

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

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

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

1 Summary of Findings

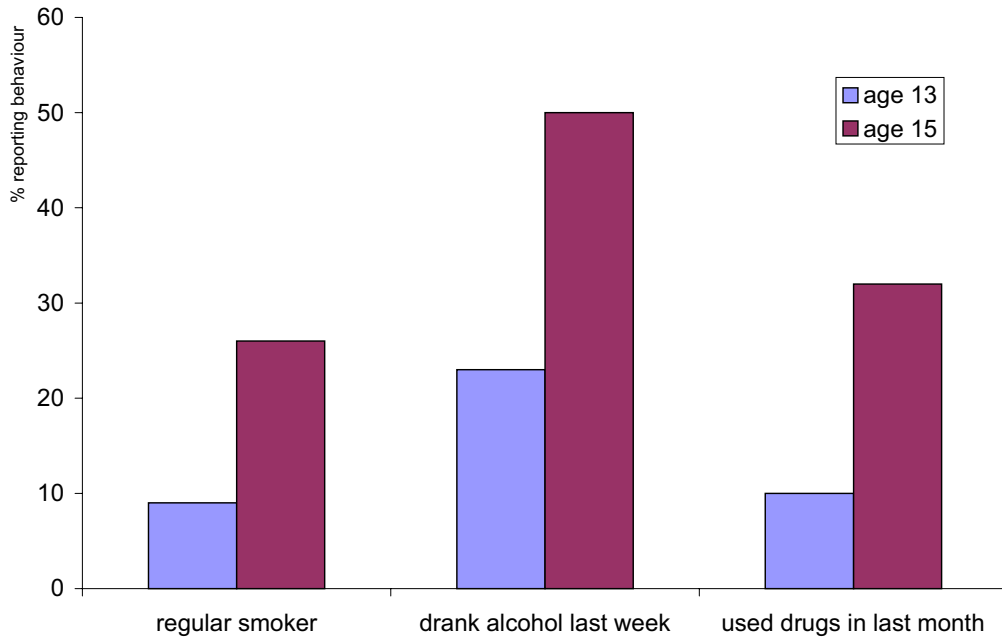
SALSUS 2002 found that among pupils in North Ayrshire:

- € 9% of 13 year olds and 26% of 15 year olds were regular smokers¹
- € Regular smoking in 15 year olds was significantly higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- € 23% of 13 year olds and 50% 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
- € 10% of 13 year olds and 32% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey
- € Prevalence of drug use in 15 year olds was higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- € The differences in smoking and drinking between boys and girls in North Ayrshire were not statistically significant, however drug use was lower in girls 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 North Ayrshire in 2002.

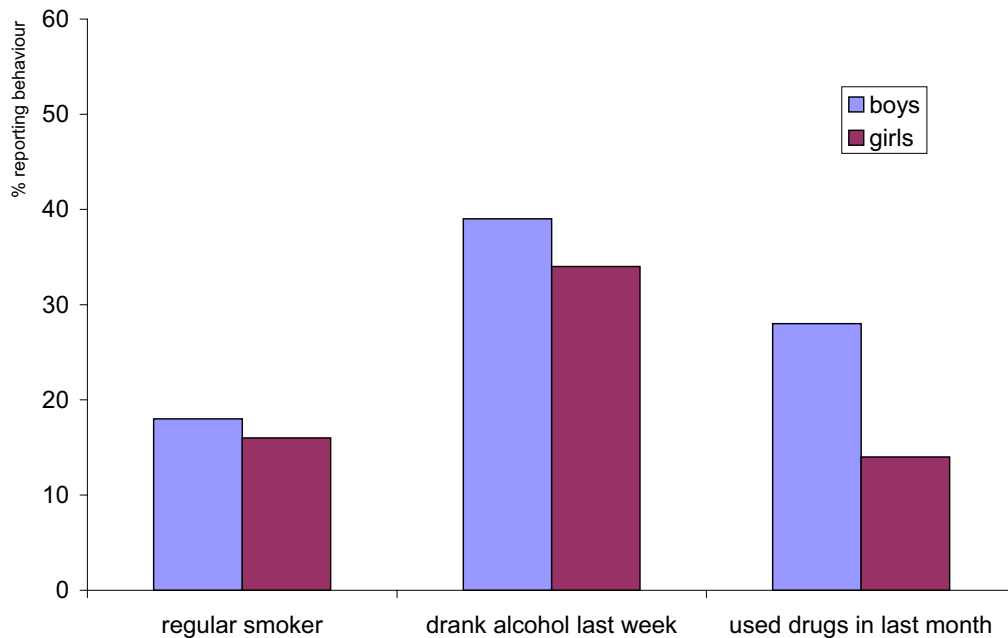
¹ regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

Figure 1.1: Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by age group: North Ayrshire 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: North Ayrshire 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 North Ayrshire 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 North Ayrshire was designed to have a final sample size of 850 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 24% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study. Of the 10 schools which were asked to participate 7 schools (70%) 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 44 classes in North Ayrshire were selected to participate, and 27 classes (61%) took part. The overall pupil response rate within classes was 93%. The main reason for pupil non-response was absence due to illness and authorised absences. The final survey response in North Ayrshire, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 57%. This is slightly lower than the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 433 pupils, 12.3% of the target population in North Ayrshire.

3 Smoking

3.1 Smoking prevalence

In North Ayrshire, reported prevalence of regular smoking¹ increased significantly with age. In 2002, 9% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 26% of 15 year olds. The reported prevalence of regular smoking in 15 year olds was significantly higher than the national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 20% for 15 year olds). However, prevalence of regular smoking in 13 year olds was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence (national figure: 8% for 13 year olds). Under half of 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (46%), compared with 29% of 15 year olds.

There was no significant difference between boys and girls in smoking prevalence (16% of girls and 18% 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. Thirteen year olds reported smoking an average of 21 cigarettes per week and 15 year olds reported smoking 30 cigarettes 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

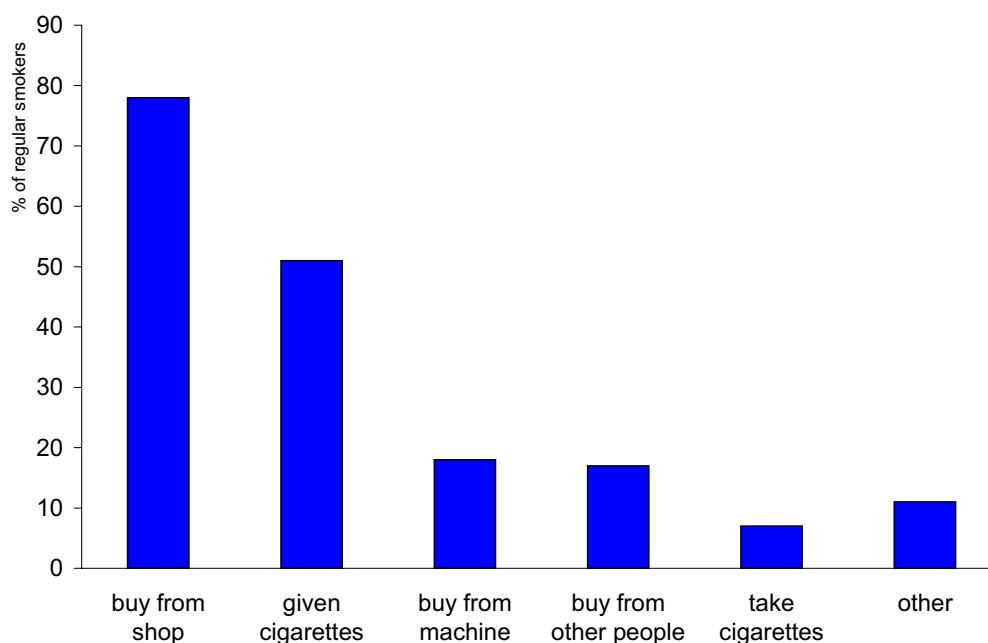
Almost all regular smokers (92%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £7.00 a week.

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. Most regular smokers (78%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, 18% bought them from machines and 17% reported buying them from other people. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, just over half (51%) of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 7% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 11% 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: North Ayrshire 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. Over half (59%) of regular smokers reported that they would like to give up smoking and 61% had tried to give up at some time. Twenty seven percent (27%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 21% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (52% of all regular smokers) were more likely to think it would be very difficult to give up smoking altogether compared to pupils who had smoked for one year or less: 41% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 9% of pupils who had smoked regularly for one year or less (Tables 3.5 to 3.8).

3.6 Family attitudes to smoking

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

Sixty five percent (65%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Over half (61%) 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 (90%) 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: 68% of regular smokers compared with 33% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 36% of regular smokers, compared with 16% of non-smokers (**Tables 3.11 and 3.12**).

Regular smokers were also more likely to have friends who smoked: 33% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 3% of non-smokers. Just over half (51%) of non-smokers reported that 'none' or 'almost none' of their friends smoked (**Table 3.13**).

3.7 Cigarette advertising

Pupils were given a list of places and asked to say whether or not they had seen cigarettes advertised there over the previous six months. The majority of pupils (80%) 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 (44%) or at the cinema (16%) (**Table 3.14**).

3.8 Lessons on smoking

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on smoking. Pupil responses depend on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. More 13 year old pupils than 15 year old pupils reported that they had lessons, videos or discussions: 91% of 13 year olds and 55% of 15 year olds. Eight percent (8%) of 13 year olds and 34% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 1% 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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	9	26	17	14
Occasional smoker	6	7	7	5
Used to smoke	11	13	12	13
Tried smoking once	28	25	27	23
Never smoked	46	29	38	45
<i>Base</i>	211	212	423	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	18	16	17	14
Occasional smoker	6	7	7	5
Used to smoke	9	14	12	13
Tried smoking once	28	25	27	23
Never smoked	39	37	38	45
<i>Base</i>	202	221	423	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	44	89	78
Given cigarettes	72	44	51
Buy from machine	17	18	18
Buy from other people	33	11	17
Take cigarettes	6	7	7
Get cigarettes some other way	17	9	11
<i>Base</i>	18	55	73

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	75	80	78
Given cigarettes	53	49	51
Buy from machine	19	16	18
Buy from other people	20	14	17
Take cigarettes	5	8	7
Get cigarettes some other way	6	16	11
<i>Base</i>	36	37	73

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	59
Would not like to give up smoking	41
<i>Base</i>	71

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	61
Has not tried to give up smoking	39
<i>Base</i>	72

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Total %
One year or less	48
More than a year	52
<i>Base</i>	71

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	9	41	27	32
Fairly difficult	15	27	21	36
Fairly easy	48	24	35	21
Very easy	28	8	17	11
<i>Base</i>	33	37	71	2868

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	17	39	55	47	54
Persuade me not to	48	26	35	38	35
Do nothing	21	-	2	5	3
Encourage me	-	-	-	-	0
Not sure	14	35	7	10	7
<i>Base</i>	71	23	288	392	19279

Base= All pupils

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

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	20
Not allowed to smoke at home	61
Don't know	20
<i>Base</i>	61

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	29	57	66
At least one parent smokes daily	68	43	33
Does not see either parent	3	-	1
<i>Base</i>	69	26	310

Base= All pupils

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	58	88	76
At least one sibling smokes daily	36	8	16
Does not have siblings	6	4	9
<i>Base</i>	67	24	294

Base= All pupils

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	33	15	3
More than half	41	25	12
Half	12	26	12
Less than half	8	22	21
Almost none	6	11	30
None	-	-	21
<i>Base</i>	73	27	322

Base= All pupils

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

	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Base
On posters/billboards	80	13	6	419
In magazines	57	31	12	414
On television	56	37	8	412
In newspapers	44	38	19	413
At the cinema	16	63	21	410

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	91	55	73
No	8	34	21
Don't know	1	10	6
Base	205	211	416

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 89% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink. For neither age group was the reported prevalence in North Ayrshire significantly different from the national prevalence of alcohol use (national figures: 69% for 13 year olds and 88% for 15 year olds) (**Table 4.1**).

Half (50%) of 15 year olds and 23% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, again a significant increase in prevalence with age. Once again these figures are 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; 19% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared to 45% 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 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 £7.00 a week.

4.4 Type of alcohol consumed

Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked whether or not they had consumed various categories of alcoholic drink¹. There were differences between boys and girls in the types of alcohol drunk. For boys beer, lager or cider were most commonly reported: 64% of boys who had drunk alcohol in the last week had consumed half a pint or more of beer, lager or cider. For girls, alcopops were most commonly reported: 70% had drunk alcopops in the last week. Over half (58%) 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 13 units of alcohol, and girls consumed 10 units. This difference was not statistically significant. Figures 4.1 and 4.2 show the consumption of each type of drink as a proportion of the total reported amount of alcohol drunk in the week prior to the survey.

Figure 4.1: Type of alcohol drunk by boys in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: North Ayrshire 2002.

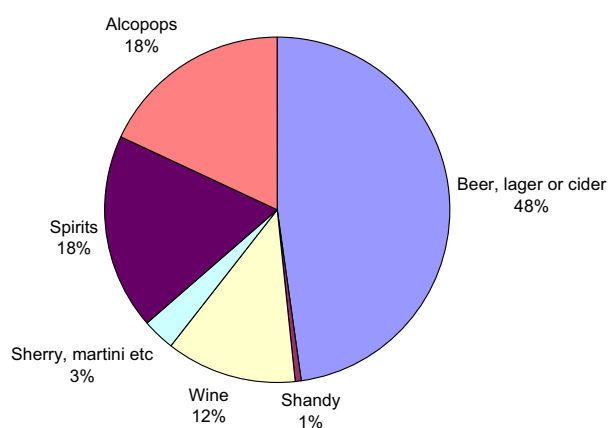
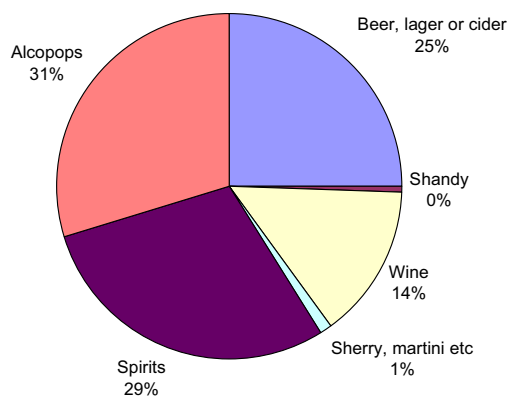


Figure 4.2: Type of alcohol drunk by girls in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: North Ayrshire 2002.

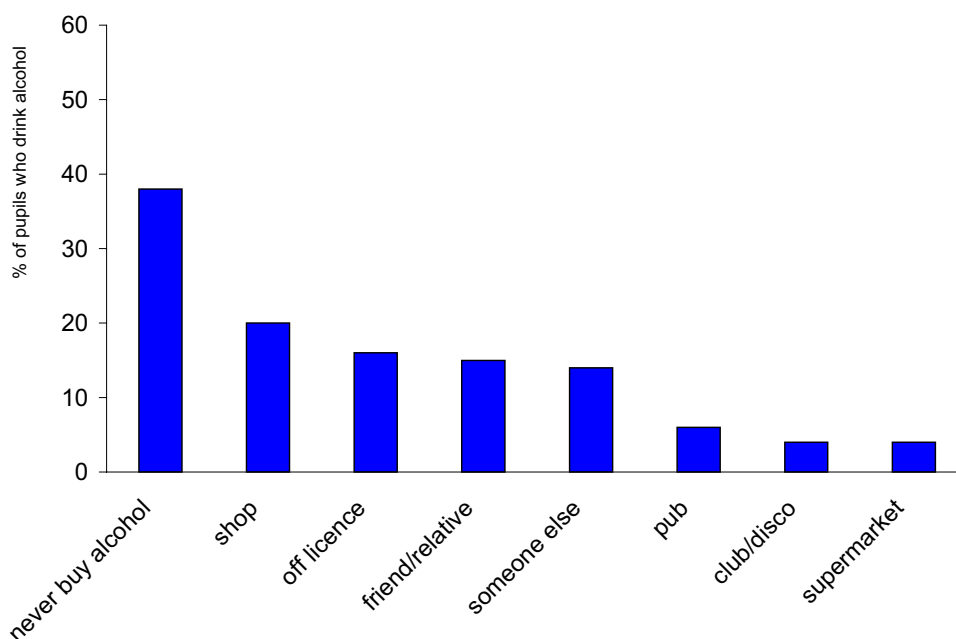


¹ Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

4.6 Availability of alcohol

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Over a third (38%) of those who had had an alcoholic drink reported that they 'never buy alcohol'. Some pupils reported more than one source. The most common sources for purchasing alcohol by pupils in North Ayrshire were from a shop (20%), from an off licence (16%), 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: North Ayrshire 2002.

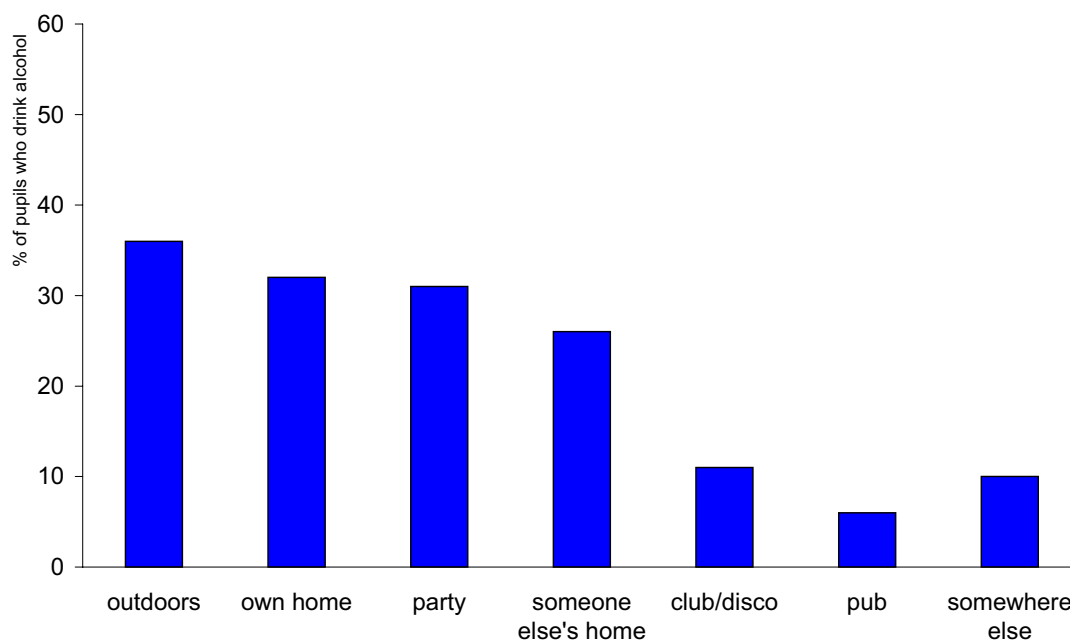


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

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 outdoors (36%), in the pupil's own home (32%), at a party with friends (31%) or in someone else's home (26%) (Tables 4.11 and 4.12, Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: Places where pupils drink alcohol, all pupils who have had an alcoholic drink: North Ayrshire 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, 76% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Twenty three percent (23%) had been drunk once, 25% had been drunk 2-3 times, 10% had been drunk 4-10 times and 18% 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.

Half (50%) 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 13% 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 45% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils. 'Having an argument or fight' was reported by 30% of all 13 and 15 year olds.

Some pupils had been involved in other risk behaviours as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Eighteen percent (18%) had tried drugs. Fifteen percent (15%) of all

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

Eleven percent (11%) 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. 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, just under half (45%) reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 19% reported that their families did not like them drinking and 9% 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 three percent (63%) 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 (77%) 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. More 13 year olds than 15 year olds reported having lessons, videos or class discussions; 85% of 13 year olds and 57% of 15 year olds. Thirteen percent (13%) of 13 year olds and 32% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 2% of 13 year olds and 11% of 15 year olds did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on alcohol (**Table 4.24**).

Table 4.1: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by age group: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	72	89	80	78
No	28	11	20	22
<i>Base</i>	213	218	431	22850

Base= All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	78	83	80	78
No	22	17	20	22
<i>Base</i>	205	226	431	22850

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	23	50	36	35
One to four weeks ago	17	14	16	16
One to six months ago	20	19	20	18
More than six months ago	11	6	8	10
Never	28	11	20	22
<i>Base</i>	211	217	428	22617

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	39	34	36	35
One to four weeks ago	14	17	16	16
One to six months ago	16	24	20	18
More than six months ago	9	8	8	10
Never	22	18	20	22
<i>Base</i>	203	225	428	22617

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	19	45	32	27
About once a fortnight	10	12	11	12
About once a month	12	12	12	12
Only a few times a year	30	20	25	27
Never	28	11	20	22
<i>Base</i>	211	217	428	22754

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	34	30	32	27
About once a fortnight	12	10	11	12
About once a month	11	13	12	12
Only a few times a year	21	29	25	27
Never	22	18	20	22
<i>Base</i>	204	224	428	22754

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	43	54	50
Shandy	12	4	6
Wine	39	31	33
Martini, sherry etc.	8	9	9
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	51	56	54
Alcopops	49	62	58
<i>Base</i>	49	108	157

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Beer, lager or cider	64	36	50
Shandy	8	5	6
Wine	37	30	33
Martini, sherry etc.	13	5	9
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	50	58	54
Alcopops	46	70	58
<i>Base</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>157</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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13	Age 15	Total
	%	%	%
Never buy alcohol	54	26	38
Buy alcohol from shop	15	24	20
Buy alcohol in off licence	9	23	16
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	8	22	15
Buy alcohol from someone else	18	11	14
Buy alcohol in pub	-	11	6
Buy alcohol in club	1	7	4
Buy alcohol from supermarket	1	8	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>350</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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Never buy alcohol	36	40	38
Buy alcohol from shop	22	18	20
Buy alcohol in off licence	20	14	16
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	12	18	15
Buy alcohol from someone else	11	17	14
Buy alcohol in pub	7	5	6
Buy alcohol in club	4	4	4
Buy alcohol from supermarket	7	3	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>350</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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	28	44	36
Usually drink in own home	37	27	32
Usually drink at a party with friends	24	37	31
Usually drink in someone else's home	23	29	26
Usually drink in club/disco	8	14	11
Usually drink in pub	1	11	6
Usually drink somewhere else	10	10	10
Base	155	195	350

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	34	38	36
Usually drink in own home	32	32	32
Usually drink at a party with friends	29	33	31
Usually drink in someone else's home	19	33	26
Usually drink in club/disco	11	12	11
Usually drink in pub	7	6	6
Usually drink somewhere else	12	9	10
Base	162	188	350

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	34	17	25	32
Once	27	19	23	19
2-3 times	24	26	25	22
4-10 times	9	10	10	13
More than 10 times	5	28	18	14
Base	151	195	346	17723

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.14: Ever been drunk, by gender: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	23	27	25	32
Once	21	24	23	19
2-3 times	28	23	25	22
4-10 times	8	11	10	13
More than 10 times	20	16	18	14
<i>Base</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>17723</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	4	20	13	13
3 times	7	11	9	9
Twice	9	17	14	13
Once	11	16	14	14
Not in last 30 days	30	21	25	23
Never	39	14	25	28
<i>Base</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>343</i>	<i>17615</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	16	10	13	13
3 times	9	9	9	9
Twice	14	13	14	13
Once	13	14	14	14
Not in last 30 days	24	26	25	23
Never	23	27	25	28
<i>Base</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>343</i>	<i>17615</i>

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	32	56	45
Had an argument or fight	18	39	30
Tried any drugs	10	25	18
Had unprotected sex*	-	15	15
Stayed off school	9	13	11
Injured and seen by doctor	4	4	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	1	2	2
Visited A & E department	2	1	1
<i>Base</i>	152	190	342

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	40	49	45
Had an argument or fight	28	31	30
Tried any drugs	29	9	18
Had unprotected sex*	17	13	15
Stayed off school	8	14	11
Injured and seen by doctor	6	2	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	2	2	2
Visited A & E department	3	-	1
<i>Base</i>	158	184	342

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	13	22	19	16
They don't mind	44	46	45	45
They don't know I drink	35	23	27	27
I don't know what they think	8	10	9	12
<i>Base</i>	48	102	150	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	20	17	19	16
They don't mind	47	44	45	45
They don't know I drink	22	32	27	27
I don't know what they think	11	8	9	12
<i>Base</i>	74	76	150	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	67	55	63	70
They would not mind	7	23	11	9
I don't know what they would think	26	23	25	21
<i>Base</i>	57	22	79	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	62	65	63	70
They would not mind	9	13	11	9
I don't know what they would think	29	22	25	21
<i>Base</i>	42	37	79	4711

Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol

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

	Total %
Yes, always	6
Yes, sometimes	71
No, never	23
<i>Base</i>	419

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13	Age 15	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	85	57	71
No	13	32	22
Don't know	2	11	7
<i>Base</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>211</i>	<i>415</i>

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: 30% 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 32% of 15 year olds. Prevalence of drug use in 15 year olds was significantly higher than the reported national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 23%). However, prevalence of drug use in 13 year olds was not significantly different from the national prevalence for this age group (national figure: 8%). Girls were less likely to have used drugs in the last month than boys (28% of boys and 14% of girls had used drugs in the last month). This reflects the national pattern of slightly lower drug use among girls (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

5.2 Drug use in the year prior to the survey

Twenty seven percent (27%) of all pupils in the survey reported that they had used drugs in the year prior to the survey (this figure includes those who used drugs in the last month) (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

The most frequently used drug in the last year, including the last month, was cannabis, 25% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The figures were much lower for other types of drugs; 6% had used solvents, 5% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 3% had used psychedelics (LSD, magic mushrooms) and 1% had used opiates (heroin or methadone) (**Tables 5.3 and 5.4**).

5.3 Whether offered drugs

Over half of all pupils (56%) had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 72% of 15 year old pupils and 42% 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 slightly less likely to report having been offered drugs than boys:

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.

53% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 60% of boys, but this difference was not statistically significant. The most commonly offered drug type was cannabis: 47% of pupils reported that they had been offered this drug (Tables 5.5 to 5.8).

5.4 Frequency of drug use

Seven percent (7%) of pupils reported that they usually take drugs once a week or more, with a significantly higher proportion of older pupils and boys doing so; 5% of 13 year old pupils and 10% of 15 year old pupils and 4% of girls and 11% of boys reported this. Reported prevalence of weekly drug taking was not significantly different from reported national prevalence in either age group (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

5.5 Money spent on drugs

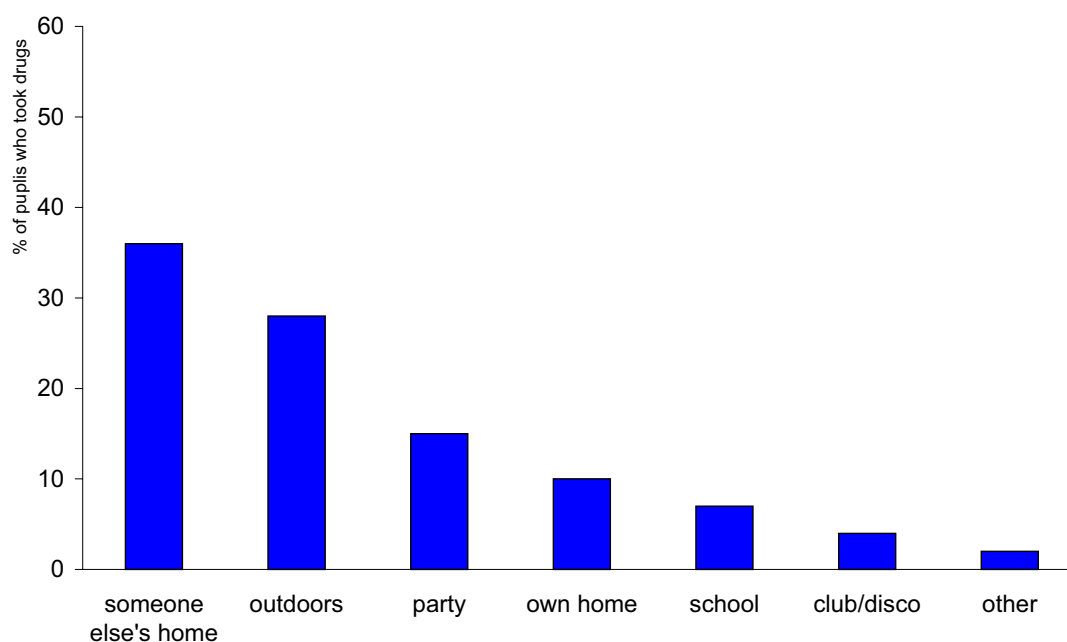
Around half (49%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £9.00 per week.

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 in someone else's home (36%). The next most reported location was outdoors (28%) (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: North Ayrshire 2002.



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

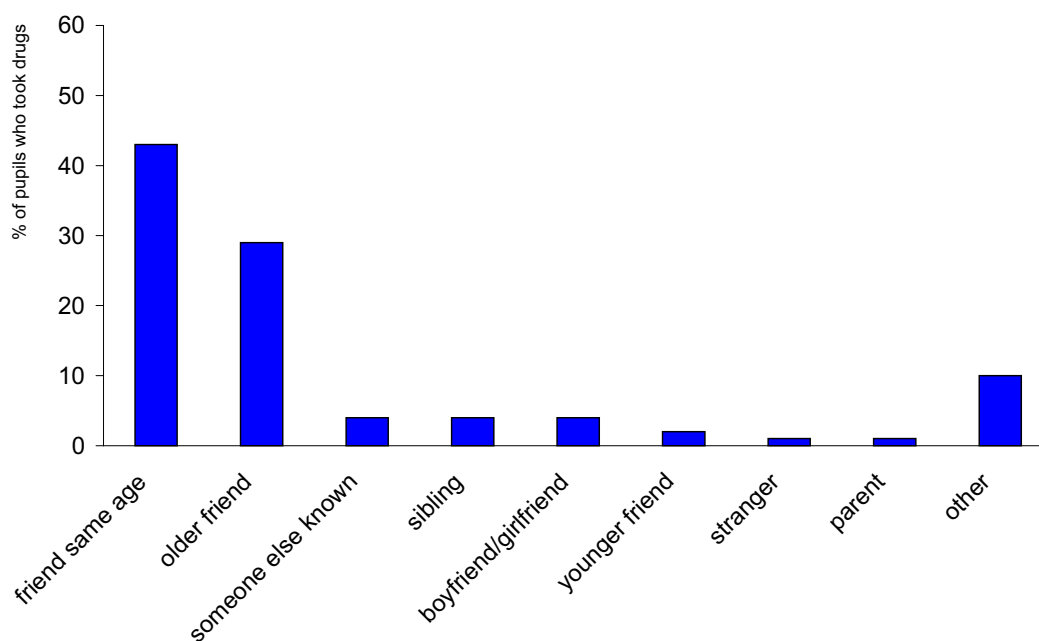
5.7 Availability of drugs

Just under half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (49%) reported that it would be 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' to get drugs while 38% did not know how easy or difficult it would be. Significantly more 15 year olds reported that they would find it 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' (64%) than 13 year old pupils (35%) (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; 43% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from a friend of the same age and 29% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: North Ayrshire 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Under half (40%) of 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

Eight percent (8%) 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 (99%), 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. Seventy two percent (72%) reported that they knew where to get information (**Table 5.24**). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (39%), 'the Internet' (37%) and 'friends' (32%) (**Table 5.25**).

5.10 Pupils' attitudes to drugs

All pupils were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about drugs and those who used or sold them. Most pupils (78%) 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' (73%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (71%), although 26% did not know whether heroin was addictive and 27% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Around half of pupils (52%) agreed that 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis' and 44% reported that they did not know whether this was the case. Just over half (56%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults tell us about drugs is true'.

Although two thirds of pupils (66%) agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', over 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'; 62% of pupils agreed with this statement. Just over half (55%) 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'. Seventeen percent (17%) of pupils agreed that 'taking drugs is exciting'. Around half agreed with the statements 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' (43%) and 'people take drugs to relax' (55%). However 36% of pupils reported that they did not know whether 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' and 30% did not know whether 'people take drugs to relax'.

Fifty eight percent (58%) agreed that 'all people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 25% 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: 89% of 13 year olds and 68% of 15 year olds. However, 7% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 3% 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 drugs (**Table 5.27**).

Fewer pupils reported having lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing. Forty six percent (46%) of 13 year olds and 29% of 15 year olds reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions in the last twelve months. However,

36% of 13 year olds and 51% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and the remaining 18% of 13 year olds and 20% 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, 24% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 42% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

#

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	10	32	21	15
Used drugs in last year*	14	40	27	22
Used drugs ever	15	45	30	25
<i>Base</i>	212	216	428	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	28	14	21	15
Used drugs in last year*	33	21	27	22
Used drugs ever	36	24	30	25
<i>Base</i>	204	224	428	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	12	38	25	20
Stimulants	2	8	5	6
<i>cocaine</i>	0	2	1	1
<i>crack</i>	0	2	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	1	4	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	4	2	2
<i>poppers</i>	0	4	2	3
Psychedelics	2	4	3	2
<i>LSD</i>	0	3	2	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	3	2	2
Opiates	0	2	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	0	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	-	2	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	4	7	6	4
Tranquillisers	1	3	2	2
Anabolic Steroids	0	1	1	0
Semeron	-	1	1	0
Other	-	1	1	0
<i>Base</i>	215	218	433	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:
North Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	33	17	25	20
Stimulants	6	4	5	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	2	-	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	4	1	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	2	3	2	2
<i>poppers</i>	3	1	2	3
Psychedelics	4	2	3	2
<i>LSD</i>	2	1	2	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	3	1	2	2
Opiates	3	0	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	2	-	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	0	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	5	6	6	4
Tranquillisers	2	2	2	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	-	1	0
Semeron	1	-	1	0
Other	1	0	1	0
Base	206	227	433	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:
North Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	42	72	56
No	58	28	44
Base	196	201	397

Base= All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	60	53	56
No	40	47	44
Base	192	205	397

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	31	63	47	42
Stimulants	15	29	22	19
<i>cocaine</i>	4	12	8	6
<i>crack</i>	3	6	5	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	9	21	15	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	6	14	10	7
<i>poppers</i>	2	9	5	9
Psychedelics	5	19	12	10
<i>LSD</i>	2	11	7	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	3	15	9	8
Opiates	4	12	8	5
<i>heroin</i>	3	10	6	4
<i>methadone</i>	1	4	3	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	13	17	15	12
Tranquillisers	4	10	7	6
Anabolic Steroids	1	3	2	2
Semeron	2	3	3	1
Other	1	4	2	1
<i>Base</i>	211	217	428	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	53	41	47	42
Stimulants	20	23	22	19
<i>cocaine</i>	8	8	8	6
<i>crack</i>	6	4	5	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	15	15	15	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	11	9	10	7
<i>poppers</i>	7	4	5	9
Psychedelics	15	9	12	10
<i>LSD</i>	9	5	7	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	13	6	9	8
Opiates	9	7	8	5
<i>heroin</i>	7	6	6	4
<i>methadone</i>	5	1	3	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	14	15	15	12
Tranquillisers	8	5	7	6
Anabolic Steroids	4	1	2	2
Semeron	5	1	3	1
Other	3	2	2	1
<i>Base</i>	204	224	428	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:
North Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	5	10	7	5
Once or twice a month	1	8	5	4
A few times a year	1	7	4	5
Do not use drugs	93	74	84	86
<i>Base</i>	214	214	428	22532

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	11	4	7	5
Once or twice a month	6	3	5	4
A few times a year	6	3	4	5
Do not use drugs	77	90	84	86
<i>Base</i>	204	224	428	22532

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Someone else's home	27	40	36
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	27	29	28
At party	14	16	15
Own home	11	10	10
At school	11	6	7
At club/disco	5	3	4
Other place	5	1	2
<i>Base</i>	37	101	138

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Someone else's home	31	42	36
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	32	24	28
At party	13	18	15
Own home	11	9	10
At school	6	9	7
At club/disco	4	3	4
Other place	4	-	2
<i>Base</i>	79	59	138

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	37	39
No	63	61
<i>Base</i>	131	5544

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	16	31	23
Fairly easy	19	33	26
Fairly difficult	5	6	5
Very difficult	5	1	3
Impossible	5	2	4
Don't know	50	26	38
<i>Base</i>	211	213	424

Base=All pupils

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	29	19	23
Fairly easy	29	23	26
Fairly difficult	5	6	5
Very difficult	4	3	3
Impossible	4	4	4
Don't know	30	46	38
<i>Base</i>	200	224	424

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Friend of own age	27	50	43
Older friend	30	29	29
Brother or sister	5	3	4
Boyfriend/girlfriend	5	4	4
Someone known	3	4	4
Younger friend	-	3	2
Mother/father	3	-	1
Stranger	-	2	1
Other	11	10	10
<i>Base</i>	37	101	138

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Brother or sister	3	5	4
Friend of own age	45	40	43
Older friend	24	35	29
Younger friend	4	-	2
Boyfriend/girlfriend	3	7	4
Mother/father	-	2	1
Someone known	2	5	4
Stranger	1	2	1
Other	15	3	10
<i>Base</i>	79	59	138

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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Used it all myself	41	55	51
Sold some of it	16	6	9
Gave some of it away	44	39	40
<i>Base</i>	32	95	127

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Used it all myself	51	51	51
Sold some of it	14	2	9
Gave some of it away	35	47	40
Base	72	55	127

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	-	11	8	15
Would like to give up in the future	33	31	31	20
Would not like to give up	53	42	44	39
Not sure	13	16	16	26
Base	15	55	70	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	6	13	8	15
Would like to give up in the future	29	36	31	20
Would not like to give up	48	37	44	39
Not sure	17	13	16	26
Base	48	22	70	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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Total %
Yes	1
No	99
Base	70

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 : North Ayrshire 2002.

	Total %
Yes	71
No	29
<i>Base</i>	<i>70</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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Total %
Yes	72
No	16
Don't know	12
<i>Base</i>	<i>425</i>

Base=All pupils

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

	Total %
Doctor	39
Internet/web	37
Friends	32
Telephone help-line	27
Teacher	24
Female family member	21
Advice organisation	19
Drop-in centre	19
Books	17
Magazines	16
Male family member	16
Youth worker	10
Councillor	9
TV/radio	7
<i>Base</i>	<i>305</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: North Ayrshire 2002.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	89	7	5	427
Taking cocaine is dangerous	79	3	18	424
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	78	12	10	423
Heroin is addictive	73	1	26	423
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	71	2	27	424
Most young people will try out drugs	66	18	17	426
People my age who take drugs need help	62	22	15	423
People who sell drugs should be punished	58	27	16	427
What adults tell us about drugs is true	56	18	25	423
People who take drugs are stupid	56	32	12	424
People take drugs to relax	55	16	30	425
People who take heroin are junkies	55	21	24	424
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	52	4	44	425
People take drugs to escape from reality	43	21	36	425
People who take drugs should be punished	25	23	23	424
Taking drugs is exciting	17	50	33	426

Base=All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	89	68	79
No	7	23	15
Don't know	3	8	6
<i>Base</i>	204	212	416

Base= All pupils

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	46	29	38
No	36	51	44
Don't know	18	20	19
<i>Base</i>	203	212	415

Base= All pupils

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

	Total %
Very useful	24
Fairly useful	42
Not very useful	16
Not useful at all	7
Don't know	10
<i>Base</i>	346

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 North Ayrshire there were no independent school pupils included in the final sample. There was no difference in response rate between S2 pupils (50% of North Ayrshire sample) compared with S4 pupils (50% of North Ayrshire 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