



Bundeskriminalamt

NARCOTIC DRUGS

Annual Report 2008 - Abridged Version

DATA ON DRUG CRIME IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY





DRUGS
Annual Report 2008 - Abridged Version

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INTRODUCTION

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 31.01.2009.

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.



CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- ⇒ Seizure amounts of heroin and cocaine decreased.
- ⇒ Total quantity of seized cannabis products increased sharply due to one large seizure of hashish and one of marihuana.
- ⇒ Largest single seizure of amphetamine in Germany so far.
- ⇒ Increased number of drug laboratories, in particular reinforced synthesis of methamphetamine in small scale production sites.

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

In comparison to the previous year, the number of users of hard drugs who came to police notice for the first time rose by 3% to 19,203 persons in 2008.

The total number of first-time users of hard drugs increased for the first time since 2004.

Especially the figures for synthetic drugs increased. So the number of users of amphetamine (+9%), lsd (+9%) and ecstasy (+7%), who came to police notice for the first time rose. A growth was registered also for cocaine (+4%), while there were downward trends for heroin (-6%) and especially for crack (-30%) and crystal methamphetamine.

Heroin


In 2008 heroin totalling 503 kg was seized in 6,638 cases. Thus the number of seizures decreased moderately (-3%) while at the same time the quantity seized dropped considerably (-53%).

No large seizures of similar amounts as to 2007.

The decrease in the total quantity of heroin is primarily the result of none single seizure in the dimension of the two cases in 2007, where in total 450 kg had been seized.

By far most of the cases pertained consumers or small-scale dealers from Germany who procured mostly smaller quantities of heroin from the Netherlands. When major quantities of heroin were seized in Germany, mainly Turkey was detected as the country of source or transit, from where the further transport through the Balkan states as well as Italy and Austria into Germany was initiated.

The fact that the Netherlands are an important country of destination for large supplies to or through Germany became apparent in 2008 through the seizure of about 460 kg of heroin made in the Netherlands as part of



an investigation conducted by the BKA.

Primarily German suspects came to notice in connection with heroin seizures. Turkish nationals dominated among the non-German suspects.

Cocaine and Crack

In 2008 cocaine totalling 1,069 kg was seized in 3,956 cases. Both the number of cases (-6%) and to a larger extent the quantity seized (-43%) decreased compared to the previous year.

In contrast to the two previous years, when container shipments of 400 kg of cocaine and even more, destined for inner-European onward transport, were seized in Bremerhaven, there were no seizures of similar quantities in 2008.

Contrary to the previous years no single seizure in the three-digit kilogram range was made..

Cocaine was frequently smuggled into Germany from the Netherlands during numerous trips made for the purpose of procuring drugs. In connection with the illegal importation of cocaine from South America, Brazil, Peru and Argentina were recorded most commonly as countries of origin or transit. Referring this Colombia and Venezuela were ascertained in a smaller number of cases, but with average larger individual amounts.

The smuggling of cocaine through West Africa to Europe is still of importance, even if the number of seizure cases and amounts originating from states in this region dropped in 2008 in Germany.

In a large number of cases cocaine seized in Germany was destined for the distribution inside Europe. Especially the transport to Spain and the UK was intended frequently. Besides comparatively smaller amounts were destined for the Netherlands and Italy.

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

With regard to **crack**, the number of cases decreased (-10%) whereas the quantity seized increased from almost 5 kg to about 8 kg (+71%). After 2007, were Hamburg accounted for three quarter of the total quantity, the confiscation quota of Hamburg reached 96% in 2008.

Crack was seized mainly in Hamburg.

German nationals topped the list of suspects detected in connection with seizures of crack, followed by Turkish nationals.



Amphetamine and Methamphetamine

In 8,425 cases, amphetamine and methamphetamine totalling 1,283 kg was seized. Compared to 2007, this represents an increase both in the number of cases (+10%) and in the quantity seized (+56%).

By far the largest share of seized amphetamine of known origin came from the Netherlands. Besides the drug was smuggled in several cases from Belgium or Poland and concerning smaller amounts also from the Czech Republic into the country.

With 284 kg the largest single amount of amphetamine to date in Germany was seized in one case in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The above figures for seizures of amphetamine and methamphetamine include 356 cases (-22%) where in total more as 4 kg of **crystal methamphetamine** (-58% compared to 2007) were confiscated. About 83% of this quantity was seized in the German states of Saxony and Bavaria. As in the previous year numerous seizures were recorded in Thuringia as well, involving considerably smaller quantities, however.

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

The quantity of amphetamine seized increased for the seventh year in succession.

With 284 kg the largest single amount of amphetamine ever was seized.

Ecstasy

The number of ecstasy seizures rose by 8% to 2,698 cases in 2008 whereas the quantity seized (751,431 tablets) decreased by 24% compared to the previous year.

By far the majority of the tablets seized came from the Netherlands.

In individual cases, larger quantities of ecstasy seized in Germany were intended for onward transportation to South East- and Eastern Europe.

Primarily German nationals came to notice in connection with ecstasy seizures. Of the non-German suspects, the Turkish nationals dominated, followed by Polish offenders.

As in the previous year the number of ecstasy-seizures increased, whereas the amount of confiscated tablets dropped .

Seizures

Type of drug	01.01. - 31.12.07		01.01. - 31.12.08		Changes	
	Cases	Quantity	Cases	Quantity	Cases	Quantity
Heroin	6,853	1,073.5 kg	6,638	502.8 kg	-3.1 %	-53.2 %
Opium	59	27.5 kg	72	82.5 kg	+22.0 %	+200.0 %
Cocaine	4,199	1,877.5 kg	3,956	1,068.6 kg	-5.8 %	-43.4 %
Crack	1,817	4.8 kg	1,628	8.2 kg	-10.4 %	+70.8 %
Meth-/Amphetamine	7,662	820.1 kg	8,425	1,283.2 kg	+10.0 %	+56.5 %
(thereof crystal)	(454)	(10.0 kg)	(356)	(4.2 kg)	(-21.6%)	(-58.0%)
Ecstasy	2,495	985,218 tabl.	2,698	751,431 tabl.	+8.1 %	-23.7 %
LSD	236	10,543 tr.	243	12,875 tr.	+3.0 %	+22.1 %
Hashish	9,762	3,677.5 kg	10,313	7,632.3 kg	+5.6 %	+107.5 %
Marihuana	21,831	3,769.8 kg	24,594	8,932.2 kg	+12.7 %	+136.9 %
Plants	1,463	135,252 pcs.	1,526	121,663 pcs.	+4.3 %	-10.0 %
Khat	132	13,485.3 kg	126	29,488.6 kg	-4.5 %	+118.7 %
Psil. mushrooms	605	55.8 kg	501	17.6 kg	-17.2 %	-68.5 %

abbreviations above: tabl. = tablets; tr. = trips; pcs. = pieces.

Illegal Production/Laboratories

Type of drug	01.01. - 31.12.07	01.01. - 31.12.08
ATS*	8	22
GHB	1	3
Fentanyl	1	0
Total	10	25

* ATS = Amphetamine-Type-Stimulants; the 22 laboratories for the production of ATS seized in 2008 were facilities for the production of amphetamine and methamphetamine. In one case DOB (2,5-dimethoxy-4-bromamphetamine) was the target of synthesis.



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
	(*)						(***)
<i>01.01.- 31.12.07</i>	18,620	4,153	3,812	9,949	2,038	498	456
<i>01.01.- 31.12.08</i>	19,203	3,900	3,970	10,631	2,174	350	286
<i>Changes</i>	+3.1 %	-6.1 %	+4.1 %	+6.9 %	+6.7 %	-29.7 %	-8.0 %

- (*) 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 poly-drug use, it is possible for the same person to be recorded under more than one type of drug.
- (**) Among the 10,631 persons recorded in 2008, there were 443 first-time users of crystal. This represents a decrease by 21.9 % compared to 2007 (567 persons).
- (***) The column "Other drugs" includes 158 users of lsd who came to police notice for the first time in 2008 (+9.0 %).





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