

31 October 2013

Statistical News Release: Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2012/13

This annual statistical bulletin contains figures for seizures of drugs made in 2012/13 by local police forces and Border Force within England and Wales. The police force figures exclude seizures from 2 forces, Hampshire and Surrey, who were unable to provide figures for the whole of 2012/13. There are 2 main measures of drug seizures: number of seizures made and the quantity seized.

In 2012/13 there were 193,980 drug seizures made in England and Wales by the police and Border Force, a fall of 8% since 2011/12. There were falls in the number of seizures in all 3 classes of drugs when compared to 2011/12:

- Class A drugs seizures decreased by 3%:
 - Within this, cocaine and heroin seizures decreased by 5% and 7% respectively.
 - Cocaine was the most commonly seized class A drug, as last year.
- Class B drugs seizures fell by 9%:
 - Within class B drugs, cannabis seizures fell by 10%.
- Class C seizures fell by 12%.

The following quantities of drugs were seized in 2012/13:

- 3.0 tonnes of cocaine
- 0.8 tonne of heroin
- 1.4 tonnes of amphetamine
- 23.6 tonnes of herbal cannabis and cannabis resin combined
- 507,000 cannabis plants.

Drug seizure statistics can fluctuate from year to year and are not a measure of drug prevalence in society.

Notes to editors

1. 'Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2012/13' is available online via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub and Gov.uk.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/seizures-of-drugs-in-england-and-wales>

2. Tables providing a greater level of detail on drug seizures and a User Guide giving further information about the drug seizures measures are also being published.

3. Another Home Office statistical release on drugs, 'Drug Misuse: Findings from the 2012/13 Crime Survey for England and Wales' was published on 23 July 2013. It is available on the Gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-misuse-findings-from-the-2012-to-2013-csew>, and via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub.

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

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Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only. Members of the public should phone **020 7035 4848**.