

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

**SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE
AMONG 13 AND 15 YEAR OLDS
IN ABERDEEN CITY, 2002**

A survey undertaken by the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU), The University of Edinburgh, commissioned by the Information and Statistics Division (ISD Scotland) on behalf of the Scottish Executive.

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Notes on statistics

When differences between estimates are specifically commented on in the report text these differences are significant unless otherwise stated. For example reporting that '*...the prevalence of drug use was higher in boys than in girls...*' would indicate that the gender difference in drug use is *statistically significant*. Further details on precision of estimates and statistical significance are given in Chapter 6 *Survey Design*.

Notes to tables

- percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding
- some children did not 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
- the following conventions have been used in the tables,
0 = less than 0.5 but not 0
- = 0
- some percentages, particularly where numbers are broken down by age group or gender, may be based on a small number of pupils and should therefore be treated with caution as apparent differences may not be statistically significant

Acknowledgements:

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We would also like to thank the schools and pupils who took part in the survey.

1 Summary of Findings

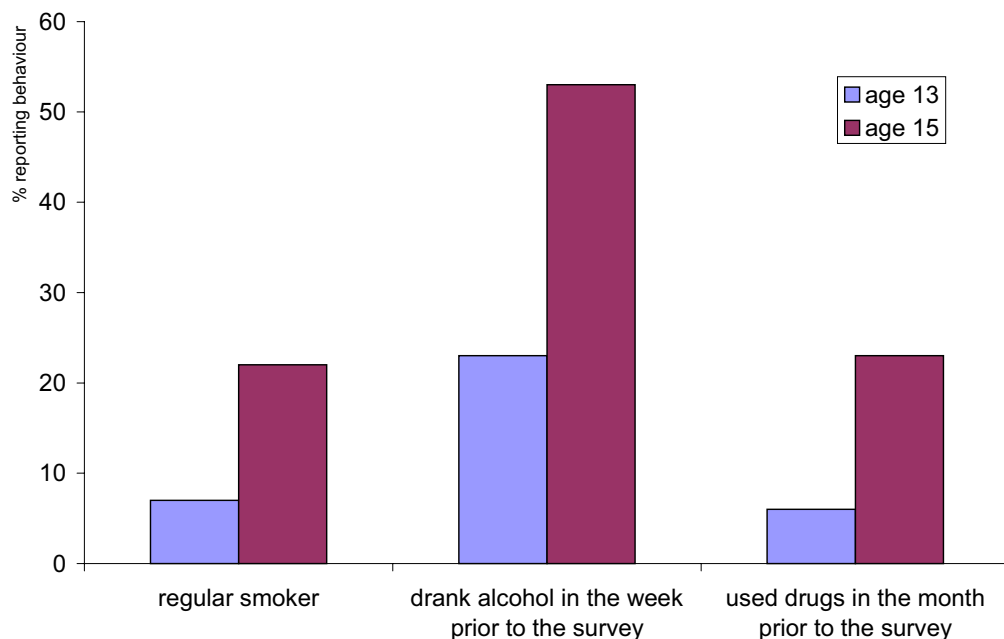
SALSUS 2002 found that among pupils in Aberdeen City:

- 7% of 13 year olds and 22% of 15 year olds were regular smokers¹
- Prevalence of regular smoking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- 23% of 13 year olds and 53% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- The prevalence of drinking in 15 year olds was higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- 6% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey
- Prevalence of drug use was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- The differences in smoking and drinking between boys and girls in Aberdeen City were not statistically significant, however drug use was lower in girls than boys
- For 15 year old pupils the average age for first drinking or smoking was 12, but the average age for the first occasion of drug use was older at 14 years.

Figures 1.1 and 1.2 (overleaf) show the age and gender differences in reported smoking, drinking and drug use in Aberdeen City in 2002.

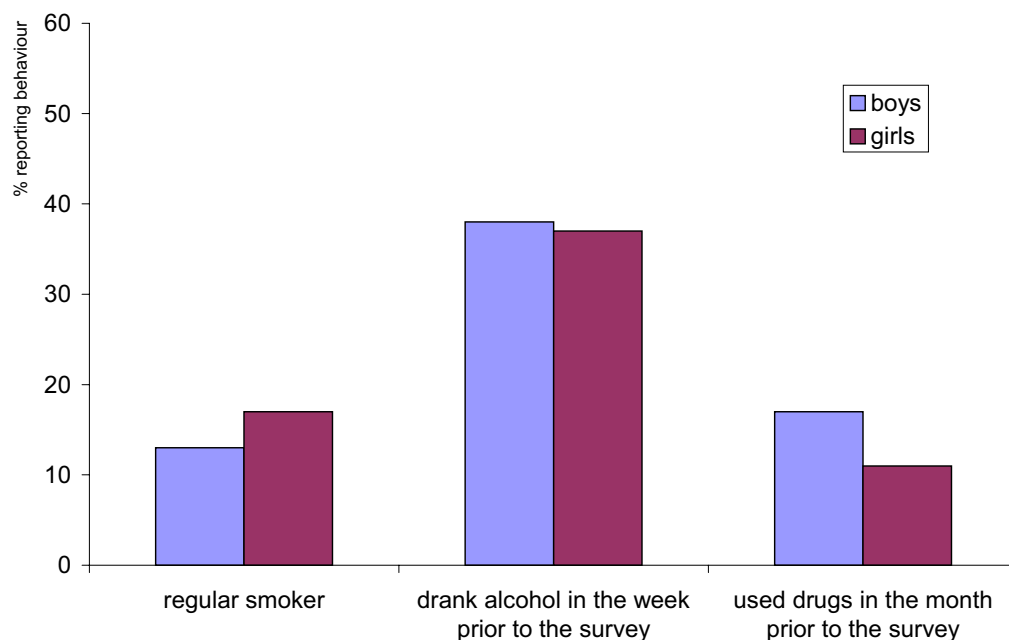
¹ regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

Figure 1.1 Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.



(Source: tables 3.1, 4.3, 5.1)

Figure 1.2: Smoking, drinking and drugs use in 13 and 15 year olds, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.



(Source: tables 3.2, 4.4, 5.2)

2 Background to the Survey

2.1 Introduction

This report presents the key findings from the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) on the prevalence of smoking, drinking and drug use among 13 and 15 year old pupils attending schools in the Aberdeen City Council area. Findings on the availability of substances and on the behaviour and attitudes of pupils and their families in relation to substance use are also reported. One of the main purposes in developing the survey was to provide Drug and Alcohol Action Teams, local authorities and NHS Boards with information about substance use among school pupils in their own areas. The information is intended to assist local planning.

The national Interim Report released in December 2002¹ presented key national findings on the prevalence of smoking, drinking and drug use and comparisons are made with these national findings in this report. A more comprehensive national report will be published later in 2003. It will describe smoking, drinking and drug use in the context of adolescent lifestyles and health. Further local level information in the form of tables of lifestyle and health data will also become available following the publication of the national report.

2.2 Survey arrangements

SALSUS continues the series of biennial surveys of smoking, drinking and drug use begun in 1982² and is the first national school survey to provide local as well as national information. This is possible because new survey arrangements have been made in Scotland following an information needs assessment undertaken by the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse (SACDM). SACDM identified the need for a regular cross sectional survey of substance misuse among schoolchildren in Scotland, disaggregated if possible to Drug and Alcohol Action Team and local authority level and including contextual information on other health and lifestyle factors. The Scottish Executive felt that the UK survey no longer met all Scotland's information needs and asked the Information and Statistics Division (ISD Scotland) to convene a National School Survey Substance Misuse Working Group³ to consider possible options for a Scottish survey to cover all areas of substance misuse and lifestyle contextual factors, and which would allow for the disaggregation of data to provide local information.

The key factor in making recommendations for a survey in 2002 was the pressing need for local information to support the work of Drug Action Teams (DATs) and Alcohol Action Teams (AATs), though the Working Group were also guided by the commitment to keep to a minimum any disruption to schools and the need for

¹ The SALSUS Interim Report can be accessed on-line
http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus_interim02.htm

² The first survey in the series of biennial school surveys commissioned by the Department of Health with the Scottish Office was carried out in 1982 to obtain information on smoking prevalence and behaviour. From 1990 surveys included items on drinking and from 1998 items on drugs. In 2000 the survey was carried out by the National Centre for Social Research and the National Foundation for Educational Research, all previous surveys were carried out by ONS.

³ The Working Group included representatives from a range of interests, including Drug and Alcohol Action Team Associations, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Health Education Board for Scotland, SE Health Policy Directorate, SE Education Department and LA Education Departments.

information on other lifestyle factors and social contextual information to gain a better understanding of substance use in school aged children. It was agreed that the best means of addressing all these issues in a Scottish survey was to combine components of the existing national and UK biennial school surveys on smoking, drinking and drug use with components of the WHO Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) survey¹ on lifestyle and health factors, and to undertake the revised Scottish survey (now known as the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey, SALSUS) concurrently with the HBSC survey in 2002². SALSUS is being undertaken by the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU) of the University of Edinburgh in conjunction with the HBSC survey research in 2002. A smaller national survey will be undertaken in 2004. The contract is managed on behalf of the Scottish Executive by ISD Scotland with advice from an Advisory Group made up of key stakeholders including Drug and Alcohol Action Teams, the Health Education Board for Scotland and the Scottish Executive.

2.3 Sample design

SALSUS 2002 required a much larger sample of pupils than previous surveys in this series to ensure adequate precision of estimates of prevalence in local areas. Mainly for reasons of cost and the workload burden on schools it was not feasible to survey pupils in S1-S4 inclusive, as in previous years. Consequently the survey samples pupils from only two school years: S2 and S4. For the purpose of reporting, S2 pupils will be referred to as '13 year olds' and S4 pupils referred to as '15 year olds' throughout these reports.³

The survey fieldwork was carried out in the 2002 Spring term. Each participating school was requested to administer a confidential questionnaire to each pupil in selected classes. The methods used to select the schools and the number of classes ensured that within each local authority every eligible pupil had an equal chance of being included in the study. All pupils in S2 and S4 attending local authority and independently funded schools were eligible for inclusion in the study, with the exception of pupils attending special schools or schools with very few pupils.

2.4 Local response rates

The SALSUS 2002 survey of Aberdeen City was designed to have a final sample size of 1000 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 21% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study. Of the 19 schools which were asked to participate 13 schools (68%) agreed to take part in the study.

Response rates are based on class and pupil participation rates. In total 51 classes in Aberdeen City were selected to participate, and 45 classes (88%) took part. The

¹ The HBSC survey has been conducted in Scotland every four years since 1990 by Dr Candace Currie, Scottish HBSC Principal Investigator and Director of the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU), The University of Edinburgh <http://www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/>

² The SALSUS 2002 Protocol provides more detailed background information, including government policy frameworks for smoking, drinking and drug misuse, survey aims and objectives, sample design and questionnaire items.

³ As in previous surveys in this series 16 year olds are included in the '15 year old' age group. The '13 year old' group also includes 14 year olds. The pupils in S2 have an average age of 13 years 7 months, and 14% are 14 years old (5% more than 14 years 1 month, 2% older than 14 years 2 months). The pupils in S4 have an average age of 15 years 7 months, and 17% are 16 years old (5% more than 16 years 1 month, 3% more than 16 years 2 months). The average age of the SALSUS '13 year old' and '15 year old' groups is not significantly different from that of '13' and '15' year old age groups cited in previous reports (average age 13 years 6 months and 15 years 6 months respectively).

overall pupil response rate within classes was 92%. The main reason for pupil non-response was absence due to illness. The final survey response in Aberdeen City, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 81%. This compares favourably with the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 924 pupils, 19.2% of the target population in Aberdeen City.

3 Smoking

3.1 Smoking prevalence

In Aberdeen City, reported prevalence of regular smoking¹ increased significantly with age. In 2002, 7% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 22% of 15 year olds. For both age groups the reported prevalence in Aberdeen City was not significantly different from the national prevalence of regular smoking (national figures: 8% for 13 year olds and 20% for 15 year olds). Most 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (62%), compared with 31% of 15 year olds.

Again, reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls than boys in both age groups in Aberdeen City; 17% of girls and 13% of boys were regular smokers. However, these differences are small and not statistically significant. (**Tables 3.1, 3.2**).

3.2 Number of cigarettes smoked

Pupils who smoked regularly were asked how many cigarettes they usually smoked in a week. Younger pupils who were regular smokers reported smoking fewer cigarettes per week than older pupils: an average of 26 per week for 13 year olds and 42 per week for 15 year olds. There was no significant gender difference in the average number of cigarettes smoked per week by regular smokers.

3.3 Money spent on cigarettes

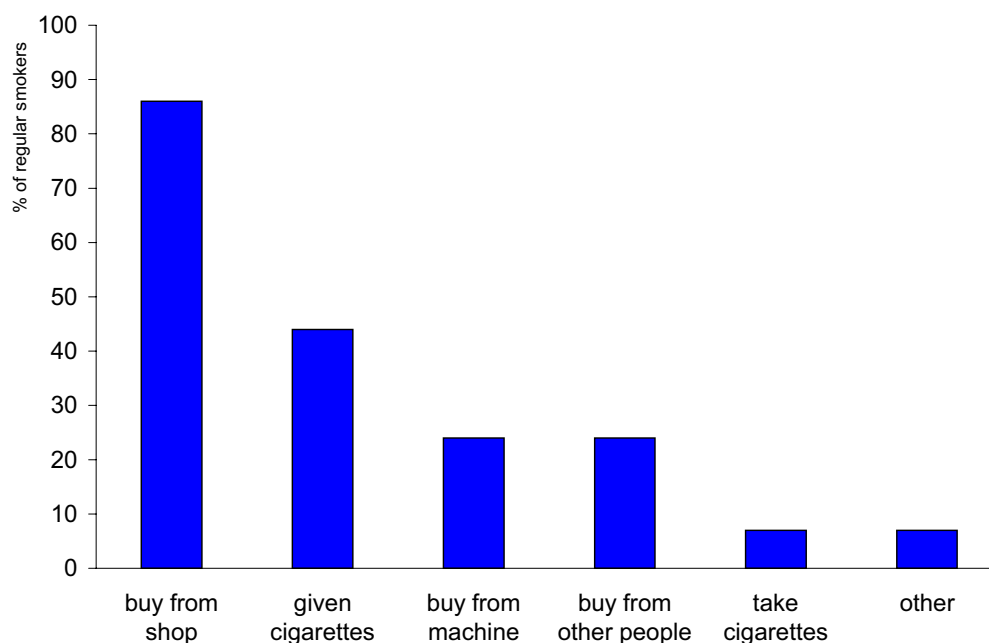
Almost all regular smokers (97%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £8.00 a week.

3.4 Where pupils obtain cigarettes

Regular smokers were given a list of sources for obtaining cigarettes and asked to indicate where they usually obtained their cigarettes. Some pupils gave more than one source. The majority of regular smokers (86%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, around a quarter (24%) bought them from machines and 24% reported buying them from other people. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, just under half (44%) of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 7% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 7% of pupils reported that they obtained their cigarettes 'some other way' (**Tables 3.3 and 3.4, Figure 3.1**).

¹ regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

Figure 3.1: Source of cigarettes: Aberdeen City 2002.



(Source: Table 3.3 and 3.4)

3.5 Smoking dependence

Regular smokers were asked whether they would like to give up smoking and how difficult or easy they felt this would be. The majority (73%) of regular smokers reported that they would like to give up smoking and 70% had tried to give up at some time. Twenty eight percent (28%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 44% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (59% of all regular smokers) were more likely to think it would be very difficult to give up smoking altogether compared to pupils who had smoked for less than a year: 36% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 14% of pupils who had smoked regularly for less than a year (Tables 3.5 to 3.8).

3.6 Family attitudes to smoking

All pupils were asked about their family's attitudes to smoking. Pupils who smoked were asked 'How does your family feel about your smoking?' and pupils who did not smoke were asked 'How do you think your family would feel if you started smoking?'

Seventy two percent (72%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Around half (53%) of all pupils who were regular smokers reported that they are not allowed to smoke at home (Tables 3.9 and 3.10).

Almost all non-smokers (91%) reported that their families would either stop them smoking or try to persuade them not to smoke (Table 3.9).

Pupils were also asked whether their families and friends smoked. More pupils who were regular smokers reported that a parent was a daily smoker compared with non-smokers: 65% of regular smokers compared with 31% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 36% of regular smokers, compared with 13% of non-smokers (**Tables 3.11 and 3.12**).

Regular smokers were also more likely to have friends who smoked: 36% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 3% of non-smokers. The majority of non-smokers (62%) reported that 'none' or 'almost none' of their friends smoked (**Table 3.13**).

3.7 Cigarette advertising

Pupils were given a list of places and asked to say whether or not they had seen cigarettes advertised there over the previous six months. Most pupils (85%) had seen adverts on posters or billboards. More than half reported that they had seen adverts in magazines (59%) or on television (53%). Fewer pupils reported seeing adverts in newspapers (32%) or at the cinema (18%) (**Table 3.14**).

3.8 Lessons on smoking

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on smoking. Pupil responses depend on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. Most pupils reported that they had lessons, videos or discussions: 78% of 13 year olds and 76% of 15 year olds. However, 15% of 13 year olds and 18% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 7% of 13 year olds and 6% of 15 year olds reported that they did not know if they had had lessons, videos or discussions on smoking (**Table 3.15**).

Table 3.1: Smoking behaviour by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	7	22	15	14
Occasional smoker	3	7	5	5
Used to smoke	10	17	14	13
Tried smoking once	17	22	20	23
Never smoked	62	31	47	45
<i>Base</i>	463	438	901	22313

Base=all pupils

note: regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week; occasional smoker smokes cigarettes sometimes but not as many as one a week

Table 3.2: Smoking behaviour by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	13	17	15	14
Occasional smoker	4	6	5	5
Used to smoke	12	15	14	13
Tried smoking once	20	19	20	23
Never smoked	51	43	47	45
<i>Base</i>	459	443	902	22313

Base=all pupils

note: regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week; occasional smoker smokes cigarettes sometimes but not as many as one a week

Table 3.3: Source of cigarettes by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	58	96	86
Given cigarettes by friends or relatives	45	43	44
Buy from machine	8	29	24
Buy from other people	34	21	24
Take cigarettes	11	5	7
Get cigarettes some other way	22	2	7
<i>Base</i>	36	92	128

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 3.4: Source of cigarettes by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	90	83	86
Given cigarettes by friends or relatives	49	39	44
Buy from machine	33	17	24
Buy from other people	24	24	24
Take cigarettes	9	5	7
Get cigarettes some other way	8	7	7
<i>Base</i>	56	72	128

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 3.5: Whether regular smokers would like to give up smoking: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	73
Would not like to give up smoking	27
<i>Base</i>	122

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.6: Whether regular smokers have ever tried to give up smoking: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	70
Has not tried to give up smoking	30
<i>Base</i>	125

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
One year or less	41
More than a year	59
<i>Base</i>	124

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.8: Ease of giving up smoking by length of time smoking: Aberdeen City 2002.

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	14	36	28	32
Fairly difficult	43	46	44	36
Fairly easy	28	9	17	21
Very easy	15	9	11	11
<i>Base</i>	51	73	124	2868

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.9: Perception of family attitude to pupil's smoking, by smoking status: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	20	43	56	50	54
Persuade me not to	52	46	35	39	35
Do nothing	15	4	1	3	3
Encourage me	2	-	0	1	0
Not sure	12	8	7	8	7
<i>Base</i>	127	37	613	777	19279

Base= All pupils

Table 3.10: Whether regular smokers are allowed to smoke at home: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	28
Not allowed to smoke at home	53
Don't know	19
<i>Base</i>	<i>107</i>

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.11: Parents' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	33	52	66
At least one parent smokes daily	65	43	31
Does not see either parent	2	5	3
<i>Base</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>712</i>

Base= All pupils

Table 3.12: Siblings' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	57	72	79
At least one sibling smokes daily	36	21	13
Does not have siblings	7	7	8
<i>Base</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>689</i>

Base= All pupils

Table 3.13: Friends smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	36	11	3
More than half	36	18	7
Half	13	19	8
Less than half	8	30	21
Almost none	4	17	32
None	2	5	30
<i>Base</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>727</i>

Base= All pupils

Table 3.14: Whether pupils have seen cigarette advertising: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Base
On posters/billboards	85	9	6	890
In magazines	59	31	10	885
On television	53	38	9	888
In newspapers	32	51	17	875
At the cinema	18	65	17	870

Base= All pupils

Table 3.15: Proportion of pupils who reported having lessons, videos or discussions in class on smoking, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	78	76	77
No	15	18	16
Don't know	7	6	7
Base	430	434	864

Base= All pupils

4 Drinking

4.1 Prevalence of alcohol use

All pupils were asked whether they had ever had a 'proper alcoholic drink, a whole drink, not just a sip'. The prevalence of alcohol use increased significantly with age. Sixty eight percent (68%) of 13 year olds and 93% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink (**Table 4.1**). The proportion of 13 year olds who reported that they had drunk alcohol is not significantly different from the national figure of 69%. However, the proportion of 15 year olds in Aberdeen City who reported that they had drunk alcohol (93%) was higher than the national figure of 88%, a statistically significant difference.

Just over half (53%) of 15 year olds and 23% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week. The proportion of 13 year olds who drank in the last week was the same as the national figure of 23%. However, the proportion of 15 year olds in Aberdeen City reported that they had drunk alcohol was higher than the national figure of 46%, a statistically significant difference. There was no significant difference between boys and girls in the proportion of pupils drinking in the last week (**Tables 4.3 and 4.4**).

4.2 Usual drinking frequency

Among those pupils who reported having an alcoholic drink, the frequency of drinking increased significantly with age; 14% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared to 46% of 15 year old pupils. More boys than girls reported drinking at least once a week (33% of boys and 27% of girls, though this difference was not statistically significant) (**Tables 4.5 and 4.6**).

4.3 Money spent on alcohol

Of all pupils who drank weekly, just over three-quarters (76%) reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £9.00 a week.

4.4 Type of alcohol consumed

Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked whether or not they had consumed various categories of alcoholic drink¹. There were significant differences between boys and girls in the types of alcohol drunk. For boys 'beer, lager or cider' were most commonly reported: 66% of boys who had drunk alcohol in the last week had consumed half a pint or more of beer, lager or cider. For girls, 'alcopops' were most commonly reported: 69% had drunk alcopops in the last week. A similar proportion of girls (64%) reported that they had drunk spirits in the last week (**Table 4.8**).

4.5 Average amount of alcohol consumed weekly

Pupils who reported that they had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked to record the amount they had consumed of each category of alcoholic

¹ Pupils were asked about the following types of drink: beer, lager or cider, shandy, wine, martini and sherry, spirits and liqueurs, alcopops and pre-mixed alcoholic drinks.

drink. From this the total units of alcohol consumed were calculated. Half a pint of beer or a small glass of wine contains approximately one unit of alcohol. The method used to calculate units of alcohol was the same as used in previous surveys in this series (a full discussion of the method, including issues of under-reporting, can be found in Boreham et al., 2001¹). Boys who drank over the previous seven days consumed on average 11 units of alcohol, and girls consumed 9 units. This difference was not statistically significant. Figures 4.1 and 4.2 show the consumption of each type of drink as a proportion of the total reported amount of alcohol drunk in the week prior to the survey.

Figure 4.1: Type of alcohol drunk by boys in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: Aberdeen City 2002.

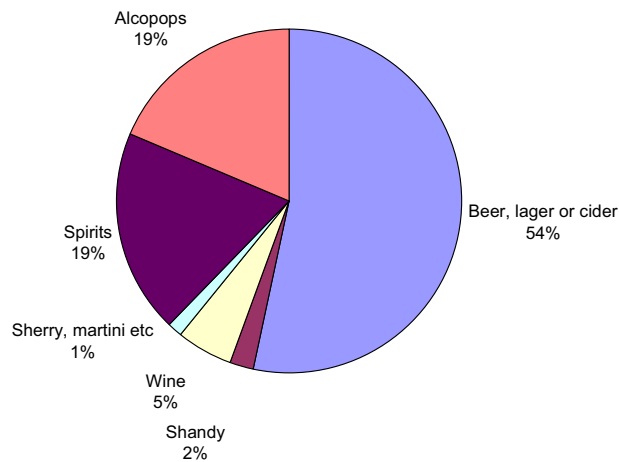
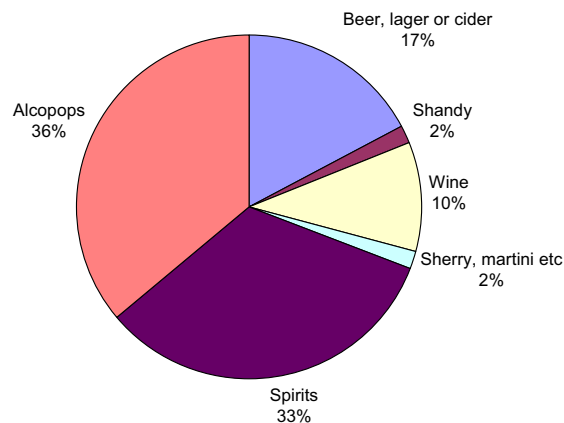


Figure 4.2: Type of alcohol drunk by girls in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: Aberdeen City 2002.

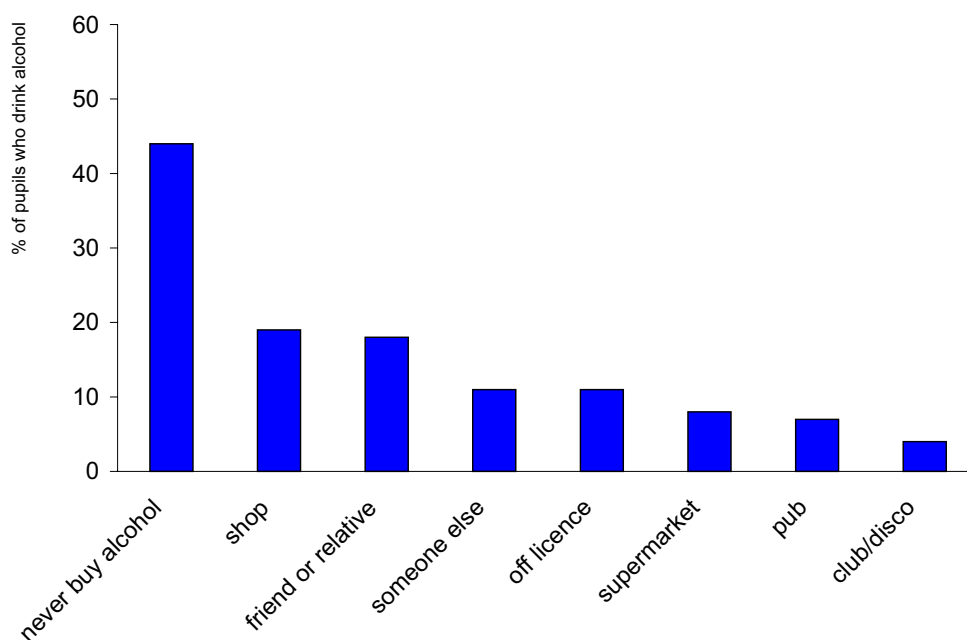


¹ Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

4.6 Availability of alcohol.

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Some pupils reported more than one source. Almost half (44%) of those who had had an alcoholic drink reported that they 'never buy alcohol'. The most common sources for purchasing alcohol by pupils in Aberdeen City was from a 'shop' (19%) and 'from friend or relative' (18%). Around one in ten pupils (11%) reported that they bought alcohol from an 'off-licence' and the same number reported that they bought their alcohol from 'someone else' (Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3: Sources for obtaining alcohol, all pupils who had had an alcoholic drink: Aberdeen City 2002.

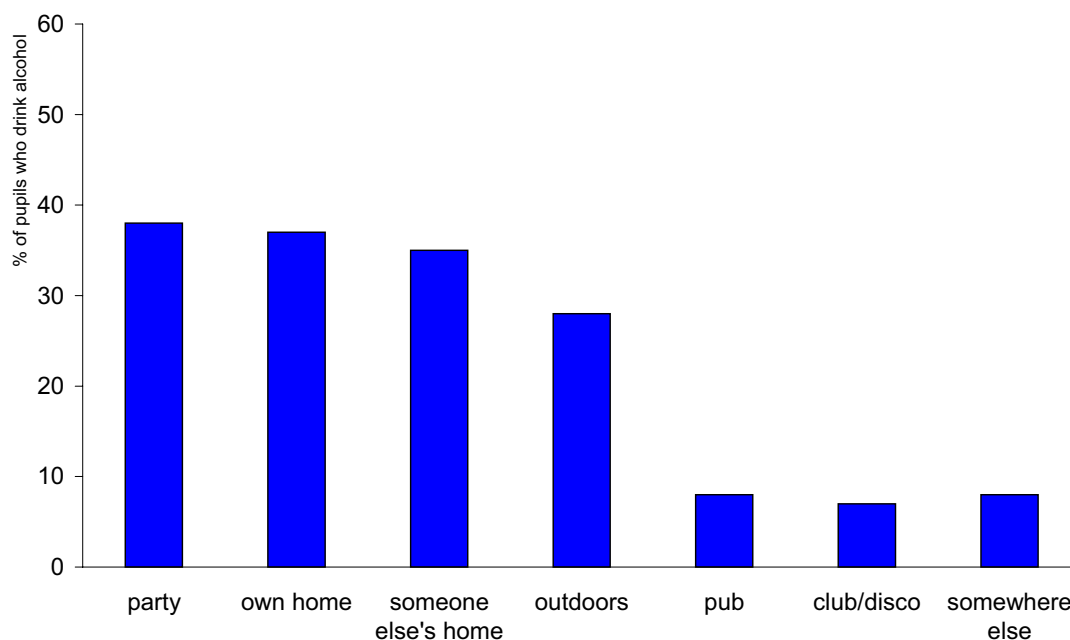


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

4.7 Where young people drink alcohol

Pupils were asked 'When you drink alcohol, where are you usually?' and given a list of possible locations. Some pupils reported more than one location. The three most frequently reported locations for drinking alcohol were at a party (38%), in the pupil's own home (37%) and someone else's home (35%). Around one in four pupils (28%) reported that they drank alcohol 'outdoors' (Tables 4.11 and 4.12, Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: Places where pupils drink alcohol, all pupils who have had an alcoholic drink: Aberdeen City 2002.



(Source: tables 4.11 and 4.12)

4.8 Drinking to excess

All pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked 'Have you ever had so much alcohol that you were really drunk?'. Overall, 66% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Sixteen percent (16%) had been drunk once, 21% had been drunk 2-3 times, 15% had been drunk 4-10 times and 14% had been drunk more than 10 times (Tables 4.13 and 4.14).

All pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were also asked at what age they first got drunk (if ever). The average age reported by 15 year old pupils who had been drunk was 13 years old.

Just under half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils who had ever had a proper alcoholic drink reported that they had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past 30 days (49%) and 13% had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion 4 or more times in the past 30 days (Tables 4.15 and 4.16).

4.9 Effects of drinking too much alcohol

Pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked whether they had ever experienced any of a list of possible effects as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Pupils could give more than one answer. The most commonly reported effect was vomiting, reported by 39% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils. 'Having an argument or fight' was reported by 27% of all 13 and 15 year olds.

Some pupils had been involved in other risk behaviours as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Seventeen percent (17%) had tried drugs. Thirteen percent (13%) of

all 15 year olds (8% of boys and 17% of girls) had had unprotected sex (13 year old pupils were not asked questions on sexual health).

Around one in ten pupils had stayed off school as a result of drinking too much alcohol (10%). Fewer pupils reported having had any serious injuries which required the attention of a doctor or having been in hospital, either at an Accident and Emergency department or admitted overnight (**Tables 4.17 and 4.18**).

4.10 Family attitudes to drinking

All pupils who drank alcohol were asked how their family felt about them drinking alcohol. Just over a quarter (27%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their family did not know that they drank, around half (52%) reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 13% reported that their families did not like them drinking and 8% reported that they did not know what their families thought (**Table 4.19 and 4.20**).

Pupils who had never had an alcoholic drink (20% of all pupils) were asked how their families would feel if they started drinking. Sixty two percent (62%) reported that their families would be upset or angry if they started drinking (**Tables 4.21 and 4.22**).

All pupils, including those who had never had a proper alcoholic drink, were asked if they were allowed to drink at home and the majority of pupils (79%) agreed that they would be allowed to do so (**Table 4.23**).

4.11 Lessons on alcohol

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on alcohol. Pupil response depends on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. Most pupils reported having lessons, videos or class discussions; 72% of 13 year olds and 81% of 15 year olds. However, 19% of 13 year olds and 14% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 8% of 13 year olds and 5% of 15 year olds did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on alcohol (**Table 4.24**).

Table 4.1: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	68	93	80	78
No	32	7	20	22
<i>Base</i>	495	423	918	22850

Base= All pupils

Table 4.2: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	81	80	80	78
No	19	20	20	22
<i>Base</i>	465	453	918	22850

Base= All pupils

Table 4.3: Last occasion of drinking, by age group Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	23	53	38	35
One to four weeks ago	10	17	14	16
One to six months ago	22	17	20	18
More than six months ago	12	6	9	10
Never	32	7	20	22
<i>Base</i>	486	421	907	22617

Base=All pupils

Table 4.4: Last occasion of drinking, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	38	37	38	35
One to four weeks ago	13	14	14	16
One to six months ago	20	20	20	18
More than six months ago	10	8	9	10
Never	19	21	20	22
<i>Base</i>	457	450	907	22617

Base=All pupils

Table 4.5: Usual drinking frequency, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	14	46	30	27
About once a fortnight	9	13	11	12
About once a month	12	12	12	12
Only a few times a year	33	23	28	27
Never	32	7	20	22
<i>Base</i>	491	421	912	22754

Base=All pupils

Table 4.6: Usual drinking frequency, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	33	27	30	27
About once a fortnight	9	12	11	12
About once a month	11	12	12	12
Only a few times a year	28	28	28	27
Never	19	20	20	22
<i>Base</i>	461	451	912	22754

Base=All pupils

Table 4.7: Type of drinks consumed in last seven days, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	33	51	45
Shandy	10	6	7
Wine	17	19	18
Martini, sherry etc.	7	6	7
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	40	66	58
Alcopops	64	63	63
<i>Base</i>	113	223	336

Base=All pupils who drank one measure or more in past week

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.8: Type of drinks consumed in last seven days by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Beer, lager or cider	66	23	45
Shandy	8	6	7
Wine	14	23	18
Martini, sherry etc.	7	7	7
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	52	64	58
Alcopops	58	69	63
<i>Base</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>336</i>

Base=All pupils who drank one measure or more in last week

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.9: Sources of alcohol, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13	Age 15	Total
	%	%	%
Never buy alcohol	57	34	44
Buy alcohol from shop	10	26	19
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	16	19	18
Buy alcohol in off licence	4	16	11
Buy alcohol from someone else	9	13	11
Buy alcohol from supermarket	2	13	8
Buy alcohol in pub	-	12	7
Buy alcohol in club/disco	1	7	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>740</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.10: Sources of alcohol, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Never buy alcohol	44	44	44
Buy alcohol from shop	21	16	19
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	15	21	18
Buy alcohol in off licence	12	9	11
Buy alcohol from someone else	10	12	11
Buy alcohol from supermarket	9	7	8
Buy alcohol in pub	8	6	7
Buy alcohol in club/disco	3	6	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>740</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.11: Venue for drinking alcohol, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink at a party with friends	24	49	38
Usually drink in own home	48	29	37
Usually drink in someone else's home	31	38	35
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	21	33	28
Usually drink in pub	3	13	8
Usually drink in club/disco	4	10	7
Usually drink somewhere else	11	6	8
<i>Base</i>	341	399	740

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.12: Venue for drinking alcohol, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink at a party with friends	38	38	38
Usually drink in own home	38	37	37
Usually drink in someone else's home	33	36	35
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	26	29	28
Usually drink in pub	10	7	8
Usually drink in club/disco	6	10	7
Usually drink somewhere else	9	6	8
<i>Base</i>	380	360	740

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.13: Ever been drunk, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	51	21	34	32
Once	22	12	16	19
2-3 times	14	26	21	22
4-10 times	7	20	15	13
More than 10 times	6	20	14	14
<i>Base</i>	328	391	719	17723

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.14: Ever been drunk, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	34	34	34	32
Once	14	18	16	19
2-3 times	19	23	21	22
4-10 times	16	14	15	13
More than 10 times	17	11	14	14
<i>Base</i>	364	355	719	17723

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.15: Consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in last 30 days, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	6	18	13	13
3 times	5	11	8	9
Twice	9	16	13	13
Once	12	17	15	14
Not in last 30 days	23	21	22	23
Never	45	16	29	28
<i>Base</i>	327	393	720	17615

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.16: Consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in last 30 days, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	13	13	13	13
3 times	9	7	8	9
Twice	13	14	13	13
Once	13	16	15	14
Not in last 30 days	21	23	22	23
Never	31	26	29	28
<i>Base</i>	367	353	720	17615

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.17: Effects of drinking too much alcohol, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	25	49	39
Had an argument or fight	14	36	27
Tried any drugs	5	21	17
Had unprotected sex*	-	13	13
Stayed off school	9	11	10
Injured and seen by doctor	5	5	5
Visited A & E department	2	3	3
Admitted to hospital overnight	1	2	2
<i>Base</i>	324	391	715

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

* 15 year old pupils only

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.18: Effects of drinking too much alcohol, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	29	39	39
Had an argument or fight	33	31	27
Tried any drugs	20	13	17
Had unprotected sex*	8	17	13
Stayed off school	7	13	10
Injured and seen by doctor	6	5	5
Visited A & E department	2	3	3
Admitted to hospital overnight	1	3	2
<i>Base</i>	363	352	715

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

* 15 year old pupils only

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.19: Perception of family attitudes to pupil's drinking (pupils who drank alcohol), by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	10	14	13	16
They don't mind	53	52	52	45
They don't know I drink	28	26	27	27
I don't know what they think	9	8	8	12
<i>Base</i>	100	215	315	7469

Base=All pupils who drank alcohol in previous week

Table 4.20: Perception of family attitudes to pupil's drinking (pupils who drank alcohol), by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	12	14	13	16
They don't mind	55	49	52	45
They don't know I drink	22	32	27	27
I don't know what they think	11	5	8	12
<i>Base</i>	160	155	315	7469

Base=All pupils who drank alcohol in previous week

Table 4.21: Perceptions of family attitude to pupil's drinking (pupils who have never tried alcohol), by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	72	15	62	70
They would not mind	7	29	11	9
I don't know what they would think	21	56	27	21
<i>Base</i>	154	28	182	4711

Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol

Table 4.22: Perceptions of family attitude to drinking (pupils who have never tried alcohol), by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	60	64	62	70
They would not mind	10	12	11	9
I don't know what they would think	31	23	27	21
<i>Base</i>	87	95	182	4711

Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol

Table 4.23: Whether pupils are allowed to drink alcohol at home: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Yes, always	6
Yes, sometimes	73
No, never	21
<i>Base</i>	900

Base=All pupils

Table 4.24: Proportion of pupils who reported having lessons, videos or discussions in class on drinking, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	72	81	77
No	19	14	17
Don't know	8	5	6
<i>Base</i>	430	436	866

Base= All pupils

5 Drug Use

All pupils were asked whether they had ever been offered each drug on a list of drugs. Alternative street names were provided for each drug and a dummy drug 'Semeron'¹ was also included on the list.

All pupils were then asked whether they had ever used any of the drugs on the list, even if only once: 24% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils reported that they had taken drugs at some time (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

The list of drugs was repeated in the next question and all pupils were asked when they had last used or taken each of the drugs listed: 'in the last month', 'in the last year', 'more than a year ago', or 'never'.

5.1 Drug use in the month prior to the survey

Prevalence of drug use in the month prior to the survey increased significantly with age. Six percent (6%) of thirteen year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 23% of fifteen year olds. Prevalence of drug use in Aberdeen City is not significantly different from the prevalence found nationally (national figures: 8% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds). Girls were less likely to have used drugs in the last month than boys (17% of boys and 11% of girls had used drugs in the last month). Again this reflects the national pattern of slightly lower drug use among girls. (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

5.2 Drug use in the year prior to the survey

Twenty two (22%) percent of all pupils in the survey reported that they had used drugs in the year prior to the survey (this figure includes those who used drugs in the last month) (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

The most frequently used drug in the last year, including the last month, was cannabis, 19% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The figures were much lower for other types of drugs; 4% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 4% had used solvents, 2% percent had used psychedelics (LSD, magic mushrooms) and 1% had used opiates (heroin or methadone) (**Tables 5.3 and 5.4**).

5.3 Whether offered drugs

Around half of all pupils (47%) had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 68% of 15 year old pupils and 25% of 13 year old pupils reported that they had been offered drugs. Girls were significantly less likely to have been offered drugs than boys: 40% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 54% of boys. The most commonly offered drug type was cannabis: 41% of pupils reported that they had been offered this drug (**Tables 5.5 to 5.8**).

¹ 'Semeron' was included to give some idea as to whether children were over-reporting their use of drugs. Less than 1% of pupils reported Semeron among the drugs they had used and 2% included it among the drugs they had been offered.

5.4 Frequency of drug use

Four percent (4%) of all pupils reported that they usually take drugs once a week or more, with a significantly higher proportion of older pupils and boys doing so; 1% of thirteen year old pupils and 6% of fifteen year old pupils and 2% of girls and 6% of boys reported this) (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

5.5 Money spent on drugs

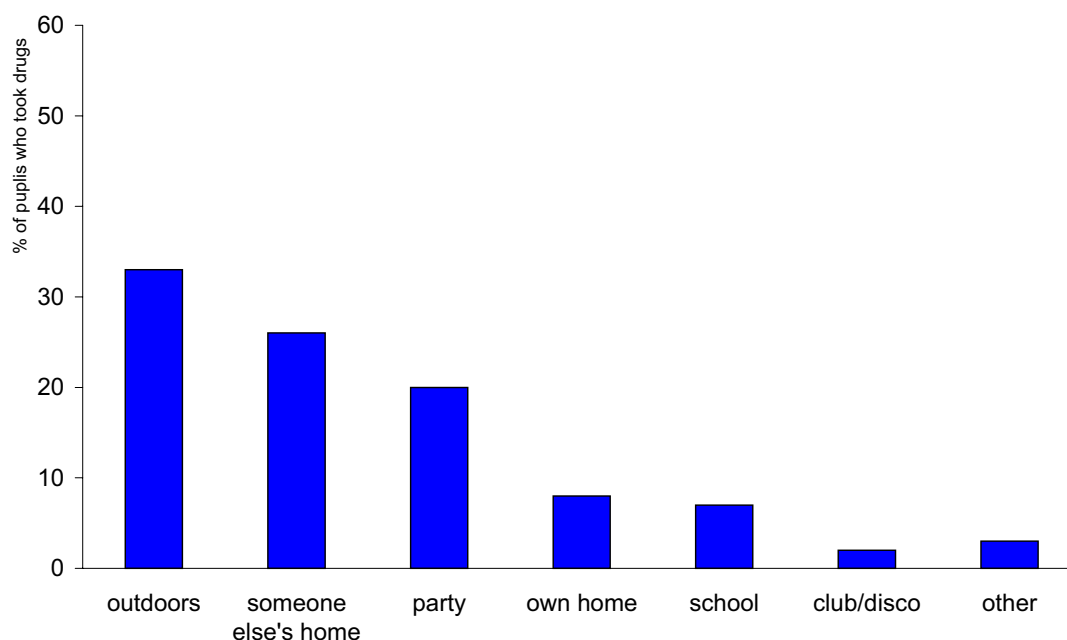
Around half (48%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £9.00 per week.

5.6 Where young people are when they use drugs

Pupils who had ever used drugs were asked where they were the last time they used drugs. Some pupils reported more than one location. Very few pupils reported using drugs in their own home. The most frequently reported location for drug taking for all 13 and 15 year old pupils was 'outdoors' (33%). The next most reported location was 'someone else's home' (26%) (Tables 5.11 and 5.12, Figure 5.1).

Forty one percent (41%) of those who have used drugs reported that they were drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs (Table 5.13).

Figure 5.1: Location of drug use: Aberdeen City 2002.



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

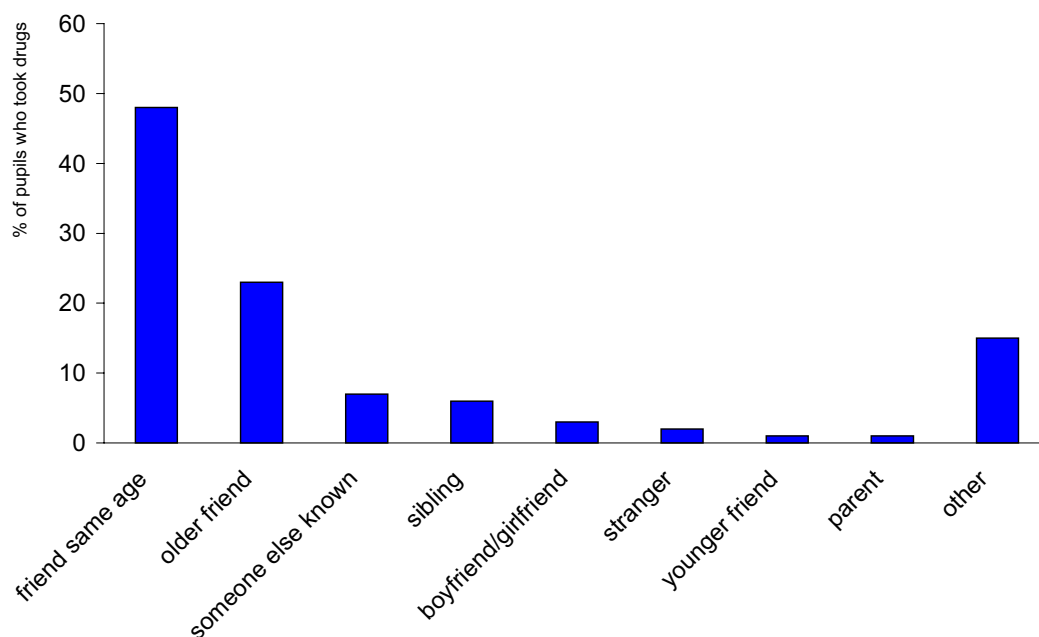
5.7 Availability of drugs

Just under half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (46%) reported that it would be 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' to get drugs while 38% did not know how easy or difficult it would be. Significantly more fifteen year olds reported that they would find it 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' (68%) than thirteen year old pupils (25%) (Tables 5.14 and 5.15).

5.8 Source of drugs used

Pupils who had ever used drugs were asked where they had obtained drugs from on the last occasion they had used them. Some pupils reported more than one source. As can be seen from figure 5.2, friends were the most commonly reported source of drugs; 48% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from a friend of the same age and a further 23% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: Aberdeen City 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Almost half (49%) of pupils who took drugs reported that they gave some drugs away last time they used drugs. Fewer pupils (13%) reported that they sold some of their drugs (Tables 5.18 and 5.19).

5.9 Obtaining information and help

Eighteen percent (18%) of the 13 and 15 year old pupils who reported taking drugs more than a few times a year said they would like to stop taking drugs now. Almost all young people who took drugs more than a few times a year reported that they have never felt that they needed help because of taking drugs (98%), although 68% reported that they knew where to go to get help (Tables 5.20 to 5.23).

All pupils were asked if they knew where to get information on drugs. Seventy percent (70%) reported that they knew where to get information (**Table 5.24**). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'your doctor' (50%), 'friends' (40%), 'the Internet' (38%), and 'telephone helpline' (37%) (**Table 5.25**).

5.10 Pupils' attitudes to drugs

All pupils were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about drugs and those who used or sold them. Most pupils (81%) agreed that they 'know enough about the dangers of drugs' and almost all (92%) agreed that 'taking drugs harms your health'.

The majority of pupils also agreed with the other statements about the dangers of drugs: 'taking cocaine is dangerous' (84%), 'heroin is addictive' (75%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (71%), although 22% did not know whether heroin is addictive and 26% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Around half of pupils (54%) agreed that 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis' and 43% reported that they did not know whether this was the case. More than half (59%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults say about drugs is true'.

Although around two thirds of pupils (63%) agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', a similar proportion (60%) felt that 'people who take drugs are stupid'. Pupils were more likely to agree than disagree with the statement 'people my age who take drugs need help'; 69% of pupils agreed with this statement. Just under half (48%) of pupils agreed that 'people who take heroin are junkies'.

Three of the statements concerned possible reasons for drug taking: 'people take drugs to escape from reality', 'people take drugs to relax' and 'taking drugs is exciting'. Very few pupils (17%) agreed that 'taking drugs is exciting'. Around half agreed with the statements 'people take drugs to escape from reality' (48%) and 'people take drugs to relax' (54%), but with regard to these last two statements around a third of pupils reported that they 'don't know' (37% and 31% respectively).

Sixty two percent (62%) agreed that 'people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 27% believe that 'people who take drugs should be punished' (**Table 5.26**).

5.11 Lessons on drugs

All pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last twelve months on drugs or on solvent abuse/glue sniffing. Pupil response depends on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions.

Most pupils reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions on drugs: 80% of 13 year olds and 87% of 15 year olds. However, 14% of 13 year olds and 9% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 6% of 13 year olds and 4% of 15 year olds reported that did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on drugs (**Table 5.27**).

Fewer pupils reported having lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing. Around half (47% of 13 year olds and 51% of 15 year olds) reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions in the last twelve months. However, 37% of 13 year olds and 35% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and the remaining 16% of 13 year olds and 13% of 15 year olds reported that they

did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing (**Table 5.28**).

Of those who reported having lessons, videos or discussions on drug use, 24% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 48% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

Table 5.1: Taken drugs in last month, last year* or ever, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	6	23	14	15
Used drugs in last year*	8	35	22	22
Used drugs ever	9	40	24	25
<i>Base</i>	481	421	902	22434

Base=All pupils

note: columns in the table do not add up to 100 as each category includes the previous one

Table 5.2: Taken drugs in last month, last year* or ever, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	17	11	14	15
Used drugs in last year*	26	17	22	22
Used drugs ever	29	19	24	25
<i>Base</i>	457	445	902	22434

Base=All pupils

note: columns in the table do not add up to 100 as each category includes the previous one

Table 5.3: Type of drug used in the last year*, by age: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	6	33	19	20
Stimulants	2	6	4	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	0	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	1	3	2	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	2	1	2
<i>poppers</i>	1	4	2	3
Psychedelics	1	3	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	1	3	2	2
Opiates	1	1	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	0	1	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	2	6	4	4
Tranquillisers	1	1	1	2
Anabolic Steroids	0	0	0	0
Semeron	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
<i>Base</i>	497	427	924	23090

Base=All pupils

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

* includes past month

The National Totals shown in these tables have been weighted to allow more precise comparisons to be made with local figures, there may, therefore, be a slight variation between these National Totals and the figures published in the National Interim Report

**Table 5.4: Type of drug used in the last year*, by gender:
Aberdeen City 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	23	15	19	20
Stimulants	4	4	4	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	0	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	1	2	2	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	2	1	2
<i>poppers</i>	3	2	2	3
Psychedelics	2	2	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	1	2	2
Opiates	1	1	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	0	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	3	4	4	4
Tranquillisers	1	0	1	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	-	0	0
Semeron	1	-	0	0
Other	1	-	0	0
Base	469	455	924	23090

Base=All pupils

* includes last month

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

**Table 5.5: Whether pupils offered drugs, by age group:
Aberdeen City 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	25	68	47
No	75	32	53
Base	420	401	821

Base= All pupils

**Table 5.6: Whether pupils offered drugs, by gender:
Aberdeen City 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	54	40	47
No	46	50	53
Base	417	404	821

Base= All pupils

Table 5.7: Type of drug offered, by age: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	19	63	41	42
Stimulants	8	27	17	19
<i>cocaine</i>	5	9	7	6
<i>crack</i>	3	5	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	3	17	10	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	3	11	7	7
<i>poppers</i>	3	11	7	9
Psychedelics	4	14	9	10
<i>LSD</i>	2	6	4	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	4	12	8	8
Opiates	4	6	5	6
<i>heroin</i>	3	6	4	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	2	2	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	6	16	11	12
Tranquillisers	2	6	4	5
Anabolic Steroids	2	2	2	2
Semeron	2	2	2	1
Other	1	0	1	1
Base	469	405	874	20614

Base=All pupils

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.8: Type of drug offered, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	47	34	41	42
Stimulants	19	15	17	19
<i>cocaine</i>	8	6	7	6
<i>crack</i>	6	2	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	11	9	10	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	8	6	7	7
<i>poppers</i>	9	5	7	9
Psychedelics	11	7	9	10
<i>LSD</i>	5	3	4	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	9	6	8	8
Opiates	6	4	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	4	4	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	1	2	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	11	11	11	12
Tranquillisers	5	3	4	6
Anabolic Steroids	3	1	2	2
Semeron	2	1	2	1
Other	1	0	1	1
Base	437	437	874	20614

Base=All pupils

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

**Table 5.9: Usual frequency of taking drugs, by age group:
Aberdeen City 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	1	6	4	5
Once or twice a month	2	8	5	4
A few times a year	2	8	5	5
Do not use drugs	95	78	87	86
<i>Base</i>	481	423	804	22532

Base=All pupils

**Table 5.10: Usual frequency of taking drugs, by gender:
Aberdeen City 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	6	2	4	5
Once or twice a month	5	5	5	4
A few times a year	5	5	5	5
Do not use drugs	84	89	87	86
<i>Base</i>	457	447	804	22532

Base=All pupils

**Table 5.11: Places where drugs were used, by age group:
Aberdeen City 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	34	33	33
Someone else's home	10	30	26
At party	9	24	20
Own home	9	8	8
At school	8	6	7
At club/disco	2	2	2
Other place	5	2	3
<i>Base</i>	58	176	234

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.12: Places where drugs were used, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	32	34	33
Someone else's home	25	27	26
At party	25	13	20
Own home	9	7	8
At school	6	7	7
At club/disco	1	2	2
Other place	1	6	3
<i>Base</i>	142	92	234

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.13: Whether pupils were drinking alcohol last time they used drugs: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	41	39
No	59	61
<i>Base</i>	111	5544

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

Table 5.14: Ease of getting drugs, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	9	32	20
Fairly easy	16	36	26
Fairly difficult	7	6	6
Very difficult	6	2	4
Impossible	6	3	4
Don't know	56	21	38
<i>Base</i>	475	423	890

Base=All pupils

Table 5.15 Ease of getting drugs, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	24	16	20
Fairly easy	30	23	26
Fairly difficult	6	7	6
Very difficult	4	4	4
Impossible	3	6	4
Don't know	32	45	38
<i>Base</i>	452	446	890

Base=All pupils

Table 5.16: Source of drugs, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Friend of own age	22	55	48
Older friend	21	23	23
Someone known	5	8	7
Brother or sister	12	4	6
Boyfriend/girlfriend	3	3	3
Stranger	2	2	2
Younger friend	2	1	1
Mother/father	2	1	1
Other	14	15	15
<i>Base</i>	58	176	234

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.17: Source of drugs, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Friend of own age	51	43	48
Older friend	18	29	23
Someone known	8	5	7
Brother or sister	7	3	6
Boyfriend/girlfriend	1	8	3
Stranger	2	1	2
Younger friend	1	2	1
Mother/father	1	1	1
Other	15	14	15
<i>Base</i>	142	92	234

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.18: Sharing drugs, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Used it all myself	26	40	37
Sold some of it	19	12	13
Gave some of it away	55	48	49
<i>Base</i>	38	159	197

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Used it all myself	36	40	37
Sold some of it	16	8	13
Gave some of it away	48	52	49
Base	124	73	197

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

Table 5.20: Whether would like to stop taking drugs, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	23	16	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	14	8	9	20
Would not like to give up	23	53	48	39
Not sure	41	22	25	26
Base	22	93	115	2899

Base=All pupils who took drugs a few times or more in the last year

Table 5.21: Whether would like to stop taking drugs, by gender: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	19	15	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	8	11	9	20
Would not like to give up	48	47	48	39
Not sure	24	27	25	26
Base	68	47	115	2899

Base=All pupils who took drugs a few times or more in the last year

Table 5.22: Whether pupils felt they needed help because of using drugs: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Yes	2
No	98
Base	116

Base=All pupils who took drugs a few times or more in the last year

Table 5.23: Whether pupils know where to get help for of their drug use : Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Yes	68
No	32
<i>Base</i>	<i>116</i>

Base=All pupils who took drugs a few times or more in the last year

Table 5.24: Whether pupils know where to get information on drugs: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Yes	70
No	14
Don't know	16
<i>Base</i>	<i>895</i>

Base=All pupils

Table 5.25: Where pupils would go for information on drugs: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Doctor	50
Friends	40
Internet/web	38
Telephone helpline	37
Teacher	33
Female family member	33
Advice organisation	29
Male family member	24
Books	17
Drop-in centre	16
Magazines	15
Councillor	15
Youth worker	12
TV/Radio	7
<i>Base</i>	<i>627</i>

Base=All pupils who know where to get drugs information

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.26: Pupils' attitudes to drugs: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	92	4	4	895
Taking cocaine is dangerous	84	3	13	893
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	81	11	8	887
Heroin is addictive	75	2	22	893
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	71	3	26	893
People my age who take drugs need help	69	19	13	891
Most young people will try out drugs	63	19	17	892
People who sell drugs should be punished	62	22	16	893
People who take drugs are stupid	60	27	13	893
What adults tell us about drugs is true	59	17	24	892
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	54	4	43	891
People take drugs to relax	54	15	31	884
People take drugs to escape from reality	48	15	37	891
People who take heroin are junkies	48	23	28	891
People who take drugs should be punished	27	49	23	892
Taking drugs is exciting	17	54	30	894

Base=All pupils

Table 5.27: Proportion of pupils who reported having lessons, videos or discussions in class on drugs, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	80	87	84
No	14	9	11
Don't know	6	4	5
<i>Base</i>	431	435	866

Base= All pupils

Table 5.28: Proportion of pupils who reported having lessons, videos or discussions in class on solvent abuse, by age group: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	47	51	49
No	37	35	36
Don't know	16	13	15
<i>Base</i>	429	429	858

Base= All pupils

Table 5.29: Whether pupils found lessons, videos or discussions on drugs useful: Aberdeen City 2002.

	Total %
Very useful	24
Fairly useful	48
Not very useful	15
Not useful at all	6
Don't know	7
<i>Base</i>	756

Base= All pupils who reported having had lessons, videos or discussions

6 Survey Design

6.1 Sample design

All local samples were post-stratified to account for non-response bias in school type (independent or state funded) and school year (S2 or S4). In Aberdeen City there was no difference in response rate between state and independently funded pupils, but there was a higher response rate in S2 pupils (54% of Aberdeen City sample) compared with S4 pupils (46% of Aberdeen City sample).

6.2 Precision of estimates

The local and national sample size was agreed by the National School Survey Substance Misuse Working Group to provide robust data at local level. The proposed sample size within each local area was chosen to produce reliable estimates to monitor changes in prevalence over time, and enable comparisons between local and national estimates.

The degree of precision desired for the local samples was agreed by the National School Survey Substance Misuse Working Group as follows: when comparing a local sample of approximately 1000 with the national sample, a difference in prevalence of 5% in the local area, above or below the national figure, should be detected as statistically significant 80% of the time. With this sample size, changes in prevalence over time in a local area of 7% should also be detected as statistically significant 80% of the time. Comparing a local sub-group with a national sub-group (e.g. boys), the local prevalence would have to be 8% higher or lower than the national figure to be 80% certain of detecting this difference as statistically significant. Comparing sub-groups within local areas requires a large difference in prevalence (approx. 10%) if they are to be detected as statistically significant.

6.3 Statistical significance

Although the above acts as a guide to the magnitude of changes in prevalence which can in principal be detected, it should not be assumed that estimates differ unless clearly stated as significantly different in the text. The ability to detect differences in prevalence is also affected by the achieved sample size and the number of pupils who answer each question. The tables are provided are split by age group and by gender. The sample numbers in any sub-group should be taken into account, and extreme caution exercised when using figures from small subgroups for comparison purposes. Standard errors used to determine significance take account of the complex sample design ^{1 2}.

¹ Kish (1970) *Survey Sampling*, London: John Wiley

² SAS System for Windows 1999. Release 8, SAS Institute Inc. Cary, NC, USA