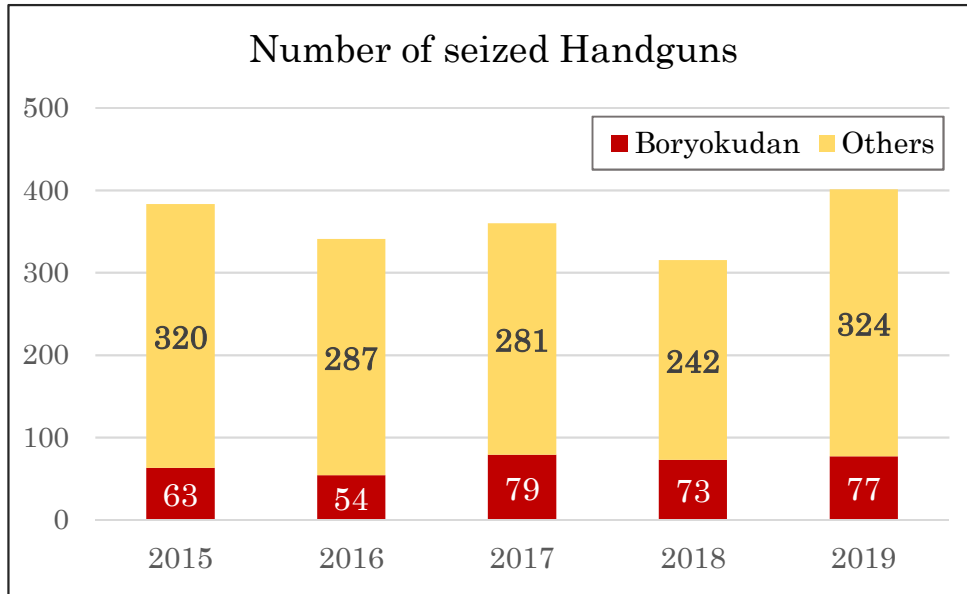


(2) Seizure of Handguns

In 2019, the police seized 401 handguns, 19.2% of which were seized from Boryokudan.



Seized Guns

B. Cooperation in the Fight against Firearms

In order to identify the trafficking routes and to detect smuggling, the police cooperate with domestic and foreign authorities concerned to carry out crackdown operations, exchange of information, and other activities.

4. Drug Control

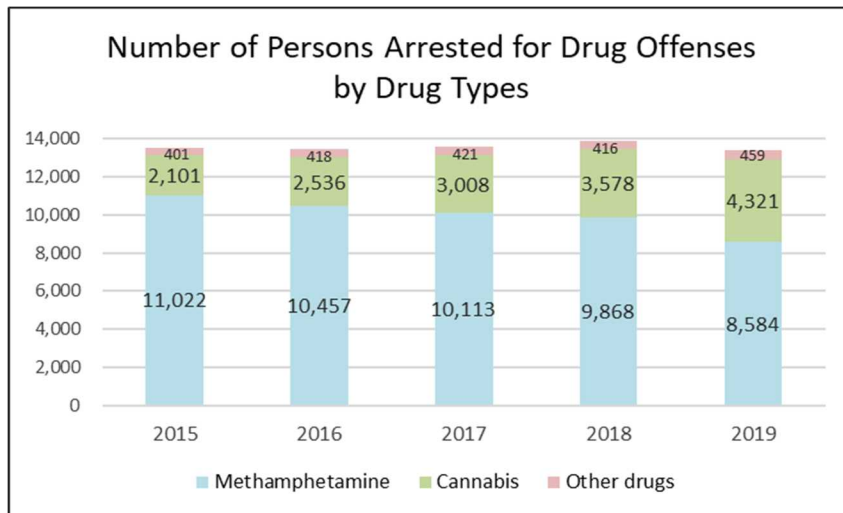
A. Drug Offenses

(1) Amphetamine-Type Stimulant Offenses

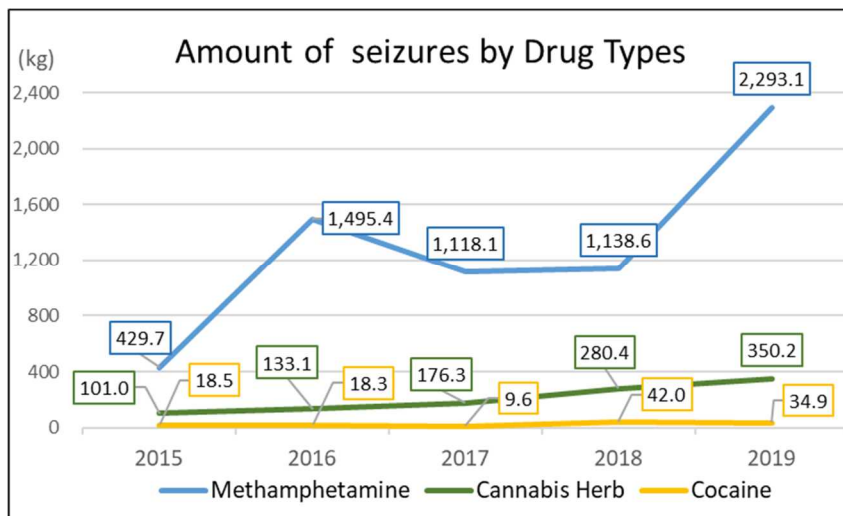
The most widely abused types of drugs in Japan are stimulants, the majority of which is crystallized methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine offenders arrested accounted for 64.2% of all drug offenders arrested by the police in 2019⁸. 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 ratio of smuggling cases by air passengers, known as “couriers,” accounted for 69.2% of all smuggling cases in 2019.

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



Note: Number of persons arrested includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention.



(2) Other Drug Offenses

The number of cannabis offenders arrested by the police in 2019 reached the highest level and accounted for 32.3% of all drug offenders arrested by the police. It occupies the second largest ratio following methamphetamine.

Offenders of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) caused many criminal offenses and serious traffic accidents, and it became a great issue of public concern in 2014.

⁸ Numbers include not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention; the same applies in this section below.

The number of NPS offenders arrested by the police has decreased since 2015 due to the strict administrative and judicial measures taken by the police along with the relevant agencies in addition to comprehensive public relations.

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.

Furthermore, to identify the drug trafficking routes, the police have established a database for methamphetamine profiling.

(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 dangers of drugs.

(3) Promotion of International Cooperation



The 24th Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC 24)

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).