

Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2011.

Definition – for the compilation of these statistics the number of procedures reported generally corresponds to the number of animals. Where an animal that has recovered fully from a completed procedure is used again for a further procedure it is counted as a separate procedure

Presentation – the figures given refer to the numbers of procedures that were started in 2011 (rather than the numbers of animals), compared with 2010, unless indicated otherwise. Most figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 or 100 procedures or to two significant figures.

Summary

The National Statistics publication “Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2011” was released by the Home Office on 10th July 2012, providing information about the use of protected animals in scientific procedures started during 2011.

(All comparisons with 2010 unless stated otherwise)

The key points from the latest publication are:

1. Just over 3.79 million scientific procedures were started in Great Britain in 2011, increasing 2 per cent (+68,100). Breeding of genetically modified (GM) animals and harmful mutants (HM), mainly mice, remained stable, accounting for 1.62 million procedures.
2. Excluding the breeding of GM and HM animals, the total number of procedures increased in 2011 (an increase of +71,300 or +3%, from 2.10 million to 2.18 million).
3. There were increases in numbers of procedures for several species, for example cats (+26%), pigs (+37%), birds (+14%) and fish (+15%). There were falls for several species, for example rats (-11%), guinea pigs (-16%), dogs (-21%) and non-human primates (-47% with new world monkeys -68% and old world monkeys -41%).
4. There was an increase (+2%) in the numbers of procedures for safety testing (toxicology) to 399,000, due to increased use of fish in regulatory toxicology, with a higher proportion carried out to meet more than one legislative/regulatory requirement (75% compared with 72% in 2010). Most toxicology procedures are carried out in the commercial sector where the number of procedures also rose (+1%).
5. The number of non-toxicology procedures increased 2 per cent to 3.39 million, reflecting the higher numbers of procedures carried out in universities (+7%), particularly fundamental research. The increase for non-toxicology included



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increases in physiology (+115,100), immunology (+62,000) and parasitology (+22,000) whilst ecology (-30,300), anatomy (-27,000), biochemistry (-11,900) and cancer research (-10,200) fell.

- 6. There were 1.08 million more procedures than in 2000 (+40%) mostly accounted for by breeding to produce GM and HM animals (+918,000, of which mice +795,000). Excluding such breeding, the total number of procedures was slightly higher than in 2000 (+8% or +159,900).

(Source: Tables 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 19.)

<u>Published</u> 10 July 2012 at 10.00am	<u>Type(s)</u> National Statistics
<u>Coverage:</u> Great Britain, calendar year 2011	<u>Geographic Breakdown:</u> n/a
<u>Theme</u> Business & Energy	<u>Next release date:</u> July 2013
<u>Accessibility/price</u> available free online including additional tables & User Guide, at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/science/	
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<u>Contacts</u> Press enquiries , please contact the Home Office Press Office (Newsdesk - 020 7035 3535) Members of the public please call 020 7035 4848 (HO Public Enquiry Unit). Feedback and comments on the annual statistics are welcome in writing to Home Office Statistics, Home Office, 5th floor Peel, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF, or email:- public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk	

Notes to editors

1. The purpose of the annual statistical report is to satisfy the requirement in section 21(7) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 that the Secretary of State should publish and lay before Parliament each year, information about the use of protected animals in experimental or other scientific procedures during the previous calendar year.
2. The statistics are compiled from returns, submitted by project licence holders at the end of each year, or on the termination of the licence when this occurs during the year. Further details of the collection procedures, coverage, and quality assurance processes are given in the 'User Guide to Home Office Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals'.
3. There have been no changes to definitions, nor revisions to previous data.
4. These statistics are produced as part of the National Statistics work programme in accordance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#), and are managed by the Home Office Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics, David Blunt.