

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

## **SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE AMONG 13 AND 15 YEAR OLDS IN ARGYLL AND BUTE, 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 Argyll and Bute:

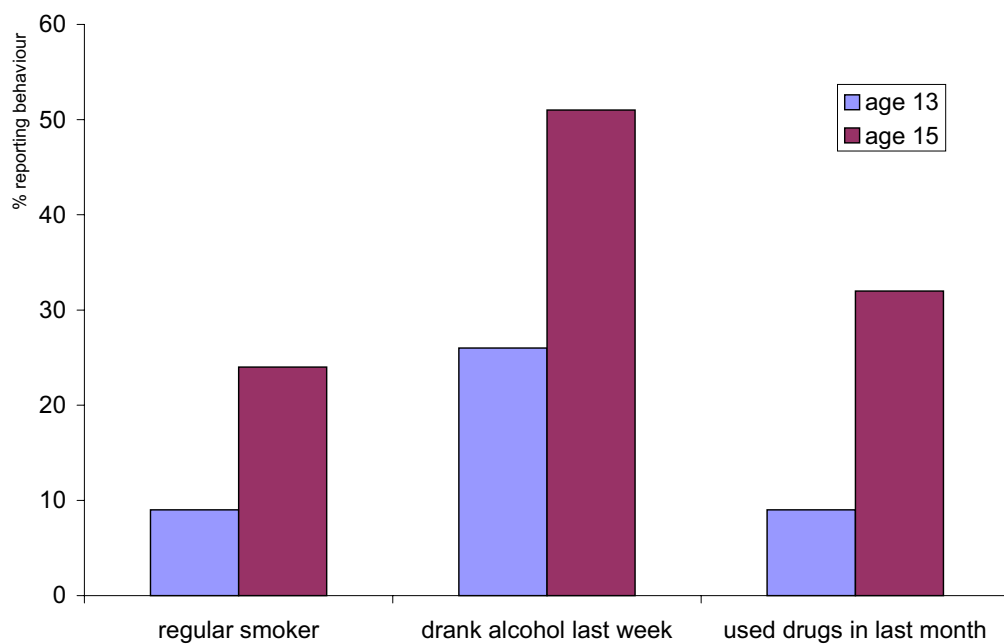
- € 9% of 13 year olds and 24% of 15 year olds were regular smokers<sup>1</sup>
- € Prevalence of regular smoking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- € 26% of 13 year olds and 51% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- € Prevalence of drinking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- € 9% of 13 year olds and 32% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey
- € Prevalence of drug use in 15 year olds was significantly higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- € The differences in smoking, drinking and drug use between boys and girls in Argyll and Bute were not statistically significant.
- € 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 Argyll and Bute in 2002.

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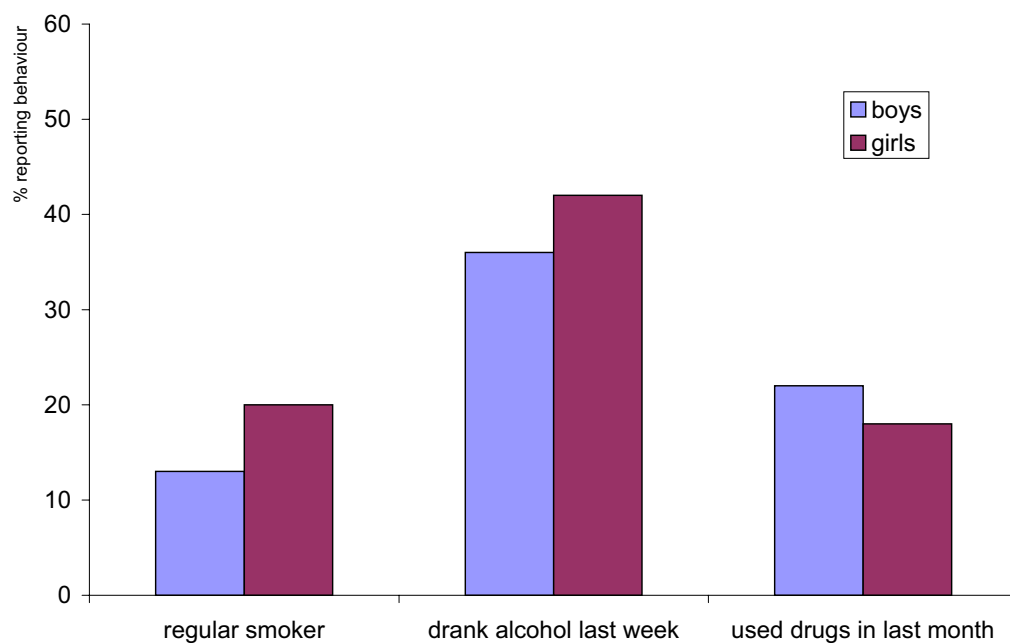
<sup>1</sup> regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

**Figure 1.1: Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by age group: Argyll and Bute 2002.**



(Source: tables 3.1, 4.3, 5.1)

**Figure 1.2: Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by gender: Argyll and Bute 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 Argyll and Bute 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 2002<sup>1</sup> 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 1982<sup>2</sup> 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 Group<sup>3</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> The SALSUS Interim Report can be accessed on-line  
[http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus\\_interim02.htm](http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus_interim02.htm)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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) survey<sup>1</sup> 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 2002<sup>2</sup>. 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.<sup>3</sup>

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 Argyll and Bute was designed to have a final sample size of 780 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 37% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study. Of the 11 schools which were asked to participate 8 schools (73%) agreed to take part in the study.

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<sup>1</sup> 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/>

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 44 classes in Argyll and Bute were selected to participate, and 18 classes (41%) took part. The overall pupil response rate within classes was 94%. The main reason for pupil non-response was absence due to illness. The final survey response in Argyll and Bute, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 38%. This is lower than the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 338 pupils, 16.2% of the target population in Argyll and Bute.

## **3 Smoking**

### **3.1 Smoking prevalence**

In Argyll and Bute, reported prevalence of regular smoking<sup>1</sup> increased significantly with age. In 2002, 9% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 24% of 15 year olds. For both age groups the reported prevalence in Argyll and Bute was not significantly different from the national prevalence of regular smoking (national figures: 8% for 13 year olds and 20% for 15 year olds). Just under half of 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (49%), compared with 35% of 15 year olds.

Again, reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls than boys in Argyll and Bute; 20% of girls and 13% of boys were regular smokers. However, this difference was 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. Thirteen year olds reported smoking an average of 37 per week, and 15 year olds reported an average of 44 per week. Boys who were regular smokers reported smoking significantly higher numbers of cigarettes per week than girls (55 per week for boys and 30 per week for girls).

### **3.3 Money spent on cigarettes**

Almost all regular smokers (95%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £10.00 a week.

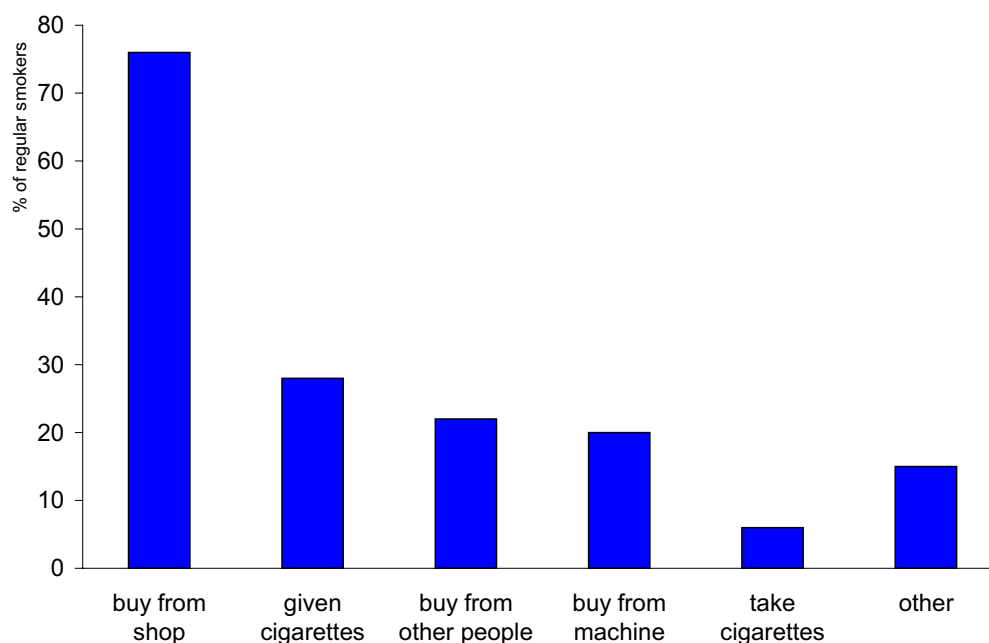
### **3.4 Where pupils obtain cigarettes**

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 (76%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, 20% bought them from machines and 22% reported buying them from other people. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, 28% of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 6% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 15% of pupils reported that they obtained their cigarettes some other way (**Tables 3.3 and 3.4, Figure 3.1**).

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<sup>1</sup> regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

**Figure 3.1: Source of cigarettes: Argyll and Bute 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 (76%) of regular smokers reported that they would like to give up smoking and 69% had tried to give up at some time. Thirty eight percent (38%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 33% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (73% 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 one year or less: 48% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 12% of pupils who had smoked regularly for one year or less (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 three percent (73%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Just under three quarters (74%) 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: 58% of regular smokers compared with 43% of non-smokers, however this difference was not statistically significant. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 44% of regular smokers, compared with 15% of non-smokers (**Tables 3.11 and 3.12**).

Regular smokers were also more likely to have friends who smoked: 32% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 6% of non-smokers. Just over half (51%) of non-smokers 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 had seen adverts on posters or billboards (68%) and in magazines (67%). Around half of pupils (54%) reported seeing adverts on television and in newspapers (45%). Fewer reported seeing adverts at the cinema (16%) (**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: 68% of 13 year olds and 67% of 15 year olds. However, 27% of 13 year olds and 21% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 5% of 13 year olds and 12% 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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	9	24	16	14
Occasional smoker	5	3	4	5
Used to smoke	14	17	16	13
Tried smoking once	23	21	22	23
Never smoked	49	35	42	45
<i>Base</i>	222	108	330	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	13	20	16	14
Occasional smoker	2	7	4	5
Used to smoke	14	18	16	13
Tried smoking once	23	20	22	23
Never smoked	47	36	42	45
<i>Base</i>	182	148	330	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	47	87	76
Given cigarettes	32	27	28
Buy from other people	32	18	22
Buy from machine	16	21	20
Take cigarettes	11	4	6
Get cigarettes some other way	42	4	15
<i>Base</i>	19	24	43

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	74	77	76
Given cigarettes	39	19	28
Buy from other people	32	13	22
Buy from machine	42	-	20
Take cigarettes	3	9	6
Get cigarettes some other way	13	17	15
<i>Base</i>	19	24	43

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	76
Would not like to give up smoking	24
<i>Base</i>	39

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.6: Whether regular smokers have ever tried to give up smoking: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	69
Has not tried to give up smoking	31
<i>Base</i>	40

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
One year or less	27
More than a year	73
<i>Base</i>	40

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.8: Ease of giving up smoking by length of time smoking: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	12	48	38	32
Fairly difficult	35	32	33	36
Fairly easy	30	13	18	21
Very easy	23	7	11	11
<i>Base</i>	12	27	39	2868

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.9: Perception of family attitude to pupil's smoking, by smoking status: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	34	43	57	52	54
Persuade me not to	39	37	34	35	35
Do nothing	13	10	-	2	3
Encourage me	7	-	-	1	0
Not sure	7	10	10	9	7
<i>Base</i>	38	10	242	297	19279

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.10: Whether regular smokers are allowed to smoke at home: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	21
Not allowed to smoke at home	74
Don't know	5
<i>Base</i>	37

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.11: Parents' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	42	37	53
At least one parent smokes daily	58	56	43
Does not see either parent	-	6	4
<i>Base</i>	40	15	263

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.12: Siblings' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	53	73	75
At least one sibling smokes daily	44	15	15
Does not have siblings	3	12	10
<i>Base</i>	38	13	249

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.13: Friends smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	32	13	6
More than half	51	21	7
Half	6	13	10
Less than half	9	41	26
Almost none	2	13	34
None	-	-	17
<i>Base</i>	42	15	269

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.14: Whether pupils have seen cigarette advertising:  
Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	<b>Yes %</b>	<b>No %</b>	<b>Don't know %</b>	<b>Base</b>
On posters/billboards	68	23	9	307
In magazines	67	25	8	304
On television	54	33	13	310
In newspapers	45	37	18	298
At the cinema	16	62	21	295

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Age 13 %</b>	<b>Age 15 %</b>	<b>Total %</b>
Yes	68	67	68
No	27	21	24
Don't know	5	12	8
<i>Base</i>	201	106	307

*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. Three quarters (75%) of 13 year olds and 90% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink. For neither age group was the reported prevalence in Argyll & Bute significantly different from the national prevalence of alcohol use (national figures: 69% for 13 year olds and 88% for 15 year olds) (**Table 4.1**).

Just over half (51%) of 15 year olds and 26% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, again a significant increase in prevalence with age. Prevalence of drinking in the last week was not significantly different from the reported national figures for either age group (national figures: 23% of 13 year olds reported drinking in the week before the survey compared with 46% of 15 year olds). 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; 18% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared to 39% of 15 year old pupils. For neither age group was the prevalence of weekly drinking significantly different from that reported nationally (national figures: 17% of 13 year olds and 38% of 15 year olds reported drinking weekly). There was no significant difference between boys and girls in the proportion of pupils reporting that they drank at least once a week (**Tables 4.5 and 4.6**).

### 4.3 Money spent on alcohol

Of all pupils who drank weekly, just over half (55%) reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £8.00 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 drink<sup>1</sup>. There were significant differences between boys and girls in the types of alcohol drunk. For boys 'beer, lager or cider' were most commonly reported: 55% of boys who had drunk alcohol in the last week had consumed half a pint or more of beer, lager or cider. Half (50%) of the boys reported that they had drunk spirits and 49% had drunk alcopops. For girls, 'alcopops' were most commonly reported: 64% had drunk alcopops in the last week. Fifty nine percent (59%) of girls reported that they had drunk spirits in the last week (**Table 4.8**).

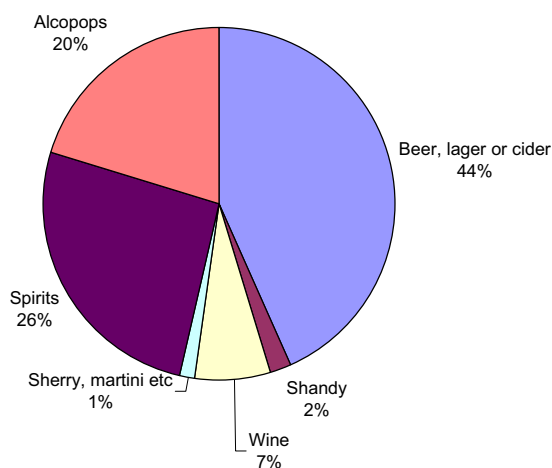
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<sup>1</sup> Pupils were asked about the following types of drink: beer, lager or cider, shandy, wine, martini and sherry, spirits and liqueurs, alcopops and pre-mixed alcoholic drinks.

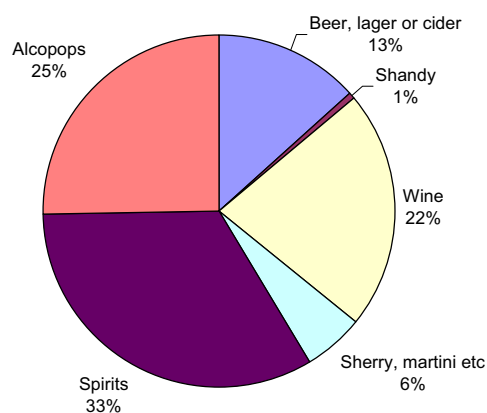
## 4.5 Average amount of alcohol consumed weekly

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 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., 2001<sup>1</sup>). Boys who drank over the previous seven days consumed on average 12 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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**



**Figure 4.2: Type of alcohol drunk by girls in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

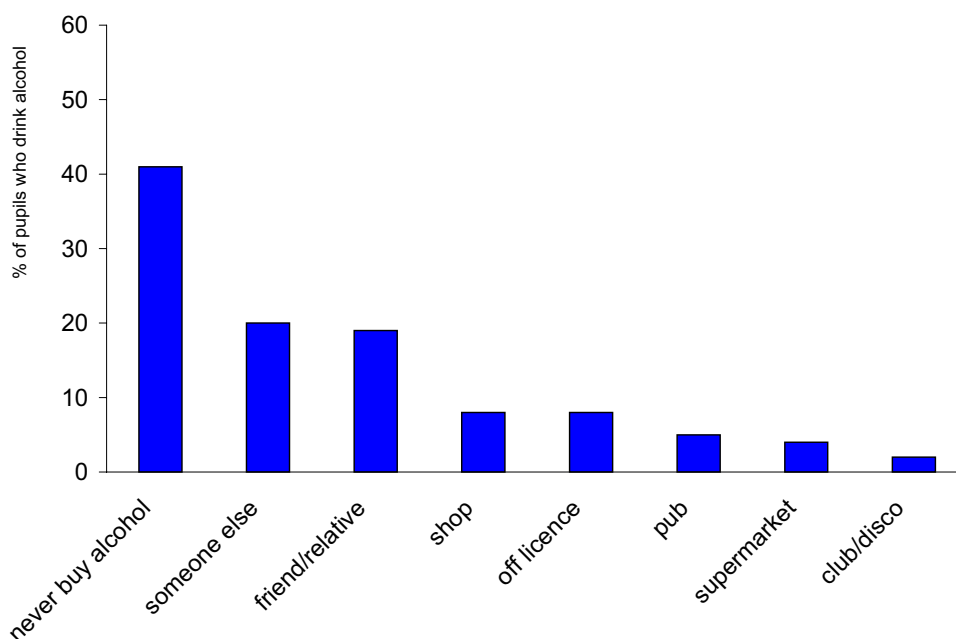


<sup>1</sup> Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

## 4.6 Availability of alcohol

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Almost half (41%) of those who had had an alcoholic drink reported that they 'never buy alcohol'. Other pupils reported more than one source. The most common sources for purchasing alcohol by pupils in Argyll and Bute were from someone else (20%) or from a friend or relative (19%) (Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).

**Figure 4.3: Sources for obtaining alcohol, all pupils who had had an alcoholic drink: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

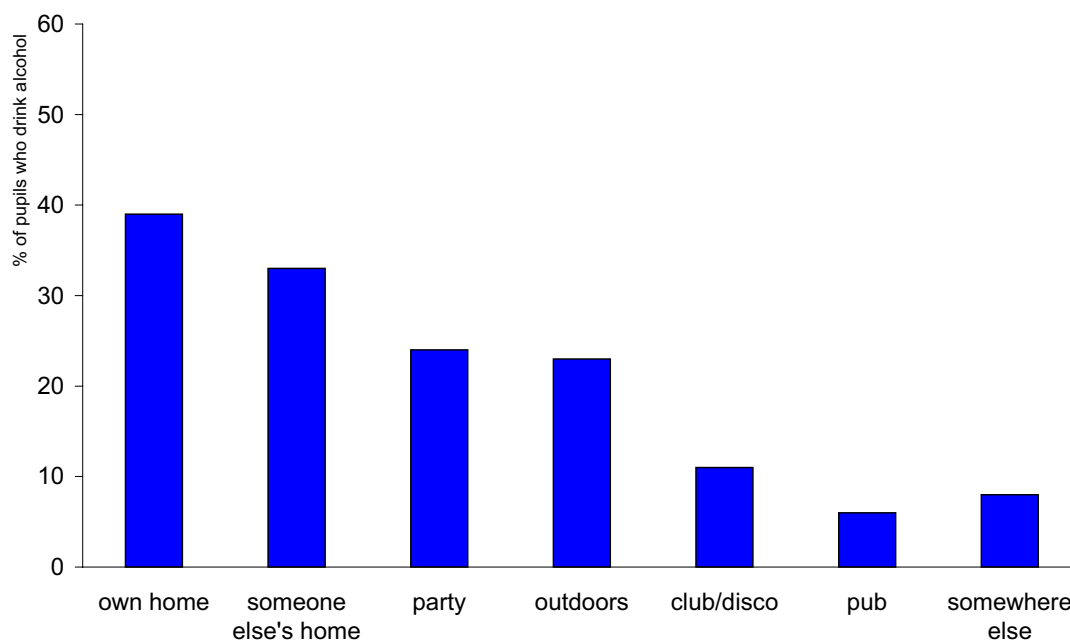


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

## 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 most frequently reported locations for drinking alcohol were in the pupil's own home (39%) or someone else's home (33%) (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: Argyll and Bute 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, 62% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Fourteen percent (14%) had been drunk once, 18% had been drunk 2-3 times, 13% had been drunk 4-10 times and 17% 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 (44%) reported that they had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past 30 days and 11% 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 20% of all 13 and 15 year olds.

Some pupils had been involved in other risk behaviours as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Twenty percent (20%) had tried drugs. Ten percent (10%) of all 15

year olds (10% of boys and 11% 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 family felt about them drinking alcohol. Twenty two (22%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their family did not know that they drank, just under half (44%) reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 17% reported that their families did not like them drinking and 17% reported that they did not know what their families thought (**Table 4.19 and 4.20**).

Pupils who had never had an alcoholic drink (18% of all pupils) were asked how their families would feel if they started drinking. Sixty six percent (66%) 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; 66% of 13 year olds and 71% of 15 year olds. However, 27% of 13 year olds and 17% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 7% of 13 year olds and 11% 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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	75	90	82	78
No	25	10	18	22
<i>Base</i>	221	111	332	22850

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 4.2: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by gender: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	77	89	82	78
No	23	11	18	22
<i>Base</i>	184	148	332	22850

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 4.3: Last occasion of drinking, by age group Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	26	51	38	35
One to four weeks ago	16	13	15	16
One to six months ago	21	14	17	18
More than six months ago	12	11	12	10
Never	25	10	18	22
<i>Base</i>	218	111	329	22617

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.4: Last occasion of drinking, by gender: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	36	42	38	35
One to four weeks ago	15	14	15	16
One to six months ago	15	20	17	18
More than six months ago	11	13	12	10
Never	23	11	18	22
<i>Base</i>	184	145	329	22617

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.5: Usual drinking frequency, by age group: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	18	39	28	27
About once a fortnight	10	6	8	12
About once a month	14	18	16	12
Only a few times a year	32	27	30	27
Never	25	10	18	22
<i>Base</i>	220	111	331	22754

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.6: Usual drinking frequency, by gender: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	28	28	28	27
About once a fortnight	8	9	8	12
About once a month	16	16	16	12
Only a few times a year	25	36	30	27
Never	23	11	18	22
<i>Base</i>	184	147	331	22754

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.7: Type of drinks consumed in last seven days, by age group: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	30	44	39
Shandy	17	4	8
Wine	35	23	27
Martini, sherry etc.	13	4	7
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	43	60	54
Alcopops	56	56	56
<i>Base</i>	54	59	113

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Beer, lager or cider	55	22	39
Shandy	14	1	8
Wine	24	31	27
Martini, sherry etc.	2	12	7
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	50	59	54
Alcopops	49	64	56
<i>Base</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>113</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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	<b>Age 13</b>	<b>Age 15</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	53	29	41
Buy alcohol from someone else	18	22	20
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	14	24	19
Buy alcohol in off licence	2	14	8
Buy alcohol from shop	5	11	8
Buy alcohol in pub	-	10	5
Buy alcohol from supermarket	2	5	4
Buy alcohol in club	1	2	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>271</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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	41	40	41
Buy alcohol from someone else	19	21	20
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	17	21	19
Buy alcohol in off licence	10	7	8
Buy alcohol from shop	9	7	8
Buy alcohol in pub	4	6	5
Buy alcohol from supermarket	3	5	4
Buy alcohol in club	3	-	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>271</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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	46	33	39
Usually drink in someone else's home	21	44	33
Usually drink at a party with friends	17	31	24
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	24	22	23
Usually drink in club/disco	8	15	11
Usually drink in pub	2	9	6
Usually drink somewhere else	10	7	8
<b>Base</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>271</b>

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	41	37	39
Usually drink in someone else's home	28	38	33
Usually drink at a party with friends	21	28	24
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	21	26	23
Usually drink in club/disco	9	14	11
Usually drink in pub	5	6	6
Usually drink somewhere else	10	6	8
<b>Base</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>271</b>

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	48	28	38	32
Once	18	9	14	19
2-3 times	13	23	18	22
4-10 times	13	14	13	13
More than 10 times	7	26	17	14
<b>Base</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>17723</b>

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.14: Ever been drunk, by gender: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	35	40	38	32
Once	11	17	14	19
2-3 times	23	13	18	22
4-10 times	12	15	13	13
More than 10 times	18	16	17	14
<i>Base</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>263</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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	7	15	11	13
3 times	7	6	7	9
Twice	6	16	12	13
Once	11	17	14	14
Not in last 30 days	27	27	27	23
Never	41	19	29	28
<i>Base</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>256</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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	12	11	11	13
3 times	7	6	7	9
Twice	13	11	12	13
Once	13	16	14	14
Not in last 30 days	25	30	27	23
Never	31	27	29	28
<i>Base</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>17615</i>

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.17: Effects of drinking too much alcohol, by age group: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	32	46	39
Had an argument or fight	16	24	20
Tried any drugs	9	25	20
Stayed off school	13	7	10
Had unprotected sex*	-	10	10
Injured and seen by doctor	6	3	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	4	-	2
Visited A & E department	3	-	1
<i>Base</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>257</i>

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	37	42	39
Had an argument or fight	15	27	20
Tried any drugs	18	23	20
Stayed off school	9	10	10
Had unprotected sex*	10	11	10
Injured and seen by doctor	6	2	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	2	1	2
Visited A & E department	2	1	1
<i>Base</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>257</i>

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	17	18	17	16
They don't mind	33	49	44	45
They don't know I drink	23	22	22	27
I don't know what they think	27	12	17	12
<i>Base</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>7469</i>

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	14	21	17	16
They don't mind	51	36	44	45
They don't know I drink	21	24	22	27
I don't know what they think	15	19	17	12
<i>Base</i>	48	55	103	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	66	65	66	70
They would not mind	4	11	6	9
I don't know what they would think	30	25	29	21
<i>Base</i>	53	10	63	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	58	86	66	70
They would not mind	8	-	6	9
I don't know what they would think	34	14	29	21
<i>Base</i>	44	19	63	4711

*Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.23: Whether pupils are allowed to drink alcohol at home: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Yes, always	9
Yes, sometimes	70
No, never	21
<i>Base</i>	327

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	66	71	69
No	27	17	22
Don't know	7	11	9
<i>Base</i>	200	107	307

*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'<sup>1</sup> 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: 28% 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. Nine percent (9%) of 13 year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 32% of 15 year olds. Prevalence of drug use in 15 year olds was significantly higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group (national figure 23%). However, prevalence of drug use in 13 year olds was not significantly different from the national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 8%). There was no significant gender difference in reporting of drug use in the last month (22% of boys and 18% of girls had used drugs in the last month) (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

### 5.2 Drug use in the year prior to the survey

Twenty seven (27%) 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, 25% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The figures were much lower for other types of drugs; 6% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 6% had used solvents, 4% 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: 62% of 15 year old pupils and 33% 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).

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<sup>1</sup> '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.

There was no significant gender difference in pupils reporting being offered drugs (45% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 49% 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).

#### 5.4 Frequency of drug use

Six percent (6%) of pupils reported that they usually take drugs once a week or more, 2% of 13 year old pupils and 10% of 15 year old pupils. Reported prevalence of weekly drug taking was not significantly different from reported national prevalence in either age group. There was no significant gender difference in weekly drug use (3% of girls and 8% of boys reported using drugs once a week or more) (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

#### 5.5 Money spent on drugs

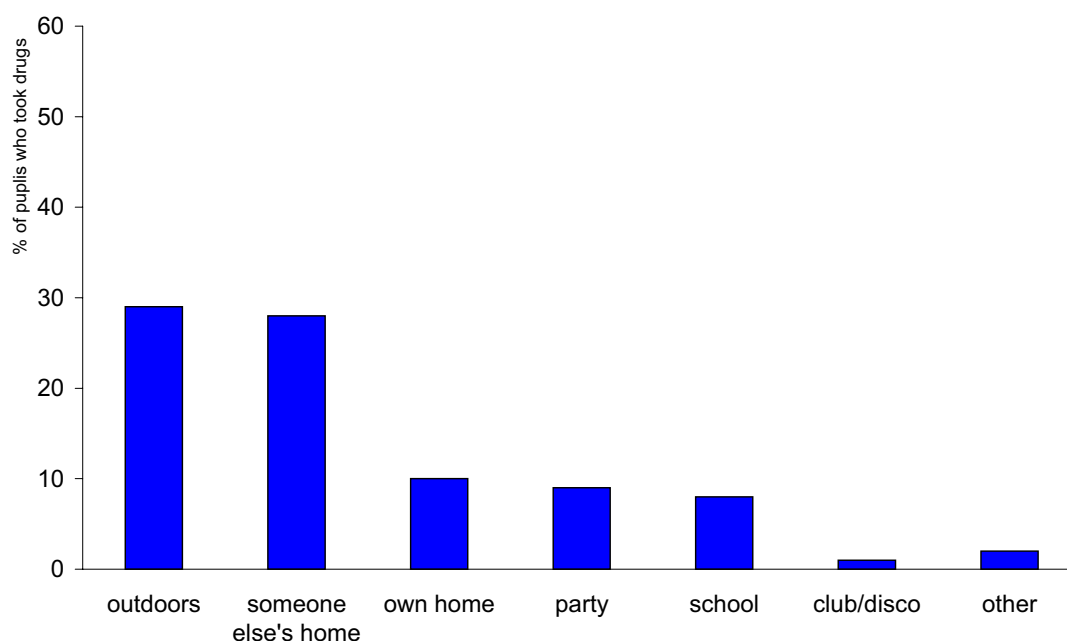
Just over half (57%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £8.00 per week.

#### 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' (29%). The next most reported location was 'someone else's home' (28%) (Tables 5.11 and 5.12, Figure 5.1).

Thirty two percent (32%) 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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

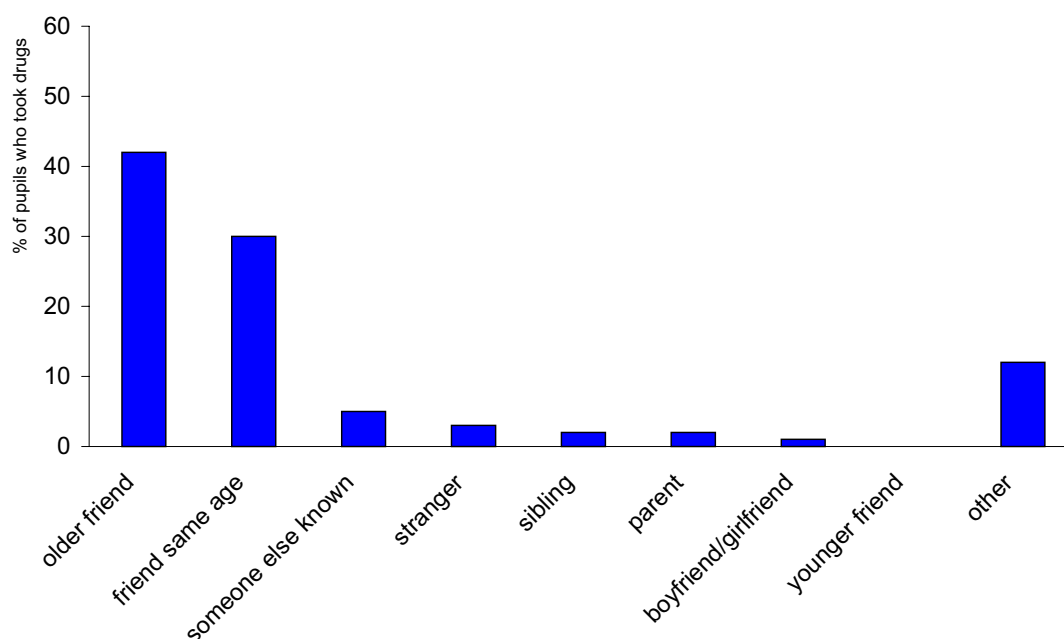
## 5.7 Availability of drugs

Just over half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (52%) reported that it would be 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' to get drugs while 34% 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' (69%) than 13 year old pupils (36%) (Tables 5.14 and 5.15).

## 5.8 Source of drugs 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; 42% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from an older friend and 30% reported that they obtained drugs from friend of the same age (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: Argyll and Bute 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Just under half (44%) of pupils who took drugs reported that they gave some drugs away last time they used drugs. Fewer pupils (5%) 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. Sixty five percent (65%) reported that they knew where to get information (**Table 5.24**). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (39%), 'the Internet' (37%) and 'friends' (32%) (**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. Just under three quarters of pupils (74%) agreed that they 'know enough about the dangers of drugs' and the majority (88%) agreed that 'taking drugs harms your health'.

Most pupils also agreed with the other statements about the dangers of drugs: 'taking cocaine is dangerous' (76%), 'heroin is addictive' (69%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (62%), although 28% did not know whether heroin was addictive and 34% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Half of all pupils (50%) agreed that 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis' and 46% reported that they did not know whether this was the case. Half (50%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults tell us about drugs is true'.

Although around two thirds of pupils (65%) agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', just over half (53%) 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 and advice'; 58% of pupils agreed with this statement. Just under half (43%) 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'. Twenty two percent (22%) agreed that 'taking drugs is exciting'. Around half agreed with the statements 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' (45%) and 'people take drugs to relax' (52%). However, 38% of pupils reported that they did not know whether 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' and 30% did not know whether 'people take drugs to relax'.

Just over half (56%) of all pupils agreed that 'all people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 23% agreed that 'all 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: 69% of 13 year olds and 72% of 15 year olds. However, 25% of 13 year olds and 18% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 6% of 13 year olds and 11% of 15 year olds reported that they 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. A third (33%) of 13 year olds and just under half (46%) of 15 year olds reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions in the last twelve months. However, 54% of 13 year olds and 38% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and the remaining 13% of 13 year olds and 16% 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, 20% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 47% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

#

**Table 5.1: Taken drugs in last month, last year\* or ever, by age group: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	9	32	20	15
Used drugs in last year*	14	40	27	22
Used drugs ever	15	41	28	25
<i>Base</i>	213	110	323	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	22	18	20	15
Used drugs in last year*	29	25	27	22
Used drugs ever	30	25	28	25
<i>Base</i>	177	146	323	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	11	39	25	20
Stimulants	2	11	6	6
<i>cocaine</i>	0	2	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	0	5	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	9	5	2
<i>poppers</i>	-	3	1	3
Psychedelics	3	5	4	2
<i>LSD</i>	0	3	2	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	4	3	2
Opiates	1	1	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	0	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	-	1	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	5	7	6	4
Tranquillisers	0	2	1	2
Anabolic Steroids	-	1	0	0
Semeron	-	1	0	0
Other	-	1	0	0
<i>Base</i>	227	111	338	23090

*Base=All pupils*

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

\* includes last 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:  
Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	26	23	25	20
Stimulants	7	5	6	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	3	2	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	6	3	5	2
<i>poppers</i>	3	-	1	3
Psychedelics	5	2	4	2
<i>LSD</i>	2	2	2	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	5	1	3	2
Opiates	1	1	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	-	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	8	4	6	4
Tranquillisers	1	2	1	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	-	0	0
Semeron	1	-	0	0
Other	1	-	0	0
<b>Base</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>23090</b>

*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:  
Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	33	62	47
No	67	38	53
<b>Base</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>294</b>

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 5.6: Whether pupils offered drugs, by gender:  
Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	49	45	47
No	51	55	53
<b>Base</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>294</b>

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 5.7: Type of drug offered, by age: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	26	57	41	42
Stimulants	6	30	17	19
<i>cocaine</i>	4	9	6	6
<i>crack</i>	3	4	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	2	17	10	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	20	11	7
<i>poppers</i>	1	8	4	9
Psychedelics	8	13	11	10
<i>LSD</i>	3	3	3	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	7	12	10	8
Opiates	3	7	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	2	7	4	4
<i>methadone</i>	1	1	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	11	20	16	12
Tranquillisers	3	4	4	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	2	2	2
Semeron	1	1	1	1
Other	2	4	3	1
<i>Base</i>	212	107	319	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	43	39	41	42
Stimulants	18	17	17	19
<i>cocaine</i>	5	7	6	6
<i>crack</i>	5	2	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	10	10	10	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	11	10	11	7
<i>poppers</i>	7	1	4	9
Psychedelics	11	10	11	10
<i>LSD</i>	3	3	3	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	11	8	10	8
Opiates	5	4	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	4	4	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	-	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	18	13	16	12
Tranquillisers	3	5	4	6
Anabolic Steroids	3	1	2	2
Semeron	2	-	1	1
Other	3	2	3	1
<i>Base</i>	177	142	319	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:  
Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	2	10	6	5
Once or twice a month	3	14	8	4
A few times a year	3	9	6	5
Do not use drugs	91	67	79	86
<i>Base</i>	215	108	323	22532

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.10: Usual frequency of taking drugs, by gender:  
Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	8	3	6	5
Once or twice a month	7	10	8	4
A few times a year	8	3	6	5
Do not use drugs	76	83	79	86
<i>Base</i>	177	146	323	22532

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.11: Places where drugs were used, by age group:  
Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	30	28	29
Someone else's home	19	33	28
Own home	2	14	10
At party	6	10	9
At school	4	9	8
At club/disco	2	-	1
Other place	3	1	2
<i>Base</i>	47	48	95

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	32	23	29
Someone else's home	23	37	28
Own home	12	6	10
At party	7	12	9
At school	10	4	8
At club/disco	1	-	1
Other place	1	2	2
<i>Base</i>	59	36	95

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	32	39
No	68	61
<i>Base</i>	79	5544

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.14: Ease of getting drugs, by age group: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	13	26	19
Fairly easy	23	43	33
Fairly difficult	8	4	6
Very difficult	2	0	1
Impossible	11	1	6
Don't know	43	25	34
<i>Base</i>	211	109	320

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.15 Ease of getting drugs, by gender: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	21	17	19
Fairly easy	29	39	33
Fairly difficult	6	7	6
Very difficult	1	2	1
Impossible	6	5	6
Don't know	37	30	34
<i>Base</i>	175	145	320

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.16: Source of drugs, by age group: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Older friend	31	47	42
Friend of own age	15	38	30
Someone known	9	3	5
Stranger	-	5	3
Brother or sister	2	2	2
Mother/father	-	2	2
Boyfriend/girlfriend	4	-	1
Younger friend	-	-	-
Other	21	7	12
<i>Base</i>	47	48	95

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Older friend	38	48	42
Friend of own age	27	35	30
Someone known	5	4	5
Stranger	2	4	3
Brother or sister	-	6	2
Mother/father	2	-	2
Boyfriend/girlfriend	-	4	1
Younger friend	-	-	-
Other	15	6	12
<i>Base</i>	59	36	95

*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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Used it all myself	41	54	50
Sold some of it	7	5	5
Gave some of it away	53	41	44
<i>Base</i>	30	44	74

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Used it all myself	49	53	50
Sold some of it	4	7	5
Gave some of it away	47	40	44
Base	46	28	74

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.20: Whether would like to stop taking drugs, by age group: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	12	20	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	6	10	9	20
Would not like to give up	59	51	52	39
Not sure	24	20	20	26
Base	17	33	50	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	16	22	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	12	4	9	20
Would not like to give up	53	51	52	39
Not sure	19	23	20	26
Base	30	20	50	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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	2
No	98
Base	51

*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 : Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	68
No	32
<i>Base</i>	<i>51</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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	65
No	16
Don't know	19
<i>Base</i>	<i>323</i>

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.25: Where pupils would go for information on drugs: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Doctor	39
Internet/web	37
Friends	32
Telephone helpline	28
Drop-in centre	20
Advice organisation	18
Magazines	17
Teacher	16
Female family member	16
Books	16
Male family member	14
Youth worker	11
TV/radio	11
Councillor	10
<i>Base</i>	<i>205</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: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	88	5	7	321
Taking cocaine is dangerous	76	7	18	316
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	74	15	11	321
Heroin is addictive	69	3	28	319
Most young people will try out drugs	65	17	18	320
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	62	3	34	313
People my age who take drugs need help	58	25	17	314
People who sell drugs should be punished	56	27	16	316
People who take drugs are stupid	53	29	18	312
People take drugs to relax	52	18	30	317
What adults tell us about drugs is true	50	19	31	315
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	50	4	46	317
People take drugs to escape from reality	45	16	38	314
People who take heroin are junkies	43	25	32	313
People who take drugs should be punished	23	54	23	313
Taking drugs is exciting	22	45	33	322

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	69	72	71
No	25	18	21
Don't know	6	11	8
<i>Base</i>	199	106	305

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	33	46	40
No	54	38	46
Don't know	13	16	15
<i>Base</i>	199	106	305

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 5.29: Whether pupils found lessons, videos or discussions on drugs useful: Argyll and Bute 2002.**

	Total %
Very useful	20
Fairly useful	47
Not very useful	14
Not useful at all	6
Don't know	14
<i>Base</i>	230

*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 Argyll and Bute there was a higher response rate in independently funded pupils (Independent school pupils comprised approximately 5% of the eligible target population, and 9% of the final sample). There was a higher response rate in S2 pupils (67% of Argyll and Bute sample) compared with S4 pupils (33% of Argyll and Bute 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 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 sub-groups for comparison purposes. Standard errors used to determine significance take account of the complex sample design<sup>1 2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Kish (1970) *Survey Sampling*, London: John Wiley

<sup>2</sup> SAS System for Windows 1999. Release 8, SAS Institute Inc. Cary, NC, USA