(2) Seizure of Handguns
In 2017, the police seized 360 handguns, 21.9% of which were seized from Boryokudan.

B. Cooperation in the Fight against Firearms
In order to identify trafficking routes and to detect smuggling, the police cooperate with relevant domestic and foreign authorities to carry out crackdown operations, exchange information, and other activities.

4. Drug Control
A. Current Situation of Drug Offenses
(1) Amphetamine-Type Stimulant Offenses
The most widely abused types of drugs in Japan are stimulants, majority of which is crystallized methamphetamine.
Methamphetamine offenders accounted for 74.7% of all drug offenders arrested by the police in 2017. 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 Mexico. The ratio of smuggling cases by air passengers, known as “couriers”, accounted for 66.7% of all smuggling cases in 2017.

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

![Number of Drug Offenders by Drug Types](image1)

![Amount of seizures by Drug Types](image2)

(2) Other Drug Offenses
The number of cannabis offenders arrested by the police in 2017 reached the highest level and it accounted for 22.2% of drug offenders arrested by the police. It is the second largest ratio after methamphetamine.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) offenders caused a lot of criminal offenses and serious traffic accidents, and it became a great issue of concern to the public in 2014.
The number of NPS offenders arrested by the police has decreased since 2015 due to the strict administrative and judicial measures by the police as well as related 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 drug demand.

(1) **Elimination of Drug Supply**

In order to shut off 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 top leaders in such organizations. The forfeiture of criminal proceeds is also of great importance in countering drug offenses.

Furthermore, to identify the routes of drug trafficking, 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 NPA has conducted information exchange and international joint operations with foreign authorities. It has also provided opportunities to other countries for the sharing of knowledge and experience through international conferences such as the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC).