



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

PSNI Statistics: Annual Statistical Report

Statistical Report No. 4

DRUG SEIZURES & ARRESTS

1ST APRIL 2007 – 31ST MARCH 2008

Central Statistics Branch, Operational Support Department

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4. Drug Seizures and Arrests

Summary

Table 4.1	Drug Seizures and Arrests 2005/06 – 2007/08
Table 4.2	Seizure Incidents and Arrests by District 2006/07 and 2007/08
Table 4.3	Seizure Incidents and Arrests by Area 2006/07 and 2007/08

Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on the drug seizures are collated by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch and are based on paper returns that are completed by police officers when they make a drug seizure. The statistics are checked for completeness with local Districts and with the PSNI Drug Squad and are also cross-referenced against other internal records of drug seizures.

4. Drug Seizures and Arrests

Summary

Total Seizures

- A total of 2,968 drug seizure incidents were recorded in 2007/08, an increase of 14.6% on 2006/07. As in previous years cannabis was the drug most commonly seized.

Class A Seizures

- The number of seizures involving Class A drugs increased by 19.8% from 713 seizure incidents in 2006/07 to 854 in 2007/08.
- Ecstasy accounted for the greatest number of Class A seizure incidents. The number of ecstasy tablets seized more than doubled with 244,720 seized in 2007/08 compared with 118,708 in 2006/07.
- Despite an increase in the number of cocaine powder seizures (278 in 2006/07 compared with 405 in 2007/08), the amount of cocaine powder seized decreased from 36.1 kg in 2006/07 to 17.9 kg in 2007/08.

Class B Seizures

- The number of seizures involving class B drugs decreased by 29.3% from 205 seizure incidents in 2006/07 to 145 in 2007/08.
- There were fewer seizures of amphetamine powder (188 in 2006/07 compared with 132 in 2007/08) and the amount of amphetamine powder seized decreased from 18.0 kg in 2006/07 to 12.7 kg in 2007/08.

Class C (Cannabis) Seizures

- Seizures of cannabis increased by 16.1%, from 1,911 in 2006/07 to 2,219 in 2007/08.
- While there was an increase in the number of seizures of cannabis resin, there was a substantial decrease in the amount of cannabis resin seized from 3,683.5 kg in 2006/07 to 78.2 kg in 2007/08. However, the 2006/07 total includes the largest ever seizure of cannabis resin in Northern Ireland, with 3.5 tonnes seized in the Ards area in October 2006.
- Seizures of herbal cannabis have increased by 66.9% from 486 seizures in 2006/07 to 811 in 2007/08. The amount of herbal cannabis seized has also increased (26.6 kg in 2006/07 compared with 70.1 kg in 2007/08).
- There was an increase in the number of cannabis plants seized with 4,006 cannabis plants seized in 2007/08 compared with 1,448 seized in 2006/07.

Arrests

- The number of persons arrested for drug related offences increased by 9.8% from 1,726 in 2006/07 to 1,896 in 2007/08.

Table 4.1: Drug Seizures and Arrests 2005/06 – 2007/08

Drugs Seized	2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized
Class A						
Cocaine: Powder (gms)	168	27,123.8	278	36,139.7	405	17,882.6
Wraps	11	38	15	42	33	97
'Crack' (gms)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ecstasy: Tablets	256	92,107	411	118,708	436	244,720
Powder (gms)	13	391.7	19	519.8	19	79.74
Capsules	1	10	2	10	0	0
Crystal (gms)	0	0.0	4	1,579.0	0	0.0
LSD: Doses	14	306	2	7	4	4
Microdots	1	2	5	120	2	182
Opiates: Powder (gms)	30	321.8	43	592.4	38	106.5
Tablets	0	0	1	1	2	24
Ampoules	1	35	0	0	1	1
Mls	11	385.1	8	159.1	14	142.6
Wraps	0	0	11	24	13	50
All Class A¹	449	-	713	-	854	
Class B						
Amphetamine: Powder (kgs)	138	73.7	188	18.0	132	12.7
Wraps	11	32	8	98	7	15
Tablets	5	258	14	143	7	267
Barbiturates: Tablets	0	0	1	11	0	0
All Class B¹	154	-	205	-	145	-
Class C (Cannabis)						
Cannabis: Resin (kgs)	2,086	426.2	1,438	3,683.5	1,480	78.2
Herbal (kgs)	180	68.6	486	26.6	811	70.1
Plants	45	1,504	105	1,448	115	4,006
Oil (gms)	0	0	2	12.0	1	2.0
Joints	197	267	155	221	178	269
All Cannabis¹	2,347	-	1,911	-	2,219	-
Total Seizure Incidents¹	2,767		2,590		2,968	
Street Value¹ of Drugs Seized	£7,157,566		£22,512,384		£5,545,480	
Persons Arrested	1,440		1,726		1,896	

¹ As seizure incidents can involve more than one drug type, seizure figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.

Table 4.2: Seizure Incidents and Arrests by District¹ 2006/07 – 2007/08

	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2006/07	2007/08	Change	% Change	2006/07	2007/08	Change	% Change
A District	326	330	4	1.2%	264	189	-75	-28.4%
B District	347	407	60	17.3%	238	250	12	5.0%
C District	256	310	54	21.1%	134	169	35	26.1%
D District	303	399	96	31.7%	177	246	69	39.0%
E District	345	438	93	27.0%	208	222	14	6.7%
F District	295	396	101	34.2%	184	231	47	25.5%
G District	305	278	-27	-8.9%	212	241	29	13.7%
H District	413	410	-3	-0.7%	309	348	39	12.6%
Total	2590	2968	378	14.6%	1726	1896	170	9.8%

¹ A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

Table 4.3: Seizure Incidents and Arrests by Area 2006/07 – 2007/08

	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2006/07	2007/08	Change	% Change	2006/07	2007/08	Change	% Change
Antrim	87	101	14	16.1%	62	85	23	37.1%
Ards	37	39	2	5.4%	29	23	-6	-20.7%
East Belfast	81	136	55	67.9%	71	92	21	29.6%
North Belfast	229	239	10	4.4%	172	133	-39	-22.7%
South Belfast	266	271	5	1.9%	167	158	-9	-5.4%
West Belfast	97	91	-6	-6.2%	92	56	-36	-39.1%
Carrickfergus	29	63	34	117.2%	12	24	12	100.0%
Castlereagh	41	52	11	26.8%	24	35	11	45.8%
Down	82	129	47	57.3%	37	67	30	81.1%
Lisburn	125	152	27	21.6%	69	99	30	43.5%
Newtownabbey	62	83	21	33.9%	34	38	4	11.8%
North Down	96	90	-6	-6.3%	44	44	0	0.0%
Urban Region	1232	1446	214	17.4%	813	854	41	5.0%

Armagh	56	70	14	25.0%	59	71	12	20.3%
Ballymena	126	132	6	4.8%	74	122	48	64.9%
Ballymoney	9	22	13	144.4%	7	14	7	100.0%
Banbridge	28	60	32	114.3%	12	33	21	175.0%
Coleraine	232	192	-40	-17.2%	208	192	-16	-7.7%
Cookstown	74	72	-2	-2.7%	50	34	-16	-32.0%
Craigavon	196	207	11	5.6%	100	54	-46	-46.0%
Dungannon & South Tyrone	76	100	24	31.6%	39	70	31	79.5%
Fermanagh	48	59	11	22.9%	33	37	4	12.1%
Foyle	136	117	-19	-14.0%	98	120	22	22.4%
Larne	29	45	16	55.2%	9	8	-1	-11.1%
Limavady	97	115	18	18.6%	69	95	26	37.7%
Magherafelt	40	30	-10	-25.0%	19	9	-10	-52.6%
Moyle	17	19	2	11.8%	11	12	1	9.1%
Newry & Mourne	65	101	36	55.4%	37	64	27	73.0%
Omagh	97	165	68	70.1%	62	90	28	45.2%
Strabane	32	16	-16	-50.0%	26	17	-9	-34.6%
Rural Region	1358	1522	164	12.1%	913	1042	129	14.1%

Total	2590	2968	378	14.6%	1726	1896	170	9.8%
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PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2007

