

Question 218

How many prisoners are expected to test positive for illegal drug use in the coming year, specified by type of drug, and how does this compare to previous years?

Answer 218

The following table sets out by financial year the number of prisoners testing positive for drugs, and the total number of positive drug tests. Including:

- Prisoners testing positive for an Amphetamine-type drug (ATD). ATDs include Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Phentermine, Ecstasy, Ephedrine, Pseudoephedrine and Benzpiperazine.
- Prisoners testing positive for other drugs (not ATDs) includes alcohol, benzodiazepine, cannabis, methadone, and opiates.

A drug test on a single prisoner may return a positive result for a number of drugs in a single sample, including more than one type of ATD. Also a single prisoner may return more than one positive test in a year, in summary:

- In 2006/07, a total of 1674 prisoners returned 2289 positive drug tests. Of this number, 139 prisoners tested positive for an ATD.

| | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 (25 June) |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| No of Prisoners testing positive for ATDs | 35 | 47 | 62 | 80 | 121 | 139 |
| No of Prisoners testing positive for other drugs | 1,597 | 1,676 | 1,746 | 1,726 | 1,698 | 1,535 |
| Total Prisoners testing positive | 1,632 | 1,723 | 1,808 | 1,806 | 1,819 | 1,674 |
| Total positive drug tests (number of individual samples) | 2,356 | 2,438 | 2,472 | 2,418 | 2,515 | 2,289 |