

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

## **SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE AMONG 13 AND 15 YEAR OLDS IN EAST RENFREWSHIRE, 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.

**Report prepared by:**

Candace Currie, Joan Fairgrieve, Dorothy Currie, Patricia Akhtar  
Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU), The University of  
Edinburgh



# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Summary of Findings .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Background to the Survey .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Smoking .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Drinking .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Drug Use.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Survey Design .....</b>	<b>44</b>

## 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 East Renfrewshire:

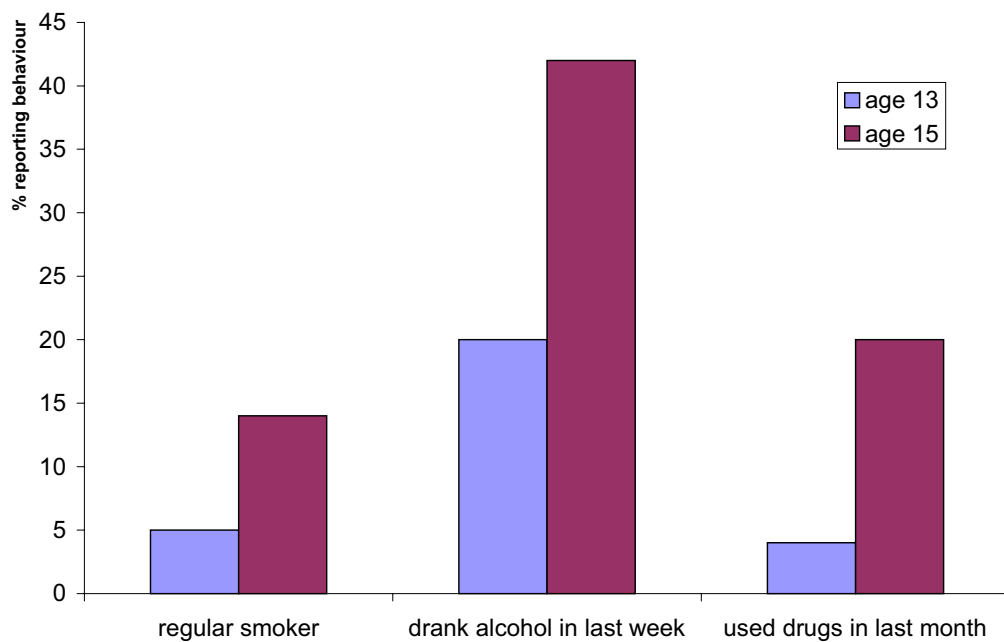
- € 5% of 13 year olds and 14% of 15 year olds were regular smokers<sup>1</sup>
- € Prevalence of regular smoking in 15 year olds was significantly lower than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- € 20% of 13 year olds and 42% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- € Prevalence of drinking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- € 4% of 13 year olds and 20% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey
- € Prevalence of drug use in 13 year olds was lower than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- € The differences in smoking, drinking and drug use between boys and girls in East Renfrewshire 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 East Renfrewshire in 2002.

---

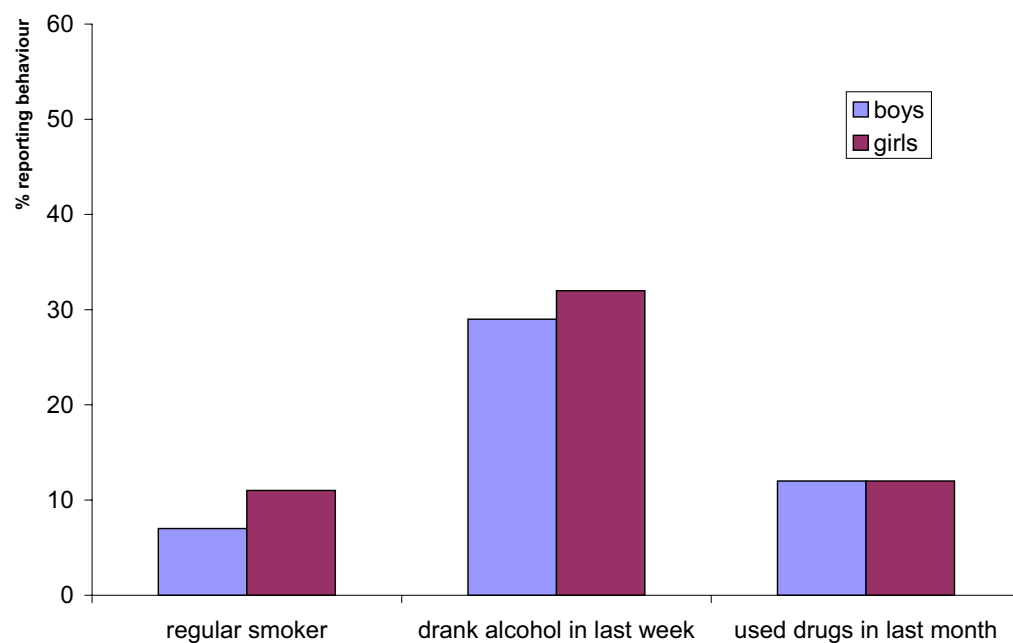
<sup>1</sup> regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

**Figure 1.1: Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by age group: East Renfrewshire 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: East Renfrewshire 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 East Renfrewshire 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

---

<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 East Renfrewshire was designed to have a final sample size of 800 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 29% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study. Of the 8 schools which were asked to participate 7 schools (88%) agreed to take part in the study.

---

<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 43 classes in East Renfrewshire were selected to participate, and 34 classes (79%) took part. The overall pupil response rate within classes was 91%. The main reason for pupil non-response was absence due to illness. The final survey response in East Renfrewshire, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 72%. This compares favourably with the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 689 pupils, 24.7% of the target population in East Renfrewshire.

## **3 Smoking**

### **3.1 Smoking prevalence**

In East Renfrewshire, reported prevalence of regular smoking<sup>1</sup> increased significantly with age. In 2002, 5% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 14% of 15 year olds. This reported prevalence of regular smoking in 15 year olds was significantly lower than the national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 20% for 15 year olds). However, prevalence of regular smoking in 13 year olds was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence (national figure: 8% for 13 year olds). Just over half of 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (53%), compared with 40% of 15 year olds.

Again, reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls than boys in East Renfrewshire; 11% of girls and 7% 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. Younger pupils who were regular smokers reported smoking fewer cigarettes per week than older pupils: an average of 15 per week for 13 year olds and 36 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 (93%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £8.00 a week.

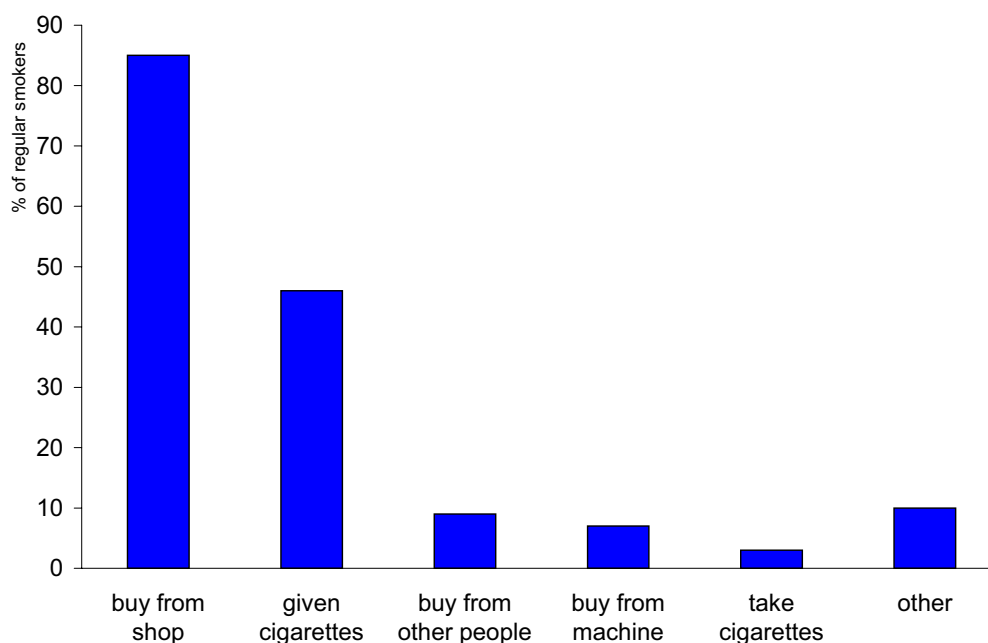
### **3.4 Where pupils obtain cigarettes**

Regular smokers were given a list of sources for obtaining cigarettes and asked to indicate where they usually obtained their cigarettes. Some pupils gave more than one source. The majority of regular smokers (85%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, 7% bought them from machines and 9% reported buying them from other people. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, just under half (46%) of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 3% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 10% of pupils reported that they obtained their cigarettes some other way (**Tables 3.3 and 3.4, Figure 3.1**).

---

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

**Figure 3.1: Source of cigarettes: East Renfrewshire 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. Most regular smokers (66%) reported that they would like to give up smoking and 68% had tried to give up at some time. Twenty three percent (23%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 39% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (62% 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: 32% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 10% 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 nine percent (79%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Over half (58%) 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 (94%) 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: 51% of regular smokers compared with 25% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 38% of regular smokers, compared with 8% 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 1% of non-smokers. Over half (68%) 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. The majority of pupils (87%) had seen adverts on posters or billboards. More than half reported that they had seen adverts in magazines (55%) or on television (54%). Fewer pupils reported seeing adverts in newspapers (37%) or at the cinema (22%) (**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: 73% of 13 year olds and 74% of 15 year olds. However, 22% of 13 year olds and 19% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 5% of 13 year olds and 7% of 15 year olds reported that they did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on smoking (**Table 3.15**).

**Table 3.1: Smoking behaviour by age group: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	5	14	9	14
Occasional smoker	6	7	7	5
Used to smoke	9	11	10	13
Tried smoking once	27	28	28	23
Never smoked	53	40	46	45
<i>Base</i>	317	342	659	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	7	11	9	14
Occasional smoker	6	8	7	5
Used to smoke	9	11	10	13
Tried smoking once	29	27	28	23
Never smoked	49	44	46	45
<i>Base</i>	332	327	659	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	53	97	85
Given cigarettes	40	48	46
Buy from other people	27	2	9
Buy from machine	7	8	7
Take cigarettes	7	1	3
Get cigarettes some other way	27	4	10
<i>Base</i>	15	47	62

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	84	86	85
Given cigarettes	30	56	46
Buy from other people	9	9	9
Buy from machine	-	12	7
Take cigarettes	2	3	3
Get cigarettes some other way	9	11	10
<i>Base</i>	24	38	62

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	66
Would not like to give up smoking	34
<i>Base</i>	60

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.6: Whether regular smokers have ever tried to give up smoking: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	68
Has not tried to give up smoking	32
<i>Base</i>	61

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
One year or less	38
More than a year	62
<i>Base</i>	61

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.8: Ease of giving up smoking by length of time smoking: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	10	32	23	32
Fairly difficult	23	49	39	36
Fairly easy	54	13	29	21
Very easy	14	5	9	11
<i>Base</i>	22	39	61	2868

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	20	58	65	61	54
Persuade me not to	59	18	29	31	35
Do nothing	9	3	1	2	3
Encourage me	2	3	0	0	0
Not sure	11	17	4	6	7
<i>Base</i>	59	32	512	628	19279

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.10: Whether regular smokers are allowed to smoke at home: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	21
Not allowed to smoke at home	58
Don't know	21
<i>Base</i>	50

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.11: Parents' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	49	62	73
At least one parent smokes daily	51	38	25
Does not see either parent	-	-	2
<i>Base</i>	61	45	528

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.12: Siblings' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	54	83	85
At least one sibling smokes daily	38	17	8
Does not have siblings	9	-	7
<i>Base</i>	59	44	512

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.13: Friends smoking, by pupil's smoking status: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	32	11	1
More than half	30	9	3
Half	15	11	7
Less than half	18	42	21
Almost none	5	27	36
None	-	-	32
<i>Base</i>	61	45	546

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Yes %</b>	<b>No %</b>	<b>Don't know %</b>	<b>Base</b>
On posters/billboards	87	8	4	671
In magazines	55	34	11	656
On television	54	39	7	665
In newspapers	37	46	16	652
At the cinema	22	61	17	648

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Age 13 %</b>	<b>Age 15 %</b>	<b>Total %</b>
Yes	73	74	74
No	22	19	20
Don't know	5	7	6
<b>Base</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>660</b>

*Base= All pupils*

## 4 Drinking

### 4.1 Prevalence of alcohol use

All pupils were asked whether they had ever had a 'proper alcoholic drink, a whole drink, not just a sip'. The prevalence of alcohol use increased significantly with age. Sixty six percent (66%) of 13 year olds and 87% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink. For neither age group was the reported prevalence in East Renfrewshire 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 under half (42%) of 15 year olds and 20% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, again a significant increase in prevalence with age. Once again these figures were not significantly different from the reported national figures for drinking in the last week (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; 16% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared to 31% of 15 year old pupils. Prevalence of weekly drinking in 15 year olds was significantly lower than the reported national figure for weekly drinking (national figures: 17% of 13 year olds and 38% of 15 year olds reported drinking weekly). There was no significant gender difference in weekly drinking (22% of boys and 25% of girls reported drinking once a week or more) (**Tables 4.5 and 4.6**).

### 4.3 Money spent on alcohol

Of all pupils who drank weekly, around three-quarters (73%) reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £7.00 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: 64% 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: 68% had drunk alcopops in the last week. Sixty one percent (61%) of girls reported that they had drunk spirits in the last week (**Table 4.8**).

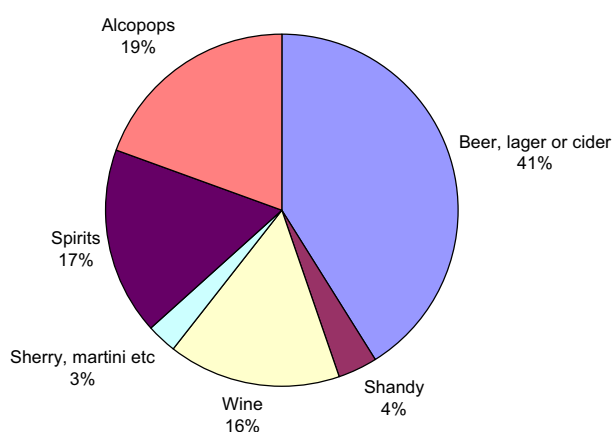
---

<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.

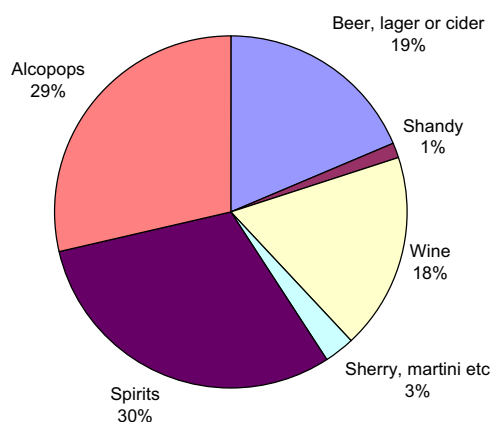
## 4.5 Average amount of alcohol consumed weekly

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 13 units of alcohol, and girls consumed 9 units, a statistically significant difference. 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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**



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

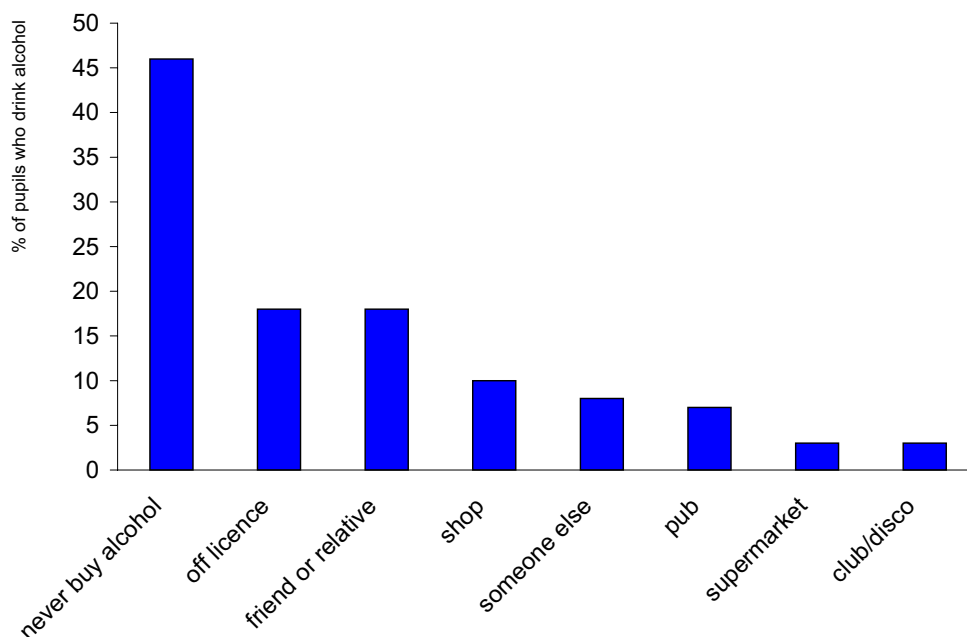


<sup>1</sup> Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

## 4.6 Availability of alcohol

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Almost half (46%) 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 East Renfrewshire were from an off licence (18%) or from a friend or relative (18%) (Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).

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

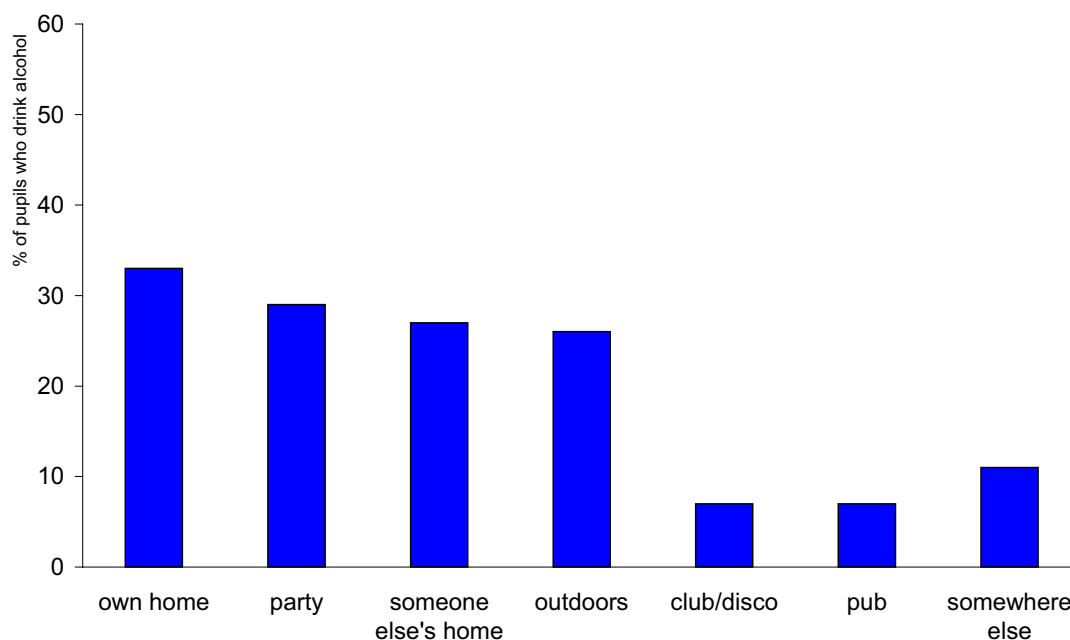


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

## 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 (33%), at a party with friends (29%), in someone else's home (27%) or outdoors (26%) (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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**



(Source: tables 4.11 and 4.12)

## 4.8 Drinking to excess

All pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked 'Have you ever had so much alcohol that you were really drunk?'. Overall, 66% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Twenty two percent (22%) had been drunk once, 21% had been drunk 2-3 times, 13% had been drunk 4-10 times and 10% 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 (43%) reported that they had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past 30 days and 8% 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 38% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils. 'Having an argument or fight' was reported by 25% of all 13 and 15 year olds.

Some pupils had been involved in other risk behaviours as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Thirteen percent (13%) had tried drugs. Nine percent (9%) of all 15

year olds (6% of boys and 10% of girls) had had unprotected sex (13 year old pupils were not asked questions on sexual health).

Just under one in ten pupils (8%) had stayed off school as a result of drinking too much alcohol. 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. Over a third (38%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their family did not know that they drank, under half (41%) reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 13% reported that their families did not like them drinking and 8% reported that they did not know what their families thought (**Table 4.19 and 4.20**).

Pupils who had never had an alcoholic drink (24% of all pupils) were asked how their families would feel if they started drinking. Three quarters (75%) 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 most pupils (70%) 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 85% of 15 year olds. However, 22% of 13 year olds and 11% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 5% 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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	66	87	76	78
No	34	13	24	22
<i>Base</i>	332	351	683	22850

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 4.2: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by gender: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	71	81	76	78
No	29	19	24	22
<i>Base</i>	340	343	683	22850

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 4.3: Last occasion of drinking, by age group East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	20	42	31	35
One to four weeks ago	13	18	15	16
One to six months ago	20	21	20	18
More than six months ago	13	6	10	10
Never	34	13	24	22
<i>Base</i>	331	350	681	22617

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.4: Last occasion of drinking, by gender: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	29	32	31	35
One to four weeks ago	14	17	15	16
One to six months ago	17	24	20	18
More than six months ago	12	8	10	10
Never	29	19	24	22
<i>Base</i>	340	341	681	22617

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.5: Usual drinking frequency, by age group: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	16	31	23	27
About once a fortnight	8	17	12	12
About once a month	12	14	13	12
Only a few times a year	31	24	28	27
Never	34	13	24	22
<i>Base</i>	330	349	679	22754

*Base=All pupils***Table 4.6: Usual drinking frequency, by gender: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	22	25	23	27
About once a fortnight	9	15	12	12
About once a month	12	14	13	12
Only a few times a year	28	27	28	27
Never	29	19	24	22
<i>Base</i>	337	342	679	22754

*Base=All pupils***Table 4.7: Type of drinks consumed in last seven days, by age group: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	40	46	44
Shandy	17	4	9
Wine	39	36	37
Martini, sherry etc.	14	6	8
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	50	58	56
Alcopops	65	57	60
<i>Base</i>	67	147	214

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Beer, lager or cider	64	27	44
Shandy	11	6	9
Wine	36	38	37
Martini, sherry etc.	7	9	8
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	49	61	56
Alcopops	51	68	60
<i>Base</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>214</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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	<b>Age 13</b>	<b>Age 15</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	55	39	46
Buy alcohol in off licence	11	24	18
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	13	22	18
Buy alcohol from shop	6	14	10
Buy alcohol from someone else	7	10	8
Buy alcohol in pub	3	10	7
Buy alcohol in club	2	3	3
Buy alcohol from supermarket	1	5	3
<i>Base</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>307</i>	<i>529</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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	50	44	46
Buy alcohol in off licence	17	19	18
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	12	23	18
Buy alcohol from shop	12	8	10
Buy alcohol from someone else	7	10	8
Buy alcohol in pub	7	7	7
Buy alcohol in club	3	3	3
Buy alcohol from supermarket	4	2	3
<i>Base</i>	<i>248</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>529</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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	41	27	33
Usually drink at a party with friends	15	41	29
Usually drink in someone else's home	20	33	27
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	26	26	26
Usually drink in pub	3	11	7
Usually drink in club/disco	6	8	7
Usually drink somewhere else	13	9	11
<i>Base</i>	222	307	529

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	34	32	33
Usually drink at a party with friends	23	35	29
Usually drink in someone else's home	22	32	27
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	26	26	26
Usually drink in pub	7	8	7
Usually drink in club/disco	5	9	7
Usually drink somewhere else	12	10	11
<i>Base</i>	248	281	529

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	45	25	34	32
Once	24	20	22	19
2-3 times	18	24	21	22
4-10 times	7	18	13	13
More than 10 times	6	13	10	14
<i>Base</i>	212	303	515	17723

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.14: Ever been drunk, by gender: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	37	32	34	32
Once	20	23	22	19
2-3 times	22	21	21	22
4-10 times	12	14	13	13
More than 10 times	9	11	10	14
<i>Base</i>	238	277	515	17723

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	5	10	8	13
3 times	4	9	7	9
Twice	11	15	13	13
Once	11	18	15	14
Not in last 30 days	26	23	24	23
Never	44	25	33	28
<i>Base</i>	211	299	510	17615

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	9	6	8	13
3 times	5	8	7	9
Twice	12	14	13	13
Once	15	14	15	14
Not in last 30 days	25	24	24	23
Never	34	33	33	28
<i>Base</i>	233	277	510	17615

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.17: Effects of drinking too much alcohol, by age group: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	28	45	38
Had an argument or fight	17	31	25
Tried any drugs	8	16	13
Had unprotected sex*	-	9	9
Stayed off school	6	10	8
Injured and seen by doctor	2	5	4
Visited A & E department	2	3	3
Admitted to hospital overnight	1	2	2
<i>Base</i>	209	298	507

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	32	43	38
Had an argument or fight	21	28	25
Tried any drugs	14	12	13
Had unprotected sex*	6	10	9
Stayed off school	6	10	8
Injured and seen by doctor	2	5	4
Visited A & E department	1	4	3
Admitted to hospital overnight	1	2	2
<i>Base</i>	231	276	507

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	5	17	13	16
They don't mind	42	41	41	45
They don't know I drink	42	35	38	27
I don't know what they think	11	7	8	12
<i>Base</i>	64	141	205	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	10	16	13	16
They don't mind	47	37	41	45
They don't know I drink	36	39	38	27
I don't know what they think	8	8	8	12
<i>Base</i>	96	109	205	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	79	65	75	70
They would not mind	6	17	9	9
I don't know what they would think	15	19	16	21
<i>Base</i>	107	45	152	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	73	79	75	70
They would not mind	12	3	9	9
I don't know what they would think	15	18	16	21
<i>Base</i>	92	60	152	4711

*Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.23: Whether pupils are allowed to drink alcohol at home: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
Yes, always	5
Yes, sometimes	65
No, never	30
<i>Base</i>	671

*Base=All pupils*

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

	<b>Age 13</b>	<b>Age 15</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	72	85	79
No	22	11	17
Don't know	5	4	5
<i>Base</i>	314	348	662

*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: 23% 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. Four percent (4%) of 13 year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 20% of 15 year olds. Prevalence of drug use in 13 year olds was significantly lower than the reported national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 8%). However, prevalence of drug use in 15 year olds was not significantly different from the national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 23%). There was no gender difference in prevalence of drug use (12% of boys and 12% 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 percent (20%) 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, 18% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The figures were much lower for other types of drugs; 3% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 3% had used solvents, 2% 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 (51%) had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 66% of 15 year old pupils and 37% 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). There was no gender difference in pupils reporting having been offered drugs (52% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 51% 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**).

---

<sup>1</sup> 'Semeron' was included to give some idea as to whether children were over-reporting their use of drugs. One percent (1%) of pupils reported Semeron among the drugs they had used and 2% included it among the drugs they had been offered.

## 5.4 Frequency of drug use

Three percent (3%) of pupils reported that they usually take drugs once a week or more (2% of 13 year old pupils and 4% of 15 year old pupils reported this). Reported prevalence of weekly drug taking in 15 year olds was slightly lower than that reported nationally for this age group, a statistically significant difference (national figures: 2% of 13 year olds and 7% of 15 year olds report using drugs once a week or more). There was no gender difference in reported weekly drug use (3% of girls and 3% of boys reported using drugs once a week or more) (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

## 5.5 Money spent on drugs

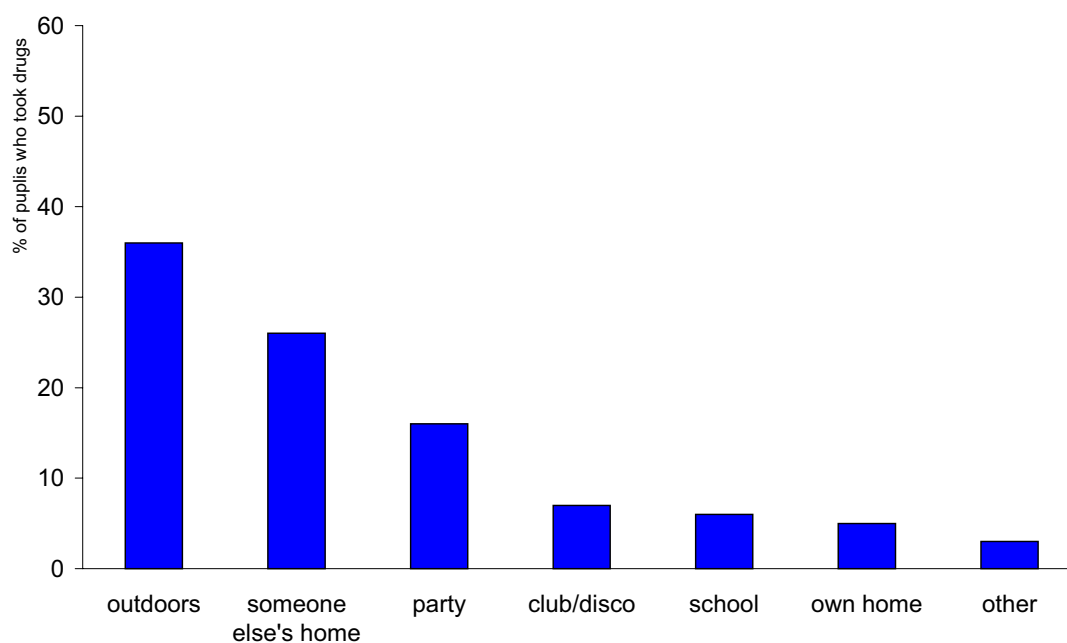
Just over half (53%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £7.00 per week.

## 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' (36%). The next most reported location was 'someone else's home' (26%) (Tables 5.11 and 5.12, Figure 5.1).

Forty two percent (42%) 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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

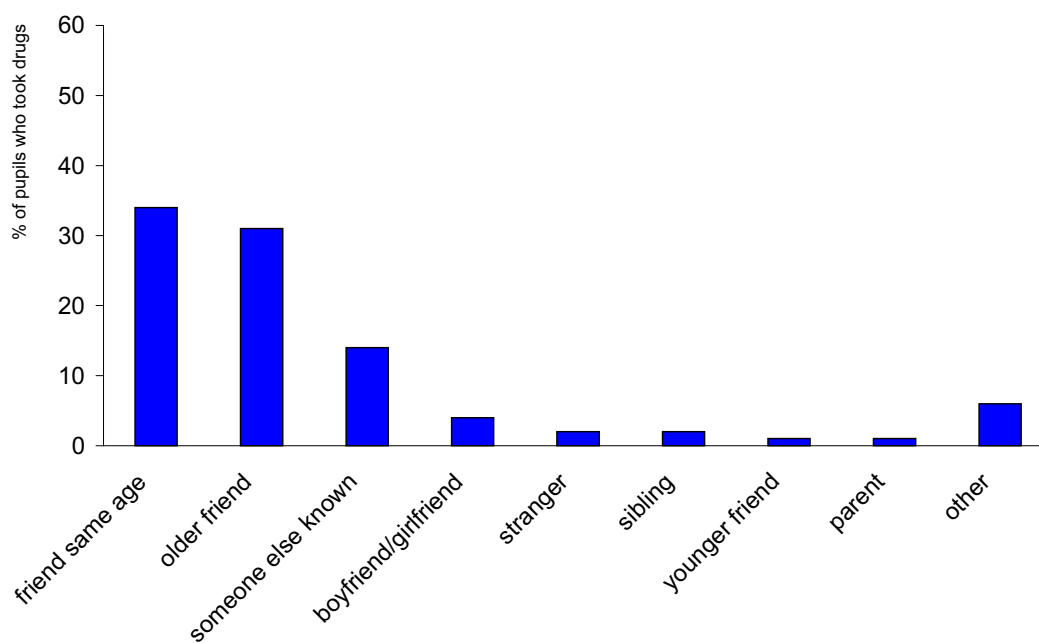
## 5.7 Availability of drugs

Just under half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (44%) 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' (58%) than 13 year old pupils (31%) (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; 34% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from a friend of the same age and 31% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: East Renfrewshire 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Just over half (55%) of 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

Seventeen percent (17%) 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 (96%). Just over half (59%) reported that they knew where to go to get help (Tables 5.20 to 5.23).

All pupils were asked if they knew where to get information on drugs. Seventy percent (70%) reported that they knew where to get information (**Table 5.24**). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (38%), 'the Internet' (37%), 'friends' (35%), and 'telephone helpline' (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 (80%) agreed that they 'know enough about the dangers of drugs' and almost all (93%) 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' (68%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (72%), although 29% did not know whether heroin was addictive and 24% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Just under 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 (61%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults tell us about drugs is true'.

Although around two thirds of pupils (64%) agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', just over half (59%) 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'; 70% 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'. Fourteen percent (14%) of pupils 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' (56%). However, over a third (38%) of pupils did not know whether 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality', and a quarter (25%) did not know whether 'people take drugs to relax'.

Sixty five percent (65%) agreed that 'all people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 28% believe 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: 80% of 13 year olds and 88% of 15 year olds. However, 16% of 13 year olds and 9% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 5% of 13 year olds and 3% 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. Less than half (46% of 13 year olds and 38% of 15 year olds) reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions in the last twelve months. However,

41% of 13 year olds and 47% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and the remaining 14% of 13 year olds and 15% 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, 21% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 44% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

#

**Table 5.1: Taken drugs in last month, last year\* or ever, by age group: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	4	20	12	15
Used drugs in last year*	8	32	20	22
Used drugs ever	10	36	23	25
<i>Base</i>	323	352	675	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	12	12	12	15
Used drugs in last year*	20	19	20	22
Used drugs ever	23	23	23	25
<i>Base</i>	335	340	675	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	6	30	18	20
Stimulants	2	4	3	6
<i>cocaine</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	2	2	2	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	2	1	2
<i>poppers</i>	1	2	2	3
Psychedelics	2	2	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	1	1	1	2
Opiates	1	1	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	1	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	2	5	3	4
Tranquillisers	1	2	2	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	1	1	0
Semeron	1	1	1	0
Other	1	1	1	0
<i>Base</i>	335	354	689	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:  
East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	19	17	18	20
Stimulants	3	3	3	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	2	1	2	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	1	1	2
<i>poppers</i>	2	1	2	3
Psychedelics	3	1	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	1	1	1	2
Opiates	2	1	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	1	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	3	4	3	4
Tranquillisers	2	1	2	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	0	1	0
Semeron	1	0	1	0
Other	1	1	1	0
<b>Base</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>689</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:  
East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	37	66	51
No	63	34	49
<b>Base</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>619</b>

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	51	52	51
No	49	48	49
<b>Base</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>619</b>

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 5.7: Type of drug offered, by age: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	24	58	41	42
Stimulants	12	21	16	19
<i>cocaine</i>	5	5	5	6
<i>crack</i>	4	3	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	7	10	9	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	2	8	5	7
<i>poppers</i>	3	11	7	9
Psychedelics	6	10	8	10
<i>LSD</i>	4	7	5	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	4	6	5	8
Opiates	5	4	4	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	3	4	4
<i>methadone</i>	1	1	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	12	15	14	12
Tranquillisers	4	9	7	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	2	2	2
Semeron	2	2	2	1
Other	2	1	2	1
<i>Base</i>	317	351	668	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	42	41	41	42
Stimulants	15	17	16	19
<i>cocaine</i>	5	5	5	6
<i>crack</i>	4	3	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	8	9	9	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	6	5	5	7
<i>poppers</i>	6	8	7	9
Psychadelics	8	8	8	10
<i>LSD</i>	6	4	5	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	5	5	5	8
Opiates	5	4	4	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	3	4	4
<i>methadone</i>	1	1	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	15	13	14	12
Tranquillisers	7	6	7	6
Anabolic Steroids	3	1	2	2
Semeron	3	1	2	1
Other	2	1	2	1
<i>Base</i>	330	338	668	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:  
East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	2	4	3	5
Once or twice a month	1	7	4	4
A few times a year	1	7	4	5
Do not use drugs	96	82	89	86
<i>Base</i>	326	352	678	22532

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	3	3	3	5
Once or twice a month	3	4	4	4
A few times a year	5	4	4	5
Do not use drugs	89	89	89	86
<i>Base</i>	336	342	678	22532

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	39	35	36
Someone else's home	9	32	26
At party	7	20	16
At club/disco	9	7	7
At school	2	7	6
Own home	4	5	5
Other place	-	4	3
<i>Base</i>	45	130	175

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	36	36	36
Someone else's home	22	29	26
At party	15	17	16
At club/disco	9	6	7
At school	9	2	6
Own home	5	5	5
Other place	-	6	3
<i>Base</i>	91	84	175

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	42	39
No	58	61
<i>Base</i>	159	5544

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.14: Ease of getting drugs, by age group: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	12	24	18
Fairly easy	19	34	26
Fairly difficult	6	7	6
Very difficult	7	5	6
Impossible	8	3	5
Don't know	48	28	38
<i>Base</i>	322	351	673

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.15 Ease of getting drugs, by gender: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	19	16	18
Fairly easy	24	28	26
Fairly difficult	7	6	6
Very difficult	6	6	6
Impossible	6	4	5
Don't know	37	39	38
<i>Base</i>	333	340	673

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.16: Source of drugs, by age group: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Friend of own age	24	39	34
Older friend	31	31	31
Someone known	7	17	14
Boyfriend/girlfriend	2	4	4
Brother or sister	-	2	2
Stranger	4	1	2
Younger friend	-	2	1
Mother/father	2	1	1
Other	-	9	6
<i>Base</i>	45	130	175

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Friend of own age	36	33	34
Older friend	30	33	31
Someone known	20	8	14
Boyfriend/girlfriend	-	7	4
Brother or sister	3	-	2
Stranger	1	2	2
Younger friend	-	2	1
Mother/father	1	1	1
Other	3	9	6
<i>Base</i>	91	84	175

*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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Used it all myself	28	41	38
Sold some of it	7	7	7
Gave some of it away	65	52	55
<i>Base</i>	29	120	149

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Used it all myself	33	43	38
Sold some of it	11	3	7
Gave some of it away	56	53	55
Base	72	77	149

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	8	19	17	15
Would like to give up in the future	33	23	25	20
Would not like to give up	42	33	35	39
Not sure	17	24	23	26
Base	12	66	78	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	17	18	17	15
Would like to give up in the future	24	26	25	20
Would not like to give up	40	29	35	39
Not sure	19	26	23	26
Base	39	39	78	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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	4
No	96
Base	78

*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 : East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	59
No	41
<i>Base</i>	<i>77</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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	70
No	14
Don't know	16
<i>Base</i>	<i>657</i>

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.25: Where pupils would go for information on drugs: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	Total %
Doctor	38
Internet/web	37
Friends	35
Telephone helpline	33
Female family member	26
Advice organisation	24
Teacher	21
Male family member	21
Magazines	18
Drop-in centre	14
Books	13
Councillor	9
Youth worker	9
TV/radio	7
<i>Base</i>	<i>475</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: East Renfrewshire 2002.**

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	93	4	3	674
Taking cocaine is dangerous	81	3	16	672
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	80	12	8	673
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	72	3	24	672
People my age who take drugs need help	70	17	13	672
Heroin is addictive	68	3	29	672
People who sell drugs should be punished	65	19	15	674
Most young people will try out drugs	64	19	17	674
What adults tell us about drugs is true	61	15	24	673
People who take drugs are stupid	59	27	14	672
People take drugs to relax	56	19	25	672
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	47	5	48	672
People who take heroin are junkies	47	25	27	672
People take drugs to escape from reality	45	18	38	674
People who take drugs should be punished	28	51	21	671
Taking drugs is exciting	14	59	28	673

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	80	88	84
No	16	9	12
Don't know	5	3	4
<i>Base</i>	312	349	661

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	46	38	42
No	41	47	44
Don't know	14	15	14
<i>Base</i>	310	345	655

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Total %
Very useful	21
Fairly useful	44
Not very useful	18
Not useful at all	8
Don't know	9
<i>Base</i>	571

*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 East Renfrewshire there was a higher response rate in independent school pupils (Independent school pupils comprise approximately 2% of the eligible target population, and 4% of the final sample). There was no significant difference in response rate between S2 pupils (49% of East Renfrewshire sample) compared with S4 pupils (51% of East Renfrewshire 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>.

---

<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