

In addition, the Act prohibits designated Boryokudan group members from rewarding other members in praise of violence in conflicts between designated Boryokudan groups, etc., and prevents them from disturbing citizens' exercise of rights for seeking compensation of damages resulting from Boryokudan group members' illegal acts. In 2020, 7 rewarding prohibition orders were issued. Members of designated Boryokudan groups who disobey these orders are subject to punishment under the Act. 5 cases of disobedience were cleared in 2020.

(3) Elimination of Boryokudan from Society



The police have been promoting efforts by the community to eliminate Boryokudan. Specifically, in order to cut off Boryokudans' funding sources, the police, in coordination with the relevant agencies, are promoting Boryokudan elimination activities in wide-ranging industries such as moneylending businesses and construction businesses.

The police are also supporting removal campaigns of Boryokudan offices carried out by local residents, for example by closely cooperating with the competent Prefectural Centers for Removal of Boryokudan which are able to file lawsuits on behalf of local residents demanding removal of Boryokudan offices from the community. The police also provide support for people's actions to recover damages caused in relation to Boryokudans' crimes.

3. Drug Control

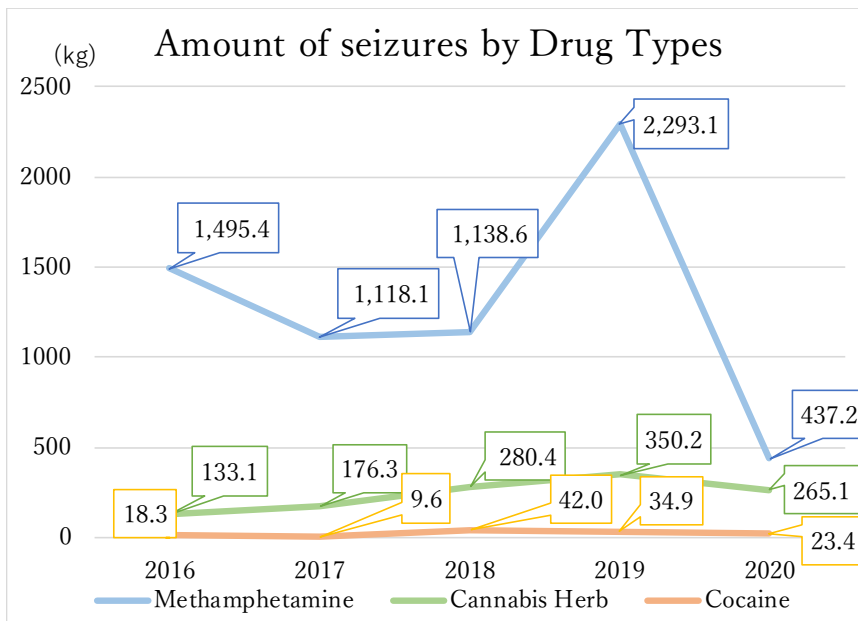
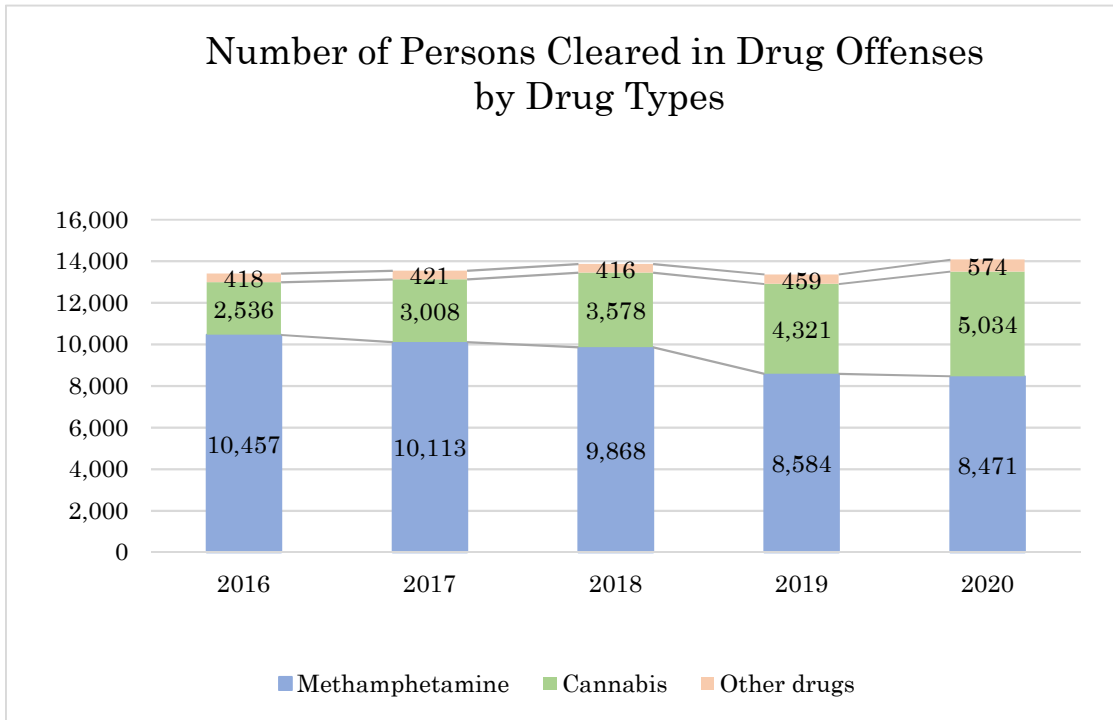
A. Drug Offenses

In 2020, the drug situation in Japan was still severe: the number of persons cleared for drug offenses was 14,079, which remained at a high level. 60.2% of the persons cleared were related to methamphetamine. Cannabis offenses accounted 35.8%.

Illegal drugs are very harmful physically and mentally, and they can be a cause of serious crimes and dangerous traffic accidents. Moreover, they are a main source of income for criminal organizations including Boryokudan.

Of the above persons cleared for drug offenses, the number of Boryokudan group members cleared were 4,387, a decrease of 189 (4.1%) from the previous year. Although the number of Boryokudan group members cleared with regard to methamphetamine was 3,577, a decrease of 161 (4.3%) from the previous year, this accounted for 42.2% of methamphetamine offenses. Therefore, it seems that Boryokudan are still recognized as being deeply involved in methamphetamines. The number of Boryokudan group members cleared for cannabis offenses were 751, which accounted for 14.9% of persons cleared in cannabis offenses. While it decreased 29 (3.7%) from the previous year, since the number of persons cleared for offenses of cannabis cultivation was 46, an increase of 4 (9.5%) from the previous year, it is recognized that Boryokudan are increasing their involvement also in cannabis offenses.

Furthermore, the number of foreign visitors cleared in drug offenses were 525, a decrease of 224 (29.9%) from the previous year. 50 of those who were cleared were involved with methamphetamine smuggling offenses for profit-making purposes. Looking at the figures by nationality/area shows the percentage of foreign visitors from Vietnam and Hong Kong were high, accounting for 48.0%. The number of foreign visitors cleared for trafficking offenses of methamphetamine were 18, a decrease of 15 (45.5%) from the previous year. Looking at the figures by nationality/area shows the percentage of foreign visitors from Vietnam and Brazil were high, accounting for 55.6%.



(1) Methamphetamine Offenses

As previously mentioned, the most widely abused types of drugs in Japan are methamphetamine.

. Methamphetamine abused in Japan is mostly smuggled by transnational drug trafficking organizations. In recent years, methamphetamine has been smuggled not only from neighboring Asian countries but also from all over the world such as from North American countries.

The Boryokudan are recognized as deeply involved in trafficking of the methamphetamine smuggled into Japan.



Smuggled Methamphetamine in ceramic dolls

(2) Cannabis Offenses

The number of persons cleared in cannabis offenses in 2020 reached the highest level ever.

In comparison with other drugs offenders, there are high percentages of first-time offenders and young people in their twenties or younger among cannabis offenders.

B. Anti-Drug Measures

To fight against drugs, the relevant government ministries and agencies are cooperating to implement effective anti-drug measures.

The NPA is promoting comprehensive activities aiming at both elimination of drug supply and reduction of demand.

(1) Elimination of Drug Supply

In order to shut off the drug supply, the police have been strengthening cooperation with domestic and foreign authorities.

Aiming to eradicate drug trafficking syndicates, the police are promoting identification of the syndicates and arresting the top leaders of these organizations. Forfeiture of criminal proceeds is also of great importance in countering drug offenses.

(2) Reduction of Drug Demand

The police have intensified their efforts to crack down on street-level drug abusers and also to raise public awareness on the danger of drugs.

(3) Promotion of International Cooperation

The NPA exchanges information and conducts international joint operations with foreign authorities. It has also provided opportunities to other countries for knowledge- and experience-sharing through international conferences such as the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC). (ADEC 26 in 2021 was canceled due to the outbreak of COVID-19.)

4. Firearms Control

A. Firearms-related Crime

(1) Number of Incidents

In 2020, there were 17 firearm shooting cases, out of which 14 cases seem to be caused by Boryokudan members in downtown areas, residential areas, etc.

Firearm Shooting Cases (2016-2020)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of Cases	27	22	8	13	17
Boryokudan Members' Cases	17	13	4	10	14
Conflict Cases	6	1	1	3	5
Others	10	9	4	3	3

(2) Seizure of Handguns

In 2020, the police seized 355 handguns, 15.2% of which were seized from Boryokudan.

