



5 November 2015

Statistical News Release – Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2014/15

National Statistics on drug seizures made in England and Wales in 2014/15 by the police (including the British Transport Police) and Border Force are released today.

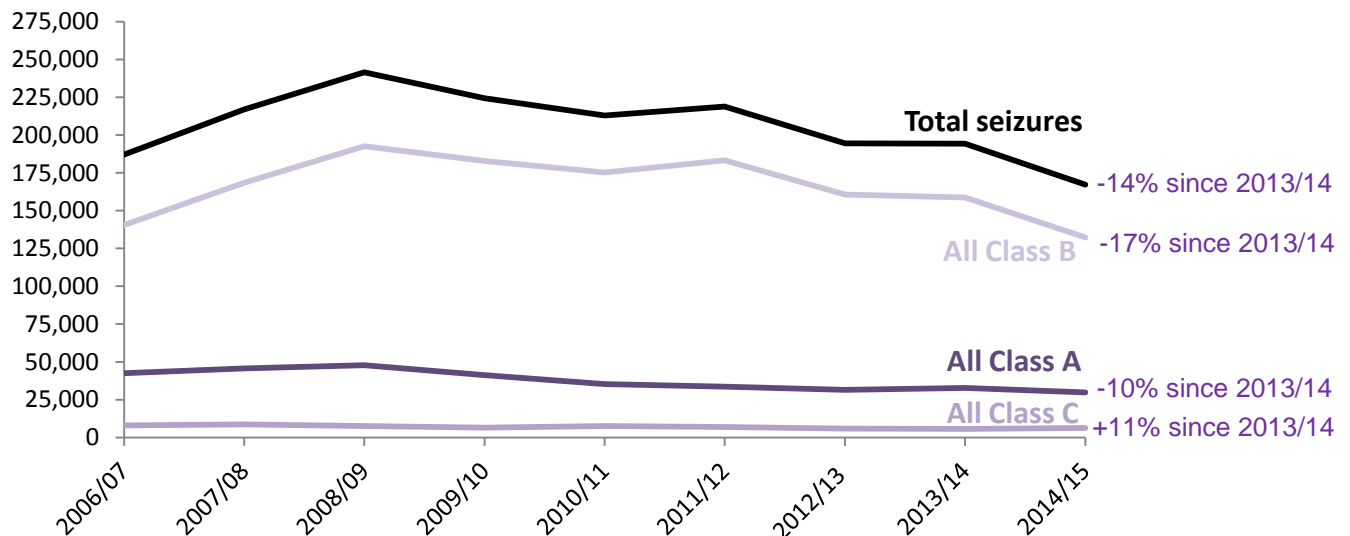
The statistics relate to all drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (MDA), which divides drugs into three categories – Classes A, B and C – according to the harmfulness they cause to the user or to society when they are misused. Class A drugs are considered to be the most harmful.

The numbers of seizures made can be affected by police activity and changes in recording practices. Therefore, the number of drug seizures should not be taken as a measure of drug prevalence. Prevalence is addressed in the Drug Misuse publications, based on results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales¹.

Key findings:

In 2014/15, there were **167,059 seizures** of drugs in England and Wales², a **14 per cent decrease** on the previous year (194,346 seizures).

Number of seizures of Class A, Class B and Class C drugs, 2006/07 to 2014/15, police forces and Border Force



Over the same time period, there was also a **14 per cent decrease** in the number of police recorded **drug offences**, which is highly correlated with the number of drug seizures².

1 See the latest edition of 'Drug Misuse: Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales', available at: [Drug misuse statistics](#).

2 Figures for police seizures are based on data supplied for 42 forces and imputed figures for two forces.

In 2014/15, 96 per cent of all drug seizures were made by **police forces**, and **four per cent** of seizures were made by **Border Force**, however, Border Force are responsible for seizing a greater quantity of drugs.

The number of seizures made by police forces in England and Wales **fell by 15 per cent** in 2014/15 compared with 2013/14, whilst seizures by Border Force over the same time period **increased by five per cent**.

Summary of seizures of Class A, Class B and Class C drugs

- There were **29,705 seizures of Class A drugs**, a **ten per cent decrease** on 2013/14.
- **Cocaine** was the most commonly seized Class A drug, with 15,815 seizures (**3,387 kilograms**).
- There were **132,253 seizures of Class B drugs** in 2014/15 (down 17%). **Herbal cannabis** accounted for **110,626** of these seizures (15,106 kilograms), and **cannabis plants** made up **11,612 (367,000 plants)**.
- There were **6,244 seizures of Class C drugs** in 2014/15, an **increase of 11 per cent** since 2013/14.

Notes to editors

1. 'Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2014/15', along with data tables, is available online via Gov.uk.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seizures-of-drugs-in-england-and-wales-financial-year-ending-2015>
2. Another Home Office statistical release on drugs, 'Drug Misuse: Findings from the 2014/15 Crime Survey for England and Wales' was published on 23 July 2015. It is available on the Gov.uk website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/drug-misuse-findings-from-the-2014-to-2015-csew>
3. Statistics on the number of police recorded drug offences are published on a quarterly basis by the ONS. "Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2015" can be found on the ONS website.
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-373428>

For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with Home Office Crime and Policing Statistics:

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