

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

**SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE  
AMONG 13 AND 15 YEAR OLDS  
IN WEST LOTHIAN, 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 West Lothian:

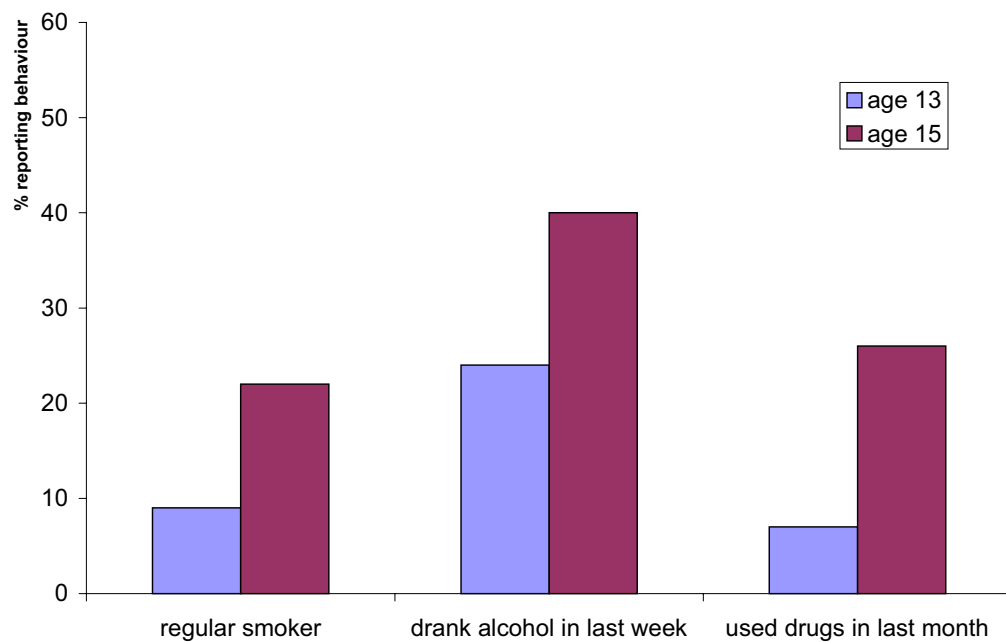
- 9% of 13 year olds and 22% of 15 year olds were regular smokers<sup>1</sup>
- Prevalence of regular smoking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- 24% of 13 year olds and 40% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- Prevalence of drinking was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- 7% of 13 year olds and 26% 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 West Lothian 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 West Lothian in 2002.

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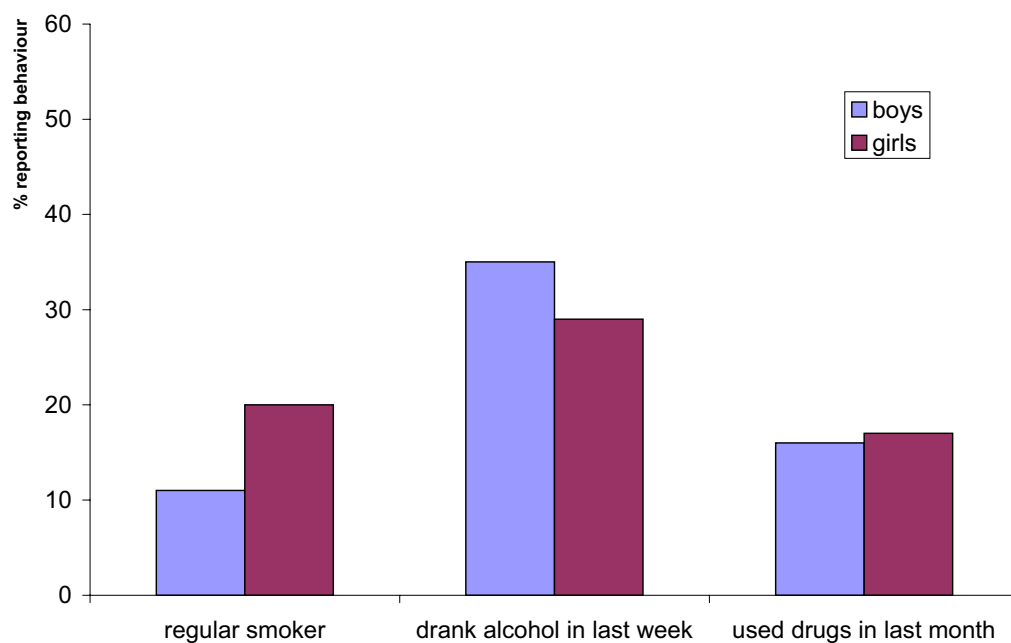
<sup>1</sup> regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

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



(Source: tables 3.1, 4.3, 5.1)

**Figure 1.2: Smoking, drinking and drugs use in 13 and 15 year olds, by gender: West Lothian 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 West Lothian 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 West Lothian was designed to have a final sample size of 950 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 22% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study. Of the 11 schools which were asked to participate 7 schools (64%) 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% older 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% older than 16 years 1 month, 3% older 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 46 classes in West Lothian were selected to participate, and 28 classes (61%) took part. The overall pupil response rate within classes was 92%. The main reason for pupil non-response was absence due to illness. The final survey response in West Lothian, based on the class and pupil response rate, was therefore 57%. This is lower than the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 550 pupils, 13% of the target population in West Lothian.

## **3 Smoking**

### **3.1 Smoking prevalence**

In West Lothian, reported prevalence of regular smoking<sup>1</sup> increased significantly with age. In 2002, 9% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 22% of 15 year olds. For both age groups the reported prevalence in West Lothian was not 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 of 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (51%), compared with 35% of 15 year olds.

Again, reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls than boys in both age groups in West Lothian; 20% of girls and 11% of boys were regular smokers (**Tables 3.1, 3.2**).

### **3.2 Number of cigarettes smoked**

Pupils who smoked regularly were asked how many cigarettes they usually smoked in a week. Younger pupils who were regular smokers reported smoking fewer cigarettes per week than older pupils: an average of 26 per week for 13 year olds and 43 per week for 15 year olds. There was no significant gender difference in the average number of cigarettes smoked per week by regular smokers.

### **3.3 Money spent on cigarettes**

Almost all regular smokers (91%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £9.00 a week.

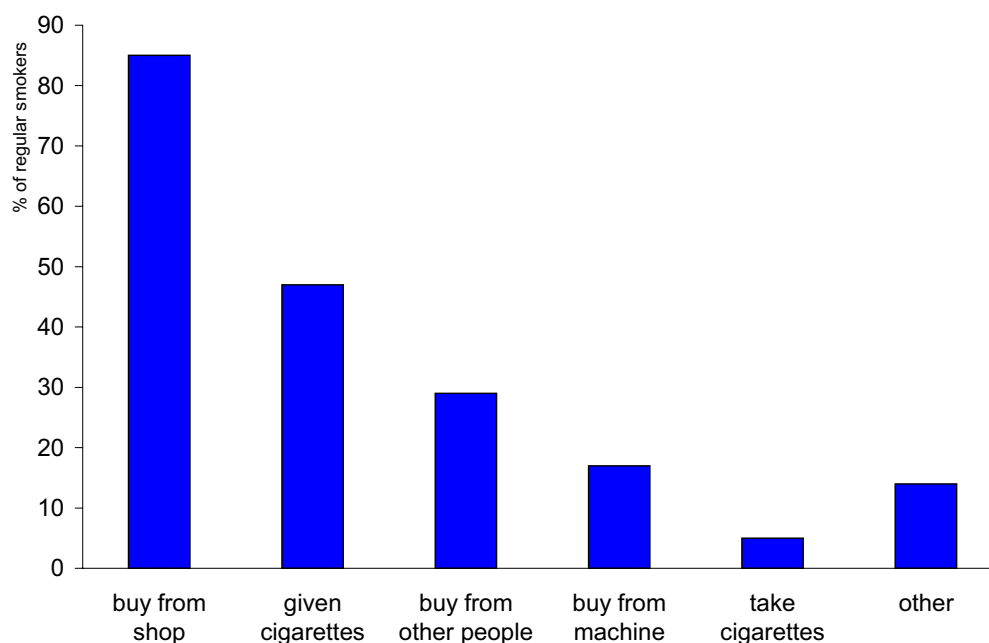
### **3.4 Where pupils obtain cigarettes**

Regular smokers were given a list of sources for obtaining cigarettes and asked to indicate where they usually obtain their cigarettes. Some pupils gave more than one source. The majority of regular smokers (85%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, 17% bought them from machines and 29% reported buying them from other people. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, just under half (47%) of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 5% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 14% 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: West Lothian 2002.**



(Source: Table 3.3 and 3.4)

### **3.5 Smoking dependence**

Regular smokers were asked whether they would like to give up smoking and how difficult or easy they felt this would be. Most regular smokers (69%) reported that they would like to give up smoking and 64% had tried to give up at some time. Thirty five percent (35%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 37% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (68% 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: 43% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 16% 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 nine percent (69%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Forty nine percent (49%) of all pupils who were regular smokers reported that they are not allowed to smoke at home (Tables 3.9 and 3.10).

Almost all non-smokers (92%) reported that their families would either stop them smoking or try to persuade them not to smoke (Table 3.9).

Pupils were also asked whether their families and friends smoked. More pupils who were regular smokers reported that a parent was a daily smoker compared with non-smokers: 65% of regular smokers compared with 43% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 40% of regular smokers, compared with 13% of non-smokers (**Tables 3.11 and 3.12**).

Regular smokers were also more likely to have friends who smoked: 46% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 4% of non-smokers. Just over half of the non-smokers (54%) reported that 'none' or 'almost none' of their friends smoked (**Table 3.13**).

### **3.7 Cigarette advertising**

Pupils were given a list of places and asked to say whether or not they had seen cigarettes advertised there over the previous six months. Most pupils (77%) 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 (38%) or at the cinema (20%) (**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: 84% of 13 year olds and 57% of 15 year olds. However, 12% of 13 year olds and 28% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 4% of 13 year olds and 15% 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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	9	22	16	14
Occasional smoker	3	6	5	5
Used to smoke	10	17	14	13
Tried smoking once	26	19	22	23
Never smoked	51	35	43	45
<i>Base</i>	302	220	522	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	11	20	16	14
Occasional smoker	3	6	5	5
Used to smoke	9	19	14	13
Tried smoking once	26	19	22	23
Never smoked	50	36	43	45
<i>Base</i>	270	252	522	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	79	88	85
Given cigarettes	43	49	47
Buy from other people	29	29	29
Buy from machine	25	14	17
Take cigarettes	7	4	5
Get cigarettes some other way	32	6	14
<i>Base</i>	28	49	77

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	84	86	85
Given cigarettes	35	54	47
Buy from other people	27	30	29
Buy from machine	15	19	17
Take cigarettes	-	8	5
Get cigarettes some other way	21	10	14
<i>Base</i>	30	47	77

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	69
Would not like to give up smoking	31
<i>Base</i>	73

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	64
Has not tried to give up smoking	36
<i>Base</i>	75

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %
One year or less	32
More than a year	68
<i>Base</i>	75

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.8: Ease of giving up smoking by length of time smoking: West Lothian 2002.**

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	16	43	35	32
Fairly difficult	40	36	37	36
Fairly easy	21	14	16	21
Very easy	23	7	12	11
<i>Base</i>	25	49	74	2868

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

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

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non- smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	16	49	61	53	54
Persuade me not to	53	44	31	35	35
Do nothing	20	-	2	4	3
Encourage me	2	-	-	0	0
Not sure	9	7	6	8	7
<i>Base</i>	72	16	360	474	19279

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.10: Whether regular smokers are allowed to smoke at home: West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	39
Not allowed to smoke at home	49
Don't know	12
<i>Base</i>	68

*Base= All pupils who were regular smokers*

**Table 3.11: Parents' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: West Lothian 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	32	28	55
At least one parent smokes daily	65	72	43
Does not see either parent	4	-	2
<i>Base</i>	74	23	403

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.12: Siblings' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: West Lothian 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	54	56	79
At least one sibling smokes daily	40	38	13
Does not have siblings	6	6	7
<i>Base</i>	68	19	373

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 3.13: Friends smoking, by pupil's smoking status: West Lothian 2002.**

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	46	12	4
More than half	29	11	9
Half	13	27	13
Less than half	9	30	20
Almost none	2	20	31
None	-	-	23
<i>Base</i>	77	23	420

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Yes %</b>	<b>No %</b>	<b>Don't know %</b>	<b>Base</b>
On posters/billboards	77	15	8	511
In magazines	58	33	9	502
On television	53	40	7	509
In newspapers	38	47	15	493
At the cinema	20	65	15	491

*Base= All pupils*

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

	<b>Age 13 %</b>	<b>Age 15 %</b>	<b>Total %</b>
Yes	84	57	70
No	12	28	20
Don't know	4	15	10
<b>Base</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>514</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 90% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink. For both age groups the reported prevalence in West Lothian was not 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**).

Forty percent (40%) of 15 year olds and 24% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, a significant increase in prevalence with age. 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; 16% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drank alcohol at least once a week, compared to 31% of 15 year old pupils. For neither age group was the prevalence of weekly drinking significantly different from that reported nationally (national figures: 17% of 13 year olds and 38% of 15 year olds reported drinking weekly). There was no significant difference between boys and girls in the proportion of pupils reporting that they usually drank alcohol at least once a week (**Tables 4.5 and 4.6**).

### 4.3 Money spent on alcohol

Of all pupils who drank weekly, 78% reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £9.00 a week.

### 4.4 Type of alcohol consumed

Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked whether or not they had consumed various categories of alcoholic drink<sup>1</sup>. There were significant differences between boys and girls in the types of alcohol drunk. For boys beer, lager or cider were most commonly reported: 59% of boys who had drunk alcohol in the last week had consumed half a pint or more of beer, lager or cider. Alcopops were reported by over half of the boys (54%). For girls, alcopops were most commonly reported: 69% had drunk alcopops in the last week. Over half of the girls (56%) reported that they had drunk spirits in the last week (**Table 4.8**).

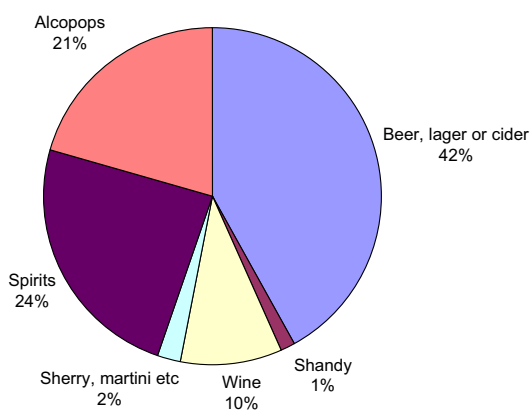
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<sup>1</sup> Pupils were asked about the following types of drink: beer, lager or cider, shandy, wine, martini and sherry, spirits and liqueurs, alcopops and pre-mixed alcoholic drinks.

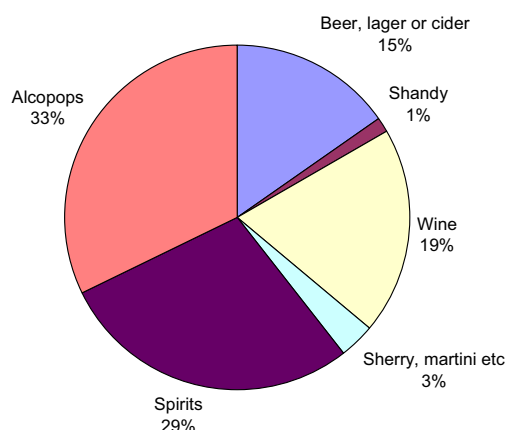
## 4.5 Average amount of alcohol consumed weekly

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 12 units. This difference was not statistically significant. Figures 4.1 and 4.2 show the consumption of each type of drink as a proportion of the total reported amount of alcohol drunk in the week prior to the survey.

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



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

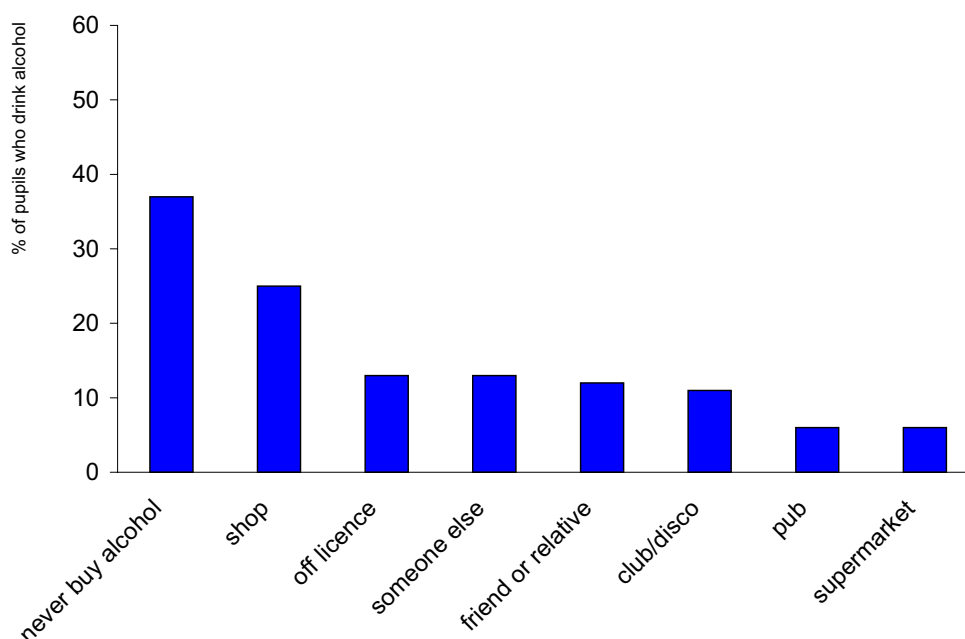


<sup>1</sup> Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

## 4.6 Availability of alcohol

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Thirty seven percent (37%) of those who had had an alcoholic drink reported that they 'never buy alcohol'. Other pupils reported more than one source. The most common source for purchasing alcohol by pupils in West Lothian was from a shop (25%) (Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).

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

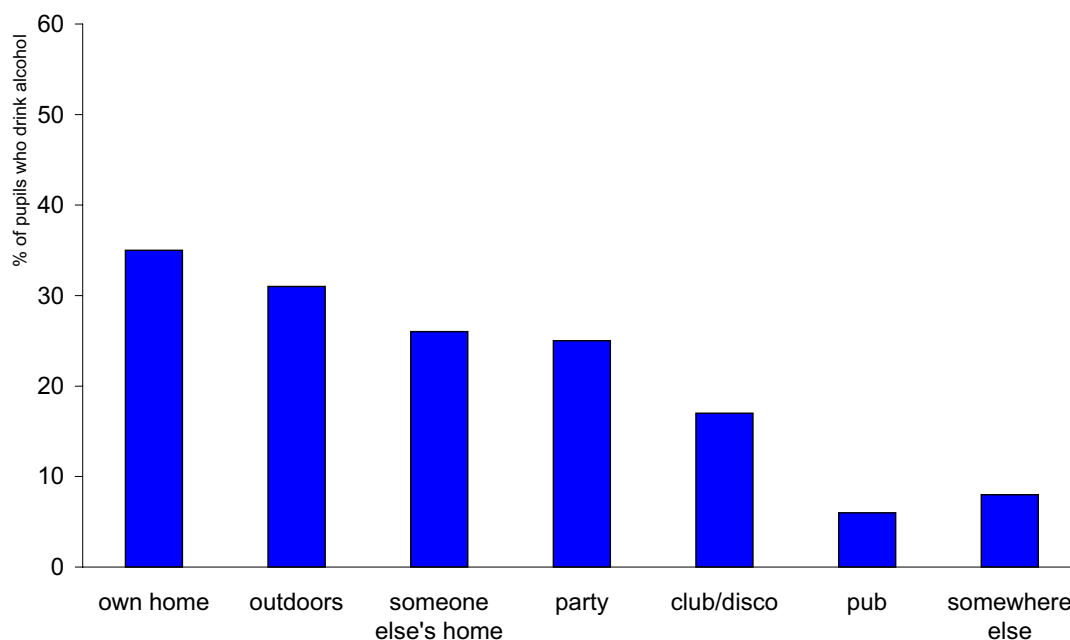


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

## 4.7 Where young people drink alcohol

Pupils were asked 'When you drink alcohol, where are you usually?' and given a list of possible locations. Some pupils reported more than one location. The most frequently reported locations for drinking alcohol were in the pupil's own home (35%), or outdoors (31%). Around a quarter of pupils who drank alcohol reported that they usually drink in someone else's home (26%) or at a party with friends (25%) (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: West Lothian 2002.**



(Source: tables 4.11 and 4.12)

## 4.8 Drinking to excess

All pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked 'Have you ever had so much alcohol that you were really drunk?'. Overall, 68% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Twenty percent (20%) had been drunk once, 22% had been drunk 2-3 times, 14% had been drunk 4-10 times and 12% 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 (47%) reported that they had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past 30 days and 11% 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 40% 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. Fifteen percent (15%) had tried drugs. Thirteen percent (13%) of all 15

year olds (8% of boys and 17% of girls) had had unprotected sex (13 year old pupils were not asked questions on sexual health).

Around one in ten pupils had stayed off school as a result of drinking too much alcohol (12%). 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 (23%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their family did not know that they drank, just under half (46%) reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 19% 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 (19% of all pupils) were asked how their families would feel if they started drinking. Seventy two percent (72%) reported that their families would be upset or angry if they started drinking (**Tables 4.21 and 4.22**).

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

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

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on alcohol. Pupil response depends on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. Most pupils reported having lessons, videos or class discussions; 83% of 13 year olds and 65% of 15 year olds. However, 13% of 13 year olds and 22% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 5% of 13 year olds and 14% 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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	73	90	81	78
No	27	10	19	22
<i>Base</i>	313	233	546	22850

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 4.2: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by gender: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	78	85	81	78
No	22	15	19	22
<i>Base</i>	280	266	546	22850

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 4.3: Last occasion of drinking, by age group West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	24	40	32	35
One to four weeks ago	10	24	17	16
One to six months ago	24	20	22	18
More than six months ago	13	5	9	10
Never	28	10	19	22
<i>Base</i>	307	231	538	22617

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.4: Last occasion of drinking, by gender: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	35	29	32	35
One to four weeks ago	14	20	17	16
One to six months ago	18	27	22	18
More than six months ago	10	8	9	10
Never	23	15	19	22
<i>Base</i>	275	263	538	22617

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.5: Usual drinking frequency, by age group: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	16	31	24	27
About once a fortnight	10	16	13	12
About once a month	8	16	12	12
Only a few times a year	38	26	32	27
Never	27	10	19	22
<i>Base</i>	312	232	544	22754

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 4.6: Usual drinking frequency, by gender: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	27	20	24	27
About once a fortnight	10	16	13	12
About once a month	10	14	12	12
Only a few times a year	30	35	32	27
Never	22	15	19	22
<i>Base</i>	279	265	544	22754

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Beer, lager or cider	44	48	46
Shandy	21	6	12
Wine	31	37	34
Martini, sherry etc.	7	9	8
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	40	55	49
Alcopops	57	62	60
<i>Base</i>	75	93	168

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Beer, lager or cider	59	31	46
Shandy	11	13	12
Wine	22	49	34
Martini, sherry etc.	6	10	8
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	44	56	49
Alcopops	54	69	60
<i>Base</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>168</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: West Lothian 2002.**

	<b>Age 13</b>	<b>Age 15</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	52	26	37
Buy alcohol from shop	16	32	25
Buy alcohol in off licence	6	20	13
Buy alcohol from someone else	14	13	13
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	10	14	12
Buy alcohol in club	0	19	11
Buy alcohol in pub	0	10	6
Buy alcohol from supermarket	6	7	6
<i>Base</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>441</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: West Lothian 2002.**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never buy alcohol	39	36	37
Buy alcohol from shop	23	27	25
Buy alcohol in off licence	12	15	13
Buy alcohol from someone else	14	13	13
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	12	12	12
Buy alcohol in club	6	15	11
Buy alcohol in pub	3	9	6
Buy alcohol from supermarket	7	5	6
<i>Base</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>441</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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	43	30	35
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	27	30	31
Usually drink in someone else's home	21	29	26
Usually drink at a party with friends	18	23	25
Usually drink in club/disco	9	9	17
Usually drink in pub	3	10	6
Usually drink somewhere else	10	34	8
<i>Base</i>	231	6	441

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	34	36	35
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	29	33	31
Usually drink in someone else's home	25	27	26
Usually drink at a party with friends	22	28	25
Usually drink in club/disco	14	19	17
Usually drink in pub	3	10	6
Usually drink somewhere else	8	8	8
<i>Base</i>	219	222	441

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	48	20	32	32
Once	25	17	20	19
2-3 times	15	28	22	22
4-10 times	8	19	14	13
More than 10 times	5	17	12	14
<i>Base</i>	223	205	428	17723

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.14: Ever been drunk, by gender: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	32	32	32	32
Once	22	19	20	19
2-3 times	23	22	22	22
4-10 times	14	14	14	13
More than 10 times	10	13	12	14
<i>Base</i>	212	216	428	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	7	15	11	13
3 times	6	8	7	9
Twice	11	21	17	13
Once	10	14	12	14
Not in last 30 days	21	24	22	23
Never	46	18	30	28
<i>Base</i>	222	202	424	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	10	12	11	13
3 times	7	7	7	9
Twice	19	14	17	13
Once	10	14	12	14
Not in last 30 days	19	26	22	23
Never	34	27	30	28
<i>Base</i>	210	214	424	17615

*Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	28	50	40
Had an argument or fight	21	38	30
Tried any drugs	10	18	15
Had unprotected sex*	-	13	13
Stayed off school	13	10	12
Injured and seen by doctor	8	3	5
Visited A & E department	5	3	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	2	3	3
<i>Base</i>	221	206	427

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	36	44	40
Had an argument or fight	30	31	30
Tried any drugs	16	13	15
Had unprotected sex*	8	17	13
Stayed off school	10	13	12
Injured and seen by doctor	6	5	5
Visited A & E department	5	4	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	4	2	3
<i>Base</i>	209	218	427

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	16	20	19	16
They don't mind	34	52	46	45
They don't know I drink	29	20	23	27
I don't know what they think	21	8	13	12
<i>Base</i>	73	90	163	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	20	17	19	16
They don't mind	41	51	46	45
They don't know I drink	24	22	23	27
I don't know what they think	14	10	13	12
<i>Base</i>	92	71	163	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	80	50	72	70
They would not mind	5	5	5	9
I don't know what they would think	15	45	23	21
<i>Base</i>	81	22	103	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	70	75	72	70
They would not mind	5	5	5	9
I don't know what they would think	25	20	23	21
<i>Base</i>	61	42	103	4711

*Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol*

**Table 4.23: Whether pupils are allowed to drink alcohol at home: West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %
Yes, always	7
Yes, sometimes	72
No, never	21
<i>Base</i>	533

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	83	65	74
No	13	22	17
Don't know	5	14	9
<i>Base</i>	259	260	519

*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: 25% 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. Seven percent (7%) of thirteen year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 26% of fifteen year olds. Prevalence of drug use in West Lothian 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 difference in the proportion of boys and girls who reported taking drugs in the last month (**Tables 5.1 and 5.2**).

### 5.2 Drug use in the year prior to the survey

Twenty three percent (23%) 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, 19% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The figures were much lower for other types of drugs; 6% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 5% had used solvents, 2% percent 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 (48%) had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 63% of 15 year old pupils and 33% 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 have been offered drugs than boys (44% of girls had been offered drugs compared with 52% of boys), but this difference was not

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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.

statistically significant. The most commonly offered drug type was cannabis: 41% of pupils reported that they had been offered this drug (Tables 5.5 to 5.8).

## 5.4 Frequency of drug use

Six percent (6%) of pupils reported that they usually take drugs once a week or more, with a significantly higher proportion of older pupils doing so; 2% of thirteen year old pupils and 10% of fifteen year old pupils reported this. Reported prevalence of weekly drug taking is not significantly different from reported national prevalence in either age group (national figures: 2% of 13 year olds and 7% of 15 year olds report using drugs once a week or more). There was no gender difference in reported frequency of drug use (Tables 5.9 and 5.10).

## 5.5 Money spent on drugs

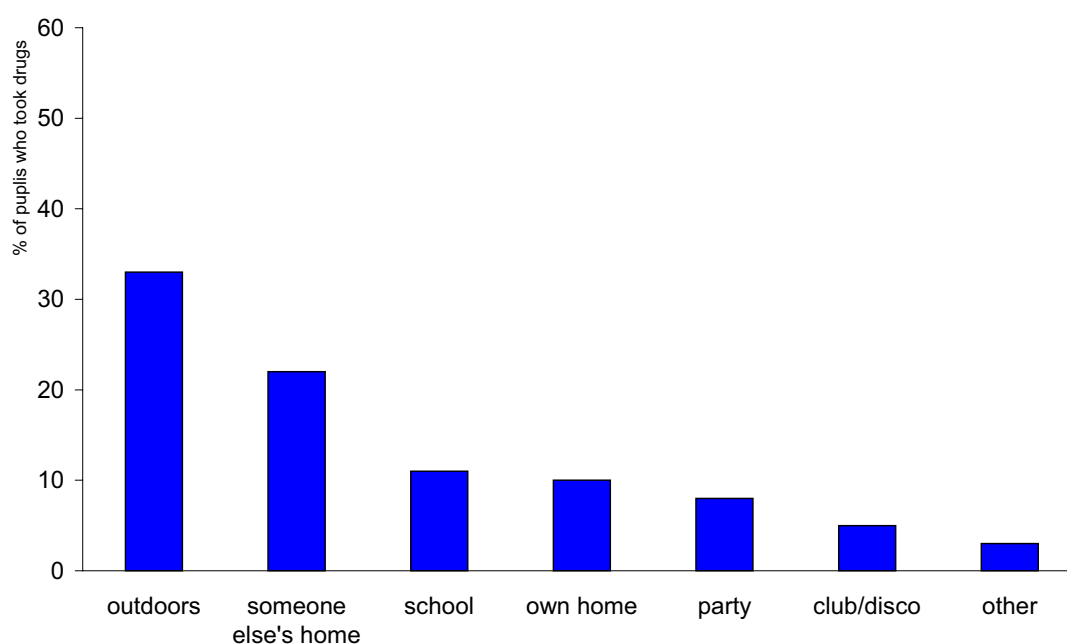
Around half (52%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £11.00 per week.

## 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' (33%). The next most reported location was 'someone else's home' (22%) (Tables 5.11 and 5.12, Figure 5.1).

Thirty eight percent (38%) 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: West Lothian 2002.**  
(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)



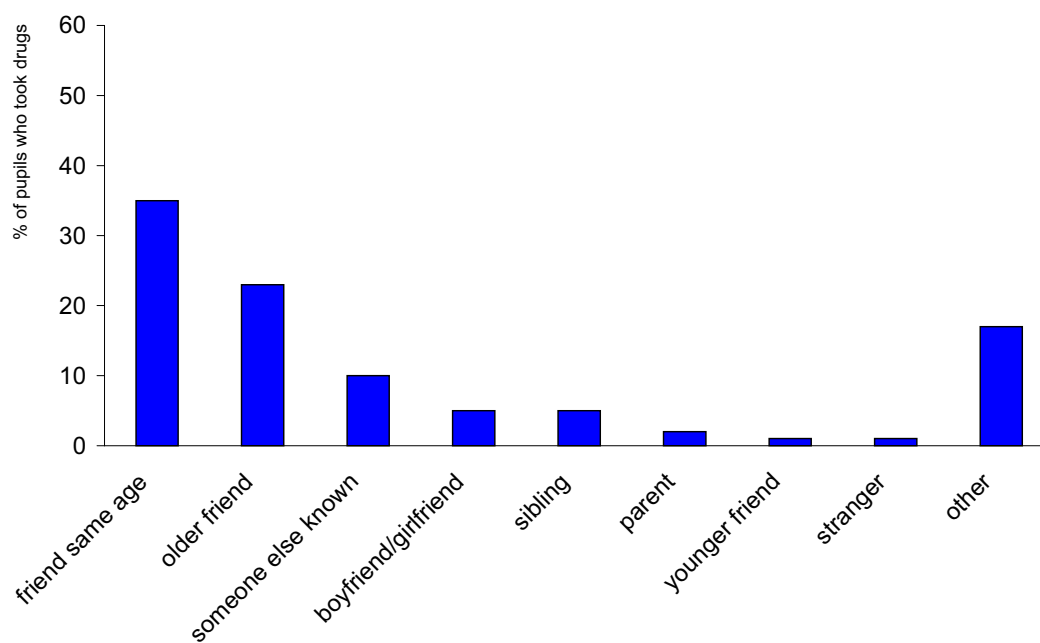
## 5.7 Availability of drugs

Half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (50%) reported that it would be 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' to get drugs while 36% did not know how easy or difficult it would be. Significantly more fifteen year olds reported that they would find it 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' (68%) than thirteen year old pupils (32%) (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; 35% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from a friend of the same age and a further 23% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend (Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: West Lothian 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

Forty percent (40%) of pupils who took drugs reported that they gave some drugs away last time they used drugs. Fewer pupils (11%) reported that they sold some of their drugs (Tables 5.18 and 5.19).

## 5.9 Obtaining information and help

Eighteen percent (18%) of the 13 and 15 year old pupils who reported taking drugs more than a few times a year said they would like to stop taking drugs now. Almost all young people who took drugs more than a few times a year reported that they have never felt that they needed help because of taking drugs (97%), although 82% reported that they knew where to go to get help (Tables 5.20 to 5.23).

All pupils were asked if they knew where to get information on drugs. Seventy percent (72%) reported that they knew where to get information (**Table 5.24**). The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (36%), 'friends' (34%), 'teacher' (33%) and 'telephone helpline' (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 (90%) 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' (66%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (70%), although 31% did not know whether heroin was addictive and 26% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Less than half of pupils (44%) agreed that 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis' and 48% reported that they did not know whether this was the case. More than half (60%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults tell us about drugs is true'.

Although around two thirds of pupils (65%) agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', over half of all pupils (58%) felt that 'people who take drugs are stupid'. Pupils were more likely to agree than disagree with the statement 'people my age who take drugs need help and advice'; 65% of pupils agreed with this statement. Just under half (47%) of pupils agreed that 'people who take heroin are junkies'.

Three of the statements concerned possible reasons for drug taking: 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality', 'people take drugs to relax' and 'taking drugs is exciting'. Very few pupils (15%) agreed that 'taking drugs is exciting'. Around half agreed with the statements 'people who take drugs want to escape from reality' (47%) and 'people take drugs to relax' (56%).

Fifty eight percent (58%) agreed that 'all people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 32% believed 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: 87% of 13 year olds and 70% of 15 year olds. However, 11% of 13 year olds and 18% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 2% of 13 year olds and 12% of 15 year olds reported that did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on drugs (**Table 5.27**).

Fewer pupils reported having lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing. Around half (58% of 13 year olds and 46% of 15 year olds) reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions in the last twelve months. However, 31% of 13 year olds and 37% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and the remaining 11% of 13 year olds and 18% 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, 37% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 40% found them 'fairly useful' (**Table 5.29**).

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	7	26	16	15
Used drugs in last year*	10	35	23	22
Used drugs ever	12	38	25	25
<i>Base</i>	306	224	530	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	16	17	16	15
Used drugs in last year*	20	25	23	22
Used drugs ever	23	27	25	25
<i>Base</i>	270	260	530	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	8	31	19	20
Stimulants	3	8	6	6
<i>cocaine</i>	0	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	2	4	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	1	4	2	2
<i>poppers</i>	1	2	2	3
Psychedelics	2	3	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	1	2	2	2
Opiates	1	1	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	-	0	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	3	7	5	4
Tranquillisers	1	4	3	2
Anabolic Steroids	0	0	0	0
Semeron	-	1	0	0
Other	1	2	1	0
<i>Base</i>	316	234	550	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:  
West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	17	22	19	20
Stimulants	7	4	6	6
<i>cocaine</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>crack</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ecstasy</i>	4	2	3	3
<i>amphetamines</i>	2	3	2	2
<i>poppers</i>	3	0	2	3
Psychedelics	3	2	2	2
<i>LSD</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	2	1	2	2
Opiates	1	1	1	1
<i>heroin</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>methadone</i>	0	-	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	4	6	5	4
Tranquillisers	3	3	3	2
Anabolic Steroids	0	0	0	0
Semeron	-	1	0	0
Other	1	1	1	0
<i>Base</i>	283	267	550	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:  
West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	33	63	48
No	67	37	52
<i>Base</i>	281	210	491

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	52	44	48
No	48	56	52
<i>Base</i>	244	247	491

*Base= All pupils*

**Table 5.7: Type of drug offered, by age: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	24	58	41	42
Stimulants	13	30	21	19
<i>cocaine</i>	5	8	6	6
<i>crack</i>	4	5	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	7	20	13	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	4	12	8	7
<i>poppers</i>	3	13	8	9
Psychedelics	6	18	12	10
<i>LSD</i>	4	8	6	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	4	14	8	8
Opiates	4	6	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	4	6	5	4
<i>methadone</i>	0	2	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	8	20	14	12
Tranquillisers	5	12	8	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	3	2	2
Semeron	1	2	1	1
Other	1	2	1	1
<b>Base</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>20614</b>

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	44	38	41	42
Stimulants	20	23	21	19
<i>cocaine</i>	6	7	6	6
<i>crack</i>	5	4	4	4
<i>ecstasy</i>	11	15	13	12
<i>amphetamines</i>	6	10	8	7
<i>poppers</i>	9	7	8	9
Psychadelics	12	12	12	10
<i>LSD</i>	5	8	6	5
<i>magic mushrooms</i>	10	7	8	8
Opiates	4	6	5	5
<i>heroin</i>	4	5	5	4
<i>methadone</i>	1	1	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	12	17	14	12
Tranquillisers	8	9	8	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	3	2	2
Semeron	1	1	1	1
Other	2	1	1	1
<b>Base</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>20614</b>

*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:  
West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	2	10	6	5
Once or twice a month	1	8	4	4
A few times a year	3	6	5	5
Do not use drugs	93	76	85	86
<i>Base</i>	307	225	532	22532

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	7	5	6	5
Once or twice a month	4	5	4	4
A few times a year	3	6	5	5
Do not use drugs	85	85	85	86
<i>Base</i>	270	262	532	22532

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	29	35	33
Someone else's home	16	24	22
At school	2	14	11
Own home	11	9	10
At party	4	10	8
At club/disco	7	4	5
Other place	4	2	3
<i>Base</i>	55	98	153

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	30	36	33
Someone else's home	16	29	22
At school	11	10	11
Own home	10	9	10
At party	10	6	8
At club/disco	6	4	5
Other place	1	4	3
<i>Base</i>	83	70	153

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	38	39
No	62	61
<i>Base</i>	129	5544

*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 5.14: Ease of getting drugs, by age group: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	11	33	22
Fairly easy	21	35	28
Fairly difficult	6	4	5
Very difficult	5	3	4
Impossible	9	2	6
Don't know	48	23	36
<i>Base</i>	303	223	526

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.15 Ease of getting drugs, by gender: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	23	21	22
Fairly easy	27	30	28
Fairly difficult	6	4	5
Very difficult	5	3	4
Impossible	6	5	6
Don't know	33	38	36
<i>Base</i>	267	259	526

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.16: Source of drugs, by age group: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Brother or sister	4	5	5
Friend of own age	16	43	35
Older friend	24	22	23
Younger friend	-	1	1
Boyfriend/girlfriend	4	5	5
Mother/father	2	2	2
Someone known	11	9	10
Stranger	2	-	1
Other	11	19	17
<i>Base</i>	55	98	153

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Friend of own age	24	46	35
Older friend	24	22	23
Someone known	16	3	10
Brother or sister	3	6	5
Boyfriend/girlfriend	-	10	5
Mother/father	1	3	2
Younger friend	-	2	1
Stranger	1	-	1
Other	15	19	16
<i>Base</i>	83	70	153

*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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Used it all myself	58	46	49
Sold some of it	11	11	11
Gave some of it away	31	43	40
<i>Base</i>	36	83	119

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

**Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Used it all myself	52	47	49
Sold some of it	18	5	11
Gave some of it away	30	48	40
Base	57	62	119

*Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	25	15	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	10	15	14	20
Would not like to give up	20	48	42	39
Not sure	45	21	26	26
Base	20	52	72	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	12	24	18	15
Would like to give up in the future	16	12	14	20
Would not like to give up	47	36	42	39
Not sure	25	27	26	26
Base	39	33	72	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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	3
No	97
Base	73

*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 : West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	82
No	18
<i>Base</i>	<i>72</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: West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %
Yes	72
No	14
Don't know	14
<i>Base</i>	<i>526</i>

*Base=All pupils*

**Table 5.25: Where pupils would go for information on drugs: West Lothian 2002.**

	Total %
Doctor	36
Friends	34
Teacher	33
Telephone helpline	32
Internet/web	29
Female family member	26
Advice organisation	22
Drop-in centre	19
Books	17
Magazines	16
Male family member	16
Youth worker	14
Councillor	12
TV/radio	7
<i>Base</i>	<i>373</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: West Lothian 2002.**

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<i>Base</i>
Taking drugs harms your health	90	6	5	522
Taking cocaine is dangerous	79	4	17	523
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	78	12	9	523
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	70	4	26	525
Heroin is addictive	66	2	31	526
People my age who take drugs need help	65	20	15	524
Most young people will try out drugs	65	17	18	527
What adults tell us about drugs is true	60	18	22	525
People who sell drugs should be punished	58	27	15	525
People who take drugs are stupid	58	29	13	524
People take drugs to relax	56	18	26	523
People take drugs to escape from reality	47	16	37	525
People who take heroin are junkies	47	23	31	526
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	44	8	48	524
People who take drugs should be punished	32	50	18	526
Taking drugs is exciting	15	54	31	526

*Base=All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	87	70	78
No	11	18	15
Don't know	2	12	7
<i>Base</i>	259	260	519

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	58	46	52
No	31	37	34
Don't know	11	18	14
<i>Base</i>	257	256	513

*Base= All pupils*

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

	Total %
Very useful	37
Fairly useful	40
Not very useful	9
Not useful at all	4
Don't know	10
<i>Base</i>	436

*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 West Lothian there were no independent schools in the sample. There was a higher response rate in S2 pupils (57% of West Lothian sample) compared with S4 pupils (43% of West Lothian 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