Trends in Police Recorded Drug Seizures and Arrests in Northern Ireland

2006/07 to 2022/23

Contents

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 on the cover page.

Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

This release is produced in accordance with the pillars and principles set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics (opens in a new window).

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) publishes figures on the levels and trends in police recorded drug seizures and arrests. The statistics are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Figures were compiled on 14 August 2023; as of that date 96.8% of seizure incidents for April 2022 to March 2023 have been fully validated.

This release presents statistics relating to drug seizures and arrests recorded by the police between 2006/07 and 2022/23. Supplementary data are available from the PSNI website in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet (opens in a new window).

Drug Seizure Incidents

Statistics in this publication relate to incidents in which a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) legislation (MDA) (opens in a new window) is seized, recovered or found by police. This includes drugs intercepted in the post and drugs which are handed in to the police.

Also included within this publication is information on seizures of substances within the scope of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 legislation (PSA) (opens in a new window).

Drug-Related Arrests
A drug-related arrest is counted when a person is arrested and processed through custody for one or more drug-related offences. A more detailed definition is provided in Section 5 Trends in Drug-related Arrests.

Points to be aware of

- As these statistics are based on drug seizures that have been recorded by the police, changes in the quantity and type of drugs seized, and also in the number of drug-related arrests, can be affected by police activity.

- Not all drug seizures are subject to forensic testing to officially confirm the drug type seized. When testing is not applied, the seized drugs are classified in accordance with the investigating officer's assessment of the drug type seized, based on their experience and knowledge of the illegal drug trade in Northern Ireland.

- Not all drug use will come to the attention of the police.

- These statistics should not themselves be considered a measure of drug prevalence in Northern Ireland. Other sources of information relating to drug misuse are provided in the Drug Seizures and Arrests User Guide (opens in a new window) which accompanies this publication, and may be considered alongside this publication to obtain a more comprehensive overview of the drug situation in Northern Ireland.

Points to note

Other Agency Seizures: Drugs seized by the Border Force are published quarterly by the Home Office as Border Force transparency data (opens in a new window), with Border Force seizures in each of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland presented separately. Border Force and National Crime Agency seizures within Northern Ireland are not presented in this publication.

Recording Practice: Drug seizures often involve the seizure of multiple classes and types of drugs. This means that seizure figures for individual drug classes or types cannot be added together to produce totals, as this can exceed the overall number of seizures. Further details are available in the Drug Seizures and Arrests User Guide (opens in a new window).

Geographic breakdown: Seizure incidents and arrests are provided at policing district level; policing districts are analogous to District Council areas. Belfast City policing district accounts for around 30 per cent of all drug seizure incidents and around 40 per cent of drug-related arrests recorded in Northern Ireland. It includes four local policing teams based in Lisburn Road (South), Tennent Street (North), Strandtown (East) and Woodbourne (West). To assist in the understanding of the statistics drug seizure incidents for Belfast City policing district have been captured at this geographic level from the start of 2016/17, while this breakdown is available for drug-related arrests from 2006/07.

Classification of Drug Types

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 divides drugs into three categories, Class A, B and C, according to the harmfulness they cause to the user or to society when they are misused. Class A drugs are considered to be the most harmful. Further information on drugs covered under the MDA is available in this controlled drugs list (opens in a new window).

Class A	Class B	Class C
Cocaine	Amphetamines	Anabolic Steroids
Ecstasy	Cannabis	Benzodiazepines[5]
Heroin	Mephedrone	Pregabalin[3]
LSD	Other Class B[2]	Gabapentin[3]
Methadone		Other Class C[4]
Morphine		
Other Class A[1]		

[1] Other Class A drugs include fentanyl, oxycodone, psilocin (magic mushrooms) and methamphetamine (crystal meth).

[2] Other Class B drugs include cathinone derivatives, codeine/dihydrocodeine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), ketamine and synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists.

[3] Pregabalin and gabapentin were reclassified as Class C controlled substances in April 2019.

[4] Other Class C drugs include tramadol, buprenorphine, GHB/GBL, 'Z-class' drugs (zolpidem, zopiclone and zaleplon.

[5] Flualprazolam, flunitrazolam and norfludiazepam were classified as Class C controlled substances in August 2021 and are recorded as Benzodiazepines.

Application of conversion factors to the quantity of drugs seized

Most drugs can be seized in a range of formats or preparation types. In order to present seized quantities within a given drug type in terms of one comparable unit (kilograms, doses or plants), conversion factors were developed by the Home Office. These conversion factors have been applied to the main drug types in this publication in order to provide comparable estimates of the overall quantity seized for that drug (Section 3 of this publication).

The conversion factors were last updated in 2005 and the Home Office note that it is possible that some quantity data (especially for those drugs where quantity is reported in terms of doses) is not entirely accurate. However as the same conversion factors are used throughout the entire time series, the trends data can be considered reliable (Seizures of drugs in England and Wales user guide (opens in a new window), Table 1: Limitations and implications of drug seizures data)

The spreadsheet which accompanies this bulletin presents drug seizure quantities with the conversion factors applied. Drug seizure quantities are also available for the full range of formats/preparations recorded (drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 867KB (opens in a new window), pivot tables - seizure incidents and quantities seized).

Conventions used in figures and tables

'0'   indicates where the weight/volume of drugs seized was less than 0.5 grams or 0.5 millilitres respectively.

'.'   Indicates that no drugs were seized

Unconverted quantity data is rounded to the nearest whole number.
Converted quantity data is rounded to the nearest 100 grams where the unit of measurement is kilograms. Converted quantity data is rounded to the nearest 10 doses in the case of Morphine and LSD, and the nearest 100 doses in the case of Ecstasy, Anabolic Steroids and Benzodiazepines.

Key Points

- The number of drug seizure incidents has increased each year since 2006/07, with the exception of a slight fall in 2016/17.

- The number of drug seizure incidents recorded in 2022/23 (8,933) showed an increase of 337 (3.9 per cent) when compared with 2021/22 and is almost three and a half times the level recorded in 2006/07 (2,590).

- Since 2012/13:

  - Seizure incidents involving Class A drugs have almost trebled, with 625 seizure incidents in 2012/13 and 1,797 in 2022/23.

  - Class B seizure incidents have nearly doubled, with 3,725 seizure incidents in 2012/13 and 6,249 in 2022/23.

  - Class C seizure incidents have almost quadrupled, with 564 seizure incidents in 2012/13 and 2,101 in 2022/22.

  - The highest number of Class A, Class B and Class C seizure incidents have been recorded in 2022/23.

- Cocaine is the most commonly seized Class A drug and the number of seizures involving cocaine has shown the largest increase of all Class A drugs, from 375 in 2012/13 to 1,495 in 2022/23. During 2022/23 cocaine was the second most commonly seized drug across all drug classes.

- Cannabis (Class B) is the most commonly seized drug across all classes, with herbal cannabis being the most commonly seized cannabis format.

  - The number of herbal cannabis seizures reached 5,456 in 2022/23, twice the number recorded in 2012/13 (2,605). This is a slight fall when compared with the number recorded in 2021/22 (5,466).

  - Cannabis resin was the second most commonly seized cannabis format between 2012/13 (737 seizure incidents) and 2018/19 (735 seizure incidents). The number of cannabis resin seizures subsequently fell to 138 in 2020/21, but have risen again to 250 in 2022/23.

- Benzodiazepines are the most commonly seized Class C drug and, in 2022/23, they were the third most commonly seized drug across all drug classes. While the number of seizure incidents involving benzodiazepines in 2022/23 (1,139) has fallen for the second year in a row, this latest figure is more than twice that recorded in 2012/13 (486).

- Since Pregabalin was reclassified as a Class C controlled substance in April 2019 it has become the second most commonly seized Class C drug with 726 seizure incidents recorded in 2019/20, rising to 1,053 seizure incidents in 2022/23. Gabapentin, which was also reclassified as Class C controlled substance in April 2019, has seen a lower level of seizure incidents. The number of Gabapentin seizures in 2022/23 was 86, nearly double the number of seizures recorded in 2021/22 (45).

- The number of drug-related arrests increased each year between 2006/07 (1,708 arrests) and 2019/20 (3,834 arrests), with the exception of falls of 37 and 239 in 2014/15 and 2016/17 respectively. Looking at the last three financial years drug-related arrests fell in 2020/21 and 2021/22 with decreases of 503 and 188 respectively.

- The number of drug-related arrests recorded in 2022/23 (3,244) showed a rise of 101 (3.2 per cent) when compared with 2021/22 and the latest figure remains nearly twice that recorded in 2006/07.

- Lockdown measures in relation to Covid-19 were first introduced on 23rd March 2020 and may have had an impact on the number of drug seizure incidents and drug-related arrests recorded while those measures were in place.

# 1. Overview of Trends in Drug Seizures and Arrests

The number of drug seizure incidents has increased each year since 2006/07, with the exception of a slight fall in 2016/17. The number of drug seizure incidents recorded in 2022/23 (8,933) showed an increase of 337 (3.9 per cent) when compared with 2021/22 and is almost three and a half times the level recorded in 2006/07 (2,590).

Figure 1.1 Drug seizure incidents, 2006/07 to 2022/23
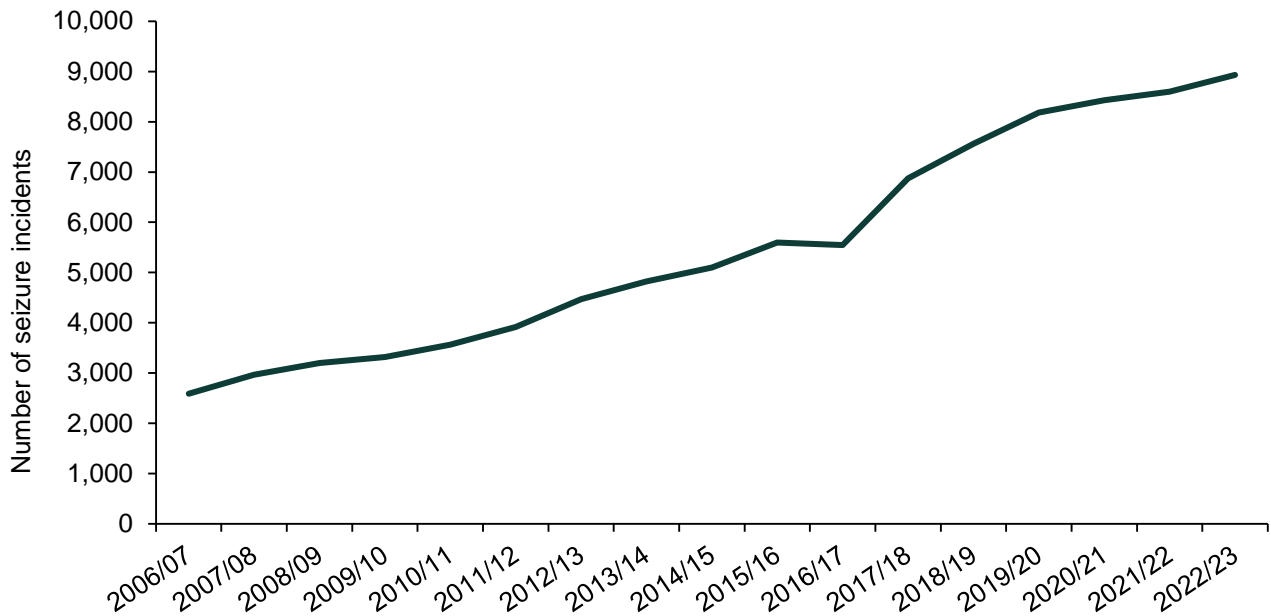
Levels of drug seizures can be influenced by policing activities and priorities in response to community concern about drugs. Changing levels of drug seizures may also be reflective of a change in the nature of the drugs market, including increased accessibility from sources such as dark web purchase and postal delivery. The influence of policing activities and priorities can also be seen in the police recorded crime figures relating to drug trafficking and possession offences. Figure 1.2 shows how closely the drug seizures trend, as previously described, follows the police recorded drug offences trend.

Figure 1.2 Police recorded drug offences and drug seizure incidents, 2006/07 to 2022/23, indexed to 2006/07=100
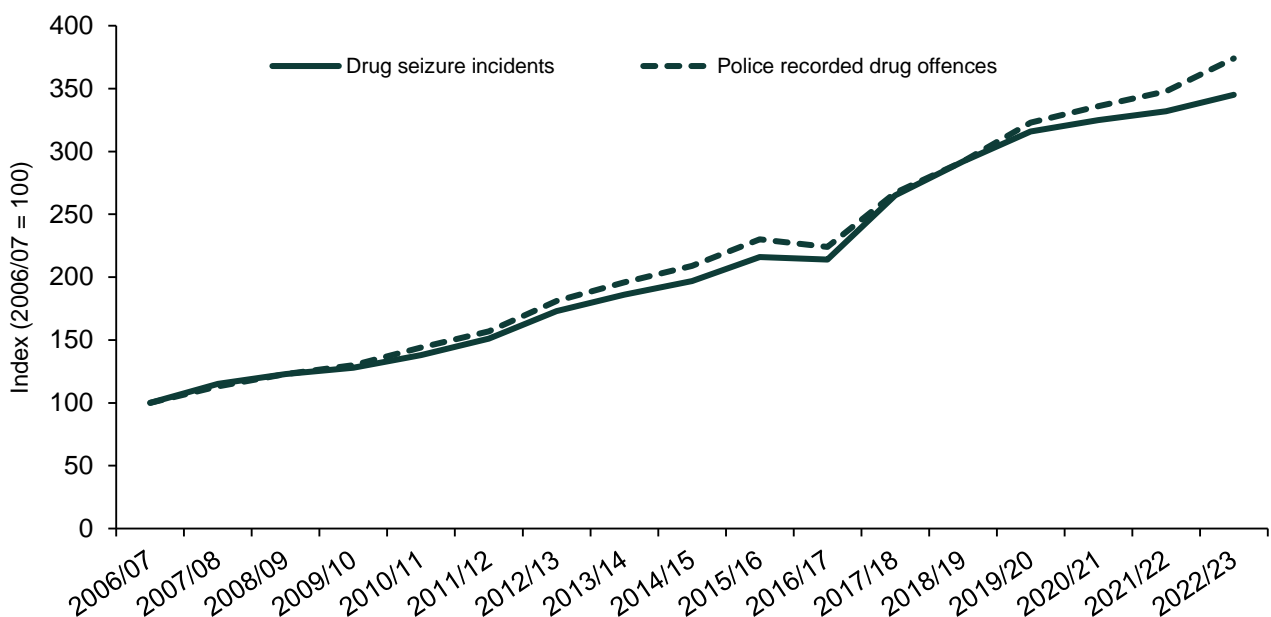
The number of drug-related arrests increased in most years between 2006/07 (1,708 arrests) and 2019/20 (3,834 arrests), with the exception of falls of 37 and 239 in 2014/15 and 2016/17 respectively. The number of drug-related arrests fell to 3,143 in 2021/22, but have risen to 3,244 arrests in 2022/23 (a rise of 3.2%). The latest figure remains nearly twice that recorded in 2006/07.

Figure 1.3 Drug-related arrests[1], 2006/07 to 2022/23
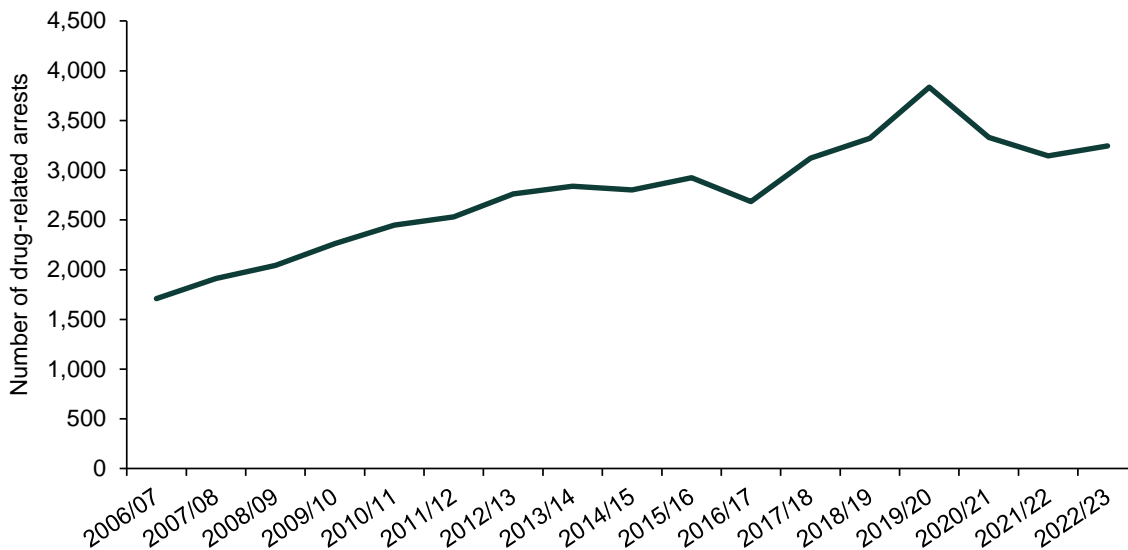
Lockdown measures in relation to Covid-19 were first introduced on 23rd March 2020 and may have had an impact on the number of drug seizure incidents and drug-related arrests recorded while those measures were in place.

Table 1.1   Drug seizure incidents and drug-related arrests since 2006/07

	Drug seizure incidents	Drug-related arrests[1]
2006/07	2,590	1,708
2007/08	2,968	1,911
2008/09	3,198	2,044
2009/10	3,319	2,262
2010/11	3,564	2,448
2011/12	3,920	2,531
2012/13	4,474	2,763
2013/14	4,825	2,838
2014/15	5,103	2,801
2015/16	5,597	2,924
2016/17	5,546	2,685
2017/18	6,872	3,122
2018/19	7,561	3,320
2019/20	8,186	3,834
2020/21	8,428	3,331
2021/22	8,596	3,143
2022/23	8,933	3,244

[1] Arrests for offences related to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

2. Trends in Drug Seizures by Class and Type of Drug

A consistent seizure incident data series at the level of individual drug type and format is available from 2012/13. The number of drug seizure incidents in 2022/23 is nearly double that for 2012/13; the number of seizure incidents involving Class A drugs is 2.9 times higher, those involving Class B drugs (and those involving Cannabis) are 1.7 times higher and those involving Class C drugs are 3.7 times higher. As the majority of seizures involve the Class B drug Cannabis, changes in levels of Cannabis seizures have the biggest impact on the overall trend.

Figure 2.1 Number of seizures of Class A, Class B and Class C drugs, 2012/13 to 2022/23
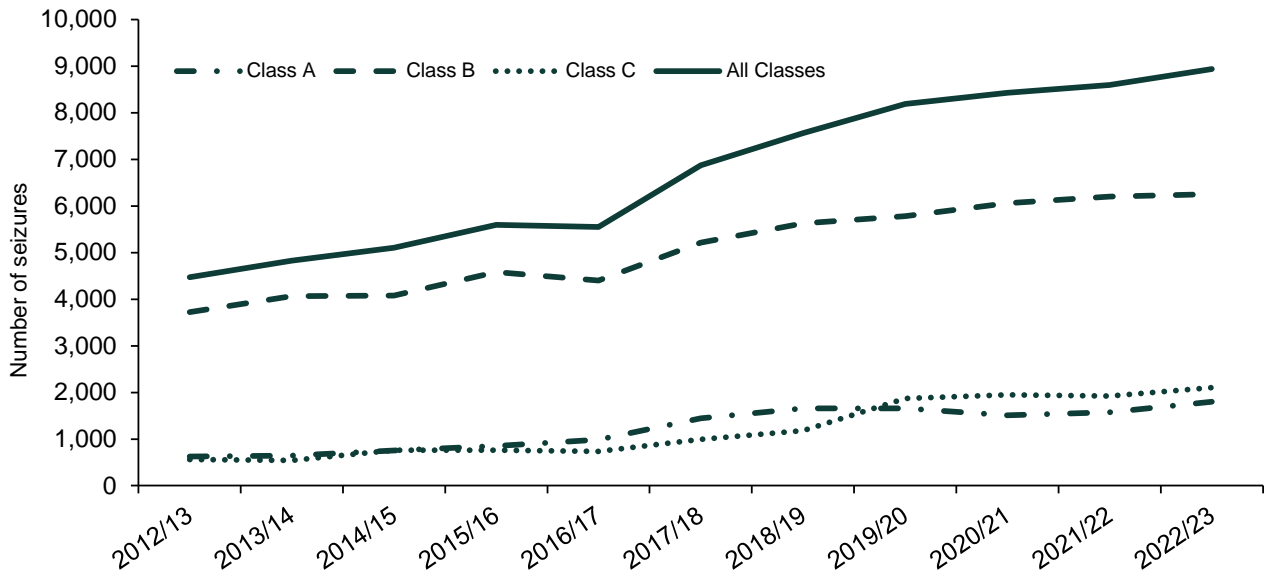
In the latest financial year 2022/23 one in five seizure incidents involved a Class A drug, more than two thirds (70 per cent) involved a Class B drug and nearly a quarter involved a Class C drug (24 per cent). The reclassification of Pregabalin and Gabapentin as Class C controlled substances in April 2019 resulted in a large increase in the number of seizures of Class C drugs and an increase in the proportion of seizures involving Class C Drugs from this date, meaning that the distribution of seizures from the date is not directly comparable with previous years. Even with this taken into account, the proportion of seizures involving Class B drugs has fallen over the last ten years, while the proportion of seizures involving Class A drugs and the proportion involving Class C drugs have both increased. Figure 2.2 compares the distribution since 2013/14.

Figure 2.2 Distribution of seizures involving Class A, Class B and Class C drugs[2], 2013/14 to 2022/23[3]

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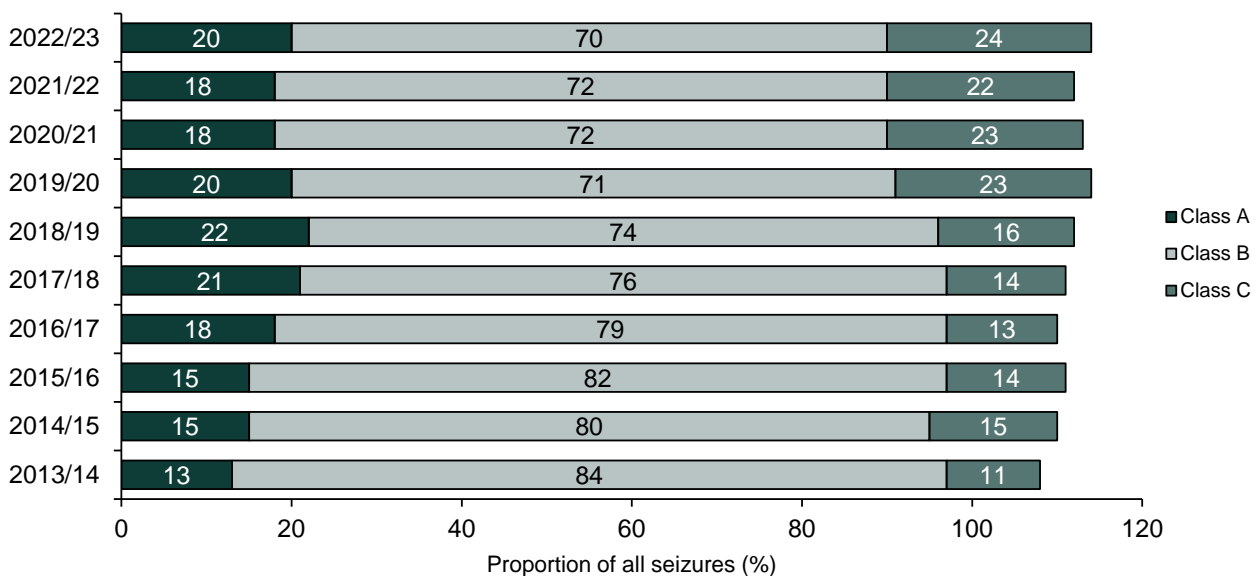
[2] As a seizure may include more than one class of drug, the number of seizures for each class of drug will sum to more than the total number of seizures and the proportions for each year will sum to more than 100%.

[3] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

Class A Drugs

Cocaine is the most commonly seized Class A drug and seizures involving cocaine have shown the largest increase of all Class A drugs, from 375 in 2012/13 to 1,495 in 2022/23. During 2022/23 cocaine was the second most commonly seized drug across all drug classes.

The number of seizures involving Ecstasy and Heroin reached their highest levels in 2018/19 (315 and 259 seizures respectively), with the number of seizures falling in each year until 2021/22 where there were 116 seizures involving Ecstasy and 133 involving Heroin. Ecstasy seizure numbers continued to fall to 96 in 2022/23, while Heroin figures rose again to 150 seizures.

Seizures involving LSD have fallen in 2022/23 to 20 seizures from their highest level in 2021/22 of 26 seizures. Morphine seizures were highest in 2020/21 (19 seizures) with 17 recorded in 2022/23. The number of seizures involving Methadone has fluctuated, with the highest level of 30 seizures in 2013/14 and the lowest level of 5 in 2018/19; there were 11 Methadone seizures in 2022/23. The seizure of Other Class A drugs generally increased from 45 in 2012/13 to 110 2019/20; 2022/23 recorded 92 seizures of Other Class A drugs.

Figure 2.3 Number of seizures involving the main Class A drugs[4], 2012/13 to 2022/23
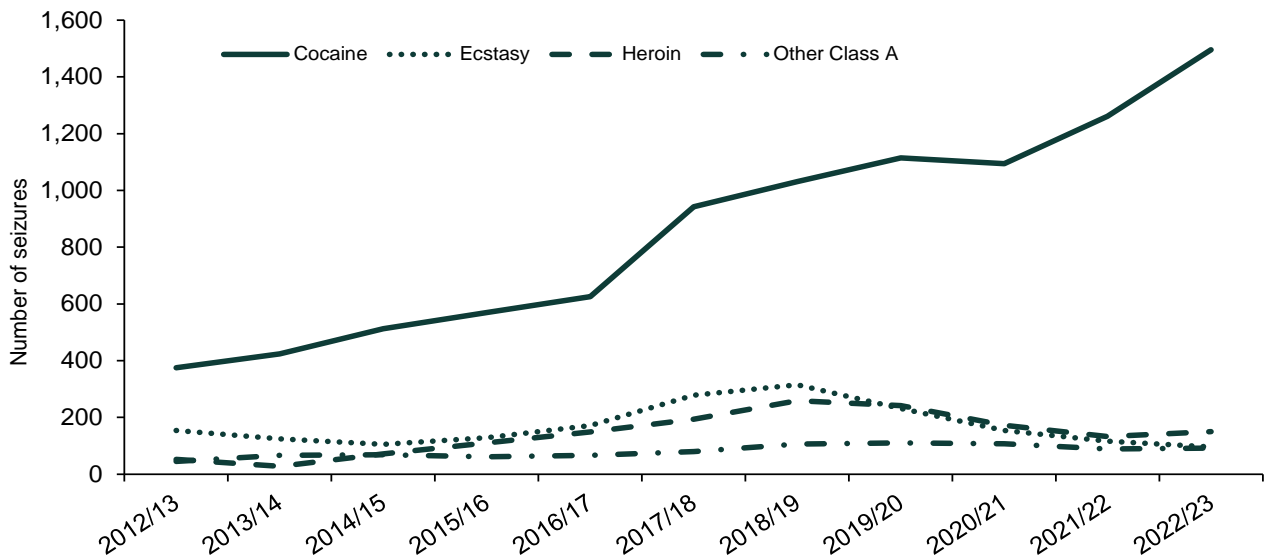
In 2013/14 two out of every three Class A seizures included Cocaine, which has increased to more than four in every five Class A seizures in 2022/23. The proportion of Class A seizures involving Ecstasy has shown a general decline from one out of every five Class A seizures in 2013/14 to one in twenty in 2022/23. Heroin was present in fewer than one in ten Class A seizures in 2022/23, the second lowest proportion since 2013/14.

Figure 2.4 Distribution of seizures involving Class A drugs[5], 2013/14 to 2022/23[6]

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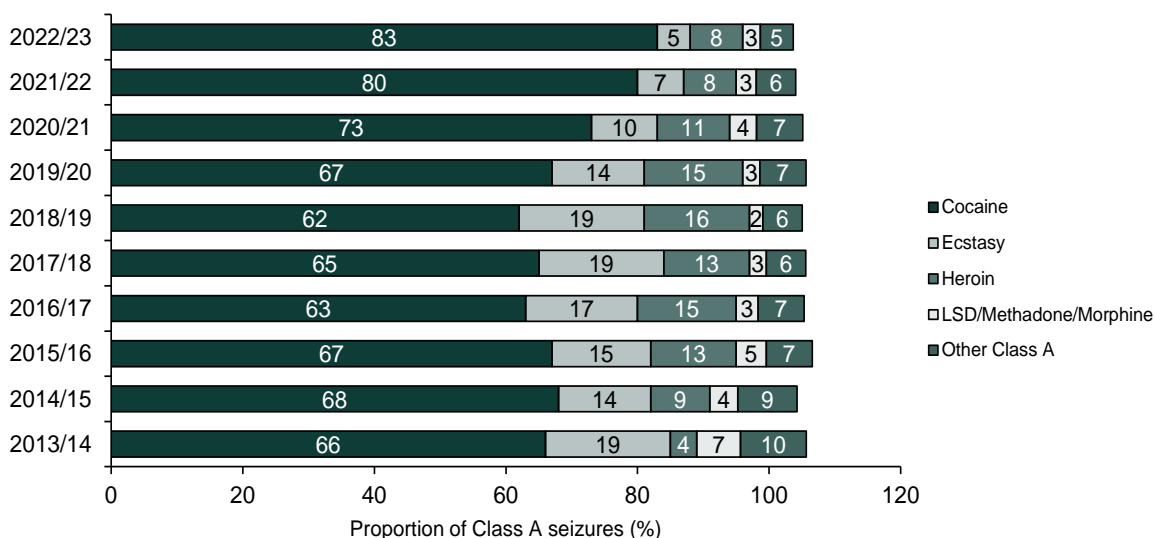
[4] The numbers of LSD, Methadone and Morphine seizure incidents are too small to be presented in Fig 2.3. See Table 2.1 in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 867KB (opens in a new window).

[5] As a seizure may include more than one type of Class A drug, the number of seizures for each type of Class A drug will sum to more than the total number of Class A seizures and the proportions for each year will sum to more than 100%.

[6] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

Class B Drugs

Cannabis is the most commonly seized drug across all classes, with herbal cannabis being the most commonly seized cannabis format. The number of herbal cannabis seizures has increased in most years since 2012/13 to reach their highest levels in 2021/22 and 2022/23 with 5,466 and 5,456 seizures respectively, twice the number recorded in 2012/13 (2,605). Cannabis resin was the second most commonly seized cannabis format between 2012/13 (737 seizure incidents) and 2018/19 (735 seizure incidents). The number of cannabis resin seizures subsequently fell to 138 in 2020/21 before rising again to 250 in 2022/23. Seizures of cannabis plants has generally declined, from 245 in 2013/14 to 65 recorded in 2022/23. As with herbal cannabis, seizures of cannabis in other formats have steadily increased since 2012/13 (301 seizures) to reach 702 in 2021/22 and 694 in 2022/23.

Seizures involving Other Class B drugs[7] have increased over the last few years from 41 in 2016/17 to 230 in 2021/22 and 227 in 2022/23. Mephedrone seizures have fallen since 2012/13 (130 seizure incidents), with four of the last five years recording fewer than 10 seizures. Amphetamine seizures fell between 2012/13 and 2016/17 followed by a gradual increase from 51 seizures in 2016/17 to 131 seizures in 2020/21, the highest level recorded; there were 102 Amphetamine seizures in 2022/23.

Figure 2.5 Number of seizures involving Cannabis in its various formats, 2012/13 to 2022/23
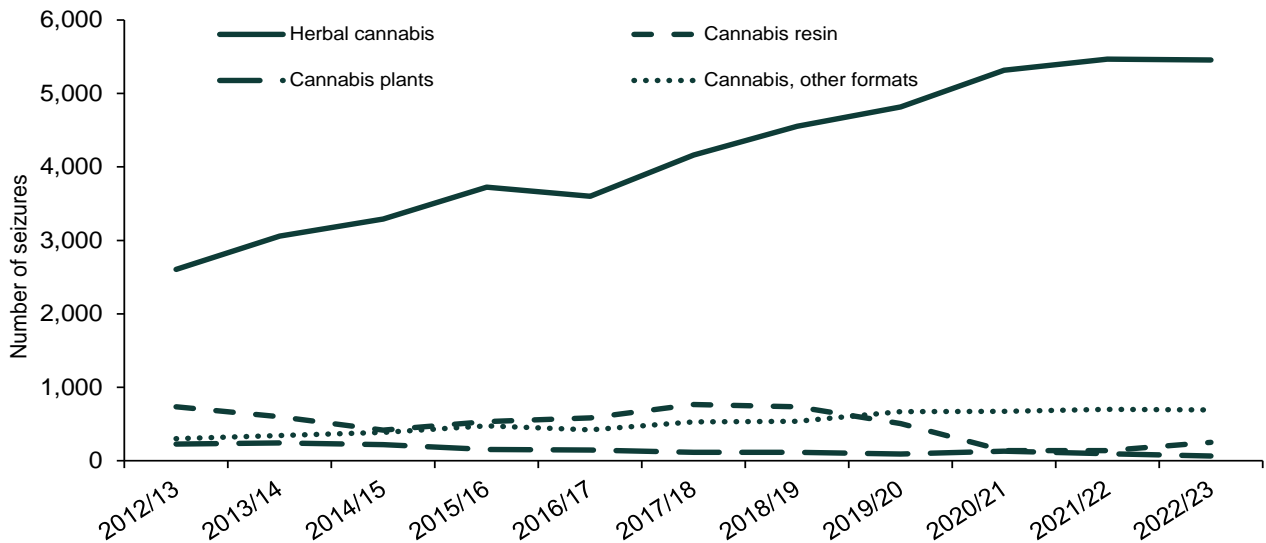
In the last three years nearly nine in every ten Class B seizures involved Herbal Cannabis, up from seven in ten in 2013/14 whilst the proportion involving Cannabis Resin has fallen from 15 per cent to 4 per cent over the same time period.

Figure 2.6 Distribution of seizures involving Class B drugs[8,9], 2013/14 to 2022/23[10]

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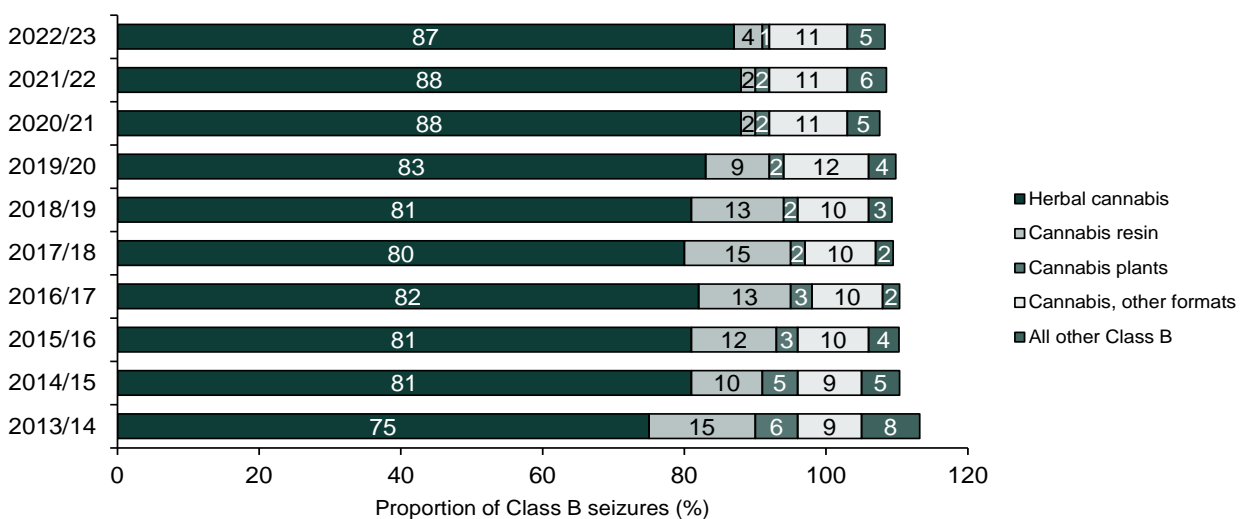
[7] Other Class B drugs include cathinone derivatives, codeine/dihydrocodeine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), ketamine and synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists.
[8] As a seizure may include more than one type of Class B drug, the number of seizures for each type of Class B drug will sum to more than the total number of Class B seizures and the proportions for each year will sum to more than 100%.
[9] Other includes Amphetamines, Mephedrone and Other Class B drugs.
[10] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

## Class C Drugs

Benzodiazepines are the most commonly seized Class C drug. The number of seizure incidents involving benzodiazepines reached its highest level of 1,323 in 2020/21, nearly three times the number recorded in 2012/13 (486). Benzodiazepine seizures were the third most commonly seized drug across all classes during 2022/23, with 1,139 seizures recorded.

The reclassification of Pregabalin and Gabapentin as Class C controlled substances in April 2019 resulted in a large increase in the number of seizures of Class C drugs from this date. Pregabalin seizures account for half of Class C seizures while Gabapentin seizures account for 4 per cent. Since reclassification in April 2019 Pregabalin has become the second most commonly seized Class C drug with almost as many seizures as benzodiazepines in 2022/23 (1,053).

Flualprazolam was reclassified from a New Psychoactive Substance to a Class C Benzodiazepine in August 2021.

Figure 2.7 Number of seizures involving Class C drugs, 2012/13 to 2022/23
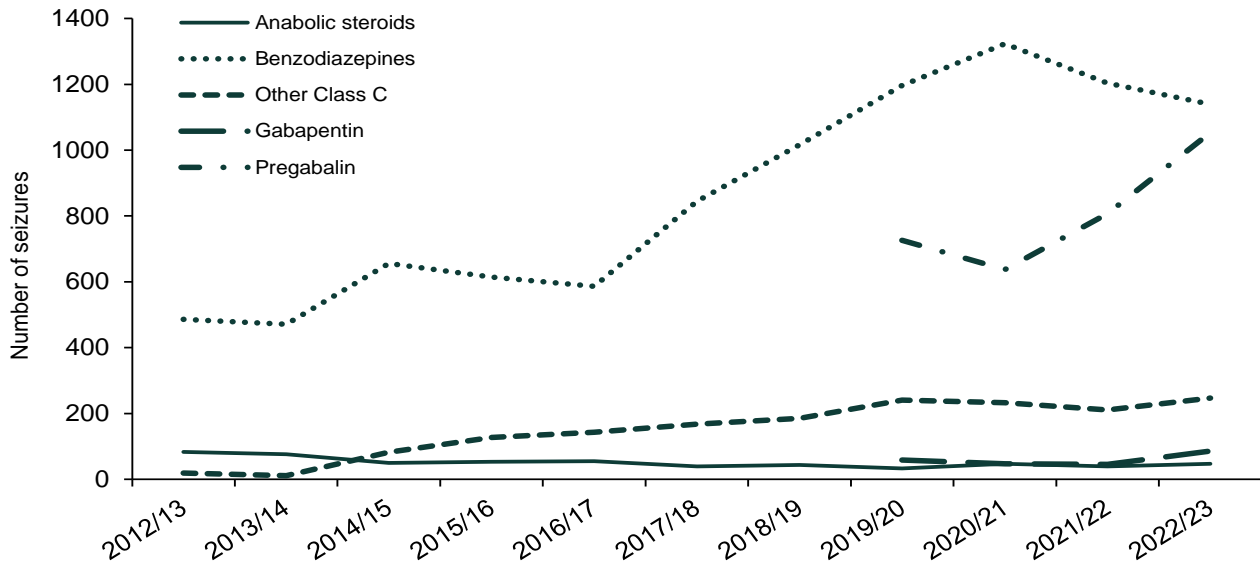
The inclusion of Pregabalin and Gabapentin within the seizure incident figures from April 2019 has had an impact on the distribution of Class C seizures. As a result of this change, the distribution of seizures within Class C between 2012/13 and 2018/19 is not directly comparable with that seen between 2019/20 and 2022/23. In 2020/21 a third of Class C seizures involved Pregabalin, increasing to half by 2022/23, with seizures involving Benzodiazepines declining from more than two thirds to 54 per cent in the same time period.

Figure 2.8 Distribution of seizures involving Class C drugs[11], 2012/13 to 2022/23[12]

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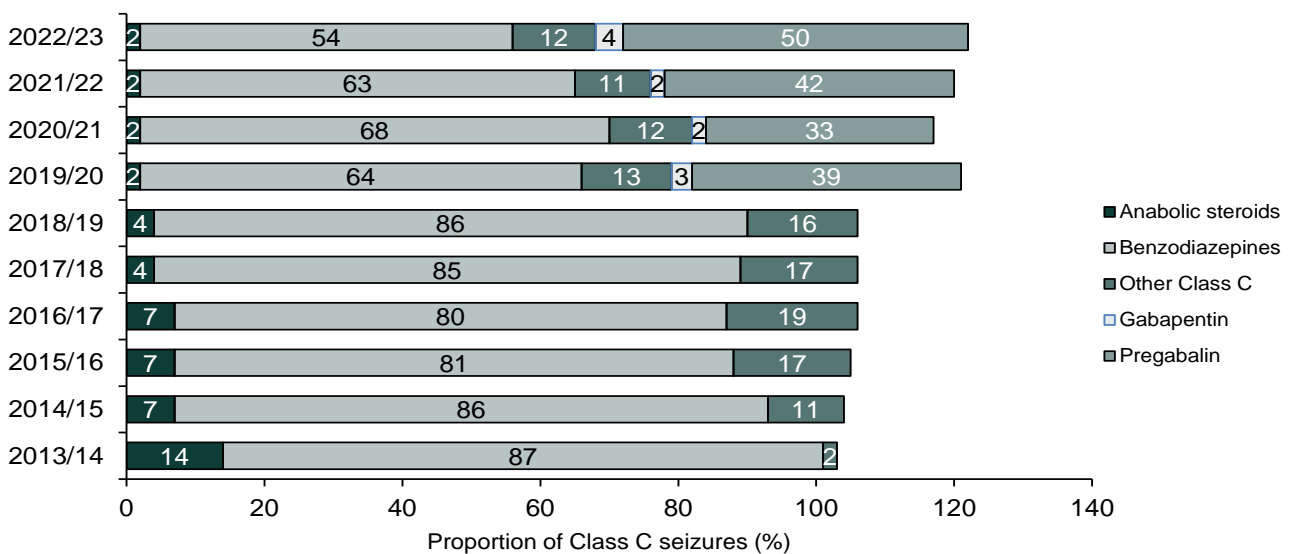
[11] As a seizure may include more than one type of Class C drug, the number of seizures for each type of Class C drug will sum to more than the total number of Class C seizures and the proportions for each year will sum to more than 100%.
[12] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

New Psychoactive Substances

The [Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (opens in a new window)](#) (PSA) came into effect in May 2016, in response to the emergence of an increasing number of substances which were not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (MDA). This act created a blanket ban on the production, distribution, sale and supply of psychoactive substances in the UK for human consumption. Psychoactive substances that are within the scope of the PSA are referred to as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

A psychoactive substance is defined as any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect. In general, NPS are drugs designed to replicate the effects of other illegal substances. Before the PSA was introduced they were commonly referred to as 'legal highs'.

Seizure Incidents

There were 166 seizure incidents involving NPS in 2019/20, falling to 147 in 2020/21 followed by further decreases in 2021/22 and 2022/23 with 63 and 21 seizures respectively. At least 90 per cent of seizures in both 2019/20 and 2020/21 were of Flualprazolam, which was first recorded as a New Psychoactive Substance in April 2019. Flualprazolam was subsequently reclassified as a Class C (Benzodiazepine) in August 2021, resulting in the drop in NPS seizure incidents seen between 2020/21 and 2022/23.

Prior to 2021/22 none of the NPS seizures were identified as involving Nitrous Oxide. In 2021/22 three NPS seizures involved nitrous oxide increasing to 11 seizures in 2022/23.

Cannabis Cultivation

Guidance from the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) defined commercial cultivation of cannabis as:
- Twenty-five or more cannabis plants, at any stage of growth (germination), are being or have been grown; or

- There is evidence of a cannabis farm.

They defined a cannabis farm as:
- The premises, or part therein, has been adapted to such an extent that normal usage would be inhibited and usually present within the premises, or part therein, are items solely concerned for the production of cannabis, i.e.: hydroponics system, high intensity lighting, ventilation/extraction fans, any other associated equipment, and/or electricity meter bypassed (abstraction of electricity).

In addition to the above, the overall appearance of the venue, together with available intelligence also indicates if the site was, is, or is intended to be a cannabis farm, irrespective of the number of plants present on the site. For example there may be no plants but the site has been made ready to commence cultivation.

The level of cannabis cultivation based on this definition is shown in Figure 2.9. While the overall number of seizure incidents involving cannabis cultivation reached 143 in 2014/15, the number has since fallen, with 34 recorded in 2021/22 and 20 recorded in 2022/23.

Figure 2.9 Cannabis cultivation, 2012/13 to 2022/23[13]

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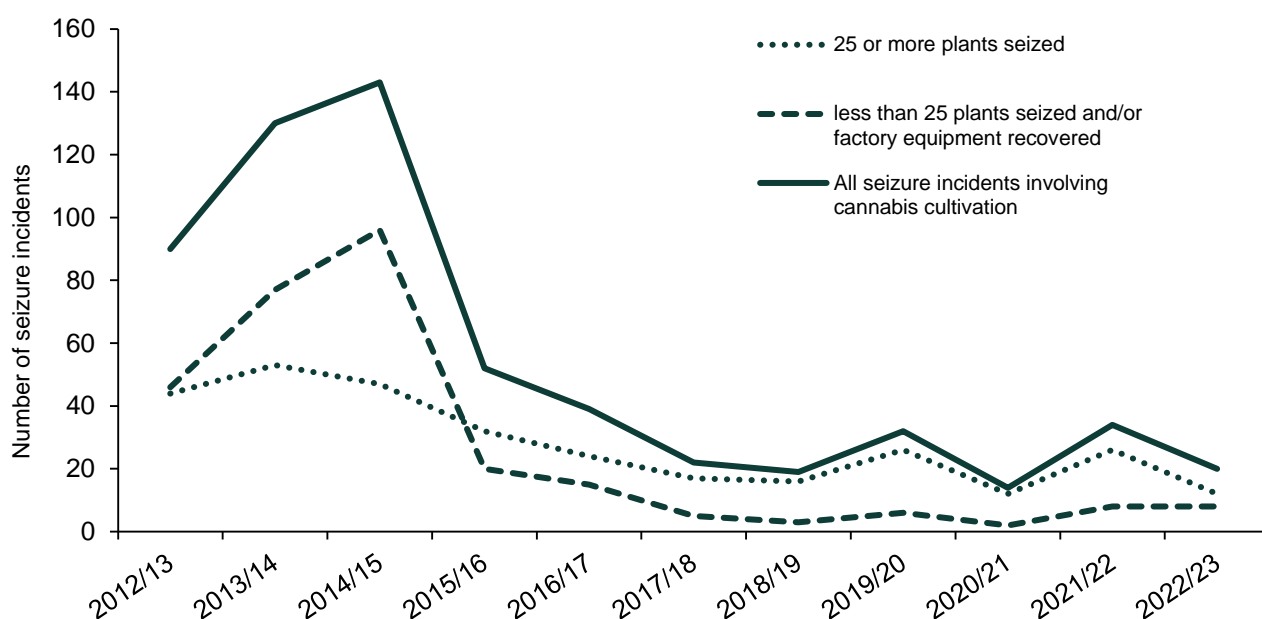
[13] Cannabis cultivation incidents for 2021/22 have been reviewed and the figure revised.

3. Trends in Drug Seizures by Quantity of Drugs Seized

Most drugs can be seized in a range of formats. In order to present seized quantities within a given drug type in terms of comparable units (kilograms, doses or plants), conversion factors developed by the Home Office have been applied to estimate the overall quantity of drugs seized.

In this section, drug seizure quantities with the conversion factors applied are presented as estimated totals, summarised in kilograms, doses and plants. The raw, unconverted quantities for each drug type and format are available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 867KB (opens in a new window) pivot tables - seizure incidents and quantities seized.

Totals for the quantities of drugs seized can be greatly influenced by small numbers of large seizures. Quantities seized should not be taken as an indication of drug prevalence or availability.

Class A Drugs

Conversion factors have been applied to the following Class A drugs and they are summarised as follows:

Summarised in kilograms	Summarised in thousands of doses
Cocaine	Ecstasy
Heroin	LSD (weighed amounts excluded)
	Morphine

Class A, weights seized (converted amounts)

Cocaine: Seizures of cocaine have ranged in weight from 11.6kg in 2012/13 to 81.0kg in 2014/15. There was 27.2kg seized in 2022/23, a decrease of almost 50 per cent when compared with 2021/22 (53.1kg) and the fourth smallest amount seized since 2012/13.

Heroin: The quantity of heroin seized is much lower than that for cocaine, ranging from 0.1kg in 2013/14 to 5.1kg 2016/17. There was 0.6kg seized in 2022/23, a decrease on the 1.5kg seized in 2021/22. The only years in which the weight of heroin seized has exceeded 1kg are 2016/17 and 2021/22; in 2016/17 one seizure accounted for around three quarters of the total weight seized in that year.

Figure 3.1 Quantities of Cocaine and Heroin seized (kg), 2012/13 to 2022/23
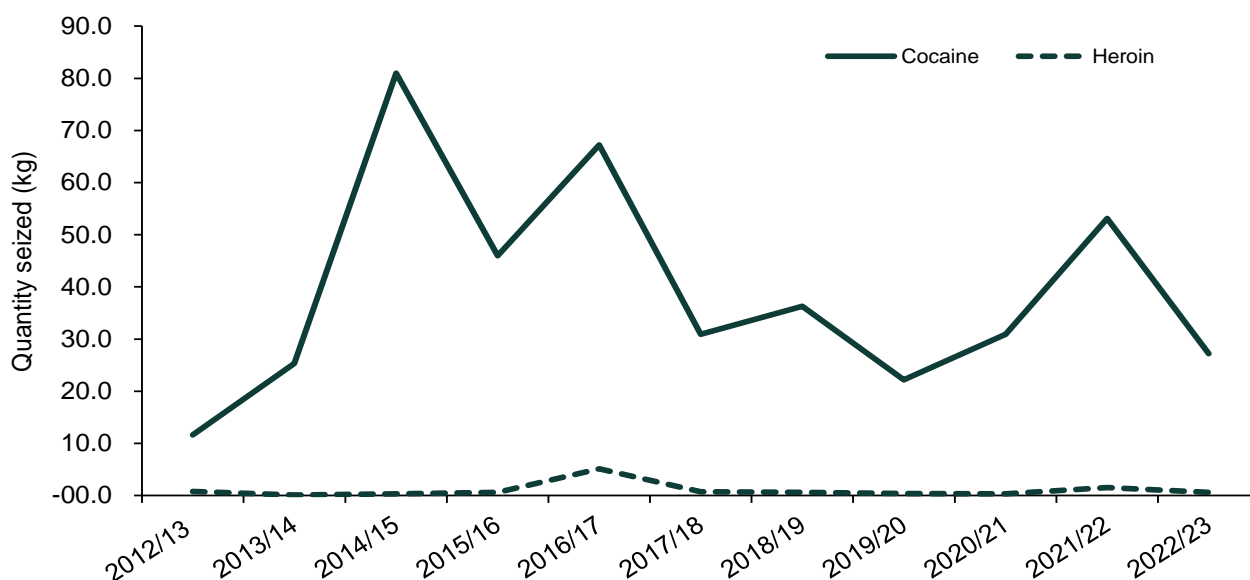
In 2022/23 nearly four in five cocaine seizures involved quantities less than 5g in weight, with nearly two in five seizures involving quantities less than 1g. During the same period, the majority of heroin seizures (61 per cent) involved quantities of less than 1g (Figure 3.2).

Figures 3.3 and 3.4 present the distribution of cocaine and heroin seizures since 2013/14, showing both the changes in the number of seizure incidents and the larger proportion of low weight seizures.

Figure 3.2 Distribution of the quantities of Cocaine and Heroin seized by weight (kg), 2022/23

Heroin seizure incidents = 150, weight seized = 0.6kg

Cocaine seizure incidents = 1,495, weight seized = 27.2kg

Heroin: 61 | 31 | 8
Cocaine: 37 | 42 | 20 | 1

■ Under 1g □ 1g to 4 g ■ 5g to 499g □ 500g and over
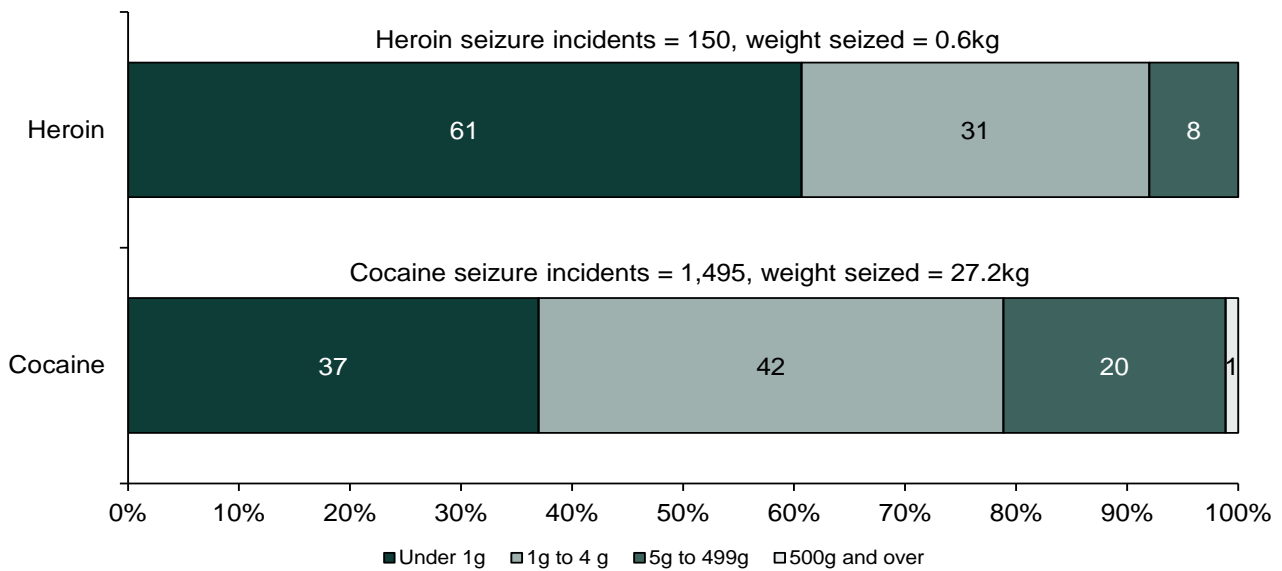
Figure 3.3 Number of Class A Cocaine seizure incidents by weight seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[14]

Year	incidents under 1g	incidents 1g to 4g	incidents 5g and over
2022/23	553	626	316
2021/22	438	539	284
2020/21	390	467	237
2019/20	371	519	224
2018/19	351	481	199
2017/18	294	457	191
2016/17	200	271	155
2015/16	174	255	140
2014/15	132	235	145
2013/14	144	158	122
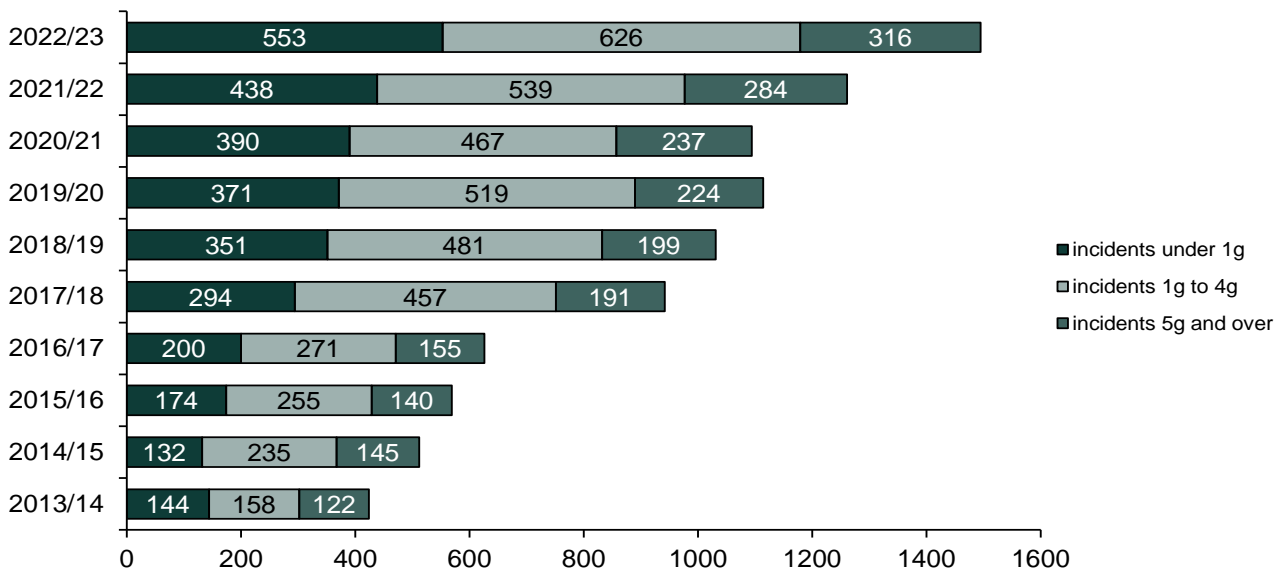
Figure 3.4 Number of Class A Heroin seizure incidents by weight seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[14]

Year	incidents under 1g	incidents 1g to 4g	incidents 5g and over
2022/23	91	47	12
2021/22	90	24	19
2020/21	133	26	13
2019/20	175	50	16
2018/19	186	57	16
2017/18	138	35	21
2016/17	97	35	17
2015/16	81	23	6
2014/15	47	13	11
2013/14	16	9	3

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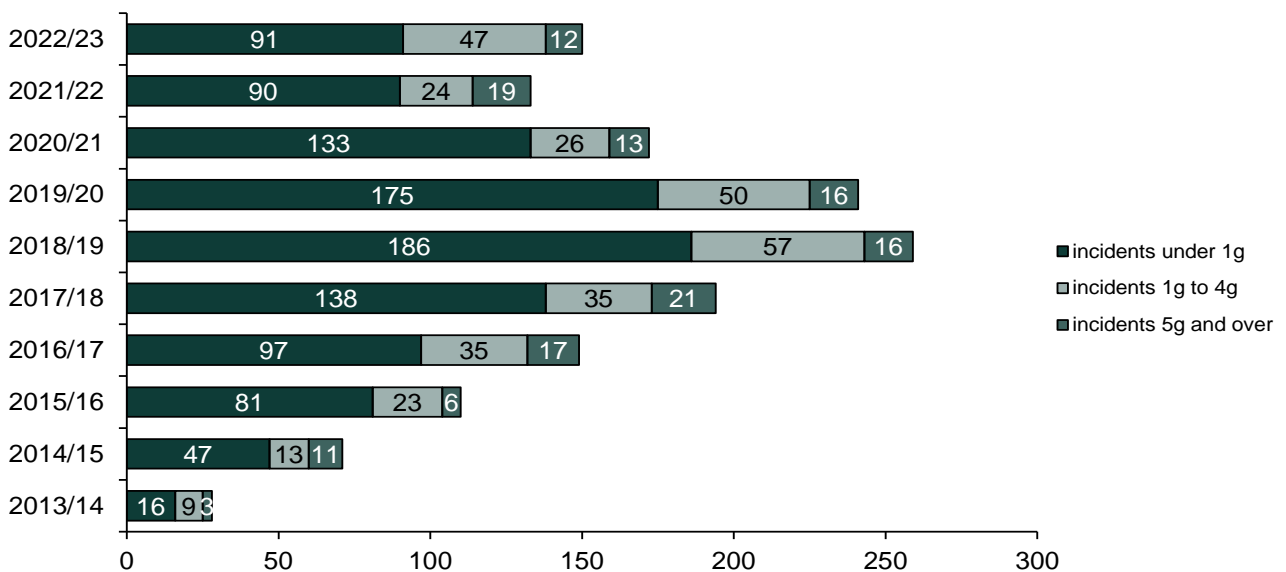
[14] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

Class A, doses seized (converted amounts)

Ecstasy: Seizures of ecstasy have ranged between 4,500 doses in 2014/15 and 21,200 doses in 2015/16. In 2022/23 there were 7,500 doses seized, a decrease on the 9,200 doses seized the previous year and the joint second lowest number of doses seized since 2012/13.

LSD: Since 2012/13 there have been 152 seizures of LSD (excluding weighed amounts)[15], adding to an estimated 8,290 doses in total and ranging from fewer than 10 in 2012/13 to 2,610 in 2015/16. There were approximately 480 doses seized in 2022/23, an increase on the 300 doses seized in 2021/22.

Morphine: There have been 118 morphine seizures since 2012/13, amounting to an estimated 2,840 doses in total and ranging from around 60 in 2012/13 to approximately 640 in 2022/23. This year saw the highest amount of doses seized since 2012/13, an increase from the 480 doses seized in 2021/22.

Figure 3.5 Quantities of Ecstasy, LSD and Morphine seized (doses, 000s), 2012/13 to 2022/23
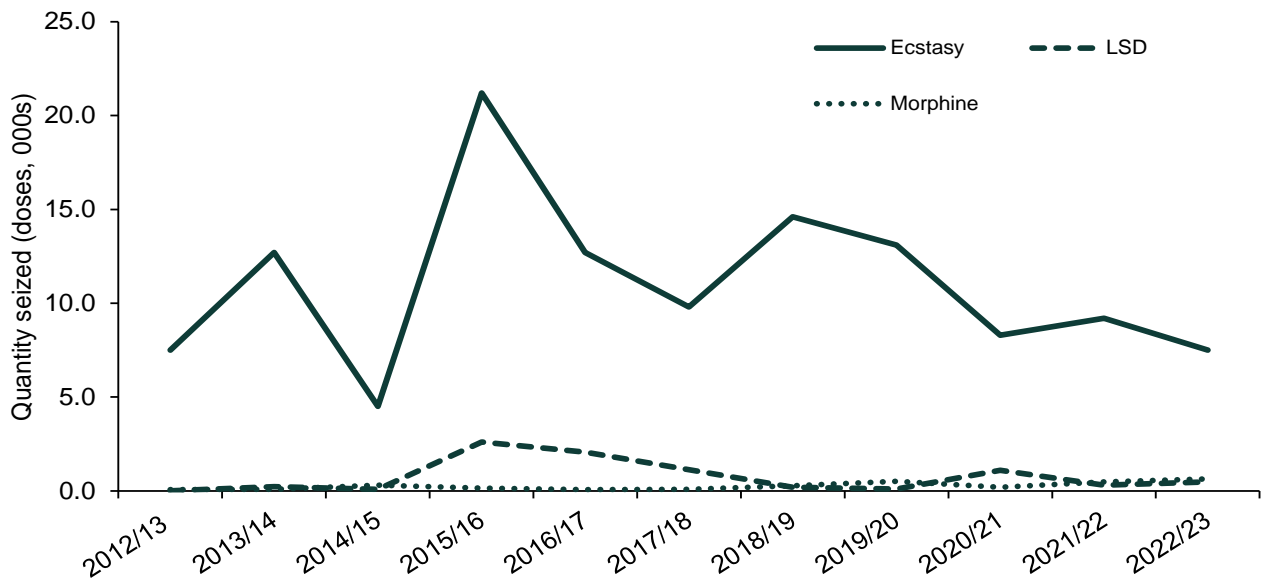
In 2022/23 nearly half of ecstasy seizures and nearly three out of five LSD seizures involved more than 5 doses, while more than half of all morphine seizures involved more than 5 doses (Figure 3.6).

Figures 3.7 to 3.9 present the distribution of ecstasy, LSD and morphine seizures since 2013/14, showing both the changing number of seizure incidents and the smaller proportions where the quantity seized is 51 or more doses. In most years, more than four fifths of ecstasy, LSD and morphine seizures involve quantities of 50 doses or less.

Figure 3.6 Distribution of the quantities of Ecstasy, LSD and Morphine seized (doses), 2022/23
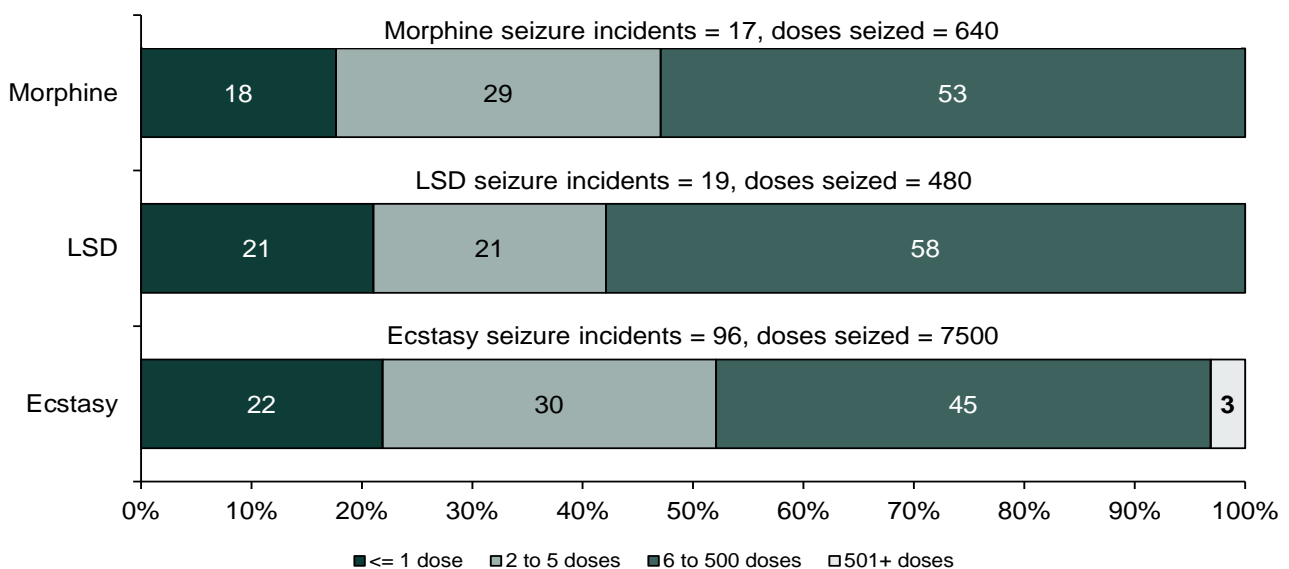
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[15] Weighed amounts of LSD are not included in the figures; this is in line with Home Office presentation of this drug type.

14

Figure 3.7 Number of Class A Ecstasy seizure incidents by doses seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[16]

Legend:
- incidents up to 5 doses
- incidents 6 to 50 doses
- incidents 51 doses and over

Year	incidents up to 5 doses	incidents 6 to 50 doses	incidents 51 doses and over
2022/23	50	32	14
2021/22	49	54	13
2020/21	67	58	29
2019/20	109	88	34
2018/19	179	102	34
2017/18	144	94	40
2016/17	88	59	24
2015/16	65	47	16
2014/15	66	29	10
2013/14	49	57	18
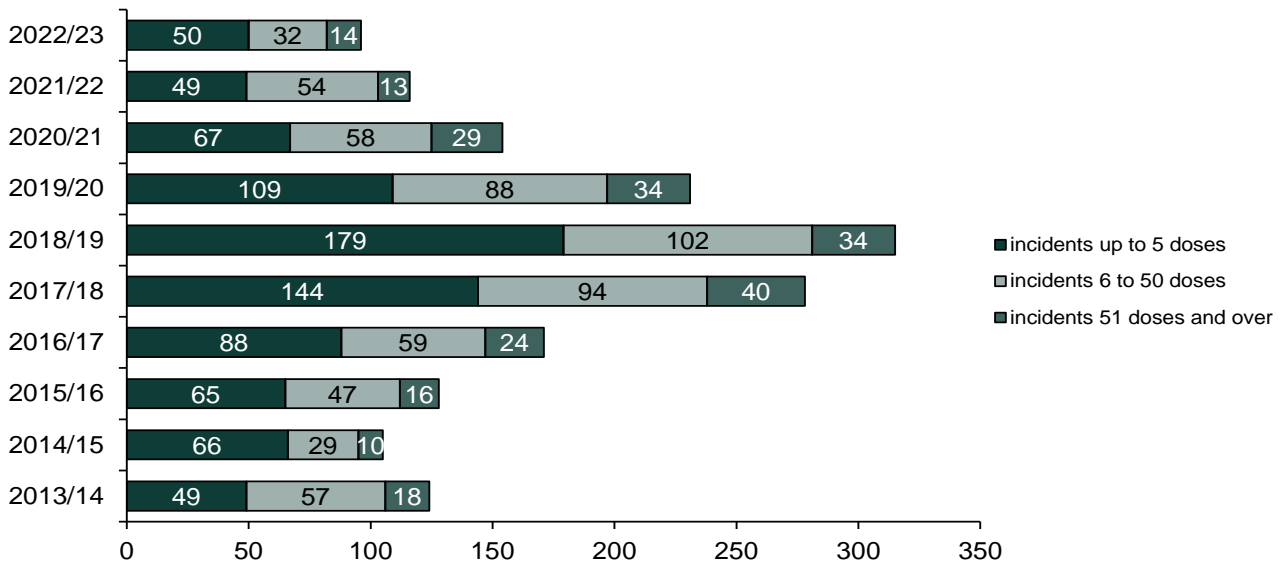
Figure 3.8 Number of Class A LSD seizure incidents by doses seized (weighed amounts excluded), 2013/14 to 2022/23[16]

Legend:
- incidents up to 5 doses
- incidents 6 to 50 doses
- incidents 51 doses and over

Year	incidents up to 5 doses	incidents 6 to 50 doses	incidents 51 doses and over
2022/23	8	10	1
2021/22	12	12	
2020/21	13	6	1
2019/20	9	6	
2018/19	11	5	1
2017/18	10	7	1
2016/17	9	2	1
2015/16	6	3	3
2014/15	4	4	
2013/14	4	2	
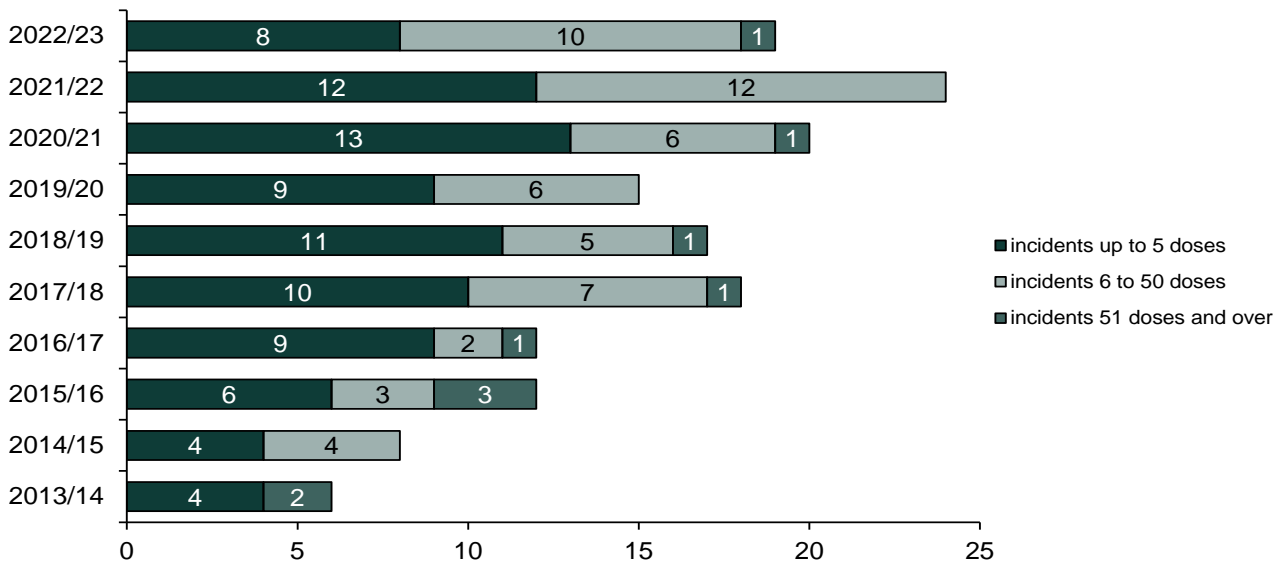
Figure 3.9 Number of Class A Morphine seizure incidents by doses seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[16]

Legend:
- incidents up to 5 doses
- incidents 6 to 50 doses
- incidents 51 doses and over

Year	incidents up to 5 doses	incidents 6 to 50 doses	incidents 51 doses and over
2022/23	8	7	2
2021/22	8	3	4
2020/21	9	9	1
2019/20	6	7	3
2018/19	3	5	1
2017/18	10	1	1
2016/17	2	4	
2015/16	4	2	1
2014/15	1	1	1
2013/14	4	3	

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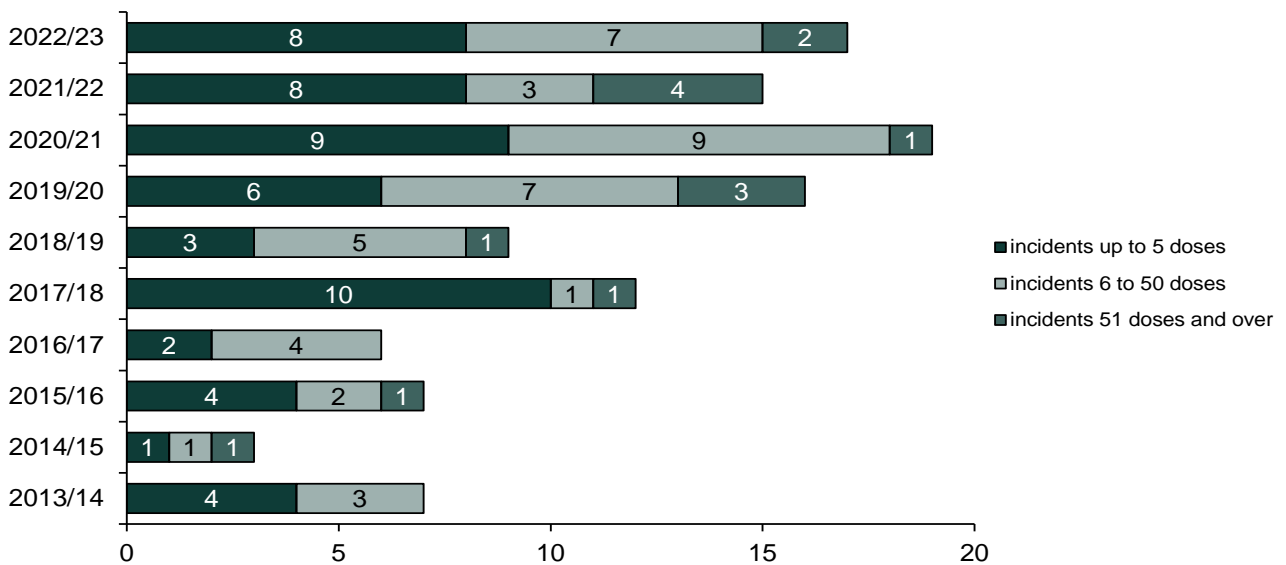
[16] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

Class B Drugs

Conversion factors have been applied to the following Class B drugs and they are summarised as follows:

Summarised in kilograms	Summarised in thousands of plants
Herbal cannabis	Cannabis plants
Cannabis resin	
Amphetamines	

Class B, cannabis weights and plants seized (converted amounts)

Herbal cannabis: The weight of herbal cannabis seized was at its lowest in 2014/15 (232.5kg) before generally increasing to reach 1,475.5kg in 2020/21. The weight seized in 2022/23 was 683.1kg, the third highest weight seized since 2012/13; this included 16 herbal cannabis seizures of 10kg or more.

Cannabis resin: The weight of cannabis resin seized has fallen in most of the years since 2012/13. In 2012/13 the weight of cannabis resin seized (404.5kg) was higher than the weight of herbal cannabis seized (360.3kg), although this pattern is reversed in each subsequent year. The higher levels seen in 2012/13 and 2015/16 were influenced by a small number of large seizures. Two seizures in 2012/13 accounted for close to three quarters of the total seized in that year, while one seizure in 2015/16 accounted for 90 per cent of the total seized. There was 10.4kg of cannabis resin seized in 2021/22 and 18.1kg seized in 2022/23, the second and third lowest amounts seized since 2012/13 respectively.

Cannabis plants: Seizures of cannabis plants increased from 2012/13 (6,813 plants) to reach 10,974 plants seized in 2014/15. The number of plants seized has generally fallen since then, with 1,601 plants seized in 2022/23, a decrease on the number seized in 2021/22 (3,570) and the second lowest number seized since 2012/13.

Figure 3.10 Quantity of Cannabis seized in its various formats (kg and plants), 2012/13 to 2022/23
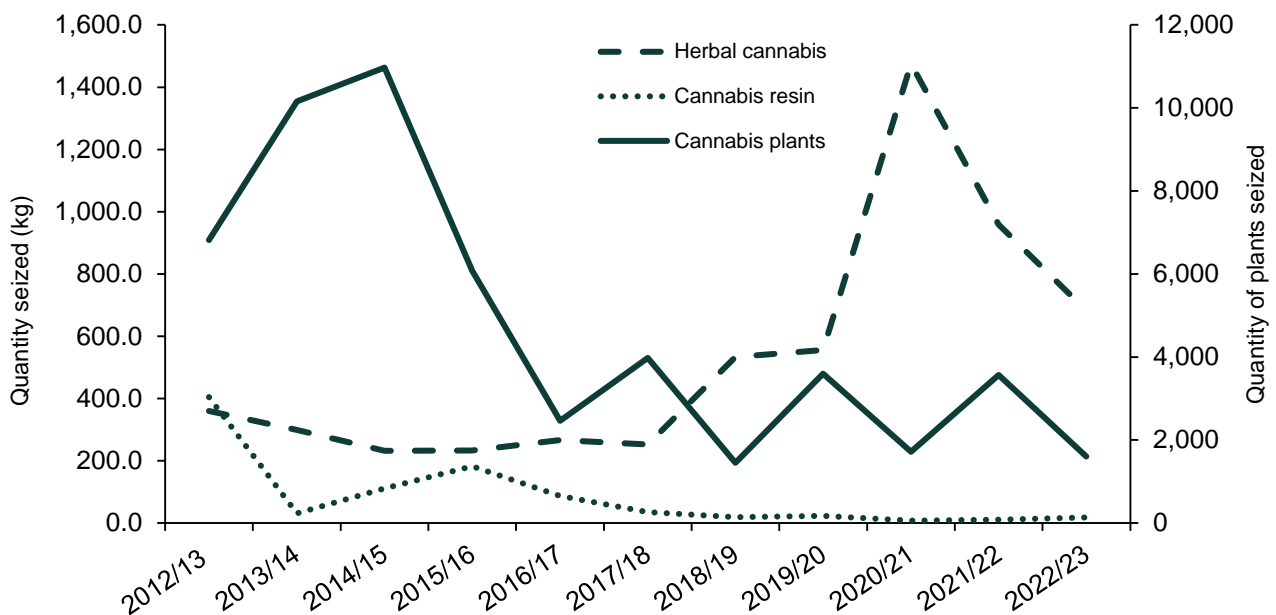
Nearly three quarters of herbal cannabis seizures and 63 per cent of cannabis resin seizures in 2022/23 involved weights less than 5g. Over three fifths of cannabis plant seizures in 2022/23 involved 5 or fewer plants (Figure 3.11).

Figures 3.12 to 3.14 present the distribution of herbal cannabis, cannabis resin and cannabis plant seizures since 2013/14 and the changing levels of seizure incidents. The majority of herbal cannabis seizure incidents involve weights of less than 5g; approximately three quarters of the herbal cannabis seizures involved less than 5g in each year between 2012/13 and 2022/23, excepting 2021/22 where it fell to 70 per cent. The proportions by weight seized for cannabis resin remain relatively consistent throughout the data series, as seen in Figure 3.13 which also shows the lower level of cannabis resin seizures recorded after 2019/20.

Information on cannabis cultivation can be found on page 11.

Figure 3.11 Distribution of the quantities of Cannabis seized (kg and plants), 2022/23

	Under 1g / <= 1 plant	1g to 4 g / 2 to 5 plants	5g to 499g / 6 to 500 plants	500g and over / 501+ plants
Cannabis plants (plants seizure incidents = 65, plants seized = 1,601)	20	42	37	2
Cannabis Resin (resin seizure incidents = 278, weight seized = 18.1kg)	29	34	36	2
Herbal Cannabis (seizure incidents = 5,883, weight seized = 683.1kg)	26	47	25	2

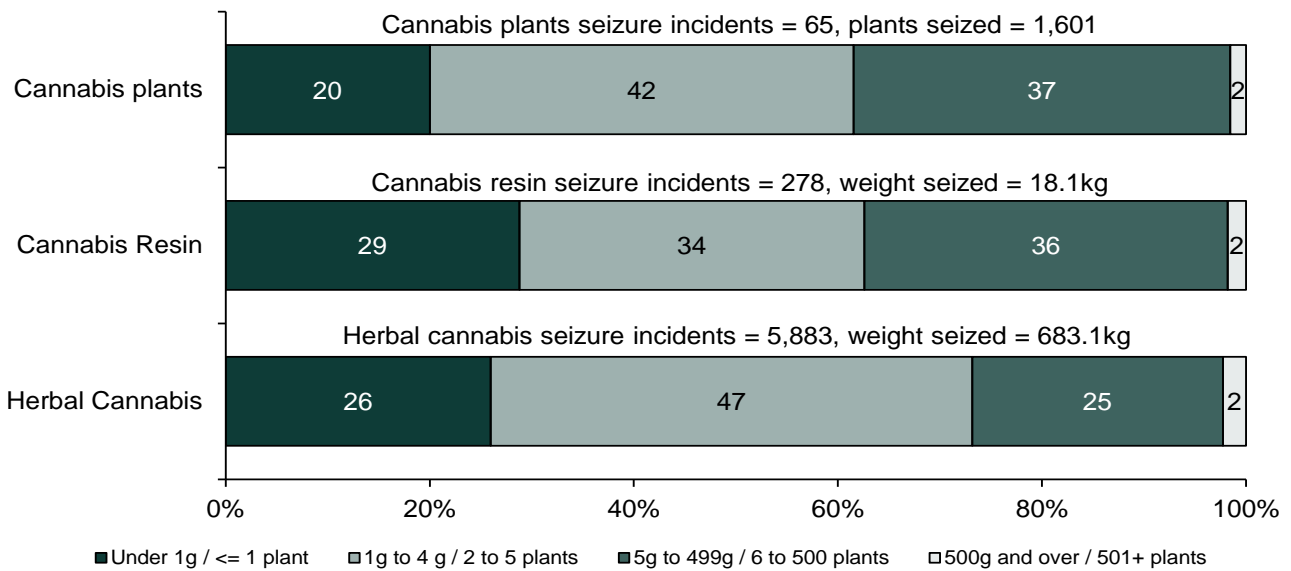■Under 1g / <= 1 plant ■1g to 4 g / 2 to 5 plants ■5g to 499g / 6 to 500 plants ☐500g and over / 501+ plants

Figure 3.12 Number of Class B Herbal cannabis seizure incidents by weight seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[17]

Year	incidents under 1g	incidents 1g to 4g	incidents 5g and over
2022/23	1,528	2,777	1,578
2021/22	1,451	2,697	1,737
2020/21	1,414	2,873	1,443
2019/20	1,280	2,696	1,231
2018/19	1,266	2,500	1,079
2017/18	1,102	2,412	909
2016/17	952	2,060	787
2015/16	1,038	2,113	813
2014/15	856	1,768	848
2013/14	871	1,615	745
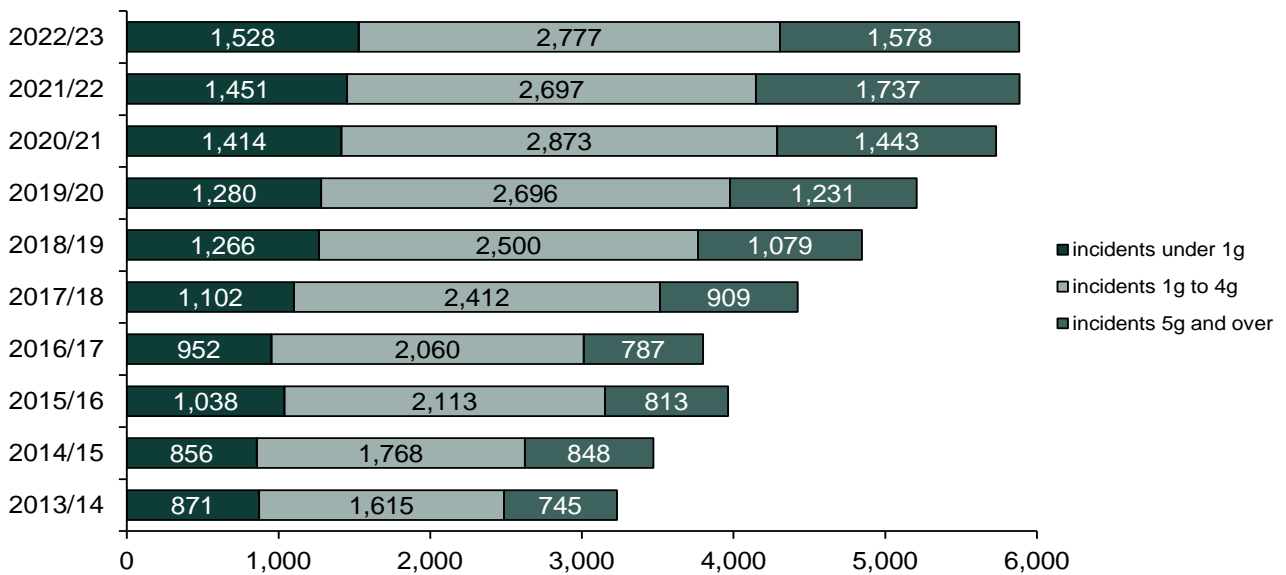
Figure 3.13 Number of Class B Cannabis resin seizure incidents by weight seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[17]

Year	incidents under 1g	incidents 1g to 4g	incidents 5g and over
2022/23	80	94	104
2021/22	36	58	63
2020/21	43	65	46
2019/20	142	279	144
2018/19	174	422	206
2017/18	164	416	262
2016/17	111	339	191
2015/16	158	290	145
2014/15	104	203	151
2013/14	138	288	227

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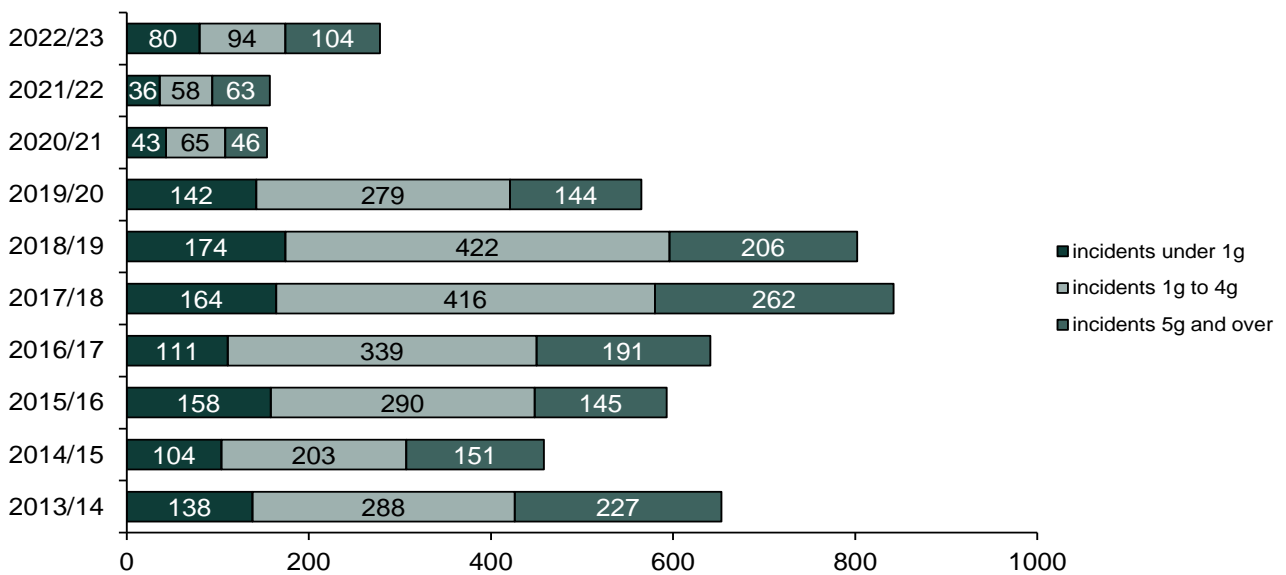
[17] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

Figure 3.14 Number of Class B Cannabis plant seizure incidents by number of plants seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[18]
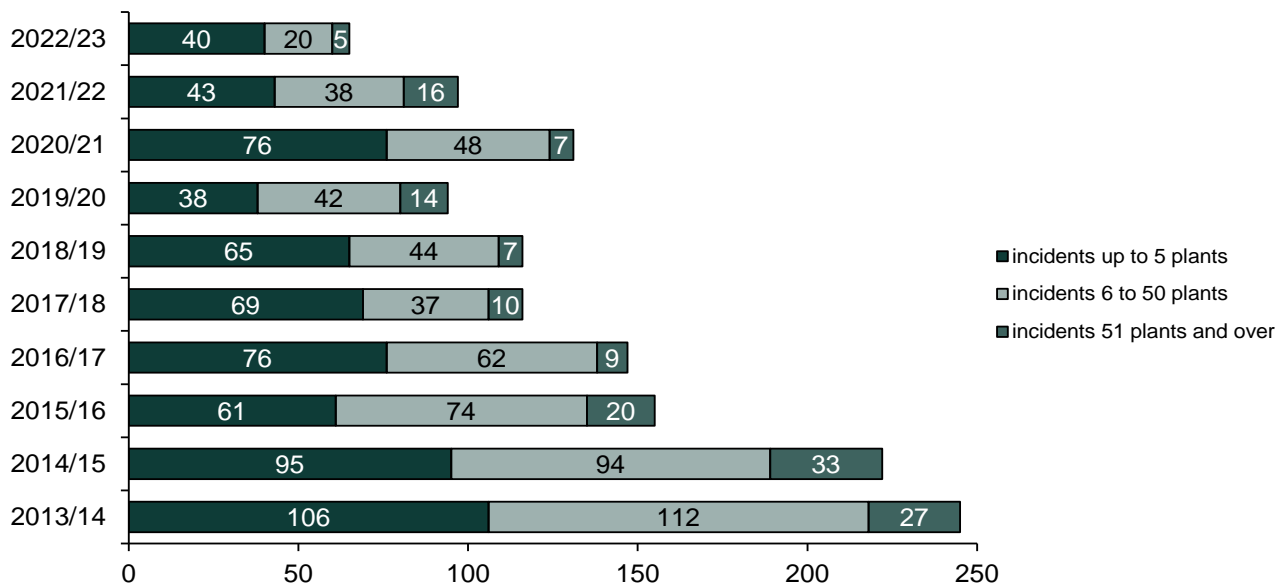
Class B, amphetamines seized (converted amounts)

Amphetamines: Seizures of amphetamines have not shown a consistent trend over the years since 2012/13. A small number of large seizures have contributed to the higher quantities recorded in 2012/13, 2015/16 and 2018/19. In 2012/13 one seizure accounted for 85 per cent of the total, in 2015/16 two seizures accounted for 87 per cent of the total seized and two seizures in 2018/19 accounted for around 75 per cent of the total seized. The fourth highest weight seized was in 2022/23, with two seizures accounting for nearly two thirds of the total weight seized.

**Figure 3.15 Quantity of Amphetamines seized (kg), 2012/13 to 2022/23**
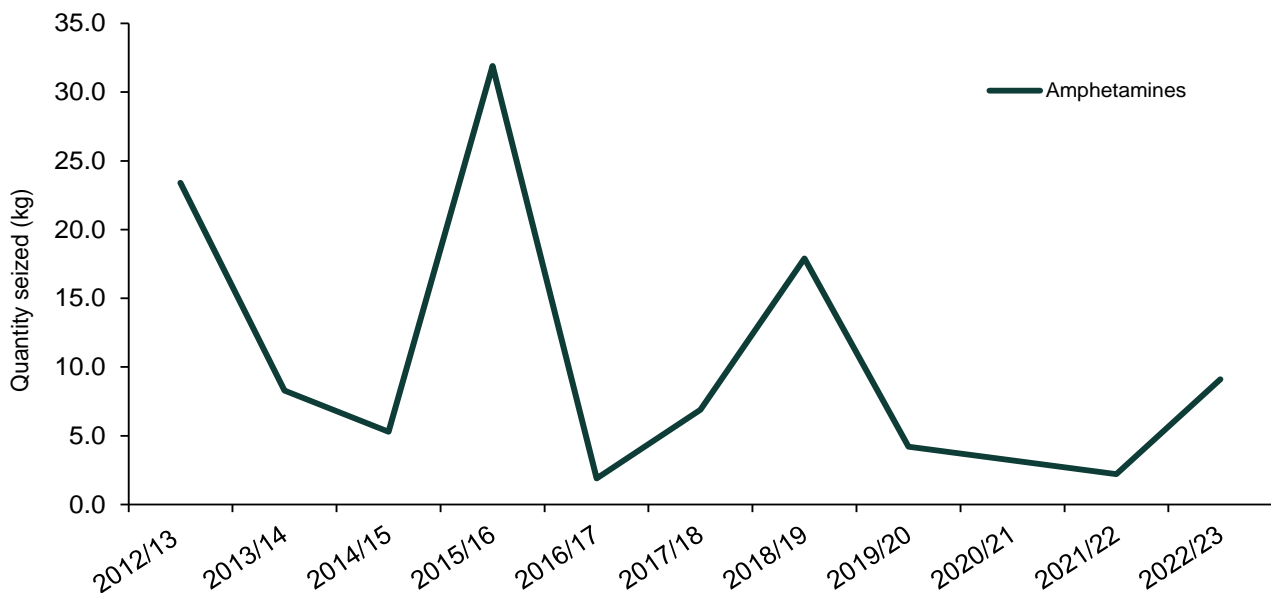
In 2022/23 approximately three quarters of amphetamine seizure incidents involved weights of less than 10g.

Figure 3.16 presents the distribution of amphetamine seizures since 2013/14, demonstrating the variability of amounts seized.

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[18] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

Figure 3.16 Number of Class B Amphetamine seizure incidents by weight seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[19]

Legend:
- ■ incidents under 1g
- ■ incidents 1g to 4g
- ■ incidents 5g and over
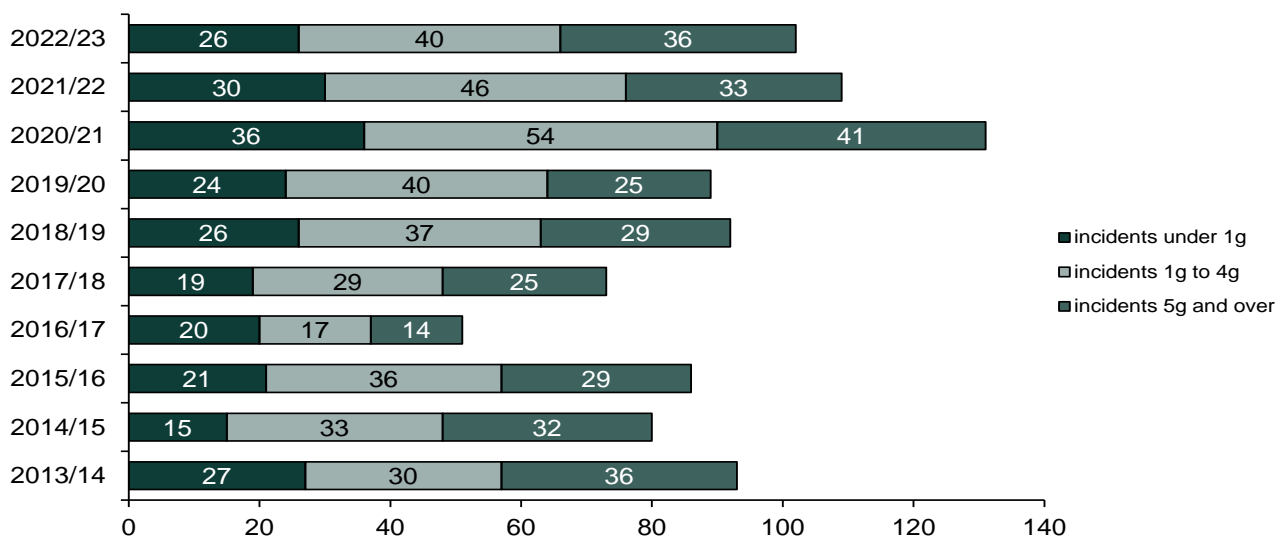
Class C Drugs

Conversion factors have been applied to the following Class C drugs and they are summarised as follows:

| Summarised in thousands of doses |
| --- |
| Anabolic steroids |
| Benzodiazepines |

Class C, doses seized (converted amounts)

Anabolic Steroids: There were 73,400 doses of anabolic steroids seized in 2013/14, with two seizures accounting for 70 per cent of the total. In 2017/18 there were nearly 80,000 doses seized, with two thirds of this total attributed to one seizure. The number of doses seized in all other years was much lower, with the lowest level of 700 doses seized in 2019/20. There were 18,700 doses seized in 2022/23, with four seizures accounting for more than four fifths of the total amount seized.

Benzodiazepines: The number of doses of benzodiazepines increased each year from around 90,600 in 2012/13 to 210,700 in 2015/16. Seven seizures accounted for 61 per cent of the total quantity of benzodiazepine seized in 2015/16. Lower amounts were seized between 2015/16 and 2019/20. In 2020/21 there were 222,100 doses seized, the highest amount since 2012/13 and with two seizures accounting for 45 per cent of the total quantity of benzodiazepine seized. Amounts seized have subsequently fallen in both 2021/22 (173,400 doses) and 2022/23 (96,500 doses), with 2022/23 recording the third lowest number of doses seized.

Figure 3.17 Quantity of Anabolic Steroids and Benzodiazepines seized (doses,'000s), 2012/13 to 2022/23

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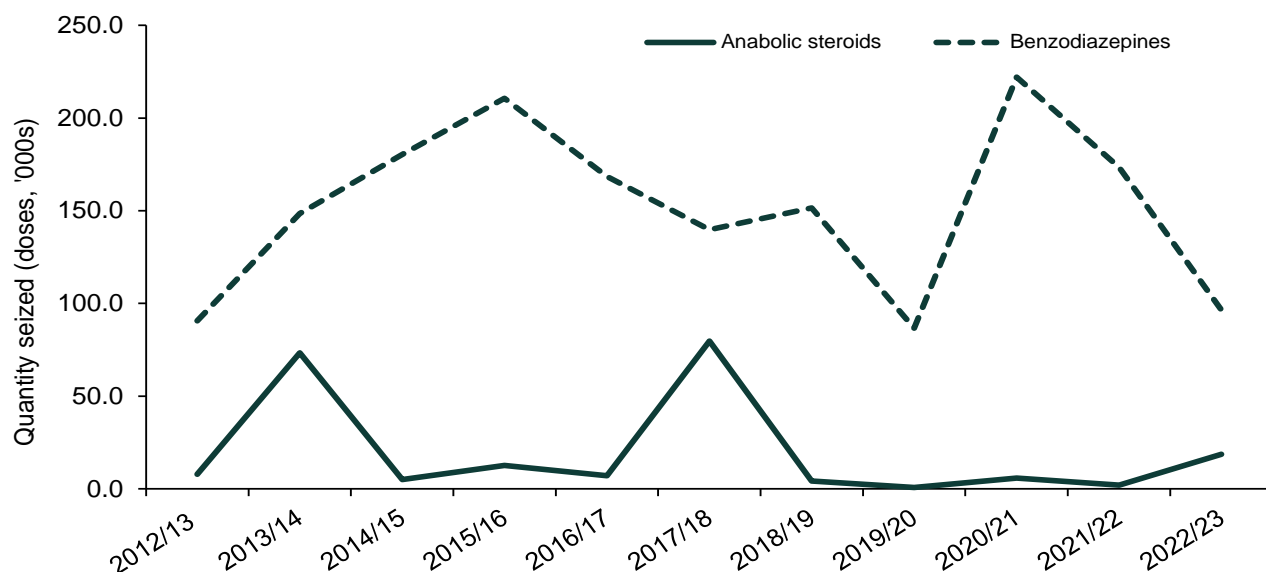
[19] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

In 2022/23 two fifths of anabolic steroid and 70 per cent of benzodiazepine seizures involved more than 5 doses (Figure 3.18). Figures 3.19 and 3.20 present the distribution of anabolic steroid and benzodiazepine seizures since 2013/14; in most years at least two thirds of the seizures have involved more than 5 doses.

Figure 3.18 Distribution of the quantities of Benzodiazepine and Anabolic Steroids seized (doses) 2022/23
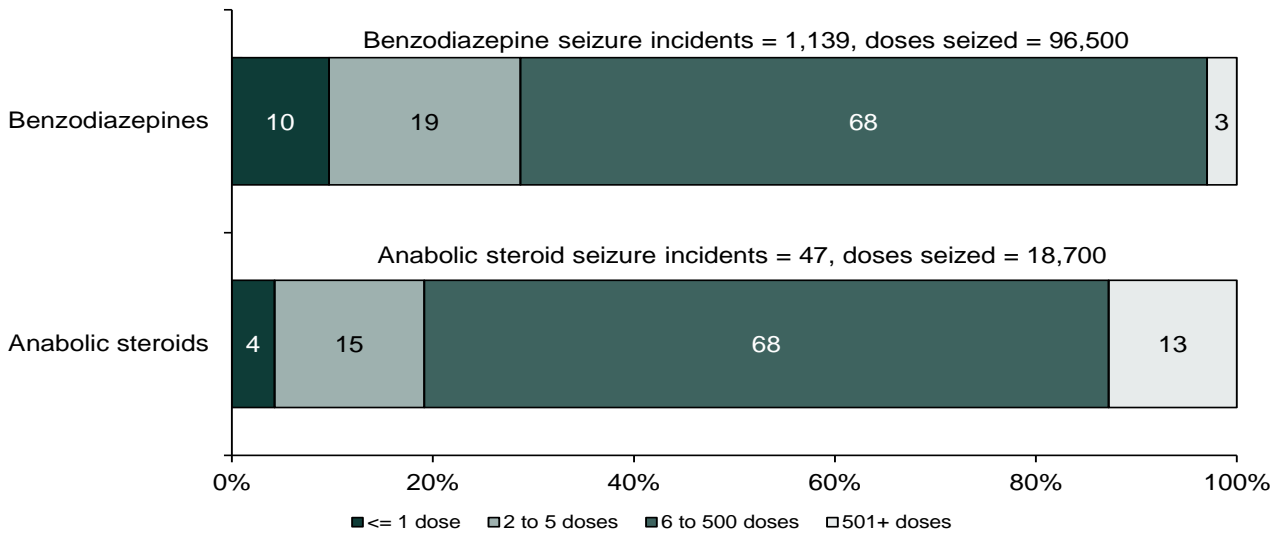

Benzodiazepine seizure incidents = 1,139, doses seized = 96,500

Benzodiazepines: 10 | 19 | 68 | 3

Anabolic steroid seizure incidents = 47, doses seized = 18,700

Anabolic steroids: 4 | 15 | 68 | 13

Legend: ■ <= 1 dose ■ 2 to 5 doses ■ 6 to 500 doses □ 501+ doses

Figure 3.19 Number of Class C Anabolic steroids seizure incidents by doses seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[20]

Year	incidents up to 5 doses	incidents 6 to 50 doses	incidents 51 doses and over
2022/23	9	23	15
2021/22	14	18	7
2020/21	14	24	9
2019/20	13	13	7
2018/19	12	19	13
2017/18	5	14	20
2016/17	16	27	12
2015/16	15	24	14
2014/15	17	18	15
2013/14	19	35	22
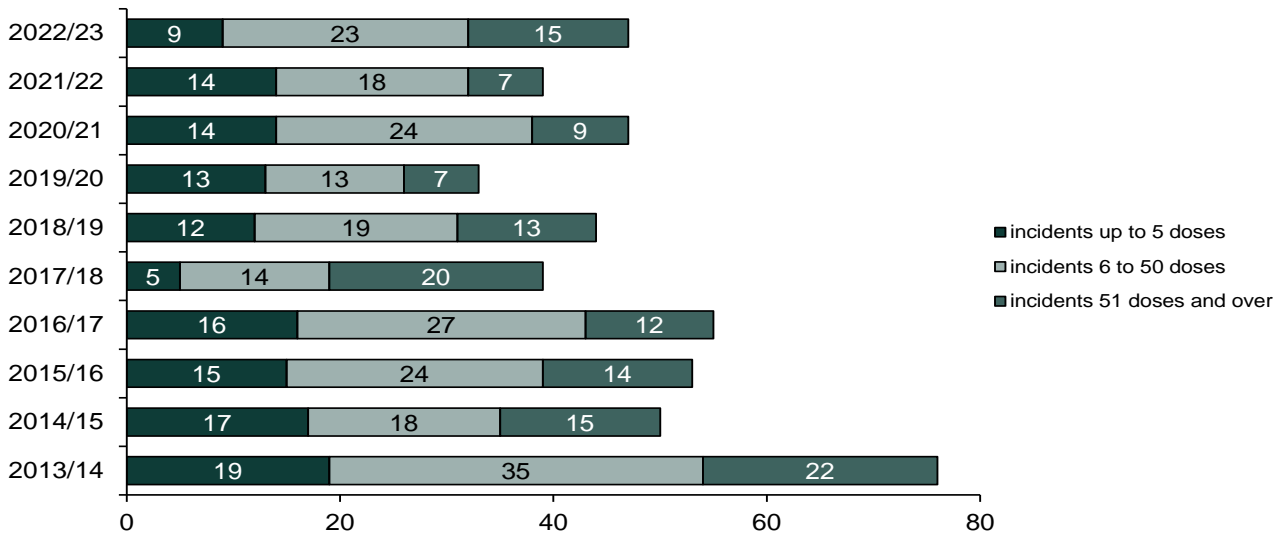
Figure 3.20 Number of Class C Benzodiazepines seizure incidents by doses seized, 2013/14 to 2022/23[20]

Year	incidents up to 5 doses	incidents 6 to 50 doses	incidents 51 doses and over
2022/23	327	557	255
2021/22	318	602	284
2020/21	341	674	308
2019/20	374	599	224
2018/19	312	483	221
2017/18	268	404	173
2016/17	148	250	188
2015/16	143	329	142
2014/15	152	320	184
2013/14	136	237	98
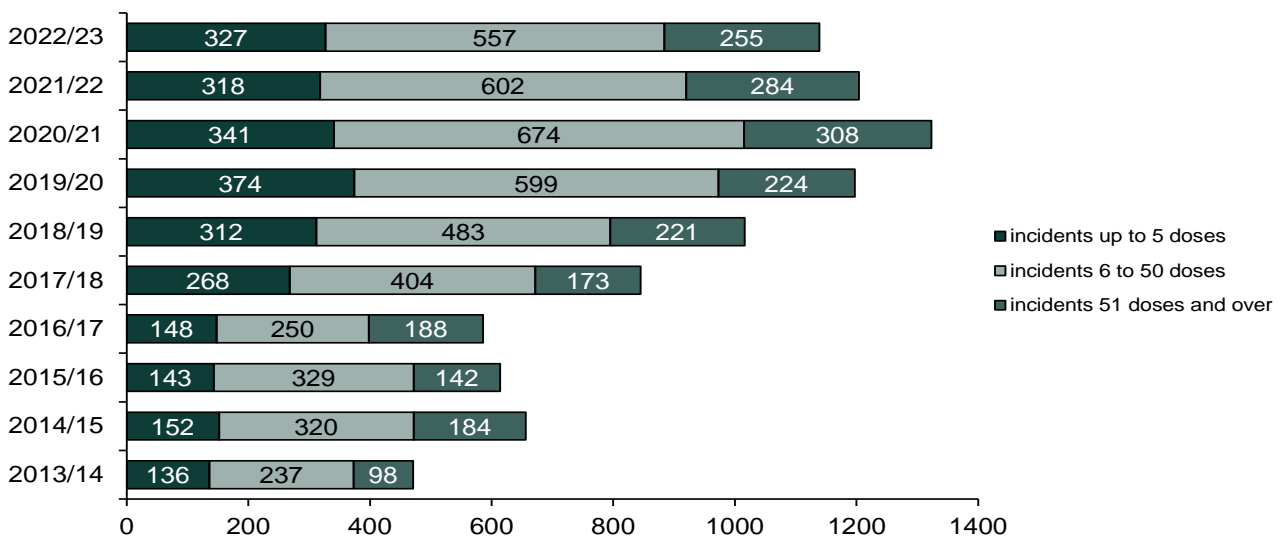
[20] While the latest ten years only are presented in this chart, the complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

4. Geographic Patterns of Drug Seizures

Drug seizure incidents are allocated to the policing district in which the seizure occurs. The distribution of seizures across policing districts has remained largely unchanged since 2012/13.

In 2022/23 32 per cent of seizure incidents occurred in Belfast City Policing District. To assist in understanding the distribution of seizure incidents, a breakdown of Belfast City Policing District into the four local policing teams is available from 2016/17. The four local policing teams are based in Lisburn Road (South Belfast), Tennent Street (North Belfast), Strandtown (East Belfast) and Woodbourne (West Belfast).

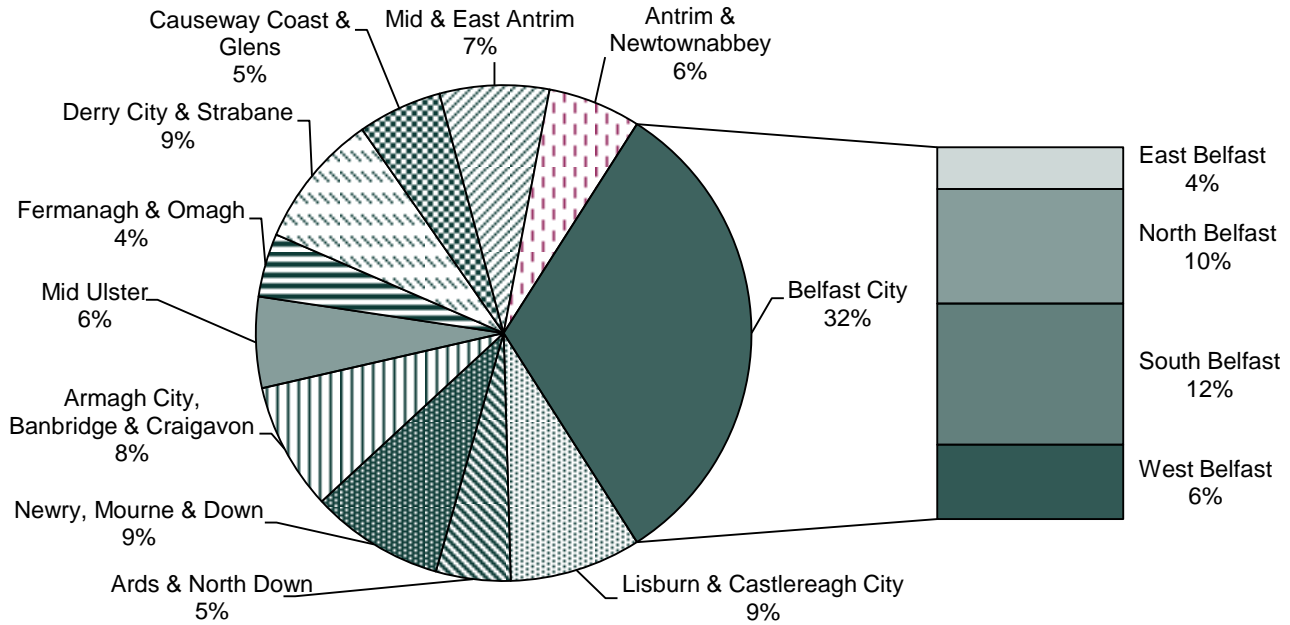**Figure 4.1 Distribution of seizure incidents by policing district, 2022/23**

Table 4.1   Drug seizure incidents by policing district over the last five years[21]

Policing District	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Belfast City	2,444	2,644	2,483	2,526	2,851
East Belfast	*387*	*412*	*445*	*376*	*322*
North Belfast	*696*	*692*	*739*	*677*	*877*
South Belfast	*963*	*1,115*	*829*	*998*	*1,082*
West Belfast	*398*	*425*	*470*	*475*	*570*
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	694	603	668	721	767
Ards & North Down	391	407	317	335	435
Newry, Mourne, & Down	586	617	699	639	778
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	721	799	806	797	742
Mid Ulster	403	493	504	546	530
Fermanagh & Omagh	333	322	294	375	370
Derry City & Strabane	593	670	826	885	789
Causeway Coast & Glens	454	490	557	450	491
Mid & East Antrim	466	663	787	879	638
Antrim & Newtownabbey	476	478	487	443	542
Northern Ireland	**7,561**	**8,186**	**8,428**	**8,596**	**8,933**

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[21] The complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

5. Trends in Drug-related Arrests

> **A drug-related arrest** is counted when a person is arrested and processed through custody for one or more drug-related offences. The figures presented are a count of custody records rather than a count of persons arrested. Where a person has been arrested on more than one occasion during a financial year, each occasion on which they have been arrested will be counted separately.
>
> The arrest figures do not include persons who are street-bailed but are not later processed through custody.

Arrests relating to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

The number of drug-related arrests increased each year between 2006/07 (1,708 arrests) and 2019/20 (3,834 arrests), with the exception of falls of 37 and 239 in 2014/15 and 2016/17 respectively. Looking at the last three financial years drug-related arrests fell in 2020/21 and 2021/22 with decreases of 503 and 188 respectively. The number of drug-related arrests recorded in 2022/23 (3,244) showed a rise of 101 (3.2 per cent) when compared with 2021/22 and the latest figure remains nearly twice that recorded in 2006/07. Lockdown measures in relation to Covid-19 were first introduced on 23rd March 2020 and may have had an impact on the number of drug-related arrests recorded while these measures were in place.

Following arrest, further police action may be taken against the arrested person or they may be released with no further action being taken. People may also be dealt with by police without first being arrested.

The rate of increase in drug-related arrests has not kept pace with that seen in drug seizure incidents. The sanction outcome figures for police recorded drug offences can provide some clarity on this.

Each police recorded drug offence can be allocated a crime outcome including sanction outcomes where police have taken action against the person involved, such as charge, summons, caution/informed warning or community resolution notice (CRN).

CRNs were introduced as a crime outcome disposal during 2011/12 and are classified as an informal out-of-court disposal. In their first year there were 174 CRN outcomes recorded in respect of police recorded drug offences, rising to 2,812 in 2021/22 and 3,262 in 2022/23. Since 2017/18 they have represented the highest proportion of sanction outcome disposals allocated to drug offences, followed by summons, charge and then caution. With the introduction of community resolutions, the proportion of drug offences allocated a caution outcome has fallen.

Figure 5.1 Drug-related arrests, drug seizure incidents and sanction outcomes[22] for police recorded drug offences, 2006/07 to 2022/23, indexed to 2006/07=100
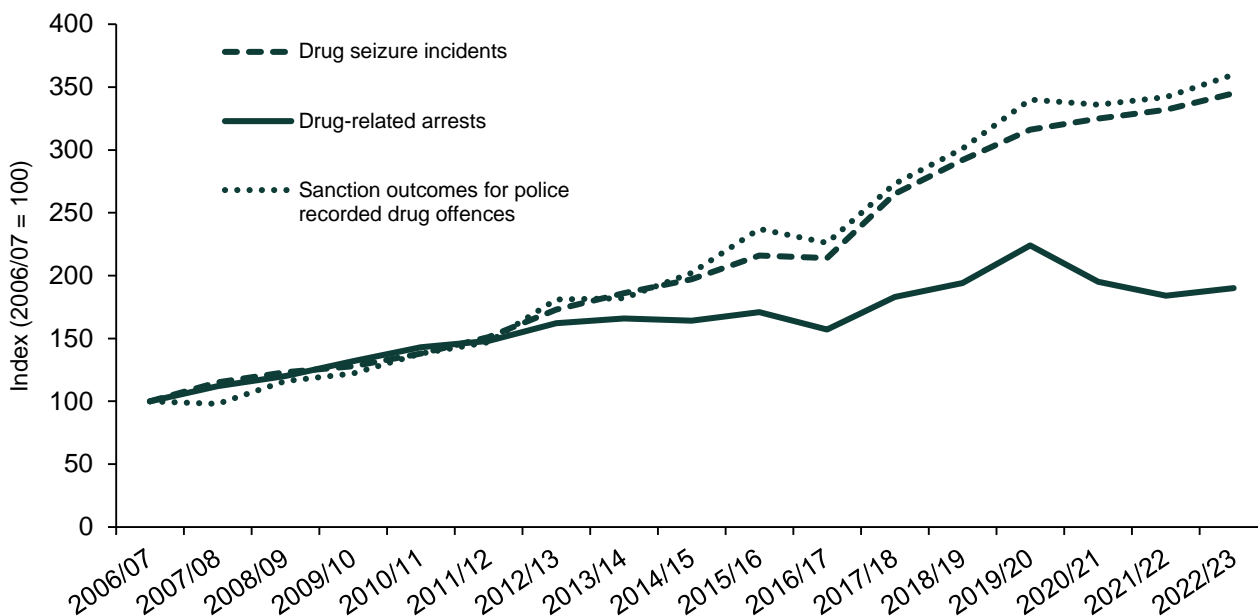

Changing levels of drug-related arrests are mainly influenced by arrests related to possession offences. Possession-related arrests more than doubled between 2006/07 (1,499) and 2019/20 (3,651) before generally falling in subsequent years with 3,084 possession arrests in 2022/23. Arrests involving supply offences nearly

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[22] Sanction outcomes for police recorded drug offences include charge, summons, caution and community resolution. Community resolutions were introduced as a crime outcome disposal during 2011/12.

doubled between 2006/07 (705) and 2019/20 (1,317) before falling to 1,117 in 2022/23. Arrests involving other drug-related offences (other than supply or possession) are small in number, averaging less than 30 each year.

Figure 5.2 Drug-related arrests by type of arrest offence[23], 2006/07 to 2022/23
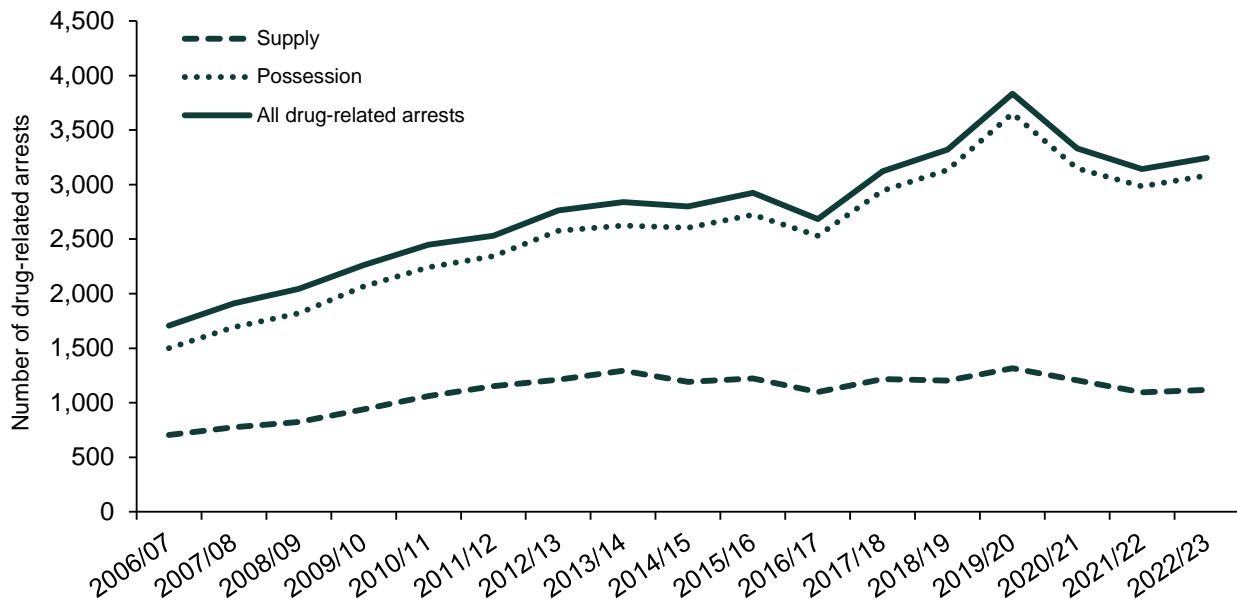
The number of arrests for a drug-related offence where the person was under 18 at time of arrest fell to its lowest level of 88 in 2022/23, less than half the number recorded in 2019/20 (210). Drug-related arrests where the person was 18 or over at time of arrest have more than doubled since 2006/07 (1,522), reaching 3,624 in 2019/20; there were 3,156 recorded in 2022/23. As the number of drug-related arrests has increased, the proportion of those who were under 18 at time of arrest has fallen from 10.9 per cent in 2006/07 to 2.7 per cent in 2022/23.

Figure 5.3 Drug-related arrests by age at time of arrest, 2006/07 to 2022/23
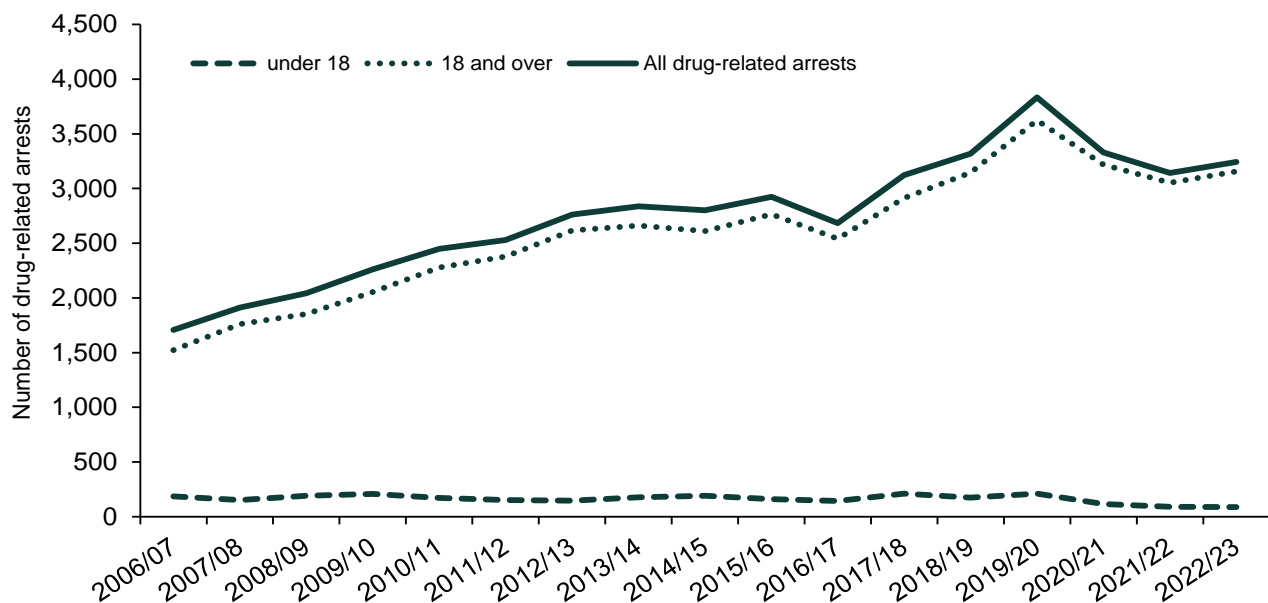
Arrests under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016

There have been 47 arrests under the Psychoactive Substances Act between the introduction of the legislation in 2016 and the latest financial year 2022/23. There were 11 arrests in 2016/17, 10 in 2017/18, 4 in 2018/19, 4 in 2019/20, 9 in 2020/21, 2 in 2021/22 and 7 in 2022/23. Almost half of the arrests (21 of the 47) have occurred in the Belfast City policing district.

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[23] As a person can be arrested for more than one type of drug offence, arrest figures by type of arrest offence will sum to more than the total number of drug-related arrests. The number of arrests for 'Other' drug offences are too small to be presented in Figure 5.2.

6. Geographic patterns of Drug-related Arrests

Drug-related arrests are allocated to the policing district in which the person was arrested.

Just over two in five drug-related arrests occurred in Belfast City Policing District during 2022/23. To assist in understanding the distribution of drug-related arrests, a breakdown of Belfast City Policing District into the four local policing teams is presented in this section. The four local policing teams are based in Lisburn Road (South Belfast), Tennent Street (North Belfast), Strandtown (East Belfast) and Woodbourne (West Belfast).

Drug-related arrests in Belfast City policing district increased in most years between 2006/07 (469 arrests) and 2019/20 (1,541 arrests), with levels in the last three years lower than 2019/20. Derry City & Strabane saw their highest drug-related arrest levels in 2020/21 (477 arrests).

Figure 6.1 Distribution of drug-related arrests by policing district, 2022/23
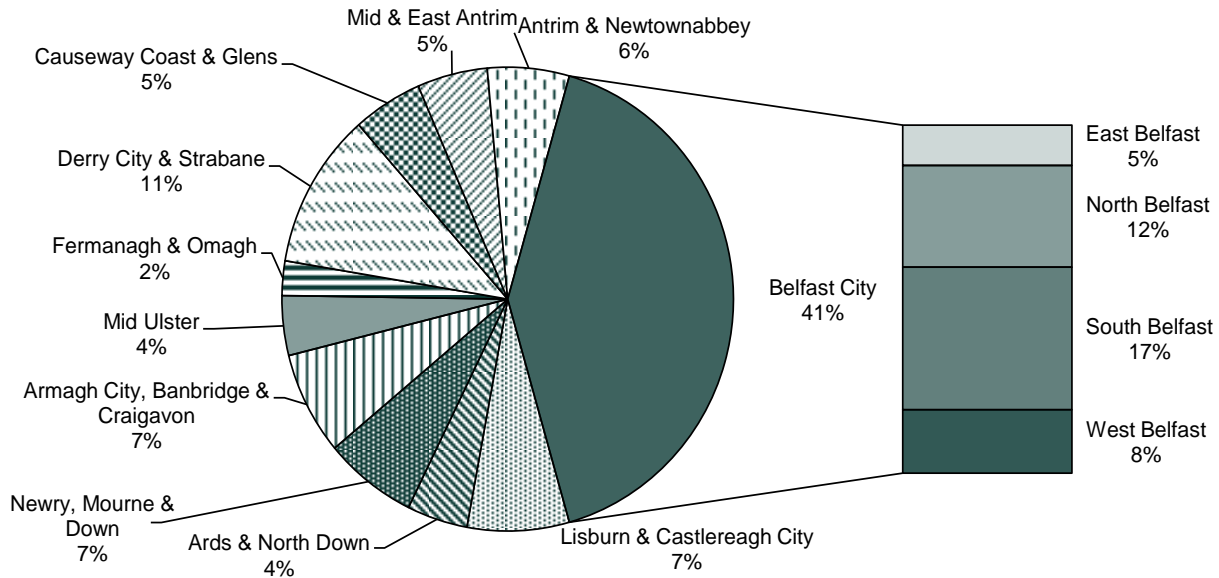

Table 6.1   Drug-related arrests by policing district over the last five years[24]

Policing District	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Belfast City	1,320	1,541	1,207	1,238	1,336
East Belfast	*188*	*186*	*188*	*182*	*155*
North Belfast	*359*	*403*	*352*	*327*	*390*
South Belfast	*564*	*736*	*447*	*523*	*548*
West Belfast	*209*	*216*	*220*	*206*	*243*
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	248	278	245	166	237
Ards & North Down	153	150	121	126	141
Newry, Mourne, & Down	187	178	208	202	216
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	260	280	257	263	233
Mid Ulster	143	185	135	131	135
Fermanagh & Omagh	140	151	109	122	78
Derry City & Strabane	334	432	477	392	353
Causeway Coast & Glens	204	233	211	152	162
Mid & East Antrim	167	213	185	197	163
Antrim & Newtownabbey	164	193	176	154	190
Northern Ireland	**3,320**	**3,834**	**3,331**	**3,143**	**3,244**

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[24] The complete time series from 2012/13 is available in the drug seizures and arrests annual trends spreadsheet, 891KB (opens in a new window).

7. Wider Context (Comparison with England and Wales)[25]

Figure 7.1 below provides a comparison of trends in drug seizure incidents in Northern Ireland compared with those in England and Wales. As the number of seizures in England and Wales far exceed those recorded in Northern Ireland, the trends are shown relative to the levels recorded in 2006/07. Border Force seizures have been excluded from the England and Wales total.

While the trends were similar between 2006/07 and 2008/09, they started to diverge in 2009/10 with an increasing trend observed in Northern Ireland and a falling trend in England and Wales. The trend in England & Wales started to increase again in 2018/19 before a further fall was seen in 2021/22.

Figure 1.2 (Section 1 Overview) shows how closely the drug seizures trend follows the police recorded drug offences trend in Northern Ireland. It should be noted that the same is also observed in England and Wales[25].

Figure 7.1 Drug seizures in Northern Ireland compared with England and Wales (index 2006/07=100)
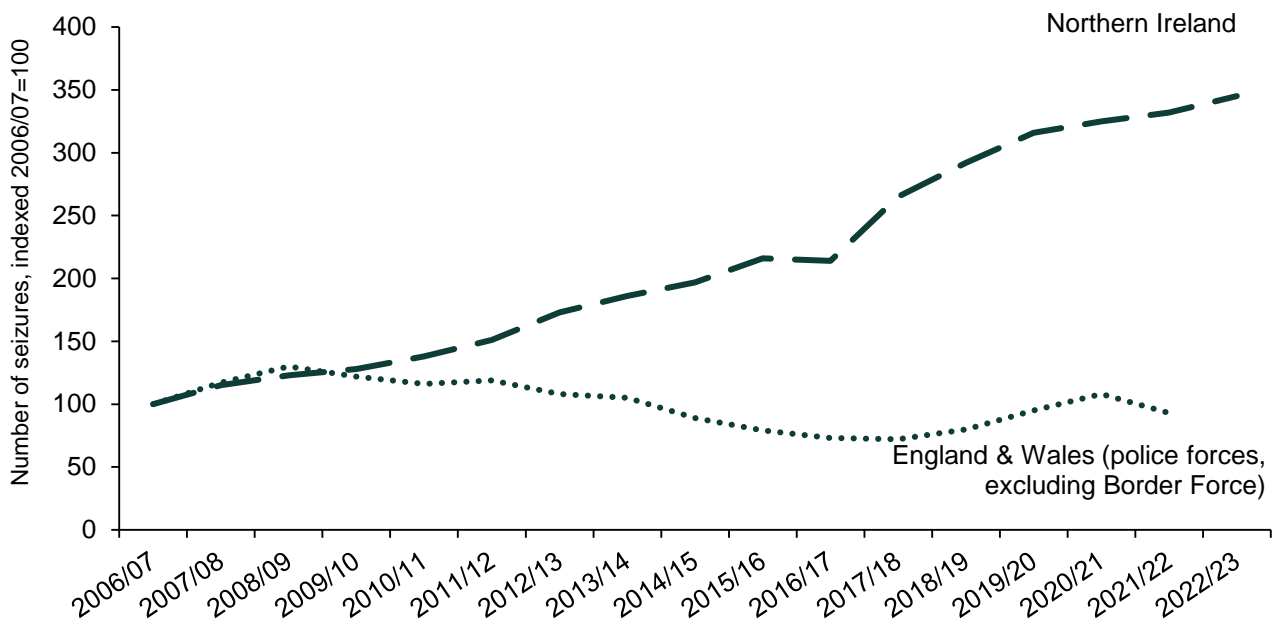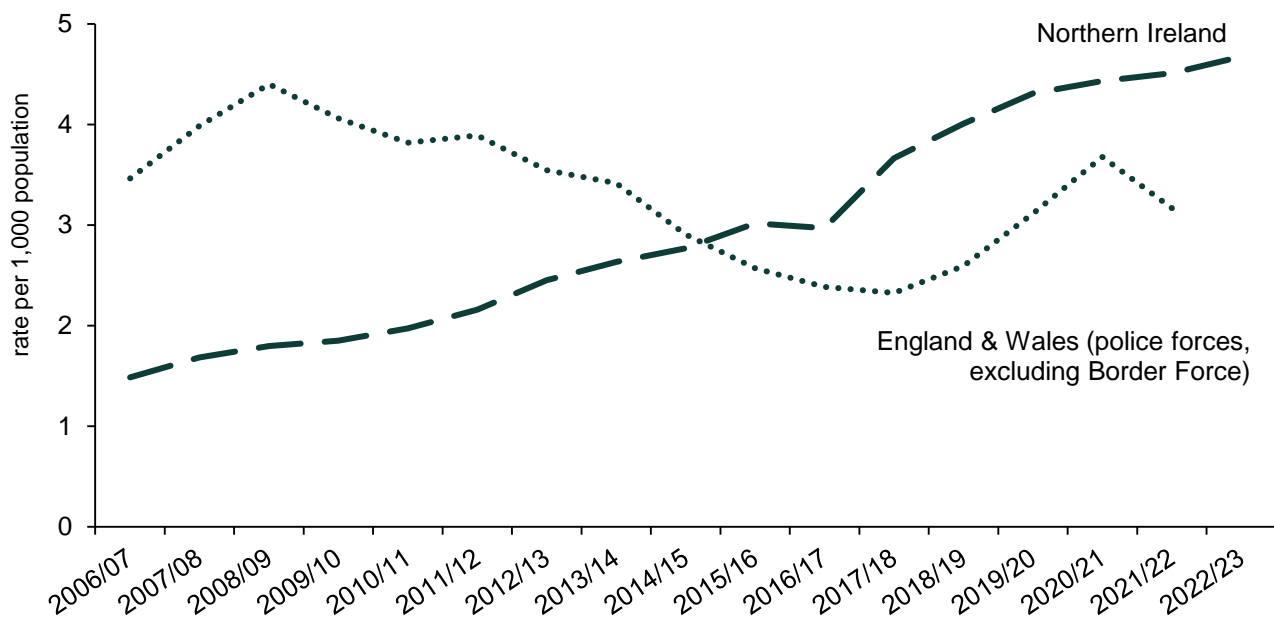

Figure 7.2 Drug seizures per 1,000 population in Northern Ireland compared with England and Wales

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[25] The England & Wales details have been sourced from the publication Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, financial year ending 2022 (opens in a new window). At time of publication these were the most up-to-date figures available for England & Wales.

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Appendix 1. Background and Data Quality

1   Methodology

1.1 Data Collection

When a drug is seized by police there are procedures in place that cover the handling, management, storage and disposal of seized substances. One requirement of these procedures is that the details of the seized substances are added to PSNI's record management system. Statistics on drug seizures are based on information extracted from PSNIs record management system and separately collated on a bespoke database. In order for a seizure to be included in the published statistics a range of information is required including, but not limited to, drug type, drug format, estimated weight or quantity seized and any details relating to forensic examination.

Drug-related arrests are extracted from custody data, where a person has been arrested and processed through police custody for one or more drug-related offences (ie related to the Misuse of Drugs Act or the Psychoactive Substances Act). Persons arrested and street-bailed, dealt with by other means or whose detention was not authorised are not included in these statistics.

1.2 Data Quality

A quality assurance process is in place to ensure that the data is fit for purpose and published to the highest possible standard. A set of checks have been written to identify incidents that indicate drugs may have been seized. Where there are no drugs details are available, each record will be followed up to confirm seizure and ensure the required details are input. A range of data quality checks are regularly conducted on the seizure data to identify incomplete or inconsistent records, potential duplication of records and input errors. Large seizures are also checked.

Further details on Police Recorded Drug Seizure and Arrest statistics are available in the Drug Seizures and Arrests User Guide (opens in a new window).

2   Further Information

2.1 Data Use

The drug seizures and drug-related arrests statistics are mainly used within PSNI as management information and to monitor performance on drug crime targets against the policing plan. The figures are also used by government departments and other voluntary and statutory agencies to inform debate and policy development regarding drug crime in NI.

2.2 Data Availability

A consistent data series at the overall level of drug seizure incident and drug-related arrest is available dating back to 2006/07, while a consistent data series at the level of individual drug type and format is available for the period dating back to 2012/13. The number of seizure incidents involving new psychoactive substances is presented from 2019/20.

2.3 Publication

The PSNI website has a full publication schedule (opens in a new window).

Tables and charts in this bulletin are available on the PSNI website in the form of an accompanying spreadsheet, which also provides additional levels of detail. It is available in excel spreadsheet format and open document spreadsheet format (opens in a new window).

2.4 Related information available on the PSNI website

Police Recorded Crime Statistics (opens in a new window).These statistics are updated on a monthly basis and a trends report is published annually

Crime Outcomes (opens in a new window). This annual publication summarises the outcomes that have been assigned to crimes recorded by the police since 2015/16.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI website (opens in a new window).