



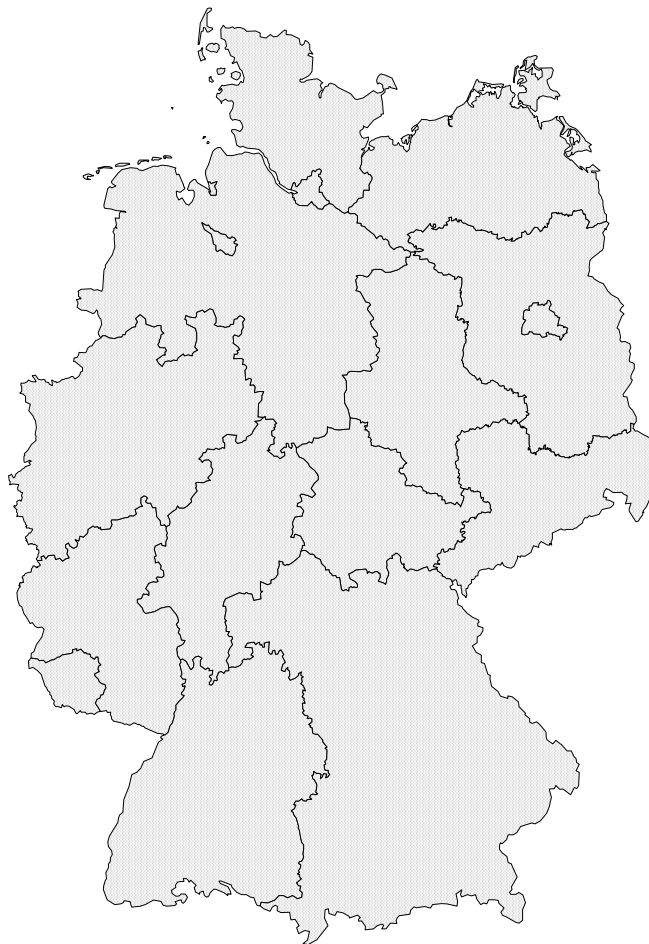
ANNUAL DRUG REPORT 2006 - ABRIDGED VERSION

DATA ON DRUG CRIME IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

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SOURCE: DRUGS DATA FILE

UPDATED TO: 31.01.2007

The following report on the drug situation in the Federal Republic of Germany is based on analyses of information from the Drugs Data File (Falldatei Rauschgift) and the Personal Data File (Personendatei). The statistics on drug crime have been updated to reflect the cases recorded in the Drugs Data File as of 31.01.2007.

The following indicators were used as a basis for the present report on the drug situation: users of hard drugs who came to police notice for the first time, quantities seized and number of seizures, countries of origin and of destination as well as nationality of the suspects.

This information on the individual indicators is derived from cases of drug crime that came to police notice and reflects that part of this crime area recorded in the Drugs Data File. Changes in police and customs control activity as well as seizures of large single quantities can have a considerable influence on the development of the situation.

Information on the trends with regard to drug-related deaths has not been included in this abridged version of the Annual Drug Report. Publication of these figures is subject to the approval of the Federal Government's Commissioner for Narcotic Drugs and will take place in connection with the Drug and Addiction Report 2006.

Current Developments

- ↪ The total quantity of drugs seized increased significantly whereas the number of drug seizures was roughly at the same level as in 2005.
- ↪ The period under review saw the three largest individual seizures of hashish and the largest seizure of cocaine in the past three years.
- ↪ Only with respect to amphetamine/methamphetamine, increasing figures were recorded for all indicators.

Users of hard drugs who came to police notice for the first time

In the year under review, the number of users of hard drugs who came to police notice for the first time dropped by 3 %, to 19,319 persons, compared to 2005.

The figures recorded for heroin and cocaine showed a comparatively moderate decline whereas the figures for ecstasy dropped significantly. The number of amphetamine or methamphetamine users who came to police notice for the first time increased, as was already the case in the preceding years. Both with regard to crack and LSD, a clear decrease was observed, with the absolute numbers remaining at a low level.

The users of synthetic drugs made up the largest proportion of the first-time users of hard drugs.

Heroin

In 2006 heroin totalling 879 kg was seized in 6,763 cases. Thus the

number of seizures increased moderately (+1%) while the quantity seized rose considerably (+12%).

As in previous years, heroin was mostly imported in minor quantities from the Netherlands to Germany by German consumers or small-scale dealers who travelled to the Netherlands for the purpose of procuring drugs.

Large quantities of heroin usually came to Germany via Turkey and the various branches of the Balkan route. From there, onward transportation of at least partial quantities to the Netherlands was intended or actually carried out in numerous cases. Most of the heroin entered Germany directly from or through Austria.

Primarily German suspects came to notice in connection with heroin seizures. Turkish nationals, who frequently came to notice in connection with seizures of large quantities of heroin, dominated among the non-German suspects.

Cocaine

In 2006 cocaine totalling 1,717 kg was seized in 3,972 cases. While the number of cases decreased slightly (-3%) the quantity seized rose considerably (+59%).

The Netherlands heads the list of recorded cases regarding the number of seizures involving cocaine of known origin. Moreover, a high frequency of smuggling operations by air from South America, mainly Peru, Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela, was observed. The cocaine seized frequently being intended for onward transportation to other countries of destination and less often for the German illegal market.

Seizures in German seaports were the exception.

There was a noticeable increase in the number of smuggling operations into Germany from or through West African states, in particular Nigeria and Ghana.

The majority of suspects involved in the seizures of cocaine were German nationals. Among the non-German suspects, the Turkish and Italian nationals played a dominant role.

With regard to **crack**, the quantity seized dropped significantly to less than 4 kg (-30%) whereas the number of cases increased (+19%).

About 98% of the total quantity seized was confiscated in Hamburg and Hesse.

In 2006 opium poppy was cultivated on 165,000 hectares and an estimated 6,100 tons of opium were produced in Afghanistan.

Larger quantities of heroin were smuggled above all via the various branches of the Balkan route.

The Iberian peninsula was the main gateway for cocaine smuggled to Europe from South America.

The largest single quantity of cocaine seized since 2002 (almost 400 kg) was confiscated in Bremerhaven in a ship container destined for Norway and coming from Peru.

Hamburg and Frankfurt/Main are the focal points for crack trafficking in Germany.

German nationals topped the list of suspects, followed by Turkish nationals.

Amphetamine and Methamphetamine

In 6,838 cases, amphetamine/methamphetamine totalling 723 kg was seized. Compared to 2005, this represents an increase both in the total number of cases recorded (+12%) and in the overall quantity seized (+8%).

The quantity of amphetamine/methamphetamine seized has been on the increase for several years.

By far the largest share of seized amphetamine of known origin came from the Netherlands. A considerably smaller but nonetheless significant quantity was smuggled into the country from Poland.

As in previous years, major amounts of amphetamine were seized in connection with a few seizures, where the quantities were proven to have been destined for Northern Europe, whereas smaller amounts were intended for transportation to Southern and Eastern Europe in several cases.

The above figures for seizures of amphetamine and methamphetamine include 416 cases where approximately 11 kg of **crystal** were confiscated. As in previous years, the German states primarily affected were Bavaria, Saxony and Thuringia, which accounted for about 94% of the total quantity seized.

"Crystal" is a term used in the drug scene for crystal methamphetamine, which is imported into Germany mainly from the Czech Republic.

Trafficking in and smuggling of amphetamine/methamphetamine were dominated by German nationals. Among the non-German suspects, Turkish and Polish nationals played a significant role.

Ecstasy

In 2006 the trend with regard to ecstasy seizures was again negative. In 2,382 cases (-26%) 1,082,820 tablets (-32%) were seized.

By far the largest portion of the tablets seized whose origin or transit route was established came from the Netherlands.

As in the case of amphetamine, the ecstasy tablets seized in Germany had often been destined for onward transportation to Southern and Eastern Europe.

The Netherlands is the most important producer of ecstasy worldwide.

Primarily German nationals were recorded in connection with ecstasy seizures. Of the non-German suspects, the Turkish nationals dominated, followed by Dutch and Italian nationals.

Cannabis products

In 2006 there was a significant increase in the quantity of cannabis products seized (+29%) while the number of cases remained virtually unchanged.

The main cannabis-cultivation-country is Morocco.

This trend can essentially be attributed to three major seizures of **hashish**, as a result of which the total quantity of hashish seized (5,606 kg) was considerably higher (+54%) despite a decline in the number of cases (-10%).

The trend with regard to **marihuana** was different. While the number of cases increased (+6%), the quantity seized dropped slightly to 2,954 kg (-2%) in comparison to the previous year.

By far the most important country of origin or transit for cannabis products seized in Germany was the Netherlands.

Hashish also frequently entered Germany via Spain and the other western neighbouring states or via Italy and the southern neighbours. Apart from the Netherlands, small amounts of marihuana were also smuggled into the country from the Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland in a large number of cases. In a few cases, major quantities reached Germany from or through Belgium, as well.

Trafficking in cannabis products was dominated by German nationals, followed by Turkish and Italian nationals.

The cultivation of cannabis in professionally equipped indoor plantations gained further importance. While initially the region close to the Dutch border played a dominant role, this phenomenon spread to other areas during the year under review.

Laboratories

Seven illegal drug laboratories were seized in 2006. Six of these were facilities for the production of amphetamine-type stimulants and one was a laboratory for the synthesis of fentanyl.

Most of them were so-called kitchen laboratories.

One laboratory had relatively large capacities for the production of methamphetamine.

Users of hard drugs who came to police notice for the first time

Period under review	Total (*)	Heroin	Cocaine	Meth-/Amphetamine (**)	Ecstasy	Crack	Other drugs (***)
01.01.-31.12.05	19,990	4,637	4,489	9,339	3,145	433	416
01.01.-31.12.06	19,319	4,489	4,225	9,835	2,319	355	394
Changes	-3.4 %	-3.2 %	-5.9 %	+5.3 %	-26.3 %	-18.0 %	-5.3 %

(*) Each person is recorded only once in the column listing the **total** number of hard drug users who came to police notice for the first time. However, to shed light on polydrug use, it is possible for the same person to be recorded under more than one type of drug.

(**) Among the 9,835 persons recorded in 2006, there are 681 first-time users of crystal; this group of persons has been recorded separately only since the preceding year (previously included under Amphetamine).

(***) The column "Other drugs" includes 125 first-time users of LSD.

Seizures

Type of drug	01.01. - 31.12.05		01.01. - 31.12.06		Changes	
	Cases	Quantity	Cases	Quantity	Cases	Quantity
Heroin	6,691	786.6 kg	6,763	878.9 kg	+1.1 %	+11.7 %
Opium	101	154.6 kg	78	42.2 kg	-22.8 %	-72.7 %
Cocaine	4,109	1,078.9 kg	3,972	1,716.6 kg	-3.3 %	+59.1 %
Crack	1,659	5.6 kg	1,977	3.9 kg	+19.2 %	-30.4 %
Meth-/Amphetamine (incl. crystal)	6,123	668.8 kg	6,838 (416)	723.2 kg (10.7 kg)	+11.7 % -- %	+8.1 % -- %
Ecstasy	3,238	1,588,908 DU	2,382	1,082,820 DU	-26.4 %	-31.9 %
LSD	228	16,558 Tr.	205	12,488 Tr.	-10.1 %	-24.6 %
Hashish	13,030	3,637.5 kg	11,764	5,606.1 kg	-9.7 %	+54.1 %
Marihuana	22,257	3,013.7 kg	23,506	2,954.1 kg	+5.6 %	-2.0 %
Plants	1,035	93,936	1,121	190,241(*)	+8.3 %	+102.5 %
Khat	129	14,321.6 kg	127	15,985.1 kg	-1.6 %	+11.6 %
Psil. mushrooms	638	85.5 kg	635	99.7 kg	-0.5 %	+16.6 %

DU = Dosage units (tablets/capsules), Tr. = Trips; Crystal has been recorded separately only since 2006 (previously listed under Amphetamine).

(*) The quantity seized in 2006 includes 75,000 plants which stem from the sowing of 5 kg of hemp seed and are believed to have been so-called agricultural/industrial hemp.

Illegal Production/Laboratories

Type of drug	01.01. - 31.12.05	01.01. - 31.12.06
ATS*	6	6
GHB	2	0
Fentanyl	0	1
Total	8	7

* ATS = Amphetamine-Type Stimulants; the laboratories for synthetic drugs of the amphetamine type seized in 2006 included three facilities for the production of amphetamine, two for the production of methamphetamine and one for the synthesis of MDMA, the most common active ingredient in ecstasy tablets.