

15 November 2012

Statistical News Release: Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2011/12

Drug seizures up two per cent in 2011/12

This annual statistical bulletin contains figures for seizures of drugs made in 2011/12 by local police forces and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) within England and Wales. There are two main measures of drug seizures; number of seizures made and the quantity seized.

In 2011/12 there were 216,296 drug seizures made in England and Wales by the police and the UKBA, a increase of two per cent since 2010/11. There were falls in the number of two of the three classes of drugs when compared to 2010/11:

- Class A drugs seizures decreased by five per cent:
 - Within class A drugs, cocaine seizures decreased by one per cent, and heroin seizures fell by 15 per cent.
 - Cocaine was the most commonly seized class A drug, as last year.
- Class B drugs seizures rose by three per cent:
 - Within class B drugs, cannabis seizures also rose by three per cent.
- Class C seizures fell by eight per cent.

The following quantities of drugs were seized in 2011/12:

- 3.5 tonnes of cocaine;
- 1.8 tonnes of heroin;
- 656,000 doses of ecstasy;
- 1.0 tonnes of amphetamines;
- 41.5 tonnes of herbal cannabis and cannabis resin combined; and
- 612,000 cannabis plants.

In addition to the report, tables providing a greater level of detail on drug seizures have been published.

Drug seizure statistics can fluctuate from year to year and are not a measure of drug prevalence in society.

Notes to editors

Another Home Office bulletin on drugs, 'Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales' was published on 26 July 2012. Both reports are available online on the UK Statistics Authority and Home Office websites.

The UKBA is expected to release its own statistics on UK-wide drug seizures later this month.