## **NARCOTIC DRUGS**

# Annual Report 2010 – Abridged Version

DATA ON DRUG CRIME IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY





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Annual Drug Report 2010 - 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 at 31/01/2011.

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 (first-time users), drug-related deaths, quantities seized and number of seizures including important countries of origin and of destination as well as nationality of the suspects.

The information on the individual indicators is derived from cases of drug-related crime that came to police notice and reflects the 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**

#### **Drug cultivation / production**

- ⇒ Stable level of cannabis cultivation, esp. in indoor plantations.
- ⇒ Steady production of synthetic drugs, esp. methamphetamine, in small laboratories.
- ⇒ First time seizure of a laboratory for the production of synthetic cannabinoids.

#### Drug trafficking / smuggling

- ⇒ Decreasing number of seizures for most types of drugs.
- ⇒ The largest quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine were confiscated.
- ⇒ Unchanged great significance of amphetamine.

#### **Drug consumption**

- ⇒ Small increase in the number of first-time recorded consumers of hard drugs.
- ⇒ Decreasing number of drug-related deaths.

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#### Drug cultivation and production

In 2010, cannabis was again cultivated outdoors and indoors to a considerable extent. The number of outdoor plantations dropped from 67 to 46 (-31 %) and the number of indoor plantations rose slightly from 342 to 348 (+2 %).

The extent of cannabis cultivated outdoors and indoors is comparable with the previous year.

The 46 **outdoor plantations** concerned one professional plantation (capacity: 1,000 plants and more), nine large plantations (100 to 999 plants) and 36 small plantations (20 to 99 plants), with 5,470 cannabis plants having been seized in total (+3 %). The 348 **indoor plantations** consist of 22 professional plantations, 105 large plantations and 218 small plantations, with 74,502 cannabis plants having been seized in total (-18 %).

Most of the outdoor plantations were recorded in Bavaria (19 %), most of the indoor plantations in Baden-Württemberg and Lower Saxony (13 % each). While the focus of the discovered professional and large-scale indoor plantations was on North Rhine-Westphalia, several federal states recorded higher incidence rates, led by Lower Saxony (18 %).

Most of the outdoor plantations were detected in Bavaria, most of the indoor plantations in Baden-Württemberg and Lower Saxony.

In 2010, 16 illegal **drug laboratories** were seized, which represents a decrease to the previous year (24 laboratories).

As in 2009, most of the production sites were small laboratories for the synthesis of methamphetamine, which had a production capacity sufficient to satisfy the operator's personal need or to supply a limited local circle of buyers. A laboratory for the production of synthetic cannabinoids was confiscated for the first time.

A laboratory fort he production of synthetic cannabinoids was seized for the first time.

#### Drug trafficking and smuggling

The total number of drug seizures recorded decreased in 2010. Different drug types exhibited different developments, however. Increases were detected in particular for amphetamine/methamphetamine and biogenous drugs.

The total number of drug seizures fell.

A large number of cases concerned the smuggling of smaller quantities of drugs, which were imported from the Netherlands into Germany by consumers or small-scale dealers during procurement trips.

Besides the use of overland transport routes, drugs were frequently smuggled to Germany by air couriers or by airmail consignments. In many cases, the drugs were to be transported to other European countries but often also to countries outside Europe.

Smuggling was conducted by air mail and through couriers travelling by plane in addition to transports by land.

Smuggling by sea was the exception; however, in the small number of cases detected, the quantities of drugs transported resp. seized were considerable.

With regard to the seizures, German suspects played by far the most prominent role in all drug types. The relevant percentage was particularly high regarding seizures of synthetic drugs and cannabis plants. Only in seizures of khat did German suspects feature relatively seldom.

With regard to the seizures, German suspects played by far the most prominent role..

In 5,645 cases, **heroin** totalling 474 kg was seized in 2010. This means a decrease in the number of seizures (-9 %) as well as in the quantity seized (-38 %).

Due to fewer discoveries of single amounts in the double digit kg range, the total amount of heroin seized decreased.

The decrease in the total quantity is above all the result of a significant decrease (-53 %) in seized heroin quantities in the double-digit kilogram range.

Only relatively seldom was it possible to prove the provenance of larger amounts of heroin seized in Germany to be other countries than The Netherlands. Drugs smuggled by land were sometimes identified to have originated in Belgium, Austria, Poland, the Balkan states or Turkey. In addition, several smaller amounts were seized at German airports in consignments from the Asian and Arab regions, which were usually destined for other European countries, primarily Spain.

Several parcels from Asia and the Arab region were confiscated at airports.

Among the non-German suspects, who came to notice in connection with heroin seizures in Germany, the Turkish nationals dominated.

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In 2010, 3,031 kg **cocaine** in total was seized in 3,350 cases. Compared to 2009, this means a decrease in the number of seizures (-13 %) in contrast to a significant increase in the total amount (+78 %) to the highest score so far in Germany.

The largest ever total amount of cocaine was confiscated.

Compared with the previous year, yet again larger single quantities were seized in 2010. Among others the largest single amount of cocaine in Germany (about 1.3 t) was seized in the port of Hamburg. The drug was hidden in wood briquettes in a ship container from Paraguay. Several confiscated container loads of sand stones in which 351 kg cocaine was hidden also came from Paraguay. In North Rhine-Westphalia 341 kg of cocaine was seized in a consignment of bananas, which were shipped from Columbia to Antwerp/Belgium. The modus operandi to smuggle cocaine in banana consignments from South America has often been noted before in Germany.

Several ship containers with cocaine were seized in the port of Hamburg; among others a container with the largest single seizure-amount so far in Germany.

A high frequency of smuggling operations by air from South America to Germany was observed and mainly Argentina and Brazil were established as significant countries of origin resp. transit again.

In many cases, the cocaine seized in Germany was intended for further transportation.

In many cases, the cocaine seized in Germany was intended for distribution within Europe. The drugs were often to be transported to Spain and the United Kingdom. As in the previous year, several air mail consignments with smaller amounts were in transit to China.

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

The number of cases involving **crack** fell down to 1,013 (-9 %) and the total quantity seized to just over 3 kg (-30 %). The vast majority of cases and amounts were recorded in Hamburg.

As in the previous years, the majority of crack was seized in Hamburg.

In connection with crack seizures, Turkish nationals dominated among the non-German suspects.

In 9,229 cases, **amphetamine and methamphetamine** totalling 1,204 kg was seized. The number of cases rose (+14 %), while the seized quantity decreased for the first time in eight years (-13 %).

The quantity of seized amphetamine decreased for the first time in eight years.

The decrease of the total quantity is due to the fact that there was no single major seizure as happened in the previous year (in 2009, 360 kg was confiscated in Lower Saxony, the largest single quantity of amphetamine ever seized in Germany).

The largest ever total quantity of "crystal" was confiscated.

In 799 cases (+79 %), a total of almost 27 kg (+272 %) of crystal methamphetamine ("**crystal**") was seized. This is the largest ever total amount of this drug seized in Germany. Furthermore this is the drug type

with the highest increase rate in 2010. More than half of the total quantity was seized in Saxony, about one fifth in Bavaria. There were also some individual cases in North Rhine-Westphalia and Hesse where substantial quantities of this drug – smuggled in particular from the Czech Republic to Germany – were seized. Numerous cases but with on average relatively small individual quantities were recorded in Thuringia similar to the previous year.

Although most of the amphetamine proved to have been smuggled from the Netherlands to Germany, it was also imported in small amounts from Belgium, Austria ort he Czech Republic. In few cases, amphetamine and methamphetamine from South America was seized at Frankfurt airport. The drugs were in transit to Japan. There were also some air mail consignments addressed to recipients in Ireland containing the amphetamine-like mephedrone which were confiscated at Leipzig airport.

There were some individual seizures of amphetamine and methamphetamine from South America.

In connection with the seizures of amphetamine and methamphetamine, mainly Turkish nationals but frequently also Polish nationals were among the non-German suspects.

The number of **ecstasy** seizures dropped to 1,209 cases (-31 %) and the quantity seized to 230,367 tablets (-56 %).

The large majority of the tablets, for which it has been possible to establish the origin, came from the Netherlands.

A few of the large quantities in the four- or five-digit range were intended for onward transport to Bulgaria, Romania, Ireland, Switzerland and to Swaziland.

Among the non-German suspects, who came to notice in connection with ecstasy seizures in Germany, Dutch nationals dominated, followed by Turkish nationals.

Regarding the seizures of **cannabis products**, a contrary trend was recorded in 2010. While the number of seizures decreased, the total quantity rose.

In respect of **hashish**, the number of seizures dropped significantly to 7,427 (-20%), while the quantity seized decreased only slightly to 2,144 kg (-3%).

For **marihuana** the number of seizures rose to 24,710 cases (+2 %) and the confiscated total quantity to 4,875 kg (+13 %).

The number and quantity of ecstasy seizures dropped significantly.

The offenders identified in connection with ecstasy seizures often came from the Netherlands.

While the case number fell, the quantity of cannabis products seized rose.

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Besides the Netherlands, hashish was mainly imported into Germany from Morocco via Spain and Portugal and in a large number of cases also from Belgium, France and Austria. In addition, air mail consignments from India were found at some German airports, in particular in Frankfurt, which were destined for further transport in Europe, among others to Austria, Portugal, Spain or Scandinavia.

Larger single quantities of hashish were smuggled from Morocco via the Iberian peninsula.

Marihuana was smuggled with a high frequency from Belgium, Austria and the Czech Republic to Germany. The largest seized single quantity of 232 kg was hidden in a lorry on its way from Albania via Italy, Austria and Germany to The Netherlands. In several cases marihuana was seized in small- to medium-seized single-digit kilogram range at German airports, predominantly at Frankfurt. The drugs were in parcels sent from Africa and mainly destined for China.

The largest single quantity of marihuana was confiscated in a lorry from Albania.

Among the non-German suspects, who came to notice in connection with seizures of cannabis products (in particular marihuana), Turkish nationals dominated. Italian nationals comprised the largest group of suspects in cases involving hashish.

In connection with marihuana-seizures, the non-German offenders were predominantly Turkish, in hashish cases Italian nationals.

#### **Drug consumption**

The number of hard drug users who came to police notice fort he first time (first-time users) increased to 18,621 individuals (+3 %) in 2010.

The figures for first-time users of heroin and cocaine, however, decreased by 11% each. The significant increases in crystal methamphetamine (+76%) and crack (+72%) are remarkable compared with the previous year. The previously detected development in first-time users of amphetamine continued, rising again in 2010 (+11%) to reach a new peak. The decrease in ecstasy (-38%) also continues the trend of 2009. LSD (+11%) and other drugs (+4%) were on the increase, however.

The number of first-time users of hard drugs rose slightly.

Significant increases were recorded in first-time users of "crystal" and crack.

As in the previous year, the number of drug-related deaths dropped. The recorded 1,237 drug deaths marked a decrease by 7 % compared with 2009 to the lowest rate since 1989.

As in the previous year, the number of drugrelated deaths decreased.

ILLEGAL	<b>CULTIVATION</b> /	CANNARIS DI	ANTATIONS
ILLEGAL	CULTIVATION /	CANNADIS PL	CHULLALINA.

Type*	2009	2010
Outdoor plantations	67	46
- small plantations	56	36
- large plantations	9	9
- professional plantations	2	1
Indoor plantations	342	348
- small plantations	218	221
- large plantations	98	105
- professional plantations	26	22

<sup>\*</sup> The classification of cannabis plantations both outdoors and indoors is made according to the capacities between 20 and 99 plants (small plantations), between 100 and 999 plants (large plantations) and 1,000 plants and more (professional plantations).

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	PRODUCTION / LABORATORIE	.е
ILLEGIAL	PRUDUCIUN/LABURATURIE	

Type of drug	2009	2010
ATS*	22	15
GHB	2	-
Synthetic cannabinoids	-	1
Total	24	16

<sup>\*</sup> ATS = amphetamine-type-stimulances. The 15 ATS laboratories seized in 2010 were production sites of amphetamine (2) and methamphetamine (13).

#### **SEIZURES**

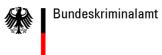
	2009		2010		Changes	
Type of drug	Cases	Quantity	Cases	Quantity	Cases	Quantity
Heroin	6,183	758.4 kg	5,645	474.3 kg	-8.7 %	-37.5 %
Opium	68	98.8 kg	42	12.4 kg	-38.2 %	-87.4 %
Cocaine	3,858	1,707.0 kg	3,350	3,030.8 kg	-13.2 %	+77.6 %
Crack	1,111	4.6 kg	1,013	3.2 kg	-8.8 %	-30.4 %
Meth-/Amphetamine	8,081	1,382.7 kg	9,229	1,203.7 kg	+14.2 %	-12.9 %
(thereof Crystal)	(446)	(7.2 kg)	(799)	(26.8 kg)	(+79.1 %)	(+272.2 %)
Ecstasy	1,761	521,272 u.	1,209	230,367 u.	-31.3 %	-55.8 %
LSD	237	20,705 tr.	216	4,279 tr.	-8.9 %	-79.3 %
Hashish	9,294	2,220.0 kg	7,427	2,143.7 kg	-20.1 %	-3.4 %
Marihuana	24,135	4,298.0 kg	24,710	4,874.7 kg	+2.4 %	+13.4 %
Plants	1,359	127,718 p.	1,517	101,549 p.	+11.6 %	-20.5 %
Khat	121	24,004.5 kg	169	30,389.3 kg	+39.7 %	+26.6 %
Psil. Mushrooms	263	12.2 kg	401	16.0 kg	+52.5 %	+31.1 %

kg = kilogram; u. = units; tr. = trips; p. = pieces

HARD DRUG USERS WHO CAME TO POLICE NOTICE FOR THE FIRST TIME							
Period	Total (*)	Heroin	Cocaine	Meth-/ Amphetamine (**)	Ecstasy	Crack	Other (***)
2009	18,139	3,592	3,591	10,679	1,357	181	448
2010	18,621	3,201	3,211	12,043	840	311	474
Changes	+2.7 %	-10.9 %	-10.6 %	+12.8 %	-38.1 %	+71.8 %	+5.8 %

- (\*) Each person is recorded only once in the column listing the total number of first-time hard drug users but may be recorded under more than one type of drug due to poly-drug use.
- (\*\*) Among the 12,043 persons recorded in 2010, there were 642 first-time users of crystal methamphetamine. This is an increase by 76.4 % compared to 2009 (364 persons).
- (\*\*\*) Among the 474 persons in 2010, there were 141 first-time users of LSD. This is an increase by 11.0 % compared to 2009 (127 persons)

DRUG DEATHS				
Period	2009	2010		
Number of persons	1,331	1,237		



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