

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

**SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE
AMONG 13 AND 15 YEAR OLDS
IN THE FALKIRK AREA, 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

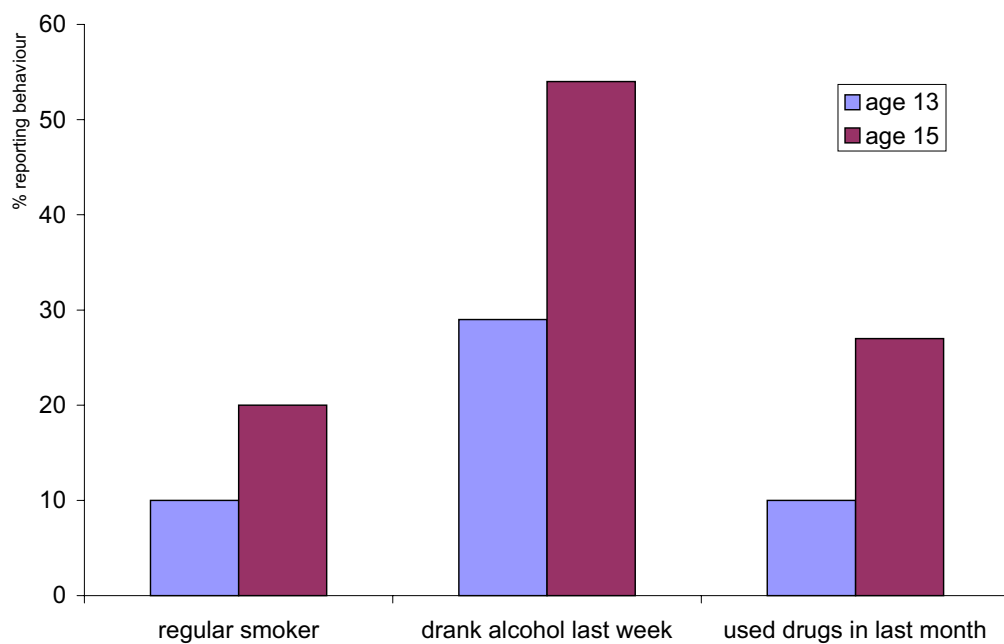
SALSUS 2002 found that among pupils in the Falkirk area:

- € 10% of 13 year olds and 20% of 15 year olds were regular smokers¹
- € Prevalence of regular smoking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- € 29% of 13 year olds and 54% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- € The prevalence of drinking in 15 year olds was significantly higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- € 10% of 13 year olds and 27% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey
- € Prevalence of drug use was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- € The differences in smoking, drinking and drug use between boys and girls in the Falkirk area 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 the Falkirk area in 2002.

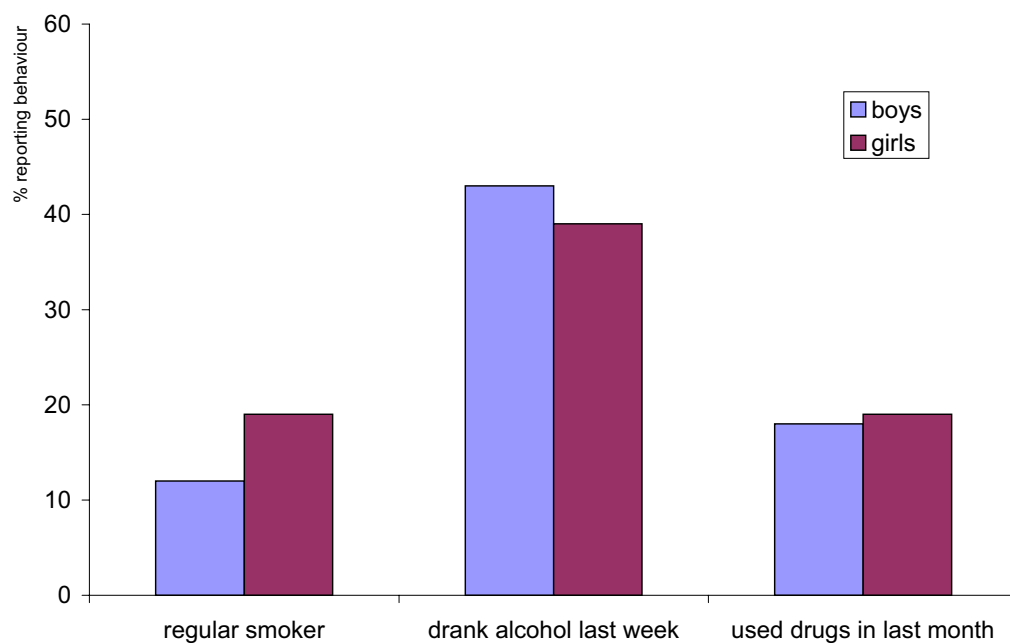
¹ regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

Figure 1.1: Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by age group: Falkirk 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: Falkirk 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 Falkirk Council area. Findings on the availability of substances and on the behaviour and attitudes of pupils and their families in relation to substance use are also reported. One of the main purposes in developing the survey was to provide Drug and Alcohol Action Teams, local authorities and NHS Boards with information about substance use among school pupils in their own areas. The information is intended to assist local planning.

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

2.2 Survey arrangements

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.3 Sample design

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

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

2.4 Local response rates

The SALSUS 2002 survey of the Falkirk Council area was designed to have a final sample size of 800 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 21% 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.

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

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

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

Response rates are based on class and pupil participation rates. In total 40 classes in the Falkirk area were selected to participate, and 28 classes (70%) 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 the Falkirk area, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 64%. This is slightly lower than the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 612 pupils, 19.3% of the target population in the area.

3 Smoking

3.1 Smoking prevalence

In the Falkirk area area, reported prevalence of regular smoking¹ increased significantly with age. In 2002, 10% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 20% of 15 year olds. For neither age group was the reported prevalence in the area significantly different from the national prevalence of regular smoking (national figures: 8% for 13 year olds and 20% for 15 year olds). Just over half (51%) of all 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked, compared with 33% of 15 year olds.

Reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls than boys in the Falkirk area; 19% of girls and 12% 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 36 per week, and 15 year olds reported smoking an average of 53 per week. There was no significant gender difference in the average number of cigarettes smoked per week by regular smokers.

3.3 Money spent on cigarettes

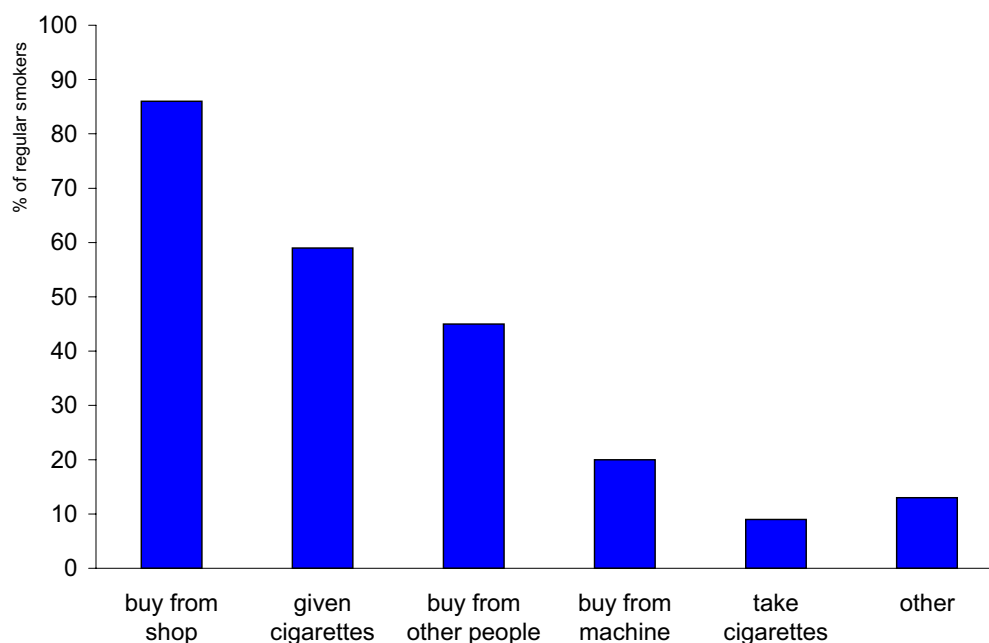
Almost all regular smokers (95%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £9.00 a week.

3.4 Where pupils obtain cigarettes

Regular smokers were given a list of sources for obtaining cigarettes and asked to indicate where they usually obtained their cigarettes. Some pupils gave more than one source. The majority of regular smokers (86%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, 45% reported buying them from other people and 20% bought them from machines. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, just over half (59%) of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 9% reported that they take cigarettes and 13% of pupils reported that they obtained their cigarettes some other way (**Tables 3.3 and 3.4, Figure 3.1**).

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

Figure 3.1: Source of cigarettes: Falkirk 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 (71%) of regular smokers reported that they would like to give up smoking and the same proportion (71%) had tried to give up at some time. Seventy four percent (74%) of regular smokers had been smoking for more than a year. A third (33%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 36% reported that they would find it fairly difficult (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 one percent (71%) 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 (92%) 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: 67% of regular smokers compared with 41% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who

smoked daily: 40% 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: 45% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 6% of non-smokers. Just over half (53%) 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 (83%) had seen adverts on posters or billboards. More than half reported that they had seen adverts in magazines (57%) or on television (56%). Fewer pupils reported seeing adverts in newspapers (40%) or at the cinema (23%) (**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: 72% of 13 year olds and 60% of 15 year olds. However, 21% of 13 year olds and 32% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 7% of 13 year olds and 8% 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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	10	20	15	14
Occasional smoker	7	4	5	5
Used to smoke	13	16	15	13
Tried smoking once	19	25	22	23
Never smoked	51	33	43	45
<i>Base</i>	395	200	595	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	12	19	15	14
Occasional smoker	3	8	5	5
Used to smoke	11	19	15	13
Tried smoking once	28	15	22	23
Never smoked	46	39	43	45
<i>Base</i>	316	279	595	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	72	93	86
Given cigarettes	59	59	59
Buy from other people	38	49	45
Buy from machine	13	24	20
Take cigarettes	13	7	9
Get cigarettes some other way	23	7	13
<i>Base</i>	39	41	80

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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	96	78	86
Given cigarettes	55	61	59
Buy from other people	43	47	45
Buy from machine	29	14	20
Take cigarettes	11	8	9
Get cigarettes some other way	14	12	13
<i>Base</i>	32	48	80

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: Falkirk 2002.

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	71
Would not like to give up smoking	29
<i>Base</i>	73

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	71
Has not tried to give up smoking	29
<i>Base</i>	77

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: Falkirk 2002.

	Total %
One year or less	26
More than a year	74
<i>Base</i>	76

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	33	32
Fairly difficult	36	36
Fairly easy	23	21
Very easy	7	11
<i>Base</i>	77	2868

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	18	67	59	53	54
Persuade me not to	53	30	33	36	35
Do nothing	18	-	1	4	3
Encourage me	3	-	0	1	0
Not sure	9	3	6	6	7
<i>Base</i>	76	27	395	514	19279

Base= All pupils

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

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	30
Not allowed to smoke at home	58
Don't know	12
<i>Base</i>	68

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	33	59	56
At least one parent smokes daily	67	41	41
Does not see either parent	-	-	3
<i>Base</i>	77	32	465

Base= All pupils

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	54	82	77
At least one sibling smokes daily	40	13	15
Does not have siblings	6	5	9
<i>Base</i>	75	30	432

Base= All pupils

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	45	9	6
More than half	40	16	8
Half	7	28	8
Less than half	7	24	25
Almost none	-	16	31
None	1	7	22
<i>Base</i>	80	35	479

Base= All pupils

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

	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Base
On posters/billboards	83	10	6	583
In magazines	57	31	13	572
On television	56	34	10	580
In newspapers	40	42	17	568
At the cinema	23	56	21	565

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	72	60	66
No	21	32	27
Don't know	7	8	8
<i>Base</i>	364	206	570

Base= All pupils

4 Drinking

4.1 Prevalence of alcohol use

All pupils were asked whether they had ever had a 'proper alcoholic drink, a whole drink, not just a sip'. The prevalence of alcohol use increased significantly with age. Seventy one percent (71%) of 13 year olds and 92% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink. The proportion of 13 year olds who reported that they had drunk alcohol was not significantly different from the national figure of 69%. However, the proportion of 15 year olds in the Falkirk area who reported that they had drunk alcohol (92%) was higher than the national figure of 88%, a statistically significant difference (**Table 4.1**).

Just over half (54%) of 15 year olds and 29% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, a significant increase in prevalence with age. The proportion of 13 year olds who drank in the last week was higher than national figure of 23%, but this difference was not statistically significant. The proportion of 15 year olds in the Falkirk area who reported that they had drunk alcohol in the last week was higher than the national figure of 46%, a statistically significant difference. There was no significant difference between boys and girls in the proportion of pupils drinking in the last week (**Tables 4.3 and 4.4**).

4.2 Usual drinking frequency

Among those pupils who reported having had an alcoholic drink, the frequency of drinking increased significantly with age; 22% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared to 44% 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 usually drink 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 three-quarters (77%) reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £9.00 a week.

4.4 Type of alcohol consumed

Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked whether or not they had consumed various categories of alcoholic drink¹. There were differences between boys and girls in the types of alcohol drunk. For boys 'beer, lager or cider' were most commonly reported: 65% of boys who had drunk alcohol in the last week had consumed half a pint or more of beer, lager or cider. For girls, 'alcopops' were most commonly reported: 69% had drunk alcopops in the last week. Over half (59%) of girls reported that they had drunk spirits in the last week (**Table 4.8**).

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

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., 2001¹). Boys who drank over the previous seven days consumed on average 14 units of alcohol, and girls consumed 13 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: Falkirk 2002.

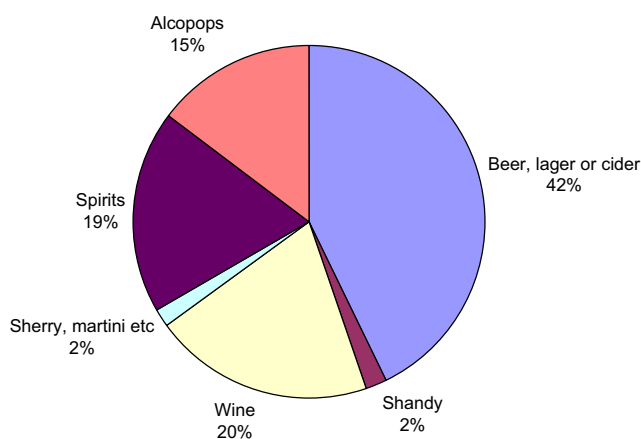
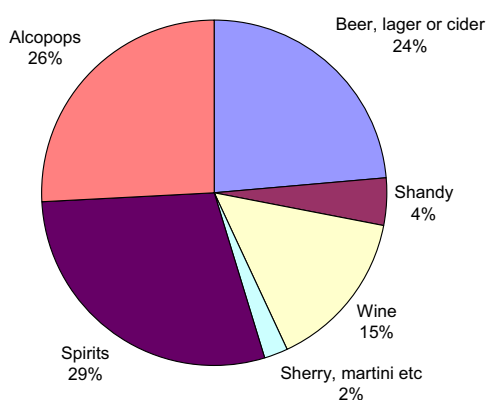


Figure 4.2: Type of alcohol drunk by girls in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: Falkirk 2002.

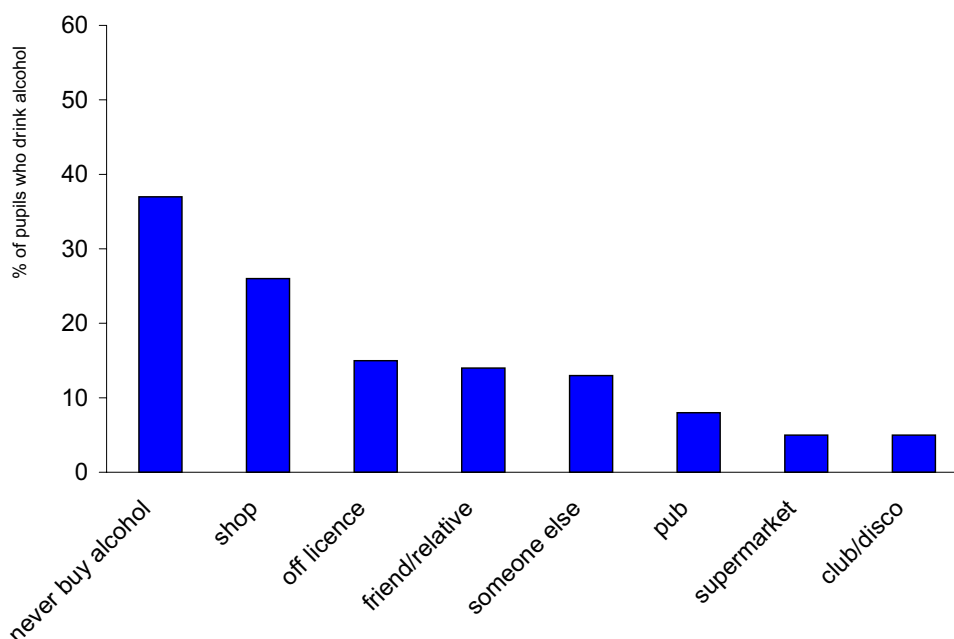


¹ Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

4.6 Availability of alcohol

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Over a third (37%) of those who had had an alcoholic drink reported that they 'never buy alcohol'. Other pupils reported more than one source. The most common source for purchasing alcohol by pupils in the Falkirk area was from a shop (26%) (Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).

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

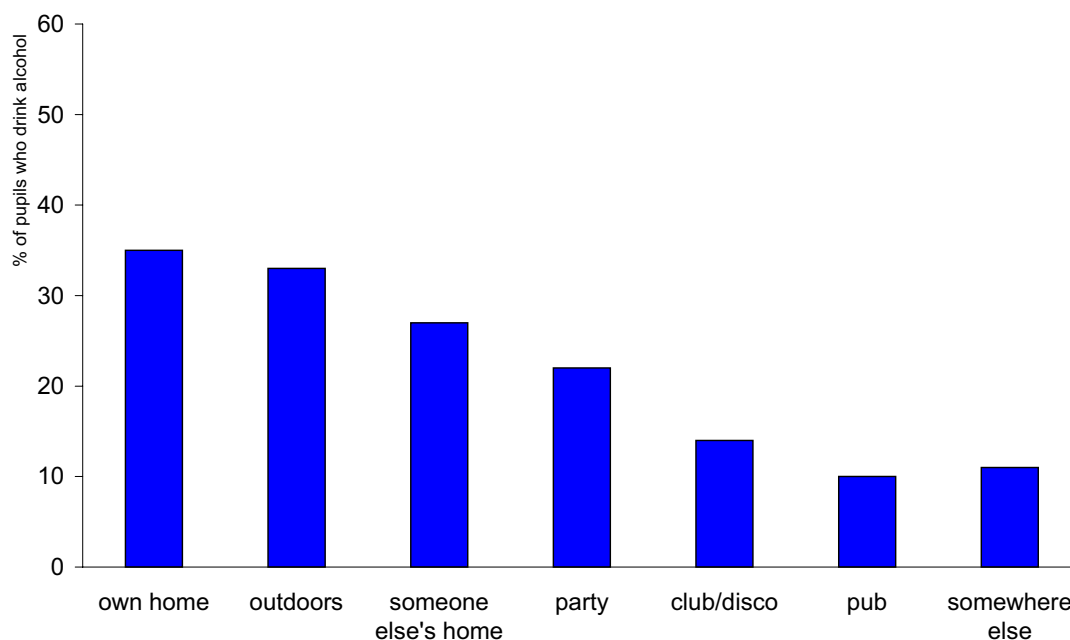


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

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 (35%), outdoors (33%) or in someone else's home (27%) (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: Falkirk 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, 68% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Twenty percent (20%) had been drunk once, 21% had been drunk 2-3 times, 11% had been drunk 4-10 times and 16% 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 (48%) of all 13 and 15 year old pupils who had ever had a proper alcoholic drink reported that they had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past 30 days and 16% 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 41% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils. 'Having an argument or fight' was reported by 29% 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. Nineteen percent (19%) of all

15 year olds (17% of boys and 21% of girls) had had unprotected sex (13 year old pupils were not asked questions on sexual health).

Fourteen percent (14%) of pupils 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. Thirty one percent (31%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their family did not know that they drank, 37% reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 15% reported that their families did not like them drinking and 16% reported that they did not know what their families thought (**Table 4.19 and 4.20**).

Pupils who had never had an alcoholic drink (19% of all pupils) were asked how their families would feel if they started drinking. Seventy one percent (71%) 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 (78%) 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; 70% of 13 year olds and 72% of 15 year olds. However, 23% of 13 year olds and 21% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 7% of 13 year olds and 6% 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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	71	92	81	78
No	29	8	19	22
Base	395	209	604	22850

Base= All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	84	79	81	78
No	16	21	19	22
Base	320	284	604	22850

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	29	54	41	35
One to four weeks ago	8	18	13	16
One to six months ago	19	15	17	18
More than six months ago	14	6	10	10
Never	30	8	19	22
Base	385	205	590	22617

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	43	39	41	35
One to four weeks ago	12	14	13	16
One to six months ago	16	18	17	18
More than six months ago	12	7	10	10
Never	17	70	19	22
Base	311	279	590	22617

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	22	44	33	27
About once a fortnight	6	11	8	12
About once a month	9	16	12	12
Only a few times a year	33	22	28	27
Never	29	8	19	22
<i>Base</i>	393	207	600	22754

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	32	34	33	27
About once a fortnight	10	6	8	12
About once a month	12	13	12	12
Only a few times a year	30	25	28	27
Never	16	21	19	22
<i>Base</i>	318	282	600	22754

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	42	55	51
Shandy	16	5	9
Wine	45	28	34
Martini, sherry etc.	9	5	6
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	50	57	54
Alcopops	68	50	56
<i>Base</i>	110	111	221

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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Beer, lager or cider	65	32	51
Shandy	10	8	9
Wine	38	29	34
Martini, sherry etc.	5	8	6
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	51	59	54
Alcopops	46	69	56
<i>Base</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>221</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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13	Age 15	Total
	%	%	%
Never buy alcohol	51	26	37
Buy alcohol from shop	16	34	26
Buy alcohol in off licence	9	19	15
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	12	15	14
Buy alcohol from someone else	16	11	13
Buy alcohol in pub	2	13	8
Buy alcohol in club	3	7	5
Buy alcohol from supermarket	2	7	5
<i>Base</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>481</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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Never buy alcohol	36	37	37
Buy alcohol from shop	24	28	26
Buy alcohol in off licence	15	15	15
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	11	17	14
Buy alcohol from someone else	15	12	13
Buy alcohol in pub	9	6	8
Buy alcohol in club	4	7	5
Buy alcohol from supermarket	4	6	5
<i>Base</i>	<i>263</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>481</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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	41	30	35
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	31	35	33
Usually drink in someone else's home	25	29	27
Usually drink at a party with friends	16	27	22
Usually drink in club/disco	12	15	14
Usually drink in pub	5	14	10
Usually drink somewhere else	15	8	11
<i>Base</i>	286	195	481

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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	33	38	35
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	34	33	33
Usually drink in someone else's home	21	35	27
Usually drink at a party with friends	18	28	22
Usually drink in club/disco	12	16	14
Usually drink in pub	10	9	10
Usually drink somewhere else	13	9	11
<i>Base</i>	263	218	481

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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	41	26	32	32
Once	23	17	20	19
2-3 times	15	25	21	22
4-10 times	10	12	11	13
More than 10 times	11	19	16	14
<i>Base</i>	281	189	470	17723

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	31	34	32	32
Once	20	20	20	19
2-3 times	23	18	21	22
4-10 times	10	13	11	13
More than 10 times	17	14	16	14
<i>Base</i>	254	216	470	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	10	22	16	13
3 times	6	10	8	9
Twice	8	11	10	13
Once	15	12	14	14
Not in last 30 days	20	23	22	23
Never	41	23	31	28
<i>Base</i>	274	186	460	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	14	20	16	13
3 times	10	6	8	9
Twice	8	13	10	13
Once	16	11	14	14
Not in last 30 days	21	22	22	23
Never	32	29	31	28
<i>Base</i>	248	212	460	17615

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	33	48	41
Had an argument or fight	26	31	29
Tried any drugs	16	22	20
Had unprotected sex*	-	19	19
Stayed off school	13	14	14
Injured and seen by doctor	7	3	5
Visited A & E department	4	3	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	3	3	3
<i>Base</i>	272	185	457

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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	38	45	41
Had an argument or fight	24	35	29
Tried any drugs	21	19	20
Had unprotected sex*	17	21	19
Stayed off school	10	18	14
Injured and seen by doctor	5	4	5
Visited A & E department	4	3	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	2	4	3
<i>Base</i>	246	211	457

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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	15	15	15	16
They don't mind	37	38	37	45
They don't know I drink	33	30	31	27
I don't know what they think	15	17	16	12
<i>Base</i>	104	106	210	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	18	12	15	16
They don't mind	36	39	37	45
They don't know I drink	27	36	31	27
I don't know what they think	20	12	16	12
<i>Base</i>	111	99	210	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	76	50	71	70
They would not mind	6	25	10	9
I don't know what they would think	17	25	19	21
<i>Base</i>	110	16	126	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	68	73	71	70
They would not mind	12	9	10	9
I don't know what they would think	21	17	19	21
<i>Base</i>	59	67	126	4711

Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol

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

	Total %
Yes, always	7
Yes, sometimes	71
No, never	22
<i>Base</i>	589

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13	Age 15	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	70	72	71
No	23	21	22
Don't know	7	6	6
<i>Base</i>	364	205	569

Base= All pupils

5 Drug Use

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

All pupils were then asked whether they had ever used any of the drugs on the list, even if only once: 27% 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. Ten percent (10%) of 13 year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 27% of 15 year olds. Prevalence of drug use in the Falkirk area was not significantly different from the prevalence found nationally (national figures: 8% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds). There was no significant gender difference in pupils reporting using drugs in the last month (18% of boys and 19% 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 six percent (26%) 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, 24% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The figures were much lower for other types of drugs; 9% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 5% had used solvents, 2% had used psychedelics (LSD, magic mushrooms) and 2% had used opiates (heroin or methadone) (**Tables 5.3 and 5.4**).

5.3 Whether offered drugs

Just over half (52%) of all pupils had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 67% of 15 year old pupils and 38% 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). Girls were significantly less likely to have been offered drugs than boys: 44% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 60% of boys. The most commonly

¹ '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 3% included it among the drugs they had been offered.

offered drug type was cannabis: 45% 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, with a significantly higher proportion of older pupils doing so; 3% of 13 year old pupils and 10% of 15 year old pupils reported weekly drug use. There was no significant gender difference in weekly drug use (5% of girls and 7% of boys reported using drugs once a week or more) (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

5.5 Money spent on drugs

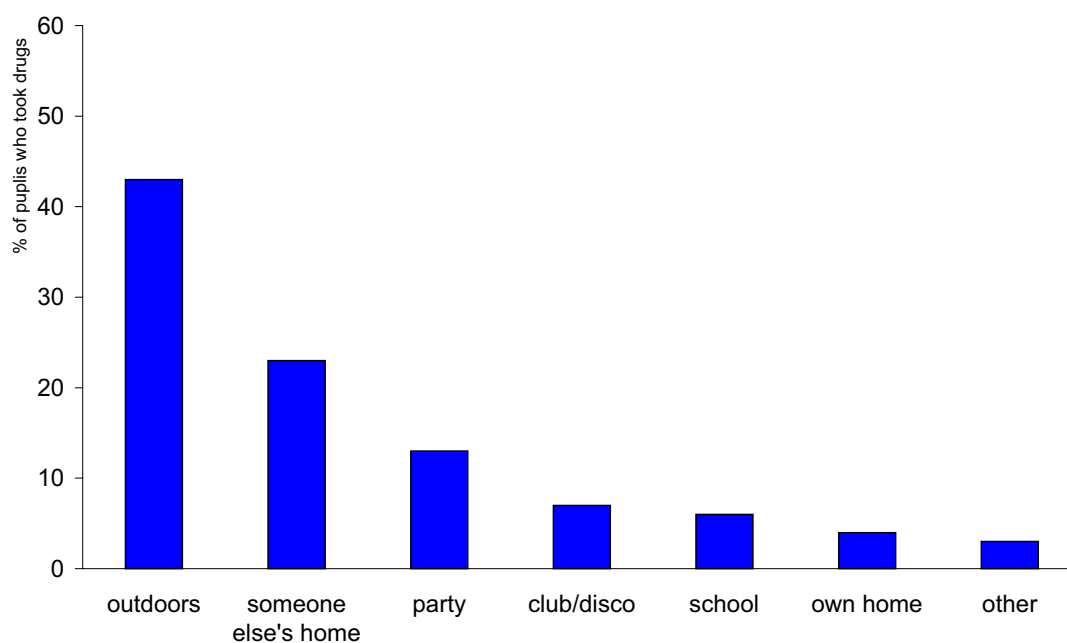
Just over half (57%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £9.00 per week.

5.6 Where young people are when they use drugs

Pupils who had used drugs were asked where they were the last time they used drugs. Some pupils reported more than one location. Very few pupils reported using drugs in their own home. The most frequently reported location for drug taking for all 13 and 15 year old pupils was 'outdoors' (43%). The next most reported location was 'someone else's home' (23%) (Tables 5.11 and 5.12, Figure 5.1).

Thirty seven percent (37%) of those who have used drugs reported that they were drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs (Table 5.13).

Figure 5.1: Location of drug use: Falkirk 2002.



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

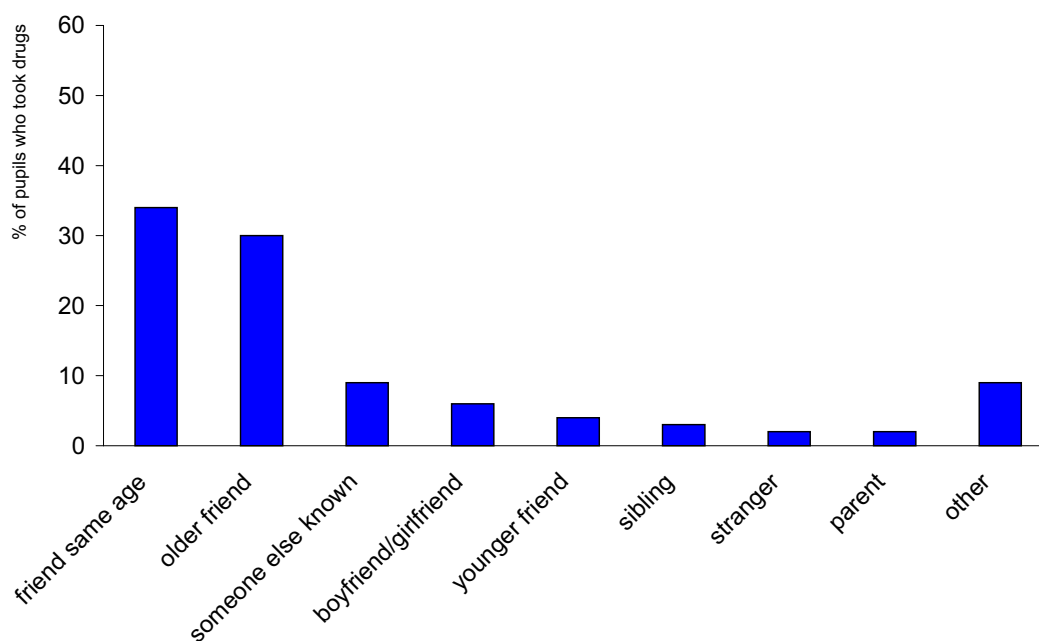
5.7 Availability of drugs

Just over half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (51%) reported that it would be 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' to get drugs while 37% 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' (63%) than 13 year old pupils (39%) (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 30% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: Falkirk 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Half (50%) of all pupils who took drugs reported that they gave some drugs away last time they used drugs. Fewer pupils (12%) reported that they sold some of their drugs (Tables 5.18 and 5.19).

5.9 Obtaining information and help

Eighteen percent (18%) of the 13 and 15 year old pupils who reported taking drugs more than a few times a year said they would like to stop taking drugs now. Almost all young people who took drugs more than a few times a year reported that they have never felt that they needed help because of taking drugs (95%), although 71% 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 six percent (66%) reported that they knew where to get information (**Table 5.24**). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (48%), 'friends' (39%), 'telephone helpline' (31%) and 'Internet' (29%) (**Table 5.25**).

5.10 Pupils' attitudes to drugs

All pupils were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about drugs and those who used or sold them. Most pupils (81%) agreed that they 'know enough about the dangers of drugs' and almost all (89%) agreed that 'taking drugs harms your health'.

The majority of pupils also agreed with the other statements about the dangers of drugs: 'taking cocaine is dangerous' (81%), 'heroin is addictive' (72%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (76%), although 25% did not know whether heroin was addictive and 21% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Around half of pupils (51%) agreed that 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis' and 44% reported that they did not know whether this was the case. More than half (62%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults tell us about drugs is true'.

Although around two thirds of pupils (67%) agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', a similar proportion (60%) felt that 'people who take drugs are stupid'. Pupils were more likely to agree than disagree with the statement 'people my age who take drugs need help and advice'; 64% of pupils agreed with this statement. Just over half (59%) 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'. Fifteen percent (15%) of pupils agreed that 'taking drugs is exciting'. Around half agreed with the statements 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' (50%) and 'people take drugs to relax' (53%). However 33% of pupils reported that they did not know whether 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' and 31% did not know whether 'people take drugs to relax'.

Sixty eight percent (68%) agreed that 'all people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 33% 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: 75% of pupils in both age groups. However, 20% of 13 year olds and 18% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 6% 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 drugs (**Table 5.27**).

Sixty three percent (63%) of 13 year olds and 48% of 15 year olds reported that they having lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing in the last twelve months. Twenty seven percent (27%) of 13 year olds and 40% of 15 year olds

reported that they had not had lessons and the remaining 10% of 13 year olds and 12% 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, 25% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 48% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

#

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	10	27	19	15
Used drugs in last year*	15	37	26	22
Used drugs ever	16	38	27	25
<i>Base</i>	383	204	587	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	18	19	19	15
Used drugs in last year*	28	23	26	22
Used drugs ever	30	24	27	25
<i>Base</i>	306	281	587	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	13	35	24	20
Stimulants	5	13	9	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	2	2	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	2	6	4	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	5	3	2
<i>poppers</i>	4	8	6	3
Psychedelics	2	3	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	2	2	2	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	1	2	2	2
Opiates	1	2	2	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	2	2	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	0	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	4	6	5	4
Tranquillisers	1	5	3	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	1	1	0
Semeron	1	1	1	0
Other	1	0	1	0
<i>Base</i>	401	211	612	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:
Falkirk 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	26	20	24	20
Stimulants	8	10	9	6
<i>cocaine</i>	2	1	2	1
<i>crack</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	3	5	4	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	3	3	3	2
<i>poppers</i>	6	5	6	3
Psychedelics	2	2	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	2	2	2	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	1	2	2
Opiates	2	2	2	1
<i>heroin</i>	2	2	2	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	0	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	5	6	5	4
Tranquillisers	3	3	3	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	1	1	0
Semeron	1	1	1	0
Other	1	1	1	0
Base	324	288	612	23090

Base=All pupils

* includes last month

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

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	38	67	52
No	62	33	48
Base	350	192	542

Base= All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	60	44	52
No	40	56	48
Base	288	254	542

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	31	60	45	42
Stimulants	18	32	24	19
<i>cocaine</i>	7	9	8	6
<i>crack</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	8	20	14	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	5	10	7	7
<i>poppers</i>	10	22	16	9
Psychedelics	8	16	12	10
<i>LSD</i>	4	7	6	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	6	11	9	8
Opiates	4	5	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	4	5	5	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	2	2	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	14	18	16	12
Tranquillisers	5	13	9	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	2	2	2
Semeron	3	2	3	1
Other	3	2	2	1
<i>Base</i>	388	208	596	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	51	38	45	42
Stimulants	23	27	24	19
<i>cocaine</i>	6	9	8	6
<i>crack</i>	5	4	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	12	17	14	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	6	9	7	7
<i>poppers</i>	16	17	16	9
Psychedelics	12	12	12	10
<i>LSD</i>	5	6	6	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	9	9	9	8
Opiates	5	5	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	4	5	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	2	2	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	17	15	16	12
Tranquillisers	8	9	9	6
Anabolic Steroids	3	2	2	2
Semeron	3	2	3	1
Other	3	1	2	1
<i>Base</i>	313	283	596	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:
Falkirk 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	3	10	6	5
Once or twice a month	3	7	5	4
A few times a year	3	7	5	5
Do not use drugs	91	76	84	86
<i>Base</i>	386	207	593	22532

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	7	5	6	5
Once or twice a month	6	5	5	4
A few times a year	5	5	5	5
Do not use drugs	82	85	84	86
<i>Base</i>	310	283	593	22532

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	37	47	43
Someone else's home	17	27	23
At party	12	13	13
At club/disco	10	6	7
At school	7	5	6
Own home	6	4	4
Other place	2	4	3
<i>Base</i>	84	85	169

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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	46	39	43
Someone else's home	19	31	23
At party	6	23	13
At club/disco	8	6	7
At school	5	7	6
Own home	4	5	4
Other place	4	1	3
<i>Base</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>169</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

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

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	37	39
No	63	61
<i>Base</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>5544</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	15	29	22
Fairly easy	24	34	29
Fairly difficult	4	5	4
Very difficult	4	2	3
Impossible	8	1	5
Don't know	45	29	37
<i>Base</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>590</i>

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	23	20	22
Fairly easy	30	28	29
Fairly difficult	6	2	4
Very difficult	3	4	3
Impossible	5	4	5
Don't know	32	42	37
<i>Base</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>590</i>

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Friend of own age	25	39	34
Older friend	27	32	30
Someone known	12	7	9
Boyfriend/girlfriend	5	7	6
Younger friend	2	5	4
Brother or sister	4	2	3
Mother/father	5	-	2
Stranger	4	1	2
Other	7	11	9
<i>Base</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>169</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

Table 5.17: Source of drugs, by gender: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Friend of own age	36	31	34
Older friend	27	35	30
Someone known	7	11	9
Boyfriend/girlfriend	-	16	6
Younger friend	4	4	4
Brother or sister	4	1	3
Mother/father	1	3	2
Stranger	3	1	2
Other	12	6	9
<i>Base</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>169</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

Table 5.18: Sharing drugs, by age group: Falkirk 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Used it all myself	30	42	38
Sold some of it	15	11	12
Gave some of it away	55	47	50
<i>Base</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>134</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Used it all myself	38	38	38
Sold some of it	14	10	12
Gave some of it away	48	52	50
Base	80	54	134

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	29	14	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	24	20	21	20
Would not like to give up	26	39	35	39
Not sure	21	27	25	26
Base	34	49	83	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	20	16	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	18	26	21	20
Would not like to give up	43	25	35	39
Not sure	19	33	25	26
Base	48	35	83	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: Falkirk 2002.

	Total %
Yes	5
No	95
Base	83

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 : Falkirk 2002.

	Total %
Yes	71
No	29
<i>Base</i>	<i>83</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: Falkirk 2002.

	Total %
Yes	66
No	17
Don't know	17
<i>Base</i>	<i>595</i>

Base=All pupils

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

	Total %
Doctor	48
Friends	39
Telephone helpline	31
Internet/web	29
Teacher	26
Female family member	23
Advice organisation	21
Drop-in centre	19
Magazines	17
Male family member	17
Books	17
Councillor	14
Youth worker	11
TV/radio	7
<i>Base</i>	<i>389</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: Falkirk 2002.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	89	6	5	587
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	81	11	8	582
Taking cocaine is dangerous	81	5	14	584
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	76	3	21	587
Heroin is addictive	72	4	25	585
People who sell drugs should be punished	68	18	14	586
Most young people will try out drugs	67	18	16	583
People my age who take drugs need help	64	19	17	584
What adults tell us about drugs is true	62	18	19	583
People who take drugs are stupid	60	27	14	585
People who take heroin are junkies	59	15	25	584
People take drugs to relax	53	16	31	584
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	51	5	44	586
People take drugs to escape from reality	50	17	33	583
People who take drugs should be punished	33	47	20	585
Taking drugs is exciting	15	52	33	586

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	75	75	75
No	20	18	19
Don't know	6	7	7
<i>Base</i>	367	205	572

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	63	48	55
No	27	40	33
Don't know	10	12	11
<i>Base</i>	362	204	566

Base= All pupils

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

	Total %
Very useful	25
Fairly useful	48
Not very useful	14
Not useful at all	4
Don't know	9
<i>Base</i>	448

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 the Falkirk area no independent school pupils were included in the final sample. There was a higher response rate in S2 pupils (66% of Falkirk sample) compared with S4 pupils (34% of Falkirk 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 ^{1 2}.

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

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