauthorized use, money laundering, related activities, and financing of terrorism (December 26, 2001)

Endorses the international conventions and agreements of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB: green, yellow, and red lists) and allows the Drug Monitoring Board (JVD) to draw up national lists according to early detection trends, mainly as reported by the Department of Forensic Sciences (DCF) to the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) and by the Ministry of Health (MS).



Law No. 10113: Law on cannabis for medicinal and therapeutic use and on hemp for food and industrial use (March 2, 2022)

Regulates the medicinal use of cannabis products and cannabinoids, as well as the use of food or industrial hemp, with particular restrictions on cannabinoid content (including delta-8-THC and delta-10-THC, but without directly mentioning, for example, HHC).



Bill No. 23,383: Law on the control and regulation of cannabis for recreational use (before the legislature since October 5, 2022)

A third related law is in process (before the full legislature), which aims to regulate the recreational use of cannabis (no consensus has been reached yet for its approval by the legislature).



Bill No. 23,426: Law to promote the scientific analysis of psychoactive substances for the formulation of health policies for prevention and early warning (currently under consultation with the judiciary, as of February/March 2023)

Additionally, there is another effort, not coordinated by the ICD, which was presented for consultation at high levels of the judicial branch. It seeks to amend Law No. 8204 to make the DCF the laboratory that functions within the Early Warning System in Costa Rica (possibly in order to send reports to the Global SMART Programme); however, it lacks consensus in some sectors of the judiciary because of an absence of financing and resources and because it exceeds the scope and objectives of the DCF as part of the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) and the services it provides to the “Public Prosecution Service (MP) and the courts according to their functions” within the judicial branch of Costa Rica (document 228-DG-2023/ Ref 374-2023, from the General Directorate of the OIJ and the Head Office of the DCF).

Early Warning Systems

- Seizures made by the Ministry of Public Security (MSP) – Drug Control Police (PCD) to identify the materials and issue the expert opinions used in court, after the evidence is prosecuted.
- Seizures made by the Ministry of Justice and Peace (MJP) – Prison Police to identify the materials and issue the expert opinions used in court, after the evidence is prosecuted.
- Seizures made by the OIJ/MP to identify the materials and issue the expert opinions used in court.
- Monthly reports from the DCF/OIJ to the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) as an autonomous institution in order to provide alerts on new substances detected or identified, and on trends involving increasing quantities or the emergence of uncommon presentations of those newly detected and identified substances.

Chemical Analysis Section

Section Head

Expert staff: 10

Technical staff: 9

Administrative staff: 6



Thank you very much!

Karen Hooker Forbes

Judicial Expert 2

Chemical Analysis Section

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DEPARTAMENTO DE CIENCIAS FORENSES, ORGANISMO DE INVESTIGACIÓN JUDICIAL, COSTA RICA