

10 November 2011

Statistical News Release: Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2010/11

Drug seizures fall by five per cent in 2010/11

This annual statistical bulletin contains figures for seizures of drugs made in 2010/11 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 2010/11 there were 212,784 drug seizures made in England and Wales by the police and the UKBA, a decrease of five per cent since 2009/10. There were falls in the number of two of the three classes of drugs when compared to 2009/10:

- Class A drugs seizures decreased by 15 per cent:
 - Within class A drugs, cocaine seizures decreased by 17 per cent, and heroin seizures fell by 16 per cent, but crack seizures rose by six per cent.
 - Cocaine was the most commonly seized class A drug, as last year.
- Class B drugs seizures decreased by four per cent:
 - Within class B drugs, cannabis seizures fell by five per cent.
- Class C seizures rose by 16 per cent.

The following quantities of drugs were seized in 2010/11:

- 2.4 tonnes of cocaine;
- 0.7 tonnes of heroin;
- 357,000 doses of ecstasy;
- 0.7 tonnes of amphetamines;
- 48.6 tonnes of herbal cannabis and cannabis resin combined; and,
- 730,000 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 2010/11 British Crime Survey, England and Wales' was published on 28 July 2011. Both reports are available online on the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website.

UKBA issued a press release on 7 November 2011 on its own drug seizure statistics that are based on provisional management information. These figures are not wholly comparable with the UKBA seizure figures included in the HO bulletin as they focus on a more recent period (April – September 2011), concentrate only on specific drugs, and cover a different geographical area (UK, including off-shore seizures in UK waters, rather than England and Wales).