



BRIEFING PAPER

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Drug crime: Statistics for England and Wales

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2 Drug crime: Statistics for England and Wales

Cover page image: [Cocaine-hidden-in-machinery](#) by [UK Home Office](#). Licensed under [CC BY-2.0](#) / image cropped.

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Summary

Recorded crime

In 2019/20, there were around 175,000 drug offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. This is 13% higher than 2018/19. National totals exclude figures from Greater Manchester for the years ending March 2019 and 2020 and are not directly comparable with previous years.

Drug crime by police force area

Merseyside recorded the highest rate of drug offences 8.3 per 1,000 population in 2019/20, up from 6.1 in 2018/19. Warwickshire had the lowest rate of 1.6 offences per 1,000 individuals (the same as the previous year).

Proven offences and offenders

In 2018/19, there were around 48,800 disposals given (cases dealt with) for drug offences. Between 2008/09 and 2018/19, the proportion of drug offenders receiving a caution fell from 46% to 30%, while the proportion receiving a custodial sentence increased from 9% to 16%.

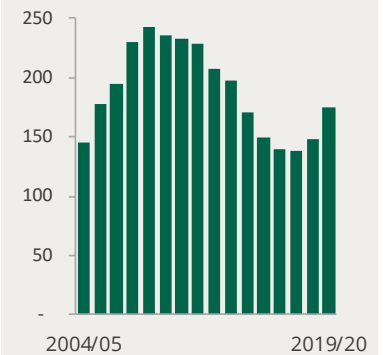
Hospital admissions

There were 13 hospital admissions per 100,000 population due to drug related mental and behavioural disorders in England in 2018/19, and 19 per 100,000 in Wales. In the same year, there were also 32 hospital admissions per 100,000 due to poisoning by drug misuse in England and 32 per 100,000 in Wales.

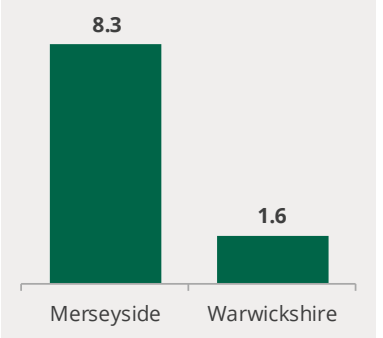
Drug related deaths

Drug related deaths have increased year on year from 2,652 in 2011 to 4,393 in 2019 (representing a 66% increase). Data prior to 2011 is not directly comparable. Between 2017 to 2018 (the most recent data available) saw the largest annual increase in deaths (16%) since the time series began.

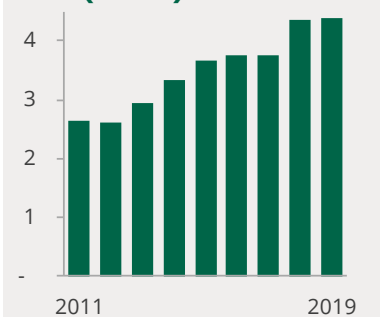
Drug crime has declined over the past decade (000s)



Highest/lowest rate of drug offences 2019/20 (per 1,000 population)



Deaths related to drug poisoning are on the rise (000s)



1. Background

1.1 Legislation

The [Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#) regulates the production, supply and possession of “controlled” drugs.

Controlled drugs are listed in Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act and are divided into three Classes – A, B and C – with Class A drugs considered the most harmful. Controlled drugs also include any substance or product specified in a temporary class drug order as a drug subject to temporary control.

Drug crime is divided between ‘trafficking in controlled drugs’ and ‘possession of drugs’ offences. Possession of controlled drugs offences were split with effect from April 2004 into possession of Cannabis and possession of drugs other than Cannabis. ‘Other drug offences’ also fall under the possession category, consisting of offences related to permitting the use of premises for the supply or production of a drug, or the possession of a psychoactive substance with intent to supply (covered by the [Psychoactive Substances Act 2016](#)).

The above offences are all “either way” offences, meaning they can be tried in either a magistrates’ court or a Crown court depending on the seriousness of the offence. However, offences relating to the production and supply of Class A drugs are rarely tried in magistrates’ courts due to their higher minimum sentences.

Maximum sentences for drug offences can range between a fine and life imprisonment depending on the class of the drugs involved and the seriousness of the crime.

2. Police Recorded Crime

2.1 Stop and search

The police have a variety of legislative powers to stop and search those they suspect have certain items. Their stop and search powers allow them to “allay or confirm” their suspicions without making an arrest.

There are different types of stop and search powers. The most commonly used powers require officers to have “reasonable grounds” to conduct the search. These searches typically authorised under [Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(PACE\)](#) and [Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 \(MDA\)](#).

Police officers also have the power under [Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994](#) to stop and search persons and/or vehicles in a defined area in anticipation of, or after, serious violence. These are sometimes known as a ‘no suspicion’ searches. Searches are also permitted under [Section 47a of the Terrorism Act 2000](#) when there is ‘reasonable suspicion’ of terrorism-related activity.

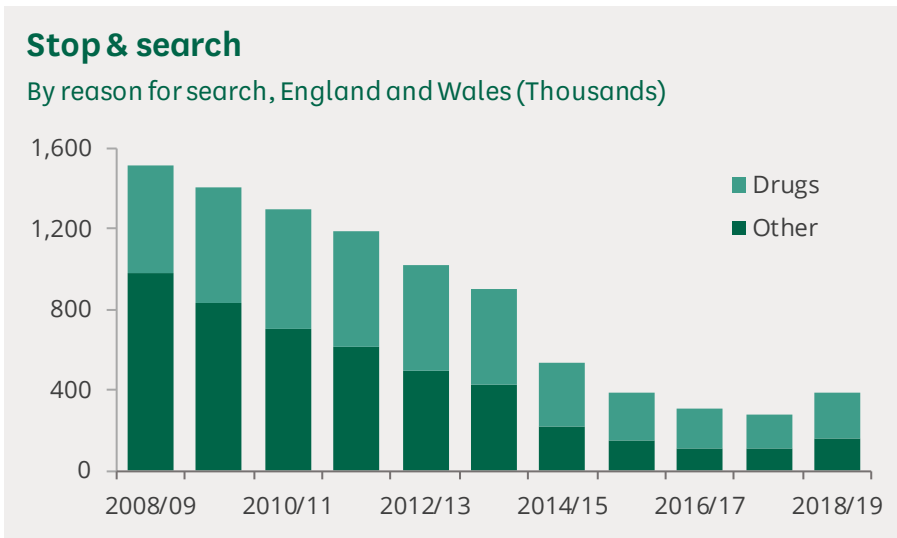
Section 23 of the MDA

Section 23(2) of the MDA gives police officers the power to stop and search persons and/or vehicles or vessels for controlled drugs or for evidence of an offence under the MDA.

In order to stop and search a person under this provision, the officer must have “reasonable grounds to suspect that [he] is in possession of a controlled drug in contravention of the MDA”. Similarly, in order to stop and search a vehicle/vessel, the officer must suspect that drugs may be found in it. As the College of Policing makes clear, this does not cover cases where the person is suspected “merely” to have used the drug or been present during its use by others.¹

When a stop and search takes place, the reason for the search is recorded. Suspicion of carrying drugs is the most commonly cited reason. The chart below shows the number of stop and searches conducted in England and Wales between 2006/07 and 2018/19, broken down by searches for drugs and searches for all other reasons:

¹ College of Policing, [Authorised Professional Practice: Stop and search – legal basis](#) (Accessed: 19 August 2020)



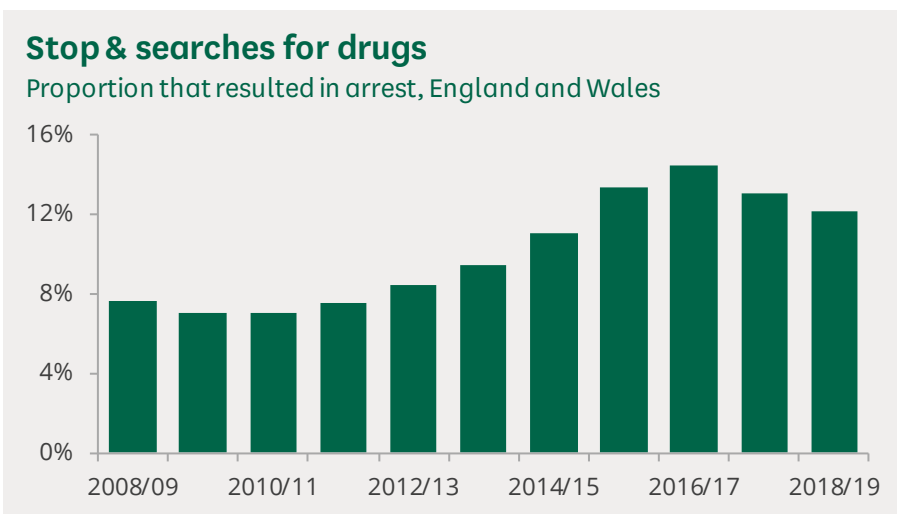
Note: includes the British Transport Police.

Source: Home Office, Police powers and procedures, England and Wales year ending March 2019, [Stop and search open data tables](#) [Accessed: 15 April 2020].

Over the decade shown, the number of searches conducted has fallen by 75% from a peak of 1,519,561 in 2008/09 to 383,629 in 2018/19. The proportion of searches with drugs stated as the reason has increased over this period, from 36% in 2008/09 to 59% in 2018/19. Since 2012/13, more than half of all stop and searches conducted each year have been looking for drugs.

Full data on searches conducted by police in England and Wales and the reasons why is provided in appendix table A1.

The chart below shows the proportion of stop and searches in which the reason for the search was drugs-related that resulted in an arrest. It is important to note that the reason for the resultant arrest may not be the same as the initial reason for the stop and search.



Note: includes British Transport Police.

Source: Home Office, Police powers and procedures, England and Wales year ending March 2019, [Stop and search open data tables](#) [Accessed: 15 April 2020].

In 2018/19, 12% of stop and searches, in which the initial reason for the search was drugs-related, resulted in arrest. This represents a two percentage point decrease from a peak of 14% in 2016/17. However, this figure has increased by five percentage points since 2009/10 (7%).

As the overall number of searches conducted has decreased, the proportion of resultant arrests have increased. This suggests that searches have become better targeted and more effective, although the majority of searches still result in nothing being found (72%).²

In addition to collecting data on the number of stop and searches that result in an arrest, police forces must also record whether the reason for the arrest was linked to the initial reason for the search. This is in line with Home Office guidance on the [best use of stop and search](#) (BUSS). This guidance is specifically designed to promote a targeted approach to stop and search and reduce the use of pre-condition searches.³

The table below shows the proportion of stop and searches in which the outcome was linked to the initial reason for the search. Stop and searches conducted to find drugs most frequently return a linked outcome. In 2018/19, over 1 in 4 drug stops (28%) led to an outcome related to 'Drugs'. In comparison, this figure was just under 1 in 8 (11%) for searches relating to 'Offensive weapons' and 'Going equipped'. Overall, just over 1 in 5 of all stop and searches (22%) resulted in an outcome that was linked to the reason for the search.⁴

Whether the outcome is linked to the reason for the search England and Wales, 2018/19

	Outcome		Unknown				Total
	Outcome linked	linked (%) [*]	Outcome not linked	Unknown link	Nothing found	if object found	
Drugs	62,013	28%	5,534	3,055	152,237	2,527	225,366
Stolen property	7,880	21%	1,900	936	27,571	681	38,968
Criminal damage	307	13%	126	38	1,876	56	2,403
Firearms	488	12%	298	32	3,313	65	4,196
Offensive weapons	6,783	12%	3,134	478	48,974	722	60,091
Going equipped	3,486	12%	1,898	311	24,063	559	30,317
Other	2,053	9%	1,329	217	18,644	45	22,288
Total	83,010	22%	14,219	5,067	276,678	4,655	383,629

^{*}Calculations exclude cases where it is unknown whether a link or an object was found.

Notes: includes 'vehicle only' searches. British Transport Police, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, Hampshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Sussex, and West Yorkshire cannot determine whether the outcome of stop and searches was linked or not linked for all cases. These have been recorded in "Unknown link".

Source: Home Office, Police powers and procedures, England and Wales year ending March 2019, [Best use of stop and search statistics](#), 24 October 2019, BUSS_04.

² Home Office, *Police powers and procedures, England and Wales year ending March 2019*, [Best use of stop and search statistics](#), 24 October 2019, BUSS_04.

³ For more information see the Commons Library briefing [Police powers: stop and search](#)

⁴ Calculations exclude cases where it is unknown whether there was a link or if an object was found.

Ethnicity

People from minority ethnic backgrounds have been consistently more likely to be stopped and searched than White people. The table below compares the proportion of stop and searches carried out on different ethnic groups in 2018/19.

Stop & searches by self-defined ethnicity compared to general population

England and Wales, 2018/19

	Searches for drugs		All searches		Population estimate
	Number	%	Number	%	
White	111,634	50.6%	187,761	50.0%	84.4%
Asian (or Asian British)	28,439	12.9%	41,472	11.0%	7.6%
Black (or Black British)	39,300	17.8%	70,648	18.8%	3.7%
Chinese or other	3,632	1.6%	6,457	1.7%	2.4%
Mixed	7,537	3.4%	13,014	3.5%	1.9%
Not Stated	30,185	13.7%	56,236	15.0%	-
Total	220,727	100.0%	375,588	100.0%	100.0%
Total minority ethnic	78,908	35.7%	131,591	35.0%	15.6%

Note: excludes 'vehicle only' searches.

Source: Home Office, Police powers and procedures, England and Wales year ending March 2019, [Stop and search open data tables](#) [Accessed: 27 August 2020]; Annual Population Survey dataset 2019.

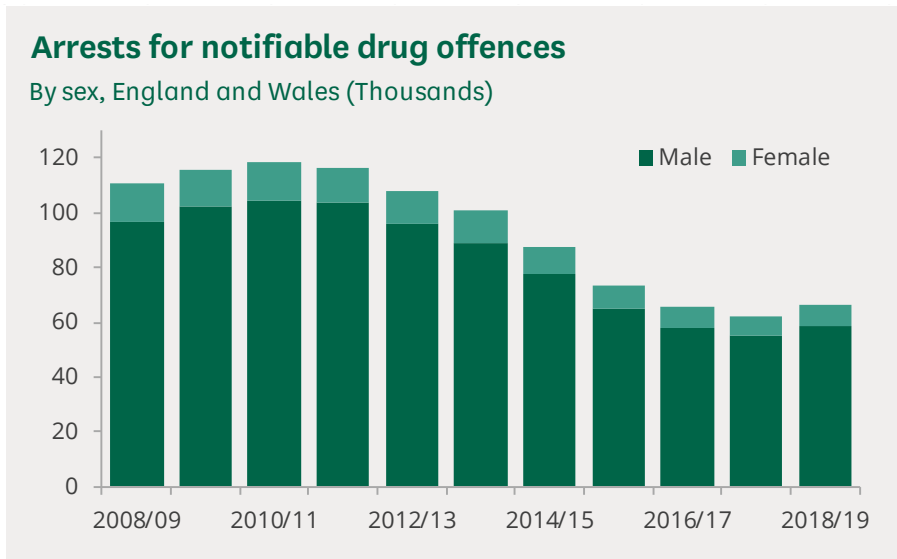
People who self-identified as White were under-represented relative to the population, accounting for 84.4% of the population but 50.6% of drug-related stop and searches. All other ethnic groups were over-represented, with the exception of the 'Chinese or other' ethnic category.

People who self-identified as Black or Black British were particularly over-represented, accounting for 17.8% of searches compared to 3.7% of the population. The ethnic breakdown of stop and searches for drugs is roughly proportional to that for all stop and searches.

2.2 Arrests

Data on arrests made by the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales since 2006/07 is published by the Home Office as part of the [Police Powers and Procedures Statistics](#) series.

The chart below shows the number of arrests for notifiable drug offences for each financial year, broken down by sex. The number of arrests peaked 118,658 in 2010/11 and has since fallen to 66,211 in 2018/19. It is important to note that arrest figures reflect police activity and cannot be reliably used to infer the level of crime being committed by offenders.



Notes: Excludes British Transport Police. Data for Nottinghamshire in 2015/16 was estimated. All data from Lancashire Police has been excluded. Devon & Cornwall, Kent and North Wales are unable to separately identify primary arrests on their recording system. Therefore, arrests for all notifiable offences are included, even if linked to a previous arrest.

Source: Home Office, *Police powers and procedures, England and Wales year ending March 2019*, [Arrests open data tables](#), 24 October 2019.

The majority of people arrested for drug offences are male. The proportions of men and women arrested has remained relatively stable, with 88% of those arrested between 2008/09 and 2018/19 being male and 12% female.

The chart overleaf shows arrests for notifiable drug offences broken down by self-defined ethnicity. In 2018/19, 56% of those arrested were White, 17% were Black or Black British, 10% Asian or Asian British, 5% Mixed and 2% Chinese or other ethnic group. 10% of those arrested did not state their ethnicity.

Over the 5 years shown, since 2013/14, the proportion of those arrested who self-define as White has decreased by 16 percentage points, whilst the proportion who identify as Black or Black British (+5 pts), Asian or Asian British (+2 pts), Mixed (+1 ppt) and Chinese or other ethnic group (+1 ppt) have all increased. The proportion of those not stating their ethnicity has also risen (+8 pts).

Arrests for notifiable drug offences

By self-defined ethnicity, England and Wales



Notes: Excludes British Transport Police. Data for Nottinghamshire in 2015/16 was estimated. All data from Lancashire Police has been excluded. Devon & Cornwall, Kent and North Wales are unable to separately identify primary arrests on their recording system. Therefore, arrests for all notifiable offences are included, even if linked to a previous arrest.

Source: Home Office, *Police powers and procedures, England and Wales year ending March 2019*, [Arrest statistics data tables](#), Table A.01c, 24 October 2019.

2.3 Transferred or cancelled records

Transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as 'no-crimes') occur when a police force initially records an offence and later decides that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another police force. Cases where an incident was not initially recorded as a crime are not included.

Prior to April 2015, transferred or cancelled records were recorded collectively as 'no crimes'. This has since been broken down into five different reason categories. The table below shows the reasons for the cancellation or transfer of drug crime records in 2019/20.

Transferred or cancelled drug crime records 2019/20		
England and Wales		
Reason	Number	%
Transferred: Crime committed outside force jurisdiction	312	7%
Cancelled: Crime recorded in error	2,122	45%
Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded	1,805	39%
Cancelled: AVI determines no notifiable crime occurred*	444	9%
Cancelled: Self defence claimed (specific recorded assaults)	0	0%
Total	4,683	100%

*AVI = additional verifiable information

Source: Home Office, *Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables*, [Transferred or cancelled crime open data year ending March 2020](#), 17 July 2020.

The most common reason was that the crime was deemed to have been recorded in error (accounting for 45% of transferred or cancelled records, compared to 20% for all crimes combined). Records were also cancelled on account of being duplicates or part of a crime that had already been recorded (39%, compared to 36% for all crimes), or because additional verifiable information had become available that determined that no notifiable crime had occurred (9%, compared to 0% for all crimes). In 7% of cases, the crime had been committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded, so the record was transferred to the appropriate force. For both drug crime and all crime records, 0% were cancelled on the grounds of a self-defence claim.

Outcomes

In April 2013, a new 'outcomes' framework was introduced, replacing the "detections" series previously recorded (the number of cases resolved with a formal or informal criminal justice outcome). A full, broader outcomes framework was introduced in April 2014 – data by outcome is therefore only comparable from 2014/15 onwards.

The table overleaf shows the outcomes assigned to drug offences recorded in 2019/20:

Drug offence outcomes 2019/20		
England and Wales		
Outcome Group	Number	%
Charged/Summoned	41,900	24%
Out-of-court (informal)	20,660	12%
Out-of-court (formal)	56,494	32%
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	12,529	7%
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	1,261	1%
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	4,796	3%
Further investigation not in the public interest (police decision)	4,763	3%
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	3,775	2%
Diversionary/educational/intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken - further action not in the public interest*	1,487	1%
Responsibility for further investigation transferred to another body	461	0%
Taken into consideration	15	0%
Not yet assigned an outcome	27,004	15%
Total	175,145	100%

*This outcome was introduced on a voluntary basis in April 2019.

Source: Home Office, [Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables](#), 17 July 2020.

The majority of drug offences resulted in some form of formal or informal criminal justice outcome, whereby the suspect was either charged or summonsed (24%), cautioned or issued a penalty notice for disorder (out-of-court formal) (12%), issued a cannabis or khat warning or a Community Resolution was applied (out-of-court informal) (32%). 17% of drug offences recorded in 2018/19 went unsolved or the case was dropped for various reasons, whilst 15% had not yet been assigned an outcome.

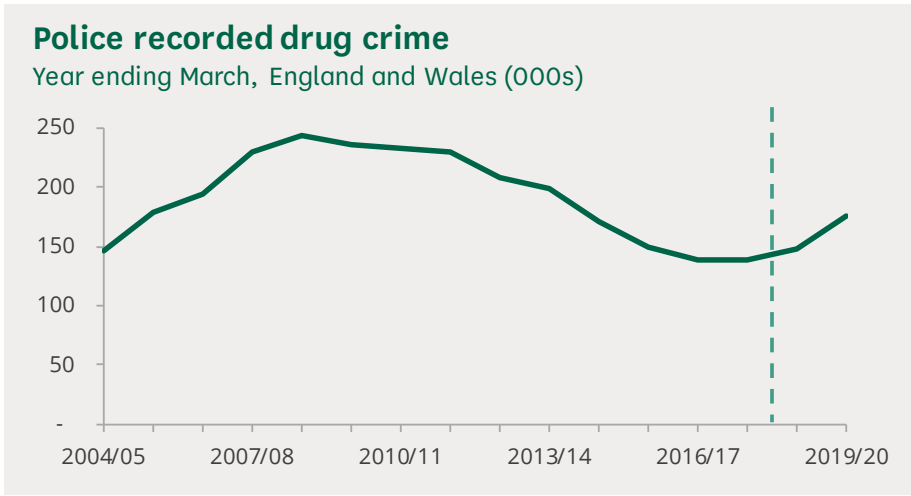
A higher proportion of drug offences result in a formal or informal criminal justice outcome compared with all offences combined (68% and 11% respectively). This is partly due to the nature of the crime. Drug crime tends to be detected when the perpetrator is found in possession of drugs. Therefore, there is no need to identify a suspect and the police are already in possession of evidence. In contrast, most other recorded crime is reported to the police by the victim, who is often unaware of, or unwilling to identify, the perpetrator.

2.4 Trends over time

Appendix table A2 shows the number and proportion of drug offences recorded by the police in England and Wales since 2004/05.

The chart below shows that the number of drug offences fell between 2008/09 and 2017/18, before rising again over the next two years. Data for 2018/19 and 2019/20 excludes the Greater Manchester Police Force (GMP) and is not comparable with previous years. In the year ending March 2020, there were around 175,000 drug offences. With GMP excluded, this is still 13% higher than in 2017/18 (the lowest level of

drug crime recorded since 2004/05), but 28% lower than in 2008/09 when drug crime peaked.



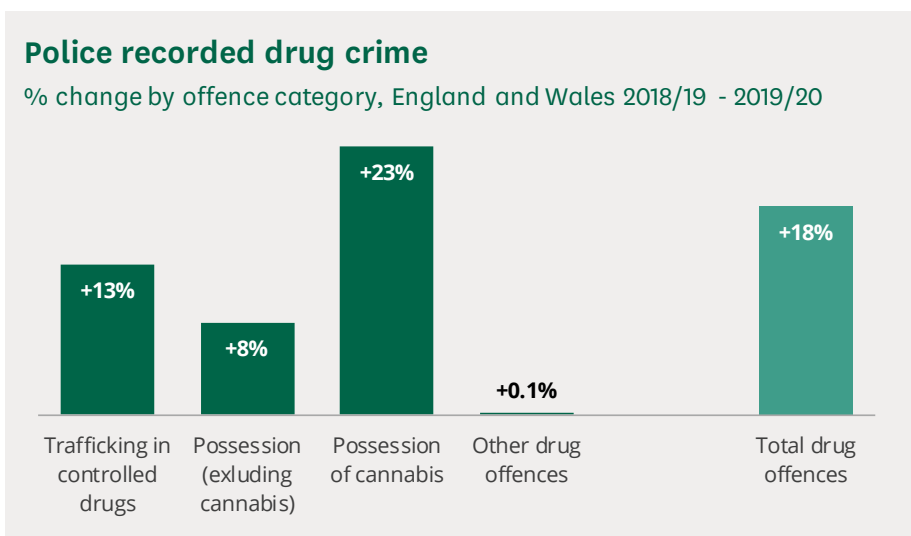
Note: Following the implementation of a new IT system in July 2019, Greater Manchester Police have been unable to supply data for the period July 2019 to March 2020. Figures for Greater Manchester are not included for the years ending March 2019 and 2020.

Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables*, 23 April 2020, Table 4A.

Possession of controlled drugs offences were split with effect from April 2004 into possession of Cannabis and possession of drugs other than Cannabis.

The main drug offence recorded in 2019/20 was ‘possession of cannabis’ (63%), followed by ‘possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)’ (18%), ‘trafficking in controlled drugs’ (18%) and ‘other drug offences’ (0.4%).

The chart below shows the percentage change in recorded drug crime for each offence category between 2018/19 and 2019/20:



Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables*, 23 April 2020, Table 4A.

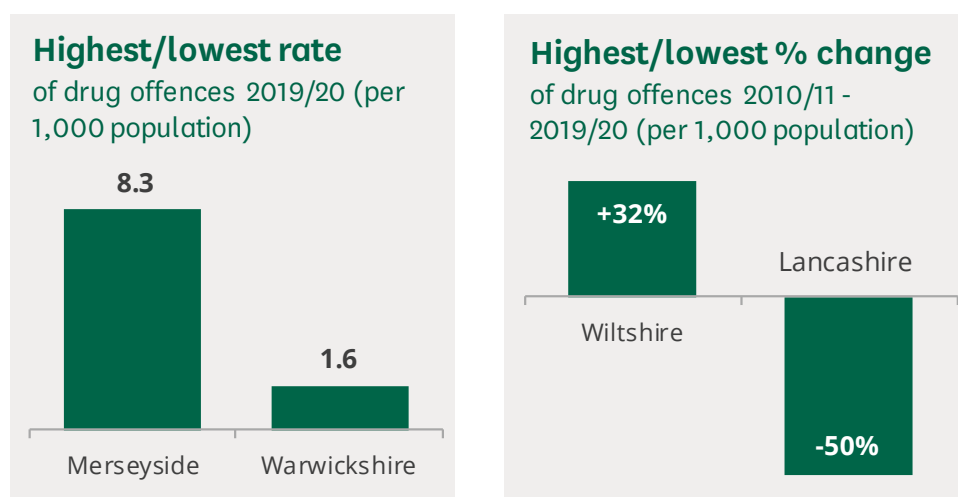
Over this period, the total number of drug offences increased by 18%. There was an increase in offences recorded across all categories: possession of cannabis increased the most (23%), followed by trafficking in controlled drugs (13%) and possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis) (8%). Other drug offences increased the least in the twelve months ending March 2019 (0.1%).

2.5 Police Force Areas (PFA)

Appendix table A3a shows the number and rate, per 1,000 population, of recorded drug offences for each police force area since 2010/11. The map overleaf provides a visual comparison of drug crime rates in 2010/11 compared to 2019/20. Maps for each year between 2010/11 and 2019/20 are available in the appendix (chart A3b).

In 2019/20, the Merseyside Police Force recorded the highest rate of 8.3 drug offences per 1,000 population. The Warwickshire Constabulary recorded the lowest rate of 1.6 offences per 1,000 population.

Between 2010/11 and 2019/20, all but six British police forces have seen a decline in drug offences.⁵ Wiltshire experienced the largest percentage increase in drug offences: from 1.6 per 1,000 population in 2010/11 to 2.2 in 2019/20 (+32%). In contrast, Lancashire Police saw the largest percentage decrease, from 3.4 offences per 1,000 population in 2010/11 to 1.7 in 2019/20 (-50%). Cumbria also experienced a similar decrease from 3.7 offences per 1,000 population in 2010/11 to 1.8 in 2018/19 (-50%).

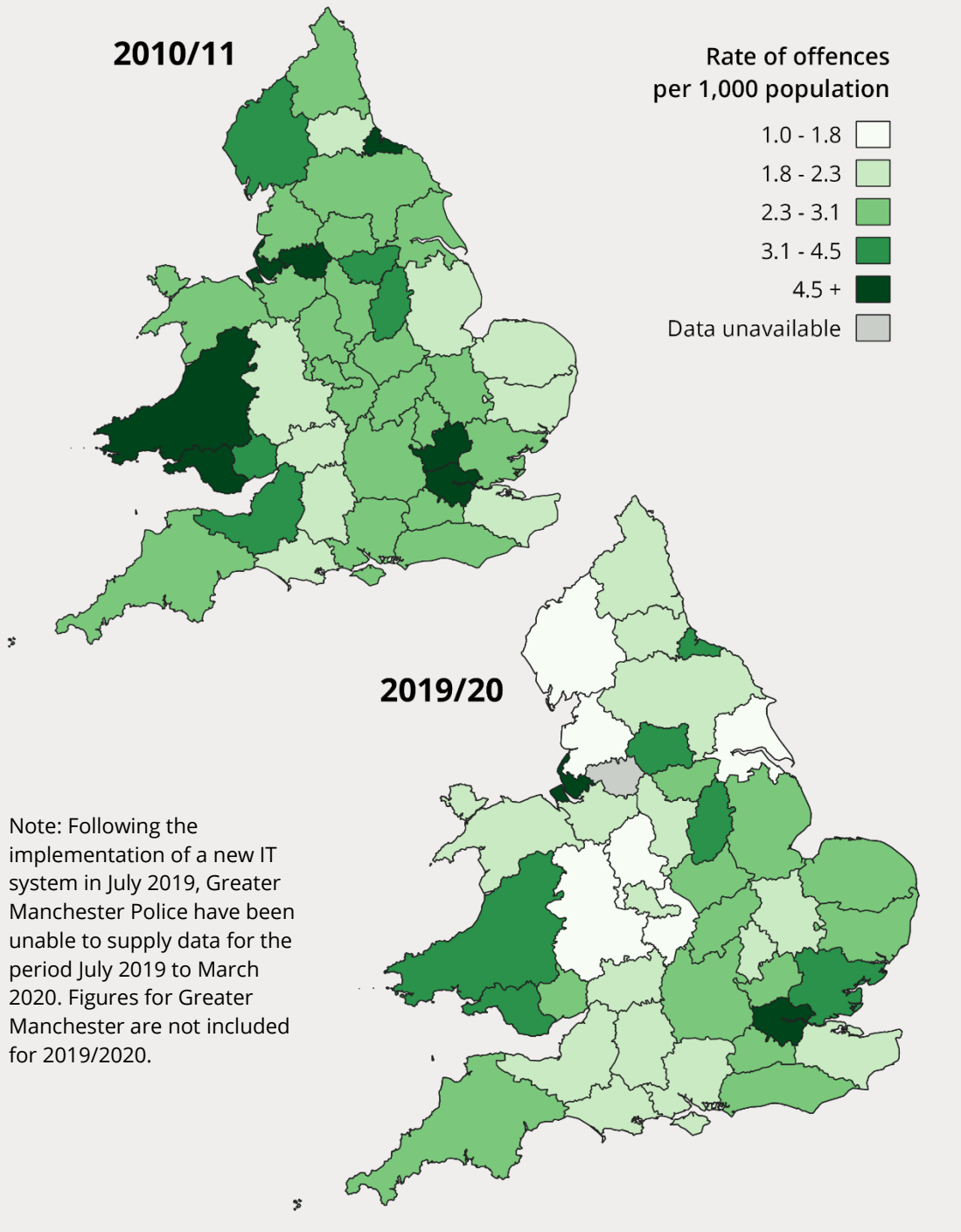


Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: [Police Force Area Data Tables](#), 17 July 2020, Table P3.

⁵ The six police forces that have seen the rate of drug offences increase are Essex, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

Drug offences recorded by the police

England and Wales, 2010/11 and 2019/20

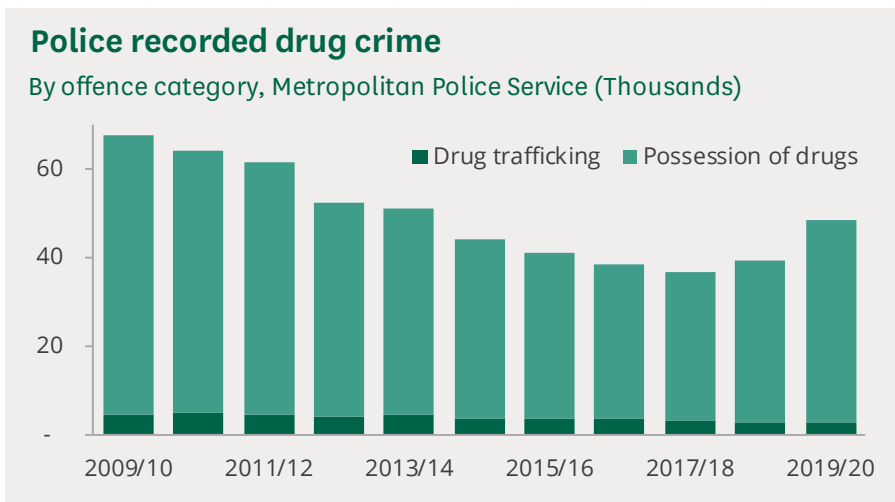


Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: [Police Force Area Data Tables](#), 17 July 2020 and earlier editions, Table P3.

2.6 London

The number of drug offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is available from its [Crime statistics 2019/20](#) dashboard.

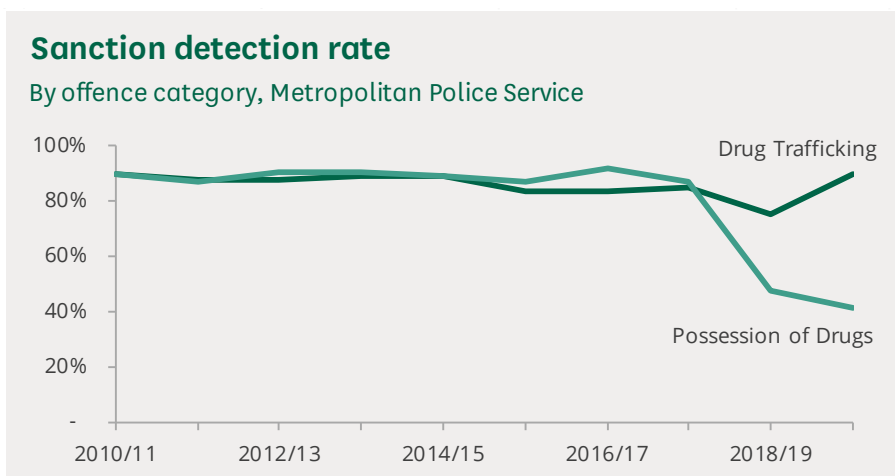
The chart below shows that drug offences declined from around 67,000 in 2009/10 to 37,000 in 2017/18. Numbers have since increased to roughly 48,000 in 2019/20. Most drug crime consists of possession offences. Drug possession fell from around 63,000 offences in 2009/10 to 45,000 in 2019/20, a decrease of 28%. Trafficking fell from around 5,000 offences in 2009/10 to just under 3,000 in 2019/20 (-37%).



Note: From 2018/19, MPS began recording 'other drug offences' as part of the 'possession of drugs' category, in line with updated Home Office crime classifications. For the purpose of this chart, 'other drug offences' are recorded as part of 'possession of drugs' throughout.

Source: Metropolitan Police Service, [Crime Statistics 2019/20](#), April 2020 [Accessed: 4 June 2020].

Chart 11 shows that the annual Sanction Detection Rates (SDR) for crimes involving drug trafficking and possession have remained fairly level over the past decade, up until the two most recent years.⁶



Source: Metropolitan Police Service, [Crime Statistics 2019/20](#), April 2020 [Accessed: 4 June 2020].

⁶ 'Sanction Detection' is the term used for police-generated detections as opposed to those resolved through administrative means. It is assumed that the accused receives a punishment or 'sanction' from the police. Sanction Detections include cases where an accused person is: charged, cautioned, summonsed, has offences taken in to consideration (TIC) or issued with a Fixed Penalty.

Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, the SDR for possession of drugs fell from 87% to 48%. Over the same year, the SDR for drug trafficking also fell, but less dramatically, from 85% to 75%. In 2019/20, the SDR for possession fell further to 41%, whilst the SDR for trafficking recovered to 90%, the same as in 2010/11.

The SDR for drug offences is significantly higher than that for all crimes combined, which in 2019/20 was 8%. This is largely due to the nature of the crime. Drug crime tends to be detected when the perpetrator is found in possession of drugs. Therefore, there is no need to identify a suspect and the police are already in possession of evidence. This increases the likelihood that the offence will be resolved through a formal sanction.

Appendix tables A3c shows the number of drug offences for each London Borough in 2018/19 and 2019/20. The map below provides a visual comparison of drug crime levels in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Note that offences in London boroughs are reported as totals rather than rates per population.

In 2019/20, the highest number of drug offences in London was recorded in Westminster – 3,568 compared to 2,170 in 2018/19.

The total number of drug offences increased by 22%, from 39,099 in 2018/19 to 47,806 in 2019/20. All but four boroughs saw an increase in drug crime between 2018/19 and 2019/20.⁷

Drug offences in Redbridge increased from 726 in 2018/19 to 1,396 in 2019/20 (+92%). This was the highest proportional increase over the period. Kensington & Chelsea recorded the highest proportional decrease of 13% (from 1,495 offences in 2018/19 to 1,301 in 2019/20).

Richmond upon Thames had the lowest number of drug offences (384).

This had increased from 257 in 2018/19. 74 drug offences were reported at Heathrow Airport 2019/20, up from 65 in 2018/19.

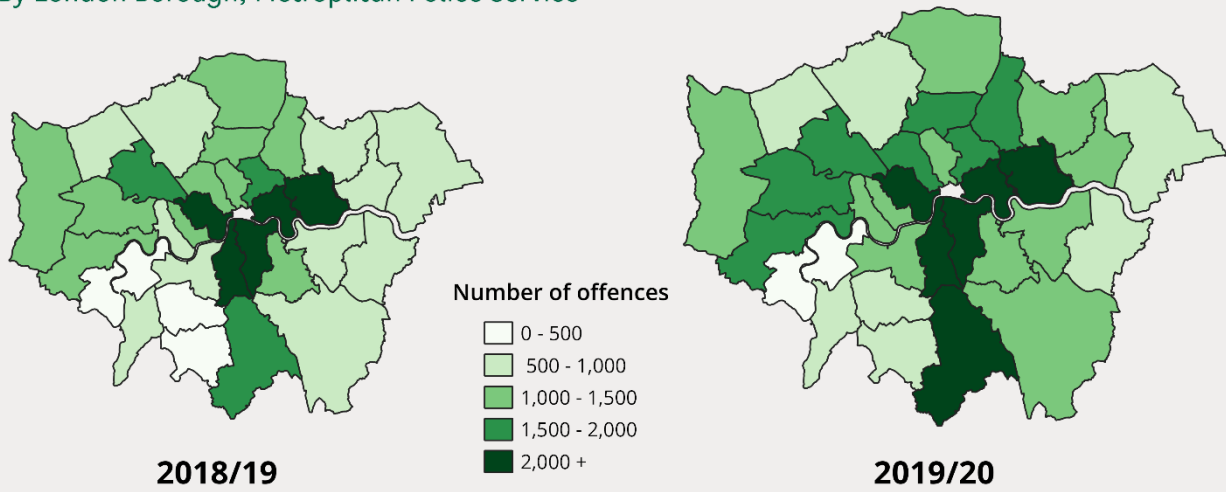
In all boroughs, most drug crime consisted of possession offences.

Drug crime 2019/20	
London borough	Offences
Westminster	3,568
Newham	3,061
Croydon	2,524
Southwark	2,474
Tower Hamlets	2,353
Lambeth	2,157
Camden	1,981
Waltham Forest	1,785
Brent	1,724
Ealing	1,668
Hackney	1,632
Hounslow	1,613
Haringey	1,597
Lewisham	1,408
Redbridge	1,396
Islington	1,386
Greenwich	1,373
Hillingdon	1,327
Kensington & Chelsea	1,301
Barking & Dagenham	1,183
Wandsworth	1,160
Bromley	1,112
Hammersmith & Fulham	1,095
Enfield	1,075
Kingston upon Thames	942
Barnet	829
Harrow	807
Havering	792
Merton	774
Bexley	681
Sutton	570
Richmond upon Thames	384
Heathrow Airport	74
Total	47,806

⁷ Brent, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets

Drug offences recorded by the police

By London Borough, Metropolitan Police Service



Source: Metropolitan Police Service, [Crime Statistics 2019/20](#), April 2020 [Accessed: 4 June 2020].

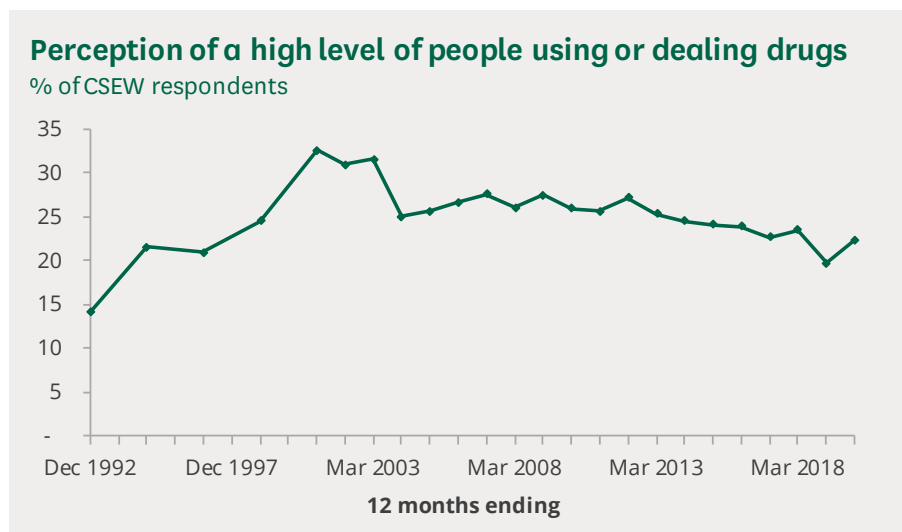
3. Crime Survey of England and Wales data

The Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) measures the amount of crime experienced by adults aged over 16 living in private households in England and Wales. The survey, which is of personal experience of crime and includes crimes which are not reported to the police, is seen as an important accompaniment to police records.

3.1 Drug Crime

The proportion of CSEW respondents that had personally experienced or witnessed 'people using or dealing drugs' in their local area increased from 9.0% in 2018/19 to 10.8% in 2019/20. This proportion has doubled from 4.4% in 2016/17.⁸

The CSEW also collects data on perceptions of the prevalence of anti-social behaviour. The chart below shows the proportion of respondents who perceived there to be a high level of drug use and drug dealing in their local area in each year that the survey has been conducted since 1992:



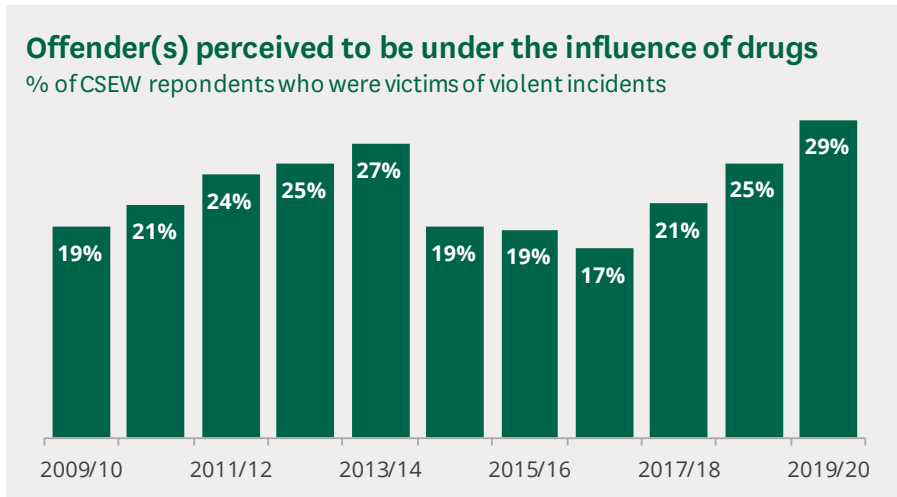
Note: Up until December 2000, the CSEW covered 12 months prior ending 31st December. Since March 2002, it has covered 12 months ending 31st March.

Source: ONS, *Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables*, 17 July 2020, Table S34.

In 2019/20, 22% of respondents perceived that there was a high level of people using or dealing drugs in their local area. This represents a three-percentage point increase since 2018/19. Overall, perceptions of people using or dealing drugs has seen a ten-percentage point decrease from a peak of 33% in 2000.

⁸ ONS, [Crime in England and Wales: Other related tables](#), 17 July 2020, Table F13A

As part of the survey, victims of violent crime were asked whether they perceived the offender to have been under the influence of drugs. The chart below shows that in 29% (360,000) of violent incidents occurring in 2019/20, the victim believed that the perpetrator was under the influence of drugs. This is the highest proportion recorded in the past decade. This figure has fluctuated around 1 in 4, or 1 in 5, incidents.



Note: Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender(s) were perceived to be under the age of 10.

Source: ONS, [Nature of crime tables, violence](#), 7 February 2019, Table 11.

3.2 Drug misuse

The CSEW is also used to provide information on the prevalence of drug misuse in England and Wales. An annual publication on [Drug Misuse Declared](#) is published by the Home Office and this allows tracking of trends since 1996.

Drug usage has decreased over this period. In 2018/19, 9.4% of adults aged 16-59 reported having used any drug in the past year, down from a peak of 12.2% in 2002/3. Drug use among 16-24 year-olds has seen a steeper decline; the proportion that had used any drug in the past year peaked at 31.8% in 1998 before reducing to 16.5% in 2012/13.⁹ This has since increased to 20.3% in 2018/19.¹⁰

⁹ Data has been recorded by financial year since 2001/02.

¹⁰ Home Office, [Drug misuse: findings from the 2018 to 2019 CSEW](#), 19 September 2019, Tables 1.02 and 1.06.

4. Proven offences and offenders

4.1 Out of court disposals

Out of court disposals are sanctions used by the police to address less serious instances of offending without the need for this to be dealt with at court. They include penalty notices for disorder ('on the spot fines'), cautions and cannabis/khat warnings, which are both issued and recorded by police forces. They can only be offered if the suspect admits to the offence.

Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs)

In 2018/19, 20,8000 PNDs were issued. After drunk and disorderly, possession of cannabis was the second most common offence for which the offender received this sanction (accounting for 25% of all PNDs issued). The number of PNDs issued has fallen over the past decade from around 175,000 in 2008/09 (an 88% decrease).

Cautions

Around 67,000 cautions were issued in 2018/19. Drug offences were the most common indictable offence for which the offender received a caution (accounting for 40% of all cautions for indictable offences). The overall cautioning rate for all offences (among those cautioned or convicted excluding summary motoring offences) was 9%. This has seen a reduction from 28% in 2008/09. Drug offences have the highest cautioning rate (29% in 2018/19).

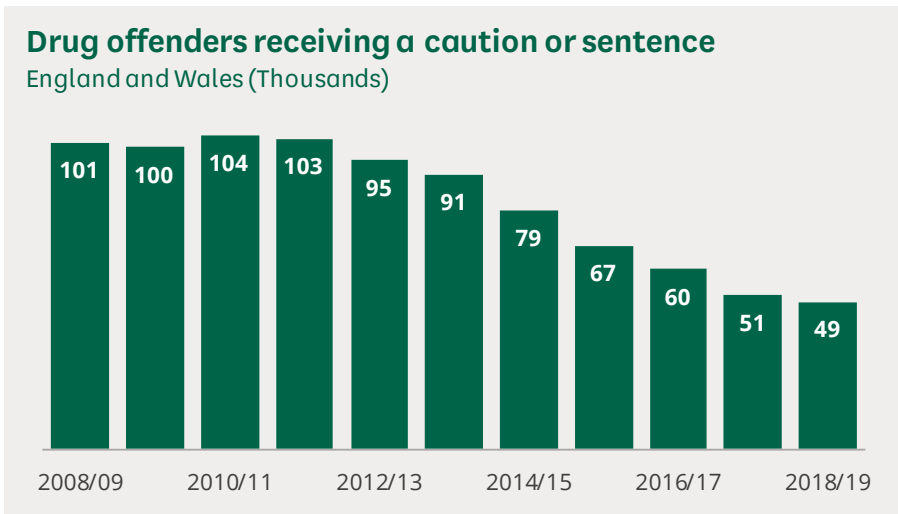
4.2 Proven offenders

Data on the outcomes of proven offenders is routinely published as part of the [Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly](#) briefing. The series shows the number of drug offenders receiving a caution or sentence. Taken from the Police National Computer (PNC), the data is provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.¹¹ This data is given in appendix table A4.

The chart below shows that the number of proven drug offenders fell by more than half between 2010/11 and 2018/19 from just over 100,000 to just under 50,000.¹² This reflects a decline in the number of police recorded drug offences, as seen in Chapter 1.

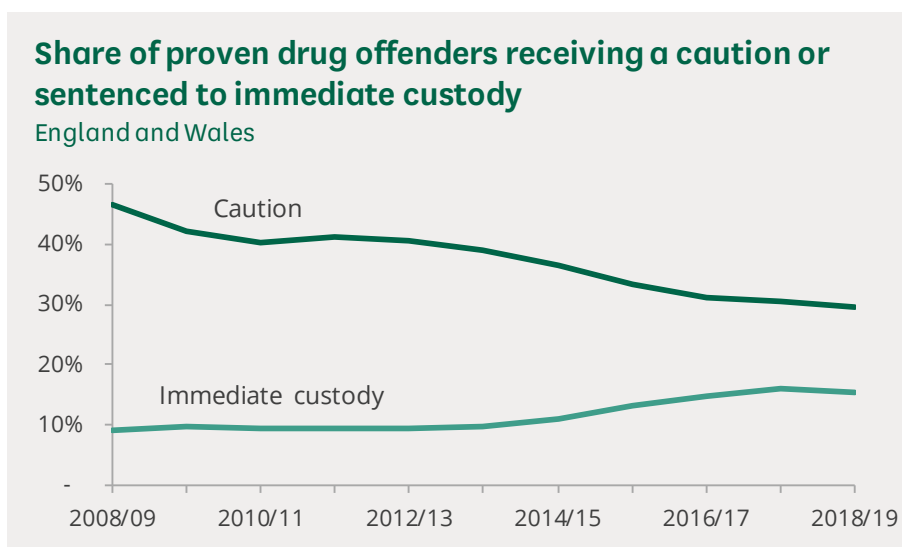
¹¹ Police forces tend to record cautions more promptly on the PNC than court sentences. The latest caution figures are likely to be revised less than the sentencing figures.

¹² Publication of MoJ data for 2019/20 has been [delayed due to the pandemic](#).



Source: Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: March 2019*, 15 August 2019, Tables Q2.2 and Q5.3.

The chart below shows that since 2008/09 the proportion of drug offenders receiving a caution has fallen (from 46% to 30% in 2018/19), while the proportion receiving a custodial sentence has increased (from 9% to 16%). This contrasts with a general falling trend in the number of people sentenced to immediate custody for all offences.



Source: Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: March 2019*, 15 August 2019, Tables Q2.2 and Q5.3.

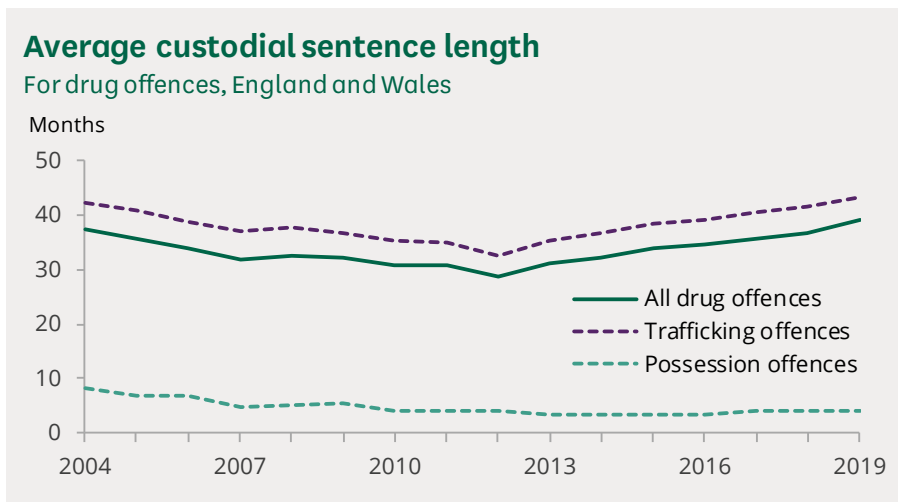
Offenders found guilty of drug possession offences are more likely to receive a caution than those found guilty of drug trafficking offences, who are more likely to be sentenced to immediate custody. In 2018, 36% of those cautioned or sentenced for possession offences received a caution, whilst 3% were sentenced to immediate custody.¹³ Of those

¹³ The publishing of more recent cautions data has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

cautioned or sentenced for trafficking offences, 13% received a caution whilst 51% were sentenced to immediate custody.¹⁴

4.3 Custodial sentences

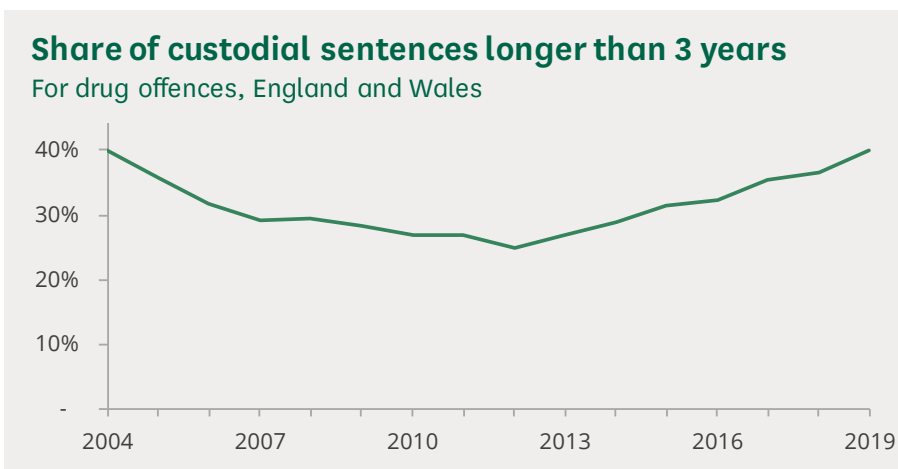
The chart below shows that the average custodial sentence length (ACSL) for all drug offences decreased from 37.3 months in 2004 to 28.7 months in 2012. The ACSL has since increased again to 39.2 months in 2019. The ACSL for drug offences is higher than that for all indictable offences, which in 2019 was 21.4 months.



Source: Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2019*, [Outcomes by Offence data tool](#), 25 June 2020

Drug trafficking offences receive considerably longer sentences than possession offences. In 2019, the ACSL for trafficking offences was 43.4 months, compared to 4.1 months for possession offences.

The chart below shows that in 2004, 40% of offenders were sentenced to custody of at least three years. This figure declined to 25% in 2012 before increasing again, back to 40% in 2019.



Source: Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2019*, [Outcomes by Offence data tool](#), 25 June 2020

¹⁴ Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2019*, [Outcomes by Offence data tool](#), 25 June 2020

Full data on the number of people proceeded against and sentenced in courts, and the lengths of the custodial sentences received, is given in appendix table A5.

At 30 June 2020 (the most recent data available), there were just under 13,000 persons in prison for drug offences, accounting for 16% of the overall prison population.¹⁵

4.4 Mandatory drug testing

The level of drug use in prisons in England and Wales is measured by the Random Mandatory Drug Testing programme (RMDT). The aim of RMDT is to test a random sample of 5% or 10% of prisoners each month (depending on prison capacity) and to monitor and deter drug use. Statistics on RMDT are published annually in Chapter 7 of [HM Prison and Probation Service Annual Digest](#).

In 2019/20 there were 54,375 tests administered in prisons in England and Wales, of which 13.5% (7,275) tested positive (10.5% for traditional drugs and 4.3% for psychoactive substances).¹⁶ Since 1998/99 (the first year of RMDT data available), the percentage of positive tests for traditional drugs fell from 18.1% to a low of 6.9% in 2014/15. It subsequently rose again to the current level, where it has remained since 2017/18. Positive results for psychoactive substances have fallen considerably over this period, down from 9.0% in 2018/19 and 12.9% in 2017/18.

Data on testing for psychoactive substances was first published in 2017/18. These are 'new' synthetic drugs, including the drugs known as Spice and Black Mamba. Positive results for psychoactive substances have fallen considerably over this period, down from 9.0% in 2018/19 and 12.9% in 2017/18.

4.5 Drug finds

Statistics on drug finds in prison are also published in the [HM Prison and Probation Service Annual Digest](#) (Chapter 9). In 2019/20, there were 21,575 incidents in which drugs were found in prisons in England and Wales. There has been a 102% increase in the number of these incidents since 2016/17, when there were 10,666. Data prior to this is not comparable due to a change in data collection methods.

In 2019/20, psychoactive substances were the most common type of drug found, being found in 38% of incidents. This was followed by Class B drugs (found in 21% of incidents) and 'unknown' drugs (found in 20% of incidents).

¹⁵ Ministry of Justice, *Offender management statistics quarterly: January to March 2020*, Prison population data tool, 30 July 2020.

¹⁶ The positive rate for traditional drugs and psychoactive substances combined does not equal the total rate of positive tests because a number of samples test positive for both traditional drugs and psychoactive substances.

5. Reoffending rates

Reoffending rates (or recidivism) serve as a measure of the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Reduced reoffending tends to mean lower overall crime levels.

The Ministry of Justice publishes [proven reoffending statistics](#) on a quarterly basis.¹⁷ Of adult drug offenders convicted between January and March 2018, 25.1% reoffended within a year. This figure has remained stable since October to December 2015.¹⁸ This is slightly lower than the adult reoffending rate for all offences (28.0%). Amongst juvenile drug offenders, the reoffending rate was considerably higher at 39.9% (compared to 39.2% of juvenile offenders convicted of all offences).¹⁹

Data on the offending histories of people convicted of crimes is also published as part of the [Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly](#) briefing. In 2018/19, 57% of people cautioned for drug offences were re-offenders, compared to 49% cautioned for all crimes. In contrast, 85% of people sentenced to immediate custody for drug offences were reoffenders, compared to 90% of people sentenced for all crimes. Reoffending rates for drug offences have remained relatively stable over the past decade.²⁰

The table below shows the first primary offences that reoffenders cautioned or convicted for drug crimes in 2018/19 were convicted of. This was most commonly drug offences, followed by theft and summary offences (excluding motoring offences). These three offence categories made up three quarters of first primary offences.

¹⁷ A proven reoffence is defined as any offence committed in a one-year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one-year follow-up or within a further six-month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court.

¹⁸ Data prior to this is not directly comparable.

¹⁹ Ministry of Justice, [Proven reoffending statistics: January to March 2018](#), Proven reoffending tables (3 monthly), 30 January 2020, Tables A1, A4a and A4b.

²⁰ Ministry of Justice, [Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: March 2019, Offending History Data Tool](#), 15 August 2019.

Criminal history of drug crime reoffenders 2018/19

First primary offence, England and Wales

Offence category	Number	%
Drug offences	17,471	34.4%
Theft offences	10,397	20.5%
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	10,108	19.9%
Violence against the person	2,133	4.2%
Possession of weapons	1,967	3.9%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	1,946	3.8%
Criminal damage and arson	1,845	3.6%
Summary motoring offences	1,636	3.2%
Robbery	1,502	3.0%
Public order offences	604	1.2%
Fraud offences	545	1.1%
Sexual offences	269	0.5%
Offences committed outside England & Wales	190	0.4%
Unknown	109	0.2%
Total	50,722	100%

Source: Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: March 2019*, [Offending History Data Tool: previous offence statistics](#), 15 August 2019.

The following table shows all previous primary offences that drug crime reoffenders in 2018/19 have ever been convicted of:

Criminal history of drug crime reoffenders 2018/19

All previous primary offences, England and Wales

Offence category	Number	%
Theft offences	112,096	26.4%
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	89,560	21.1%
Drug offences	71,621	16.9%
Breach offences	35,463	8.3%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	30,916	7.3%
Summary motoring offences	22,351	5.3%
Violence against the person	15,426	3.6%
Possession of weapons	11,667	2.7%
Public order offences	9,920	2.3%
Criminal damage and arson	9,049	2.1%
Robbery	8,112	1.9%
Fraud offences	4,537	1.1%
Offences outside England & Wales	2,024	0.5%
Sexual offences	1,156	0.3%
Unknown	903	0.2%
Total	424,801	100%

Source: Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: March 2019*, [Offending History Data Tool: previous offence statistics](#), 15 August 2019.

Theft offences were most common, followed by summary offences (excluding motoring) and drug offences. That the most common of all previous offences were the same as the most common first primary offences suggests that drug reoffenders tend to continue committing the same types of crime after their first offence.

24% of convicted drug offenders in 2018/19 had long criminal histories (more than 15 previous cautions or convictions), compared to 7% of those cautioned for drug offences.²¹

Research has also shown drug misuse and reoffending to be linked. A [Ministry of Justice report](#) published in 2017 found that people with a history of drug misuse, particularly injecting drugs, were more likely to offend. However, those who successfully completed treatment for drug dependency were less likely to reoffend.

²¹ Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: March 2019*, [Offending History Data Tool](#), 15 August 2019.

6. Misuse of illegal drugs

6.1 Hospital data

Drug misuse is often accompanied by mental and physical ill-health, making it a public health concern.

Data on the number of drug related hospital admissions gives an indication of the prevalence of illegal drugs in society and their potency. This is useful in presenting a more rounded view on drug crime, as police and courts crime data is limited by its dependence on offences coming to the attention of the authorities.

NHS England publish administrative data on drug related hospital admissions in [Statistics on drug misuse](#). Figures for Wales are published in Public Health Wales' [Annual Profile for Substance Misuse](#). These figures are for admissions only and do not include people who attend A&E departments but are subsequently admitted to hospital. A hospital admission refers to a finished admission episode (see right).

Finished admission episode (FAE)

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes.

Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

England

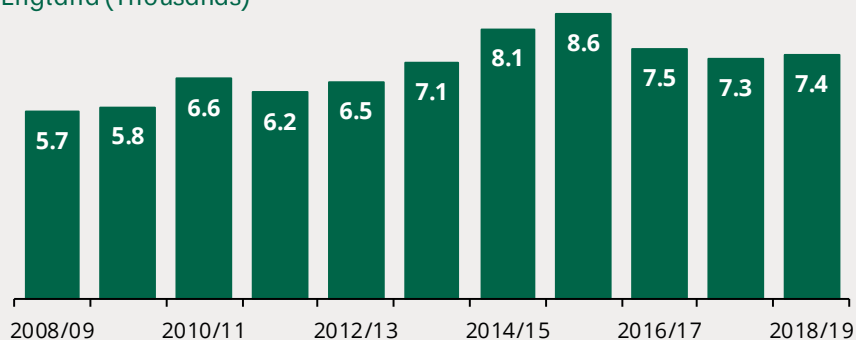
When a patient is admitted to hospital, a diagnosis of their condition is recorded. Each admission episode will have one primary diagnosis (the main reason for admission). In addition, up to 19 secondary diagnoses can be recorded for relevant co-morbidities and external causes, if these have been identified.

Drug related mental and behavioural disorders

The chart below shows the number of hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders. In 2018/19, there were 7,376 admissions (a rate of 13 per 100,000 population).²² This figure has remained relatively stable compared to the previous two years but represents a 14% decrease from 2015/16 when the number of admissions peaked (8,621). Prior to this, admissions had increased in almost every year from 2008/09 (5,668).

Hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders

England (Thousands)



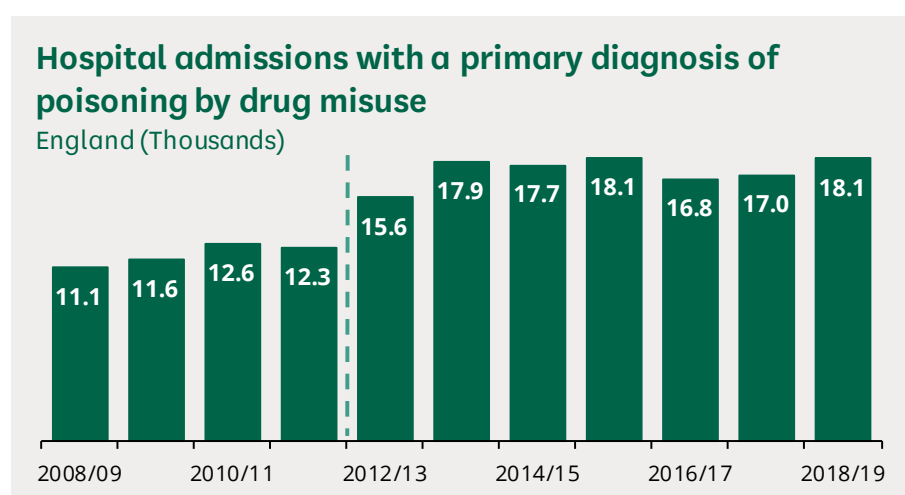
Source: NHS Digital, *Statistics on drug misuse*, [Drug related hospital admission 2018-19: Excel data tables](#), Table 2.1, 22 November 2019.

²² Rate per 100,000 population calculated using ONS mid-2018 population estimate.

The largest proportion of those admitted with a primary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders in 2018/19 were aged between 25 to 34 (31%). Those aged 65 to 74 and 75 and over were the least likely to be admitted, with each age group accounting for just 1% of hospital episodes.²³

Poisoning by drug misuse

The chart below shows that there were 18,053 hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by drug misuse in 2018/19 (32 per 100,000 population). This is a 6% increase from 2017/18 and 16% higher than 2012/13. In April 2012, drug poisoning definitions were revised to include the drug Tramadol for the first time. This resulted in a significant number of additional admissions, and so data from 2012/13 is not directly comparable with data prior to then.



Source: NHS Digital, *Statistics on drug misuse, Drug related hospital admission 2018-19: Excel data tables*, Table 4.1, 22 November 2019.

Although admissions among older people are lower, numbers are rising, for primary diagnoses of both drug poisoning and mental and behaviour disorders (see appendix tables A6a and A6b). Between 2012/13 and 2018/19, admissions for drug poisoning increased by 36% for those aged 45 and over, compared to 8% for those under the age of 45.²⁴

More men than women were admitted to hospital for drug related mental and behavioural disorders (74% male), but similar proportions of each sex were admitted due to poisoning by drug misuse (51% male).²⁵

Treatment

Statistics on drug treatment in England are collected and published by the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). These figures cover adults and young people accessing drug treatment in community settings and in the prison system: [NDTMS Alcohol and drug misuse and treatment statistics](#).

²³ See appendix table 6a.

²⁴ NHS Digital, [Statistics on drug misuse](#), 28 November 2019.

²⁵ *ibid.*

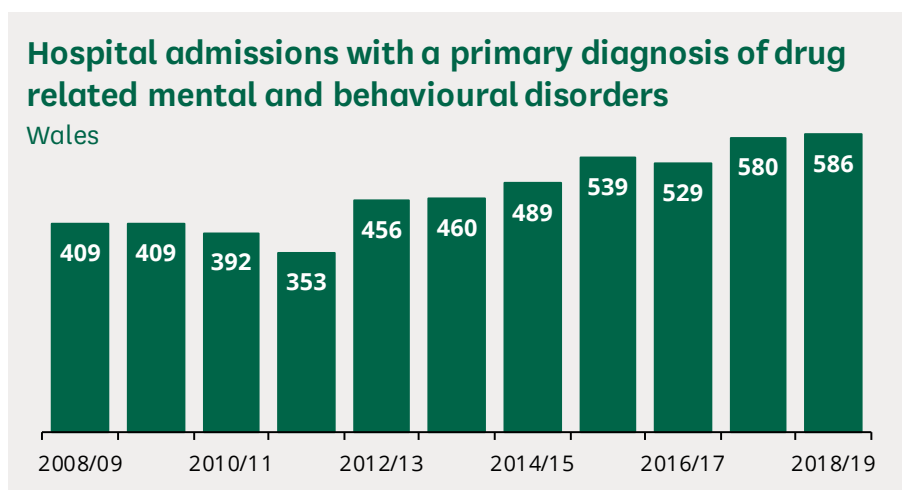
The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects data on individuals receiving treatment for alcohol and drug misuse in England. This shows that in 2018/19, there were 192,696 adults in treatment for drug misuse. This figure has remained stable since the previous year. Prior to this, it saw a 17% decrease from a peak of 225,751 in 2009/10.²⁶

NDTMS data for children and young people shows that in 2007/08 there were 15,316 under 18's in treatment for drug misuse.²⁷ This figure remained fairly stable until 2014/15, having since declined to 12,427 in 2018/19.²⁸

Wales

Drug related mental and behavioural disorders

The chart below shows the number of hospital episodes with a primary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders in Wales. Hospital episodes have increased by 43% since 2008/09, to a peak of 586 in 2018/19 (a rate of 19 per 100,000 population).



Source: NHS Wales Information Service, *Patient Episode Database for Wales*, 22 January 2020 and earlier editions.

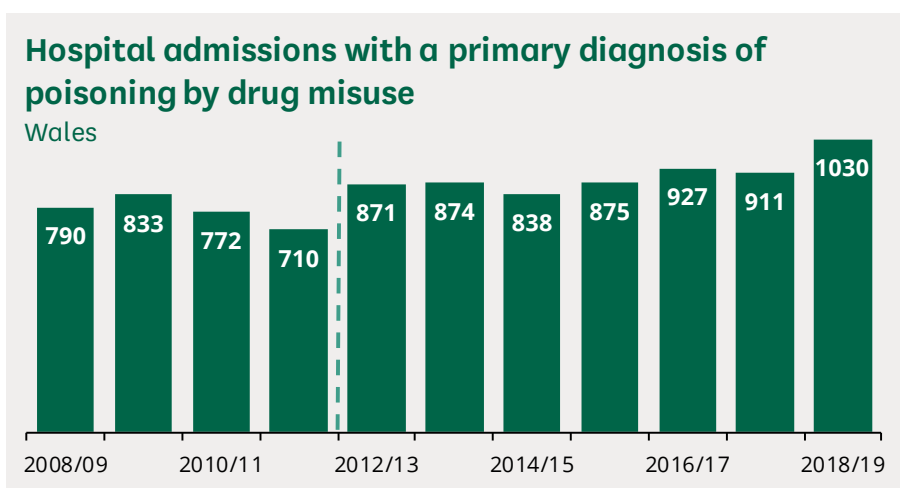
Poisoning by drug misuse

The chart overleaf shows the number of hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by drug misuse in Wales. This data also features the same break in the time series as England due to the classification of Tramadol as a controlled substance. Since 2012/13, hospital episodes have increased by 30% to 1,030 (33 per 100,000 population).

²⁶ PHE, *Adult substance misuse statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)*, 7 November 2019, Table 11.1.

²⁷ Figure calculated by subtracting the number in treatment with alcohol as the primary substance from the total number in treatment.

²⁸ PHE, *Young People's Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)*, 28 November 2019, Tables 14.1 and 14.2.



Source: NHS Wales Information Service, *Patient Episode Database for Wales*, 22 January 2020 and earlier editions.

Treatment

The most recent figures on general drug treatment programmes are available from The Welsh Government's publication [Substance misuse in Wales 2018 to 2019: treatment data](#). In 2018/19, there were 7,791 clients commencing treatment for drugs in Wales, up 2.8% from 7,579 in 2017/18. However, this figure has seen a decrease of 5.6% since 2014/15, when there were 8,249 drug clients.

In addition, Wales has a National Naloxone Programme. Naloxone is a medicine known as an 'opioid antagonist' that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. In Wales, take-home naloxone kits are given to eligible individuals who have been in contact with drug treatment services in the community or in prisons, as well as to some family members, carers and professionals working with people who are at risk of opioid poisoning.

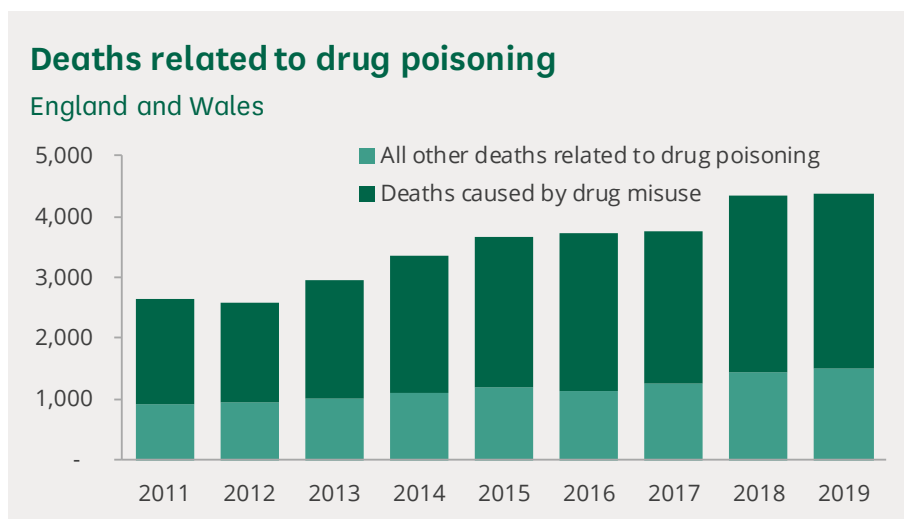
The [Wales Naloxone Programme monitoring report](#) gives information on the number of take-home naloxone kits issued by the programme up until 2017/18 (the most recent data available). Since 1 July 2009, 19,159 take-home naloxone kits have been issued to 7,674 individuals. In 2017/18, 1,372 new individuals were supplied with kits and 1,689 existing take-home naloxone kit holders were re-supplied. Of recorded incidents when take-home naloxone was used in 2017/18, less than 1% were fatal.

6.2 Drug related deaths

The Office for National Statistics publishes a consistent time-series of drug related deaths in England and Wales from 1993 onwards: [Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales](#).

While drug crime and drug misuse have decreased over recent years, deaths related to drugs have increased to their highest level since 1993. However, data prior to 2011 is not directly comparable.

The chart below shows that the number of deaths related to drug poisoning have increased year on year from 2,652 in 2011 to 4,359 in 2018. This represents a 64% increase. 2018 saw the largest annual increase in deaths (16%) since the time series began.



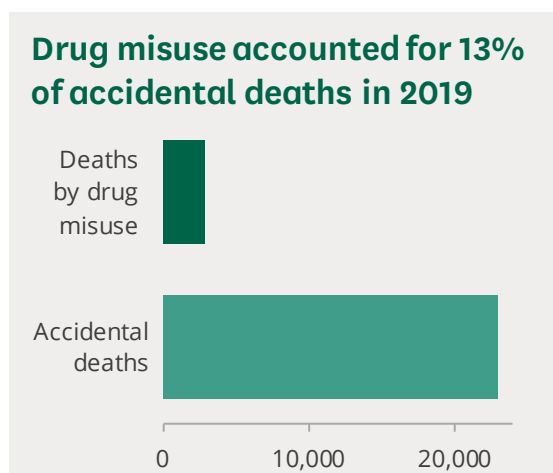
Note: The definition of a drug misuse death is one where either the underlying cause is drug abuse or drug dependence, or the underlying cause is drug poisoning and any of the substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 are involved.

Source: ONS, *Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales*, 15 August 2019, Table 1.

The chart distinguishes between deaths resulting from drug misuse, and all other deaths related to drug poisoning. Deaths caused by drug misuse have seen an increase over this period, both in terms of the number of deaths and as a proportion of total deaths related to drug poisoning. In 1993, deaths related to drug misuse accounted for 38% of deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales (831 deaths); in 2018, this had increased to 67% (2,917).

See appendix table A7 for full data on drug related deaths in England and Wales, broken down by country.

The chart to the right compares the number of deaths caused by drug misuse to the total number of accidental deaths in 2019 (the most recent data available).²⁹ In 2019, 13% of accidental deaths were the result of drug misuse.



ONS, *Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales*, 15 August 2019; ONS, *Deaths registered in England and Wales, 2018*, 6 August 2019

²⁹ Accidental death refers to death caused by injury, poisoning and other external causes (as categorised by the ONS).

7. Appendix

A1. Stop & search

By reason for search, England and Wales

Time period	Reason for search										Total
	Drugs		Offensive weapons		Stolen property		Going equipped		Other		
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
Year ending March											
2006/07	406,451	39%	96,320	9%	213,694	20%	117,608	11%	216,365	21%	1,050,438
2007/08	486,226	39%	99,223	8%	213,425	17%	120,900	10%	313,434	25%	1,233,208
2008/09	541,294	36%	139,047	9%	211,110	14%	133,045	9%	495,065	33%	1,519,561
2009/10	568,578	40%	120,764	9%	213,779	15%	149,995	11%	352,869	25%	1,405,985
2010/11	598,223	46%	122,523	9%	236,967	18%	156,501	12%	189,326	15%	1,303,540
2011/12	575,350	48%	101,212	9%	240,317	20%	152,784	13%	120,219	10%	1,189,882
2012/13	516,760	51%	74,369	7%	215,995	21%	141,696	14%	68,722	7%	1,017,542
2013/14	477,195	53%	60,630	7%	188,642	21%	122,012	13%	55,559	6%	904,038
2014/15	317,970	59%	38,175	7%	94,304	17%	59,411	11%	31,284	6%	541,144
2015/16	233,409	61%	35,573	9%	59,178	15%	37,853	10%	17,582	5%	383,595
2016/17	188,817	62%	32,860	11%	40,553	13%	27,094	9%	14,808	5%	304,132
2017/18	168,384	60%	39,050	14%	35,334	13%	24,010	9%	15,602	6%	282,380
2018/19	225,366	59%	60,091	16%	38,968	10%	30,317	8%	28,887	8%	383,629
% Change											
2017/18 -											
2018/19	+33.8%		+53.9%		+10.3%		+26.3%		+85.1%		+35.9%
2006/07 -											
2018/19	-44.6%		-37.6%		-81.8%		-74.2%		-86.6%		-63.5%
Resultant Arrests											
Year	Number	% of searches	Number	% of searches	Number	% of searches	Number	% of searches	Number	% of searches	Total
2006/07	33,030	8%	10,498	11%	25,099	12%	7,085	6%	37,544	17%	113,256
2007/08	44,075	9%	12,553	13%	30,147	14%	8,739	7%	28,204	9%	123,718
2008/09	41,159	8%	12,785	9%	27,748	13%	8,030	6%	29,047	6%	118,769
2009/10	39,928	7%	12,146	10%	26,323	12%	8,452	6%	24,267	7%	111,116
2010/11	42,166	7%	12,955	11%	29,235	12%	9,328	6%	22,045	12%	115,729
2011/12	43,292	8%	12,213	12%	30,259	13%	9,152	6%	13,959	12%	108,875
2012/13	43,325	8%	11,924	16%	29,350	14%	9,116	6%	12,111	18%	105,826
2013/14	44,875	9%	12,269	20%	30,710	16%	9,559	8%	10,938	20%	108,351
2014/15	35,072	11%	8,416	22%	18,635	20%	6,150	10%	6,527	21%	74,800
2015/16	31,079	13%	7,639	21%	13,010	22%	5,405	14%	3,155	18%	60,288
2016/17	27,223	14%	7,098	22%	9,785	24%	4,519	17%	3,291	22%	51,916
2017/18	21,849	13%	6,927	18%	8,268	23%	2,393	10%	8,876	57%	48,313
2018/19	27,364	12%	8,435	14%	8,705	22%	3,216	11%	11,156	39%	58,876
% Change											
2017/18 -											
2018/19	+25.2%		+21.8%		+5.3%		+34.4%		+25.7%		+21.9%
2006/07 -											
2018/19	-17.2%		-19.7%		-65.3%		-54.6%		-70.3%		-48.0%

Note: The reason for the search is not necessarily the same as the reason for the arrest.

Source: Home Office, Police powers and procedures, England and Wales year ending March 2019, [Stop and search open data tables](#) [Accessed: 15 April 2020].

A2: Police recorded drug crime

By offence category, England and Wales

Time period	Trafficking in controlled drugs	Possession of controlled drugs	<i>Of which: Possession excluding cannabis</i>	<i>Of which: Possession of cannabis</i>	<i>Of which: Other drug offences</i>	Total drug offences
Year ending March						
2004/05	24,190	121,647	32,603	88,263	781	145,837
2005/06	25,276	153,203	32,685	119,917	601	178,479
2006/07	26,550	167,683	36,608	130,395	680	194,233
2007/08	28,323	201,590	42,519	158,254	817	229,913
2008/09	29,885	213,651	44,578	167,950	1,123	243,536
2009/10	33,223	202,361	38,439	162,800	1,122	235,584
2010/11	32,336	200,586	38,711	160,733	1,142	232,922
2011/12	31,316	197,783	36,453	160,203	1,127	229,099
2012/13	29,746	178,257	34,596	142,627	1,034	208,003
2013/14	29,348	168,868	34,066	133,604	1,198	198,216
2014/15	27,368	143,321	32,245	110,297	779	170,689
2015/16	26,048	123,571	29,382	93,595	594	149,619
2016/17	25,928	113,235	27,413	84,737	1,085	139,163
2017/18	27,055	111,314	27,770	82,736	808	138,369
2018/19	28,288	120,174	29,969	89,446	759	148,462
2019/20	31,960	143,185	32,340	110,085	760	175,145
% Change						
2018/19 -						
2019/20	+13.0%	+19.1%	+7.9%	+23.1%	+0.1%	+18.0%
Proportion of drug offences						
2004/05	16.6%	83.4%	22.4%	60.5%	0.5%	
2005/06	14.2%	85.8%	18.3%	67.2%	0.3%	
2006/07	13.7%	86.3%	18.8%	67.1%	0.4%	
2007/08	12.3%	87.7%	18.5%	68.8%	0.4%	
2008/09	12.3%	87.7%	18.3%	69.0%	0.5%	
2009/10	14.1%	85.9%	16.3%	69.1%	0.5%	
2010/11	13.9%	86.1%	16.6%	69.0%	0.5%	
2011/12	13.7%	86.3%	15.9%	69.9%	0.5%	
2012/13	14.3%	85.7%	16.6%	68.6%	0.5%	
2013/14	14.8%	85.2%	17.2%	67.4%	0.6%	
2014/15	16.0%	84.0%	18.9%	64.6%	0.5%	
2015/16	17.4%	82.6%	19.6%	62.6%	0.4%	
2016/17	18.6%	81.4%	19.7%	60.9%	0.8%	
2017/18	19.6%	80.4%	20.1%	59.8%	0.6%	
2018/19	19.1%	80.9%	20.2%	60.2%	0.5%	
2019/20	18.2%	81.8%	18.5%	62.9%	0.4%	

Note: Following the implementation of a new IT system in July 2019, Greater Manchester Police have been unable to supply data for the period July 2019 to March 2020. Figures for Greater Manchester are not included for the years ending March 2019 and 2020.

Source: ONS, [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables](#), Table 4A, 23 April 2020.

A3a: Police recorded drug crime

By police force area, England and Wales

	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	
	Offences per 1,000 population		Offences per 1,000 population		Offences per 1,000 population		Offences per 1,000 population		Offences per 1,000 population	
	Number		Number		Number		Number		Number	
Cleveland	2,567	4.6	2,250	4.0	2,105	3.8	1,956	3.5	1,711	3.1
Durham	1,496	2.5	1,434	2.3	1,240	2.0	1,400	2.3	1,429	2.3
Northumbria	5,002	3.5	5,385	3.8	4,847	3.4	4,612	3.2	3,767	2.6
North East	9,065	3.5	9,069	3.5	8,192	3.2	7,968	3.1	6,907	2.6
Cheshire	3,323	3.3	3,372	3.3	2,846	2.8	2,665	2.6	2,788	2.7
Cumbria	1,817	3.7	1,819	3.7	1,533	3.1	1,530	3.1	1,390	2.8
Greater Manchester	11,932	4.6	11,414	4.3	9,335	3.5	7,978	3.0	6,424	2.4
Lancashire	4,913	3.4	4,732	3.3	4,126	2.8	3,621	2.5	3,258	2.2
Merseyside	14,759	10.9	12,804	9.5	10,647	7.7	10,102	7.3	8,423	6.1
North West	36,744	5.3	34,141	4.9	28,487	4.0	25,896	3.7	22,283	3.1
Humberside	2,545	2.8	2,720	3.0	2,475	2.7	2,468	2.7	1,981	2.1
North Yorkshire	2,051	2.6	2,165	2.7	1,884	2.4	1,813	2.3	2,085	2.6
South Yorkshire	5,036	3.8	4,785	3.6	4,470	3.3	4,026	3.0	3,393	2.5
West Yorkshire	7,242	3.3	7,507	3.3	7,029	3.2	6,006	2.7	4,996	2.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	16,874	3.2	17,177	3.2	15,858	3.0	14,313	2.7	12,455	2.3
Derbyshire	2,639	2.6	2,768	2.7	2,665	2.6	2,824	2.8	2,674	2.6
Leicestershire	3,184	3.2	2,601	2.6	2,458	2.4	2,066	2.0	1,844	1.8
Lincolnshire	1,574	2.3	1,543	2.2	1,545	2.2	1,646	2.3	1,630	2.2
Northamptonshire	1,968	2.9	1,851	2.7	1,701	2.5	1,829	2.6	1,843	2.6
Nottinghamshire	4,637	4.3	3,659	3.4	3,772	3.5	3,689	3.4	3,515	3.2
East Midlands	14,002	3.1	12,422	2.8	12,141	2.7	12,054	2.6	11,506	2.5
Staffordshire	3,098	2.9	3,659	3.4	3,481	3.2	3,239	2.9	2,545	2.3
Warwickshire	1,368	2.6	1,091	2.0	1,279	2.3	1,267	2.3	1,111	2.0
West Mercia	2,647	2.2	3,014	2.5	3,118	2.5	2,926	2.4	2,585	2.1
West Midlands	8,602	3.3	9,220	3.5	8,315	3.0	7,113	2.6	5,836	2.1
West Midlands Region	15,715	2.9	16,984	3.1	16,193	2.9	14,545	2.6	12,077	2.1
Bedfordshire	1,608	2.7	1,740	2.8	1,581	2.6	1,460	2.3	1,262	2.0
Cambridgeshire	2,380	3.1	2,994	3.8	2,821	3.5	2,675	3.3	2,218	2.7
Essex	4,621	2.7	4,207	2.4	3,944	2.3	3,944	2.3	3,705	2.1
Hertfordshire	5,064	4.6	5,034	4.5	4,717	4.2	4,660	4.1	3,646	3.2
Norfolk	2,099	2.5	2,163	2.5	2,351	2.7	2,642	3.1	2,445	2.8
Suffolk	1,505	2.1	1,709	2.4	1,826	2.5	1,943	2.7	1,892	2.6
East of England	17,277	3.0	17,847	3.1	17,240	2.9	17,324	2.9	15,168	2.5
City of London	691	-	706	-	498	-	440	-	414	-
Metropolitan Police	63,328	8.2	60,799	7.8	51,326	6.3	50,017	6.0	42,575	5.1
London	64,019	8.3	61,505	7.9	51,824	6.3	50,457	6.1	42,989	5.1
Hampshire	5,877	3.1	6,498	3.4	6,644	3.5	6,472	3.4	5,346	2.8
Kent	4,078	2.4	3,809	2.3	3,857	2.2	4,017	2.3	2,978	1.7
Surrey	2,992	2.7	3,703	3.3	3,789	3.3	3,404	3.0	3,104	2.7
Sussex	4,864	3.1	4,970	3.2	4,798	3.0	4,147	2.6	4,100	2.5
Thames Valley	7,227	3.2	7,299	3.2	6,875	3.0	6,537	2.8	6,028	2.6
South East	25,038	3.0	26,279	3.1	25,963	3.0	24,577	2.8	21,556	2.5
Avon and Somerset	6,254	3.9	7,043	4.3	6,577	4.1	6,344	3.9	4,140	2.5
Devon and Cornwall	5,270	3.2	4,996	3.0	4,637	2.8	4,519	2.7	4,080	2.4
Dorset	1,645	2.3	1,638	2.3	1,546	2.1	1,487	2.0	1,632	2.2
Gloucestershire	1,493	2.5	1,526	2.6	1,605	2.7	1,345	2.2	978	1.6
Wiltshire	1,078	1.6	1,228	1.9	1,433	2.1	1,656	2.4	1,400	2.0
South West	15,740	3.0	16,431	3.1	15,798	3.0	15,351	2.9	12,230	2.3
Dyfed-Powys	2,868	5.7	3,335	6.6	3,499	6.8	3,233	6.3	2,768	5.4
Gwent	2,301	4.1	2,793	5.0	2,388	4.1	2,082	3.6	1,762	3.0
North Wales	2,206	3.2	1,751	2.6	1,679	2.4	1,789	2.6	1,685	2.4
South Wales	6,122	4.9	5,776	4.6	5,353	4.2	4,662	3.6	4,311	3.3
WALES	13,497	4.5	13,655	4.5	12,919	4.2	11,766	3.8	10,526	3.4
British Transport Police	4,245	-	3,593	-	3,402	-	3,925	-	2,267	-
ENGLAND AND WALES	232,216	4.2	229,103	4.1	208,017	3.7	198,176	3.5	169,964	3.0

Notes:

Total rate for England and Wales includes offences recorded by British Transport Police. However, no rates are given for British Transport Police as their data are not provided for specified geographical areas.

Rates for London include 'City of London'. Rates for City of London have been suppressed due to the small population size of the police force area.

Following the implementation of a new IT system in July 2019, Greater Manchester Police have been unable to supply data for the period July 2019 to March 2020. Figures for Greater Manchester are not included in the National and Regional totals for 2019/20.

Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: *Police Force Area Data Tables*, 17 July 2020 and earlier editions, Tables P1 and P3.

A3a: Police recorded drug crime (cont.)

By police force area, England and Wales

	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		Change per 1,000 population	
	Offences per 1,000		Offences per 1,000		Offences per 1,000		Offences per 1,000		Offences per 1,000		change 2019/20	% change 2019/20
	Number population		Number population		Number population		Number population		Number population			
Cleveland	1,459	2.6	1,374	2.4	1,263	2.2	1,333	2.4	1,797	3.2	-1.4	-31%
Durham	1,191	1.9	1,018	1.6	1,144	1.8	1,344	2.1	1,461	2.3	-0.2	-6%
Northumberland	3,242	2.3	2,882	2.0	2,882	2.0	3,236	2.2	3,285	2.3	-1.3	-36%
North East	5,892	2.2	5,274	2.0	5,289	2.0	5,913	2.2	6,543	2.5	-1.0	-30%
Cheshire	2,377	2.3	2,199	2.1	2,356	2.2	2,084	2.0	1,991	1.9	-1.4	-43%
Cumbria	1,075	2.2	881	1.8	852	1.7	1,007	2.0	922	1.8	-1.8	-50%
Greater Manchester	4,898	1.8	4,163	1.5	4,817	1.7	5,435	1.9	-	-	-	-
Lancashire	2,757	1.9	2,025	1.4	2,056	1.4	2,211	1.5	2,539	1.7	-1.7	-50%
Merseyside	6,044	4.3	5,815	4.2	6,881	4.9	8,639	6.1	11,804	8.3	-2.6	-24%
North West	17,151	2.4	15,083	2.1	16,962	2.3	19,376	2.7	17,256	3.9	-1.5	-28%
Humberside	1,474	1.6	1,382	1.5	1,253	1.3	1,440	1.5	1,649	1.8	-1.0	-36%
North Yorkshire	1,798	2.2	1,575	1.9	1,434	1.8	1,588	1.9	1,648	2.0	-0.6	-22%
South Yorkshire	2,604	1.9	2,286	1.7	2,132	1.5	2,733	2.0	3,564	2.5	-1.3	-34%
West Yorkshire	4,661	2.1	5,035	2.2	5,620	2.4	6,538	2.8	7,723	3.3	+0.1	+2%
Yorkshire and the Humber	10,537	2.0	10,278	1.9	10,439	1.9	12,299	2.3	14,584	2.7	-0.5	-17%
Derbyshire	2,313	2.2	2,105	2.0	2,104	2.0	2,293	2.2	2,321	2.2	-0.4	-16%
Leicestershire	1,264	1.2	1,250	1.2	1,564	1.5	1,880	1.7	2,984	2.7	-0.5	-15%
Lincolnshire	1,727	2.4	1,427	1.9	1,610	2.2	1,905	2.5	1,842	2.4	+0.2	+8%
Northamptonshire	1,773	2.5	1,175	1.6	1,240	1.7	1,675	2.3	1,853	2.5	-0.4	-14%
Nottinghamshire	3,021	2.7	2,797	2.5	2,817	2.5	3,754	3.3	4,835	4.2	-0.1	-3%
East Midlands	10,098	2.2	8,754	1.9	9,335	2.0	11,507	2.4	13,835	2.9	-0.3	-8%
Staffordshire	2,159	1.9	2,112	1.9	1,880	1.7	1,920	1.7	2,005	1.8	-1.1	-39%
Warwickshire	982	1.8	1,011	1.8	895	1.6	895	1.6	928	1.6	-0.9	-36%
West Mercia	2,758	2.2	2,416	1.9	2,183	1.7	2,091	1.6	2,309	1.8	-0.4	-19%
West Midlands	5,711	2.0	4,733	1.7	4,130	1.4	4,790	1.7	5,855	2.0	-1.3	-38%
West Midlands Region	11,610	2.0	10,272	1.8	9,088	1.6	9,696	1.7	11,097	1.9	-1.0	-35%
Bedfordshire	1,120	1.7	1,092	1.7	1,037	1.6	1,432	2.2	1,511	2.3	-0.4	-15%
Cambridgeshire	1,631	2.0	1,612	1.9	1,423	1.7	1,349	1.6	1,663	2.0	-1.1	-36%
Essex	2,739	1.5	3,212	1.8	3,291	1.8	4,111	2.3	6,077	3.3	+0.6	+23%
Hertfordshire	3,252	2.8	3,206	2.7	3,275	2.8	3,082	2.6	2,993	2.5	-2.1	-45%
Norfolk	1,993	2.3	1,961	2.2	1,984	2.2	2,421	2.7	2,741	3.0	+0.6	+23%
Suffolk	1,430	1.9	1,214	1.6	1,553	2.1	1,344	1.8	1,796	2.4	+0.3	+12%
East of England	12,165	2.0	12,297	2.0	12,563	2.0	13,739	2.2	16,781	2.7	-0.3	-10%
City of London	390	-	329	-	269	-	485	-	725	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	39,535	4.6	37,191	4.3	35,427	4.0	37,765	4.3	47,985	5.4	-2.8	-34%
London	39,925	4.7	37,520	4.3	35,696	4.1	38,250	4.3	48,710	5.5	-2.8	-34%
Hampshire	4,209	2.2	3,585	1.8	3,686	1.9	3,895	2.0	4,615	2.3	-0.8	-26%
Kent	2,865	1.6	2,759	1.5	2,701	1.5	3,059	1.7	3,890	2.1	-0.3	-14%
Surrey	2,215	1.9	1,920	1.6	2,476	2.1	2,992	2.5	3,028	2.5	-0.1	-5%
Sussex	3,549	2.2	3,530	2.1	3,175	1.9	3,658	2.2	4,191	2.5	-0.7	-21%
Thames Valley	5,034	2.2	4,845	2.1	4,843	2.0	5,021	2.1	6,025	2.5	-0.7	-23%
South East	17,872	2.0	16,639	1.9	16,881	1.9	18,625	2.1	21,749	2.4	-0.6	-20%
Avon and Somerset	3,536	2.1	3,233	1.9	2,890	1.7	2,816	1.7	3,590	2.1	-1.8	-46%
Devon and Cornwall	3,677	2.2	3,497	2.0	3,754	2.2	4,180	2.4	4,224	2.4	-0.8	-24%
Dorset	1,688	2.2	1,608	2.1	1,548	2.0	1,604	2.1	1,438	1.9	-0.5	-20%
Gloucestershire	916	1.5	969	1.6	1,018	1.6	1,036	1.6	1,280	2.0	-0.5	-20%
Wiltshire	1,296	1.9	1,155	1.6	1,005	1.4	1,151	1.6	1,570	2.2	+0.5	+32%
South West	11,113	2.0	10,462	1.9	10,215	1.9	10,787	1.9	12,102	2.2	-0.8	-28%
Dyfed-Powys	2,331	4.5	2,005	3.9	1,775	3.4	1,880	3.6	2,005	3.9	-1.8	-32%
Gwent	1,693	2.9	1,338	2.3	1,369	2.3	1,469	2.5	1,518	2.6	-1.5	-37%
North Wales	1,423	2.1	1,265	1.8	1,417	2.0	1,369	2.0	1,607	2.3	-0.9	-29%
South Wales	4,099	3.2	3,641	2.8	3,562	2.7	4,256	3.2	4,552	3.4	-1.5	-30%
WALES	9,546	3.1	8,249	2.7	8,123	2.6	8,974	2.9	9,682	3.1	-1.4	-31%
British Transport Police	1,648	-	1,514	-	1,516	-	2,305	-	2,806	-	-	-
ENGLAND AND WALES	147,557	2.6	136,342	2.4	136,107	2.3	151,471	2.6	175,145	3.1	-1.1	-27%

Notes:

Total rate for England and Wales includes offences recorded by British Transport Police. However, no rates are given for British Transport Police as their data are not provided for specified geographical areas.

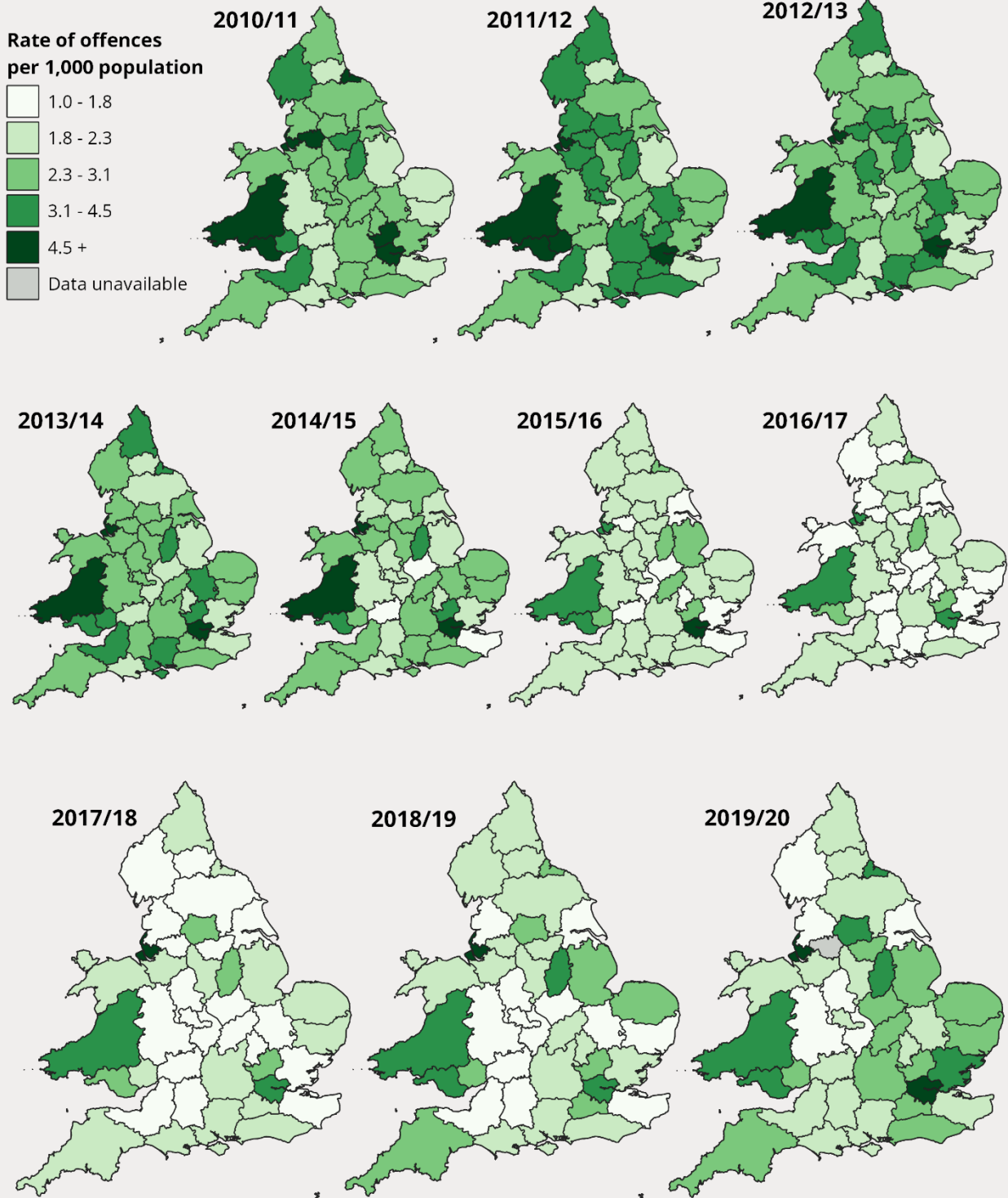
Rates for London include 'City of London'. Rates for City of London have been suppressed due to the small population size of the police force area.

Following the implementation of a new IT system in July 2019, Greater Manchester Police have been unable to supply data for the period July 2019 to March 2020. Figures for Greater Manchester are not included in the National and Regional totals for 2019/20.

Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: *Police Force Area Data Tables*, 17 July 2020 and earlier editions, Tables P1 and P3.

A3b. Drug offences recorded by the police

2010/11 - 2019/20, England and Wales



Note: Greater Manchester Police was unable to provide data for 2019/20.

Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales: [Police Force Area Data Tables](#), 17 July 2020 and earlier editions, Table P3.

A3c. Police recorded drug crime by London borough

London borough	2018/19			2019/20			% Change in total 2018/19 - 2019/20
	Total	Trafficking	Possession	Total	Trafficking	Possession	
Westminster	2,170	99	2,071	3,568	116	3,452	+64%
Newham	2,111	163	1,948	3,061	162	2,899	+45%
Croydon	1,867	104	1,763	2,524	149	2,375	+35%
Southwark	2,048	125	1,923	2,474	115	2,359	+21%
Tower Hamlets	2,423	166	2,257	2,353	94	2,259	-3%
Lambeth	2,359	187	2,172	2,157	114	2,043	-9%
Camden	1,380	112	1,268	1,981	75	1,906	+44%
Waltham Forest	1,300	90	1,210	1,785	82	1,703	+37%
Brent	1,831	115	1,716	1,724	81	1,643	-6%
Ealing	1,389	105	1,284	1,668	94	1,574	+20%
Hackney	1,532	114	1,418	1,632	80	1,552	+7%
Hounslow	1,427	94	1,333	1,613	100	1,513	+13%
Haringey	1,435	113	1,322	1,597	105	1,492	+11%
Lewisham	1,376	146	1,230	1,408	246	1,162	+2%
Redbridge	726	59	667	1,396	104	1,292	+92%
Islington	1,294	83	1,211	1,386	84	1,302	+7%
Greenwich	937	68	869	1,373	78	1,295	+47%
Hillingdon	1,073	80	993	1,327	73	1,254	+24%
Kensington & Chelsea	1,495	58	1,437	1,301	30	1,271	-13%
Barking & Dagenham	988	73	915	1,183	86	1,097	+20%
Wandsworth	775	63	712	1,160	84	1,076	+50%
Bromley	831	32	799	1,112	43	1,069	+34%
Hammersmith & Fulham	979	96	883	1,095	35	1,060	+12%
Enfield	1,051	109	942	1,075	149	926	+2%
Kingston upon Thames	507	29	478	942	115	827	+86%
Barnet	756	96	660	829	93	736	+10%
Harrow	638	44	594	807	57	750	+26%
Havering	568	37	531	792	53	739	+39%
Merton	487	28	459	774	44	730	+59%
Bexley	641	36	605	681	27	654	+6%
Sutton	383	24	359	570	26	544	+49%
Richmond upon Thames	257	17	240	384	25	359	+49%
Heathrow Airport	65	1	64	74	1	73	+14%
Grand Total	39,099	2,766	36,333	47,806	2,820	44,986	+22%

Source: Metropolitan Police Service, [Crime Statistics 2019/20](#), April 2020 [Accessed: 4 June 2020].

A4. Number of drug offenders receiving a caution or sentence

England and Wales

	Total England and Wales	Caution ¹	Sentence ^{2 3 4 5}	Immediate custody	Suspended sentence	Community sentence	Fine ⁶	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Compen- sation	Otherwise dealt with ⁷
2008/09	101,480	47,180	54,300	9,384	2,857	12,879	19,033	377	7,696	1	2,073
2009/10	100,037	42,120	57,917	9,625	3,337	13,534	21,404	371	7,601	0	2,045
2010/11	103,994	41,749	62,245	9,716	3,963	13,369	23,926	423	8,701	3	2,144
2011/12	102,773	42,330	60,443	9,809	4,342	12,490	22,929	429	8,164	1	2,279
2012/13	95,464	38,860	56,604	8,857	4,265	10,987	20,624	389	9,163	4	2,315
2013/14	90,952	35,591	55,361	8,997	5,291	8,790	20,725	341	9,026	4	2,187
2014/15	79,046	28,807	50,239	8,611	5,680	6,949	19,079	320	8,019	0	1,581
2015/16	67,358	22,378	44,980	8,846	5,514	6,386	15,815	395	7,018	0	1,006
2016/17	59,562	18,505	41,057	8,706	4,870	5,540	14,814	184	5,516	0	1,427
2017/18	51,068	15,514	35,554	8,107	3,966	4,414	12,897	208	4,603	0	1,359
2018/19	48,803	14,400	34,403	7,583	3,020	4,372	13,267	184	4,673	0	1,304

Notes:

1. The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
2. Persons sentenced at all courts; excludes other offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies, etc.
3. Data relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
4. Data are given on a principal disposal basis - i.e. reporting the most severe sentence for the principal offence.
5. Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July and August 2008.
6. Due to limitations in data supply, fine data from magistrates' courts has been omitted from Ministry of Justice data since 2009 of values between £10,000 and £99,999.
7. Including restriction orders, hospital orders, guardianship orders, police cells, and other disposals.

Source: Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: March 2019*, 15 August 2019 and earlier editions, Tables Q2.2 and Q5.3.

A5. Number of defendants proceeded against/sentenced for drug offences and length of custodial sentence received

Proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts

	Cautions	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Total sentenced ⁽⁵⁾	Immediate custody		Length of immediate custodial sentence							Average custodial sentence length (months)	Of which: for trafficking offences	Of which: for possession offences
					Number	% of total proven offenders ⁽⁶⁾	Up to 3 months	Over 3 months up to 6 months	Over 6 months up to 1 year	Over 1 year up to 2 years	Over 2 years up to 3 years	Over 3 years up to 5 years	Over 5 years ⁷			
2004	32,621	44,120	39,198	39,147	7,981	11.1%	813	528	773	1,355	1,329	2,082	1,101	37.3	42.2	8.2
2005	34,390	43,382	39,091	38,899	7,783	10.6%	825	648	714	1,479	1,346	1,602	1,169	35.8	40.8	6.9
2006	37,426	43,985	39,582	39,478	7,532	9.8%	901	566	711	1,593	1,376	1,424	961	33.8	38.8	6.8
2007	43,050	48,923	44,565	44,500	8,186	9.4%	1070	535	881	1,821	1,497	1,444	938	31.9	37.1	4.9
2008	47,038	56,953	52,943	52,911	9,488	9.5%	1,257	524	874	2,313	1,726	1,649	1,145	32.7	37.9	5.3
2009	43,808	61,685	56,831	56,656	9,426	9.4%	1,147	458	936	2,476	1,739	1,590	1,080	32.1	36.7	5.6
2010	40,721	67,772	61,979	61,435	9,693	9.5%	1,293	514	998	2,538	1,730	1,657	963	30.7	35.3	4.0
2011	43,056	67,650	61,657	61,094	9,788	9.4%	1,301	596	1,193	2,388	1,684	1,575	1,051	30.7	35.1	4.0
2012	39,783	63,618	58,125	57,601	9,011	9.3%	1,144	608	1,155	2,134	1,725	1,439	806	28.7	32.5	4.1
2013	36,386	63,766	57,012	56,323	9,024	9.7%	1,127	518	1,169	1,911	1,865	1,508	926	31.2	35.5	3.2
2014	30,825	57,562	51,814	51,297	8,756	10.7%	1,126	511	1,059	1,574	1,945	1,510	1,031	32.1	36.8	3.3
2015	23,330	51,030	46,810	46,242	8,618	12.4%	990	449	1,029	1,471	1,979	1,558	1,142	34.1	38.5	3.4
2016	19,457	45,458	42,632	41,831	8,860	14.5%	971	416	911	1,414	2,273	1,714	1,161	34.6	39.0	3.5
2017	15,956	42,072	38,111	37,221	8,342	15.7%	961	369	687	1,230	2,150	1,824	1,121	35.6	40.5	4.2
2018	14,523	38,797	35,133	34,080	7,766	16.0%	857	316	651	1,033	2,066	1,777	1,066	36.6	41.4	4.0
2019	-	43,918	39,332	38,220	8,899	-	851	295	680	1,161	2,349	2,092	1,471	39.2	43.4	4.1

Notes:

The publishing of more cautions data for 2019 has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The figures given in the pivot table relate to defendants for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Source: Ministry of Justice, *Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2019*, [Outcomes by Offence data tool](#), 25 June 2020 and earlier editions

A6a. Finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders

by age, England

Year	All ages ⁶	% Under 16	% 16 to 24	% 25 to 34	% 35 to 44	% 45 to 54	% 55 to 64	% 65 to 74	% 75 and over
2008/09	5,668	1%	21%	39%	28%	8%	2%	1%	1%
2009/10	5,809	2%	21%	38%	27%	9%	2%	1%	1%
2010/11	6,640	1%	22%	35%	29%	10%	2%	1%	1%
2011/12	6,227	2%	23%	34%	27%	11%	3%	1%	1%
2012/13	6,549	2%	25%	33%	26%	10%	3%	1%	1%
2013/14	7,139	2%	25%	32%	25%	11%	2%	1%	1%
2014/15	8,149	2%	25%	32%	24%	12%	3%	1%	1%
2015/16	8,621	2%	26%	33%	23%	11%	2%	1%	1%
2016/17	7,545	2%	23%	33%	26%	11%	2%	1%	1%
2017/18	7,258	3%	24%	33%	24%	11%	3%	1%	1%
2018/19	7,376	2%	23%	31%	25%	12%	3%	1%	1%

Notes:

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

The data is based on the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), Codes F11-F16, F18, F19.

Data excludes patients resident outside of England.

All ages admissions total may include a small number of records where the age was unknown.

A6b. Finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by drug misuse

by age, England

Year	All ages ⁶	% Under 16	% 16 to 24	% 25 to 34	% 35 to 44	% 45 to 54	% 55 to 64	% 65 to 74	% 75 and over
2008/09	11,090	6%	25%	25%	23%	11%	5%	2%	3%
2009/10	11,618	6%	25%	24%	22%	13%	6%	2%	3%
2010/11	12,586	6%	26%	23%	21%	13%	5%	3%	3%
2011/12	12,346	6%	24%	23%	21%	14%	6%	3%	4%
2012/13	15,580	5%	22%	22%	22%	15%	6%	3%	4%
2013/14	17,864	6%	22%	23%	21%	16%	6%	3%	3%
2014/15	17,658	6%	21%	23%	21%	16%	7%	3%	4%
2015/16	18,128	5%	20%	23%	21%	16%	6%	4%	4%
2016/17	16,791	6%	18%	23%	21%	17%	8%	4%	4%
2017/18	17,031	6%	19%	23%	20%	16%	8%	4%	4%
2018/19	18,053	6%	19%	22%	20%	17%	8%	4%	4%

Note:

On the April 1st 2012 the ICD-10 code T40.4 'poisoning by other synthetic narcotics' was reclassified to include the drug Tramadol, which has since been classified as a controlled substance. This resulted in a significant number of additional admissions being recorded against the code T40.4, and so data from 2012/13 will not be directly comparable with data prior to then. See the Data Quality Statement for more information.

Source: NHS Digital, *Statistics on drug misuse*, [Drug related hospital admission 2018-19: Excel data tables](#), Table 2.1, 22 November 2019.

A7: Deaths relating to drug poisoning

England and Wales

	All drug poisoning			<i>of which: Drug misuse</i>			Drug misuse as a % of deaths			% change on prev. year
	England & Wales	England	Wales	England & Wales	England	Wales	England & Wales	England	Wales	
1993	2,178	2,069	94	831	787	33	38%	38%	35%	-
1994	2,350	2,226	111	967	926	36	41%	42%	32%	+8%
1995	2,540	2,388	127	1,089	1,026	47	43%	43%	37%	+8%
1996	2,618	2,478	120	1,166	1,107	46	45%	45%	38%	+3%
1997	2,817	2,644	145	1,320	1,240	61	47%	47%	42%	+8%
1998	2,976	2,811	149	1,474	1,405	57	50%	50%	38%	+6%
1999	3,110	2,932	158	1,662	1,569	76	53%	54%	48%	+5%
2000	2,932	2,758	152	1,654	1,557	81	56%	56%	53%	-6%
2001	3,093	2,884	187	1,851	1,735	99	60%	60%	53%	+5%
2002	2,830	2,624	183	1,669	1,558	91	59%	59%	50%	-9%
2003	2,623	2,425	181	1,480	1,358	111	56%	56%	61%	-7%
2004	2,787	2,606	161	1,565	1,479	73	56%	57%	45%	+6%
2005	2,762	2,589	156	1,675	1,567	95	61%	61%	61%	-1%
2006	2,570	2,396	157	1,637	1,523	102	64%	64%	65%	-7%
2007	2,640	2,433	189	1,809	1,668	125	69%	69%	66%	+3%
2008	2,928	2,734	161	2,004	1,862	115	68%	68%	71%	+11%
2009	2,878	2,675	184	1,976	1,826	137	69%	68%	74%	-2%
2010	2,747	2,509	224	1,903	1,734	162	69%	69%	72%	-5%
2011	2,652	2,425	215	1,737	1,582	148	65%	65%	69%	-3%
2012	2,597	2,367	214	1,636	1,492	135	63%	63%	63%	-2%
2013	2,955	2,734	208	1,957	1,812	135	66%	66%	65%	+14%
2014	3,346	3,156	168	2,248	2,120	113	67%	67%	67%	+13%
2015	3,674	3,416	238	2,479	2,300	168	67%	67%	71%	+10%
2016	3,744	3,450	271	2,596	2,386	192	69%	69%	71%	+2%
2017	3,756	3,482	260	2,503	2,310	185	67%	66%	71%	+0%
2018	4,359	3,983	327	2,917	2,670	208	67%	67%	64%	+16%
2019	4,393	4,115	240	2,883	2,685	165	66%	65%	69%	+1%

Notes:

The definition of a death by drug misuse is one where either the underlying cause is drug abuse or drug dependence, or the underlying cause is drug poisoning and any of the substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 are involved.

In January 2011 and January 2014 ONS introduced new versions of ICD-10. The change in January 2011 affected the assignment of underlying cause of death for drug-related deaths, so figures for 2011 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier years.

Source: ONS, *Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales*, 15 August 2019, Table 1.

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