

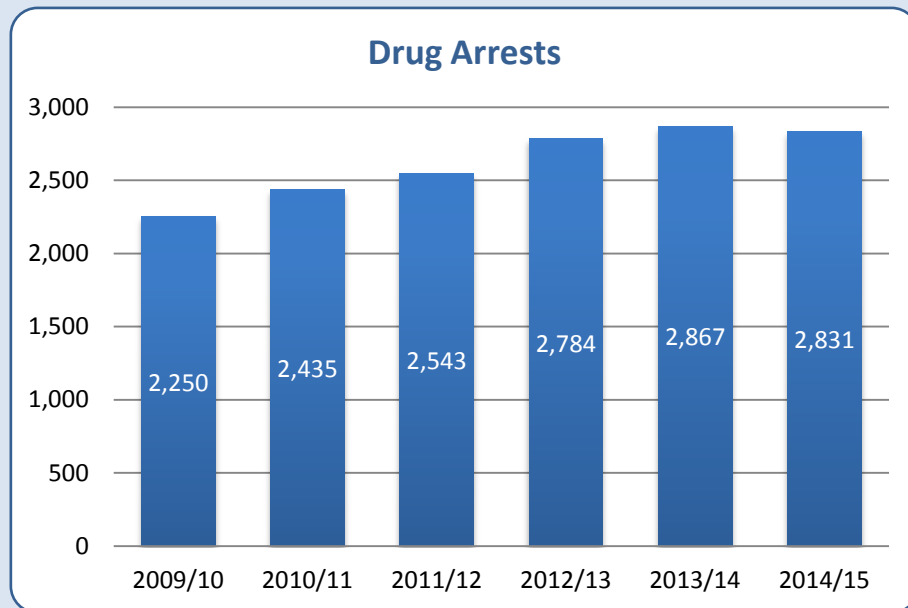
ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

TACKLING ALCOHOL AND DRUG RELATED CRIME

Lead Responsibility: Alcohol and Drug Delivery Group

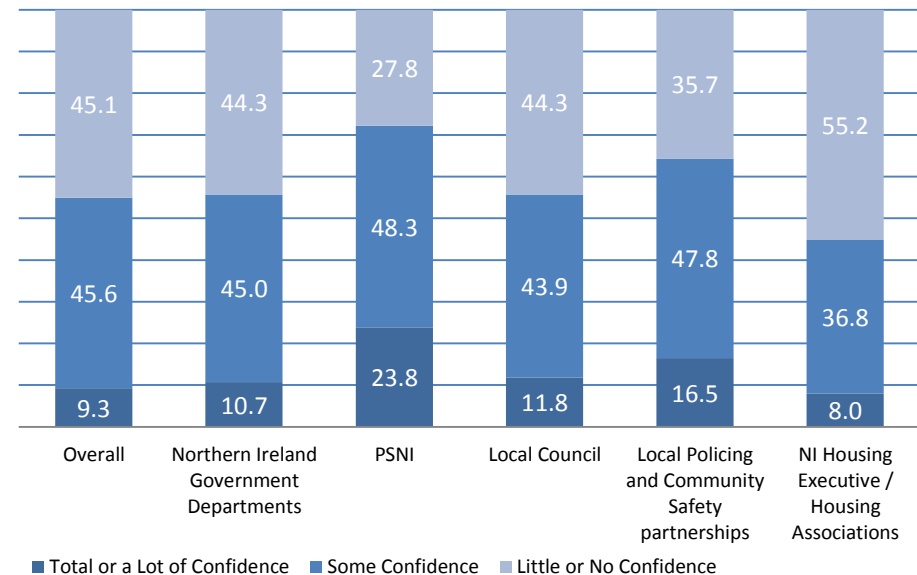
Partners on Delivery Group: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), Department of Social Development (DSD), Regional Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Teams (DACTs), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Forensic Science Northern Ireland (FSNI), Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS), Youth Justice Agency (YJA), Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service (NICTS).

Performance Indicators:



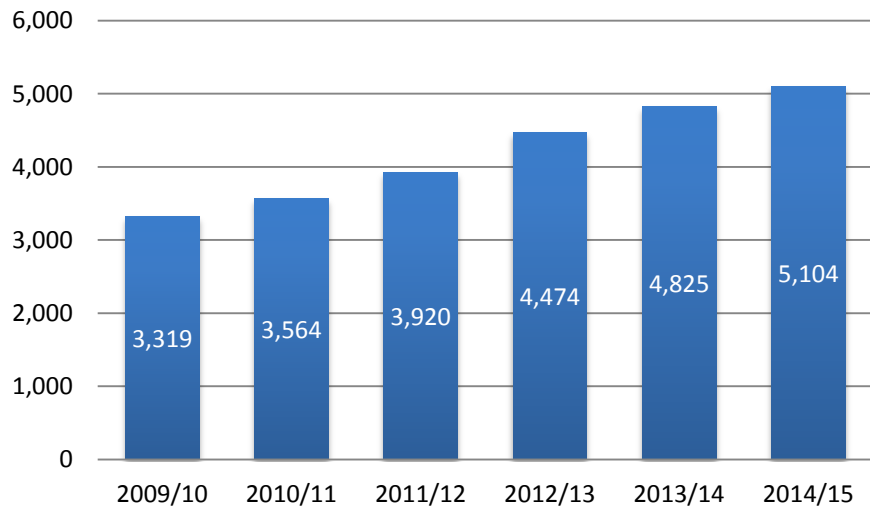
Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Confidence in work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues in Northern Ireland by organisation (%)



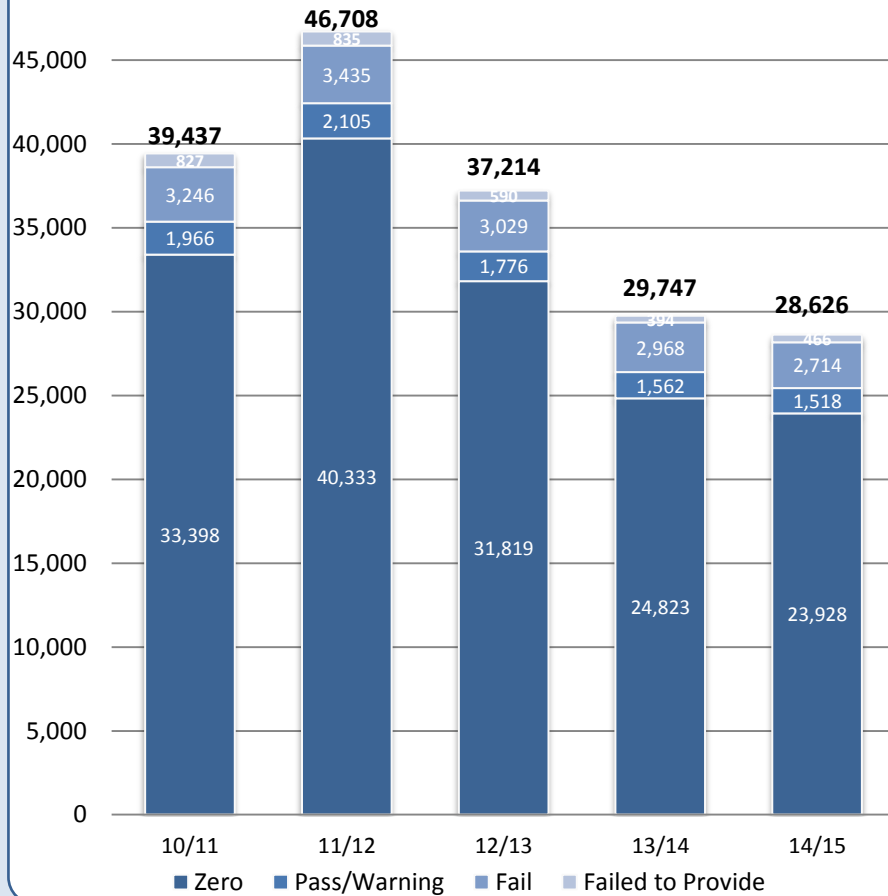
Source: Findings from the Sept 2014 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey

Total Drug Seizure Incidents



Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Results of PSNI Preliminary Breath Tests, 2010/11 to 2014/15



Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Story behind the figures/context:

The Department has continued to work closely with a range of organisations to deliver the Executive's New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs (Phase 2) 2011–2016, (NSD) which aims to reduce the level of alcohol and drug related harm in Northern Ireland. .

The NSD includes a number of key priority areas and key indicators which include alcohol and drug related crime, drug and drink driving, number of criminal gangs dismantled, disrupted or frustrated and increasing public confidence that drug-related problems are being addressed.

Whilst principally led by DHSSPS, DOJ is one of the main contributors towards its overall delivery and as a result the Community Safety Strategy is broadly reflective of its overall aims.

The PSNI reported that the percentage of all crimes with alcohol as a contributory factor in the 2014/15 financial year was 19%, slightly less than the 20% identified in 2013/14. (Source: Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 30 March 2015). The percentages of crimes of domestic and non-domestic violence with injury that were alcohol related in 2014/15 were 58% and 55% respectively (Source: PSNI Performance Report to the NI Policing Board, 2014/15).

The PSNI conducted 28,160 preliminary breath tests in 2014/15 which was a decrease of 4% on the number carried out in 2013/14 (29,353). In total 466 people approached failed to complete a breath test in 2014/15 compared to 394 during 2013/14. The proportion of drivers who failed a preliminary breath test in 2014/15 was 9% which compares with 10% in 2013/14.

Respondents to the 2014 Omnibus survey expressed higher levels of confidence in the PSNI's work to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland than that of any other organisation, with 72% having either some, a lot or total confidence. Taking everything into account, 54.9% of respondents expressed some, a lot or total confidence that enough is being done to tackle alcohol and/or drug related issues across Northern Ireland.

The Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey of pupils aged 11-16 conducted in 2013 reported that just over a third of pupils (38%) have taken an alcoholic drink. Of those who have ever had an alcoholic drink, over half (56%) were aged 13 or under when they had their first drink. On at least one occasion, 9% of pupils have been offered solvents and 5% of pupils have inhaled solvents.

The Organised Crime Task Force continued to make a number of significant interventions against organised crime gangs in 2014/15. Fourteen were dismantled, 43 were disrupted and 37 were frustrated. (Source: Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 30 March 2015).

The drug market in Northern Ireland has continued to develop alongside other parts of the United Kingdom and Europe. The market in prescription drugs remains a concern as it continues to be exploited by Organised Crime Gangs. The existence of new psychoactive substances continued to require law enforcement agencies to be innovative in developing their response. In Spring 2015, the Home Office announced its intention to bring forward a Psychoactive Substances Bill to enhance the current legislative response. The Department of Justice and DHSSPS, alongside other executive Departments, have continued to engage with the Home Office as the Bill progressed towards Royal Assent on 28 January and commencement on 6 April 2016.

The number of drug seizures has increased by 5.8% from 4,825 in 2013/14 to 5,104 in 2014/15. The number of drug seizure incidents has increased year on year since 2006/07 and in 2014/15 reached the highest level seen in the past ten years. The level in 2014/15 is almost twice as high as that recorded in 2006/07 when 2,590 seizure incidents occurred.

The PSNI has regularly run high profile operations specifically targeted at street level drug dealing since 2012 (Operation Torus).

During 2014, 3,728 Penalty Notices for Disorder have been issued to tackle issues such as disorderly behaviour, indecent behaviour and drunkenness. (DOJ: Court Prosecutions, Convictions and Out of Court Disposal Statistics for Northern Ireland 2014).

What we agreed to achieve in 2015-2017	What we did in 2015/16
<p>Increase public confidence that alcohol and drug related issues and their impact at community level, are being addressed</p>	<p>Organised Crime Task Force Drug Expert Group continued to meet, sharing information and intelligence as well as lead on joint actions taken across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Information on new psychoactive substances continues to be gathered through the Drug and Alcohol Monitoring Information System (DAMIS) and shared among key frontline workers.</p> <p>Drink driving enforcement operations continued throughout the year, The PSNI's Winter drink drive operations resulted in a total of 396 drink driving arrests, 114 more than during the same period last year.</p> <p>Throughout the year, PCSPs continued to deliver a range of initiatives aimed at addressing drug and alcohol issues at a local level. For example, in Derry and Strabane a first offenders alcohol education programme targeted on-street drinkers. In Antrim and Newtownabbey an education and awareness raising programme also provided a counselling element for those who required assistance with drug or alcohol dependency.</p> <p>At a regional level, PCSPs have renewed their support for the Drug Dealers Don't Care campaign supported by NI Crimestoppers. This campaign re-launched on 24 February 2016. Partner agencies such as the PSNI, PHA and local service delivery organisations also scheduled other drug awareness and enforcement initiatives to align with the campaign. Local PCSPs have recently been encouraged to work closely with the newly established Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team (DACT) Connections Service in both the planning and delivery of any alcohol and drug-related actions, activities or projects over the next three year period.</p> <p>This service is specifically tasked with developing local events and initiatives, delivering targeted awareness-raising sessions, offering advice and support to key local stakeholder networks and communities of interest, supporting a local drug and alcohol service provider's network as well as promoting and signposting to local support services. It is envisaged that the principal benefit of this type of engagement will be the continued development of more jointly planned, delivered and co-ordinated initiatives in the years ahead.</p>

<p>Support young people and families dealing with alcohol and drug misuse</p>	<p>All young people referred to Youth Justice Services (YJA) are assessed to identify drug and/or alcohol issues that are directly linked to their offending with appropriately tailored education and awareness sessions provided where substance misuse has been identified as a result.</p>
<p>Support offenders with substance misuse problems through a range of targeted services</p>	<p>PBNI has revised its Substance Programme for addressing Hazardous substance use and in partnership with PHA and ASCERT has trained all front-line staff in the use of screening and brief interventions tools to address substance misuse among offenders under PBNI supervision. Where appropriate, onward referrals are made in line with the new regional commissioning framework for drug and alcohol services,</p> <p>Within the prison environment, a real and concerted effort is being made to address substance misuse based around a three strand approach – to restrict supply, to reduce demand and to assist recovery. Programmes are in place in all three Establishments to assist and support those individuals who decide to maintain a drug free lifestyle. NIPS increased focus on intelligence-led searching has increased drug finds in all three prisons, providing clear evidence that this approach is targeting the right people.</p> <p>Following the 2014 CJINI/RQIA report on Prisoner Safety, a small team of officials was established to develop a comprehensive Substance Misuse Strategy. NIPS has completed the operational aspects of the Misuse Strategy and has asked South Eastern Trust for views and healthcare contributions before it is operationalised.</p>
<p>Ensure effective powers are available to address alcohol and drug misuse</p>	<p>FSNI has continued to work closely with the PSNI to ensure the new equipment fully meets the NI specification in relation to the reduced breath test limits brought forward by the Minister for the Environment.</p> <p>DHSSPS and the Department of Justice, alongside other Executive Departments engaged with the Home Office on the development of the Psychoactive Substances Act. A seminar to raise awareness on New Psychoactive Substances was developed by the Organised Crime Taskforce and delivered on 24 February 2016 in advance of commencement which is anticipated on 6 April 2016.</p>