

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

**SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE
AMONG 13 AND 15 YEAR OLDS
IN ABERDEENSHIRE, 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:

The authors would like to thank MVA for carrying out the fieldwork and data entry for this survey.

We are grateful to ISD Scotland for their help and advice in the preparation of this report, to members of the Advisory Group for guidance received and to colleagues at CAHRU for their help and advice.

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

1 Summary of Findings

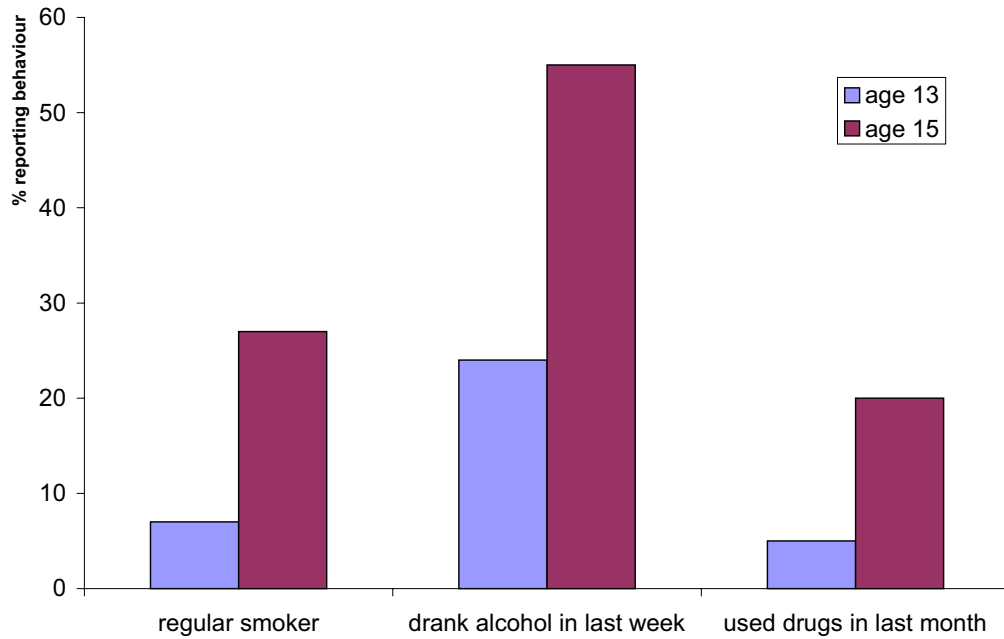
SALSUS 2002 found that among pupils in Aberdeenshire:

- 7% of 13 year olds and 27% of 15 year olds were regular smokers¹
- Regular smoking in 15 year olds is significantly higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- 24% of 13 year olds and 55% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- The proportion of 15 year olds who drank alcohol in the week prior to the survey was higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- 5% of 13 year olds and 20% 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, drinking and drug use between boys and girls in Aberdeenshire were not statistically significant.
- For 15 year old pupils the average age for first smoking or drinking 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 Aberdeenshire in 2002.

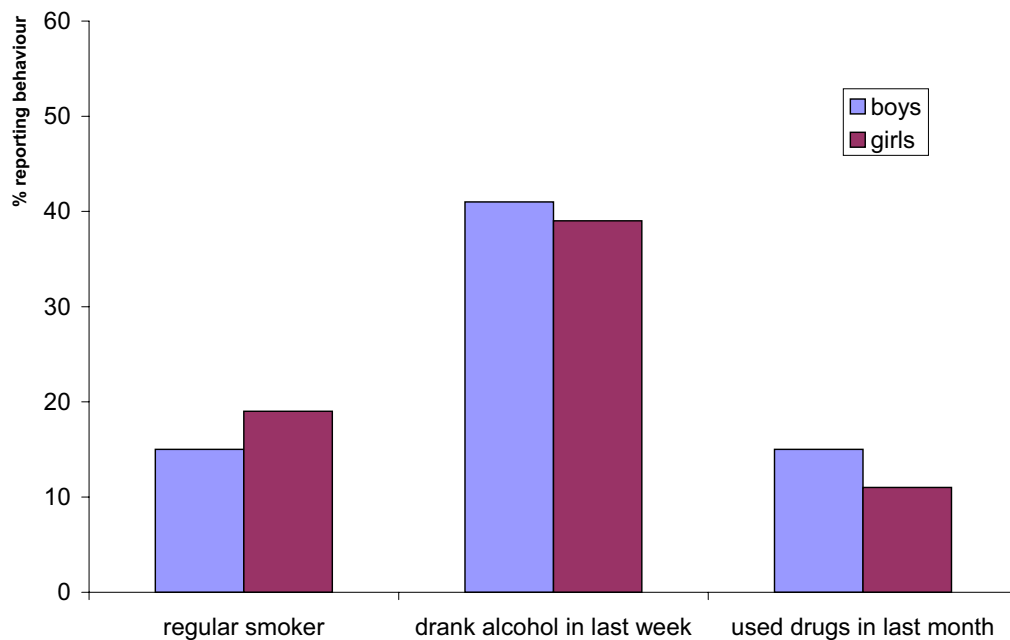
¹ regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

Figure 1.1: Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by age group: Aberdeenshire 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: Aberdeenshire 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 Aberdeenshire 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 Aberdeenshire was designed to have a final sample size of 1000 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 19.5% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study (the target population). Of the 16 schools that were asked to participate 14 schools (88%) agreed to take part in the study.

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).

Response rates are based on class and pupil participation rates. In total 57 classes in Aberdeenshire were selected to participate, and 48 classes (84%) took part. The 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 Aberdeenshire, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 77%. This compares favourably with the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 941 pupils, 15.8% of the target population in Aberdeenshire.

3 Smoking

3.1 Smoking prevalence

In Aberdeenshire, reported prevalence of regular smoking¹ increased significantly with age. In 2002, 7% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 27% of 15 year olds. This reported prevalence of regular smoking in 15 year olds is significantly higher than the national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 20% for 15 year olds). However, prevalence of regular smoking in 13 year olds is not significantly different from the reported national prevalence (national figure: 8% for 13 year olds). Just over half 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (54%), compared with 34% of 15 year olds.

Again, reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls than boys in Aberdeenshire; 19% of girls and 15% 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 32 per week for 13 year olds and 46 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

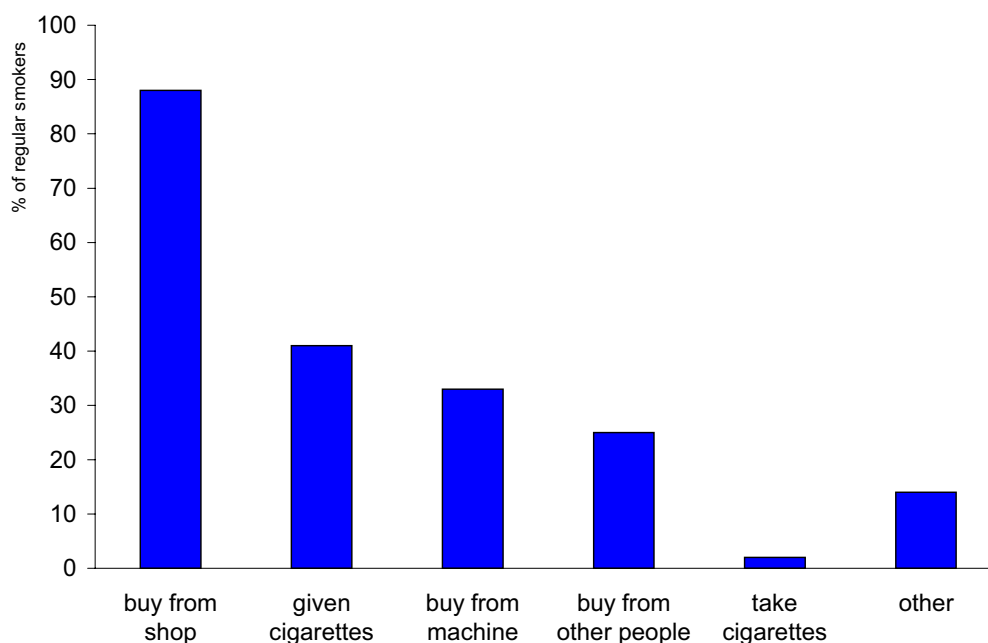
Almost all regular smokers (96%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £10.00 a week.

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 (88%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, a third of pupils (33%) bought them from machines and 25% reported buying them from other people. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, 41% of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 2% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 14% 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: Aberdeenshire 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 75% 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 48% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (67% 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: 37% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 8% 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 four percent (74%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Around half (54%) 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 (93%) 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: 58% of regular smokers compared with 32% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 42% of regular smokers, compared with 11% of non-smokers (**Tables 3.11 and 3.12**).

Regular smokers were also more likely to have friends who smoked: 41% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 2% of non-smokers. Most 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 (79%) reported that they had seen adverts on posters or billboards. More than half reported that they had seen adverts in magazines (55%) or on television (52%). Fewer pupils reported seeing adverts in newspapers (35%) 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: 76% of 13 year olds and 74% of 15 year olds. However, 18% of 13 year olds and 19% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 7% of 13 year olds and 7% 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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	7	27	17	14
Occasional smoker	7	6	6	5
Used to smoke	8	11	9	13
Tried smoking once	24	21	23	23
Never smoked	54	34	44	45
<i>Base</i>	491	410	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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	15	19	17	14
Occasional smoker	6	7	6	5
Used to smoke	9	10	9	13
Tried smoking once	26	20	23	23
Never smoked	44	44	44	45
<i>Base</i>	438	463	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 3.3: Source of cigarettes by age group: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	71	92	88
Given cigarettes	38	42	41
Buy from machine	21	37	33
Buy from other people	32	23	25
Take cigarettes	9	1	2
Get cigarettes some other way	26	11	14
<i>Base</i>	34	112	146

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	87	88	88
Given cigarettes	37	45	41
Buy from machine	32	35	33
Buy from other people	21	28	25
Take cigarettes	6	-	2
Get cigarettes some other way	18	11	14
<i>Base</i>	34	112	146

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	73
Would not like to give up smoking	27
<i>Base</i>	140

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	75
Has not tried to give up smoking	25
<i>Base</i>	143

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Total %
One year or less	33
More than a year	67
<i>Base</i>	143

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	8	37	28	32
Fairly difficult	43	50	48	36
Fairly easy	31	13	19	21
Very easy	18	-	6	11
<i>Base</i>	48	95	144	2868

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	14	41	58	49	54
Persuade me not to	60	49	35	41	35
Do nothing	20	-	1	4	3
Encourage me	-	-	0	0	0
Not sure	6	9	5	5	7
<i>Base</i>	143	45	622	846	19279

Base= All pupils

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

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	35
Not allowed to smoke at home	54
Don't know	11
<i>Base</i>	123

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	42	69	66
At least one parent smokes daily	58	26	32
Does not see either parent	-	5	3
<i>Base</i>	139	56	680

Base= All pupils

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	55	76	81
At least one sibling smokes daily	42	14	11
Does not have siblings	3	9	8
<i>Base</i>	133	56	652

Base= All pupils

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	41	10	2
More than half	29	11	6
Half	15	32	9
Less than half	11	29	21
Almost none	4	18	36
None	-	-	26
<i>Base</i>	146	58	696

Base= All pupils

**Table 3.14: Whether pupils have seen cigarette advertising:
Aberdeenshire 2002.**

	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Base
On posters/billboards	79	15	7	904
In magazines	55	33	12	901
On television	52	40	7	906
In newspapers	35	48	17	888
At the cinema	18	63	18	891

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	76	74	75
No	18	19	18
Don't know	7	7	7
Base	457	457	914

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. Seventy three percent (73%) of 13 year olds and 89% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink (**Table 4.1**). This was not significantly different from the national figures.

Just over half (55%) of 15 year olds and 24% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, again a significant increase in prevalence with age. Once again the figure for 13 year olds was not significantly different from the national figure of 23% for this age group. However, the proportion of 15 year olds in Aberdeenshire who reported that they had drunk alcohol in the last week 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 had an alcoholic drink, the frequency of drinking increased significantly with age; 16% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared with 42% of 15 year old pupils. Slightly more boys than girls reported drinking at least once a week (33% of boys and 26% of girls), though this difference was not statistically significant. Frequency of weekly drinking was not significantly different from the reported national figures for either age group or gender (**Tables 4.5 and 4.6**).

4.3 Money spent on alcohol

Of all pupils who drank weekly, 68% reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £10.00 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: 63% 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: 73% had drunk alcopops in the last week. A high proportion of girls (67%) 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 12 units of alcohol, and girls consumed 10 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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

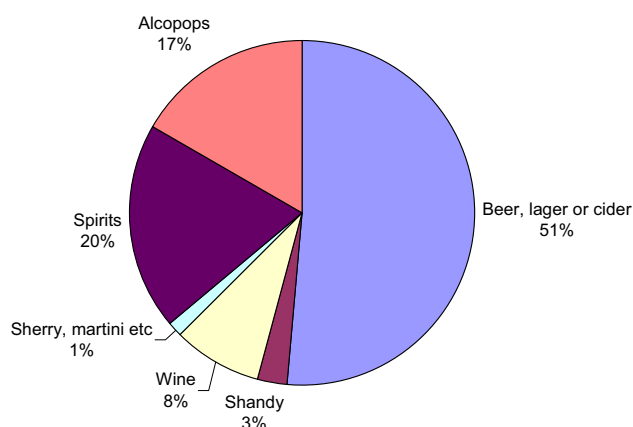
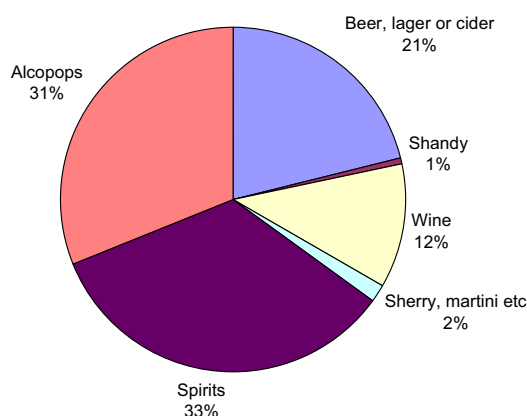


Figure 4.2: Type of alcohol drunk by girls in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: Aberdeenshire 2002.

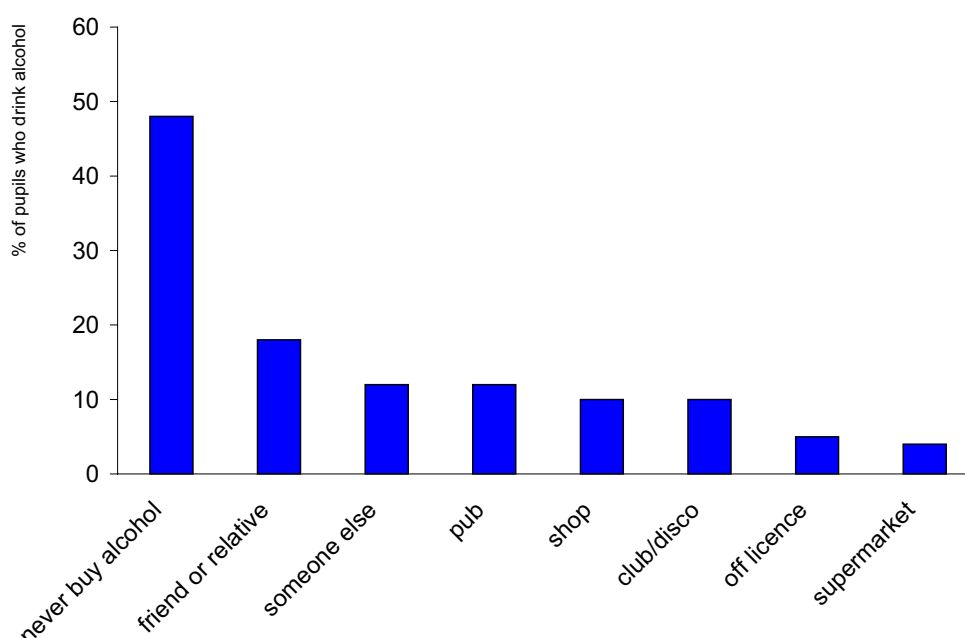


¹ Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

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 (48%) of those who had had an alcoholic drink reported that they 'never buy alcohol'. The most common sources for purchasing alcohol by pupils in Aberdeenshire was from a friend or relative (18%), in a pub (12%) and from someone else (12%). One in ten pupils (10%) reported that they bought alcohol from a club/disco and the same number reported that they bought their alcohol from a shop (Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).

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

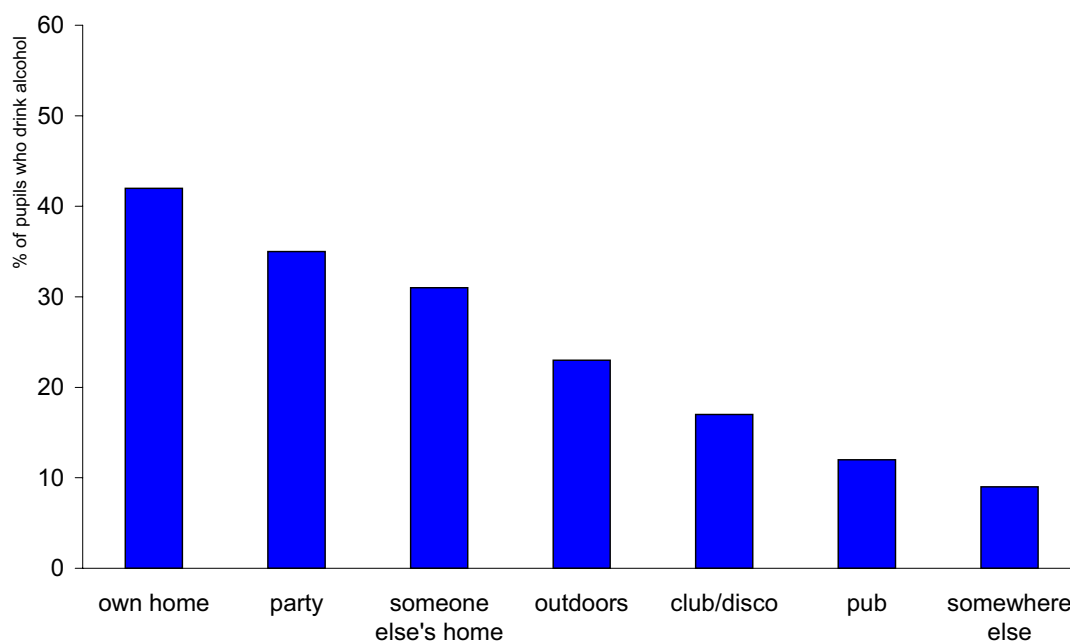


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

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 in the pupil's own home (42%), at a party with friends (35%) and someone else's home (31%). Around one in four pupils (23%) 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: Aberdeenshire 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, 65% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Eighteen percent (18%) had been drunk once, 20% had been drunk 2-3 times, 13% 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.

Around half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils who had ever had a proper alcoholic drink (51%) reported that they had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past 30 days and 14% 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 40% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils. 'Having an argument or fight' was reported by 24% 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. Fifteen percent (15%) of all

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

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 families felt about them drinking alcohol. Seventeen percent (17%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their families did not know that they drank, 60% reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 15% 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 (19% of all pupils) were asked how their families would feel if they started drinking. Fifty nine percent (59%) 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 (82%) 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 84% of 15 year olds. However, 20% of 13 year olds and 12% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 7% of 13 year olds and 4% 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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	73	89	81	78
No	27	11	19	22
<i>Base</i>	509	426	935	22850

Base= All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	82	80	81	78
No	18	20	19	22
<i>Base</i>	457	478	935	22850

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	24	55	40	35
One to four weeks ago	12	16	14	16
One to six months ago	24	14	19	18
More than six months ago	13	4	8	10
Never	27	11	19	22
<i>Base</i>	503	424	927	22617

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	41	39	40	35
One to four weeks ago	12	15	14	16
One to six months ago	21	17	19	18
More than six months ago	9	8	8	10
Never	18	20	19	22
<i>Base</i>	456	471	927	22617

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	16	42	29	27
About once a fortnight	8	19	14	12
About once a month	14	12	13	12
Only a few times a year	35	16	25	27
Never	27	11	19	22
<i>Base</i>	502	426	928	22754

Base=All pupils

Table 4.6: Usual drinking frequency, by gender: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	33	26	29	27
About once a fortnight	12	16	14	12
About once a month	12	14	13	12
Only a few times a year	26	25	25	27
Never	18	20	19	22
<i>Base</i>	455	473	928	22754

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	37	48	45
Shandy	16	3	7
Wine	23	26	25
Martini, sherry etc.	8	4	5
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	45	65	59
Alcopops	59	64	63
<i>Base</i>	122	233	355

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Beer, lager or cider	63	27	45
Shandy	10	3	7
Wine	20	30	25
Martini, sherry etc.	6	5	5
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	51	67	59
Alcopops	52	73	63
<i>Base</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>355</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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13	Age 15	Total
	%	%	%
Never buy alcohol	62	37	48
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	15	20	18
Buy alcohol in pub	2	21	12
Buy alcohol from someone else	10	13	12
Buy alcohol in club	3	16	10
Buy alcohol from shop	5	13	10
Buy alcohol in off licence	3	7	5
Buy alcohol from supermarket	3	5	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>757</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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Never buy alcohol	47	50	48
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	17	19	18
Buy alcohol in pub	12	13	12
Buy alcohol from someone else	11	12	12
Buy alcohol in club	9	12	10
Buy alcohol from shop	11	8	10
Buy alcohol in off licence	7	4	5
Buy alcohol from supermarket	5	3	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>378</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>757</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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	50	35	42
Usually drink at a party with friends	26	43	35
Usually drink in someone else's home	28	34	31
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	21	24	23
Usually drink in club/disco	11	23	17
Usually drink in pub	2	20	12
Usually drink somewhere else	12	7	9
<i>Base</i>	375	382	757

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	43	40	42
Usually drink at a party with friends	29	42	35
Usually drink in someone else's home	25	36	31
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	24	21	23
Usually drink in club/disco	14	21	17
Usually drink in pub	10	13	12
Usually drink somewhere else	10	9	9
<i>Base</i>	378	379	757

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	52	21	35	32
Once	20	16	18	19
2-3 times	15	24	20	22
4-10 times	8	18	13	13
More than 10 times	5	21	14	14
<i>Base</i>	370	375	745	17723

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.14: Ever been drunk, by gender: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	35	35	35	32
Once	17	19	18	19
2-3 times	20	19	20	22
4-10 times	14	13	13	13
More than 10 times	14	14	14	14
<i>Base</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>745</i>	<i>17723</i>

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	6	21	14	13
3 times	6	10	8	9
Twice	9	16	12	13
Once	14	18	16	14
Not in last 30 days	22	20	21	23
Never	43	16	28	28
<i>Base</i>	<i>369</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>748</i>	<i>17615</i>

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	13	16	14	13
3 times	8	9	8	9
Twice	13	12	12	13
Once	17	15	16	14
Not in last 30 days	21	21	21	23
Never	29	27	28	28
<i>Base</i>	<i>371</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>748</i>	<i>17615</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	26	50	40
Had an argument or fight	14	33	24
Had unprotected sex*	-	15	15
Tried any drugs	6	19	14
Stayed off school	10	11	10
Injured and seen by doctor	3	5	4
Visited A & E department	2	2	2
Admitted to hospital overnight	1	1	1
<i>Base</i>	363	378	741

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	39	41	40
Had an argument or fight	24	25	24
Had unprotected sex*	13	17	15
Tried any drugs	16	12	14
Stayed off school	10	10	10
Injured and seen by doctor	5	3	4
Visited A & E department	2	1	2
Admitted to hospital overnight	2	0	1
<i>Base</i>	369	372	741

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	10	17	15	16
They don't mind	55	62	60	45
They don't know I drink	25	13	17	27
I don't know what they think	11	7	8	12
<i>Base</i>	113	231	344	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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	15	15	15	16
They don't mind	64	57	60	45
They don't know I drink	14	20	17	27
I don't know what they think	7	9	8	12
<i>Base</i>	174	170	344	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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	62	53	59	70
They would not mind	14	20	15	9
I don't know what they would think	25	27	25	21
<i>Base</i>	133	45	178	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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	64	55	59	70
They would not mind	16	15	15	9
I don't know what they would think	20	30	25	21
<i>Base</i>	80	98	178	4711

Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol

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

	Total %
Yes, always	10
Yes, sometimes	72
No, never	18
<i>Base</i>	921

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13	Age 15	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	72	84	78
No	20	12	16
Don't know	7	4	6
<i>Base</i>	455	459	914

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: 22% 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. Five percent (5%) of thirteen year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 20% of fifteen year olds. Prevalence of drug use in Aberdeenshire is not significantly different from the prevalence found nationally (national figures: 8% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds). Girls reported a slightly lower prevalence of drug use in the month prior to the survey than boys (15% of boys and 11% of girls had used drugs in the last month), but this difference is not statistically significant (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

5.2 Drug use in the year prior to the survey

Twenty percent (20%) of pupils 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; 18% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The reported use of other types of drugs was much lower; 6% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 3% 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

Forty five percent of all pupils (45%) had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 59% of 15 year old pupils and 29% of 13 year old pupils reported that they had been offered drugs. The proportion of pupils offered drugs was not significantly different from that reported nationally for either age group (national figures: 65% of 15 year olds and 34% of 13 year olds reported being offered drugs). Reflecting national patterns, girls were significantly less likely to have been offered drugs than boys: 39% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 51% of boys. The prevalence of girls reporting that they had been offered drugs was significantly lower than that reported nationally (national figure:

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 1% included it among the drugs they had been offered.

47%). The most commonly offered drug type was cannabis: 37% of pupils reported that they had been offered this drug. (Tables 5.5 to 5.8).

5.4 Frequency of drug use

Five percent (5%) 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 8% of fifteen year old pupils and 2% of girls and 7% of boys reported this). Reported prevalence of weekly drug taking is not significantly different from reported national prevalence in either age group or gender (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

5.5 Money spent on drugs

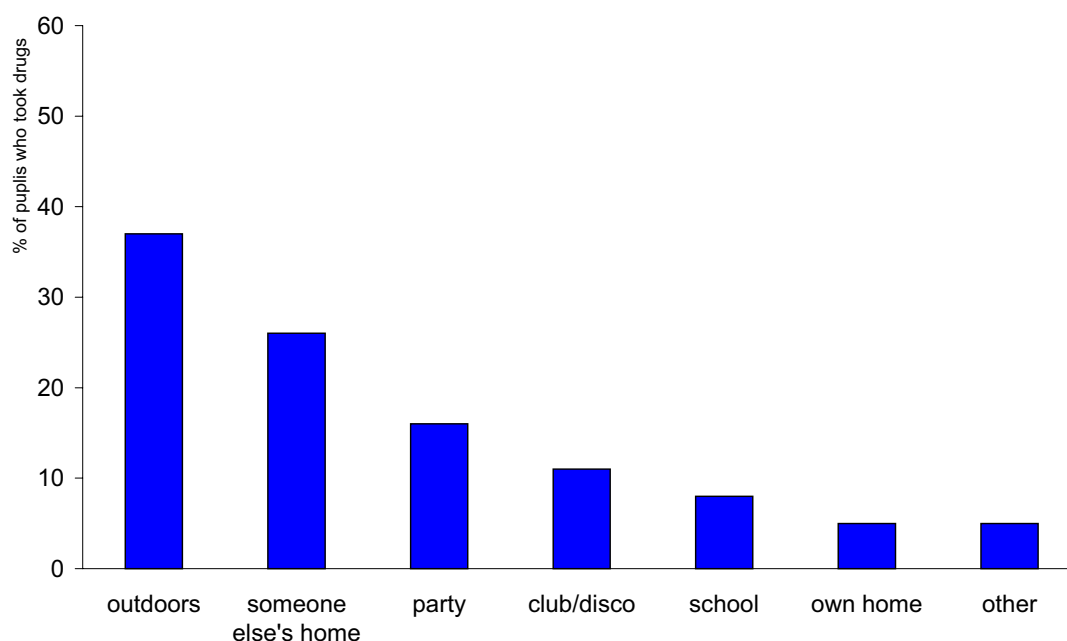
Sixty four (64%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £9.00 per week.

5.6 Where young people are when they use drugs

Pupils who had 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' (37%). The next most reported location was 'someone else's home' (26%) (Tables 5.11 and 5.12, Figure 5.1).

Thirty seven percent (37%) 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: Aberdeenshire 2002.



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

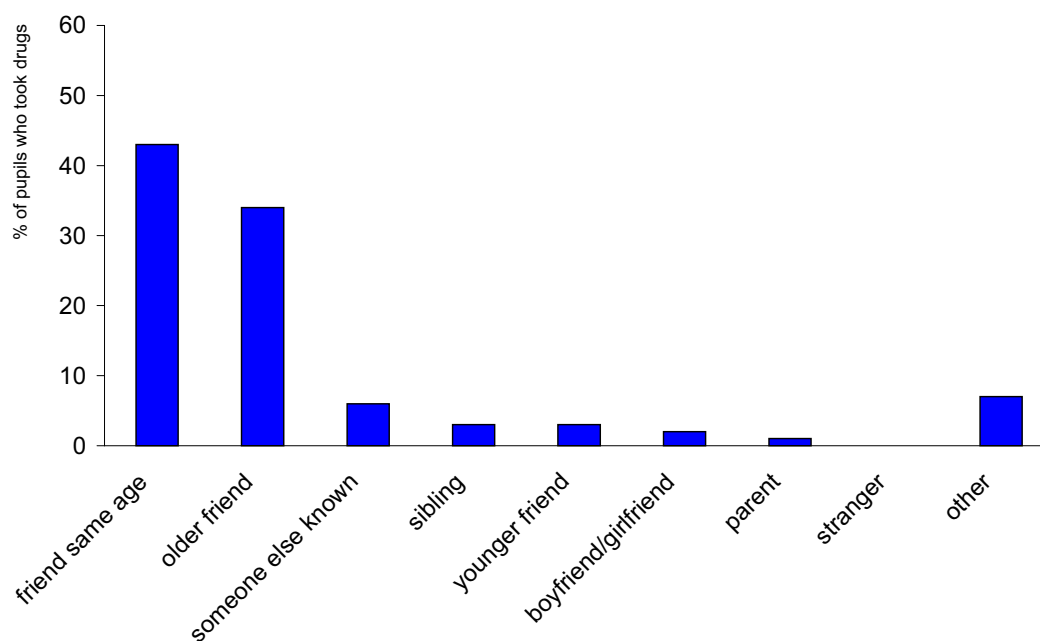
5.7 Availability of drugs

Half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (50%) 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 15 year olds reported that they would find it 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' (65%) than 13 year old pupils (36%) (Tables 5.14 and 5.15).

5.8 Source of drugs last used

Pupils who had 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; 43% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from a friend of the same age and a further 34% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: Aberdeenshire 2002



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Half (50%) of the pupils who took drugs reported that they gave some drugs away last time they used drugs. Fewer pupils (7%) 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 (95%), although 73% 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 three percent (73%) reported that they knew where to get information (**Table 5.24**). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (51%), 'the Internet' (36%), 'telephone helpline' (34%), 'teacher' (34%) and 'friends' (33%) (**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 (75%) 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' (81%), 'heroin is addictive' (72%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (70%), although 26% did not know whether heroin is addictive and 28% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Around half of pupils (47%) agreed that 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis' and 48% reported that they did not know whether this was the case. More than half (59%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults tell us about drugs is true'.

Although 57% of pupils agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', the same proportion (57%) 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'; 66% of pupils agreed with this statement. Just under half (47%) of pupils agreed that 'people who take heroin are junkies'.

Three of the statements concerned possible reasons for drug taking: 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality', 'people take drugs to relax' and 'taking drugs is exciting'. Very few pupils (14%) agreed that 'taking drugs is exciting'. Around half agreed with the statements 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' (44%) and 'people take drugs to relax' (50%), but with regard to these last two statements over a third of pupils reported that they 'don't know' whether this was the case (40% and 35% respectively).

Sixty two percent (62%) agreed that 'people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 28% 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: 78% of 13 year olds and 87% of 15 year olds. However, 15% of 13 year olds and 10% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 7% of 13 year olds and 3% 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 in the last 12 months: 36% of 13 year olds and 52% of 15 year olds. Forty six percent (46%) of 13 year olds and 35% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 18% of 13 year olds and 14% of 15 year olds reported that 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, 22% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 50% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	5	20	13	15
Used drugs in last year*	9	31	20	22
Used drugs ever	10	33	22	25
<i>Base</i>	502	420	922	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: Aberdeenshire 2002

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in past month	15	11	13	15
Used drugs in past year*	22	18	20	22
Used drugs ever	24	19	22	25
<i>Base</i>	449	473	922	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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	7	30	18	20
Stimulants	3	9	6	6
cocaine	1	2	1	1
crack	1	0	1	1
ecstasy	1	3	2	3
amphetamines	0	3	2	2
poppers	2	6	4	3
Psychedelics	1	3	2	2
LSD		1	0	1
magic mushrooms	1	2	1	2
Opiates	0	1	1	1
heroin	0	1	1	1
methadone	-	-	-	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	3	4	3	4
Tranquillisers	0	2	1	2
Anabolic Steroids	0	0	0	0
Semeron	-	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
<i>Base</i>	512	429	941	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:
Aberdeenshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	21	16	18	20
Stimulants	6	5	6	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	0	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	2	2	2	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	2	1	2	2
<i>poppers</i>	4	4	4	3
Psychedelics	2	2	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	0	0	0	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	1	1	2
Opiates	1	0	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	0	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	-	-	-	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	4	3	3	4
Tranquillisers	1	1	1	2
Anabolic Steroids	0	0	0	0
Semeron	0	1	0	0
Other	0	-	0	0
Base	461	480	941	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:
Aberdeenshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	29	59	45
No	71	41	55
Base	444	402	846

Base= All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	51	39	45
No	49	61	55
Base	418	428	846

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	20	54	37	42
Stimulants	9	25	17	19
<i>cocaine</i>	3	7	5	6
<i>crack</i>	2	4	3	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	3	14	9	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	2	11	7	7
<i>poppers</i>	6	14	10	9
Psychedelics	3	15	9	10
<i>LSD</i>	1	4	2	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	3	13	8	8
Opiates	4	5	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>methadone</i>	1	1	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	7	15	11	12
Tranquillisers	1	6	4	6
Anabolic Steroids	1	2	2	2
Semeron	1	1	1	1
Other	1	1	1	1
<i>Base</i>	500	421	921	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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	43	32	37	42
Stimulants	18	16	17	19
<i>cocaine</i>	5	4	5	6
<i>crack</i>	3	3	3	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	8	9	9	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	7	6	7	7
<i>poppers</i>	11	9	10	9
Psychedelics	11	8	9	10
<i>LSD</i>	2	3	2	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	10	6	8	8
Opiates	5	5	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	1	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	11	11	11	12
Tranquillisers	4	4	4	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	2	2	2
Semeron	0	1	1	1
Other	1	1	1	1
<i>Base</i>	449	472	921	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:
Aberdeenshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	1	8	5	5
Once or twice a month	2	6	4	4
A few times a year	2	6	4	5
Do not use drugs	94	81	88	86
<i>Base</i>	506	421	927	22532

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	7	2	5	5
Once or twice a month	4	4	4	4
A few times a year	5	4	4	5
Do not use drugs	85	90	88	86
<i>Base</i>	453	474	927	22532

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	43	34	37
Someone else's home	14	30	26
At party	11	19	16
At club/disco	11	11	11
At school	5	9	8
Own home	5	5	5
Other place	5	5	5
<i>Base</i>	65	151	216

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	42	30	37
Someone else's home	22	30	26
At party	13	21	16
At club/disco	9	14	11
At school	7	8	8
Own home	7	3	5
Other place	5	4	5
<i>Base</i>	121	95	216

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	37	39
No	63	61
<i>Base</i>	196	5544

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	14	30	22
Fairly easy	22	35	28
Fairly difficult	6	4	5
Very difficult	3	2	2
Impossible	6	1	4
Don't know	49	27	38
<i>Base</i>	505	420	925

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	28	17	22
Fairly easy	26	31	28
Fairly difficult	6	5	5
Very difficult	2	3	2
Impossible	3	4	4
Don't know	35	40	38
<i>Base</i>	452	473	925

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Friend of own age	31	48	43
Older friend	35	34	34
Someone known	8	5	6
Brother or sister	2	4	3
Younger friend	-	4	3
Boyfriend/girlfriend	2	3	2
Mother/father	2	1	1
Stranger	-	1	0
Other	6	8	7
<i>Base</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>216</i>

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Friend of own age	41	46	43
Older friend	32	37	34
Someone known	6	5	6
Brother or sister	4	2	3
Younger friend	4	2	3
Boyfriend/girlfriend	-	5	2
Mother/father	2	1	1
Stranger	1	-	0
Other	8	6	7
<i>Base</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>216</i>

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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Use it all myself	52	41	44
Sold some of it	4	7	7
Gave some of it away	43	51	50
<i>Base</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>180</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Use it all myself	49	37	44
Sold some of it	7	6	7
Gave some of it away	44	56	50
<i>Base</i>	100	80	180

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	21	17	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	21	27	26	20
Would not like to give up	24	35	32	39
Not sure	34	21	24	26
<i>Base</i>	29	81	110	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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	14	24	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	23	30	26	20
Would not like to give up	38	25	32	39
Not sure	26	22	24	26
<i>Base</i>	65	45	110	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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Total %
Yes	5
No	95
<i>Base</i>	110

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 : Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Total %
Yes	73
No	27
<i>Base</i>	<i>110</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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Total %
Yes	73
No	11
Don't know	16
<i>Base</i>	<i>925</i>

Base=All pupils

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

	Total %
Doctor	51
Internet/web	36
Telephone helpline	34
Teacher	34
Friends	33
Advice organisation	25
Female family member	25
Male family member	18
Drop-in centre	18
Books	18
Magazines	15
Youth worker	11
Councillor	11
TV/radio	8
<i>Base</i>	<i>668</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: Aberdeenshire 2002.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	92	5	4	924
Taking cocaine is dangerous	81	3	16	920
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	75	14	11	920
Heroin is addictive	72	2	26	921
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	70	2	28	921
People my age who take drugs need help	66	19	16	923
People who sell drugs should be punished	62	22	16	922
What adults tell us about drugs is true	59	15	26	920
Most young people will try out drugs	57	23	21	924
People who take drugs are stupid	57	28	15	919
People take drugs to relax	50	15	35	917
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	47	5	48	922
People who take heroin are junkies	47	23	29	921
People take drugs to escape from reality	44	16	40	920
People who take drugs should be punished	28	49	23	923
Taking drugs is exciting	14	53	33	923

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	78	87	83
No	15	10	12
Don't know	7	3	5
<i>Base</i>	457	458	915

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	36	52	44
No	46	35	40
Don't know	18	14	16
<i>Base</i>	455	461	916

Base= All pupils

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

	Total %
Very useful	22
Fairly useful	50
Not very useful	14
Not useful at all	5
Don't know	8
<i>Base</i>	788

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) where independent schools were sampled, and school year (S2 or S4). In Aberdeenshire there was a higher response rate in S2 pupils (54% of Aberdeenshire sample) compared with S4 pupils (46% of Aberdeenshire 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