

## **Drugs: Possession & Supply**

A person contravenes the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 if they have, in their possession, a controlled drug without legal authority. It is a more serious offence under this Act, if the person supplies or intends to supply the controlled drug without proper authority.

Drug possession and supply, like other types of crime, is a major problem, however, the statistics do not reflect the seriousness of the problem because much of this type of crime goes unreported. Therefore, it had been suggested that the figures analysed in this Audit do not fully reflect the extent of the drug problem in Aberdeenshire.

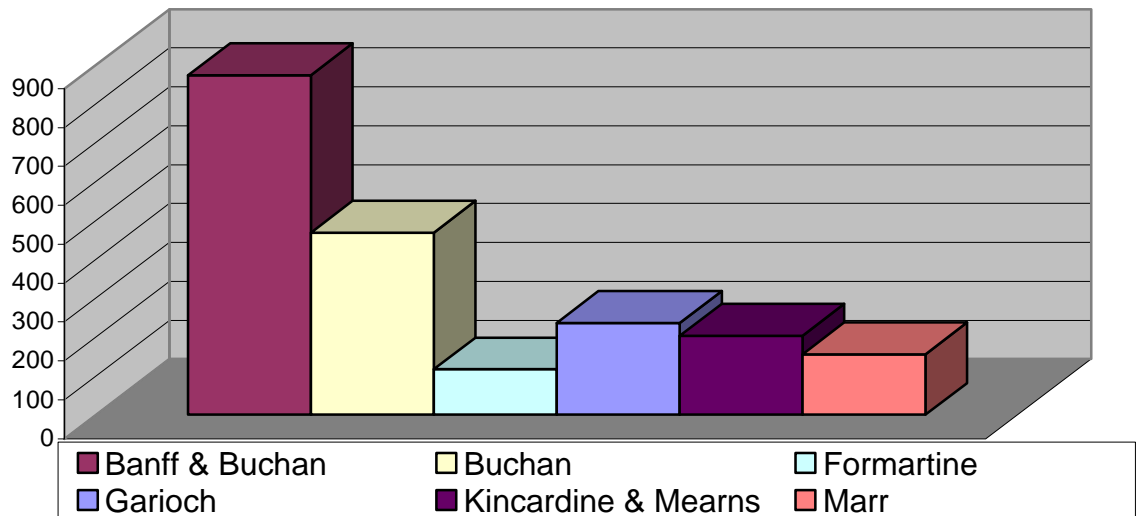
For the purposes of this Audit, both drug possession and drug supply (including Production, Manufacture and Cultivation) have been grouped together under the heading of '**Drug Crime**'.

### **Drug Crime**

Drug Crime accounted for **13%** of all reported crimes in Aberdeenshire over the three-year period analysed in the Audit. The actual number of reported incidents of drug crimes decreased by **3.2%** between 2001 and 2002, followed by a further decrease of **2.5%** between 2002 and 2003. In total, the number of reported incidents of drug crime in Aberdeenshire decreased by **5.6%** during the three-year period analysed in the Audit.

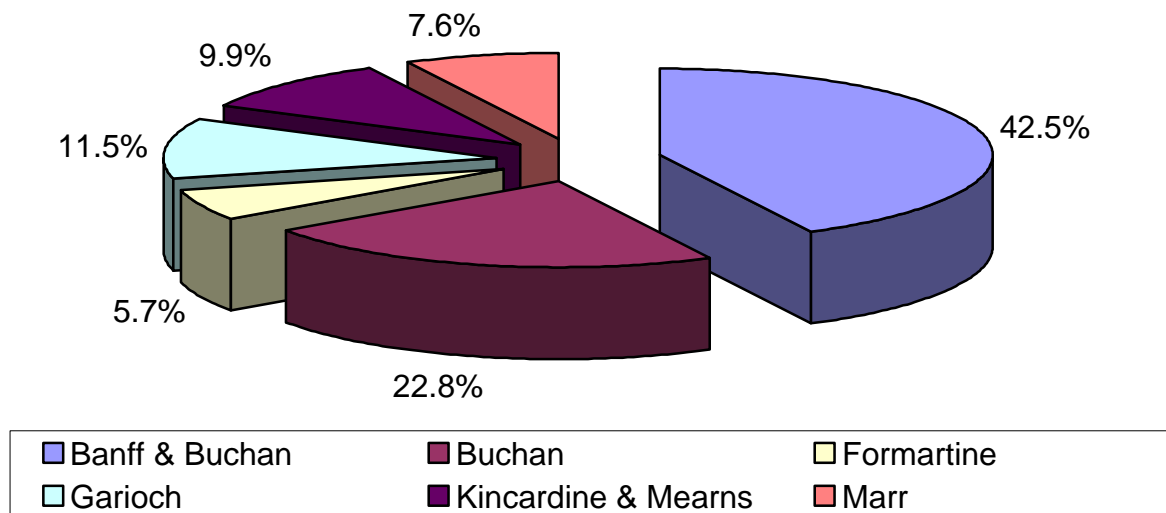
As can be seen below, the Banff & Buchan area of Aberdeenshire had the highest number of reported incidents of drug crime, accounting for **45.0%** of all reported incidents of this type. A significant number of incidents also occurred in the Buchan area, which accounted for **24.4%** of all reported incidents of drug crime in Aberdeenshire. The area with the lowest number of reported incidents was Formartine, which accounted for **5.3%** of all reported incidents of this type.

### Number of Reported Incidents of Drug Crime in Aberdeenshire, by Local Area during the three-year period



Source: Grampian Police

### Percentage of Reported Incidents of Drug Crime in Aberdeenshire, by Local Area during the three-year period

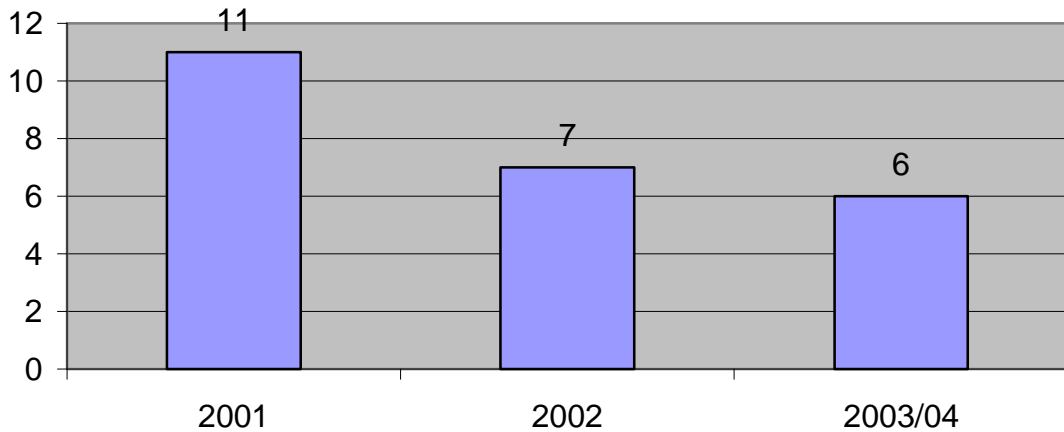


Source: Grampian Police

### Drug Related Deaths in Aberdeenshire

In the period **2001-2003/04** (this year we have used financial year data, however in previous years we have used calendar years) there were **24** drug related deaths in Aberdeenshire, of which **11** occurred in 2001, **7** in 2002 and **6** in 2003/04. This figure has risen since the last Community Safety was carried out; there were only **23** drug related deaths in Aberdeenshire.

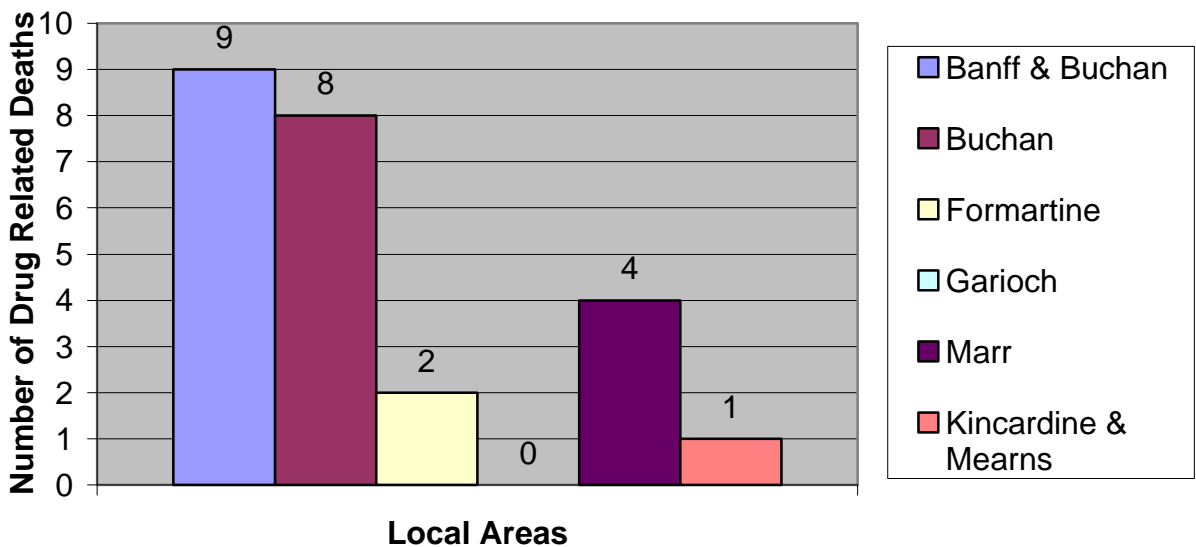
### Total No. of Drug Related Deaths 2001-2003/04



Source: Grampian Police

When looking at the individual Local Areas within Aberdeenshire it can be seen that the number of drug related deaths is highest within the Banff & Buchan area. In the period 2001-2003/04 there were 9 deaths in this area. Marr and Kincardine & Mearns both had relatively low numbers, however in Garioch there had been no drug related deaths in this area.

### Drug Related Deaths in Aberdeenshire by Local Area between 2001 and 2003/04



Source: Grampian Police

These figures can be broken down further to show the number of drugs related deaths each year in each of the six local areas of Aberdeenshire.

### Drug related Deaths in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period, by Local Area

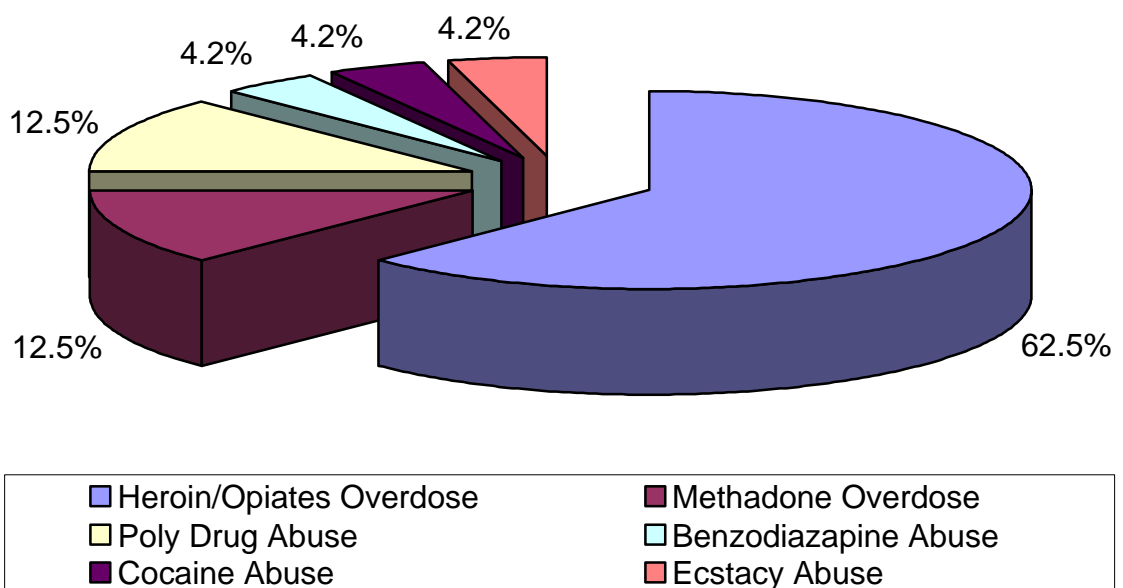
Areas	2001	2002	2003/04
Banff & Buchan	7	2	0
Buchan	3	1	4
Formartine	0	1	1
Garioch	0	0	0
Marr	1	2	1
Kincardine & Mearns	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: Grampian Police

The following categories are used by the Scottish Executive Publication 'Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland 2002', drugs were grouped into the following categories:

- ☼ Heroin/ Opiates Overdose – *includes death due to overdose involving Heroin or other opiate based drugs, such as dihydrocodeine, etc.*
- ☼ Methadone Overdose
- ☼ Poly Drug Abuse – *where a 'cocktail' of drugs have been used.*
- ☼ Benzodiazapine Abuse
- ☼ Cocaine Abuse
- ☼ Ecstasy Abuse

During the three-year period (2001-2003/04), **62.5%** of drug related deaths in Aberdeenshire were due to **Heroin** or other **Opiates** overdoses. This accounts for more than half of all drug related deaths in Aberdeenshire during this period. The majority of deaths involved males, with only **3** deaths during the three-year period involving females. The chart below demonstrates these findings.  
Drug Related Deaths in Aberdeenshire by Types between 2001-2003/04



Source: Grampian Police

## WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

- The number of reported incidents involving Drug Crimes has decreased by 5.6% during the last three-years.
- There were 24 drug related deaths within Aberdeenshire in the last three-years.
- Banff & Buchan has the highest drug misuse death rate, where Garioch has had no deaths in the last three-year period.
- 62.5% of drug related deaths were due to Heroin or other Opiates overdoses.
- The majority of deaths involve males.