

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

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

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 South Ayrshire:

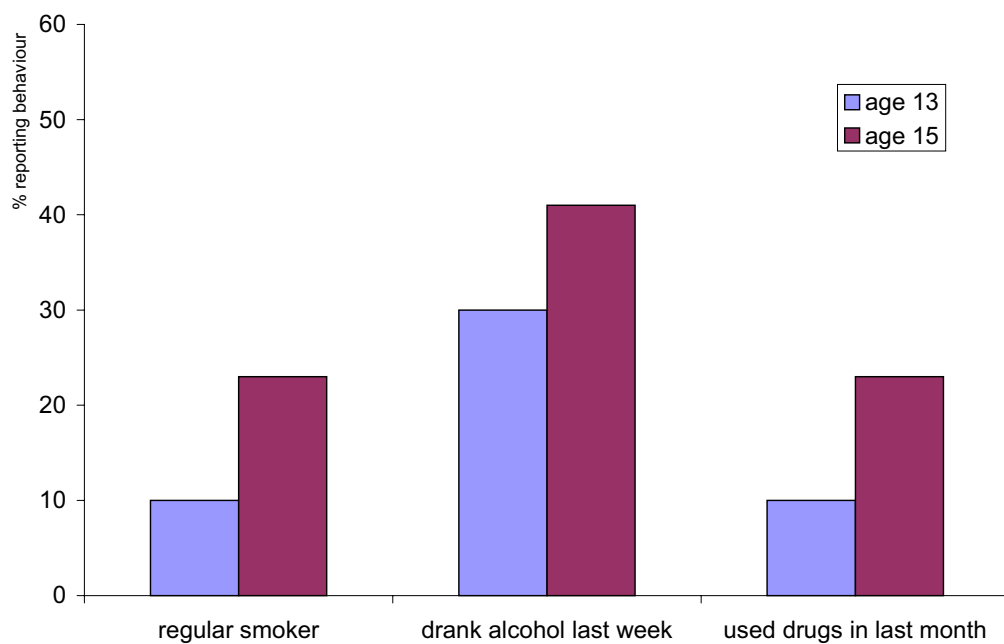
- € 10% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds were regular smokers<sup>1</sup>
- € Prevalence of regular smoking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- € 30% of 13 year olds and 41% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- € Prevalence of drinking in the week prior to the survey was higher in 13 year olds than the reported national prevalence for this age group
- € 10% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey
- € Prevalence of drug use was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- € The differences in drinking and drug use between boys and girls in South Ayrshire 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 South Ayrshire in 2002.

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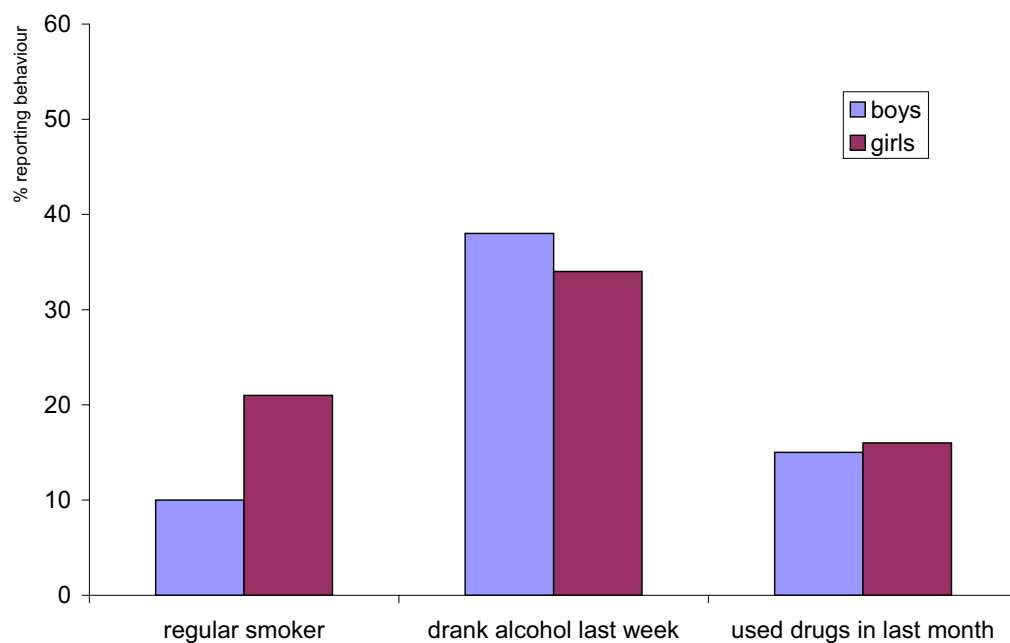
<sup>1</sup> regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

**Figure 1.1: Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by age group: South 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: South 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 South 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 2002<sup>1</sup> presented key national findings on the prevalence of smoking, drinking and drug use and comparisons are made with these national findings in this report. A more comprehensive national report will be published later in 2003. It will describe smoking, drinking and drug use in the context of adolescent lifestyles and health. Further local level information in the form of tables of lifestyle and health data will also become available following the publication of the national report.

### **2.2 Survey arrangements**

SALSUS continues the series of biennial surveys of smoking, drinking and drug use begun in 1982<sup>2</sup> and is the first national school survey to provide local as well as national information. This is possible because new survey arrangements have been made in Scotland following an information needs assessment undertaken by the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse (SACDM). SACDM identified the need for a regular cross sectional survey of substance misuse among schoolchildren in Scotland, disaggregated if possible to Drug and Alcohol Action Team and local authority level and including contextual information on other health and lifestyle factors. The Scottish Executive felt that the UK survey no longer met all Scotland's information needs and asked the Information and Statistics Division (ISD Scotland) to convene a National School Survey Substance Misuse Working Group<sup>3</sup> to consider possible options for a Scottish survey to cover all areas of substance misuse and lifestyle contextual factors, and which would allow for the disaggregation of data to provide local information.

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

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

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

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

information on other lifestyle factors and social contextual information to gain a better understanding of substance use in school aged children. It was agreed that the best means of addressing all these issues in a Scottish survey was to combine components of the existing national and UK biennial school surveys on smoking, drinking and drug use with components of the WHO Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) survey<sup>1</sup> on lifestyle and health factors, and to undertake the revised Scottish survey (now known as the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey, SALSUS) concurrently with the HBSC survey in 2002<sup>2</sup>. SALSUS is being undertaken by the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU) of the University of Edinburgh in conjunction with the HBSC survey research in 2002. A smaller national survey will be undertaken in 2004. The contract is managed on behalf of the Scottish Executive by ISD Scotland with advice from an Advisory Group made up of key stakeholders including Drug and Alcohol Action Teams, the Health Education Board for Scotland and the Scottish Executive.

### **2.3 Sample design**

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

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

### **2.4 Local response rates**

The SALSUS 2002 survey of South Ayrshire was designed to have a final sample size of 800 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 27% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study. Of the 10 schools which were asked to participate 8 schools (80%) agreed to take part in the study.

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

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

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

Response rates are based on class and pupil participation rates. In total 40 classes in South Ayrshire were selected to participate, and 29 classes (73%) took part. The overall pupil response rate within classes was 91%. The main reason for pupil non-response was absence due to illness. The final survey response in South Ayrshire, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 66%. This is similar to the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 640 pupils, 22% of the target population in South Ayrshire.

## **3 Smoking**

### **3.1 Smoking prevalence**

In South Ayrshire, reported prevalence of regular smoking<sup>1</sup> increased significantly with age. In 2002, 10% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 23% of 15 year olds. For neither age group was the reported prevalence in South Ayrshire significantly different from the national prevalence of regular smoking (national figures: 8% for 13 year olds and 20% for 15 year olds). Just over half 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (56%), compared with 37% of 15 year olds.

Again, reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls than boys in South Ayrshire; 21% 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. Thirteen year olds who were regular smokers reported smoking an average of 28 cigarettes per week, and 15 year olds reported smoking an average of 39 cigarettes per week. Boys who were regular smokers reported smoking more cigarettes than girls; an average of 53 per week for boys and 29 per week for girls.

### **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 £8.00 a week.

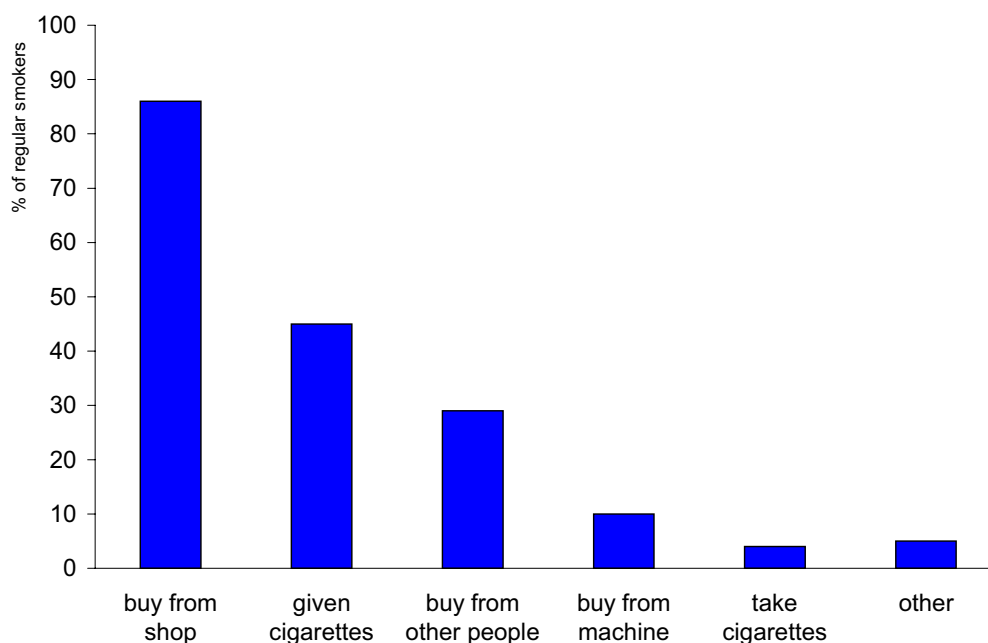
### **3.4 Where pupils obtain cigarettes**

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 (86%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, 29% reported buying them from other people and 10% bought them from machines. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, just under half (45%) of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 4% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 5% 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: South 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. Just over half (55%) of regular smokers reported that they would like to give up smoking and 72% had tried to give up at some time. Thirty six percent (36%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 33% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (67% of all regular smokers) were more likely to think it would be very difficult to give up smoking altogether compared to pupils who had smoked for one year or less: 48% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 12% of pupils who had smoked regularly for one year or less (Tables 3.5 to 3.8).

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

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

Seventy one percent (71%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Around two thirds (64%) 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 (93%) 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: 69% of regular smokers compared with 32% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 35% of regular smokers, compared with 11% of non-smokers (**Tables 3.11 and 3.12**).

Regular smokers were also more likely to have friends who smoked: 53% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 3% of non-smokers. Most non-smokers (63%) 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 (86%) of pupils had seen adverts on posters or billboards. More than half reported that they had seen adverts in magazines (58%) or on television (53%). Fewer pupils reported seeing adverts in newspapers (42%) 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. Most pupils reported that they had lessons, videos or discussions: 76% of 13 year olds and 70% of 15 year olds. However, 17% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 7% of pupils in both age groups 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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	10	23	16	14
Occasional smoker	3	7	5	5
Used to smoke	12	13	12	13
Tried smoking once	19	21	20	23
Never smoked	56	37	46	45
<i>Base</i>	391	226	617	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	10	21	16	14
Occasional smoker	5	4	5	5
Used to smoke	9	15	12	13
Tried smoking once	23	18	20	23
Never smoked	52	42	46	45
<i>Base</i>	283	334	617	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	55	100	86
Given cigarettes	61	37	45
Buy from other people	37	25	29
Buy from machine	19	6	10
Take cigarettes	13	-	4
Get cigarettes some other way	16	-	5
<i>Base</i>	38	51	89

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	89	85	86
Given cigarettes	32	50	45
Buy from other people	26	30	29
Buy from machine	7	11	10
Take cigarettes	-	6	4
Get cigarettes some other way	3	6	5
<i>Base</i>	25	64	89

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	55
Would not like to give up smoking	45
<i>Base</i>	87

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	72
Has not tried to give up smoking	28
<i>Base</i>	89

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Total %
One year or less	33
More than a year	67
<i>Base</i>	89

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	12	48	36	32
Fairly difficult	28	36	33	36
Fairly easy	29	8	15	21
Very easy	32	8	16	11
<i>Base</i>	31	58	89	2868

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	17	41	65	55	54
Persuade me not to	54	44	28	34	35
Do nothing	20	-	2	5	3
Encourage me	1	-	0	0	0
Not sure	9	15	5	6	7
<i>Base</i>	87	14	469	593	19279

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	26
Not allowed to smoke at home	64
Don't know	10
<i>Base</i>	74

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	31	64	66
At least one parent smokes daily	69	33	32
Does not see either parent	-	3	2
<i>Base</i>	88	27	489

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	55	69	82
At least one sibling smokes daily	35	21	11
Does not have siblings	10	10	7
<i>Base</i>	89	27	473

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	53	7	3
More than half	20	29	5
Half	11	10	9
Less than half	11	21	20
Almost none	4	31	33
None	1	3	30
<i>Base</i>	89	27	498

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Yes %</b>	<b>No %</b>	<b>Don't know %</b>	<b>Base</b>
On posters/billboards	86	7	6	624
In magazines	58	32	10	612
On television	53	38	9	613
In newspapers	42	40	18	614
At the cinema	16	66	18	605

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Age 13 %</b>	<b>Age 15 %</b>	<b>Total %</b>
Yes	76	70	73
No	17	23	20
Don't know	7	7	7
<b>Base</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>606</b>

*Base= All pupils*

## 4 Drinking

### 4.1 Prevalence of alcohol use

All pupils were asked whether they had ever had a 'proper alcoholic drink, a whole drink, not just a sip'. The prevalence of alcohol use increased significantly with age. Seventy three percent (73%) of 13 year olds and 86% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink. For neither age group was the reported prevalence in South 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**).

Just under half (41%) of 15 year olds and 30% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, again a significant increase in prevalence with age. The proportion of 13 year olds who drank in the last week was significantly higher than the national figure of 23%. However, the proportion of 15 year olds in South Ayrshire who reported that they had drunk alcohol was not significantly different from the national figure of 46%. There was no significant difference between boys and girls in the proportion of pupils who reported 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; 23% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared with 35% of 15 year old pupils. The proportion of 13 year olds who reported drinking weekly was significantly higher than the national figure of 17% and the proportion of 15 year olds who reported drinking weekly was not significantly different from the national figure of 38%. There was no significant difference between boys and girls in the proportion of pupils reporting that they drink alcohol at least once a week (**Tables 4.5 and 4.6**).

### 4.3 Money spent on alcohol

Of all pupils who drank weekly, over three-quarters (79%) reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £7.00 a week.

### 4.4 Type of alcohol consumed

Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked whether or not they had consumed various categories of alcoholic drink<sup>1</sup>. There were 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: 62% had drunk alcopops in the last week. A similar proportion of girls (58%) reported that they had drunk spirits in the last week (**Table 4.8**).

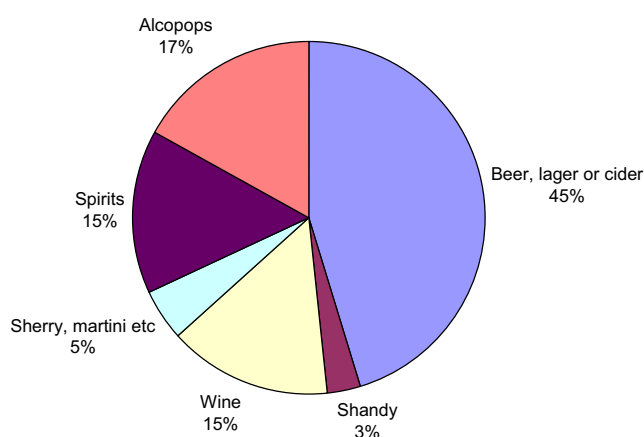
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<sup>1</sup> Pupils were asked about the following types of drink: beer, lager or cider, shandy, wine, martini and sherry, spirits and liqueurs, alcopops and pre-mixed alcoholic drinks.

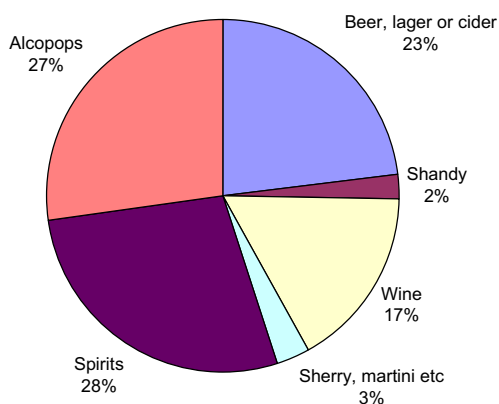
## 4.5 Average amount of alcohol consumed weekly

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 13 units of alcohol, and girls consumed 9 units, a statistically significant difference. Figures 4.1 and 4.2 show the consumption of each type of drink as a proportion of the total reported amount of alcohol drunk in the week prior to the survey.

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



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

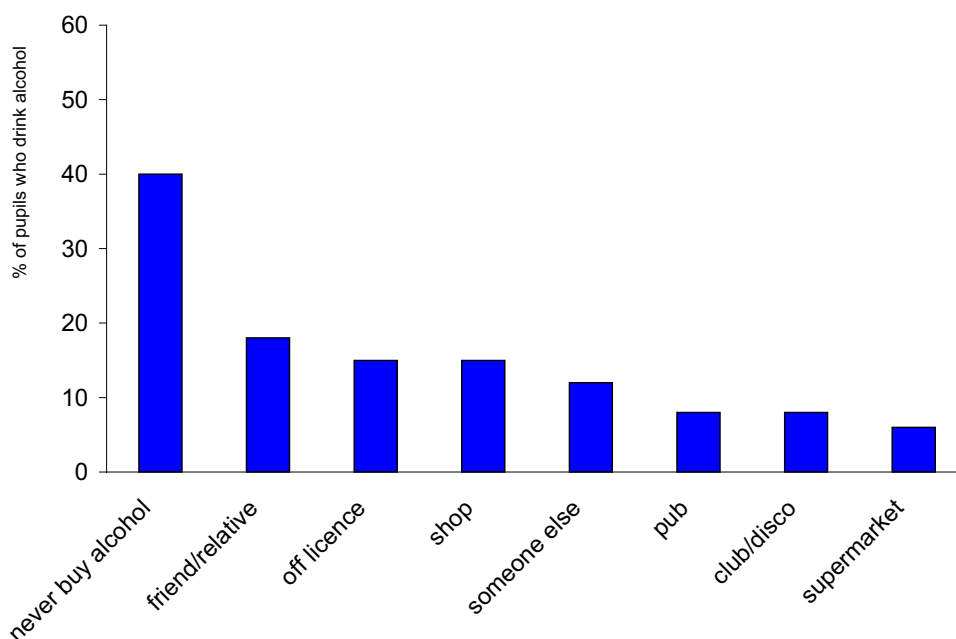


<sup>1</sup> Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

## 4.6 Availability of alcohol

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Forty percent (40%) 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 reported by pupils in South Ayrshire were from a friend or relative (18%), from an off licence (15%) or from a shop (15%) (Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).

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

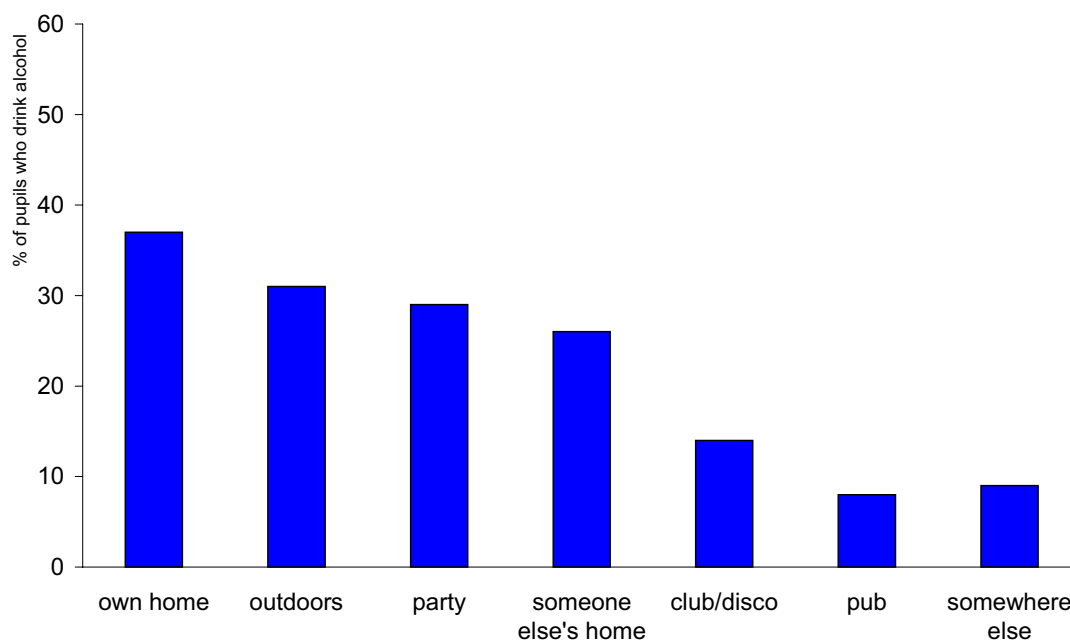


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

## 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 in the pupil's own home (37%) outdoors (31%), at a party with friends (29%) 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: South 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, 66% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Seventeen percent (17%) had been drunk once, 17% had been drunk 2-3 times, 17% had been drunk 4-10 times and 15% 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 (46%) 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 39% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils. 'Having an argument or fight' was reported by 29% of all 13 and 15 year olds.

Some pupils had been involved in other risk behaviours as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Seventeen percent (17%) had tried drugs. Twelve percent (12%) of all

15 year olds (11% of boys and 13% of girls) had had unprotected sex (13 year old pupils were not asked questions on sexual health).

Twelve percent (12%) 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 under a quarter (24%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their family did not know that they drank, around half (47%) reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 16% reported that their families did not like them drinking and 13% 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 seven percent (67%) reported that their families would be upset or angry if they started drinking (**Tables 4.21 and 4.22**).

All pupils, including those who had never had a proper alcoholic drink, were asked if they were allowed to drink at home and the majority of pupils (78%) agreed that they would be allowed to do so (**Table 4.23**).

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

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on alcohol. Pupil response depends on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. Most pupils reported having lessons, videos or class discussions; 74% of 13 year olds and 73% of 15 year olds. However, 20% of 13 year olds and 21% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 7% of 13 year olds and 6% of 15 year olds did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on alcohol (**Table 4.24**).

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	73	86	80	78
No	27	14	20	22
<i>Base</i>	399	238	637	22850

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	78	81	80	78
No	22	19	20	22
<i>Base</i>	291	346	637	22850

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	30	41	36	35
One to four weeks ago	12	22	17	16
One to six months ago	20	19	19	18
More than six months ago	11	4	7	10
Never	27	14	20	22
<i>Base</i>	397	238	635	22617

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	38	34	36	35
One to four weeks ago	17	17	17	16
One to six months ago	16	22	19	18
More than six months ago	7	8	7	10
Never	22	19	20	22
<i>Base</i>	290	345	635	22617

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	23	35	29	27
About once a fortnight	8	17	12	12
About once a month	10	16	13	12
Only a few times a year	32	18	25	27
Never	27	14	20	22
<i>Base</i>	398	237	635	22754

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.6: Usual drinking frequency, by gender: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	30	28	29	27
About once a fortnight	15	10	12	12
About once a month	8	17	13	12
Only a few times a year	24	26	25	27
Never	22	19	20	22
<i>Base</i>	290	345	635	22754

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	41	52	47
Shandy	18	3	9
Wine	32	38	35
Martini, sherry etc.	15	7	10
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	41	54	49
Alcopops	60	53	56
<i>Base</i>	119	98	217

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Beer, lager or cider	64	32	47
Shandy	11	8	9
Wine	34	37	35
Martini, sherry etc.	13	8	10
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	39	58	49
Alcopops	49	62	56
<i>Base</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>217</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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	<b>Age 13</b>	<b>Age 15</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	55	27	40
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	15	21	18
Buy alcohol in off licence	9	20	15
Buy alcohol from shop	9	19	15
Buy alcohol from someone else	13	11	12
Buy alcohol in pub	1	14	8
Buy alcohol in club	3	13	8
Buy alcohol from supermarket	2	9	6
<i>Base</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>499</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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	41	39	40
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	15	20	18
Buy alcohol in off licence	17	14	15
Buy alcohol from shop	15	14	15
Buy alcohol from someone else	10	13	12
Buy alcohol in pub	8	7	8
Buy alcohol in club	6	10	8
Buy alcohol from supermarket	7	5	6
<i>Base</i>	<i>224</i>	<i>275</i>	<i>499</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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	46	29	37
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	27	34	31
Usually drink at a party with friends	18	38	29
Usually drink in someone else's home	24	28	26
Usually drink in club/disco	10	17	14
Usually drink in pub	1	13	8
Usually drink somewhere else	11	7	9
<i>Base</i>	293	206	499

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	41	33	37
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	28	33	31
Usually drink at a party with friends	25	32	29
Usually drink in someone else's home	24	29	26
Usually drink in club/disco	10	17	14
Usually drink in pub	7	8	8
Usually drink somewhere else	7	10	9
<i>Base</i>	224	275	499

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	47	23	34	32
Once	19	15	17	19
2-3 times	15	19	17	22
4-10 times	8	24	17	13
More than 10 times	11	19	15	14
<i>Base</i>	284	202	486	17723

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	32	35	34	32
Once	17	17	17	19
2-3 times	19	16	17	22
4-10 times	15	18	17	13
More than 10 times	17	14	15	14
<i>Base</i>	215	271	486	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	9	16	13	13
3 times	8	8	8	9
Twice	8	15	12	13
Once	11	14	13	14
Not in last 30 days	23	31	27	23
Never	41	16	27	28
<i>Base</i>	285	203	488	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	13	13	13	13
3 times	8	8	8	9
Twice	12	12	12	13
Once	14	12	13	14
Not in last 30 days	29	26	27	23
Never	24	30	27	28
<i>Base</i>	218	270	488	17615

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	31	45	39
Had an argument or fight	24	33	29
Tried any drugs	11	23	17
Stayed off school	14	11	12
Had unprotected sex*	-	12	12
Injured and seen by doctor	5	9	7
Visited A & E department	3	5	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	3	3	3
<i>Base</i>	288	201	489

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	39	38	39
Had an argument or fight	26	30	29
Tried any drugs	19	16	17
Stayed off school	13	11	12
Had unprotected sex*	11	13	12
Injured and seen by doctor	7	8	7
Visited A & E department	5	3	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	3	3	3
<i>Base</i>	217	272	489

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	16	17	16	16
They don't mind	43	49	47	45
They don't know I drink	28	21	24	27
I don't know what they think	12	13	13	12
<i>Base</i>	114	95	209	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	17	16	16	16
They don't mind	51	43	47	45
They don't know I drink	20	28	24	27
I don't know what they think	12	13	13	12
<i>Base</i>	97	112	209	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	76	48	67	70
They would not mind	9	7	8	9
I don't know what they would think	15	45	25	21
<i>Base</i>	102	29	131	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	66	68	67	70
They would not mind	12	5	8	9
I don't know what they would think	22	27	25	21
<i>Base</i>	63	69	131	4711

*Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol*

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

	Total %
Yes, always	9
Yes, sometimes	69
No, never	22
<i>Base</i>	623

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	74	73	73
No	20	21	20
Don't know	7	6	6
<i>Base</i>	374	230	604

*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. Ten percent (10%) of thirteen year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 23% of fifteen year olds. Prevalence of drug use in South Ayrshire was not significantly different from the prevalence found nationally (national figures: 8% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds). There was no significant gender difference in pupils using drugs in the last month (15% of boys and 16% of girls had used drugs in the last month). This does not reflect 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 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; 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

Around half of all pupils (53%) had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 72% of 15 year old pupils and 36% of 13 year old pupils reported that they had been offered drugs. The proportion of pupils offered drugs was not significantly different from that reported nationally for either age group (national figures: 65% of 15 year olds and 34% of 13 year olds reported being offered drugs). There was no significant gender difference in pupils reporting being offered drugs: 50% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 57% of boys. The most

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

commonly offered drug type was cannabis: 45% of pupils reported that they had been offered this drug (Tables 5.5 to 5.8).

## 5.4 Frequency of drug use

Four percent (4%) of pupils reported that they usually took drugs once a week or more, with a significantly higher proportion of older pupils doing so; 2% of thirteen year old pupils and 6% of fifteen year old pupils reported this. Reported prevalence of weekly drug taking was not significantly different from reported national prevalence in either age group. There was no significant gender difference in weekly drug use (4% of girls and 5% of boys reported usually taking drugs once a week or more) (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

## 5.5 Money spent on drugs

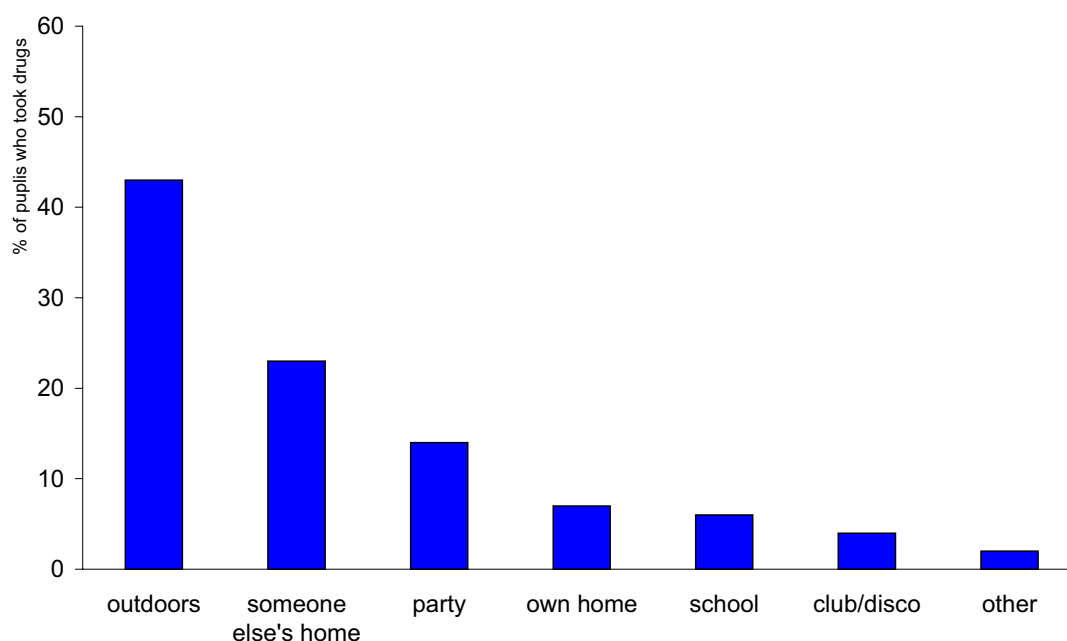
Half (50%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £7.00 per week.

## 5.6 Where young people are when they use drugs

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

Forty five percent (45%) 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: South Ayrshire 2002.**



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

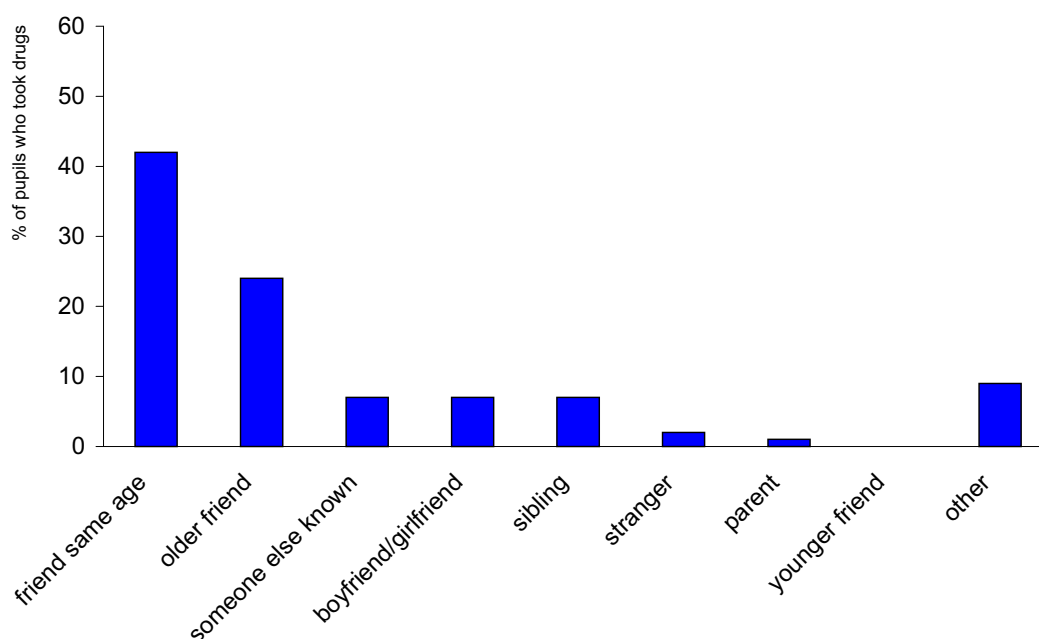
## 5.7 Availability of drugs

Just under half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (45%) 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' (57%) than 13 year old pupils (33%) (Tables 5.14 and 5.15).

## 5.8 Source of drugs used

Pupils who had used drugs were asked where they had obtained drugs from on the last occasion they had used them. Some pupils reported more than one source. As can be seen from Figure 5.2, friends were the most commonly reported source of drugs; 42% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from a friend of the same age and 24% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: South Ayrshire 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Just under half (46%) of pupils who took drugs reported that they gave some drugs away last time they used drugs. Fewer pupils (10%) reported that they sold some of their drugs (Tables 5.18 and 5.19).

## 5.9 Obtaining information and help

Twenty percent (20%) 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 (97%), although 71% reported that they knew where to go to get help (**Tables 5.20 to 5.23**).

All pupils were asked if they knew where to get information on drugs. Sixty nine percent (69%) reported that they knew where to get information (**Table 5.24**). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (43%), 'telephone help-line' (39%), 'the Internet' (39%) and 'friends' (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 (82%) agreed that they 'know enough about the dangers of drugs' and almost all (91%) 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' (80%), 'heroin is addictive' (69%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (70%), although 28% did not know whether heroin was addictive and 26% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Around half of pupils (51%) agreed that 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis' and 45% reported that they did not know whether this was the case. More than half (64%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults tell us about drugs is true'.

Although around two thirds of pupils (63%) agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', more than half (59%) felt that 'people who take drugs are stupid'. Pupils were more likely to agree than disagree with the statement 'people my age who take drugs need help and advice'; 69% of pupils agreed with this statement. Just over half (56%) 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'. Nineteen percent (19%) agreed that 'taking drugs is exciting'. Around half agreed with the statements 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' (51%) and 'people take drugs to relax' (54%). However, 34% of pupils reported that they did not know whether people took drugs to escape from reality and 28% did not know whether people took drugs to relax.

Sixty five percent (65%) agreed that 'all people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 26% 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: 77% of 13 year olds and 79% of 15 year olds. However, 18% of 13 year olds and 16% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 5% pupils in both age

groups 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. Thirty seven percent (37%) of 13 year olds and 43% of 15 year olds reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions in the last twelve months. Just under half (48%) of 13 year olds and 40% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and the remaining 15% of 13 year olds and 17% of 15 year olds reported that they did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing (**Table 5.28**).

Of those who reported having lessons, videos or discussions on drug use, 21% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 47% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

#

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	10	23	16	15
Used drugs in last year*	15	36	25	22
Used drugs ever	17	39	28	25
<i>Base</i>	390	230	620	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	15	16	16	15
Used drugs in last year*	25	26	25	22
Used drugs ever	29	27	28	25
<i>Base</i>	277	343	620	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	12	33	23	20
Stimulants	4	6	5	6
<i>cocaine</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	0	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	3	3	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	1	1	2
<i>poppers</i>	1	3	2	3
Psychedelics	2	4	3	2
<i>LSD</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	3	2	2
Opiates	2	0	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	2	0	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	0	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	6	5	6	4
Tranquillisers	2	2	2	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	0	1	0
Semeron	1	0	0	0
Other	-	-	-	0
<i>Base</i>	401	239	640	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:  
South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	23	23	23	20
Stimulants	6	5	5	6
<i>cocaine</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	0	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	3	3	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	2	0	1	2
<i>poppers</i>	2	2	2	3
Psychedelics	3	2	3	2
<i>LSD</i>	1	0	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	3	2	2	2
Opiates	2	0	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	2	0	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	1	-	1	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	5	6	6	4
Tranquillisers	2	2	2	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	0	1	0
Semeron	1	-	0	0
Other	-	-	-	0
<b>Base</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>640</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:  
South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	36	72	53
No	64	28	47
<b>Base</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>576</b>

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	57	50	53
No	43	50	47
<b>Base</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>576</b>

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	28	62	45	42
Stimulants	14	24	19	19
<i>cocaine</i>	6	8	7	6
<i>crack</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	9	20	14	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	4	5	4	7
<i>poppers</i>	3	7	5	9
Psychedelics	7	15	11	10
<i>LSD</i>	3	6	5	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	6	13	10	8
Opiates	6	5	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	4	5	4
<i>methadone</i>	2	1	2	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	13	15	14	12
Tranquillisers	3	8	6	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	1	1	2
Semeron	2	1	1	1
Other	2	2	2	1
<i>Base</i>	387	232	619	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	48	42	45	42
Stimulants	21	18	19	19
<i>cocaine</i>	7	7	7	6
<i>crack</i>	5	3	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	16	13	14	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	6	3	4	7
<i>poppers</i>	5	6	5	9
Psychedelics	10	12	11	10
<i>LSD</i>	5	4	5	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	10	9	10	8
Opiates	6	5	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	5	4	5	4
<i>methadone</i>	3	1	2	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	13	15	14	12
Tranquillisers	5	6	6	6
Anabolic Steroids	3	0	1	2
Semeron	2	1	1	1
Other	3	1	2	1
<i>Base</i>	278	341	619	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:  
South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	2	6	4	5
Once or twice a month	3	7	5	4
A few times a year	2	9	5	5
Do not use drugs	92	78	85	86
<i>Base</i>	393	234	627	22532

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	5	4	4	5
Once or twice a month	4	6	5	4
A few times a year	5	6	5	5
Do not use drugs	85	85	85	86
<i>Base</i>	283	344	627	22532

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	46	41	43
Someone else's home	13	27	23
At party	12	15	14
Own home	5	8	7
At school	6	6	6
At club/disco	9	2	4
Other place	-	3	2
<i>Base</i>	78	99	177

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	45	40	43
Someone else's home	15	30	23
At party	18	10	14
Own home	6	9	7
At school	6	7	6
At club/disco	4	5	4
Other place	3	1	2
<i>Base</i>	89	88	177

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	45	39
No	55	61
<i>Base</i>	156	5544

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	15	26	20
Fairly easy	18	31	25
Fairly difficult	4	7	5
Very difficult	5	3	4
Impossible	10	4	7
Don't know	48	29	38
<i>Base</i>	389	232	621

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	21	20	20
Fairly easy	26	23	25
Fairly difficult	4	7	5
Very difficult	4	4	4
Impossible	7	7	7
Don't know	37	39	38
<i>Base</i>	281	340	621

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Friend of own age	24	51	42
Older friend	30	21	24
Brother or sister	4	8	7
Boyfriend/girlfriend	10	5	7
Someone known	10	6	7
Stranger	6	-	2
Mother/father	3	-	1
Younger friend	-	-	-
Other	8	9	9
<i>Base</i>	78	99	177

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Friend of own age	42	42	42
Older friend	19	29	24
Brother or sister	6	8	7
Boyfriend/girlfriend	2	12	7
Someone known	7	8	7
Stranger	4	-	2
Mother/father	1	1	1
Younger friend	-	-	-
Other	9	9	9
<i>Base</i>	89	88	177

*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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Used it all myself	39	46	44
Sold some of it	23	4	10
Gave some of it away	38	49	46
<i>Base</i>	62	89	151

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Used it all myself	41	46	44
Sold some of it	14	6	10
Gave some of it away	44	48	46
Base	69	82	151

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	21	20	20	15
Would like to give up in the future	21	20	20	20
Would not like to give up	41	45	44	39
Not sure	17	16	16	26
Base	29	51	80	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	24	16	20	15
Would like to give up in the future	17	22	20	20
Would not like to give up	54	36	44	39
Not sure	5	25	16	26
Base	36	44	80	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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	3
No	97
Base	81

*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 : South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	71
No	29
<i>Base</i>	<i>80</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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	69
No	15
Don't know	17
<i>Base</i>	<i>620</i>

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Total %
Doctor	43
Telephone help-line	39
Internet/web	39
Friends	34
Advice organisation	24
Female family member	23
Magazines	21
Teacher	21
Drop-in centre	17
Male family member	15
Books	15
Youth worker	11
Councillor	9
TV/radio	9
<i>Base</i>	<i>419</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: South Ayrshire 2002.**

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	91	5	4	622
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	82	11	8	619
Taking cocaine is dangerous	80	4	16	618
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	70	4	26	616
Heroin is addictive	69	3	28	616
People my age who take drugs need help	69	19	12	615
People who sell drugs should be punished	65	23	12	620
What adults tell us about drugs is true	64	15	21	619
Most young people will try out drugs	63	20	17	618
People who take drugs are stupid	59	28	13	617
People who take heroin are junkies	56	20	25	619
People take drugs to relax	54	18	28	618
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	51	5	45	617
People take drugs to escape from reality	51	14	34	617
People who take drugs should be punished	26	53	20	617
Taking drugs is exciting	19	50	31	622

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	77	79	78
No	18	16	17
Don't know	5	5	5
<i>Base</i>	373	232	605

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	37	43	40
No	48	40	44
Don't know	15	17	16
<i>Base</i>	371	229	600

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Total %
Very useful	21
Fairly useful	47
Not very useful	15
Not useful at all	8
Don't know	9
<i>Base</i>	485

*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 South Ayrshire there was no difference in response rate between state and independently funded pupils, but there was a higher response rate in S2 pupils (63% of South Ayrshire sample) compared with S4 pupils (37% of South 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 <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