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Smoking, drinking & drug use among young people in England in 2002

Edited by Richard Boreham and Sally McManus

A survey carried out on behalf of the Department of Health by the
National Centre for Social Research and the National Foundation for Educational Research

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National Centre *for* Social Research

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Contents

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Notes to tables

1. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.
2. A few children failed to answer each question. These 'no answers' have been excluded from the analysis, and so tables that describe the same population may have slightly varying bases.
3. The following convention has been used:

   0 = less than 0.5%, but not zero

   - = Zero
4. In tables where age is a variable, those aged 16 have been included with the 15 year olds. This is because the survey did not include pupils in year 12, and the small number of 16 year olds sampled from year 11 are not representative of all schoolchildren aged 16. Similarly pupils aged 10 have been included with 11 year olds.
5. The school year classification is based on the years or forms of maintained secondary schools. The school years of pupils attending some non-maintained schools have been adjusted accordingly.

Summary of main findings

The main purpose of this survey was to continue to monitor smoking, drinking and drug use among secondary school children aged 11-15. Information was obtained from 9,859 pupils in 321 schools throughout England during the autumn term of 2002.

Smoking prevalence and cigarette consumption (Chapter 2)

One of the aims of this survey series is to measure progress towards the Government's target to reduce the number of children aged 11-15 who smoke regularly from a baseline of 13% in 1996 to 11% by 2005 and 9% by 2010. In 2002 10% of pupils aged 11-15 were regular smokers. The proportion of regular smokers (defined as usually smoking at least one cigarette a week) has fluctuated since 1982, but has been quite stable since 1998 (there was no change in the proportion of regular smokers between 2001 and 2002).

Prevalence of smoking was strongly related to age. Only 1% of 11 year olds were regular smokers compared with 23% of 15 year olds.

In the early 1980s, boys and girls were equally likely to smoke. Since then, girls have been consistently more likely to smoke than boys. In 2002, 11% of girls were regular smokers, compared with 9% of boys. This gender difference was not present among 11 and 12 year olds, but first appeared at age 13, and was maintained at 14 and 15.

Pupils completed a smoking diary detailing how many cigarettes they had smoked in the previous seven days. Sixteen percent of pupils had smoked in the last seven days.

Although girls were more likely to smoke than boys, among those who did smoke, boys smoked more cigarettes than girls. Among regular smokers, boys smoked an average of 52 cigarettes in the last seven days compared with 48 for girls. The number of cigarettes smoked per week by regular smokers has remained fairly stable since it was first measured in 1982.

There was no variation in the proportion of pupils who smoked on each particular day of the week, but there was a weekend effect in terms of the number of cigarettes smoked. Among those who smoked in the last seven days, 7.2 cigarettes were smoked on a Saturday compared with between 5.0 and 6.0 on other days. Occasional smokers (those who smoked less than one cigarette a week) were more likely to smoke on a Saturday than on other days, but there was no difference in the proportion of regular smokers who smoked on each day.

Dependence on smoking (Chapter 3)

Pupils' perceived dependency on cigarettes and attitudes towards giving up smoking were affected by their length of time as a smoker. Compared with pupils who had been regular smokers for one year or less, those who had been regular smokers for longer were more likely to say that they would find it difficult not to smoke for a week (76% compared with 46%), and more likely to find it difficult to give up smoking altogether (84% compared with 57%).

Smokers who had been smoking for longer were more likely to have tried to give up in the past and failed (74%) than those who had been a regular smoker for one year or less (56%). In terms of future intentions, smokers who had been smoking regularly for more than a year were keener to give up – 41% would like to stop smoking compared with 31% of smokers who had been a regular smoker for less time.

Family attitudes towards smoking (Chapter 4)

The great majority of pupils perceived that their families had negative attitudes towards smoking; 86% of pupils said that their parents would either try to stop them smoking or would try to persuade them not to smoke. Within these overall negative attitudes, a distinction can be drawn between families take a confrontational approach and try to stop pupils smoking (63%) and those who take a more persuasive approach (23%).

Whether families took a confrontational or persuasive approach was related to age. Older pupils were more likely than younger pupils to report that their families would try to persuade them to stop smoking, and conversely families of younger pupils were more likely than those of older pupils to take a confrontational approach.

Pupils smoking status was also related to family attitudes, independently of age. Families of non-smokers were more likely than other pupils' families to take a confrontational approach, whereas families of open smokers (whose families knew that they smoked) were more likely than other pupils' families to take a persuasive approach. However there was no evidence that taking a persuasive approach rather than a confrontational approach affected whether pupils smoked.

A similar set of questions was asked about family attitudes to taking drugs in the 2001 survey. Family attitudes to drug taking were also overwhelmingly negative with 84% of pupils reporting that their parents would either try to stop them taking drugs or persuade them not to take drugs. However, in terms of the different types of approach, pupils were less likely to think that their family would take a confrontational approach to smoking cigarettes (63%) than to taking drugs (70%), and correspondingly more likely to think that their family would take a persuasive approach to smoking cigarettes (23%) than to taking drugs (15%).

Where children get cigarettes (Chapter 5)

Regular smokers were more likely to buy cigarettes than occasional smokers, and got cigarettes from a wider range of sources (pupils could give more than one source). Shops, and in particular newsagents, were the most common sources of cigarettes for regular smokers. Sixty nine percent of regular smokers usually bought cigarettes from a newsagent. For occasional smokers, their most common source of cigarettes was being given them by their friends (72%).

From 1982 to 1988 the proportion of regular smokers who usually purchased cigarettes from shops remained fairly constant at between 85% and 89%, but decreased to 80% in 2000 and 77% in 2002. Since 1982, there has been a broad increase in the proportions of regular smokers mentioning other sources of cigarettes, so that in 2002 regular smokers were using a wider range of sources to obtain cigarettes than in 1982.

Between 1990 and 2002, the proportion of pupils who had attempted to purchase cigarettes from a shop in the last year decreased from 32% to 18%. The proportion who attempted to buy from shops decreased among all ages, with a greater decrease among younger pupils. Among those who did attempt to purchase cigarettes from a shop there was no change in the proportion who usually did so at least once a week over time.

There was a slight increase among current smokers (includes both regular and occasional smokers) in the proportion who felt it was difficult to purchase cigarettes from a shop, from 18% in 1996 to 23% in 2002. Among those who had attempted to purchase cigarettes from a shop in the last year the proportion that had been refused at least once increased from 37% in 1990 to 48% in 2002, and an increase was seen among all age groups.

Among those who had attempted to buy cigarettes from a shop in the last year, there was an increase in the proportion of 11-12 year olds who had been unsuccessful in their most recent attempt to buy cigarettes from 31% in 1990 to 47% in 2002. There was a similar increase among 13 year olds and a slightly smaller one among 14 year olds, but no change in the proportion of 15 year olds who were refused on the last occasion.

Prevalence of drinking (Chapter 6)

Twenty four per cent of pupils had had an alcoholic drink in the previous week. This proportion has fluctuated between 20% and 27% since the question was introduced in 1988, but with no sustained increase or decrease over time.

In most previous surveys boys had been more likely than girls to have drunk in the last week, and this was also the case in 2002 with 25% of boys and 23% of girls having had a drink in the last week.

As with cigarette smoking, drinking was strongly related to age. Five per cent of 11 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week compared with 47% of 15 year olds.

The majority of pupils who had drunk in the previous week had only done so on one or two days (85%), and only 2% had drunk on five or more days of the last seven.

In contrast to patterns of smoking, there was a strong weekend effect associated with drinking. Among those who had drunk in the last week, 43% had done so on a Friday, 56% on a Saturday and 25% on a Sunday. Around 10% or less of pupils who drank in the last week did so on each day during the week (Monday to Thursday).

Although the proportion of pupils who drank in the previous week has fluctuated rather than increased or decreased over time, the mean consumption for those who had drunk in the last week had risen steadily from 5.3 units of alcohol in 1990 to 9.9 units in 1998, and has fluctuated around this level since then. In 2002 pupils who drank in the last week consumed an average of 10.6 units.

Historically, boys who drank consumed more units of alcohol in the last week than girls, and this was also the case in 2002. Among those who drank in the last week, boys consumed an average of 11.5 units in 2002 compared with 9.6 units for girls.

As in previous surveys, older pupils who drank in the last week consumed more units than their younger counterparts: 15 year olds who drank consumed 13.0 units in the last week compared with 6.8 units for 11-13 year olds.

The types of alcohol drunk have also changed over time – in 2002, beer, lager and cider were still the most common type of drink (drunk by 71% of drinkers in the last week), but prevalence of alcopops had increased in recent years from 55% in 1996 to 68% of drinkers in 2002. The proportion of drinkers who had drunk spirits in the last week had increased from 35% in 1990 to 61% in 2002, whereas prevalence of drinking shandy, wine or fortified wine in the last week have decreased in recent years.

Among boys in 2002, beer, lager, and cider was the most commonly consumed type of drink and accounted for most (56%) of the units of alcohol consumed. In 2002 girls were slightly more likely to have drunk alcopops or spirits than beer, lager or cider, but those who drank beer, lager or cider tended to drink more heavily. Girls who drank in the last week consumed on average 2.8 units of beer, lager or cider, 2.7 units of alcopops and 2.3 units of spirits.

Drinking, frequency and purchase (Chapter 7)

Among pupils who drink, 48% reported that they never buy alcohol, a similar proportion to previous surveys. The most common sources of buying alcohol in 2002 were from friends or relatives and off-licences, reported by 17% and 16% respectively of all pupils who drink.

There has been a shift in recent years towards purchasing from friends or relatives (from 9% in 1998 to 17% in 2002) and away from purchasing from off-licences (from 27% in 1996 to 16% in 2002).

Drug Use (Chapter 8)

The proportions of pupils taking drugs in the last month (12%) and in the last year (20%) were the same in 2001 and 2002. As in previous years of the survey series, boys were more likely than girls to have taken drugs – 14% of boys and 10% of girls took drugs in the last month, while 21% of boys and 18% of girls took drugs in the last year. The prevalence of having ever taken drugs decreased between 2001 and 2002 from 29% to 27%.

Older pupils were much more likely to take drugs: 4% of 11 year olds had taken drugs in the last month, but 23% of 15 year olds had. Forty-six per cent of 15 year olds had ever tried drugs at some point and 37% had taken drugs in the last year.

Cannabis was by far the most widely taken drug, with 13% of pupils having taken it in the last year. Six per cent had sniffed volatile substances. Every other individual drug had been taken in the last year by no more than 4% of pupils, with a total of 4% taking any Class A drug in the last year.

Prevalence of taking cannabis in the last year increased with age from 1% of 11 year olds to 31% of 15 year olds. Prevalence of taking Class A drugs in the last year also increased with age, but not to the same extent as cannabis, from 1% of 11 year olds to 8% of 15 year olds.

Sniffing glue or other solvents was not strongly related to age, but among younger pupils (11 and 12 year olds) sniffing glue or other solvents was more common than taking cannabis. Among 11 year olds, 1% had taken cannabis in the last year compared with 5% who had sniffed glue or other solvents.

Health education and school policies (Chapter 9)

The proportion of pupils who remembered having lessons on smoking has fluctuated over the years; the proportion increased from 42% in 1986 to a peak of 78% in 1998, decreased to 63% in 1999, and has remained relatively stable since then (in 2002, 65% of pupils remembered having lessons on smoking).

Recall of lessons on alcohol increased from 36% in 1988 to a peak of 66% in 1998, then decreased to 56% in 1999 and has remained around that level since then (in 2002, 57% of pupils remembered having lessons on alcohol).

The proportion of pupils who remembered having lessons on drugs in general (as opposed to lessons about specific drugs) increased from 38% in 1988 to 66% in 1998, and has remained around this level since then (in 2002, 62% of pupils remembered having lessons on drugs in general).

Among older pupils, there was a relationship between remembering lessons and whether pupils smoked or took drugs, but no relationship between remembering lessons and drinking alcohol. Year 11 pupils who remembered lessons on smoking were less likely to be regular smokers than those who did not remember lessons (28% compared with 22%). Similarly for taking cannabis, among year 11 pupils, 24% of those who remembered lessons on drugs took cannabis in the last month compared with 19% who did not remember lessons.

However, it cannot be inferred that lessons lead to lower rates of smoking or drug use. Previous reports have shown that perceived usefulness of lessons is also related to behaviour. Additionally, pupils who were less likely to be in school through truanting or exclusion were more likely to smoke or take drugs, and as a result of spending less time in school, they may have less chance of having received lessons on smoking or drug use.

Relationships between use of cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis, volatile substances and Class A drugs (Chapter 10)

The relationships between recent use of each pair of substances was tested using correlation co-efficients, with a higher correlation denoting a stronger relationship. All correlations were statistically significant and positive, thus pupils who had recently taken one of these substances were more likely than pupils who had not to have taken each of the other substances.

The strongest relationship was between recent use of cannabis and cigarettes (correlation 0.51). There were strong relationships (correlations between 0.33 and 0.38) between recent use of cigarettes and alcohol, alcohol and cannabis, cigarettes and Class A drugs, and cannabis and Class A drugs, but a less strong relationship between recent use of alcohol and Class A drugs (correlation 0.23). Recent sniffing of volatile substances showed a relatively weak relationship with recent use of other substances (correlations between 0.16 and 0.19).

Among 15 year olds who had tried either Class A drugs or tried cigarettes, 82% had never taken Class A drugs (but had smoked cigarettes) and a further 14% had smoked cigarettes at an earlier age than they had first tried Class A drugs. There were similar relationships between drinking alcohol and taking Class A drugs and between taking cannabis and taking Class A drugs.

Pupils who started smoking, drinking or taking cannabis at an earlier age, were more likely than those who started at a later age to have taken Class A drugs. Pupils who had not smoked, drunk or taken cannabis were least likely to have taken Class A drugs. For example, 17% of 15 year olds who first smoked aged 10 or younger had taken Class A drugs before they were 15, compared with 4% who had first smoked aged 14 and 1% who had not smoked by the time they turned 15.

It should be noted that although 17% of 15 year olds who first smoked aged 10 or younger had taken Class A drugs before 15, 83% had not done so. There are other factors involved which influence whether pupils smoke, drink, take cannabis and Class A drugs such as socio-economic, cultural and peer group factors.

Ethnic group, receipt of free school meals, truanting and exclusions (Chapter 11)

White pupils and pupils from mixed ethnic groups were more likely than Black or Asian pupils to have drunk in the last week or to be regular smokers, and these differences were greater for drinking than for smoking. Differences in prevalence of taking drugs in the last month were less pronounced than for smoking or drinking, with Asian pupils being the least likely to have taken drugs in the last month.

While White pupils and pupils from mixed ethnic groups were substantially more likely to have drunk alcohol in the last week than to have taken drugs in the last month, this pattern was not found among pupils in Black and Asian groups. Among Asian girls the reverse was true, as they were slightly more likely to have taken drugs in the last month than to have drunk alcohol in the last week.

Whether or not a pupil reported that they received free school meals (or vouchers for free school meals) was used as a proxy measure of household income so that socio-economic differences in behaviour could be explored.

Thirteen per cent of pupils reported receiving free school meals. Pupils who received free school meals were more likely than those who did not to be regular smokers (14% compared with 10%) and to have taken drugs in the last month (14% compared with 11%). However, those who received free school meals were less likely than those who did not to have drunk alcohol in the last week (22% compared with 25%).

Results based on truancy and exclusion should be treated with caution, as they are based on self-reported data, and regular truants and those officially excluded during the fieldwork period may be under-represented in the sample. Seventeen per cent had ever played truant, and 9% had been excluded from school at least once.

Pupils who had ever played truant were considerably more likely than those who had not to be a regular smoker (35% compared with 5%), to have drunk alcohol in the last week (53% compared with 18%) and to have taken drugs in the last month (38% compared with 6%). Similar patterns were found for pupils who had ever been excluded. As older pupils were more likely to have played truant, these differences may be due to age, however previous surveys have shown that these relationships persist once age differences are taken into account.

It is not possible to draw conclusions about causality from these results. It is not clear whether playing truant or being excluded makes pupils more likely to smoke, drink or take drugs, or whether those who already partake in these behaviours are more likely to start playing truant or be excluded from school.

1 Introduction

Sally McManus and Lucy Natarajan

1.1 Background to the 2002 survey

The Department of Health commissioned the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to conduct the 2002 survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among secondary school pupils in England. This is the latest in a series of surveys of secondary school children which provides the national estimates of the proportion of young people aged 11-15 who smoke, drink alcohol and/or take illegal drugs.

The first survey in the series, conducted in 1982, provided estimates of the proportion of pupils who smoked and described their smoking behaviour. Similar surveys were carried out every two years until 1998 to monitor trends in the prevalence of cigarette smoking. Questions on alcohol consumption were included for the first time in 1988, and the 1998 survey was the first to include questions on drug use. Surveys are now being carried out annually, with a core section of questions included covering the following:

- smoking status and number of cigarettes smoked in the last week;
- drinking status and amount of alcohol drunk in the last week; and
- awareness of, ever tried, and when last tried individual drugs.

In alternate years the remainder of the questionnaire focuses on either smoking and drinking or on drug taking. The 1998, 2000 and 2002 surveys focussed on smoking and drinking, and the 1999 and 2001 surveys focussed on drugs. The Office for National Statistics conducted the surveys from 1982 to 1999, with surveys from 2000 onwards carried out by NatCen and NFER.

This long established series of national surveys acts as an official measure of progress towards targets for reducing smoking and drug use among young people.

The current target for reducing children's smoking was set out in *Smoking Kills, A White Paper on Tobacco*[1] and is measured against a 1996 baseline for 11-15 year olds.
The target is:

- to reduce smoking among children from 13% to 11% by 2005, and to 9% or less by 2010.

The Updated Drug Strategy [2] (December 2002) reasserted the government's commitment to reducing drug use among young people but with a new emphasis on vulnerable young people. Key performance targets are measured by this survey series against a 1999 baseline for 11-15 year olds. These include reducing the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug amongst all young people under the age of 25, and especially by the most vulnerable young people.

As well as monitoring the overall prevalence of smoking, drinking and drug use, the 2002 survey also informs policy and practice by measuring other related aspects of behaviour, knowledge and attitudes. These include:

- dependence on smoking;
- family attitudes towards smoking;
- purchasing of cigarettes; and
- school lessons on smoking, drinking and drug use.

1.2 Sample design and response rates

The survey was conducted in schools by asking pre-selected groups of pupils to complete a confidential questionnaire and smoking diary. Both the schools and pupils were selected randomly in a way designed to give every eligible child an equal chance of inclusion in the study.

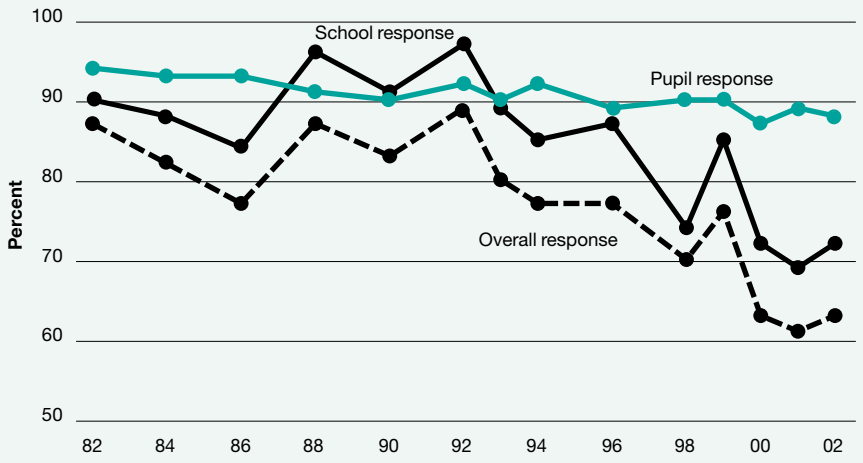
The survey population (that is, the coverage of the survey) is pupils in school years 7-11 in England. Therefore, those taking part are mainly aged 11-15. Schools with any pupils in this age range are eligible for selection, with the exception of special schools. All other types, namely comprehensive, secondary modern, grammar and private schools, are included. More detail about the survey design can be found in Appendix A.

In total, 321 schools agreed to take part in the survey out of the 447 selected, a response rate of 72%.[3] An average of 35 pupils per school were selected to take part from across all classes in years 7 to 11. The response from selected pupils in participating schools was 88%, yielding a total of 9859 completed questionnaires. The product of the school and pupil rates produces an overall response of 63%.

(Table 1.1, Figure 1.1)

Figure 1.1

Response: England 1982-2002



The reasons cited by schools for declining to participate in the survey included:

- a perceived surfeit of other local and national surveys also addressing this topic, leading to an 'overemphasis' on the subject with pupils;
- an unwillingness to sacrifice curriculum time; and
- perceived burden due to shortages of staff available to assist in the administration of the survey.

A logistic regression analysis was run in order to examine any potential non-response bias, using a number of school level characteristics including:

- GCSE pass rate;
- type of school (comprehensive, grammar, secondary modern, private);
- mixed versus single sex schools;
- proportion of pupils eligible for free meals;
- proportion of pupils with English as an additional language; and
- size of school.

Response was found to be lower among schools with a higher GCSE pass rate. To test whether this difference in school response makes a difference to survey estimates, a pupil level weight was derived reflecting schools' likelihood to participate in the survey. A comparison of weighted and unweighted estimates of key prevalence measurements showed that weighting had no significant effect on the data. Therefore the data in this report are not weighted and are comparable with all other surveys in the series.

In the 2002 survey, data enabling individual pupil level response to be examined by school year was collected for the first time. Response rates among pupils in year 10 (86%) and year 11 (85%) were slightly lower than for younger pupils (89-90%). These differences in response, however, were small and not likely to make a difference to survey estimates, so non-response weighting is not necessary.

(Table 1.2)

The survey approach consisted of pupils completing a questionnaire and smoking diary in exam conditions within one school period under the supervision of an interviewer. If four or more pupils were absent a second visit to the school was undertaken. Full details of the survey design are outlined in Appendix A, and details of statistical analysis techniques used in this report are located in Appendix B.

1.3 Changes to drug prevalence questions

Questionnaire development for the 2001 survey included cognitive testing of questions about drug use. The cognitive work examined two methods of asking about drug use. One approach tested was the questions used in previous surveys, where pupils had to look at a long list of drugs contained on a single page and were asked in turn which ones they had heard of, been offered and had used. The alternative approach tested was to ask pupils a series of questions about each drug in turn (and spread over about 15 pages); whether they had heard of it, been offered it, ever tried it and, if so, when they last used it and how they usually take the drug.

The evidence from the cognitive work on drug use was that pupils found answering questions with a long list of drugs a more difficult task, and one that they were less likely to complete fully, than answering a series of questions about each drug. As a result of these findings (described more fully in the 2001 report [4]), it was decided to change the format of the drug prevalence questions to the alternative series of questions about each drug.

In addition, it was found that the term 'using' drugs was associated with regular use rather than trying drugs once or taking them occasionally. In the light of this finding it was decided to change the wording so that pupils were asked about whether they had ever 'tried' drugs rather than ever 'used' drugs.

The questionnaire used in the 2002 survey retained the new drug use question format introduced in the 2001 survey, ensuring that findings from 2001 and 2002 are comparable. However, changing the format of questions about drug prevalence means that results from the 2001 and 2002 surveys are not strictly comparable with drug prevalence findings from previous surveys in the series. Comparison of data from the 2000 and 2001 surveys illustrates that in 2001 there was less missing data and significantly higher reporting of volatile substance use. Given that volatile substances were at the bottom of the list of drugs used in previous survey questionnaires, it is likely that the difference in reporting is due to the change in question format rather than a real change in behaviour. A more detailed discussion of the effects of the change in drug prevalence question format can be found in the report of the 2001 survey.[4]

1.4 Changes to alcohol consumption questions

As part of the questionnaire development for the 2002 survey, cognitive testing of questions about alcohol consumption in the last week was undertaken. The cognitive development work focussed on children's comprehension of the categories of drink asked about in the survey and the language used in the questionnaire. In paired interviews, young people were asked to group sort cards with pictures of different types and brands of drinks. Their reasons for categorising drinks in particular ways and the language that they used were probed.

The cognitive work on alcohol consumption found that:

- 'Alcopops' was a widely used and commonly understood term among young people, but that 'Pre-mixed alcoholic drinks' was not;
- there was some confusion about how strong Shandy should be before it is considered to be a proper alcoholic drink; and
- there were some brands and types of drink, such as Champagne, that young people have difficulty classifying.

As a result of these findings a number of changes were made to the questions asking about alcohol consumption in the last week in the 2002 questionnaire.

Firstly, the references to 'Alcopops and Pre-mixed alcoholic drinks' was replaced in 2002 with just 'Alcopops'. Secondly, a question asking about the composition of Shandy usually drunk was added to the end of the set of questions asking about Shandy drunk in the last week. And thirdly, an additional set of questions asking about whether any types of alcohol, other than those already asked about (i.e. Alcopops; Beer, lager and cider; Martini and sherry; Shandy; Spirits and liqueurs; and Wine) had been drunk was added to the end of the section of questions about alcohol consumption in the last week. The examples of Spirits and liqueurs and Alcopops given were updated to reflect those young people were most likely to have drunk and be least likely to be able to classify.

For the reasons outlined below, these changes are likely to have only a very minor effect on comparability and estimates of alcohol consumption in the last week.

- Where new questions were introduced, these were placed at the end of a section thereby minimising any effect on how preceding questions were answered.
- Analysis of the quantities of other alcoholic drinks that were reported suggests that the 'other types of alcohol' questions were not completed very reliably. Therefore answers from this additional set of questions have not been included in survey estimates of amount of alcohol drunk, and comparability with how these estimates were derived in previous surveys has been retained.
- The questions measuring drinking in the last week are regularly updated to reflect changes in the drinks market: alcopops were introduced as a new category of drink in 1996 and the list of example brands is updated annually. Therefore estimates have not been strictly comparable year-on-year.

1.5 Definition of Class A drugs

Table 1.3 lists the specific drugs that pupils were asked about in this survey, and indicates their classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act. This divides controlled drugs into three categories according to their harmfulness, where Class A drugs are considered to cause the most harm. This report includes prevalence of use of Class A drugs, although the following points need to be borne in mind regarding how their use is defined:

- the classification of certain drugs depends on the method of delivery used. For example, amphetamines are a Class B drug if taken orally and a Class A drug if injected. Additional questions were included in the 2001 and 2002 surveys to allow this distinction to be made, but in previous surveys amphetamines were included in the definition of Class A drugs;
- the Class A drugs mentioned in the survey (Amphetamines when injected, Ecstasy, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin, LSD, Magic Mushrooms, Methadone) are not an exhaustive list of Class A drugs.

1.6 How reliable are young people's answers?

Collecting information in school classrooms rather than homes and repeated assurances of confidentiality are key factors in encouraging honest reporting of behaviours which pupils may wish to conceal from adults or to exaggerate to their peers. Biochemical evidence from several previous surveys had indicated that pupils gave generally accurate answers about their smoking behaviour. Given this evidence, it was decided not to collect any biochemical evidence in 2002.

The earlier biochemical evidence was derived from saliva samples obtained between 1990 and 1998 from pupils in half of the participating schools. Samples were tested for the presence of cotinine, which is a major metabolite of nicotine and reflects recent exposure to tobacco smoke, in order to validate the estimates of the prevalence of smoking derived from the questionnaire and diary. Results from these surveys have consistently indicated that children are largely honest about their smoking – only a few children in each survey have had saliva cotinine levels that clearly contradicted their self-reported smoking behaviour.[5] In these previous surveys the results of saliva cotinine tests have not been used to re-classify the smoking behaviour of individual children (and if they had, prevalence rates would not have been altered).

It might be expected that the act of taking saliva samples during questionnaire completion would itself encourage pupils to be more honest, and therefore increase significantly the proportion of pupils reporting that they were smokers. However, this has not been the case; in the surveys in this series between 1990 and 1998 there have been no significant differences in smoking prevalence between the test and non-test halves of the samples. Hence, omitting saliva testing is likely to have a minimal impact on prevalence estimates.

Only 16 pupils (0.2% of the total sample) reported that they had ever taken Semeron (a fictional drug asked about in the questionnaire), which lends support to the view that most pupils do not exaggerate their drug use. However, exaggerated rates of awareness are a factor, given that 14% of pupils claimed to have heard of Semeron.

Of course, honesty is not the only factor affecting the accuracy of responses. Recall of the number of cigarettes smoked or the amount of alcohol drunk can be problematic, particularly as between the ages of 11 and 15 pupils' patterns of behaviour may be intermittent rather than regular. In order to try to minimise the difficulties of reporting 'usual' behaviour, questions asked about consumption of alcohol and cigarettes in the last week.

1.7 Precision of estimates

As the data are based on a sample (rather than a census) of pupils, the estimates are subject to sampling error. Appendix A details how to calculate sampling errors for this survey.

Differences are generally commented upon in the text only if they are significant at the 95% confidence level, implying no more than a 5% chance that any reported difference is not a real one but a consequence of sampling error.

In addition to sampling error, survey estimates are subject to other types of error or bias, including under-reporting or over-reporting of claimed behaviour and non-response bias. However, previous sections of this introduction and Appendix A describe a number of steps taken to limit and test potential sources of error in the data collected by this survey.

Notes and References

1 *Smoking Kills, A White Paper on Tobacco* (Cm 4177: TSO, 1998)

2 The Government's ten year drugs strategy is set out in Tackling drugs to build a better Britain, Cm 3945, TSO (1998). The strategy update can be found at http://www.drugs.gov.uk/ReportsandPublications/NationalStrategy/1038840683/Updated_Drug_Strategy_2002.pdf

3 Subsequent to the sample being drawn, one school was found to have closed and was therefore deemed ineligible. This left a sample of 446 potentially eligible schools.

4 Boreham R, Shaw A (2002) *Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2001* London: TSO.

5 See Goddard E, Higgins V (1999) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young teenagers in 1998* London: TSO, for a fuller discussion.

Table 1.1

Response rates: 1982-2002

1982-2002

Response	Survey Year													
	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
School	90	88	84	96	91	97	89	85	87	74	85	72	69	72
Pupil	94	93	93	91	90	92	90	92	89	90	90	87	89	88
Overall	87	82	77	87	83	89	80	77	77	70	76	63	61	63

Table 1.2

Overall pupil response, by sex and school year

2002

Response	School Year					
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
All eligible pupils	%	%	%	%	%	%
Questionnaire completed	90	90	89	86	85	88
Parent refused	1	1	0	1	1	1
Pupil refused	0	0	0	1	1	0
Not eligible	1	1	2	2	2	2
Sick	3	3	4	4	4	4
Truant	0	0	0	0	1	0
Unknown	3	2	2	3	4	3
Other	2	1	1	3	4	2
Bases						
Boys	*1261*	*1176*	*1153*	*1116*	*1108*	*5821*
Girls	*1104*	*1075*	*1055*	*1097*	*981*	*5320*
Total	*2365*	*2251*	*2208*	*2213*	*2089*	*11141*

Table 1.3

Drug classifications under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Drug	Mode of use	Classification
Amphetamines	inject	A
Ecstasy	oral	A
Cocaine	sniff or inject	A
Crack	inject or smoke	A
Heroin	smoke, sniff or inject	A
LSD	oral	A
Magic Mushrooms [a]	oral	A
Methadone	oral	A
Amphetamines	sniff or oral	B
Cannabis [c]	smoke or oral	B
Tranquillisers	oral or inject	B/C (depends on drug)
Anabolic steroids	oral or inject	C
Poppers	sniff	It is an offence to supply these
Glue [b]	sniff	substances if it is likely that the
Gas [b]	sniff	product is intended for abuse

a *It isn't illegal to possess raw magic mushrooms, it is an offence to possess any preparations of them (e.g when they're dried or stewed). Magic Mushrooms when prepared, are Class A drugs.*

b *It is illegal for shopkeepers to sell gas lighter refills to anyone under 18, and it is illegal to sell gases, glues and aerosols to under-18s, or people acting for them, if they suspect the product is intended for abuse.*

c *Since the survey was conducted there has been discussion within the Government about reclassifying Cannabis as a Class C drug. If approved by Parliament reclassification could take effect by January 2004.*

2 Smoking prevalence and cigarette consumption

Lucy Natarajan and Sally McManus

2.1 Classification of smoking behaviour

The self-completion questionnaire used contains two questions designed to assess pupils' smoking status (shown in Figure 2.1). In addition, pupils are asked to complete a smoking diary, against which their previous answers are compared. These questions are used to classify pupils according to whether they are regular smokers (defined as usually smoking at least one cigarette a week), occasional smokers (defined as smoking less than one cigarette a week) or non-smokers. Those who say they are non-smokers, but record that they have smoked at least one cigarette in the last seven days are reclassified in the analysis as occasional smokers (regardless of the number of cigarettes recorded).[1]

(Figure 2.1)

Figure 2.1

Prevalence question (Q7) and check question (Q8)

Q 7 Now read all the following statements carefully and tick the box next to the one which best describes you.

I have never smoked	☐	→ **Q8**
I have only ever tried smoking once	☐	→ **Q9**
I used to smoke sometimes but I never smoke a cigarette now	☐	→ **Q9**
I sometimes smoke cigarettes now but I don't smoke as many as one a week	☐	→ **Q9**
I usually smoke between one and six cigarettes a week	☐	→ **Q9**
I usually smoke more than six cigarettes a week	☐	→ **Q9**

Q 8 Just to check, read the statements below carefully and tick the box next to the one which best describes you.

I have never tried smoking a cigarette, not even a puff or two	☐
I did once have a puff or two of a cigarette, but I never smoke now	☐
I do sometimes smoke cigarettes	☐

2.2 Trends in the prevalence of ever having smoked

In 1982 the proportion of pupils who had ever smoked was 53% and in 1984 was 55%. Since 1986, the proportion of pupils who had ever smoked has been between 42% and 50% and was 42% in 2002. Since 1998 there has been a generally downwards trend in the proportion of children who had ever smoked. This can logically also be seen as an increase in the proportion of pupils who had never smoked.

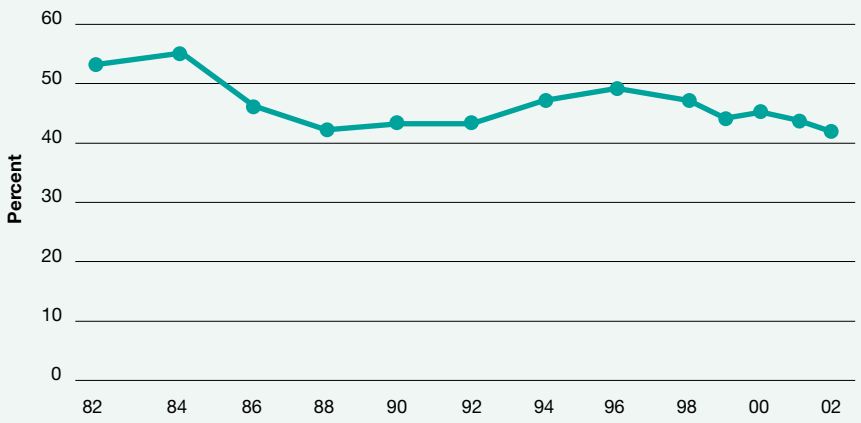
Since 1994, girls have been more likely than boys to have ever smoked, and in 2002 the proportions of pupils who had ever smoked were 44% for girls and 39% for boys.

(Table 2.1, Figure 2.2)

Figure 2.2

Percentage of all pupils who had ever smoked: 1982-2002

All pupils



2.3 Trends in the prevalence of regular smoking

One of the aims of this survey is to measure progress towards the Government's target[2] to reduce the number of children aged 11-15 who smoke regularly from a baseline of 13% in 1996 to 11% by 2005 and 9% by 2010. In 2002 10% of pupils aged 11-15 were regular smokers. The proportion of regular smokers (defined as usually smoking at least one cigarette a week) has fluctuated since 1982, but has been quite stable since 1998 (there was no change in the proportion of regular smokers between 2001 and 2002).

(Table 2.1)

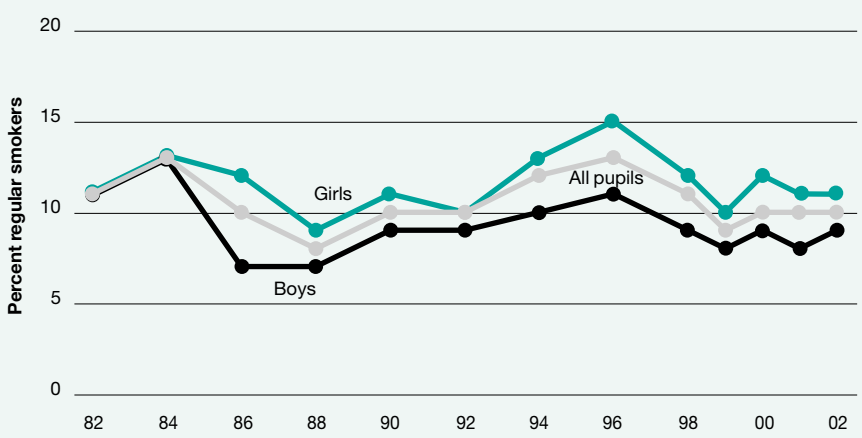
In the early 1980s, boys and girls were equally likely to smoke regularly, but since the mid 1980s girls have been consistently more likely to smoke then boys. In 2002, 11% of 11-15 year old girls were regular smokers, compared with 9% of boys.

(Table 2.1, Figure 2.3)

Figure 2.3

Prevalence of regular cigarette smoking, by sex: 1982-2002

All pupils



2.4 Smoking behaviour in relation to sex and age

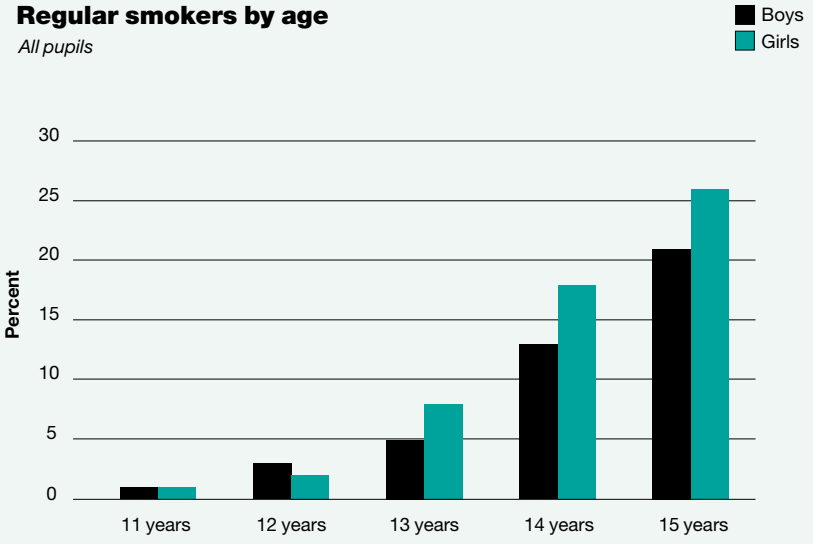
Previous surveys have shown that the prevalence of smoking increases with age. In 2002, 1% of 11 year olds were regular smokers, compared with 23% of 15 year olds. Of the 11 year olds, 84% said they had never smoked, compared with only 37% of 15 year olds. At ages 11 and 12 boys and girls were equally likely to be regular smokers, but at age 13, differences start to emerge with girls slightly more likely than boys to smoke regularly (8% compared with 5%). At 14 and 15 years, the difference between girls and boys smoking was more pronounced: 26% of 15 year old girls were regular smokers compared with 21% of 15 year olds boys.

(Tables 2.2-2.3, Figure 2.4)

Figure 2.4

Regular smokers by age

All pupils



2.5 Usual smoking behaviour and smoking in the last week

In addition to the questionnaire, pupils were asked to complete a diary for the previous seven days. The purpose of the diary is to provide a better estimate of how many cigarettes children smoke than can be obtained by asking a direct question about their smoking behaviour. It should be noted that complete consistency between the questionnaire and the diary would not be expected, since the prevalence question asks about a pupil's 'usual' behaviour, while the diary refers to a specific week.

Regular smokers appear to have underestimated how much they smoked. Of those pupils who reported at the prevalence question that they usually smoked between one and six cigarettes a week, 65% recorded on the diary that they had smoked seven or more cigarettes in the past week. This underestimation does not affect their classification as regular smokers, since this depended only on their saying that they smoked at least one cigarette a week at the prevalence question.

Under-reporting is also present among occasional smokers (those who said at the prevalence question that they did smoke, but not as many as one a week) – 42% of these reported they had smoked between one and six cigarettes in the previous week, and a further 21% had smoked seven or more cigarettes; on average at least one per day. That is, 63% of self-reported 'occasional' smokers in 2002 actually reported behaviour in the previous week that was consistent with the survey definition of regular smokers. Proportions have been similarly high in previous years. These children have not been reassigned to the 'regular smokers' group because of the possibility that their smoking behaviour during the previous week was not typical (this preserves continuity with previous surveys in the series).

(Table 2.4)

This under-reporting of smoking behaviour is consistent with that observed in previous surveys in this series and in other surveys[3]. It is likely that underestimation is, in most cases, not deliberate, but arises from the difficulty of the task of recalling the number of cigarettes smoked over a given period. In addition there may be a tendency to underreport 'unhealthy' behaviours such as cigarette smoking. It has also been suggested that the instability, experimentation and rapid change that is a feature of young people's lives means that some may find the concept of 'usual' behaviour referred to in the prevalence question difficult to grasp. As a consequence, some of the children classified in the survey as occasional smokers may actually resemble regular smokers according to the definition we are using.

Where children say at the prevalence question that they are non-smokers, but record cigarettes on the diary, they are reclassified as occasional smokers, regardless of the number of cigarettes recorded. Thus the use of the diary leads to a larger proportion of pupils classified as occasional smokers: in 2002 5% of pupils were occasional smokers on the basis of their answers in the questionnaire alone, but 7% are classified as occasional smokers once the questionnaire and diary data are combined. The proportion of pupils classified as regular smokers is not affected.

2.6 Cigarette consumption according to the diary

The numbers of cigarettes recorded on the diary as being smoked on each day of the previous week were added together to give a measure of cigarette consumption.

Since this series of surveys began in 1982, cigarette consumption among both boys and girls has remained relatively stable. The average number of cigarettes smoked per week by boys who were regular smokers has fluctuated in the low to mid 50s (apart from the 1998 figure of 65, which is probably a statistical 'blip') and was 52 in 2002. The corresponding figure for girls has similarly fluctuated in the mid to high 40s and was 48 in 2002.

Although girls were more likely to smoke than boys, among those who did smoke, boys smoked more cigarettes than girls. In 2002, boys who were occasional smokers consumed 14 cigarettes in the last week compared to girls who consumed 7 cigarettes. This pattern was also true for regular smokers.

The mean number of cigarettes smoked overall per pupil (for all pupils, including non-smokers) has also remained fairly steady, at around five to seven cigarettes a week, and was six cigarettes a week in 2002.

Unsurprisingly, both mean and median consumption were much higher for regular smokers (mean 50 cigarettes, median 40) than for occasional smokers (mean 10 cigarettes, median 2).

(Table 2.5)

Twenty four per cent of regular smokers had smoked an average of 10 or more cigarettes per day in the last seven days, and a further 30% had smoked an average of between 5 and 10 cigarettes per day. Only three percent of regular smokers had not smoked any cigarettes in the last seven days. As discussed in section 2.5, there was some discrepancy between the self-reported smoking habits of 'occasional' smokers, and the number of cigarettes recorded in the smoking diary – 24% of occasional smokers had not smoked any cigarettes, and 49% had smoked less than one cigarette a day on average. However, just over one quarter of self-reported occasional smokers had smoked at least one cigarette a day on average over the last 7 days.

(Table 2.6)

2.7 Days on which cigarettes were smoked by sex

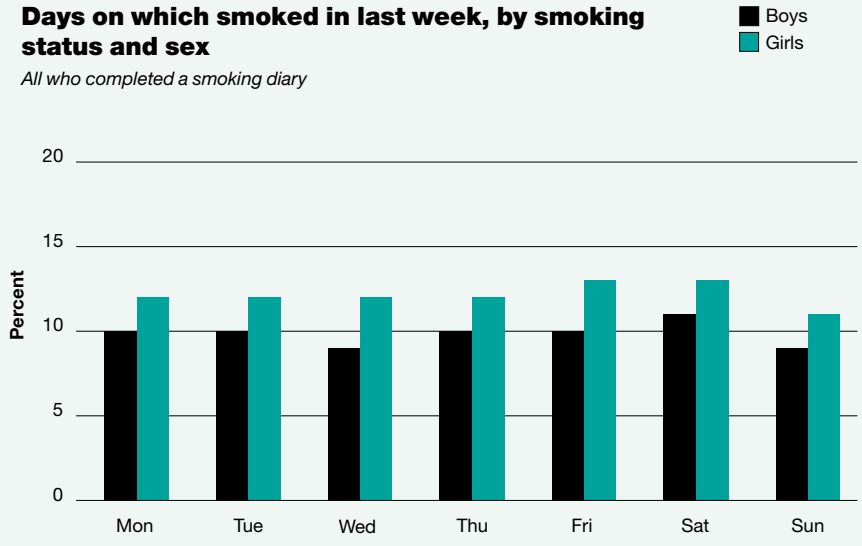
There was no significant variation in the proportion of pupils who smoked on any particular day in the last week, between 10% and 12% smoked each day. In contrast pupils were more likely to drink at the weekend than during the week (see Chapter 7 for a detailed discussion). On any particular day girls were more likely to have smoked than boys, for example 12% of girls smoked last Monday compared with 10% of boys.

(Table 2.7, Figure 2.5)

Figure 2.5

Days on which smoked in last week, by smoking status and sex

All who completed a smoking diary



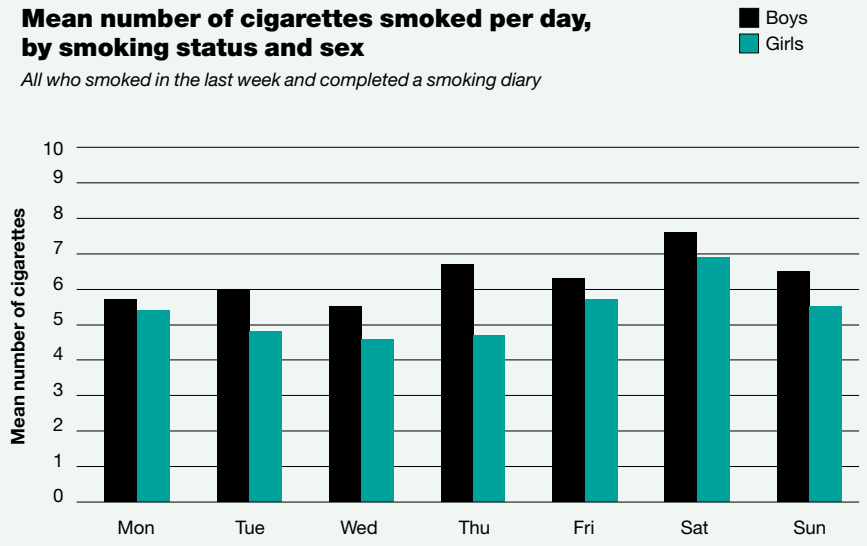
Among pupils who had smoked in the last week, there was a weekend effect in terms of the number of cigarettes smoked. More cigarettes were smoked on Saturday than on any other day. Among those who had smoked in the last week, on average 7.2 cigarettes were smoked on Saturday compared with between 5.0 and 6.0 on any other day. Although girls were more likely to smoke than boys, among those who had smoked in the last week, boys were heavier smokers. For example boys who smoked in the last week smoked 7.6 cigarettes on average on Saturday compared with 6.9 cigarettes among their female counterparts.

(Table 2.8, Figure 2.6)

Figure 2.6

Mean number of cigarettes smoked per day, by smoking status and sex

All who smoked in the last week and completed a smoking diary



2.8 Days on which cigarettes were smoked by cigarette smoking status

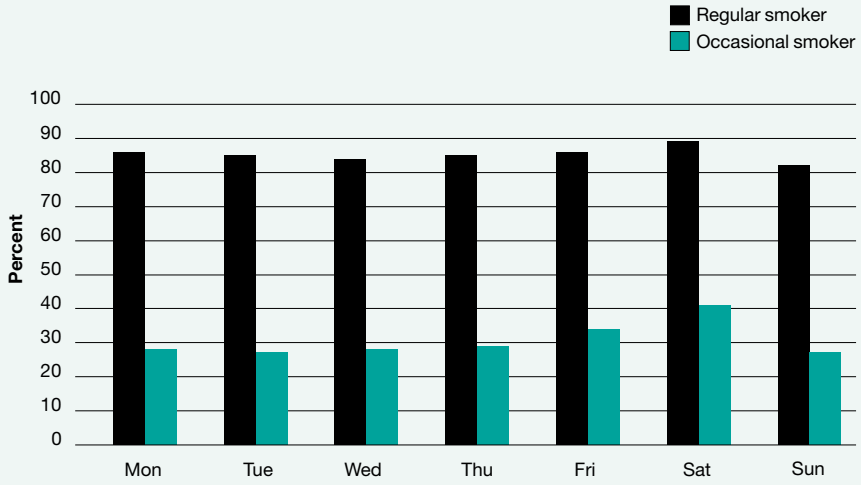
Regular smokers were more likely to smoke on a Saturday than on a Sunday, there were no other significant differences in the number of cigarettes smoked on each day of the week. Occasional smokers were also most likely to smoke on a Saturday; 41% of occasional smokers had smoked on the previous Saturday compared with between 27% and 29% who smoked during the week or on Sunday, and 34% who had smoked on the previous Friday.

(Table 2.9, Figure 2.7)

Figure 2.7

Days on which smoked in last week, by smoking status

All current smokers who completed a smoking diary



In terms of the number of cigarettes smoked, regular smokers smoked more cigarettes on Saturday than on other days of the week (regular smokers smoked 9.7 cigarettes on the previous Saturday compared with between 6.9 and 7.4 cigarettes on Monday to Thursday). Regular smokers also smoked more cigarettes on the Friday (8.1 cigarettes on average) and Sunday (8.3 cigarettes on average) than during the week.

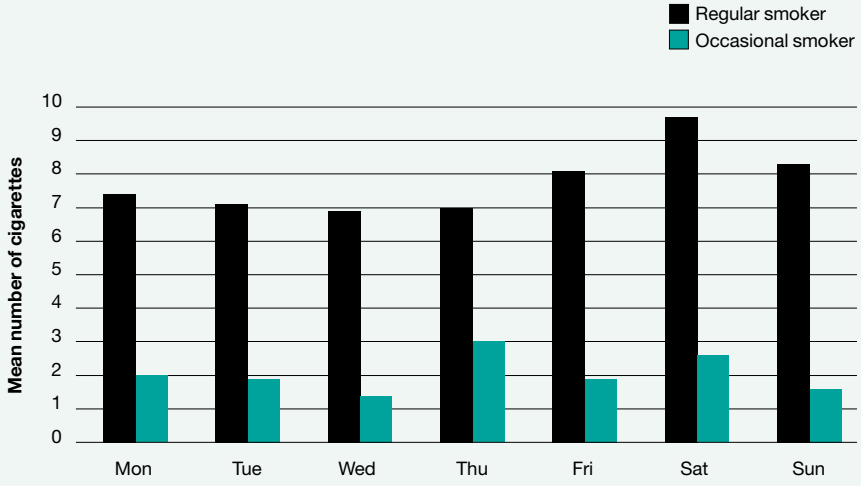
There was no significant variation in the number of cigarettes smoked on weekend days and other days of the week amongst occasional smokers who had smoked in the last week.

(Table 2.10, Figure 2.8)

Figure 2.8

Mean number of cigarettes smoked per day, by smoking status

All who smoked in the last week and completed a smoking diary



Overall, there were more cigarettes being smoked on Saturday than on other days, although the reasons for this were varied between different categories of smokers. Regular smokers tended to smoke more cigarettes on a Saturday than on any other day of the week, although there was little variation in likelihood to smoke at all on any one day. Occasional smokers had a different pattern of smoking – when they did smoke on any particular day they tended to smoke a similar amount of cigarettes, but were more likely to smoke on Saturday than on other days.

Notes and References

1 From 1982–1998 and in 2000 and 2002 around 2-3% of pupils who had said that they did not smoke were reclassified as occasional smokers as a result of having smoked at least one cigarette in the last week. The definition of occasional smokers was slightly different in 1999 because there was no smoking diary, and so pupils could not be reclassified as occasional smokers. The definition of a regular smoker is not affected by the number of cigarettes smoked in the last week as it is based on whether pupils usually smoke at least one cigarette per week.

2 The government's strategy on smoking is set out in *Smoking Kills: A White Paper on Tobacco*, Cm 4177, TSO (1998).

3 Such as the *General Household Survey 2001* http://www.statistics.gov.uk/lib2001/resources/fileAttachments/GHS2001.pdf.

Table 2.1

Smoking behaviour, by sex: 1982–2002

All pupils *1982–2002*

Smoking behaviour	**Year**												
	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999[a]	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys													
Regular smoker	11	13	7	7	9	9	10	11	9	8	9	8	9
Occasional smoker	7	9	5	5	6	6	9	8	8	4	7	7	6
Used to smoke	11	11	10	8	7	6	7	7	9	9	8	8	6
Tried smoking	26	24	23	23	22	22	21	22	20	22	20	20	18
Never smoked	45	44	55	58	56	57	53	53	54	57	56	58	61
Ever Smoked	*55*	*56*	*45*	*42*	*44*	*43*	*47*	*47*	*46*	*43*	*44*	*42*	*39*
Girls													
Regular smoker	11	13	12	9	11	10	13	15	12	10	12	11	11
Occasional smoker	9	9	5	5	6	7	10	10	8	6	10	9	8
Used to smoke	10	10	10	9	7	7	8	9	10	11	8	8	8
Tried smoking	22	22	19	19	18	19	17	18	18	18	17	17	16
Never smoked	49	46	53	59	58	57	52	48	51	55	53	55	56
Ever Smoked	*51*	*54*	*47*	*41*	*42*	*43*	*48*	*52*	*49*	*45*	*47*	*45*	*44*
Total													
Regular smoker	11	13	10	8	10	10	12	13	11	9	10	10	10
Occasional smoker	8	9	5	5	6	7	9	9	8	5	9	8	7
Used to smoke	10	10	10	8	7	7	8	8	10	10	8	8	7
Tried smoking	24	23	21	21	20	20	19	20	19	20	19	19	17
Never smoked	47	45	54	58	57	57	53	51	53	56	55	56	58
Ever Smoked	*53*	*55*	*46*	*42*	*43*	*43*	*47*	*49*	*47*	*44*	*45*	*44*	*42*
Bases													
Boys	*1460*	*1928*	*1676*	*1489*	*1643*	*1662*	*1522*	*1445*	*2311*	*4791*	*3654*	*4652*	*5064*
Girls	*1514*	*1689*	*1508*	*1529*	*1478*	*1626*	*1523*	*1409*	*2413*	*4542*	*3407*	*4625*	*4732*
Total	*2979*	*3658*	*3189*	*3018*	*3121*	*3295*	*3045*	*2854*	*4723*	*9333*	*7061*	*9277*	*9796*

a *Questions about how many cigarettes were smoked in the last seven days were not asked in 1999, and pupils were not reclassified as occasional smokers. The figures for regular smokers in 1999 are comparable with other years, but figures for other classifications of smokers are not. See Note 1.*

Table 2.2

Smoking behaviour, by sex and age

All pupils *2002*

Smoking behaviour	**Age**					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys						
Regular smoker	1	3	5	13	20	9
Occasional smoker	3	4	5	8	9	6
Used to smoke	2	4	6	9	9	6
Current or ex-smoker	*6*	*11*	*16*	*30*	*38*	*21*
Tried smoking	10	17	21	22	20	18
Never smoked	83	72	63	48	42	61
Tried once or never smoked	*94*	*89*	*84*	*70*	*62*	*79*
Girls						
Regular smoker	1	2	8	18	26	11
Occasional smoker	3	4	10	12	10	8
Used to smoke	2	4	10	11	13	8
Current or ex-smoker	*5*	*10*	*27*	*40*	*49*	*27*
Tried smoking	10	16	19	19	19	17
Never smoked	85	74	53	41	32	56
Tried once or never smoked	*95*	*90*	*73*	*60*	*51*	*73*
Total						
Regular smoker	1	2	6	16	23	10
Occasional smoker	3	4	7	10	9	7
Used to smoke	2	4	8	10	11	7
Current or ex-smoker	*6*	*11*	*21*	*35*	*43*	*24*
Tried smoking	10	16	20	20	19	17
Never smoked	84	73	58	45	37	59
Tried once or never smoked	*94*	*89*	*79*	*65*	*57*	*76*
Bases						
Boys	*892*	*1037*	*1051*	*961*	*1129*	*5064*
Girls	*818*	*997*	*943*	*952*	*1022*	*4732*
Total	*1710*	*2034*	*1994*	*1913*	*2145*	*9796*

Table 2.3

Proportion of pupils who were regular smokers, by sex and age: 1982–2002

All pupils *1982–2002*

Age	Year												
	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	Percentage who were regular smokers												
Boys													
11 years	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12 years	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3
13 years	8	10	5	5	6	6	4	8	5	4	6	5	5
14 years	18	16	6	8	10	14	14	13	15	10	11	12	13
15 years	24	28	18	17	25	21	26	28	19	21	21	19	20
Total	**11**	**13**	**7**	**7**	**9**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**9**	**8**	**9**	**8**	**9**
Girls													
11 years	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
12 years	1	2	2	0	2	2	3	4	3	3	2	3	2
13 years	6	9	5	4	9	9	8	11	9	8	10	8	8
14 years	14	19	16	12	16	15	20	24	19	15	19	19	18
15 years	25	28	27	22	25	25	30	33	29	25	26	25	26
Total	**11**	**13**	**12**	**9**	**11**	**10**	**13**	**15**	**12**	**10**	**12**	**11**	**11**
Total													
11 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12 years	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	2
13 years	7	10	5	5	7	7	6	10	8	6	8	7	6
14 years	16	17	11	10	13	14	17	18	19	12	15	15	16
15 years	25	28	22	20	25	23	28	30	24	23	23	22	23
Total	**11**	**13**	**10**	**8**	**10**	**10**	**12**	**13**	**11**	**9**	**10**	**10**	**10**
Bases													
Boys													
11 years	*299*	*260*	*236*	*229*	*313*	*289*	*268*	*272*	*300*	*870*	*618*	*830*	*892*
12 years	*298*	*378*	*320*	*280*	*350*	*336*	*310*	*297*	*349*	*1011*	*751*	*944*	*1037*
13 years	*303*	*416*	*347*	*318*	*313*	*351*	*307*	*282*	*302*	*946*	*736*	*951*	*1051*
14 years	*277*	*376*	*352*	*311*	*305*	*311*	*306*	*298*	*612*	*918*	*752*	*902*	*961*
15 years	*348*	*490*	*421*	*350*	*360*	*369*	*331*	*296*	*754*	*1046*	*797*	*1025*	*1123*
Total	*1525*	*1920*	*1676*	*1488*	*1641*	*1656*	*1522*	*1445*	*2317*	*4791*	*3654*	*4652*	*5064*
Girls													
11 years	*250*	*254*	*213*	*226*	*296*	*307*	*236*	*274*	*303*	*870*	*572*	*795*	*816*
12 years	*276*	*332*	*314*	*315*	*281*	*359*	*307*	*278*	*375*	*892*	*686*	*976*	*997*
13 years	*303*	*355*	*266*	*297*	*292*	*335*	*329*	*278*	*390*	*924*	*697*	*956*	*943*
14 years	*312*	*333*	*314*	*315*	*302*	*297*	*310*	*288*	*670*	*933*	*688*	*944*	*952*
15 years	*372*	*412*	*400*	*376*	*304*	*320*	*341*	*291*	*673*	*923*	*764*	*954*	*1022*
Total	*1513*	*1686*	*1507*	*1529*	*1475*	*1618*	*1523*	*1409*	*2411*	*4542*	*3407*	*4625*	*4732*
Total													
11 years	*549*	*514*	*449*	*455*	*609*	*596*	*504*	*546*	*603*	*1740*	*1190*	*1625*	*1700*
12 years	*574*	*710*	*634*	*595*	*631*	*695*	*617*	*575*	*724*	*1903*	*1437*	*1920*	*2034*
13 years	*606*	*771*	*613*	*615*	*605*	*686*	*636*	*560*	*692*	*1870*	*1433*	*1907*	*1994*
14 years	*589*	*709*	*666*	*626*	*607*	*608*	*616*	*586*	*1282*	*1851*	*1440*	*1846*	*1913*
15 years	*720*	*902*	*821*	*726*	*664*	*689*	*672*	*587*	*1427*	*1969*	*1561*	*1979*	*2145*
Total	*3038*	*3606*	*3183*	*3017*	*3116*	*3274*	*3045*	*2854*	*4728*	*9333*	*7061*	*9277*	*9796*

Table 2.4

Cigarettes recorded on the diary, by smoking behaviour according to the questionnaire

All pupils *2002*

Total cigarettes on One-week diary	Usually smokes: More than 6 a week %	1-6 a week %	Less than 1 a week %	Used to smoke %	Tried smoking %	Never smoked %	Total %
None	2	5	37	87	95	99	84
1-6	2	27	42	9	3	0	4
7-70	65	65	21	4	1	0	9
71 or more	32	3	0	0	0	0	3
Bases [a]	*679*	*285*	*430*	*732*	*1672*	*5431*	*9229*

a This table excludes 565 pupils who did not complete a smoking diary.

Table 2.5

Mean and median cigarette consumption in the diary week, by smoking status and sex: 1982–2002

All pupils *1982–2002*

	Year										
	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	Number of cigarettes smoked in last week										
Boys											
Regular smokers											
Mean	50	49	53	52	56	58	54	56	65	50	52
Median	40	40	43	49	48	51	44	46	55	43	39
Occasional smokers											
Mean	7	5	5	7	7	6	7	8	11	7	14
Median	2	1	1	3	3	1	2	3	2	2	3
Total											
Mean	6	7	4	4	6	5	6	7	7	5	6
Girls											
Regular smokers											
Mean	44	49	45	41	49	44	47	47	49	44	48
Median	36	38	36	38	40	34	37	40	41	36	41
Occasional smokers											
Mean	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	6	6	7
Median	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Total											
Mean	5	7	6	4	5	4	6	8	6	6	6
Total											
Regular smokers											
Mean	47	49	48	46	53	51	50	51	56	46	50
Median	38	39	38	41	43	42	39	44	46	40	40
Occasional smokers											
Mean	6	4	5	6	6	5	5	7	8	7	10
Median	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Total											
Mean	6	7	5	4	6	5	6	7	7	5	6
Bases											
Boys											
Regular smokers	*166*	*251*	*123*	*107*	*148*	*134*	*147*	*154*	*207*	*304*	*437*
Occasional smokers	*106*	*168*	*88*	*70*	*98*	*96*	*138*	*107*	*174*	*262*	*294*
Total	*1460*	*1928*	*1676*	*1488*	*1640*	*1641*	*1515*	*1442*	*2311*	*3475*	*4730*
Girls											
Regular smokers	*159*	*221*	*183*	*136*	*158*	*147*	*200*	*208*	*295*	*409*	*526*
Occasional smokers	*130*	*152*	*82*	*76*	*90*	*96*	*143*	*141*	*201*	*332*	*360*
Total	*1514*	*1689*	*1508*	*1529*	*1478*	*1597*	*1521*	*1408*	*2413*	*3317*	*4494*
Total											
Regular smokers	*326*	*474*	*306*	*246*	*306*	*281*	*347*	*362*	*502*	*713*	*963*
Occasional smokers	*236*	*324*	*170*	*148*	*188*	*192*	*281*	*248*	*375*	*594*	*654*
Total	*2979*	*3658*	*3189*	*3017*	*3118*	*3245*	*3036*	*2850*	*4723*	*6792*	*9224*

Table 2.6

Number of cigarettes smoked in the diary week by current smokers, by smoking status and sex

Current smokers			*2002*
Cigarette consumption in the diary week	**Sex**		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Regular smokers			
None	3	2	3
Less than 7 a week	9	10	9
7, less than 14 a week	11	8	10
14, less than 21 a week	7	10	9
21, less than 35 a week	17	14	15
35, less than 70 a week	27	32	30
70 a week or more	25	24	24
Mean	52	48	50
Median	39	41	40
Occasional smokers			
None	22	26	24
Less than 7 a week	47	50	49
7, less than 14 a week	12	13	13
14, less than 21 a week	6	4	5
21, less than 35 a week	5	3	4
35, less than 70 a week	4	3	4
70 a week or more	3	1	2
Mean	14	7	10
Median	3	2	2
All current smokers			
None	11	12	11
Less than 7 a week	24	26	25
7, less than 14 a week	12	10	11
14, less than 21 a week	7	8	7
21, less than 35 a week	12	9	11
35, less than 70 a week	18	20	19
70 a week or more	16	14	15
Mean	37	31	34
Median	17	14	15
Bases			
Regular smokers	*437*	*526*	*963*
Occasional Smokers	*294*	*360*	*654*
All current smokers	*731*	*886*	*1617*

Table 2.7

Days on which smoked cigarettes, by sex

All who completed a smoking diary *2002*

Days on which smoked	**Sex**		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Mon	10	12	11
Tue	10	12	11
Wed	9	12	11
Thu	10	12	11
Fri	10	13	11
Sat	11	13	12
Sun	9	11	10
Bases	*4764*	*4519*	*9283*

Table 2.8

Mean number of cigarettes smoked per day, by sex

All who smoked in the last week *2002*

Days	**Sex**		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	Mean number of cigarettes		
Mon	5.7	5.4	5.5
Tue	6.0	4.8	5.3
Wed	5.5	4.6	5.0
Thu	6.7	4.7	5.6
Fri	6.3	5.7	6.0
Sat	7.6	6.9	7.2
Sun	6.5	5.5	6.0
Bases	*664*	*787*	*1451*

Table 2.9

Days on which cigarettes smoked, by cigarette smoking status

All who completed a smoking diary *2002*

Days on which smoked	Cigarette smoking status		
	Regular smoker	Occasional smoker	Total
	%	%	%
Mon	86	28	11
Tue	85	27	11
Wed	84	28	11
Thu	85	29	11
Fri	86	34	11
Sat	89	41	12
Sun	82	27	10
Bases	*964*	*654*	*9283*

Table 2.10

Mean number of cigarettes smoked per day, by cigarette smoking status

All who smoked in the last week *2002*

Days on which smoked	Cigarette smoking status		
	Regular smoker	Occasional smoker	Total
	Mean number of cigarettes		
Mon	7.4	2.0	5.5
Tue	7.1	1.9	5.3
Wed	6.9	1.4	5.0
Thu	7.0	3.0	5.6
Fri	8.1	1.9	6.0
Sat	9.7	2.6	7.2
Sun	8.3	1.6	6.0
Bases	*938*	*495*	*1451*

3 Dependence on smoking

Alison Prescott

3.1 Introduction

Regular smokers (defined as usually smoking at least one cigarette a week) were asked a series of questions intended to assess the extent to which they were dependent on smoking. These questions were first introduced to this survey in England in 1994, and cover how easy or difficult pupils think it would be to go without smoking for a week; how easy or difficult they think it would be to give up altogether; whether pupils would like to give up altogether, and whether they have ever actually tried to give up smoking. In addition, since 1988 pupils have been asked how long it has been since they started smoking at least one cigarette a week, to provide an indication of the length of time for which they have been a regular smoker.

There are some issues which need to be borne in mind when analysing these questions, particularly when assessing trends in dependency over time.

- Questions which ask about future intentions may not be reliable, in that answers to a question may depend on how a pupil feels at that particular moment, and if asked the same question on a different day they may answer differently. Thus there may be a greater amount of measurement error in the question about whether pupils would like to give up smoking than in the question about whether they have ever tried to give up.
- It should be noted that the question about whether pupils have ever tried to give up smoking is only asked of current regular smokers, and is therefore measuring whether pupils have tried and failed to give up. Pupils who have tried to give up and succeeded would not have been asked this question.

Dependency could also be potentially measured as the proportion of those who report that they used to smoke but do not smoke any more. However, it should be noted that this measure could include pupils who have only tried cigarettes a couple of times and do not smoke now in addition to pupils who used to smoke regularly. Thus it would not be possible to tell whether an increase in the proportion of pupils who used to smoke was due to an increase in regular smokers giving up, or experimental smokers choosing not to smoke. Due to problems with interpretation of this measure, it has not been included in this chapter.

The relatively small number of regular smokers in the sample precludes very accurate comparisons between boys and girls and across different age groups. Therefore, unless there is a substantial difference between these groups, this chapter will focus on all regular smokers.

3.2 Changes over time in dependence on smoking

As in previous years, more than half of regular smokers had been smoking for more than one year. In 2002, 59% of regular smokers reported that they have been smoking for more than a year, a similar proportion to 2000 (58%) but lower than those in 1998 and 1996 (65% and 67% respectively).

(Table 3.1)

The proportion of regular smokers who thought that they would find it difficult to go without smoking for a week increased to 63% compared with 58% in both 1998 and 2000. However, the proportion of regular smokers who felt that they would find it difficult to give up smoking altogether has remained fairly constant over the last 8 years (between 70% and 75%). The figure in 2002 was 73%.

(Tables 3.2-3.4)

Among regular smokers, the proportion that say they would like to give up altogether has also fluctuated over time with no clear trend, and stood at 37% in 2002. Furthermore, given that a much higher proportion have tried to give up than would like to give up (67% compared with 37%), it is difficult to say exactly what this question is measuring. However, the fact that so many current smokers have tried unsuccessfully to give up is consistent with what is known about adult smokers.[1]

(Table 3.5)

A classification of attitudes to cigarette dependency can be produced by combining the questions about whether regular smokers have tried to give up smoking and whether they would like to. Regular smokers who have tried to give up and would still like to could be seen as having the most positive attitudes, whereas those who had not tried to give up and did not want to could be seen as the most negative. Among regular smokers, 31% had tried to give up smoking and still wanted to give up while 27% had not tried to give up and had no intention to. An additional 36% had tried to give up in the past, but have no desire to now. A relatively small proportion of regular smokers (7%) had not tried to give up, but would like to.

(Table 3.6)

3.3 Dependence on smoking by smoking behaviour

Regular smokers' perceived dependency and attitudes towards giving up smoking were affected by their length of time as a smoker. Compared with pupils who had been a regular smoker for one year or less, those who had been a regular smoker for longer were more likely to say that they would find it difficult not to smoke for a week (76% compared with 46%) and more likely to find it difficult to give up smoking altogether (84% compared with 57%).[2]

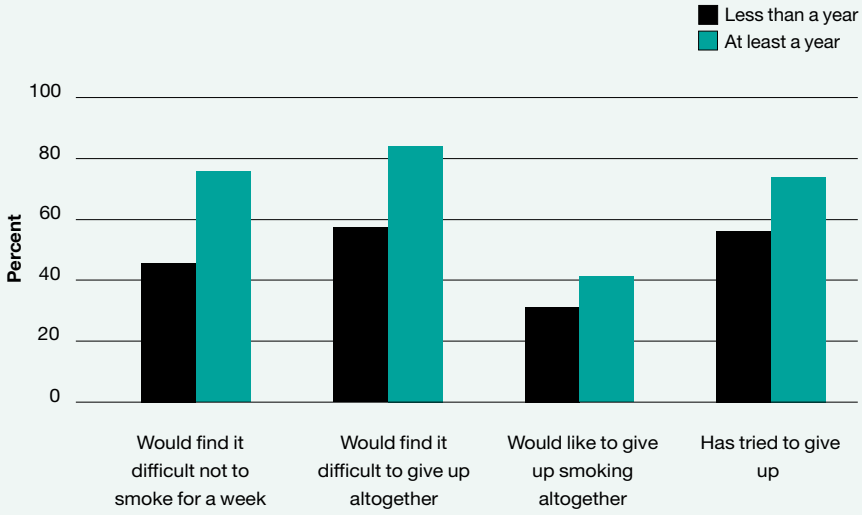
Smokers who had been smoking for longer were more likely to have tried to give up in the past and failed (74%) than those who had been a regular smoker for one year or less (56%). It should be borne in mind that regular smokers who had smoked for longer would therefore have also had more opportunity to give up, and it is difficult to determine whether this indicates a greater commitment to stopping smoking among those who have smoked for longer. However, in terms of future intentions, smokers who had been smoking regularly for more than a year were keener to give up – 41% would like to stop smoking compared with 31% of smokers who had been a regular smoker for less time.

(Table 3.7, Figure 3.1)

Figure 3.1

Perceived dependency, by length of time as a regular smoker

Regular smokers



In order to examine the relationship between the number of cigarettes smoked and dependency, the number of cigarettes smoked in the last week was used to classify regular smokers into 'heavy smokers' (more than 70 cigarettes per week, on average), 'medium smokers' (21 to 70 cigarettes a week) or 'light smokers' (less than 20 cigarettes a week). Regular smokers who smoked a greater number of cigarettes were more likely to perceive a stronger dependency on cigarettes. Those classified as medium smokers were much more likely to feel dependent than light smokers, although even among light smokers there was evidence that pupils were dependent on cigarettes. Heavy smokers perceived themselves as the most dependent, but the difference between them and medium smokers was not as great as the difference between medium and light smokers. Eighty nine percent of heavy smokers would find it difficult not to smoke for a week, compared with 70% of medium smokers and 33% of light smokers. There was a similar pattern in terms of whether regular smokers would find it difficult to give up smoking altogether, 93% of heavy smokers would find it difficult compared with 81% of medium smokers and 45% of light smokers.

On the other hand, moderate and heavy smokers were more likely than light smokers to report that they would like to give up smoking or have attempted to give up the habit. Although regular smokers who smoked more cigarettes felt themselves to be more dependent, 70% of heavy smokers had tried to give up compared with 56% of light smokers. Again it should be borne in mind that those who smoke more cigarettes tend to have been a regular smoker for longer, and that this would have given them more time in which they could have tried to give up, and therefore makes interpretation of this difference difficult. However, heavy smokers were also more likely than light smokers to want to give up smoking in the future (38% compared with 31% respectively).

(Table 3.8)

Notes and References

1 For discussion see the ONS Omnibus survey, *Smoking related behaviour and attitudes*, 2002 (London: Office for National Statistics, 2003), which shows that for adult smokers wanting to quit and intending to quit smoking are two different measures. That is smokers might intend to give up but might not want to give up smoking, or vice versa.

2 It should be noted that length of time as a smoker is likely to be confounded with age, as those who have been smoking for longer will also tend to be older.

Table 3.1

Length of time as a regular smoker, by sex: 1988 to 2002

Regular smokers *1988-2002*

Length of time as a regular smoker	Year 1988 %	1990 %	1992 %	1994 %	1996 %	1998 %	2000 %	2002 %
Boys								
Less than 3 months	11	8	17	13	7	10	12	11
3-6 months	14	14	14	8	5	5	9	11
6 months to 1 year	21	16	12	19	19	18	16	18
More than 1 year	54	62	57	61	69	67	63	60
Girls								
Less than 3 months	10	11	11	11	10	10	8	10
3-6 months	11	13	18	13	9	8	16	13
6 months to 1 year	21	23	14	22	16	18	22	18
More than 1 year	57	53	57	54	65	64	54	59
Total								
Less than 3 months	11	9	14	12	9	10	10	11
3-6 months	13	14	16	11	7	6	13	12
6 months to 1 year	21	19	13	20	18	18	19	18
More than 1 year	55	58	57	57	67	65	58	59
Bases								
Boys	*106*	*146*	*143*	*150*	*150*	*198*	*303*	*436*
Girls	*134*	*153*	*162*	*195*	*198*	*277*	*385*	*519*
Total	*243*	*299*	*305*	*345*	*348*	*475*	*688*	*955*

Table 3.2

Whether regular smokers would find it difficult not to smoke for a week or give up smoking altogether, by sex: 1994–2002

Regular smokers *1994–2002*

Difficulty of not smoking [a]	Year 1994 %	1996 %	1998 %	2000 %	2002 %
Boys					
Difficult not to smoke for a week	54	66	54	59	60
Difficult to give up smoking altogether	66	76	67	72	71
Girls					
Difficult not to smoke for a week	61	64	60	58	66
Difficult to give up smoking altogether	73	75	74	73	76
Total					
Difficult not to smoke for a week	58	65	58	58	63
Difficult to give up smoking altogether	70	75	72	73	73
Bases					
Boys	*148*	*150*	*199*	*305*	*432*
Girls	*195*	*199*	*276*	*385*	*519*
Total	*343*	*349*	*475*	*690*	*951*

a Difficult includes both pupil responses of very or fairly difficult.

Table 3.3

Whether regular smokers would find it easy or difficult not to smoke for a week, by sex: 1994–2002

Regular smokers *1994–2002*

Difficulty or ease of not smoking for a week	**Year** 1994 %	1996 %	1998 %	2000 %	2002 %
Boys					
Very difficult	19	33	31	25	26
Fairly difficult	34	33	23	34	34
Very or fairly difficult	*54*	*66*	*54*	*59*	*60*
Fairly easy	30	24	29	28	26
Very easy	16	10	17	13	14
Very or fairly easy	*46*	*34*	*46*	*41*	*40*
Girls					
Very difficult	24	31	28	25	29
Fairly difficult	37	33	32	32	37
Very or fairly difficult	*61*	*64*	*60*	*58*	*66*
Fairly easy	27	26	29	32	24
Very easy	12	10	11	10	10
Very or fairly easy	*39*	*36*	*40*	*42*	*34*
Total					
Very difficult	22	32	29	25	28
Fairly difficult	36	33	28	33	35
Very or fairly difficult	*58*	*65*	*58*	*58*	*63*
Fairly easy	28	25	29	30	25
Very easy	14	10	13	11	12
Very or fairly easy	*42*	*35*	*42*	*42*	*37*
Bases					
Boys	*148*	*150*	*199*	*305*	*432*
Girls	*195*	*199*	*276*	*385*	*519*
Total	*343*	*349*	*475*	*690*	*951*

Table 3.4

Whether regular smokers would find it easy or difficult to give up smoking altogether, by sex: 1994–2002

Regular smokers *1994–2002*

Difficulty or ease of not smoking altogether	**Year** 1994 %	1996 %	1998 %	2000 %	2002 %
Boys					
Very difficult	30	43	37	34	37
Fairly difficult	36	33	30	38	33
Very or fairly difficult	*66*	*76*	*67*	*72*	*71*
Fairly easy	22	17	25	18	22
Very easy	12	7	8	10	7
Very or fairly easy	*34*	*24*	*33*	*28*	*29*
Girls					
Very difficult	38	44	36	37	41
Fairly difficult	35	31	38	36	35
Very or fairly difficult	*73*	*75*	*74*	*73*	*76*
Fairly easy	20	21	21	21	19
Very easy	7	5	5	6	5
Very or fairly easy	*27*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*24*
Total					
Very difficult	35	44	36	36	39
Fairly difficult	35	32	35	37	34
Very or fairly difficult	*70*	*75*	*72*	*73*	*73*
Fairly easy	21	19	22	20	21
Very easy	9	6	6	7	6
Very or fairly easy	*30*	*25*	*29*	*27*	*27*
Bases					
Boys	*148*	*150*	*199*	*303*	*433*
Girls	*195*	*199*	*276*	*386*	*517*
Total	*343*	*349*	*475*	*689*	*950*

Table 3.5

Whether regular smokers a) would like to give up smoking altogether and b) have ever tried to give up smoking, by sex: 1994–2002

Regular smokers *1994–2002*

	Year				
	1994 %	1996 %	1998 %	2000 %	2002 %
Boys					
Would like to give up					
Yes	36	45	38	37	38
No	20	21	22	14	20
Don't know	44	33	40	49	42
Have tried to give up	52	67	69	62	64
Girls					
Would like to give up					
Yes	33	44	32	41	36
No	18	9	16	15	16
Don't know	49	47	52	44	48
Have tried to give up	70	80	74	69	69
Total					
Would like to give up					
Yes	34	45	35	39	37
No	19	14	18	15	18
Don't know	47	41	47	46	45
Have tried to give up	62	75	72	66	67
Bases					
Boys	*149*	*150*	*199*	*304*	*434*
Girls	*195*	*199*	*277*	*386*	*518*
Total	*344*	*349*	*476*	*690*	*952*

Table 3.6

Whether regular smokers have tried to give up smoking and whether they would like to,[a] by sex

Regular smokers *2002*

Attitudes to dependency	**Sex**		
	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Tried to give up, would still like to	30	31	31
Not tried to give up, would like to	8	5	7
Tried to give up, would not like to	33	39	36
Not tried to give up, would not like to	28	25	27
Bases	*434*	*518*	*952*

a The categories 'no' and 'don't know' have been combined to indicate 'would not like to' give up.

Table 3.7

Perceived dependency on smoking by sex and length of time as a regular smoker

Regular smokers *2002*

Dependency	Length of time as a smoker		
	1 year or less	More than 1 year	All regular smokers
	%	%	%
Boys			
Would find it difficult not to smoke for a week	40	73	60
Would find it difficult to give up altogether	51	83	70
Would like to give up altogether	34	42	38
Has tried to give up	51	72	63
Girls			
Would find it difficult not to smoke for a week	50	78	67
Would find it difficult to give up altogether	63	85	76
Would like to give up altogether	29	41	36
Has tried to give up	60	76	69
Total			
Would find it difficult not to smoke for a week	46	76	64
Would find it difficult to give up altogether	57	84	73
Would like to give up altogether	31	41	37
Has tried to give up	56	74	67
Bases			
Boys	*166*	*250*	*416*
Girls	*208*	*300*	*508*
Total	*374*	*550*	*924*

Table 3.8

Perceived dependency on smoking by number of cigarettes smoked in the previous seven days

Regular smokers *2002*

Dependency	Number of cigarettes smoked			
	0-20	21-70	71 or more	Total
	%	%	%	%
Would find it difficult not to smoke for a week	33	70	89	64
Would find it difficult to give up altogether	45	81	93	73
Would like to give up altogether	31	41	38	37
Has tried to give up	56	72	70	67
Bases	*267*	*427*	*217*	*911*

4 Family attitudes towards smoking

Alison Prescott and Richard Boreham

4.1 Introduction

All pupils, regardless of their smoking status, were asked about their own family's attitude towards them smoking. Although questions referred to the feelings of the family, it is likely that the pupils were thinking mainly of their parents' attitude towards smoking when they answered the questions. Non-smokers were asked how they thought their family would feel if they started smoking. Occasional and regular smokers were asked how their family felt about the fact that they smoked. Smokers who replied at this question that their family did not know they smoked (47% of current smokers in 2002) were asked how they thought their family would feel if they knew that they smoked. It is possible to compare perceived parental attitudes towards smoking for non-smokers, occasional smokers and regular smokers because the answer categories in the questionnaire corresponded.

Where pupils answered that their family would either try to stop them smoking or try to persuade them not to smoke, family attitudes can be interpreted as negative towards smoking. For those pupils who said they didn't know how their family would feel, we can infer that their family's attitude may be fairly neutral, since parents have apparently not expressed any feelings to the child either way. Meanwhile, those pupils who said that their family did not mind, or that their family would encourage them, can be taken to have families with positive attitudes towards smoking.

4.2 Perceived family attitudes towards pupils' smoking

The main message is that family attitudes are perceived as overwhelmingly negative towards smoking - 86% of pupils felt that their family had negative attitudes towards smoking. A distinction can be drawn between whether their family pursue a confrontational approach and would actively try to stop pupils smoking (63%) and whether they take a more persuasive approach by trying to persuade them not to smoke (23%).

Family attitudes appeared to have hardened against smoking compared with 2000, although as there has been a change in the wording of the answer categories for this question, it is not possible to tell whether this is a real change in underlying attitudes.[1] In 2002, a higher proportion of pupils reported that their family would try to stop them smoking than in 2000 (63% compared with 59%) and a lower proportion said that their family would try to persuade them not to (23% compared with 29%).

(Table 4.1)

A comparable set of questions was asked about family attitudes to taking drugs in the 2001 survey.[2] Family attitudes to taking drugs were also overwhelmingly negative with 84% reporting that their family would either try to stop them or try to persuade them from taking drugs. However, in terms of the firmer attitude to these behaviours, pupils were less likely to think that their family would try to stop them smoking (63%) than try to stop them taking drugs (70%) and correspondingly more likely to think that their family would try to persuade them not to smoke (23%) than would try to persuade them not to take drugs (15%).

4.3 Whether pupils believe families are aware of their smoking

Among current smokers, it is possible to distinguish between 'open' smokers, whose family knew that they smoked, and 'secret' smokers, who said their family did not know about their smoking. Among regular smokers, their families were more likely than not to know about their smoking (63% were 'open' smokers). The opposite was true of occasional smokers where 32% were 'open' smokers.

(Table 4.2)

4.4 Family attitudes to smoking by pupils' smoking behaviour

Family attitudes were related to whether pupils were regular, occasional or non-smokers and within this to whether they were 'open' or 'secret' smokers, but it is not possible to determine whether family attitudes had influenced smoking behaviour or vice versa. When interpreting the findings in this section it should be borne in mind that families' awareness of whether pupils smoke is based on the pupils' perceptions, and that some families may be aware that 'secret' smokers smoke.

On the one hand, it could be argued that family attitudes affect behaviour. Only 2% of pupils who thought their family would try to stop them smoking were open regular smokers, compared with 13% of pupils whose families would try to persuade them not to smoke and 60% of pupils whose families did not mind smoking or would encourage it.

(Table 4.3)

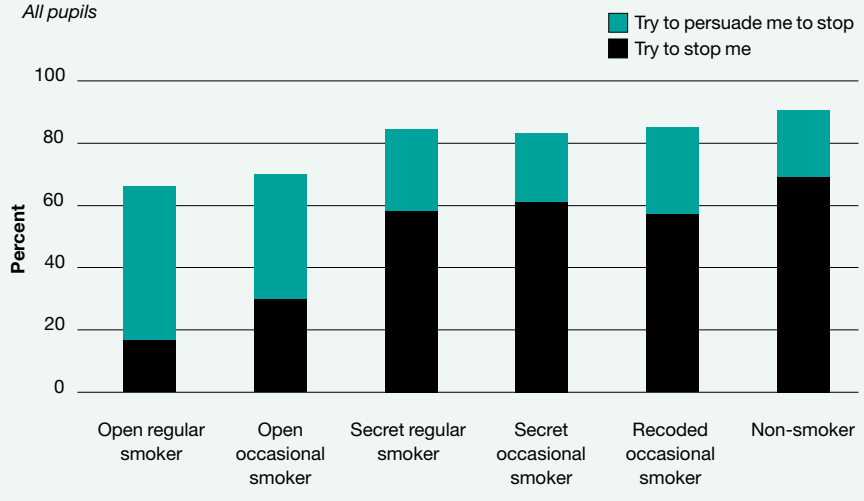
On the other hand, it could be the case that parents adapt the strategy that they use to try to stop their children from smoking, depending on their awareness of their child's smoking behaviour. Perceived family attitudes were firmer among secret regular smokers (58% would try to stop smoking) than among open regular smokers (17% would try to stop smoking) and there was a similar (but less pronounced) distinction between secret and open occasional smokers. Although parents who are aware of their child's smoking were more likely to adopt a persuasive approach than a confrontational approach, it is not possible to tell whether they had always held these views, or had modified their approach as a result of knowing about their child's smoking, or that the child's perception of their parents' attitude had changed.

(Table 4.4, Figure 4.1)

Figure 4.1

Perceived family attitude towards smoking, by pupils' smoking behaviour and whether family know that pupil smokes

All pupils



Among current smokers, perceived family attitudes towards smoking were more closely related to family awareness of pupils' smoking than to pupils' actual behaviour. The proportion of pupils who felt that their family would try to stop them smoking was much lower among open occasional smokers (30%) than among secret regular smokers (58%).

(Table 4.4, Figure 4.1)

4.5 Family attitudes to smoking by pupils' age

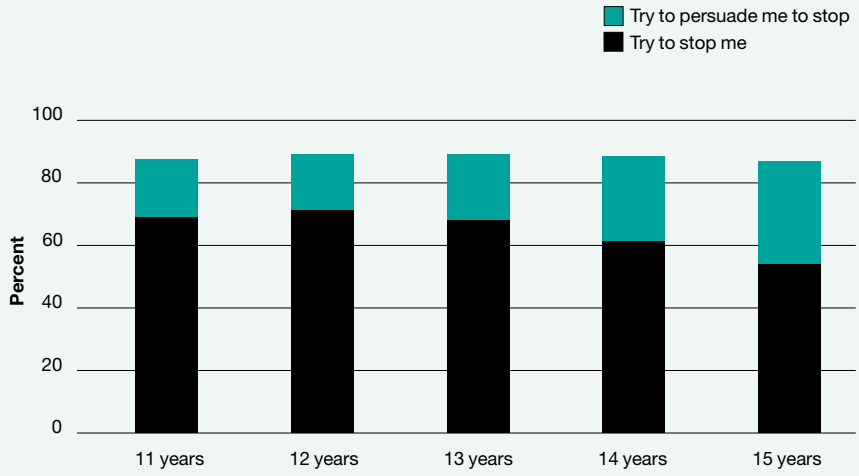
The proportions of pupils reporting negative family attitudes to smoking were similar across age bands, although there were differences in the type of negative attitude reported from age 13 upwards. Around 70% of pupils aged 11, 12 or 13 felt that their family would try to stop them smoking compared with 62% of 14 year olds and 54% of 15 year olds.

(Table 4.5, Figure 4.2)

Figure 4.2

Perceived family attitude towards smoking, by age

All pupils



4.6 Family attitudes to smoking by pupils' age, smoking status and whether parents know about pupil's smoking

Previous surveys in this series have found that perceived family attitudes were related to both smoking status and age.[3] This report suggests that family awareness of smoking behaviour is a more important factor than the regularity of smoking and therefore this section looks at the relationships of age and family awareness of smoking to family attitudes. Since these two factors are themselves strongly related, it is difficult to tell whether both contribute to family attitude, or whether one factor is responsible. For example, it is possible that the differences in family attitude observed between smokers and non-smokers are because smokers tend to be older, rather than being due to their cigarette smoking status.

Pupil's age was related to family attitudes to smoking, independent of the smoking status of the pupil. Among non-smokers, pupils aged 11-13 were more likely than those aged 15 to feel that their family would try to stop them smoking (71% compared with 64%). There was a similar relationship among open smokers, but no relationship among secret smokers.

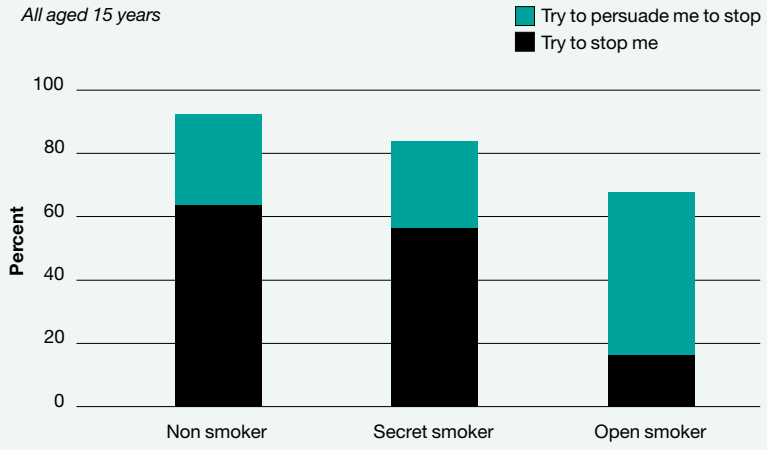
(Table 4.6)

Within age, there were still differences in perceived family attitudes by smoking status, with open smokers being the least likely to think that their family would try to stop them smoking. Among 15 year olds, 16% of open smokers felt their family would try to stop them smoking compared with 64% of non smokers, and there were similar relationships for younger pupils. Thus both age and smoking status were independently related to family attitudes.

(Table 4.6, Figure 4.3)

Figure 4.3

Perceived family attitudes towards smoking among 15 year olds, by smoking status and whether or not family know about pupil's smoking



There was also a difference in perceived family attitudes between non-smokers and secret smokers – among 15 year olds, 64% of non smokers and 57% of secret smokers felt that their family would try to stop them smoking. Again, similar patterns were found among younger pupils. Given that parents are probably unaware that secret smokers smoke, this appears to suggest that family attitudes may influence behaviour. However, it is not possible to draw this conclusion from these results and it is necessary to look at the prevalence of different smoking behaviour by family attitudes (and taking age into account) to test this hypothesis.

(Table 4.6, Figure 4.3)

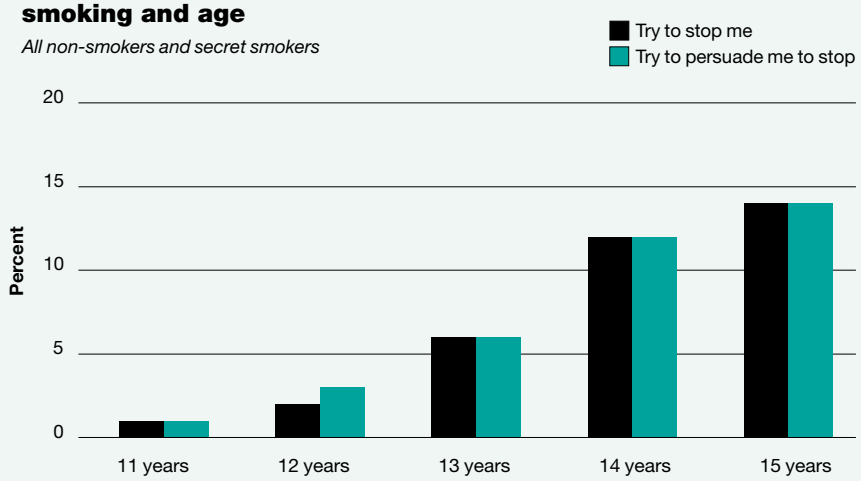
In order to determine whether attitudes might influence behaviour, an analysis of the group of non-smokers and secret smokers was conducted. For the pupils in this group, families' attitudes should be unaffected by pupils' smoking behaviour (as parents were perceived to be unaware that secret smokers smoked). Among 15 year olds in this group, 14% of those whose family would try to stop them smoking were secret smokers and 14% of those whose family would persuade them to stop smoking were secret smokers. There also was no difference in the proportion of secret smokers among this group by perceived family attitudes for any of the other age groups. Thus there is no support for the hypothesis that using a persuasive rather than confrontational approach affects whether pupils smoke.

(Table 4.7, Figure 4.4)

Figure 4.4

Proportion of non-smokers and secret smokers who were secret smokers, by perceived family attitudes towards smoking and age

All non-smokers and secret smokers



Notes and References

1 The answer categories for questions about family attitudes to smoking changed from "they would stop me" in 2000 to "they would try to stop me" in 2002.

2 See Natarajan L, Boreham R *Attitudes to drug use* in Boreham R, Shaw A (2002) *Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2001*, London: TSO.

3 See Goddard E, Higgins V (1999) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young teenagers in 1998*: *Volume 1*: *England*, London: TSO.

Table 4.1

Perceived family attitudes towards smoking, by sex: 2000, 2002

All pupils *2000, 2002*

Perceived family attitude towards smoking	Year 2000 %	2002 %
Boys		
Try to stop me[a]	61	65
Try to persuade me to stop	27	22
Don't mind	2	2
Encourage me to smoke	0	0
Don't know	10	11
Girls		
Try to stop me[a]	57	62
Try to persuade me to stop	31	25
Don't mind	2	2
Encourage me to smoke	0	0
Don't know	10	11
Total		
Try to stop me[a]	59	63
Try to persuade me to stop	29	23
Don't mind	2	2
Encourage me to smoke	0	0
Don't know	10	11
Bases		
Boys	*3643*	*5030*
Girls	*3399*	*4712*
Total	*7042*	*9742*

a *The wording of the answer category changed from "stop me" in 2000 to "try to stop me" in 2002.*

Table 4.2

Whether family is aware of pupil's smoking [a], by smoking status

All current smokers *2002*

Open or secret smoker	Smoking status: Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker [b] %	Total %
Open smoker	63	32	53
Secret smoker	37	68	47
Bases	*949*	*422*	*1371*

a *Classification as an 'open' or 'secret' smoker is based on pupils' perception of family awareness. It is possible that a pupil believes they are a secret smoker when in fact the family is aware.*

b *Pupils who were reclassified as occasional smokers are not included in this analysis since they described themselves as non-smokers, and this group were filtered to a question about family attitudes that did not have the answer category "They don't know that I smoke".*

Table 4.3

Smoking behaviour and whether family know the pupil smokes [a] by perceived family attitudes towards smoking

All pupils *2002*

Smoking behaviour	Perceived family attitude towards smoking				
	Try to stop me %	Try to persuade me to stop %	Don't mind/ encourage [b] %	Don't know %	Total %
Open regular smoker	2	13	60	7	6
Open occasional smoker	1	2	3	4	1
Secret regular smoker	3	4	4	5	4
Secret occasional smoker	3	3	3	4	3
Reclassified occasional smoker [c]	2	3	3	3	2
Non-smoker	90	75	26	77	83
Bases	*6182*	*2260*	*230*	*894*	*9566*

a *Classification as an 'open' or 'secret' smoker is based on pupils' perception of family awareness. It is possible that a pupil believes they are a secret smoker when in fact the family is aware.*

b *As shown in Table 4.1, the proportion of pupils who stated that their family would encourage them to smoke was very low (less than 0.5%). For analysis purposes this response is therefore combined with 'Don't mind'.*

c *Reclassified occasional smokers are those pupils who perceived themselves to be non-smokers, but had smoked at least one cigarette in the last week. The question that they had answered about family attitudes did not have the answer category "They don't know that I smoke", and so it was not possible to determine whether they were open or secret smokers.*

Table 4.4

Perceived family attitudes towards smoking, by smoking behaviour and whether family know the pupil smokes

All pupils *2002*

Perceived family attitude towards smoking [a]	Smoking behaviour						
	Open regular smoker %	Open occasional smoker %	Secret regular smoker %	Secret occasional smoker %	Reclassified occasional smoker [b] %	Non-smoker %	Total %
Try to stop me	17	30	58	61	57	69	65
Try to persuade me to stop	49	40	26	22	28	21	24
Don't mind	22	5	2	3	2	1	2
Encourage me to smoke	2	1	1	-	1	0	0
Don't know	10	25	13	14	12	9	9
Bases	*597*	*133*	*350*	*280*	*220*	*7986*	*9566*

a *Classification as an 'open' or 'secret' smoker is based on pupils' perception of family awareness. It is possible that a pupil believes they are a secret smoker when in fact the family is aware of their smoking.*

b *Reclassified occasional smokers are those pupils who perceived themselves to be non-smokers, but had smoked at least one cigarette in the last week. The question that they had answered about family attitudes did not have the answer category "They don't know that I smoke", and so it was not possible to determine whether they were open or secret smokers.*

Table 4.5

Perceived family attitudes towards smoking, by age

All pupils *2002*

Perceived family attitude towards smoking	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Try to stop me	69	71	68	62	54	65
Try to persuade me to stop	18	18	21	27	33	24
Don't mind	0	0	1	3	5	2
Encourage me to smoke	0	0	0	0	1	0
Don't know	12	11	9	8	7	9
Bases	*1667*	*1987*	*1957*	*1866*	*2089*	*9566*

Table 4.6

Perceived family attitudes towards smoking, by age, smoking behaviour and whether family know the pupil smokes

All pupils *2002*

Perceived family attitude towards smoking [a]	Age			
	11-13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%
Non smoker				
Try to stop me	71	68	64	69
Try to persuade me to stop	18	25	29	21
Don't mind	0	1	1	1
Encourage me to smoke	0	0	0	0
Don't know	10	7	6	9
Secret smoker				
Try to stop me	61	62	57	60
Try to persuade me to stop	21	23	27	24
Don't mind	1	3	3	3
Encourage me to smoke	-	-	1	0
Don't know	16	12	12	13
Open smoker				
Try to stop me	26	20	16	19
Try to persuade me to stop	41	46	51	48
Don't mind	12	19	21	19
Encourage me to smoke	2	2	1	1
Don't know	19	14	10	13
Total [b]				
Try to stop me	70	62	54	65
Try to persuade me to stop	19	27	33	24
Don't mind	1	3	5	2
Encourage me to smoke	0	0	1	0
Don't know	10	8	7	9
Bases				
Non smoker	*5167*	*1398*	*1421*	*7986*
Secret smoker	*168*	*205*	*254*	*627*
Open smoker	*149*	*214*	*367*	*730*
Total	*5611*	*1866*	*2089*	*9566*

a Classification as an 'open' or 'secret' smoker is based on pupils' perception of family awareness. It is possible that a pupil believes they are a secret smoker when in fact the family is aware of their smoking.

b Total includes pupils who perceived themselves to be non-smokers, but were reclassified as occasional smokers.

Table 4.7

Proportion of secret smokers among non-smokers and secret smokers, by perceived family attitudes towards smoking and age [a]

All non-smokers and secret smokers *2002*

Age	Perceived family attitude		
	Try to stop me	Try to persuade me to stop	Total [b]
	% secret smokers		
11 years	1	1	1
12 years	2	3	2
13 years	6	6	6
14 years	12	12	13
15 years	14	14	15
Total	6	8	7
Bases			
11 years	*1135*	*295*	*1624*
12 years	*1379*	*333*	*1905*
13 years	*1270*	*356*	*1806*
14 years	*1079*	*390*	*1603*
15 years	*1051*	*476*	*1675*
Total	*5914*	*1850*	*8613*

a Classification as an 'open' or 'secret' smoker is based on pupils' perception of family awareness. It is possible that a pupil believes they are a secret smoker when in fact the family is aware of their smoking.

b Total also includes pupils whose families had neutral or positive attitudes to smoking.

5 Where children get cigarettes

Lucy Natarajan and Richard Boreham

5.1 Introduction

The Children and Young Person's (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 increased penalties and provided for enforcement action against underage tobacco sales by Local Authorities.[1] However, there is evidence from this survey that in 2002 children still purchased cigarettes in shops and from vending machines, as well as unpackaged cigarettes.[2]

This chapter looks at where and how children obtain cigarettes, and how this has changed over time. The reporting in previous years of the survey has shown that there has been little difference in cigarette purchasing between boys and girls, so this chapter focuses mainly on differences by age and smoking status.

5.2 Usual sources of cigarettes

All current smokers were asked to record where they usually obtained their cigarettes by selecting as many as applied from a list of sources.

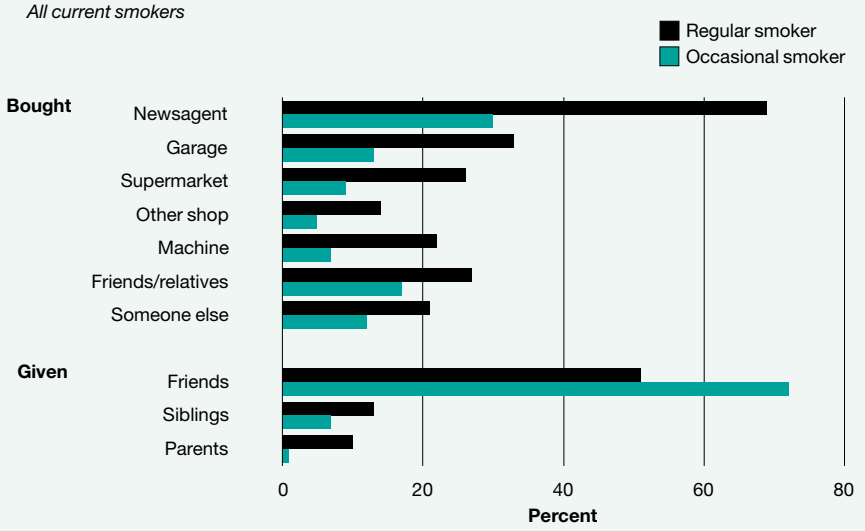
Sources of cigarettes were different for regular and occasional smokers. As a group, regular smokers obtained cigarettes from a wider range of sources and were more likely to have more than one regular source of cigarettes, than occasional smokers. Regular smokers were also much more likely than occasional smokers to have bought their cigarettes. Regular smokers' most common source of cigarettes were shops, particularly newsagents; 69% of regular smokers cited newsagents, tobacconists or sweet shops as one of their usual sources of obtaining cigarettes, compared with 30% of occasional smokers. By far the most common source of cigarettes for occasional smokers was being given cigarettes by friends (72%), this was the only source which occasional smokers were more likely than regular smokers to mention (51% of regular smokers usually got their cigarettes from friends).

(Table 5.1, Figure 5.1)

Figure 5.1

Usual sources of cigarettes, by smoking status

All current smokers



Older pupils were more likely to have bought cigarettes from shops than younger pupils; 74% of 15 year olds usually got cigarettes from a newsagents or similar shop compared with 18% of 11-12 year olds. However not all sources of cigarettes were more prevalent among older pupils. There was no difference in the proportions of younger or older pupils who bought cigarettes from friends or relatives, and purchasing from other people (other than friends or relatives) was more prevalent among 11 year olds (26%) than 15 year olds (13%).

(Table 5.2)

It is also worth noting that the older a child is the more likely (s)he would be to pass for a 16 year old. This may explain why each of the licenced retail categories (i.e. purchased from any shop or machine) was more frequently named as a usual source of cigarettes by older children than younger ones.

5.3 Trends in usual sources of cigarettes for regular smokers

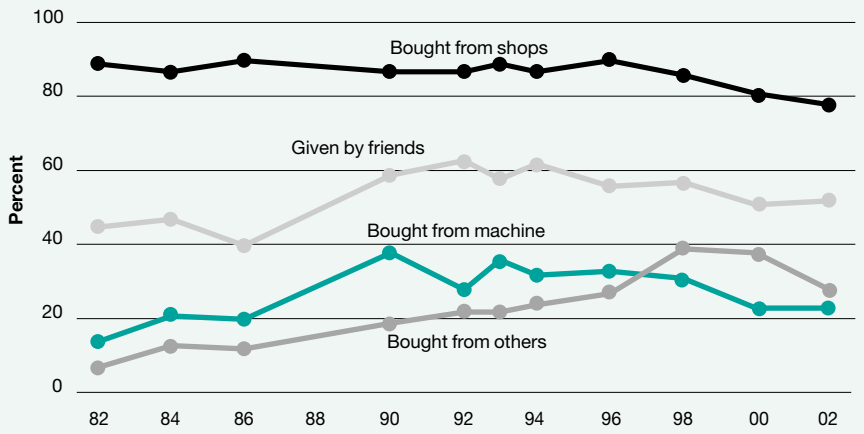
Since 1982 when the question was first asked, trends in usual sources of cigarettes have been reported in relation to data on regular smokers, the group which represents the most cigarette purchases. Data on non-smokers' and occasional smokers' 'usual sources' are based on small numbers, very likely because of the less regular smoking habits of those groups, therefore they are not discussed here. The proportion of regular smokers buying cigarettes from shops remained fairly constant – between 85% and 89% - from 1982 (when the question was first asked) to 1998. Since 1998, prevalence of purchasing from shops has decreased to 80% in 2000 and 77% in 2002. There has been a broad increase since 1982 in the proportions of regular smokers mentioning other sources of cigarettes. The questionnaire addresses source of cigarettes rather than volume, and it is possible that fewer cigarettes are obtained from these alternative sources. Nevertheless, the implication is that pupils are using a wider range of sources to obtain cigarettes than they were in 1982.

(Table 5.3; Figure 5.2)

Figure 5.2

Usual sources of cigarettes: 1982-2002

Regular smokers



Prior to 1990, pupils were asked whether they usually bought cigarettes from shops, but from 1990 onwards they were asked about four different types of shops, namely newsagents/tobacconists/sweet shops, garages, supermarkets and other shops. In 2002, newsagents were the most common source for purchasing cigarettes among regular smokers (69%), followed by garages (33%), supermarkets (26%) and other shops (14%).

As with purchasing from shops in general, prevalence of purchasing from newsagents was similar between 1990 and 1998 (77% and 84%) and had decreased slightly since then to 71% in 2000, and in 2002 was 69%. Prevalence of purchasing from a garage had increased from 39% in 1990 to 52% in 1996 and since then had decreased to 33% in 2002. Purchasing from supermarkets and other shops had fluctuated between 1990 and 2002 with no clear increase or decrease over time.

(Table 5.4)

5.4 Trends in children purchasing cigarettes from shops

This section further examines the trends in purchasing cigarettes from shops, by looking at trends in attempted purchase of cigarettes from a shop in the previous year and usual reported frequency of purchasing from shops. Trends in purchasing are examined from 1990 onwards, because of the change in question wording about shops described in section 5.3.

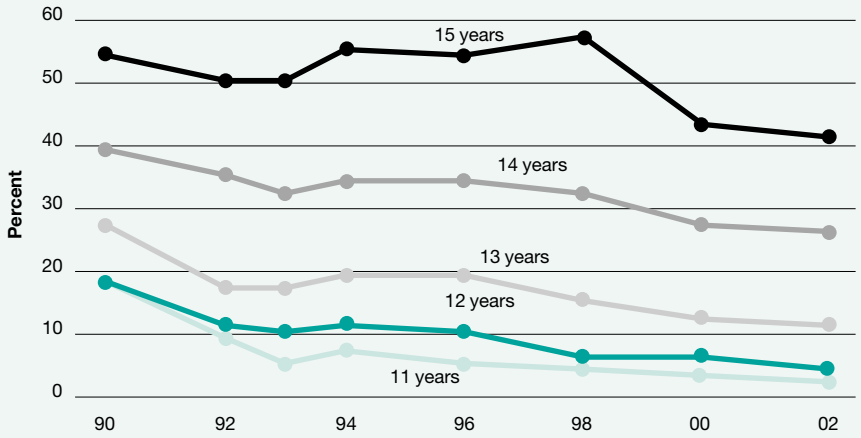
Attempted purchase of cigarettes from shops in the last year

All pupils were asked whether they had attempted to buy cigarettes in the last year. The proportion of pupils who had attempted to buy cigarettes from a shop in the last year had gradually decreased from 32% in 1990 to 18% in 2002. This decrease was seen among all ages, but there was a much greater proportional decrease among younger pupils. Between 1990 and 2002 the proportion of 11 year olds who had tried to buy cigarettes from a shop decreased from 18% to 2%, among 12 year olds the equivalent decrease was from 18% to 4%, and among 13 year olds from 27% to 11%. Among 14 year olds there was a steady decrease in the proportion of pupils who had attempted to buy cigarettes from a shop in the last year from 39% in 1990 to 26% in 2002. Among 15 year olds, between 1990 and 1998, the proportion attempting to buy cigarettes from shops fluctuated between 50% and 57%, but decreased to 43% in 2000 and 41% in 2002.

(Table 5.5, Figure 5.3)

Figure 5.3

Proportion attempting purchase from shop in last year: 1990-2002
All pupils



The consequence of the greater proportional decrease in attempted purchasing from shops among younger pupils was that the profile of pupils who had attempted to buy cigarettes from a shop in the last year had gradually got older. In 1990, 11% of those who had attempted to buy from a shop were 11 years old and 37% were 15 years old, but in 2002 the equivalent proportions were 2% and 53% (table not shown). It is important to take this change in age profile into account when examining other trends in purchasing of cigarettes in the remainder of the chapter.

Usual frequency of shop purchase

The pupils who had tried to purchase cigarettes from a shop over the previous 12 months were asked how often they usually bought cigarettes from a shop. Among those who purchased cigarettes from shops, the overall proportion who usually did so at least once a week fluctuated between 15% and 20%, with no clear increase or decrease over time.

(Table 5.6)

5.5 Perceived difficulty and success at buying cigarettes from shops

This section looks at whether pupils felt it was easy or difficult to purchase cigarettes from shops, whether they had been refused in the last year, and whether they had successfully purchased cigarettes on the last time they had tried to.

Perceived difficulty in buying cigarettes from a shop

Since 1996, current smokers had been asked whether they found it easy or difficult to buy cigarettes from a shop. There was a slight increase in the overall proportion who felt it was difficult to buy cigarettes from shops from 18% in 1996 to 23% in 2002. Younger pupils were more likely to think it was difficult to buy cigarettes from a shop than older ones; 48% of 11-13 year olds felt it would be difficult compared with 22% of 14 year olds and 13% of 15 year olds.

(Table 5.7)

Shop refusals to sell cigarettes to children in last year

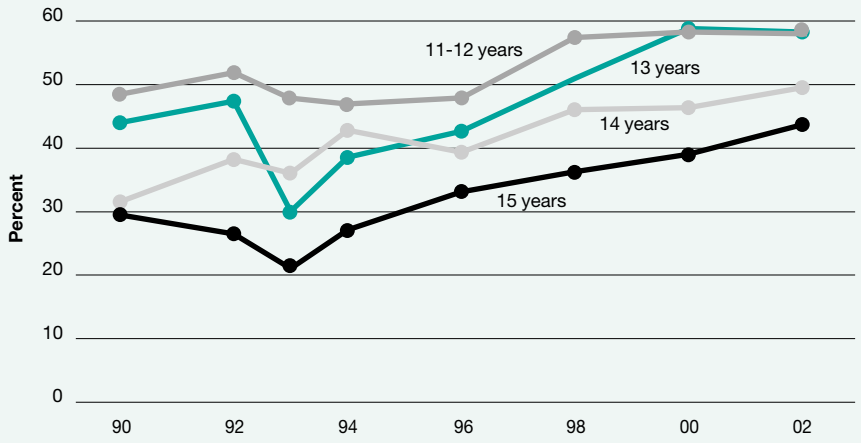
Of pupils who had tried to purchase cigarettes in a shop in the previous 12 months, the proportion that had been refused at least once increased from 37% in 1990 to 48% in 2002. Younger pupils were more likely to have been refused than older pupils (59% of 11-12 year olds compared with 43% of 15 year olds in 2002). Although the age profile of those who attempted to buy cigarettes had changed, there was a broadly similar increase in the proportion of each age group who had been refused in the last year, thus the increase in refusal rates was not caused by the change in age profile.

(Table 5.8, Figure 5.4)

Figure 5.4

Proportion refused purchase in last year: 1990-2002

All attempting purchase from shop in last year



Whether last attempt to purchase cigarettes from a shop was successful

Clearly, those pupils who attempted to buy cigarettes more often have a greater chance of being refused at least once in the last year than those who purchase less frequently. Thus a greater refusal rate could be a reflection of pupils attempting to buy cigarettes more often. Although there has not been any clear change in the purchasing frequency of those who buy cigarettes from shops (section 5.4.2), an alternative measure of refusals which eliminates this problem is to examine whether pupils were successful on the last occasion they attempted to purchase cigarettes.

There was no change between 1990 and 2002 in the overall proportion of pupils who were unsuccessful on the last occasion that they attempted to buy cigarettes from a shop. The proportion has fluctuated between 10% and 15% and was 15% in 2002.

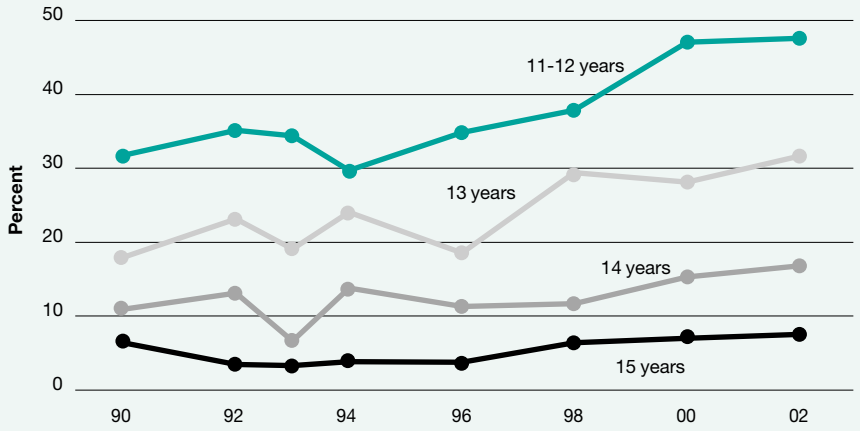
However, this overall trend masks an increase in the proportions of younger pupils who were unsuccessful on the last occasion. Among 11-12 year olds who had attempted to purchase cigarettes in the last year, the proportion who were refused on the last occasion rose from 31% in 1990 to 47% in 2002. The equivalent increase for 13 year olds was from 18% to 31%, while the increase among 14 year olds was significant, but less marked (11% to 17%). There was no change in the proportion of 15 year old pupils who were unsuccessful the last time they tried to buy cigarettes from a shop. These increased refusal rates at last attempt for younger pupils who tried to buy cigarettes from a shop had no significant impact on the overall measure, because the proportion of younger children who had tried to buy cigarettes from a shop in 2002 was significantly lower than in previous survey years (as discussed in 5.4).

(Table 5.9, Figure 5.5)

Figure 5.5

Proportion refused purchase on last occasion: 1990-2002

All attempting purchase from shop in last year



5.6 How many cigarettes were bought last time

Under the Children and Young Person's (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, it is an offence to sell cigarettes by retail to any person other than in pre-packed quantities of 10 or more cigarettes in their original package. Pupils who had been successful at their last attempt to purchase cigarettes were asked how many they had bought on that occasion.

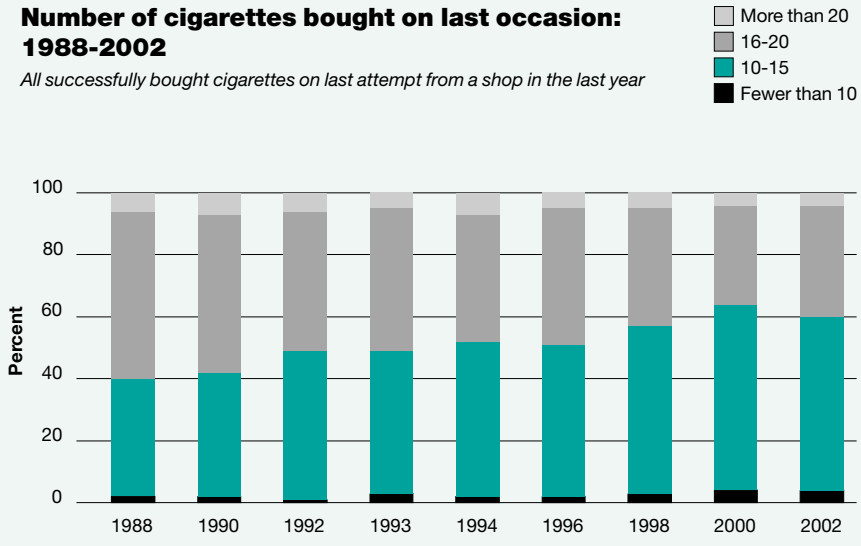
Since 1988 the proportion of children buying packs of ten has increased, and the proportion of children buying 20 cigarettes at a time has decreased. In 1988, 38% of children had bought a pack of ten at their last purchase; this increased to 56% in 2002. One possibility is that the increasing cost of cigarettes may be deterring children from larger purchases.

(Table 5.10, Figure 5.6)

Figure 5.6

Number of cigarettes bought on last occasion: 1988-2002

All successfully bought cigarettes on last attempt from a shop in the last year



Between 1990 and 2002, the proportion of pupils who attempted to purchase cigarettes from shops has decreased, refusals to sell cigarettes to pupils has increased, pupils who buy cigarettes from shops are not buying any more frequently and pupils were more likely to buy smaller quantities of cigarettes. Despite these changes, it should be noted that there has not been a decrease in the number of cigarettes smoked by pupils who smoke (see section 2.6), and that smokers were clearly using alternative sources to maintain their smoking habits.

5.7 Purchases from vending machines

To prevent use by under 16's, guidelines produced by the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators say, machines should be in a position where sales can be supervised, not in a lobby or corridor out of view. All pupils were asked how often they bought cigarettes from a vending machine.

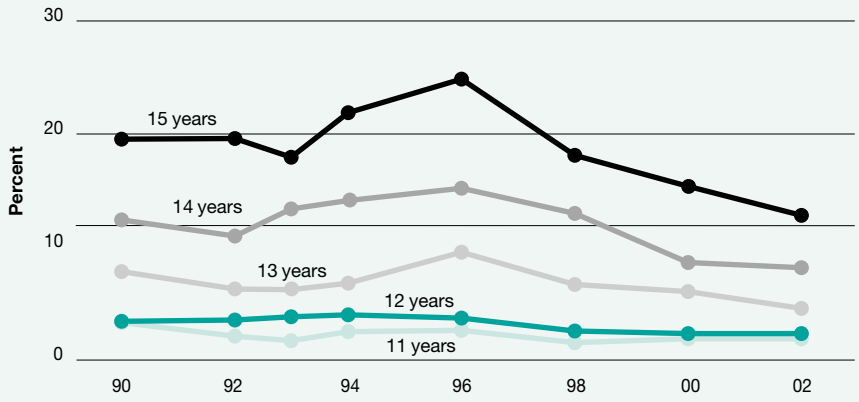
There was a decrease between 1990 and 2002 in the proportion of pupils who had ever bought cigarettes from a machine from 9% to 6%. A decrease was seen among 15 year olds (19% to 13%), 14 year olds (12% to 8%) and 13 year olds (8% to 4%), but there was no change in the proportion of 11 or 12 year olds who had ever used a cigarette vending machine.

(Tables 5.11, Figure 5.7)

Figure 5.7

Proportion who have ever bought cigarettes from a machine: 1990-2002

All pupils



The most common place where a vending machine was situated was in a pub or similar establishment where alcohol was served, mentioned by 74% of those who had bought from a machine. Fifteen year old pupils were more likely to have used a vending machine in a pub (82%) than either 14 year olds (66%) or 11-13 year olds (68%).

(Table 5.12)

Notes and References

1 http://www.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts1991/Ukpga_19910023_en_1.htm

2 For more information see Department of Health Statistical Bulletin "Statistics on activity undertaken to prevent the sale of tobacco products to children aged under 16 years in England, 2001". http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0216.htm

Table 5.1

Usual source of cigarettes, by smoking behaviour

Current smokers *2002*

Usual source of cigarettes [a]	Smoking behaviour		
	Regular smokers %	Occasional smokers %	Total %
Bought from newsagents/tobacconist/sweet shop	69	30	57
Bought from garage shop	33	13	27
Bought from supermarket	26	9	21
Bought from other type of shop	14	5	11
Bought from any shop	77	36	64
Bought from machine	22	7	17
Bought from friends/relatives	27	17	24
Bought from someone else	21	12	18
Bought from other people	27	18	24
Given by friends	51	72	57
Given by brother/sister	13	7	11
Given by father/mother	10	1	7
Found or taken	7	7	7
Other	7	4	6
Bases	*962*	*425*	*1387*

a *Percentages total more than 100 because pupils could give more than one answer.*

Table 5.2

Usual source of cigarettes, by age

Current smokers *2002*

Usual source of cigarettes [a]	Age				
	11/12 years %	13 years %	14 years %	15 years %	Total %
Bought from newsagents/tobacconist/sweet shop	18	32	55	74	57
Bought from garage shop	10	15	23	37	27
Bought from supermarket	6	10	17	29	21
Bought from other type of shop	4	8	10	15	11
Bought from any shop	25	42	61	81	64
Bought from machine	8	12	14	22	17
Bought from friends/relatives	23	22	27	22	24
Bought from someone else	26	23	21	13	18
Bought from other people	25	22	27	23	24
Given by friends	61	60	59	55	57
Given by brother/sister	11	14	11	11	11
Given by father/mother	3	6	5	10	7
Found or taken	20	12	6	4	7
Other	11	12	6	3	6
Bases	*106*	*218*	*431*	*632*	*1387*

a *Percentages total more than 100 because pupils could give more than one answer.*

Table 5.3

Usual source of cigarettes for regular smokers: 1982–2002

Regular smokers *1982–2002*

Usual source of cigarettes [a]	Year										
	1982	1984	1986	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bought from shop [b]	88	86	89	86	86	88	86	89	85	80	77
Bought from machine	13	20	19	37	27	35	31	32	30	22	22
Bought from other people [c]	6	12	11	18	21	21	23	26	38	37	27
Given by friends	44	46	39	58	62	57	61	55	56	50	51
Given by brother/sister	9	7	12	19	16	16	18	16	20	12	13
Given by father/mother	10	7	7	5	7	8	7	7	11	6	10
Found or taken	1	1	2	3	4	6	6	6	6	6	7
Other	1	3	2	8	6	7	11	14	11	9	7
Bases	*325*	*474*	*300*	*305*	*310*	*297*	*348*	*360*	*496*	*719*	*962*

a Percentages total more than 100 because many pupils gave more than one answer.

b Up to 1986 there was only one category for shop. This has been split into four since 1990, but for comparability, in this table all the shop categories have been collapsed into one code.

c Up to 1996 there was one category for bought from other people. This has been split into 'bought from friends/relatives' and 'bought from someone else' since 1998, but for comparability, these categories have been collapsed into one code.

Table 5.4

Which shops were usual source of cigarettes for regular smokers: 1990–2002

Regular smokers *1990–2002*

Usual source of cigarettes [a]	Year							
	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bought from newsagent/tobacconist/sweet shop	80	77	82	83	84	79	71	69
Bought from garage	39	40	43	47	52	44	39	33
Bought from supermarket	19	19	22	22	27	25	22	26
Bought from other shop	15	22	22	21	19	21	14	14
Bases	*305*	*310*	*297*	*348*	*360*	*496*	*719*	*962*

a Percentages total more than 100 because many pupils gave more than one answer.

Table 5.5

Attempted cigarette purchase from a shop in the last year, by age: 1986–2002

All pupils *1986–2002*

Age	Year									
	1986	1988	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	Proportion that attempted to purchase cigarettes from shop									
11 years	16	10	18	9	5	7	5	4	3	2
12 years	15	13	18	11	10	11	10	6	6	4
13 years	21	21	27	17	17	19	19	15	12	11
14 years	30	31	39	35	32	34	34	32	27	26
15 years	45	46	54	50	50	55	54	57	43	41
Total	27	26	32	25	24	26	25	22	19	18
Bases										
11 years	*446*	*455*	*601*	*587*	*501*	*500*	*545*	*603*	*1162*	*1645*
12 years	*628*	*595*	*619*	*693*	*630*	*613*	*575*	*722*	*1408*	*1969*
13 years	*610*	*613*	*598*	*685*	*673*	*635*	*559*	*691*	*1422*	*1964*
14 years	*654*	*626*	*605*	*605*	*658*	*615*	*585*	*1276*	*1433*	*1892*
15 years	*818*	*727*	*662*	*686*	*668*	*670*	*586*	*1421*	*1551*	*1781*
Total	*3157*	*3016*	*3092*	*3256*	*3130*	*3033*	*2850*	*4742*	*6976*	*9603*

Table 5.6

How often pupils purchase cigarettes from shops, by age: 1990-2002

Attempted to buy cigarettes from shop in last year *1990-2002*

Age	Year							
	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	Proportion that purchase from shop at least once a week							
11-12 years	10	10	4	12	6	14	4	9
13 years	13	17	16	13	17	9	11	11
14 years	14	14	16	20	21	22	16	22
15 years	22	20	15	22	22	23	18	22
Total	17	17	15	20	19	20	15	20
Bases								
11-12 years	*128*	*83*	*55*	*68*	*83*	*52*	*112*	*101*
13 years	*119*	*90*	*88*	*92*	*101*	*76*	*169*	*206*
14 years	*200*	*179*	*190*	*176*	*195*	*444*	*372*	*473*
15 years	*330*	*328*	*322*	*349*	*316*	*729*	*648*	*892*
Total	*779*	*684*	*655*	*685*	*695*	*1301*	*1301*	*1672*

Table 5.7

Perceived difficulty buying cigarettes from a shop, by age: 1996-2002

Current smokers who bought cigarettes from shops *1996-2002*

Age	Year			
	1996	1998	2000	2002
	Proportion who perceived it difficult to buy cigarettes			
11-13 years	40	54	47	48
14 years	16	20	24	22
15 years	9	8	9	13
Total	18	22	21	23
Bases				
11-13 years	*96*	*76*	*186*	*203*
14 years	*128*	*294*	*248*	*335*
15 years	*213*	*450*	*454*	*556*
Total	*437*	*820*	*888*	*1094*

Table 5.8

Refused cigarettes by a shop in last year, by age: 1990-2002

Attempted to buy cigarettes from shop in last year *1990-2002*

Age	Year							
	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	Proportion refused							
11-12 years	49	52	48	46	48	57	59	59
13 years	44	47	30	38	42	51	59	58
14 years	31	38	36	43	39	46	46	49
15 years	29	26	21	27	33	36	39	43
Total	37	36	29	35	38	43	45	48
Bases								
11-12 years	*215*	*131*	*86*	*102*	*85*	*52*	*124*	*115*
13 years	*158*	*119*	*111*	*123*	*104*	*81*	*176*	*221*
14 years	*234*	*211*	*207*	*207*	*200*	*450*	*380*	*484*
15 years	*360*	*344*	*333*	*366*	*317*	*746*	*667*	*915*
Total	*971*	*811*	*737*	*798*	*706*	*1329*	*1347*	*1735*

Table 5.9

Whether purchase was refused on last occasion attempted to buy cigarettes, by age: 1990–2002

Attempted to buy cigarettes from shop in last year *1990–2002*

Age	Year							
	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	Proportion refused on last occasion							
11-12 years	31	35	34	29	35	38	47	47
13 years	18	23	19	24	18	29	28	31
14 years	11	13	6	14	11	11	15	17
15 years	6	3	3	4	3	6	7	7
Total	15	14	10	13	11	14	15	15
Bases								
11-12 years	*213*	*132*	*85*	*102*	*84*	*52*	*122*	*112*
13 years	*159*	*118*	*112*	*122*	*104*	*81*	*176*	*220*
14 years	*235*	*211*	*206*	*207*	*200*	*452*	*379*	*484*
15 years	*361*	*345*	*334*	*366*	*317*	*748*	*669*	*914*
Total	*972*	*812*	*737*	*797*	*705*	*1333*	*1346*	*1730*

Table 5.10

How many cigarettes were bought on last occasion: 1988-2002

All pupils who had successfully bought cigarettes from a shop at their last attempt *1988-2002*

Cigarettes bought last time	Year								
	1988	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Fewer than 10 [a]	2	2	1	3	2	2	3	4	4
Ten [b]	38	40	48	46	50	49	54	60	56
Twenty [c]	54	51	45	46	41	44	38	32	36
More than 20	6	7	6	6	7	5	6	3	4
Bases	*693*	*809*	*680*	*642*	*686*	*614*	*821*	*1108*	*1433*

a *Under the Children and Young Person's (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, it is an offence to sell cigarettes by retail to any person other than in pre-packed quantities of 10 or more cigarettes in their original package.*

b *This includes a few children who bought between 11 and 15 cigarettes.*

c *This includes a few children who bought between 16 and 19 cigarettes; this may include purchases of 'vending packs' (typically containing 16 or 17 cigarettes).*

Table 5.11

Whether ever bought cigarettes from a vending machine, by age: 1990–2002

All pupils *1990–2002*

Age	Year							
	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	Proportion of year group ever bought from machine							
11 years	3	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
12 years	3	3	4	4	3	2	2	2
13 years	8	6	6	7	9	6	6	4
14 years	12	11	13	14	15	13	8	8
15 years	19	19	18	22	25	18	15	13
Total	9	8	9	10	11	9	7	6
Bases								
11 years	*580*	*575*	*476*	*476*	*498*	*466*	*1084*	*1534*
12 years	*597*	*665*	*607*	*583*	*543*	*566*	*1342*	*1849*
13 years	*579*	*661*	*650*	*609*	*526*	*526*	*1385*	*1865*
14 years	*582*	*597*	*639*	*591*	*560*	*1353*	*1402*	*1826*
15 years	*652*	*676*	*655*	*661*	*565*	*1560*	*1501*	*2074*
Total	*2997*	*3191*	*3027*	*2920*	*2692*	*4471*	*6714*	*9148*

Table 5.12

Last time used cigarette vending machine, where it was situated, by age

All pupils who have used a vending machine to purchase cigarettes *2002*

Where the machine was situated	Age			
	11-13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%
Pub/club/restaurant – alcohol for sale	68	66	82	74
Café/restaurant – alcohol not for sale	6	5	3	4
Arcade/bowling alley	13	14	8	11
Petrol station	3	4	1	2
Somewhere else	10	10	6	8
Bases	*132*	*140*	*252*	*524*

6 Prevalence of drinking

Sarah Blenkinsop

6.1 Scope and design of section

A small number of questions about drinking were first introduced in the 1988 survey covering whether pupils had ever drunk and when they had last had a drink. In 1990 questions on drinking were expanded to measure the amounts and types of drinks consumed over the seven days prior to interview, for pupils who had drunk alcohol in that period. Alcoholic drinks were divided into five categories: beer, lager and cider; shandy; wine; martini and sherry; and spirits and liqueurs. A sixth category, alcopops was added in 1996.[1] The number and types of drinking questions included in the questionnaire vary according to the focus of the survey (for instance, the 2001 survey focused on drug misuse), which is why questions on where and with whom alcohol was consumed were included in the 1999 survey but not in 2000, 2001 and 2002. A question on where alcohol had been purchased was included in the 1999, 2000 and 2002 surveys.

As discussed in Chapter 1, it may be reasonable to assume that young people are unlikely to deny the fact that they drink alcohol, as the evidence suggests that pupils are generally honest about their behaviour. There may, however, be some uncertainty about the accuracy of reported levels of consumption. Pupils may under-report the amount of alcohol drunk through perhaps not being able to remember how much they have drunk (as can be the case in surveys which measure drinking among adults)[2], or may over-report in an effort to appear more grown up. However, as questions about consumption have been similar in every survey, it is possible to look at relative changes in alcohol consumption over time.

This and the following chapter focus on drinking. In this chapter, data is presented on prevalence of drinking in the last week (all pupils), the number of days in the last week on which alcohol was consumed (those who drank in the last week), the average weekly alcohol consumption per drinker and the types of drinks consumed. The following chapter focuses on usual drinking frequency and where pupils purchased alcohol.

6.2 Whether pupils had ever drunk alcohol

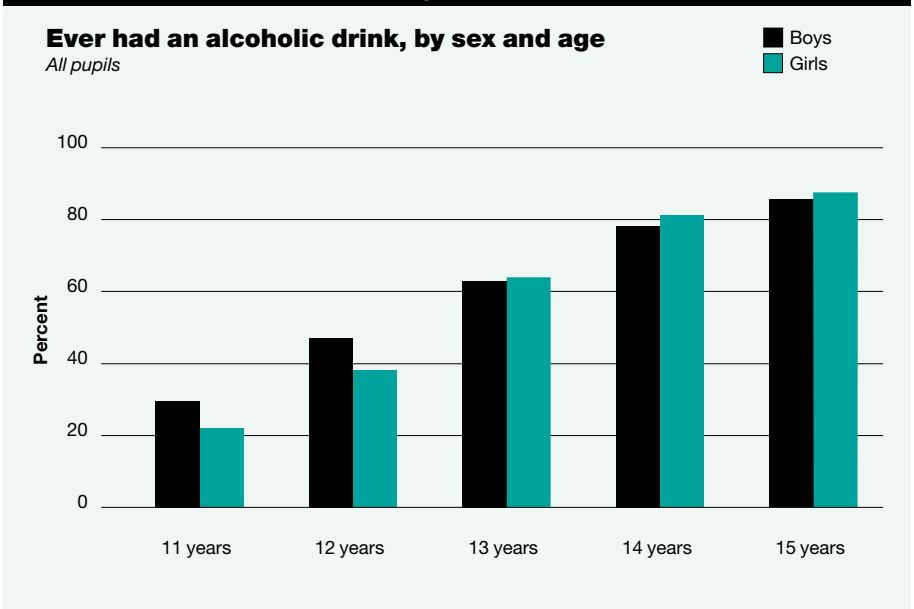
Pupils were asked *'Have you ever had a proper alcoholic drink – a whole drink, not just a sip?'* In 2002, 61% of pupils reported that they had ever drunk alcohol, a similar proportion to previous years.

(Table 6.1)

Prevalence of drinking increased with age from 26% of 11 year olds who had ever had a drink to 87% of 15 year olds. There was little difference in prevalence of drinking alcohol by gender with boys being slightly more likely than girls to have ever drunk (62% compared with 60%), but there were differences between boys and girls among younger pupils (30% of 11 year old boys had ever drunk compared with 22% of 11 year old girls, and 47% of 12 year old boys had ever drunk compared with 38% of 12 year old girls). Among older pupils there were no differences in drinking prevalence between boys and girls.

(Table 6.2, Figure 6.1)

Figure 6.1



6.3 Prevalence of drinking in the last week

In 2002, 24% of the total sample of 11-15 year olds in England reported that they had had an alcoholic drink in the last week. The proportion of all pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last week has fluctuated between 20% and 27% since the survey was introduced in 1988, with no sustained increase or decrease over time.

(Table 6.3, Figure 6.2)

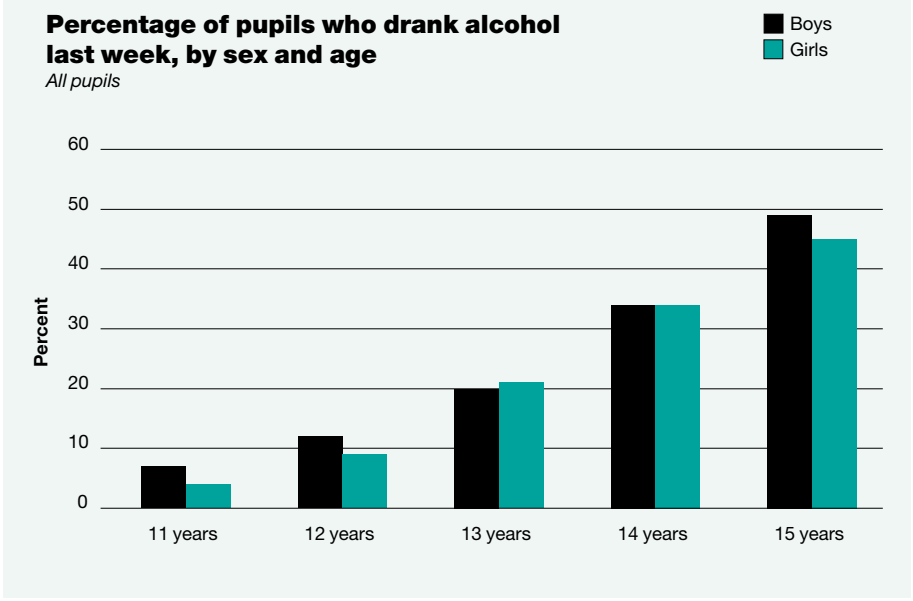
Figure 6.2

In 2002, as in most previous surveys, the proportion of boys who had drunk in the previous week (25%) was slightly greater than the proportion of girls (23%), which reflects the slight difference in the proportion of boys and girls who had ever drunk alcohol. The proportion who had drunk in the last week increased with age (5% of 11 year olds compared with 47% of 15-year-olds).

This overall difference in the proportions of boys and girls who had drunk in the previous week was not found among 14 year olds. Differences at other ages are modest. Nevertheless, the increases in drinking with age are much greater than gender differences.

(Table 6.4, Figure 6.3)

Figure 6.3



6.4 Drinking days in the last week

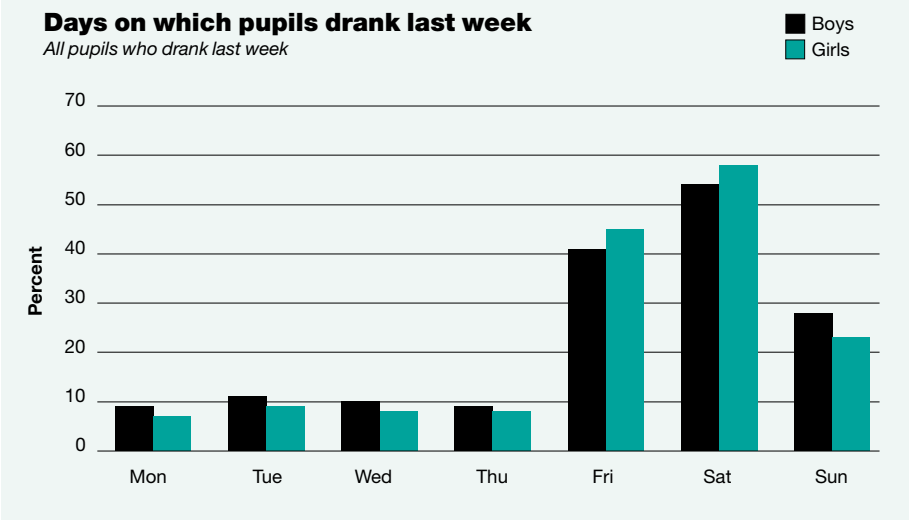
In 1998, those who drank alcohol in the last week were asked for the first time to report on which days of the last week they had consumed alcohol. In 2002, the findings were similar to those from previous surveys - 85% had drunk alcohol only on one or two days, while only a very small proportion (2%) had done so on five days or more. The findings were similar for boys and girls. Even among 15 year old drinkers, more than 80% only drank on one or two days in the last week.

(Tables 6.5-6.6)

As in previous surveys, weekends were the most popular times for drinking alcohol during the past seven days. In 2002, 43% of pupils who had drunk in the last week had done so on Friday, 56% on Saturday and 25% on Sunday. The proportion of drinkers (who drank in the last week) who drank on Friday increased with age (from 22% of pupils aged 11/12 to 50% of pupils aged 15). There was less of a marked difference in relation to Saturday drinking, although a difference nevertheless (43% of 11/12 year olds compared with 63% of 15 year olds). The proportion of drinkers (who drank in the last week) who drank during the week (Monday-Thursday), or on Sundays, did not vary by age greatly.

(Tables 6.7-6.8, Figure 6.4)

Figure 6.4



6.5 Consumption in terms of units of alcohol

The following table shows how measures of each type of drink were converted into units of alcohol. One unit of alcohol is 8 grams by weight or 1cl (10ml) by volume of pure alcohol and approximately the amount contained in: half a pint of ordinary strength beer or lager (4% alcohol by volume); a single pub measure of spirits (25ml); a small glass of ordinary strength wine (9% alcohol by volume); or a single pub measure of sherry or fortified wine.

Type of drink	Measure	Units of alcohol
Beer, lager or cider	Pint	2
	Large can	1.5
	Half pint, small can or bottle	1
	Less than half a pint	0.5
Shandy	Pint	1
	Large can	0.75
	Half pint, small can or bottle	0.5
	Less than half a pint	0.25
Wine, fortified wine or spirits	Glass	1
	Less than a glass	0.5
Alcopops	Can or bottle	1
	Less than a bottle	0.5

In calculating the number of units drunk, the alcoholic strength and volume measures of drinks of the same type are assumed to be the same – such that for example a pint of beer is defined as 2 units of alcohol regardless of the brand of beer, and a glass of wine is defined as 1 unit regardless of the size of the glass. It would be impractical to collect very accurate information on strength and volume in this type of survey. Pupils who drank beer and/or shandy in the last week were asked about the usual strength, although this was not taken into account when calculating the number of units drunk. Additional questions were included in the 2002 survey to ask about any other alcoholic drinks drunk in the last week, but these questions have not been used in the analysis of drinking in the last week.[3] Hence, total alcohol consumption is estimated using a set of consistent assumptions, which nevertheless clearly imply a degree of approximation in these measurements.

Previous research has found that if variations in alcoholic strength were taken into account, consumption by those aged 16-24 would increase by about one fifth for young men and one tenth for young women.[4] While that age group drinks more than those aged 11-15, the types of drink consumed may be similar and the alcohol consumption of those covered by this survey is likely to be underestimated for the same reason.

6.6 Average consumption among pupils who drank last week

Pupils who drank in the last week were asked what quantities of each type of alcoholic drink they had drunk in the previous seven days and their answers were used to calculate alcohol consumption in terms of alcohol units. The average weekly consumption among pupils who drank in the last seven days has increased from 5.3 units in 1990 to 9.9 units in 1998, and has fluctuated around this level ever since then. In 2002, this figure stood at 10.6 units.

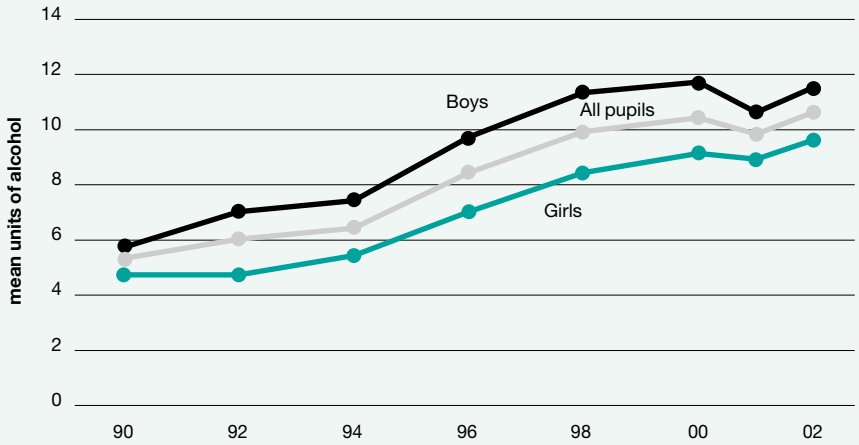
This pattern of fluctuation was found for boys and girls, although it was the case in every survey that boys consumed more units of alcohol. In 2002, boys who drank in the last week consumed an estimated 11.5 units compared with 10.6 units in 2001. Girls who drank in the last week consumed, on average, 9.6 units compared with 8.9 in 2001. As in previous surveys, older pupils who drank in the last week tended to have consumed more alcohol than their younger counterparts: young people aged 11-13 consumed an average of 6.8 units, compared to 15 year olds who consumed an average of 13.0 units.

(Table 6.9, Figure 6.5)

Figure 6.5

Mean alcohol consumption (units) in last week, by sex: 1990-2002

All pupils who drank last week



6.7 Types of alcoholic drinks

This survey covers a range of alcoholic drinks available to young people, but the large variety of drinks prevented each type of drink being included individually. Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last seven days were asked how much they had drunk of:

- "beer, lager and cider" (pupils were prompted to exclude drinks labelled low-alcohol);
- "shandy";
- "wine";
- "martini and sherry" (termed 'fortified wine' in the text and tables in this chapter);
- "spirits (e.g. whisky, vodka, gin) and liqueurs"; and
- "alcopops" (e.g. Bacardi Breezer, Metz, Smirnoff Ice, V2, WKD, Hooch)

The 'alcopops' category was introduced to the series in 1996 therefore no figures for this category exist before that date. The list of example alcopops brands is updated each year, therefore estimates are not strictly comparable year on year.

Comparing the figures for individual drinks drunk by pupils (for those who had drunk in the last week) for the years where such data is available (between 1990 and 2002), it can be seen that:

- Beer, lager and cider remains the most widely drunk type of drink. Of those who drank in the last week, the proportions drinking beer, lager and cider have fluctuated between 67% and 76% and stood at 71% in 2002.
- Of those who drank in the last week, the proportions drinking alcopops increased from 55% in 1996 to 68% in 2001 and in 2002. Alcopops are now the second most widely drunk drink.[5]
- Of those who drank in the last week, the proportion who drank spirits rose from 35% to 61% between 1990 and 2002.

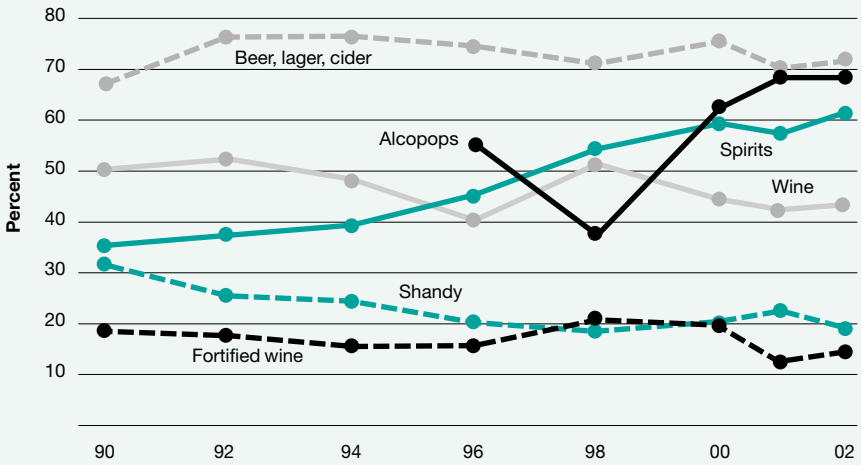
- Wine drinking has fluctuated but was lower in 2002 than it was in the early 1990s. Between 1990 and 1994 the proportion who drank wine (of those who drank in the last week) was between 48% and 52%, from 2000 to 2002 the proportion has been between 42% and 44%.
- Of those who drank in the last week, the proportion who drank shandy has decreased from 31% in 1990 to 19% in 2002.
- Levels of drinking fortified wine (among those who drank in the last week) have fluctuated between 12% and 20% and stood at 14% in 2002.

(Table 6.10, Figure 6.6)

Figure 6.6

Types of alcohol drunk in the last seven days: 1990-2002

All pupils who drank last week



Among pupils who drank in the last week, certain types of drink were drunk by larger proportions of girls than boys: alcopops (76% compared with 61%); spirits (68% compared with 55%), and wine (53% compared with 34%). As in all previous surveys, beer, lager and cider were drunk by a larger proportion of boys (85%) than girls (55%), as was shandy (22% of boys compared with 15% of girls). There was little difference between the proportions of girls and boys drinking fortified wine (15% of girls and 13% of boys). Among girls, alcopops are the most widely drunk type of alcohol, whereas for boys it is beer, lager and cider.

(Table 6.10)

There was little difference in consumption of beer, lager and cider (amongst those who had drunk alcohol in the previous week) between the age groups: an equal proportion (72%) of 11-12 year olds and 15 year olds consumed these types of drinks. Older pupils were more likely than younger pupils to drink spirits and alcopops (although alcopops were drunk by 61% of 11-12 year olds who drank in the last week). Consumption of shandy and wine was more prevalent among younger pupils.

(Table 6.11)

Pupils who drank beer in the last week (71% of those who drank alcohol in the last week) were asked whether they usually drank normal strength beer or strong beer: 72% reported that they drank normal strength beer compared with 28% who drank strong beer. This was similar for boys and girls, and across the different age groups.

(Table 6.12)

Pupils who had consumed shandy in the last week (19% of those who drank alcohol in the last week) were asked about the composition of the shandy they had drunk: 45% of pupils who drank shandy in the previous week reported that it consisted of half lemonade and half beer, although 35% said it was mostly lager. A smaller proportion (19%) of pupils who had consumed shandy in the last seven days reported that it consisted mostly of lemonade. Boys were more likely than girls to drink shandy composed of mostly lager (38% compared with 30%).

(Table 6.13)

6.8 Units of different types of alcoholic drink consumed in the last week

In 2002, the average number of units consumed by pupils who drank alcohol in the previous week was 10.6. The figures for units of alcohol consumed for each type of drink have been available since 1992. Consumption of shandy (0.2 units), wine (1.0 units) and fortified wine (0.2 units) had not fluctuated much over the years. Consumption of beer, lager and cider has fluctuated, but generally increased from 3.7 units in 1992 to 4.7 units in 2002 and accounts for almost half of total consumption in the last week. The average consumption of spirits increased (from 0.8 units in 1992 to 2.1 units in 2002). 'Alcopops' were first available in 1995 and consumption was first measured in 1996 at 1.4 units of alcohol among drinkers in the previous week. In 2002 the same measurement had risen to 2.4 units, which could be because of the growing alcopops market since 1995.

(Table 6.14)

In the last week, boys who drank consumed on average more than twice as much beer, lager and cider (6.4 units) as girls (2.8 units), and girls drank twice as much wine (1.3 units) as boys (0.7 units). Girls also drank more alcopops than boys in the last week (2.7 units compared with 2.1 units), and more spirits (2.3 units compared with 1.8 units).

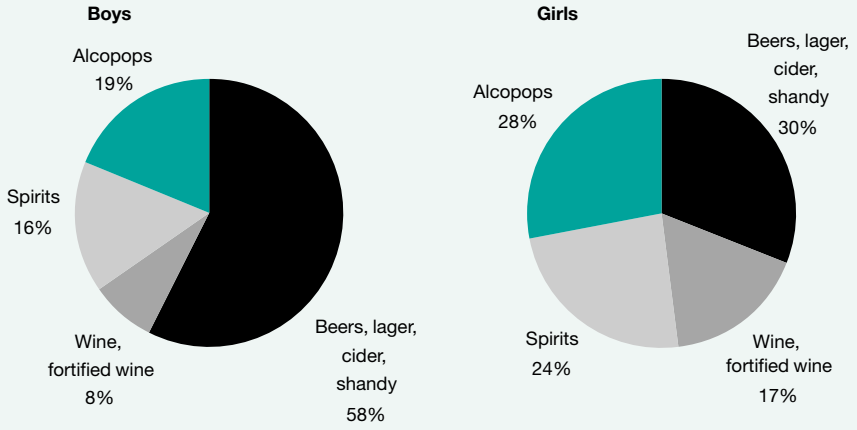
An alternative way of looking at consumption is to look at total consumption accounted for by different types of drink (for the purpose of this analysis shandy was included with beer, lager and cider, and wine and fortified wine were combined). The following chart shows total consumption accounted for by different types of drinks, comparing the sexes. Boys' consumption of beer, lager, cider and shandy accounted for 58% of their total consumption. For girls, the proportion of total units of alcohol consumed through beer, lager, cider and shandy is far less (31% of total alcohol units). However, it is still the largest contributor to alcohol intake. The second largest contributor for both sexes is alcopops, although alcopops account for a larger proportion of the total units of alcohol consumed by girls (28%) than of the boys' total (19%). The third largest contributor for both sexes was spirits and the smallest was wine and fortified wine. For girls, spirits account for more alcohol consumption in 2002 (24%) than was the case in 2001 (18%).

(Table 6.15-6.16, Figure 6.7)

Figure 6.7

Alcohol consumption by each type of drink as a percentage of the total, by sex

All pupils who drank last week



Among boys, beer, lager, cider and shandy was the most widely consumed type of drink, and also accounted for the majority of alcohol consumed. Among girls, alcopops and spirits were drunk by more pupils in the last week than beer, lager, cider and shandy, but were consumed in slightly smaller quantities, as beer, lager, cider and shandy accounted for more of the amount of alcohol drunk than alcopops or spirits. Girls who drank alcopops in the last week consumed 2.7 units of alcopops on average, girls who drank spirits consumed 2.3 units of spirits whereas girls who consumed beer, lager or cider consumed 2.8 units of beer, lager or cider.

(Table 6.15)

Notes and References

1 Questions about alcopops were introduced in 1996. In 1996 and 1998, pupils were asked about whether in the last week they had drunk alcoholic lemonade, alcoholic cola or other alcoholic soft drinks. In 2000 and 2001 the wording was changed to ask about alcopops or pre-mixed alcoholic drinks. In 2002, cognitive piloting of these questions led to dropping the term pre-mixed alcoholic drinks and pupils were just asked about alcopops. As well as the overall generic term, pupils are given a list of examples of the most common alcopops, and as this is a fast changing market, these examples are updated every year.

2 For example Willett WC *Accuracy of food-frequency questionnaires*. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition 2000; 72: 1234-5.

3 The questions about drinking in the last week, a part of the survey questionnaire since 1990, ask about each of several categories of alcoholic drink in turn. Since 1996 these categories have been: Alcopops; Beer, lager and cider; Martini and sherry; Shandy; Spirits and liqueurs; and Wine. In 2002, a further set of questions about 'other types of alcoholic drink' was added to capture data on any alcoholic drinks consumed which pupils did not associate with the specified categories and would therefore have omitted to mention. Analysis of the other types of alcoholic drinks suggest that answers to the 'other types of alcohol' questions are not very reliable (e.g. pupils reported drinking pints of drinks that would have been classified as spirits). Therefore answers from this additional set of questions have not been included in survey estimates.

The questions which measure drinking in the last week are updated to reflect changes in the drinks market – alcopops were introduced as a new category of drink in 1996, and the list of example alcopops brands is updated each year. Therefore estimates are not strictly comparable year-on-year. In the context of these changes to questions, the addition of an extra set of questions about other types of alcoholic drinks is likely to have only a very minor effect on comparability.

4 Goddard E (1991) *Drinking in England and Wales in the late 1980s*. London: HMSO.

5 The prevalence of drinking alcopops during the previous week dipped in 1998 to 37%. There are several possible explanations, such as rising alcopop prices, and the introduction of a voluntary code on the naming, packaging and merchandising of alcoholic drinks by the Portman Group (drinks industry body) in 1996, in response to criticism of the growing 'alcopop' market. These factors could have made certain 'alcopops' less appealing to children. The non-inclusion of emerging brands as examples and the evolving definition of 'alcopop' may have also caused under-reporting in this category. In 2000, the list of brands of alcopops and pre-mixed alcoholic drinks was extended to include emerging brands such as Bacardi Breezer, Metz, Smirnoff Ice and V2. As a result of cognitive piloting in 2002, the category in the 2002 survey referred to 'alcopops' only, and not 'pre-mixed alcoholic drinks'.

Table 6.1

Ever had an alcoholic drink, by sex: 1988–2002

All pupils *1988-2002*

Ever had an alcoholic drink	Year									
	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys	65	65	63	66	63	62	62	59	62	62
Girls	59	63	56	65	61	58	59	59	60	60
Total	62	64	60	65	62	60	61	59	61	61
Bases										
Boys	*1472*	*1622*	*1650*	*1509*	*1431*	*2245*	*4823*	*3540*	*4620*	*5026*
Girls	*1523*	*1466*	*1608*	*1511*	*1387*	*2356*	*4568*	*3313*	*4622*	*4711*
Total	*3021*	*3088*	*3263*	*3020*	*2818*	*4607*	*9391*	*6853*	*9242*	*9737*

Table 6.2

Ever had an alcoholic drink, by sex and age

All pupils *2002*

Ever had an alcoholic drink	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys	30	47	63	79	86	62
Girls	22	38	64	81	88	60
Total	26	43	63	80	87	61
Bases						
Boys	*878*	*1024*	*1046*	*956*	*1122*	*5026*
Girls	*801*	*991*	*945*	*955*	*1019*	*4711*
Total	*1679*	*2015*	*1991*	*1911*	*2141*	*9737*

Table 6.3

When last had a drink, by sex: 1988–2002

All pupils *1988–2002*

When last had a drink	Year									
	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys										
During the last week	24	22	24	26	27	23	22	25	28	25
One to four weeks ago	19	15	12	14	15	15	16	13	14	14
One to six months ago	12	13	13	11	12	12	12	11	11	12
More than six months ago	11	15	14	10	9	12	11	11	9	11
Never had a drink	35	35	37	39	37	38	38	40	38	38
Girls										
During the last week	17	20	17	22	26	18	20	23	25	23
One to four weeks ago	17	14	12	16	13	15	17	15	17	15
One to six months ago	13	13	14	12	13	13	12	11	11	12
More than six months ago	11	15	12	10	10	11	10	10	8	9
Never had a drink	41	38	44	40	38	42	41	41	40	40
Total										
During the last week	20	21	21	24	27	21	21	24	26	24
One to four weeks ago	18	15	12	15	14	15	16	14	15	14
One to six months ago	12	13	13	11	12	13	12	11	11	12
More than six months ago	11	15	13	10	9	11	11	10	8	10
Never had a drink	38	36	41	39	38	40	40	40	39	39
Bases										
Boys	*1427*	*1619*	*1646*	*1503*	*1432*	*2249*	*4816*	*3656*	*4611*	*4961*
Girls	*1518*	*1456*	*1606*	*1506*	*1391*	*2362*	*4558*	*3409*	*4621*	*4669*
Total	*3015*	*3082*	*3252*	*3009*	*2823*	*4609*	*9374*	*7065*	*9232*	*9630*

Table 6.4

Percentage who drank last week, by sex: 1988-2002

All pupils *1988-2002*

Age	*1988*	*1990*	*1992*	*1994*	*1996*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2002 Bases*
	Percentage who drank last week										
Boys											
11 years	7	8	8	8	7	4	7	5	8	7	*866*
12 years	12	9	13	10	12	14	10	11	14	12	*1003*
13 years	20	17	15	22	27	16	16	18	22	20	*1035*
14 years	25	32	32	34	37	28	28	34	35	34	*950*
15 years	45	42	49	52	50	48	48	51	54	49	*1107*
Total	24	22	24	26	27	23	22	25	28	25	*4961*
Girls											
11 years	4	4	5	4	6	2	4	5	4	4	*798*
12 years	7	6	7	9	9	6	8	9	11	9	*978*
13 years	11	19	11	16	22	14	17	19	22	21	*935*
14 years	19	32	25	26	35	29	28	31	35	34	*946*
15 years	36	39	40	48	55	40	41	45	50	45	*1012*
Total	17	20	17	22	26	18	20	23	25	23	*4669*
Total											
11 years	5	6	6	6	7	3	6	5	6	5	*1664*
12 years	9	8	10	9	11	10	9	10	12	11	*1981*
13 years	16	18	13	19	24	15	16	19	22	20	*1970*
14 years	22	32	29	30	36	29	28	32	35	34	*1896*
15 years	40	40	45	50	53	44	45	48	52	47	*2119*
Total	20	21	21	24	27	21	21	24	26	24	*9630*

Table 6.5

Number of drinking days last week, by sex: 1998–2002

All pupils who drank last week *1998–2002*

Number of drinking days	Survey year		
	1998	2000	2002
	%	%	%
Boys			
1	57	69	66
2	21	17	19
3	10	8	8
4	6	3	4
5	2	2	1
6	1	0	1
7	3	1	1
Average number of drinking days	1.9	1.6	1.6
Girls			
1	64	67	65
2	20	22	21
3	10	6	9
4	4	3	3
5	0	1	1
6	1	1	0
7	1	0	1
Average number of drinking days	1.6	1.5	1.6
Total			
1	60	68	65
2	21	19	20
3	10	7	9
4	5	3	4
5	1	2	1
6	1	0	0
7	2	1	1
Average number of drinking days	1.8	1.5	1.6
Bases			
Boys	*528*	*845*	*1243*
Girls	*444*	*737*	*1088*
Total	*968*	*1582*	*2331*

Table 6.6

Number of drinking days in the last week, by sex and age

All pupils who drank last week *2002*

Number of drinking days	Age 11/12 years %	13 years %	14 years %	15 years %	Total %
Boys					
1	87	74	66	56	66
2	6	12	19	25	19
3	5	8	8	10	8
4	1	4	4	6	4
5	1	1	2	1	1
6	-	-	1	1	1
7	-	0	1	1	1
Average number of drinking days	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.6
Girls					
1	86	70	62	59	65
2	8	21	20	26	21
3	6	7	11	9	9
4	-	1	3	4	3
5	-	1	2	1	1
6	-	-	0	-	0
7	-	-	2	1	1
Average number of drinking days	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.6
Total					
1	86	72	64	57	65
2	7	16	20	25	20
3	6	8	9	9	9
4	1	3	3	5	4
5	0	1	2	1	1
6	-	-	0	1	0
7	-	0	1	1	1
Average number of drinking days	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.6
Bases					
Boys	*182*	*203*	*320*	*538*	*1243*
Girls	*113*	*194*	*325*	*456*	*1088*
Total	*295*	*397*	*645*	*994*	*2331*

Table 6.7

Days on which pupils drank last week, by sex: 1998–2002

All pupils who drank last week *1998–2002*

Drinking days	Survey year		
	1998	2000	2002
	%	%	%
Boys			
Sunday	37	29	28
Monday	11	10	9
Tuesday	10	10	11
Wednesday	16	9	10
Thursday	11	9	9
Friday	43	39	41
Saturday	59	51	54
Girls			
Sunday	27	24	23
Monday	10	8	7
Tuesday	7	7	9
Wednesday	8	9	8
Thursday	8	6	8
Friday	45	44	45
Saturday	57	54	58
Total			
Sunday	33	27	25
Monday	10	9	8
Tuesday	9	9	10
Wednesday	12	9	9
Thursday	10	7	9
Friday	44	41	43
Saturday	58	52	56
Bases			
Boys	*526*	*836*	*1243*
Girls	*442*	*736*	*1088*
Total	*969*	*1572*	*2331*

Table 6.8

Days on which pupils drank last week, by sex and age

All pupils who drank last week *2002*

Drinking days	Age				
	11/12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Boys					
Sunday	27	29	28	27	28
Monday	3	10	10	10	9
Tuesday	13	11	12	9	11
Wednesday	9	10	11	9	10
Thursday	6	8	8	11	9
Friday	22	29	42	50	41
Saturday	42	52	52	61	54
Girls					
Sunday	26	23	28	18	23
Monday	7	7	7	8	7
Tuesday	11	9	10	9	9
Wednesday	5	5	9	8	8
Thursday	4	7	10	8	8
Friday	21	39	51	50	45
Saturday	46	54	55	65	58
Total					
Sunday	27	26	28	23	25
Monday	4	8	8	9	8
Tuesday	12	10	11	9	10
Wednesday	8	7	10	9	9
Thursday	5	7	9	10	9
Friday	22	34	47	50	43
Saturday	43	53	54	63	56
Bases					
Boys	*182*	*203*	*320*	*538*	*1243*
Girls	*113*	*194*	*325*	*456*	*1088*
Total	*295*	*397*	*645*	*994*	*2331*

Table 6.9

Mean alcohol consumption of those who had drunk in the last seven days, by sex and age: 1990–2002

All pupils who drank last week *1990–2002*

Age	Year								
	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	*2002 Bases*
	Mean number of units								
Boys									
11-13 years	[a]	3.6	5.2	7.1	6.2	8.3	5.5	7.3	*256*
14 years	[a]	5.3	6.7	7.3	12.3	9.5	10.0	10.7	*254*
15 years	[a]	9.6	8.8	12.9	12.9	14.5	13.8	14.3	*463*
Total	5.7	7.0	7.4	9.7	11.3	11.7	10.6	11.5	*973*
Girls									
11-13 years	[a]	3.1	3.0	4.0	6.4	4.6	5.7	6.3	*256*
14 years	[a]	3.8	5.5	8.2	8.1	10.1	9.3	10.0	*279*
15 years	[a]	6.0	6.6	8.0	9.7	11.2	10.7	11.4	*407*
Total	4.7	4.7	5.4	7.0	8.4	9.1	8.9	9.6	*942*
All pupils									
11-13 years	[a]	3.4	4.1	5.5	6.3	6.4	5.6	6.8	*512*
14 years	[a]	4.7	6.1	7.7	9.9	9.8	9.6	10.3	*533*
15 years	[a]	8.1	7.7	10.4	11.5	12.9	12.3	13.0	*870*
Total	5.3	6.0	6.4	8.4	9.9	10.4	9.8	10.6	*1915*

a Figures are not available by age group for 1990 data.

Table 6.10

Types of alcohol drunk in the last seven days, by sex: 1990–2002

All pupils who drank last week *1990–2002*

Types of drink	Year							
	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys								
Beer, lager, cider	76	81	82	81	78	85	83	85
Shandy	38	26	27	22	19	23	21	22
Wine	44	46	44	38	47	38	33	34
Fortified wine	14	15	12	11	16	17	10	13
Spirits	33	38	37	42	52	55	54	55
Alcopops	*a*	*a*	*a*	52	33	55	59	61
Girls								
Beer, lager, cider	56	67	70	67	63	63	57	55
Shandy	22	23	21	18	18	15	15	15
Wine	56	60	52	43	55	52	51	53
Fortified wine	22	20	18	19	24	21	14	15
Spirits	38	36	42	48	56	63	61	68
Alcopops	*a*	*a*	*a*	58	42	69	77	76
Total								
Beer, lager, cider	67	76	76	74	71	75	70	71
Shandy	31	25	24	20	18	20	22	19
Wine	50	52	48	40	51	44	42	43
Fortified wine	18	17	15	15	20	19	12	14
Spirits	35	37	39	45	54	59	57	61
Alcopops	*a*	*a*	*a*	55	37	62	68	68
Bases								
Boys	*339*	*394*	*375*	*372*	*446*	*914*	*1027*	*1253*
Girls	*284*	*275*	*324*	*349*	*410*	*790*	*999*	*1093*
Total	*623*	*669*	*699*	*721*	*856*	*1704*	*2026*	*2346*

a Alcopops were first introduced in the 1996 survey

Table 6.11

Types of alcohol drunk in the last seven days, by age

All pupils who drank last week *2002*

Type of drink	Age				
	11/12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Beer, lager, cider	72	70	69	72	71
Shandy	42	27	17	9	19
Wine	48	44	43	41	43
Fortified wine	16	14	15	12	14
Spirits	52	56	61	65	61
Alcopops	61	69	70	68	68
Bases	*303*	*398*	*646*	*999*	*2346*

Table 6.12

Whether usually drinks strong or normal strength beers, by sex and age

All pupils who drank beer, lager or cider last week *2002*

Type of beer, lager or cider	Age			
	11-13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%
Boys				
Normal strength beer	71	73	72	72
Strong beer	29	27	28	28
Girls				
Normal strength beer	76	68	74	73
Strong beer	24	32	26	27
Total				
Normal strength beer	72	71	73	72
Strong beer	28	29	27	28
Bases				
Boys	*313*	*261*	*476*	*1050*
Girls	*175*	*182*	*238*	*595*
Total	*488*	*443*	*714*	*1645*

Table 6.13

Strength of shandy usually drunk, by sex

All pupils who drank shandy last week *2002*

Strength of shandy	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Mostly lemonade	21	16	19
About half lemonade, half lager	41	54	45
Mostly lager	38	30	35
Bases	*192*	*94*	*286*

Table 6.14

Alcohol consumption (units) of different types of drink: 1992–2002

All pupils who drank last week *1992–2002*

Type of drink (mean units)	Year						
	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002
	Mean number of units						
Beer, lager, cider	3.7	4.0	4.7	5.7	4.7	4.8	4.7
Shandy	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Wine	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.0
Fortified wine	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Spirits	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.5	2.1
Alcopops	[a]	[a]	1.4	1.0	2.3	2.2	2.4
Total	6.0	6.4	8.4	9.9	10.4	9.8	10.6
Bases	*544*	*569*	*585*	*686*	*1704*	*2026*	*1915*

a Alcopops were first introduced in the 1996 survey.

Table 6.15

Alcohol consumption (units) of different types of drink, by sex

All pupils who drank last week *2002*

Types of drink (mean units)	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	Mean number of units		
Beer, lager, cider	6.4	2.8	4.7
Shandy	0.3	0.1	0.2
Wine	0.7	1.3	1.0
Fortified wine	0.2	0.3	0.2
Spirits	1.8	2.3	2.1
Alcopops	2.1	2.7	2.4
Total	11.5	9.6	10.6
Bases	*973*	*942*	*1915*

Table 6.16

Alcohol consumption by each type of drink as a percentage of the total, by sex

All pupils who drank last week *2002*

Types of drink	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Beer, lager, cider	56	30	44
Shandy	2	1	2
Wine	6	14	9
Fortified wine	2	3	2
Spirits	16	24	19
Alcopops	19	28	23
Bases	*973*	*942*	*1915*

7 Drinking, frequency and purchase

Sarah Blenkinsop

7.1 Introduction

All pupils who said they had ever had a proper alcoholic drink were asked how often they usually drank alcohol, when they last drank alcohol, and from where they usually buy their alcohol (if they buy alcohol). Pupils who responded that they 'never drink now' were excluded from the analysis, and thus the figures reported in this chapter are based on 'all who drink now'. It should be borne in mind that some children in this age group will not have regular settled patterns of drinking behaviour and may therefore have found it difficult to answer these questions.

7.2 Usual drinking frequency

Pupils who reported ever having had a proper alcoholic drink (61% of the whole sample of 11-15 year olds) were asked "How often do you usually have an alcoholic drink?". In 1988, 1990 and 1992, the proportion of pupils who usually drank at least once a week was 13%, since 1994 it has been between 16% and 20%, and in 2002 was 18%. Boys (19%) were more likely than girls (16%) to usually drink at least once a week. As in previous years the proportion of pupils who usually drank once a week increased with age, from 3% of 11 year olds to 37% of 15 year olds in 2002.

(Tables 7.1-7.2)

7.3 Buying alcohol

Pupils who drink now [1] were asked "If you buy alcohol, where do you usually buy it?" and were given a list of five named sources to tick (including a pub, disco, off-licence, shop and a friend). Two other options were given: 'from someone else' and 'I never buy alcohol'. More than one box could be selected. Just under half (48%) ticked 'I never buy alcohol', which repeats the finding from other recent surveys that only one in two of the pupils who had ever had a drink had ever bought alcohol.

(Table 7.3)

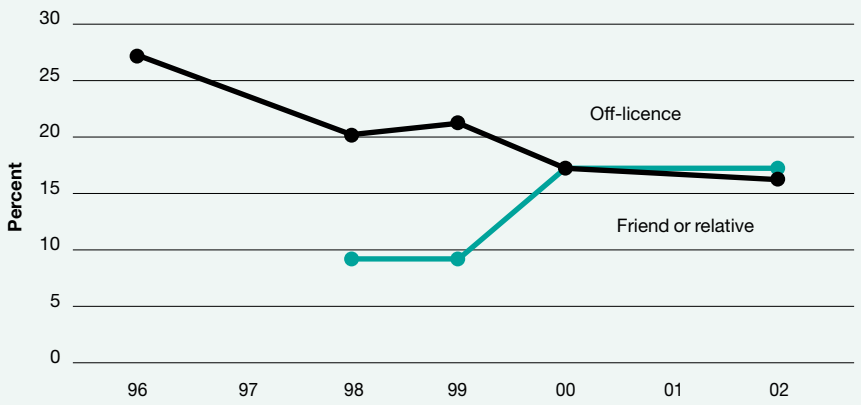
Those who did buy alcohol most commonly did so from friends or relatives (17%) or off-licences (16%). In recent years, there appears to have been a noticeable shift towards buying from friends and relatives and away from buying from off-licences. Purchasing from off-licences fell from 27% in 1996 to 16% in 2002, whereas buying from friends and relatives increased from 9% in 1998 to 17% in 2002. However, it is not possible to tell whether alcohol purchased by friends/relatives was done so by an older person to bypass the underage sales legislation, or whether the alcohol was bought illegally by friends or relatives who are younger or the same age. Purchase of alcohol from shops or supermarkets has fluctuated in recent years and was 10% in 2002. Purchases from a pub or bar (8%), somewhere else (8%) and club or disco (5%) have remained fairly consistent over the survey period. Girls are slightly more likely than boys to purchase alcohol, particularly from friends and relatives.

(Tables 7.3-7.4, Figure 7.1)

Figure 7.1

Whether buy alcohol from an off-licence or from a friend or relative: 1996-2002

All pupils who drink now



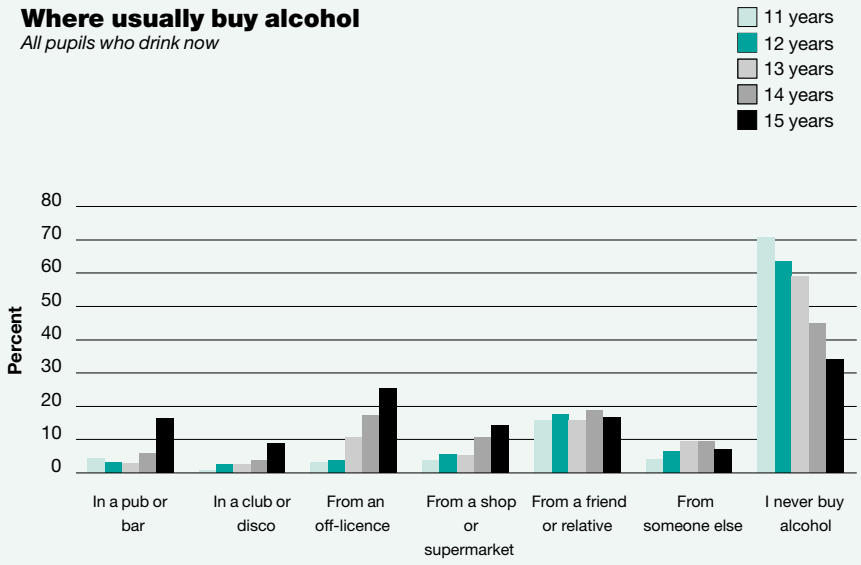
The 2002 survey confirms that a minority of 11 and 12 year olds are able to buy alcohol at shops and on licensed premises. The numbers doing so increase rapidly in the early teenage years. By the age of 15, 25% of pupils who drink now were buying alcohol from off-licences and 16% were being served in pubs or bars.

(Table 7.3, Figure 7.2)

Figure 7.2

Where usually buy alcohol

All pupils who drink now



The less frequent drinkers were more likely than the more frequent drinkers to report that they never bought alcohol. Almost half (46%) of 15 year olds (who drink now) who drank less than once a week never bought alcohol, compared with 18% of those who drank at least once a week. Purchasing from official outlets was higher among more frequent drinkers than among less frequent drinkers, but there was little difference in the proportions of frequent or less frequent drinkers who bought alcohol from friends and relatives or from someone else.

(Table 7.5)

Notes and References

[1] Pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked how often they usually had an alcoholic drink. Those who gave an answer other than 'I never drink alcohol now' were categorised as pupils who 'drink now'. Analysis of alcohol purchase is based on all pupils who 'drink now'. This was the base used in previous reports and retaining this base allows for analysis of trends.

Table 7.1

Usual drinking frequency, by sex and age

All pupils *2002*

Usual drinking frequency	**Age**					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys						
Almost every day	1	0	1	3	4	2
About twice a week	2	2	5	10	18	8
About once a week	2	5	8	14	18	9
At least once a week	*4*	*7*	*14*	*27*	*39*	*19*
About once a fortnight	3	5	8	12	14	8
About once a month	4	6	9	12	13	9
Only a few times a year	15	23	27	26	18	22
Doesn't drink now	4	6	5	3	2	4
Ever had alcoholic drink	*30*	*47*	*62*	*79*	*86*	*62*
Never had a drink	70	53	38	21	14	38
Girls						
Almost every day	0	0	1	2	2	1
About twice a week	1	1	6	9	14	6
About once a week	1	3	7	15	18	9
At least once a week	*2*	*4*	*14*	*25*	*34*	*16*
About once a fortnight	1	4	8	13	18	9
About once a month	2	5	10	14	15	10
Only a few times a year	13	21	29	25	20	22
Doesn't drink now	4	2	3	2	2	3
Ever had alcoholic drink	*22*	*37*	*64*	*81*	*88*	*60*
Never had a drink	78	63	36	19	12	40
Total						
Almost every day	0	0	1	2	3	1
About twice a week	1	2	5	10	16	7
About once a week	1	4	7	14	18	9
At least once a week	*3*	*6*	*14*	*26*	*37*	*18*
About once a fortnight	2	4	8	12	16	9
About once a month	3	6	9	13	14	9
Only a few times a year	14	22	28	26	19	22
Doesn't drink now	4	4	4	3	2	3
Ever had alcoholic drink	*26*	*42*	*63*	*80*	*87*	*61*
Never had a drink	74	58	37	20	13	39
Bases						
Boys	*875*	*1013*	*1034*	*949*	*1117*	*4988*
Girls	*799*	*984*	*943*	*951*	*1013*	*4690*
Total	*1674*	*1997*	*1977*	*1900*	*2130*	*9678*

Table 7.2

Usual drinking frequency, by sex: 1988–2002

All pupils *1988–2002*

Usual drinking frequency	Year									
	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys										
Almost every day	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
About twice a week	7	5	7	7	8	8	7	8	10	8
About once a week	8	8	8	10	12	8	10	9	11	9
At least once a week	*15*	*14*	*16*	*19*	*21*	*18*	*19*	*19*	*22*	*19*
About once a fortnight	10	8	8	7	8	8	8	8	9	8
About once a month	11	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	9
Only a few times a year	24	30	28	25	22	24	23	22	22	22
Doesn't drink now	5	4	3	7	4	5	4	3	2	4
Ever had alcoholic drink	*65*	*65*	*63*	*66*	*63*	*62*	*62*	*59*	*62*	*62*
Never had a drink	35	35	37	34	37	38	38	41	38	38
Girls										
Almost every day	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
About twice a week	3	4	3	5	7	6	6	7	7	6
About once a week	6	7	7	9	10	8	9	9	10	9
At least once a week	*10*	*12*	*10*	*15*	*18*	*14*	*15*	*17*	*18*	*16*
About once a fortnight	9	8	7	10	10	7	9	8	10	9
About once a month	9	10	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	10
Only a few times a year	26	30	27	25	21	23	22	22	20	22
Doesn't drink now	4	3	3	5	3	4	3	4	2	3
Ever had alcoholic drink	*59*	*63*	*56*	*65*	*61*	*58*	*59*	*59*	*60*	*60*
Never had a drink	41	37	44	35	39	42	41	41	40	40
Total										
Almost every day	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
About twice a week	5	5	5	6	7	7	7	8	8	7
About once a week	7	7	7	10	11	8	9	9	10	9
At least once a week	*13*	*13*	*13*	*17*	*20*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*20*	*18*
About once a fortnight	9	8	7	9	9	7	9	8	9	9
About once a month	10	10	8	9	9	9	8	9	8	9
Only a few times a year	25	30	28	25	21	23	23	22	21	22
Doesn't drink now	5	3	3	6	4	4	4	3	2	3
Ever had alcoholic drink	*62*	*64*	*60*	*65*	*62*	*60*	*61*	*59*	*61*	*61*
Never had a drink	38	36	40	35	38	40	39	41	39	39
Bases										
Boys	*1472*	*1622*	*1650*	*1509*	*1431*	*2245*	*4823*	*3540*	*4620*	*4988*
Girls	*1523*	*1466*	*1608*	*1511*	*1387*	*2356*	*4568*	*3313*	*4622*	*4690*
Total	*3021*	*3088*	*3263*	*3020*	*2818*	*4607*	*9391*	*6853*	*9242*	*9678*

Table 7.3

Where pupils usually buy alcohol, by sex and age

All pupils who drink now [a] *2002*

Where usually buys alcohol [b]	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys						
In a pub or bar	6	4	2	5	15	8
In a club or disco	1	3	1	3	6	3
From an off-licence	4	4	10	17	26	16
From a shop or supermarket	5	6	4	10	13	9
From a friend or relative	13	17	13	16	14	15
From someone else	5	6	9	9	8	8
I never buy alcohol	69	62	63	48	37	51
Girls						
In a pub or bar	2	2	4	7	18	9
In a club or disco	-	2	4	4	11	6
From an off-licence	2	3	11	17	24	16
From a shop or supermarket	1	5	7	12	15	10
From a friend or relative	20	18	18	22	20	20
From someone else	3	7	10	10	6	8
I never buy alcohol	73	65	54	42	31	45
Total						
In a pub or bar	4	3	3	6	16	8
In a club or disco	1	2	3	4	9	5
From an off-licence	3	4	11	17	25	16
From a shop or supermarket	4	5	5	11	14	10
From a friend or relative	16	18	16	19	17	17
From someone else	4	7	9	9	7	8
I never buy alcohol	71	64	59	45	34	48
Bases						
Boys	*217*	*398*	*591*	*715*	*933*	*2854*
Girls	*142*	*339*	*567*	*742*	*870*	*2660*
Total	*359*	*737*	*1158*	*1457*	*1803*	*5514*

a Pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked how often they usually had an alcoholic drink. Those who gave an answer other than 'I never drink alcohol now' were categorised as pupils who 'drink now'. Analysis of alcohol purchase is based on all pupils who 'drink now'. This was the base used in previous reports and retaining this base allows for analysis of trends.

b Percentages total more than 100, because pupils could give more than one answer.

Table 7.4

Where pupils usually buy alcohol, by sex and age: 1996–2002

All pupils who drink now [a] *1996– 2002*

Where usually buys alcohol [b]	Survey year				
	1996	1998	1999	2000	2002
	%	%	%	%	%
Boys					
Pub or bar	8	9	8	9	8
Club or disco	4	6	4	5	3
Off-licence	26	22	22	17	16
Shop or supermarket	12	11	11	8	9
Friend/relative[c]	c	10	9	16	15
Somewhere else	10	7	8	9	8
Never buys alcohol	51	51	48	48	51
Girls					
Pub or bar	12	9	10	10	9
Club or disco	8	6	7	9	6
Off-licence	28	18	21	17	16
Shop or supermarket	14	10	12	9	10
Friend/relative[c]	c	9	9	19	20
Somewhere else	6	6	7	7	8
Never buys alcohol	47	56	47	44	45
Total					
Pub or bar	10	9	9	9	8
Club or disco	6	6	5	7	5
Off-licence	27	20	21	17	16
Shop or supermarket	13	10	12	9	10
Friend/relative[c]	c	9	9	17	17
Somewhere else	8	6	8	8	8
Never buys alcohol	49	53	49	46	48
Bases					
Boys	*838*	*1427*	*2772*	*2070*	*2854*
Girls	*802*	*1400*	*2527*	*1882*	*2660*
Total	*1640*	*2827*	*5299*	*3952*	*5514*

a Pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked how often they usually had an alcoholic drink. Those who gave an answer other than 'I never drink alcohol now' were categorised as pupils who 'drink now'. Analysis of alcohol purchase is based on all pupils who 'drink now'. This was the base used in previous reports and retaining this base allows for analysis of trends.

b Percentages total more than 100, because pupils could give more than one answer.

c Friends/relatives was introduced as a separate answer category in 1998.

Table 7.5

Where pupils usually buy alcohol, by age and usual drinking frequency

All pupils who drink now [a] *2002*

Where usually buys alcohol [b]	Age				
	11/12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Usually drinks at least once a week					
In a pub or bar	6	7	10	25	16
In a club or disco	3	4	5	13	8
From an off-licence	10	23	27	37	29
From a shop or supermarket	7	11	17	20	17
From a friend or relative	20	23	22	18	20
From someone else	11	13	13	8	11
I never buy alcohol	46	34	25	18	25
Usually drinks less than once a week					
In a pub or bar	3	2	4	10	5
In a club or disco	2	2	3	6	3
From an off-licence	2	7	12	16	10
From a shop or supermarket	4	3	8	10	6
From a friend or relative	16	14	17	16	16
From someone else	5	8	7	6	7
I never buy alcohol	69	66	55	46	59
Bases					
Drinks at least once a week	*162*	*272*	*491*	*776*	*1701*
Drinks less than once a week	*934*	*886*	*966*	*1027*	*3813*

a Pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked how often they usually had an alcoholic drink. Those who gave an answer other than 'I never drink alcohol now' were categorised as pupils who 'drink now'. Analysis of alcohol purchase is based on all pupils who 'drink now'. This was the base used in previous reports and retaining this base allows for analysis of trends.

b Percentages total more than 100, because pupils could give more than one answer.

8 Drug use

Sally McManus and Lucy Natarajan

8.1 The policy context

The *Updated Drug Strategy* [1] (December 2002) reasserted the government's commitment to reducing drug use among young people, with a new emphasis on vulnerable young people. Key performance targets are measured by this survey series against a 1999 baseline for 11-15 year olds. These include reducing the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug amongst all young people under the age of 25, and especially by the most vulnerable young people.

8.2 Obtaining information about drug use

This survey first collected information on drug use among young people in 1998 (although some limited information on solvent abuse was provided by the 1994 survey). The 1999 survey included more detailed questions on drug taking, as well as on pupils' experience and awareness of drug issues.

A substantially revised method of measuring drug behaviours was adopted in 2001 (see Section 1.3, Chapter 1 for a discussion of these changes).[2] In summary, since 2001 pupils have been asked a set of questions about each drug in turn (including questions about awareness, whether offered and whether taken), whereas in previous years all drugs were asked about in a single grid question. The change in question format means that estimates of drug awareness, of having been offered drugs, and of drug taking for the 2001 and 2002 surveys are not compatible with estimates from previous surveys.[3] Estimates for 2001 and 2002, however, can be compared.

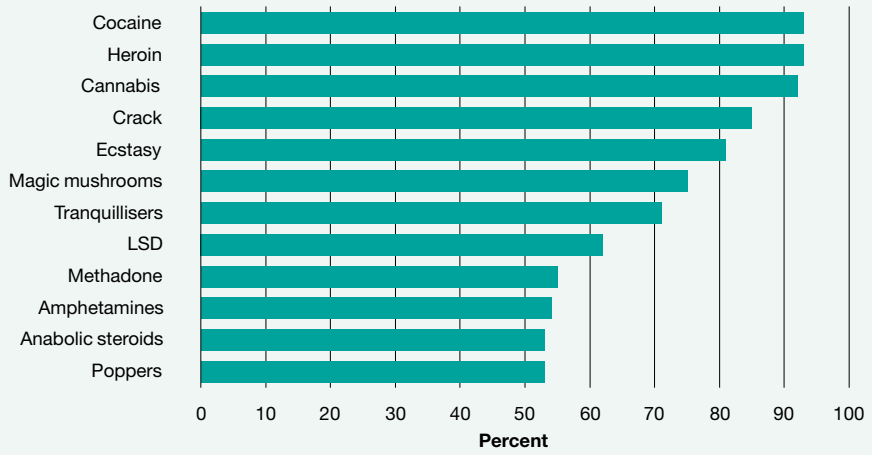
8.3 Awareness of drugs

There is widespread awareness of illegal drugs among pupils. In 2002, 93% had heard of heroin and cocaine, and 92% of cannabis. At least eight out of ten young people had heard of crack (85%) and ecstasy (81%), and at least seven out of ten had heard of magic mushrooms (75%) and tranquillisers (71%). Even the less well known drugs recorded awareness levels of over 50% (LSD (62%), methadone (55%), amphetamines (54%), poppers (53%), and anabolic steroids (53%)). Only 2% reported that they had never heard of any of the drugs listed. These levels of awareness are similar to those reported in 2001, although the proportions reporting that they had heard of amphetamines, LSD and tranquillisers decreased slightly and the proportion reporting cannabis increased slightly in 2002.

(Table 8.1; Figure 8.1)

Figure 8.1

Awareness of different types of drug
All pupils



Some pupils may be reluctant to acknowledge ignorance of specific drugs and hence falsely claim awareness of them. This is tested in the survey by the inclusion of a 'dummy' drug, semeron. Awareness of 'sem' was claimed by 14% of pupils in 2002 (a similar proportion to 2001). This suggests that over-reporting is a factor in the completion of drug awareness questions.[4]

Awareness of all types of drugs asked about increased with age. However, even at age 11 there was high awareness of cocaine (84%), heroin (83%), and cannabis (79%), though limited awareness of amphetamines (20%), poppers (25%), and LSD (26%). By age 15 almost all pupils had heard of cocaine, heroin and cannabis. Even the least well known drugs, methadone and anabolic steroids, were recognised by 70%.

(Table 8.2)

8.4 The types of drugs pupils have been offered

Pupils were asked whether they had ever been offered different types of drugs. Overall, two-fifths (40%) of pupils surveyed in 2002 had ever been offered one or more drug (this includes volatile substances and illegal drugs, but excludes cigarettes and alcohol)[5], a decrease on the proportion reporting this in 2001 (42%). A decline in having been offered specific types of drugs was found for glue, gas or other solvents (from 20% in 2001 to 17% in 2002), crack (from 9% to 7%), and 'any psychedelics' (from 12% to 11%). Poppers was the only type of drug with an increase in the proportion of pupils having been offered it (from 10% in 2001 to 12% in 2002).

As in previous years of the survey series, cannabis (28%) had been offered to more pupils than any other drug. Nine per cent of pupils surveyed in 2002 had been offered cocaine and 6% had been offered heroin. A fifth (21%) had been offered drugs in the 'stimulants' category, a sixth (17%) had been offered solvents and a tenth (11%) had been offered a 'psychedelic' drug.[6]

Boys were more likely than girls to have ever been offered 'any drugs' (43% of boys compared with 37% of girls), a pattern observed in previous surveys in the series. This difference was largely due to variation in the proportions of boys and girls that have ever been offered cannabis (31% of boys compared with 25% of girls), although boys were also more likely than girls to have been offered magic mushrooms and poppers.

(Table 8.3)

Pupils were asked whether they had ever been offered drugs, so it would be expected that older pupils would be more likely to report having been offered drugs than younger pupils simply because they are older. The proportion of pupils who had ever been offered drugs increased substantially with age, 66% of 15 years had ever been offered drugs compared with 17% of 11 year olds. At the youngest age (11), pupils were most likely to have been offered legal drugs such as glue, gas, or other solvents, whereas from ages 13 to 15 the illegal drug cannabis was the most likely to have been offered. By the age of 15, 16% had been offered cocaine, 12% had been offered crack, and 10% had been offered heroin.

(Table 8.4)

8.5 Prevalence of drug use

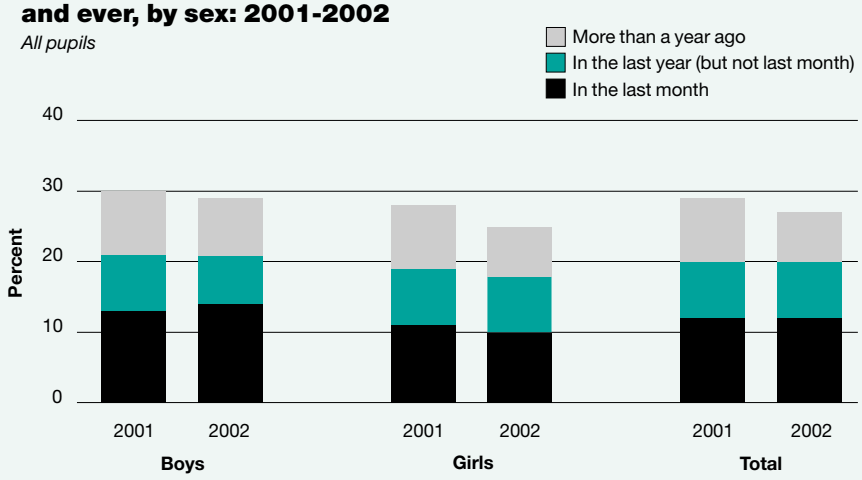
The proportions of pupils taking drugs in the last month (12%) and in the last year (20%) were the same in 2001 and 2002. As in previous years of the survey series, boys were more likely than girls to have taken drugs – 14% of boys and 10% of girls took drugs in the last month, while 21% of boys and 18% of girls took drugs in the last year. The prevalence of having ever taken drugs decreased between 2001 and 2002 from 29% to 27%.

(Table 8.5-8.6, Figure 8.2)

Figure 8.2

Whether used drugs in the last month, last year and ever, by sex: 2001-2002

All pupils



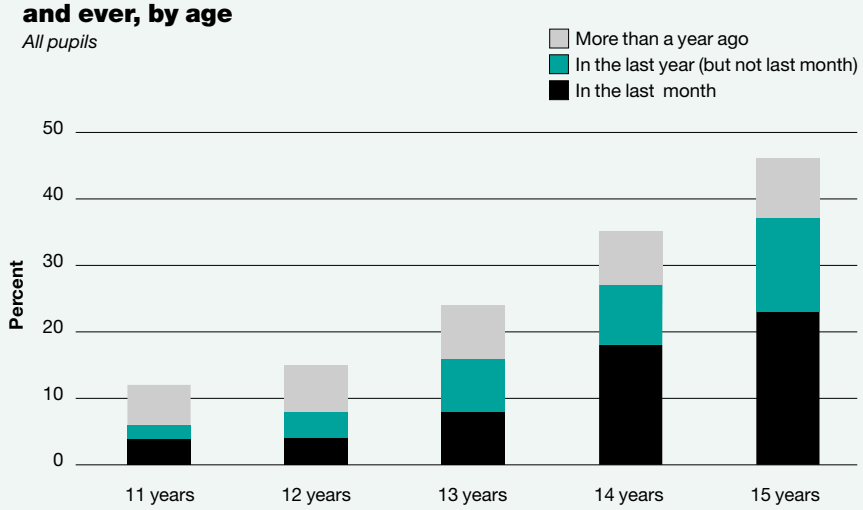
Likelihood of drug taking increased sharply with age; just 4% of 11 year olds had taken drugs in the last month and 6% in the last year, compared with 23% and 37% of 15 year olds respectively. The pattern of differences in drug use by age and sex has been similar for all five years (1998-2002) of surveys that have included questions on drugs.

(Table 8.5, Figure 8.3)

Figure 8.3

Whether used drugs in the last month, last year and ever, by age

All pupils



As a consequence of the change in question format introduced in 2001, subsequent survey estimates of drug taking are affected by the higher proportion of pupils who reported that they had 'tried sniffing glue, gas, aerosols or solvents' compared with previous surveys. Consequently tables for this chapter include estimates for drug use both including and excluding sniffing volatile substances (unless stated otherwise all prevalence figures for drug use include sniffing volatile substances).

Overall prevalence of having ever taken any drugs excluding volatile substances was 19%, compared with 27% having ever taken any drugs including volatile substances. This difference was particularly pronounced among 11 and 12 year olds, of whom 12% and 15% respectively had ever taken drugs including volatile substances, while just 3% and 5% had ever taken any drugs excluding volatile substances.

(Table 8.5)

8.6 Types of drug used in the last year

In 2002, as in previous years of the survey, cannabis was by far the most likely drug to have been taken, with 13% of pupils having taken the drug in the last year. Prevalence of taking cannabis in the last year was slightly higher among boys (14%) than girls (12%). Cannabis use increased sharply with age; 1% of 11 year olds reported its use in the last year, increasing to nearly one in ten (8%) 13 year olds, and almost a third (31%) of 15 year olds.

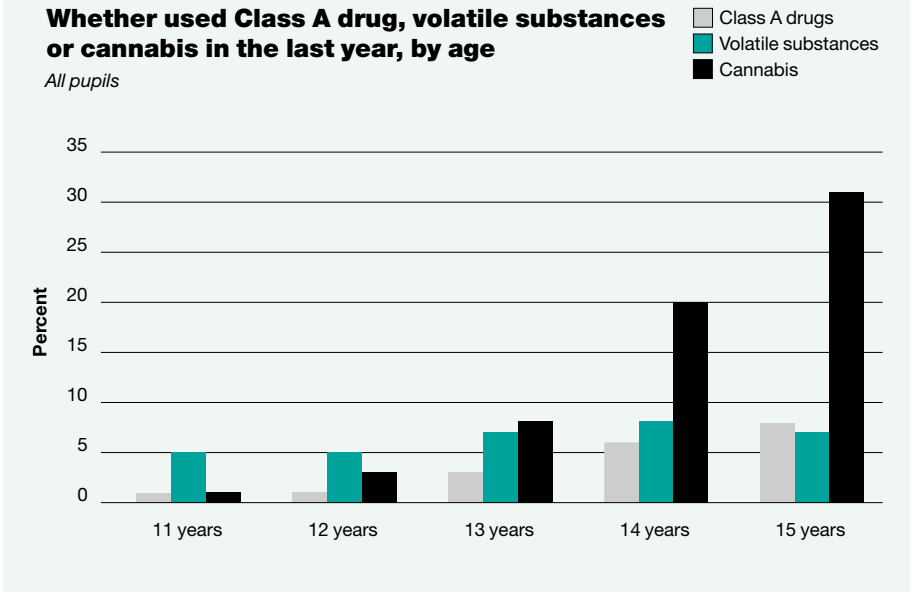
The next most commonly reported type of drug taking was sniffing glue, gas, aerosols or other solvents, with 6% of both boys and girls reporting this (a slight decrease on the 7% reporting this in 2001). Stimulants were also reported by 6% of boys and girls, with the most commonly cited stimulants being poppers (5% boys, 4% girls) and ecstasy (1% boys, 2% girls). Reporting of taking poppers in the last year increased slightly between 2001 (3%) and 2002 (4%). Cocaine was taken in the last year by 1% of all pupils, although prevalence was higher among 15 year olds (3%).

Psychedelic drugs (LSD or magic mushrooms) were taken by 2% of pupils in the last year (although 4% of 15 year olds). Opiate use (mainly heroin) in the last year was reported by 1% of pupils (but 2% of 15 year olds). Overall, 4% of 11-15 year olds reported taking a Class A drug in the last year (rising to 8% of 15 year olds). As Figure 8.4 illustrates, use of cannabis in the last year increases much more quickly between ages 11 and 15 than does

the use of Class A drugs. The Figure also shows that sniffing of glue, gas, aerosols or other solvents in the last year, unlike taking cannabis or Class A drugs, does not increase much with age.

(Tables 8.10 - 8.13, Figure 8.4)

Figure 8.4



To explore further the pattern of drug taking, we examine the number and main types of drugs taken by pupils in the last year. Pupils who took drugs were classified into those who had only taken one drug (although this may have been taken more than once), and those who had taken two or more different drugs. Among those who had taken drugs in the last year, 64% had only taken one type of drug and 36% had taken two or more different drugs. Older pupils were more likely to have taken multiple types of drug; 21% of 11-12 year olds who had taken drugs in the last year took two or more different drugs, compared with 44% of their 15 year old counterparts. Patterns were similar for boys and girls.

Among pupils who had taken drugs in the last year, 38% had taken only cannabis and 19% had only sniffed volatile substances, with boys more likely than girls to have only taken cannabis (40% compared with 35%) and less likely to have only sniffed volatile substances (18% compared with 20%).

With increasing age came a shift from only sniffing volatile substances to only taking cannabis; 56% of 11-12 year olds and 5% of 15 year olds who had taken drugs had only sniffed volatile substances. The corresponding figures for cannabis were 19% and 44%. Pupils who had taken any Class A drugs were much more likely to have taken them in addition to taking at least one other drug (19% overall), than to have taken just one type of Class A drug in the last year (2%).

(Table 8.17)

Notes and References

[1] The government's ten year drugs strategy is set out in Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain, Cm 3945, TSO (1998). The strategy update can be found at http://www.drugs.gov.uk/ReportsandPublications/NationalStrategy/1038840683/Updated_Drug_Strategy_2002.pdf

[2] Changes to the drug questions and the impact of these changes are explored in detail in Boreham R, Shaw A (2002) *Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2001*, London: TSO.

[3] There have been a number of changes to the format of the questions about drug taking since they were first introduced to the survey in 1998. In 1998 to 2000, pupils were asked to indicate on a list of drugs which, if any, they had heard of and which had been offered to them. In light of responses in 1998, the question structure was changed. In 1998 pupils had been asked to tick next to any and all the drugs that applied, whereas in 1999 and 2000 they were asked to tick 'yes' or 'no' separately for each drug on the list. This change was designed to reduce the level of item non-response.

When drawing comparisons over time, it is necessary to note two further changes to the survey. In 1998 one of the categories of drugs was 'Glue or Solvents', in 1999 an additional category of 'Gas (Butane, lighter refills)' was added, and then in 2000 the two categories were combined to become 'Glue, gas, aerosols, and other solvents'.

In all years, pupils were given the opportunity to report having heard of, been offered or used 'other drugs' that were not named in the preceding questions. In 1998, details of these drugs were not obtained, so it was impossible to know whether pupils actually had an illegal drug in mind. Since 1999, pupils were asked to write in the names of these other drugs and sometimes these answers could be transferred back to an appropriate named drug on the list. Other drugs that were not relevant, such as prescription or over-the-counter drugs could also be excluded.

To improve the accuracy of pupils' responses, the street-names of each of the drugs asked about are also included. Over-reporting of the use of cocaine is possible prior to 2001, since the street name for cocaine, 'Coke', may have been recognised by children (particularly the younger ones) who were actually thinking of cola drinks. Reference to 'Coke' was removed from the questionnaires used in the 2001 and 2002 surveys. Amendments to drug street names are made annually to reflect changes in the drug market.

[4] As discussed in Section 1.6, Chapter 1, very few pupils actually claimed to have used semeron, lending support to the view that most pupils do not exaggerate their drug taking.

[5] All reference to a generic 'drugs' category includes both illegal drugs and legal drugs (such as volatile substances), but excludes cigarettes and alcohol.

[6] Types of drugs included in the 'stimulants' category were cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, and poppers. LSD and magic mushrooms were included in the 'psychedelic' category.

[7] Changing the format of questions on drugs in 2001 appeared to have a greater impact on reported levels of taking glue, gas or other solvents than it had on reported levels for other drugs. Although the change of format means that results from the 2001 and 2002 surveys are not strictly comparable with those of preceding years, levels of use of volatile substances were considerably higher than previously reported (which was not the case for other drugs). Given the findings from the 2001 cognitive work (that with grid format questions some pupils got into a pattern of ticking that they had never used individual drugs), and that volatile substances were at the bottom of the list of drugs used, it is likely that the difference in reporting is due to the change in question format rather than a real change in behaviour. There is a fuller discussion of the issues surrounding measurement of volatile substance use in Boreham R, Shaw A (2002) *Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2001*, London: TSO.

Table 8.1

Pupils' awareness of individual drugs, by sex: 1999-2002[a]

All pupils *1999-2002*

Type of drug [a]	Boys				Girls				Total			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cannabis	90	88	91	92	90	88	90	91	90	88	91	92
Any stimulants	**93**	**89**	**97**	**97**	**93**	**90**	**97**	**96**	**93**	**89**	**97**	**96**
Cocaine	90	86	93	93	90	87	94	94	90	86	94	93
Crack	79	77	86	86	76	75	83	83	78	76	84	85
Ecstasy	76	68	81	80	78	71	81	83	77	70	81	81
Amphetamines	73	65	57	55	72	63	57	54	72	64	57	54
Poppers	40	41	52	54	37	41	52	52	41	41	52	53
Any psychedelics	**78**	**73**	**81**	**81**	**76**	**71**	**79**	**80**	**77**	**72**	**80**	**80**
LSD	67	61	65	64	64	58	62	59	65	59	64	62
Magic mushrooms	67	64	76	76	67	64	73	74	67	64	74	75
Any opiates	**89**	**84**	**93**	**93**	**91**	**86**	**95**	**94**	**90**	**85**	**94**	**93**
Heroin	88	84	92	92	90	86	94	93	89	85	93	93
Methadone	47	37	51	50	52	41	58	60	49	39	55	55
Tranquillisers	59	59	74	71	63	61	74	71	61	60	74	71
Anabolic steroids	53	46	59	58	41	35	51	49	47	41	55	53
Other drugs	2	7	5	6	1	5	4	3	2	6	4	5
Never heard of any of the drugs	5	9	2	2	4	8	2	2	4	8	2	2
Bases	*4520*	*3643*	*4687*	*5083*	*4220*	*3389*	*4670*	*4749*	*8740*	*7032*	*9357*	*9832*

a *Estimates from 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with those of previous years, due to changes in question formatting.*

Table 8.2

Pupils' awareness of individual drugs, by age

All pupils *2002*

Type of drug	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cannabis	79	90	95	97	97	92
Any stimulants	**90**	**96**	**98**	**99**	**99**	**96**
Cocaine	84	91	95	97	97	93
Crack	61	77	90	96	96	85
Ecstasy	55	72	87	94	95	81
Amphetamines	20	34	56	74	82	54
Poppers	25	35	51	69	79	53
Any psychedelics	**53**	**68**	**86**	**95**	**96**	**80**
LSD	26	41	64	82	89	62
Magic mushrooms	46	60	80	92	93	75
Any opiates	**84**	**91**	**95**	**97**	**98**	**93**
Heroin	83	90	95	96	97	93
Methadone	36	44	55	65	70	55
Tranquillisers	49	61	73	83	86	71
Anabolic steroids	36	41	53	62	70	53
Other drugs	4	4	4	5	5	5
Never heard of any of the drugs	5	2	1	1	1	2
Bases	*1718*	*2039*	*1999*	*1921*	*2155*	*9832*

Table 8.3

Whether pupils had ever been offered individual drugs, by sex: 1999-2002 [a]

All pupils *1999-2002*

Type of drug [a]	Boys				Girls				Total			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cannabis	28	30	30	31	25	26	25	25	27	28	27	28
Any stimulants	**16**	**16**	**23**	**22**	**15**	**15**	**21**	**21**	**16**	**16**	**22**	**21**
Cocaine	7	8	9	8	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	9
Crack	5	6	9	7	4	5	9	8	5	5	9	7
Ecstasy	6	7	10	9	6	7	9	10	6	7	10	9
Amphetamines	7	6	7	7	6	5	7	6	7	6	7	6
Poppers	7	7	11	13	5	7	9	11	6	7	10	12
Any psychedelics	**10**	**10**	**14**	**12**	**8**	**7**	**11**	**10**	**9**	**9**	**12**	**11**
LSD	6	5	7	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	6	5
Magic mushrooms	7	8	11	10	6	6	8	7	6	7	10	9
Any opiates	**5**	**6**	**8**	**7**	**4**	**5**	**8**	**8**	**5**	**6**	**8**	**7**
Heroin	4	6	7	6	4	5	7	7	4	6	7	6
Methadone	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2
Gas/Glue [b]	15	13	20	16	15	14	21	17	15	13	20	17
Tranquillisers	3	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	3
Anabolic steroids	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Other drugs	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	1
Offered any drugs	36	37	44	43	33	34	39	37	35	35	42	40
Bases	*4510*	*3672*	*4687*	*5104*	*4285*	*3417*	*4670*	*4755*	*8795*	*7089*	*9357*	*9859*

a Estimates from 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with those of previous years, due to changes in question formatting.

b Gas was added as a separate category in 1999, and from 2000 questions were asked about Glue, Gas, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.

Table 8.4

Whether pupils had ever been offered individual drugs, by age

All pupils *2002*

Type of drug	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cannabis	5	11	22	40	56	28
Any stimulants	**6**	**9**	**16**	**31**	**41**	**21**
Cocaine	4	4	7	12	16	9
Crack	2	4	7	10	12	7
Ecstasy	1	3	6	14	20	9
Amphetamines	1	2	4	9	16	6
Poppers	2	3	7	17	28	12
Any psychedelics	**3**	**4**	**8**	**17**	**22**	**11**
LSD	1	1	3	7	12	5
Magic mushrooms	2	3	7	14	17	9
Any opiates	**3**	**4**	**7**	**11**	**11**	**7**
Heroin	3	4	7	9	10	6
Methadone	1	1	2	4	3	2
Gas/Glue	9	10	16	23	23	17
Tranquillisers	1	1	2	4	6	3
Anabolic steroids	1	1	2	3	3	2
Other drugs	1	1	1	1	2	1
Offered any drugs	17	22	36	52	66	40
Bases	*1723*	*2046*	*2004*	*1928*	*2158*	*9859*

Table 8.5

Whether pupils had taken drugs (a) in the last month, (b) in the last year (including in the last month) and (c) ever, (including and excluding volatile substances), by sex and age

All pupils *2002*

Sex	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys						
Any drugs						
Taken in last month	4	5	9	20	26	14
Taken in last year, including last month	7	10	17	29	39	21
Ever taken	12	18	24	39	49	29
Excluding volatile substances						
Taken in last month	2	3	7	18	25	12
Taken in last year, including last month	3	6	12	25	37	18
Ever taken	4	7	13	30	43	21
Girls						
Any drugs						
Taken in last month	3	3	8	15	19	10
Taken in last year, including last month	6	6	16	25	34	18
Ever taken	12	12	24	32	43	25
Excluding volatile substances						
Taken in last month	1	1	6	14	18	8
Taken in last year, including last month	2	3	10	22	32	14
Ever taken	2	4	13	25	38	17
Total						
Any drugs						
Taken in last month	4	4	8	18	23	12
Taken in last year, including last month	6	8	16	27	37	20
Ever taken	12	15	24	35	46	27
Excluding volatile substances						
Taken in last month	1	2	6	16	22	10
Taken in last year, including last month	2	4	11	24	35	16
Ever taken	3	5	13	28	41	19
Bases						
Boys	*803*	*950*	*968*	*921*	*1092*	*4734*
Girls	*754*	*929*	*905*	*925*	*998*	*4511*
Total	*1557*	*1879*	*1873*	*1846*	*2090*	*9245*

Table 8.6

Whether pupils had taken drugs (a) in the last month, (b) in the last year (including in the last month) and (c) ever, (including and excluding volatile substances), by sex and age: 2001, 2002

All pupils *2001, 2002*

Taken drugs	11 years		12 years		13 years		14 years		15 years		Total	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys												
Any drugs												
Taken in last month	4	4	4	5	11	9	17	20	25	26	13	14
Taken in last year, including last month	7	7	8	10	20	17	26	29	41	39	21	21
Ever taken	13	12	16	18	30	24	35	39	51	49	30	29
Excluding volatile substances												
Taken in last month	2	2	3	3	7	7	16	18	24	25	11	12
Taken in last year, including last month	4	3	5	6	14	12	22	25	38	37	17	18
Ever taken	4	4	7	7	18	13	28	30	44	43	21	21
Girls												
Any drugs												
Taken in last month	2	3	4	3	9	8	15	15	22	19	11	10
Taken in last year, including last month	4	6	9	6	18	16	27	25	36	34	19	18
Ever taken	12	12	17	12	27	24	37	32	45	43	28	25
Excluding volatile substances												
Taken in last month	1	1	2	1	6	6	12	14	21	18	9	8
Taken in last year, including last month	1	2	4	3	12	10	22	22	33	32	15	14
Ever taken	2	2	5	4	14	13	25	25	37	38	17	17
Total												
Any drugs												
Taken in last month	3	4	4	4	10	8	16	18	24	23	12	12
Taken in last year, including last month	6	6	9	8	19	16	27	27	39	37	20	20
Ever taken	12	12	17	15	28	24	36	35	48	46	29	27
Excluding volatile substances												
Taken in last month	1	1	2	2	7	6	14	16	23	22	10	10
Taken in last year, including last month	2	2	5	4	13	11	22	24	36	35	16	16
Ever taken	3	3	6	5	16	13	26	28	40	41	19	19
Bases												
Boys	*778*	*803*	*861*	*950*	*887*	*968*	*852*	*921*	*982*	*1092*	*4360*	*4734*
Girls	*759*	*754*	*937*	*929*	*913*	*905*	*911*	*925*	*919*	*998*	*4439*	*4511*
Total	*1537*	*1557*	*1798*	*1879*	*1800*	*1873*	*1763*	*1846*	*1901*	*2090*	*8799*	*9245*

Table 8.7

Whether pupils had taken drugs in the last month, by sex and age: 1998-2002 [a]

All pupils *1998-2002*

Age	Year				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%
Boys					
11 years	0	1	3	4	4
12 years	2	2	2	4	5
13 years	4	4	6	11	9
14 years	10	12	14	17	20
15 years	19	21	23	25	26
Total	**7**	**8**	**10**	**13**	**14**
Girls					
11 years	0	1	2	2	3
12 years	2	2	3	4	3
13 years	3	5	5	9	8
14 years	9	9	11	15	15
15 years	16	17	19	22	19
Total	**6**	**7**	**8**	**11**	**10**
All pupils					
11 years	0	1	3	3	4
12 years	2	2	3	4	4
13 years	4	5	5	10	8
14 years	10	11	13	16	18
15 years	18	19	21	24	23
Total	**7**	**7**	**9**	**12**	**12**
Bases					
Boys					
11 years	*249*	*873*	*597*	*778*	*795*
12 years	*295*	*1009*	*730*	*861*	*941*
13 years	*249*	*943*	*715*	*887*	*950*
14 years	*658*	*910*	*731*	*852*	*910*
15 years	*822*	*1034*	*772*	*982*	*1077*
Total	***2273***	***4769***	***3545***	***4360***	***4673***
Girls					
11 years	*252*	*878*	*556*	*759*	*751*
12 years	*306*	*894*	*656*	*937*	*924*
13 years	*289*	*919*	*678*	*913*	*897*
14 years	*707*	*927*	*676*	*911*	*914*
15 years	*739*	*921*	*748*	*919*	*987*
Total	***2293***	***4539***	***3314***	***4439***	***4473***
All pupils					
11 years	*501*	*1751*	*1153*	*1537*	*1546*
12 years	*601*	*1903*	*1386*	*1798*	*1865*
13 years	*538*	*1862*	*1393*	*1800*	*1847*
14 years	*1365*	*1837*	*1407*	*1763*	*1824*
15 years	*1561*	*1955*	*1520*	*1901*	*2064*
Total	***4566***	***9308***	***6859***	***8799***	***9146***

a Estimates from 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with those of previous years, due to changes in question formatting.

Table 8.8

Whether pupils had taken drugs in the last year, by sex and age: 1998-2002 [a]

All pupils *1998-2002*

Age	Year				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%
Boys					
11 years	1	2	3	7	7
12 years	4	4	5	8	10
13 years	7	7	10	20	17
14 years	16	18	20	26	29
15 years	29	31	32	41	39
Total	**12**	**13**	**15**	**21**	**21**
Girls					
11 years	1	1	3	4	6
12 years	3	4	4	9	6
13 years	6	9	9	18	16
14 years	14	16	19	27	25
15 years	26	28	27	36	34
Total	**10**	**12**	**13**	**19**	**18**
All pupils					
11 years	1	1	3	6	6
12 years	4	4	5	9	8
13 years	7	8	9	19	16
14 years	16	17	20	27	27
15 years	28	30	29	39	37
Total	**11**	**12**	**14**	**20**	**20**
Bases					
Boys					
11 years	*249*	*873*	*597*	*779*	*797*
12 years	*295*	*1009*	*730*	*865*	*945*
13 years	*249*	*943*	*715*	*894*	*960*
14 years	*658*	*910*	*731*	*860*	*916*
15 years	*822*	*1034*	*772*	*996*	*1088*
Total	***2273***	***4769***	***3545***	***4394***	***4706***
Girls					
11 years	*252*	*878*	*556*	*759*	*753*
12 years	*306*	*894*	*656*	*939*	*927*
13 years	*289*	*919*	*678*	*915*	*903*
14 years	*707*	*927*	*676*	*916*	*921*
15 years	*739*	*921*	*748*	*929*	*993*
Total	***2293***	***4539***	***3314***	***4458***	***4497***
All pupils					
11 years	*501*	*1751*	*1153*	*1538*	*1550*
12 years	*601*	*1903*	*1386*	*1804*	*1872*
13 years	*538*	*1862*	*1393*	*1809*	*1863*
14 years	*1365*	*1837*	*1407*	*1776*	*1837*
15 years	*1561*	*1955*	*1520*	*1925*	*2081*
Total	***4566***	***9308***	***6859***	***8852***	***9203***

a Estimates from 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with those of previous years, due to changes in question formatting.

Table 8.9

Whether pupils had ever taken drugs, by sex and age: 1998-2002 [a]

All pupils *1998-2002*

Age	Year				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	%	%	%	%	%
Boys					
11 years	1	3	4	13	12
12 years	5	5	6	16	18
13 years	10	11	12	30	24
14 years	19	22	23	35	39
15 years	34	38	34	51	49
Total	**15**	**16**	**17**	**30**	**29**
Girls					
11 years	1	1	3	12	12
12 years	4	5	5	17	12
13 years	9	12	12	27	24
14 years	17	18	21	37	32
15 years	30	33	30	45	43
Total	**12**	**14**	**15**	**28**	**25**
All pupils					
11 years	1	2	4	12	12
12 years	4	5	6	17	15
13 years	10	11	12	28	24
14 years	18	20	22	36	35
15 years	32	35	32	48	46
Total	**14**	**15**	**16**	**29**	**27**
Bases					
Boys					
11 years	*249*	*873*	*597*	*782*	*803*
12 years	*295*	*1009*	*730*	*877*	*950*
13 years	*249*	*943*	*715*	*902*	*968*
14 years	*658*	*910*	*731*	*866*	*921*
15 years	*822*	*1034*	*772*	*1008*	*1092*
Total	***2273***	***4769***	***3545***	***4435***	***4734***
Girls					
11 years	*252*	*878*	*556*	*762*	*754*
12 years	*306*	*894*	*656*	*939*	*929*
13 years	*289*	*919*	*678*	*920*	*905*
14 years	*707*	*927*	*676*	*920*	*925*
15 years	*739*	*921*	*748*	*933*	*998*
Total	***2293***	***4539***	***3314***	***4474***	***4511***
All pupils					
11 years	*501*	*1751*	*1153*	*1544*	*1557*
12 years	*601*	*1903*	*1386*	*1816*	*1879*
13 years	*538*	*1862*	*1393*	*1822*	*1873*
14 years	*1365*	*1837*	*1407*	*1786*	*1846*
15 years	*1561*	*1955*	*1520*	*1941*	*2090*
Total	***4566***	***9308***	***6859***	***8909***	***9245***

a Estimates from 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with those of previous years, due to changes in question formatting.

Table 8.10

Whether pupils had taken individual drugs (a) in the last month, (b) in the last year (including in the last month) and (c) ever, by sex

All pupils *2002*

Type of drug	Boys			Girls			Total		
	In last month %	In last year %	Ever %	In last month %	In last year %	Ever %	In last month %	In last year %	Ever %
Cannabis	10	14	17	7	12	14	8	13	16
Any stimulants	**3**	**6**	**8**	**2**	**6**	**8**	**3**	**6**	**8**
Cocaine	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
Crack	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Ecstasy	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2
Amphetamines	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Poppers	2	5	6	1	4	5	2	4	6
Any psychedelics	**1**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**3**
LSD	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Magic mushrooms	1	2	3	0	1	2	1	1	2
Any opiates	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Heroin	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gas/Glue	3	6	13	3	6	14	3	6	14
Tranquillisers	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Anabolic steroids	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Any Class A drug [a]	**2**	**4**	**6**	**2**	**4**	**5**	**2**	**4**	**5**
Used any drug	**14**	**21**	**29**	**10**	**18**	**25**	**12**	**20**	**27**
Excluding volatile substances	**12**	**18**	**21**	**8**	**14**	**17**	**10**	**16**	**19**
Bases	*5081*	*5081*	*5081*	*4749*	*4749*	*4749*	*9830*	*9830*	*9830*

a See Chapter 1, Section 1.5 for a definition of Class A drugs.

Table 8.11

Whether boys had taken individual drugs in the last year, by age

All boys *2002*

Type of drug	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cannabis	1	4	9	22	33	14
Any stimulants	**1**	**2**	**3**	**9**	**16**	**6**
Cocaine	0	0	1	1	3	1
Crack	0	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	0	0	0	2	3	1
Amphetamines	0	0	1	1	3	1
Poppers	0	1	3	6	12	5
Any psychedelics	**0**	**0**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**2**
LSD	0	0	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	-	0	1	3	4	2
Any opiates	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1	1
Methadone	-	0	0	0	0	0
Gas/Glue	5	5	7	8	7	6
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	1	1
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other drugs	0	0	0	1	1	0
Any Class A drug [a]	**1**	**1**	**2**	**6**	**8**	**4**
Used any drug in the last year	**7**	**10**	**17**	**29**	**39**	**21**
Excluding volatile substances	**3**	**6**	**12**	**25**	**37**	**18**
Bases	*896*	*1041*	*1051*	*965*	*1128*	*5081*

a See Chapter 1, Section 1.5 for a definition of Class A drugs.

Table 8.12

Whether girls had taken individual drugs in the last year, by age

All girls *2002*

Type of drug	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cannabis	1	2	8	18	28	12
Any stimulants	**1**	**1**	**4**	**9**	**13**	**6**
Cocaine	0	0	1	1	3	1
Crack	0	0	1	2	2	1
Ecstasy	0	0	1	2	4	2
Amphetamines	0	0	1	1	3	1
Poppers	0	0	2	6	9	4
Any psychedelics	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**2**
LSD	0	0	0	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	0	0	1	2	2	1
Any opiates	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**
Heroin	0	0	0	1	1	1
Methadone	0	-	0	0	1	0
Gas/Glue	5	4	8	8	7	6
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	1	0
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	-	-	0
Other drugs	0	0	0	1	0	0
Any Class A drug [a]	**1**	**1**	**3**	**5**	**7**	**4**
Used any drug in the last year	**6**	**6**	**16**	**25**	**34**	**18**
Excluding volatile substances	**2**	**3**	**10**	**22**	**32**	**14**
Bases	*822*	*998*	*947*	*956*	*1026*	*4749*

a See Chapter 1, Section 1.5 for a definition of Class A drugs.

Table 8.13

Whether pupils had taken individual drugs in the last year, by age

All pupils *2002*

Type of drug	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cannabis	1	3	8	20	31	13
Any stimulants	**1**	**1**	**4**	**9**	**15**	**6**
Cocaine	0	0	1	1	3	1
Crack	0	0	1	2	1	1
Ecstasy	0	0	1	2	4	1
Amphetamines	0	0	1	1	3	1
Poppers	0	1	2	6	11	4
Any psychedelics	**0**	**0**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**2**
LSD	0	0	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	0	0	1	2	3	1
Any opiates	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	1	0
Gas/Glue	5	5	7	8	7	6
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	1	0
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	0	0	0	1	1	0
Any Class A drug [a]	**1**	**1**	**3**	**6**	**8**	**4**
Used any drug in the last year	**6**	**8**	**16**	**27**	**37**	**20**
Excluding volatile substances	**2**	**4**	**11**	**24**	**35**	**16**
Bases	*1718*	*2039*	*1998*	*1921*	*2154*	*9830*

a See Chapter 1, Section 1.5 for a definition of Class A drugs.

Table 8.14

Whether boys had taken individual drugs in the last year: 1998-2002 [a]

All boys *1998- 2002*

Type of drug	Year				
	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 %
Cannabis	11	11	13	14	14
Any stimulants	**3**	**3**	**4**	**6**	**6**
Cocaine	1	1	1	1	1
Crack	0	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	1	1	1	2	1
Amphetamines	2	2	1	1	1
Poppers	2	1	2	4	5
Any psychedelics	**2**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**2**
LSD	1	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	1	1	2	2	2
Any opiates	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0
Gas/Glue [b]	1	2	3	7	6
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	1
Anabolic steroids	1	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	1	1	1	0
Any Class A drug [c]	**3**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**4**
Used any drug in the last year	**12**	**13**	**15**	**21**	**21**
Bases	*2287*	*4625*	*3549*	*4687*	*5081*

a *Estimates from 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with those of previous years, due to changes in question formatting.*

b *1998 survey asked about Glue or Solvents only, Gas was added as a separate category in 1999, and from 2000 questions were asked about Glue, Gas, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.*

c *See Chapter 1, Section 1.5 for a definition of Class A drugs.*

Table 8.15

Whether girls had taken individual drugs in the last year: 1998-2002 [a]

All girls *1998-2002*

Type of drug	Year				
	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 %
Cannabis	9	10	11	12	12
Any stimulants	**3**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Cocaine	0	1	1	1	1
Crack	0	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	0	1	1	2	2
Amphetamines	2	1	1	1	1
Poppers	1	1	2	3	4
Any psychedelics	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**
LSD	1	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	1	1	1	2	1
Any opiates	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0
Gas/Glue [b]	1	3	3	8	6
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	0
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	0	1	1	0
Any Class A drug [c]	**3**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**4**
Used any drug in the last year	**10**	**12**	**13**	**19**	**18**
Bases	*2360*	*4428*	*3319*	*4670*	*4749*

a *Estimates from 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with those of previous years, due to changes in question formatting.*

b *1998 survey asked about Glue or Solvents only, Gas was added as a separate category in 1999, and from 2000 questions were asked about Glue, Gas, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.*

c *See Chapter 1, Section 1.5 for a definition of Class A drugs.*

Table 8.16

Whether pupils had taken individual drugs in the last year: 1998-2002 [a]

All pupils *1998-2002*

Type of drug	Year				
	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 %
Cannabis	10	11	12	13	13
Any stimulants	**3**	**3**	**4**	**6**	**6**
Cocaine	1	1	1	1	1
Crack	0	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	1	1	1	2	1
Amphetamines	2	1	1	1	1
Poppers	1	21	2	3	4
Any psychedelics	**1**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**
LSD	1	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	1	1	1	2	1
Any opiates	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0
Gas/Glue [b]	1	3	3	7	6
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	0
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	0	1	1	0
Any Class A drug [c]	**3**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**4**
Used any drug in the last year	**11**	**12**	**14**	**20**	**20**
Bases	*4647*	*9053*	*6862*	*9357*	*9830*

a *Estimates from 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with those of previous years, due to changes in question formatting.*

b *1998 survey asked about Glue or Solvents only, Gas was added as a separate category in 1999, and from 2000 questions were asked about Glue, Gas, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.*

c *See Chapter 1, Section 1.5 for a definition of Class A drugs.*

Table 8.17

Types of drugs taken in the last year, by sex and age

All taken drugs in the last year *2002*

Type of drugs taken in last year	Age				
	11-12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Boys					
Only taken cannabis	24	36	45	44	40
Only sniffed VS	50	31	13	5	18
Only taken one Class A drug	3	4	2	1	2
Only taken one other drug	2	4	4	4	4
Taken two or more drugs including at least one Class A drug [a]	12	11	19	22	18
Taken two or more drugs, but no Class A drugs [a]	9	14	16	23	18
Taken only one type of drug	79	75	64	55	64
Taken two or more types of drug	21	25	36	45	36
Girls					
Only taken cannabis	11	25	40	45	35
Only sniffed VS	63	35	12	5	20
Only taken one Class A drug [a]	-	5	4	1	3
Only taken one other drug	5	4	5	5	5
Taken two or more drugs including at least one Class A drug [a]	12	16	20	24	20
Taken two or more drugs, but no Class A drugs [a]	10	15	19	20	18
Taken only one type of drug	79	69	61	56	63
Taken two or more types of drug	21	31	39	44	37
Total					
Only taken cannabis	19	31	43	44	38
Only sniffed VS	56	33	13	5	19
Only taken one Class A drug [a]	2	5	3	1	2
Only taken one other drug	3	4	4	5	4
Taken two or more drugs including at least one Class A drug [a]	12	13	20	23	19
Taken two or more drugs, but no Class A drugs [a]	9	15	18	22	18
Taken only one type of drug	79	72	63	56	64
Taken two or more types of drug	21	28	37	44	36
Bases					
Boys	*150*	*161*	*268*	*426*	*1005*
Girls	*104*	*141*	*227*	*389*	*811*
Total	*254*	*302*	*495*	*765*	*1816*

a See Chapter 1, Section 1.5 for a definition of Class A drugs.

9 Health education and school policies

Sarah Blenkinsop

9.1 Introduction

Questions about the content of health education lessons in the last 12 months were first asked in the 1986 and 1988 surveys. Such questions were not included in the 1990 or 1992 surveys, but were reintroduced in 1994 and have been included in every survey since. The 2002 survey asked about lessons on drug use, smoking and drinking, although other survey years have covered a wider range of health-related issues.[1] Specifically, pupils were asked whether they remembered having health education lessons in the last 12 months for each of the following seven topics:

- Smoking;
- Alcohol;
- Heroin;
- Crack/cocaine;
- Solvent abuse/glue sniffing;
- Ecstasy;
- Drugs in general.

It should be borne in mind that pupils completed questionnaires in the autumn term, thus responses in relation to lessons received in the last 12 months would relate mainly to the previous school year, and to primary school in the case of most Year 7 pupils. For this reason, school year rather than age is used for analyses reported in this section.

9.2 Health education lessons in the last year

The proportion of pupils who remembered having lessons on smoking has fluctuated over the years; the proportion increased from 42% in 1986 to a peak of 78% in 1998, decreased to 63% in 1999, and has remained relatively stable since then (in 2002, 65% of pupils remembered having lessons on smoking).

Recall of lessons on alcohol increased from 36% in 1988 to a peak of 66% in 1998, then decreased to 56% in 1999 and has remained around that level since then (in 2002, 57% of pupils remembered having lessons on alcohol).

The proportion of pupils who remembered having lessons on drugs in general (as opposed to lessons about specific drugs) increased from 38% in 1988 to 66% in 1998, and has remained around this level since then (in 2002, 62% of pupils remembered having lessons on drugs in general).

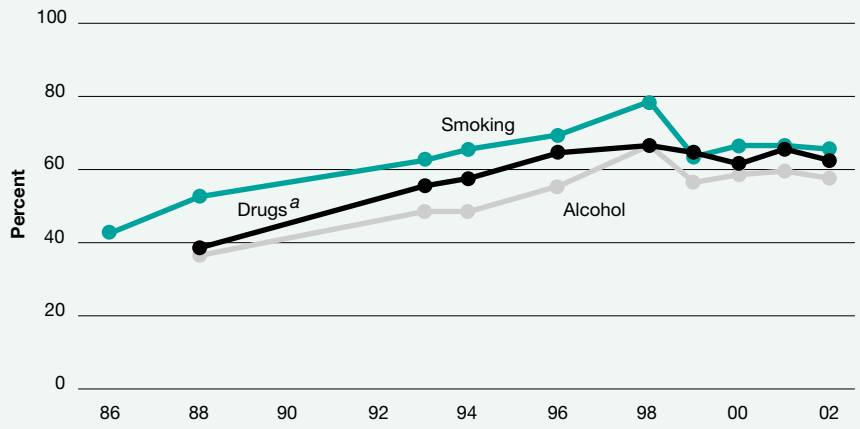
In addition to being asked about lessons on drugs in general, since 1996 pupils have been asked whether they remembered having lessons covering specific drugs. In 2002, lessons about solvents, crack/cocaine, heroin and ecstasy were remembered by almost a third of pupils.

(Table 9.1, Figure 9.1)

Figure 9.1

Proportion of pupils who remembered receiving health education on various topics: 1986-2002

All pupils



a Drugs lessons relate to recall of "drugs in general"

There were negligible differences between boys' and girls' recall of lessons on the topics listed. However, recall of lessons on specific drugs increased as pupils progressed through secondary school, which could be because it is likely for older pupils to receive more lessons on specific drugs than younger pupils. In Year 7, lessons on drugs in general, smoking and alcohol were all recalled by close to one half of pupils. These proportions rose in the next two year groups. By Year 9 around 70% of pupils were reporting lessons on drugs in general or smoking, with slightly fewer (62%) recalling lessons on alcohol. These levels were maintained in Years 10 and 11, though by Year 11 recall of lessons on drugs in general (73%) was a little more common than those on smoking and alcohol (65% and 64% respectively).

(Tables 9.2-9.3)

9.3 The association between health education and behaviour

It could be argued that lessons about smoking, drinking and drug use could either encourage pupils to experiment, or dissuade them from trying cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. In theory, an analysis of prevalence of smoking, drinking and use of drugs by whether pupils remembered having lessons about these particular topics would determine whether there was any support for either of these hypotheses. However, there is the complicating factor of age – older children are more likely to remember having lessons on these topics, and older children are more likely to smoke, drink or use drugs, thus any relationship could be as a result of age differences rather than exposure to topics as part of lessons. This potential confounding effect can be counteracted by examining rates within school year among pupils who remembered having lessons on these topics compared with those who did not remember having lessons.

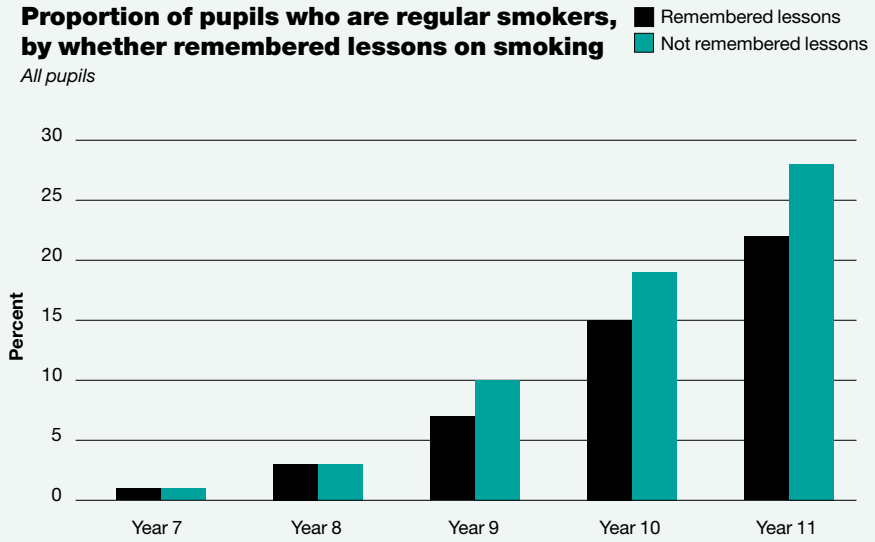
Among year 11 pupils, those who did not remember having lessons about smoking in the last year were more likely than those who did to be regular smokers (28% compared with 22%). There was a similar relationship among year 10 pupils (19% compared with 15%). There were no significant differences for year 7, 8 or year 9 pupils.

(Table 9.4, Figure 9.2)

Figure 9.2

Proportion of pupils who are regular smokers, by whether remembered lessons on smoking

All pupils



There were no significant differences in the proportions of pupils who drank alcohol in the last week between those who did and did not remember lessons about alcohol.

(Table 9.5)

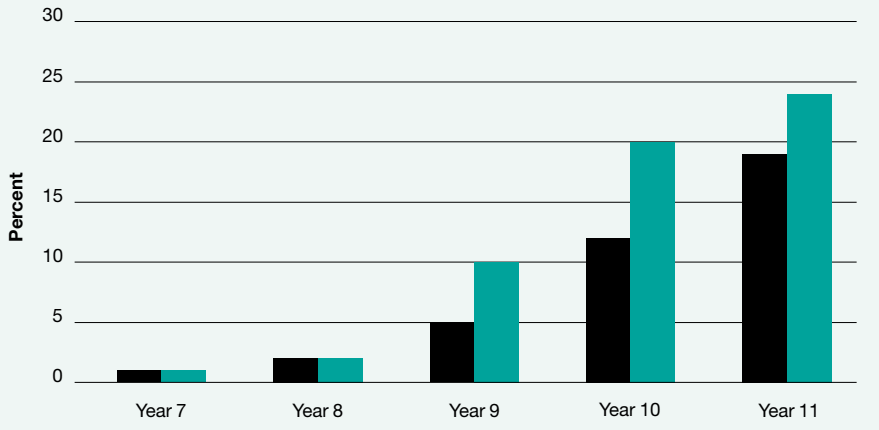
Among year 11 pupils, those who did not remember having lessons about drugs in the last year were more likely than those who did to have taken cannabis in the last month (24% compared with 19%). Similar relationships were found among year 10 pupils (20% compared with 12%) and year 9 pupils (10% and 5%). There were no differences for year 7 or year 8 pupils.

(Table 9.6, Figure 9.3)

Figure 9.3

Proportion of pupils who took cannabis in the last month, by whether remembered lessons on drugs [a]

All pupils



a Lessons on drugs relate to recall of "any mention of drugs"

These results suggest that among older pupils there is a relationship between remembering lessons about smoking and drugs, and whether pupils actually smoke or take drugs, with those who do not remember lessons being more likely to participate in these behaviours. However, it cannot be inferred that lessons lead to lower rates of smoking or drug use. Previous reports have shown that the perceived usefulness of lessons is also related to behaviour.[2] Additionally, pupils who were less likely to be in school through truanting or being excluded were more likely to smoke or take drugs, and as a result of spending less time in school, they may have less chance of having received lessons on smoking or drug use.

9.4 Schools' smoking policies

In each school involved in the survey, a member of staff was asked about the school's smoking policy and the action that would be taken if pupils were found smoking, drinking alcohol or taking illegal drugs on the premises. A question was also asked about action taken should a pupil be clearly under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs in school. Replies were received from 300 out of the 319 schools which took part in the survey.

Smoking policies for adults

The vast majority of schools (93%) had smoking policies of some kind, covering smoking by adults – teaching staff, non-teaching staff and adult visitors. Responsibility for deciding the smoking policy of the school usually lay with governors (75%), headteachers (59%) and to a lesser extent the Local Education Authority (27%). Parents (7%) and pupils (6%) were very unlikely to decide smoking policies.

(Table 9.7)

Among schools with policies, two-fifths (40%) did not allow adults to smoke on school premises (compared with 35% in 2001), although half allowed smoking by adults in certain areas inside the school building (normally in designated rooms). In 87% of schools with smoking policies, smoking by adults was prohibited in front of pupils at any time in school hours (compared with 78% in 2001) and 79% reported that the smoking policy applied at all times, not just during school hours.

(Table 9.8)

Smoking, drinking and drug use policies for pupils

The most common action that would be taken by schools if pupils were found smoking, drinking, taking drugs or under the influence of alcohol or drugs would be to send a letter home. This action would be taken by between 85% and 94% of schools in each of these circumstances. Other actions that would be taken varied depending on what pupils had been found doing.

Schools tended to be more lenient if pupils were found smoking than if they were found drinking or taking drugs. Seventy-one per cent of schools would give the pupil a verbal or written warning if they were found smoking on school premises and 61% would put a note on the pupil's record. Far fewer schools would refer pupils to a counsellor (17%) or exclude repeat offenders (37%). A fifth of schools (20%) spontaneously said they would give the pupil a detention (this was not included in the options listed for schools to tick).

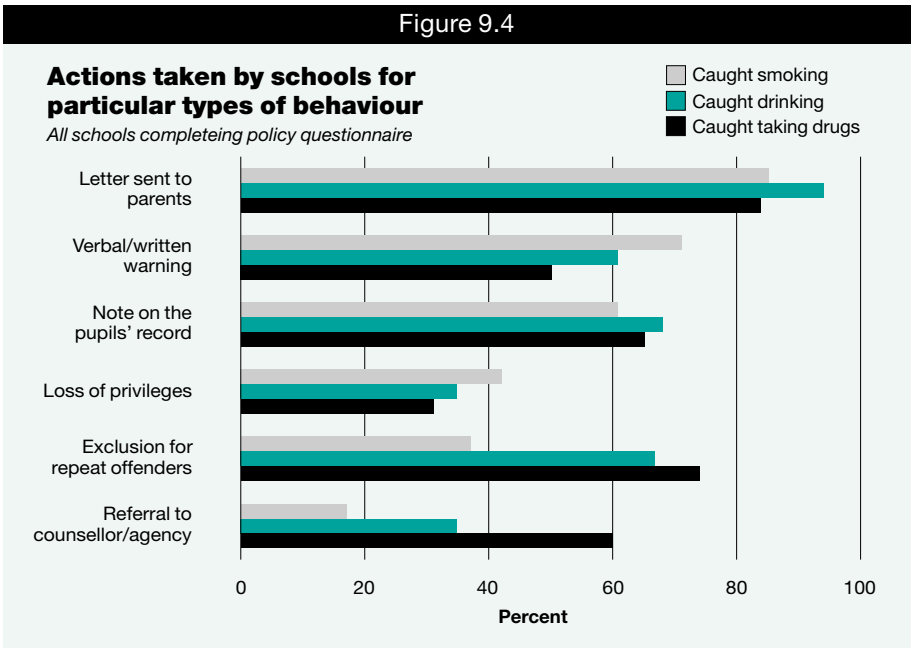
If pupils were found drinking alcohol on school premises, a note on the pupil's record (68%) or a verbal/written warning (61%) would be the most prevalent actions (other than a letter home to parents), which are similar proportions as schools taking these actions if pupils were found smoking. In contrast to smoking however, pupils found drinking repeatedly would be more likely to be referred to a counsellor (35%) or excluded (67%).

Actions taken by schools who were found taking drugs on school premises would be more severe. Three-quarters of schools (76%) would consider excluding repeat offenders, which is much higher than for pupils found smoking (37%) and slightly higher than for pupils found drinking (67%). Sixty-one per cent would refer pupils to a counsellor, which is a much higher proportion than if they had been found smoking (17%) or drinking alcohol (35%). Two-thirds (67%) of schools would put a note on a pupil's record if they were caught taking drugs. Ten per cent of schools could contact the police. Although half of schools (51%) would give a verbal/written warning, this is lower than for pupils caught smoking or drinking (which is most likely to be because more severe actions are taken).

Action taken against pupils who were clearly under the influence of drink or drugs (but who were not caught taking either) most closely reflected actions taken if pupils were caught taking drugs, although the proportions of schools that would refer pupils to a counsellor (51%) or exclude repeat offenders (59%) was lower.

(Table 9.9, Figure 9.4)

Figure 9.4



Notes and References

1 When the questions were first asked in 1986, smoking was asked as a separate category, but drugs in general and alcohol were asked as a combined category. Drugs in general and alcohol were split into separate categories from 1988 onwards.

2 Blenkinsop S, Shaw A. *Awareness and knowledge of drugs* in Boreham R, Shaw A (2002) *Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England in 2001*, London: TSO.

Table 9.1

Proportion of pupils who remembered receiving health education on various topics in last year: 1986-2002

All pupils *1986-2002*

Health education lessons	Year									
	1986 %	1988 %	1993 %	1994 %	1996 %	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 %
Drugs:										
Any mention of drugs	*a*	*a*	*a*	*a*	**67**	**71**	**66**	**64**	**66**	**66**
Heroin	*a*	*a*	*a*	*a*	36	36	35	27	35	31
Crack/cocaine	*a*	*a*	*a*	*a*	34	34	34	26	36	31
Ecstasy	*a*	*a*	*a*	*a*	41	37	34	25	35	31
Solvent abuse/glue sniffing	*a*	*a*	*a*	33	41	43	40	33	37	30
Drugs in general	35*b*	38	55	57	64	66	64	61	65	62
Smoking	42	52	62	65	69	78	63	66	66	65
Alcohol	35*b*	36	48	48	55	66	56	58	59	57
Bases	*3189*	*2759*	*2971*	*2971*	*2705*	*4328*	*9023*	*6986*	*9225*	*9684*

a Specific drugs topics were not asked about between 1986 and 1994, solvent abuse was introduced in 1996, and a more detailed list of drugs was used from 1998 onwards.

b Drugs and alcohol was a combined answer category in 1986.

Table 9.2

Recall of health education lessons in the last year, by sex

All pupils *2002*

Recall of health education lessons	Sex		
	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Drugs:			
Any mention of drugs	**66**	**66**	**66**
Heroin	30	32	31
Crack/cocaine	30	31	31
Ecstasy	30	31	31
Solvent abuse/glue sniffing	31	29	30
Drugs in general	61	62	62
Smoking	63	66	65
Alcohol	56	58	57
Bases	*4988*	*4696*	*9684*

Table 9.3

Recall of health education lessons in the last year, by pupil's current school year[a]

All pupils *2002*

Recall of health education lessons	Current school year					
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Drugs:						
Any mention of drugs	**52**	**58**	**71**	**76**	**75**	**66**
Heroin	20	20	34	41	41	31
Crack/cocaine	21	21	34	40	39	31
Ecstasy	15	19	34	44	45	31
Solvent abuse/glue sniffing	24	22	33	39	36	30
Drugs in general	47	53	67	72	73	62
Smoking	54	63	72	71	65	65
Alcohol	45	48	62	66	64	57
Bases	*2087*	*1986*	*1947*	*1913*	*1751*	*9684*

a Breakdown is by school year rather than age, as it refers to school lessons.

Table 9.4

Proportion of pupils who are regular smokers, by whether remembered having lessons on smoking in the last year and school year

All pupils *2002*

School year	Remembered lessons about smoking		
	Yes	No	Total
	% regular smokers		
Year 7	1	1	1
Year 8	3	3	3
Year 9	7	10	8
Year 10	15	19	16
Year 11	22	28	25
Total	10	10	10
Bases			
Year 7	*1119*	*805*	*2125*
Year 8	*1241*	*544*	*2012*
Year 9	*1389*	*387*	*1964*
Year 10	*1345*	*389*	*1922*
Year 11	*1132*	*437*	*1773*
Total	*6226*	*2562*	*9796*

Table 9.5

Proportion of pupils who drank in last week, by whether remembered having lessons on alcohol in the last year and school year

All pupils *2002*

School year	Remembered lessons about alcohol		
	Yes	No	Total
	% drank last week		
Year 7	6	5	6
Year 8	15	12	13
Year 9	22	22	22
Year 10	36	35	36
Year 11	51	46	49
Total	27	20	24
Bases			
Year 7	*893*	*904*	*2056*
Year 8	*937*	*762*	*1974*
Year 9	*1200*	*503*	*1948*
Year 10	*1244*	*443*	*1899*
Year 11	*1104*	*445*	*1753*
Total	*5378*	*3057*	*9630*

Table 9.6

Proportion of pupils who took cannabis in last month, by whether remembered having lessons on drugs (any mention) in the last year and school year

All pupils *2002*

School year	Remembered lessons about drugs		
	Yes	No	Total
	% took cannabis last month		
Year 7	1	1	1
Year 8	2	2	2
Year 9	5	10	6
Year 10	12	20	14
Year 11	19	24	21
Total	8	8	8
Bases			
Year 7	*970*	*850*	*2096*
Year 8	*1041*	*642*	*1987*
Year 9	*1288*	*433*	*1956*
Year 10	*1375*	*355*	*1924*
Year 11	*1265*	*328*	*1766*
Total	*5939*	*2608*	*9729*

Table 9.7

Who decides schools smoking policy for adults: 2001-2002

All schools with a smoking policy for adults	*2001-2002*	
Who decides smoking policy [a]		
	2001 %	2002 %
School Governors	70	75
Head Teacher	64	59
Local Education Authority	25	27
Parents	7	7
Pupils	5	6
Other	18	15
Don't know	2	2
Bases	*260*	*279*

a *This was a multiple response question which allowed schools to tick all that applied in a predefined list of categories.*

Table 9.8

Schools smoking policy for adults: 2001-2002

All schools with a smoking policy for adults	*2001-2002*	
Smoking policy for adults [a]		
	2001 %	2002 %
Smoking prohibited anywhere on school premises	35	40
Smoking prohibited anywhere inside school buildings	10	8
Smoking prohibited inside school buildings except certain areas	55	51
Smoking permitted in smoking rooms	38	30
Smoking permitted in private offices	7	6
Smoking permitted in teachers staffrooms	6	4
Smoking prohibited in front of pupils	78	87
Smoking policy applies outside school hours	76	79
Bases	*261*	*279*

a *This was a multiple response question which allowed schools to tick all that applied in a predefined list of categories. There was no scope in the question for schools to list other smoking areas inside the school building.*

Table 9.9

Actions taken by schools for particular types of behaviour by pupils

All schools completing policy questionnaire *2002*

Action taken	Behaviour			
	Pupils smoking %	Pupils drinking %	Pupils taking drugs %	Pupils under influence of drugs or alcohol %
Prompted answers				
Verbal/written warning	71	61	51	54
Note on the pupils' record	61	68	67	62
Letter sent to parents	85	94	86	92
Fine	1	-	0	0
Referral to counsellor/agency	17	35	61	51
Loss of privileges	42	35	32	28
Exclusion for repeat offenders	37	67	76	59
Spontaneous answers				
Detention	20	6	1	1
Temporary Exclusion	5	10	14	10
Permanent Exclusion	-	-	6	1
Police contacted	-	1	10	4
Other	3	6	6	13
Bases	*300*	*300*	*299*	*298*

10 Relationships between use of cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis, volatile substances and Class A drugs

Richard Boreham

10.1 Introduction

Previous chapters in this report have looked at the individual patterns of use of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs. This chapter investigates the relationships between use of these substances. Rather than comparing smoking and drinking with use of any drugs, comparisons are made separately with cannabis, volatile substances and Class A drugs.

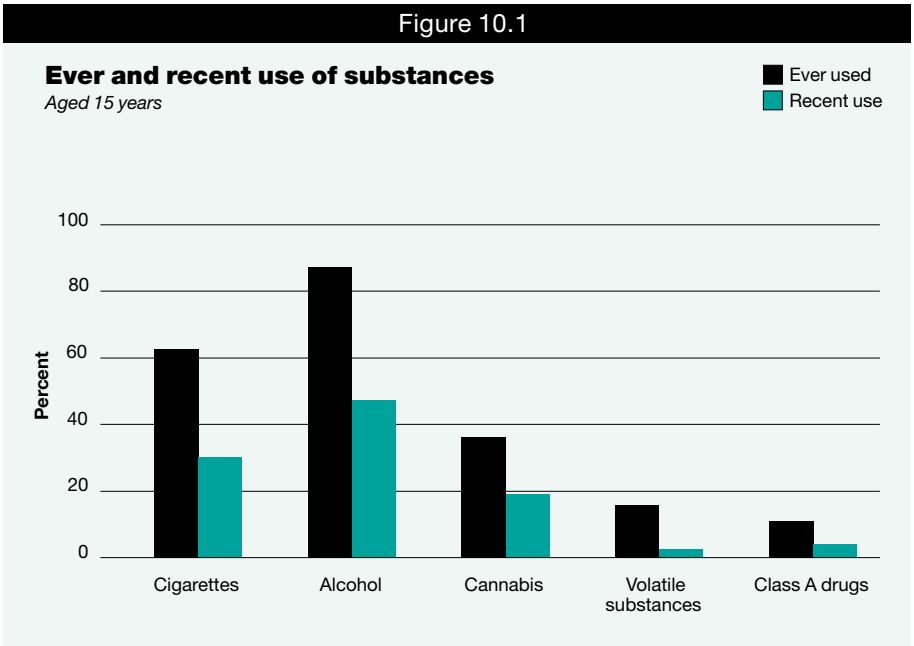
10.2 Ever used and recent use of substances

There are different levels of use of different substances. For example among 15 year olds, 87% have ever drunk alcohol, 63% have ever smoked cigarettes, 36% have ever taken cannabis, 16% have ever taken volatile substances and 11% have ever taken Class A drugs.

It should be noted that of those who have ever used a substance, the proportion who have done so recently differs for different substances. Around half of those who had ever taken cigarettes, alcohol or cannabis had done so recently (in the last week for cigarettes or alcohol and in the last month for cannabis). In contrast around a third of those who had ever taken Class A drugs had done so in the last month, while a sixth of those who had ever taken volatile substances had taken them in the last month. Thus relationships between use of different substances may differ depending on which definition (ever used or recent use) is used.

(Tables 10.1, 10.2, Figure 10.1)

Figure 10.1



There are also different patterns of use among different age groups. Use of cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis and Class A drugs all increased with age for both 'ever used' and 'recent use' definitions. However, prevalence of use of volatile substances in the last month did not increase with age. Prevalence of having ever taken volatile substances did increase with age, but not to the same extent as other substances.

(Tables 10.1, 10.2)

10.3 Correlations between having ever taken substances

Correlation is a statistical technique that makes it possible to compare the strengths of different relationships between behaviours, even if these behaviours have different levels of prevalence (see Appendix B). It is not possible to determine the causality of relationships using correlational techniques.

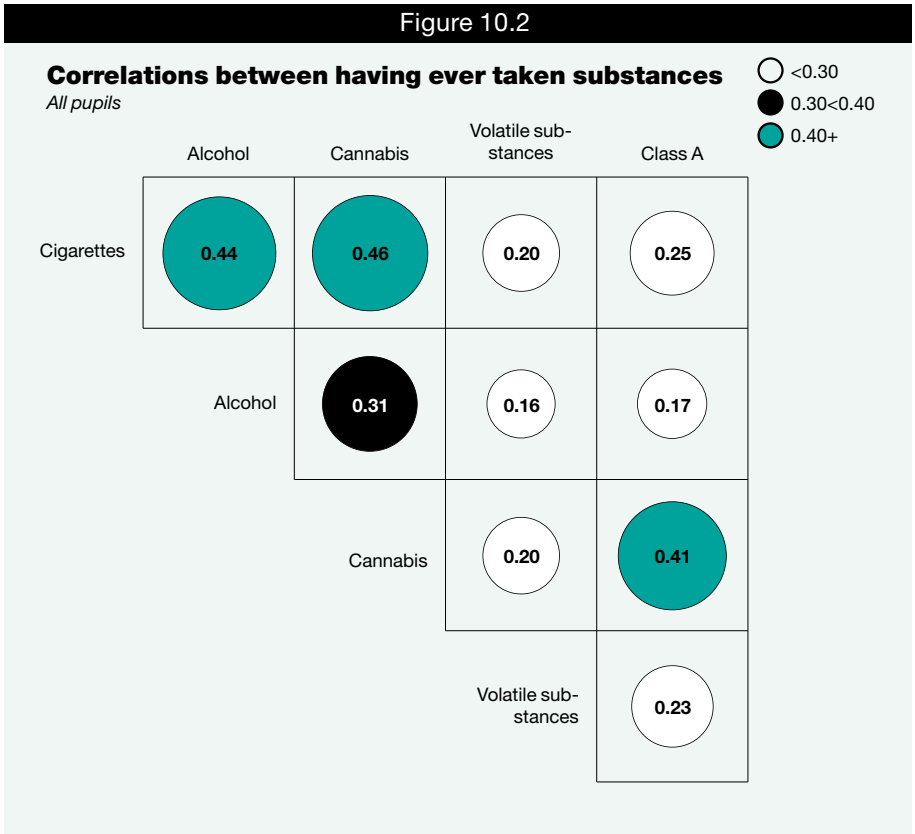
Figure 10.2 shows the correlation co-efficients between each pair of substances. The area of the circle denotes the correlation between having ever used pairs of substances, with a higher correlation denoting a stronger relationship. Correlations above 0.3 and below 0.4 are coloured black, while correlations above 0.4 (the strongest relationships) are coloured green.

All the correlations were statistically significant, thus pupils who had ever taken one of these substances were more likely than pupils who had not to have taken all the other substances. There were positive associations between use of each of these substances, but some relationships were stronger than others.

The strongest relationships for ever using substances were seen between cigarettes and alcohol; cigarettes and cannabis and between cannabis and Class A drugs, although this does not imply that smoking, drinking or taking cannabis leads to use of Class A drugs. There was a slightly less strong relationship between ever having drunk alcohol and ever having taken cannabis. The weakest relationships were between use of volatile substances and all the other substances, and between alcohol and Class A drugs

(Figure 10.2)

Figure 10.2



The pattern of relationships between use of the different substances was similar for boys and girls and for all age groups (figures not shown).

10.4 Correlations between having recently taken substances

Among pupils who have ever used each substance, there was considerable variation in recent use. Therefore it might be expected that correlations of recent use may be different from ever use.

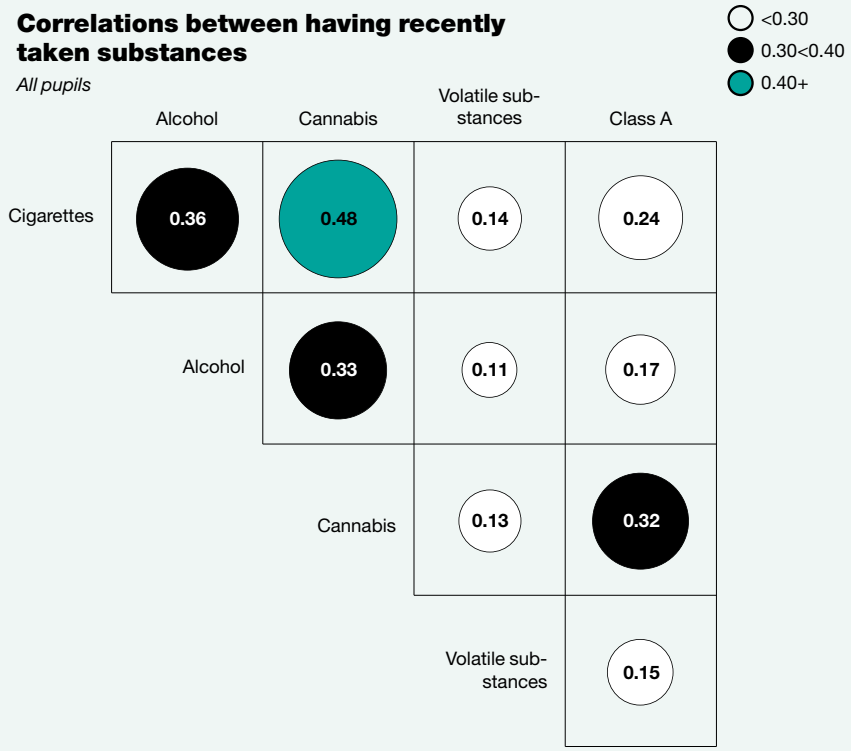
The pattern of strengths of relationships for recent use was similar to patterns for ever having used.

(Figure 10.3)

Figure 10.3

Correlations between having recently taken substances

All pupils



The pattern of relationships between use of the different substances was similar for boys and girls and for all age groups (figures not shown).

10.5 Age of first use of Class A drugs relative to other substances

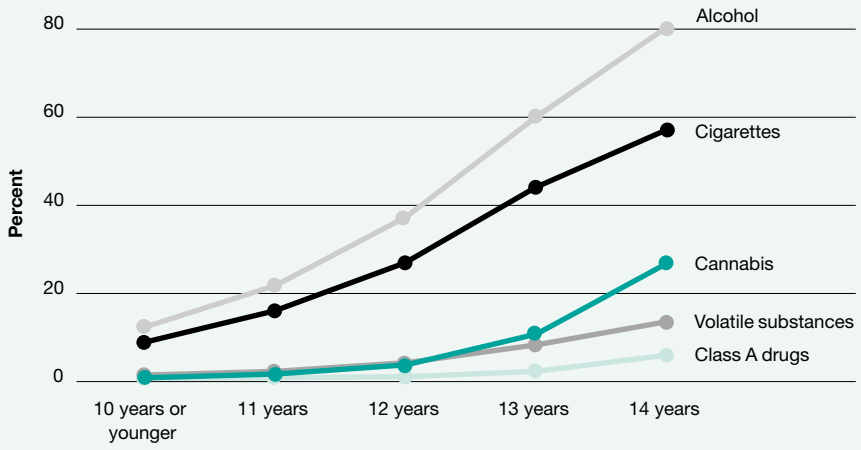
Pupils were asked the age at which they first took or tried each of the substances. Alcohol was the most widely tried substance, 12% of 15 year olds had tried alcohol aged 10 or younger and 80% had tried alcohol by age 14. Among 15 year olds, 9% had tried cigarettes by age 10 and 57% by age 14, for cannabis the equivalent percentages were less than 0.5% and 26%. Pupils aged 15 were least likely to have tried volatile substances or Class A drugs – by age 14, 13% had tried volatile substances and 6% had tried Class A drugs.

(Table 10.3, Figure 10.4)

Figure 10.4

Proportion of 15 year olds who had taken substances by each age

All 15 year olds



It is possible to determine whether pupils had tried other substances before they had taken Class A drugs.[1] As prevalence of taking Class A drugs was very low among all ages, this analysis is restricted to the oldest age group, those aged 15 years. If pupils generally take other substances before they take Class A drugs (including having taken a substance, but not taken Class A drugs), then it is valid to consider those substances as predictors of Class A drug use. If a substantial proportion of pupils tend to take a substance for the first time after trying Class A drugs then that substance cannot be considered to be a predictor. Again it should be noted that if use of a substance predicts use of Class A drugs, it does not imply that use of the substance leads to Class A use, but it does help identify potential groups of pupils who are more likely to take Class A drugs.

Among 15 year olds who had tried Class A drugs or tried cigarettes or tried both, 83% had smoked cigarettes but never taken Class A drugs and a further 15% had smoked cigarettes before they had first tried Class A drugs. Less than 0.5% had taken Class A drugs and never smoked cigarettes and 1% had taken Class A drugs before smoking cigarettes. Thus cigarette smoking is a valid predictor of use of Class A drugs. The relationship between drinking alcohol and use of Class A drugs was similar, and thus drinking alcohol can also be considered to be a predictor.

Among 15 year olds who had tried Class A drugs or tried cannabis or tried both, 72% had never taken Class A drugs (but had taken cannabis) and a further 17% had taken cannabis before they had first tried Class A drugs. Thus taking cannabis is also a valid predictor of use of Class A drugs, but it does not imply that taking cannabis leads to Class A drug use.

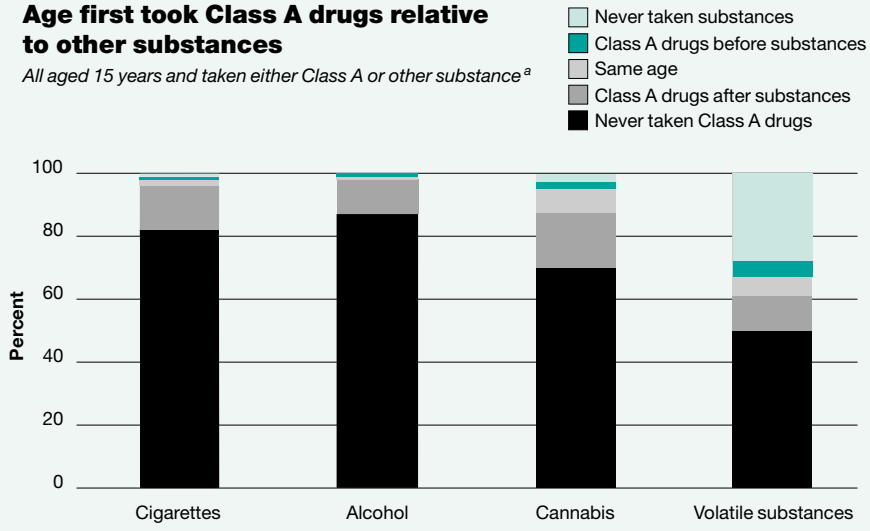
There was a different relationship between sniffing volatile substances and taking Class A drugs. Among 15 year olds who had tried Class A drugs or sniffed volatile substances or tried both, 52% had never taken Class A drugs (but had sniffed volatile substances) and a further 11% had sniffed volatile substances at an earlier age than they had first tried Class A drugs. However, 26% had tried Class A drugs and not sniffed volatile substances, and a further 5% had taken Class A drugs at an earlier age than they had first sniffed volatile substance. Thus given that in almost a third of cases Class A drugs were taken before pupils had sniffed volatile substances it is probably not valid to consider volatile substances as a predictor of use of Class A drugs.

(Table 10.4, Figure 10.5)

Figure 10.5

Age first took Class A drugs relative to other substances

All aged 15 years and taken either Class A or other substance [a]



a The base for cigarettes is those who have tried either cigarettes or Class A drugs, similarly for alcohol, cannabis and volatile substances.

10.6 Relationship between ever taking Class A drugs and age of first use of other substances

The previous sections have established that there was a relationship between taking Class A drugs and cigarettes, alcohol or cannabis, and that these substances could be considered predictors for Class A drug use, as they were generally taken at an earlier age than Class A drugs. This last section examines whether an early onset of cigarette, alcohol or cannabis use was a greater risk for Class A drug use than an later onset. This is achieved by restricting the analysis to 15 year olds, measuring whether they had taken Class A drugs before they were 15, and analysing this by the age that they first tried other substances (if they had ever tried them).

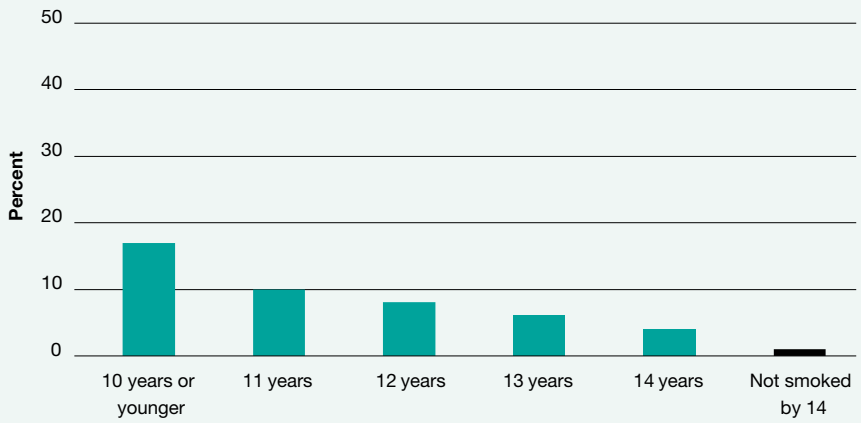
Pupils aged 15 years who had started smoking at an early age were more likely than those who started at a later age to have taken Class A drugs (17% of 15 year olds who had first smoked aged 10 or younger had taken Class A drugs by age 14, compared with 4% who had first smoked aged 14). 15 year olds who had not smoked before 15 were the least likely to have taken Class A drugs (1%).

(Table 10.5, Figure 10.6)

Figure 10.6

Whether 15 year olds had taken Class A drugs by age 14, by age first smoked

Aged 15 years



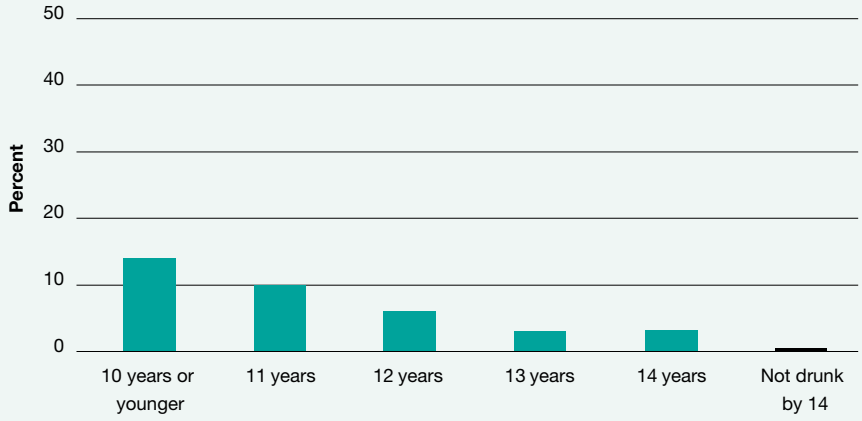
There was a similar pattern between the age pupils first drank and taking Class A drugs, although the relationship was not quite as strong as for smoking. Fourteen per cent of 15 year olds who had drunk alcohol aged 10 or younger had taken Class A drugs, compared with 3% who had first drunk aged 14 and less than half a percent of those who had not drunk by 15.

(Table 10.6, Figure 10.7)

Figure 10.7

Whether 15 year olds had taken Class A drugs by age 14, by age first drank

Aged 15 years



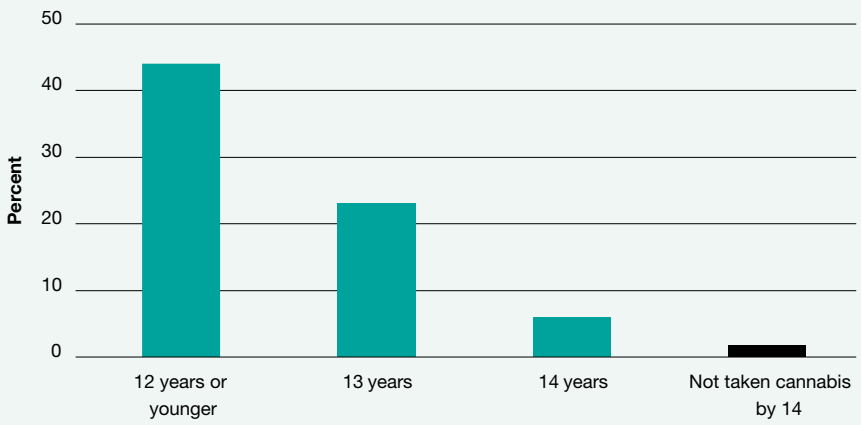
Early use of cannabis was a much stronger predictor for in use of Class A drugs than early use of cigarettes or alcohol. Forty-four per cent of 15 year olds who had taken cannabis aged 12 or younger had also taken Class A drugs by the age of 14, compared with 6% of those who had first taken cannabis aged 14, and 2% of those who had not taken cannabis before 15. It should be noted that early use of cannabis does not imply that pupils will therefore take Class A drugs as for example 56% of those who had taken cannabis aged 12 or younger had not taken Class A drugs by the age of 14. There are factors involved which influence whether pupils take cannabis and Class A drugs such as socio-economic, cultural and peer group factors.

(Table 10.7, Figure 10.8)

Figure 10.8

Whether 15 year olds had taken Class A drugs by age 14, by age taken cannabis

Aged 15 years



Among 15 year olds, there was no relationship between age of first use of volatile substances and Class A drug use by age 14, although those who had ever taken volatile substances were more likely than those who had not to have also taken Class A drugs.

(Table 10.8)

Notes and References

1 If pupils had first taken Class A drugs at a different age to another substance they could be classified as having taken Class A either before or after that substance. Pupils who had not taken either a Class A drug or the other substance were excluded from the analysis.

Table 10.1

Ever used cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis, volatile substances or Class A drugs, by age

All pupils *2002*

Ever used substances	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cigarettes	16	27	42	55	63	41
Alcohol	26	43	63	80	87	61
Cannabis	1	3	10	23	36	16
Volatile substances	9	11	15	16	16	14
Class A drugs	1	2	4	8	11	5
Bases	*1723*	*2046*	*2004*	*1928*	*2158*	*9859*

Table 10.2

Recently used cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis, volatile substances or Class A drugs, by age

All pupils *2002*

Recent use of substances	Age					
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cigarettes (last week)	4	6	12	23	30	16
Alcohol (last week)	5	11	20	34	47	24
Cannabis (last month)	1	2	5	14	19	8
Volatile substances (last month)	2	2	3	3	3	3
Class A drugs (last month)	0	1	1	3	4	2
Bases	*1723*	*2046*	*2004*	*1928*	*2158*	*9859*

Table 10.3

Proportion of 15 year olds who had taken substances by each age

All aged 15 years *2002*

Cumulative proportions taken substance by each age	Substances				
	Cigarettes	Alcohol	Volatile substances	Cannabis	Class A drugs
	%	%	%	%	%
10 years or younger	9	12	1	0	0
11 years	16	21	2	1	0
12 years	27	37	4	3	1
13 years	44	60	8	10	2
14 years	57	80	13	26	6
Bases	*2126*	*2140*	*2146*	*2149*	*2150*

Table 10.4

Whether 15 year olds had taken Class A drugs before, at the same age, or after other substances

All 15 year olds who had taken Class A or other substance [a] *2002*

Taken Class A drugs before or after other substance	Other substance taken			
	Cigarettes %	Alcohol %	Cannabis %	Volatile substances %
Never taken Class A drugs	83	87	72	52
Class A drugs after substance	15	12	17	11
Same age	2	0	6	6
Class A drugs before substance	1	1	2	5
Taken Class A drugs, but never taken substance	0	0	3	26
Bases	*1274*	*1802*	*754*	*421*

a *The base for cigarettes is those who have tried either cigarettes or Class A drugs, similarly for alcohol, cannabis and volatile substances.*

Table 10.5

Whether 15 year olds had taken Class A drugs by the age of 14, by age first smoked cigarettes

All 15 year olds *2002*

Taken Class A drugs by age 14	Age first smoked cigarettes						
	10 years or younger %	11 years %	12 years %	13 years %	14 years %	Not smoked by age 14 %	Total %
Taken Class A drugs	17	10	8	6	4	1	5
Bases	*182*	*148*	*241*	*368*	*275*	*903*	*2158*

Table 10.6

Whether 15 year olds had taken Class A drugs by the age of 14, by age first drank alcohol

All 15 year olds *2002*

Taken Class A drugs by age 14	Age first drank alcohol						
	10 years or younger %	11 years %	12 years %	13 years %	14 years %	Not smoked by age 14 %	Total %
Taken Class A drugs	14	10	6	3	3	0	5
Bases	*246*	*201*	*334*	*486*	*434*	*429*	*2158*

Table 10.7

Whether 15 year olds had taken Class A drugs by the age of 14, by age first took cannabis

All 15 year olds *2002*

Taken Class A drugs by age 14	Age first took cannabis				
	Not taken 12 years or younger	13 years	14 years	cannabis by age 14	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Taken Class A drugs	44	23	6	2	5
Bases	*72*	*150*	*346*	*1581*	*2158*

Table 10.8

Whether 15 year olds had taken Class A drugs by the age of 14, by age first took volatile substance

All 15 year olds *2002*

Taken Class A drugs by age 14	Age first took volatile substances				
	12 years or younger	13 years	14 years	Not taken volatile substances by age 14	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Taken Class A drugs	12	14	17	4	5
Bases	*81*	*87*	*113*	*1864*	*2158*

11 Ethnic group, receipt of free school meals, truanting and exclusions

Sally McManus

11.1 Introduction

Other studies have shown that smoking and drinking behaviour among adults is related to socio-economic characteristics and other classificatory variables.[1] The primary aim of this survey is to measure prevalence of smoking, drinking and drug taking; however there is also scope for collection of some information about pupils' background. This information allows for limited investigation of the relationships between social classificatory characteristics, such as ethnic group and being in receipt of free school meals, and smoking, drinking and drug taking among pupils. Measures of pupils' behaviour at school, as manifest by truancy and exclusion from school, are also collected to enable their relationships with smoking, drinking and drug taking to be explored.

The measures of smoking, drinking, and drug taking examined in this chapter are the following key survey indicators; being a regular smoker (smoking at least one cigarette in the last week), having taken at least one drug in the last month and the last year, and having drunk alcohol in the last week. Definitions of the classificatory variables used (ethnic group, free school meals, truanting, and exclusions) are described in the relevant sections below.

11.2 Ethnic group

Analysis by ethnic group has been conducted by combining data from the 2001 and 2002 surveys because of the small numbers of pupils in the sample from minority ethnic groups. Ethnicity was measured with a question asking pupils to select one of the following categories that best described their ethnicity; White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese and Other. Due to the small number of pupils describing their ethnicity as Chinese, this group was combined with those answering 'Other'. In order to ensure that any differences found between groups were not due to differences in age profile, the data for each ethnic group has been standardised so that each age year represents 20% of the sample for boys and for girls. Only the age-standardised figures are presented in the charts and referred to in the text in this section, the observed figures can be found in the accompanying tables at the end of the chapter. Standardising for age did not change figures significantly.

Overall, the prevalence of smoking and drinking among White pupils and pupils from Mixed ethnicity groups tended to be similar to each other, and tended to be higher than the prevalence among Asian and Black pupils.

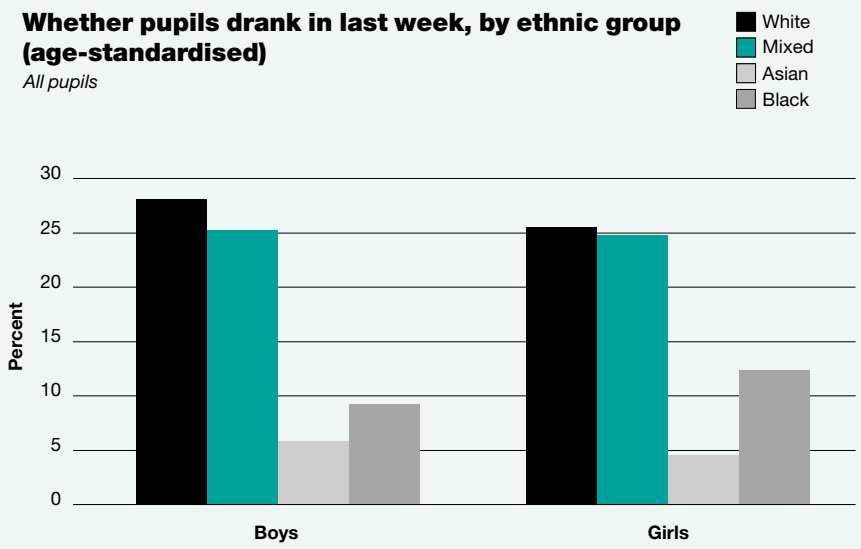
White pupils and pupils from Mixed ethnicity groups were substantially more likely than pupils of the other ethnic groups to have drunk alcohol in the last week. About a quarter of pupils in the White group (28% boys, 26% girls) and pupils from Mixed ethnicity groups (25% boys, 25% girls) reported drinking alcohol in the last week, compared with one in ten Black pupils (9% boys, 12% girls) and one in twenty Asian pupils (6% boys, 5% girls).

(Table 11.1, Figure 11.1)

Figure 11.1

Whether pupils drank in last week, by ethnic group (age-standardised)

All pupils



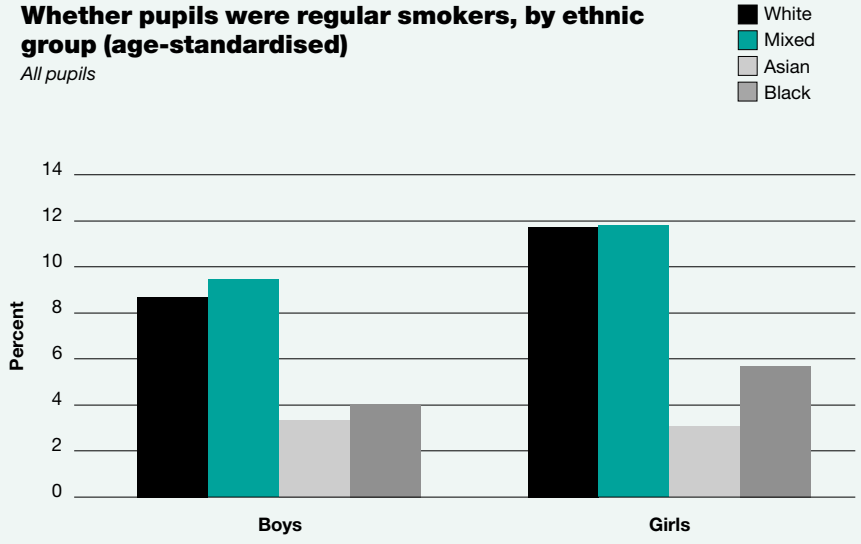
Black and Asian pupils were also less likely than those who were White or pupils from Mixed ethnicity groups to report having smoked a cigarette in the last week, although the differences were smaller than those found for alcohol. About one in ten White pupils and pupils from Mixed ethnicity groups (both 9% boys, 12% girls) were regular smokers, compared with about one in twenty Black pupils (4% boys, 6% girls). Just 3% of boys and girls in the Asian group reported having had a cigarette in the last week.

(Table 11.1, Figure 11.2)

Figure 11.2

Whether pupils were regular smokers, by ethnic group (age-standardised)

All pupils



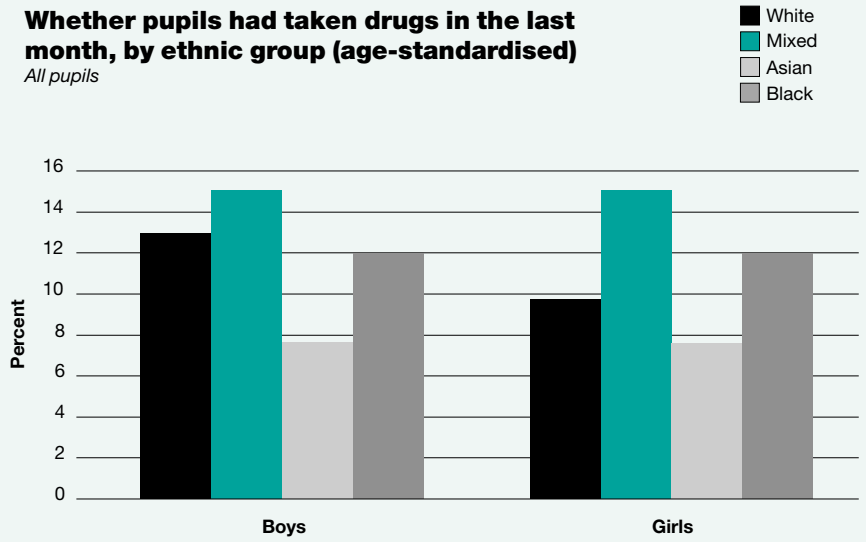
Variation across ethnic group in prevalence of having taken drugs was less pronounced than for alcohol and smoking. Pupils from Mixed ethnicity groups (15% boys, 15% girls) and in the White group (13% boys, 10% girls) were more likely than Asian pupils (8% boys and girls) to have taken drugs in the last month (a pattern also observed with regards drug taking in the last year). Black pupils were not significantly different to those in other ethnic groups, although this was in part be due to small base sizes. Prevalence of drug taking was higher among girls from Mixed ethnicity groups than among White girls; there was no significant difference between these groups in drug taking among boys.

(Table 11.1, Figure 11.3)

Figure 11.3

Whether pupils had taken drugs in the last month, by ethnic group (age-standardised)

All pupils



While White pupils and pupils from Mixed ethnicity groups were substantially more likely to have drunk alcohol in the last week than to have taken drugs in the last month, this pattern was not found among pupils in the Asian and Black groups. Among Asian girls the reverse was true, with the proportion having taken drugs in the last month (8%) being slightly higher than the proportion having drunk alcohol in the last week (5%).

11.3 Receipt of free school meals

Investigating the relationship between socio-economic status (such as social class) and smoking, drinking and drug taking is problematic as pupils are unable to provide sufficient or accurate enough information about their parents' occupation to allow for useful classification. Proxy measures of social class, such as the number of cars owned by pupils' families, have been used in the past, but have also proved unreliable.[2] Being in receipt of free school meals (or vouchers for free school meals) was the one indicator of social disadvantage collected in this survey.[3] One in eight (13%) pupils in the sample reported receiving free school meals.

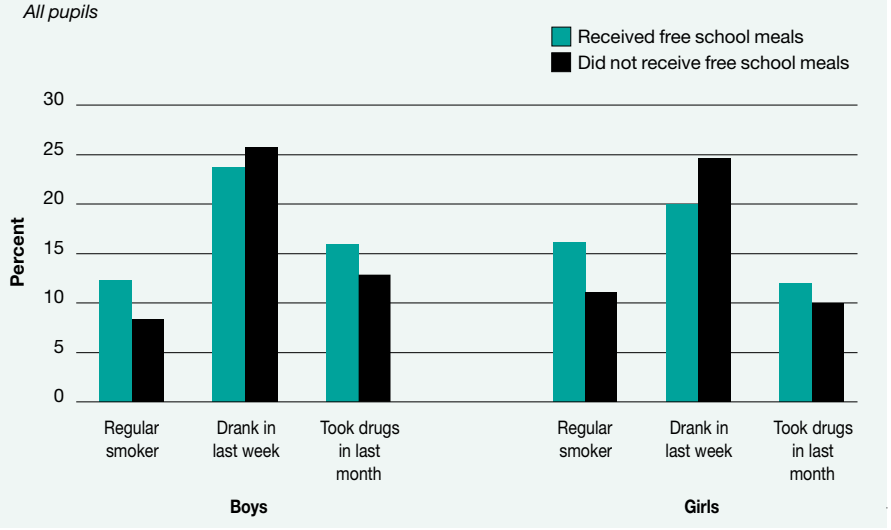
Pupils in receipt of free school meals were more likely to be regular smokers (14% compared with 10%) and to have taken drugs in the last month (14% compared with 11%) than those who were not receiving free school meals. However, pupils who received free school meals were less likely than those who did not to have drunk alcohol in the last week (22% compared with 25%).[4] This relationship between being in receipt of free school meals and reporting smoking, drinking and drug taking is broadly similar to that found in the 2001 survey.

(Table 11.2, Figure 11.4)

Figure 11.4

Whether pupils were regular smokers, drank in last week or took drugs in last month, by receipt of free school meals

All pupils



11.4 Truanting and exclusion from school

Pupils were asked whether they had ever 'stayed away from school without permission (truanted)' or been excluded from school. Recorded levels of truancy and exclusions should be viewed with caution as they are based on self-reported data. Despite a 'mop-up' visit being undertaken if four or more pupils were absent when the survey was first administered, it is likely that regular truants and those excluded from school during the fieldwork period will be underrepresented in the sample. One pupil in six (17%) reported that they had played truant, and one in eleven (9%) had been excluded from school at least once.

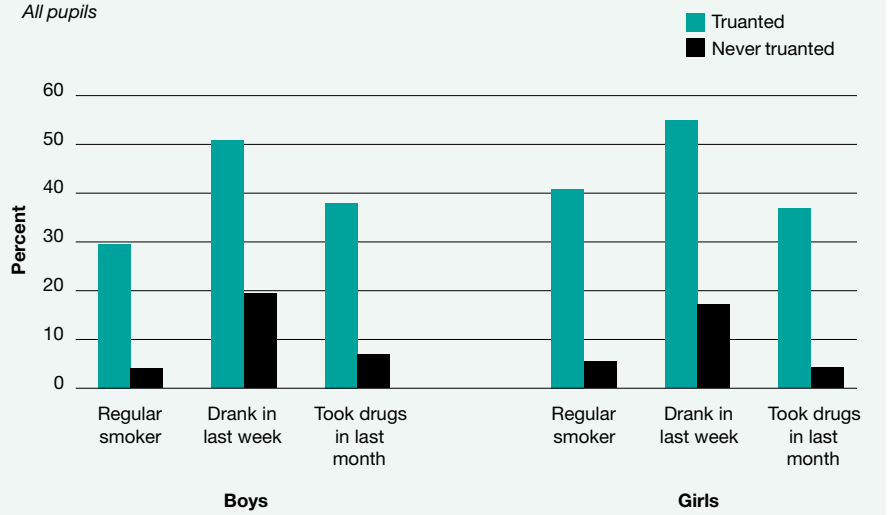
Pupils who have ever played truant were considerably more likely than those who have not done so to be a regular smoker (35% compared with 5%), have drunk alcohol in the last week (53% compared with 18%), and have taken drugs in the last month (38% compared with 6%). This applied to both boys and girls.

(Table 11.3, Figure 11.5)

Figure 11.5

Whether pupils were regular smokers, drank in last week or took drugs in last month, by truanting

All pupils



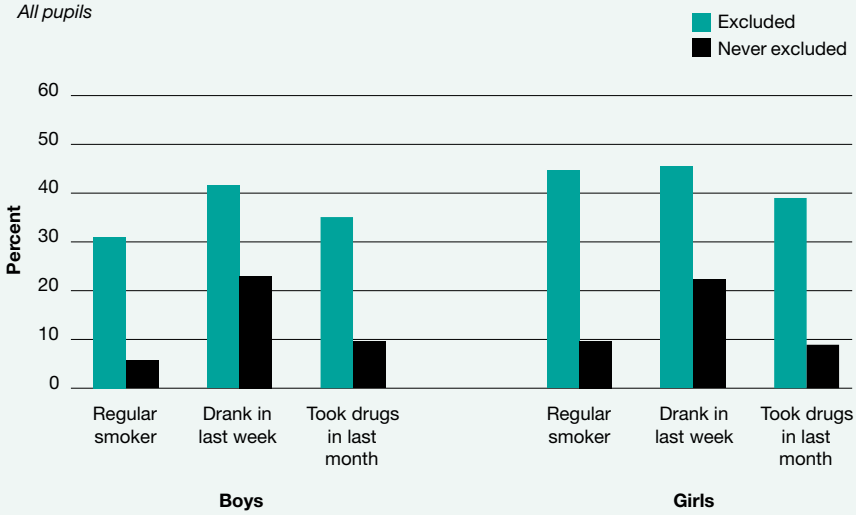
There was a similar relationship for pupils who had ever been excluded from school, with this group being more likely to smoke (35% compared with 8%), drink (43% compared with 23%) and take drugs in the last month (36% compared with 9%) than those who have never been excluded.

(Table 11.4, Figure 11.6)

Figure 11.6

Whether pupils were regular smoker, drank in last week or took drugs in last month, by exclusion

All pupils



Older pupils, however, were more likely to have played truant (and to have been excluded), and were also more likely to have smoked, drunk alcohol or taken drugs, potentially compounding the relationship between truanting and these behaviours. Some of this relationship, therefore, is likely to be due to the effects of age. Previous surveys in this series have shown, however, that even once age differences are taken into account there is still a strong relationship between smoking, drinking and drug use, and truanting and exclusion.[5]

Conclusions about causality can not be drawn from these data because association does not imply causality or indicate the direction of effects. Therefore it is not clear whether playing truant or being excluded makes pupils more likely to smoke, drink or take drugs, or whether those who already smoke, drink, or take drugs are more likely to start playing truant or to be excluded from school.

Notes and References

1 See Erens B, Primatesta P and Prior G (2000) *Health Survey for England: The Health of Minority Ethnic Groups*. London: TSO.

2 For discussion of this see p.31, Goddard E and Higgins V (2000) *Drug use, smoking and drinking among young teenagers in 1999*, London: TSO.

3 In this survey, pupils are asked whether they receive free school meals or vouchers for free school meals, rather than whether they are eligible. Eligibility for free school meals depends on parental income. Some children may be eligible to get free school meals, but the parent and young person are not aware of this fact. Therefore, while it would be most useful to know eligibility, the more reliable measure will be to ask receipt of free school meals.

4 A similar pattern has been observed amongst adults. The Health Survey for England has found that alcohol consumption increased as equivalised household income increased, and that prevalence of smoking is highest in the lowest household income tertile. See Erens B, Primatesta P and Prior G (2000) *Health Survey for England: The Health of Minority Ethnic Groups*, London: TSO.

5 For discussion of this see Blenkinsop S, Chapter 8: Social and educational factors in Boreham R and Shaw A. (2002) *Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England 2001*, London: TSO.

Table 11.1

Whether pupils were regular smokers, drank in the last week, took drugs in the last month or took drugs in the last year, by sex and ethnic group: 2001 and 2002 combined (observed and age-standardised)

All pupils *2001 & 2002 combined*

Regular smoker, drank in last week, took drugs in last month, took drugs in last year	Ethnic group				
	White	Mixed	Asian[a]	Black[b]	Other[c]
	%	%	%	%	%
Boys					
Observed					
Regular smoker	9	9	4	4	6
Drank in last week	29	23	6	10	14
Took drugs in last month	13	14	8	12	12
Took drugs in last year	22	23	14	17	18
Age-standardised					
Regular smoker	9	9	3	4	5
Drank in last week	28	25	6	9	13
Took drugs in last month	13	15	8	12	11
Took drugs in last year	21	25	13	17	17
Girls					
Observed					
Regular smoker	12	10	3	6	13
Drank in last week	26	22	5	13	11
Took drugs in last month	10	13	8	12	10
Took drugs in last year	19	21	13	20	19
Age-standardised					
Regular smoker	12	12	3	6	11
Drank in last week	26	25	5	12	10
Took drugs in last month	10	15	8	12	10
Took drugs in last year	19	23	13	19	18
Total					
Observed					
Regular smoker	11	9	3	5	9
Drank in last week	28	23	6	11	13
Took drugs in last month	12	14	8	12	11
Took drugs in last year	21	22	13	19	18
Age-standardised					
Regular smoker	10	11	3	5	8
Drank in last week	27	25	5	11	11
Took drugs in last month	11	15	8	12	10
Took drugs in last year	20	24	13	18	17
Bases					
Boys	*8161*	*354*	*646*	*309*	*172*
Girls	*7989*	*333*	*543*	*293*	*151*
Total	*16150*	*687*	*1189*	*602*	*323*

a The full category specified on the questionnaire was 'Asian or Asian British'.

b The full category specified on the questionnaire was 'Black or Black British'.

c This includes some pupils who identified themselves as Chinese, as numbers were insufficient for separate analysis.

Table 11.2

Whether pupils were regular smokers, drank in the last week, took drugs in the last month or took drugs in the last year, by sex and receipt of free school meals

All pupils *2002*

Regular smoker, drank in last week, took drugs in last month, took drugs in last year	Receipt of free school meals		
	Yes	No	Total [a]
	%	%	%
Boys			
Regular smoker	12	8	9
Drank in last week	24	26	25
Took drugs in last month	16	13	14
Took drugs in last year	24	21	21
Girls			
Regular smoker	16	11	11
Drank in last week	20	25	23
Took drugs in last month	12	10	10
Took drugs in last year	19	18	18
Total			
Regular smoker	14	10	10
Drank in last week	22	25	24
Took drugs in last month	14	11	12
Took drugs in last year	21	20	20
Bases			
Boys	*669*	*4075*	*5104*
Girls	*632*	*3846*	*4755*
Total	*1301*	*7921*	*9859*

a *The total column includes those who did not answer the question about being in receipt of free school meals, or who answered that they did not know whether they received free school meals or not. This accounts for why the overall proportion of pupils and of girls who took drugs in the last year is smaller than the proportions who have and have not received free school meals.*

Table 11.3

Whether pupils were regular smokers, drank in the last week, took drugs in the last month or took drugs in the last year, by sex and truanting

All pupils *2002*

Regular smoker, drank in last week, took drugs in last month, took drugs in last year	Ever truanted		
	Yes	No	Total [a]
	%	%	%
Boys			
Regular smoker	30	4	9
Drank in last week	51	20	25
Took drugs in last month	38	7	14
Took drugs in last year	54	13	21
Girls			
Regular smoker	41	5	11
Drank in last week	55	17	23
Took drugs in last month	37	4	10
Took drugs in last year	55	10	18
Total			
Regular smoker	35	5	10
Drank in last week	53	18	24
Took drugs in last month	38	6	12
Took drugs in last year	54	12	20
Bases			
Boys	*907*	*3958*	*5104*
Girls	*787*	*3835*	*4755*
Total	*1694*	*7793*	*9859*

a *The total column includes those who did not answer the question about playing truant, or who answered that they did not know whether they had ever played truant or not.*

Table 11.4

Whether pupils were regular smokers, drank in the last week, took drugs in the last month or took drugs in the last year, by sex and exclusion

All pupils *2002*

Regular smoker, drank in last week, took drugs in last month, took drugs in last year	Ever excluded		
	Yes	No	Total [a]
	%	%	%
Boys			
Regular smoker	31	6	9
Drank in last week	42	23	25
Took drugs in last month	35	10	14
Took drugs in last year	49	17	21
Girls			
Regular smoker	45	10	11
Drank in last week	45	22	23
Took drugs in last month	39	9	10
Took drugs in last year	53	16	18
Total			
Regular smoker	35	8	10
Drank in last week	43	23	24
Took drugs in last month	36	9	12
Took drugs in last year	50	17	20
Bases			
Boys	*616*	*4370*	*5104*
Girls	*225*	*4474*	*4755*
Total	*841*	*8844*	*9859*

a *The total column includes those who did not answer the question about playing truant, or who answered that they did not know whether they had ever played truant or not.*

Appendix A Survey design

Sample design

An achieved sample of about 10,000 secondary school children in England was required for the 2002 survey. The target population consisted of pupils in secondary school years 7 to 11 inclusive, or at an equivalent level in middle and upper schools.

The survey covered almost all types of secondary school (comprehensive, secondary modern, grammar and other secondary schools) in both the maintained and non-maintained education sectors. Only special schools (for children with learning disabilities) and hospital special schools (for children spending a period in hospital) were excluded from the survey.

On the basis of previous recent surveys in this series, it was expected that about 70% of schools would co-operate, and that 90% of selected pupils take part in the survey. In line with these assumptions, 447 schools were selected with the aim of selecting an average of 35 pupils per participating school. As in previous years, schools with fewer than 40 pupils in the required age ranges were removed from the sampling frame.

The sample was selected in two stages. At the first stage 447 schools were selected from the NFER database[1] which was first sorted by type of school (comprehensive, secondary modern, grammar and private), whether schools were single sex or mixed, local education authority and then finally by number of eligible pupils (in years 7 to 11 or equivalent). For each school, the probability of selection was proportional to the number of pupils in years 7 to 11 recorded on DfES annual school census data, collected in January 2001. This means that larger schools had a higher chance of inclusion.

At the second stage approximately 35 pupils were selected in each school to give an appropriately sized group for conducting the survey in one place during a single lesson. Clearly, at this stage, each pupil in larger schools had a relatively small chance of being selected. This counter-balances the method of selecting schools to fulfil the criterion that, overall, every pupil had an equal chance of participating.

Probabilities of selection

Given the requirement that each child in the target population should have the same probability of being selected to take part in the survey, the overall probability of selection (or sampling fraction) is the product of the sampling fractions at the first and second stages, i.e.

$$F = f_1 \times f_2$$

where f_1 = probability of selecting the school
f_2 = probability of selecting the pupil.

Schools were sampled with probability proportional to the number of pupils aged 11-15, so that roughly equal numbers of pupils could be sampled from each selected school. Thus:

$$f_1 = n_1 \times \frac{s_i}{S}$$

where n_1 = total number of schools to be selected
s_i = number of pupils in an individual school aged 11-15
S = total number of pupils in England aged 11-15

and $f_2 = \frac{n_2}{s_i}$

where n_2 = number of pupils to be selected from each school

Overall, therefore, for each pupil the sampling fraction is:

$$F = (n_1 \times \frac{s_i}{S}) \times (\frac{n_2}{s_i}) = \frac{n_1 \times n_2}{S}$$

and thus all pupils have an equal chance of selection.

Stratification of the sampling frame

Previous surveys in the series have shown that children's behaviour varies according to the characteristics of the school more than by region, so schools were stratified in England as follows:

1. Into four main school types:
   Comprehensive
   Grammar
   Secondary Modern
   Private

2. Within these types by:
   boys only
   girls only
   mixed

3. In each of the 12 major stratum formed, schools were ordered by local education authority within region.

Table A1 shows the estimated number of schools in each stratum, based on the number of pupils in each strata compared with the total number of pupils in England, and the number of schools actually selected.

(Table A1)

Sampling within selected schools

Sampling fractions at the second stage (i.e. within schools) were calculated by NFER based on information about the number of pupils in years 7 to 11 at each school, collected in the DfES's annual school census of January 2001, to provide a sample of 35 pupils per school. A random start (between 1 and the sampling fraction) was generated for each school. As the actual sampling was carried out in the academic year after the sampling fractions had been generated, the number of selected pupils varied to the extent to which the size of the school had changed in the interim.

Fieldwork procedures

All 447 schools were approached and invited to take part.[2] Schools were sent an initial letter during the Summer term of 2002, explaining that they had been selected to take part in the survey and that they would be contacted by NFER at the start of the Autumn term. Booklets summarising key results from the 2001 survey were enclosed with the letters.

NFER began telephoning schools in the first week of the Autumn term, explaining the survey, asking schools to take part, and requesting that they provide an electronic copy of their registers. NFER continued to contact schools over the next four weeks. After the first three weeks, information about schools that had been successfully contacted were passed to NatCen's interviewers. Information about the remaining schools were issued to interviewers as a second batch, after a further week of contacting. Schools issued to interviewers were classified into five types and the following procedures followed:

Type A	School participating, and electronic register supplied	Systematic sample of pupils taken by NFER and details of the selected pupils were passed back to the school and onto interviewer
Type B	School participating and register supplied but too late for NFER to select the sample centrally	Registers sent to interviewers who used them to take a manual sample of pupils
Type C	School participating, but no register supplied	Interviewers contacted schools and arranged an initial visit to take a manual sample of pupils
Type D	School not contacted/decision about participation not made	Interviewers were passed details of any contact with schools so that they could contact schools face to face to persuade them to take part, then interviewers took a manual sample of pupils
Type E	School refused	Interviewers were passed details of all contact with schools, including any reasons for refusal, so that they could recontact schools face to face to persuade them to change their minds and participate, the interviewers took a manual sample of pupils.

Once a sample of pupils had been selected, schools were given letters for the selected pupils to take home and give to their parents or guardians informing them of the survey. Parents were asked to reply only if they did not want their child to take part.

Interviewers arranged with schools a convenient time to conduct the survey. If four or more pupils were absent on this occasion, interviewers organised one further visit to the school so that these pupils had a second opportunity to take part.

All pupils taking part in the survey gathered together in a classroom for one school period to complete a questionnaire and a seven day retrospective smoking diary, under the supervision of an interviewer. The interviewer gave a brief introduction explaining why the survey was being carried out, and how the questionnaire and diary should be filled in. The questionnaire and smoking diary used are contained in Appendices C and D.

Pupils were not allowed to discuss the questions with each other or look at other pupils' answers. Thus 'exam-like' conditions were sought, though pupils could request and receive help if they did not understand questions. In general, teachers were not present during the completion of questionnaires in order to encourage pupils to give honest answers.

Interviewers stressed that pupils' answers would be completely confidential and that their answers would not reflect on them or their school. Questionnaires were serial numbered for administrative purposes, but serial numbers were not linked to pupils' names.

A short questionnaire was also asked of the main contact person in each school (usually either the head teacher or the teacher responsible for co-ordinating the schools' personal, social and health education). This collected information about the schools policies on smoking, drinking and drug use. It was usually administered by the interviewer face to face, but could also be carried out as a self-completion.

Fieldwork management, achieved response rates and sample size

Interviewers recorded the progress that had been made at each school in their assignment, and reported progress to fieldwork managers at NatCen on a weekly basis using the following categories:

- no contact with the head teacher or school contact;
- school has agreed with NFER to take part, no contact by interviewer with named person;
- sampling visit arranged;
- sampling done, first visit arranged;
- first visit done, follow up visit required;
- completed or refused.

The anticipated response rate was achieved, with 72% of selected schools participating and 88% of selected school children taking part. This yielded an overall response rate of 63% and a total of 9859 completed questionnaires for analysis (see Chapter 1 for more detail on response rates).

Data cleaning

Questionnaires were sent to an external keying agency. The data from each questionnaire were entered initially and then entered again to verify that there were no mistakes in the initial keying. The computerised data were then subjected to an additional edit check which included the following:

- checking that the questionnaire's filter instructions were correctly followed;
- checking ranges on consumption variables and age of first use variables;
- checking whether answers given as other answers can be backcoded into existing codes;
- resolving inconsistencies between answers.

An SPSS dataset was created for analysis purposes.

Precision of results and the measurement of change

Since the data in this report were obtained from a sample of the target population, they are subject to sampling error. Any sample is only one of an almost infinite number that might have been selected, all producing slightly different estimates. Sampling error stems from the probability that any selected sample is not completely representative of the population from which it is drawn.

Sampling error shows the amount by which the value of a sample estimate of a variable can be expected to differ from the true value of that variable in the population. With a simple random sample, the formula for calculating the sampling error for a percentage p, is:

$$\sqrt{\frac{p(100 - p)}{n}}$$

where n is the sample size.

Since the sample of pupils was clustered in schools, sampling errors are not the same as they would have been for a simple random sample of the same size. Sampling errors for four key variables which take account of the complex design are described later on in this Appendix.

The formula for calculating sampling errors of differences in percentages p_1 and p_2 between surveys (assuming simple random samples) is:

$$\sqrt{\frac{p_1(100 - p_1)}{n_1} + \frac{p_2(100 - p_2)}{n_2}}$$

In general, attention is drawn to differences between estimates only when they are significant at the 95% confidence level, thus indicating that there is less than 5% probability that the observed difference could be due to random sampling variation when no difference occurred in the population from which the sample is drawn.

It is important to recognise that sampling error is only one of the sources of error which affect the accuracy of any survey results. Other sources of inaccuracy include non-response bias, and over-and under-reporting, both of which are difficult to quantify. Since the results compared in this report are from surveys conducted in a similar way and using the same methods of collecting information, non-sampling errors should be similar on each survey and so should not affect comparisons (apart from the question format change in 2001 for drug use discussed in Chapter 1). However it is also possible that social desirability of behaviours may affect whether pupils over-report or under-report, and as social desirability may change over time this may affect comparability.

Sampling errors

As the survey used a multi-stage sample design which involved both clustering and stratification, this needs to be taken into account when calculating standard errors, rather than assuming a simple random sample design. Tables A2-A5 give true standard errors and 95% confidence intervals for this complex sample design for four key variables. The calculation of the standard errors and design effects (defts) was carried out using Kish's methodology.[3]

(Tables A2-A5)

Non-response weighting

As described in Chapter 1, in the 2002 survey data enabling individual pupil level response to be examined by school year was collected for the first time. Response rates among pupils in year 10 (86%) and year 11 (85%) were slightly lower than for younger pupils (89-90%). These differences in response, however, were small and not likely to make a difference to survey estimates. Therefore the data in this report are not weighted and are comparable with all other surveys in the series.

Notes and References

1 NFER maintains a database containing records for all schools in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It also contains schools in the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, Service Children's Education Authority (armed forces) schools and British schools around the world. In addition, details are held for all colleges in the Further and Higher Education sectors and for all Universities.

2 One selected school closed subsequent to the sample being drawn, and was thus deemed ineligible. This left a sample of 446 potentially eligible schools.

3 Kish L (1970) *Survey Sampling*, London: John Wiley.

Table A1

Allocation of schools to strata

2002

Type of school	Population [a]	Estimated schools	Actual schools [b]
Comprehensive			
Boys	86,050	12.63	13
Girls	130,221	19.18	19
Mixed	2,417,569	354.93	355
Grammar			
Boys	36,668	5.38	5
Girls	40,594	5.96	6
Mixed	27,868	4.09	4
Secondary Modern			
Boys	7,591	1.11	2
Girls	9,968	1.46	1
Mixed	86,503	12.70	13
Private			
Boys	48,424	7.11	7
Girls	61,044	8.96	9
Mixed	92,217	13.54	13
Total	**3,044,717**	**447.05**	**447**

a DfES annual school census data, collected January 2001.

b Small strata have been combined in order to improve the efficiency of the sampling, so expected and actual number of schools may differ.

Table A2

True standard errors and 95% confidence intervals for the prevalence of regular smoking, by sex and age

All pupils *2002*

				95% confidence interval		
	Sample size	% (p)	True standard error of p	lower	upper	Deft
Boys						
11 years	892	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	1.5%	1.00
12 years	1037	2.5%	0.5%	1.6%	3.4%	0.98
13 years	1051	5.4%	0.7%	4.0%	6.8%	1.02
14 years	961	13.2%	1.1%	11.1%	15.3%	0.99
15 years	1123	21.0%	1.2%	18.7%	23.4%	0.99
Total	**5064**	**9.0%**	**0.4%**	**8.2%**	**9.7%**	**1.00**
Girls						
11 years	818	0.7%	0.3%	0.2%	1.3%	0.98
12 years	997	2.2%	0.6%	1.1%	3.3%	1.24
13 years	943	7.6%	0.8%	6.0%	9.2%	0.95
14 years	952	18.1%	1.5%	15.2%	20.9%	1.18
15 years	1022	25.9%	1.5%	23.0%	28.9%	1.11
Total	**4732**	**11.3%**	**0.5%**	**10.3%**	**12.4%**	**1.18**
Total						
11 years	1710	0.8%	0.2%	0.4%	1.2%	0.94
12 years	2034	2.4%	0.4%	1.6%	3.1%	1.10
13 years	1994	6.5%	0.6%	5.4%	7.6%	1.02
14 years	1913	15.6%	1.0%	13.8%	17.5%	1.15
15 years	2145	23.4%	1.0%	21.4%	25.3%	1.07
Total	**9796**	**10.1%**	**0.4%**	**9.4%**	**10.8%**	**1.19**

Table A3

True standard errors and 95% confidence intervals for the proportion who drink at least once a week, by sex and age

All pupils *2002*

				95% confidence interval		
	Sample size	% (p)	True standard error of p	lower	upper	Deft
Boys						
11 years	875	3.8%	0.6%	2.5%	5.0%	1.00
12 years	1013	7.2%	0.8%	5.6%	8.8%	1.01
13 years	1034	13.9%	1.1%	11.8%	16.1%	1.03
14 years	949	26.7%	1.5%	23.7%	29.6%	1.04
15 years	1117	39.0%	1.5%	36.1%	42.0%	1.03
Total	**4988**	**18.8%**	**0.7%**	**17.5%**	**20.1%**	**1.18**
Girls						
11 years	799	1.6%	0.5%	0.7%	2.6%	1.06
12 years	984	4.5%	0.6%	3.3%	5.6%	0.91
13 years	943	13.6%	1.2%	11.2%	16.0%	1.09
14 years	951	25.3%	1.5%	22.5%	28.2%	1.03
15 years	1013	33.9%	1.6%	30.7%	37.0%	1.07
Total	**4690**	**16.4%**	**0.6%**	**15.2%**	**17.6%**	**1.16**
Total						
11 years	1674	2.7%	0.4%	1.9%	3.6%	1.04
12 years	1997	5.9%	0.5%	4.8%	6.9%	0.99
13 years	1977	13.8%	0.8%	12.1%	15.4%	1.08
14 years	1900	26.0%	1.1%	23.9%	28.1%	1.05
15 years	2130	36.6%	1.1%	34.4%	38.8%	1.08
Total	**9678**	**17.6%**	**0.5%**	**16.7%**	**18.6%**	**1.24**

Table A4

True standard errors and 95% confidence intervals for the proportion who have taken drugs in the last month, by sex and age

All pupils *2002*

				95% confidence interval		
	Sample size	% (p)	True standard error of p	lower	upper	Deft
Boys						
11 years	795	4.4%	0.7%	3.0%	5.8%	0.98
12 years	941	5.4%	0.7%	4.1%	6.8%	0.93
13 years	950	8.7%	1.0%	6.7%	10.7%	1.11
14 years	910	19.9%	1.4%	17.2%	22.6%	1.04
15 years	1077	26.2%	1.5%	23.3%	29.1%	1.09
Total	**4673**	**13.5%**	**0.6%**	**12.4%**	**14.6%**	**1.12**
Girls						
11 years	751	2.8%	0.8%	1.3%	4.3%	1.26
12 years	924	2.9%	0.6%	1.7%	4.1%	1.09
13 years	897	8.0%	1.0%	6.1%	9.9%	1.07
14 years	914	15.4%	1.2%	13.1%	17.8%	1.00
15 years	987	18.9%	1.3%	16.3%	21.6%	1.07
Total	**4473**	**10.0%**	**0.5%**	**9.1%**	**11.0%**	**1.07**
Total						
11 years	1546	3.6%	0.5%	2.6%	4.7%	1.14
12 years	1865	4.2%	0.4%	3.3%	5.0%	0.94
13 years	1847	8.4%	0.7%	7.1%	9.7%	1.05
14 years	1824	17.7%	0.9%	15.8%	19.5%	1.05
15 years	2064	22.7%	1.1%	20.7%	24.8%	1.14
Total	**9146**	**11.8%**	**0.4%**	**11.0%**	**12.6%**	**1.16**

Table A5

True standard errors and 95% confidence intervals for the proportion who have taken drugs in the last year, by sex and age

All pupils *2002*

				95% confidence interval		
	Sample size	% (p)	True standard error of p	lower	upper	Deft
Boys						
11 years	797	6.9%	0.9%	5.1%	8.7%	1.01
12 years	945	10.1%	1.0%	8.1%	12.0%	0.99
13 years	960	16.8%	1.4%	14.1%	19.5%	1.13
14 years	916	29.3%	1.6%	26.1%	32.4%	1.07
15 years	1088	39.2%	1.5%	36.2%	42.1%	1.02
Total	**4706**	**21.4%**	**0.6%**	**20.1%**	**22.6%**	**1.08**
Girls						
11 years	753	6.0%	1.2%	3.7%	8.2%	1.34
12 years	927	6.4%	0.8%	4.8%	7.9%	0.99
13 years	903	15.6%	1.2%	13.2%	18.0%	1.00
14 years	921	24.6%	1.5%	21.6%	27.7%	1.08
15 years	993	34.1%	1.6%	31.0%	37.3%	1.07
Total	**4497**	**18.0%**	**0.6%**	**16.8%**	**19.2%**	**1.07**
Total						
11 years	1550	6.5%	0.8%	4.9%	8.0%	1.24
12 years	1872	8.2%	0.6%	7.0%	9.4%	0.97
13 years	1863	16.2%	0.9%	14.4%	18.1%	1.10
14 years	1837	26.9%	1.2%	24.7%	29.2%	1.13
15 years	2081	36.8%	1.1%	34.5%	39.0%	1.08
Total	**9203**	**19.7%**	**0.5%**	**18.8%**	**20.6%**	**1.12**

Appendix B Analysis techniques

In addition to extensive two and three-way cross-tabulations of data, this report includes analyses which made use of the statistical techniques outlined here.

Age-standardisation

Age is a key factor in both attitudes and behaviour related to smoking, drinking and drug use and most of the survey estimates show significant differences between pupils of different ages. When different subgroups' answers to particular questions are being compared, it is necessary to consider the potential effect of the age profiles of these subgroups. If the age profiles differ substantially, then this may account for all or part of any differences observed on the measures concerned.

Age-standardisation is a technique which is used to weight the data so that the age-profiles of different subgroups become the same (are standardised). Thus one is able to establish whether or not attitudinal or behavioural differences found between subgroups are due solely to the ages of pupils in different subgroups.

Correlation

Correlation is a technique which measures the strength and direction of the linear relationship between two variables. The correlation between two variables is measured by the *correlation co-efficient* which has a value between -1 and 1. A correlation co-efficient with a value close to 0 implies that there is no linear relationship between two variables. A correlation co-efficient with a value close to 1 implies a strong positive relationship (as one variable increases or decreases so does the other), and a value close to -1 implies a strong negative relationship (as one variable increases the other variable decreases and vice versa). The Kendall's Tau co-efficient for non-parametric data has been used in this report.[1]

Notes and References

[1] Kendall MG (1938) *A new measure of rank correlation*. Biometrika 30: 80-93.

NatCen
National Centre for Social Research

nfer

SN 1-5
Card 6-7
Batch 8-12

P2189
Green Team

STICK SERIAL NUMBER LABEL

	313-314		317		318
Day of interview		AM interview	1	1st visit	1
Month of interview	315-316	PM interview	2	2nd visit	2

SURVEY OF SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE AMONG SCHOOLCHILDREN IN ENGLAND 2002

WE PROMISE THAT YOUR ANSWERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL, SO THEY WILL NOT BE SHOWN TO ANYONE THAT YOU KNOW

Most of the questions can be answered by putting a tick in the box next to the answer that applies to you. You are sometimes told to skip over some questions in this survey. When this happens, you will see an arrow with a note that tells you what question to answer next, like this:

Yes ☑ 1 → **Q4**

No ☐ 2 → **Q5**

Or sometimes you have to write a number in the box, for example:

14 days

Or sometimes you have to tick a box and write in an answer, for example:

Other reason (Tick and write in) ☑ → **Q5**

I was hungry

Q 1 Are you a boy or a girl?

319

Boy 1

Girl 2

Q 2 Which year are you in at school?

320

Year 7 1

Year 8 2

Year 9 3

Year 10 4

Year 11 5

Q 3 How old are you now?

321-322

10 years old 01

11 years old 02

12 years old 03

13 years old 04

14 years old 05

15 years old 06

16 years old 07

17 years old 08

Q 4 When is your birthday?

Date .....

Month .....

Year.....

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

323-324 D | 325-326 M | 327-328 Y

Q 5 To which of these ethnic groups do you belong?

329

White 1

Mixed 2

Asian or Asian British 3

Black or Black British 4

Chinese 5

Other 6

The next set of questions are about cigarettes. Remember that your name is not on the questionnaire, so no-one who knows you will find out your answers.

Q 6 Do you smoke cigarettes at all nowadays?

330

Yes 1

No 2

Q 7 Now read all the following statements carefully and tick the box next to the one which best describes you.

331

I have never smoked 1 → **Q8**

I have only ever tried smoking once 2 → **Q9 on page 4**

I used to smoke sometimes but I never smoke a cigarette now 3 → **Q9 on page 4**

I sometimes smoke cigarettes now but I don't smoke as many as one a week 4 → **Q16 on page 6**

I usually smoke between one and six cigarettes a week 5 → **Q11 on page 4**

I usually smoke more than six cigarettes a week 6 → **Q11 on page 4**

Q 8 Just to check, read the statements below carefully and tick the box next to the one which best describes you.

332

I have never tried smoking a cigarette, not even a puff or two 1 → **Q10 on page 4**

I did once have a puff or two of a cigarette, but I never smoke now 2 → **Q9 on page 4**

I do sometimes smoke cigarettes 3 → **Q16 on page 6**

Spare 333-339

Q 9 How old were you when you first tried smoking a cigarette, even if it was only a puff or two? Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

340-341

I was [ ] years old

Q 10 How do you think your family would feel if you started smoking?

342

- They would try to stop me [1] → **Q21 on page 8**
- They would try to persuade me not to smoke [2] → **Q21 on page 8**
- They would do nothing [3] → **Q21 on page 8**
- They would encourage me to smoke [4] → **Q21 on page 8**
- I don't know [5] → **Q21 on page 8**

Q 11 How long is it since you started smoking at least one cigarette a week?

343

- Less than 3 months [1]
- 3-6 months [2]
- 6 months to 1 year [3]
- More than 1 year [4]

Q 12 How easy or difficult would you find it to go without smoking for as long as a week?

344

- Very difficult [1]
- Fairly difficult [2]
- Fairly easy [3]
- Very easy [4]

Q 13 How easy or difficult would you find it to give up smoking altogether if you wanted to?

345

- Very difficult [1]
- Fairly difficult [2]
- Fairly easy [3]
- Very easy [4]

Q 14 Would you like to give up smoking altogether?

346

- Yes [1]
- No [2]
- I don't know [3]

Q 15 Have you ever tried to give up smoking?

347

- Yes [1]
- No [2]

Q 16 How old were you when you first tried smoking a cigarette, even if it was only a puff or two? Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

348-349

I was ☐ years old

Q 17 How does your family feel about you smoking?

350

- They have tried to stop me ☐ 1 → **Q19 on page 7**
- They try to persuade me not to smoke ☐ 2 → **Q19 on page 7**
- They do nothing ☐ 3 → **Q19 on page 7**
- They encourage me to smoke ☐ 4 → **Q19 on page 7**
- They don't know I smoke ☐ 5 → **Q18**
- I don't know ☐ 6 → **Q19 on page 7**

Q 18 How do you think your family would feel if they knew that you smoked?

351

- They would try to stop me ☐ 1
- They would try to persuade me not to smoke ☐ 2
- They would do nothing ☐ 3
- They would encourage me to smoke ☐ 4
- I don't know ☐ 5

Q 19 Where do you **usually** get your cigarettes from? (Please tick more than one box if you **often** get cigarettes from different people or places.)

352-377

- I buy them from a supermarket ☐ 01
- I buy them from a newsagent, tobacconist or a sweet shop ☐ 02
- I buy them from a garage shop ☐ 03
- I buy them from some other type of shop ☐ 04
- I buy them from a machine ☐ 05
- I buy them through the Internet ☐ 06
- I buy them from friends or relatives ☐ 07
- I buy them from someone else ☐ 08
- Friends give them to me ☐ 09
- My brother or sister gives them to me ☐ 10
- My mother or father gives them to me ☐ 11
- I take them ☐ 12
- I get them in some other way **(please write in)** ☐ 13

_____

Q 20 On the whole, do you find it easy or difficult to buy cigarettes from a shop?

378

- Very difficult ☐ 1
- Fairly difficult ☐ 2
- Fairly easy ☐ 3
- Very easy ☐ 4
- I don't usually buy cigarettes from a shop ☐ 5

Spare 379-380

The next questions are about buying cigarettes and should be answered by all pupils. Remember that your name is not on the questionnaire, so no-one who knows you will find out your answers.

Card 4
SN 401-405
Card 406-407

Q 21 In the past year, have you ever gone **into a shop** to buy cigarettes? This includes buying cigarettes for somebody else.

408

Yes [1] → **Q22**

No [2] → **Q26 on page 9**

Q 22 At **any** of these times when you went into a shop to buy cigarettes, did the shopkeeper refuse to sell them to you?

409

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 23 The **last** time you went into a shop to buy cigarettes, what happened?

410

I bought some cigarettes [1] → **Q24**

They refused to sell me any cigarettes [2] → **Q25**

Q 24 How many cigarettes did you buy last time? Write the **number** in the box.

411-412

I bought [ ] Cigarettes

Q 25 How often do you buy cigarettes **from a shop**?

413

Almost every day [1]

Once or twice a week [2]

Two or three times a month [3]

About once a month [4]

Only a few times a year [5]

Q 26 How often do you buy cigarettes from a **machine**?

414

Almost every day [1] → **Q27**

Once or twice a week [2] → **Q27**

Two or three times a month [3] → **Q27**

About once a month [4] → **Q27**

Only a few times a year [5] → **Q27**

Never buy from a machine [6] → **Q28 on page 10**

Q 27 Thinking about the last time you bought cigarettes from a machine, where was the machine situated?

415

A pub, club, restaurant or somewhere else where alcohol was for sale [1]

A café or restaurant where alcohol was not for sale [2]

Amusement arcade [3]

Petrol station [4]

Somewhere else **(please write in)** [5]

_____

The next set of questions are about alcohol. Remember that your name is not on the questionnaire, so no-one who knows you will find out your answers.

Q 28 Have you ever had a proper alcoholic drink – a whole drink, not just a sip? **Please don't count drinks labelled low alcohol**

416

Yes [1] → **Q29**

No [2] → **Q51 on page 17**

Q 29 How old were you when you had your first proper alcoholic drink? Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

I was [417-418] years old

Q 30 How often do you **usually** have an alcoholic drink?

419

Almost every day [1]

About twice a week [2]

About once a week [3]

About once a fortnight [4]

About once a month [5]

Only a few times a year [6]

I never drink alcohol now [7]

Q 31 If you buy alcohol, where do you **usually** buy it?

420-425

In a pub or bar [1]

In a club or disco [2]

From an off-licence [3]

From a shop or supermarket [4]

From a friend or relative [5]

From someone else [6]

I never buy alcohol [7]

Q 32 When did you **last** have an alcoholic drink?

426

Today [1] → **Q33**

Yesterday [2] → **Q33**

Some other time during the last 7 days [3] → **Q33**

1 week, but less than 2 weeks ago [4] → **Q51 on page 17**

2 weeks, but less than 4 weeks ago [5] → **Q51 on page 17**

1 month, but less than 6 months ago [6] → **Q51 on page 17**

6 months ago or more [7] → **Q51 on page 17**

Q 33 On which of these days during **the last 7 days** did you have an alcoholic drink? **Tick whichever apply**

427-433

Sunday [1]

Monday [2]

Tuesday [3]

Wednesday [4]

Thursday [5]

Friday [6]

Saturday [7]

Spare 434-439

Q 34 During the **last 7 days**, how much BEER, LAGER AND CIDER have you drunk? Please don't count drinks labelled low alcohol.

440

Half a pint or more [1] → **Q35**

Less than half a pint [2] → **Q37 on page 13**

Have not drunk beer, lager or cider in the last 7 days [3] → **Q37 on page 13**

Q 35 Write in the boxes below the number of pints, half pints, large cans, small cans and bottles of BEER, LAGER AND CIDER drunk in the last 7 days.


pints 441-442


half pints 443-444


large cans 445-446


small cans 447-448


bottles 449-450

Q 36 Do you usually drink normal strength or strong beer? If you usually drink both normal and strong beer, please tick the type you drank most recently.

451

Normal strength beer [1]

Strong beer [2]

Q 37 During the **last 7 days**, how much SHANDY have you drunk?

452

Half a pint or more [1] → **Q38**

Less than half a pint [2] → **Q40 on page 14**

Have not drunk shandy in the in the last 7 days [3] → **Q40 on page 14**

Q 38 Write in the boxes below the number of pints, half pints, large cans and small cans of SHANDY drunk in the last 7 days.


pints 453-454


half pints 455-456


large cans 457-458


small cans 459-460

Q 39 Was the SHANDY you drank in the last 7 days mostly lemonade, mostly lager or beer, or about half and half of each?

461

Mostly lemonade [1]

Mostly lager or beer [2]

About half and half of each [3]

Q 40 During the **last 7 days**, how much WINE have you drunk?

462

One glass or more [1] → **Q41**

Less than a glass [2] → **Q42**

Have not drunk wine in the in the last 7 days [3] → **Q42**

Q 41 Write in the box below, the number of glasses of WINE drunk in the last 7 days.

glasses  463-464 [ ]

Q 42 During the **last 7 days**, how much MARTINI AND SHERRY have you drunk?

465

One glass or more [1] → **Q43**

Less than a glass [2] → **Q44**

Have not drunk martini or sherry in the last 7 days [3] → **Q44**

Q 43 Write in the box below, the number of glasses of MARTINI AND SHERRY drunk in the last 7 days.

glasses  466-467 [ ]

Q 44 During the last 7 days, how much SPIRITS AND LIQUEURS (*e.g. whisky, vodka, gin, tequila, Baileys, Tia Maria*) have you drunk? **By a glass we mean a single pub measure**

468

One glass or more [1] → **Q45**

Less than a glass [2] → **Q46 on page 15**

Have not drunk spirits or liqueurs in the last 7 days [3] → **Q46 on page 15**

Q 45 Write in the box below, the number of glasses of SPIRITS AND LIQUEURS (*e.g. whisky, vodka, gin, tequila, Baileys, Tia Maria*) drunk in the last 7 days.

glasses  469-470 [ ]

Q 46 During the **last 7 days**, how much ALCOPOPS (*e.g. Bacardi Breezer, Metz, Smirnoff Ice, V2, WKD, Hooch*) have you drunk?

471

One bottle or more [1] → **Q47**

Less than a bottle [2] → **Q48 on page 16**

Have not drunk alcopops or pre-mixed alcoholic drinks in the last 7 days [3] → **Q48 on page 16**

Q 47 Write in the boxes below the number of cans and bottles of ALCOPOPS (*e.g. Bacardi Breezer, Metz, Smirnoff Ice, V2, WKD, Hooch*) drunk in the last 7 days.

bottles  472-473 [ ]

cans  474-475 [ ]

Spare 476-480

Q 48 Have you drunk any other types of alcoholic drink in the last 7 days?

Card 5
SN 501-505
Card 506-507

508

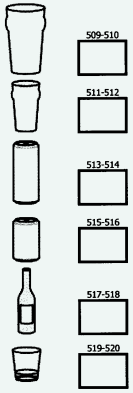
Yes [1] → **Q49**

No [2] → **Q51 on page 17**

Q 49 What other alcoholic drink(s) have you drunk? Please write in the name(s) below

_____

Q 50 Write in the boxes below the number of pints, half pints, large cans, small cans, bottles and glasses of this other alcoholic drink that you have drunk in the last 7 days.



pints 509-510

half pints 511-512

large cans 513-514

small cans 515-516

bottles 517-518

glasses 519-520

The next set of questions are about drugs (apart from cigarettes and alcohol). Remember that your name is not on the questionnaire, so no-one who knows you will find out your answers.

Q 51 The next set of questions are about **Cannabis,** also called **Marijuana, Dope, Pot, Blow, Hash, Skunk, Puff, Grass, Draw, Ganja, Spliff, Joints, Smoke, Weed.**

Q 52 Have you ever **heard of** Cannabis?

521

Yes [1] → **Q53**

No [2] → **Q58 on page 18**

Q 53 Have you ever been **offered** Cannabis?

522

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 54 Have you ever **tried** Cannabis (even if only once)?

523

Yes [1] → **Q55**

No [2] → **Q58 on page 18**

Q 55 How old were you when you first tried Cannabis?
Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

524-525

I was [ ] years old

Q 56 When did you last **use** or **take** Cannabis?

526

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 57 How do you usually **use** or **take** Cannabis? Please tick any that apply.

527-528

I smoke it [1]

I swallow it [2]

Q 58 The next set of questions are about **Amphetamines,** also called **Speed, Uppers, Whizz, Sulphate, Billy, Crystal Meth**

Q 59 Have you ever **heard of** Amphetamines?

529

Yes [1] → **Q60**

No [2] → **Q65 on page 19**

Q 60 Have you ever been **offered** Amphetamines?

530

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 61 Have you ever **tried** Amphetamines (even if only once)?

531

Yes [1] → **Q62**

No [2] → **Q65 on page 19**

Q 62 How old were you when you first tried Amphetamines?
Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

I was [532-533] years old

Q 63 When did you last **use** or **take** Amphetamines?

534

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 64 How do you usually **use** or **take** Amphetamines? Please tick any that apply.

535-536

I sniff or swallow them [1]

I inject them [2]

Spare 537-540

Q 65 The next set of questions are about **LSD,** also called **Acid, Tabs, Trips, Dots.**

Q 66 Have you ever **heard of** LSD?

541

Yes [1] → **Q67**

No [2] → **Q71 on page 20**

Q 67 Have you ever been **offered** LSD?

542

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 68 Have you ever **tried** LSD (even if only once)?

543

Yes [1] → **Q69**

No [2] → **Q71 on page 20**

Q 69 How old were you when you first tried LSD?
Write in the box your **age then,** in numbers not words.

I was [544-545] years old

Q 70 When did you last **use** or **take** LSD?

546

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 71 The next set of questions are about **Ecstasy,** also called **'E', Mitsibishis/Mitzis, Rolexes, Doves, MDM, Beans, Rolls, 'X'**

Q 72 Have you ever **heard of** Ecstasy?

547

Yes [1] → **Q73**

No [2] → **Q77 on page 21**

Q 73 Have you ever been **offered** Ecstasy?

548

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 74 Have you ever **tried** Ecstasy (even if only once)?

549

Yes [1] → **Q75**

No [2] → **Q77 on page 21**

Q 75 How old were you when you first tried Ecstasy?
Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

I was [550-551] Years old

Q 76 When did you last **use** or **take** Ecstasy?

552

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 77 The next set of questions are about **Semeron,** also called **Sem.**

Q 78 Have you ever **heard of** Semeron?

553

Yes [1] → **Q79**

No [2] → **Q82 on page 22**

Q 79 Have you ever been **offered** Semeron?

554

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 80 Have you ever **tried** Semeron (even if only once)?

555

Yes [1] → **Q81**

No [2] → **Q82 on page 22**

Q 81 When did you last **use** or **take** Semeron?

556

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 82 The next set of questions are about **Poppers,** also called **Amyl Nitrates, Liquid Gold, Rush.**

Q 83 Have you ever **heard of** Poppers?

557

Yes [1] → **Q84**

No [2] → **Q87 on page 23**

Q 84 Have you ever been **offered** Poppers?

558

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 85 Have you ever **tried sniffing** Poppers (even if only once)?

559

Yes [1] → **Q86**

No [2] → **Q87 on page 23**

Q 86 When did you last **sniff** Poppers?

560

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Spare 561-564

Q 87 The next set of questions are about **Tranquillisers,** also called **Downers, Barbiturates, Blues, Temazies, Jellies, Tranx, Temazapam.**

Q 88 Have you ever **heard of** Tranquillisers?

565

Yes [1] → **Q89**

No [2] → **Q93 on page 24**

Q 89 Have you ever been **offered** Tranquillisers?

566

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 90 Have you ever **tried** Tranquillisers (even if only once)?

567

Yes [1] → **Q91**

No [2] → **Q93 on page 24**

Q 91 When did you last **use** or **take** Tranquillisers?

568

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 92 How do you usually **use** or **take** Tranquillisers? Please tick any that apply.

569-570

I swallow them [1]

I inject them [2]

Q 93 The next set of questions are about **Heroin,** also called **Brown, Smack, Skag, Junk, Gear, 'H'.**

Q 94 Have you ever **heard of** Heroin?

571

Yes [1] → **Q95**

No [2] → **Q100 on page 25**

Q 95 Have you ever been **offered** Heroin?

572

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 96 Have you ever **tried** Heroin (even if only once)?

573

Yes [1] → **Q97**

No [2] → **Q100 on page 25**

Q 97 How old were you when you first tried Heroin?
Write in the box your **age then,** in numbers not words.

I was [574-575] Years old

Q 98 When did you last **use** or **take** Heroin?

576

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 99 How do you usually **use** or **take** Heroin? Please tick any that apply.

577-579

I smoke it [1]

I sniff it [2]

I inject it [3]

Spare 580

Q 100 The next set of questions are about **Magic Mushrooms,** also called **Shrooms.**

Card 6
SN 601-605
Card 606-607

Q 101 Have you ever **heard of** Magic Mushrooms?

608

Yes [1] → **Q102**

No [2] → **Q105 on page 26**

Q 102 Have you ever been **offered** Magic Mushrooms?

609

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 103 Have you ever **tried** Magic Mushrooms (even if only once)?

610

Yes [1] → **Q104**

No [2] → **Q105 on page 26**

Q 104 When did you last **use** or **take** Magic Mushrooms?

611

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 105 The next set of questions are about **Methadone,** also called **Linctus, Physeptone, Meth.**

Q 106 Have you ever **heard of** Methadone?

612

Yes [1] → **Q107**

No [2] → **Q111 on page 27**

Q 107 Have you ever been **offered** Methadone?

613

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 108 Have you ever **tried** Methadone (even if only once)?

614

Yes [1] → **Q109**

No [2] → **Q111 on page 27**

Q 109 How old were you when you first tried Methadone?
Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

I was [615-616] years old

Q 110 When did you last **use** or **take** Methadone?

617

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 111 The next set of questions are about **Crack,** also called **Rock, Stone.**

Q 112 Have you ever **heard of** Crack?

618

Yes [1] → **Q113**

No [2] → **Q118 on page 28**

Q 113 Have you ever been **offered** Crack?

619

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 114 Have you ever **tried** Crack (even if only once)?

620

Yes [1] → **Q115**

No [2] → **Q118 on page 28**

Q 115 How old were you when you first tried Crack?
Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

I was [621-622] years old

Q 116 When did you last **use** or **take** Crack?

623

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 117 How do you usually **use** or **take** Crack? Please tick any that apply.

624-625

I smoke it [1]

I inject it [2]

Spare 626-630

Q 118 The next set of questions are about **Cocaine,** also called **Charlie, 'C'.**

Q 119 Have you ever **heard of** Cocaine?

631

Yes [1] → **Q120**

No [2] → **Q125 on page 29**

Q 120 Have you ever been **offered** Cocaine?

632

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 121 Have you ever **tried** Cocaine (even if only once)?

633

Yes [1] → **Q122**

No [2] → **Q125 on page 29**

Q 122 How old were you when you first tried Cocaine?
Write in the box your **age then,** in numbers not words.

I was [634-635] years old

Q 123 When did you last **use** or **take** Cocaine?

636

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 124 How do you usually **take** or **use** Cocaine? Please tick any that apply.

637-638

I sniff it [1]

I inject it [2]

Q 125 The next set of questions are about **Anabolic Steroids,** also called **Roids.**

Q 126 Have you ever **heard of** Anabolic Steroids?

639

Yes [1] → **Q127**

No [2] → **Q131 on page 30**

Q 127 Have you ever been **offered** Anabolic Steroids?

640

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 128 Have you ever **tried** Anabolic Steroids (even if only once)?

641

Yes [1] → **Q129**

No [2] → **Q131 on page 30**

Q 129 When did you last **use** or **take** Anabolic Steroids?

642

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Q 130 How do you usually **use** or **take** Anabolic Steroids? Please tick any that apply.

643-644

I swallow them [1]

I inject them [2]

Q 131 The next set of questions are about **Glue, gas (butane, lighter refills), aerosols or solvents (to inhale or sniff).**

Q 132 Have you ever **heard of** Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents?

645

Yes [1] → **Q133**

No [2] → **Q137 on page 31**

Q 133 Have you ever been **offered** Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents to inhale or sniff?

646

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 134 Have you ever **tried sniffing** Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents (even if only once)?

647

Yes [1] → **Q135**

No [2] → **Q137 on page 31**

Q 135 How old were you when you first **tried sniffing** Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents?
Write in the box your **age then**, in numbers not words.

I was [648-649] years old

Q 136 When did you last **sniff** Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents?

650

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

Spare 651-656

Q 137 The next set of questions are about **other drugs** (other than those that you could get from a doctor or chemist).

Q 138 Have you ever **heard of** any other drugs that would **not** be given to you by a doctor or chemist?

657

Yes [1] → **Q139**

No [2] → **Q143 on page 32**

Q 139 What other drugs have you heard of? Please write in the name below

_____

Q 140 Have you ever been **offered** these other drugs?

658

Yes [1]

No [2]

Q 141 Have you ever **tried** these other drugs (even if only once)?

659

Yes [1] → **Q142**

No [2] → **Q143 on page 32**

Q 142 When did you last **use** or **take** these other drugs?

660

In the last month [1]

In the last year [2]

More than a year ago [3]

The next set of questions are more general questions. Remember that your name is not on the questionnaire, so no-one who knows you will find out your answers.

Q 143 In the last twelve months have you had any lessons, videos or discussions in class on the following topics:

		Yes	No	Don't know
a.	Smoking?	661 1	2	3
b.	Alcohol?	662 1	2	3
c.	Heroin?	663 1	2	3
d.	Crack/cocaine?	664 1	2	3
e.	Solvent abuse/glue sniffing?	665 1	2	3
f.	Ecstasy?	666 1	2	3
g.	Drugs in general?	667 1	2	3

Q 144 Do you get free school meals, or vouchers for free school meals?

668

Yes 1

No 2

Don't know 3

Q 145 Have you ever stayed away from school without permission (truanted)?

669

Yes 1

No 2

Don't know 3

Q 146 Have you ever been excluded from school?

670

Yes 1 → **Q147**

No 2 → **Q148**

Don't know 3 → **Q148**

Q 147 Was it a fixed term exclusion or a permanent exclusion?

A **fixed term exclusion (or suspension)** is when you are not allowed to go to school for a set amount of time because of your behaviour

A **permanent exclusion** is when you are **never** allowed to go back to your school because of your behaviour.

671

Fixed-term 1

Permanent 2

Don't know 3

Spare 672-680

Q 148 Were there any questions you meant to go back and complete? Please check

If you have finished, please complete the diary next, starting with yesterday and working backwards through the week.

Appendix D: **Smoking diary**

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STICK SERIAL NUMBER LABEL

SURVEY OF SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE AMONG SCHOOLCHILDREN 2002

WE PROMISE THAT YOUR ANSWERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL, SO THEY WILL NOT BE SHOWN TO ANYONE THAT YOU KNOW

WEEKLY DIARY

MONDAY

For each part of the day: **1** Answer the question about what you did by ticking **Yes** or **No**. and **2** **If you did not smoke** during that part of the day write 0 in the box.

If you smoked during that part of the day write in the box the number of cigarettes you smoked yourself.

		Tick one box		Number of cigarettes smoked	
		Yes	No		
Early morning	Did you get up and go to school?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1408-1409
Morning	Were you at school all morning?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1410 1411
Dinner Time	Did you stay on the school premises all dinnertime?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1412-1413
Afternoon	Were you at school all afternoon?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1414 1415
Tea Time	Did you have your tea at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1416-1417
Evening	Did you stay at home all evening?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1418 1419

TUESDAY

For each part of the day: **1** Answer the question about what you did by ticking **Yes** or **No**. and **2** **If you did not smoke** during that part of the day write 0 in the box.

If you smoked during that part of the day write in the box the number of cigarettes you smoked yourself.

		Tick one box		Number of cigarettes smoked	
		Yes	No		
Early morning	Did you get up and go to school?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1420-1421
Morning	Were you at school all morning?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1422 1423
Dinner Time	Did you stay on the school premises all dinnertime?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1424-1425
Afternoon	Were you at school all afternoon?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1426 1427
Tea Time	Did you have your tea at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1428-1429
Evening	Did you stay at home all evening?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1430 1431

WEDNESDAY

For each part of the day: **1** Answer the question about what you did by ticking **Yes** or **No**. and **2** **If you did not smoke** during that part of the day write 0 in the box.

If you smoked during that part of the day write in the box the number of cigarettes you smoked yourself.

		Tick one box		Number of cigarettes smoked	
		Yes	No		
Early morning	Did you get up and go to school?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1432-1433
Morning	Were you at school all morning?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1434 1435
Dinner Time	Did you stay on the school premises all dinnertime?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1436-1437
Afternoon	Were you at school all afternoon?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1438 1439
Tea Time	Did you have your tea at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1440-1441
Evening	Did you stay at home all evening?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1442 1443

THURSDAY

For each part of the day: **1** Answer the question about what you did by ticking **Yes** or **No**. and **2** **If you did not smoke** during that part of the day write 0 in the box.

If you smoked during that part of the day write in the box the number of cigarettes you smoked yourself.

		Tick one box		Number of cigarettes smoked	
		Yes	No		
Early morning	Did you get up and go to school?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1444-1445
Morning	Were you at school all morning?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1446 1447
Dinner Time	Did you stay on the school premises all dinnertime?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1448-1449
Afternoon	Were you at school all afternoon?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1450 1451
Tea Time	Did you have your tea at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1452-1453
Evening	Did you stay at home all evening?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1454 1455

FRIDAY

For each part of the day: **1** Answer the question about what you did by ticking **Yes** or **No**. and **2** **If you did not smoke** during that part of the day write 0 in the box.

If you smoked during that part of the day write in the box the number of cigarettes you smoked yourself.

		Tick one box		Number of cigarettes smoked	
		Yes	No		
Early morning	Did you get up and go to school?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1456-1457
Morning	Were you at school all morning?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1458 1459
Dinner Time	Did you stay on the school premises all dinnertime?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1460-1461
Afternoon	Were you at school all afternoon?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1462 1463
Tea Time	Did you have your tea at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1464-1465
Evening	Did you stay at home all evening?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1466 1467

SATURDAY

For each part of the day: **1** Answer the question about what you did by ticking **Yes** or **No**. and **2** **If you did not smoke** during that part of the day write 0 in the box.

If you smoked during that part of the day write in the box the number of cigarettes you smoked yourself.

		Tick one box		Number of cigarettes smoked	
		Yes	No		
Early morning	Did you get up later than you do on weekdays?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1468-1469
Morning	Were you at home all morning?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1470 1471
Dinner Time	Did you have your dinner or snack at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1472-1473
Afternoon	Were you at home all afternoon?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1474 1475
Tea Time	Did you have your tea or evening meal at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1476-1477
Evening	Did you stay at home all evening?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1478 1479

Spare 1480

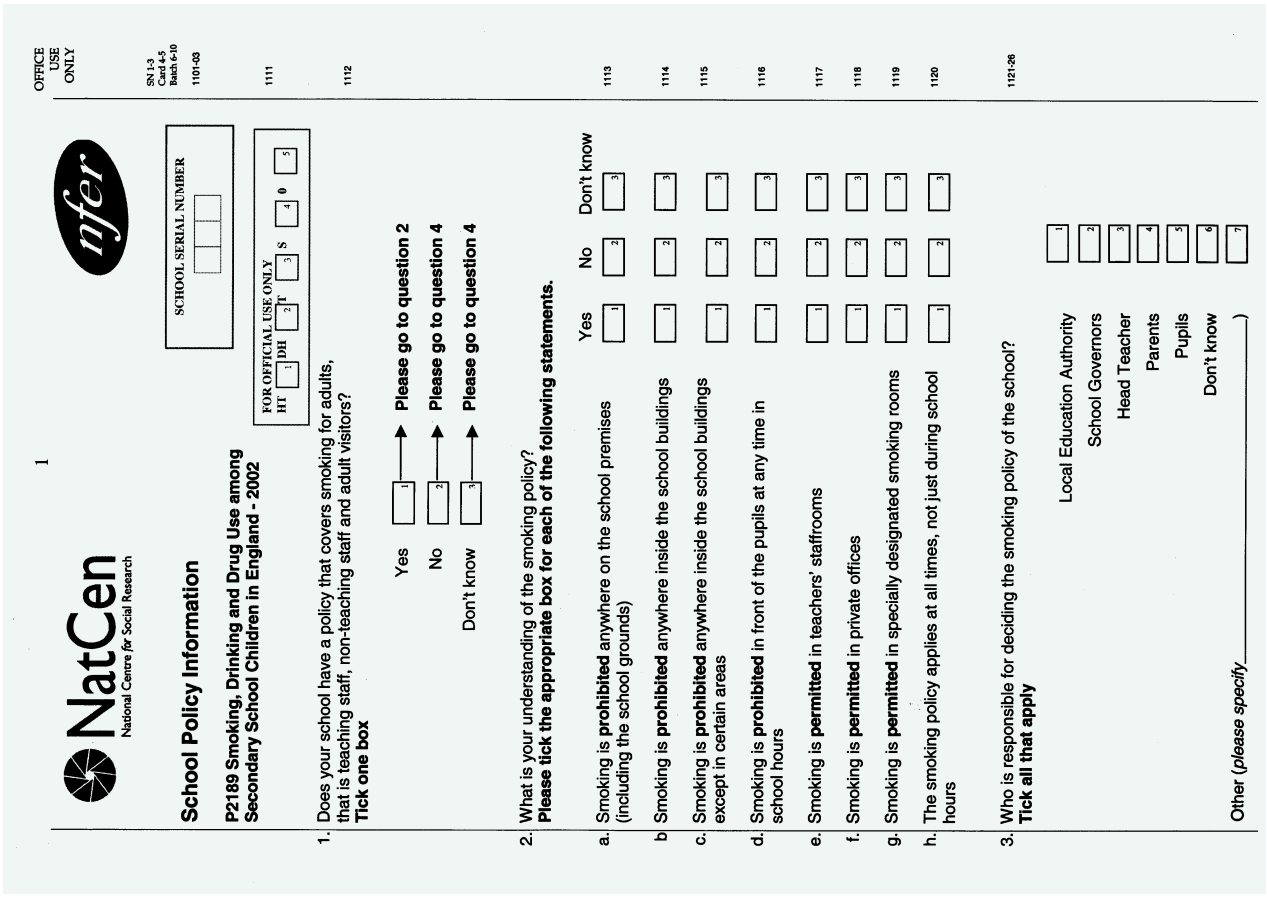
SUNDAY

For each part of the day: **1** Answer the question about what you did by ticking **Yes** or **No**. and **2** **If you did not smoke** during that part of the day write 0 in the box.

If you smoked during that part of the day write in the box the number of cigarettes you smoked yourself.

		Tick one box		Number of cigarettes smoked	
		Yes	No		
Early morning	Did you get up later than you do on weekdays?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1508-1509
Morning	Were you at home all morning?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1510 1511
Dinner Time	Did you have your dinner or snack at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1512-1513
Afternoon	Were you at home all afternoon?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1514 1515
Tea Time	Did you have your tea or evening meal at home?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1516-1517
Evening	Did you stay at home all evening?	1	2	→ I smoked ____ cigarettes	1518 1519

Appendix E: **Policy questionnaire**



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OFFICE USE ONLY

SN 1-3 Card 4-5 Batch 9-10 1101-03

School Policy Information

P2189 Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Secondary School Children in England - 2002

SCHOOL SERIAL NUMBER

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HT DH T S 0

1111

1112

1. Does your school have a policy that covers smoking for adults, that is teaching staff, non-teaching staff and adult visitors?
Tick one box

Yes → **Please go to question 2**
No → **Please go to question 4**
Don't know → **Please go to question 4**

2. What is your understanding of the smoking policy?
Please tick the appropriate box for each of the following statements.

		Yes	No	Don't know
a.	Smoking is **prohibited** anywhere on the school premises (including the school grounds)	1	2	3
b	Smoking is **prohibited** anywhere inside the school buildings	1	2	3
c.	Smoking is **prohibited** anywhere inside the school buildings except in certain areas	1	2	3
d.	Smoking is **prohibited** in front of the pupils at any time in school hours	1	2	3
e.	Smoking is **permitted** in teachers' staffrooms	1	2	3
f.	Smoking is **permitted** in private offices	1	2	3
g.	Smoking is **permitted** in specially designated smoking rooms	1	2	3
h.	The smoking policy applies at all times, not just during school hours	1	2	3

1113 1114 1115 1116 1117 1118 1119 1120

3. Who is responsible for deciding the smoking policy of the school?
Tick all that apply

1121-26

Local Education Authority 1
School Governors 2
Head Teacher 3
Parents 4
Pupils 5
Don't know 6
Other (*please specify*_____) 7

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4. What action does the school policy suggest if pupils are found smoking on school premises?
Tick all that apply

1127-42

- Verbal/written warning 01
- Note on the pupils' record 02
- Letter sent to parents 03
- Fine 04
- Referral to counsellor/agency 05
- Loss of privileges 06
- Exclusion for repeat offenders 07
- Other (*please specify*_____) 08

5. What action does the school policy suggest if pupils are found drinking alcohol on school premises?
Tick all that apply

1143-58

- Verbal/written warning 01
- Note on the pupils' record 02
- Letter sent to parents 03
- Fine 04
- Referral to counsellor/agency 05
- Loss of privileges 06
- Exclusion for repeat offenders 07
- Other (*please specify*_____) 08

6. What action does the school policy suggest if pupils are found taking illegal drugs on school premises?
Tick all that apply

1159-74

- Verbal/written warning 01
- Note on the pupils' record 02
- Letter sent to parents 03
- Fine 04
- Referral to counsellor/agency 05
- Loss of privileges 06
- Exclusion for repeat offenders 07
- Other (*please specify*_____) 08

Spare 1175-80

OFFICE USE ONLY
Card 12
SN 1201-1203
Card 1204-1205

7. What action does the school policy suggest if pupils are clearly under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, but have not been found taking alcohol or illegal drugs on school premises?
Tick all that apply

1206-21

- Verbal/written warning 01
- Note on the pupils' record 02
- Letter sent to parents 03
- Fine 04
- Referral to counsellor/agency 05
- Loss of privileges 06
- Exclusion for repeat offenders 07
- Other (*please specify*_____) 08

Thank you for your help

Spare 1222-30