



Chapter 8

Drug law offences

Methods and definitions

Reports of offences against national drug legislation (use, possession, trafficking, etc.) reflect differences in law but also the different ways in which the law is enforced and applied, and the priorities and resources allocated to specific problems by criminal justice agencies. In addition, information systems on drug law offences/offenders vary considerably between countries, especially as regards recording procedures, definitions and statistical units.

The term 'reports for drug law offences' covers different concepts, varying between countries. Drug law offences usually refer to offences such as drug production, trafficking and dealing as well as drug use and possession for use, where these constitute criminal offences. Indeed, in some countries, drug use and/or possession for use are not considered as criminal offences and attract administrative sanctions: reports for these are not included in the data presented here.

The stage within the criminal justice system at which data have been reported and recorded, vary sometimes across countries. For example, data on drug law offences might be recorded at an initial stage when a first report is made by law enforcement agencies, or after investigation by the judicial police, or even following a decision for a charge to be issued by the prosecutor.

Statistical units vary between countries. Some Member States record offences while others record persons (or presumed offenders). Among those recording offences, some record all offences reported to them, while others record only the main offences, i.e. in the case of several offences committed by the same person, only the most serious offence (usually the one that attracts the highest penalty) is recorded. Among countries recording persons, some record a number of individuals being reported during the year, while others report only a number of different individuals reported during the year. In the former case, an individual reported twice during the same year will be counted twice while in the latter case he would be only counted once in the statistics. In addition to these, when

considering breakdowns by drug, here too, some countries report all drugs mentioned in a case while others record only the main drug (defined according to different criteria in different countries).

These differences (in the type of offences considered as criminal offences, in the stage at which the statistics are made, and in the type of statistical units) lead to major difficulties when comparing data from different EU countries.

For more information see the EMCDDA's [European Legal Database on Drugs \(ELDD\)](#) and the [Information map on law enforcement sources](#).

Country	Definition
Belgium	Persons involved in cases of illicit drugs reported by the police.
Czech Republic	Charges for drug law offences.
Denmark	Charges for violations of drug laws.
Germany	All offences under Narcotic Law.
Estonia	Offences against the drug legislation (criminal offences and misdemeanours).
Greece	Arrests (caught by the police); initial reports of individuals suspected of drug law offences.
Spain	Offences related to illicit drug dealing and trafficking according to the penal code.
France	Reports by law enforcement agencies for violation of drug laws to the prosecutor.
Ireland	Drug offences where criminal proceedings commenced (charges) and where the offence is classifiable by type of drug.
Italy	Persons referred to the Judicial Authority for drug law offences.
Cyprus	Reported cases of drug law offences.
Lithuania	Number of cases of drug law offences.

Luxembourg	Arrests for presumed offences against the 1973 drug law.
Hungary	Charges for indictable drug law offences (i.e. cases of drug abuse reported by police and prosecutors at the end of criminal investigations).
Malta	Persons charged with drug law offences.
Netherlands	Offences against the Opium Act considered in need of Prosecution Department.
Austria	Reports to the police for violations of the Narcotic (Drug) Substances Act.
Poland	Offences against drug law recorded by the police (cases).
Portugal	Presumed offenders questioned by the police for suspected drug-related offences.
Slovenia	Criminal offences against drug legislations.
Finland	Drug offences recorded by the police.
Sweden	Suspected of offences against the narcotic drugs act or the goods smuggling act.
UK	Persons found guilty, cautioned, given a fiscal fine or dealt with by compounding for drug law offences.
Norway	Cases investigated and persons charged with drug crimes.

Note:

No data available for Slovakia. No definitions available for Latvia.

Source:

Reitox national focal points

Overview of the data

Listed below are the tables in the bulletin dealing with drug law offences, along with a brief overview. The tables in this chapter monitor over time the numbers of reports of drug law offences for each country that provided data. Tables include data from the EU Member States and Norway.

Summary points

- Between 1998 and 2003, the number of 'reports' of drug law offences increased overall in the EU. However,

decreases were reported in 2003 in Belgium, Spain, Italy (since 2001), Hungary, Malta, Austria and Slovenia (since 2002). Table DLO-01 gives, by country, an historical perspective of the development of the number of reports for drug law offences in the medium term in [Table DLO-1 part \(i\)](#) and over a longer period in [Table DLO-1 part \(ii\)](#).

[Table DLO-2](#) gives for 2003/2001 by country the offence type categorised by use/possession for use, dealing/trafficking/both; [Table DLO-3](#) similarly shows for 2003/2002 by country the drugs mentioned in the offences.

- In most EU Member States, the majority of reported drug law offences are related to drug use or possession for use, ranging from 39 % to 87 % of all drug law offences.

[Table DLO-4](#) gives the medium-term historical changes in the proportion of drug law offences that are related to use or possession for use, of drugs. Over 1998 to 2003, the proportion of all drug law offences accounted for by those related to drug use/possession for use overall increased in all reporting EU countries except Portugal. However, in 2003, decreases were reported in the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Austria and Slovenia.

- In most of the Member States, cannabis is the illicit drug most often involved in reported drug law offences. In the countries where this is the case, cannabis-related offences in 2003 accounted for 39 % to 87 % of all drug law offences. The Netherlands and the Czech Republic stand as exceptions with respectively 'hard drugs' (e.g. heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, LSD) (58 %) and amphetamines (48 %) predominating in drug law offences.

Tables [Table DLO-5](#), [Table DLO-6](#) and [Table DLO-7](#) give, by country, historically over the medium term, the percentage of drug law offences that specify cannabis, heroin and cocaine respectively.

- Over 1998 to 2003, the proportion of drug offences involving cannabis has been increasing or has remained stable in all reporting EU countries, except Italy and Austria which reported downward trends. During this period the proportion of heroin-related offences decreased in all reporting EU countries, except Austria and the United Kingdom, where it increased. In contrast, cocaine-related offences have increased as a proportion of all drug offences since 1998 in all reporting EU countries except Germany, which reported downward trends.

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Table DLO-1 part (i). Number of reports for drug law offences, 1995 to 2003

Country	Study units	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Belgium	(1) persons	18376		21569	14328	25540	19005	21750	26291	18683
Czech Republic	persons	482	956	1152	1530	1765	2043	2160	2000	2357
Denmark	persons	9008	8678	8234	8900	9424	9899	9858	10021	
Germany	offences	158477	187022	205099	216682	226563	244336	246518	250969	
Estonia	offences				617	765	3886	5458	4761	6384
Greece	(2) persons	4887	6961	9729	10973	10902	12543	15395	16045	16195
Spain	(3) offences		17176	14991	13967	13430	17067	17380	17430	16755
France	persons	69432	77640	89285	91048	95910	100870	84533	96740	108141
Ireland	offences	3859	2885	4156	5631	7137	8395	8768	7976	
Italy	(3) (4) persons	32652	32985	32999	33179	34297	34322	33872	33106	29377
Cyprus	cases									465
Latvia	not known	271	362	433	395	521	655	854	653	
Lithuania	cases		491	382	663	783	697	798	846	1029
Luxembourg	persons	128	149	154	100	108	117	92	108	135
Hungary	(5) offences	429	440	943	2068	2860	3445	4332	4775	3378
Malta	persons							410	413	410
Netherlands	(6) offences				12616	11675	11513	13558	15848	17087
Austria	(7) offences	13093	16196	17868	17141	17597	18125	21862	22422	22245
Poland	offences	4284	6780	7915	16432	15628	19649	29230	36178	47605
Portugal	(8) persons	6380	9054	9333	11395	13020	14276	8736	5255	5318
Slovenia	offences	1249	1849	2737	2942	3410	4803	5889	5528	4843
Finland	offences	9052	7868	8323	9461	11647	13445	14890	13843	15058
Sweden	persons	9573	9307	10625	11490	10400	12545	13714	15300	16136
United Kingdom	persons	93631	95199	114629	130643	121056	104390	100939	111152	
Norway	persons	3938	4455	5188	6486	8002	9190	10746		
Total		439201	486453	565744	618687	642440	665216	671742	697660	

Notes:

The general term 'reports for drug law offences' is used since definitions and study units differ widely between countries. For definitions of the term 'reports for drug law offences', please refer to Methods and definitions in this statistical bulletin.

(1) In 1998 and 1999 there is some double-counting as persons reported for two offences were counted twice in the total. From 2000, only the main offence is counted. However, a person could be counted several times if arrested several times during the same year. Since 2003 each offence is represented as one separate record in the database.

(2) Figures refer to a number of initial reports of individuals suspected of drug law offences by all law enforcement authorities.

(3) Data only include offences related to dealing/trafficking (offences related to drug use/possession are not considered as criminal offences).

(4) Since 1995, data include persons under restriction and at liberty.

(5) Data refer to the year during which criminal investigations were closed (vs. year during which offences were committed).

(6) Data refer to cases registered by the public prosecutor.

(7) The total number of reports for drug law offences includes reports for drug-related deaths until 1999, and reports for psychotropic substances and precursors since 1998.

(8) Since July 2001, reports for drug use/possession are no longer included in the table since these are not considered as criminal offences anymore.

Sources:

Reitox national focal points.

Table DLO-1 part (ii). Number of reports for drug law offences, 1985 to 2003

Country	Study units	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Belgium	(1) persons	3917	4646	6393	7000	6093	7051	10720	18179	19482	19467	18376		21569	14328	25540	19005	21750	26291	18683	
Czech Republic	persons								135	163	288	482	956	1152	1530	1765	2043	2160	2000	2357	
Denmark	persons	5147	5262	7862	7031	7566	8915	9535	10290	12421	9536	9008	8678	8234	8900	9424	9899	9858	10021		
Germany	offences	60941	68694	74894	84998	94000	103629	117046	123903	122240	132389	158477	187022	205099	216682	226563	244336	246518	250969		
Estonia	offences														617	765	3886	5458	4761	6384	
Greece	(2) persons	953	1734	2257	2471	2660	3081	3197	2966	2636	3340	4887	6961	9729	10973	10902	12543	15395	16045	16195	
Spain	(3) offences												17176	14991	13967	13430	17067	17380	17430	16755	
France	persons	29750	30493	31105	31213	33510	34213	45063	54468	51657	59697	69432	77640	89285	91048	95910	100870	84533	96740	108141	
Ireland	offences	1270	1163	1196	1333	1344	2071	3088	3494	3833	4443	3859	2885	4156	5984	7137	8395	8768	7976		
Italy	(3) (4) persons	15763	14857	19373	23320	20582	18343	22966	27617	23818	26449	32652	32985	32999	33179	34297	34322	33872	33106	29377	
Cyprus	cases																			465	
Latvia	not known								205	231	279	271	362	433	395	521	655	854	653		
Lithuania	cases												491	382	663	783	697	798	846	1029	
Luxembourg	persons												128	149	100	108	117	92	108	135	
Hungary	offences	81	95	93	73	53	34	46	135	223	256	429	440	943	2068	2860	3445	4332	4775	3378	
Malta	persons																			410	
Netherlands	(6) offences														12616	11675	11513	13558	15848	17087	
Austria	(7) offences	4932	4739	4778	4963	4474	4829	5392	7805	10915	12623	13093	16196	17868	17141	17597	18125	21862	22422	22245	
Poland	offences						1105	2468	2442	5457	4000	4284	6780	7915	16432	15628	19649	29230	36178	47605	
Portugal	(8) persons	1471	2047	2192	1845	2534	3586	4667	6280	5197	4708	6380	9054	9333	11395	13020	14276	8736	5255	5318	
Slovenia	offences							337	469	646	825	1249	1849	2737	2942	3410	4803	5889	5528	4843	
Finland	offences	2323	1973	2221	1914	1889	2546	2491	3336	3976	5936	9052	7868	8323	9461	11647	13445	14890	13843	15058	
Sweden	persons	6567	6426	6533	6697	7163	7676	8123	7974	7394	8604	9573	9307	10625	11490	10400	12545	13714	15300	16136	
United Kingdom	persons		23905	26278	30515	38415	44922	47616	48927	68480	85693	93631	95199	114629	130643	121056	104390	100939	111152		
Norway	persons	1941	1975	1936	2324	3057	3332	3577	3903	3790	3446	3938	4455	5188	6486	8002	9190	10746			
Total		135056	168009	187111	205697	223340	245333	286332	322528	342559	381979	439201	486453	565744	619040	642440	665216	671742	697660		

Notes:

The general term 'reports for drug law offences' is used since definitions and study units differ widely between countries. For definitions of the term 'reports for drug law offences', please refer to Methods and definitions in this statistical bulletin.

(1) In 1998 and 1999 there is some double-counting as persons reported for two offences were counted twice in the total. From 2000, only the main offence is counted. However, a person could be counted several times if arrested several times during the same year. Since 2003 each offence is represented as one separate record in the database.

(2) Between 1985 and 1994, figures refer to a number of arrests made by the police of drug law offenders. From 1995, figures refer to a number of initial reports of individuals suspected of drug law offences by all law enforcement authorities.

(3) Data only include offences related to dealing/trafficking (offences related to drug use/possession are not considered as criminal offences).

(4) From 1985 to 1994, data include only persons under restriction. Since 1995, the figures include persons under restriction and at liberty.

(5) Data refer to the year during which criminal investigations were closed (vs. year during which offences were committed).

(6) Data refer to cases registered by the public prosecutor.

(7) The total number of reports for drug law offences includes reports for drug-related deaths until 1999, and reports for psychotropic substances and precursors since 1998.

(8) Since July 2001, reports for drug use/possession are no longer included in the table since these are not considered as criminal offences anymore.

Sources:

Reitox national focal points.

Table DLO-2. Offence type most involved in the report for drug law offences

Countries		Year	Use/possession for use (%)	Dealing/trafficking (%)	Use and dealing (%)
Belgium	(3)	2003	80	20	
Czech Republic	(2)	2003	9	91	
Germany	(3) (4)	2002	68	28	3
Greece	(3)	2003	79	21	
Spain	(3)	2003	0	100	
France	(2)	2003	84	7	9
Ireland	(3)	2002	76	19	
Italy	(5)	2003	0	100	
Cyprus	(3)	2003	57	43	
Luxembourg	(3)	2003	11	46	43
Malta	(2)	2003	75	25	
Austria	(1) (4)	2003	87	11	
Poland	(3) (4)	2003	39	5	
Portugal	(2) (5)	2003	0	41	59
Slovenia	(3)	2003	85	13	2
Finland	(3) (4) (7)	2003	60	5	
Sweden	(3)	2003	84	16	
United Kingdom	(3)	2002	87	13	
Norway	(3) (6)	2001	41		59

Notes:

For definitions of 'reports' for drug law offences, please refer to Methods and definitions in this statistical bulletin.

(1) The law only distinguishes between small and large quantities. Thus cases of possession and small-scale trafficking have been considered as 'use/possession for use' and cases of possession and trafficking of large quantities have been considered as 'dealing/trafficking'.

(2) Based on number of offences considered as main offences.

(3) Among all drug offences - several different drug offences may be involved in one case.

(4) Other offences against the drug laws are included in the total, but can not be classified under any of the three headings in these table. Percentages are based on the total and may not sum to 100%.

(5) Drug use and/or possession for use is not considered as a criminal offence and is regulated by administrative sanctions in Spain, Italy and (since July 2001) Portugal.

(6) It is not possible to distinguish 'dealing and trafficking' alone from 'use/dealing and trafficking'. This category includes therefore dealers-users and represents 58.5% of drug law offences, while the remaining drug law offences (41.5%) relate to drug use alone.

(7) The category 'dealing/trafficking' is defined as including 'aggravate narcotics offences'.

Source:

Reitox national focal points.

Table DLO-3. Drug types involved in reports for drug law offences: percentage of all reports for drug law offences

Countries		Year	Cannabis (%)	Heroin (%)	Cocaine (%)
Belgium	(1)	2003	67	7	7
Czech Republic	(2)	2003	38	4	1
Germany	(2) (3)	2003	59	15	9
Greece	(1)	2003	52	40	5
Spain	(1) (4)	2003	52	7	30
France	(2)	2003	87	5	4
Ireland	(2)	2002	65	9	6
Italy	(1) (4)	2003	39	23	32
Lithuania	(1)	2003	13	4	1
Luxembourg	(1)	2003	43	26	29
Malta	(2)	2003	41	37	6
Netherlands	(2) (5)	2003	36	58	
Austria	(1)	2003	53	14	14
Portugal	(3) (4) (6)	2003	44	12	7
Slovenia	(1)	2003	81	12	2
Sweden	(1) (7)	2002	34	6	3
United Kingdom	(1)	2002	71	10	3

Notes:

For definitions of reports for drug law offences, please refer to Methods and definitions in this statistical bulletin.

Percentages are based on offences for all drug types and may not sum to 100%.

(1) Based on number of mentions of all drugs, whether alone or with other drugs (in the same offence).

(2) Based on number of mentions of drugs considered as main drugs.

(3) Among all offences broken down by drug (for some offences, a breakdown by drug is not available).

(4) Among offences for drug dealing/trafficking (since offences for drug use/possession for use are not criminalised).

(5) Data under 'cannabis' refer to 'soft drugs' (mainly cannabis). Data under 'heroin' refer to 'hard drugs' (defined as drugs which pose unacceptable public health risks, such as heroin, cocaine, LSD and ecstasy). Offences involving both 'soft drugs' and 'hard drugs' are not included here.

(6) The proportions are underestimated, since they represent offences for one drug alone - e.g. offences for cannabis do not include offences for cannabis + other drug(s).

(7) Among persons given a summary fine by the prosecutor or sentenced by a court.

Source:

Reitox national focal points.

Table DLO-4. Percentage of total drug law offences that are related to drug use or possession for use, 1996 to 2003

Country		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Belgium	(2) (6)			52.7	67.1	64.3	61.9	70.4	79.6
Czech Republic	(3)				6.2	8.5	9.4	10.5	8.6
Germany	(4)	63.0	64.0	65.9	65.6	66.9	66.0	68.0	
Greece	(4)								78.5
France	(3)	72.3	78.9	82.0	83.5	82.7	84.8	84.0	83.8
Ireland	(4)			64.6	68.4	77.2	79.9	75.7	
Cyprus	(4)								56.6
Luxembourg	(4)	5.6	7.9	22.9	23.0	31.1	19.4	23.4	11.3
Malta	(3)						73.4	73.4	74.6
Austria	(1)	86.5	84.7	84.0	86.6	87.1	86.6	87.2	86.7
Poland	(4)				12.1	14.3	22.8	33.1	39.2
Portugal	(3) (5)	54.3	57.5	60.6	61.7	54.8	39.4		
Slovenia	(4)						73.9	87.5	85.1
Finland	(4)							52.4	60.3
Sweden	(4)	78.0	78.9	79.1	80.0	82.1	81.6	81.2	83.6
United Kingdom	(4)	83.7	85.2	86.3	86.3	86.2	86.3	87.5	
Norway	(4)	35.4	34.0	37.5	38.9	39.7	41.5		

Notes:

For definitions of reports for drug law offences, please refer to Methods and definitions in this statistical bulletin.

(1) The law only distinguishes between small and large quantities. Thus cases of possession and small-scale trafficking have been considered as 'use/possession for use'.

(2) Among all drug offences in 1998 and 1999; among main drug offences from 2000.

(3) Based on number of offences considered as main offences.

(4) Among all drug offences - several different drug offences may be involved in one case.

(5) Since July 2001, drug use/possession for use is not a criminal offence anymore and thus not considered here. In consequence, the proportion has decreased in 2001 and the series has stopped since then.

(6) In 1998 and 1999 there is some double-counting as persons reported for two offences were counted twice in the total. From 2000 onwards, only the main offence is counted. However, a person could be counted several times if arrested several times during the same year. Since 2003 each offence is represented as one separate record in the database.

Source:

Reitox national focal points.

Table DLO-5. Cannabis-related offences: percentage among total drug law offences, 1996 to 2003

Country		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Belgium	(1) (8)			66.1	68.3	67.3	68.1	67.1	66.8
Czech Republic	(2)							37.4	37.8
Germany	(2) (3)	49.2	45.6	51.9	53.6	54.8	54.4	56.4	59.4
Greece	(1)								51.5
Spain	(1) (4)	40.4	44.5	49.1	48.1	44.0	48.4	51.9	52.3
France	(2)	70.8	78.5	83.2	85.2	85.2	85.5	86.8	87.2
Ireland	(2)	62.3	64.3	38.9	58.6	58.1	60.3	64.6	
Italy	(1) (4)	36.6	43.0	45.4	44.8	43.6	45.0	42.1	38.6
Lithuania	(1) (3)					10.2	8.1	9.9	13.5
Luxembourg	(1)	14.9	15.3	19.6	23.5	21.2	28.1	28.2	43.1
Netherlands	(2) (5) (6)			38.3	37.5	37.6	37.3	36.8	36.0
Malta	(2)						35.9		41.2
Austria	(1)	63.2	59.6	67.5	68.5	64.1	58.5	57.6	53.0
Portugal	(3) (4) (6)	15.2	21.4	24.2	27.2	29.4	35.3	37.7	44.1
Slovenia	(1)						81.5	82.2	80.7
Sweden	(1) (7)		35.0	35.2	36.5	35.8	33.6	34.3	
United Kingdom	(1)	72.7	73.0	72.6	70.2	69.1	70.4	71.2	

Notes:

For definitions of reports for drug law offences, please refer to Methods and definitions in this statistical bulletin.

(1) Based on number of mentions of cannabis among all drug mentions, whether alone or with other drugs.

(2) Based on number of offences with cannabis as main drug.

(3) Among all offences broken down by drug (for some offences, a breakdown by drug is not available).

(4) Among offences for drug dealing/trafficking (since offences for drug use/possession for use are not criminalised); for Portugal, only since 2002.

(5) Data refer to 'soft drugs' (mainly cannabis).

(6) The reported proportion represents offences for cannabis only (or 'soft drugs' only in the case of the Netherlands) - it does not include offences for 'cannabis + other drug(s)' (or 'soft drugs + other drug(s)' in the case of the Netherlands); for Portugal, before 2001 it includes offences where only one cannabis product (resin or herb) is involved, whereas since 2001 it includes offences where both cannabis resin and herb are involved.

(7) Among persons given a summary fine by the prosecutor or sentenced by a court.

(8) In 1998 and 1999 there is some double-counting as persons reported for two offences were counted twice in the total. From 2000 onwards, only the main offence is counted. However, a person could be counted several times if arrested several times during the same year. Since 2003 each offence is represented as one separate record in the database.

Source:

Reitox national focal points.

Table DLO-6. Heroin-related offences: percentage among total drug law offences, 1996 to 2003

Country		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Belgium	(1) (8)			8.0	7.2	7.1	7.8	7.7	7.0
Czech Republic	(2)							7.9	4.5
Germany	(2) (3)	32.5	27.2	23.4	20.5	19.0	18.7	17.1	14.8
Greece	(1)								39.7
Spain	(1) (4)	27.8	22.5	17.4	14.6	13.1	11.0	7.0	7.4
France	(2)	23.3	15.5	9.7	7.6	7.0	6.4	5.4	4.6
Ireland	(2)	15.0	13.6	14.0	12.4	8.7	10.6	9.3	
Italy	(1) (4)	43.9	37.4	34.6	28.9	28.4	28.1	26.6	22.9
Lithuania	(1) (3)					14.5	30.1	15.4	4.2
Luxembourg	(1)	52.6	54.4	55.6	50.8	55.0	41.0	50.8	26.0
Netherlands	(2) (5) (6)			51.9	54.9	55.6	56.6	58.3	58.5
Malta	(2)						43.4		36.8
Austria	(1)	15.7	12.1	11.1	9.4	8.6	10.9	10.9	13.7
Portugal	(3) (4) (6)	58.5	48.5	44.7	38.5	33.7	28.0	16.9	11.8
Slovenia	(1)						12.3	10.3	11.7
Sweden	(1) (7)	8.9	7.8	8.3	7.9	7.4	7.1	6.3	
United Kingdom	(1)	5.9	7.5	8.8	10.4	11.6	12.0	10.2	

Notes:

For definitions of reports for drug law offences, please refer to Methods and definitions in this statistical bulletin.

(1) Based on number of mentions of heroin among all drug mentions, whether alone or with other drugs.

(2) Based on number of offences with heroin as main drug.

(3) Among all offences broken down by drug (for some offences, a breakdown by drug is not available).

(4) Among offences for drug dealing/trafficking (since offences for drug use/possession for use are not criminalised); for Portugal, only since 2002.

(5) Data here refer to 'hard drugs' (defined as drugs which pose unacceptable public health risks, such as heroin, cocaine, LSD and ecstasy).

(6) Underestimated proportion since it represents offences for heroin only (or 'hard drugs' only in the case of the Netherlands) - it does not include offences for 'heroin with other drug(s)' (or 'hard drugs with other drug(s)' in the case of the Netherlands).

(7) Among persons given a summary fine by the prosecutor or sentenced by a court.

(8) In 1998 and 1999 there is some double-counting as persons reported for two offences were counted twice in the total. From 2000 onwards, only the main offence is counted. However, a person could be counted several times if arrested several times during the same year. Since 2003 each offence is represented as one separate record in the database.

Source:

Reitox national focal points.

Table DLO-7. Cocaine-related offences: percentage among total drug law offences, 1996 to 2003

Country		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Belgium	(1) (7)			5.1	4.6	4.8	5.1	7.0	7.2
Czech Republic	(2)							0.5	1.0
Germany	(2) (3)	11.8	11.4	11.0	11.5	10.0	9.3	9.3	9.2
Greece	(1)								5.1
Spain	(1) (4)	20.9	24.5	26.3	29.2	31.5	30.9	32.3	29.8
France	(2)	2.2	2.6	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.8
Ireland	(2)	1.5	2.3	1.6	2.4	2.1	3.5	5.6	
Italy	(1) (4)	13.2	14.8	17.3	22.8	24.6	24.1	28.3	31.9
Lithuania	(1) (3)					1.0	1.2	0.7	1.3
Luxembourg	(1)	26.5	26.0	19.0	23.0	17.2	28.8	21.0	28.7
Malta	(2)						9.5		6.3
Austria	(1)	8.4	10.2	8.7	10.4	9.4	10.1	10.9	14.3
Portugal	(3) (4) (5)	5.7	5.3	5.0	4.8	4.0	4.3	7.6	7.0
Slovenia	(1)						1.8	2.0	2.5
Sweden	(1) (6)	1.0	1.3	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.4	3.0	
United Kingdom	(1)	2.4	2.8	3.2	4.2	5.0	3.0	6.0	

Notes:

For definitions of reports for drug law offences, please refer to Methods and definitions in this statistical bulletin.

(1) Based on number of mentions of cocaine among all drug mentions, whether alone or with other drugs.

(2) Based on number of offences with cocaine as main drug.

(3) Among all offences broken down by drug (for some offences, a breakdown by drug is not available).

(4) Among offences for drug dealing/trafficking (since offences for drug use/possession for use are not criminalised); for Portugal, only since 2002.

(5) Underestimated proportion since it represents offences for cocaine only - it does not include offences for 'cocaine with other drug(s)'.
(6) Among persons given a summary fine by the prosecutor or sentenced by a court.

(7) In 1998 and 1999 there is some double-counting as persons reported for two offences were counted twice in the total. From 2000 onwards, only the main offence is counted. However, a person could be counted several times if arrested several times during the same year. Since 2003 each offence is represented as one separate record in the database.

Source:

Reitox national focal points.