

DRUG SEIZURE AND ARREST STATISTICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

2003 / 2004



Drug Seizure and Arrest Statistics in Northern Ireland 2003/2004

Summary

- A total of 2,347 drug seizure incidents were recorded in 2003/04, an increase of 31.8% on 2002/03. As in previous years cannabis was the drug most commonly seized.
- The number of seizures involving Class A drugs was up by 28.7% on the previous year (from 335 in 2002/03 to 431 in 2003/04).
- Ecstasy accounted for the greatest number of Class A seizure incidents, however the number of ecstasy tablets seized fell by 63.2% from 605,188 in 2002/03 to 222,888 in 2003/04.
- During 2003/04, 11.47kg of cocaine powder was seized compared with 3.02kg in 2002/03. This was largely due to a single seizure of 8.25kg in October 2003.
- The number of seizures involving Class B drugs increased by 11.0%, however as cannabis was reclassified as a Class C drug on 29th January 2004, such comparisons with previous years are misleading.
- Seizures of cannabis (regardless of classification type) increased by 33.4% during the year from 1,487 in 2002/03 to 1,984 in 2003/04.
- There was also a substantial increase in the quantity of cannabis resin seized in 2003/04 (2,204.2 kg compared with 709.5 kg in 2002/03).
- The number of persons arrested for drug related offences increased by 35.4% from 1,295 in 2002/03 to 1,754 in 2003/04.

Table 1: Drug Seizures and Arrests 2001/02 – 2003/04

Drugs Seized		2001/02		2002/03		2003/04	
		No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized
Class A							
Cocaine:	Powder (gms)	28	3,399.9	44	3,023.9	77	11,470.9
	Wraps	4	4	3	12	2	6
	'Crack' (gms)	4	66.5	1	50	3	9.2
Ecstasy:	Tablets	262	127,368	258	605,188	342	222,888
	Powder (gms)	8	232.8	2	1.1	9	72.1
	Capsules	1	2	5	25	1	20
LSD:	Doses	3	122	1	4	0	0
	Microdots	0	0	2	1	1	6
Opiates:	Powder (gms)	46	102.1	21	346	14	189.9
	Tablets	4	51	1	41	1	3
	Ampoules	1	4	1	1	1	20
	Mls	8	366	14	428.5	13	163.6
	Wraps	42	69	1	1	2	2
All Class A¹		385	-	335	-	431	-
Class B							
Cannabis ² :	Resin (kgs)	1,126	417.2	1,366	709.5	1,496	2,152.0
1 st Apr 2003	Herbal (kgs)	65	49	78	27.7	81	31.9
to 28 th Jan 2004	Plants	14	141	29	202	50	777
	Oil (gms)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joints	119	273	104	169	110	178
Amphetamine:	Powder (kgs)	70	8.8	83	27.6	130	17.3
	Wraps	8	26	9	24	9	35
	Tablets	3	118	4	11	2	58
Barbiturates:	Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Class B¹		1,259	-	1,534	-	1,703	-
Class C (Cannabis)							
Cannabis ² :	Resin (kgs)					323	52.2
29 th Jan 2004	Herbal (kgs)					28	0.9
to 31 st Mar 2004	Plants					9	396
	Oil (gms)					0	0
	Joints					28	34
All Class C (Cannabis)¹						364	-
Total Seizure Incidents¹		1,533		1,781		2,347	
'Street Value' of Drugs Seized		£6,559,700		£11,082,910		£15,108,410	
Arrests		990		1,295		1,754	

Table 2: Cannabis 2001/02 – 2003/04

Cannabis		2001/02		2002/03		2003/04	
Cannabis ² :	Resin (kgs)	1,126	417.2	1,366	709.5	1,819	2,204.2
1 st Apr 2003	Herbal (kgs)	65	49	78	27.7	109	32.8
to 31 st Mar 2004	Plants	14	141	29	202	59	1,173
	Oil (gms)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joints	119	273	104	169	138	212
Cannabis¹		1,222	-	1,487	-	1,984	-

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

² Cannabis was reclassified from Class B to Class C on the 29th January 2004, as such seizure information has been split in Table 1. For comparability purposes, Table 2 shows seizure information for Cannabis for each of the last 3 years.

Table 3: Seizures Incidents and Arrests by DCU 2002/03 – 2003/04

DCU	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2002/03	2003/04	Change	% Change	2002/03	2003/04	Change	% Change
Antrim	23	75	52	226.1	18	54	36	200.0
Ards	48	63	15	31.3	38	56	18	47.4
East Belfast	54	125	71	131.5	48	103	55	114.6
North Belfast	150	154	4	2.7	103	87	-16	-15.5
South Belfast	149	221	72	48.3	138	173	35	25.4
West Belfast	70	50	-20	-28.6	52	36	-16	-30.8
Carrickfergus	38	61	23	60.5	10	28	18	180.0
Castlereagh	35	55	20	57.1	25	44	19	76.0
Larne	31	40	9	29.0	18	32	14	77.8
Lisburn	101	88	-13	-12.9	83	74	-9	-10.8
Newtownabbey	42	57	15	35.7	21	31	10	47.6
North Down	76	98	22	28.9	39	54	15	38.5
Urban Region	817	1087	270	33.0	593	772	179	30.2
Armagh	44	67	23	52.3	45	75	30	66.7
Ballymena	101	140	39	38.6	77	108	31	40.3
Ballymoney	11	9	-2	-18.2	9	4	-5	-55.6
Banbridge	55	49	-6	-10.9	54	53	-1	-1.9
Coleraine	108	138	30	27.8	87	116	29	33.3
Cookstown	43	76	33	76.7	32	56	24	75.0
Craigavon	101	102	1	1.0	54	77	23	42.6
Down	38	78	40	105.3	35	61	26	74.3
Dungannon & South Tyrone	58	90	32	55.2	31	47	16	51.6
Fermanagh	42	54	12	28.6	22	42	20	90.9
Foyle	125	141	16	12.8	92	124	32	34.8
Limavady	35	64	29	82.9	28	44	16	57.1
Magherafelt	35	56	21	60.0	29	42	13	44.8
Moyle	6	11	5	83.3	3	2	-1	-33.3
Newry & Mourne	43	78	35	81.4	19	48	29	152.6
Omagh	74	78	4	5.4	47	44	-3	-6.4
Strabane	45	29	-16	-35.6	38	39	1	2.6
Rural Region	964	1260	296	30.7	702	982	280	39.9
Total	1781	2347	566	31.8	1295	1754	459	35.4