

I . INTERDICTIONS OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND FIREARMS SMUGGLING IN 2014

1.Number of Interdictions

(1) Summary

【Status of Seizures of Major Illicit Drugs and Firearms, etc. in 2014】

The total number of seizures of illicit drugs*¹ was 390 (up 2% year on year), and the seized quantity*² was approximately 630 kg*³(down 37% year on year). With total seizures of over 600kg for 3 years in a row, the situation is still serious. Three firearms smuggling crimes were discovered (down 25% YOY), and the seized quantity was four firearms (down 33% YOY).

*¹ Stimulants, cannabis, opium, narcotics (cocaine, heroin, MDMA, etc.) and psychotropic substances.

*² This excludes drugs in tablet form.

*³ This is equivalent to approximately 18.85 million doses in the quantities commonly used by drug abusers.

[Stimulants crimes]

The number of seizures was 174 (up 13% YOY) (the second largest number on record), and the seized quantity was approximately 549 kg (down 36% YOY) (the fifth largest number on record). Both of these are high levels.

⇒Illicit smuggling by airline passengers attained the second largest number on record in both number and quantity of seizures

Smuggling by Thai were 30 cases (15 times YOY) , which is a remarkable increase.

⇒There was an increase in illicit smuggling originating from China and Thailand.

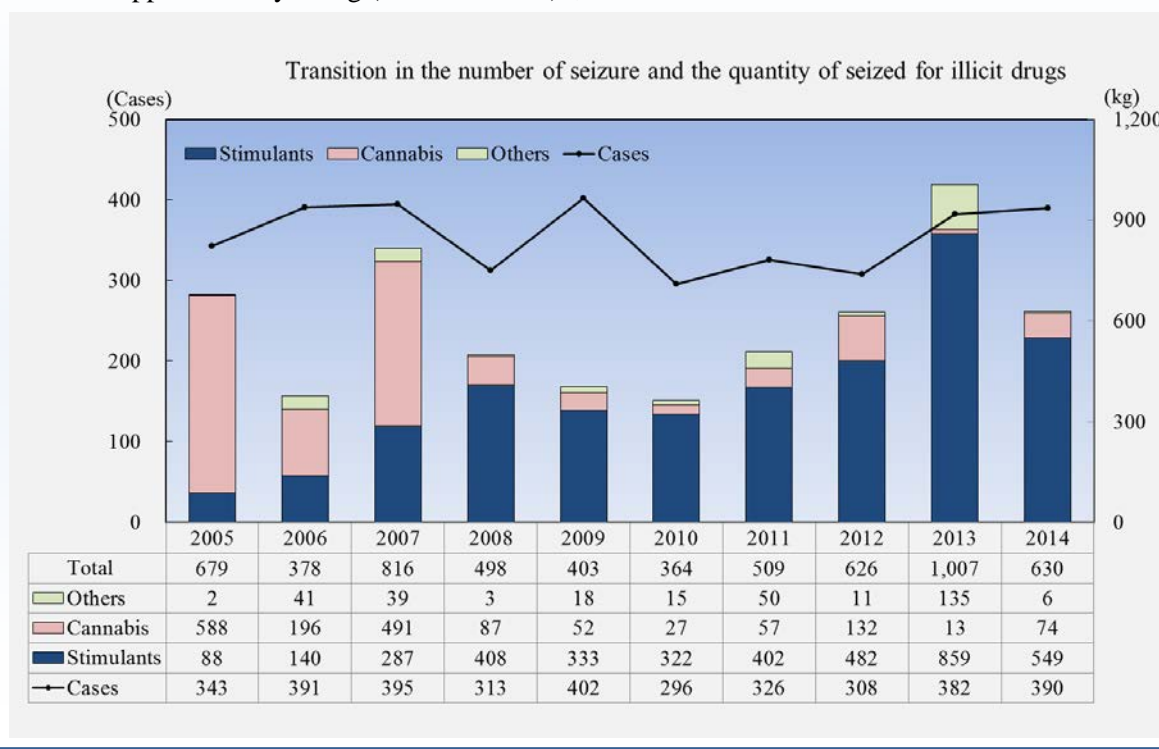
China ; the number of seizures : 79 cases (nearly double YOY),
the seized quantity : 200kg (nearly triple YOY)

Thailand ; the number of seizures : 26 cases (nearly 13 times YOY),
the seized quantity : 28kg (nearly 29 times YOY)

[Cannabis crimes]

The number of seizures was 99 (up 50% YOY), and the seized quantity was approximately 74kg (up 6 times YOY). both of these has turned from a decrease in the previous year to an increase.

⇒As for cannabis resin, the number of seizures was 47 (3 times YOY), and the seized quantity was approximately 40 kg (55 times YOY). , which is a remarkable increase.



(2) Interdiction of Major Illicit Drugs and Firearms

Type		Year					Compared to 2013
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Stimulants	Cases	152	185	141	154	174	113%
	kg	322	402	482	859	549	64%
Cannabis	Cases	59	71	82	66	99	150%
	kg	27	57	132	13	74	574%
Herbal cannabis	Cases	45	57	58	52	52	100%
	kg	2	6	104	12	35	284%
Cannabis resin	Cases	14	14	24	14	47	336%
	kg	25	51	29	1	40	54.5 times
Opium	Cases	2	2	-	1	-	Total reduction
	kg	3	4	-	0	-	Total reduction
Narcotics	Cases	50	37	46	128	91	71%
	kg	11	44	11	135	6	5%
	Thousand tablets	16	5	4	17	2	13%
Heroin	Cases	4	6	3	3	2	67%
	kg	1	3	1	4	0	0%
Cocaine	Cases	11	9	7	10	10	100%
	kg	6	38	9	127	2	2%
MDMA,etc	Cases	2	4	5	6	5	83%
	kg	-	2	0	3	0	0%
	Thousand tablets	0	0	0	0	0	550%
Ketamin	Cases	10	1	8	5	7	140%
	kg	4	0	0	0	1	494%
Methylone	Cases	3	3	2	2	3	150%
	kg	0	1	-	0	0	200%
	Thousand tablets	-	-	0	-	-	-
Others	Cases	20	14	21	102	64	63%
	kg	0	0	0	1	3	590%
	Thousand tablets	16	5	4	17	2	13%
Psychotropics	Cases	33	31	39	33	26	79%
	kg	1	2	-	0	-	Total reduction
	Thousand tablets	14	13	12	10	9	88%
Total	Cases	296	326	308	382	390	102%
	kg	364	509	626	1,007	630	63%
	Thousand tablets	30	18	16	27	11	41%
Reference(number of use)	10,000 times	1,133	1,550	1,701	3,331	1,885	57%
Firearms	Cases	-	-	3	4	3	75%
	Guns	-	-	4	6	4	67%
pistols	Cases	-	-	3	4	3	75%
	Guns	-	-	4	6	4	67%
Firearmsparts	Cases	-	1	3	-	2	Total increase
	Items	-	1	3	-	2	Total increase

- (note) 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.

2. Trends in Illicit Drug Smuggling

(1) Stimulants

- The number of seizures was the second largest on record.
- There were frequent instances of illicit smuggling by Thai women in their 20s and 30s.
- Illicit smuggling from China has doubled / Approx. 70% of all seizures are from Mexico and China.

There were 174 seizures relating to the smuggling of stimulants by customs in 2014 (up 13% year on year) and the second largest number on record. The seized quantity was approximately 549kg (down 36% year on year) and the fifth highest number on record. Both of these are high levels (see Figure 1).

By transportation of smuggling, there were 126 cases (up 21% year on year) of seizures by airline passengers, which was approximately 70% of all seizures and the seized quantity was approximately 246kg (down 19% year on year), approximately half of all seizures. Both of these are the second largest figures on record. The seized quantity also exceeded 200kg for the 5th successive year since 2010, which suggests that smuggling by airline passengers is becoming mainstream (see Figure 2).

The figures on airline passenger smugglers by country showed that there has been a remarkable increase in the number of Thai smugglers (30 cases, 15 times YOY). This was the largest number exceeding that of Japanese smugglers.(so far which has been the highest.) 25 of the 30 apprehended Thai were women in their 20s and 30s (see Figure 3).

In addition, the most frequent method of concealment was suitcases with fake compartments, accounted for 48% of all and the second most frequent method was modified souvenirs, etc. carried by passengers. These two methods accounted for 75% of all (see Figure 4).

There were 20 cases of smuggling by concealment into body (for swallowing or insertion into body cavities), a huge increase in reversal in comparison with last year (4 cases discovered). Twelve of these cases involved Thai women (see Figure 5).

By point of origin for seizures of smuggled stimulants, the number of smuggling stimulants from China was 79 cases.(double YOY, approximately half of all.) Of these, that from Hong Kong in particular was 42 cases (approximately 4 times YOY, a large increase). Furthermore, there were no cases originating from India (the previous year is 19 cases) but on the other hand, there has been a remarkable increase in cases originating from Thailand with 26 cases (13 times YOY) (see Figure 6).

Furthermore, by the seized quantity seized by origin of smuggling, approximately 207kg (down 60% YOY) that from Mexico was the largest seizure same as the previous year. The second largest seizure was that from China, approximately 200kg (approximately 3 times YOY) and Mexico and China accounted for approximately 70% of all (see Figure 7).

Figure1: Transition of the number of seizures and the seized quantity of stimulants

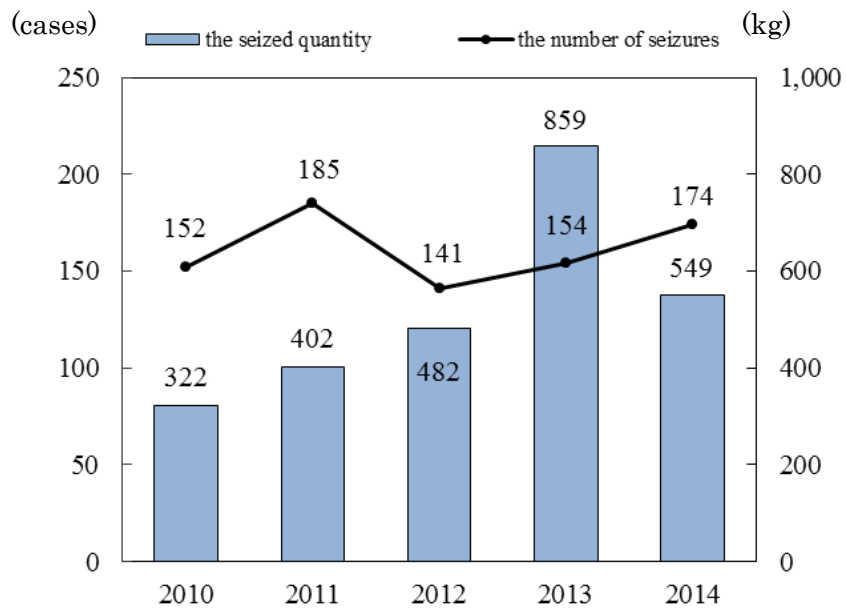


Figure2: Transition of the number of seizures and the seized quantity of stimulants (airline passenger)

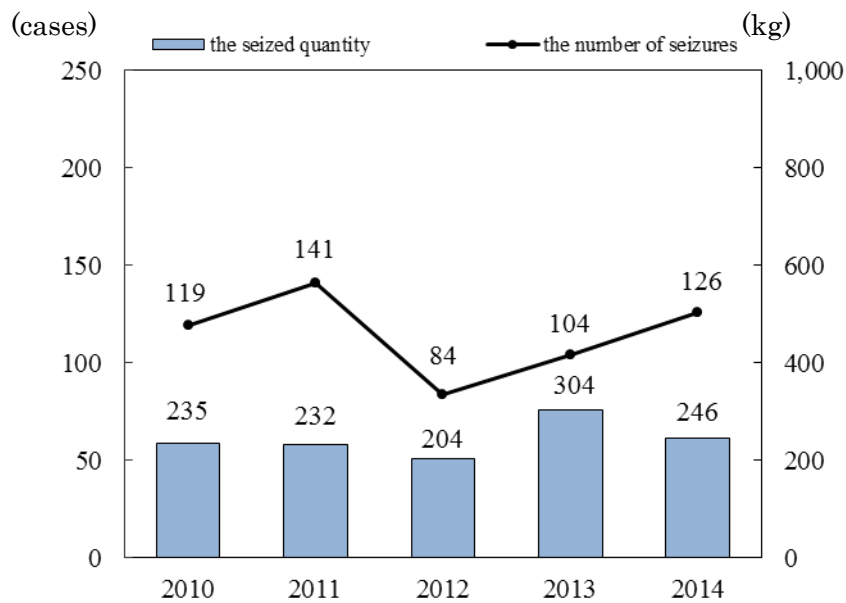


Figure 3: Transition of the number of Seizures by Gender / Country (Top Five Countries)

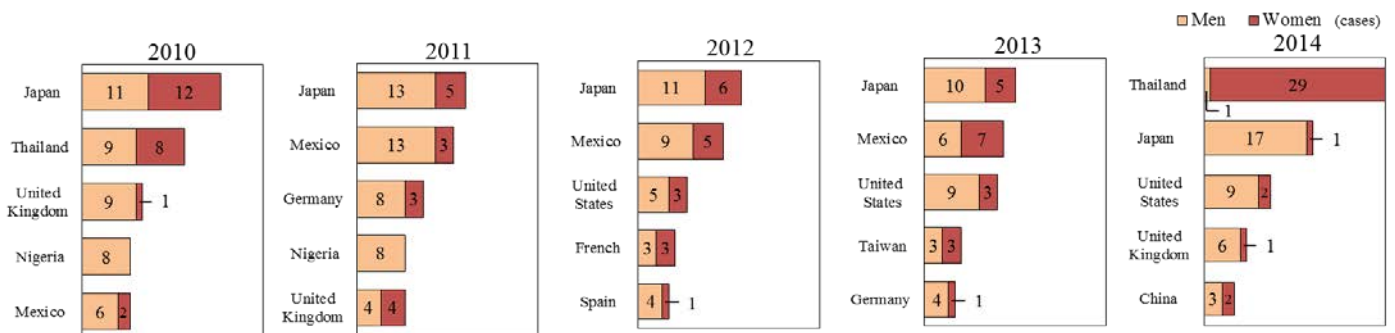


Figure 4: Transition of Component Ratio by Method of Concealment

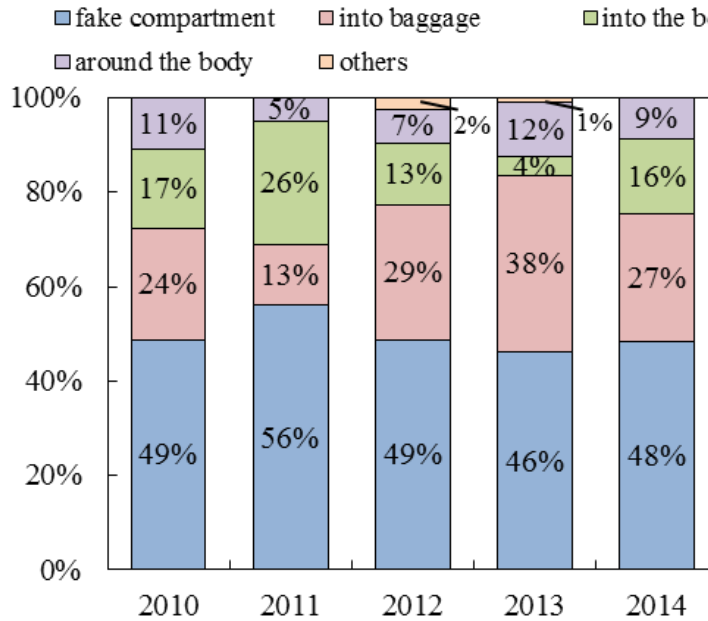


Figure 5: Component Ratio by Nationality of Smugglers concealing Substances in their Bodies (2014)

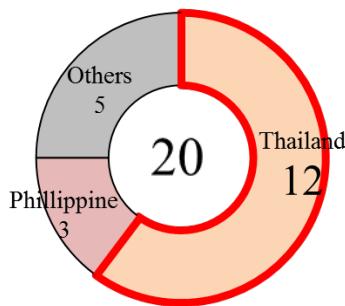


Figure 6: Transition of the number of Seizures by Origin (Top Five Countries)

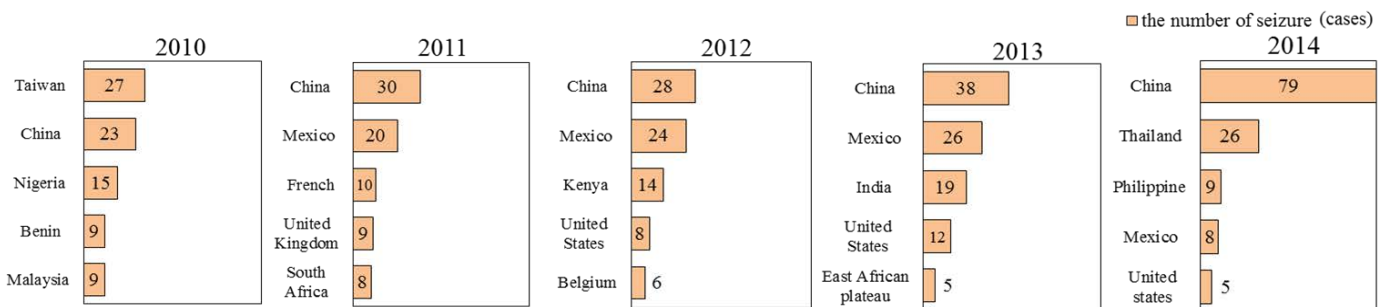
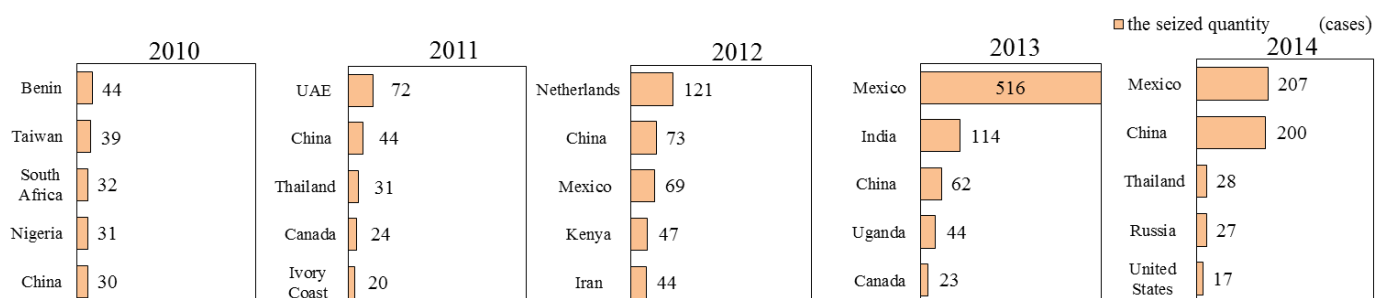


Figure 7: Transition of Seizure Quantity by Origin (Top Five Countries)



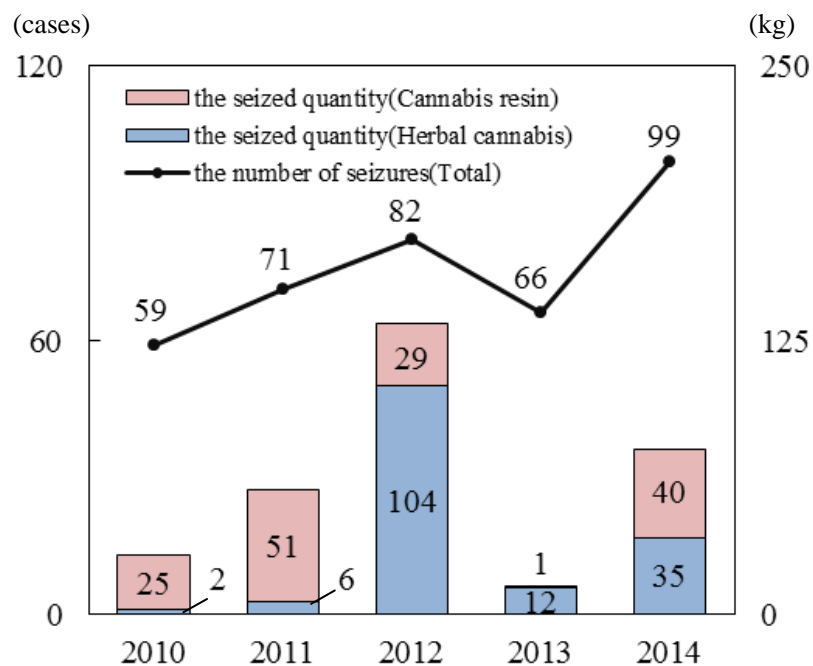
(2) Cannabis (herbal cannabis and cannabis resin)

The number of seizure and the seized quantity increase in reversal compared to last year.

There were 99 cases of seizures of smuggled herbal cannabis by customs in 2014 (up 50% YOY) and the seized quantity was approximately 74kg (6 times YOY). Both of these increased in reversal in comparison with last year. Of these, in particular, there were 47 seizures (approximately 3 times YOY) of cannabis resin. The seized quantity was approximately 40kg (55 times YOY), increased significantly (see Figure 8).

In addition, liquid cannabis was seized repetitively, cannabis products were diversified.

Figure 8: Transition of the number of seizures of cannabis and seized quantity



(3) Other illicit drugs (Narcotics, Psychotropics)

and the seized quantity was approximately 6 kg (down 95%, YOY)

By type of seized narcotics, the drugs commonly known as 4-MMC and XLR-11 which are said to be conventional raw materials for designer drugs were most prominent.

[2] The number of psychotropics smuggling crimes detected by customs in 2014 was 26 (down 21%, YOY), and the seized quantity was approximately 9,000 tablets (down 12%, YOY)

3. Trends in Firearms Smuggling

The number of firearm smuggling crimes detected by customs in 2014 was 3 (down 25%, YOY), and the seized quantity was 4 (down 33%, YOY). Seized firearms were all guns. The number of seizures of firearms parts was 2 and the seized quantity was 2 parts. Both of these increased.