



Home Office

# Home Office Statistical Bulletin



## Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2013/14

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30 October 2014

HOSB: 03/14

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ISSN 1759-7005  
ISBN 978-1-78246-517-1

## Acknowledgements

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This bulletin has been prepared by Amardeep Dhani in the Home Office Statistics Unit in Home Office Science, from data supplied by police forces and Border Force.

The author is grateful for the support and assistance of colleagues in the Home Office Statistics Unit, and would like to thank statistical staff in the police forces of England and Wales and Border Force's Performance Team for providing data relating to seizures.

## Further information

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The annual *Seizures of drugs in England and Wales* publication, and other Home Office statistical releases, are available from the [Home Office pages](#) of the GOV.UK website.

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## Summary

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This statistical release presents figures for drug seizures made in 2013/14 in England and Wales by the police (including the British Transport Police) and Border Force. The data relate to all drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (MDA), which divides drugs into 3 categories – classes A, B and C – according to their harmfulness, with class A drugs considered to be the most harmful.

Gwent Police only provided data for 10 months of 2013/14. Following the force's change of crime recording system, they have been unable to provide drug seizures figures for February and March 2014. As a result, Gwent's figures have been excluded from the summary tables (for 2012/13 and 2013/14) so that comparisons for the latest statistics can be made with the previous year; however, they have been included in the police force area tables. However, Gwent only accounted for 1.1% of the total number of drug seizures in 2012/13. Linear interpolation has been used to estimate figures for Hampshire Constabulary and Surrey Police for 2012/13, who were unable to supply data in 2012/13 but were able to supply data for 2013/14. Comparisons with the previous year exclude figures for Gwent.

- There were 193,999 drug seizures in England and Wales in 2013/14 including 10 months of Gwent's available figures, which is a 3% decrease on the previous year. Figures excluding Gwent also showed a 3% decrease on the previous year at 192,294 drug seizures in England and Wales in 2013/14.
- Class A seizures increased by 1% between 2012/13 and 2013/14, to 32,627. Class B seizures fell by 5% to 155,787 while class C seizures increased by 16% to 6,962.
- Cocaine was again the most commonly seized class A drug; there was a 1% increase in the number of seizures between 2012/13 and 2013/14, to 16,825. The second highest seized class A drug was heroin with 8,579 seizures, a 1% increase from 2012/13.
- The majority of class B seizures were for cannabis. The 147,612 cannabis seizures in 2013/14 compared to 155,503 during the previous year, a 5% decrease. There were decreases in each of the 3 forms of cannabis reported on, with the number of herbal, plant and resin seizures down by 5%, 1% and 17% respectively.
- The most commonly seized class C drug in 2013/14 was benzodiazepine with 2,032 seizures, which was 2% higher than the previous year's 1,997 seizures.
- Seizures of 'other class C' drugs increased by 36%, from 1,668 in 2012/13 to 2,268 in 2013/14.
- There were 3.4 tonnes of cocaine seized in England and Wales in 2013/14, compared with 3.0 tonnes in 2012/13 (up 12%).
- Seizures of heroin amounted to 0.6 tonnes in England and Wales in 2013/14, down 15% on the 0.8 tonnes seized in 2012/13.
- There was a 45% increase in the amount of herbal cannabis seized between 2012/13 (12.4 tonnes) and 2013/14 (18.0 tonnes). The amount of cannabis resin seized however, fell by 94% from 2012/13 (11.3 tonnes) and 2013/14 (0.7 tonnes). In addition, there was a 11% decrease in the amount of cannabis plants seized over the same period (from 507,438 to 451,154 plants).
- Approximately 2.5 million doses of anabolic steroids (up 70%), 1.2 tonnes of amphetamines (down 15%) and 355 kg of ketamine (up 45%) were seized.



# 1 Introduction

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This publication presents figures for drug seizures made in 2013/14 in England and Wales by the police (including the British Transport Police) and Border Force. Although Border Force will have made seizures outside England and Wales (e.g. Scotland, Northern Ireland), such seizures are excluded from figures presented in this publication.

The presented figures are correct at time of publication and may include revisions submitted by police forces for the years covered by, and received since the publication of, 'Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2012/13'. Gwent Police only provided data for 10 months for 2013/14. Following the force's change of crime recording system, they have been unable to provide drug seizures figures for February and March 2014. It is not feasible to provide estimates for 2 months of Gwent's data because of underlying detail in the tables.

Unless otherwise specified, headline figures for 2012/13 and 2013/14, and percentage comparisons between these years, in this statistical release exclude data from Gwent. Estimates have been used for Hampshire and Surrey for 2012/13 who were unable to supply data in 2012/13 but were able to supply data for 2013/14, as these two forces reported having difficulty in providing seizure figures to the Home Office for 2012/13.

Data on the number of seizures and quantity of drugs seized can be found in the accompanying Excel and ODS [workbooks](#). Police force level tables show estimations for Hampshire and Surrey (2012/13) and 10 months of available data from Gwent (2013/14).

## Substances covered by this release

The statistics relate to all drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (MDA), which divides drugs into 3 categories – classes A, B and C – according to their harmfulness, with class A drugs considered to be the most harmful. However, it is not feasible to publish seizure statistics in detail for every drug covered by the MDA. While all drugs are included in the totals, only those shown below are covered in detail within this bulletin.<sup>1</sup>

## Drugs and their classifications under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

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Class A		Class B	Class C
Cocaine	LSD	Amphetamines <sup>a</sup>	Anabolic steroids
Crack	Methadone	Barbiturates <sup>a</sup>	Benzodiazepines
Ecstasy	Morphine	Cannabis <sup>b</sup>	GHB
Heroin			Ketamine
			Temazepam

- 
- a. Amphetamines and barbiturates are class A drugs if prepared for injection.  
b. Cannabis was reclassified from a class B to a class C drug in January 2004, and then classified back as a class B drug on 26 January 2009.

Phenazepam and pipradrol-related compounds – including desoxypipradrol (2-DPMP), diphenylmethlpyrrolidine and diphenylprolinol (D2PM) – became controlled drugs in mid-June 2012. While seizures of these particular substances can be individually recorded on the statistical return that police forces submit to the Home Office, they are grouped as 'other class B' and 'other class C' drugs respectively for the purposes of this bulletin.

As with previous years, Border Force has been unable to separately identify some of the drugs included in the above table from their recording system. This has resulted in Border Force seizures of methadone being included within the 'other class A' grouping, barbiturates within 'other class B', and benzodiazepines and temazepam within 'other class C'.

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<sup>1</sup> Where a seizure is made of a drug that is not listed in the above, it is aggregated into an 'other' class category. Further information on drugs covered under the MDA is available at: [controlled drugs list](#).

### Temporary Class Drug Orders (TCDOs)

Temporary Class Drug Orders is a facility under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (MDA) to make a substance a controlled drug on a trial basis for up to 12 months, until a decision is made whether to introduce it substantively. Two groups of new psychoactive substances are currently subject to TCDOs – NBOMe (25I-NBOMe) and Benzofuran (5- and 6-APB), and related substances<sup>2</sup>. It is worth noting that substances subject to TCDOs may, in future, be brought under the MDA as class A, B or C substances. There were 9 TCDOs in 2013/14. It is not possible to separate the drugs within this count.

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<sup>2</sup> Announced in Home Office Circular 008/2013, which was circulated to all forces and is available online at: [Home Office Circulars 2013](#).

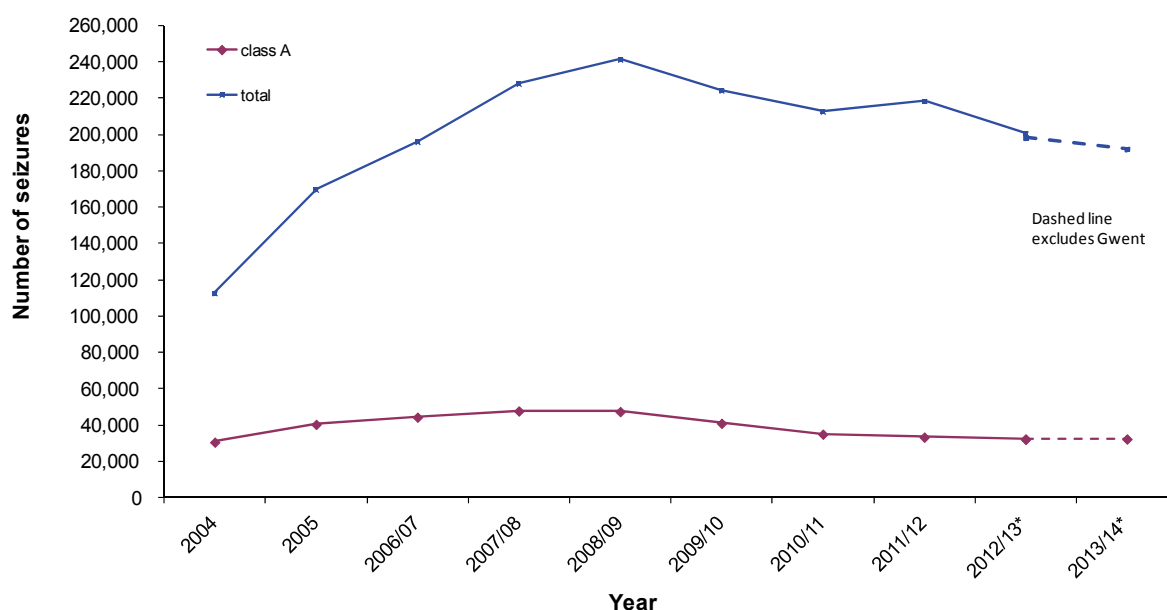


## 2 Number of seizures

The numbers of seizures made are affected by police activity and changes in recording practices. Therefore, the number of drug seizures each year should not be taken as a measure of drug prevalence in England and Wales. This is addressed in the Drug Misuse publications, based on results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (formerly the British Crime Survey).<sup>3</sup>

- The number of drug seizures more than doubled between 2004 and 2008/09, to a peak of 241,473 seizures, before seeing a general downward trend.
- Gwent Police only provided data for 10 months for 2013/14. Following the force's change of crime recording system, they have been unable to provide drug seizures figures for February and March 2014. More information is included in the chapter on [data quality and interpreting the figures](#).
- Using all available data for England and Wales from police forces and Border Force, with estimates for Hampshire and Surrey for 2012/13<sup>4</sup> for comparison shows a 3% decrease in the number of seizures in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13. This is not a totally valid comparison owing to the lack of 2 month's data from Gwent in 2013/14. However, excluding Gwent made little difference to the trend, with the number of drug seizures in England and Wales of 192,294 showing a fall of 3% on the previous year.

**Figure 2.1** Number of seizures for all class A substances and all drug types, 2004 to 2013/14



\* The unbroken line includes estimates for Hampshire and Surrey for 2012/13 so that comparisons can be made with earlier years. The dashed line excludes Gwent Police so that a comparison can be made with 2013/14, but it has a very small effect on the overall trend.

Source: Home Office, [Summary Table 1](#).

<sup>3</sup> See the latest edition of 'Drug Misuse: Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales', available at: [drug misuse statistics](#).

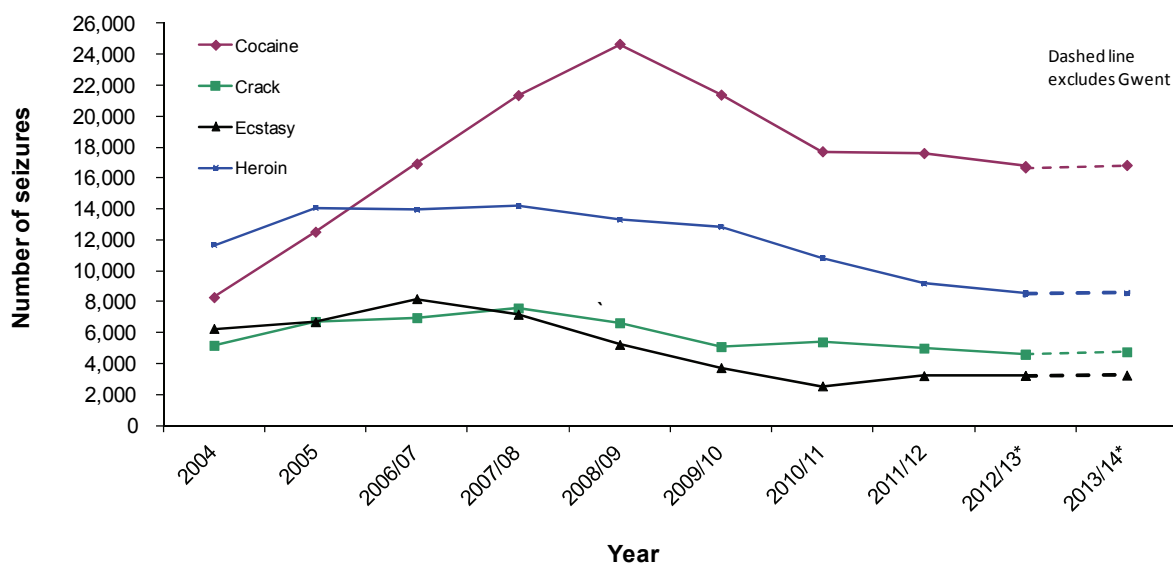
<sup>4</sup> Estimates using linear interpolation have been used for Hampshire and Surrey for 2012/13 who were unable to supply data in 2012/13 but were able to supply data for 2013/14, as these two forces reported having difficulty in providing seizure figures to the Home Office for 2012/13.

## Class A drugs

Substances considered to be the most harmful are categorised as class A under the MDA. Between 2004 and 2011/12, approximately one-fifth of seizures involved at least 1 class A drug. Data for all forces in England and Wales show that seizures involving class A drugs rose for 3 consecutive years from 2004 (from 30,903 to 48,054 in 2007/08), before decreasing in each of the next 5 years (to 32,667 in 2012/13). Excluding data from Gwent (2013/14), the number of class A seizures increased by 1% between 2012/13 and 2013/14, to 32,627.

- Cocaine was again the most commonly seized class A drug in 2013/14 (16,825 seizures), up 1% on 2012/13. Cocaine seizures rose sharply between 2004 and 2008/09 and, despite the decline in recent years and notwithstanding the lack of data from 1 force in 2013/14, the number of seizures this year was more than double the 8,279 made in 2004.
- Seizures of heroin increased by 1% between 2012/13 and 2013/14, to 8,579, which is half that of cocaine seizures.
- Crack seizures increased by 4%, to 4,746 in 2013/14.
- Ecstasy seizures rose by 1% in 2013/14, to 3,237.
- There were also 755 seizures of methadone (down 9%), 89 seizures of LSD (up 30%) and 165 seizures of morphine (up 28%).

**Figure 2.2** Number of seizures for the main class A drug types, 2004 to 2013/14



\* The unbroken line includes estimates for Hampshire and Surrey for 2012/13 so that comparisons can be made with earlier years. The dashed line excludes Gwent so that a comparison can be made with 2013/14 but it has a very small effect on the overall trend.

Source: Home Office, [Summary Table 1](#).

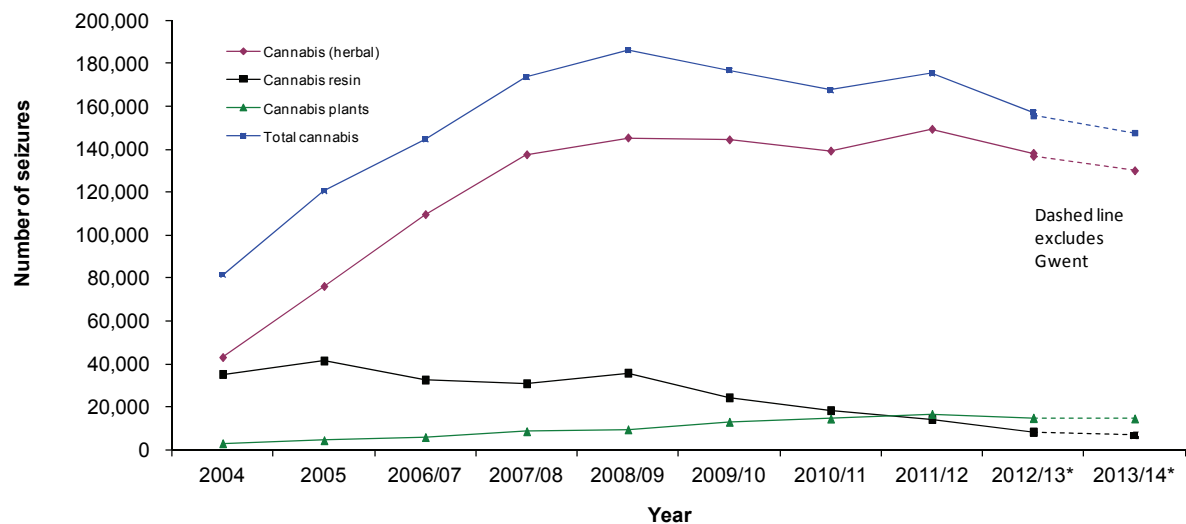
## Class B drugs

There were 155,787 seizures of class B drugs in 2013/14, a 5% decrease from 2012/13.

- As in previous years, the great majority of class B seizures were for cannabis. At 147,612, there were 5% fewer cannabis seizures in 2013/14 than the previous year. This included decreases in each of the 3 types of cannabis recorded, with the number of herbal, plant and resin seizures down by 5%, 1% and 17% respectively.

- The second highest number of seizures for a class B drug was for amphetamines with 6,067 in 2013/14, up from 5,758 in 2012/13.
- In addition, the number of 'other class B' drugs in 2013/14 (4,151 seizures) was 11% lower than in 2012/13 (4,644 seizures) and just over 11 times more than the 377 seized in 2009/10. For police seizures this increase is largely due to mephedrone and other cathinone derivatives becoming controlled drugs in April 2010.

Figure 2.3 Number of cannabis seizures, 2004 to 2013/14



\*The unbroken line includes estimates for Hampshire and Surrey so that comparisons can be made with earlier years. The dashed line excludes Gwent so that a comparison can be made with 2013/14 but it has a very small effect on the overall trend.

Source: Home Office, [Summary Table 1](#).

## Class C drugs

In 2013/14 there were 6,962 seizures involving class C drugs, a 16% increase on 2012/13.

- As in previous years, the most commonly seized class C drugs in 2013/14 were benzodiazepines, though the 2,032 seizures were 2% more than the previous year. The 129 seizures of temazepam in 2013/14 compared to 139 seizures in 2012/13 (down 7%). It should be noted that these figures relate only to police seizures, since Border Force seizures of benzodiazepines and temazepam cannot be separately identified from their recording system; for Border Force, both substances are instead included within the 'other class C' total.
- The 1,621 ketamine seizures in 2013/14 represented a 7% increase on the 1,518 made in 2012/13.
- Seizures of anabolic steroids increased by 35%, from 848 in 2012/13 to 1,142 in 2013/14.
- The number of 'other class C' drugs increased by 36%, from 1,668 in 2012/13 to 2,268 in 2013/14.

## Unknown substances

Recorded seizures of 'unknown' substances have increased year on year, from 42 seizures in 2004 to 6,016 in 2013/14. This is most likely to be due to police forces not updating statistical returns on the receipt of forensic test results, while changes to police forces' forensic analysis arrangements after the closure of the Forensic Science Service may also have had an impact.

## 3 Quantity of drugs seized

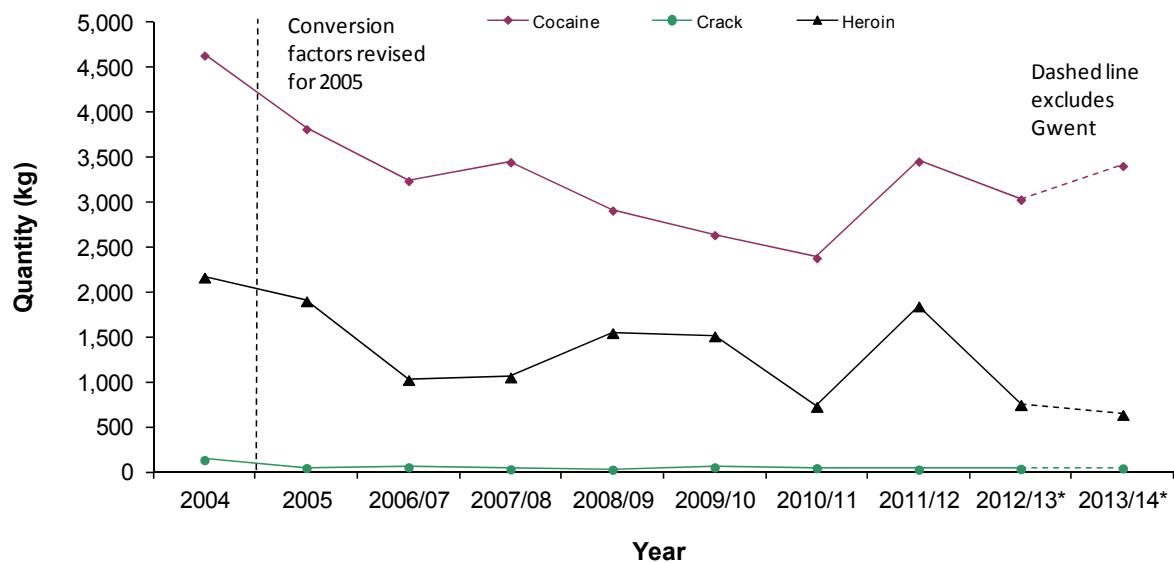
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Quantities data fluctuate from year to year and do not necessarily move in line with the number of seizures made. Whilst most drug seizures consist of relatively small quantities, annual totals of drugs seized can be greatly influenced by a small number of large seizures. As with the *number* of drug seizures, any large quantity of seizures should not be taken as an indication of drug prevalence or availability.

The quantities of drugs seized are summarised in terms of tonnes (for larger quantities), kilograms, doses or plants (for cannabis plants only). Most drugs can plausibly be seized in a preparation form other than kilograms or doses. Therefore, in order to present all seized quantities within a given drug type in terms of one comparable unit (either kilograms or doses), conversion factors are applied to estimate the overall quantity of drugs seized. As the basis for conversion factors has changed, seizure quantities for the years up to and including 2004 are not directly comparable with those for later years. Additionally, in order to make valid comparisons of amounts seized between 2012/13 and 2013/14, figures for these 2 years in [Summary Table 2](#) exclude seizures made by Gwent Police and figures for 2012/13 include estimates for Hampshire Constabulary and Surrey Police. See the [user guide](#) for more information.

### Class A drugs

- In 2013/14, there were 3.4 tonnes of cocaine seized, up 12% on 2012/13 (3.0 tonnes). Sixty-five per cent of the 16,825 cocaine seizures in 2013/14 were of quantities of less than 1 gram, with a further 33% between 1 and 500 grams.
- Police and Border Force seized 0.6 tonnes of heroin in 2013/14, down 15% on the previous year (0.8 tonnes). Sixty-six per cent of the 8,579 seizures of heroin in 2013/14 were under 1 gram and a further 32% were between 1 and 500 grams.
- Crack seizures in 2013/14 totalled 48 kg, compared with 42 kg in 2012/13. Just 0.3% of the 4,746 seizures made in 2013/14 consisted of amounts over 500 grams.
- Also in 2013/14, approximately 399,000 doses of ecstasy (down 12% on 2012/13) and 75,000 doses of methadone (down 26% on 2012/13) were seized. In addition, approximately 5,000 doses of LSD were seized in 2013/14 compared with 3,000 doses the year before.
- The majority of unweighed class A drug seizures in 2013/14 were for LSD with 89 seizures; 91% of these seizures were between 1 and 50 doses. There were an equally high proportion of seizures consisting of between 1 and 50 doses for ecstasy (91%), while the proportion of morphine and methadone seizures consisting of between 1 and 50 doses stood at 82% and 69% respectively.

**Figure 3.1** Quantity of weighed class A drug types seized, 2004 to 2013/14<sup>1</sup>

1. Seizure quantities for 2004 are not directly comparable with those for later years as the basis for conversion factors has changed.

\* The unbroken line includes estimates for Hampshire and Surrey for 2012/13 so that comparisons can be made with earlier years. The dashed line excludes Gwent Police so that a comparison can be made with 2013/14 but it has a very small effect on the overall trend.

Source: Home Office, [Summary Table 2](#).

## Class B drugs

- There was a 45% increase in the amount of herbal cannabis seized between 2012/13 (12.4 tonnes) and 2013/14 (18.0 tonnes). The amount of cannabis resin seized however, fell by 94% from 2012/13 (11.3 tonnes) and 2013/14 (0.7 tonnes). There was an 11% decrease in the number of cannabis plants seized in 2013/14 (451,154) compared to the previous year (507,438).
- Of the 130,045 seizures of herbal cannabis, just over a quarter weighed under 1 gram (33,618 seizures, or 26%), while almost three-quarters weighed between 1 and 500 grams (94,810 seizures, or 73%). Seventeen seizures weighed 100 kg or over. On average, each herbal cannabis seizure weighed 138 grams.
- There were 6,803 seizures of cannabis resin, 6,706 (99%) of which weighed less than 500 grams.
- Ninety per cent of cannabis plant seizures involved 50 or fewer plants.
- There was a 15% decrease in the quantity of amphetamines seized in 2013/14 compared to the year before (1.2 tonnes compared to 1.4 tonnes in 2012/13); 98% of amphetamine seizures weighed between 0 and 500 grams.

## Class C drugs

- The quantity of anabolic steroids seized increased by 70%, from 1.5 million doses in 2012/13 to 2.5 million doses in 2013/14.
- There was a decrease in the quantity of benzodiazepine seized (from 511,856 doses in 2012/13 to 312,477 doses in 2013/14, down 39%).
- There was an increase in the quantity of ketamine seized, from 244 kg in 2012/13 to 355 kg in 2013/14.

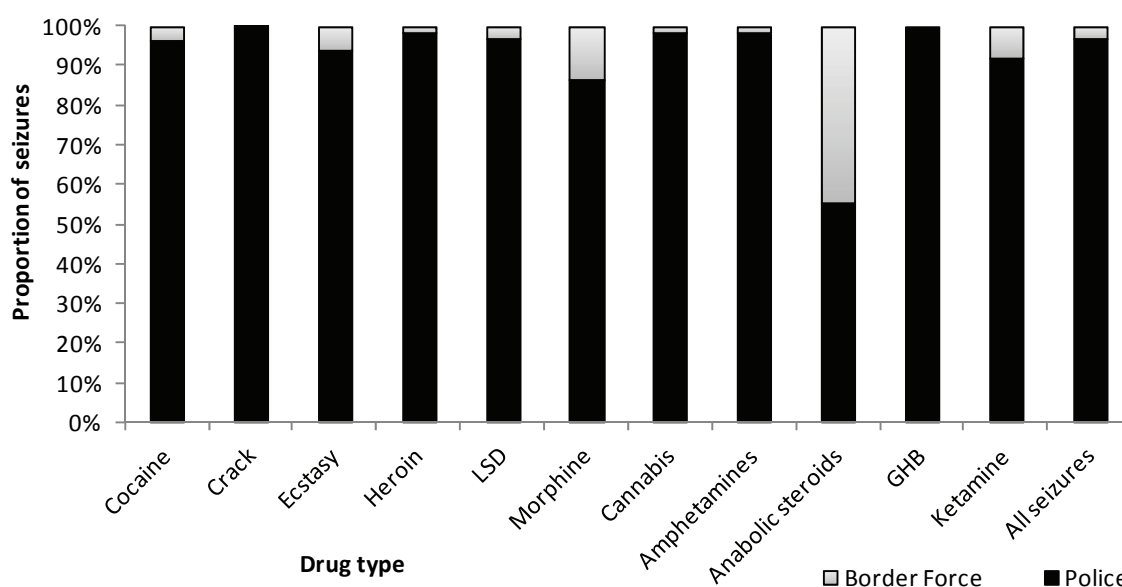
## 4 Seizures by authority

Seizures from joint operations involving Border Force and the police are recorded against the lead agency that takes possession of the seized drugs.

### Number of seizures

- In 2013/14, 186,447 or 97% of seizures were made by police forces with the remaining 5,847 or 3% made by Border Force. The number of seizures made by the police fell by 3% compared to 2012/13, while those made by Border Force rose by 3%.
- For police forces, seizures of class A rose by 1%, class B fell by 5% and class C substances rose by 10%.
- For Border Force, seizures of class A fell by 12%, class B fell by 4% and class C substances rose by 46%.

Figure 4.1 Proportion of drug seizure numbers by drug type and authority, 2013/14



Source: Home Office, [Summary Table 4](#).

- Police forces accounted for 95% of all seizures of class A drugs and 98% of all seizures of class B drugs. There was a lesser proportion for class C drugs, with police forces responsible for 77% of seizures.
- Within the class A drugs seized, the police were responsible for almost all seizures of crack (100%), heroin (98%), LSD (97%), cocaine (97%), ecstasy (94%) and morphine (87%).
- For class B drugs, approximately 99% of cannabis and 98% of amphetamine seizures were conducted by the police. All except one of the cannabis plant seizures were made by the police.
- Of drugs in class C, Border Force was responsible for 44% of anabolic steroid seizures and 8% of ketamine seizures.
- It is not possible to calculate the proportion of GHB, methadone, barbiturates, benzodiazepines and temazepam seizures made by the police and Border Force for 2013/14 since the latter is unable to separately identify these drugs on its recording system.

## Number of seizures by region

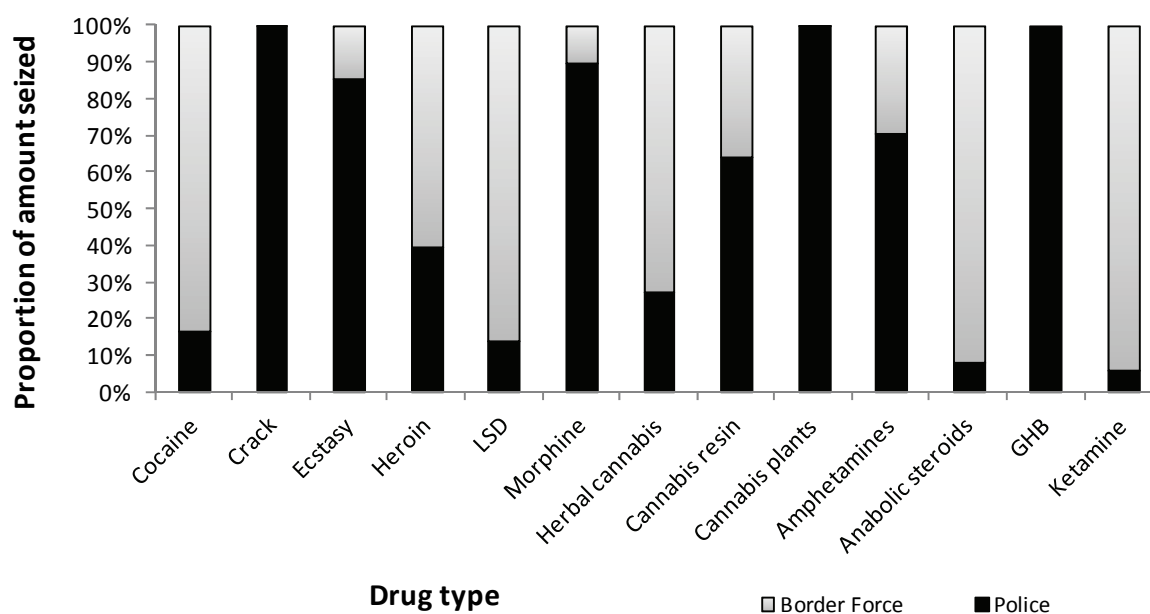
Proportions of the number of drug seizures for Border Force and police force regions varied little from 2012/13 to 2013/14. At 25%, the largest proportion of drug seizures in 2013/14 took place in London, the most heavily populated region in England and Wales. Outside of London, the largest proportion of seizures for regional police forces took place in the South East at 12%; the North East at 4% had the smallest proportion. Border Force and British Transport Police accounted for 3% and 2% of seizures in England and Wales. Their data cannot be broken down by region.

The proportion of seizures made by Border Force has fluctuated only slightly since 2004, between 2% and 4%. Of the police force regions, and notwithstanding the fluctuations seen in intervening years, the proportion of seizures in the North West in 2013/14 was 5 percentage points lower than in 2004, while London saw an 8 percentage point increase over the same period.

## Quantity of seizures

Although Border Force accounted for only 3% of seizures in 2013/14, the proportion they seized in terms of quantity was much higher. This is due to the fact that the agency is often involved in high profile operations where large quantities of drugs are seized, for example at airports or ferry ports.

**Figure 4.2 Proportion of drug seizure quantities by drug type and authority, 2013/14**

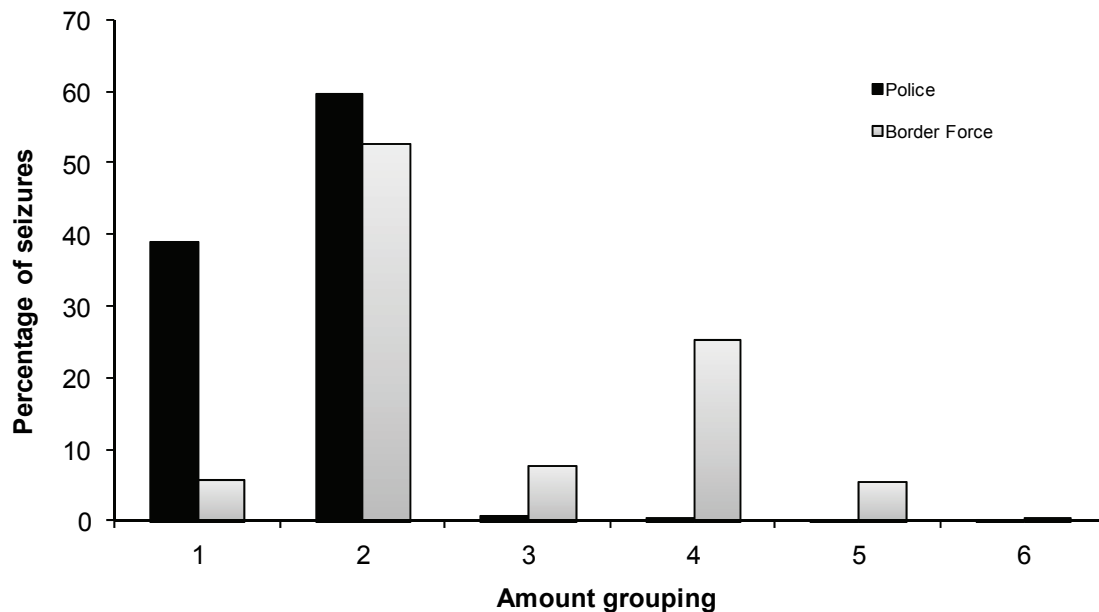


Source: Home Office, [Summary Table 5](#).

- In 2013/14, Border Force seized 83% of cocaine by quantity (80% in 2012/13), 60% of heroin (59% in 2012/13), 14% of ecstasy (66% in 2012/13) and 86% of LSD (1% in 2012/13), while police seized almost 100% of crack (83% in 2012/13).
- Border Force seized 29% of amphetamines in 2013/14 compared to 57% in the year before. Almost 100% of cannabis plant seizures were made by police forces in 2013/14 (451,153 plants); the one seizure made by Border Force consisted of one plant. Border Force accounted for 13.3 tonnes (71%) of the herbal and resin cannabis seized compared to the police's 5.4 tonnes (29%).
- Within class C drugs, Border Force seized 92% of anabolic steroids (95% in 2012/13) and 94% of ketamine (91% in 2012/13).
- As with the number of drugs seized in 2012/13, the quantity of methadone, barbiturates, benzodiazepines and temazepam seized by Border Force could not be separately identified from its recording system.

- Police seized 578 kg of cocaine in 2013/14, which was 7% lower than the amount seized in 2012/13 (620 kg). In contrast, Border Force seized 17% more cocaine in 2013/14 (2,833 kg) than in 2012/13 (2,415 kg). The 256 kg of heroin seized by police in 2013/14 was 16% lower than the amount seized in 2012/13 (306 kg), while Border Force seized 13% less heroin in 2013/14 (386 kg) than in 2012/13 (445 kg).

**Figure 4.3 Percentage distribution of police and Border Force main class A and B seizures, 2013/14**



Where

1 = "Under 1 g" or "1–50 doses/plants"	4 = "1–10 kg" or "501–1,000 doses/plants"
2 = "1–500 g" or "51–100" doses/plants"	5 = "10–100 kg" or "1,001–10,000 doses/plants"
3 = "500 g to 1 kg" or "101–500 doses/plants"	6 = "100 kg and over" or "over 10,000 doses/plants"

Source: Home Office, [Summary Table 3](#).

- Sixty per cent of police and 53% of Border Force seizures of the main class A and class B drugs were within the 1 to 500 g or 51 to 100 doses/plants groupings.
- A further 39% of police seizures weighed less than 1 g or consisted of between 1 to 50 doses or plants, while only 6% of seizures made by Border Force were within these groupings.
- In contrast, 25% of Border Force seizures weighed more than 1 kg, compared to less than 1% of police seizures.



## 5 Data quality and interpreting the figures

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Seizures from joint operations involving Border Force and the police are recorded against the lead agency that takes possession of the seized drugs.

Gwent Police only provided data for 10 months for 2013/14. Following the force's change of crime recording system, they have been unable to provide drug seizures figures for February and March 2014. This problem will also run into the start of 2014/15.

Due to time constraints and operational demands, Hampshire Constabulary was unable to provide data for 2012/13 but have made efforts to resume recording seizures for 2013/14. Organisational changes within Surrey Police during 2012/13 affected the force's ability to provide robust drug seizures figures; however, they have resumed to generate robust figures for 2013/14. As a result estimates have been provided for Hampshire Constabulary and Surrey Police using linear interpolation for 2012/13. Interpolation is a means of determining the value of an unknown data point based on the values of known surrounding data points. Linear interpolation assumes a straight line relationship between the known data points.

Where a seizure is made of a drug not separately listed in this bulletin, it is aggregated into an 'other' class category. Further information on drugs covered under the MDA, including a link to the full list of drugs covered, is available at: [Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#). Details about the counting rules used for calculating numbers of seizures in this bulletin are included in the [user guide](#).

Amount groupings (e.g. under 1 gram, 1–50 doses) presented in the breakdowns shown in Summary Tables 3a and 3c of this publication include data on all seizures made by police forces. For the Border Force's data in Summary Tables 3b and 3c, quantities requiring conversion are not included in the breakdowns, although they are included in the total estimated quantity (kg or doses).

## 6 Revisions analysis

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Revised data for 2012/13 are presented in this statistical release, with the total number of seizures for England and Wales being revised upwards by 3.6%. Since the publication of 'Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2012/13', estimations have been provided for Hampshire Constabulary and Surrey Police. Devon and Cornwall resubmitted their data for 2012/13; this resulted in the force's originally published figure for seizure numbers being revised upwards by 0.04% (from 4,521 to 4,523). A summary of the affected 2012/13 headline figures are shown in the table below.

<b><u>2012/13 number of seizures</u></b>	<b>Published on 31 October 2013</b>	<b>Published on 30 October 2014</b>	<b>Percentage change (%)</b>
Hampshire Constabulary	..	4,980	..
Surrey Police	469	1,918	308.8
Devon and Cornwall Police	4,521	4,523	0.04
England and Wales total	193,980	200,879	3.6

## 7 Other data sources

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### Seizures by police in Scotland and Northern Ireland

As well as providing a comparison to seizures in England and Wales, looking at drug seizure figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland allows for a more complete UK-wide picture. Data relating to seizures of drugs by police in Scotland are collected and published by the Scottish Government<sup>5</sup>, and follow the same counting rules as those presented for England and Wales. In 2012/13, police in Scotland made 28,968 seizures of controlled drugs. Of these, 5,313 involved a class A drug, 22,185 involved a class B drug and 3,544 involved a class C drug. Data for 2013/14 are not currently available. The Police Service of Northern Ireland<sup>6</sup> collects and publishes data on drug seizures by police in Northern Ireland, and they are also presented on the same basis as those for England and Wales. Police recorded a total of 4,825 drug seizure incidents in Northern Ireland during 2013/14, class A, B and C totals are not presented.

### Border Force seizures

Seizures made by Border Force officials outside England and Wales (e.g. Scotland, Northern Ireland) are excluded from figures presented in this statistical release. A quarterly breakdown of Border Force seizures in the UK is available online as part of their regular key performance indicators.<sup>7</sup>

### Misuse of drugs

The extent and trends in illicit drug use among adults aged 16 to 59, measured annually by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), is published separately by the Home Office.<sup>8</sup> According to the 2013/14 CSEW, around 1 in 11 (8.8%) adults had taken an illicit drug in the last year, an increase compared with 2012/13 (8.1%). As survey data can fluctuate from one year to the next, it is not yet possible to tell whether this increase signals a reverse of the long-term downward trends, or that either the 2012/13 levels were particularly low or the 2013/14 levels particularly high.

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5 Latest drug seizure statistics for Scotland were published on 11 March 2014, and are available online at: [The Scottish Government website](#).

6 Latest drug seizure statistics for Northern Ireland were published on 8 May 2014, and are available online at: [Police Service of Northern Ireland website](#).

7 Border Force publishes data on its key performance indicators at [Border Force transparency data](#).

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