

Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2010.

Definition – for the compilation of these statistics the number of procedures reported generally corresponds to the number of animals. Where an animal which 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 2010 (rather than the numbers of animals), compared with 2009, unless indicated otherwise. Most figures have been rounded to the nearest 1000 or 100 procedures or to two significant figures.

Summary

The National Statistics publication “Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2010” was released by the Home Office on 13th July 2011, providing information about the use of protected animals in scientific procedures started during 2010.

(All comparisons with 2009 unless stated otherwise)

The key points from the latest publication are:

1. Just over 3.7 million scientific procedures were started in Great Britain in 2010, increasing 3% (+105,000). This was largely due to an increase to 1.6 million procedures (+87,000, +6%) in breeding to produce genetically modified (GM) animals and harmful mutants (HM), mainly mice (+77,000).
2. Excluding the breeding of GM and HM animals, the total number of procedures was broadly the same as in 2009 (a slight increase, of +18,000 or +1%, from 2.09 million to 2.10 million).
3. There were increases in numbers of procedures involving mice (+2%), non-human primates (+10% with new world monkeys +78% and old world monkeys -2%), birds (+12%) and fish (+23%). There were falls for most other species, for example rats (-9%), guinea pigs (-29%), cats (-32%), dogs (-2%), rabbits (-10%), horses & other equids (-5%), pigs (-15%).
4. There was a further fall (-11%) in the numbers of procedures for safety testing (toxicology) to 391,000, with a higher proportion carried out to meet more than one legislative/regulatory requirement (72% compared with 68% in 2009). Most toxicology procedures are carried out in the commercial sector where the number of procedures also fell (-4%).
5. The number of non-toxicology procedures increased 5% to 3.3 million, reflecting the higher numbers of procedures carried out in universities (+10%), particularly fundamental research. The increase for non-toxicology included further increases in cancer research (+8,700), immunological studies (+10,200), parasitology



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(+12,000) and pharmacology (+13,900) whilst pharmaceutical R&D continued to fall (-56,700).

- 6. There were 1.0 million more procedures than in 2000 (+37%) mostly accounted for by breeding to produce GM and HM animals (+921,000, of which mice +811,000). Excluding such breeding, the total number of procedures was slightly higher than in 2000 (+4% or +89,000).

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

<u>Published</u> 13 July 2011 at 9.30am	<u>Type(s)</u> National Statistics
<u>Coverage:</u> Great Britain, calendar year 2010	<u>Geographic Breakdown:</u> n/a
<u>Theme</u> Business & Energy	<u>Next release date:</u> July 2012
<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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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' which replaces and consolidates material contained in previous editions' Appendices B-D.
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.