

# I. INTERDICTIONS OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND FIREARMS SMUGGLING IN 2007

## 1. Number of Interdictions

### (1) Summary

The number of interdictions for smuggling cases for illicit drugs in 2007 was 359 (95% of the previous year's level). The amount of seizure for stimulants and cannabis, etc. was 811 kg (215% of the previous year's level). The amount of seizure for tablet drugs such as MDMA, psychotropics, etc. was 1326 thousand tablets (935% of the previous year's level). The number of interdictions for firearms smuggling was 6 cases (150% of the previous year's level) including 10 guns (67% of the previous year's level).

Major characteristics of smuggling in 2007 were as follows:

- The amount of seizure was 1326 thousand tablets for MDMA and psychotropics, a new record.
- About 688 thousand tablets of MDMA was interdicted at one time, which was a record high for a single seizure of MDMA.
- Large smuggling cases by commercial cargoes were interdicted one after another.
- Smuggling by air passengers continues. In addition to the conventional hiding methods of wearing and swallowing, the smuggling methods are becoming more devious and skillful, such as using parents and children as mules.

### (2) Interdiction of Major Illicit Drugs and Firearms

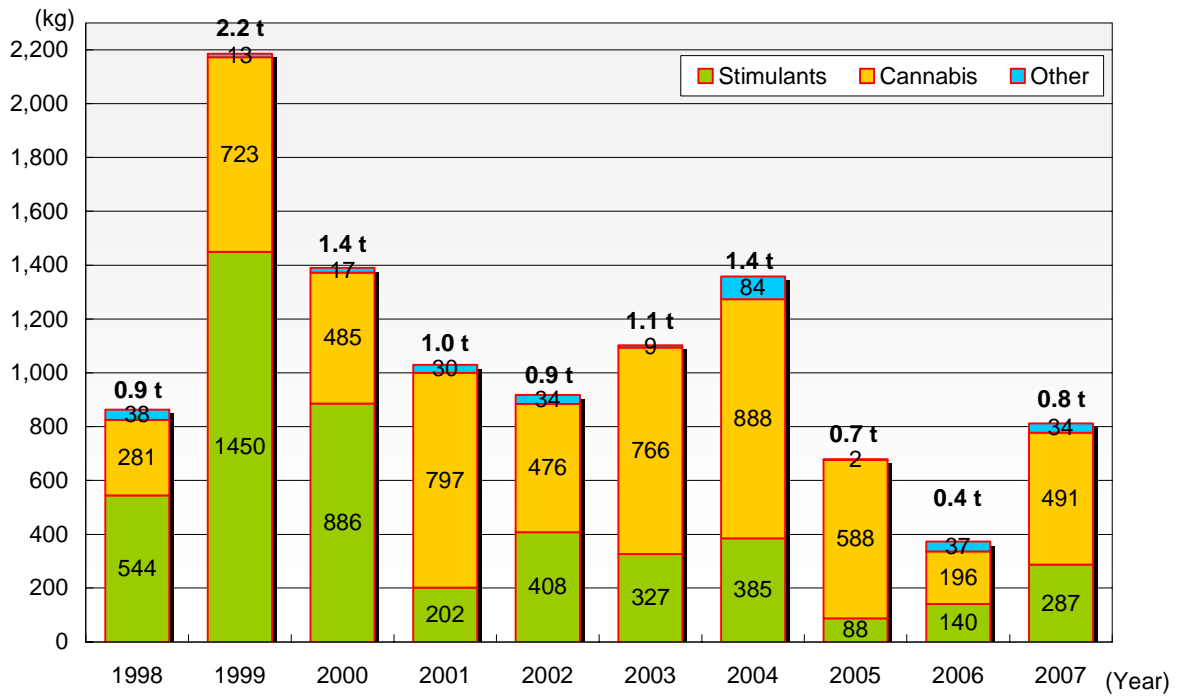
Type		Year					Year-on-year
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Stimulants	Cases	76	103	33	82	72	88%
	kg	327	385	88	140	287	204%
Cannabis	Cases	355	314	243	195	168	86%
	kg	766	888	588	196	491	251%
Herbal cannabis	Cases	233	242	178	136	126	93%
	kg	436	597	385	130	450	346%
Cannabis resin	Cases	122	72	65	59	42	71%
	kg	330	291	203	66	41	62%
Heroin	Cases	9	3	3	3	4	133%
	kg	5	0	0	2	1	50%
Cocaine	Cases	11	19	5	12	17	142%
	kg	0	83	2	7	16	221%
Opium	Cases	2	6	3	6	6	100%
	kg	4	1	0	27	17	61%
MDMA, etc.	Cases	43	54	25	30	64	213%
	Thousand tablets	368	401	234	115	1,315	1146%
Psychotropics	Cases	58	63	28	50	28	56%
	Thousand tablets	16	27	15	27	12	42%
Total	Cases	554	562	340	378	359	95%
	kg	1,104	1,358	679	377	811	215%
	Thousand tablets	385	429	249	142	1,326	935%
Reference (number of usage)	10,000 times	1,597	2,015	606	629	1,289	229%
Firearms	Cases	9	4	2	4	6	150%
	Guns	12	5	4	15	10	67%
Firearms parts	Cases	7	1	0	2	3	150%
	Items	13	1	0	3	4	133%

- Notes: 1. The figures, which are on an interdiction basis, 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" represents the sum of all synthetic narcotics including MDMA and MDA.
4. A conversion was made for the "Number of uses" based on an average dose of abusers (stimulant: 0.03 g; herbal cannabis: 0.5 g; cannabis resin: 0.1 g; heroin: 0.01 g; cocaine: 0.03 g; opium: 0.3 g; MDMA and psychotropic: 1 tablet).
5. Figures in the "Firearms parts" row represent numbers of parts of handguns, etc. and air guns.

Interdiction cases for new opium smuggling

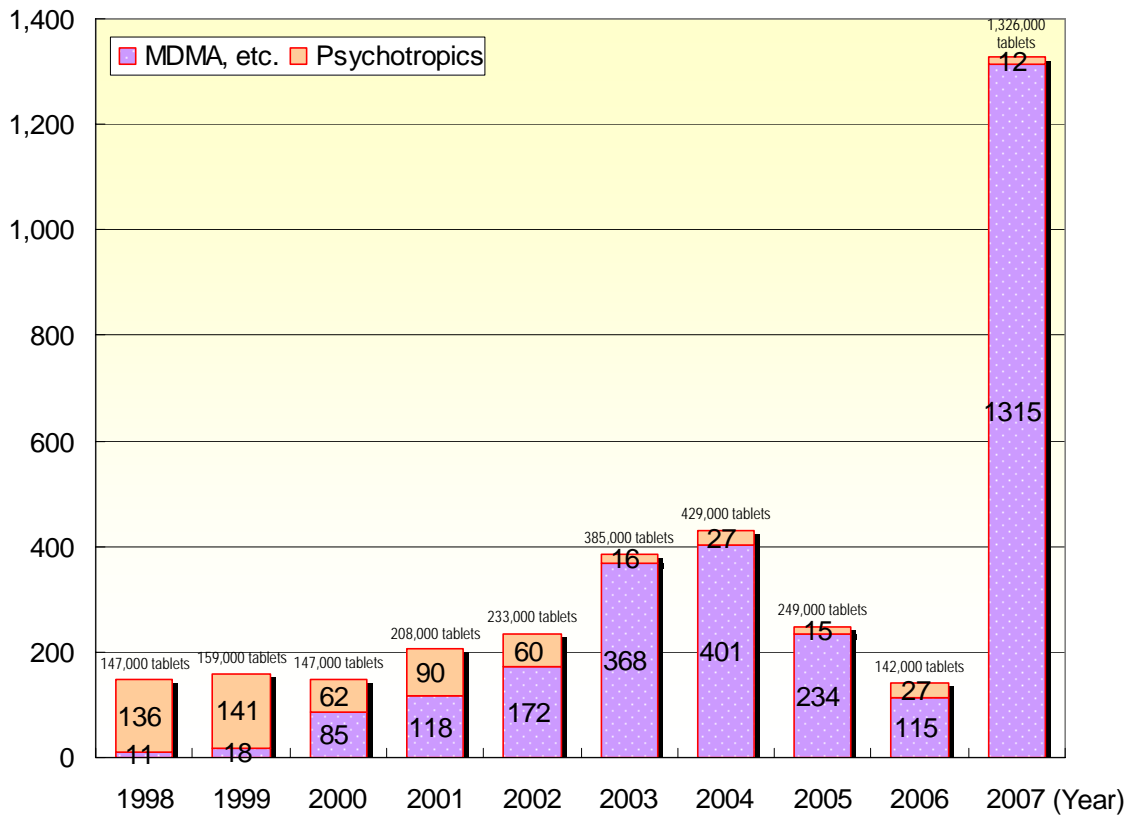
Year		2007	Description
Type			
Ketamine	Cases g	10 4,538	Specified as a "drug" based on the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Law in March 2006, which became effective on January 1, 2007.
Methylone	Cases g	10 500	Specified as a "drug" based on the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Law in January 2007, which became effective on February 3, 2007.

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



(Note) Other includes heroin, cocaine and opium.

(Thousand tablets)



## 2. Trends in Illicit Drug Smuggling

### (1) Stimulants

- ⊙ While the number of interdictions decreased slightly, the amount of seizure doubled compared with the previous year.
- ⊙ About 60% of the total amount of seizure was from Canada.
- ⊙ The smuggling methods are becoming more devious and skillful such as using parents and children as mules.

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.

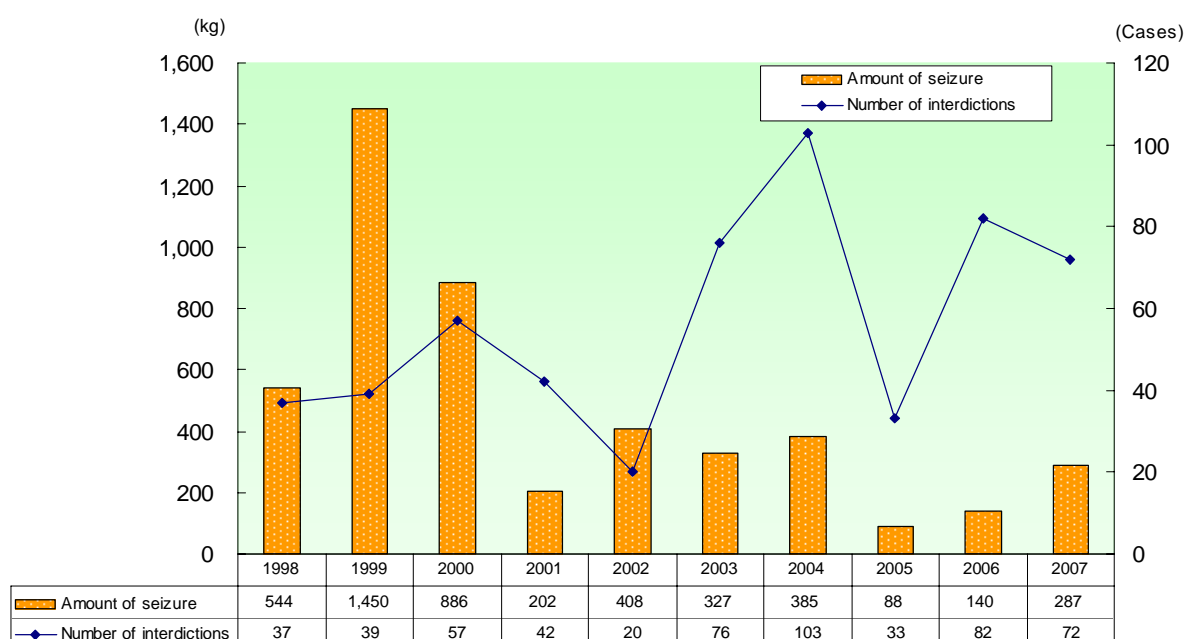
The number of people arrested in Japan in 2007 was 12,010 (103.5% of the previous year's level), an increase over the previous year. Members of organized crime groups still account for more than half of those arrested (the National Police Agency's data).

While the number of smuggling cases interdicted in 2007 was 72 (88% of the previous year's level), showing a slight decrease, the amount of seizures was 287 kg (204% of the previous year's level), which was double that of the previous year. [See Chart 1.]

As for the source countries and regions, although the number of interdictions for smuggling cases from Canada was halved to 4, the amount of seizure greatly increased to 179 kg (7.5 times the previous year's level) as the result of continued interdictions of large smuggling cases by commercial cargoes, accounting for 62% of the total amount of seizure. The largest number of interdictions for smuggling was from China, which is the same as the previous year, showing the same level for the number of cases and amount of seizure. On the other hand, we interdicted smuggling cases from Mexico, UAE and Turkey, for which we have no past records.

As for the smuggling types, while the number of interdictions by commercial cargoes increased, which had been decreasing from 2004, we still see many cases by air passengers, featuring devious and skillful smuggling methods such as using parents and children as mules.

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



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

- ⊙ While the number of interdictions decreased slightly, the amount of seizure was 2.5 times that of the previous year.
- ⊙ The smuggling amount from Canada largely increased. In addition, the smuggling amounts from the Netherlands and South Africa also increased.
- ⊙ Many cases by air passengers were of concealing in suitcases and swallowing.

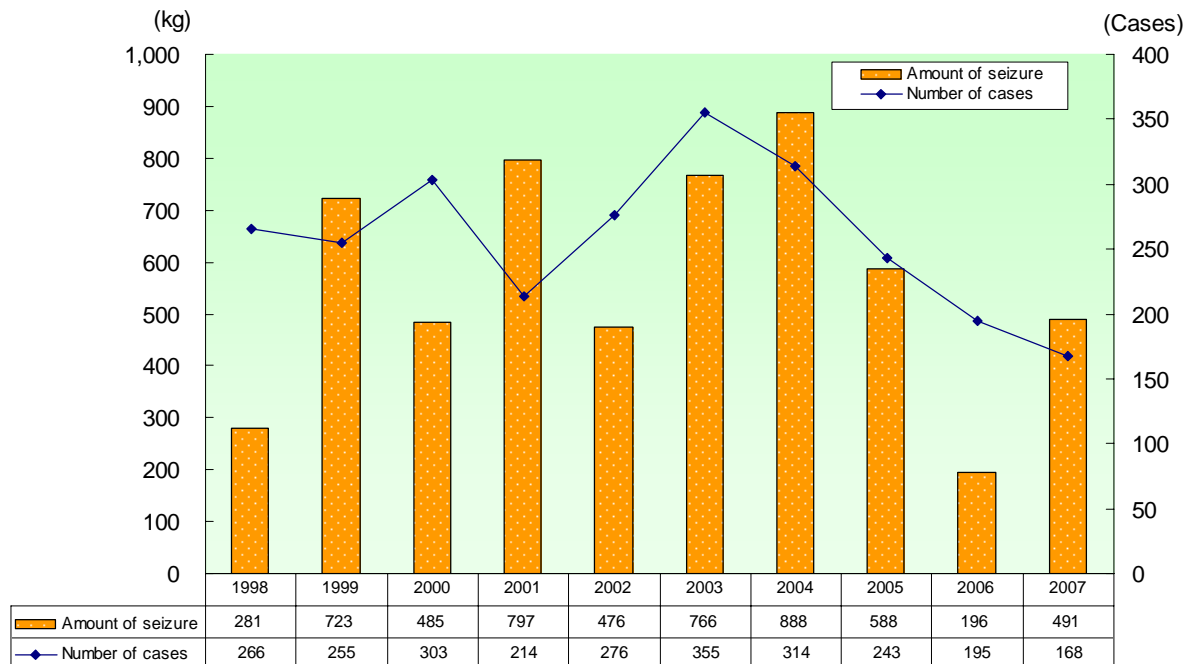
For cannabis, a large social problem in recent years is the abuse by young people including college students. Among 2,272 people (99% of the previous year's level) arrested for cannabis cases in Japan in 2007, first-time offenders accounted for 86.7%, and teenagers and young people in their 20's accounted for 69.1%. In addition, cases of growing cannabis increased to 184 cases (104% of the previous year's level) (the National Police Agency's data).

While the number of smuggling cases interdicted in 2007 was 168 (86% of the previous year's level), a slight decrease, the amount of seizures was 491 kg (251% of the previous year's level), which was 2.5 times that of the previous year, featuring the largest amount of illicit drugs for the number of interdictions and amount of seizure. [See Chart 2.] While the amount of seizure for herbal cannabis largely increased, the amount of seizure for cannabis resin continued to decrease.

As for the source, the smuggling amount from Canada largely increased due to the interdiction of large smuggling cases by commercial cargoes. In addition, the amount of seizure from the Netherlands (about 1.5 times the previous year's level, which had been the largest amount) and the amount from South Africa (about 2.5 times the previous year's level) also increased.

As for the smuggling types, in addition to the large smuggling cases using commercial cargoes, we still see many cases by air passengers hiding contraband in their suitcases and swallowing it.

[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)

- ⊙ The highest numbers were recorded for the number of interdictions and amount of seizure.
- ⊙ About 688 thousand tablets of MDMA were interdicted at one time, which was the record high for a single seizure of MDMA.
- ⊙ About 90% of the total amount of seizure was from Canada and Europe.

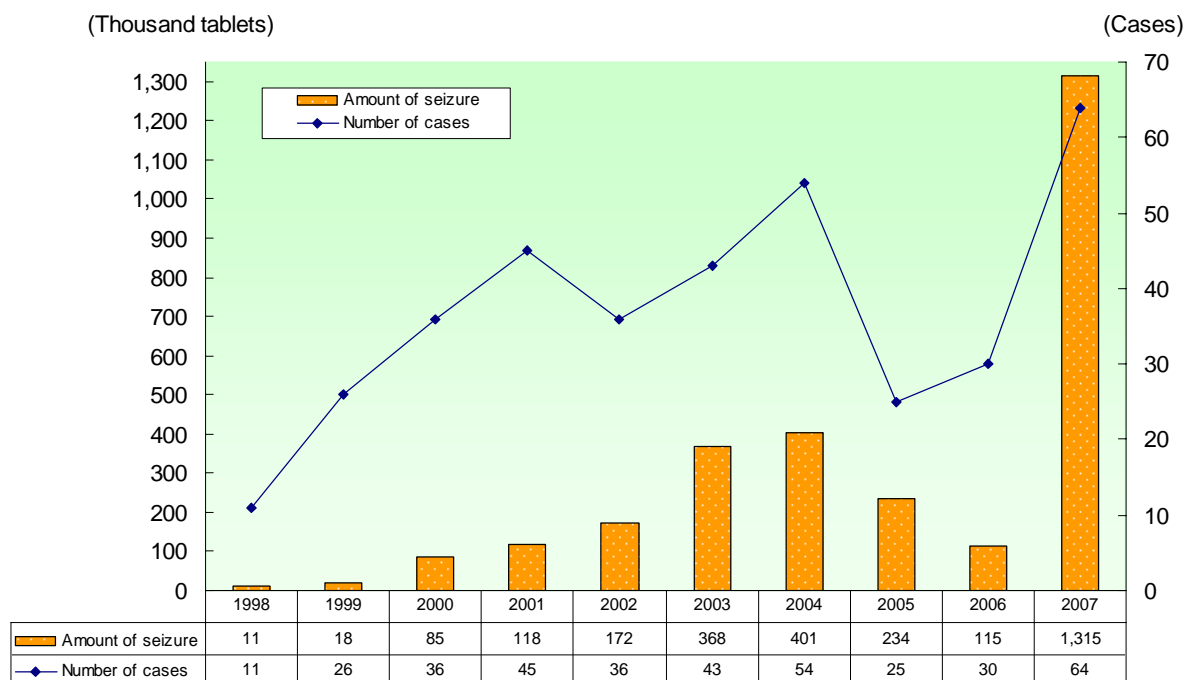
MDMA (commonly known as "Ecstasy") is a synthetic drug that has pharmacological effects similar to stimulants. While the number of people arrested due to tablet-type synthetic drugs such as MDMA in 2007 was 296 (80% of the previous year's level), a decrease, the amount of seizures was 1,233,883 tablets (662% of the previous year's level), a large increase (the National Police Agency's data).

The number of interdictions of smuggling cases in 2007 was 64 (213% of the previous year's level), and the amount of seizure was about 1315 thousand tablets (1146% of the previous year's level), showing a considerable increase both in the number of interdictions of smuggling cases and the amount of seizures, resulting in record highs. The amount of seizure was more than 3 times that of the previous record (about 401 thousand tablets in 2004), and more than the total amount from 2002 to 2006 (about 1290 thousand tablets). [See Chart 3.] About 688 thousand tablets of MDMA were interdicted at one time from sea container cargoes from Canada, which was the record high for a single seizure of MDMA.

As for the source, the smuggling from Europe increased, mainly from the Netherlands, which has been the major source, and smuggling from Canada rapidly increased (about 83 times the previous year's level) accounting for about 90% of the total amount of seizure when both are added together. In addition, smuggling from China rapidly increased (39 times the previous year's level).

As for the smuggling types, the number of interdictions by international mail articles and air passengers increased. We interdicted new smuggling methods such as hiding by sewing into leggings and methods using parents and children as mules.

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

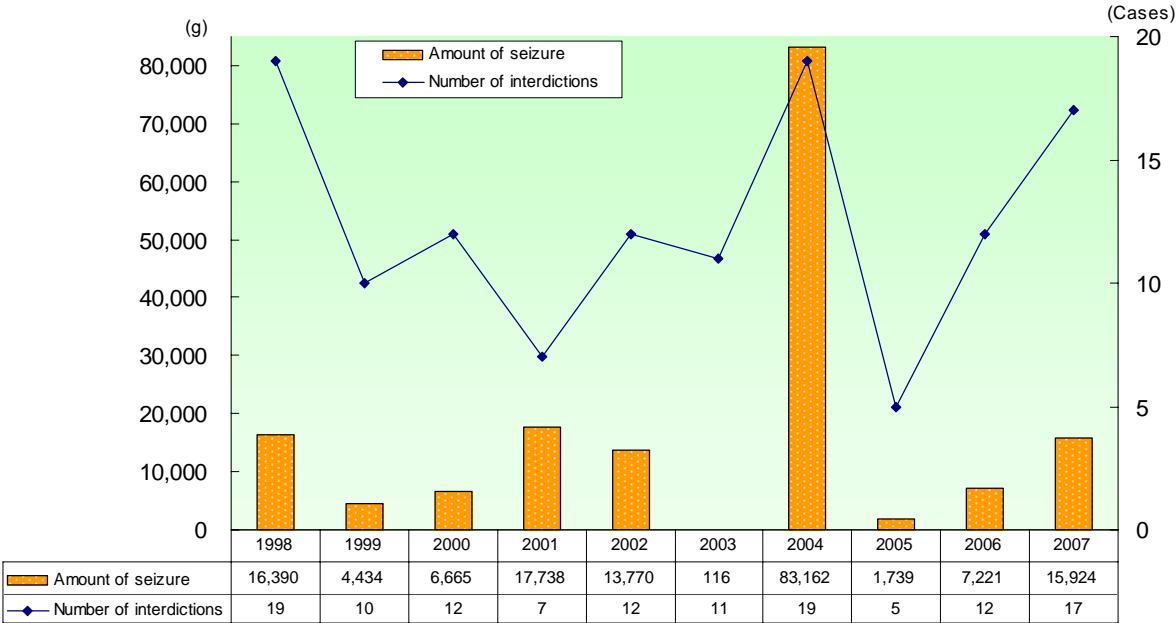


(4) Other Illicit Drugs (cocaine, heroin, opium, psychotropics, ketamine, methylene)

1) Most of the coca leaves that are the raw material of cocaine are grown illegally in Columbia, Peru and Bolivia. In 2007, the number of interdictions for smuggling was 17 (142% of the previous year's level), and the amount of seizure was 16 kg (221% of the previous year's level). [See Chart 4.] The major portion was from Peru.

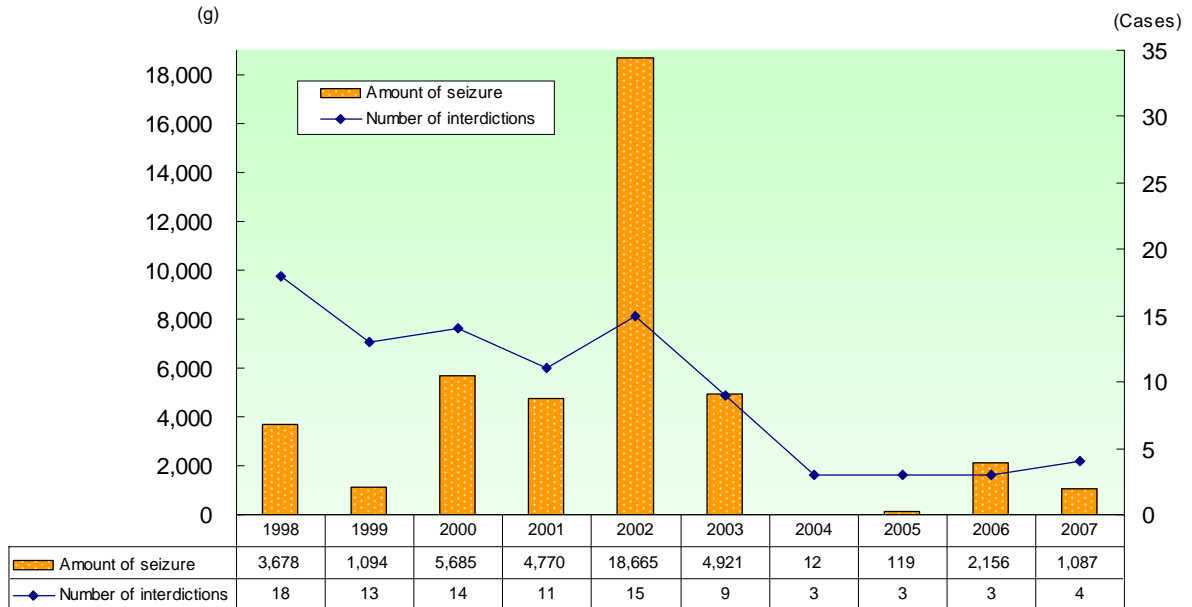
We saw many smuggling cases by air cargoes and international mails.

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



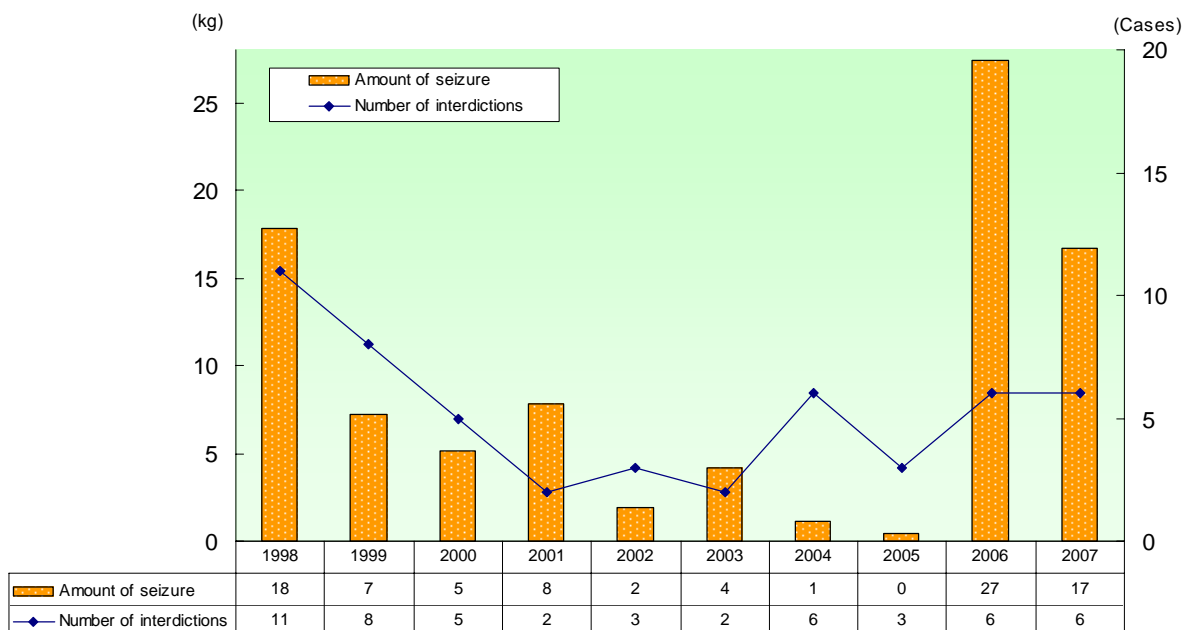
- 2) As for heroin, the major production locations are said to be the “Golden Triangle” connecting Thailand, Laos and Myanmar, and the “Golden Crescent” connecting Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. In 2007, 4 cases (133% of the previous year’s level) of smuggling of heroin were interdicted with the amount of seizure of 1 kg (50% of the previous year’s level). [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.” The number of smuggling interdictions for opium in 2007 was 6 cases (same as previous year), and the amount of seizure was 17 kg (61% of the previous year’s level). [See Chart 6.] The major sources were Turkey and Iran.

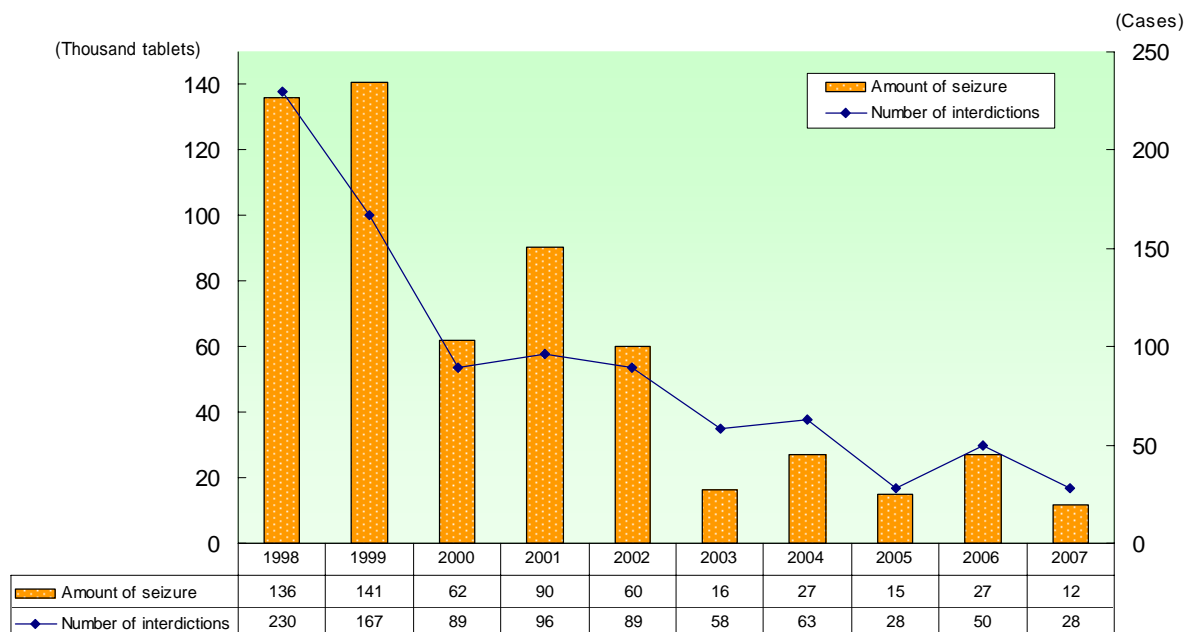
[Chart 6: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for opium]





- 4) Psychotropics is a generic term for substances which have tranquilizing, stimulative or hallucinatory effects on the central nervous system. In 2007, 28 cases (56% of the previous year's level) of smuggling were interdicted with the amount of seizure of about 12,000 tablets (42% of the previous year's level). [See Chart 7.]

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



- 5) Ketamine and methydone are substances that were newly specified as narcotics based on the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Law (ketamine on January 1, 2007, and methydone on February 3, 2007).

While ketamine is used effectively as an anesthetic mainly by veterinarians, there have been reports in Japan and other countries of health harm by abusing the substance. In addition, methydone is a toxic and addictive substance featuring a chemical structure similar to that of MDMA, which has psychedelic effects and excitatory effects.

The numbers of interdictions and the amounts of seizure for smuggling cases in 2007 were 10 cases (4,538 g) for ketamine and 10 cases (500 g) for methydone.

### 3. Trends in Firearms Smuggling

In 2007, the amount of seizure for handguns largely increased to 548 (120% of the previous year's level). The amount of seizure from members of organized crime groups also increased to 231 (113% of the previous year's level). Among the arrests for incidents involving the use of handguns, 88.4% were of members of organized crime groups (the National Police Agency's data).

While the number of interdictions for firearm smuggling cases in 2007 increased to 6 (150% of the previous year's level), the number of seized firearms decreased to 10 (67% of the previous year's level). [See Chart 8.]

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

