

# I. INTERDICTIONS OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND FIREARMS SMUGGLING IN 2011

## 1. Number of Interdictions

### (1) Summary

#### **[Interdictions of major illicit drugs and firearms smuggling]**

The number of interdictions for cases of smuggling of illicit drugs increased by 10% to 326 in 2011 as compared with those in 2010. The seizure amount of powdered drugs such as stimulants and cannabis was about 509 kg, up 40% from the previous year. The seizure amount of tablet drugs such as MDMA and psychotropics was 20 thousand tablets, down 40% from the previous year. There were no interdictions of firearms smuggling.

#### **[Interdictions of stimulant smuggling]**

The number of interdictions for cases of smuggling stimulants reached a record high of 185, and the seizure amount was about 402 kg.

⇒ The number of interdictions of the smuggling of stimulants by air passengers was the largest ever.

- The number of interdictions reached a record high of 141 and the seizure amount was the second highest ever at 232 kg.

⇒ The number of interdictions of smuggling of stimulants involving commercial cargo reached a record high.

- The number of interdictions reached a record high of 22, and the seizure amount was about 128 kg.

⇒ The methods used in smuggling have become increasingly devious, crafty, and diverse.

- There have been increasing cases of bodypack smuggling, which poses a hazard to the smuggler.

- The smugglers are of different nationalities from around the world, and there has been a significant increase in the numbers of those with European nationalities.

- There has been an increase in the number of cases involving young smugglers.

- The smuggling of stimulants involving sophisticated concealment in vehicle fuel tanks, metal parts, etc. has become widespread.

⇒ Stimulants have been smuggled from an increasingly wide range of countries.

- There have been a number of interdictions of smuggling from Africa and Europe.

#### **[Interdictions of cannabis smuggling]**

⇒ 71 cases of cannabis smuggling were interdicted and the seizure amount was about 57 kg.

- After the recent downward trend in interdictions, the number of interdictions of cannabis smuggling cases increased.

#### **[Interdictions of narcotic smuggling]**

⇒ 37 cases of narcotic smuggling were interdicted and the seizure amount was about 44 kg and 5,000 tablets.

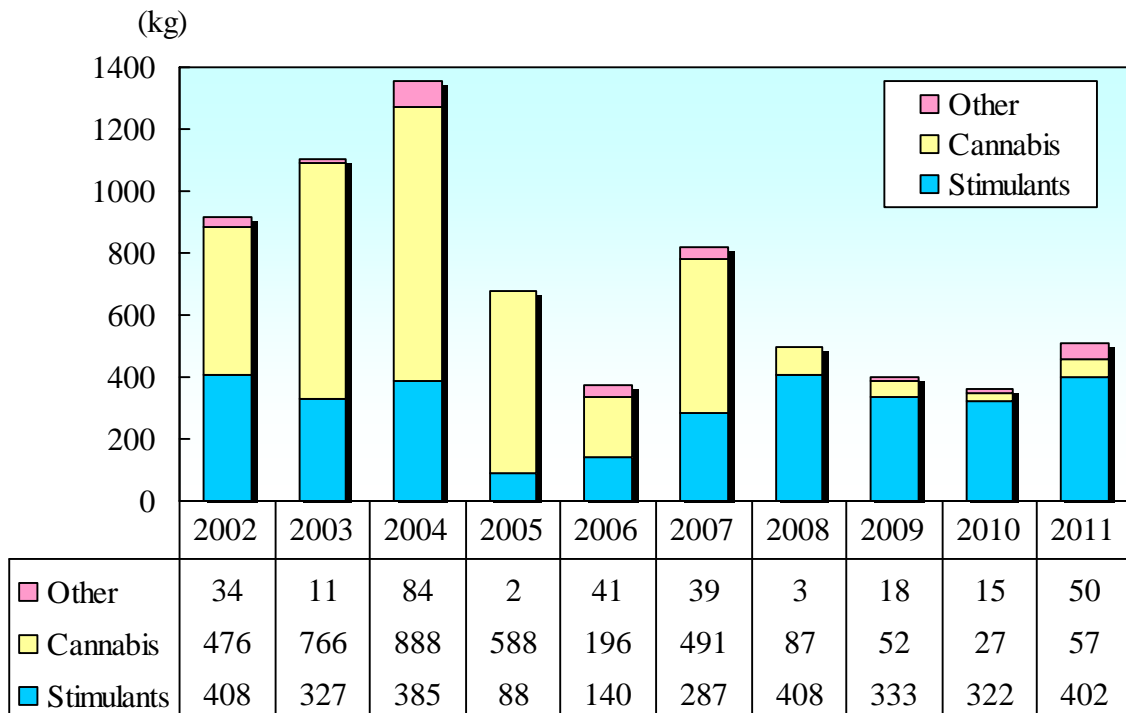
- The seizure amount of cocaine increased.

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

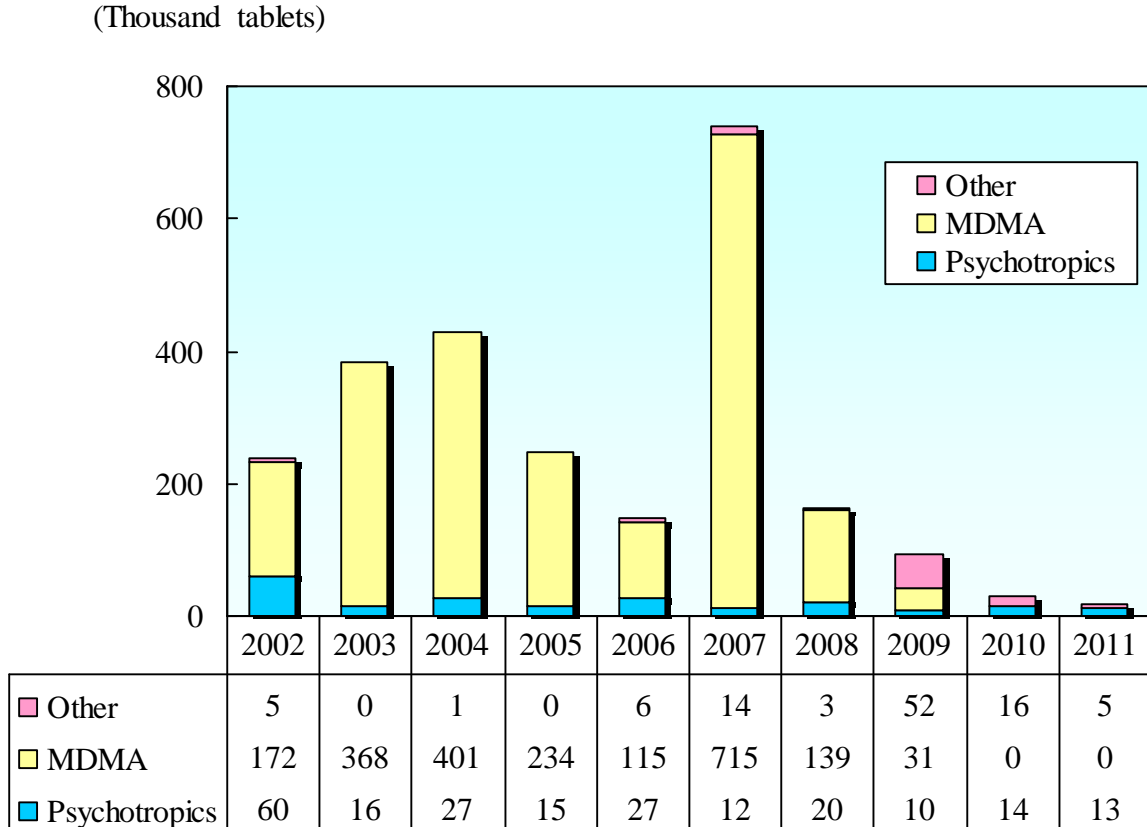
Type		Year					Year-on-year
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Stimulants	Cases	72	110	164	152	185	122%
	kg	287	408	333	322	402	125%
Cannabis	Cases	168	123	111	59	71	120%
	kg	491	87	52	27	57	213%
Herbal cannabis	Cases	126	96	87	45	57	127%
	kg	450	63	40	2	6	361%
Cannabis resin	Cases	42	27	24	14	14	100%
	kg	41	24	12	25	51	203%
Opium	Cases	6	-	4	2	2	100%
	kg	17	-	3	3	4	125%
Narcotic	Cases	121	46	93	50	37	74%
	kg	22	3	15	11	44	387%
	Thousand tablets	1,329	142	83	16	5	31%
Heroin	Cases	4	4	4	4	6	150%
	kg	1	1	1	1	3	216%
Cocaine	Cases	17	7	10	11	9	82%
	kg	16	2	13	6	38	661%
MDMA,etc.	Cases	64	15	4	2	4	200%
	kg	-	-	0	-	2	Total increase
	Thousand tablets	1,315	139	31	0	0	7%
Ketamine	Cases	10	5	4	10	1	10%
	kg	5	0	0	4	0	2%
Methylone	Cases	10	-	29	3	3	100%
	kg	1	-	0	0	1	251%
	Thousand tablets	-	-	1	-	-	-
other	Cases	16	15	42	20	14	70%
	kg	0	0	0	0	0	3%
	Thousand tablets	14	3	51	16	5	32%
Psychotropics	Cases	28	34	30	33	31	94%
	kg	-	-	-	1	2	302%
	Thousand tablets	12	20	10	14	13	92%
Total	Cases	395	313	402	296	326	110%
	kg	816	498	403	364	509	140%
	Thousand tablets	1,340	162	93	30	18	60%
Reference(number of use)	10,000 times	1,289	1,388	1,191	1,133	1,550	137%
Firearms	Cases	6	1	2	-	-	-
	Guns	10	1	2	-	-	-
Pistols	Cases	6	1	2	-	-	-
	Guns	10	1	2	-	-	-
Firearmsparts	Cases	3	3	1	-	1	Total increase
	Items	4	3	2	-	1	Total increase

- 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**



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



## 2. Trends in Illicit Drug Smuggling

### (1) Stimulants

- ⊙ The number of interdictions of smuggling by air passengers reached a record high.
- ⊙ Concealing stimulants in false-bottomed suitcases is the most common way of concealing stimulants, and there has been a sharp increase in the number of cases where stimulants are concealed inside the body.
- ⊙ With regard to source countries and regions, seizures from Europe have showed a sharp increase. As in the previous year, the number of seizures from African countries and Latin America remained at a high level.

The number of people arrested on stimulant-related charges in 2011 was 11,852, a slight decrease compared to the previous year (down by 141 or 1.2%). There was a long-term downward trend that started in 1997, the year which constituted the third peak period of stimulant abuse after World War II, in recent years the number of people arrested on stimulant-related charges has been flat.

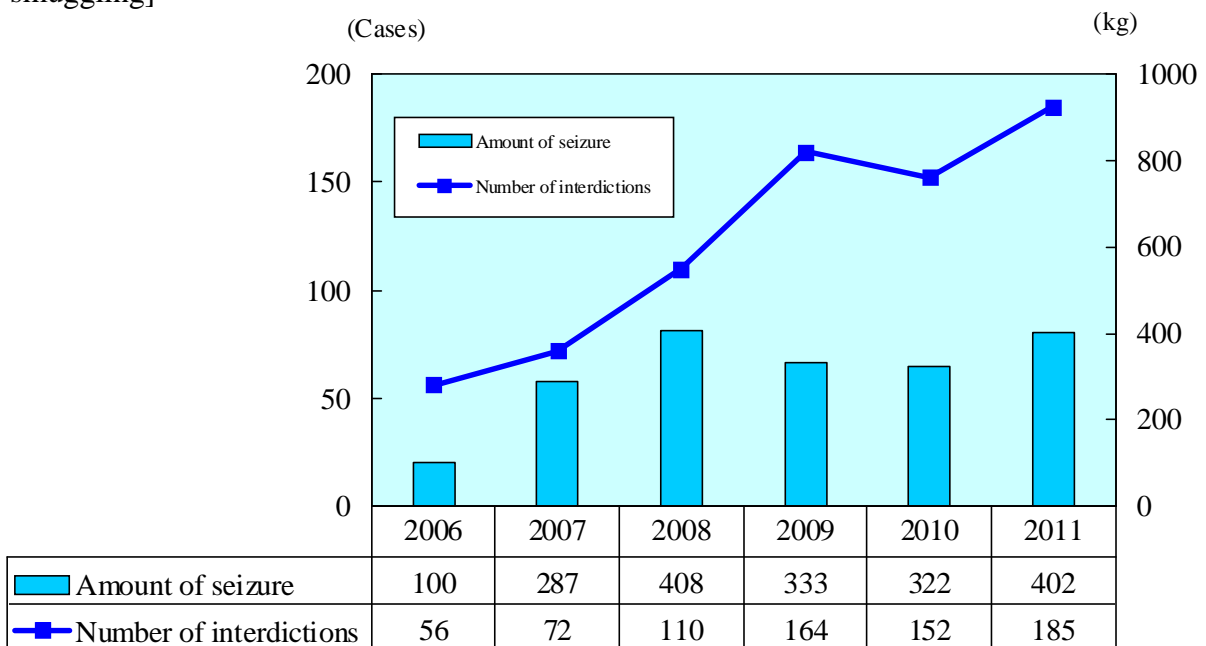
Of people arrested on stimulant-related charges in 2011, 6,553 were members of organized crime groups (up by 231 or 3.7%) and 386 were foreign residents in Japan (increase by 3 or 0.8%) (according to the National Police Agency data).

The number of smuggling cases interdicted at customs in 2011 was 185 (up 22% from the previous year), higher than the largest-ever number of 164 in 2009. The seizure amount of stimulants was still at a high level of about 402 kg (up 25% from the previous year). [See Chart 1.]

As for seizure amounts by source country, the number of seizures from Europe showed a sharp increase, and the number of seizures from African countries and Latin America, which has been increasing since the previous year, remained at a high level, showing that a broader range of countries and regions have been involved in smuggling. The most frequently interdicted cases remained those of smuggling by air passengers, most of which attempted to smuggle stimulants by concealing them in false-bottomed suitcases. In addition, there was a significant increase in bodypack smuggling.

Note: The National Police Agency data is from its report “Drugs and Firearms in 2011.” 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))

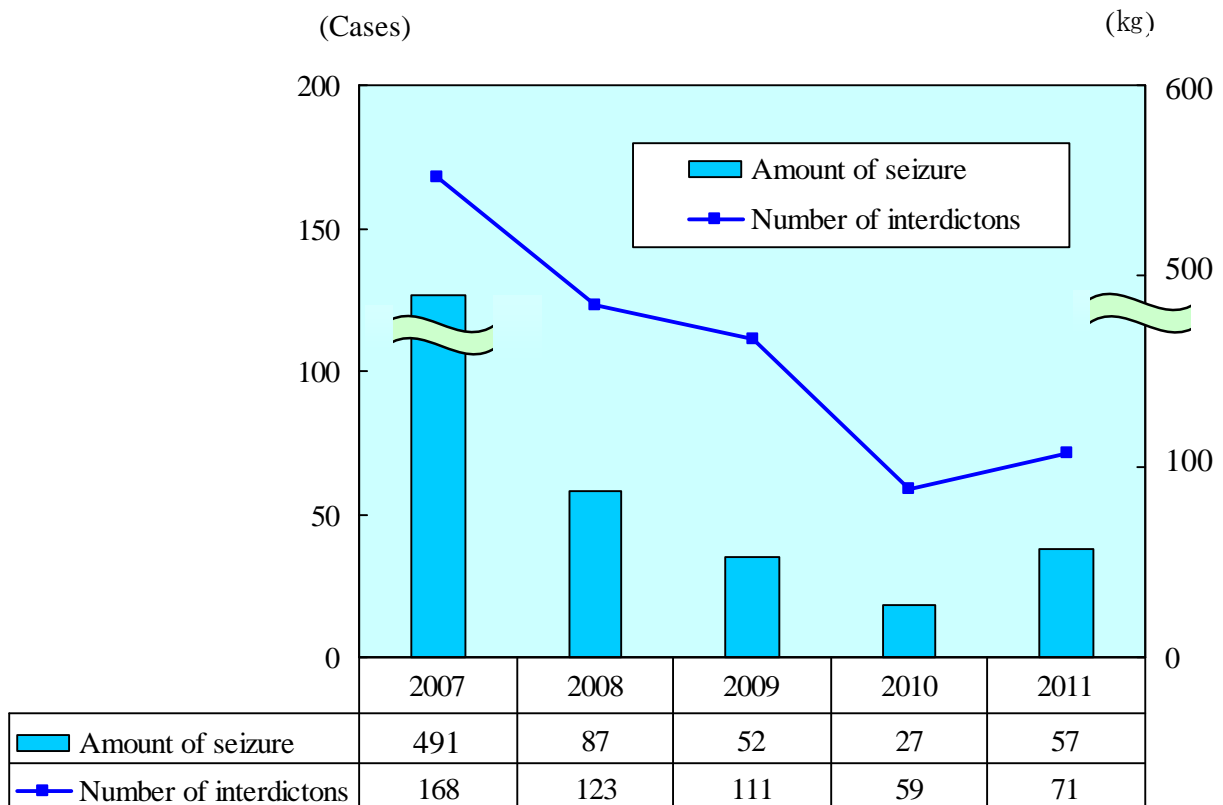
- ⊙ After the recent downward trend, the number of interdictions of cannabis smuggling and the seizure amount have increased significantly.
- ⊙ Smuggling through international mail services constituted the largest proportion of interdiction cases, while smuggling cases involving commercial cargo constituted the largest proportion of the seizure amount.
- ⊙ A large proportion of interdicted herbal cannabis came from the United States, while a large proportion of interdicted cannabis resin came from India.

Although there had been a long-term rising trend in the number of people arrested on cannabis-related charges, recent years have seen a downward trend since the peak in 2009. In 2011, the number of people arrested on cannabis-related charge was 1,648 (down by 568 or 25.6% from the previous year). Of people arrested on a cannabis-related charge, 614 were members of organized crime groups (down by 77 or 11.1%) and 63 were foreign residents in Japan (down by 30) (according to the National Police Agency data).

The number of smuggling cases interdicted at customs and the amount of seizure in 2011 significantly increased to 71 (up 20% from the previous year) and about 57 kg (2.1 times the amount in the previous year), respectively, after recent downward trends. [See Chart 2.]

A large proportion of interdicted herbal cannabis came from the United States, while a large proportion of interdicted cannabis resin came from India. As for the smuggling methods, international mail services constituted the largest proportion of interdictions, while cases involving commercial cargo constituted the largest proportion of the seizure amount.

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



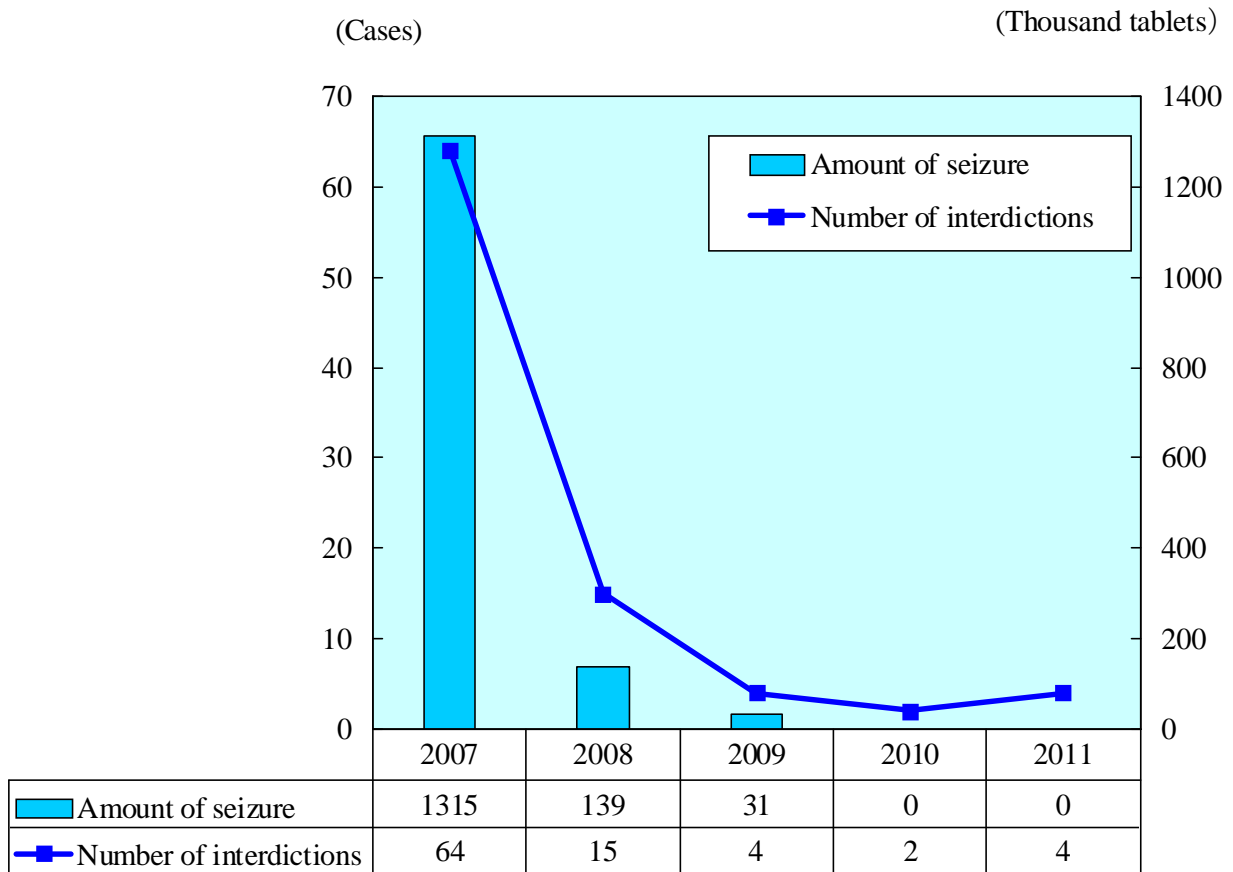
(3) Tablet-type Synthetic Drugs such as MDMA (including MDA and MDE)

- ⊙ While the number of interdictions increased, the seizure amount of drugs decreased.
- ⊙ Three cases of smuggling from Europe were interdicted.
- ⊙ Drugs were concealed in false-bottomed suitcases or wrapped around the passenger's body.

MDMA (commonly known as "Ecstasy") is a synthetic drug that has pharmacological effects similar to stimulants. There were 4 interdictions of synthetic tablet drug smuggling (up 100% from the previous year) in 2011. The seizure amount dropped to 9 tablets (down 93% from the previous year). [See Chart 3.]

Regarding source countries, 3 cases were from the European region and 1 from China (including Hong Kong and Macao). Those smugglers had concealed drugs in false-bottomed suitcases or had wrapped them around their body.

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

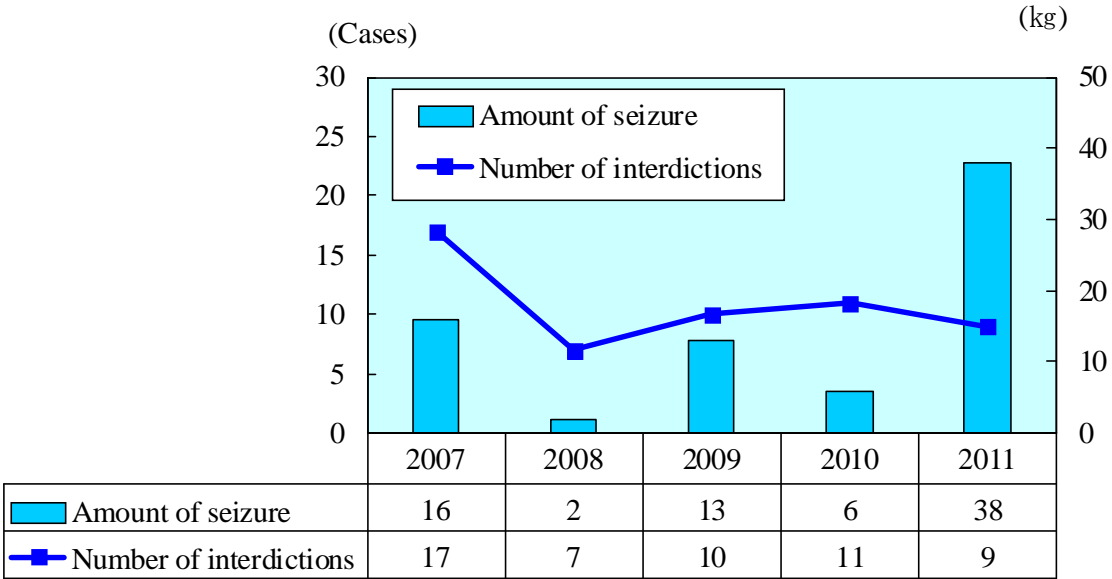


(Note 1) "0" means less than 500 tablets.

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

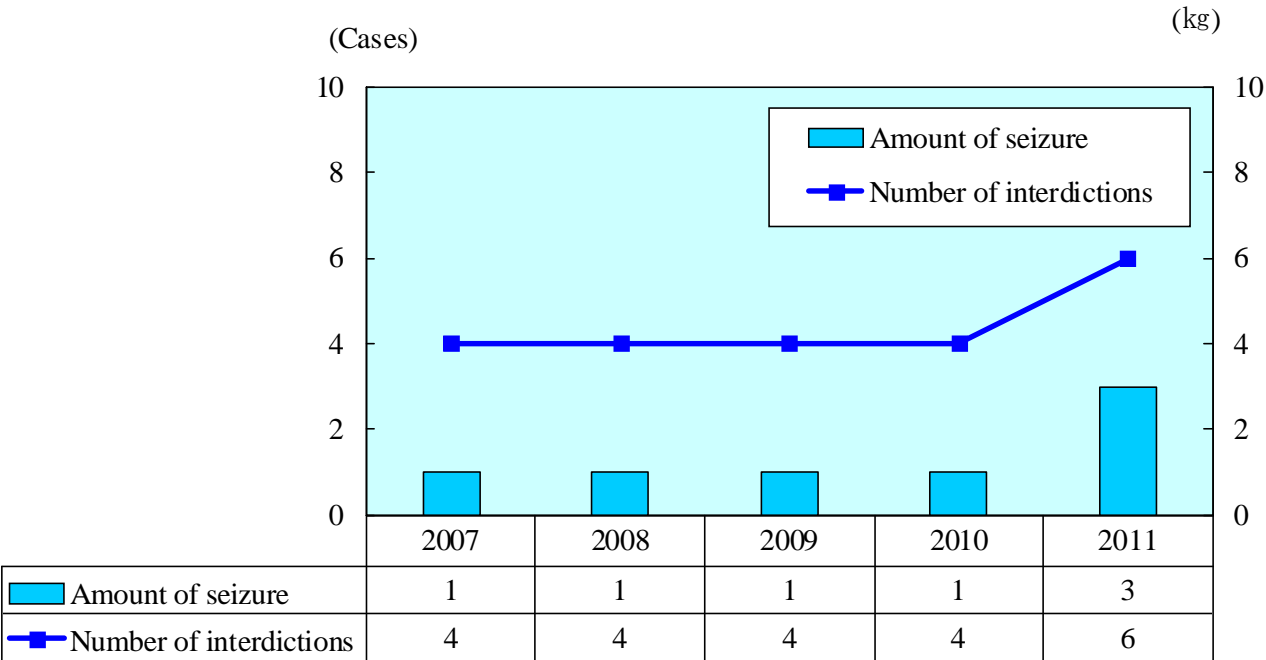
1) Most of the coca leaves that are the raw material of cocaine are grown illegally in Columbia, Peru and Bolivia. In 2011, the number of interdictions for smuggling was 9 (down 18% from the previous year), and the amount of seizure was about 38 kg (6.6 times the amount in the previous year). [See Chart 4.]

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



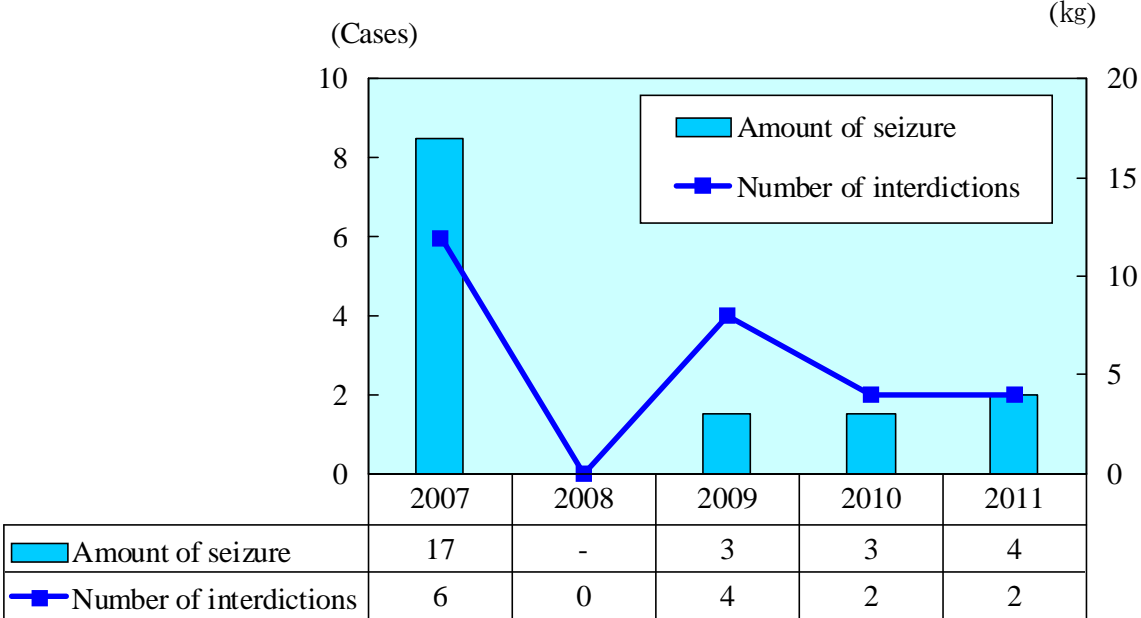
2) As for heroin, the major production locations are said to be the "Golden Triangle" connecting Thailand, Laos and Myanmar, and the "Golden Crescent" connecting Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. In 2011, 6 cases (up 50% from the previous year) of smuggling of heroin were interdicted with the amount of seizure of about 3 kg (2.1 times the amount in the previous year). [See Chart 5.]

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



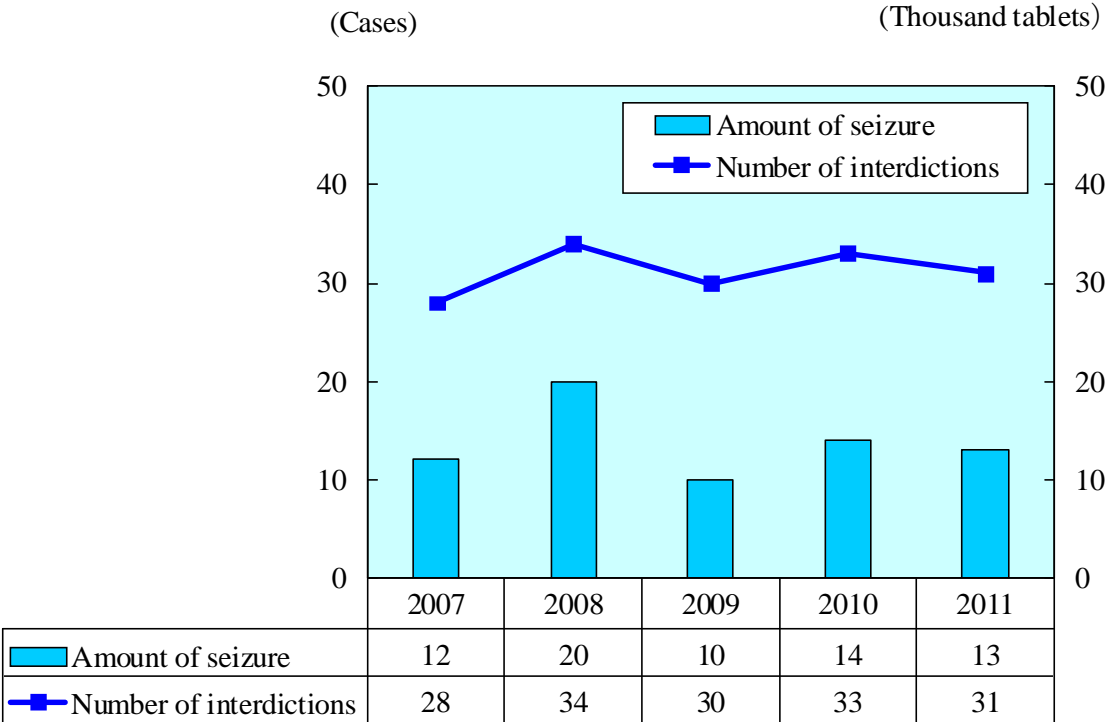
3)As for opium, like heroin, the major production locations are said to be the "Golden triangle" and the "Golden Crescent." In 2011, 2 opium smuggling cases (same as the previous year) were interdicted and about 4 kg of opium (up 25% from the previous year) was seized. [See Chart 6.]

[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 2011, 31 cases (down 6% from the previous year) of smuggling were interdicted with the amount of seizure of about 13,000 tablets (down 8% 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

The number of handguns seized, including those from organized crime groups, which had been on a long-term downward trend until recently, increased in 2011 to 426 (up by 29 or 7.3% from the previous year), of which 375 (up by 19 or 5.3%) were actual handguns (of which 20 were handguns illegally manufactured) and 51 were converted handguns (up by 10 or 24.4%). The number of handguns seized from members of organized crime groups also increased to 123 (up 26% from the previous year) (according to the National Police Agency data).

In 2011, no firearm smuggling case was interdicted. [See Chart 8.]

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

