

DRUG-RELATED CRIME

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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DEAR READER!

In 2016 the fight against drug-related crime was characterised by three decisive factors: first, the tightening of the Narcotic Substances Act and the creating of a new offence of „drug trafficking in public areas“ on 1 June 2016 was a big step forward, which is clearly reflected in the number of crime reports contained in this report. The new regulation provides the police with an important tool for combating the trafficking in narcotic drugs in the streets, on the squares and on public transport.

In 2016, the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service co-ordinated police investigations into criminals selling or obtaining narcotic drugs over the Darknet. As a matter of fact, the illicit trade in narcotics through the Darknet is flourishing. Orders are placed by mouse clicks and paid with virtual currency, and the goods are delivered by mail to the house. An increasing number of cases are being registered in Austria. Setting up of a task force at the Narcotic Drug Control Unit at the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service in March 2015 was, therefore, the right step. It brought together investigators from the areas of narcotic substances and IT.

A third factor is the dynamic development in the field of immigration. In 2016, 36.200 offences involving narcotic drugs were reported to the public prosecuting service, which was a 12,000 increase as compared to 2007.

This annual report is intended to show that we are pursuing our primary goal of vigorous action against drug dealers in Austria.

General Franz Lang
Head of the Criminal Intelligence Service

Dr. Michael Fischer
Deputy head of the Criminal Intelligence Service

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GENERAL INFORMATION

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Information included in this report is drawn from the data published by the Austrian law enforcement services on punishable offences involving narcotic drugs as defined in the Narcotic Substances Act (Suchtmittelgesetz – SMG) in the year under review. The statistics contained herein reflect the criminal complaints filed. They are stored in the database hosted by the Data Processing Centre of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and are prepared for publication by the Criminal Intelligence Service (BK).

The interpretation of the statistical data must be carefully considered, because they reflect not only general trends in drug-related crime, but also the resources used to combat this criminality. Additional information should, therefore, be taken into account. It is not unusual for criminal complaints to show monthly and sometimes yearly fluctuations. Investigations may take months or even years and are reflected in the statistics only after completion. It is, therefore, worthwhile to consider trends not only in comparison to the previous year, but over several reporting years and to include additional background information.

Our narcotic drugs statistics underwent a major renewal in 2015. Until then, drug statistics had been compiled independently of the general crime statistics. In 2015, they were incorporated in the crime statistics. This involved an automatic quality control and thus an increase in data quality. In addition, it provided the facility to record additional parameters, which made it possible to retrieve enhanced information from the statistics. The result was a more comprehensive picture of the situation, in particular in respect of the ratio of crime reports about criminal groups to narcotic substances and to the geographical distribution.

The terms „crime“ and „non-crime“ are used as defined in section 17 of the Penal Code (Strafgesetzbuch or StGB). „Crimes“ are intentional acts that are punished by life imprisonment or terms of imprisonment exceeding three years. All other criminal acts are non-crimes.

The report is divided into a summary, an outlook and the key data. This is followed by a situation report broken down by narcotic drug types. The fourth part gives an overview of the situation in the federal provinces. This is followed by a glossary of criminal offences and a description of the various narcotic substances. The report ends with an appendix containing detailed tables and charts.

SUMMARY

- Austria is a marketplace and transit point centre for illicit narcotic drugs and is a base of operations for a variety of offender groups and distribution networks. There are five main factors that influence these criminal activities:
 - Austria's geographical position on the Balkan route, where heroin and opiate products are smuggled from Afghanistan into Europe and drug precursor substances from Europe eastward to the central Asian area.
- The Vienna international Airport is used for smuggling cocaine from South American countries into Austria.
- In European countries methamphetamine is produced, both in neighbouring countries and in others. Cannabis products are produced and smuggled

- Above all, an increasing number of illegal drugs and new psychoactive substances are offered on the Internet, especially on the Darknet.

In the first half of 2016, the introduction of the Penal Law Amendment Act 2015, particularly the modified definition of the nature of criminal activities as a regular source of income (section 70 Penal Code), had a massive impact on the open drug scene, as, in many cases, it was no longer possible to remand street vendors in custody. Often suspects were caught in the act of drug trafficking and recorded several times a day.

In June 2016 section 27, subsection 2a was introduced into the Narcotic Substances Act (SMG), allowing for a more effective police intervention in cases of drug trafficking in public places. Thus, the open drug scene, which had escalated, was permanently dissolved through targeted operations.

A further challenge for the police and thus for the narcotics investigators is the dynamic development in the immigration sector, as was already mentioned in the 2015 report.

OUTLOOK

Due to its geographical location on the Balkan route Austria has an important role in the fight against international organized drug crime. As a transit country and marketplace for illicit narcotic substances and as a base of operations for various multinational offender groups, it constantly faces the challenge of effectively combating drug-related crime.

The traffic in illegal narcotic substances on the Internet, especially on the Darknet, is booming and has gone mainstream. In general, the „multi-agency principle” needs to be applied when illicit drugs are ordered via the Internet and delivered by letters and parcels. The dispatch of narcotic drugs by post is a major challenge for the police because their legal means are very limited. Irrespective of this development, close attention must continue to be paid to open street dealing. In addition to the new scenarios illicit drugs continue to be smuggled along the traditional the Balkan route and via the Vienna international airport.

The migration situation in Europe and thus in Austria will continue to be a major challenge. It is expected that consumption and trafficking of small drug quantities will further increase in migrant circles and a number of small open drug scenes will emerge. An amendment to the Narcotic Substances Act entered into force on 1 June 2016, which improved police capabilities for the criminal prosecution of drug traffickers. It contained a new criminal offence of „drug trafficking in public”, which made it possible for the police to effectively combat this criminality again. To control the phenomenon, permanent checks and close co-operation with health care and social institutions are, however, imperative.

BASIC FIGURES

CRIME REPORTS

In 2016 the number of crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act rose by 10.1 percent from 32,907 to 36,235 reports and reached thus the highest value within the last ten years.

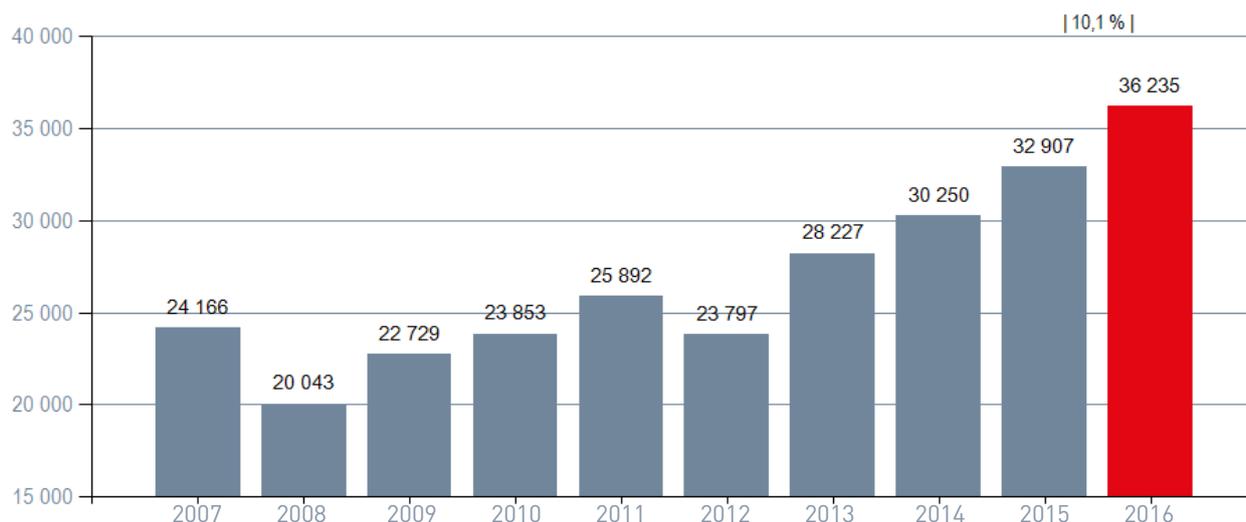


Figure 1: Development of overall crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Austria between 2007 and 2016

SEIZED ILLICIT DRUGS

In 2016, 68.9 kgs of heroin, 86.4 kgs of cocaine, 1,117 kgs of cannabis products, 26,996 pieces of Ecstasy, 87.6 kgs of amphetamine and 4.8 kgs of methamphetamine were seized.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	1 276 037,5 g	873 813,4 g	1 139 284,9 g	1 292 619,3 g	915 392,6 g	1 158 621,0 g	1 757 673,6 g	1 325 991,1 g	1 138 794,9 g	1 082 776,6 g
Heroin	117 042,1 g	103 975,0 g	189 594,8 g	96 066,6 g	64 878,1 g	222 109,8 g	80 248,0 g	56 160,7 g	69 534,7 g	68 916,1 g
Cocaine	78 074,9 g	78 383,3 g	53 209,8 g	240 978,5 g	138 934,1 g	64 641,6 g	24 736,9 g	30 979,3 g	119 675,3 g	86 449,9 g
XTC	66 167,5 Stk	45 334,5 Stk	5 847,5 Stk	7 275,0 Stk	11 432,0 Stk	8 998,0 Stk	5 768,0 Stk	5 001,0 Stk	10 149,0 Stk	29 485,1 Stk
Amphetamine	17 543,3 g	12 926,7 g	63 871,6 g	21 909,5 g	13 360,5 g	32 141,8 g	21 406,7 g	15 860,1 g	66 657,5 g	87 649,4 g
Methamphetamine	1 918,7 g	120,1 g	1 065,0 g	1 446,6 g	2 419,0 g	3 238,5 g	7 574,0 g	4 731,1 g	2 944,0 g	4 800,4 g

Figure 2: Seizures in Austria between 2007 and 2016

The amount of seized narcotic substances in a reporting year is strongly influenced by large seizures. Therefore, an annual comparison of seizure quantities alone is not valid as a sole parameter for drawing conclusions for the development of drug-related crime.

PRICES ON THE BLACK MARKET

In 2016, the average wholesale price per kilogram was EUR 4,000 for cannabis (cannabis herb and resin), EUR 25,000 for heroin, EUR 50,000 for cocaine, EUR 7,000 for amphetamine and EUR 35,000 for methamphetamine. 1,000 units of ecstasy (MDMA) cost about 6,000 euros.

The controlled drugs seized had the following black-market values for street dealing:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	12 763 000	8 738 000	11 390 000	12 920 000	9 200 000	9 268 960	14 934 500	10 608 000	9 112 000	8 936 000
Heroin	9 953 500	8 320 000	18 960 000	6 720 000	3 888 000	13 326 540	4 800 000	3 360 000	4 176 000	4 080 000
Cocaine	4 295 500	7 056 000	7 462 000	28 920 000	12 510 000	6 464 100	1 875 000	3 100 000	11 970 000	8 640 000
XTC	661 675	453 345	58 470	72 750	457 800	89 980	34 608	45 009	91 341	188 972
Amphetamine	440 000	258 000	958 500	660 000	107 200	964 230	945 000	636 000	2 668 000	3 504 000
Methamphetamine	47 974	2 402	12 779	28 931	48 379	-----	568 049	425 790	261 000	432 000

Figure 3: Black-market value of the seized narcotic substances between 2007 and 2016

QUALITY OF THE ILLICIT DRUGS

In 2016, the forensic examination of samples revealed the following average qualities of the main drug types:

	2016
Cannabis herb/marijuana	10.75 per cent (max. 33.49 per cent)
Cannabis resin/hashish	15.07 per cent (max. 52.31 per cent)
Heroin	13.67 per cent (max. 57.36 per cent)
Cocaine	45.93 per cent (max. 87.69 per cent)
XTC/MDMA	47.66 per cent (max. 88.27 per cent)
Amphetamine	14.49 per cent (max. 82.05 per cent)
Methamphetamine	58.69 per cent (max. 81.90 per cent)

Figure 4: Quality of the illicit drugs

SUSPECTS

Suspects broken down by age groups and sex

The following is a detailed description of the persons reported broken down by age groups and sex and of how their figures have developed in the last ten years.

There has been an increase in almost all age groups as well as in the number of total crime reports, with the under-18-year-olds showing the strongest growth. However, the age group from 21 to 35 years is still the strongest group of drug offenders. The following two tables show the distribution of age groups expressed in absolute and in percentage terms.

aged groups	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	change over previous year
under 18	3 005	2 577	2 876	2 724	2 706	2 444	3 290	4 325	4 270	5 226	22,4%
18 - 20	5 742	4 228	4 897	4 836	5 240	4 563	5 559	5 978	6 610	7 426	12,3%
21 - 24	5 901	4 843	5 438	5 563	5 874	5 108	5 977	5 740	6 253	6 847	9,5%
25 - 39	7 297	6 388	7 302	8 148	9 238	8 606	9 649	9 950	11 167	11 462	2,6%
40 and over	1 677	1 588	1 638	1 819	2 017	2 069	2 192	2 384	2 506	2 495	-0,4%
unknown offender	544	419	578	763	817	1 007	1 560	1 873	2 101	2 779	32,3%

aged groups	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
under 18	12,4%	12,9%	12,7%	11,4%	10,5%	10,3%	11,7%	14,3%	13,0%	14,4%
18 - 20	23,8%	21,1%	21,5%	20,3%	20,2%	19,2%	19,7%	19,8%	20,1%	20,5%
21 - 24	24,4%	24,2%	23,9%	23,3%	22,7%	21,5%	21,2%	19,0%	19,0%	18,9%
25 - 39	30,2%	31,9%	32,1%	34,2%	35,7%	36,2%	34,2%	32,9%	33,9%	31,6%
40 and over	6,9%	7,9%	7,2%	7,6%	7,8%	8,7%	7,8%	7,9%	7,6%	6,9%
unknown offender	2,3%	2,1%	2,5%	3,2%	3,2%	4,2%	5,5%	6,2%	6,4%	7,7%

Figures 5 and 6: Distribution of crime reports by aged groups between 2007 and 2016 expressed in absolute and in percentage terms

The frequency distribution by sex did not show a significant change. Men continued to be reported much more frequently than women in 2016 (around 86 per cent to 14 per cent).

gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	change over previous year
male	19 999	16 661	18 890	19 599	21 325	19 615	22 957	24 529	26 802	29 364	9,6%
female	3 623	2 963	3 261	3 491	3 750	3 175	3 710	3 848	4 004	4 092	2,2%
unknown	544	419	578	763	817	1 007	1 560	1 873	2 101	2 779	32,3%
overall	24 166	20 043	22 729	23 853	25 892	23 797	28 227	30 250	32 907	36 235	10,1%

Figure 7: Distribution of crime reports by sex between 2007 and 2016

Domestic and foreign suspects

In 2016, a total of 20,672 crime reports were filed against domestic suspects and 12,784 reports against foreign suspects for punishable offences that fall within the Narcotic Substances Act. The number of domestic suspects has continuously decreased since 2007 (from 78.2 to 61.8 per cent), while the number of foreign suspects has continuously risen in the same period of the previous year (from 21.8 to 38.2 per cent). The number of total reports rose by 10.1 per cent. It is striking to note that the proportion of foreign nationals has constantly increased in all areas of criminality and is above average in crime reports for crimes in year-on-year comparison.

The following charts show the distribution of overall crime reports and the distribution of indictable and non-crimes committed by domestic and foreign suspects in percentage terms.

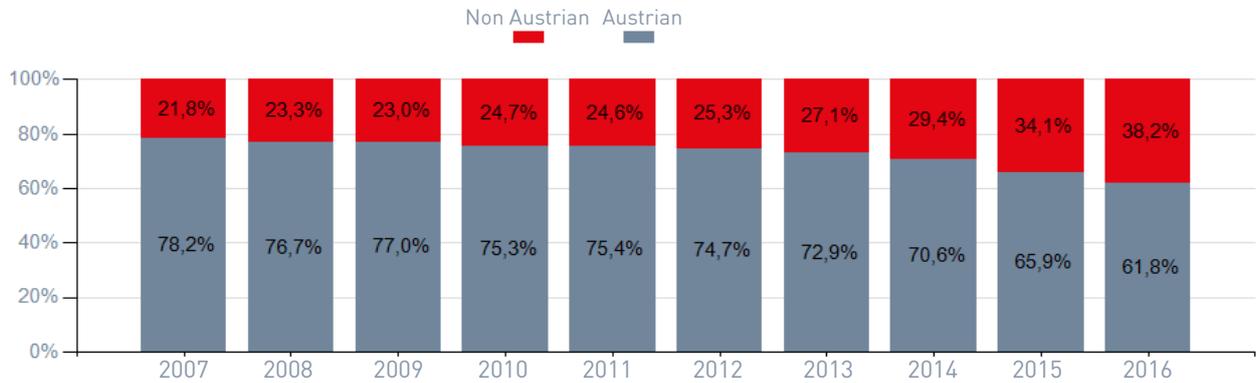


Figure 8: Distribution crimes and misdemeanours committed by domestic and foreign suspects between 2007 and 2016

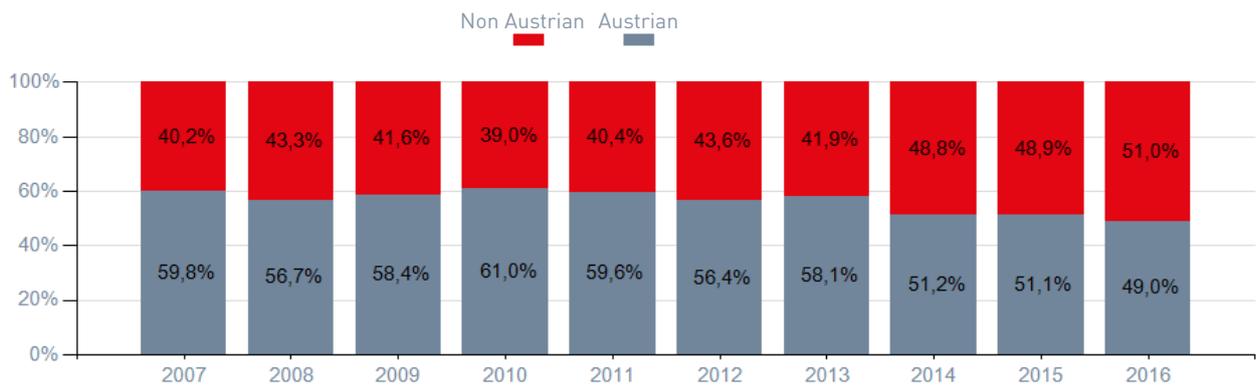


Figure 9: Distribution of crimes committed by domestic and foreign suspects between 2007 and 2016

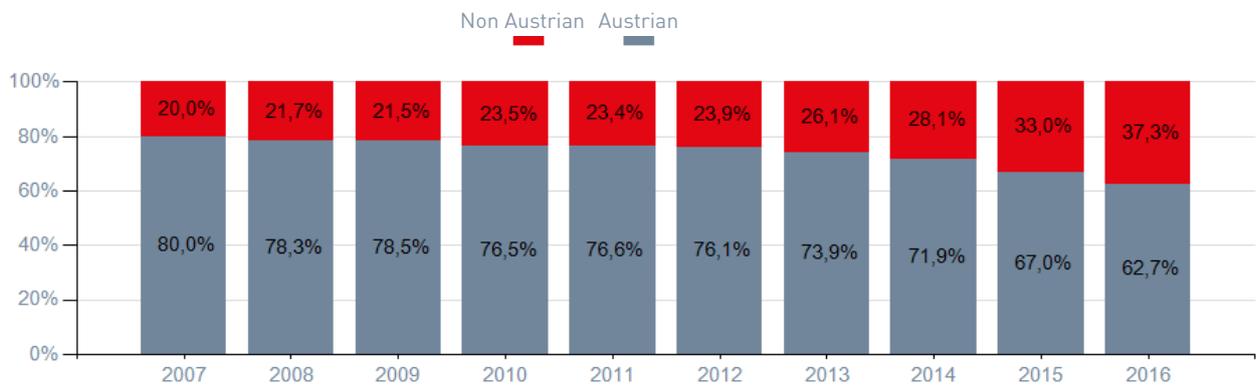


Figure 10: Distribution of misdemeanours by domestic and foreign suspects between 2007 and 2016

The analysis by nationality shows that the proportion of non-Austrian citizens is constantly steadily increasing. In the area of crimes, the number of reported drug-related offences committed by foreign suspects exceeded 50 per cent for the first time in 2016. Offences falling within the Narcotic Substances Act have increased considerably within a year from 1,344 to 1,896 among Nigerian citizens, from 759 to 1,282 among Algerian citizens, from 689 to 1,103 among Afghan citizens and from 530 to 850 among Moroccan citizens.

Country	Crime	Misdemeanours	overall
Nigeria	105	1 791	1 896
Algeria	56	1 225	1 281
Afghanistan	84	1 019	1 103
Morocco	27	823	850
Serbia	217	620	837
Germany	51	739	790
Turkey	68	712	780
Bosnia Herzegovina	45	425	470
Russia	15	350	365
Romania	22	308	330

Figure 11: Foreign suspects broken down by nationality in 2016

Figure 12 shows the offending percentages for Austrian and foreign suspects broken down by drug type. Figure 13 shows the percentages for foreign suspects broken down by federal province.

	all suspects	Austrian	Non Austrian
Cannabis	69,2%	66,7%	73,8%
Heroin	5,1%	5,1%	5,3%
Cocaine	7,8%	6,7%	9,7%
XTC	3,2%	3,9%	2,0%
Amphetamine	5,5%	7,0%	2,8%
Methamphetamine	2,1%	2,1%	2,1%
other	6,9%	8,4%	4,3%

	Nigeria	Algeria	Afghanistan	Morocco	Serbia	Germany	Turkey	Bosnia Herzegovina	Russian Federation	Rumänien
Cannabis	71,2%	92,1%	92,7%	93,3%	53,5%	70,0%	60,8%	60,2%	66,6%	71,3%
Heroin	5,3%	0,6%	0,3%	0,6%	20,3%	1,7%	10,7%	10,6%	8,9%	3,7%
Cocaine	22,3%	2,9%	1,5%	3,4%	13,1%	7,0%	11,6%	9,1%	6,5%	8,7%
XTC	0,0%	2,3%	2,2%	0,7%	1,0%	4,0%	2,6%	3,2%	2,2%	2,9%
Amphetamine	0,0%	0,7%	1,4%	0,1%	2,5%	7,7%	3,5%	6,5%	2,2%	4,2%
Methamphetamine	0,0%	0,4%	0,7%	0,3%	1,2%	2,4%	5,3%	2,5%	5,0%	2,6%
other	1,1%	0,9%	1,3%	1,7%	8,3%	7,0%	5,6%	7,9%	8,7%	6,6%

Figure 12 und 13: Distribution of narcotic drugs by domestic or foreign suspects and nationality in 2016

	Nigeria	Algeria	Afghanistan	Morocco	Serbia	Germany	Turkey	Bosnia Herzegovina	Russian Federation	Romania
Burgenland	0,5%	0,5%	0,7%	0,5%	1,8%	1,3%	2,1%	1,9%	1,4%	1,2%
Carinthia	1,3%	0,1%	0,8%	0,0%	1,6%	6,1%	0,6%	10,2%	3,3%	4,8%
Lower Austria	3,3%	5,4%	5,7%	4,0%	9,8%	5,3%	11,8%	9,4%	8,2%	9,7%
Upper Austria	7,0%	1,9%	21,4%	6,0%	8,4%	16,1%	13,6%	29,1%	21,4%	21,5%
Salzburg	0,4%	4,2%	5,4%	11,9%	3,7%	13,3%	4,5%	10,4%	2,2%	3,3%
Styria	2,4%	4,6%	24,6%	1,5%	1,6%	3,8%	2,9%	8,1%	7,7%	15,5%
Tyrol	0,2%	12,9%	8,2%	52,2%	3,3%	30,4%	9,1%	8,1%	6,0%	3,6%
Vorarlberg	0,2%	0,9%	1,8%	0,8%	3,0%	9,0%	12,7%	4,5%	6,3%	0,9%
Vienna	85,0%	69,6%	31,4%	23,1%	66,9%	14,8%	42,7%	18,3%	43,6%	39,4%

Figure 14: Distribution of foreign suspects broken down by federal province in 2016

OFFENDER GROUPS

The nationalities of smugglings and trafficking networks remained unchanged and correlate with the type of drug. As a rule, they are closely linked to the countries where the respective drug types originate and to those countries that are used as transit and depot areas. Migration flows also had an impact on the development of offender groups.

Offender groups often operate from countries situated along the Balkan route. Macedonian, Serbian, Croatian, Bulgarian and Turkish groups stand out in this region. Persian and Kosovar groups surface occasionally. Austrian nationals have leading positions in the production of cannabis herb. A sharp rise in drug trafficking was recorded on virtual trading platforms. Anonymous dealing on the Darknet and virtual payment methods are a major challenge for law enforcement agencies.

ACTIVITIES AND MAIN TARGETS OF THE POLICE

Narcotic drug offenses are offences of low reportability. Consequently, the increased number of checks is reflected in a higher number of crime reports. This increase is partly due to the amendment of the Narcotic Substances Act, which came into force on 1 June 2016 and introduced a new criminal offence (section 27 subsection 2a), making it possible to take more effective action against the open drug scene. In addition, targeted anti-drug operations across Austria were initiated in the year under review and will be continued in 2017. The Darknet has become an important investigative source for targeting criminal networks and opening lines of inquiry on an international level.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND PROJECTS

Organized drug trafficking can only be successfully combatted if international law enforcement services closely co-operate. The strategically important geographic position of Austria have encourages the Austrian authorities to demonstrated particular commitment and success in their activities.

Multinational co-operation is effected through tried-and-tested communication channels such as Interpol, Europol, Eurojust, the United Nations network and through Austrian liaison officers accredited to foreign countries and foreign liaison officers accredited to Austria.

In 2016, the Austrian police participated in two EU-sponsored projects:

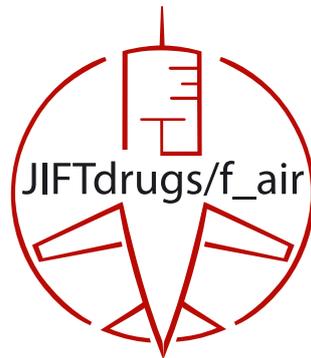


Figure 15: Logo of the project JIFTdrugs/f_air

A „Joint investigation to fight trafficking in drugs and firearms with the main focus on international airports within and also into the EU“ is currently conducted with Kosovo and the Czech Republic as partners and targets international airports. In addition to making seizures and smashing offender groups the project is intended to yield intelligence as to the current interaction between drugs and arms trafficking and smuggling. It was launched in December 2016 and will continue for two years

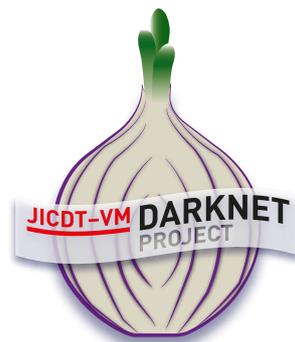


Figure 16: Logo of the project JICDT - VM

Austria is in charge of the international project „Joint investigation to combat drug trafficking on the virtual market (Darknet) within and also into the EU“, which involves all 28 EU member states, candidate countries, Western Balkan countries as well as Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Commission (EK).

The strengths of the project is its repressive strategy, which has been adapted to the new modus operandi. It is based on a close interaction between narcotics agents and covert investigators both in the real and the virtual world as well as IT experts and cybercrime investigators. The project ended in June 2017.

Trafficking in banned substances has been a practised for centuries. A comparatively recent trend is, however, to offer and sell drugs in encrypted Darknet forums. In this process, criminal networks use the Darknet as a criminal instrument for carrying out organized drug trafficking and thus generate illegal profits. Everything is processed through the Darknet, from establishing contact to negotiating sales and effecting payment.

In March 2015, a task force was set up at the Anti-Drug unit of the Criminal Intelligence Service to combat illicit drug trafficking on the Darknet. Since then, 697 individuals have been reported in Austria who have acquired, imported and largely resold 123 kgs of narcotic drugs and 78,000 tablets of Ecstasy on the Darknet. In 159 cases, trafficking in large quantities as a regular source of income has been proven. In the course of 181 house searches

35 kgs of narcotic drugs and 4,500 Ecstasy tablets have been seized. The highest number of orders for narcotic drugs - just under 32 per cent - have been placed in Upper Austria with, followed by Vienna (21 per cent), Styria (12.5 per cent) and Lower Austria (10 per cent).

Drug trafficking through the Darknet does not replace street trafficking. On the contrary, mail order enables dealers to buy drugs of higher quality and quantity and to adulterate and sell them on the streets. There is still crime as a means of supporting drug habits. Besides high quality drugs there are impure substances like amphetamine paste, which is mainly composed of solvents - waste products from the production of speed. Another dangerous substance is the synthetic opioid Fentanyl, which is becoming increasingly popular in the USA. Fentanyl is used as a painkiller in anaesthesia and is several times stronger than morphine.

Operation „Porto“ was launched in August 2016 by the Darknet task force. Investigations revealed that a large proportion of the drugs that are being sold on the Darknet are manufactured and sold in the Netherlands. Subsequently, middlemen ship the packaged units by post in Germany. The parcels are shipped all over the world and checks at international airports in Germany have resulted in a number of seizures. So far, some 6,000 mail pieces containing 170 kgs of narcotic substances have been detected in Germany.

Deepweb und Darknet

Large parts of the Worldwide Web are not accessible to current search engines. The Deepweb is an Internet area consisting of corporate networks, databases from libraries, universities and research institutions. Websites on the Deepweb can be accessed with a standard internet browser. However, most sites require a login. The Deepweb is the larger part of the Internet. The Darknet is an area of the internet that is not accessed with conventional browsers. Special software, such as the Tor browser (the Onion Router) is used, allowing data to be sent anonymously and in encrypted form through different servers. Like an onion, they are transmitted back and forth between several servers without leaving any trace. Darknet addresses consist of combinations of numbers and letters. The information transmitted on the Darknet can be read again in plain text in the end. The Darknet was intended for journalists and organisations threatened by censorship and has gained a bad reputation, because it is being used as a platform for illegal arms and drug trafficking, hacker services and other criminal activities.

NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR DRUG AND EXPLOSIVE PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES

Points of contact for private individuals and traders constitute an important means for enhancing public security in Austria. In view of the chemicals used measures to prevent potential hazards for the population are warranted. The national contact point for drug and explosives precursors attached to the Precursor Competence Centre at the Narcotic Drugs Unit of the Criminal Intelligence Service has an important role in this regard.

Drug precursor substances

Certain chemicals are used abusively by criminal networks and individuals for processing narcotic substances, mainly synthetic drugs. So as to prevent chemical substances being diverted from legal sources for the illegal production of drugs, a Precursor Competence Centre was established at the drug-related crime sub department of the Criminal Intelligence Service. It acts as a national contact point for drug and explosives precursor substances.

In 2016, a total of nine drug laboratories were detected in Austria, three of which in Vienna, three in Upper Austria, two in Lower Austria and one in Salzburg.

Explosives precursor substances

Home-made explosives made from easily accessible chemical precursors are often used in terrorist attacks. The year 2016 has clearly shown that there is a specific terrorist threat in Europe. The trade in explosives precursor substances is monitored by the national point of contact and the drug precursor national contact point at the Precursor Competence Centre. Reports from traders are forwarded to the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counterterrorism (BVT), if appropriate, after their criminal relevance has been assessed.

In 2016, just as in 2015, the main focus of CID activities was on raising awareness among traders and their umbrella associations for identifying and reporting suspicious behaviour to the National Point of Contact.

Bundeskriminalamt
National Contact Point for Drug Substances
Josef-Holaubek-Platz 1
1090 Vienna
Telefax: +43-(0)1-319 25 63
Precursor@bmi.gv.at

PREVENTION WORK

Addiction prevention for young people is a planned sequence of projects carried out by specially trained officers police in cooperation with institutions concerned, such as schools, private associations and families, is a sensitive way. In 2016, a total of 2,290 preventive measures were carried out throughout Austria. 37,962 people received counselling. In 2016, the police launched a new nationwide school programme aimed at supporting young people in their development and deterring delinquent behaviour by strengthening the personalities of teenagers and promoting the responsible handling of permitted and prohibited substances, Internet addiction and other dependencies.

A prevention program called „Look@your.Life“ was developed by committed police officers with a university background. On the basis of the current quality criteria in the field of addiction prevention, which are aimed at strengthening the ability of young people to deal in controlled substances, a total of 120 prevention officers were trained for activities across Austria. Studies have shown that the effect of deterrence is even increasing the interest of young people at risk. Young people want to dissociate themselves from the adult world and to transgress borders and limits. The task is to explore these limits within the legal system. The programme comprises a series of workshops, with the focus on interaction with 13 to 15-year-old students. There are four modules with a total of 19 teaching units. The special feature of the programme is that teachers and persons with parental responsibility are also actively involved in the programme as a multi-level approach to sustainable prevention. An information session for parents and a briefing session for teachers is organized. The trial operation will end in all federal provinces in December 2017.

ORGANIZED ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTIC DRUGS

The following is an overview of what the situation of organized trafficking in illicit substances is in Austria.

HEROIN

Although the UNODC estimates that global poppy cultivation has been reduced by approximately 11 per cent compared to 2015 to a total area of 281,000 hectares, Afghanistan is still the main supplier of poppy for the illegal opium production. Opium poppy is cultivated in Afghanistan on an area of around 183,000 hectares (as compared to 224,000 hectares in 2014), which represents about two thirds of the world's total area under cultivation. Approximately 200,000 households in Afghanistan continue to earn their living from illicit poppy cultivation. As has been mentioned, Afghanistan is still considered to be the most important heroin production country, but according to the EMCDDA large morphine seizures in Pakistan and Iran suggest that heroin also produced in large quantities in other Southeast Asian countries.

Due to Austria's geographical location on the main heroin smuggling route, the Balkan route from Turkey via Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria to Western Europe, the availability of heroin and opiate products is unchanged. In Austria and throughout Europe, the number of individual heroin seizures stagnated and even declined until 2014 and the number of seizures increased again since then. In 2014, more than two thirds of total seizures in Europe was accounted for by single large quantities and this trend continued in 2015 and 2016. This means that the number of single seizures is declining in many European countries, but the quantities seized, especially heroin qualities are on the increase. In 2012 and 2013, Macedonian networks were primarily responsible for heroin smuggling and trafficking from and into Austria. From 2014, an growing number of Serbian, Kosovar and Albanian offender groups have been noticed. This trend continued in 2015 and 2016. In addition, an increase in Turkish offender groups was recorded across Europe in 2016.

A large proportion of the suspects arrested in Austria can be linked to international organized crime networks. Their well-tries structures and hierarchies have been adopted by nearly all criminal organisations and associations, regardless of whether they are multicultural or multinational or made up of members from one single nation or of one denomination. In most cases, a clearly structured, hierarchical distribution of tasks within the organization is strictly adhered to. It has repeatedly been noticed that suspects belonging to a certain hierarchical level have very little knowledge of the other organizational levels or of accomplices. This strategy is intended to make prosecution by law enforcement agencies more difficult.

Religious and national conflicts are pushed into the background by the profit that can be expected from international heroin smuggling and trafficking. In most cases, the criminal networks also operate in other areas of criminality.

Drug trafficking has always been an essential funding source for a criminal organisation. Despite increased police checks, West African drug traffickers continue to be active, mainly in urban areas.

Heroin can be of quite different quality. „Balkan heroin“ seized is usually of a much higher quality than the heroin sold by street traders from Western Africa, called „street runners“. This is still a major risk of overdose. Add to this the fact that heroin is offered and sold by hidden services on Darknet platforms. As a rule, this heroin is of higher purity and quality. Despite the fact that the heroin seized is of increasingly high quality, as has been stated above, prices are stagnating on both wholesale and street markets.

As in 2015, the black market price for heroin ranges between EUR 25 and 100, with an average price of around EUR 60 per gram being paid. The price of the heroin offered on Darknet platforms (EUR 60 to 80) does not deviate significantly from traditional „offline“ drug dealing, although the quality is usually higher, as mentioned above.

There are no indications that the „offline“ heroin traffic shifts to online channels, the drugs supplied on Darknet platforms are added to the traditional drug supply. Great attention must be paid to this phenomenon in the future, as the Internet is an area where combatting drug trafficking at national or even regional level is no longer possible. Darknet markets are unlikely to replace or significantly influence the traditional drug trafficking scene in the near future. However, they will snowball and be an additional challenge for law enforcement services.

Cocaine

Cocaine trafficking continues to be prominent across the world, ranking second after cannabis products. The drug is grown in South America, mainly in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, and transported to Europe by sea and air.

The classic smuggling routes lead to North America, making Mexico one of the hotspots of illegal cocaine trade. Numerous drug cartels and criminal gangs are fighting there for controlling the profitable business. Cocaine is shipped to Europa not only from the ports of the producing countries, but to an increasing extent also via Brazil, Costa Rica and Panama and often through West African countries, usually in freight containers and banana transports. However, sailing ships and private jets are increasingly used for smuggling cocaine into Europe.

Organized criminal gangs continue to use the profitable cocaine traffic to finance arms trafficking and terrorist activities. Money laundering activities are on the rise, as drug money needs to be laundered.

In Austria, the Vienna international airport in Schwechat is often used by cocaine smugglers. Body packing and specially prepared compartments in the luggage continue to be the most popular smuggling methods.

Additionally, smugglers also use rail services and long-distance coaches to cater to domestic demand for cocaine in Austria. The average quantity of cocaine carried by travelling smugglers ranges between 300 and 1,000 grams. The number of cocaine seizures is on the rise again. As there was no large quantity seizure, the volume of cocaine seized is slightly lower than in the previous year.

The composition of offender groups operating in Austria vary from province to province. In Eastern Austria, mainly groups from West Africa and the Western Balkans are active. In the southern parts of the country an increasing number of West African drug dealers come to notice in addition to organized groups from the Balkans, whereas the cocaine traffic in Western Austria is dominated by North African offender groups.

In recent years, the number of cocaine traffickers from the Dominican Republic has been on the increase in all geographical regions. Occasionally domestic dealers come to notice, who usually purchase the cocaine in Spain or in the Netherlands and sell it with profit in Austria.

The average purchase price for one gram depends on where the cocaine is bought. The lower quality sold on the streets is cheaper than the quality sold in the so-called party scene at prices between 50 and 150 euros. However, consumers are mainly supplied by street traders, although the traffic on virtual trading platforms on the Darknet is markedly growing. The high drug quality and the supposedly anonymous and relatively low-risk acquisition facilities make the Darknet a very lucrative marketplace.

Cocaine will continue to play an important role among drug users.

CANNABIS

Products from the cannabis plant *cannabis sativa* are, as in previous years, the most frequently consumed, trafficked, produced and imported narcotic substances in Austria. The preferred form are dried herbs from the inflorescences, called marijuana, and the resin obtained from the female inflorescences, called hashish.

While cannabis herb / marijuana is increasingly produced in Austria, cannabis resin / hashish is always imported. Austria is as a smuggling transit country.

Cannabis herb

Domestically produced marijuana is mainly grown in indoor farms. For personal use it is cultivated in so-called grow boxes, freely available turnkey systems, which are sold for a few hundred euros in hemp shops, growshops, headshops and through the Internet. Grow boxes for up to 500 plants are usually operated by domestic cultivators. Farms with more than 500 units are operated by Eastern European groups – chiefly Serbian offenders. Imported marijuana originated, as in previous years, from Albania, the main European cultivation area. The cannabis herb from Albania is smuggled along the Balkan route or by sea and through Italy. Albanian perpetrators set up depots in Italy, the Czech Republic, Germany, and in the Eastern European countries along the Balkan route and use them to export the marijuana to Central and Northern Europe. Cannabis herb is also trafficked or passed on to resellers in those countries.

Marijuana continues to be imported by groups of different ethnicity and from domestic criminals directly from producers and traffickers in the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

Cannabis resin

Cannabis resin comes almost exclusively from Morocco. The mostly popular smuggling routes from Morocco to Austria are Spain - France - Switzerland, Spain - France - Germany and Spain - Italy.

Distribution of and traffic in cannabis products

Besides Austrian perpetrators, groups from the Maghreb countries, particularly Moroccan and Algerian offenders, and the West African groups that have been established for years dominate the market. It is interesting to note that there is a sharp increase in Afghan asylum seekers engaging in cannabis trafficking. These dealers, who are often well-organized, control an increasingly big share of the market and force out some well-established groups. Aliens from Germany, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkey and Macedonia are also active in the distribution of cannabis products. Prices vary according to purity and quantity. Large quantities are sold at about 4 euros a gram, small quantities are sold on the streets at about 12 euros.

Consumption

In cannabis consumption there are no significant socio-demographic differences. Cannabis is consumed across all age groups and social strata. It is striking to note that especially younger consumers lack any sense of doing something wrong.

Outlook

A further increase in cannabis consumption, production and traffic is expected.

SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Unlike heroin and cocaine, which is produced outside Europe, illicit synthetic drugs seized in Austria are entirely produced in the Schengen area.

Because of the proximity to the producing countries, they are smuggled in smaller quantities than heroin and cocaine, but the number of smuggling operations is higher. The narcotics are either imported by Austrian citizens from foreign countries or smuggled into Austria by drug mules of different nationalities.

As smaller amounts are smuggled, a seizure by police results in a smaller financial loss for the delinquents and in less severe penalties in the case of convictions. The synthetic drugs are predominantly smuggled in motor vehicles, sometimes by train or in public service busses. There has been a sharp increase in distribution by postal and parcel services, which is due to orders via Darknet.

Austria continues to be used as an unsuspecting transit country for the smuggling of synthetic drugs from Europe to overseas, because Austria is not regarded as a country producing this type of narcotic substances.

Amphetamine – MDMA – Ecstasy

The amphetamine seized in Austria is usually produced illegally in the Netherlands and in Poland.

International co-operation led to a major single seizure in Austria and to the detection of the production facility in the Netherlands.

MDMA is also chiefly produced in the Netherlands and distributed in Austria both as a pure powder and as an active ingredient in Ecstasy tablets. The Ecstasy tablets that have been seized contain a high proportion of active ingredients and carry the risk of death during consumption.

Methamphetamine

The methamphetamine on the Austrian market is produced illegally, for the most part in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, but also in other European countries. Up until a few years ago, methamphetamine was only available on the border with the Czech Republic and Slovakia, but has now reached the scene in all federal provinces.

The methamphetamine seized continues to be of high quality, the active substance content is 70 to 80 per cent, in some cases even higher.

New psychoactive substances

The trend towards a growing consumption of and trafficking in new psychoactive substances (NPSs) on the European market, which started in 2012, has continued. In 2016, a total of 669 NPS surfaced in reports from police, customs and health authorities (as compared to 602 NPS in 2015). This European trend was also recorded in Austria: In 2016, 209 NPS as defined by New Psychoactive Substances Act as amended in October 2016, were detected. (as compared to 126 NPS in 2015, 105 NPS in 2014, 94 NPS in 2013, and 47 NPS in 2012). These data are based on seizures and confiscations pursuant to section 5 of the New Psychoactive Substances Act. Not included are data concerning substances listed in Annex II/1a-k to the New Psychoactive Substances Act, viz synthetic cannabinoids.

The country of origin and production of the NPSs seized in Austria is China. They are ordered primarily via Internet. The trend towards NPS order websites being operated by European providers continues. The delivery is usually made by postal or parcel services directly from China and from Europe. This is due to the fact that there is no pan-European legal regulation of in respect of NPSs. In some EU countries the import, export and trading of NPSs is not subject to any statutory regulation.

The New Psychoactive Substances Act was amended in October 2016, yet some NPSs are not regulated by law in Austria because of the rapid development and availability of newly modified substances. It is therefore essential to monitor the European and Austrian markets in order to be able to react quickly to new developments.

ILLEGAL DRUG LABORATORIES IN AUSTRIA

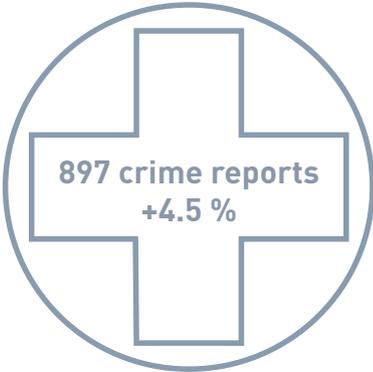
In 2016, a total of nine narcotic drug laboratories were detected in Austria, three of them in Vienna and Upper Austria, two in Lower Austria and one in Salzburg.

The purpose of most drug laboratories uncovered in 2016 was the production of methamphetamine or crystal meth and amphetamine or a combination of them. The production of narcotic substances was mostly used to cover the operator's own needs or to supply a regional group of consumers. The equipment and production methods are becoming more and more professional and the quantities of the basic substances and chemicals found are increasing rapidly. In some cases, an increase in the productivity of the synthesis processes has been noticed.

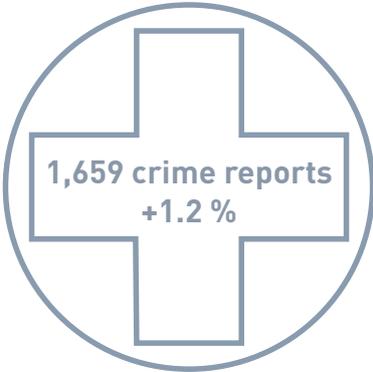
The operators of the illegal drug laboratories are exclusively Austrian citizens. The chemicals are usually purchased in Austria, sometimes in neighbouring countries or on the Internet.

DRUG CRIME IN THE FEDERAL PROVINCES

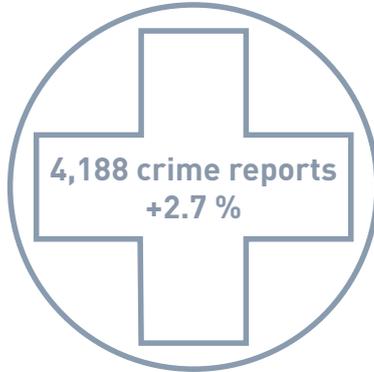
BURGENLAND



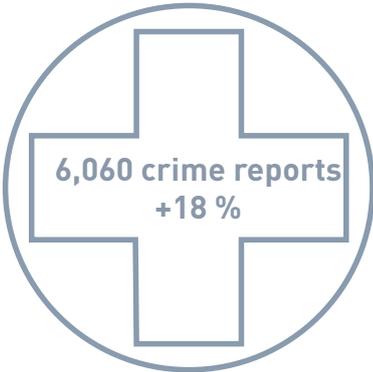
CARINTHIA



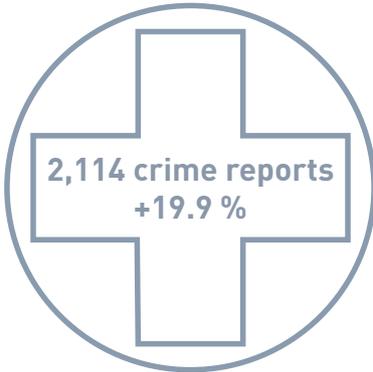
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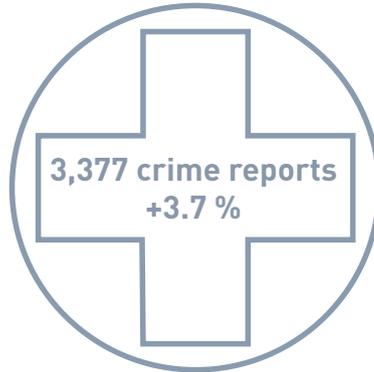
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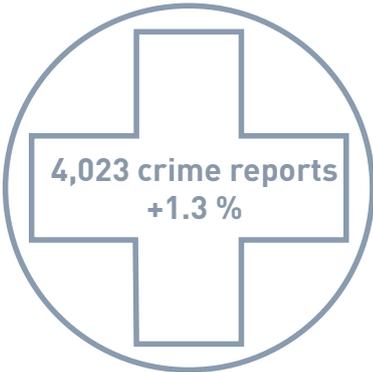
SALZBURG



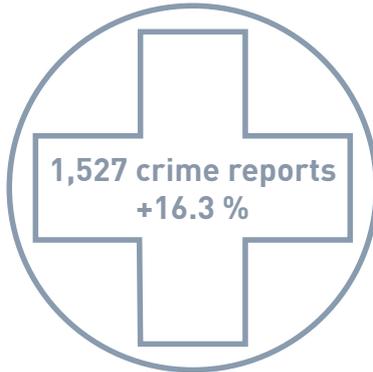
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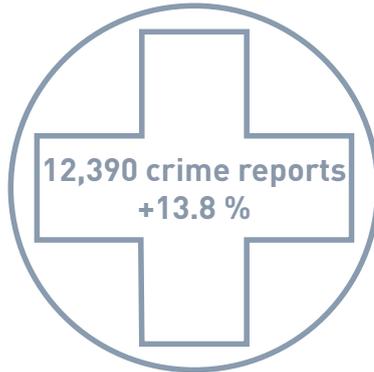
TYROL



VORARLBERG



VIENNA



BURGENLAND

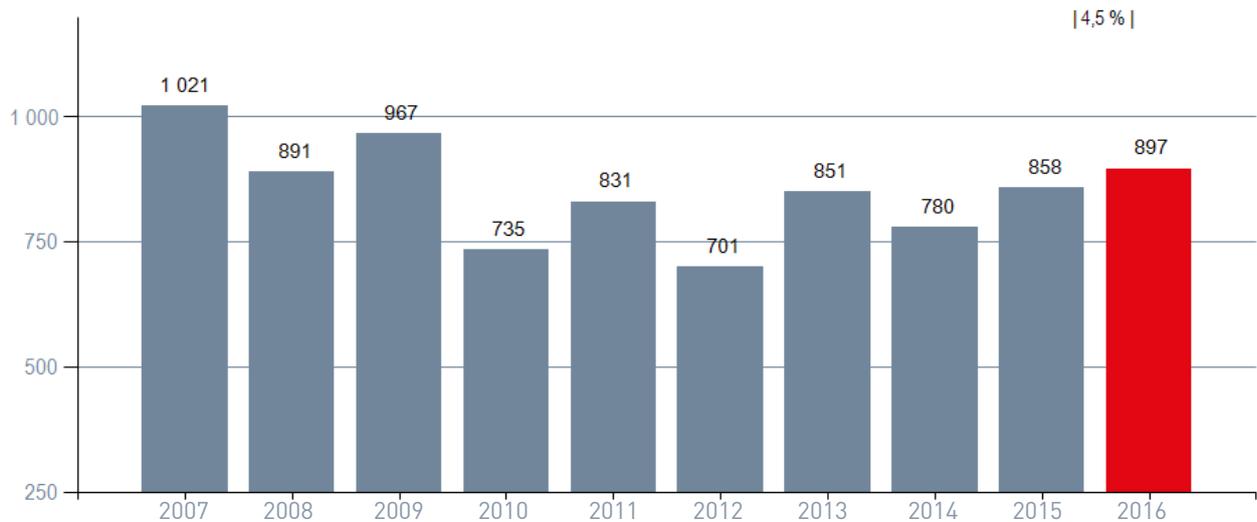


Figure 17: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Burgenland between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	37 298,8 g	41 673,8 g	72 087,5 g	34 945,9 g	149 012,5 g	53 433,4 g	88 352,8 g	73 407,3 g	31 906,3 g	44 909,9 g
Heroin	1 240,3 g	11 088,8 g	719,1 g	70,6 g	910,5 g	409,3 g	36,0 g	0,1 g	23,6 g	1 004,8 g
Cocaine	362,8 g	308,4 g	638,6 g	1 247,6 g	894,3 g	237,8 g	2 740,0 g	230,7 g	456,1 g	615,6 g
XTC	1 136,0 Stk	1 100,0 Stk	1 763,0 Stk	37,0 Stk	4 497,0 Stk	617,0 Stk	103,0 Stk	23,0 Stk	292,0 Stk	174,0 Stk
Amphetamine	274,0 g	188,3 g	3 898,8 g	7 358,6 g	3 307,2 g	2 211,1 g	2 238,2 g	81,9 g	823,4 g	144,1 g
Methamphetamine	50,9 g	3,0 g	664,8 g	16,7 g	1 076,1 g	568,5 g	286,1 g	127,6 g	43,7 g	440,8 g

Figure 18: Seizure of the main substances in Burgenland in 2016

Offender groups, types of narcotic substances and transport routes

Turkish citizens travel in European countries as asylum seekers or illegally residents and smuggle heroin and cocaine by ferry from Istanbul (Turkey) to Trieste or Rome (Italy). From there, the narcotics are further transported in cars and lorries to Austria, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Belgium and thus also reach the province of Burgenland. In a few cases, parcels are used for smuggling. Turkish Kurds from the Bingöl and Elazığ regions is the most active group in all countries. All offender groups are well-organized. The consignments are ordered by gang members in Trieste and the proceeds are usually handed over in person to accomplices or are transferred to bank accounts.

Organized trafficking of cannabis products is on the increase among nationals from Afghanistan and Morocco who have asylum status or are illegal residents. The narcotic substances are often procured by fellow countrymen in neighbouring Hungary. Afghans and Moroccans dominate the cannabis traffic in nearly all districts of Burgenland. While cannabis products were purchased in the Lower Austrian city of Wiener Neustadt in former years, drug dealers now increasingly use public places in Eisenstadt and surroundings.

Austrian citizens with a migration background have come to notice using the Darknet for dealing amphetamine and ecstasy as members of a criminal association and selling them to persons below the age of criminal responsibility in the Eisenstadt area. They threatened to use the force of arms to collect outstanding debts from drug users.

Cannabis production sites

Growing cannabis in factories is on the increase. The offenders are almost exclusively Austrian citizens. Indoor installations are most commonly used, outdoor installations are rare. The production of cannabis products has become extremely easy through instructions on the Internet and freely available equipment. THC peaks in homemade cannabis oil reached an extraordinary 45 per cent.

Consumer behaviour and misuse of illicit drugs

Since 2016, there has been a significant increase in the street sale of cannabis by migrants. The buyers have been both underage persons and persons of full age. Consumption of cannabis herb and ecstasy is growing, with consumers being increasingly young people.

A stateless dealer of Armenian origin was arrested, because he passed on a large number of fentanyl patches to heavily dependent addicts from the districts of Güssing and Hartberg-Fürstenfeld on a regular basis. Over the last two years, he generated proceeds totalling 84,000 euros. The drug addicts sterilized the opiate of the patches with citric acid in boiling water and injected the drug intravenously.

Darknet

The sale or acquisition of illicit narcotic drugs through Internet trading platforms, using virtual currencies such as bitcoins, is permanently monitored.

Development in the area of acquisitive, accompanying and follow-up crime

Burglaries and thefts do occur, but only on a small scale. Money is laundered in connection with organized street crime. More and more persons are reported for violation of the Weapons Act. Crimes of violence, such as recovering money for narcotics transactions threatening to use arms and attempts to forcibly obtain narcotics are rare. Counterfeit euro banknotes, which originated from drug trafficking or were intended for the purchase of narcotic substances, have been seized.

New psychoactive substances

Substances that fall within the New Psychoactive Substances Act have been seized on a small scale and only jointly with narcotic substances.

Outlook

Slovakia is an important country of origin for methamphetamine. Even if, at present, there is no apparent scene of methamphetamine or crystal meth consumers in Burgenland, imports are on the increase. Cars and trains are used for smuggling, and the majority of the smuggled narcotics is sold in the metropolis of Vienna. A further increase of drug trafficking on the Darknet is expected.

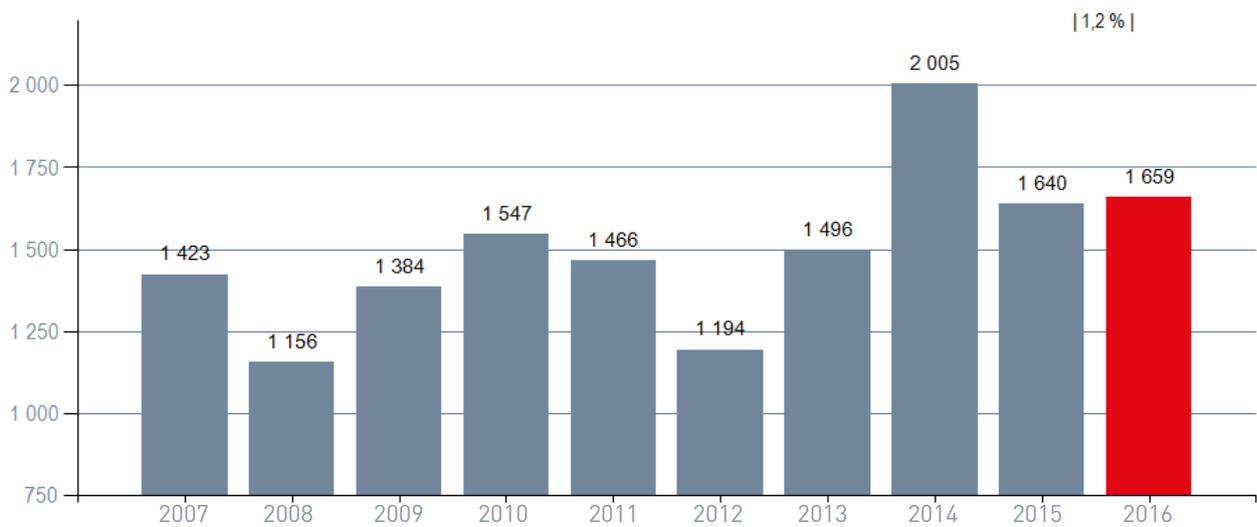


Figure 19: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Carinthia between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	58 657,7 g	51 773,0 g	32 249,9 g	118 743,2 g	39 575,0 g	49 544,7 g	559 005,9 g	52 171,1 g	36 899,0 g	29 226,6 g
Heroin	239,4 g	13 418,1 g	4 638,6 g	1 398,9 g	129,9 g	2 683,5 g	879,7 g	282,8 g	3 032,0 g	836,8 g
Cocaine	958,5 g	832,1 g	786,1 g	3 057,8 g	573,0 g	1 989,7 g	849,0 g	697,4 g	1 005,4 g	740,9 g
XTC	3 412,0 Stk	196,0 Stk	134,0 Stk	5,0 Stk	15,0 Stk	32,0 Stk	52,5 Stk	312,0 Stk	639,0 Stk	2 168,3 Stk
Amphetamine	217,5 g	19,7 g	2,7 g	463,0 g	515,1 g	6 721,1 g	239,4 g	18,3 g	122,0 g	435,5 g
Methamphetamine	2,1 g	4,3 g	10,0 g	204,4 g	1,2 g	1,1 g	79,9 g	41,1 g	18,8 g	34,9 g

Figure 20: Seizures of the main substances in Carinthia in 2016

Groups of offenders, types of narcotic substances and transport routes

Aside from Austrian offender groups, perpetrators from Bosnia, Slovenia and above all Nigeria operate in Carinthia. At the end of 2016, Dominicans came to the attention of the police as cocaine dealers. Heroin is largely sourced from the Slovenian market. Small border crossing points to Slovenia are most frequently used for smuggling operations. The destinations are usually Kranj and Ljubljana. In Carinthia, fewer drug dealers from Slovenia were active because of enhanced border checks following the increased flow of migrants. As a result, smuggling operations were rather carried out from Carinthia into Slovenia.

Another side effect of enhanced border checks were seizures of illicit drugs, especially heroin and cannabis products, primarily from local buyers. Drug smuggling in the border districts of Völkermarkt and Klagenfurt-Land has plateaued out at a high level. Dominican and Nigerian offender groups deal in cocaine and cannabis mostly in the town of Klagenfurt. The minimum unit sold is about 10 grams. The cocaine that the Dominicans deal in is transported via Spain and the Netherlands to Vienna or Linz and from there to Carinthia. In notorious clubs all common drugs are sold: cannabis products, cocaine, heroin, amphetamine etc. The illicit substances are obtained from various sources. Cocaine is smuggled from Slovenia and destined for the town of Villach. The demand for cocaine is growing in Villach because of numerous brothels.

The delinquency among members of the various motorcycle clubs such as Hells Angels and United Tribunes is on the increase, which is not a new phenomenon. In addition to drug-related crime, this group also engages in violent and property crime such as extortion, theft and burglary.

Cannabis production sites

In 2016, a total of 64 cannabis farms were identified, including 42 indoor and 22 outdoor facilities. Between 20 and 140 plants were grown there, a higher number of which indoors. Except in one case of unknown nationality all operators were Austrian nationals.

Consumer behaviour and abuse of illegal drugs

Cannabis products continue to be the most popular illegal drug. As in previous years, consumption increasingly shifts to private areas.

Darknet

An alarming development is the fact that a high percentage of Darknet orders are placed by first-time consumers, with unrecorded cases being believed to be very high. All common illicit drugs and NPS products are ordered through Internet channels.

Development in the area of procurement, accompanying and secondary crime

Crime as a means of supporting drug habits and accompanying crime in the form of petty robberies, burglaries and thefts are predominantly recorded in the towns of Klagenfurt and Villach. However, no particular development can be deduced from this.

New psychoactive substances

The level of offences related to this drug type remains high. Orders are placed via Darknet.

Outlook

An easing of the drug situation in Carinthia is not to be expected in the near future. Cocaine and heroin consumption has become an everyday phenomenon. The possibility of sourcing these drugs almost without any risk via Darknet aggravates the situation.

LOWER AUSTRIA

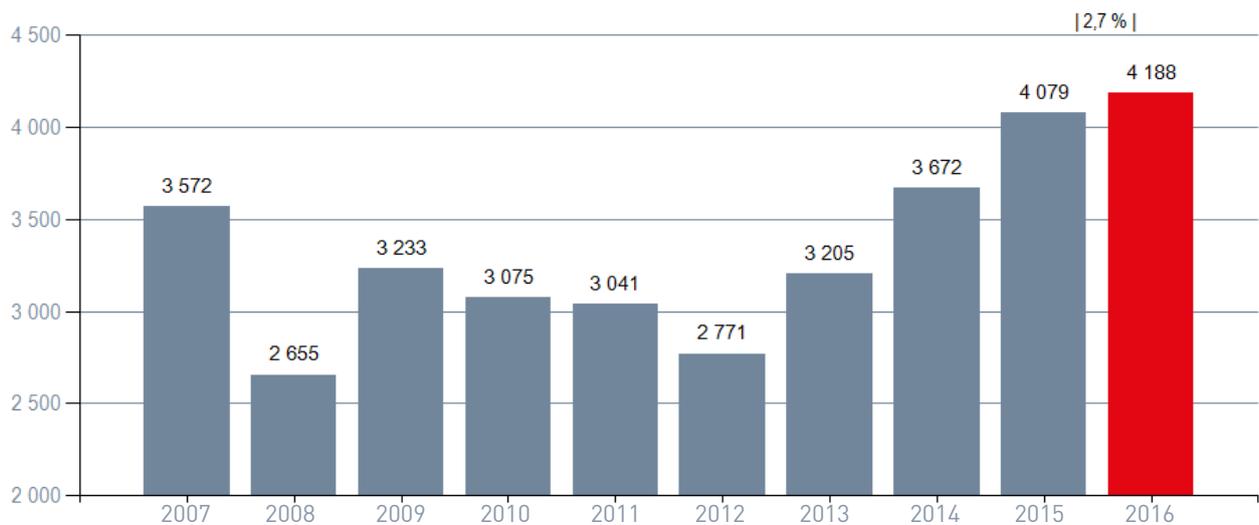


Figure 21: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Lower Austria between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	210 615,4 g	179 732,0 g	131 738,5 g	154 551,0 g	127 497,0 g	200 987,0 g	228 136,1 g	313 181,7 g	162 114,7 g	233 899,7 g
Heroin	4 083,9 g	12 237,6 g	2 413,9 g	1 157,8 g	355,9 g	13 139,4 g	5 314,6 g	12 998,4 g	5 447,4 g	2 150,0 g
Cocaine	20 342,1 g	32 850,8 g	15 214,7 g	220 302,2 g	4 888,2 g	19 241,4 g	4 171,9 g	4 071,4 g	10 141,0 g	7 702,3 g
XTC	1 552,0 Stk	4 357,5 Stk	589,0 Stk	27,0 Stk	362,0 Stk	326,0 Stk	666,5 Stk	105,0 Stk	1 769,0 Stk	2 518,2 Stk
Amphetamine	3 137,8 g	561,2 g	50 309,4 g	5 157,9 g	2 073,7 g	2 843,4 g	988,6 g	627,1 g	10 978,3 g	5 814,9 g
Methamphetamine	46,1 g	51,9 g	279,4 g	744,8 g	813,3 g	610,0 g	120,0 g	1 141,3 g	540,5 g	383,9 g

Figure 22: Seizures of the main substances in Lower Austria in 2016

Offender groups, types of narcotic substances and transport routes

Serbian and Albanian offender groups import heroin, cannabis herb and cocaine to Austria via the Balkans and bring it to Vienna and onward to Lower Austria. Albanian groups also smuggle cannabis herb via Italy Across the Balkans. Cocaine continues to be transported from the Netherlands to the capital Vienna and to Lower Austria.

Austrians, Czechs and citizens of the Balkan countries are involved in smuggling substantial quantities of amphetamine and methamphetamine from neighbouring Czechia into Austria.,

Cannabis production sites

Drug growers come from Austria, Serbia, Turkey, Romania, Slovenia and Hungary. In 2016, 125 indoor farms with a total of 10,571 cannabis plants as well as 69 outdoor farms with a total of 1,929 plants were detected.

Laboratories for the production of narcotic substances

In 2016, two laboratories for the production of methamphetamine, crystal meth and amphetamine, or a combination of them were detected. The operators were Austrian citizens.

Consumer behaviour and abuse of illegal drugs

Consumption in Lower Austria remained more or less unchanged. The narcotic substances that are consumed are cannabis products, heroin, cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances. Ecstasy and LSD are less common.

Darknet

There is a sharp increase in purchases and sales of narcotic substances through Internet trading platforms, using virtual currencies such as Bitcoins.

Development in the area of acquisitive, accompanying and secondary crime

The crimes recorded are manslaughter through culpable negligence, failure to render assistance, dangerous threat of violence, theft, embezzlement, robbery and serious robbery, extortion, fraud, receiving of stolen goods, physical injury resulting from negligence, theft of credit instruments, false testimony, criminal conspiracy and violation of the Weapons Act.

New psychoactive substances

Compared to 2015 there has been a general decline in seizures and there have been no large-quantity seizures with the exception of the municipal area of Schwechat

Vienna International Airport in Schwechat

Passenger area: Smugglers from South American countries are usually stopped at major international airports when entering the EU. However, an increase of seizures from Nigerian body packers was recorded again in 2016. The body packers carried an average of 700 grams of cocaine in their bodies and took in the majority of cases direct flights from Madrid to Vienna, the final destination. In heroin smuggling cases, airports of departure in Pakistan and the Arab Emirates are preferred, and Austria is used as a transit country, just as Barcelona and Amsterdam. Cannabis continues to be smuggled from Delhi (India). On this air route, there was a decline in seizures as compared to previous years. A similar decline was noted in respect of khat plants being smuggled from West Africa to destination airports in Germany and the Nordic countries.

Major seizures

A 60-year-old Turkish national with a counterfeit Turkish passport was stopped and found in possession of 1.5 kgs of heroin, which was hidden in a double bottom of his suitcase. The drug mule had carried out 16 smuggling operations as a regular source of income. He travelled via Dubai to Austria and his final destination is believed to have been Barcelona (Spain).

A 53-year-old British citizen arrived from Delhi (India) at the Vienna international airport and imported 4.2 kgs of cannabis resin, which was hidden in a specially prepared compartment of a case for a chess board.

A 48-year-old Nigerian living in Greece transported 1.5 kgs of cocaine from Dubai to Austria. The drug was hidden in sweets and chocolates and was destined for a Nigerian offender group in Vienna.

Express parcel service and redirection post office at the airport

2016 has seen a sharp rise in seizures of those narcotic substances and new psychoactive substances that were sent or transported by postal and express services. The overall increase was 50 per cent, the quantities of single seizures are on the rise. Seizures of amphetamine shipped in quantities of approximately 100 grams have become routine. The average quantity of narcotic drugs and new psychoactive substances seized is 1 to 10 grams. They are mostly ordered by young people on the Darknet and then delivered by an express mail and parcel service. The purchase price is paid in the virtual currency Bitcoin. Most senders are located in Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and China.

Town of Schwechat

In the municipal area of Schwechat, crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act and the New Psychoactive Substances Act have surged. In summer and in spring a small drug scene emerges in the parks. Cannabis herb is the preferred drug, but heroin, cocaine and amphetamines are also consumed. In addition to the seizure of illegal narcotic substances, five indoor cannabis production sites were discovered.

Outlook

A significant change in the drug situation is improbable in the near future. A further increase in methamphetamine abuse seems, however, likely. Drug trafficking on the Darknet will continue to increase steadily.

UPPER AUSTRIA

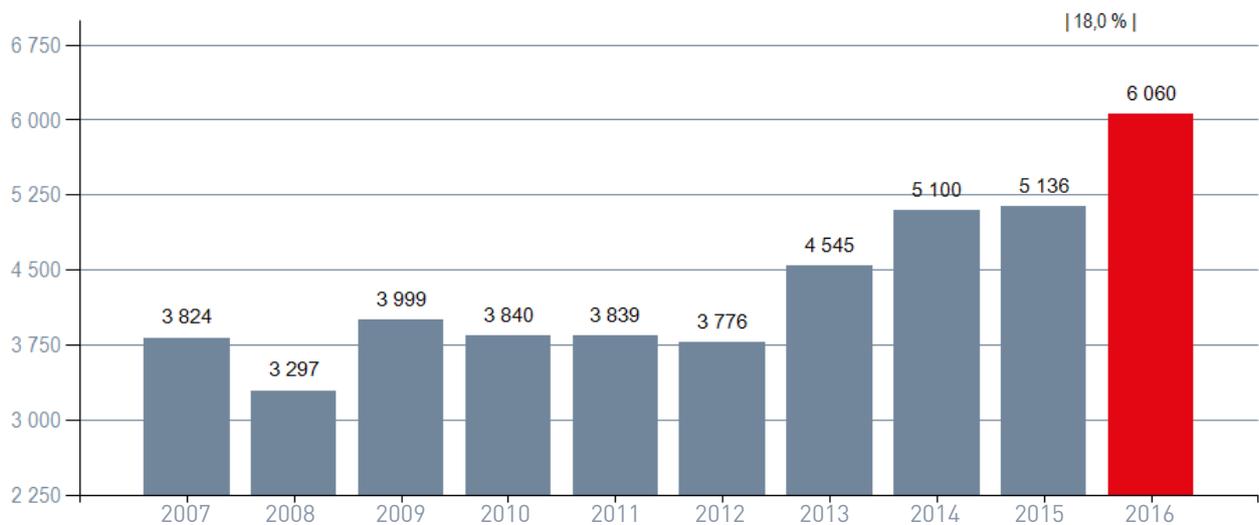


Figure 23: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Upper Austria between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	152 143,3 g	192 775,5 g	169 047,6 g	77 805,9 g	119 484,5 g	117 998,7 g	81 347,6 g	77 244,0 g	109 655,9 g	104 756,4 g
Heroin	10 701,4 g	1 721,6 g	37 042,1 g	13 838,7 g	655,8 g	126 515,6 g	3 544,6 g	31 953,5 g	3 798,0 g	1 076,7 g
Cocaine	15 857,5 g	9 391,4 g	8 933,8 g	3 418,7 g	1 736,4 g	1 631,1 g	782,0 g	3 910,9 g	60 102,5 g	10 698,8 g
XTC	13 204,0 Stk	5 840,0 Stk	768,5 Stk	4,0 Stk	161,0 Stk	273,0 Stk	1 238,0 Stk	1 269,0 Stk	558,0 Stk	5 524,5 Stk
Amphetamine	2 122,2 g	3 594,9 g	1 231,5 g	789,8 g	491,5 g	221,2 g	2 345,8 g	2 990,6 g	3 491,3 g	13 908,8 g
Methamphetamine	17,5 g	12,0 g	63,7 g	69,0 g	174,9 g	417,3 g	1 301,3 g	1 606,9 g	1 329,0 g	347,2 g

Figur 24: Seizures of the main substances in Upper Austria in 2016

Methamphetamine is smuggled and trafficked by Austrians. Illicit drugs of all types - with the exception of cannabis products - are increasingly ordered via the Darknet. Nationals of Northern and Western African countries and of the Dominican Republic, mostly asylum seekers, operated in groups to an increasing extent. They extensively deal in cannabis products and cocaine on the streets, with Dominicans focussing on cocaine. Afghan nationals source cannabis from Albania and the Czech Republic and challenge the North and West African. Albanian nationals and other ethnic groups who previously engaged in heroin trafficking, are now trying their hand at cocaine trafficking. The cocaine is transported large warehouses in Belgium and the Netherlands via Germany to Upper Austria. In addition to cannabis products, cocaine is occasionally smuggled on the Balkan route, with Albanians dominating the cannabis sector. Turkish citizens deal small quantities of various drug types and are often found to be consumers. Citizens of Middle East countries - often asylum seekers - engage in illicit street trafficking.

Cannabis production sites

A total of 33 indoor farms were found in Linz, Steyr and Wels, further 51 were detected in other parts of the province. Most of them were operated by Austrians. 26 outdoor facilities were operated by Austrians and by unknown offenders.

Laboratories for the production of narcotic substances

Two Austrians and one offender of unknown nationality produced amphetamine and methamphetamine at three laboratories.

Consumer behaviour and abuse of illegal drugs

Mixed consumption remains predominant, with cannabis products being most frequently consumed. Aside from street trafficking, the Internet is increasingly used as a source of supply.

Darknet

The Darknet has become as common marketplace. It is striking to note that heroin trafficking is also on the increase on the various platforms.

Development in the area of acquisitive, accompanying and secondary crime

Small-scale dealers, called „touts“ or „recruiters“, sell narcotic substances and establish contacts for large-scale deals in the process. The drugs are stored in stash flats. Acts of violence occur when rivalling gangs defend their turf.

New psychoactive substances

NPSs are sourced almost exclusively from the Darknet. It would appear that last year's increases are due to trial runs and that consumption is now on the decline again. Since traditional narcotics – not least because of the Darknet - can be acquired without much risk, the interest in NPSs seems to be waning.

Outlook

The overall drug situation is unlikely to ease because of the effects of migration flows and and the resulting increase in drug trafficking by asylum seekers in addition to domestic trafficking. Drug trafficking on the Darknet is a major problem. It is expected to further increase.

SALZBURG

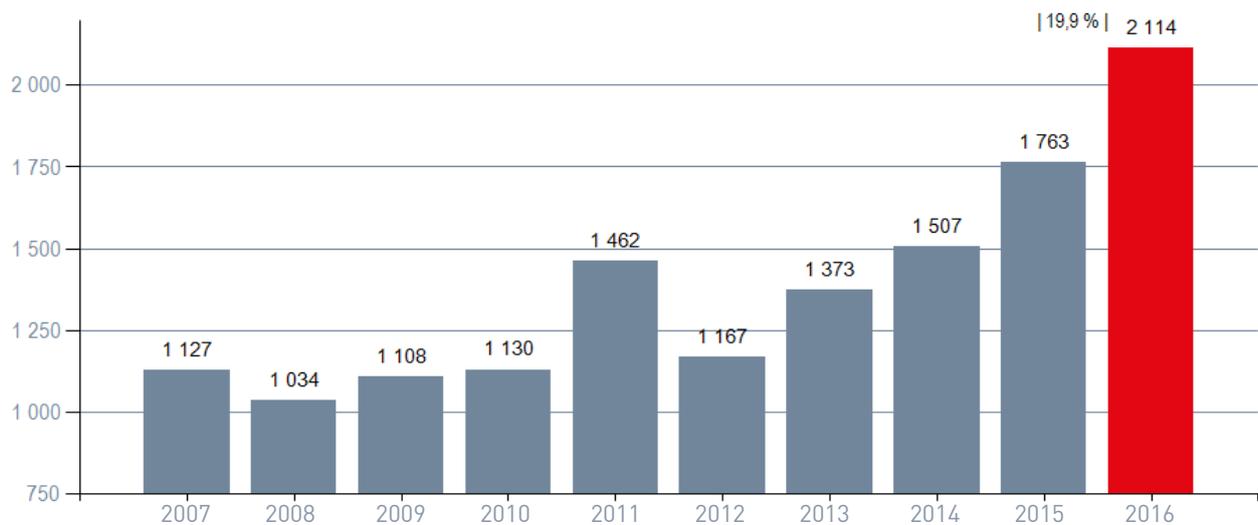


Figure 25: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Salzburg between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	8 447,6 g	53 231,2 g	15 567,8 g	131 538,0 g	31 999,3 g	43 554,9 g	37 592,7 g	36 917,9 g	72 212,8 g	40 330,0 g
Heroin	10 257,3 g	9 947,2 g	7 885,1 g	10 677,9 g	0,6 g	1,5 g	56 154,8 g	2 394,8 g	13 004,1 g	6 124,4 g
Cocaine	594,3 g	1 326,7 g	1 426,3 g	323,6 g	2 078,3 g	1 396,5 g	2 671,1 g	736,5 g	3 096,3 g	3 443,3 g
XTC	5 425,5 Stk	95,5 Stk	418,0 Stk	6 698,5 Stk	5 296,0 Stk	817,0 Stk	245,0 Stk	632,0 Stk	331,0 Stk	1 688,7 Stk
Amphetamine	1 259,9 g	890,0 g	1 515,7 g	1 334,5 g	1 422,2 g	15 489,2 g	1 949,1 g	4 123,6 g	503,4 g	3 480,0 g
Methamphetamine	0,1 g	2,0 g	12,9 g	3,3 g	23,7 g	8,7 g	1 363,6 g	119,1 g	12,1 g	12,2 g

Figure 26: Seizure of the main substances in Salzburg in 2016

Offender groups, types of narcotic substances and transport routes

Austrian citizens deal in all types of drugs. Cocaine is imported to Salzburg through the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Serbia and Slovenia. Heroin is imported for the most part from Slovenia and Turkey. Amphetamine reaches Salzburg from the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Cannabis products are obtained in the Netherlands, Albania, Germany, Ukraine and the Czech Republic. Czech nationals smuggle Chrystal meth, amphetamines and cannabis products from the Czech Republic to Salzburg. Albanian and Serbian nationals smuggle heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and cannabis products to Salzburg via the Balkan route or from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium or Albania. Turkish citizens engage in international heroin trafficking, smuggling the drugs along the Balkan route to Salzburg and onwards to other Western European countries. Nationals from Afghanistan, Algeria and Morocco focus on cannabis products, but also deal small quantities of amphetamine and cocaine. The narcotics are obtained from Pakistani and Albanian drug dealers who source them from the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Albania or Italy. West Africans mostly deal small quantities of cocaine and cannabis products. Offender groups from Germany engaged in cocaine and amphetamine trafficking.

Cannabis production sites

No significant increase has been noted as compared to 2015. A total of 19 indoor farms were detected and 800 cannabis plants were seized. Two outdoor facilities with a total of 14 cannabis plants were found.

Laboratories for the production of narcotic substances

During a house search in Hallein a small kitchen laboratory operated by an Austrian citizen for the production of Chrystal meth was discovered and seized.

Consumer behaviour and abuse of illegal drugs

In-house production of cannabis products is profitable and increases consumption, while the consumption of heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine remains unchanged. However, an increase in amphetamine consumption was observed.

Darknet

Orders of all types of narcotic drugs, chiefly amphetamines and cannabis products, through the Internet is on the increase just as single quantities are.

Development in the area of acquisitive, accompanying and follow-up crime

Albanian and Bulgarian offender groups deal in counterfeit money. A covert operation resulted in the seizure of 500,000 euros in counterfeit money. There has been a slight increase in property offences, particularly thefts, thefts accompanied by violence, burglaries, robberies and prostitution to finance drug habits.

New psychoactive substances

NPS substances are usually purchased on various Internet platforms and shipped by post from Germany, China, England and the Netherlands. There is no increase as compared to 2015.

Outlook

The drug situation is not likely to ease. In addition to the growing drug smuggling from the Balkans, Turkey and other Western European countries, a sharp rise in Internet trafficking is expected.

STYRIA

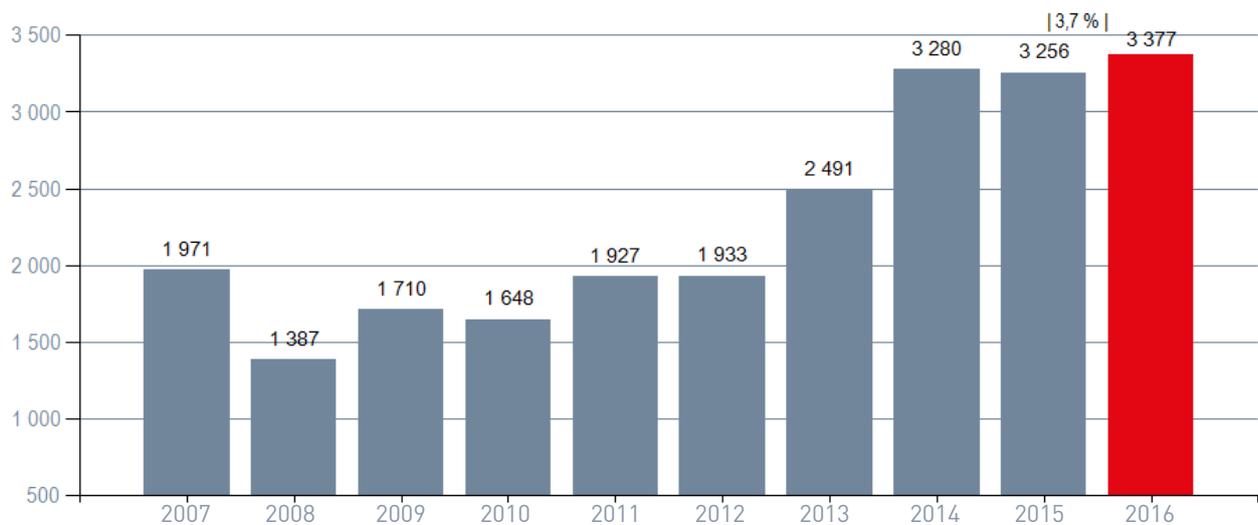


Figure 27: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Styria between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	78 254,8 g	134 140,7 g	64 687,1 g	50 008,6 g	76 682,6 g	141 934,3 g	95 157,3 g	109 269,5 g	189 213,6 g	111 151,7 g
Heroin	9 241,3 g	306,2 g	14 549,4 g	5 654,1 g	11 376,8 g	54 270,9 g	0,0 g	96,2 g	38,2 g	38 531,8 g
Cocaine	224,2 g	123,4 g	1 587,9 g	594,7 g	848,1 g	3 173,6 g	531,7 g	805,0 g	7 901,9 g	8 066,1 g
XTC	2 916,5 Stk	106,0 Stk	556,0 Stk	0,0 Stk	713,0 Stk	6 062,0 Stk	29,0 Stk	991,0 Stk	1 158,2 Stk	2 199,9 Stk
Amphetamine	1 436,2 g	572,4 g	92,0 g	2 445,6 g	790,1 g	2 319,2 g	638,4 g	927,1 g	39 024,3 g	7 479,0 g
Methamphetamine	1,0 g	2,5 g	6,4 g	1,7 g	114,8 g	28,4 g	125,9 g	151,7 g	98,1 g	105,8 g

Figure 28: Seizure of the main substances in Styria in 2016

Offender groups, types of narcotic substances and transport routes

Narcotic substances and both consumed and trafficked. The hotspot is the provincial capital of Graz. It was established that the various offender groups are linked to each other and have contacts in the federal capital of Vienna. Narcotics of all types are dealt, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis products, substitute drugs, new psychoactive substances and benzodiazepines.

The offender groups include nationals from Afghanistan, West and North Africa, Serbia, Albania, the Dominican Republic, the Czech Republic, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia and Turkey. In 2016, large quantities of cannabis herb were transported from Slovenia and Slovakia to Styria. Cannabis from Slovenia was trafficked mostly by Romanian, Slovenian and Afghan groups. Drugs from Slovakia were trafficked mainly by Afghan, Turkish and Dominican groups. Nationals of Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon and Chechnya smuggle increasing quantities of cocaine of excellent quality into Styria. Nationals of Balkan countries transport various drugs from the Balkan or from the Netherland to Styria.

Cannabis production sites

Cannabis farms continue to be operated, for the most part by Austrians. While the outdoor cultivation is declining, indoor cultivation is on the increase. Most of them are small factories with 10 to 20 hemp plants, but large facilities with 50 plants were also detected, including one farm with even 1,300 cannabis plants. Most of the cannabis from small factories was intended for personal use, but some was also sold. The THC content of the plants was always high.

Consumer behaviour and abuse of illegal drugs

The traditional mixed consumption of drugs, new psychoactive substances and illicit narcotic substances continues. Due to the uncomplicated in-house production consumption of cannabis products, primarily cannabis herb, is predominant. There is an overall increase in the consumption of cocaine, heroin and various amphetamines. This development is believed to be due to the use of trading platforms on the Darknet. Consumers continue to lack any sense of doing something wrong.

Darknet

The increasing amount of illegal drugs being sourced from the Darknet is remarkable. Consignments are not only delivered to the real address of the recipient, but also to "mail drops".

Development in the area of acquisitive, accompanying and follow-up crime

Acquisitive, accompanying and follow-up crime is observed mainly in the provincial capital of Graz. Criminal acts which are on the increase include petty thefts, burglaries and petty robberies such as cell phone theft and handbag snatching. These offenders are for the most part adolescents and young adults.

New psychoactive substances

The consumption of psychoactive substances declined slightly in 2016. Interest in such substances seems to be waning. They are mainly sourced from the Darknet.

Outlook

A decline in drug-related crime is unlikely in the foreseeable future. Criminal prosecution is becoming more difficult as drugs are increasingly trafficked via the Darknet and ordered through messenger services like „WhatsApp“, Viper and Facebook. Drug smuggling from the Balkans and Slovakia is also expected to grow. Narcotics crime will continue to take place in parks and other public areas.

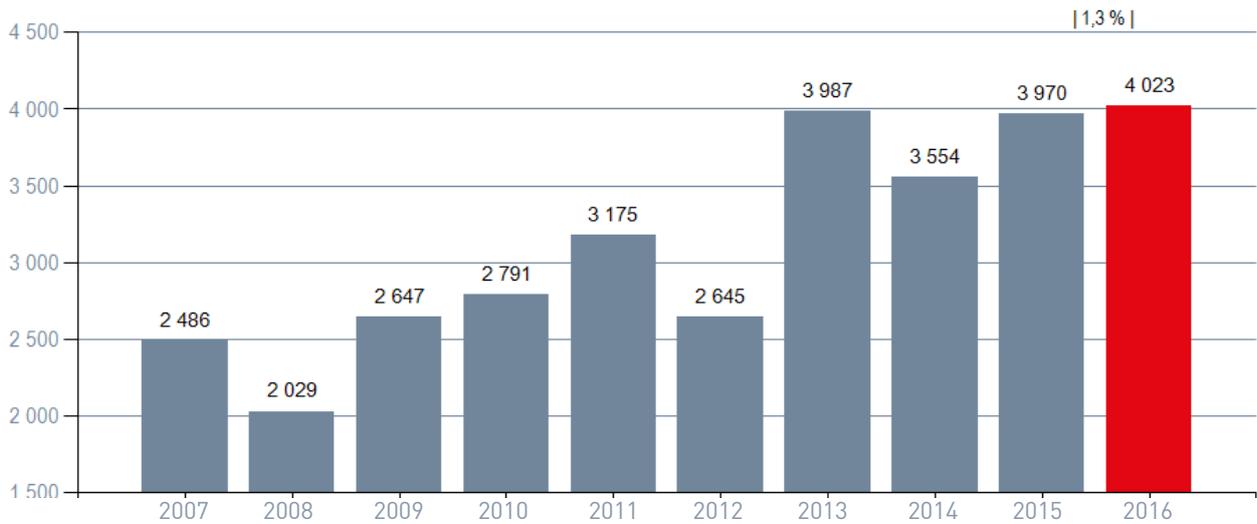


Figure 29: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Tyrol between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	36 997,7 g	58 159,0 g	180 971,3 g	58 710,0 g	76 662,7 g	49 481,4 g	111 300,3 g	78 410,2 g	115 161,7 g	152 058,4 g
Heroin	4 611,3 g	39,4 g	111,1 g	1 080,6 g	334,3 g	268,4 g	406,0 g	4,4 g	1 093,3 g	85,8 g
Cocaine	2 792,4 g	2 548,1 g	1 768,7 g	2 303,0 g	2 690,9 g	1 872,7 g	2 875,1 g	969,2 g	2 530,9 g	13 211,5 g
XTC	4 240,5 Stk	256,0 Stk	222,0 Stk	180,0 Stk	58,0 Stk	554,0 Stk	1 294,0 Stk	341,0 Stk	244,0 Stk	1 011,3 Stk
Amphetamine	1 658,3 g	180,1 g	3 789,2 g	411,5 g	407,6 g	143,6 g	1 362,3 g	901,0 g	417,5 g	5 446,8 g
Methamphetamine	10,0 g	24,5 g	3,2 g	47,1 g	32,6 g	24,0 g	912,4 g	80,0 g	192,4 g	168,2 g

Figure 30: Seizures of the main substances in Tyrol in 2016

Offender groups, types of narcotic substances and transport routes

Dealers from North Africa dominate the cannabis scene, Afghan nationals are becoming more prevalent. The majority of the narcotics sold in Innsbruck and surroundings - mainly cannabis products and cocaine - is procured and sold by individuals from Algeria and Morocco, who have either sought asylum or are illegally present. The buyers come from all Tyrolean districts except East Tyrol, neighbouring Germany and Italy. The abovementioned offender groups source most of the drugs from the Italian cities of Milan, Turin and Bologna as well as from Belgium. Smuggling operations are carried out by North Africans residing in Tyrol, or by relatives living abroad, with most of the smugglers being addicts themselves. The illegal drugs are transported by car and rail most of the time.

There are sufficient quantities of narcotic drugs, which are distributed by about 100 nationals from North Africa. Young people are used as street dealers. West African nationals are well organized and use a Europe-wide distribution network. They predominantly deal in cannabis products and cocaine. Asylum seekers from Somalia and Eritrea have recently surfaced. Some of them sell drugs on behalf of the North Africans, others make their own dealings. German citizens are addicts who obtain their drugs from the North African dealers. In 2016, it was established that they import and deal in large quantities of cocaine, MDMA, amphetamine, ecstasy tablets and heroin. Austrians living in Tyrol were their accomplices. Naturalized citizens from Turkey and the Balkan cheaply import drugs from their former native countries and consume or sell them in small quantities. They increasingly buy, sell and consume synthetic drugs at „GOA parties .. or „rave parties“.

Asylum seekers from Afghanistan have come to notice only as consumers in recent years. It was, however, established that Afghans living in Tyrol, mostly well-organized asylum seekers, source large drug quantities in Vienna, much like the North African scene, and transport them by car and rail to the Innsbruck and Schwaz areas. Austrian citizens are among the consumers, who obtain their drugs from the North Africans and Afghans. In order to finance their drug habit, they deal in microquantities of narcotic substances. Indoor drug factories are usually

operated by local residents. Amphetamine is purchased from dealers in the Netherlands and Germany on the Darknet. The strategic importance of postal distribution centres has risen, as consumers obtain illicit substances on the Darknet.

Cannabis production sites

Most cannabis farms are operated by Austrians. In 2016, 57 indoor facilities were detected, which is a slight decline as compared to 2015. It should be noted, however, that the capacity of the factories detected in 2016 was considerably higher. The amount produced ranged from 50 to 100 cannabis plants. 17 farms were discovered in the town of Innsbruck alone. The outdoor facilities detected were smaller in size and output. Four of the eight outdoor factories were located in Innsbruck.

Consumer behaviour and abuse of illegal drugs

Cannabis continues to be the most consumed illegal drug, followed by cocaine and amphetamine. Domestic drug addicts were identified as heroin users. Most of them were still on substitution programmes and sold prescribed medication or substitute substances to acquaintances or on the black market. Synthetic drugs are bought, sold and consumed synthetic drugs at „GOA parties .. or similar events.

Darknet

Narcotic substances are bought on the Internet. Many consumers switch to this type of drug procurement, because the distribution of the narcotics through postal and delivery services does hardly involve any risk.

Development in the area of acquisitive, accompanying and follow-up crime

Criminals who engage in robberies, burglaries, thefts, damage to property and bodily injuries are mostly from North Africa.

New psychoactive substances

In 2016, only three offences involving new psychoactive substances were reported.

Outlook

The North African scene in Innsbruck is unlikely to change. A major problem are false age declarations by suspects aimed at giving the impression that they are below the age of criminal responsibility.

VORARLBERG

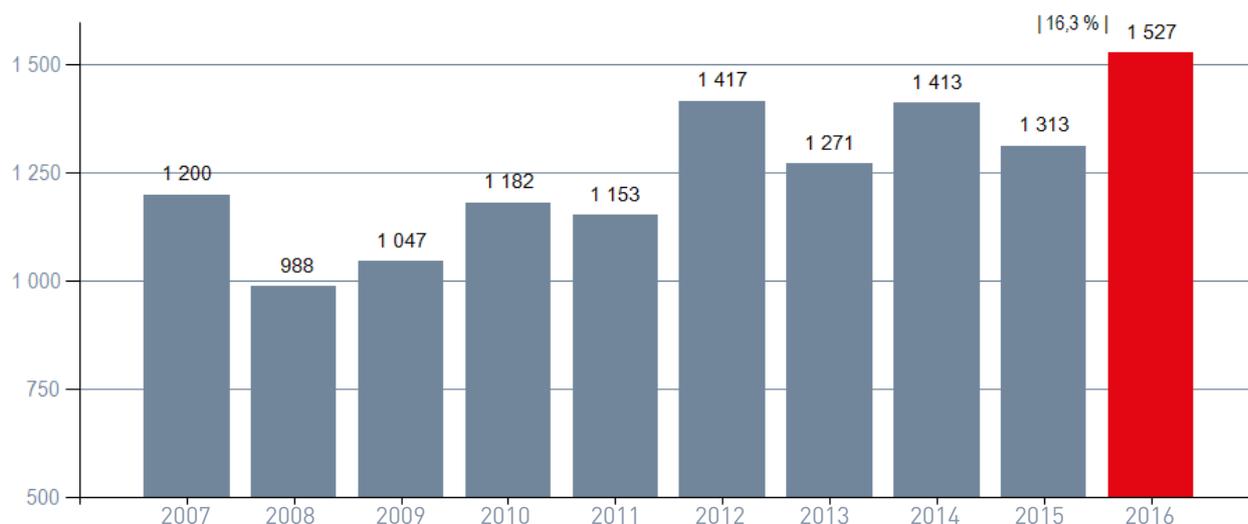


Figure 31: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Vorarlberg between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	53 406,1 g	14 014,4 g	19 168,3 g	11 645,5 g	18 551,5 g	18 228,9 g	164 258,0 g	16 042,9 g	13 358,3 g	9 752,3 g
Heroin	149,3 g	199,6 g	273,5 g	189,5 g	7 078,1 g	62,2 g	266,3 g	77,7 g	29,8 g	216,6 g
Cocaine	1 291,4 g	264,7 g	1 718,2 g	2 501,3 g	1 095,8 g	253,3 g	1 005,8 g	2 614,2 g	2 308,9 g	2 444,6 g
XTC	1 100,5 Stk	46,0 Stk	64,0 Stk	38,0 Stk	0,0 Stk	23,0 Stk	31,0 Stk	355,0 Stk	430,0 Stk	409,1 Stk
Amphetamine	305,2 g	17,9 g	13,7 g	27,6 g	63,8 g	607,1 g	3 853,1 g	77,6 g	901,6 g	657,2 g
Methamphetamine	6,2 g	1,3 g		91,1 g	4,8 g	4,6 g	278,7 g	11,1 g	6,2 g	27,0 g

Figure 32 : Seizures of the main substances in Vorarlberg in 2016

Offender groups, types of narcotic substances and transport routes

North African offender groups smuggled cannabis resin from Italy to Innsbruck and other parts of Tyrol. It was then distributed throughout Austria, including the province of Vorarlberg. Several kilograms of cannabis resin were sold in Dornbirn, Feldkirch and Bludenz. Austrian nationals imported a total of 1.3 kilograms of heroin in quantities of up to 50 grams from Switzerland to Vorarlberg. Subsequently, the drug was sold to various drug users. The heroin was sourced from a Serbian offender group in Switzerland.

This offender group was composed of Turkish and Austrian nationals and transported cocaine from the Netherlands to the German borderlands region, where it was stored with a Turkish criminal. A volume of several kilograms was then smuggled into Austria in quantities of up to 100 grams. A group of Serbian and Kosovar perpetrators transported cocaine from Belgium via Germany to Austria and subsequently sold it to various drug users. A total of 800 grams of cocaine was seized and several individuals were arrested.

Cannabis production sites and the offender groups associated with them

Cannabis plants were cultivated in 17 indoor farms, mostly by Austrian, German and Swiss offenders. The total quantity seized was 4,162 grams of cannabis herb and 309 cannabis plants.

Consumer behaviour and abuse of illegal drugs

Mixed drug consumption is prevalent, with cannabis products (herb and resin) included in nearly all cases. Heroin consumption is high due to the close border with Switzerland (St. Gall), where prices are low. When purchase quantities exceed 5 grams, the price for one gram is between 20 and 25 euros. Cocaine consumption is also at a high level and continues to be increase, especially among Turkish gamblers and bettors.

Darknet

In Germany, 300 grams of amphetamine were seized from an Austrian offender dealing in illegal drugs on the Darknet. Eventually, it was proven that a total of 5 kilograms of amphetamine, which was intended for being sold in Vorarlberg, had been ordered from him.

Robberies, frauds and thefts are committed in the area of narcotics crime, with a high number of unrecorded cases. Such offences do not come to light before drug investigations are opened or arrests are made as a result of the investigations. An increasing number of drug addicts found in possession of weapons such as knives, blank-firing pistols, and firearms charged with live ammunition.

New psychoactive substances

Consumption increased in 2016, and again there is a high number of unrecorded cases, as the substances are usually purchased on the Internet and only a small percentage of the quantities ordered is seized. Penal regulations make criminal prosecution difficult, because there are many obstacles to obtaining judicial orders.

Outlook

Intelligence suggests that the possibility of anonymously ordering narcotics on the Darknet boosts the overall purchase of narcotic substances. This is reflected in the number of seizures made at the major distribution centres in Germany. The additional time and effort involved is likely to cause considerable problems for investigators and the number of unrecorded cases is expected to remain high. First-time consumers will not be identified for a long time and health-related measures cannot, therefore, be taken at an early stage. The monitoring of telecommunications is difficult, when contact are made through voice over IP, hampering the investigative work. The identification of such offender groups involves great effort in terms of time and personnel.

VIENNA

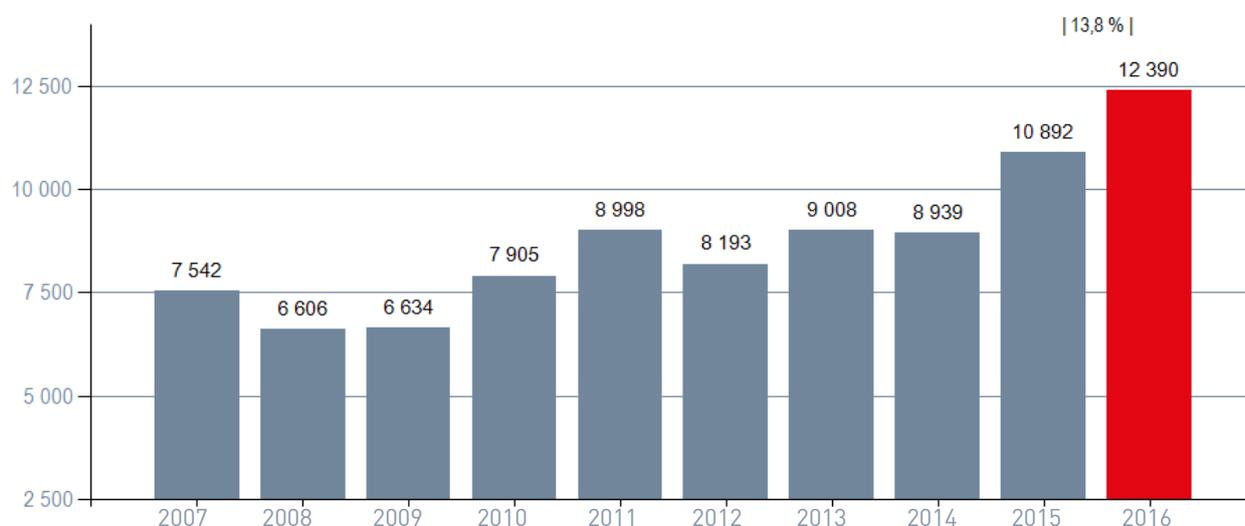


Figure 33: Development of total crime reports relating to the Narcotic Substances Act in Vienna between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cannabis	640 216,1 g	148 313,8 g	453 766,9 g	654 671,2 g	275 927,7 g	483 457,5 g	392 522,9 g	569 346,5 g	408 272,6 g	356 691,6 g
Heroin	76 517,9 g	55 016,6 g	121 962,2 g	61 998,6 g	44 036,2 g	24 759,0 g	13 645,9 g	8 352,8 g	43 068,3 g	18 889,2 g
Cocaine	35 651,8 g	30 737,8 g	21 135,5 g	7 229,8 g	124 129,2 g	34 845,6 g	9 110,5 g	16 944,0 g	32 132,4 g	39 526,8 g
XTC	33 180,5 Stk	33 337,5 Stk	1 333,0 Stk	285,5 Stk	330,0 Stk	294,0 Stk	2 109,0 Stk	973,0 Stk	4 727,8 Stk	13 791,1 Stk
Amphetamine	7 132,3 g	6 902,2 g	3 018,7 g	3 921,1 g	4 289,4 g	1 585,9 g	7 791,9 g	6 112,9 g	10 395,9 g	50 283,1 g
Methamphetamine	1 784,9 g	18,6 g	24,5 g	268,5 g	177,7 g	1 576,0 g	3 106,4 g	1 452,2 g	703,2 g	3 280,4 g

Figure 34: Seizures of the main substances in Vienna in 2016

Offender groups, types of narcotic substances and transport routes

Nationals of West Africa usually deal in poor-quality heroin and cocaine as “street runners”, recently also in cannabis herb. All means of transport (train, coach, car) are used to smuggle narcotic drugs from Northern Europe (Belgium, Netherlands) into Austria, air transport is used for narcotics from South America.

Drug smugglers continue to travel as body packers and include not only nationals from West Africa but also Europeans of both sexes. The drug mules have contact persons in Austria, who distribute the narcotic substances to non-European intermediaries, who supply the street runners. Nationals of North Africa sell cannabis products on the streets in what is called „baggies“, one or two gram units. The products are obtained from North Africa, Northern Europe and to an increasing extent from the Czech Republic.

In 2016, an increasing number of Afghan asylum seekers came to the notice of the police for offences that fall within the Narcotic Substances Act. Most of them were found dealing in cannabis herb. Offender groups from Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and, to a lesser extent, Croatia operated on the Balkan route. The activities of Macedonian offenders were checked by repressive police action. They increasingly co-operate with other ethnic groups, especially Serbs and Bulgarians. Relatively small quantities of heroin (up to one kilogram) are smuggled from interim depots in the Balkan countries to Austria by car or coach. Intelligence obtained from German authorities suggest that Austria is used merely as a transit country when larger quantities are involved and that large depots tend to be set up in other countries. Drug imports into Austria are sourced from these depots.

Austrian offender groups show a low degree of internal organization. In large part, drug dealers operate independently and use existing contacts. For heroin and cocaine trafficking established offender groups are used as sources. Cannabis herb is produced exclusively in indoor factories. The demand is also covered by imports from the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the Balkans. Amphetamine and methamphetamine is imported from neighbouring countries, mainly from Czechia and Slovakia, but also by post from Asia. The production

of amphetamine and methamphetamine is rare in Vienna. The Internet is used to import new psychoactive substances, which are delivered by post. Persian, Kurdish, Chechen offender groups and groups from the Balkans continue to be structured according to ethnicity and to use existing connections to their respective countries of origin.

Cannabis production sites

In 2016, an indoor farm was found and seized nearly every week. Their size ranged from a few plants to several thousand marijuana plants including seedlings and professional equipment. The plants were grown in living areas, cellar compartments, warehouses or other buildings.

Laboratories for the production of narcotic substances

In 2016, three laboratories for the production of amphetamine and methamphetamine were located in Vienna. „Kitchens“ in flats were used to produce the substances for personal use and for supplying a limited number of customers in a regionally restricted area. The perpetrators were mostly Austrians with comparatively little expertise. It is easy for foreign offender groups to obtain the drug precursor substances required for the production of amphetamine and methamphetamine, especially in Asia and in countries like Czechia and Slovakia. This is a pull factor for using these countries, where the substances can even be legally acquired in some cases.

Consumer behaviour and abuse of illegal drugs

Additionally to heroin, cocaine and cannabis products, synthetic drugs have become an essential part of illicit drug use. While having a „connect“ used to be necessary for obtaining narcotic substances, it is now possible to order them on the Internet. They are delivered by post to the end user. Cannabis herb can still be seen as the classic conditioning drug. Young users are hardly convinced that they do something wrong when consuming marijuana. The curiosity and excitement of trying something new is also evident in respect of synthetic drugs. They are often used for stimulation, as party drugs or to boost performance. The possibility of psychological negative effects in addition to physical damage are ignored, underestimated or disregarded.

Darknet

Ordering illicit drugs substances on the Darknet have become the order of the day. It offers a huge selection of substances, and little risk in buying and trafficking.

Development in the area of acquisitive, accompanying and follow-up crime

In 1 March 2015 an operational unit of the Vienna CID was assigned to the project „Combating drug-related accompanying and procurement crime“. It deals with property offences as a means of supporting drug habits, such as cellar break-ins or thefts from motor vehicles, and managed to solve complex serial crimes. Narcotic drug users also commit highway and commercial robberies.

New psychoactive substances

The fight against crimes involving synthetic drugs has become difficult. The legal requirement for criminal liability under the New Psychotropic Substances Act is proof of the offender's intent to gain a material benefit from the act and that the substance involved had in fact a psychoactive effect on the body of the purchaser or of a third party.

Outlook

The availability of new psychoactive substances poses an increased risk for users, because they often underestimate the effects of giving such substances a try. No special knowledge is required to order narcotics via the Internet, so that such orders are expected to increase enormously in the future. Methamphetamine is known under different street names such as crystal meth, crystal, crystal, piko, pervitin or bato are becoming more and more popular. The problem is exacerbated by the production in neighbouring countries like Czechia and Slovakia. The operation of cannabis production sites is expected to further increase.

GLOSSARY

Statutory definitions in the Narcotic Substances Act („Suchtmittelgesetz“ or SMG)

§ 27 **Illegal handling of narcotic substances**

- (1)
 - a) Anyone who acquires, possesses, produces, transports, or imports a narcotic drug, offers to supply it to another person, passes it on to another person or procures it for another person contrary to regulations
 - b) grows opium poppy, the coca bush or the cannabis plant for the purpose of producing narcotic drugs
 - c) offers mushrooms containing containing psilocin, psilotin or psilocybin to another person, passes them on to another person, procures them for another person or grows them for the purpose of drug abuse shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding one year or with a fine of up to 360 daily rates.
- (2) Anyone who commits such a criminal act exclusively for personal use shall be liable to as term of imprisonment of up to six months or with a fine of up to 360 daily rates.
- (2a) Anyone who offers a narcotic drug to another person, passes it on to another person, or procures it for another person, in return for a consideration and contrary to regulations, in a public transport system, a public transport facility, in a public traffic area, in a public building or in any other place accessible to the general public, shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding two years.
- (3) Anyone who commits a criminal act as specified in subsection 1, 2 or 2a above as a regular source of income shall be liable to imprisonment of up to three years.
- (4) The punishment shall be imprisonment not exceeding three years if
 - a) the commission of a criminal act as specified in subsection 1 or 2 makes possible for a minor to consume a narcotic drug, provided the offender is of full age and more than two years older than the minor, or
 - b) if the offender commits such a criminal act as a member of a criminal association
- (5) Anyone who is addicted to a narcotic drug and commits a criminal act as specified in subsection 3, 4 sub-paragraph 2 chiefly for the purpose of procuring himself a narcotic drugs for personal use or the means to buy it shall merely be punished with imprisonment of up to one year.

§ 28 **Preparation of trafficking in narcotic substances**

- (1) Anyone who purchases, possesses or transports a narcotic drug in a quantity exceeding the threshold quantity specified in section 28b with the intent to distribute it contrary to regulations shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding three years. The same punishment shall be applied to any person who grows the plants specified in section 27, subsection 1, sub-paragraph 2 with a view to extracting a narcotic drug in such a quantity for later distribution.
- (2) Anyone who commits the criminal act described in subsection 1 involving a narcotic drug in a quantity exceeding fifteen times the threshold quantity specified in section 28b (large quantity) shall be punished with a term of imprisonment of up to five years.
- (3) Anyone who commits the criminal act described in subsection 1 as a member of a criminal association shall be liable to imprisonment ranging from one to ten years.
- (4) If the conditions in section 27, subsection 5 are met, an offender shall merely be punished with imprisonment not exceeding one year in the case of subsection 2 above and to imprisonment not exceeding five years in the case of subsection 3 above

§ 28a Trafficking in narcotic substances

- (1) Anyone who produces, imports, exports a narcotic drug or offers to supply it to another person, passes it on to another person or procures it for another person contrary to regulations in a quantity exceeding the limit specified in section 28b shall be liable to imprisonment of up to five years.
- (2) The punishment shall be imprisonment ranging from one to ten years if an offender commits a criminal act as specified in subsection 1 above
 1. as a regular source of income and has been previously convicted of an offence as described in subsection 1
 2. as a member of a criminal association, or
 3. involving a narcotic drug in a quantity exceeding fifteen times the threshold quantity (large quantity)
- (3) If the conditions in section 27, subsection 5 are met, an offender shall merely be liable to imprisonment up to three years in the case of subsection 1 above and to imprisonment of up to five years in the case of subsection 2
- (4) The punishment shall be imprisonment ranging from one to fifteen years if an offender commits a criminal act as specified in subsection 1 above
 1. as a member of a criminal association has been previously convicted of an offence as described in subsection 1
 2. as a member of an association of a larger number of people conspiring to commit such offences, or
 3. involving a narcotic drug in a quantity exceeding twenty-five times the threshold quantity.
- (5) The punishment shall be imprisonment ranging from ten to twenty years or life imprisonment if an offender commits a criminal act as specified in subsection 1 above and is a leading player in an association of a larger number of people conspiring to commit such offences.

§ 28b Threshold quantity for narcotic substances

The Federal Minister for Public Health shall fix by decree, in agreement with the Federal Minister of Justice, for each narcotic substance a threshold quantity in terms of pure substance of the active agent capable of jeopardizing the life and health of people in larger doses (quantity limit). In doing so, the narcoticness of the respective narcotic drug and the habituation behaviour of addicts to that drug shall be taken into account.

Penal provisions for psychotropic substances

§ 30 Illegal handling of psychotropic substances

- (1) Anyone who acquires, possesses, produces, transports, or imports a psychotropic substance, offers to supply it to another person, passes it on to another person or procures it for another person contrary to regulations shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding one year or with a fine of up to 360 daily rates.
- (2) Anyone who commits such a criminal act exclusively for personal use shall be liable to imprisonment of up to six months or with a fine of up to 360 daily rates.
- (3) An act as specified in subsections 1 and 2 above shall not be prosecuted as a criminal offence if a person
 1. acquires, possesses, transports, imports, or exports a medication containing a psychotropic substance for personal use or for administration to an animal, or
 2. offers to supply such a medication to another person, passes it on to another person, or procures it for another person without material benefit
provided that the quantity involved does not exceed the threshold quantity as specified in section 31b.

§ 31 Preparation of trafficking in psychotropic substances

- (1) Anyone who acquires, possesses, or transports a psychotropic substance in a quantity exceeding the limit specified in section 31b with intent to distribute it shall be liable to imprisonment of up to two years
- (2) Anyone who commits the criminal act described in subsection 1 above involving a psychotropic substance in a quantity exceeding fifteen times the threshold quantity specified in section 31b (large quantity) shall be punished with a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years.
- (3) Anyone who commits the criminal act described in subsection 1 as a member of a criminal association shall be liable to imprisonment ranging from one to ten years.
- (4) If the conditions in section 27, subsection 5 are met, an offender shall merely be punished with imprisonment up to one year in the case of subsection 1 above, imprisonment of up to three years in the case of subsection 2 above and to imprisonment of up to five years in the case of subsection 3.

§ 31a Trafficking in psychotropic substances

- (1) Anyone who produces, imports, exports a psychotropic substance or offers to supply it to another person, passes it on to another person or procures it for another person contrary to regulations in a quantity exceeding the threshold quantity specified in section 31b shall be liable to imprisonment of up to three years.
- (2) The punishment shall be imprisonment not exceeding five years if an offender commits a criminal act as specified in subsection 1 above involving a psychotropic substance in a quantity exceeding fifteen times the threshold quantity specified in section 31b (large quantity) shall be punished with a Term of imprisonment not exceeding five years.
- (3) Anyone who commits the criminal act described in subsection 1 as a member of a criminal association shall be liable to imprisonment ranging from one to ten years.
- (4) If the conditions in section 27, subsection 5 are met, an offender shall merely be punished with imprisonment up to one year in the case of subsection 1 above, imprisonment of up to three years in the case of subsection 2 above and to imprisonment of up to five years in the case of subsection 3

§ 31b Threshold quantity for psychotropic substances

The Federal Minister for Public Health shall fix by decree, in agreement with the Federal Minister of Justice, for each narcotic substance a threshold quantity in terms of pure substance of the active agent capable of jeopardizing the life and health of people in larger doses (quantity limit). Section 28, second sentence, shall apply mutatis mutandis.

Penal provisions for drug precursor substances

§ 32 Illegal handling of drug precursor substances

- (1) Anyone who produces or transports a drug precursor substance or passes it on to another person with a view to being used in the production of narcotic substances contrary to regulations shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding one year.
- (2) Anyone who acquires or possesses a drug precursor substance with a view to being used in the production of narcotic substances contrary to regulations in a quantity exceeding the threshold quantity as specified in sections 28b and 31b respectively shall be liable to imprisonment of up to two years.
- (3) Anyone who produces, imports, exports a drug precursor substance, offers to supply it to another person, passes it on to another person or procures it for another person with a view to being used in the production of narcotic substances contrary to regulations in a quantity exceeding the threshold quantity as specified in sections 28b and 31b respectively shall be punished with a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years.

New Psychoactive Substances Act (NPSG)

§ 4 Penal provisions for psychoactive substances

- (1) Anyone who produces, imports, exports a drug new psychoactive substance specified by ordinance pursuant to section 3 or included in a category of chemical substances defined in section 3, passes it on to another person or procures it for another person with a view to being used by that person or a third person for producing a psychoactive effect in the human body and with the intent to obtain a material benefit shall be liable to imprisonment of up to two years.
- (2) If such a criminal act causes the death of a person or serious bodily injuries (as defined in section 84, subsection 1 of the Penal Code) to a larger number of people, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment ranging from one to ten years.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLICIT NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES

The description of individual narcotic substances on the following pages was sourced from "Suchthilfe Wien GmbH", an institution which offers a wide range of services: prevention, advanced training, information, drug education, counselling, treatment and support for addiction-prone and addicted persons, promotion of socially acceptable coexistence in public areas, and (re-)integration of addicts into the labour market.
Contact: www.suchthilfe.at

Cannabis

Chemical information

The acquisition, possession, import and export of cannabis, the procurement for and handing over to others (transfer and sale) is a punishable offence and may result in monetary penalties and imprisonment. Anyone who passes on a joint in convivial company – without taking a single puff themselves – is liable to criminal prosecution for possession or transfer of narcotics. When a crime report is filed for the purchase and possession of a small quantity of cannabis for personal use, it is suspended by the prosecution service for a probationary period of two years after the public health authority has assessed whether health-related measures such as medical checks, urine samples, medical treatment, psychological or psychotherapeutic care is necessary or whether such measures can be dispensed with. Unless charges of purchase and possession narcotics have been preferred within the last five years, the public prosecution service may abstain from involving the public health authority and suspend the charges immediately.

Legal framework

The acquisition, possession, import and export of cannabis, the procurement for and handing over to others (transfer and sale) is a punishable offence and may result in monetary penalties and imprisonment. Anyone who passes on a joint in convivial company – without taking a single puff themselves – is liable to criminal prosecution for possession or transfer of narcotics. When a crime report is filed for the purchase and possession of a small quantity of cannabis for personal use, it is suspended by the prosecution service for a probationary period of two years after the public health authority has assessed whether health-related measures such as medical checks, urine samples, medical treatment, psychological or psychotherapeutic care is necessary or whether such measures can be dispensed with.

Mechanism of action

When marijuana is inhaled hundreds of different substances enter the body. So far, it has not been possible to identify the exact mechanisms of action. THC, the most important psychoactive substance, is absorbed through the pulmonary mucosa when marijuana is smoked and through the intestinal mucosa when it is consumed orally. In the bloodstream THC is transported to all organs, where it accumulates in tissues with a high fat content because of its elevated fat solubility. This is why traces of THC can be detected in the urine even after weeks. Although most effects of cannabis consumption are felt for only a few hours, half of the THC is still in the blood after 20 hours. In the brain, THC binds to the recently discovered cannabinoid receptors whose exact functions are yet unknown. A large number of cannabinoid receptors are located in a brain structure that is responsible for remembering new contents. This explains why people can hardly remember anything under the influence of cannabis and have a different perception of time. Further cannabinoid receptors are found in the cerebellum, the brain region responsible for automatic movements such as walking. Hence the coordination difficulties that are experienced under the influence of cannabis.

History

Cannabis is the umbrella term for the hemp products hashish and marijuana. Hemp was used as a textile material as early as 6000 years ago, and knowledge of the psychotropic properties of cannabis goes back just as far. It was considered a sacred intoxicant, dedicated to the god Shiva in Hinduism and was used as a sedative or narcotic in ritual use as well as in the traditional Asian medicine. In Europe, it was Marco Polo who reported in the 13th century for the first time that the hemp plant was used as a narcotic drug. In modern medicine, cannabis is increasingly used, particularly in the treatment of glaucoma patients as well as in the suppression of nausea and for appetite stimulation in cancer and AIDS patients.

Mushrooms containing containing psilocin, psilotin or psilocybin

Chemical information

Psilocybin (4-phosphoryl-dimethyl-tryptamine) and psilocin (4-hydroxy-dimethyl-tryptamine) are chemical substances that are present in at least 15 different fungi of the genera psilocybe, panaeolus and conocybe. The active substance content of the mushrooms greatly varies, within a species and between different species, and it also depends on factors that are difficult to determine, such as point of discovery and climate. When a dose exceeds about 3-7mgs of psilocybin or psilocin, or about 0.05 to 1mgs per kilogram body weight, perception starts to be distorted. Consumers report average amounts of about 10mgs, which is equivalent to 5 - 10grs of fresh or 1 gram of dried mushrooms.

Legal framework

The substances psilocin and psilocybin are controlled substances under the Narcotic Substances Act . More specifically, the purchase, possession, production, import and export, transfer to and procurement for others (sale) is a punishable offence and may result in monetary penalties or imprisonment. The Narcotic Substances Act does not explicitly mention the actual mushrooms. Nevertheless, growing „magic mushrooms“ for the production of a narcotic drug can be prosecuted as a criminal offence. In Austria, however, this act is generally punished as an administrative offence under section 44 of the Narcotic Substances Act. Penal law is usually only applied when the narcotic drug, i.e. psilocin, psilotin or psilocybin, is actually produced or extracted from the mushrooms.

Mechanism of action

Mushrooms are usually consumed orally in dried or fresh form. The effect starts after approx. 30min, reaches its peak after approx. 2 hours and declines quite abruptly after 4-6 hours. A quarter of the dose is excreted unchanged, 80 to 90 per cent of the remainder is metabolized (converted) within eight hours. A small part - which is responsible for tolerance development - remains in the body for over a week. The processes affecting the brain are essentially the same as those described for LSD.

History

Psychoactive mushrooms are among the oldest drugs used by mankind. In El Salvador, Guatemala and in some areas of Mexico stone sculptures (dating back to 500 BC) representing psychoactive mushrooms have been found. They were used in spiritual ceremonies and rituals because of the mystical and daemonic powers attributed to them. Thus, Aztec priests used the South American mushroom Teonanactl (“meat of the gods”) for getting into contact with their gods, healing sick people, and making prophecies. The mushrooms served as a „gateway“ between human beings and the supernatural world. In 1958, Albert Hofmann, who discovered LSD, isolated the substances psilocybin and psilocin. The pharmaceutical group Sandoz, Hofmann’s employer at that time, put Psilocybin on the market under the name of Indocybin. Indocybin has been tried out as a treatment for depression.

Mephedron-4-Metyl-Methcathinon / MMC

Chemical information

Street names: MMC, mephedrone. MMC is chemically related to cathinone, the stimulating agent of the Kath shrub, and to methcathinone (ephedrone). MMC is a stimulant and is used as a white powder or in tablet form. Mephedrone is one of what is called research chemicals, i.e. it is largely unexplored and there are no scientific findings on the mechanisms of action, risks, long-term sequelae and possible dangers in the case of mixed consumption. Knowledge of effects, dosage and risk reduction is, therefore, based almost exclusively on accounts of consumers' experiences.

Legal framework

Mephedrone has been included in the Austrian Narcotic Substances Act since 21 August 2010. Consequently, the acquisition, possession, production, import and export and the transfer to and procurement for others (sale) is a punishable offence and may result in fines or imprisonment.

Mechanism of action

Mephedrone leads to euphoria, increased attention, alertness, inhibition of appetite, increased extroversion and urge to express yourself, mobilization of energy reserves, reduced sleep requirement, irritation of the upper throat area and accompanying slight sore throat, and a dry mouth. Also, craving for the substance, impaired short-term memory, concentration difficulties, tachycardia, feelings of anxiety and depression, strong sweating, dilated pupils, distorted perception occur. MMC is usually consumed through the nose or mouth. Nasal consumption may result in burning and pain in the nose, and damage to the nasal septum cannot be ruled out. After heavy drug use, consumers report pain in the kidney area. Since the substance has not been in circulation for a long time, there are no findings in respect of long-term sequelae on human beings.

History

The drug was used in a product of the Israeli company Neorganics. The production was discontinued when mephedrone was declared illegal by the Israeli government in January 2008. MMC was distributed on Internet pages operated from English-speaking countries as a plant fertilizer and bath salt. In March 2008, it was reported by several national authorities to the the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

Heroin

Chemical information

Heroin, whose chemical name is diacetylmorphine, belongs to the class of semi-synthetic opioids. What is called morphine base is extracted from the juice of the poppy plant (*papaver somniferum*) by distillation. After further chemical processing, including the addition of acetic anhydride, diacetylmorphine is formed. Illicit, non-medical heroin, called „H“, „brown“, or „poison“, is usually diluted by street dealers with substances like glucose, lime, powdered sugar or paracetamol and has, therefore, a relatively low degree of purity (between 15-45%).

Legal framework

In 1961, poppy straw concentrate, opium, raw opium, heroin, methadone, morphine and codeine were included in the New York Convention on Narcotics. Heroin is subject to the Narcotic Substances Act and its penal provisions. In particular, the acquisition, production, import and export, transfers to and procurement for others (sale) is a punishable crime and may result in monetary penalties and imprisonment.

Mechanism of action

Because of its chemical structure and high fat solubility, heroin enters the brain faster than morphine. The short „approach time“ brings about an intensive state of intoxication or „kick“. The faster a substance enters the brain, the greater its narcoticness is. In the organism, Heroin is converted into morphine and eventually excreted through the kidneys.

History

Heroin was first synthesized in 1874 and put on the market as a cough treatment drug by the pharmaceutical company Bayer in 1898. As heroin was administered orally for cough treatment, thus slowly entering the brain and having only a weak psychological effect, its huge narcoticness was not realized for a long time. At the beginning

of the 20th century, there was an increasing opposition to the then widespread non-medical use of heroin. In the USA, which eventually led to the Opium Convention of 1912. This international agreement was a precursor to the opium ban and provided for the „gradual suppression of the abuse of opium, morphine and to those processing forms and derivatives of the substances that may give rise to similar abuses or have the potential to do so“. In 1920, 43 countries signed up to the International Opium Convention, and in 1961 poppy straw concentrate, opium, raw opium, heroin, methadone, morphine and codeine were included in the New York Convention on Narcotics.

Raw opium

Chemical information

The capsules of the opium poppy (*papaver somniferum*), the variety which is used for producing opium, contain a milky juice which is transformed into a brown mass when exposed to the air: raw opium. Opium contains between 25 and 40 different nitrogen compounds, called alkaloids, with morphine, narcotine and codeine being the most important substances in terms of quantity. Morphine is the basic substance for producing diacetylmorphine, or heroin. Opioids can be classified into natural (morphine, codeine), semi-synthetic (e. g. heroin), synthetic (like methadone) and endogenous opioids (endorphins or enkephalines). Natural opioids are all substances found in the juice of poppy seeds. They are also known as opiates.

Legal framework

In 1961, poppy straw concentrate, opium, raw opium, heroin, methadone, morphine and codeine were included in the New York Convention on Narcotics. In Austria, heroin is subject to the Narcotic Substances Act and its penal provisions. In particular, the acquisition, production, import and export, transfer to and procurement for others (sale) is a punishable offence and may result in fines and imprisonment.

Mechanism of action

Opioids, affect those areas of the brain that contain what is called opiate receptors, no matter whether they are injected, inhaled or taken orally. The duration of the action of opioids depends on the type and amount of substance, the route of administration, and on physical factors like weight or gender and ranges from one hour to more than one day. After several weeks of intensive opioid consumption, the body develops tolerance to the opioids taken, which means that their quantity needs to be increased in order to achieve the desired effect again. When consumption is discontinued, the body reacts with hot and cold shivers, severe pain in the limbs, depression and hallucinations.

History

The home of the poppy, from which opium is extracted, is the region that is southern Iraq today. Opium is said to have been used as an intoxicant about 6000 years ago. In ancient times, poppy seeds were regarded as food for „fortune-telling dragons“, as a mysterious magic plant and as „dreaming and sleeping drug „ because of their intoxicating effect. During the Roman rule in today's Greece, opium use spread to all parts of Europe, and subsequently to Persia, India and China. In the history of pharmacy, poppy plays an important role as a medicinal plant. In the early 16th century, opium was first used by Paracelsus, the physician, natural scientist and founder of modern medicine, for medical purposes, primarily for the treatment of pain, diarrhoea and as a sleeping drug. In the 17th century, opium became a major commodity. In 1805, 18-year-old German pharmacist Friedrich Wilhelm Sertürner isolated morphine from opium, which has been used in medicine as an important painkiller instead of raw opium to date.

The increasing importance of opium in medicine and trade and its use as an intoxicant led to what is called the opium war between China and England in 1839, which ended with the subjugation of China. Today, it is clear that opium was only used as a pretext for waging war. Poppy cultivation for extracting opium and as a cultivar is now common in many countries around the world. The largest crop-growing regions are located in the „Golden Triangle“, an area centred around the meeting point of the borders that separate Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand, as well as in Central Asia, Turkey and Mexico. In Austria, poppy is cultivated in small quantities as an ornamental plant and for processing poppy seeds and poppy seed oil.

Morphine and derivatives

Chemical information

Besides codeine, morphine is the main component of raw opium, which is obtained from the opium poppy (*papaver somniferum*) and is classified as a natural opioid. Morphine belongs to the class of opium alkaloids and has the

chemical formula C₁₇H₁₉N₃O₃. It affects an opiate receptor called μ -receptor. Its activation causes euphoria, respiratory depression, dependence, cough suppression and stool constipation. Illicit non-medical morphine is also known as „M“, morph and Miss Emma and is usually distributed as a white crystalline powder with a bitter taste.

Legal framework

Morphine is subject to medical prescription under the Pharmaceutical Act. Anyone who passes on or sells this drug violates the Narcotic Substances Act, even if it was initially prescribed by a doctor. Morphine is also subject to the Narcotic Substances Act and its penal provisions. In particular, the acquisition, possession, production, import and export, transfer to and procurement for others (sale) is a punishable crime and may result in fines and imprisonment. So, misusing morphine is liable to criminal prosecution both under the Pharmaceutical Act and the Narcotic Substances Act

Mechanism of action

Morphine is soluble in water and therefore passes the blood-brain barrier more slowly than fat-soluble opioids, such as heroin. As all other opioids, it stimulates the opioid and the enkephalin receptors and causes release of dopamine. Morphine is administered orally, rectally or by intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous injection. Intravenous administration in non-medical use involves major risks such as the likelihood of overdose or the infection from impure syringes and syringes utensils. When illegally consumed on the streets, morphine is often smoked or „pulled“. It is rapidly transformed in the liver and excreted in the kidney. Its duration of action is four to five hours.

History

Besides codeine, morphine is one of the main components of opium. The poppy, from which opium is extracted, became one of the major medicinal plants in history. In 1805, the German pharmacist Friedrich Sertürner isolated the morphine. Today, it is used for pain treatment instead of raw opium.

Cocaine

Chemical information

Cocaine is a white, crystalline, bitter-tasting powder made from coca leaves by adding water, lime or sodium carbonate, kerosene and ammonia. On the black market it is diluted with other substances, including milk powder and synthetic substances. Some of them have a vaso-constrictive, analgesic or anaesthetic effect like lidocaine or novocaine. Typically, cocaine is snuffed, but it can also be administered intravenously (injected). Chemical processing can turn it into a smokable drug - crack or free base -, which has psychic effects that start within seconds, but last for only a few minutes, never exceeding 10 minutes. Crack and free base lead more quickly to severe psychological addiction than cocaine administered through different routes. Crack is produced by releasing cocaine with baking powder (see description of cocaine). Its degree of purity of 80 to 100 per cent makes it more dangerous than „standard“ cocaine. Crack looks like small white to light yellow (sometimes pinkish) rocks, ranging from sand to pebble size. Due to its enormous short-term effect and the subsequent deep dark hole the psychological and physical dependence potential is much higher than for other narcotics.

Legal framework

Cocaine and crack are subject to the Narcotic Substances Act. The acquisition, possession, production, import and export, transfers and sale to others is a punishable crime and may result in monetary penalties or imprisonment.

Mechanism of action

Cocaine enters the bloodstream through the nasal mucous membranes, when crack or free base is smoked through inhalation or injections. Cocaine is fat-soluble, i.e. it passes the blood-brain-barrier and affects the brain. Unlike amphetamine, which causes an increased release of the semiochemicals norepinephrine and dopamine in the brain, cocaine prevents these semiochemicals to be absorbed in the nerve cells. However, the result is a similar in both cases: neurotransmitters are accumulated in the synaptic gap, causing dopamine and norepinephrine to permanently stimulate the downstream nerve cells, which is psychologically experienced as euphoria and strength. After intoxication, the brain needs a few days to rebuild the neurotransmitters, bringing about depressive moods, fatigue and apathy.

History

The South American Andes mountains are the origin of the coca bush. Coca leaves have been used there for centuries for religious, mystical, social and medical purposes. Consumption of coca leaves leads to increased endurance, suppression of hunger and increased well-being. The psychoactive substance of the coca bush was first chemically isolated by Albert Niemann in the mid-19th century. The Vienna physician Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, was so enthusiastic about the euphoric and activating effect of cocaine that he praised it in his article „About Coca“ as a new „miracle drug“. Freud was soon to change his mind: a good friend of his, who wanted to free himself from his morphine addiction, increased his daily cocaine dose to over one gram and eventually died from the consequences of his cocaine consumption.

In medicine, cocaine was used as a local anaesthetic because of its astringent or vaso-constrictive effect. In 1888, drink on the basis of a coca and cola nut extract was put on the market as a headache remedy and as a revitalizer for adults. The drink was named Coca-Cola. However, as early as 1906, the addition of cocaine to beverages and over-the-counter medicines was declared illegal in the USA. Cocaine use sharply increased during the 1920s, but decreased in the 1930s when amphetamine emerged. The production of amphetamine is easier and cheaper and the psychological effects of amphetamine last longer than those of cocaine.

LSD trips

Chemical information

Lysergic acid-diethylamide, a semi-synthetic preparation of the ergot drug, is a colourless, tasteless and odourless substance. In general, LSD is generally marketed in the form of paper trips (blotting paper), microtablets (“micros”), tablets or capsules. When the substance is put onto blotting paper or tablets, the dose may vary considerably. On average, a paper trip contains 80 micrograms of LSD.

Legal framework

LSD is subject to the Narcotic Substances Act . In particular, the acquisition, possession, production, import and export, transfer and supply to others (sale) is a punishable offence and may result in fines or imprisonment.

Mechanism of action

The chemical structure of LSD is similar to the neurotransmitter serotonin and affects specific serotonin receptors in the brain in a way that disrupts the natural selection mechanism of the brain, which protects human beings being exposed to an excessive amount of impressions and perceptions, i.e. sensory overload. Situations in real life can then no longer be assessed in a natural way. Perceptions, moods and thoughts are intensified and distorted and the borderline between reality and fantasy is muddled.

History

LSD-25 was first synthesized in the mid-1930s by chemist Albert Hofmann as part of a large-scale study on ergot alkaloids. However, the psychoactive effect of LSD-25 only became evident for Hofmann in April 1943, when he resynthesized the substance. The chemical company Sandoz, Hofmann’s employer, promoted LSD-25 for use in psychotherapy and psychiatry for several years. In the 1960s, LSD became more widely known through Timothy Leary, professor at the renowned American Stanford University, and played an important role in the hippie and 1968 movements. After a number of incidents occurred, some of them fatal, which were attributed to LSD consumption, the United States and European countries included LSDs in their respective narcotic drug regulations.

Ecstasy (MDMA)

Chemical information

Ecstasy is the street name for a series of amphetamine derivatives, molecules that differ from amphetamines (“speed”) in small variations of their chemical structure. Originally, only methylene dioxy-methyl-amphetamine (MDMA) was named Ecstasy. Over the last ten years, a number of additional amphetamine derivatives with a similar effect have emerged on the black market, and today MDA, MDE, MBDB and other compounds are subsumed under the term Ecstasy. Chemical analyses carried out by international organisations have, however, revealed that

completely different substances such as speed and non-psychoactive substances such as medicines and placebos are often sold as Ecstasy. They include substances that present a major health risk such as atropine or methadone. Ecstasy is taken through the mouth or nose in the form of tablets, capsules or powder. The duration of action depends on the dosage, the route of administration and personal factors such as body weight, gender or previous food intake. The effect of an average dose of Ecstasy last from 3 to 6 hours, the effect of an average MDA dose up to 12 hours.

Legal framework

Ecstasy is subject to the Narcotic Substances Act and its penal provisions. In particular, the acquisition, possession, production, import and export, transfer to and procurement for others (sale) is a punishable offence and may result in fines or imprisonment.

Mechanism of action

After being absorbed into the bloodstream, part of the substance enters the brain where it affects specific areas. Ecstasy primarily causes an increased release of the neurotransmitter serotonin, resulting in reduced hunger and thirst, increased alertness, body temperature and blood pressure, as well as intensified feelings and moods such as happiness and euphoria. When ecstasy ceases to affect the serotonin system after a few hours, the physical and psychological states are reversed. Addicts report fatigue, exhaustion, confusion, sadness and depressive moods. It takes the human brain up to four weeks to rebuild its natural serotonin level.

History

MDMA was first produced in 1898 by the German Ph.D. candidate Haber and patented in 1914 for the German chemical company E. Merck. There have been a multitude of reports stating that the substance has been tested as an appetite suppressant and was first synthesized by E. Merck, which were unmasked as an unprecedented collection of scientific false reports by the authors Fromberg and Seymour. Aside from animal experiments carried out by the U. S. Army in the early 50s, the substance sank into oblivion until 1965, when it was resynthesized by the chemist Alexander Shulgin, a teacher at the University of California at Berkeley. In the seventies MDMA was used by some thousand therapists in the USA in a psychotherapeutic setting due to its effect of intensifying feelings, empathy and self-acceptance. It was reportedly successful in the treatment of the post-traumatic stress syndrome, bulimia, and in therapies with terminally ill patients and couples.

Around 1976, the first articles on the effect of MDMA were published in medical journals, and in the late 1970s, MDMA surfaced under the name of „Ecstasy“ or „X“ outside of psychotherapeutic settings, in bars and pubs in the USA. For a short period, Ecstasy is reported to have been available in Dallas and Austin in bars via credit card payment. On 1 July 1985, following media coverage of the „new drug“ in the Texas area and first medical incidents, MDMA was included in the „most dangerous“ category I by the American Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for a trial period of one year, a decision, which was confirmed by the US authorities in 1988. In 1986 MDMA was included in the Convention on Psychotropic Substances by the WHO on the initiative of the USA, a categorization recommending to subject MDMA to the strictest legal scrutiny in all WHO member states. In the following years, MDMA was incorporated in all European countries in their respective narcotic substances acts. Around 1987 Ecstasy came from the USA via Ibiza to England and Holland and informed the techno and rave movement the following years.

Speed-Amphetamin/Methamphetamin

Chemical information

Amphetamines are fully synthetic, i.e. artificially produced substances with a chemical structure that is similar to natural ephedrine (Ma Huang). Speed is a white or pink crystalline powder, which contains amphetamines or methamphetamines and is distributed as tablets or, more often, as capsules. The effect of methamphetamine (Piko, Yaba, Shabu) is similar to that of amphetamine, it is merely longer and stronger. Speed is taken orally or, less frequently, smoked or injected. Crystal meth (“ice, crystal”) is a crystalline, smokable form of methamphetamine that produces euphoria for several hours and has a very high narcoticness. Typically, amphetamine is diluted with other substances before being sold on the black market.

Legal framework

In the 1950s, the WHO demanded prescription requirements for amphetamines. In 1972 amphetamine was included in the Convention on Psychotropic Substances and is, therefore, now subject to the Narcotic substances Act and its penal provisions. In particular, the acquisition, possession, production, import and export, transfer to and procurement for others (sale) is a punishable crime and may result in fines or imprisonment.

Mechanism of action

Amphetamines reaches the bloodstream through the mucous membranes (of the mouth or nose), the stomach or through inhalation and injections. Amphetamine is fat-soluble, i.e. it passes the blood-brain barrier and causes an increased release of the neurotransmitters norepinephrine and dopamine in the brain by pushing them out of the storage vesicles and into the synaptic gap. Both norepinephrine and dopamine belong to the catecholamines like adrenaline. Depending on the dosage, they bring about a number of physical and mental distortions. Once speed has been degraded in the body, it does no longer influence the neurotransmitters. The brain now needs a few days to restore neurotransmitter balance. During this period, the effects of speed are reversed: users, who were previously full of energy now feel tired and weak, who were strong and convinced of themselves are now irritated, dissatisfied and lacking in concentration.

History

Amphetamine was first synthesized in 1887. Between 1910 and 1930, it was discovered step by step that the chemical structure and the physical and psychological effects of amphetamines are similar to those of the hormone adrenaline. In medicine, amphetamine was subsequently considered a panacea. It was used for the treatment of neuroses, depressions, alcoholism, epilepsy and obesity. Housewives and businessmen used it as a mood barometer, and soldiers used it to combat fatigue and to improve their performance during World War II. When the side effects and narcoticness of amphetamines became known in the 1960s, the non-medical use of the substance continues as before. In competitive sports, amphetamine was used as a doping agent. In the heyday of rock 'n' roll in the 1950s amphetamine was mostly consumed in combination with alcohol, and in all subsequent youth cultures, from beatniks, mods, hippies and Northern soul to punks speed has played a special role. The deaths of John Belushi from the Blues Brothers and of Elvis Presley are attributed to excessive speed consumption.

Psychotropic Substances

Chemical information

The term psychotropic or psychoactive substances is a collective term for all substances contained in medications and narcotics that exert an influence on the psyche through the central nervous system. Such an influence may be subliminal and be experienced positively as stimulation, relaxation or pleasant change of mood. However, it can also have a far-reaching effect on the consciousness and lead to seizures, disturbances of consciousness, or - in the worst case - to a coma.

Mechanism of action

Due to their different structures, they bind to different receptors in the brain, where they trigger signals. Such an influence can be subliminal and be experienced positively as stimulation, relaxation or a pleasant change of mood. However, it can also have a far-reaching effect on the consciousness and lead to seizures, impaired consciousness, or even a coma.

Legal framework

In Austria, the use of psychotropic and psychoactive substances as narcotic substances, such as their acquisition, possession, production or import and export, is restricted. The restrictions are regulated in the Narcotic Substances Act and in the appendant implementing provisions (Narcotic Substances Regulation, Psychotropic Substances Regulation).

History

In Austria, the narcotic drugs law was essentially shaped by three international conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the Protocol of 1972, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988 (Vienna Convention).

Drug precursor substances

Chemical information

Drug precursors are chemicals that are misused for the illicit production of narcotics such as heroin, amphetamine, methamphetamine, cocaine as well as for the illegal production of medications. At EU level, 28 substances have been placed on record, such as acetic anhydride (acetane hydride), ephedrine or pseudoephedrine.

Legal framework

Section 32 of the Narcotic Substances Act defines the illicit handling of drug precursors and contains penal provisions.

Drug precursor substances are clearly defined by the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Traders are required to report cases to the competent authority where orders of recorded substances appear suspicious and suggest that the substances orders will be misused for the production of narcotic drugs.

New psychoactive substances (NPS)

Chemical information

New psychoactive substances are also known as research chemicals, legal highs or designer drugs. Many of them are research chemicals, often waste products from drug research. What they have in common is that they are produced on a large scale mainly in Asian laboratories.

Mechanisms of action

Psychoactive drugs affect the human nervous system. They influence subjective experience and behaviour. Consumption results in a distortion of consciousness, mood and thought, which may be sedative or activating.

Psychoactive drugs alterate mechanisms in the brain that regulate mood, thoughts and memory. Distortion of consciousness may include seizures and coma. Intoxicating drugs have all a mind-altering effect and can, therefore, be considered psychoactive substances.

Legal framework

The New Psychoactive Substances Act (NPSG) came into force on 1 January 2012, prohibiting the production, import and export of many research chemicals, their transfer to and procurement for others with a view to material benefit.

APPENDIX

TABLES AND DIAGRAMS

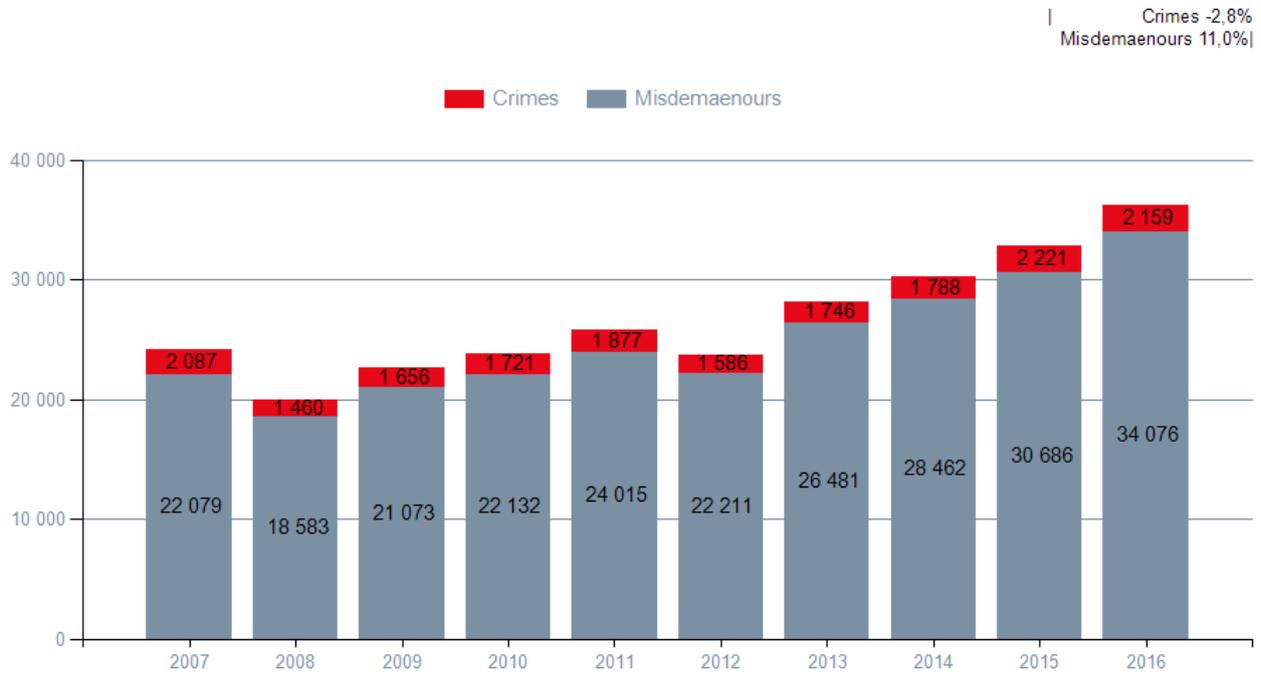


Figure 35: Development of indictable and non-crimes in Austrian between 2007 and 2016

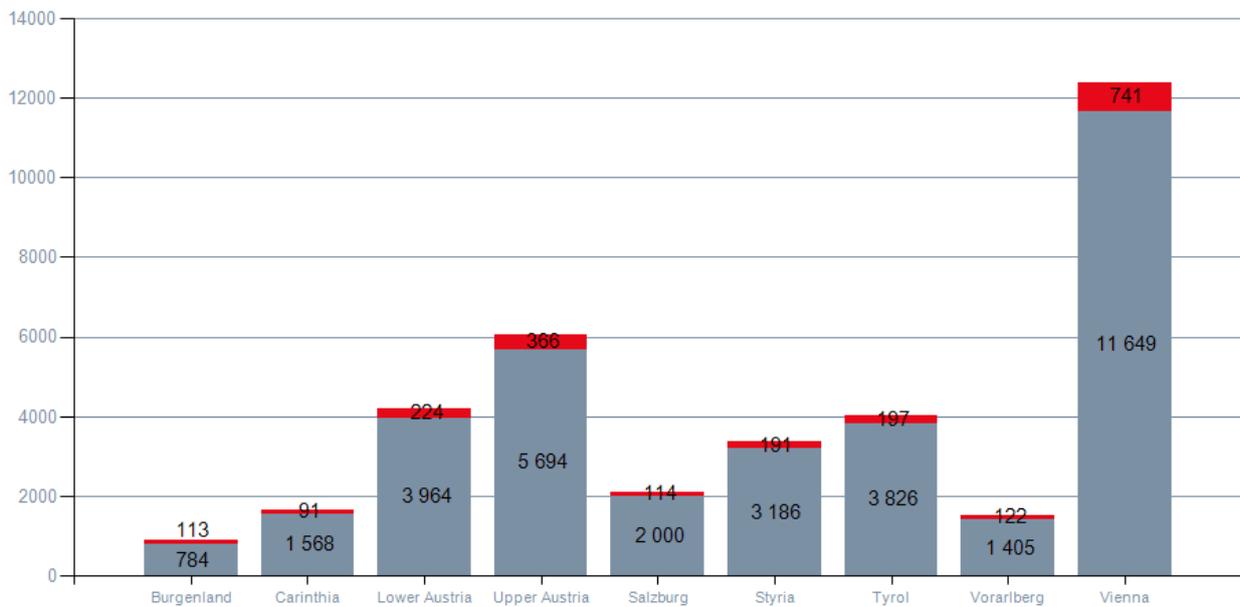


Figure 36: Situation in the federal provinces broken down by indictable and non-crimes in 2016

Federal Provinces		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change in numbers	Change in percent
Austria	overall	24 166	20 043	22 729	23 853	25 892	23 797	28 227	30 250	32 907	36 235	3 328	10,1 %
	Crime	2 087	1 460	1 656	1 721	1 877	1 586	1 746	1 788	2 221	2 159	- 62	-2,8 %
	Misdemeanours	22 079	18 583	21 073	22 132	24 015	22 211	26 481	28 462	30 686	34 076	3 390	11,0 %
Burgenland	overall	1 021	891	967	735	831	701	851	780	858	897	39	4,5 %
	Crime	128	159	150	129	205	154	162	91	98	113	15	15,3 %
	Misdemeanours	893	732	817	606	626	547	689	689	760	784	24	3,2 %
Carinthia	overall	1 423	1 156	1 384	1 547	1 466	1 194	1 496	2 005	1 640	1 659	19	1,2 %
	Crime	88	36	69	91	119	71	73	88	96	91	- 5	-5,2 %
	Misdemeanours	1 335	1 120	1 315	1 456	1 347	1 123	1 423	1 917	1 544	1 568	24	1,6 %
Lower Austria	overall	3 572	2 655	3 233	3 075	3 041	2 771	3 205	3 672	4 079	4 188	109	2,7 %
	Crime	274	154	188	150	134	157	168	153	207	224	17	8,2 %
	Misdemeanours	3 298	2 501	3 045	2 925	2 907	2 614	3 037	3 519	3 872	3 964	92	2,4 %
Upper Austria	overall	3 824	3 297	3 999	3 840	3 839	3 776	4 545	5 100	5 136	6 060	924	18,0 %
	Crime	296	213	302	319	300	242	324	307	336	366	30	8,9 %
	Misdemeanours	3 528	3 084	3 697	3 521	3 539	3 534	4 221	4 793	4 800	5 694	894	18,6 %
Salzburg	overall	1 127	1 034	1 108	1 130	1 462	1 167	1 373	1 507	1 763	2 114	351	19,9 %
	Crime	99	68	100	101	122	92	127	94	117	114	- 3	-2,6 %
	Misdemeanours	1 028	966	1 008	1 029	1 340	1 075	1 246	1 413	1 646	2 000	354	21,5 %
Styria	overall	1 971	1 387	1 710	1 648	1 927	1 933	2 491	3 280	3 256	3 377	121	3,7 %
	Crime	158	110	107	102	134	109	102	141	224	191	- 33	-14,7 %
	Misdemeanours	1 813	1 277	1 603	1 546	1 793	1 824	2 389	3 139	3 032	3 186	154	5,1 %
Tyrol	overall	2 486	2 029	2 647	2 791	3 175	2 645	3 987	3 554	3 970	4 023	53	1,3 %
	Crime	194	127	195	150	155	101	171	141	202	197	- 5	-2,5 %
	Misdemeanours	2 292	1 902	2 452	2 641	3 020	2 544	3 816	3 413	3 768	3 826	58	1,5 %
Vorarlberg	overall	1 200	988	1 047	1 182	1 153	1 417	1 271	1 413	1 313	1 527	214	16,3 %
	Crime	188	146	127	171	101	120	128	150	125	122	- 3	-2,4 %
	Misdemeanours	1 012	842	920	1 011	1 052	1 297	1 143	1 263	1 188	1 405	217	18,3 %
Vienna	overall	7 542	6 606	6 634	7 905	8 998	8 193	9 008	8 939	10 892	12 390	1 498	13,8 %
	Crime	662	447	418	508	607	540	491	623	816	741	- 75	-9,2 %
	Misdemeanours	6 880	6 159	6 216	7 397	8 391	7 653	8 517	8 316	10 076	11 649	1 573	15,6 %

Figure 37: Development of offences under the Narcotic Substances Act broken down by indictable and non-crimes in Austrian and in the federal provinces between 2007 and 2016

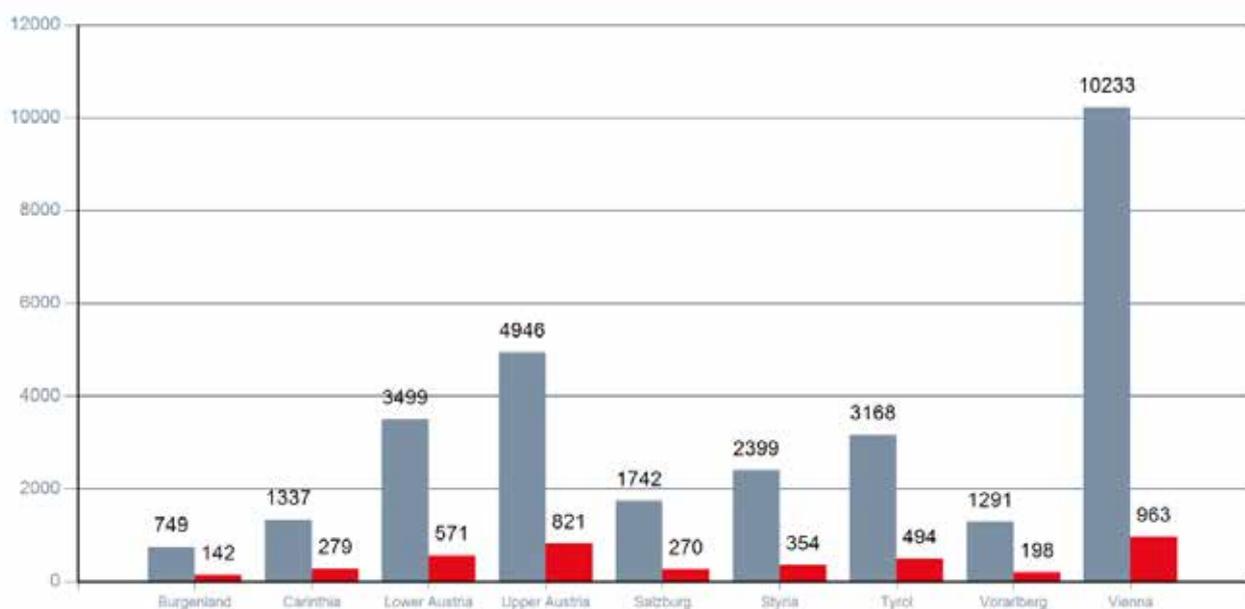


Figure 38: Narcotic drugs crime reports by sex in the federal provinces in 2016

Non Austrian	Austrian	Federal Provinces	Proportion auf Non Austrians
6 416	4 780	Vienna	57.3%
1 511	2 151	Tyrol	41.3%
713	1 299	Salzburg	35.4%
864	1 889	Styria	31.4%
1 579	4 188	Upper Austria	27.4%
388	1 101	Vorarlberg	26.1%
862	3 208	Lower Austria	21.2%
177	714	Burgenland	19.9%
276	1 340	Carinthia	17.1%

Figure 39: Identified domestic and foreign suspects by federal provinces in 2016

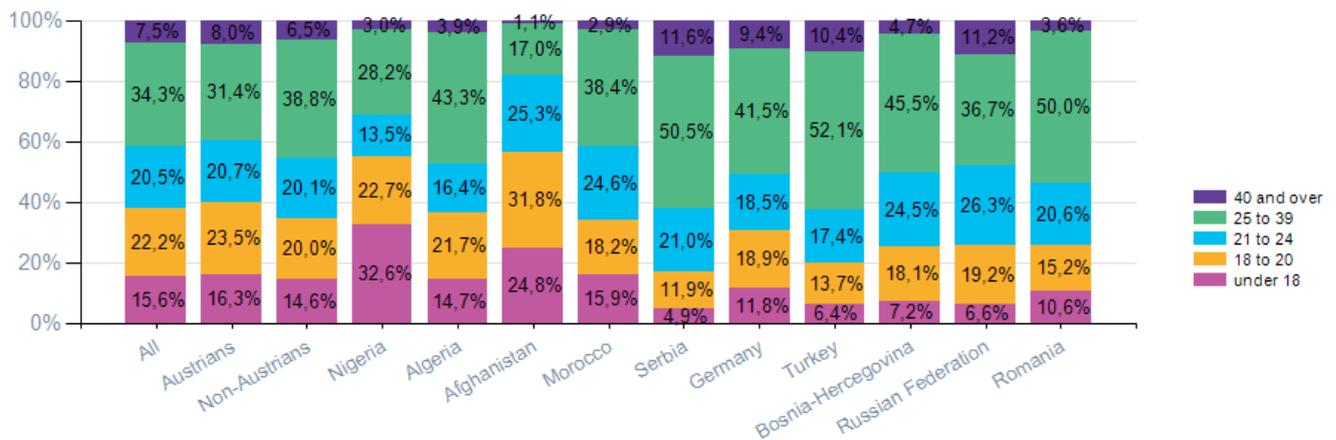


Figure 40: Identified domestic and foreign suspects by age groups in 2016

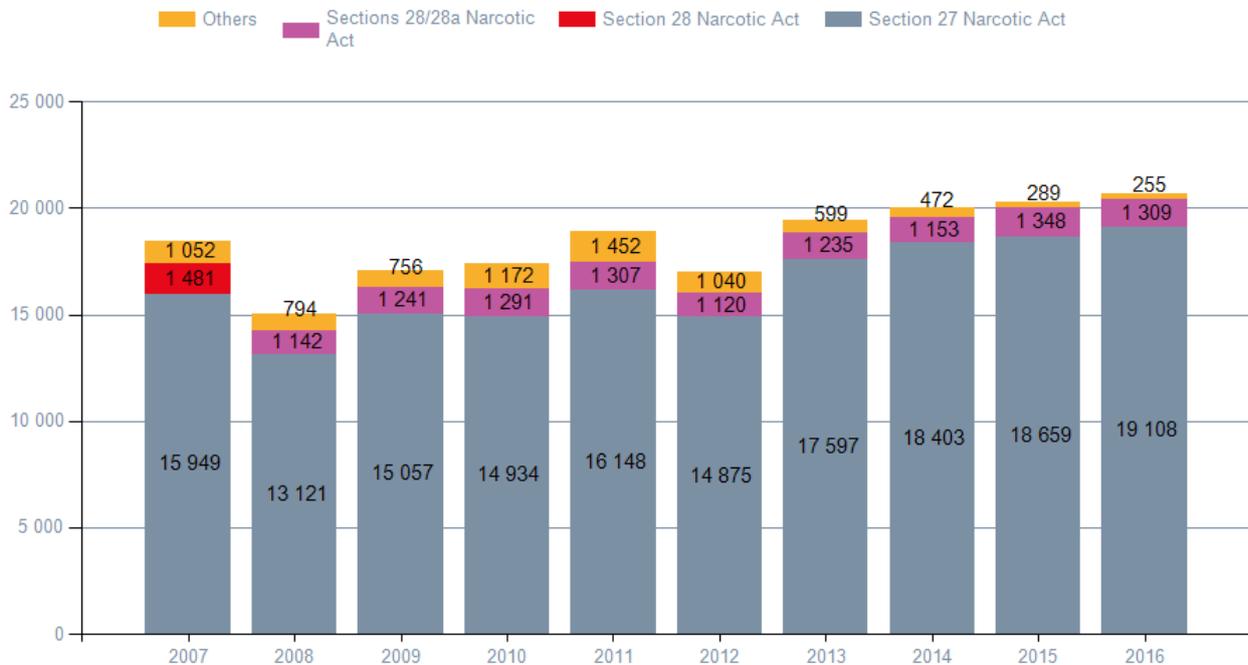


Figure 41: Development of crime reports in respect of Austrian suspects for offences under the Narcotic Substances Act in Austria between 2007 and 2016

Heroin

	overall	§ 27 SMG	§ 28 SMG	§ 28a SMG
Burgenland	23	17		6
Carinthia	196	165	1	30
Lower Austria	204	172	11	21
Upper Austria	344	284	7	53
Salzburg	41	31	3	7
Styria	24	8	3	13
Tyrol	15	13		2
Vorarlberg	129	106	1	22
Vienna	1 087	852	14	221
overall	2 063	1 648	40	375

Cannabis herb/marijuana

	overall	§ 27 SMG	§ 28 SMG	§ 28a SMG
Burgenland	763	696	12	55
Carinthia	1 236	1 189	8	39
Lower Austria	3 290	3 113	46	131
Upper Austria	4 688	4 435	31	222
Salzburg	1 442	1 351	32	59
Styria	2 931	2 768	42	121
Tyrol	2 056	1 902	37	117
Vorarlberg	1 084	1 012	12	60
Vienna	8 421	8 096	70	255
overall	25 911	24 562	290	1 059

Cannabis plant

	overall	§ 27 SMG	§ 28 SMG	§ 28a SMG
Burgenland	29	10	5	14
Carinthia	40	30	2	8
Lower Austria	135	102	4	29
Upper Austria	90	68	13	9
Salzburg	32	28	3	1
Styria	69	49	11	9
Tyrol	71	56	8	7
Vorarlberg	31	15	10	6
Vienna	145	97	18	30
overall	642	455	74	113

Amphetamine

	overall	§ 27 SMG	§ 28 SMG	§ 28a SMG
Burgenland	87	61	1	25
Carinthia	64	59	2	3
Lower Austria	280	227	8	45
Upper Austria	742	639	8	95
Salzburg	229	185	12	32
Styria	245	197	7	41
Tyrol	223	178	8	37
Vorarlberg	87	76		11
Vienna	296	232	5	59
overall	2 253	1 854	51	348

Cocaine

	overall	§ 27 SMG	§ 28 SMG	§ 28a SMG
Burgenland	30	20		10
Carinthia	258	215	2	41
Lower Austria	231	185	7	39
Upper Austria	302	237	5	60
Salzburg	182	145	11	26
Styria	131	85	6	40
Tyrol	366	297	10	59
Vorarlberg	195	148	3	44
Vienna	1 515	1 230	16	269
overall	3 210	2 562	60	588

Cannabis resin/hashish

	overall	§ 27 SMG	§ 28 SMG	§ 28a SMG
Burgenland	30	23	1	6
Carinthia	46	40		6
Lower Austria	201	187	1	13
Upper Austria	257	230	4	23
Salzburg	342	323	7	12
Styria	76	58	2	16
Tyrol	1 606	1 541	21	44
Vorarlberg	163	145	3	15
Vienna	802	758	8	36
overall	3 523	3 305	47	171

XTC

	overall	§ 27 SMG	§ 28 SMG	§ 28a SMG
Burgenland	48	37		11
Carinthia	93	82		11
Lower Austria	125	95	4	26
Upper Austria	241	184	2	55
Salzburg	112	96	4	12
Styria	225	189	6	30
Tyrol	131	108	4	19
Vorarlberg	68	55	2	11
Vienna	264	219	3	42
overall	1 307	1 065	25	217

Methamphetamine

	overall	§ 27 SMG	§ 28 SMG	§ 28a SMG
Burgenland	62	17		45
Carinthia	17	17		
Lower Austria	160	130	5	25
Upper Austria	266	238	3	25
Salzburg	32	29		3
Styria	23	23		
Tyrol	45	39		6
Vorarlberg	21	19		2
Vienna	244	187	4	53
overall	870	699	12	159

Figures 42 to 49: Reported cases in Austria and the Austrian provinces broken down to substances and the severity of cases in 2016

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS 2017

Kriminalitätsentwicklung 2016
Geldwäscherei 2016
Schlepperei 2016
Verfassungsschutz 2016
Kriminalprävention 2016
Menschenhandel 2016
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Sicherheitsbericht 2016

Contact

Bundeskriminalamt
Single Point of Contact
Josef-Holaubek-Platz 1, 1090 Wien
Tel.: +43 (0)1 24836-985025, -985026 oder -985027
E-Mail: BMI-II-BK-SPOC@bmi.gv.at
Homepage: www.bundeskriminalamt.at
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bundeskriminalamt

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Bundeskriminalamt
Büro für Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
Josef-Holaubek-Platz 1, 1090 Wien
Tel.: +43 (0)1 24836-985004
E-Mail: BMI-II-BK-1-5-PRESSE@bmi.gv.at

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Note

The report was drawn up under considerable diligence and a great deal of commitment. Nevertheless, errors may have crept into the text, withstanding any proof-reading. We appreciate your understanding.

