

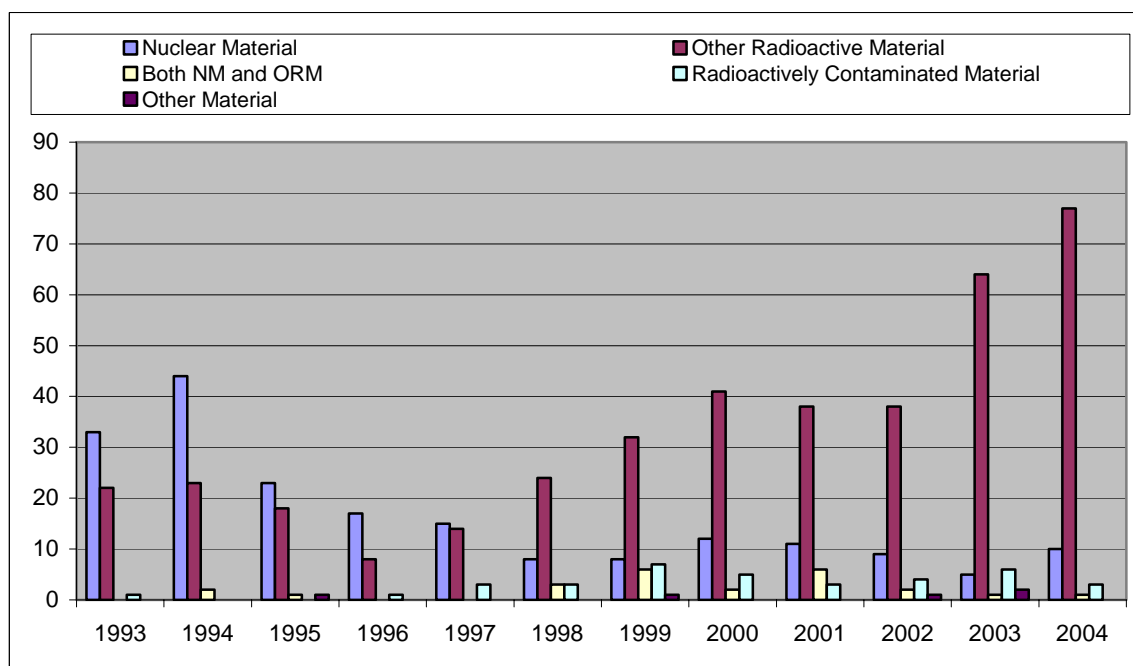
The IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB)

Fact Sheet for 1993-2004

Established in 1995, the ITDB contains information confirmed by the States about incidents of illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials and other related events involving such materials recorded since 1993. The scope of the ITDB is broad. It includes incidents of unauthorized acquisition, provision, possession, use, transfer, or disposal of nuclear material and other radioactive material, whether intentional or unintentional and with or without crossing international borders. It also includes unsuccessful or thwarted events and incidents involving the inadvertent loss of control of nuclear and other radioactive materials and the discovery of such uncontrolled materials.

As of 31 December 2004, just over 650 incidents were confirmed to the Agency. Of these, about 30% of the incidents involved nuclear materials and about 60% other radioactive materials. About half of the confirmed incidents involved criminal activities, e.g. theft, illegal possession, smuggling, or attempted illegal sale of the material.

Table. Incidents confirmed to the ITDB in 1993-2004



In the majority of the confirmed cases for 1993-2004, the nuclear material involved was in the form of natural uranium, depleted uranium, or low-enriched uranium fuel. Eighteen confirmed incidents involved trafficking in high enriched uranium and plutonium. A few of these incidents involved kilogram quantities of weapons-usable nuclear material, but the most featured very small quantities. In some of the cases the involved material appeared to be a sample of larger quantities available for illegal sale or at risk of theft. The majority of confirmed incidents with nuclear materials involved criminal activities.

Radioactive materials other than nuclear materials involved in the incidents reported to the ITDB have mostly been in the form of sealed radioactive sources with various activity levels and applications. The majority of the radioactive sources involved radioisotope ^{137}Cs , followed by ^{90}Sr , ^{241}Am , ^{60}Co and ^{192}Ir . A large portion of incidents involving radioactive sources did not evidence criminal activity. The Database has recorded numerous cases of discoveries of uncontrolled radioactive sources, often referred to as orphan sources.