

chapter
11

Drug-related offences recorded and court proceedings

Statistics on drug-related offences recorded by the police are available from quarterly statistical returns made by the Scottish police forces to the Scottish Executive Justice Department.

Statistics on persons prosecuted for drug-related offences are available from the Scottish Executive Justice Department's court proceedings database. They are derived from the information on court proceedings held on the police operational computer at the Scottish Criminal Record Office.

Offences are recorded in the year in which the offender was sentenced, which will in many cases not be the year in which the offence was committed. If a person was sentenced for drugs offences on more than one occasion during a single year, each occasion is recorded separately. Offenders with more than one offence (dealt with at the same court appearance) are counted as a single offender in the total number of offenders, and are classified by the main offence (i.e. the one with the severest penalty).

Court proceedings data for 1999 was not available at the time of publication.

91 | Drug-related offences recorded by Scottish police forces : 1997 - 1999

(mainly Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 offences); council area¹, number and rate per 100 000 population

	1997		1998		1999	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Scotland	29 386	574	31 460	614	31 870	623
Aberdeen City	1 675	776	1 694	795	1 617	760
Aberdeenshire	974	430	892	394	717	315
Angus	371	337	430	391	458	417
Argyll & Bute	315	348	420	467	372	415
Ayrshire East	517	424	615	507	773	639
Ayrshire North	669	479	798	571	721	517
Ayrshire South	564	491	777	679	752	658
Borders	383	361	342	322	719	676
Clackmannanshire	212	434	290	597	232	478
Dumfries & Galloway	1 041	707	790	536	700	477
Dunbartonshire East	277	250	321	293	284	257
Dunbartonshire West	702	734	681	718	515	542
Dundee City	744	500	871	594	738	511
Edinburgh City	2 481	551	1 928	428	2 927	648
Eilean Siar	56	198	98	351	83	301
Falkirk	581	406	700	486	680	471
Fife	1 939	557	2 148	616	1 508	432
Glasgow City	6 995	1 144	8 224	1 327	7 791	1 274
Highland	1 331	638	1 051	505	1 296	621
Inverclyde	847	979	793	929	769	903
Lanarkshire North	1 831	561	1 939	593	2 175	663
Lanarkshire South	1 182	385	1 218	397	1 482	482
Lothian East	185	208	174	194	208	230
Lothian West	657	431	630	412	907	586
Midlothian	410	508	283	350	326	399
Moray	228	265	256	298	288	338
Orkney Islands	37	186	54	276	58	296
Perth & Kinross	685	514	885	665	784	585
Renfrewshire	866	486	1 437	808	1 198	676
Renfrewshire East	225	254	285	324	312	349
Shetland Islands	66	287	74	323	95	418
Stirling	340	407	362	435	385	455

¹ Where the offence was detected or reported.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department (recorded crime series)

92 | Drug-related offences recorded by Scottish police forces : 1999

(mainly Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 offences) council area¹; type of offence

	Number				Rate per 100 000 population			
	Possession with intent to supply	Possession	Other ²	Total	Possession with intent to supply	Possession	Other ²	Total ³
Scotland	8 514	22 768	588	31 870	166	445	11	623
Aberdeen City	446	1 166	5	1 617	210	548	2	760
Aberdeenshire	161	548	8	717	71	241	4	315
Angus	109	344	5	458	99	313	5	417
Argyll & Bute	64	305	3	372	71	340	3	415
Ayrshire East	186	562	25	773	154	465	21	639
Ayrshire North	124	593	4	721	89	425	3	517
Ayrshire South	141	602	9	752	123	527	8	658
Borders	208	482	29	719	195	453	27	676
Clackmannanshire	68	159	5	232	140	328	10	478
Dumfries & Galloway	302	397	1	700	206	270	1	477
Dunbartonshire East	68	214	2	284	61	193	2	257
Dunbartonshire West	113	398	4	515	119	419	4	542
Dundee City	144	590	4	738	100	409	3	511
Edinburgh City	930	1 911	86	2 927	206	423	19	648
Eilean Siar	7	71	5	83	25	258	18	301
Falkirk	194	476	10	680	134	330	7	471
Fife	439	1 040	29	1 508	126	298	8	432
Glasgow City	2 104	5 533	154	7 791	344	905	25	1 274
Highland	323	892	81	1 296	155	428	39	621
Inverclyde	228	529	12	769	268	621	14	903
Lanarkshire North	561	1 609	5	2 175	171	491	2	663
Lanarkshire South	334	1 129	19	1 482	109	367	6	482
Lothian East	48	154	6	208	53	170	7	230
Lothian West	244	636	27	907	158	411	17	586
Midlothian	64	252	10	326	78	309	12	399
Moray	45	238	5	288	53	279	6	338
Orkney Islands	12	44	2	58	61	224	10	296
Perth & Kinross	291	487	6	784	217	363	4	585
Renfrewshire	371	823	4	1 198	209	464	2	676
Renfrewshire East	60	240	12	312	67	269	13	349
Shetland Islands	17	76	2	95	75	334	9	418
Stirling	108	268	9	385	128	316	11	455

1 Where the offence was detected or reported.

2 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production and manufacture of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drug-related offences.

3 Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department (recorded crime series)

93 | Persons convicted in Scottish courts of drug offences¹ : 1989 - 1998

type of offence and age of convicted person

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All convicted persons² (n=100%)	2 415	3 021	3 789	4 114	4 675	5 386	5 599	6 183	7 005	6 918
	<i>percentage</i>									
Under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 20	26	29	35	36	33	30	27	24	22	23
21 to 25	36	36	33	34	36	35	34	32	33	30
26 to 30	20	20	18	17	17	20	19	22	22	23
31 to 35	10	9	8	7	8	9	10	12	12	13
36 to 40	5	4	4	4	4	3	5	6	6	6
Over 40	3	3	3	2	2	3	4	4	4	5
Average age	25	25	24	24	24	25	25	26	26	26
Possession with intent to supply (n=100%)	376	491	593	655	825	919	1 064	1 383	1 490	1 529
	<i>percentage</i>									
Under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 20	17	16	23	28	27	24	18	20	18	17
21 to 25	35	37	28	30	31	32	33	28	31	27
26 to 30	26	24	24	21	20	22	24	23	24	24
31 to 35	11	11	10	9	10	13	11	14	13	16
36 to 40	6	5	8	7	7	4	6	9	7	7
Over 40	5	5	7	5	5	5	7	7	7	8
Average age	27	27	27	26	26	26	27	27	27	28
Possession (n=100%)	2 009	2 497	3 172	3 421	3 765	4 338	4 420	4 634	5 384	5 291
	<i>percentage</i>									
Under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 20	28	32	37	38	35	32	30	26	24	25
21 to 25	36	36	33	35	37	36	35	33	34	31
26 to 30	19	19	17	16	16	19	18	22	22	22
31 to 35	10	8	7	7	7	8	9	11	12	12
36 to 40	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	5	5	6
Over 40	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	3	3	4
Average age	25	24	24	23	24	24	25	25	26	26
Other² (n=100%)	30	33	24	38	85	129	115	166	131	98
	<i>percentage</i>									
Under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 20	7	9	21	16	18	12	10	11	10	5
21 to 25	50	30	29	37	35	29	26	20	16	17
26 to 30	20	27	25	21	28	26	23	20	23	21
31 to 35	17	15	13	13	13	13	20	20	21	27
36 to 40	7	9	8	11	1	8	9	17	13	14
Over 40	-	9	4	3	5	12	13	12	18	15
Average age	27	29	26	27	26	29	30	31	32	32

1 Where main offence.

2 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production and manufacture of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drug-related offences.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department (court proceedings database)

94 | Persons convicted in Scottish courts of drug offences¹ : 1989 - 1998

type of offence and sentence

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All convicted persons² (n=100%)	2 415	3 021	3 789	4 114	4 675	5 386	5 599	6 183	7 005	6 918
	<i>percentage</i>									
Male	91	91	92	92	92	91	91	89	89	88
Female	9	9	8	8	8	9	9	11	11	12
Possession with intent to supply (n=100%)	376	491	593	655	825	919	1 064	1 383	1 490	1 529
	<i>percentage</i>									
Admonition/ Caution	4	5	5	6	5	3	2	3	3	3
Absolute discharge/ No order made	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Service	10	18	21	19	20	20	19	17	19	21
Probation	5	7	5	7	8	10	8	8	11	11
Fine	25	27	24	24	19	19	19	13	13	14
Custody - Less than 6 months	7	6	6	6	6	7	9	14	15	14
Custody - 6 months to 2 years	29	21	23	21	24	26	26	26	22	21
Custody - Over 2 years	19	17	14	15	18	13	16	18	17	15
Other ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Possession (n=100%)	2 009	2 497	3 172	3 421	3 765	4 338	4 420	4 634	5 384	5 291
	<i>percentage</i>									
Admonition/ Caution	11	11	10	10	8	9	9	7	7	8
Absolute discharge/ No order made	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Community Service	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	3	2
Probation/ SAO ³	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	4	4
Fine	83	82	83	84	86	86	84	83	82	81
Custody - Less than 6 months	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	4	4	4
Custody - 6 months to 2 years	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Custody - Over 2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other⁴ (n=100%)	30	33	24	38	85	129	115	166	131	98
	<i>percentage</i>									
Admonition/ Caution	10	3	8	18	7	9	4	8	11	4
Absolute discharge/ No order made	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Community Service	3	12	-	3	5	10	11	17	15	16
Probation	7	-	-	3	4	2	3	5	4	7
Fine	73	82	83	68	80	72	64	55	58	51
Custody - Less than 6 months	7	3	-	-	1	2	3	4	5	8
Custody - 6 months to 2 years	-	-	8	8	2	2	12	8	6	8
Custody - Over 2 years	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	2	1	5
Other ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

1 Where main offence.

2 Other outcomes consist of remits to childrens' hearings, hospital and guardianship orders, insanity and compensation orders.

3 There were two supervised attendance orders imposed for possession in 1997.

4 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drugs-related offences.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department (court proceedings database)

95 | Persons convicted of drug offences¹ in Sheriff courts : 1998

	Possession with intent to supply			Possession			Other ²
	Number	% Custodial sentence	% Aged under 21	Number	% Custodial sentence	% Aged under 21	Number
Scotland	1 286	43	19	3 471	6	21	86
Aberdeen	96	34	29	283	8	21	2
Airdrie	33	36	24	107	4	28	1
Alloa	18	83	6	30	13	27	-
Arbroath	5	60	-	51	2	25	1
Ayr	21	48	14	115	10	19	2
Banff	3	67	33	11	9	27	-
Campbeltown	2	-	-	7	14	57	-
Cupar	8	-	13	14	-	14	-
Dingwall	6	67	33	13	-	15	1
Dornoch	2	100	-	7	-	-	-
Dumbarton	33	52	18	74	5	22	2
Dumfries	24	46	33	23	4	22	1
Dundee	27	30	15	67	4	18	3
Dunfermline	32	41	25	61	-	11	8
Dunoon	3	-	-	27	-	26	1
Duns	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Edinburgh	147	34	17	363	4	20	3
Elgin	11	18	27	53	2	32	1
Falkirk	29	24	24	47	11	23	-
Forfar	13	23	31	5	20	-	-
Fort William	6	100	-	24	17	21	-
Glasgow	326	49	13	827	8	16	13
Greenock	45	67	16	169	5	22	-
Haddington	6	67	17	29	10	21	1
Hamilton	65	45	15	151	2	18	3
Inverness	30	23	27	83	2	27	1
Jedburgh	6	33	-	3	-	33	1
Kilmarnock	44	48	32	168	6	24	5
Kirkcaldy	31	39	16	63	3	16	7
Kirkcudbright	3	33	33	22	-	41	1
Kirkwall	-	-	-	6	-	17	-
Lanark	7	-	29	39	5	38	1
Lerwick	1	-	-	17	-	12	2
Linlithgow	27	33	19	79	1	29	4
Lochmaddy	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Oban	4	50	25	26	4	19	1
Paisley	57	65	19	116	1	25	5
Peebles	1	100	-	1	-	-	-
Perth	51	24	25	47	6	15	6
Peterhead	14	43	-	69	13	28	2
Portree	4	-	50	1	-	100	-
Rothesay	2	100	-	1	-	-	-
Selkirk	8	25	38	5	-	-	1
Stirling	13	54	23	18	6	11	1
Stonehaven	4	25	25	9	-	33	-
Stornoway	3	33	67	31	3	42	-
Stranraer	9	56	44	76	12	34	-
Tain	2	50	-	19	-	21	1
Wick	2	-	-	11	18	-	4

1 Where main offence.

2 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production and manufacture of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drug-related offences.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department (court proceedings database)

96 | Persons convicted of drugs offences¹ in District courts : 1998

	Possession			Other ³
	Number	% Custodial sentence	% Aged under 21	Number
Scotland	1 736	-	33	3
Aberdeen City	140	1	25	-
Aberdeenshire	112	-	42	1
Angus	38	-	42	-
Argyll & Bute	19	-	32	-
Ayrshire East	81	-	42	-
Ayrshire North	89	-	43	-
Ayrshire South	57	2	35	-
Borders	23	-	22	-
Clackmannanshire	13	-	8	-
Dumfries & Galloway	16	-	13	-
Dunbartonshire East	8	-	25	-
Dunbartonshire West	72	-	35	-
Dundee City	83	1	24	-
Edinburgh City	59	-	31	-
Eilean Siar	-	-	-	-
Falkirk	50	-	32	1
Fife	78	-	17	-
Glasgow City ²	197	-	28	-
Highland	83	-	37	-
Inverclyde	21	5	38	-
Lanarkshire North	174	-	33	-
Lanarkshire South	132	-	39	-
Lothian East	4	-	25	-
Lothian West	29	-	34	-
Midlothian	18	-	50	-
Moray	-	-	-	-
Perth & Kinross	34	-	26	1
Renfrewshire	71	-	42	-
Renfrewshire East	21	-	52	-
Stirling	14	7	14	-

1 Where main offence

2 In addition, there were 74 convictions for possession of drugs in the Stipendiary Magistrates Court, 3% of which resulted in custodial sentences, and 23% of which involved persons aged under 21.

3 Includes illegal importation of drugs, production and manufacture of drugs, money laundering related offences, and other drug-related offences.

Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department (court proceedings database)