

Table Y: Drug-related deaths, on the basis of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) "wide" definition, by selected drugs reported, 2000 to 2008

Drugs ^{1,2}	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All drug-related deaths (on the "wide" definition)	495	551	566	493	546	480	577	630	737
Amphetamines	3	5	13	10	10	11	11	12	13
Anti-depressants ³	78	93	82	83	86	67	93	84	150
Anti-psychotics ⁴	12	10	8	8	11	5	21	26	39
Benzodiazepines ⁵	165	185	248	189	140	110	94	109	370
Cannabis	24	23	35	21	5	6	3	8	44
Cocaine	4	20	31	30	38	44	33	47	84
Diazepam	147	159	217	154	113	90	78	79	323
Ecstasy-type	12	21	20	15	17	10	12	12	7
Heroin/diamorphine or Morphine ⁶	218	221	250	176	226	194	260	291	339
Methadone	56	71	100	91	80	71	96	115	186
Paracetamol or a compound ⁷	120	127	117	85	107	62	53	56	73
Temazepam	39	20	16	37	5	7	9	4	12
Tramadol	1	8	6	15	11	16	17	26	35
Alcohol	164	186	190	168	145	134	151	181	308

1. More than one drug may be reported per death. These are mentions of each drug, so do not add up to the overall total.

Up to 2007, some pathologists reported only those drugs which they thought caused, or contributed to, the death
With effect from 2008, pathologists were asked to report all the drugs which were found to be present in the body.

This accounts for most (if not all) of the apparent large increases for (e.g.) benzodiazepines, diazepam and alcohol.

There may be other differences between years and/or areas in the way in which the information was produced - see Section 2.

2. The figures for some of the "controlled" drugs may differ slightly from those given in earlier tables for two reasons.

First, they were produced from GROS's new database, rather than the old database (see paragraph A4).

Second, a small proportion of the deaths which involved controlled drugs were excluded from the figures which appear in the earlier tables, for reasons such as those given in paragraph A3.

3. e.g. amitriptyline, citalopram, dothiepin, fluoxetine, prothiaden

4. e.g. chlorpromazine, clozapine, olanzapine

5. including diazepam and temazepam (which appear separately below)

6. see paragraph 3.3.1 of commentary.

7. e.g. co-codamol or co-proxamol, or mention of dextropropoxyphene or propoxyphene (even if there is no mention of paracetamol or a compound analgesic)