

## A2 Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey 2004 (SALSUS)

This chapter is based on the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) 2004: Interim Report, prepared by the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU), The University of Edinburgh. ISD have amended the format of the tables of the 2004 Interim Report presented in this chapter. This has been done for consistency with other sections of the Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland 2004. The chapter covers key results concerning drug misuse and provides brief background information about the survey. The Interim National Report contains a selection of key findings in advance of the full national report to be published in Spring 2005. The Interim Report was released electronically and can be accessed at; [http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus\\_interim04.htm](http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus_interim04.htm)

### Key Points

#### Overview of SALSUS survey

- In 2004, a third (33%) of 13 year olds and nearly two-thirds (63%) of 15 year olds reported that they had ever been offered illicit drugs. (Table A2.1)
- Seven per cent of 13 year olds and 20 per cent of 15 year olds reported that they had used an illicit drug in the month prior to the survey. (Table A2.3)
- Two per cent of 13 year olds and 7 per cent of 15 year olds reported using illicit drugs at least once a week. (Table A2.6)
- At age 13, more boys (36%) than girls (30%) reported having been offered illicit drugs. These gender differences were not apparent at age 15 (boys 63%, girls 63%). (Table A2.1)
- The percentage of young people reporting having used drugs in the last month did not vary by gender (13 year olds, boys 7%, girls 6%; 15 year olds, boys 21% girls 20%). (Table A2.3)
- Nine per cent of 15 year old boys reported using illicit drugs on a weekly basis compared to 5 per cent of girls. There was little difference between reported weekly drug use by boys and girls at age 13 years (boys 3%, girls 2%). (Table A2.6)
- For all 13 year olds who reported using illicit drugs the most frequently reported location was outdoors (street, park etc.): 49 per cent of boys and 45 per cent of girls. This was also the most frequently reported location among 15 year old boys (39%). Among 15 year olds girls, 'someone else's home' (36%) and outdoors (33%) were the most reported locations. (Table A2.7)

#### Drugs Recorded

- The most frequently reported drug used was cannabis: 6 per cent of all 13 year olds and 19 per cent of all 15 year olds reported that they had used cannabis in the last month. Ever having used cannabis was reported by 12 per cent of all 13 year olds and 34 per cent of all 15 year olds. (Tables A2.4 and A2.5)
- The reported use of drugs other than cannabis was low. The use of stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamine, poppers) in the last month was reported by 2 per cent of 13 year olds and 4 per cent of 15 year olds. The use of solvents in the last month was reported by 1 per cent of both 13 year olds and 15 year olds. Use of opiates in the last month was reported by 1 per cent of pupils in both age groups. (Table A2.4)
- The reported lifetime use for solvents was 3 per cent for 13 year olds and 6 per cent for 15 year olds; equivalent figures for opiates were 1 per cent for 13 year olds and 2 per cent for 15 year olds. (Table A2.5)

#### Trends 1998 - 2004

- Between 1998 and 2004 there has been a reduction in the percentage of both 13 and 15 year olds who report being offered drugs: 13 year olds, 1998 38 per cent, 2004 33 per cent; 15 year olds, 1998 68 per cent, 2004 63 per cent. (Table A2.1)

- In relation to the changes in reported drug use between 2002 and 2004 only the decline in 15 year old boys' drug use in the last month reached statistical significance (24% to 21%). (Table A2.3)

### Relationship between drinking, smoking and use of illicit drugs

- Overall 7 per cent of 13 year olds and 20 per cent of 15 year olds had used drugs in the last month. However, among regular smokers, 59 per cent of 13 year olds and 64 per cent of 15 year olds had used drugs in the last month. The prevalence was lower than this among weekly drinkers, but still higher than the overall prevalence, 34 per cent of 13 year olds and 45 per cent of 15 year olds who were weekly drinkers had also used drugs in the last month. (Table A2.8)

## 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 2000 and, with one exception, again in 2002 and 2004. 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.

**Table A2.1 : Whether pupils reported that they had been offered any drug ; age : 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004**

gender

13 years      15 years

**Offered any drugs**

*Base (2004) <sup>1</sup>*

number

Boys	1 670	1 610
Girls	1 612	1 639
All pupils	3 282	3 249

*percentage*

<i>Boys</i>	1998	40	70
	2000	45	71
	2002	38	66
	2004	36	63
<i>Girls</i>	1998	35	66
	2000	43	68
	2002	31	64
	2004	30	63
<i>All pupils</i>	1998	38	68
	2000	44	70
	2002	34	65
	2004	33	63

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.

**Table A2.2 : Whether pupils reported that they had been offered individual drugs ; age : 2004**

drug group, drug name

	Scotland 13 years			15 years		
	Boys	Girls	All pupils	Boys	Girls	All pupils
	number					
<i>Base (2004)</i> <sup>1</sup>	1 843	1 756	3 599	1 702	1 761	3 463
	percentage <sup>3</sup>					
Cannabis	30	23	26	59	56	57
Stimulants	11	10	11	29	31	30
Cocaine	6	4	5	10	10	10
Crack	4	3	4	5	4	5
Ecstasy	6	6	6	16	19	18
Amphetamines	3	3	3	10	10	10
Poppers	4	4	4	19	16	18
Psychedelics	6	5	5	15	12	13
LSD	3	2	2	7	5	6
Magic mushrooms	4	4	4	12	9	11
Opiates	4	4	4	6	6	6
Heroin	4	4	4	5	5	5
Methadone	2	1	2	2	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	8	8	8	13	13	13
Tranquillisers	3	3	3	6	6	6
Anabolic steroids	2	1	1	2	1	2
Semeron <sup>2</sup>	1	1	1	2	1	2
Other	1	1	1	1	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) 2004: Interim Report - Table 27

Table A2.3 : Pupils who reported they had used drugs in the last month, in the last year (including last month) and ever ; age : 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004  
gender

13 years                      15 years

**Used drugs in the last month**

Base (2004) <sup>1</sup>	number	13 years	15 years
Boys		1 723	1 590
Girls		1 688	1 630
All pupils		3 411	3 220

		<i>percentage</i>	
Boys	1998	9	26
	2000	8	23
	2002	9	24
	2004	7	21
Girls	1998	7	22
	2000	7	20
	2002	6	21
	2004	6	20
All pupils	1998	8	24
	2000	8	22
	2002	8	23
	2004	7	20

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

Base (2004) <sup>1</sup>	number	13 years	15 years
Boys		1 743	1 623
Girls		1 701	1 679
All pupils		3 444	3 302

		<i>percentage</i>	
Boys	1998	14	36
	2000	12	32
	2002	13	35
	2004	12	31
Girls	1998	9	34
	2000	10	27
	2002	10	32
	2004	10	31
All pupils	1998	11	35
	2000	11	30
	2002	11	33
	2004	11	31

**Ever used drugs**

Base (2004) <sup>1</sup>	number	13 years	15 years
Boys		1 755	1 638
Girls		1 709	1 693
All pupils		3 464	3 331

		<i>percentage</i>	
Boys	1998	16	42
	2000	15	35
	2002	15	38
	2004	15	35
Girls	1998	11	38
	2000	11	31
	2002	11	36
	2004	12	35
All pupils	1998	13	39
	2000	13	33
	2002	13	37
	2004	13	35

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Table A2.4 : Pupils who reported they had used individual drugs in the last month ; age : 2004**

drug group, drug name

	Scotland 13 years			15 years		
	Boys	Girls	All pupils	Boys	Girls	All pupils
	number					
<i>Base (2004)</i> <sup>1</sup>	1 843	1 756	3 599	1 702	1 761	3 463
	<i>percentage</i> <sup>3</sup>					
Cannabis	7	5	6	20	18	19
Stimulants	1	2	2	5	4	4
Cocaine	1	0	0	1	1	1
Crack	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ecstasy	1	1	1	2	2	2
Amphetamines	1	1	1	2	1	1
Poppers	1	1	1	3	2	2
Psychedelics	1	0	1	1	1	1
LSD	0	0	0	1	0	0
Magic mushrooms	1	0	0	1	1	1
Opiates	1	1	1	1	0	1
Heroin	1	0	0	1	0	0
Methadone	0	0	0	1	-	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	1	1	1	2	1	1
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	1	0	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

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Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) 2004: Interim Report - Table 28

**Table A2.5 : Pupils who reported they had used individual drugs ever ; age : 2004**

drug group, drug name

	Scotland 13 years			15 years		
	Boys	Girls	All pupils	Boys	Girls	All pupils
	number					
<i>Base (2004)</i> <sup>1</sup>	1 843	1 756	3 599	1 702	1 761	3 463
	<i>percentage</i> <sup>3</sup>					
Cannabis	14	10	12	35	34	34
Stimulants	4	3	3	12	13	12
Cocaine	1	1	1	3	3	3
Crack	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	2	2	2	5	5	5
Amphetamines	1	1	1	4	4	4
Poppers	2	2	2	9	8	9
Psychedelics	2	1	2	5	4	4
LSD	1	1	1	2	1	2
Magic mushrooms	2	1	1	4	3	3
Opiates	1	1	1	2	1	2
Heroin	1	1	1	1	1	1
Methadone	1	1	1	1	0	1
Gas, glue or other solvents	3	3	3	6	6	6
Tranquillisers	1	1	1	2	2	2
Anabolic steroids	1	1	1	1	1	1
Semeron <sup>2</sup>	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other	0	0	0	1	0	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) 2004: Interim Report - Table 30

**Table A2.6 : Frequency of reported drug use ; age : 2004**

gender

	Scotland	
	13 years	15 years
<i>Base (2004)</i> <sup>1</sup>	number	
Boys	1 746	1 622
Girls	1 705	1 693
All pupils	3 451	3 315
	<i>percentage</i> <sup>2</sup>	
<i>Boys</i>		
At least once a week	3	9
Once or twice a month	2	6
A few times a year	2	5
Do not use drugs	94	80
<i>Girls</i>		
At least once a week	2	5
Once or twice a month	2	6
A few times a year	2	7
Do not use drugs	95	81
<i>All pupils</i>		
At least once a week	2	7
Once or twice a month	2	6
A few times a year	2	6
Do not use drugs	94	81

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) 2004: Interim Report - Table 25

**Table A2.7 : Reported location of pupils drug use; age : 2004**

gender

	Scotland	
	13 years	15 years
<i>Base (2004) <sup>1</sup></i>	number	
Boys	291	611
Girls	220	631
All pupils	511	1 242
	<i>percentage <sup>2</sup></i>	
<i>Boys</i>		
Own home	5	8
Someone else's home	16	26
At a party	10	15
At a club/disco	4	3
At school	8	9
Outdoors	49	39
Other	5	3
<i>Girls</i>		
Own home	9	9
Someone else's home	23	36
At a party	9	16
At a club/disco	6	4
At school	10	4
Outdoors	45	33
Other	2	3
<i>All pupils</i>		
Own home	7	8
Someone else's home	19	31
At a party	9	16
At a club/disco	5	4
At school	9	7
Outdoors	48	36
Other	4	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) 2004: Interim Report - Table 33

**Table A2.8 : Prevalence of reported regular smoking, weekly drinking and drug use in the last month : 2004**

age group

Substance used	Scotland 13 years				15 years			
	All pupils	Regular smokers	Weekly drinkers	Used drugs in last month	All pupils	Regular smokers	Weekly drinkers	Used drugs in last month
<i>Base (2004)</i> <sup>1</sup>	3599	208	465	237	3463	634	1164	660
	percentage <sup>2</sup>							
Regular smoker	6	.	28	50	19	.	40	57
Weekly drinker	13	61	.	63	34	73	.	73
Used drugs in last month	7	59	34	.	20	64	45	.

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

(.) not applicable

Source : Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) 2004: Interim Report - Table 39