

I. INTERDICTIONS OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND FIREARMS SMUGGLING IN 2008

1. Number of Interdictions

(1) Summary

The number of interdictions for smuggling cases for illicit drugs in 2008 was 293 (82% of the previous year's level). The amount of seizure for stimulants and cannabis, etc. was 498 kg (61% of the previous year's level). The amount of seizure for tablet drugs such as MDMA, psychotropics, etc. was 159 thousand tablets (12% of the previous year's level). The number of interdictions for firearms smuggling was 1 case (17% of the previous year's level) including 1 gun (10% of the previous year's level).

Major characteristics of smuggling in 2008 were as follows:

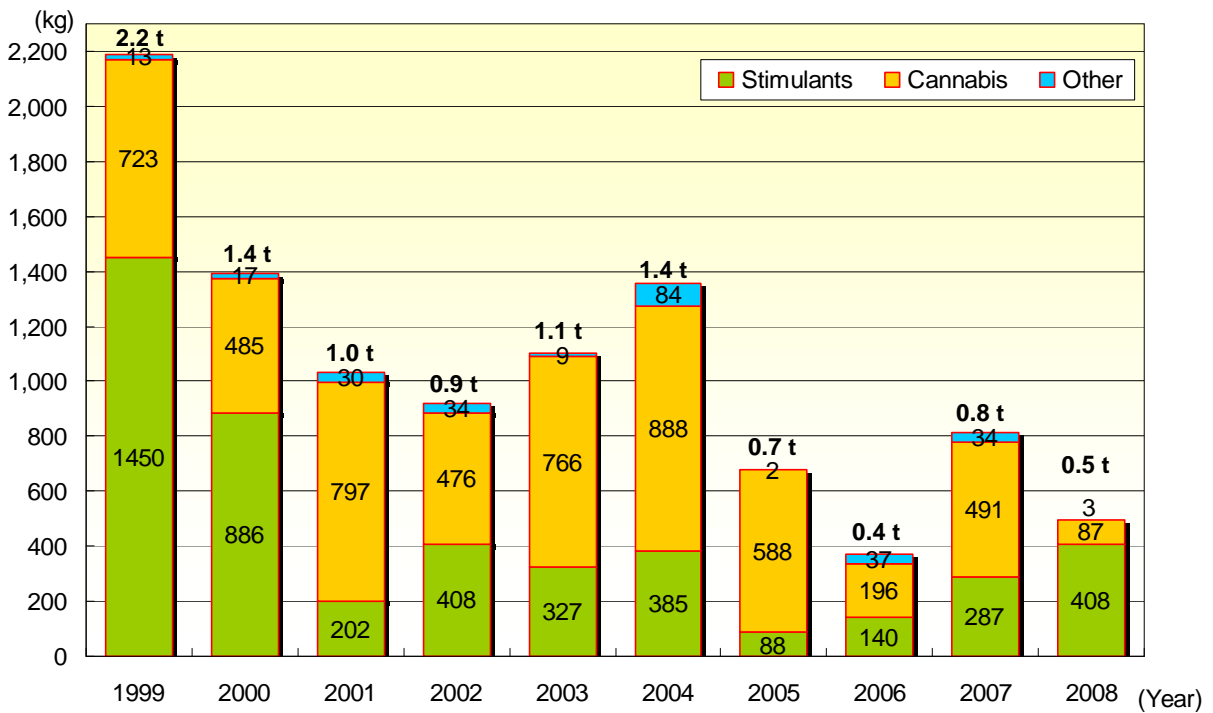
- The number of interdictions for stimulant smuggling marked a record high of 110. The amount of seizure significantly increased mainly because as much as 300 kg of stimulants was interdicted from a cargo ship entering Moji Port.
- Both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure decreased for drugs such as cannabis and MDMA.
- Smuggling conducted by air passengers was the most common, accounting for the majority of the total number of interdictions. Typical hiding methods include using false-bottom suitcases, and wrapping or swallowing drugs.

(2) Interdiction of Major Illicit Drugs and Firearms

Type		Year					Year-on-year
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Stimulants	Cases	103	33	82	72	110	153%
	kg	385	88	140	287	408	142%
Cannabis	Cases	314	243	195	168	123	73%
	kg	888	588	196	491	87	18%
Herbal cannabis	Cases	242	178	136	126	96	76%
	kg	597	385	130	450	63	14%
Cannabis resin	Cases	72	65	59	42	27	64%
	kg	291	203	66	41	24	58%
Heroin	Cases	3	3	3	4	4	100%
	kg	0	0	2	1	1	97%
Cocaine	Cases	19	5	12	17	7	41%
	kg	83	2	7	16	2	12%
Opium	Cases	6	3	6	6	-	Total reduction
	kg	1	0	27	17	-	Total reduction
MDMA, etc.	Cases	54	25	30	64	15	23%
	Thousand tablets	401	234	115	1,315	139	11%
Psychotropics	Cases	63	28	50	28	34	121%
	Thousand tablets	27	15	27	12	20	176%
Total	Cases	562	340	378	359	293	82%
	kg	1,358	679	377	811	498	61%
	Thousand tablets	429	249	142	1,326	159	12%
Reference (number of usage)	10,000 times	2,015	606	629	1,289	1,388	108%
Firearms	Cases	4	2	4	6	1	17%
	Guns	5	4	15	10	1	10%
Firearms parts	Cases	1	0	2	3	3	100%
	Items	1	0	3	4	3	75%

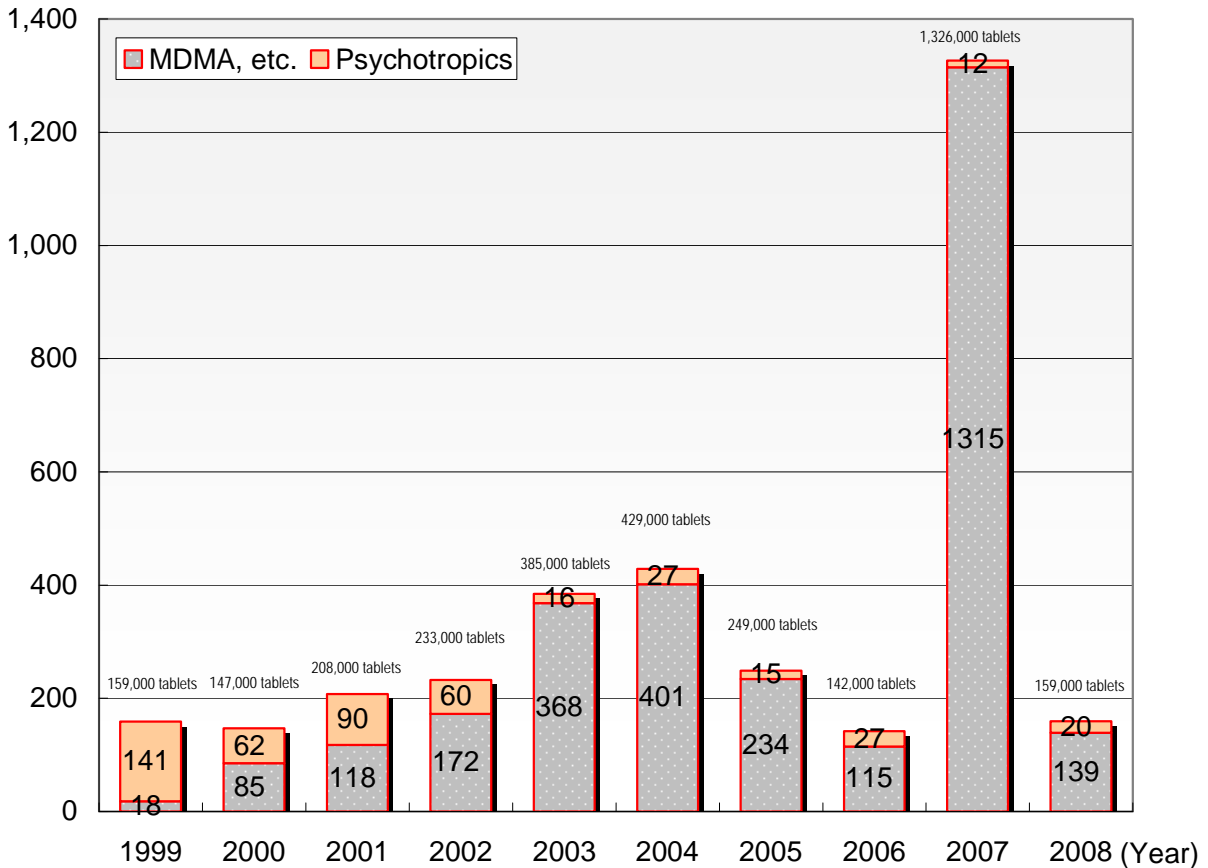
- Notes: 1. The figures include quantities seized not only in smuggling cases interdicted by Japan Customs but also in smuggling cases interdicted by the police and other law enforcement agencies in collaboration with Customs.
2. "Stimulants" includes stimulants and their raw materials.
3. "MDMA" represents 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. Some figures may not be accurate due to rounding.
6. "0" means 500 g or less, while "-" means nil.

(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

- ⊙ The number of interdictions marked a record high and the amount of seizure significantly increased from the previous year.
- ⊙ A massive smuggling case by cargo ship crew was interdicted.
- ⊙ Smuggling cases aimed at local ports 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.

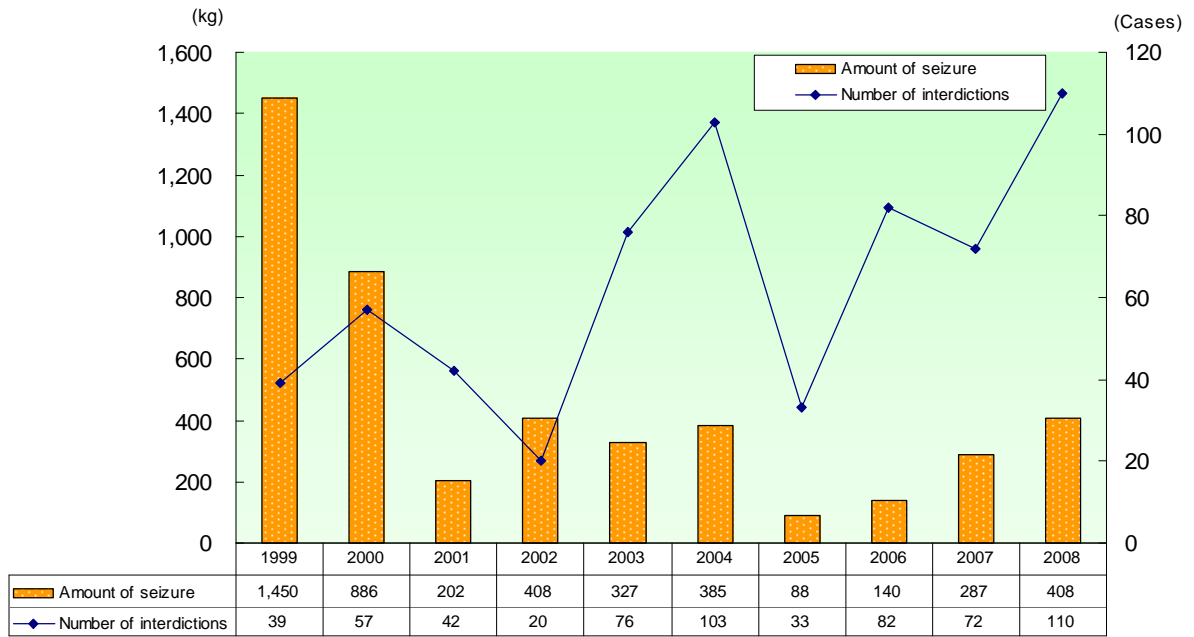
The number of people arrested in Japan in 2008 was 11,041 (92% of the previous year's level), a decrease over the previous year. Members of organized crime groups still account for more than half of those arrested.

The number of smuggling cases interdicted in 2008 was 110 (153% of the previous year's level), marking a record high after 1966, the earliest year from which comparable data is available. The amount of seizure significantly increased from the previous year to 408 kg (142% of the previous year's level), which is the highest over the past 5 years. [See Chart 1.]

As for the source countries and regions, the largest number of interdictions for smuggling was from China. Following Mexico, Turkey and UAE in 2007, we interdicted smuggling from South Africa and Cambodia for the first time in 2008. As for the methods used, smuggling by air passengers was still the most frequent interdicted cases; the passengers brought in stimulants typically by using false-bottom suitcases, or wrapping or swallowing the drugs. Next came smuggling through international mail services, which, together with smuggling by air passengers, constituted 95% of all stimulant interdictions.

Note: The figures are provisional figures as of January 15, 2009 released by the National Police Agency; hereinafter the same in this booklet.

[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 decreased.
 - ⊙ Smuggling cases by air passengers constituted the largest proportion of both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure.
 - ⊙ An air passenger who smuggled cannabis seeds was charged with the offense of import without permission for the first time.

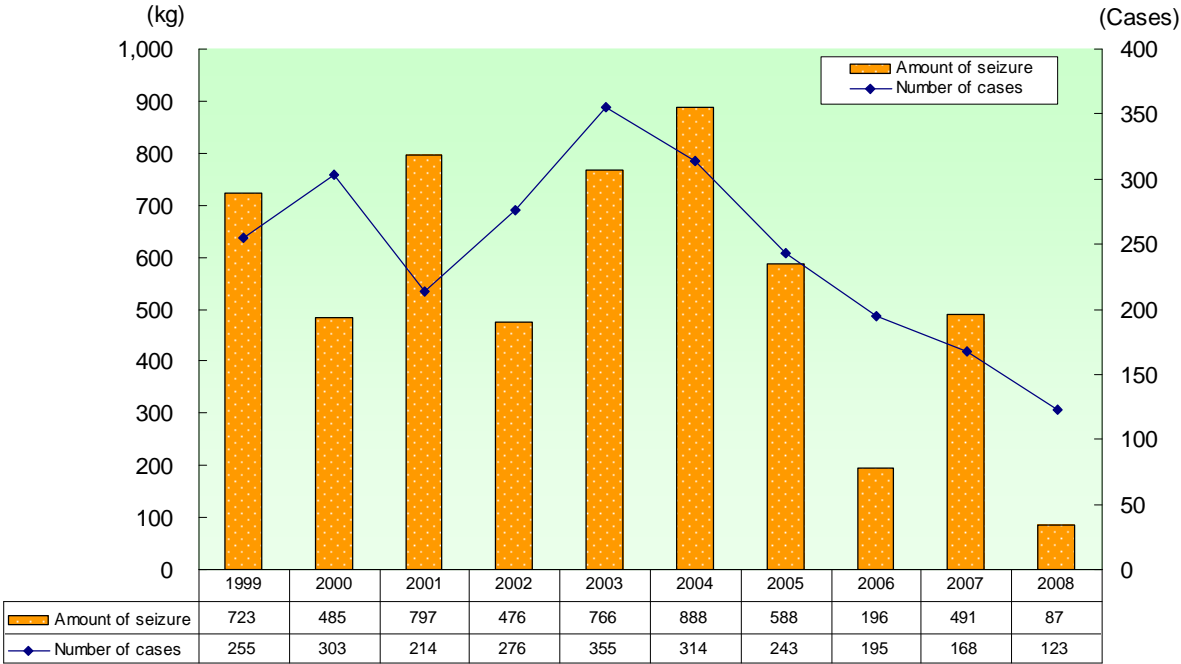
For cannabis, a large social problem in recent years is the abuse by young people including college students. Among 2,778 people (122% of the previous year's level) arrested for cannabis cases in Japan in 2008, first-time offenders accounted for 86%, and teenagers and young people in their 20's accounted for 63%. In addition, cases of growing cannabis increased to 274 cases (149% of the previous year's level). (the National Police Agency's data)

The number of smuggling cases interdicted decreased from the previous year to 123 (73% of the previous year's level). The amount of seizure significantly dropped to 87 kg (18% of the previous year's level), largely because of the substantial seizure in the previous year. [See Chart 2.]

Most herbal cannabis still came from South Africa, the United States and the Netherlands, while we interdicted 13 kg of cannabis resin from Nepal though we did not do so in 2007.

As for the smuggling types, smuggling cases by air passengers constituted the largest proportion of both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure. For the number of interdictions, smuggling through international mail services came next, accounting for 79% of the total interdictions together with smuggling cases by air passengers. In terms of amount of seizure, smuggling cases using commercial cargoes came next, accounting for 90% of the total seizure together with smuggling cases by air passengers.

[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.
 - ⊙ The amount of seizure from the Netherlands, France and Germany composed a large part of the total amount of seizure.
 - ⊙ Smuggling cases by air passengers constituted the largest proportion of both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure.

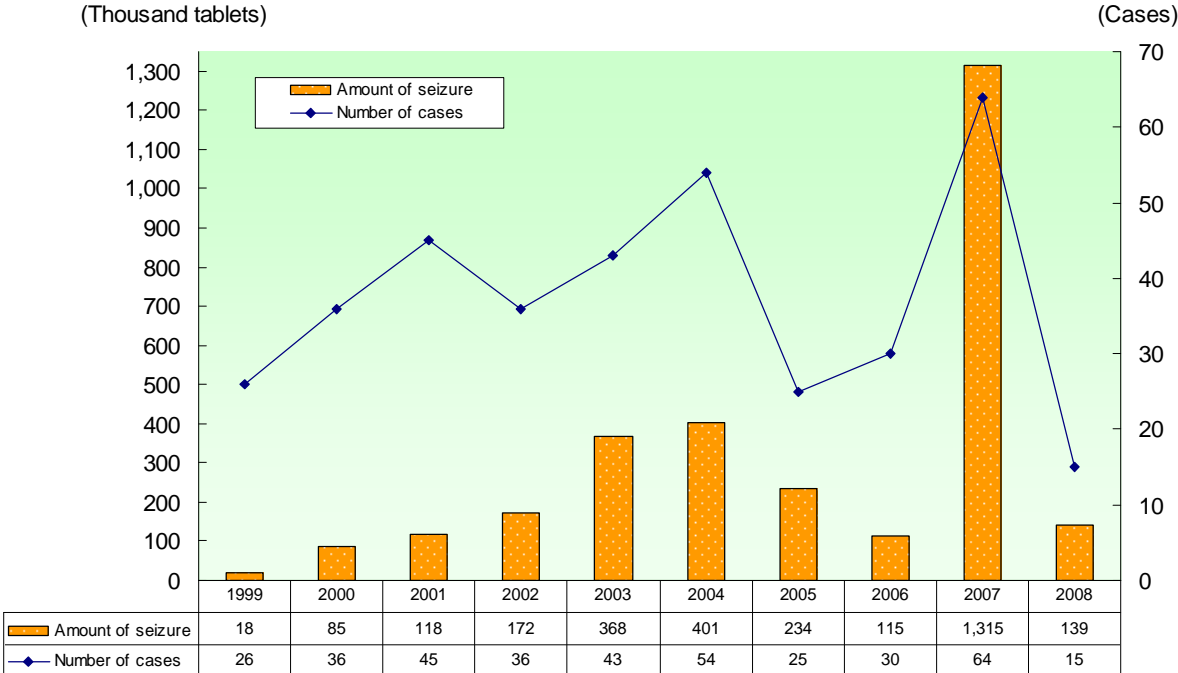
MDMA (commonly known as "Ecstasy") is a synthetic drug that has pharmacological effects similar to stimulants. While the number of people arrested due to tablet-type synthetic drugs such as MDMA in 2008 was 282 (95% of the previous year's level), a decrease, the amount of seizures was 217,164 tablets (18% of the previous year's level), a large decrease (the National Police Agency's data).

The number of interdictions of smuggling cases in 2008 was 15 (23% of the previous year's level), and the amount of seizure was about 139,000 tablets (11% of the previous year's level), showing a considerable decrease largely because of substantial seizure in the previous year. [See Chart 3.]

As for the source, the interdictions of smuggling from the Netherlands constituted the largest proportion of both the number of interdictions and the amount of seizure. The amount of seizure from the Netherlands, France and Germany accounted for 96% of the total amount of seizure of MDMA and other drugs.

As for the smuggling types, smuggling cases by air passengers accounted for 60% of the number of interdictions and 96% of the amount of seizure.

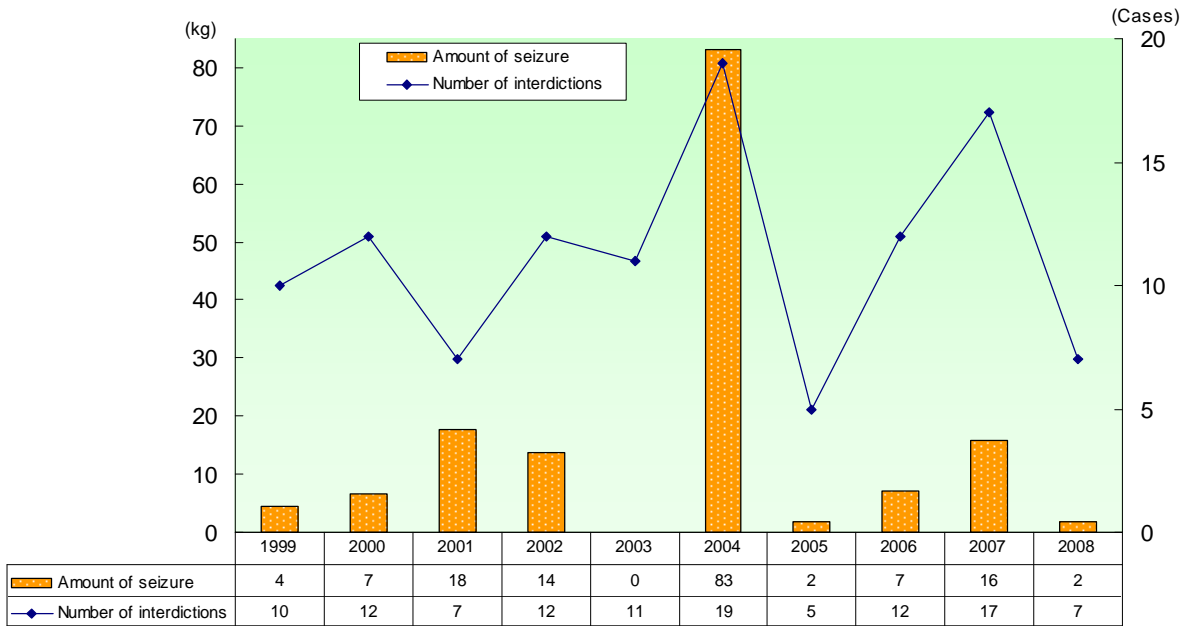
[Chart 3: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for MDMA and other drugs]



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

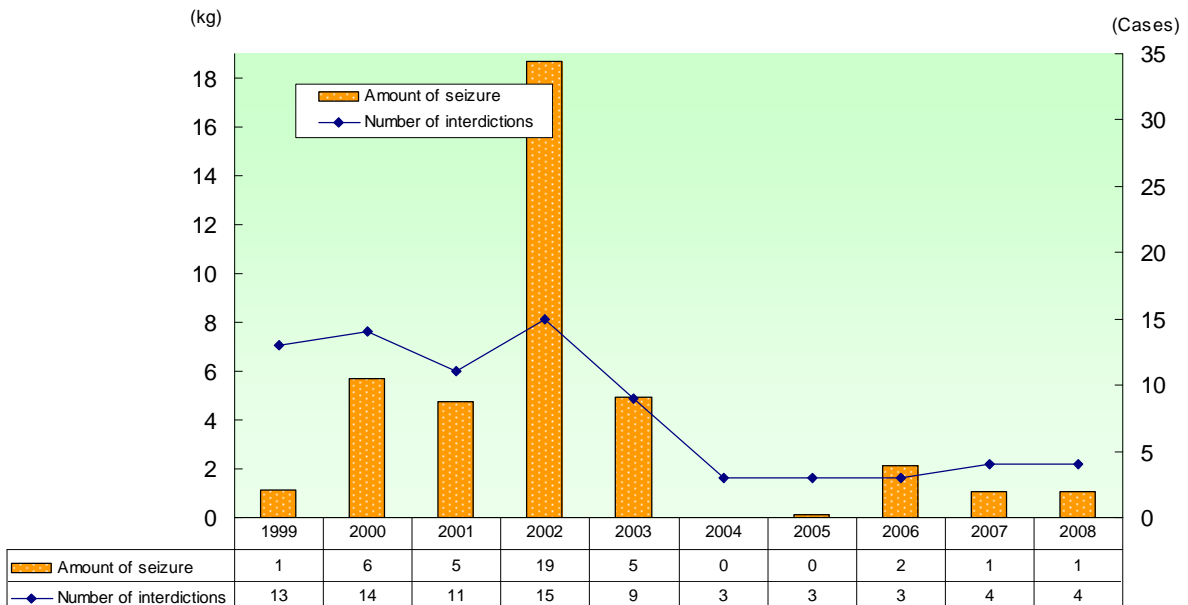
- 1) Most of the coca leaves that are the raw material of cocaine are grown illegally in Columbia, Peru and Bolivia. In 2008, the number of interdictions for smuggling was 7 (41% of the previous year's level), and the amount of seizure was 2 kg (12% of the previous year's level). [See Chart 4.]

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



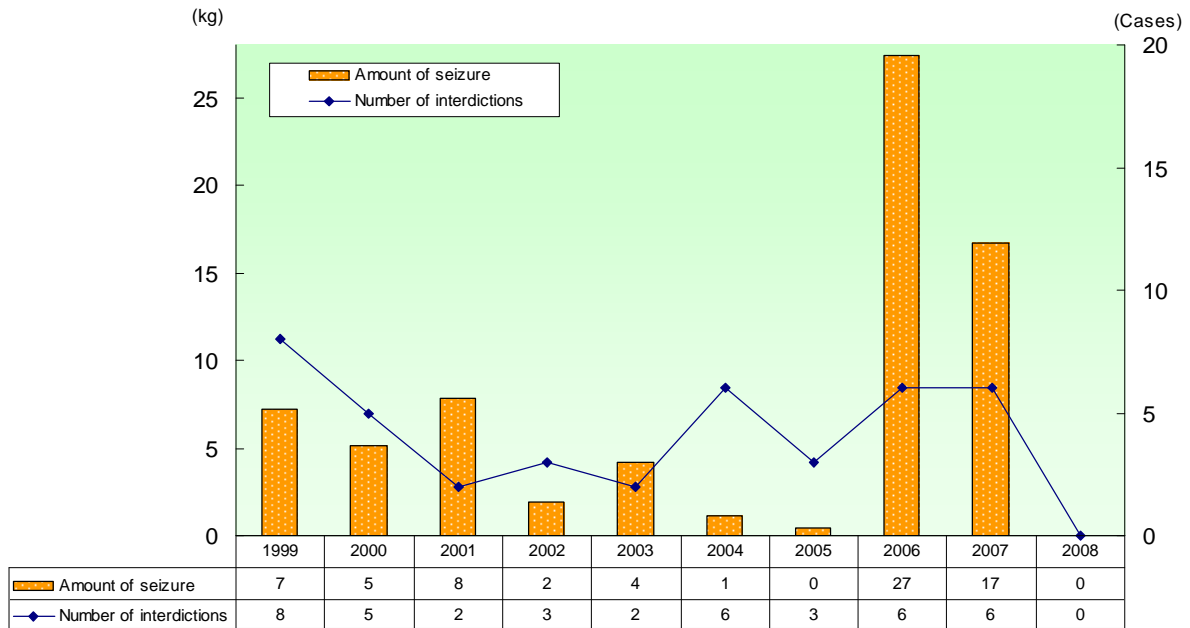
- 2) As for heroin, the major production locations are said to be the "Golden Triangle" connecting Thailand, Laos and Myanmar, and the "Golden Crescent" connecting Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. In 2008, 4 cases (same as previous year) of smuggling of heroin were interdicted with the amount of seizure of 1 kg (97% of the previous year's level). [See Chart 5.]

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



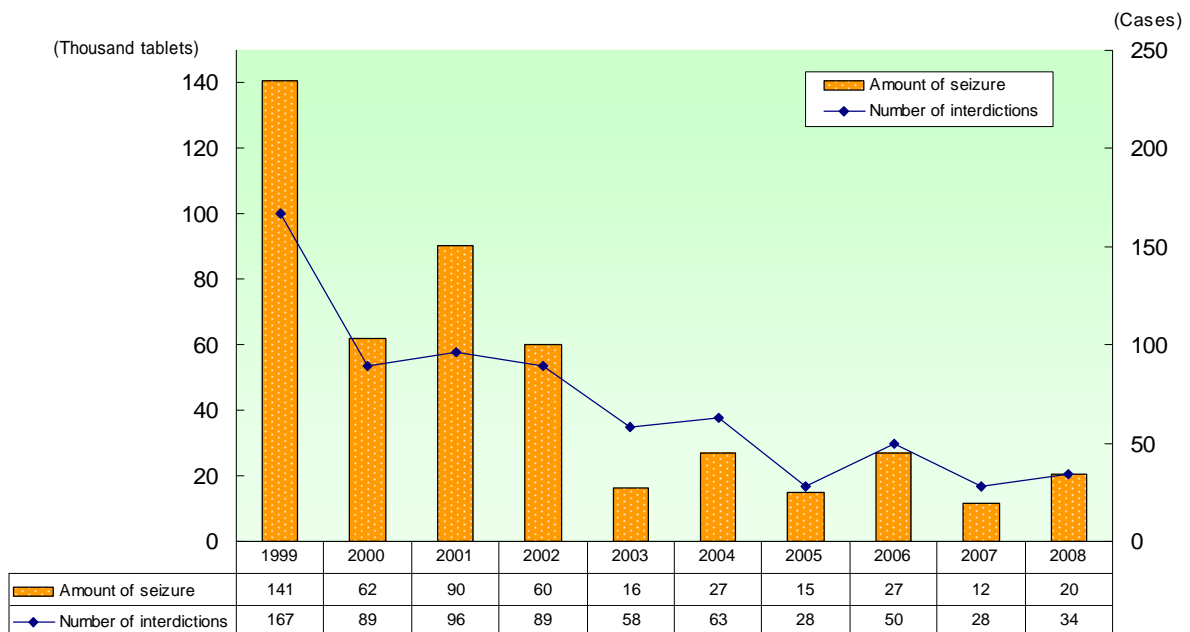
- 3) As for opium, like heroin, the major production locations are said to be the "Golden triangle" and the "Golden Crescent." In 2008, no opium smuggling case was interdicted. [See Chart 6.]

[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 2008, 34 cases (121% of the previous year's level) of smuggling were interdicted with the amount of seizure of about 20,000 tablets (176% of the previous year's level). [See Chart 7.]

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



3. Trends in Firearms Smuggling

In 2008, the amount of seizure for handguns decreased to 492 (90% of the previous year's level). The amount of seizure from members of organized crime groups also decreased to 166 (72% of the previous year's level). (the National Police Agency's data).

While the number of interdictions for firearm smuggling cases in 2008 decreased to 1 (17% of the previous year's level), the number of seized firearms also decreased to 1 (10% of the previous year's level). [See Chart 8.]

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

