

I. INTERDICTIONS OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND FIREARMS SMUGGLING IN 2010

1. Number of Interdictions

(1) Summary

The number of interdictions for cases of smuggling illicit drugs has reduced by 26% to 296 in 2010 as compared with those in 2009. The seizure amount of stimulants, cannabis, etc. was 363 kg which is down by 10% from the previous year. The seizure amount of tablet drugs such as MDMA and psychotropics was 30 thousand tablets, down 67% from the previous year. There were no interdictions of firearms smuggling.

Major characteristics of smuggling in 2010 were as follows:

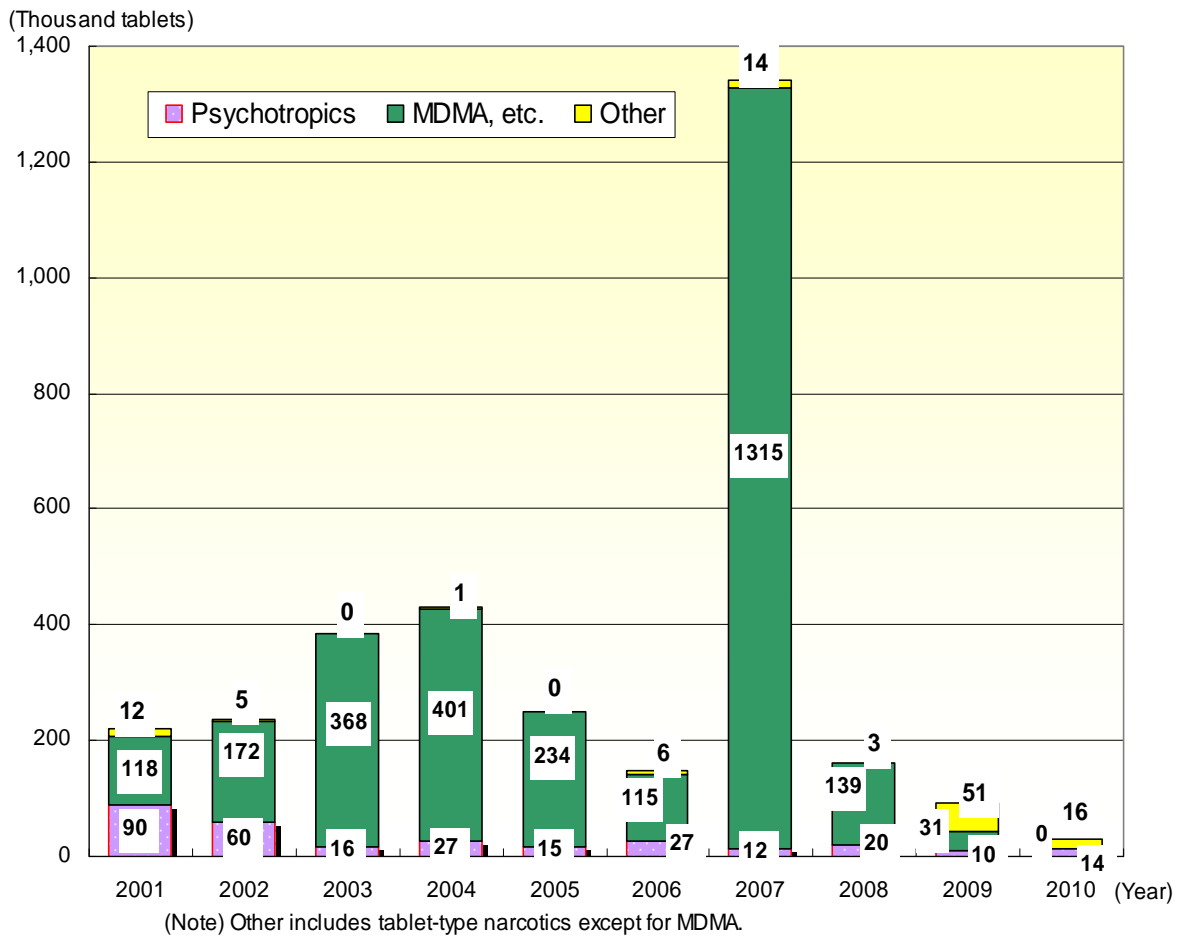
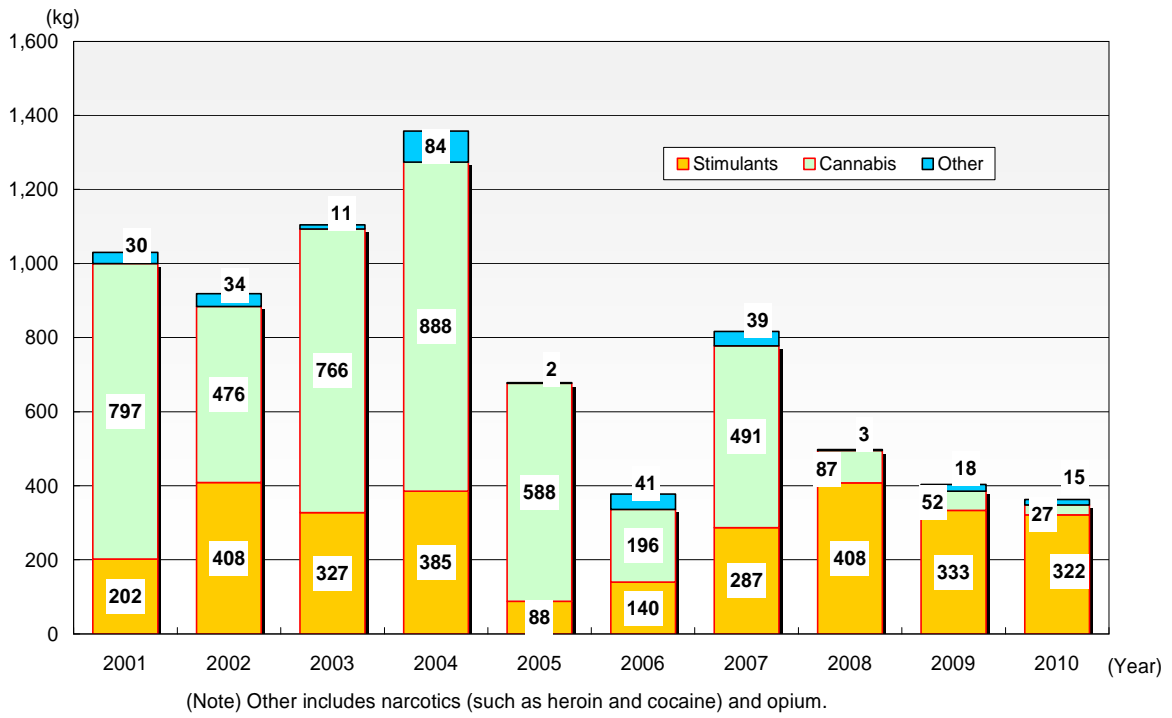
- Although interdictions for stimulant smuggling did not reach the previous year's record high of 164 incidents, there was still as much as 322 kg (down 3% from the previous year) interdicted in 152 incidents (down 7% from the previous year), with repeated series of interdictions at local ports and airports.
- Cases of smuggling by air passengers reached a record high of 119 interdictions and a seizure amount of 235 kg stimulants.
- The number of interdictions as well as the seizure amount of drugs such as cannabis and MDMA significantly decreased.
- Smuggling by air passengers was most common, accounting for about a half of the total number of interdictions, followed by smuggling through international mail services, which accounted for about 40% of all interdictions.

(2) Interdiction of Major Illicit Drugs and Firearms

Type \ Year		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Year-on-year
Stimulants	Cases	82	72	110	164	152	93%
	kg	140	287	408	333	322	97%
Cannabis	Cases	195	168	123	111	59	53%
	kg	196	491	87	52	27	51%
Herbal cannabis	Cases	136	126	96	87	45	52%
	kg	130	450	63	40	2	4%
Cannabis resin	Cases	59	42	27	24	14	58%
	kg	66	41	24	12	25	2.1times
Opium	Cases	6	6	-	4	2	50%
	kg	27	17	-	3	3	107%
narcotic	Cases	58	121	46	93	50	54%
	kg	13	22	3	15	11	75%
Heroin	Thousand tablets	121	1,329	142	83	16	20%
	Cases	3	4	4	4	4	100%
Cocaine	kg	2	1	1	1	1	120%
	Cases	12	17	7	10	11	110%
MDMA, etc.	kg	7	16	2	13	6	43%
	Cases	30	64	15	4	2	50%
Ketamine	Thousand tablets	115	1,315	139	31	0	0.4%
	Cases	-	10	5	4	10	2.5times
Methylone	kg	-	5	0	0	4	8.5times
	Cases	-	10	-	29	3	10%
other	kg	-	1	-	0	0	17%
	Thousand tablets	-	-	-	1	-	Total reduction
Psychotropics	Cases	13	16	15	42	20	48%
	kg	0	0	0	0	0	29%
Total	Thousand tablets	6	14	3	51	16	32%
	Cases	50	28	34	30	33	110%
Reference (number of use)	Thousand tablets	27	12	20	10	14	139%
	Cases	391	395	313	402	296	74%
Total	kg	378	816	498	403	363	90%
	Thousand tablets	148	1,340	162	93	30	33%
Firearms		Cases	4	6	1	2	Total reduction
Firearms parts		Guns	15	10	1	2	Total reduction
		Cases	2	3	3	1	Total reduction
		Items	3	4	3	2	Total reduction

- 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 (number of use)" represents the total use of the following illicit drugs, calculated from the average amount an abuser uses at one time (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)
7. Some figures may not be accurate due to rounding.
8. "0" means 500 g or less, while "-" means nil.

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



2. Trends in Illicit Drug Smuggling

(1) Stimulants

- ⊙ The number of interdictions as well as the seizure amount of stimulants reached a record high in cases of smuggling by air passengers.
- ⊙ Regarding source countries and regions, the seizure amount of drugs from China decreased significantly, while seizures from African countries showed a sharp increase.
- ⊙ As in the previous year, a series of interdictions occurred at local ports and airports.

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.

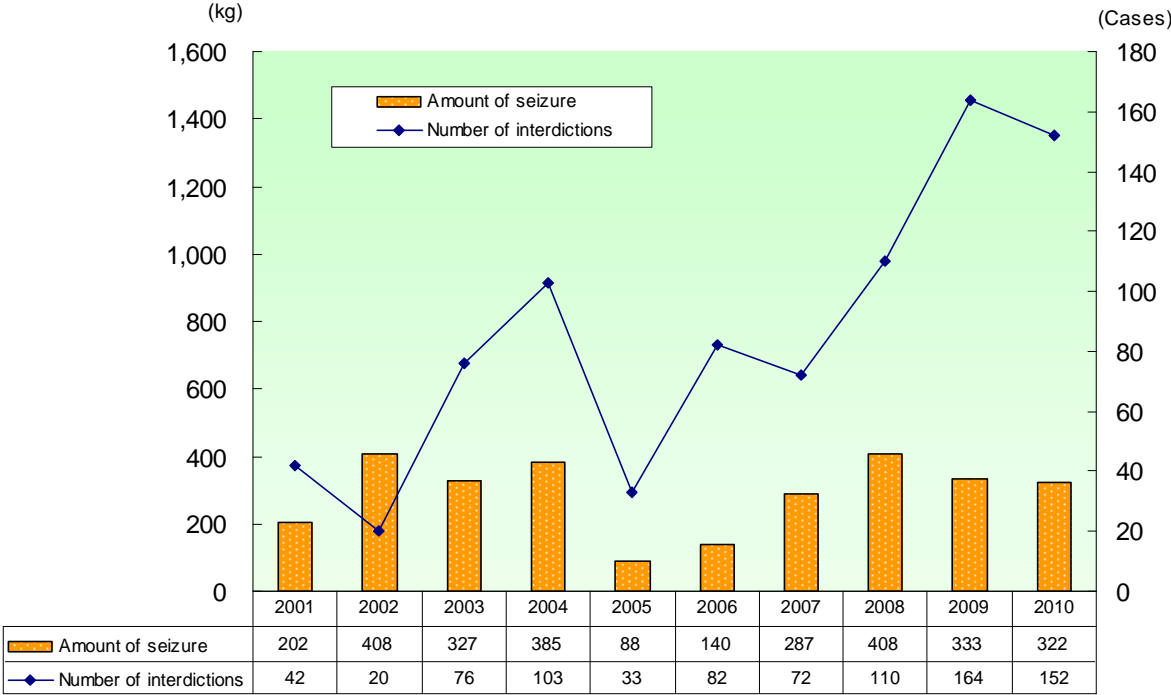
The number of people arrested in Japan in 2010 was 11,999 (up 3% from the previous year). Members of organized crime groups still account for more than half of those arrested (according to National Police Agency data).

The number of smuggling cases interdicted at customs in 2010 was 152 (down 7% from the previous year), which is the second highest since 1966, the earliest year from which comparable data is available. The seizure amount of drugs, which declined marginally to about 322 kg (down 3% from the previous year), is still at a high level. [See Chart 1.]

A broader range of source countries and regions were involved in smuggling this year; a significant decrease in smuggling was observed from China, while a dramatic increase was observed predominantly from African countries as well as from Mexico and Taiwan. The most frequently interdicted cases remained those of smuggling by air passengers. This year witnessed a sharp increase in bodypack smuggling as well as passengers' attempts to smuggle stimulants by concealing them in false-bottomed suitcases, disguising them as souvenirs, or wrapping them around their body.

Note: National Police Agency data is from its report "Drugs and Firearms in 2010." 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))
- ⊙ The number of interdictions as well as the seizure amount of drugs significantly decreased.
 - ⊙ Smuggling through international mail services constituted the largest proportion of interdiction cases, while smuggling cases involving commercial cargo constituted the largest proportion of seizure amount.
 - ⊙ A large proportion of interdicted herbal cannabis came from the United States, while most interdicted cannabis resin came from Nepal or Israel.

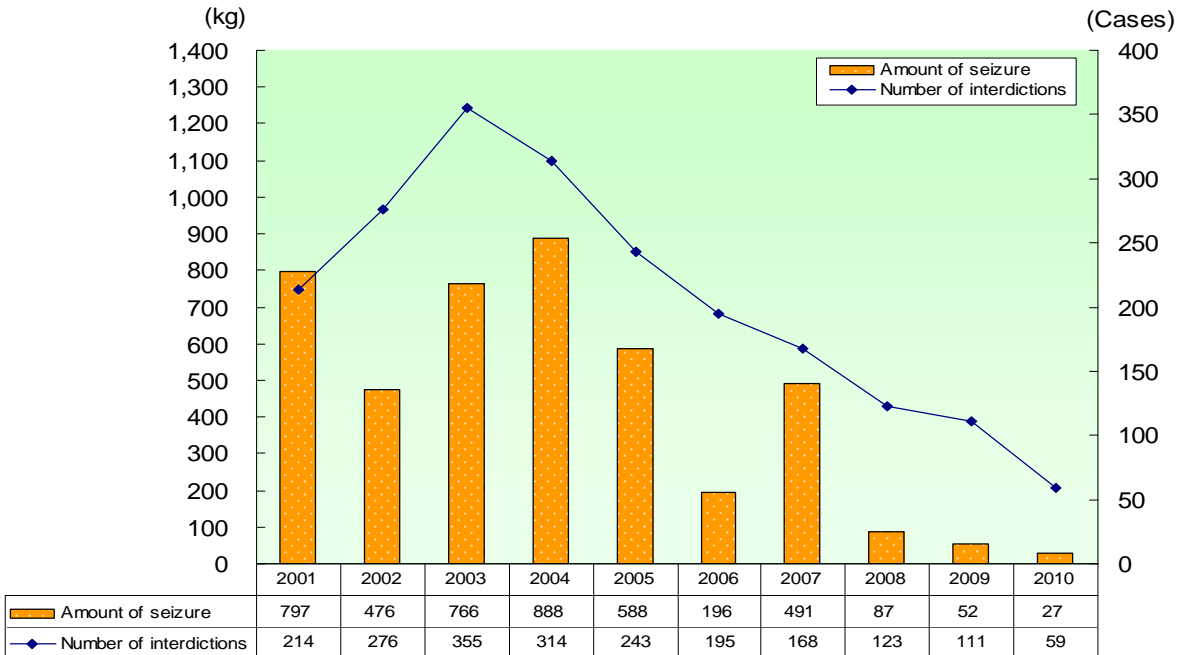
For cannabis, a large social problem in recent years is the abuse by young people including college students. Among 2,216 people (down 24% from the previous year) arrested for cannabis cases in Japan in 2010, first-time offenders accounted for 81%, and teenagers and young people in their 20's accounted for 63%. In addition, cases of growing cannabis decreased to 143 people (down 41% from the previous year). (the National Police Agency's data)

The number of smuggling cases interdicted at customs in 2010 continued decreasing to 59 (down 47% from the previous year), and the amount of seizure also continued decreasing to about 27 kg (down 49% from the previous year). [See Chart 2.]

A large proportion of interdicted herbal cannabis came from the United States, while most interdicted cannabis resin came from Nepal or Israel.

As for the smuggling methods, international mail services constituted the largest proportion of interdictions, while cases involving commercial cargo constituted the largest proportion of seizure amount.

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



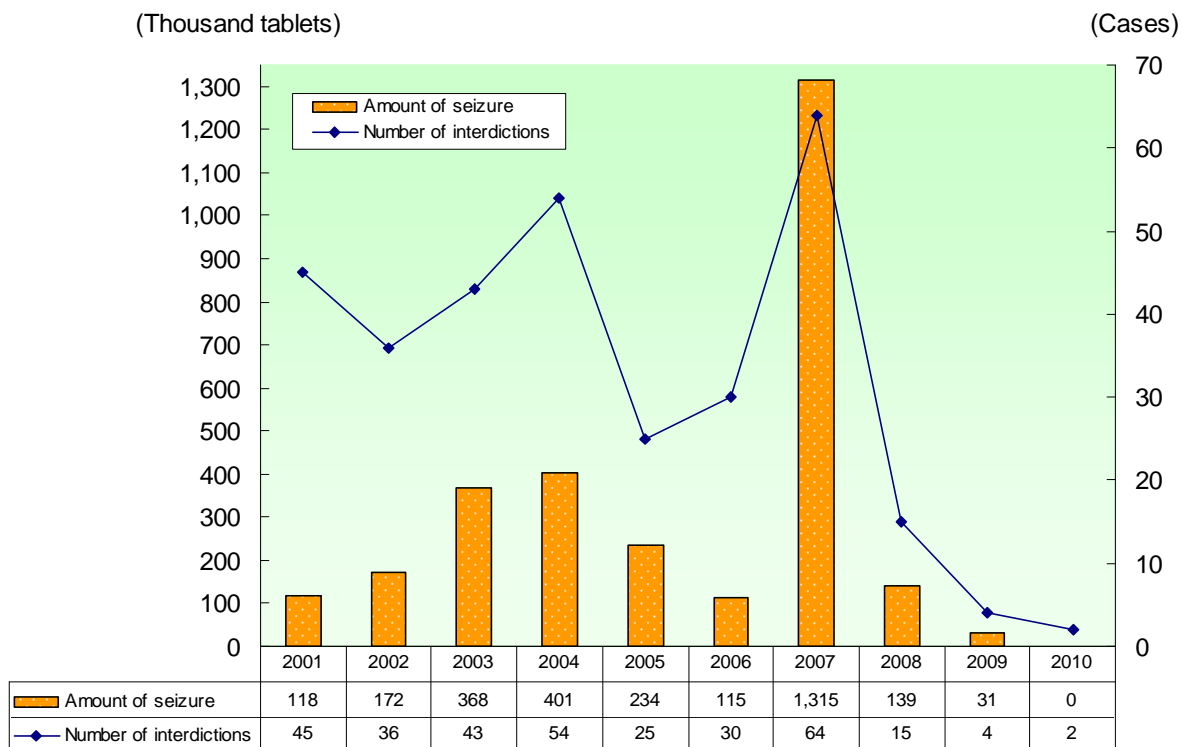
- (3) Tablet-type Synthetic Drugs such as MDMA (including MDA and MDE)
- ⊙ The number of interdictions and the seizure amount of drugs significantly decreased.
 - ⊙ Tablet-type synthetic drugs were interdicted only from the United States (two cases).
 - ⊙ Both cases involved smuggling through international mail services.

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 2010 was 62 (down 42% from the previous year), a decrease, the amount of seizures was about 16 thousand tablets (down 57% from the previous year), a large decrease (the National Police Agency's data).

There were 2 interdictions of synthetic tablet drug smuggling (down 50% from the previous year) in 2010. The seizure amount dropped significantly by 99% to 122 tablets as compared with the previous year). [See Chart 3.]

Regarding source countries and methods, both the cases were from the United States and involved international mail services.

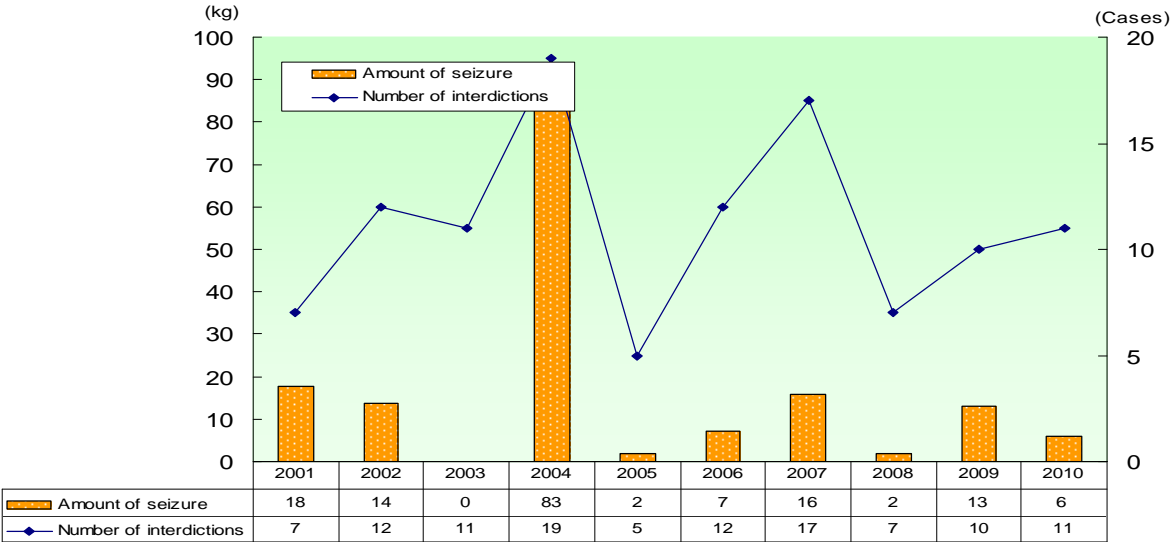
[Chart 3: Transition in the amount of seizure and the number of interdictions for MDMA and other drugs]



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

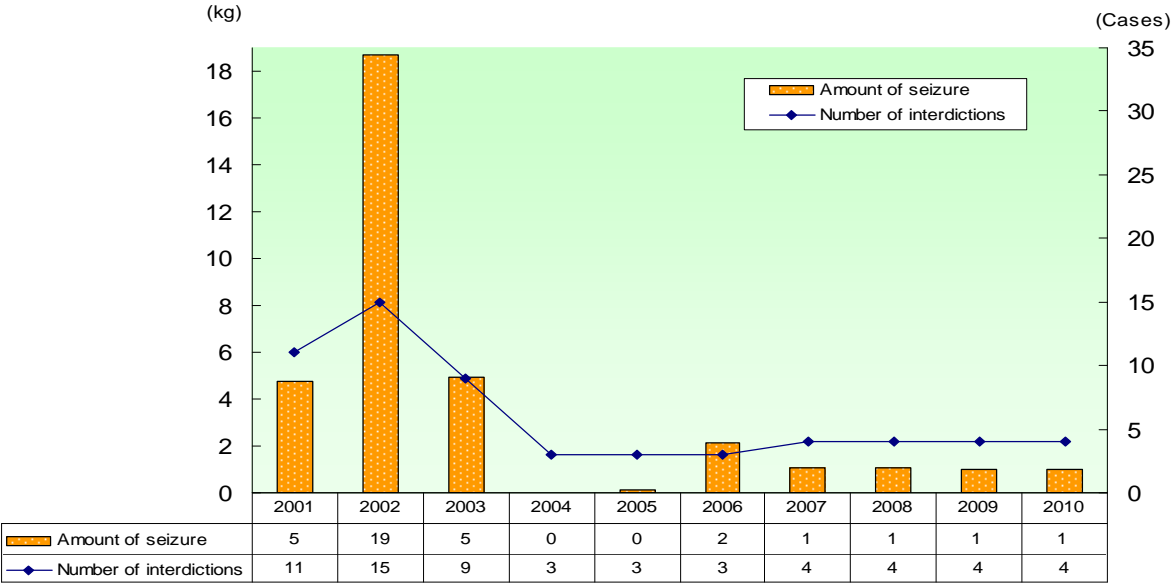
1) Most of the coca leaves that are the raw material of cocaine are grown illegally in Columbia, Peru and Bolivia. In 2010, the number of interdictions for smuggling was 11 (up 10% from the previous year), and the amount of seizure was about 6 kg (down 57% from the previous year). [See Chart 4.]

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



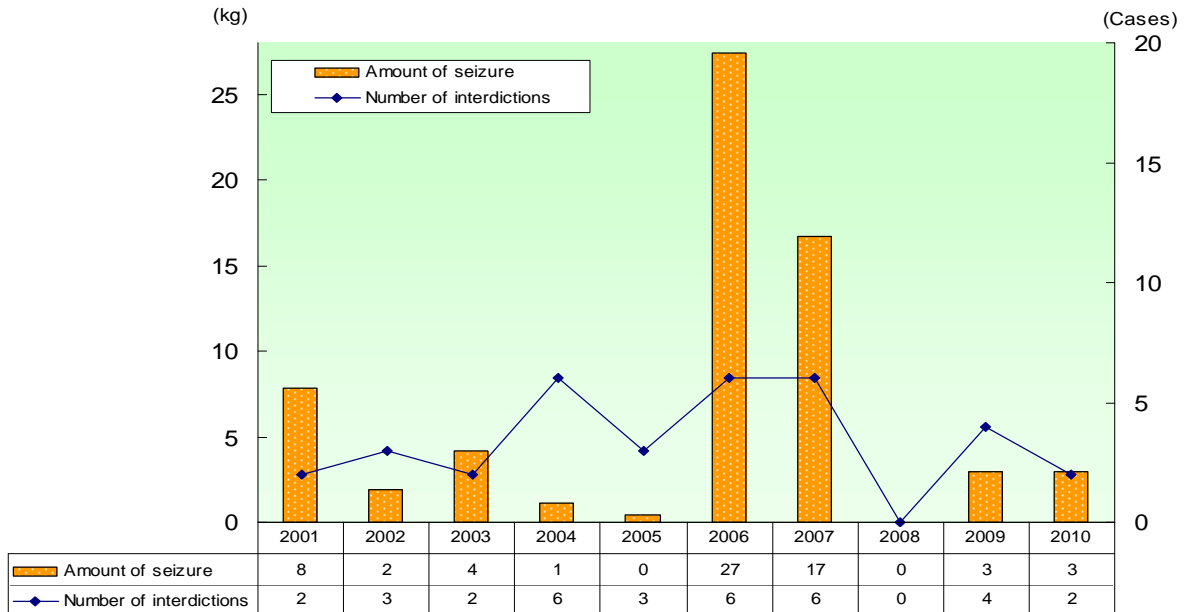
2) As for heroin, the major production locations are said to be the "Golden Triangle" connecting Thailand, Laos and Myanmar, and the "Golden Crescent" connecting Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. In 2010, 4 cases (same as the previous year) of smuggling of heroin were interdicted with the amount of seizure of about 1 kg (up 20% from the previous year). [See Chart 5.]

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



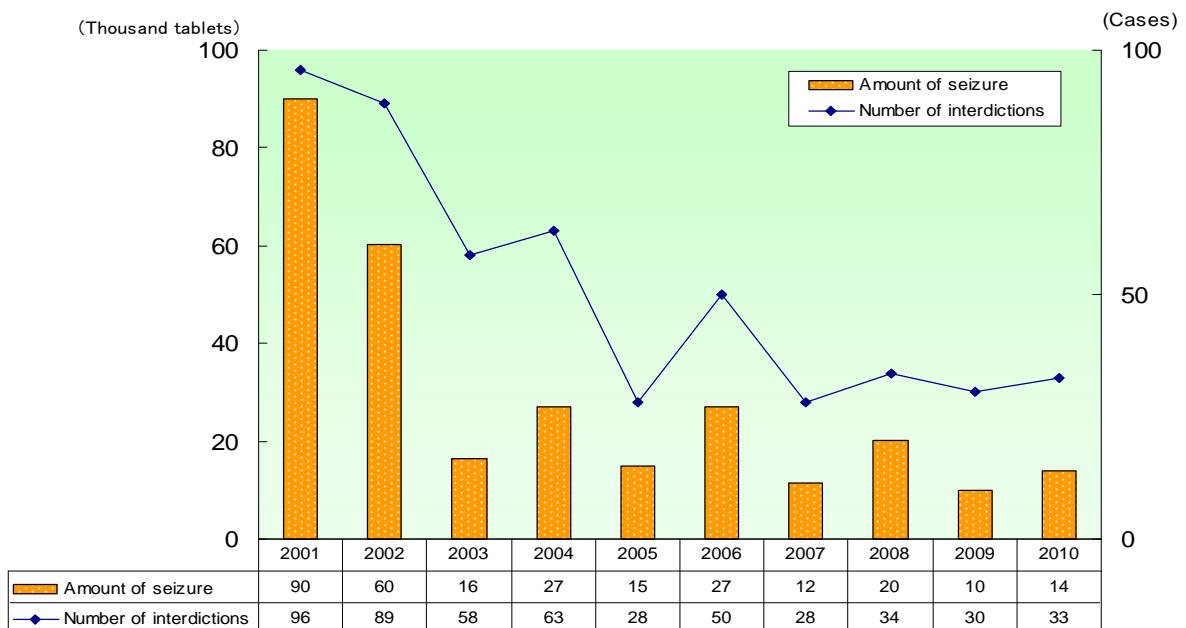
- 3) As for opium, like heroin, the major production locations are said to be the "Golden triangle" and the "Golden Crescent." In 2010, 2 opium smuggling cases (down 50% from the previous year) were interdicted and about 3 kg of opium (up 7% from the previous year) was seized. [See Chart 6.]

[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 2010, 33 cases (up 10% from the previous year) of smuggling were interdicted with the amount of seizure of about 14,000 tablets (up 39% 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 2010, the amount of seizure for handguns decreased to 397 (down 3% from the previous year). The amount of seizure from members of organized crime groups also decreased to 98 (down 34% from the previous year). (the National Police Agency's data).

In 2010, no firearm smuggling case was interdicted. [See Chart 8.]

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

