

## How many drugs are seized by customs?

**Every year HM Customs and Excise intercept hundreds of shipments or people bringing illicit drugs into the country.**

The police seize drugs already in the country, either smuggled, grown or manufactured here. The number and quantity of these seizures are recorded and published yearly by the Home Office in the form of statistical bulletins.

While the bulletins show what drugs are being reported and seized at the ports and on the streets, they reveal more about the activities of customs and the police than they do about what is actually available. For a full discussion of how these statistics should be interpreted see [What do the drug statistics say about the availability of drugs?](#)

The tables below show what was seized recently by customs and police. Though the police appear to have made more seizures (hence arrests), these tend to be smaller quantities. Custom seizures, on the other hand, tend to be much larger, hence them finding greater quantities of drugs - except for cannabis plants, which are increasingly being homegrown in the UK.

**Figure 1 Total number of seizures made by customs and police 1994 to 2002 in UK**

Year	Customs	Police	Total
2002	5,740	131,600	137,340
2001	4,980	126,210	131,190
2000	4,870	120,210	125,080
1999	5,209	126,985	132,194
1998	7,753	143,966	151,719
1997	6,727	132,447	139,174
1996	7,949	114,170	122,119
1995	6,844	107,695	114,539
1994	7,187	100,442	107,629

**Figure 2 Quantity seized (kg or units/doses\*) in UK by Customs and police according to drug type in 2002**

Drug type	Customs	Police	Total
Cocaine	3,355	222	2,956
Crack	14	44	16.1
Heroin	1,041	1,689	2,342
LSD*	12	5	67,408
Ecstasy*	4,790	1,062	6,323,469
Herbal Cannabis	31,030	3,964	15,867
Cannabis plants*	20	57,049	55,363
Cannabis resin	32,958	11,234	53,010
Amphetamines	588	818	2,017

For the latest Home Office Statistical Bulletins click [here!](#)

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