

I. INTERDICTIONS OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND FIREARMS SMUGGLING IN 2009

1. Number of Interdictions

(1) Summary

The number of interdictions for smuggling cases for illicit drugs in 2009 was 402 (up 28% from the previous year). The amount of seizure for stimulants and cannabis, etc. was 403 kg (down 19% from the previous year). The amount of seizure for tablet drugs such as MDMA, psychotropics, etc. was 93 thousand tablets (down 43% from the previous year). The number of interdictions for firearms smuggling was 2 case (double from the previous year) including 2 gun (double the previous year).

Major characteristics of smuggling in 2009 were as follows:

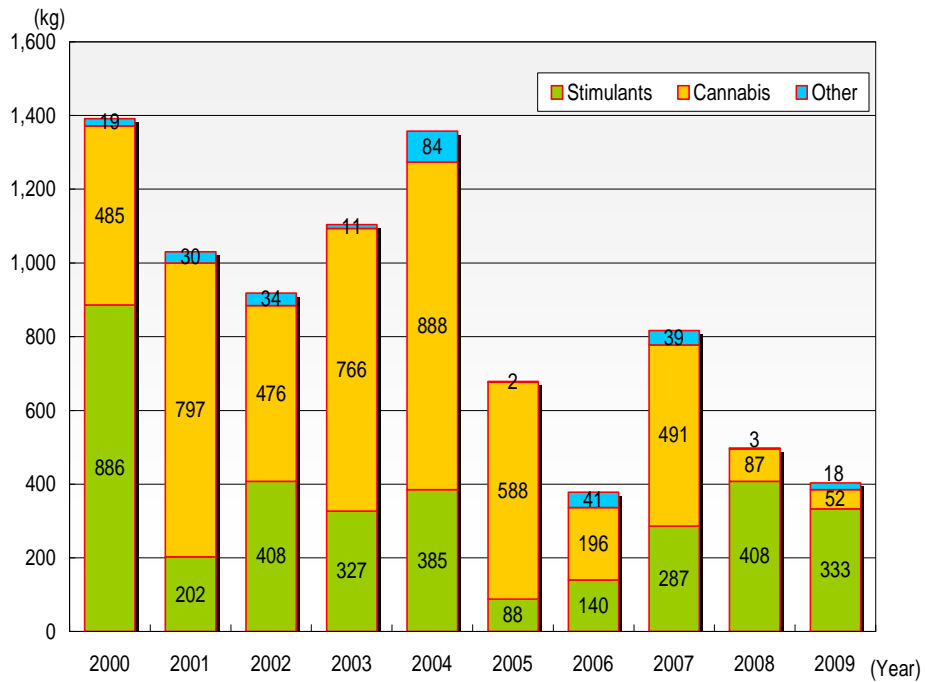
- The number of interdictions for stimulant smuggling marked a record high of 164 due to a rash in interdictions for smuggling by air passengers. Also, there were more interdictions at local ports and airports than the previous year.
- Both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure for drugs such as cannabis and MDMA continued to decrease, as in the previous year.
- Smuggling of newly designated narcotics such as methylone and TFMPP increased.
- Smuggling through international mail services was the most common, accounting for the majority of the total number of interdictions. Smuggling by air passengers was second, accounting for about 40% of all interdictions.

(2) Interdiction of Major Illicit Drugs and Firearms

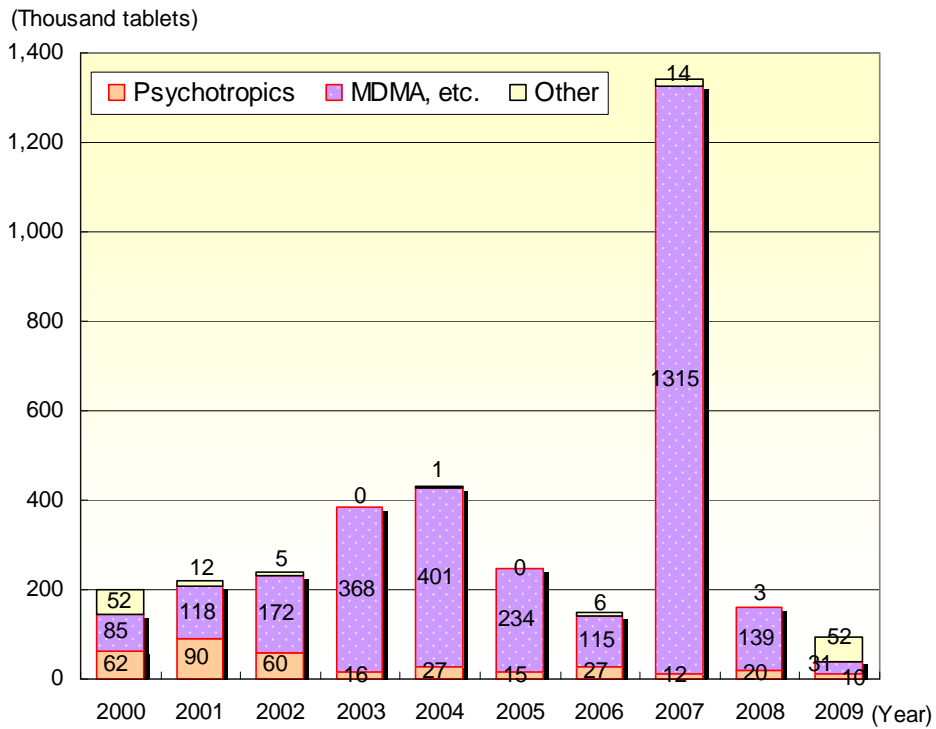
Type	Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Year-on-year
Stimulants	Cases	33	82	72	110	164	149%
	kg	88	140	287	408	333	82%
Cannabis	Cases	243	195	168	123	111	90%
	kg	588	196	491	87	52	60%
Herbal cannabis	Cases	178	136	126	96	87	91%
	kg	385	130	450	63	40	63%
Cannabis resin	Cases	65	59	42	27	24	89%
	kg	203	66	41	24	12	51%
Opium	Cases	3	6	6	-	4	Total increase
	kg	0	27	17	-	3	Total increase
narcotic	Cases	36	58	121	46	93	double
	kg	2	13	22	3	15	5.1times
	Thousand tablets	234	121	1,329	142	83	58%
Heroin	Cases	3	3	4	4	4	100%
	kg	0	2	1	1	1	112%
Cocaine	Cases	5	12	17	7	10	143%
	kg	2	7	16	2	13	7.1 times
MDMA, etc.	Cases	25	30	64	15	4	27%
	Thousand tablets	234	115	1,315	139	31	22%
Ketamine	Cases	-	-	10	5	4	80%
	kg	-	-	5	0	0	13.3times
Methylone	Cases	-	-	10	-	29	Total increase
	kg	-	-	1	-	0	Total increase
other	Thousand tablets	-	-	-	-	1	Total increase
	Cases	3	13	16	15	42	2.8times
Psychotropics	kg	0	0	0	0	0	16.2times
	Thousand tablets	0	6	14	3	51	18.5times
Total	Cases	28	50	28	34	30	88%
	Thousand tablets	15	27	12	20	10	50%
(Reference)Total	Cases	343	391	395	313	402	128%
	kg	679	378	816	498	403	81%
	Thousand tablets	249	148	1,340	162	93	57%
Reference (number of use)	Cases	340	378	359	293	327	112%
	kg	679	377	811	498	403	81%
	Thousand tablets	249	142	1,326	159	41	26%
Firearms	Cases	2	4	6	1	2	double
	Guns	4	15	10	1	2	double
Firearms parts	Cases	-	2	3	3	1	33%
	Items	-	3	4	3	2	67%

- Notes:
1. The figures include quantities seized not only in smuggling cases interdicted by Japan Customs but also in smuggling cases interdicted by the police and other law enforcement agencies in collaboration with Customs.
 2. "Stimulants" includes stimulants and their raw materials.
 3. "MDMA, etc." represents the total amount of MDMA, MDA and MDE.
 4. Ketamine was designated as a narcotic under the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act in March 2006. The designation took effect in January 1 of the following year.
 5. Methylone was designated as a narcotic under the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act in January 2007. The designation took effect in February 3 of the same year.
 6. "Reference (Total)" represents the sum of illicit drugs except for "Ketamine," "Methylone" and "Other Narcotics."
 7. "Reference (number of use)" represents the total use of the following illicit drugs, calculated from the average amount an abuser uses at one time.
 8. Some figures may not be accurate due to rounding.
 9. "0" means 500 g or less, while "-" means nil.

(3) Transition in Amount of Seizures for Major Smuggled Illicit Drugs



(Note) Other includes narcotics (such as heroin and cocaine) and opium.



(Note) Other includes tablet-type narcotics except for MDMA.

2. Trends in Illicit Drug Smuggling

(1) Stimulants

- ⊙ The number of interdictions marked a record high and the amount of seizure remained at a high level.
- ⊙ A massive smuggling case involving a fishing boat was interdicted.
- ⊙ Many smuggling cases aimed at local ports and airports where no smuggling had been interdicted before were interdicted.

Stimulants account for about 80% of the total number of arrests for drug abuse in Japan (according to the National Police Agency's data), which makes them the most widely abused illicit drugs in Japan.

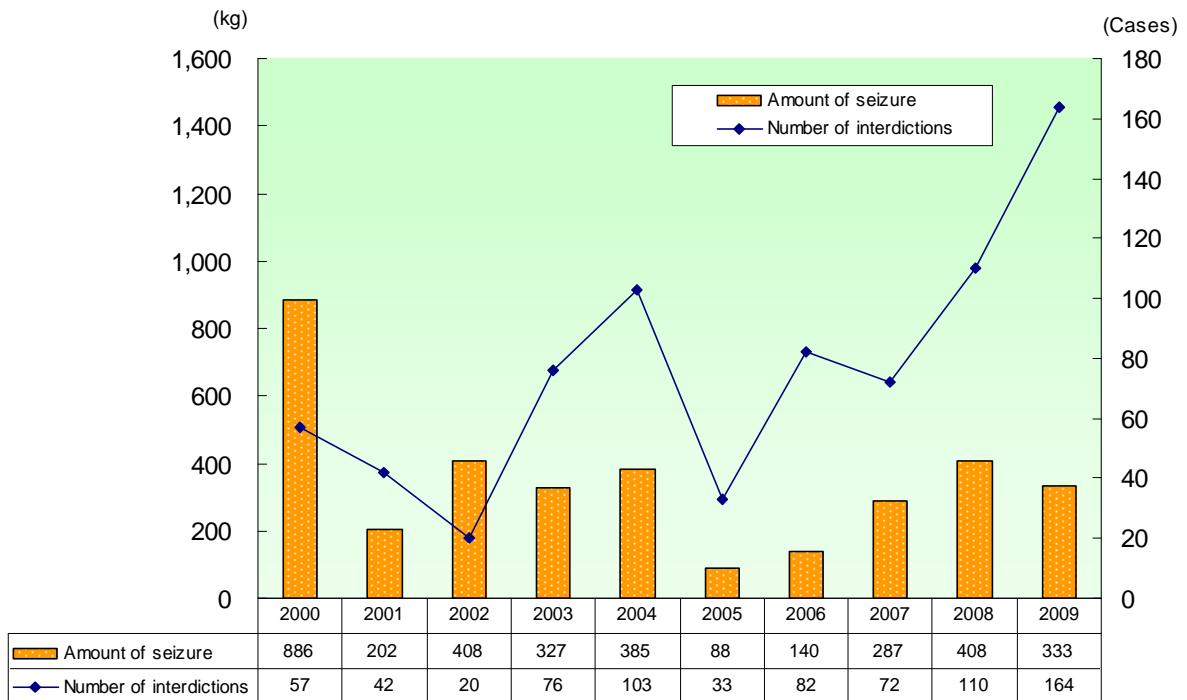
The number of people arrested in Japan in 2009 was 11,655 (up 6% from the previous year). Members of organized crime groups still account for more than half of those arrested (according to National Police Agency data).

The number of smuggling cases interdicted at customs in 2009 was 164 (up 49% from the previous year). This number surpasses the previous year's record of 110, marking a record high after 1966, the earliest year from which comparable data is available. The amount of seizure, which declined slightly to about 333 kg (down 18% from the previous year), is still at a high level. [See Chart 1.]

As for the source countries and regions, the largest number of interdictions for smuggling was from China. Smuggling from source countries and regions where no smuggling had been previously interdicted increased. In 2009, smuggling from Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Lesotho and other African countries as well as Vietnam, Singapore and Russia was interdicted for the first time. As for the methods used, the most frequently interdicted cases were still smuggling by air passengers; the passengers brought in stimulants typically by hiding them in false-bottom suitcases, disguising them as souvenirs, wrapping them around the body, or swallowing them. Smuggling cases involving commercial cargo, which decreased in the previous year, showed an increase.

Note: National Police Agency data is from its report "Drugs and Firearms in 2009." Citations hereafter also refer to the same report.

[Chart 1: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for stimulant smuggling]



(2) Cannabis (herbal cannabis and cannabis resin (hashish))

- ⊙ Both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure continued to decrease.
- ⊙ Smuggling cases through international mail services constituted the largest proportion of both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure.
- ⊙ Most interdicted herbal cannabis came from North America, while most interdicted cannabis resin came from Asia and Europe.

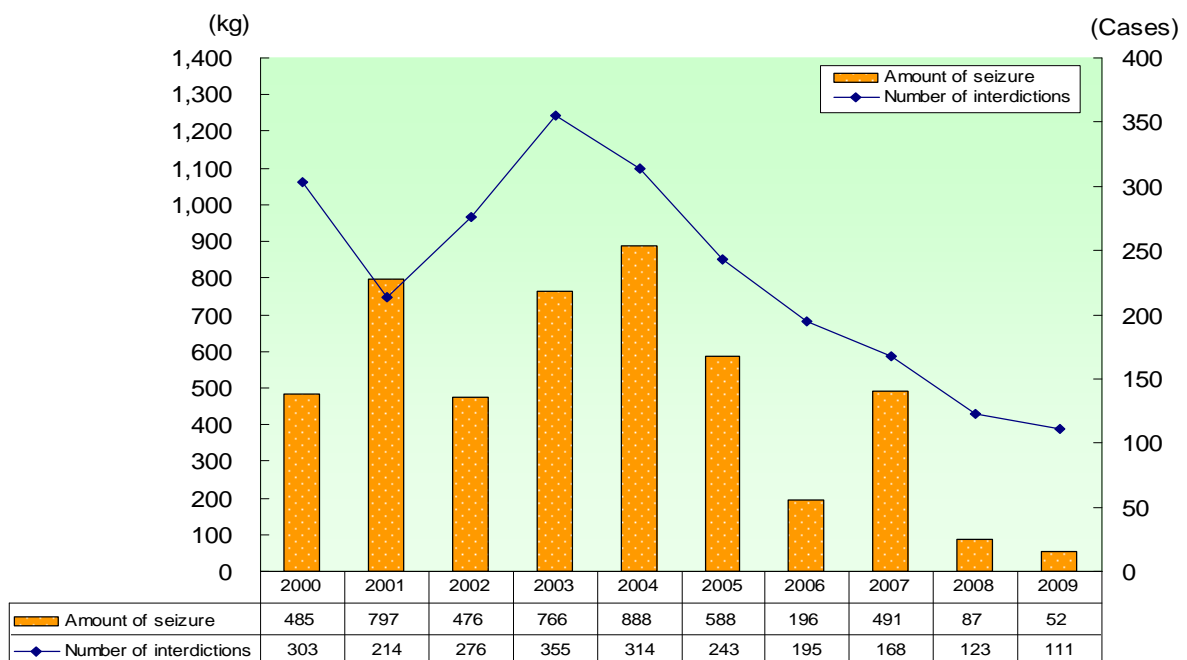
For cannabis, a large social problem in recent years is the abuse by young people including college students. Among 2,920 people (up 6% from the previous year) arrested for cannabis cases in Japan in 2009, first-time offenders accounted for 85%, and teenagers and young people in their 20's accounted for 61%. In addition, cases of growing cannabis increased to 243 people (up 17% from the previous year). (the National Police Agency's data)

The number of smuggling cases interdicted at customs in 2009 continued decreasing to 111 (down 10% from the previous year), and the amount of seizure also continued decreasing to about 52 kg (down 40% from the previous year). [See Chart 2.]

Most herbal cannabis came from Canada and the United States, while there were fewer interdictions of herbal cannabis from South Africa, which had been a common source country the previous year. Most cannabis resin came from Asian countries, such as India and Thailand, and European countries, such as Spain and the Netherlands.

As for the smuggling types, smuggling cases through international mail services constituted the largest proportion of both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure, followed by smuggling cases by air passengers. These two types of smuggling accounted for about 86% of the number of interdictions and about 90% of the amount of seizure.

[Chart 2: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for cannabis]



- (3) Tablet-type Synthetic Drugs such as MDMA (including MDA and MDE)
 - ⊙ Both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure decreased significantly.
 - ⊙ Tablet-type synthetic drugs were interdicted only from the Netherlands (one case) and Canada (three cases).
 - ⊙ Air passengers were responsible for three smuggling cases while unaccompanied baggage was used in the other.

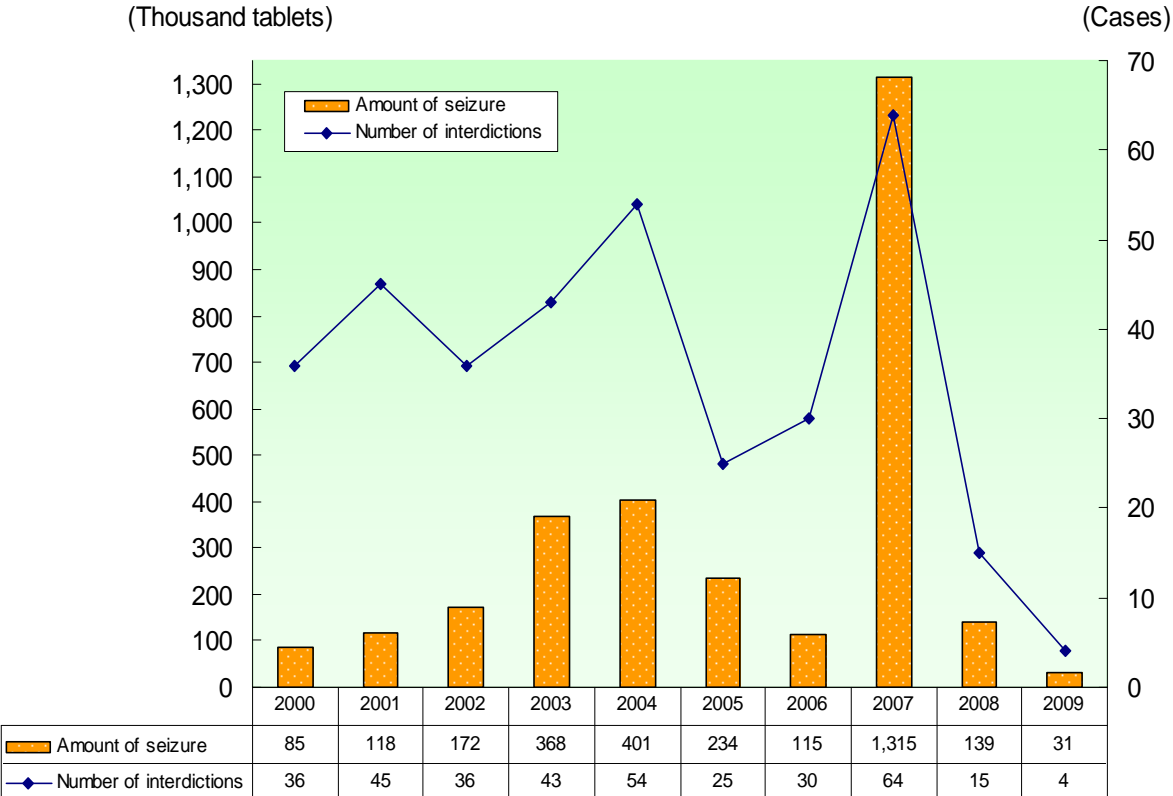
MDMA (commonly known as "Ecstasy") is a synthetic drug that has pharmacological effects similar to stimulants. While the number of people arrested due to tablet-type synthetic drugs such as MDMA in 2009 was 107 (down 62% from the previous year), a decrease, the amount of seizures was about 36 thousand tablets (down 82% from the previous year), a large decrease (the National Police Agency's data).

The number of interdictions of smuggling cases in 2009 was 4 (down 73% from the previous year), and the amount of seizure dropped significantly to about 31 thousand tablets (down 78% from the previous year). [See Chart 3.]

As for the sources, interdictions of smuggling from only two countries occurred: one from the Netherlands and three from Canada.

As for the smuggling types, air passengers were responsible for three cases while unaccompanied baggage was used in the other.

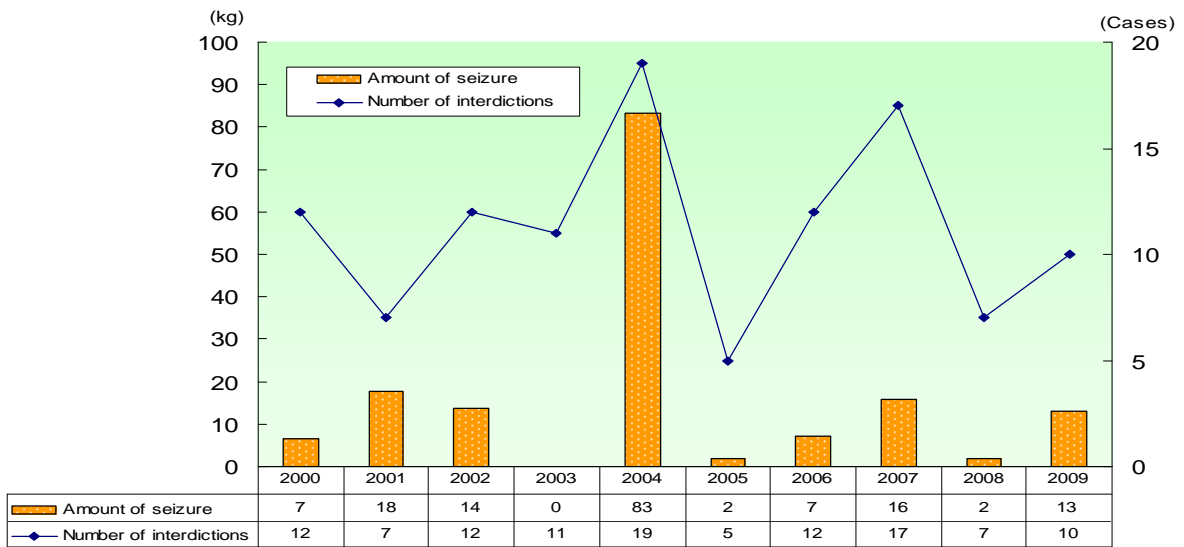
[Chart 3: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for MDMA and other drugs]



(4) Other Illicit Drugs (cocaine, heroin, opium, psychotropics)

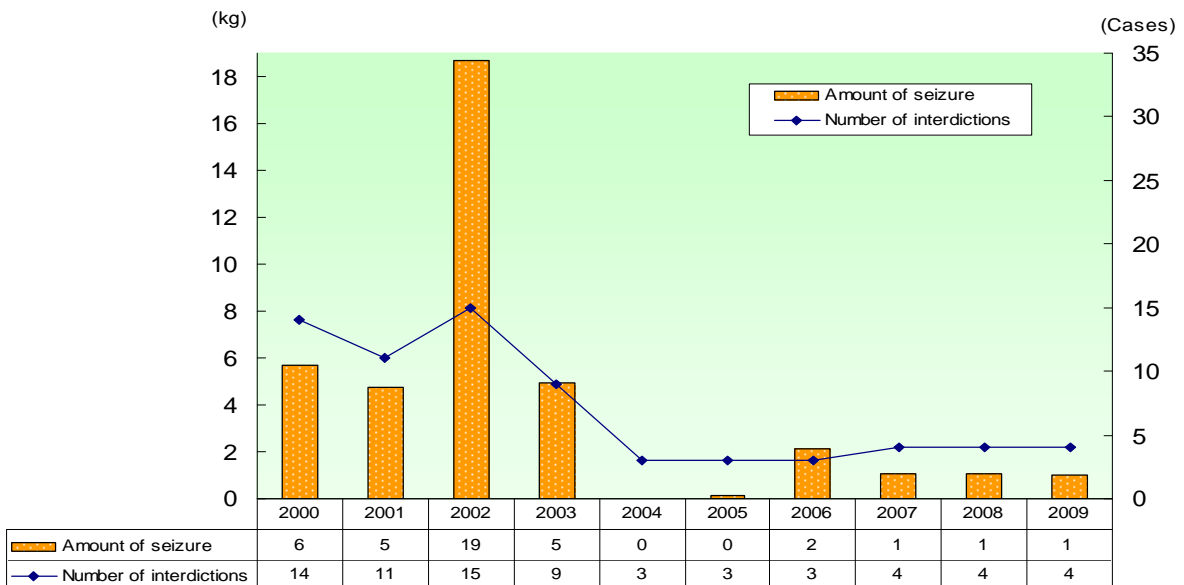
- 1) Most of the coca leaves that are the raw material of cocaine are grown illegally in Columbia, Peru and Bolivia. In 2009, the number of interdictions for smuggling was 10 (up 43% from the previous year), and the amount of seizure was 13 kg (7.1 times of the previous year). [See Chart 4.]

[Chart 4: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for cocaine]



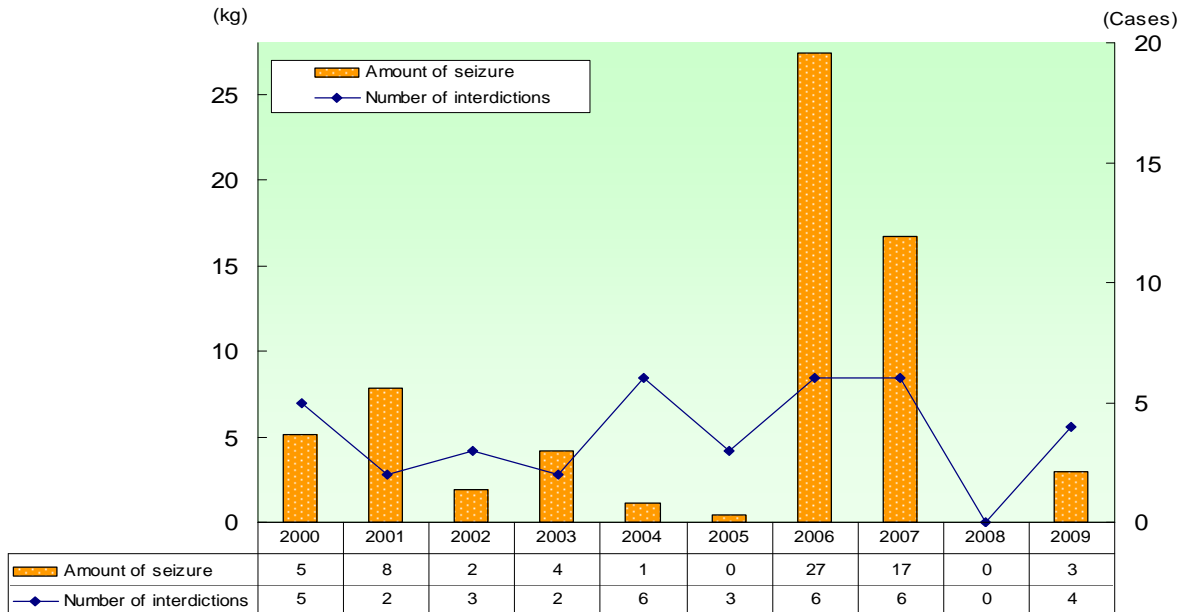
- 2) As for heroin, the major production locations are said to be the "Golden Triangle" connecting Thailand, Laos and Myanmar, and the "Golden Crescent" connecting Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. In 2009, 4 cases (same as the previous year) of smuggling of heroin were interdicted with the amount of seizure of 1 kg (up 12% from the previous year). [See Chart 5.]

[Chart 5: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for heroin]



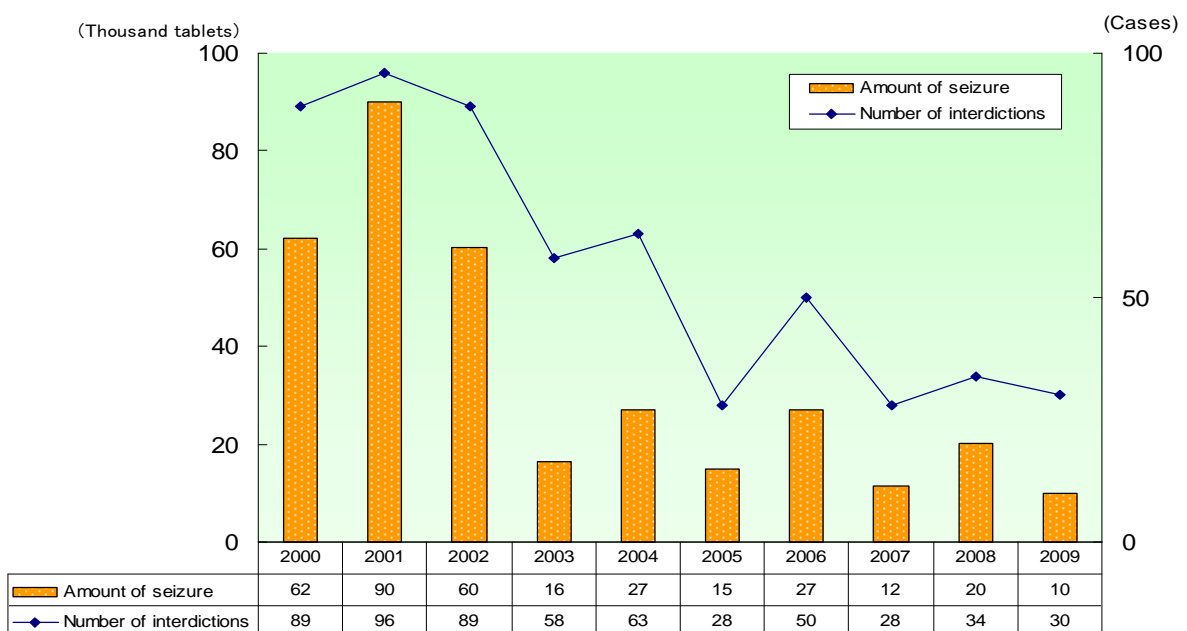
- 3) As for opium, like heroin, the major production locations are said to be the "Golden triangle" and the "Golden Crescent." In 2009, four opium smuggling cases (none in the previous year) were interdicted and about 3 kg of opium (none in the previous year) was seized. [See Chart 6.]

[Chart 6: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for opium]



- 4) Psychotropics is a generic term for substances which have tranquilizing, stimulative or hallucinatory effects on the central nervous system. In 2009, 30 cases (down 12% from the previous year) of smuggling were interdicted with the amount of seizure of about 10,000 tablets (down 50% from the previous year). [See Chart 7.]

[Chart 7: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for psychotropics]



3. Trends in Firearms Smuggling

In 2009, the amount of seizure for handguns decreased to 407 (down 17% from the previous year). The amount of seizure from members of organized crime groups also decreased to 148 (down 11% from the previous year). (the National Police Agency's data).

The number of interdictions for firearm smuggling cases in 2009 increased to 2 (double the previous year) and the number of seized firearms also increased to 2 (double the previous year). [See Chart 8.]

[Chart 8: Transition in the number of seizure and the number of interdictions for firearms]

