

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

## **SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE AMONG 13 AND 15 YEAR OLDS IN FORTH VALLEY, 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 Forth Valley:

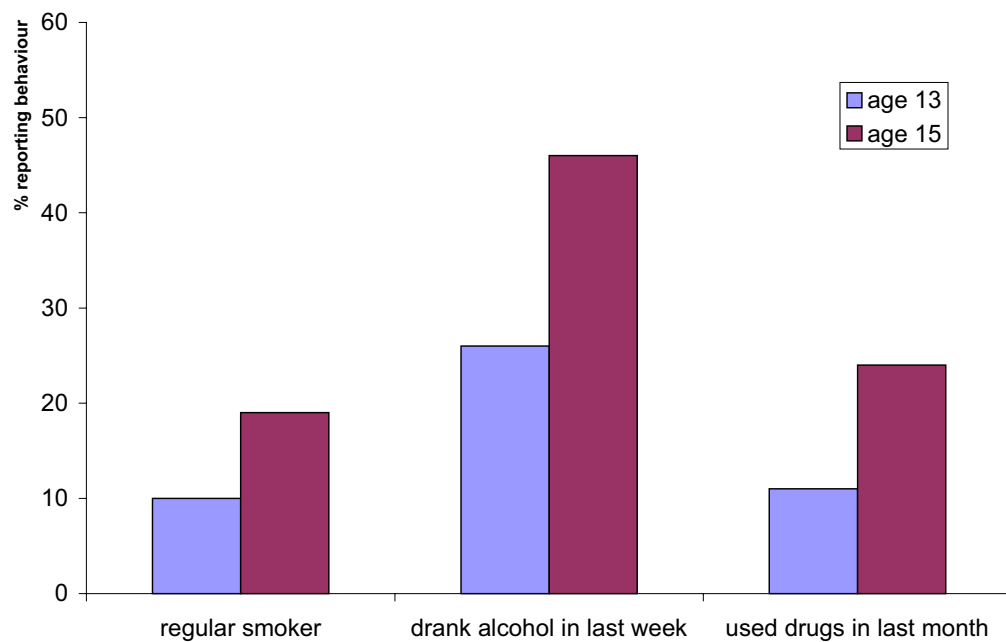
- 10% of 13 year olds and 19% of 15 year olds were regular smokers<sup>1</sup>
- Prevalence of regular smoking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- 26% of 13 year olds and 46% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- Prevalence of drinking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- 11% of 13 year olds and 24% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey
- Prevalence of drug use in 13 year olds was higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- The differences in drinking and drug use between boys and girls in Forth Valley were not statistically significant, however significantly more girls were regular smokers than boys
- For 15 year old pupils the average age for first drinking or smoking was 12, but the average age for the first occasion of drug use was older at 14 years.

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

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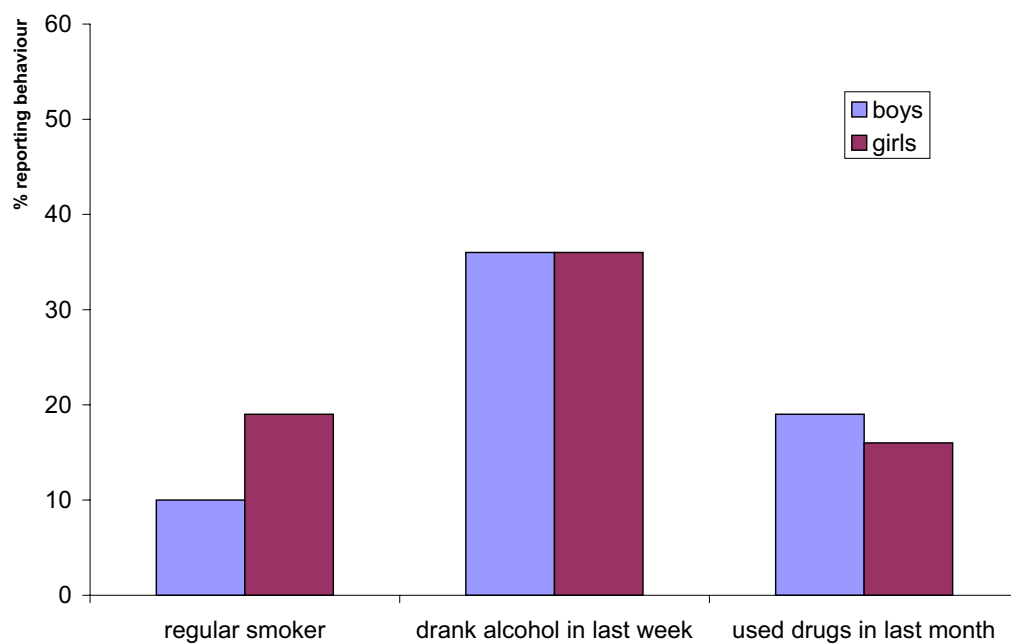
<sup>1</sup> regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

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



(Source: tables 3.1, 4.3, 5.1)

**Figure 1.2: Smoking, drinking and drugs use in 13 and 15 year olds, by gender: Forth Valley 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 Forth Valley 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 information on other lifestyle factors and social contextual information to gain a better

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

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

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

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 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 Forth Valley was designed to have a final sample size of 2300 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 35% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study. Of the 21 schools which were asked to participate 15 schools (71%) agreed to take part in the study.

Response rates are based on class and pupil participation rates. In total 131 classes in Forth Valley were selected to participate, and 78 classes (60%) took part. The overall pupil response rate within classes was 91%. The main reason for pupil non-

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

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

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

response was absence due to illness. The final survey response in Forth Valley, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 54%. This is slightly lower than the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 1582 pupils, 23.4% of the target population in Forth Valley.

## 3 Smoking

### 3.1 Smoking prevalence

In Forth Valley, reported prevalence of regular smoking<sup>1</sup> increased significantly with age. In 2002, 10% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 19% of 15 year olds. For both age groups the reported prevalence in Forth Valley was not significantly different from the national prevalence of regular smoking (national figures: 8% for 13 year olds and 20% for 15 year olds). Half of all 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (50%), compared with 36% of 15 year olds.

Again, reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls in Forth Valley; 19% of girls and 10% of boys were regular smokers (**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 30 per week for 13 year olds and 45 per week for 15 year olds. There was no significant gender difference in the average number of cigarettes smoked per week by regular smokers.

### 3.3 Money spent on cigarettes

Almost all regular smokers (96%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £8.00 a week.

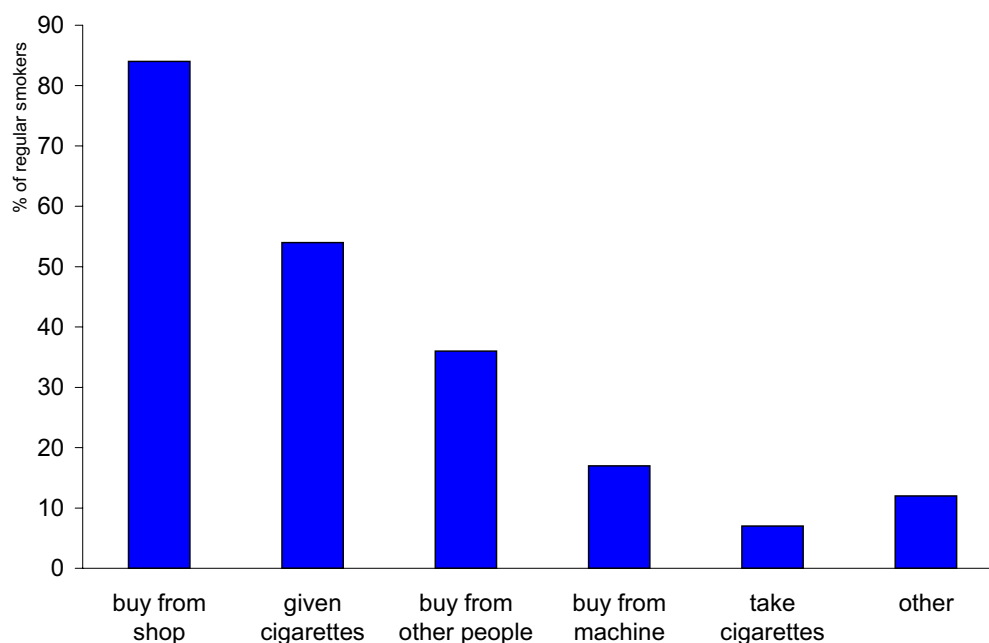
### 3.4 Where pupils obtain cigarettes

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 (84%) reported that they bought cigarettes from shops, 17% bought them from machines and 36% reported buying them from other people. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, just over half (54%) of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 7% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 12% of pupils reported that they obtained their cigarettes 'some other way' (**Tables 3.3 and 3.4, Figure 3.1**).

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

**Figure 3.1: Source of cigarettes: Forth Valley 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 (68%) regular smokers reported that they would like to give up smoking and 70% had tried to give up at some time. Thirty two percent (32%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 34% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (63% of all regular smokers) were more likely to think it would be very difficult to give up smoking altogether compared to pupils who had smoked for less than a year: 40% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 17% of pupils who had smoked regularly for less than a year (Tables 3.5 to 3.8).

### **3.6 Family attitudes to smoking**

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

Seventy four percent (74%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Over half (62%) of all pupils who were regular smokers reported that they are not allowed to smoke at home (Tables 3.9 and 3.10).

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

Pupils were also asked whether their families and friends smoked. More pupils who were regular smokers reported that a parent was a daily smoker compared with non-smokers: 63% of regular smokers compared with 40% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 42% of regular smokers, compared with 14% of non-smokers (**Tables 3.11 and 3.12**).

Regular smokers were also more likely to have friends who smoked: 39% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 4% of non-smokers. Most non-smokers (60%) 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 (82%) had seen adverts on posters or billboards. More than half reported that they had seen adverts in magazines (56%) or on television (55%). Fewer pupils reported seeing adverts in newspapers (40%) or at the cinema (18%) (**Table 3.14**).

### **3.8 Lessons on smoking**

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on smoking. Pupil responses depend on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. Most pupils reported that they had lessons, videos or discussions: 74% of 13 year olds and 64% of 15 year olds. However, 20% of 13 year olds and 26% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 7% of 13 year olds and 10% of 15 year olds reported that they did not know if they had had lessons, videos or discussions on smoking (**Table 3.15**).

**Table 3.1: Smoking behaviour by age group: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	10	19	14	14
Occasional smoker	6	6	6	5
Used to smoke	12	14	13	13
Tried smoking once	22	24	23	23
Never smoked	50	36	43	45
<i>Base</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>622</i>	<i>1522</i>	<i>22313</i>

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	10	19	14	14
Occasional smoker	4	8	6	5
Used to smoke	11	16	13	13
Tried smoking once	28	18	23	23
Never smoked	47	39	43	45
<i>Base</i>	<i>778</i>	<i>744</i>	<i>1522</i>	<i>22313</i>

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	67	92	84
Given cigarettes	54	53	54
Buy from other people	39	34	36
Buy from machine	15	18	17
Take cigarettes	11	5	7
Get cigarettes some other way	18	9	12
<i>Base</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>209</i>

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	83	84	84
Given cigarettes	55	53	54
Buy from other people	36	36	36
Buy from machine	22	14	17
Take cigarettes	9	6	7
Get cigarettes some other way	14	12	12
<i>Base</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>209</i>

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	68
Would not like to give up smoking	32
<i>Base</i>	195

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	70
Has not tried to give up smoking	30
<i>Base</i>	204

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %
One year or less	37
More than a year	63
<i>Base</i>	199

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.8: Ease of giving up smoking by length of time smoking: Forth Valley 2002.**

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	17	40	32	32
Fairly difficult	30	36	34	36
Fairly easy	38	16	24	21
Very easy	15	8	11	11
<i>Base</i>	77	122	204	2868

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	22	49	62	55	54
Persuade me not to	52	40	29	33	35
Do nothing	14	3	1	4	3
Encourage me	2	-	0	0	0
Not sure	10	7	7	8	7
<i>Base</i>	199	69	989	1312	19279

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.10: Whether regular smokers are allowed to smoke at home: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	23
Not allowed to smoke at home	62
Don't know	16
<i>Base</i>	182

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.11: Parents' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	36	61	57
At least one parent smokes daily	63	38	40
Does not see either parent	1	1	3
<i>Base</i>	200	88	1184

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.12: Siblings' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	53	71	79
At least one sibling smokes daily	42	22	14
Does not have siblings	5	8	8
<i>Base</i>	198	81	1119

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.13: Friends smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	39	8	4
More than half	35	23	6
Half	12	27	8
Less than half	10	25	22
Almost none	2	14	35
None	2	3	25
<i>Base</i>	209	94	1218

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Yes %</b>	<b>No %</b>	<b>Don't know %</b>	<b>Base</b>
On posters/billboards	82	11	7	1514
In magazines	56	32	12	1495
On television	55	36	9	1510
In newspapers	40	43	17	1482
At the cinema	18	62	20	1474

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Age 13 %</b>	<b>Age 15 %</b>	<b>Total %</b>
Yes	74	64	69
No	20	26	23
Don't know	7	10	8
<i>Base</i>	740	754	1494

*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 two percent (72%) of 13 year olds and 88% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink (**Table 4.1**). For both age groups the reported prevalence in Forth Valley was not significantly different from the national prevalence of alcohol use (national figures: 69% for 13 year olds and 88% for 15 year olds).

Just under half (46%) of 15 year olds and 26% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, again a significant increase in prevalence with age. 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; 20% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared to 38% 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 who reported drinking at least once a week (**Tables 4.5 and 4.6**).

### 4.3 Money spent on alcohol

Of all pupils who drank weekly, 79% reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £8.00 a week.

### 4.4 Type of alcohol consumed

Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked whether or not they had consumed various categories of alcoholic drink<sup>1</sup>. There were significant differences between boys and girls in the types of alcohol drunk. For boys 'beer, lager or cider' were most commonly reported: 62% 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: 66% had drunk alcopops in the last week. Fifty nine percent of girls (59%) reported that they had drunk spirits in the last week (**Table 4.8**).

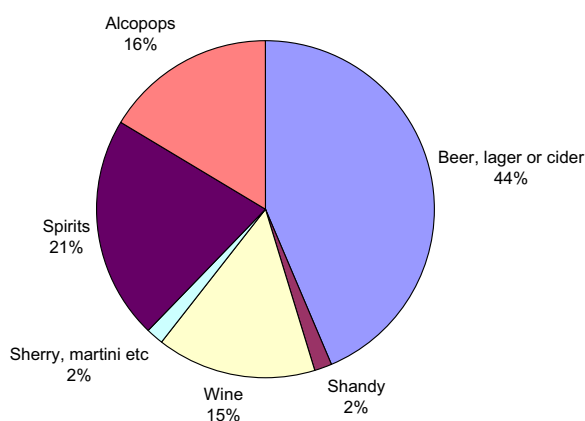
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<sup>1</sup> Pupils were asked about the following types of drink: beer, lager or cider, shandy, wine, martini and sherry, spirits and liqueurs, alcopops and pre-mixed alcoholic drinks.

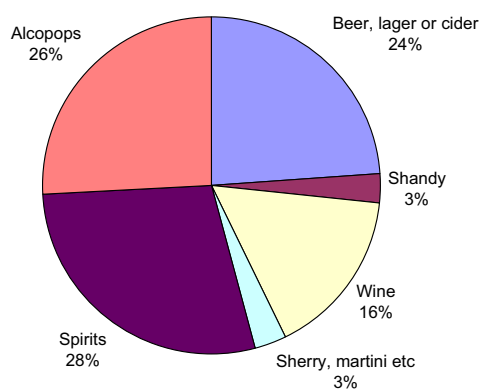
## 4.5 Average amount of alcohol consumed weekly

Pupils who reported that they had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked to record the amount they had consumed of each category of alcoholic drink. From this the total units of alcohol consumed were calculated. Half a pint of beer or a small glass of wine contains approximately one unit of alcohol. The method used to calculate units of alcohol was the same as used in previous surveys in this series (a full discussion of the method, including issues of under-reporting, can be found in Boreham et al., 2001<sup>1</sup>). Boys who drank over the previous seven days consumed on average 14 units of alcohol, and girls consumed 12 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: Forth Valley 2002.**



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

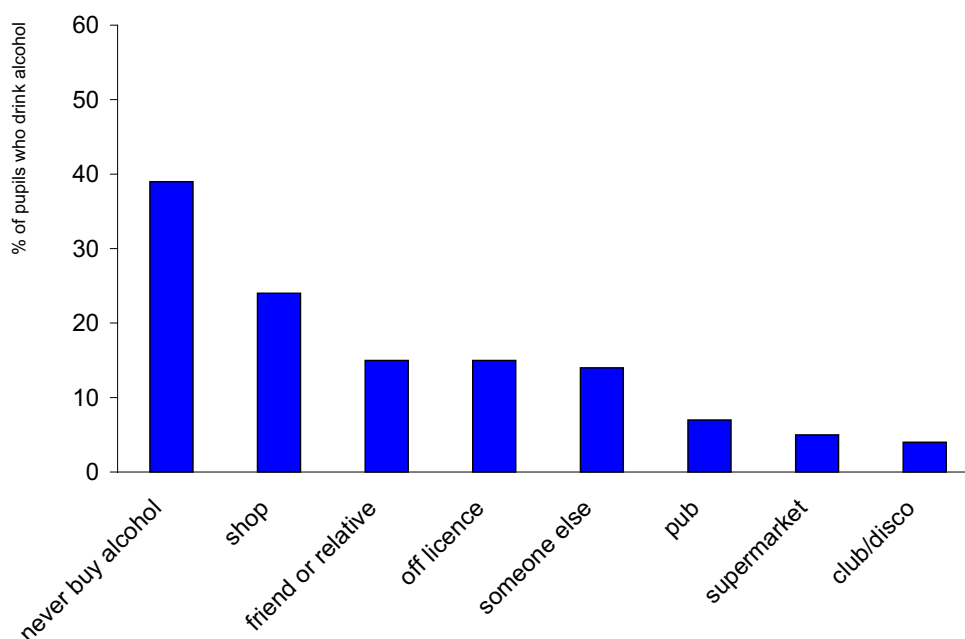


<sup>1</sup> Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

## 4.6 Availability of alcohol

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Thirty nine percent (39%) 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 Forth Valley were from a shop (24%), from an off licence (15%), from friends or relatives (15%) or from someone else (14%) (Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).

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

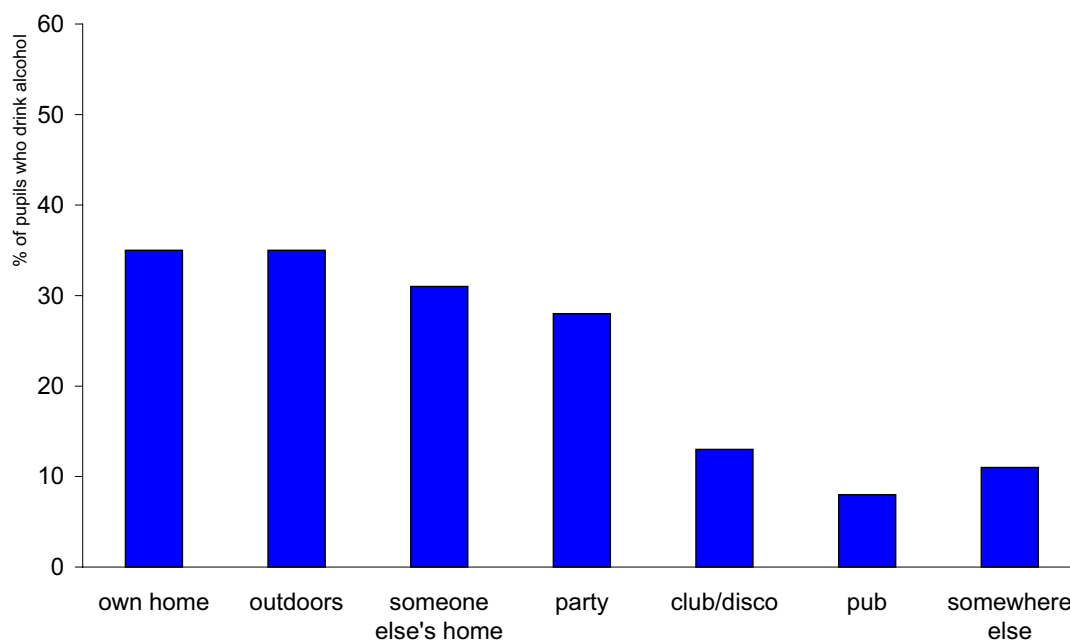


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

## 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 (35%) and someone else's home (31%) (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: Forth Valley 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. Eighteen percent (18%) had been drunk once, 22% had been drunk 2-3 times, 12% 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 of all 13 and 15 year old pupils who had ever had a proper alcoholic drink (49%) reported that they had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past 30 days and 14% had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion 4 or more times in the past 30 days (Tables 4.15 and 4.16).

## 4.9 Effects of drinking too much alcohol

Pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked whether they had ever experienced any of a list of possible effects as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Pupils could give more than one answer. The most commonly reported effect was vomiting, reported by 43% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils. 'Having an argument or fight' was reported by 28% of all 13 and 15 year olds.

Some pupils had been involved in other risk behaviours as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Nineteen percent (19%) had tried drugs. Sixteen percent (16%) of all

15 year olds (14% of boys and 19% of girls) had had unprotected sex (13 year old pupils were not asked questions on sexual health).

Around one in ten pupils had stayed off school as a result of drinking too much alcohol (13%). Fewer pupils reported having had any serious injuries which required the attention of a doctor or having been in hospital, either at an Accident and Emergency department or admitted overnight (**Tables 4.17 and 4.18**).

#### **4.10 Family attitudes to drinking**

All pupils who drank alcohol were asked how their family felt about them drinking alcohol. Just over a quarter (27%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their family did not know that they drank, 40% reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 16% 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 (20% of all pupils) were asked how their families would feel if they started drinking. Sixty eight percent (68%) reported that their families would be upset or angry if they started drinking (**Tables 4.21 and 4.22**).

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

#### **4.11 Lessons on alcohol**

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on alcohol. Pupil response depends on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. Most pupils reported having lessons, videos or class discussions; 70% of 13 year olds and 77% of 15 year olds. However, 22% of 13 year olds and 16% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 8% of 13 year olds and 7% 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:  
Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	72	88	80	78
No	28	12	20	22
<i>Base</i>	908	652	1560	22850

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 4.2: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by gender:  
Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	80	80	80	78
No	20	20	20	22
<i>Base</i>	794	766	1560	22850

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 4.3: Last occasion of drinking, by age group Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	26	46	36	35
One to four weeks ago	12	20	16	16
One to six months ago	18	17	17	18
More than six months ago	15	6	10	10
Never	29	12	20	22
<i>Base</i>	892	648	1540	22617

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.4: Last occasion of drinking, by gender: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	36	36	36	35
One to four weeks ago	15	17	16	16
One to six months ago	17	18	17	18
More than six months ago	11	10	10	10
Never	21	20	20	22
<i>Base</i>	782	758	1540	22617

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.5: Usual drinking frequency, by age group: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	20	38	29	27
About once a fortnight	8	13	11	12
About once a month	9	15	12	12
Only a few times a year	34	22	28	27
Never	29	12	20	22
<i>Base</i>	903	648	1551	22754

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.6: Usual drinking frequency, by gender: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	31	28	29	27
About once a fortnight	10	11	11	12
About once a month	11	13	12	12
Only a few times a year	28	28	28	27
Never	21	20	20	22
<i>Base</i>	790	761	1551	22754

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	42	52	48
Shandy	12	5	8
Wine	39	30	33
Martini, sherry etc.	11	5	7
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	52	58	56
Alcopops	65	52	57
<i>Base</i>	236	297	533

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Beer, lager or cider	62	34	48
Shandy	9	7	8
Wine	32	34	33
Martini, sherry etc.	6	9	7
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	53	59	56
Alcopops	49	66	57
<i>Base</i>	<i>271</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>533</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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	<b>Age 13</b>	<b>Age 15</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	52	29	39
Buy alcohol from shop	15	31	24
Buy alcohol in off licence	8	21	15
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	12	17	15
Buy alcohol from someone else	14	14	14
Buy alcohol in pub	1	11	7
Buy alcohol from supermarket	2	7	5
Buy alcohol in club	2	6	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>667</i>	<i>582</i>	<i>1249</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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	40	39	39
Buy alcohol from shop	24	23	24
Buy alcohol in off licence	15	15	15
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	13	17	15
Buy alcohol from someone else	13	16	14
Buy alcohol in pub	6	7	7
Buy alcohol from supermarket	6	4	5
Buy alcohol in club	3	6	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>641</i>	<i>608</i>	<i>1249</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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	39	31	35
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	32	37	35
Usually drink in someone else's home	26	34	31
Usually drink at a party with friends	21	34	28
Usually drink in club/disco	11	15	13
Usually drink in pub	4	12	8
Usually drink somewhere else	13	8	11
<b>Base</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>1249</b>

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

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

**Table 4.12: Venue for drinking alcohol, by gender: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	33	36	35
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	36	34	35
Usually drink in someone else's home	26	36	31
Usually drink at a party with friends	24	31	28
Usually drink in club/disco	11	15	13
Usually drink in pub	8	8	8
Usually drink somewhere else	12	9	11
<b>Base</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>1249</b>

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

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

**Table 4.13: Ever been drunk, by age group: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	40	24	31	32
Once	22	15	18	19
2-3 times	17	26	22	22
4-10 times	11	14	12	13
More than 10 times	10	20	16	14
<b>Base</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>1220</b>	<b>17723</b>

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.14: Ever been drunk, by gender: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	31	32	31	32
Once	17	20	18	19
2-3 times	22	22	22	22
4-10 times	12	13	12	13
More than 10 times	18	13	16	14
<i>Base</i>	621	599	1220	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	9	18	14	13
3 times	7	10	9	9
Twice	10	14	12	13
Once	13	14	14	14
Not in last 30 days	22	24	23	23
Never	38	20	28	28
<i>Base</i>	635	567	1202	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	13	15	14	13
3 times	9	8	9	9
Twice	12	12	12	13
Once	15	13	14	14
Not in last 30 days	23	24	23	23
Never	29	28	28	28
<i>Base</i>	608	594	1202	17615

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	34	49	43
Had an argument or fight	25	31	28
Tried any drugs	15	21	19
Had unprotected sex*	-	16	16
Stayed off school	13	13	13
Injured and seen by doctor	6	4	4
Visited A & E department	3	4	3
Admitted to hospital overnight	3	2	3
<b>Base</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>1196</b>

*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:  
Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	40	44	43
Had an argument or fight	26	30	28
Tried any drugs	21	15	19
Had unprotected sex*	14	19	16
Stayed off school	10	15	13
Injured and seen by doctor	6	3	4
Visited A & E department	4	2	3
Admitted to hospital overnight	3	3	3
<b>Base</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>1196</b>

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	13	18	16	16
They don't mind	34	44	40	45
They don't know I drink	38	22	27	27
I don't know what they think	15	17	16	12
<b>Base</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>7469</b>

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	18	14	16	16
They don't mind	42	38	40	45
They don't know I drink	23	32	27	27
I don't know what they think	17	16	16	12
<i>Base</i>	251	254	505	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	75	53	68	70
They would not mind	7	21	11	9
I don't know what they would think	18	26	20	21
<i>Base</i>	246	76	322	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	67	69	68	70
They would not mind	12	11	11	9
I don't know what they would think	21	20	20	21
<i>Base</i>	166	156	322	4711

*Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.23: Whether pupils are allowed to drink alcohol at home: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %
Yes, always	7
Yes, sometimes	72
No, never	22
<i>Base</i>	1518

*Base=All pupils*

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

	<b>Age 13</b>	<b>Age 15</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	70	77	73
No	22	16	19
Don't know	8	7	7
<i>Base</i>	740	757	1497

*Base= All pupils*

## 5 Drug Use

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

All pupils were then asked whether they had ever used any of the drugs on the list, even if only once: 28% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils reported that they had taken drugs at some time (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

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

### 5.1 Drug use in the month prior to the survey

Prevalence of drug use in the month prior to the survey increased significantly with age. Eleven percent (11%) of thirteen year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 24% of fifteen year olds. Prevalence of drug use in 13 year olds was significantly higher than the national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 8% of 13 year olds). However, prevalence of drug use in 15 year olds was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence (national figure: 23% of 15 year olds). There was no gender difference in prevalence of drug use boys (19% of boys and 16% 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 five percent (25%) 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, 23% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The figures were much lower for other types of drugs; 8% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 5% had used solvents, 2% percent 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

Around half of all pupils (54%) had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 69% of 15 year old pupils and 39% of 13 year old pupils reported that they had been offered drugs. The proportion of 13 year olds offered drugs was significantly higher than that reported nationally (national figures 34% of 13 year olds reported being offered drugs). There was no significant difference in the proportion of 15 year olds offered drugs in Forth Valley compared with that reported nationally (national figures: 65% of 15 year olds reported being offered drugs). Girls were significantly less likely to have been offered drugs than

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

boys: 49% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 59% of boys. The most commonly offered drug type was cannabis: 46% 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 all pupils reported that they usually take drugs once a week or more, with a significantly higher proportion of older pupils and boys doing so; 4% of thirteen year old pupils and 8% of fifteen year old pupils and 4% of girls and 7% of boys reported this). Prevalence of weekly drug taking in 13 year olds was significantly higher than the national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 2% of 13 year olds). However, prevalence of weekly drug taking in 15 year olds was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence (national figure: 7% of 15 year olds) (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

#### **5.5 Money spent on drugs**

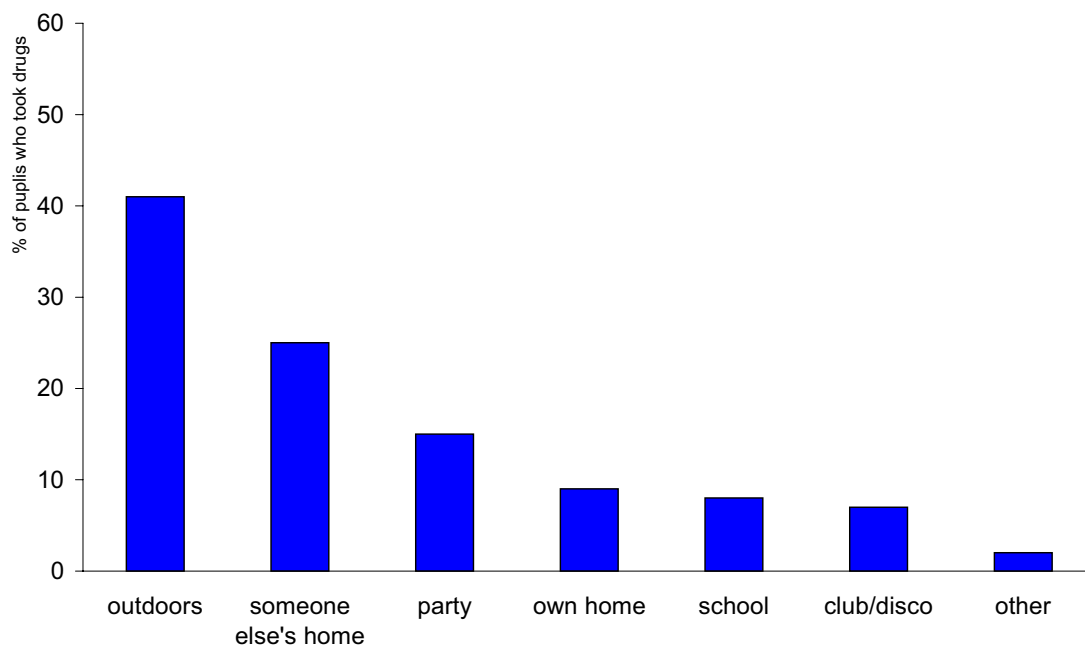
Around half (55%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £9.00 per week.

#### **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' (41%). The next most reported location was 'someone else's home' (25%) (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: Forth Valley 2002.**



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

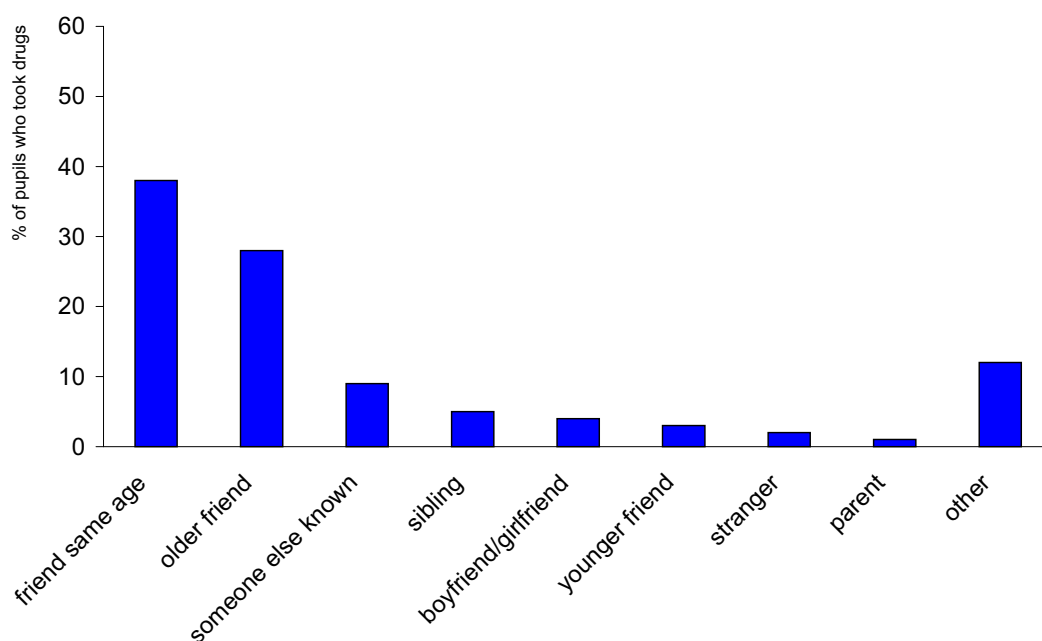
## 5.7 Availability of drugs

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 36% did not know how easy or difficult it would be. Significantly more fifteen year olds reported that they would find it 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' (64%) than thirteen year old pupils (38%) (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; 38% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from a friend of the same age and a further 28% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: Forth Valley 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Over half (55%) of the pupils who took drugs reported that they gave some drugs away last time they used drugs. Fewer pupils (9%) reported that they sold some of their drugs (Tables 5.18 and 5.19).

## 5.9 Obtaining information and help

Fifteen percent (15%) 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 66% 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 eight percent (68%) reported that they knew where to get information (Table 5.24). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (44%), 'friends' (40%), 'telephone helpline' (36%), and 'Internet' (34%) (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 (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' (79%), 'heroin is addictive' (70%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (72%), although 27% did not know whether heroin was addictive and 25% 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 (56%) 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', around half (56%) 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'; 65% of pupils agreed with this statement. Just over half (52%) 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'. Sixteen percent (16%) 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' (51%), but with regard to these last two statements around a third of pupils reported that they 'don't know' (39% and 33% respectively).

Sixty percent (60%) agreed that 'all people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 27% 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: 73% of 13 year olds and 78% of 15 year olds. However, 20% of 13 year olds and 15% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 7% of 13 year olds and 7% of 15 year olds reported that did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on drugs (**Table 5.27**).

Fewer pupils reported having lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing. Around half (52% of 13 year olds and 46% of 15 year olds) reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions in the last twelve months. However, 35% of 13 year olds and 39% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 13% of 13 year olds and 14% 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 45% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	11	24	17	15
Used drugs in last year*	16	34	25	22
Used drugs ever	18	38	28	25
<i>Base</i>	896	647	1543	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	19	16	17	15
Used drugs in last year*	28	23	25	22
Used drugs ever	31	26	28	25
<i>Base</i>	782	761	1543	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	14	33	23	20
Stimulants	5	11	8	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	2	2	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	2	3	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	2	4	3	2
<i>poppers</i>	4	7	6	3
Psychedelics	2	3	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	1	2	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	2	2	2
Opiates	2	2	2	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	0	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	5	5	5	4
Tranquillisers	2	4	3	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	0	1	0
Semeron	1	0	1	0
Other	1	0	1	0
<i>Base</i>	924	658	1582	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 the tables have been weighted to allow more precise comparisons to be made with local figures, therefore there may be a slight variation between some of 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:  
Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	25	21	23	20
Stimulants	8	8	8	6
<i>cocaine</i>	2	1	2	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	2	3	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	3	3	3	2
<i>poppers</i>	6	6	6	3
Psychedelics	2	2	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	1	2	2
Opiates	2	1	2	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	1	1	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	0	1	0
Semeron	1	0	1	0
Other	1	0	1	0
<b>Base</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>1582</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:  
Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	39	69	54
No	61	31	46
<b>Base</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>1435</b>

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	59	49	54
No	41	51	46
<b>Base</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>1435</b>

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 5.7: Type of drug offered, by age: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	31	61	46	42
Stimulants	17	32	25	19
<i>cocaine</i>	5	8	6	6
<i>crack</i>	5	5	5	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	8	19	13	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	6	12	9	7
<i>poppers</i>	10	23	17	9
Psychedelics	8	15	12	10
<i>LSD</i>	3	6	5	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	7	12	9	8
Opiates	6	6	6	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	5	5	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	1	2	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	15	16	16	12
Tranquillisers	5	11	8	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	1	2	2
Semeron	2	2	2	1
Other	2	2	2	1
<i>Base</i>	897	650	1547	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	50	41	46	42
Stimulants	24	25	25	19
<i>cocaine</i>	6	7	6	6
<i>crack</i>	4	5	5	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	13	14	13	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	9	8	9	7
<i>poppers</i>	17	16	17	9
Psychedelics	13	10	12	10
<i>LSD</i>	5	5	5	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	11	8	9	8
Opiates	5	6	6	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	6	5	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	2	2	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	17	14	16	12
Tranquillisers	9	7	8	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	1	2	2
Semeron	2	2	2	1
Other	3	1	2	1
<i>Base</i>	784	763	1547	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:  
Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	4	8	6	5
Once or twice a month	4	7	5	4
A few times a year	3	8	5	5
Do not use drugs	90	77	84	86
<i>Base</i>	<i>903</i>	<i>649</i>	<i>1552</i>	<i>22532</i>

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	7	4	6	5
Once or twice a month	6	5	5	4
A few times a year	4	6	5	5
Do not use drugs	82	85	84	86
<i>Base</i>	<i>788</i>	<i>764</i>	<i>1552</i>	<i>22532</i>

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	44	39	41
Someone else's home	19	29	25
At party	8	18	15
Own home	8	9	9
At school	10	7	8
At club/disco	10	6	7
Other place	1	3	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>461</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 5.12: Places where drugs were used, by gender: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	44	38	41
Someone else's home	20	31	25
At party	13	17	15
Own home	9	8	9
At school	9	7	8
At club/disco	8	6	7
Other place	3	2	2
<i>Base</i>	264	197	461

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	37	39
No	63	61
<i>Base</i>	422	5544

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.14: Ease of getting drugs, by age group: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	15	29	22
Fairly easy	23	35	29
Fairly difficult	5	5	5
Very difficult	5	3	4
Impossible	7	1	4
Don't know	45	26	36
<i>Base</i>	895	645	1540

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.15: Ease of getting drugs, by gender: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	25	18	22
Fairly easy	29	29	29
Fairly difficult	5	5	5
Very difficult	5	3	4
Impossible	4	5	4
Don't know	32	39	36
<i>Base</i>	781	759	1540

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.16: Source of drugs, by age group: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Friend of own age	31	42	38
Older friend	28	28	28
Someone known	11	8	9
Brother or sister	5	6	5
Boyfriend/girlfriend	5	3	4
Younger friend	2	3	3
Stranger	4	1	2
Mother/father	3	-	1
Other	12	12	12
<i>Base</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>461</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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Friend of own age	41	35	38
Older friend	22	36	28
Someone known	10	8	9
Brother or sister	5	6	5
Boyfriend/girlfriend	1	8	4
Younger friend	3	3	3
Stranger	2	2	2
Mother/father	1	2	1
Other	13	12	12
<i>Base</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>461</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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Used it all myself	32	38	36
Sold some of it	12	7	9
Gave some of it away	56	54	55
<i>Base</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>388</i>

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Used it all myself	40	31	36
Sold some of it	11	6	9
Gave some of it away	49	62	55
Base	217	171	388

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	18	14	15	15
Would like to give up in the future	20	20	20	20
Would not like to give up	42	38	39	39
Not sure	20	28	26	26
Base	89	146	235	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	15	15	15	15
Would like to give up in the future	21	19	20	20
Would not like to give up	43	34	39	39
Not sure	21	32	26	26
Base	130	105	235	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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	5
No	95
Base	237

*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 : Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	66
No	34
<i>Base</i>	233

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	68
No	16
Don't know	17
<i>Base</i>	1547

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.25: Where pupils would go for information on drugs: Forth Valley 2002.**

	Total %
Doctor	44
Friends	40
Telephone helpline	36
Internet/web	34
Teacher	26
Drop-in centre	25
Female family member	25
Advice organisation	24
Male family member	20
Magazines	17
Books	16
Councillor	12
Youth worker	11
TV/radio	7
<i>Base</i>	1035

*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: Forth Valley 2002.**

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	89	5	5	1533
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	80	11	9	1526
Taking cocaine is dangerous	79	5	17	1530
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	72	3	25	1533
Heroin is addictive	70	3	27	1532
Most young people will try out drugs	67	18	15	1531
People my age who take drugs need help	65	20	16	1530
People who sell drugs should be punished	60	24	16	1535
People who take drugs are stupid	56	29	15	1527
What adults tell us about drugs is true	56	18	26	1527
People who take heroin are junkies	52	20	28	1527
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	51	5	44	1532
People take drugs to relax	51	16	33	1528
People take drugs to escape from reality	45	16	39	1528
People who take drugs should be punished	27	52	22	1528
Taking drugs is exciting	16	52	32	1533

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	73	78	75
No	20	15	18
Don't know	7	7	7
<i>Base</i>	744	752	1496

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	52	46	49
No	35	39	37
Don't know	13	14	13
<i>Base</i>	735	749	1484

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Total %
Very useful	25
Fairly useful	45
Not very useful	15
Not useful at all	6
Don't know	9
<i>Base</i>	1191

*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 Forth Valley there was no difference in response rate between state and independently funded pupils, but there was a higher response rate in S2 pupils (58% of Forth Valley sample) compared with S4 pupils (42% of Forth Valley sample).

### **6.2 Precision of estimates**

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

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

### **6.3 Statistical significance**

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

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

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