

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Recorded Drug Seizure Statistics 2010/11

1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011

Published 12th May 2011

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Introduction

This bulletin is produced annually and provides finalised figures of drug seizure statistics recorded in Northern Ireland during the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 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 District and Area in table 2 of this report.

Statistics on drug seizures 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 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.psni.police.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 the PSNI responsible statistician please:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

Write to: Central Statistics Unit, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or
Telephone: 0845 600 8000 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998

Drug Seizure Statistics

Key Results

Overview

- There were a total of 3,564 drug seizure incidents recorded in 2010/11 representing a 7.4% increase on the 3,319 seizure incidents made in 2009/10. As with previous years cannabis was the drug most commonly seized.
- There were fewer class A seizures incidents made during this period in comparison to the previous year (decreasing by 28.9% from 793 in 2009/10 to 564 in 2010/11).
- Seizure incidents of Class B drugs have increased, rising from 2,630 class B seizures made in 2009/10 to 3,050 in 2010/11. This can be partially explained due to the classification of mephedrone which was made illegal from the 16th April 2010.
- There was an 8.2% increase in drug arrests between 2009/10 and 2010/11 increasing from 2,250 persons arrested in 2009/10 to 2,435 persons arrested in 2010/11.

Class A Seizures

- Cocaine accounted for the greatest number of class A seizure incidents although the amount of cocaine powder seized decreased from 27.5 kilograms in 2009/10 to 7.8 kilograms in 2010/11.
- The number of seizure incidents of ecstasy tablets fell from 204 in 2009/10 to 150 in 2010/11 as did the quantity of ecstasy tablets seized which decreased from 54,434 tablets in 2009/10 to 14,774 in 2010/11.
- Despite a seizure in August 2010 of just over 2 kilograms of heroin powder in the Newry & Mourne Area, the amount of opiate powder seized decreased from 8.6 kilograms in 2009/10 to 4.6 kilograms in 2010/11.

Class B Seizures

- There were 291 seizure incidents of mephedrone in 2010/11 resulting in seizures of 104 mephedrone wraps and 20.9 kilograms of mephedrone powder throughout the year.
- The number of seizure incidents of amphetamine powder remained fairly constant (128 in 2010/11 compared with 129 in 2009/10) but the amount seized dropped from 95.0 kilograms to 11.2 kilograms as did the number of amphetamine tablets which fell from 5,821 to 411.
- There were 2,727 seizure incidents of cannabis in 2010/11 compared with 2,523 seizure incidents in 2009/10 representing an 8.1% increase. However, the quantity of cannabis resin and herbal cannabis seized was lower in 2010/11 than in 2009/10.
- Herbal cannabis accounted for the greatest number of cannabis seizure incidents. The number of seizure incidents of herbal cannabis increased by 14.6% from 1,434 in 2009/10 to 1,644 seizure incidents in 2010/11.
- The number of cannabis plants seized almost doubled increasing from 5,484 plants in 2009/10 to 10,330 plants in 2010/11.

Table 1: Drug Seizures and Arrests 2008/09 - 2010/11

Drugs Seized	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized
Class A						
Cocaine: Powder (kgs)	345	24.2	474	27.5	304	7.8
Wraps	47	149	52	110	38	174
'Crack' (gms)	1	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ecstasy: Tablets	353	34,404	204	54,434	150	14,774
Powder (gms)	18	111.10	7	162.71	11	44.7
Capsules	0	0	1	40	0	0
Crystal (gms)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
LSD: Doses	6	148	6	261	3	61
Microdots	4	21	2	385	3	201
Opiates: Powder (kgs)	46	0.1	55	8.6	47	4.6
Tablets	5	187	1	8	3	35
Ampoules	1	4	0	0	1	32
Mls	14	158.6	17	219.8	5	272.0
Wraps	25	42	31	131	28	63
All Class A²	789	-	793	-	564	-

Class B						
Cannabis ¹ : Resin (kgs)	1,630	743.1	1,118	127.4	1,072	87.1
Herbal (kgs)	897	248.8	1,434	215.9	1,644	176.3
Plants	173	30,904	158	5,484	231	10,330
Oil (gms)	0	0.0	2	22.0	0	0.0
Joints	196	286	218	300	239	339
Amphetamine: Powder (kgs)	95	5.5	129	95.0	128	11.2
Wraps	9	11	12	30	7	9
Tablets	8	327	24	5,821	17	411
Barbiturates: Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mephedrone: Powder (kgs)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	286	20.9
Wraps	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	104
All Class B^{1 2}	525¹	-	2,630¹	-	3,050¹	-

Total Seizure Incidents^{2 3}	3,198	3,319	3,564
Estimated Street Value	£23,367,356	£9,055,735	£9,057,953
Persons Arrested	2,014	2,250	2,435

¹ Cannabis was reclassified on the 26th January 2009 from Class C to Class B. For presentation purposes, total seizures of cannabis are presented together regardless of class.

² As seizure incidents can involve more than one drug type, seizure figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.

³ Total seizure incidents include drugs not presented in this table such as benzodiazepines (diazepam, temazepam and nitrazepam), ketamine, piperazines and steroids.

Table 2: Seizure Incidents and Arrests by District¹ and Area 2009/10 – 2010/11

	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2009/10	2010/11	Change	% Change	2009/10	2010/11	Change	% Change
North Belfast	303	271	-32	-10.6%	131	138	7	5.3%
West Belfast	151	149	-2	-1.3%	89	93	4	4.5%
A District	454	420	-34	-7.5%	220	231	11	5.0%
East Belfast	157	149	-8	-5.1%	82	102	20	24.4%
South Belfast	374	403	29	7.8%	231	243	12	5.2%
B District	531	552	21	4.0%	313	345	32	10.2%
Ards	61	91	30	49.2%	32	39	7	*
Castlereagh	69	88	19	27.5%	21	43	22	*
Down	118	143	25	21.2%	52	62	10	19.2%
North Down	99	124	25	25.3%	39	77	38	*
C District	347	446	99	28.5%	144	221	77	53.5%
Antrim	118	105	-13	-11.0%	123	99	-24	-19.5%
Carrickfergus	28	33	5	*	13	28	15	*
Lisburn	180	200	20	11.1%	168	181	13	7.7%
Newtownabbey	97	107	10	10.3%	54	72	18	33.3%
D District	423	445	22	5.2%	358	380	22	6.1%
Urban Region	1,755	1,863	108	6.2%	1,035	1,177	142	13.7%
Armagh	54	51	-3	-5.6%	34	41	7	*
Banbridge	49	68	19	*	29	50	21	*
Craigavon	210	239	29	13.8%	110	104	-6	-5.5%
Newry & Mourne	151	190	39	25.8%	105	112	7	6.7%
E District	464	548	84	18.1%	278	307	29	10.4%
Cookstown	100	102	2	2.0%	53	40	-13	-24.5%
Dungannon & S. Tyrone	83	114	31	37.3%	49	61	12	*
Fermanagh	73	78	5	6.8%	65	69	4	6.2%
Omagh	98	93	-5	-5.1%	43	57	14	*
F District	354	387	33	9.3%	210	227	17	8.1%
Foyle	148	177	29	19.6%	163	166	3	1.8%
Limavady	103	119	16	15.5%	108	110	2	1.9%
Magherafelt	39	31	-8	*	23	23	0	*
Strabane	22	29	7	*	17	28	11	*
G District	312	356	44	14.1%	311	327	16	5.1%
Ballymena	163	108	-55	-33.7%	140	99	-41	-29.3%
Ballymoney	14	16	2	*	11	21	10	*
Coleraine	201	231	30	14.9%	222	235	13	5.9%
Larne	32	29	-3	*	25	22	-3	*
Moyle	24	26	2	*	18	20	2	*
H District	434	410	-24	-5.5%	416	397	-19	-4.6%
Rural Region	1,564	1,701	137	8.8%	1,215	1,258	43	3.5%
Total	3,319	3,564	245	7.4%	2,250	2,435	185	8.2%

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.

PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2007

