

**D1****Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey 2002 (SALSUS)**

This chapter is based on the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report, Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002, prepared by the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU), The University of Edinburgh. ISD have amended the format of the tables of the National Report presented in this chapter. This has been done for consistency with other sections of the Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland 2003. There are also some small adjustments to the original text taken from the National Report. The chapter covers key results concerning drug misuse and provides brief background information about the survey. The final report can be accessed at;

[http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus\\_national02.htm](http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus_national02.htm) and

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/pages/news/2003/11/SEHD588.aspx>

**Key Points****Overview of SALSUS survey**

- Although 34 per cent of 13 year olds and 65 per cent of 15 year olds had been offered drugs, just over one in ten (13%) of 13 year olds and 37 per cent of 15 year olds had ever used drugs. More boys than girls reported that they had ever used drugs, though this difference was statistically significant only among 13 year olds. (Tables D1.1 and D1.3)
- Just under a quarter (23%) of 15 year olds reported that they had taken at least one of the drugs on the list 'in the last month' compared to 8 per cent of 13 year olds. (Table D1.4)
- Fourteen per cent of 15 year olds and 4 per cent of 13 year olds reported using drugs once a month or more frequently. Very few pupils reported using drugs on a weekly or daily basis: 7 per cent of 15 year olds and 2 per cent of 13 year olds. (Table D1.7)
- Two main places were reported for drug taking. The most common, especially among boys, was 'outdoors': 40 per cent of 15 year old boys and 38 per cent of 13 year old boys who had ever used drugs reported this location as did 35 per cent of both 13 and 15 year old girls who had ever used drugs. The second most reported location of drug use was in 'someone else's home', particularly among older pupils and girls. (Table D1.8)
- Irrespective of age, boys were more likely to report being offered drugs than girls: 38 per cent of 13 year old boys were offered drugs compared to 31 per cent of 13 year old girls, 66 per cent of 15 year olds compared to 64 per cent of 15 year old girls. (Table D1.1)
- Boys were slightly more likely than girls to report having taken drugs in the last month, 9 per cent of 13 year old boys compared to 6 per cent of 13 year old girls, and 24 per cent of 15 year old boys compared to 21 per cent of 15 year old girls. (Table D1.3)
- Pupils who had ever used drugs were asked if they had been drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs. Within each age group, girls were more likely than boys to report that they had been combining drugs and alcohol; 46 per cent of 15 year old girls compared to 39 per cent of 15 year old boys and 35 per cent of 13 year old girls compared to 24 per cent of 13 year old boys. (Table D1.9)
- Young people who have tried illicit drugs report lower levels of life satisfaction those have not (both 13 and 15 year olds) and this relationship is the similar for boys and girls. Thirteen year olds who have used drugs recently (in the last month) show particularly marked levels of low life satisfaction. (Table D1.10)

*Continued*

**Key Points** *continued***Trends – 1998 2000 2002**

- Among both age groups the proportion of pupils being offered drugs increased between 1998 and 2000 and then decreased in 2002: 34 per cent of 13 year olds and 65 per cent of 15 year olds reported that they had ever been offered drugs. These figures were not significantly lower than those recorded in 1998, when 38 per cent of 13 year olds and 68 per cent of 15 year olds were offered drugs. (Table D1.1)
- There has been no change since 1998 in the proportion of 13 year olds reporting having taken drugs in the last month (8% in all 3 surveys), in the last year (11% in all surveys) or ever (13% in all surveys). Among 15 year olds proportions of pupils reporting using drugs in the last month, in the last year or ever were slightly lower in 2000 than in 1998. In 2002, the proportion of 15 year olds reporting monthly, yearly and ever using drugs had increased again, although slightly lower than the proportions in 1998, none of the differences was significant. (Table D1.4)

**Type of drug**

- The drug that most pupils reported having been offered was cannabis. Over half (58%) of all 15 year olds and 26 per cent of all 13 year olds had reported that they been offered cannabis. Stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers) were reported as being offered to 28 per cent of 15 year olds and 11 per cent of 13 year olds. Ecstasy was the most often reported stimulant: 19 per cent of 15 year olds and 6 per cent of 13 year olds reported having been offered ecstasy. Solvents (gas, glue etc.) were reported as being offered to 14 per cent of 15 year olds and 10 per cent of 13 year olds. A lower proportion of pupils reported having been offered opiates: 6 per cent of 15 year olds and 4 per cent of 13 year olds, and almost all of these reported having been offered heroin. (Table D1.2)
- Cannabis was the main drug reported as having been used in the last month, by 23 per cent of 15 year old boys, 19 per cent of 15 year old girls, 8 per cent of 13 year old boys and 5 per cent of 13 year old girls. Very few pupils reported using any other drug. The next most reported category, stimulants, was reported by 4 per cent of 15 year olds and 2 per cent of 13 year olds. The use of volatile substances, gas, glue and other solvents, in the last month was reported by 2 per cent of both 13 and 15 year olds. (Table D1.5)
- Sixteen per cent of all 15 year olds had used cannabis and no other drugs in the last month, as had 4 per cent of all 13 year olds. A lower proportion of pupils reported that they had used cannabis and other drugs in the last month; 5 per cent of 15 year olds and 2 per cent of 13 year olds reported that they had done so, and only 1 per cent of pupils in either age group had used other drugs but had not used cannabis. (Table D1.6) This does not imply that pupils used cannabis and other drugs on the same occasion.

**Background information**

The survey continues the series of surveys commissioned by the Scottish Executive, begun in 1982, which provides the national estimates of the proportion of young people in school aged under 16 who smoke, drink alcohol and /or use illegal drugs. SALSUS was established by the Scottish Executive to monitor substance use in the context of other lifestyle, health and social factors.

Information on young people's drug use was first collected in this series of surveys in 1998, using a small number of questions to provide estimates of the proportion of pupils who used drugs and had been offered drugs. The same questions were repeated in 2002 and, with one exception, again in 2002. When SALSUS was undertaken in 2002 more detailed information was required on sources of drugs, frequency of use, pupils' need for help or information, attitudes towards drugs and drug users and knowledge of drugs, and money spent on drugs.

## D1.1 | Pupils who had been offered any drug; age : 1998, 2000 and 2002

gender

	13 years	15 years
<b>Offered any drugs</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>		
	number	
Boys	5 367	4 909
Girls	5 486	4 852
All pupils	10 853	9 761
	<i>percentage</i>	
<i>Boys</i>		
1998	40	70
2000	45	71
2002	38	66
<i>Girls</i>		
1998	35	66
2000	43	68
2002	31	64
<i>All pupils</i>		
1998	38	68
2000	44	70
2002	34	65

1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.1

## D1.2 Pupils who have been offered individual drugs; age: 2002

drug group, drug name

	Scotland					
	13 years			15 years		
	Boys	Girls	All pupils	Boys	Girls	All pupils
	number					
<b>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6 126</b>	<b>6 314</b>	<b>12 440</b>	<b>5 356</b>	<b>5 294</b>	<b>10 650</b>
	percentage <sup>3</sup>					
Cannabis	30	21	26	60	56	58
Stimulants	12	11	11	27	28	28
Cocaine	5	4	5	8	8	8
Crack	4	3	4	5	3	4
Ecstasy	6	6	6	17	20	19
Amphetamines	4	3	3	11	12	11
Poppers	6	3	4	14	12	13
Psychedelics	7	5	6	15	13	14
LSD	4	2	3	7	6	7
Magic mushrooms	6	4	5	13	9	11
Opiates	5	4	4	6	6	6
Heroin	4	4	4	5	5	5
Methadone	2	1	2	2	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	11	10	10	14	15	14
Tranquillisers	4	3	3	8	8	8
Anabolic steroids	2	1	2	3	1	2
Semeron <sup>2</sup>	2	1	1	2	1	1
Other	2	1	1	2	1	1

1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.

2 Dummy drug.

3 Columns in the table may not add up to 100 as pupils could give more than one answer.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.2

## D1.3 Pupils who had used drugs in the last month, in the last year (including last month) and ever; age : 2002

gender

	Scotland	
	13 years	15 years
<b>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></b>	number	
Boys	6 126	5 356
Girls	6 314	5 294
All pupils	12 440	10 650

### *Used drugs in the last month* percentage

Boys	9	24
Girls	6	21
All pupils	8	23

### *Used drugs in the last year (including those who had done so in the last month)*

Boys	13	35
Girls	10	32
All pupils	11	33

### *Ever used drugs*

Boys	15	38
Girls	11	36
All pupils	13	37

1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.4

## D1.4 Pupils who had used drugs in the last month, in the last year (including last month) and ever; age : 1998, 2000 and 2002

gender

	13 years	15 years
<b>Used drugs in the last month</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>	number	
Boys	5 771	5 052
Girl	6 030	5 047
All pupils	11 801	10 099
	<i>percentage</i>	
<i>Boys</i>		
1998	9	26
2000	8	23
2002	9	24
<i>Girls</i>		
1998	7	22
2000	7	20
2002	6	21
<i>All pupils</i>		
1998	8	24
2000	8	22
2002	8	23
<b>Used drugs in the last year (including those who had done so in the last month)</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>	number	
Boys	5 829	5 173
Girls	6 107	5 191
All pupils	11 936	10 364
	<i>percentage</i>	
<i>Boys</i>		
1998	14	36
2000	12	32
2002	13	35
<i>Girls</i>		
1998	9	34
2000	10	27
2002	10	32
<i>All pupils</i>		
1998	11	35
2000	11	30
2002	11	33
<b>Ever used drugs</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>	number	
Boys	5 856	5 213
Girls	6 135	5 230
All pupils	11 991	10 443
	<i>percentage</i>	
<i>Boys</i>		
1998	16	42
2000	15	35
2002	15	38
<i>Girls</i>		
1998	11	38
2000	11	31
2002	11	36
<i>All pupils</i>		
1998	13	39
2000	13	33
2002	13	37

1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.5

## D1.5 Pupils who had used individual drugs in the last month; age : 2002

drug group, drug name

	Scotland 13 years Boys number	Girls	All pupils	15 years Boys number	Girls	All pupils
<b>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6 126</b>	<b>6 314</b>	<b>12 440</b>	<b>5 356</b>	<b>5 294</b>	<b>10 650</b>
	<i>percentage<sup>3</sup></i>					
Cannabis	8	5	6	23	19	21
Stimulants	2	1	2	5	4	4
Cocaine	1	0	1	1	1	1
Crack	1	0	0	1	0	0
Ecstasy	1	1	1	2	2	2
Amphetamines	1	0	1	2	1	1
Poppers	1	1	1	2	1	2
Psychedelics	1	0	1	1	0	1
LSD	0	0	0	1	0	0
Magic mushrooms	1	0	1	1	0	1
Opiates	1	0	1	1	0	1
Heroin	1	0	1	0	0	0
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tranquillisers	1	0	0	1	1	1
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semeron <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.

2 Dummy drug.

3 Columns in the table may not add up to 100 as pupils could give more than one answer.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.6

## D1.6 | Type of drugs used in last month; age : 2002

gender

	Scotland 13 years	15 years
<b>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>number</b>	
Boys	6 119	5 354
Girls	6 301	5 290
All pupils	12 420	10 644
<i>Cannabis only</i>	<i>percentage</i>	
Boys	5	17
Girls	3	15
All pupils	4	16
<i>Cannabis and other drugs</i>		
Boys	2	5
Girls	1	5
All pupils	2	5
<i>Other drugs only</i>		
Boys	1	1
Girls	1	1
All pupils	1	1
<i>No drugs</i>		
Boys	91	77
Girls	94	80
All pupils	93	78

1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.7

## D1.7 | Pupils' usual frequency of drug use; age : 2002

gender

	Scotland 13 years	15 years
<b>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></b>	number	
Boys	5 804	5 172
Girls	6 087	5 207
All pupils	11 891	10 379
<i>Boys</i>	<i>percentage<sup>2</sup></i>	
Never tried drugs	82	59
Only taken drugs once	7	12
Used to take drugs but not now	2	6
A few times a year	3	7
Once or twice a month	2	7
At least once a week	2	5
Most days	2	4
<i>Girls</i>		
Never tried drugs	87	63
Only taken drugs once	6	13
Used to take drugs but not now	1	5
A few times a year	2	7
Once or twice a month	2	7
At least once a week	1	3
Most days	0	2
<i>All pupils</i>		
Never tried drugs	85	61
Only taken drugs once	7	12
Used to take drugs but not now	2	6
A few times a year	3	7
Once or twice a month	2	7
At least once a week	1	4
Most days	1	3

- 1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.  
 2 Percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.9

## D1.8 | Location of pupils drug use; age : 2002

gender

	Scotland - 13 years	15 years
<b>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>number</b>	
Boys	903	1 989
Girls	711	1 878
All pupils	1 614	3 867
<i>Boys</i>	<i>percentage<sup>2</sup></i>	
Own home	6	8
Someone else's home	13	27
At a party	7	15
At a club/disco	6	5
At school	5	7
Outdoors	38	40
Other	4	3
<i>Girls</i>		
Own home	6	7
Someone else's home	19	38
At a party	10	15
At a club/disco	6	5
At school	6	6
Outdoors	35	35
Other	3	3
<i>All pupils</i>		
Own home	6	7
Someone else's home	16	32
At a party	8	15
At a club/disco	6	5
At school	6	6
Outdoors	37	38
Other	3	3

- 1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.
- 2 Percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.10

## D1.9 | Whether pupils were drinking alcohol last time used drugs; age : 2002

gender

	13 years	15 years
<b>Whether drinking alcohol</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>		
	number	
Boys	948	2 013
Girls	710	1 873
All pupils	1 658	3 886
<i>Yes</i>		
	percentage	
Boys	24	39
Girls	35	46
All pupils	29	42
<i>No</i>		
Boys	76	61
Girls	65	54
All pupils	71	58

1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.11

## D1.10 | Life satisfaction by drug use status; age : 2002

gender

	13 years	15 years
<b>Used drugs in last month</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>	number	
Boys	478	1 152
Girls	339	1 022
All pupils	817	2 174
	<i>percentage<sup>2</sup></i>	
<b>Boys</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	33	48
Lower life satisfaction score	67	52
<b>Girls</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	29	41
Lower life satisfaction score	71	59
<b>All pupils</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	32	45
Lower life satisfaction score	68	55
<b>Used drugs but not in last month</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>	number	
Boys	282	582
Girls	209	608
All pupils	491	1 190
	<i>percentage<sup>2</sup></i>	
<b>Boys</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	47	58
Lower life satisfaction score	53	42
<b>Girls</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	39	50
Lower life satisfaction score	61	50
<b>All pupils</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	43	54
Lower life satisfaction score	57	46
<b>Never used drugs</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>	number	
Boys	4 649	3 044
Girls	5 173	3 214
All pupils	9 822	6 258
	<i>percentage<sup>2</sup></i>	
<b>Boys</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	54	62
Lower life satisfaction score	46	38
<b>Girls</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	53	61
Lower life satisfaction score	47	39
<b>All pupils</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	54	61
Lower life satisfaction score	46	39
<b>Total</b>		
<i>Base (2002)<sup>1</sup></i>	number	
Boys	5 409	4 778
Girls	5 721	4 844
All pupils	11 130	9 622
	<i>percentage<sup>2</sup></i>	
<b>Boys</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	52	58
Lower life satisfaction score	48	42
<b>Girls</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	52	55
Lower life satisfaction score	48	45
<b>All pupils</b>		
Median or higher life satisfaction score	52	56
Lower life satisfaction score	48	44

- 1 Some children failed to answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases.
- 2 Percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding.

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 year olds in Scotland in 2002 - Table 4.54