

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Recorded Drug Seizure Statistics

Annual Report covering the period
1st April 2011 - 31st March 2012

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Summary of Key Results

Overview

- The number of drug seizure incidents in Northern Ireland increased by 10.0% from 3,564 in 2010/11 to 3,920 in 2011/12.
- In 2011/12 the PSNI seized 402.0 kg of herbal cannabis, 12.2 kg of cocaine powder and 30,220 ecstasy tablets.
- Seizures of all types of cannabis increased in 2011/12 compared with the previous year. The number of cannabis plants seized in 2011/12 was 14,307 in 286 seizure incidents, an average of 50 plants per seizure incident.
- Cannabis plants were seized in all 29 police areas during 2011/12.
- There were 302 seizures of cocaine powder in 2011/12 amounting to 12.2kg, up from 7.8kg seized in 2010/11. There were also 317 Cocaine wrap seizures in 2011/12, up from 174 in the previous year.
- The number of seizure incidents of ecstasy tablets increased from 150 in 2010/11 to 165 in 2011/12 as did the quantity of ecstasy tablets seized which more than doubled from 14,774 tablets in 2010/11 to 30,220 in 2011/12.
- The number of people arrested for drug related offences has increased in both of the last two years from 2,250 arrests in 2009/10 and 2,435 arrests in 2010/11 to 2,543 arrests in 2011/12.

Section 1 – Drug Seizures and Arrests

Class A Seizures

- There were 302 seizures of cocaine powder in 2011/12 amounting to 12.2kg, up from 7.8kg seized in 2010/11. PSNI also seized 317 cocaine wraps, up from 174 in the previous year.
- The number of seizure incidents of ecstasy tablets increased from 150 in 2010/11 to 165 in 2011/12 as did the quantity of ecstasy tablets seized which more than doubled from 14,774 tablets in 2010/11 to 30,220 in 2011/12.
- Other Class A drugs seized were LSD and Opiates.

Class B Seizures

- Seizures of all types of cannabis increased in 2011/12 compared with the previous year.
- Cannabis resin seizures amounted to 191.5kg compared with 87.1kg in 2010/11. Herbal cannabis seizures amounted to 402.0kg, more than the previous two years together (2009/10, 215.9kg and 2010/11, 176.3kg).
- PSNI seized 14,307 cannabis plants in 2011/12 in 286 seizure incidents. This averages at 50 plants per seizure.
- Other class B drugs seized include Amphetamine and Mephedrone. The number of amphetamine tablets seized in 2011/12 was 4,572 up from 411 seized in 2010/11.
- Seizures of Mephedrone have decreased from 20.9kg of powder and 104 wraps seized in 2010/11 to 2.3kg of powder and 6 wraps seized in 2011/12.

Arrests

- The number of people arrested for drug related offences has increased in both of the last two years from 2,250 arrests in 2009/10 and 2,435 arrests in 2010/11 to 2,543 arrests in 2011/12.

Table 1: Drug Seizures and Arrests 2009/10 - 2011/12

Drugs Seized	2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized
Class A						
Cocaine: Powder (kgs)	474	27.5	304	7.8	302	12.2
Wraps	52	110	38	174	37	317
Ecstasy: Tablets	204	54,434	150	14,774	165	30,220
Powder (gms)	7	162.7	11	44.7	18	124.1
Capsules	1	40	0	0	0	0
LSD: Doses	6	261	3	61	1	1
Microdots	2	385	3	201	0	0
Opiates: Powder (kgs)	55	8.6	47	4.6	24	1.0
Tablets	1	8	3	35	1	13
Ampoules	0	0	1	32	0	0
Millilitres	17	219.8	5	272.0	10	151.5
Wraps	31	131	28	63	23	80
All Class A¹	793	-	564	-	549	-
Class B						
Cannabis ¹ : Resin (kgs)	1,118	127.4	1,072	87.1	916	191.5
Herbal (kgs)	1,434	215.9	1,644	176.3	2,027	402.0
Plants	158	5,484	231	10,330	286	14,307
Oil (gms)	2	22.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Joints	218	300	239	339	241	340
Amphetamine: Powder (kgs)	129	95.0	128	11.2	108	5.5
Wraps	12	30	7	9	10	19
Tablets	24	5,821	17	411	14	4,572
Mephedrone: Powder (kgs)	N/A	N/A	286	20.9	205	2.3
Wraps	N/A	N/A	5	104	5	6
All Class B¹	2,630	-	3,050	-	3,329	-
Total Seizure Incidents^{1 2}	3,319		3,564		3,920	
Estimated Street Value	£9,055,735		£9,057,953		£13,160,066	
Persons Arrested	2,250		2,435		2,543	

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

² Total seizure incidents include drugs not presented in this table such as benzodiazepines (diazepam, temazepam and nitrazepam), ketamine, piperazines and steroids.

Section 2 – Drug Seizure Incidents and Arrests by Police District, Area and Region

- The number of drug seizure incidents across Northern Ireland in 2011/12 was 3,920 up 10.0% from 3,564 the previous year.
- The largest increase in the number of seizures was in 'F' District, where seizures increased by 33.1% to 515 and in 'A' District, where the number of seizure incidents increased by 22.9% to 516.
- The largest number of seizure incidents by police area occurred in South Belfast at 363. The largest number of arrests was also in South Belfast at 229.
- The total number of persons arrested in 2011/12 was 2,543. This represents an increase of 108 compared to the previous financial year.
- The number of people arrested for drug seizure offences has increased in five of the eight police districts when compared to the previous year. The biggest increase was in 'F' District, up 25.6% to 285 in 2011/12 from 227 in 2010/11.

Table 2: Seizure Incidents and Arrests by Police District¹ and Area 2010/11 – 2011/12

	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2010/11	2011/12	Change	% Change	2010/11	2011/12	Change	% Change
North Belfast	271	322	51	18.8	138	156	18	13.0
West Belfast	149	194	45	30.2	93	108	15	16.1
A District	420	516	96	22.9	231	264	33	14.3
East Belfast	149	208	59	39.6	102	112	10	9.8
South Belfast	403	363	-40	-9.9	243	229	-14	-5.8
B District	552	571	19	3.4	345	341	-4	-1.2
Ards	91	104	13	14.3	39	65	26	*
Castlereagh	88	89	1	1.1	43	43	0	*
Down	143	168	25	17.5	62	75	13	21.0
North Down	124	123	-1	-0.8	77	82	5	6.5
C District	446	484	38	8.5	221	265	44	19.9
Antrim	105	125	20	19.0	99	103	4	4.0
Carrickfergus	33	40	7	*	28	27	-1	*
Lisburn	200	228	28	14.0	181	197	16	8.8
Newtownabbey	107	125	18	16.8	72	94	22	30.6
D District	445	518	73	16.4	380	421	41	10.8
Urban Region	1,863	2,089	226	12.1	1,177	1,291	114	9.7
Armagh	51	78	27	52.9	41	50	9	*
Banbridge	68	77	9	13.2	50	36	-14	-28.0
Craigavon	239	235	-4	-1.7	104	103	-1	-1.0
Newry & Mourne	190	256	66	34.7	112	131	19	17.0
E District	548	646	98	17.9	307	320	13	4.2
Cookstown	102	127	25	24.5	40	65	25	*
Dungannon & S. Tyrone	114	152	38	33.3	61	69	8	13.1
Fermanagh	78	81	3	3.8	69	62	-7	-10.1
Omagh	93	155	62	66.7	57	89	32	56.1
F District	387	515	128	33.1	227	285	58	25.6
Foyle	177	160	-17	-9.6	166	138	-28	-16.9
Limavady	119	83	-36	-30.3	110	91	-19	-17.3
Magherafelt	31	50	19	*	23	51	28	*
Strabane	29	21	-8	*	28	12	-16	*
G District	356	314	-42	-11.8	327	292	-35	-10.7
Ballymena	108	113	5	4.6	99	97	-2	-2.0
Ballymoney	16	17	1	*	21	21	0	*
Coleraine	231	169	-62	-26.8	235	191	-44	-18.7
Larne	29	28	-1	*	22	16	-6	*
Moyle	26	29	3	*	20	30	10	*
H District	410	356	-54	-13.2	397	355	-42	-10.6
Rural Region	1,701	1,831	130	7.6	1,258	1,252	-6	-0.5
Total	3,564	3,920	356	10.0	2,435	2,543	108	4.4

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

* Indicates that a percentage change is not shown because the denominator is less than 50.

Section 3 – Drug Seizure Statistics by Police District, Area and Region

- In Northern Ireland as a whole, the PSNI seized 402.0kg of herbal cannabis, 12.2kg of cocaine powder and 30,220 ecstasy tablets.
- The police area with the greatest quantity of herbal cannabis seized was East Belfast where 224.7kg was seized.
- Other areas with sizeable quantities of herbal cannabis seizures were Antrim (39.7kg), Armagh (37.2kg) and Lisburn (10.1kg).
- The number of cannabis plants seized in 2011/12 was 14,307.
- Cannabis plants were seized in every police area during 2011/12.
- The largest number of cannabis plants seized was in Down where 2,462 plants were seized, with 1,927 seized in Newtownabbey and 1,818 seized in East Belfast.
- 12.2kg of cocaine powder was seized across Northern Ireland in 2011/12. Of this cocaine powder, the largest quantity was from seizures in West Belfast (2.7kg).
- 30,220 ecstasy tablets were seized in 2011/12, with 9,743 seized in Newtownabbey, 8,252 in South Belfast and 5,200 seized in Larne.
- In 2011/12 the PSNI seized drugs with an estimated street value of £13,160,066 in Northern Ireland.

Table 3: Drug Statistics – Police District**Financial Year: 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012**

	A District	B District	C District	D District	Urban	E District	F District	G District	H District	Rural	Northern Ireland
Amphetamine Powder (gms)	496.3	530.9	1,461.1	2,042.4	4,530.7	233.9	568.7	64.0	63.7	930.4	5,461.0
Amphetamine Wraps	0	0	3	6	9	0	7	1	2	10	19
Amphetamine Tablets	9	71	252	105	437	4,012	0	122	1	4,135	4,572
Cannabis Resin (gms)	4,067.7	1,314.4	60,576.3	70,778.6	136,737.0	44,072.3	1,305.6	6,548.1	2,856.8	54,782.8	191,519.8
Cannabis Herbal (gms)	14,880.4	233,394.2	5,566.6	57,542.7	311,383.9	56,993.9	7,287.3	8,767.4	17,603.2	90,651.8	402,035.7
Cannabis Joints	40	42	51	26	159	56	40	31	54	181	340
Cannabis Plants	1,770	1,982	3,037	2,659	9,448	2,816	1,290	94	659	4,859	14,307
Cocaine Powder (gms)	3,583.3	1,269.9	1,715.5	3,120.1	9,688.7	334.3	137.6	1,482.9	578.9	2,533.7	12,222.4
Cocaine Wraps	3	14	21	5	43	10	1	260	3	274	317
LSD Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Ecstasy Tablets	1,127	8,471	161	13,670	23,429	111	543	761	5,376	6,791	30,220
Ecstasy Powder (gms)	7.3	25.4	3.5	1.3	37.4	1.0	84.6	1.0	0.0	86.6	124.1
Mephedrone Powder (gms)	14.0	155.0	78.8	27.5	275.3	232.8	390.0	1,340.9	74.2	2,037.9	2,313.1
Mephedrone Wraps	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	6.0	6
Opiate Millilitres	0.00	125.40	0.00	0.00	125.40	0.00	0.66	0.00	25.40	26.06	151.46
Opiate Powder (gms)	853.25	6.70	0.00	81.81	941.76	16.15	5.66	3.20	4.61	29.62	971.38
Opiate Tablets	0	0	0	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Opiate Wraps	47	10	0	3	60	3	6	3	8	20	80
Total Seizure Incidents	516	571	484	518	2,089	646	515	314	356	1,831	3,920
Estimated Street Value	£1,332,008	£3,455,724	£1,982,569	£2,513,678	£9,283,979	£2,247,096	£755,580	£292,637	£580,774	£3,876,087	£13,160,066

2011/12 statistics reported supersede previously published monthly updates

Table 4: Drug Statistics – Police Area; Urban Region

Financial Year: 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012

	Antrim	Ards	East Belfast	North Belfast	South Belfast	West Belfast	Carrick-fergus	Castle-reagh	Down	Lisburn	N'abbey	North Down	Urban Region
Amphetamine Powder(gms)	3.8	18.8	53.7	444.3	477.3	52.0	17.0	200.3	1,225.2	9.8	2,011.8	16.9	4,530.7
Amphetamine Wraps	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	9
Amphetamine Tablets	5	0	52	5	19	4	0	37	215	100	0	0	437
Cannabis Resin (gms)	1,043.8	58,112.2	504.3	1,228.9	810.1	2,838.9	2,313.0	146.9	1,824.3	29,173.1	38,248.7	493.0	136,737.0
Cannabis Herbal (gms)	39,706.0	570.1	224,718.2	7,631.0	8,676.1	7,249.4	393.0	1,530.4	2,186.4	10,104.0	7,339.7	1,279.7	311,383.9
Cannabis Joints	16	18	7	25	35	15	1	6	19	5	4	8	159
Cannabis Plants	20	420	1,818	1,245	164	525	108	45	2,462	604	1,927	110	9,448
Cocaine Powder (gms)	77.6	407.0	38.3	859.4	1,231.5	2,723.9	14.0	23.9	65.4	1,040.6	1,987.9	1,219.2	9,688.7
Cocaine Wraps	0	0	2	0	12	3	1	5	8	2	2	8	43
LSD Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ecstasy Tablets	199	10	219	202	8,252	925	230	130	20	3,498	9,743	1	23,429
Ecstasy Powder (gms)	0	2.57	22.75	6.32	2.61	1	0	0.89	0	0.15	1.15	0	37.44
Mephedrone Powder(gms)	15.5	1.0	5.5	3.0	149.5	11.0	0.0	8.7	2.6	12.0	0.0	66.5	275.3
Mephedrone Wraps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opiate Millilitres	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	120.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.40
Opiate Powder (gms)	0.01	0.00	1.00	30.00	5.70	823.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.00	16.80	0.00	941.76
Opiate Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Opiate Wraps	0	0	3	9	7	38	0	0	0	0	3	0	60
Total Seizure Incidents	125	104	208	322	363	194	40	89	168	228	125	123	2,089
Estimated Street Value	£417,783	£527,023	£3,164,031	£757,150	£291,693	£574,858	£71,694	£42,981	£1,278,995	£625,942	£1,398,260	£133,570	£9,283,979

2011/12 statistics reported supersede previously published monthly updates

Table 5: Drug Statistics – Police Area; Rural Region

Financial Year: 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012

	Armagh	Banbridge	Ballymena	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Cookstown	Craigavon	Dungannon & South Tyrone	Fermanagh
Amphetamine Powder (gms)	0.0	39.0	8.4	0.0	22.3	5.9	189.0	30.2	523.0
Amphetamine Wraps	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	6	0
Amphetamine Tablets	0	4012	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cannabis Resin (gms)	1,227.0	223.2	259.6	0.5	2,444.7	91.5	1,052.5	976.4	25.9
Cannabis Herbal (gms)	37,230.6	872.7	512.4	15,244.3	1,259.3	3,657.0	9,105.2	1,781.5	1,089.9
Cannabis Joints	11	4	28	7	11	4	16	10	13
Cannabis Plants	170	1021	25	28	555	13	512	519	707
Cocaine Powder (gms)	3.6	8.2	8.0	0.0	70.9	3.0	139.6	119.1	0.0
Cocaine Wraps	0	1	0	0	3	0	5	0	0
LSD Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ecstasy Tablets	17	34	64	0	106	208	57	61	60
Ecstasy Powder (gms)	0	1.01	0	0	0	82.6	0	0	0
Mephedrone Powder(gms)	9.0	59.2	10.3	0.0	64.0	296.8	69.3	32.3	0.8
Mephedrone Wraps	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Opiate Millilitres	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.30
Opiate Powder (gms)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.61	5.05	3.95	0.60	0.01
Opiate Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opiate Wraps	3	0	8	0	0	2	0	1	0
Total Seizure Incidents	78	77	113	17	169	127	235	152	81
Estimated Street Value	£464,121	£543,216	£21,563	£166,463	£309,153	£57,389	£364,086	£289,910	£370,130

2011/12 statistics reported supersede previously published monthly updates

Table 5: Drug Statistics – Police Area; Rural Region (cont.)

Financial Year: 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012

	Foyle	Larne	Limavady	Magherafelt	Moyle	Newry & Mourne	Omagh	Strabane	Rural Region	Northern Ireland
Amphetamine Powder (gms)	5.0	0.0	57.0	1.0	33.0	5.9	9.6	1.0	930.4	5,461.0
Amphetamine Wraps	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	10	19
Amphetamine Tablets	0	0	122	0	0	0	0	0	4,135	4,572
Cannabis Resin (gms)	952.6	132.3	5,493.5	10.1	19.7	41,569.6	211.7	91.9	54,782.8	191,519.8
Cannabis Herbal (gms)	7,058.6	403.8	1,010.5	285.5	183.5	9,785.4	758.9	412.8	90,651.8	402,035.7
Cannabis Joints	17	6	8	4	2	25	13	2	181	340
Cannabis Plants	70	29	8	10	22	1,113	51	6	4,859	14,307
Cocaine Powder (gms)	7.2	500.0	1,475.7	0.0	0.0	182.9	15.5	0.0	2,533.7	12,222.4
Cocaine Wraps	0	0	260	0	0	4	1	0	274	317
LSD Tablets	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ecstasy Tablets	409	5,200	270	82	6	3	214	0	6,791	30,220
Ecstasy Powder (gms)	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	86.61	124.05
Mephedrone Powder(gms)	247.7	0.0	1,091.3	1.8	0.0	95.2	60.2	0.0	2,037.9	2,313.1
Mephedrone Wraps	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	6
Opiate Millilitres	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.06	151.46
Opiate Powder (gms)	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.20	0.00	12.20	0.00	0.00	29.62	971.38
Opiate Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Opiate Wraps	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	20	80
Total Seizure Incidents	160	28	83	50	29	256	155	21	1,831	3,920
Estimated Street Value	£120,316	£70,298	£155,988	£8,650	£13,298	£875,672	£38,151	£7,683	£3,876,087	£13,160,066

2011/12 statistics reported supersede previously published monthly updates

Notes

This bulletin provides finalised figures of drug seizure statistics recorded in Northern Ireland during the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 along with commentary and comparisons with previous years. Statistics included in this bulletin are the number of seizure incidents and amounts seized by drug type, estimated street value and persons arrested for drug offences. The number of seizure incidents and persons arrested are also presented by Police District and Area in Table 2 of this report.

Statistics on drug seizures are based on electronic and 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 Organised Crime Branch and are also cross-referenced against other internal records of drug seizures.

It should be recognised that the statistics contained in this bulletin only reflect the number of incidents that were reported and recorded by the police. It is possible that some incidents may not have been brought to the attention of the PSNI for a variety of reasons.

Copies of this bulletin are available from the PSNI Internet site:

http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm, which also provides access to the latest monthly update and to annual reports back to 2003/04. Updates providing a summary of the latest drug seizure statistics are also produced monthly on the website, these statistics being provisional and subject to change.

We welcome comment and feedback on these statistics. If you would like to forward your views, receive notification of new publications or be kept informed of developments relating to PSNI statistics, please email your contact details using the email address provided below.

For further information about drug seizure statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact PSNI Statistics Branch:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

Write to: Drugs Seizure Statistician, PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 0845 600 8000 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998

PSNI Policing Districts from 1st April 2007

