



Home Office



10 July 2014

Statistical News Release: Annual Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2013

The National Statistics publication *Annual Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2013* was released by the Home Office on 10 July 2014, providing information about scientific procedures performed using living animals subject to the provisions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, during the year 2013

Definition – for the compilation of these statistics the number of procedures reported generally corresponds to the number of animals. A procedure, as regulated by law, is an experiment (or other scientific procedure) that may have the effect of causing an animal pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm. For the purpose of these statistics, the birth of an animal with a genetic modification or harmful mutation, that may cause the animal pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm, is counted as a procedure. Please see the User Guide for the legal definition. Where an animal that has recovered fully from a completed procedure is used again for a further procedure it is counted as a separate procedure.

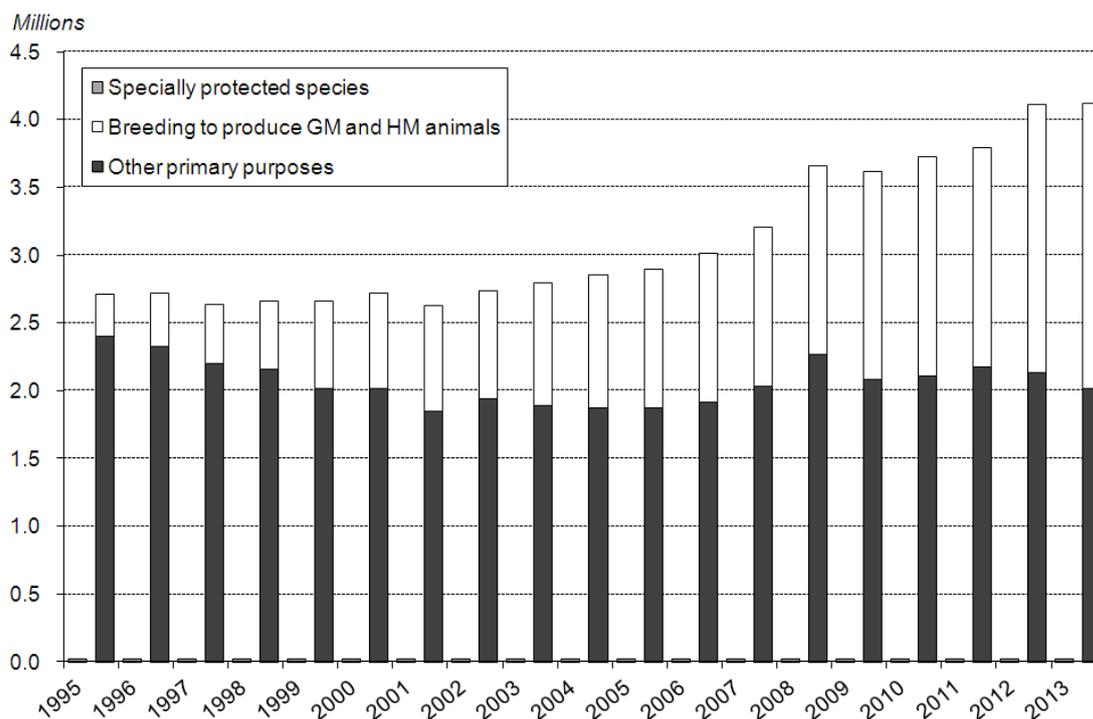
Presentation – the figures given refer to the numbers of procedures that were started in 2013 (rather than the numbers of animals), compared with 2012, unless indicated otherwise. Some figures have been rounded depending on the size of the figures in a particular section of commentary.

The key points are:

1. In 2013, 4.12 million scientific procedures were started in Great Britain, an increase of 0.3 per cent (+11,600 procedures) compared with 2012. Of these procedures, 2.02 million (49%) were performed for purposes other than to breed genetically modified (GM) animals¹ and animals with a harmful genetic mutation (HM)², a decrease of 5 per cent (-111,600 procedures) compared with 2012. The remaining 2.10 million procedures (51%) were undertaken to breed GM and HM animals, an increase of 6 per cent (+123,200 procedures).

¹ Genetically modified animals are animals with genetic characteristics that have been altered using genetic engineering.

² Harmful mutants are animals possessing one or more genes that have undergone mutation either naturally or deliberately induced.



2. Between 1995 and 2013, the number of procedures increased by 52 per cent (+1.41 million). Of these procedures, the number undertaken for purposes other than to breed GM and HM animals decreased by 16 per cent (-379,500 procedures). In contrast, breeding to produce GM and HM animals rose by 573 per cent (+1.79 million procedures). The proportion of procedures accounted for by GM and HM animal breeding rose from 12 per cent in 1995 to 51 per cent in 2013. Procedures involving dogs, non-human primates, cats and horses (i.e. specially protected species) decreased by 23 per cent (-5,000) over the same period to 16,800 and accounted for 0.4 per cent of all procedures in 2013.

3. Mice, fish and rats were the most commonly used species in 2013, with 3.08 million procedures (75%) undertaken on mice (+18,294 compared with the previous year), 507,373 (12%) on fish (+6,543) and 266,265 (6%) on rats (-12,121). For the remaining species, there were increases for guinea pigs (+13,602); sheep (+2,919); rabbits (+1,233); pigs (+350); gerbils (+279); non-human primates (+216) and reptiles (+183). There were falls for the following species: birds (-13,259); amphibians (-3,338); cattle (-1,167); goats (-969) and hamsters (-354).

4. The numbers of procedures for safety testing (toxicology³) decreased by 0.5 per cent (-2,000) to 375,000. A similar proportion to 2012 were undertaken to meet at least one legislative/regulatory requirement (92% compared with 94%).

³ For the purposes of these statistics, toxicology means the safety evaluation of the effects of substances on man, animals or the environment, mainly medical treatments.

5. The number of non-toxicology procedures increased by 0.4 per cent (+13,600) to 3.75 million and included rises, largely driven by an increase in the breeding of GM/HM animals, for the following fields of research: genetics⁴ (+58,200); physiology⁵ (+41,300); pharmaceutical research and development (+35,900); psychology (+8,400); therapeutics⁶ (+6,400) and alcohol (+2,000). There were falls in the fields of nutrition (-76,700); parasitology⁷ (-16,200); biochemistry⁸ (-14,600); pharmacology⁹ (-12,200); ecology¹⁰ (-12,100) and animal science (-3,000).

Notes to editors

1. The purpose of the publication is to meet the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 section 21(7) "The Secretary of State shall in each year publish and lay before Parliament such information as he considers appropriate with respect to the use of protected animals in the previous year for experimental or other scientific purposes".

2. The publication is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistics-of-scientific-procedures-on-living-animals-great-britain-2013>. The website also includes:

- the User Guide to Home Office Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals (a useful online reference guide that includes explanatory notes as well as key classifications for the production and presentation of the statistics);
- the Supplementary Tables and the Time Series Tables.

3. 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.

Press enquiries

Please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with Home Office Statistics Unit.

Newsdesk - 020 7035 3535

Monday - Thursday: 07:00 – 21:00

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Emergency media calls, out-of-hours: 020 7035 6434

Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only.

⁴ The study of genes, heredity, and variation in living organisms.

⁵ The study of the functions of the individual structures and systems within an organism.

⁶ The study of the remedial treatment of disease.

⁷ The study of parasites.

⁸ The study of chemical processes within, and relating to, living organisms.

⁹ The study of drugs.

¹⁰ The study of interactions among organisms and their environment.

Other enquiries

Members of the public should phone 020 7035 4848.

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