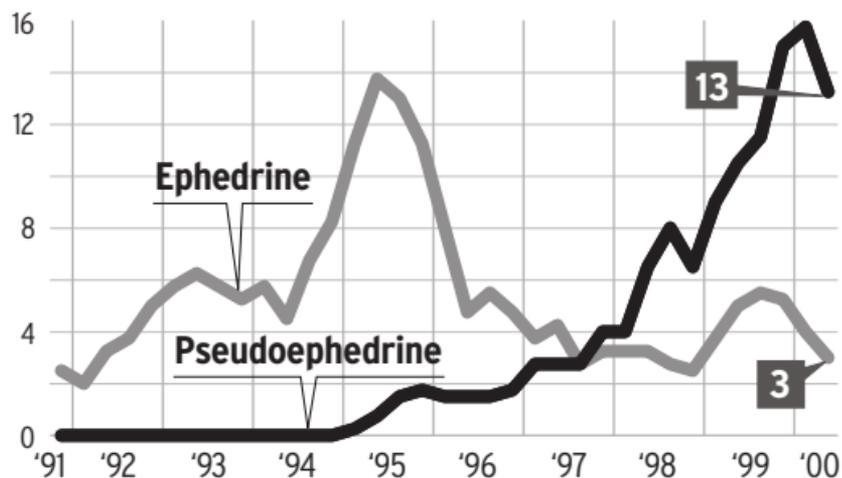


FEDERAL CASES SHOW SHIFTING INGREDIENTS

The number of people charged with ephedrine smuggling or trafficking quarterly peaked in 1995, tapering off as tighter regulation of the meth ingredient drove traffickers to pseudoephedrine. The chemical sibling of ephedrine was a perfect substitute and its sales were subject to less federal scrutiny.

Note: Each point represents an average of the preceding four quarters of data. Only court filings that specified the chemical are counted.

Source: Lexis-Nexis index of federal court cases.



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