A RESEARCH ON TURKIYE'S DRUG AND STIMULANT TRENDS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AMOUNT OF SUBSTANCES SEIZED, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS AND SUSPECTS BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020

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ABSTRACT

The focus of this study is on narcotic stimulants extensively utilized in Turkiye. The purpose of the study is to describe, explain, and explore trends related to the data of drug substances involved in judicial proceedings from 2010 to 2020. This study employs qualitative research methods and adopts a case study design, centering on 'drug stimulants that are widely used in Turkiye'. Data from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2010 and 2020 were scrutinized through document analysis. The process analysis method was utilized for data examination. Firstly, each drug is individually examined, with an analysis of data on their progression over the years. Secondly, an analysis is conducted on the number of incidents, suspects, and the quantities of substances seized annually. The 11-year process analysis reveals that: i) Captagon, ecstasy, heroin, and cocaine show a slight downward trend, ii) Marijuana exhibits a stable trend, iii) Synthetic Cannabinoid substance demonstrates an increasing trend. Most notably, iv) The analysis based on the number of incidents and suspects indicates a significant upward methamphetamine trend particularly post-2016.

Keywords: Turkiye, Social Change, Drug Addiction, Process Analysis.

Jel Codes: A14, I12, K42.

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, drug use has been documented globally. However, it was after the Industrial Revolution that the active ingredients of local narcotic and stimulant plants were synthesized and commodified, transforming drugs into a global product and, consequently, a global issue. Similar to other sectors influenced by the Industrial Revolution, the drug market features a broad "product range," and "consumer preferences" evolve and diversify rapidly. Thus, it is crucial for nations to accurately analyze the trends related to the narcotics and stimulants they combat in their drug prevention efforts.

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Araştırma Makalesi/Research Article

The global community, including Turkiye, has long recognized the significance of drug control. A key manifestation of this recognition is the meticulous recording and transparent sharing of statistical data on the subject. In this vein, open-source information provides a valuable resource for researchers aiming to study the dynamics of the drug challenges faced by nations.

This study focuses on drug use in Turkiye, with the objective of describing and explaining the data pertaining to drugs involved in judicial proceedings from 2010 to 2020. Additionally, it seeks to investigate the evolving trends in the "product range" and "customer preferences" over this decade.

The research is grounded in qualitative methodology, utilizing a case study design to zero in on 'drug stimulants that are widely used in Turkiye.' The Turkiye Drug Reports issued by the General Directorate of Security from 2010 to 2020 were subjected to document analysis. To dissect the data, a process analysis approach was employed. The study examines the trajectory of Captagon, Ecstasy, Heroin, Cannabis, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Synthetic Cannabinoid (Bonzai) over an eleven-year period in Turkiye, using a dual-context analysis. Initially, each substance is scrutinized to assess its individual trend over time. Subsequently, an aggregate analysis takes into account the number of incidents, suspects involved, and quantities of substances confiscated.

The findings from the eleven-year process analysis reveal various trends: (i) a slight decline in the seizure of Captagon, ecstasy, heroin, and cocaine; (ii) a stable trend in marijuana cases; (iii) an uptick in Synthetic Cannabinoid incidences; and notably, (iv) methamphetamine shows a marked increase when juxtaposed with other drugs, with a substantial rise in both the amount seized and the number of suspects implicated, particularly post-2016.

2. SUBJECT, PURPOSE AND METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

The current research seeks to extract and interpret the historical progression of commonly utilized drugs in Turkiye. Guided by a constructivist perspective, the study's objective is to characterize, clarify, and ascertain the presence of significant trends in drug usage across the country over time. Such insights aim to facilitate projections about the future landscape of drug use by reflecting on the past decade. Understanding the trajectory of drug and stimulant consumption is of strategic importance. Discerning notable trends in drug preferences could inform preventive, interventional, and therapeutic strategies concerning drug addiction.

Consequently, the study is qualitative in nature, concentrating on the prevalent patterns of 'drugs and stimulants commonly used in Turkiye.' Data is collected through an examination of relevant information sources (documents), aiming to describe, elucidate, and interpret the significance of drug and stimulant consumption in Turkiye and its evolution over time. Thus, a 'case study' approach has been selected as the qualitative research design, adhering to the methodologies outlined by Creswell (2017, 2021) and Gökçe (2022).

The methodology for data collection in this study is a document review, focusing on the analysis of data from the previous 11 years. It is considered that a period of 11 years is sufficient to understand the existence of a meaningful and current pattern. The documents scrutinized are the Turkiye Drug Reports issued by the General Directorate of Security from 2010 to 2020. These reports provide detailed figures on substances such as Captagon, Ecstasy, Heroin, Cannabis, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Synthetic Cannabinoid (Bonzai), which are frequently the subject of judicial actions in various countries. Within the study, the reported data on these substances for each year over the 11-year span from 2010 to 2020 are thoroughly cross-examined to discern whether the drugs under judicial review exhibit any significant patterns over their respective timelines.

A process analysis method is employed to dissect the data. The approach involves two fundamental analytical perspectives. Initially, data on each substance — Captagon, Ecstasy, Heroin, Marijuana, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Synthetic Cannabinoid (Bonzai) — are individually assessed to identify their respective trends throughout the 11-year period. Following this, an overarching analysis is conducted to extract trends concerning the number of incidents, the number of suspects involved, and the quantity of substances confiscated between 2010 and 2020.

3. INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH DATA

3.1. Interpretation of Data on Narcotic Drugs Subject to Judicial Proceedings

3.1.1.Captagon Trend

Fenetylline, commonly known as Captagon, is a psychostimulant drug that combines amphetamine and theophylline. Following the cessation of its legal production in 1986, counterfeit versions have been illicitly manufactured in Southeastern Europe and the Far East (Al-Imam et al., 2017). The instabilities plaguing these regions, including war, rebellion, and civil unrest, significantly impact the issues of substance use and production (Ardabili et al., 2022). Captagon, classified as a synthetic drug, is also referred to by names such as Crystal, Crack, Ice, or Methamphetamine. In Germany, where it was once legally produced, its manufacture has been prohibited due to rising abuse rates. This synthetic compound exerts a direct influence on the brain, inducing alterations in the nervous system. Documented physical effects of its consumption include an accelerated heart rate, elevated body temperature, increased respiratory rate, and higher blood pressure. Marketed as Captagon, it is distinguished by fenetylline as its active ingredient (Ögel, 2010: 58). The drug is particularly prevalent in Middle Eastern countries, and Captagon tablets are frequently identified by their characteristic intertwined letter C logos (Department of Combating Narcotic Crimes, 2020:14).

Table 1. Captagon Trend

CAPTAGON TREND	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amount Seized (kg)	214	219	37	906	130	3.018	2.584	5,254	4,548	2,216	575
Number of Suspects	251	300	278	380	351	610	685	2,094	2,367	1,665	2.020
Number of Incidents	154	123	171	227	239	381	436	1,558	1,574	1,116	1,357

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The analysis of incident data reveals that from 2010 there was a marked increase in the number of drug-related incidents, culminating in a 922% rise by the end of 2018. However, this trend reversed with a decline in incidents reported in 2019 and 2020. Specifically, the year 2017 saw a dramatic 2,355% surge in the amount of Captagon seized in comparison to 2010, and an increase of 103.3% over the previous year. A subsequent examination of the period from 2017 to 2020 indicates a substantial decrease in Captagon seizures by 813.7%. The year 2013 also experienced an escalation in Captagon-related incidents, continuing the upward trajectory from 2012, with an increase of 32.75% relative to the prior year. Accompanying this uptick in incidents, there was a 36.69% rise in the number of suspects associated with Captagon. The year 2017 was particularly notable, witnessing a 257.3% increase in Captagon incidents compared to the previous year, which coincided with a 205.7% increase in the number of suspects. Additionally, the quantity of Captagon seized in 2017 was 103.3% higher than that in the preceding year.

Graph 1. Captagon Trend
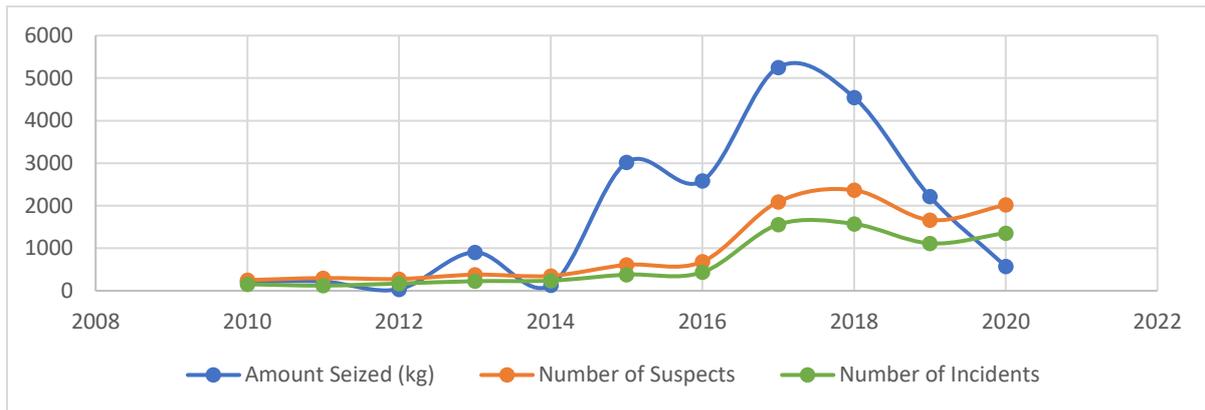
Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The record increases in Captagon seizures from 2014 to 2017, along with the rise in the number of suspects and incidents, are noteworthy. This trend aligns with the statement from the 2020 Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment Report which suggests that "Instability and conflicts in the Near and Middle East seem to boost Captagon production and trafficking within the region" (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2020: 7). This observation is further supported by the 2019 UN World Drug

Report, which indicates that the conflicts beginning in Syria in 2011 have contributed to the regional drug issues (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2019: 53).

The significant number of seizures since 2014 can be attributed to cross-border operations aimed at neutralizing terrorist threats stemming from the Syrian civil war and enhanced border security measures (Turkiye Drug Report, 2020:47). The marked decline in seizures in more recent years is believed to be due to the impact of prior seizures and the stringent security measures which have compelled traffickers to seek alternative routes. This shift is evidenced by seizures reported in Europe, according to international reports, highlighting the change in trafficking patterns (Turkiye Drug Report, 2021:42).

3.1.2. Ecstasy Trend

Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA; commonly known as ecstasy) is chemically akin to both stimulant and hallucinogenic substances (Rochester & Kirchner, 1999). Ecstasy is recognized as a hazardous psychoactive drug and has gained popularity as a recreational substance among youths in entertainment venues worldwide, particularly in the USA and the UK (Murray, 2001). As a synthetic drug derived from amphetamine, ecstasy acts as a stimulant to the central nervous system and possesses hallucinogenic properties. It is available in various forms, including tablets, capsules, powder, or liquid. Recently, its use has spread in Turkiye and is notably prevalent among the younger population (Babuna and Bayhan, 2009: 230).

Table 2. Ecstasy Trend

| ECSTASY TREND	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amount Seized (kg)	231	341	1,097	1,110	900	1,418	946	2,152	2,227	2,174	2,774
Number of Suspects	727	1,769	6,327	6.271	5,688	7,965	8.777	9,935	14,219	13,482	8,211
Number of Incidents	1,371	2,587	4,434	4,274	3,706	5,012	5,259	6,663	9,758	8,530	5,259

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

Comparative analysis of ecstasy-related data over a period of years reveals significant trends:

Between 2010 and 2012, the number of ecstasy incidents rose sharply by 223.2%. Concurrently, the number of suspects associated with these incidents surged by 770.2%. In terms of the quantity of ecstasy seized, there was an increase of 374.8% from 2010 to 2012. A year-on-year comparison between 2013 and 2014 indicates a downturn, with a 13.2% decrease in the number of incidents and an 18.9% decrease in the amount of ecstasy seized. Additionally, the number of suspects fell by 9.3% during the same period. From 2014 to 2018, there was an increase of 163.3% in the number of incidents, while the number of suspects climbed by 149.9%.

In 2016, there was a 33.28% decrease in ecstasy seizures compared to the previous year; however, the number of incidents increased by 4.9%, and the number of suspects grew by 10.1%. While 2020 saw a 27.5% increase in ecstasy seizures relative to the preceding year, there was a significant decrease in the number of incidents (38.3%) and suspects (39%).

Graph 2. Ecstasy Trend
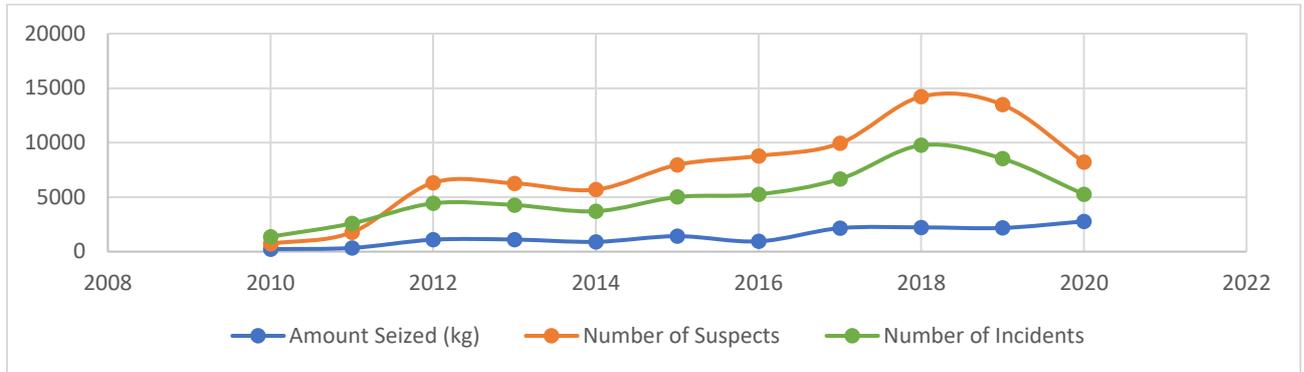
Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The data indicates that between 2014 and 2018, there was a 147.4% increase in the amount of ecstasy seized. Despite a rise in seizure amounts in the last two years of the period, there was a notable decline in both the number of cases and the number of suspects involved. Turkiye is identified as a destination country for ecstasy, with a substantial proportion of the drug confiscated in 2013 tracing back to the Netherlands and Belgium.

Ecstasy is transported into Turkiye from various European nations via air, sea, and land routes. The majority of ecstasy-related incidents in Turkiye are associated with the purchase, acceptance, or possession of the drug for personal use, which is similar to the patterns observed with marijuana and cocaine incidents. This trend is likely attributable to Turkiye's status as a targeted nation for ecstasy trafficking, with a significant portion of the incidents aimed at the domestic market.

3.1.3. Heroin Trend

Heroin, a semi-synthetic derivative of morphine, has the chemical structure of diacetyl morphine hydrochloride (Department of Combating Narcotic Crimes Publications 16, 2020:14). Discovered initially by chemist Dresser in Germany, heroin is one of the most potent drugs affecting the central nervous system and is recognized as the strongest known narcotic, leading to severe mental and physical dependence. Its use in modern medical and veterinary practice is extremely limited and is permitted in only a few countries. Heroin's potency is considerable, being estimated to be four to ten times more powerful than morphine, depending on the methods of measurement.

In its purest form, heroin appears as a very fine, colorless crystalline powder. However, the white powder heroin typically found on the illegal market is not sold in its pure state; it is more commonly a light brown powder due to various additives and diluting agents (Çetin, 2013:32). While many substances, such as ecstasy, are primarily used for recreation and others, like cannabis, for relaxation, the potential for addiction and consequent physical harm to both the individual and their surroundings is particularly high with cannabis withdrawal (Danışmaz Sevin, 2021).

Table 3. Heroin Trend

| HEROIN TREND	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amount Seized (kg)	12,690	7,293	13,301	13,480	12,756	8,294	5,585	17,752	18,531	20,165	13,783
Number of Suspects	5,417	4,164	7,349	9,849	11,745	19,650	12,091	19,359	28,233	25,755	23,969
Number of Incidents	4,155	3,306	4,155	6,096	7,008	12,271	8,179	12,932	18,298	16,265	15,052

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The analysis of the 11-year data concerning heroin trends in the country from 2010 to 2020 reveals the following:

The year 2015 experienced a notable 75.1% increase in the number of heroin-related incidents compared to 2014, marking the most significant rise within the period. In 2018, there was a 41.49% rise in heroin incidents compared to 2017, and a 49.1% increase when compared to 2015. Despite these increases, the number of heroin incidents has shown a slight downward trend in the last three years of the period analyzed.

The number of suspects in heroin-related cases in 2015 increased by 67.3% in comparison to 2014. However, a decline of 34.6% in the amount of heroin seized in 2015 was noted when compared to 2010. Alongside the surge in heroin cases in 2015, there was a 67.3% increase in the number of suspects relative to the preceding year. With the uptick in heroin cases in 2018, there was a 45.84% increase in the number of suspects compared to the previous year. Although there was a reduction of approximately 50% in heroin seizures in 2014, 2015, and 2016 compared to 2013, an uptrend in the number of cases and the number of suspects apprehended was observed.

Graph 3. Heroin Trend
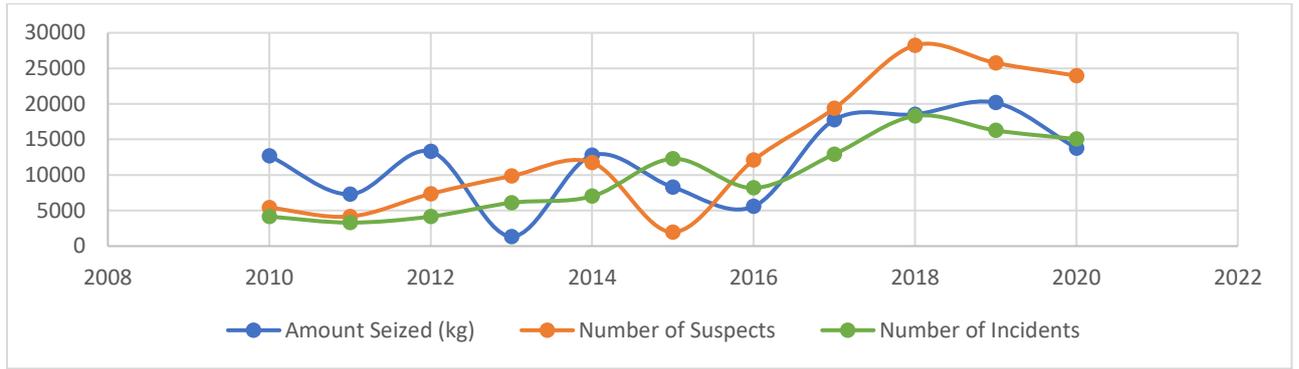
Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The observed decrease in the quantity of heroin seized during 2015-2016 can be attributed to a global decline in opium production, which fell by 38% from the previous year, as reported in the World Drug Report (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2016: p.12). Despite this downturn in opium production, there was a paradoxical increase in both the number of heroin-related cases and suspects, as well as in the amount of heroin seized in 2015.

The explanation for this incongruity lies in the smaller quantities of heroin seized during numerous law enforcement actions against a large number of suspects. This suggests that investigations were multifaceted and in-depth, targeting the complex networks of organized crime groups involved in heroin smuggling. The aim extended beyond merely apprehending the drivers or couriers caught with heroin; it also encompassed comprehensive operations to dismantle the criminal organizations by capturing multiple members involved in the trafficking operations.

3.1.4. Marijuana Trend

Marijuana, recognized as the most widely used illicit drug in Europe according to the European Drug Report 2023, poses a significant and prevalent social issue in Turkiye (Macit, 2020). It is derived from the brown/green flowers, stems, seeds, and leaves of the Cannabis Sativa plant. The principal psychoactive component in cannabis is THC (Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), with specific THC receptors located in the brain. These receptors are predominantly found in areas governing cognition, memory, the reward system, pain perception, and motor coordination.

Commonly referred to as marijuana, it is the term used for the intoxicating parts of the plant, including the drugs obtained from the flowers and bracts of the Cannabis Sativa and Cannabis Indica species, which produce euphoric effects when consumed. The substance known as cannabis is procured through the processing of the bracts from the female plants of these cannabis species. Prepared by drying and compressing the plant's leaves, the drug's potency is derived from the cannabinoids present in the resin secreted by these plant parts (Çetin, 2018:39-40).

Table 4. Marijuana Trend

| MARIHUANA TREND	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amount Seized (kg)	73.309	76.392	152.086	274.380	123.116	53.682	146.954	177.550	80.707	90.579	93.741
Number of Suspects	28.625	31.299	107.485	106.390	74.015	53.018	54.788	74.215	95.013	104.570	83.501
Number of Incidents	74.168	58.727	68.276	69.780	48.610	35.892	39.948	50.650	67.984	72.695	59.716

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The fluctuation in marijuana-related seizures, incidents, and the number of suspects from 2010 to 2019 demonstrates several trends:

From 2010 to 2013, there was a substantial 274.2% increase in the amount of marijuana seized, followed by a significant decrease of 411.1% from 2013 to 2015. However, the quantity of marijuana confiscated climbed again by 230.7% from 2015 to 2017. In terms of the number of suspects apprehended, there was a 271.6% increase from 2010 to 2013. This figure then dropped by 50.1% from 2013 to 2015 but rose by 97.2% from 2015 to 2019. The number of marijuana incidents saw a 51.6% decline from 2010 to 2015, yet there was a resurgence with an increase of 102.5% from 2015 to 2019.

The data reveal that the number of suspects detained moved in tandem with the amount of marijuana seized from 2010 to 2013. From 2013 to 2015, both the quantity of marijuana seized, and the number of suspects and incidents consistently declined. However, between 2015 and 2017, there was an upturn in the number of incidents, suspects, and the amount of marijuana seized, though not uniformly. While 2018 witnessed an uptick in the number of incidents and suspects, the amount of marijuana seized during that year showed a decline.

Graph 4. Marijuana Trend
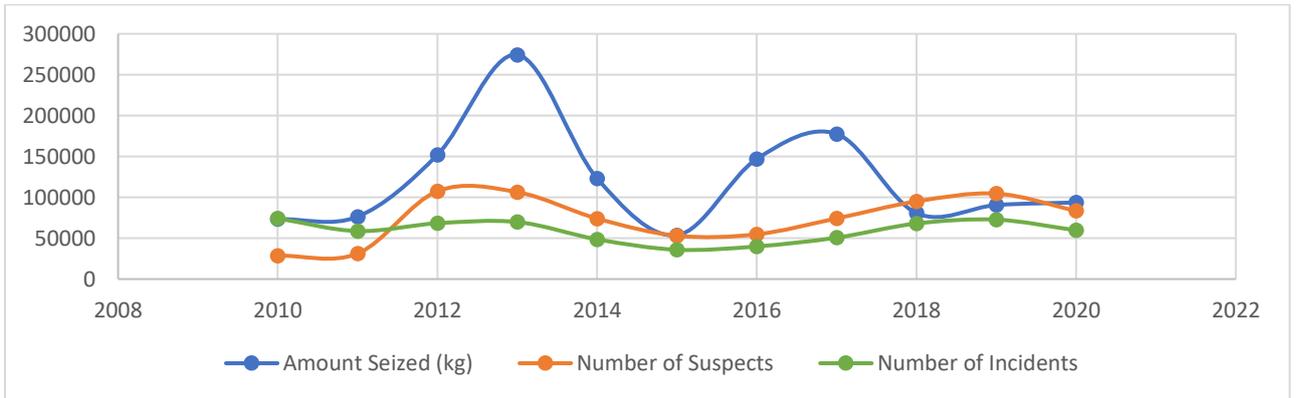
Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

In line with global trends, cannabis remains the most confiscated drug in Turkiye, as indicated by the Turkiye Drug Report (2013:19). The smuggling operations for marijuana differ from those of heroin,

as they are typically conducted by local groups focused on the domestic market, rather than international networks. There is no substantial evidence to suggest that cannabis produced within Turkiye is exported abroad. Nonetheless, there have been considerable seizures of resin cannabis entering Turkiye from Iran. The exact origin of this resin cannabis is not definitively known, though it is speculated that it could be transported from Afghanistan to Iran and subsequently to Turkiye (Turkiye Drug Report, 2013:42).

Recent law enforcement activities have significantly reduced the availability of marijuana within the country, prompting traffickers to seek new methods of smuggling, such as importing the high-THC cannabis variety known as Skunk from Europe. Skunk, which is a product of hybridizing different cannabis seeds and is also referred to as Hybrid Cannabis, Sinsemilla, or Nederweit (Dutch Cannabis), has seen a dramatic increase in seizures in Turkiye — approximately fourteenfold in 2019 compared to 2017, and around 1.5 times the amount in 2018 compared to the previous year (Turkiye Drug Report, 2020: 42).

The operations against marijuana between 2010 and 2013 have been significant in countering the financing of the PKK/KCK terrorist organization. Investigations have revealed that the PKK's involvement in drug trafficking serves not only as a source of funding but also to harm Turkish society by promoting widespread marijuana use (Turkiye Drug Report, 2013:162). Turkiye has increasingly become a final destination market in recent years. With the rise in marijuana and synthetic stimulant use, there has been a notable increase in arrests made by law enforcement agencies. The price and availability of drugs in Turkiye are determined by the national and international supply-demand dynamics, as well as the effectiveness of national law enforcement efforts. In response to the stringent control of traditional drugs, organized crime groups may shift to trafficking new psychotropic substances, such as synthetic cannabinoids, skunk, and khat (Turkiye Drug Report, 2013:175).

3.1.5. Cocaine Trend

Cocaine, an alkaloid, is derived from the leaves of the coca plant (Erythoxylon Coca), which is indigenous to South America. The substance, in the form of cocaine hydrochloride (HCl), is characterized by its bitter-sweet taste and fine white powder appearance. It is highly addictive, with the potential to rapidly induce a powerful dependency due to its intense stimulant effects on the central nervous system. The onset of cocaine's effects is swift, but they typically dissipate within thirty to sixty minutes. Given its potent addictive properties, psychological dependence on cocaine can develop even after just one use. With continued consumption, users build tolerance and eventually develop physiological dependence (Tarhan and Nurmedov, 2011, pp. 213-216). Cocaine addiction is recognized as a chronic and challenging condition to treat, often leading to severe and destructive consequences (Penberthy, Jennifer, et al. 2010).

Tablo 5. Cocaine Trend

COCAINE TREND	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amount Seized (kg)	302	591	476	450	393	556	845	1,485	1,509	1,638	1,961
Number of Suspects	588	886	1,989	1,288	1,318	1,500	2,201	5,145	4,976	4,895	4,446
Number of Incidents	1,249	1,457	1,434	863	784	988	1,476	3,886	3,516	3,018	2,573

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The number of cocaine-related incidents in Turkiye has experienced fluctuations over the years. In 2012, there was a slight decrease of 1.58% in cocaine incidents compared to 2011. A more significant drop of 39.82% occurred in 2013 compared to the previous year. However, in 2017, there was a remarkable increase of 163.3% in the number of cocaine incidents from the year before. Correspondingly, the quantity of cocaine seized in 2017 escalated by 75.7%, and the number of suspects apprehended increased by 133.8% compared to the prior year. From 2017 to 2020, the total amount of cocaine confiscated continued to climb by 32.05%, despite a 33.78% decrease in the number of incidents and a 13.58% reduction in the number of suspects during the same period.

The 39.82% decrease in incidents in 2013 was accompanied by a 35.24% fall in the number of cocaine suspects. The surge in the number of suspects in 2017 parallels the increase in seizures, suggesting a concentration of law enforcement efforts. Although seizures rose between 2017 and 2020, there was an overall decline in the number of cocaine incidents and suspects. One contributing factor to these dynamics is the use of maritime ports for cocaine shipment into Turkiye from other continents. Cocaine is often concealed within containers carrying legal goods in international trade. Despite substantial seizures by law enforcement, challenges persist due to the difficulties in international law enforcement coordination, information sharing, and operational execution.

Graph 5. Cocaine Trend
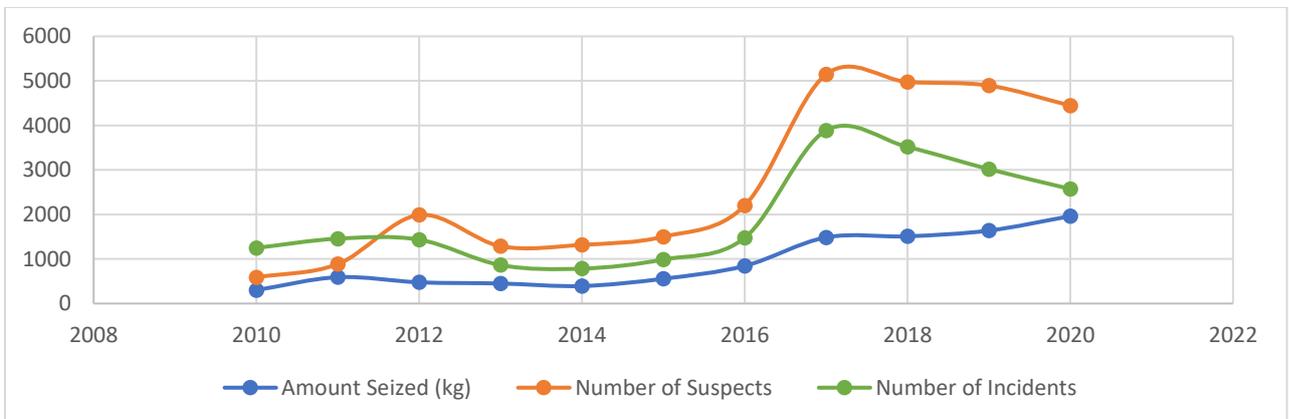
Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The dynamics of cocaine trafficking and law enforcement responses in Turkiye suggest a complex scenario. Despite an uptick in arrests, the observed decrease in both incidents and the number of suspects suggests the emergence and utilization of alternative smuggling routes. Turkiye functions more as an alternative transit country for cocaine rather than a primary target. The cocaine that reaches Turkiye does not typically originate directly from the primary producing countries like Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. Instead, smuggling networks employ a variety of routes and methods to mitigate risks. An analysis from 2012 indicated that cocaine reached Turkiye via 45 distinct routes, with Turkiye being the final destination for 65% of these routes, while it served as a transit point for the remaining 35%. This information underscores Turkiye's strategic position in the global cocaine trade and the adaptive strategies of smuggling operations in response to law enforcement efforts (Turkiye Drug Report, 2021:39; 2013: 20).

3.1.6. Methamphetamine Trend

Methamphetamine belongs to the phenethylamine class of drugs and is synthesized using intermediate chemicals such as acetone, chloroform, ephedrine, and thionyl chloride, combined with acetic acid. As a derivative of amphetamine, it is considered to have a more potent effect in several aspects. The impact of methamphetamine is typically more intense and immediate. It is commonly found in various forms, including a white powder, tablets, or capsules, and it can also be consumed in a crystalline form known as "ice," which is a particularly pure and potent variety (Department of Combating Smuggling and Organized Crime, 2006:33-35).
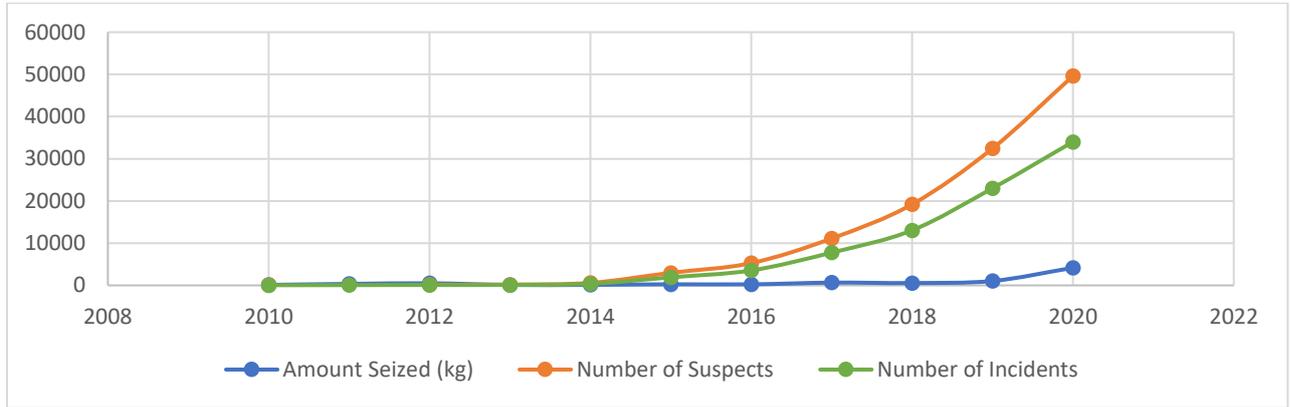
Table 6. Methamphetamine Trend

METHAMPHETAMINE TREND	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amount Seized (kg)	125	350	502	105	128	260	251	659	566	1,041	4,162
Number of Suspects	104		193	197	595	2,977	5,284	11,122	19,201	32,445	49,610
Number of Incidents	46	68	99	119	379	1,915	3,545	7,768	13,049	23,019	34,006

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The statistics on methamphetamine in Turkiye from 2010 to 2020 reveal dramatic increases in law enforcement encounters with this drug. From 2010 to 2015, there was a staggering 4,063% rise in methamphetamine-related incidents, a 2,762% increase in the number of suspects apprehended, and a 108% uptick in the quantity of methamphetamine seized. Over the entire 11-year span from 2010 to 2020, methamphetamine-related incidents skyrocketed by 73,826% (739 times), the number of suspects climbed by 47,602% (477 times), and the volume of methamphetamine seized surged by 3,230% (33 times).

The disproportionate increase in the number of suspects and incidents relative to the amount of methamphetamine seized can be attributed to the drug's potent nature, which is typically used in small quantities. Additionally, the high cost of methamphetamine means that many suspects are apprehended with only small quantities of the substance, leading to a higher count of judicial proceedings for possession.

Graph 6. Methamphetamine Trend

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

The escalation of methamphetamine-related issues in Turkiye mirrors global drug market trends, with an upsurge in encounters with this drug in recent years. In the illicit drug markets, methamphetamine is found in various forms, including powder, crystal, and tablets. The majority of methamphetamine confiscated in Turkiye is in crystal form, predominantly sourced from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The primary route for methamphetamine that enters Turkiye from Iran is overland, from where it is often trafficked to countries in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Australia, predominantly through cargo shipments. Additionally, there have been detections of methamphetamine being transported through Turkiye to various European destinations via road transport. The significant 79.08% reduction in methamphetamine seizures in 2013 can be ascribed to the enhanced control measures implemented by customs authorities, especially at the eastern borders, and the adoption of alternative smuggling routes and methods since the drug's emergence in the country. These adjustments in trafficking patterns reflect the dynamic nature of drug smuggling operations in response to increased law enforcement activities.

3.1.7. Synthetic Cannabinoid Trend

Synthetic cannabinoids are psychoactive compounds akin to Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive component of marijuana, synthesized using various chemicals in a laboratory setting (Department of Combating Narcotic Crimes, 2020:80). These substances are among the new

psychoactive substances identified by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), which include groups like aminoindanes, arylalkylamines, benzodiazepines, cathinones, tryptamines, piperazines, and herbal substances. Synthetic cannabinoids first emerged in Turkiye in 2010, known colloquially as 'Bonzai'. These synthetic narcotics, whether in liquid or powder form, are applied to various plant parts or paper through methods like absorption, spraying, or dripping, with the intent of mimicking the appearance of a natural plant (Department of Combating Narcotic Crimes, 2021:9).

The production of synthetic cannabinoids differs markedly from that of traditional drugs and stimulants, with their chemical compositions constantly evolving. This variability poses challenges for health and safety officials, complicating the development of both preventive and responsive strategies (Meydan, 2022:87).
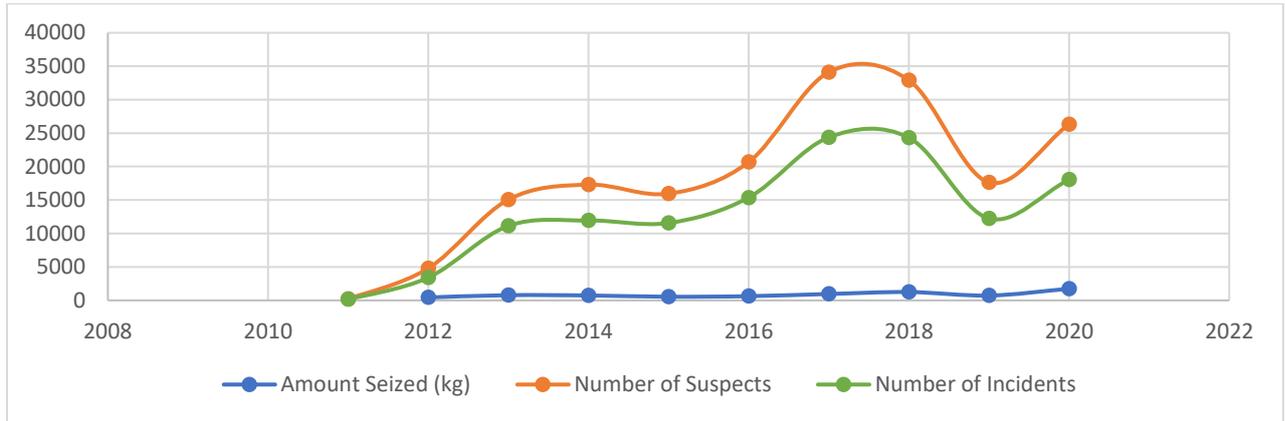
Table 7. Synthetic Cannabinoid Trend

SYNTHETIC KANNABINOID TRENDİ	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amount Seized (kg)			434	780	734	544	626	958	1,248	723	1,737
Number of Suspects		223	4,784	15,065	17,302	15,948	20,670	34,107	32,911	17,631	26,324
Number of Incidents		166	3,401	11,139	11,946	11,567	15,366	24,371	24,320	12,241	18,045

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

Between 2011 and 2017, there was a 14,581% (approximately 146-fold) increase in the number of synthetic cannabinoid incidents, and a 11,704% (118-fold) increase in the number of suspects involved with synthetic cannabinoids. During the period from 2012 to 2018, there was a 187.55% increase in the amount of seized synthetic cannabinoids. A decrease was observed in the number of incidents by 49.77% and in the number of suspects by 48.30% from 2017 to 2019. The amount of seized synthetic cannabinoids in 2019 decreased by 42.06% compared to 2018. In 2020, there was a 47.41% increase in the number of incidents, a 49.30% increase in the number of suspects, and a 140.24% increase in the seized amount compared to the previous year.

From 2011 to 2017, there was a rapid increase in both the number of synthetic cannabinoid incidents and the number of suspects. Between 2017 and 2018, while the number of synthetic cannabinoid incidents remained approximately constant, there was a 30% increase in the amount of the substance seized. In 2019, there was a significant decrease in the number of incidents, the number of suspects, and the quantity of seizures. However, in 2020, an increase was observed again in the number of incidents, the number of suspects, and the amount of the substance seized.

Graph 7: Synthetic Cannabinoid Trend

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

Evidence of synthetic cannabinoids was found in 60% (564) of the 941 drug-related deaths in 2017. In 49% (247) of the 564 deaths involving synthetic cannabinoids (bonzai), the substance alone was the cause of death (Turkiye Drug Report, 2019:76). Findings of synthetic cannabinoids were present in 45.8% (301) of 657 drug-related deaths in 2018, in 13.2% (45) of 342 drug-related deaths in 2019, and in 15.6% (49) of 314 drug-related deaths in 2020. The use of synthetic cannabinoids, which rapidly became a serious problem in Turkiye particularly between 2011 and 2017, has been implicated in drug-related fatalities (Turkiye Drug Report, 2021:49-103). The significant decrease in the number of cases after 2017 can be attributed to effective operations conducted by law enforcement units on the streets, the frequent reporting of synthetic cannabinoid (bonzai)-related deaths in the national press and media, public health awareness campaigns on this issue since 2017, and the interception of raw materials used in the production of synthetic cannabinoids that were being shipped from China to Turkiye, which has contributed to the notable declining trend.

4. INTERPRETATION OF DATA REGARDING JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

4.1. Drugs by Number of Incidents

An examination of Captagon incident numbers reveals a general increase each year from 2010, with the exception of 2011. Over the 11-year period between 2010 and 2020, there was a 781.16% increase in the number of incidents.

Regarding Ecstasy incidents, there was a 223.41% increase from 2010 to 2012, followed by a 16.41% decrease from 2012 to 2014. Between 2014 and 2019, there was a 130.16% increase, and a 38.34% decrease in 2020 compared to 2019.

In the case of Heroin incidents, there was a 195.33% rise from 2010 to 2015, followed by a 33.34% decrease in 2016 compared to 2015. From 2016 to 2020, there was an 84.03% increase, and looking at the 11-year period from 2010 to 2020, there was a 262.26% increase in the number of incidents.

For Cannabis incidents, a 51.60% decrease was observed from 2010 to 2015. This was followed by a 102.53% increase from 2015 to 2019, and a 17.85% decrease in 2020 compared to 2019.

Table 8: Drugs by Number of Incidents

| Numbers of Incidents	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Captagon	154	123	171	227	239	381	436	1.558	1,574	1,116	1,357
Ecstasy	1.371	2,587	4.434	4,274	3,706	5,012	5.259	6,663	9,758	8,530	5,259
Heroin	4,155	3,306	4,155	6,096	7,008	12,271	8,179	12,932	18,298	16265	15,052
Marijuana	74,168	58,727	68,276	69,780	48,610	35,892	39,948	50,650	67,984	72,695	59,716
Cocaine	1,249	1,457	1,434	863	784	988	1,476	3,886	3,516	3,018	2.573
Methamphetamine	46	68	99	119	379	1,915	3,545	7,768	13,049	23,019	34,006
Synthetic Cannabinoid		166	3,401	11,139	11,946	11,567	15,366	24,371	24,320	12,241	18,045

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

Upon examining the number of cocaine incidents, a decrease of 66.1% was observed between 2012 and 2013. An increase of 395.6% was noted between 2014 and 2017, followed by a decrease of 33.7% from 2017 to 2020.

Looking at the number of methamphetamine incidents, it is evident that the count rose dramatically from 46 in 2010 to 34,006 in 2020, marking a substantial increase of 73,826.08%. This rate suggests that there was an approximate 739-fold increase in the number of cases from 2010 to 2020.

Due to the clarity provided by displaying only seven items on the same graph, two separate axes are utilized. In Graph 8, Captagon, Heroin, Marijuana, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and synthetic cannabinoids are represented on the left axis, while ecstasy is depicted on the right axis. Moreover, the quantities of Captagon and ecstasy pills are calculated as 1 kg according to the Turkiye Drug Report (2011), with ecstasy being equivalent to 4,000 pills and Captagon to 5,000 pills. These figures are converted into kilograms for comparison with other substances. All graphs and tables in the study are presented using this calculation method.

Graph 8: Drugs by Number of Incidents
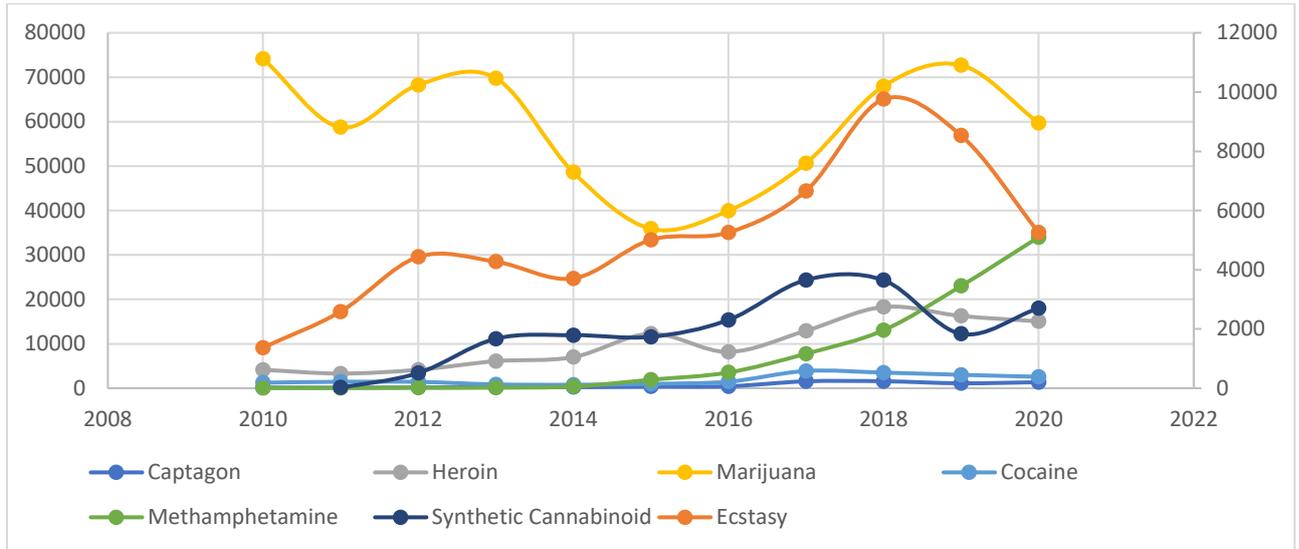
Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

Upon reviewing the number of Synthetic Cannabinoid incidents, it is noted that the number increased by 14,581.32% (146 times) from 166 in 2011 to 24,371 by 2017. A decrease of 49.77% was observed from 2017 to 2019, followed by an increase of 47.412% from 2019 to 2020. Over the 10-year period from 2011 to 2020, there was an approximate 109-fold increase in the number of synthetic cannabinoid incidents, at a rate of 10,770.48%.

When considering the arithmetic averages of drug incidents in Turkiye over the 11-year period from 2010 to 2020, marijuana incidents hold the highest rate at 60.4%. Synthetic cannabinoid incidents are second with an average of 13,256 events, accounting for 13.6%, while heroin incidents rank third at 10.1% with 9,792 events. Methamphetamine incidents take fourth place with 7.9%, followed by ecstasy incidents at 5.3% with 5,168 events. Cocaine incidents are sixth with 2% and 1,931 events, and finally, Captagon incidents are seventh, constituting 0.7% with 667 events.

4.2. Drugs by Number of Suspects

The number of suspects in Captagon-related incidents saw an increase of 143.02% over the 6-year period from 2010 to 2015, and a further increase of 231.14% from 2015 to 2020. Over the 11-year span from 2010 to 2020, there was an overall increase of 704.78% in the number of suspects.

For ecstasy-related incidents, the number of suspects surged by 995.59% between 2010 and 2015. A subsequent increase of 69.26% was observed from 2015 to 2019. However, there was a notable decrease of 39.09% in the number of suspects in 2020 compared to the previous year. Over the 11 years from 2010 to 2020, the number of suspects rose by 1,029.43%.

In heroin-related cases, a 262.74% increase in the number of suspects was recorded from 2010 to 2015, followed by a 38.46% decrease in 2016 compared to the previous year, and a 98.23% increase over the 6-year period from 2016 to 2020. Examining the 11-year period from 2010 to 2020, there was a 34.47% increase in the number of suspects.

The number of suspects associated with marijuana incidents rose by 271.66% from 2010 to 2013. A decrease of 30.43% was observed in 2014 compared to 2013, and a further decrease of 28.36% in 2015 compared to 2014. From 2016 to 2019, there was an increase of 90.86% in the number of suspects.

An examination of cocaine-related cases shows that the number of suspects increased by 155.10% between 2010 and 2015. Over the 11-year period from 2010 to 2020, there was an overall increase of 656.12% in the number of suspects.

Table 9: Drugs by Number of Suspects

Number of Suspects	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Captagon	251	300	278	380	351	610	685	2.094	2.367	1.665	2.020
Ecstasy	727	1.769	6.327	6.271	5.688	7.965	8.777	9.935	14.219	13.482	8.211
Heroin	5.417	4.164	7.349	9.849	11.745	19.650	12.091	19.359	28.233	25.755	23.969
Marijuana	28.625	31.299	107.485	106.390	74.015	53.018	54.788	74.215	95.013	104.570	83.501
Cocaine	588	886	1.989	1.288	1.318	1.500	2.201	5.145	4.976	4.895	4.446
Methamphetamine	104		193	197	595	2.977	5.284	11.122	19.201	32.445	49.610
Synthetic Cannabinoid		223	4.784	15.065	17.302	15.948	20.670	34.107	32.911	17.631	26.324

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

An increase of 2,762.49% (approximately 28 times) in the number of suspects involved in methamphetamine cases was observed between 2010 and 2015, with a further increase of 1,566.44% (approximately 17 times) between 2015 and 2020. Over the decade from 2010 to 2020, there was a dramatic increase of 47,601.92% (477 times) in the number of suspects.

For Synthetic Cannabinoid incidents, the number of suspects rose by 15,194.61% (approximately 153 times) from 2011 to 2017. However, there was a decrease of 48.30% between 2017 and 2019, and a further decrease of 33.02% in 2020 compared to the previous year.

Due to the clarity achieved by displaying only seven items on the same graph, two separate axes are employed. In Graph 9, Captagon, Heroin, Marijuana, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Synthetic Cannabinoid are presented on the left axis, while ecstasy is depicted on the right axis. The quantities of Captagon and ecstasy pills are set at 1 kg as determined by the Turkiye Drug Report (2011), with ecstasy equating to 4,000 pills and Captagon to 5,000 pills. These amounts are converted into kilograms for

comparative analysis with other substances. All graphs and tables in the study represent data using this methodology.

Graph 9: Drugs by Number of Suspects
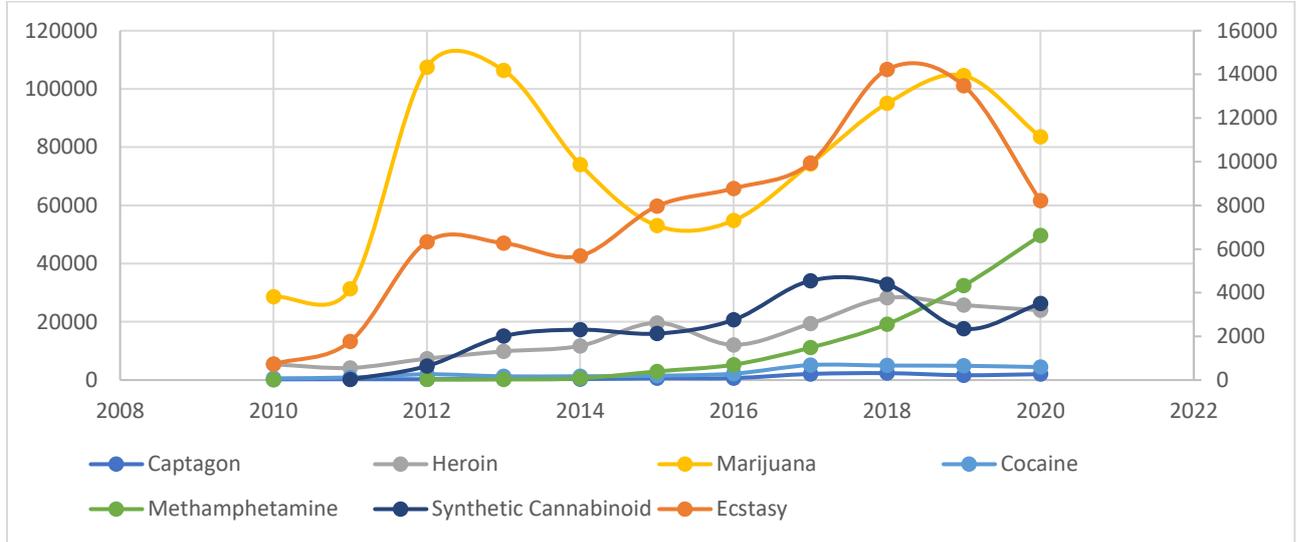
Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

An examination of the arithmetic averages of suspects subjected to judicial proceedings in drug-related incidents in Turkiye over the 11-year period from 2010 to 2020 reveals that marijuana incidents lead with a rate of 56.4%, involving 73,902 suspects. Synthetic cannabinoid incidents rank second with a rate of 14.1% and 18,497 suspects; heroin incidents are third with a rate of 11%, accounting for 15,235 suspects; and methamphetamine incidents are fourth, with 12,173 suspects at a rate of 9.3%. In fifth place are ecstasy incidents with 7,579 suspects, representing 5.8%. Cocaine incidents are sixth with 2,657 suspects at a rate of 2%, and finally, Captagon incidents are in seventh place with 1,000 suspects, making up 0.8%.

4.3. Drugs by the Amount of Substance Seized

Upon examining the quantities of substances seized in Captagon-related events, it was noted that 214 kg were confiscated in 2010 and 219 kg in 2011. In 2012, there was a decrease of 83.10% compared to the previous year, resulting in 37 kg being seized. In 2013, there was a significant increase to 906 kg, which was 2,348.64% higher than the previous year, and in 2014, an increase of 596.92% was observed. From 2014 to 2017, a further increase of 3,941.53% was recorded, and from 2017 to 2020, there was an increase of 813.73%.

Regarding substances seized in Ecstasy-related events, there was an increase of 380.50% from 2010 to 2013. A decrease of 18.91% was seen in 2014 compared to 2013. The quantity seized increased

by 57.55% from 2014 to 2015, followed by a decrease of 33.28% in 2016 compared to the previous year. From 2016 to 2020, the amount of substance seized saw an increase of 193.23%.

In heroin-related events, the amounts seized from 2010 to 2014 were approximately the same. However, there was a decrease of 56.21% from 2014 to 2015 in the quantities seized. From 2017 to 2019, there was an increase of 13.59%, followed by a decrease of 31.64% in 2020 compared to 2019.

When considering cannabis-related events, there was an increase of 274.27% from 2010 to 2013. From 2013 to 2015, there was a decrease of 80.43%, followed by an increase of 230.74% from 2015. A decrease of 54.54% was then noted in 2018 compared to the previous year. The quantities of cannabis seized in 2018, 2019, and 2020 were similar to each other.

Tablo 10: Drugs by the Amount of Substance Seized

Amount of Substance (kg)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Captagon	214	219	37	906	130	3,018	2,584	5,254	4,548	2,216	575
Ecstasy	231	341	1,097	1,110	900	1,418	946	2,152	2,227	2,174	2,774
Heroin	12,690	7,293	13,301	13,480	12,756	8,294	5,585	17,752	18,531	20,165	13,783
Marijuana	73,309	76,392	152,086	274,380	123,116	53,682	146,954	177,550	80,707	90,579	93.741
Cocaine	302	591	476	450	393	556	845	1,485	1,509	1,638	1,961
Methamphetamine	125	350	502	105	128	260	251	659	566	1,041	4,162
Synthetic Cannabinoid			434	780	734	544	626	958	1,248	723	1,737

Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

Upon examining the quantities of cocaine seized in incidents, it was observed that there was an increase of 49% from 2010 to 2013. A decrease of 12.66% was noted in 2014 compared to the previous year, followed by a steady increase of 252.69% from 2015 to 2020.

In methamphetamine cases, the amount seized escalated by 301.6% from 2010 to 2012, culminating in 502 kg. A subsequent decrease of 79.08% was recorded in 2013, reducing the amount to 105 kg. From 2013 to 2020, there was a dramatic increase of 3,863.80%, with 4,162 kg of the substance seized in 2020. Over the 11-year span from 2010 to 2020, the quantity seized surged by 3,229.6% (33 times).

Regarding Synthetic Cannabinoid incidents, 434 kg of substances were seized in 2012. By 2014, this amount had increased by 69.12% to 734 kg. In 2015, a decrease of 25.88% was seen, with 544 kg of substances seized. However, there was an increase of 219.30% from 2015 to 2020, reaching 1,737 kg. From 2012 to 2020, there was a fourfold increase, totaling 300.23%.

To ensure clarity with only seven items displayed on the same graph, two separate axes are used. In Chart 10, heroin and marijuana are displayed on the left axis, while Captagon, ecstasy, cocaine,

methamphetamine, and Synthetic Cannabinoids are shown on the right axis. Furthermore, the quantities of Captagon and ecstasy pills are converted into kilograms, with 1 kg of ecstasy equivalent to 4,000 pills and 1 kg of Captagon equivalent to 5,000 pills, as stated in the Turkiye Drug Report (2011). This conversion facilitates comparison with other substances, and all graphs and tables in the study reflect data using this calculation method.

Grafik 10: Drugs by the Amount of Substance Seized
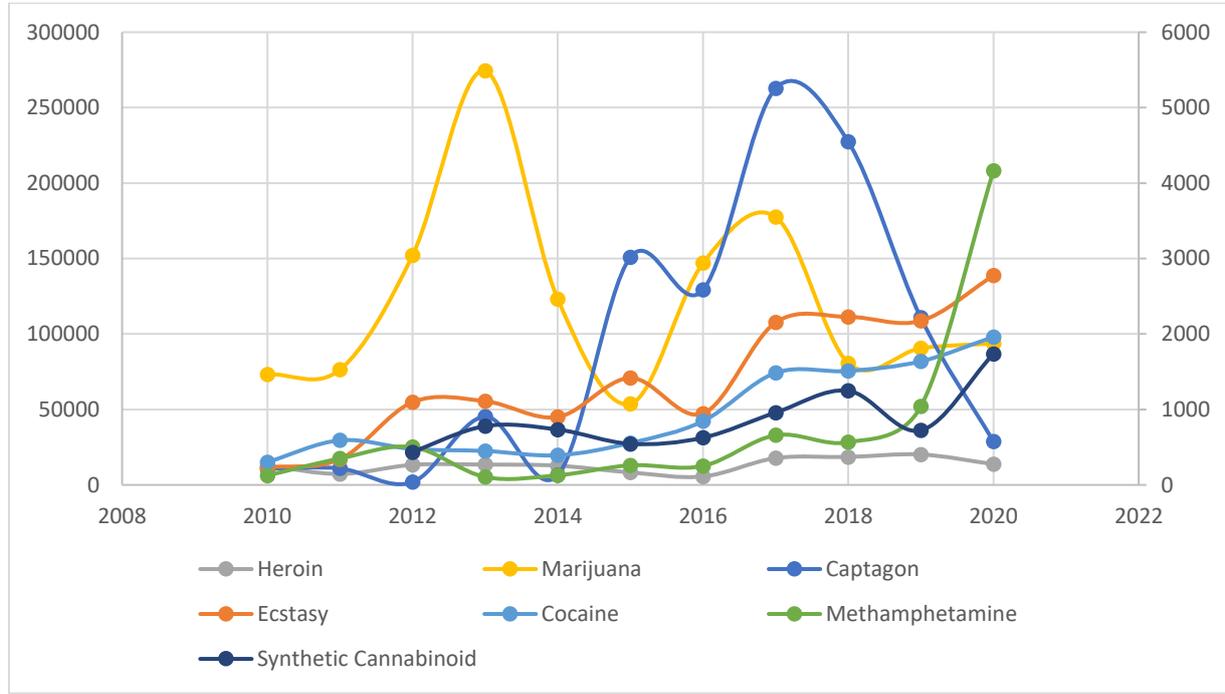
Source: The data in the table was compiled from the Turkiye Drug Reports published by the General Directorate of Security between 2011 and 2021.

An analysis of the arithmetic average of substances seized in drug-related incidents in Turkiye over the 11-year period from 2010 to 2020 reveals that marijuana seizures topped the list, with 122,049 kg constituting 84.7% of the total. Heroin followed in second place with 13,057 kg, accounting for 9.1%, while Captagon ranked third with 5,373 kg, making up 3.7% of the total. Ecstasy was fourth with 1,118 kg, holding a rate of 0.8%. Cocaine was fifth with 928 kg at 0.6%. In sixth place was synthetic cannabinoid substances with 865 kg, also at a rate of 0.6%, and finally, methamphetamine was seventh with 741 kg, representing 0.5% of the seizures.

5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

In the study, substances including Captagon, Ecstasy, Heroin, Marijuana, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Synthetic Cannabinoid (Bonzai), all widely subject to judicial proceedings in Turkiye, were separately evaluated and compared in terms of the number of incidents, number of suspects, and amount of substance seized.

Focusing on Captagon, it is observed that both the number of incidents and suspects followed a parallel course, remaining constant from 2010 to 2016. An increase in the number of incidents occurred between 2016 and 2018, stabilizing in the range of 1000-2000 incidents after 2018. Notably, the amount seized exhibited exponential increases in 2013, 2015, and 2017. However, post-2017, a significant decrease was observed, and the numbers of cases and suspects aligned at a parallel level.

In the case of Ecstasy, the number of incidents, suspects, and the amount seized appeared to be proportional to each other. A stable increase in Ecstasy-related activities was noted from 2010 to 2014, followed by a further increase from 2014 to 2018. However, a decreasing trend was observed after 2018.

In the context of heroin, it is observed that the number of incidents, suspects, and the amount seized are proportional to each other. Heroin consumption saw an increase from 2011 to 2015, and despite a slight decrease between 2015 and 2016, a steady increase was noted from 2016 to 2018, followed by a stable trend at a higher rate compared to previous years.

Focusing on marijuana, the number of cases and suspects appear to follow a parallel course. However, an examination of the seized amounts reveals a peak between 2010 and 2013, followed by a sharp decline until 2015, and then a new peak in 2017, though not as high as the first. After this, the number of cases and suspects remained constant.

In the case of cocaine, the number of incidents, suspects, and the amount seized are found to be proportional. Cocaine showed consistency in its range from 2010 to 2016, followed by a sharp increase between 2016 and 2018, and stability at these levels from 2018 to 2020.

Regarding methamphetamine, the number of incidents, suspects, and the amount seized are also proportional to each other. While methamphetamine levels were very low from 2010 to 2014, a radical increase was observed post-2014.

In the case of Synthetic Cannabinoids, the number of incidents, suspects, and the amount seized are again found to be proportional. This substance showed a gradual increase between 2011 and 2017, followed by a partial decrease in 2018, and a return to previous levels in 2019.

In 2020, when analyzing the number of drug-related incidents, the substances were ranked in descending order as follows: marijuana, methamphetamine, synthetic cannabinoid, heroin, ecstasy, cocaine, and captagon. A comparative evaluation of all drugs indicates that the incident numbers for marijuana, ecstasy, and heroin show a decreasing trend. Cocaine and captagon display a stable trend with a slight increase, while methamphetamine and synthetic cannabinoids exhibit a sharp rise in incident numbers.

Regarding the number of suspects in 2020, the ranking from most to least was marijuana, methamphetamine, synthetic cannabinoid, heroin, ecstasy, cocaine, and captagon. Comparative analysis reveals that the suspect numbers for marijuana, ecstasy, and heroin are decreasing. Although there is a

minor increase in suspect numbers for cocaine and captagon, they follow a stable trend. In contrast, methamphetamine and synthetic cannabinoids show a sharp increase in suspect numbers.

In terms of the amounts of substances seized in 2020, the ranking from most to least was marijuana, heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine, synthetic cannabinoid, and captagon. While the amounts seized from 2010 to 2020 exhibited fluctuating trends, the amounts of marijuana, captagon, and heroin tended to decrease. The amounts of ecstasy and cocaine gradually increased, but the amounts of methamphetamine and synthetic cannabinoids showed a very sharp increase.

These data suggest that the use of heroin, cocaine, and captagon in Turkiye continues on a steady or slowly increasing trajectory. Marijuana and ecstasy are on a downward trend, whereas synthetic cannabinoids and especially methamphetamine demonstrate a significant increase. The evolving drug use in Turkiye is shifting towards synthetic drugs. For years, Turkiye, through both public and private institutions, including mass media, has been effectively employing proactive and reactive strategies against drugs like marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and captagon, which were prevalent in the past. However, as indicated by the study, methamphetamine, almost negligible in 2010, has seen a notable increase since 2014. Following methamphetamine, synthetic cannabinoids have also shown an alarming increase since 2011, and particularly since 2015.

6. CONCLUSION

In the context of the amount of substances seized, the number of suspects apprehended, and the number of criminal cases, the 11-year process analysis (2010-2020) of seven drugs and stimulants, which are the focus of this study, reveals the following trends: i) Captagon, ecstasy, heroin, and cocaine exhibit a slightly decreasing trend; ii) Marijuana remains stable; iii) Synthetic Cannabinoids show an increasing trend and are particularly noteworthy compared to methamphetamine and other drugs. A pronounced upward trend is observed in both the number of incidents and suspects, especially after 2016.

Consequently, it is evident that methamphetamine and synthetic cannabinoids are experiencing a significant rise in Turkiye compared to their counterparts. Public and private institutions have influenced societal reactions to familiar drugs. Each drug possesses unique characteristics in terms of acquisition, use, prevention, rehabilitation, and other processes. Therefore, it is clear that both citizens and institutions, public and private alike, must prepare for the challenges posed by these newly emerging and increasingly prevalent drugs. There is a particular need for academic research focused on methamphetamine, given its rising trend.

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