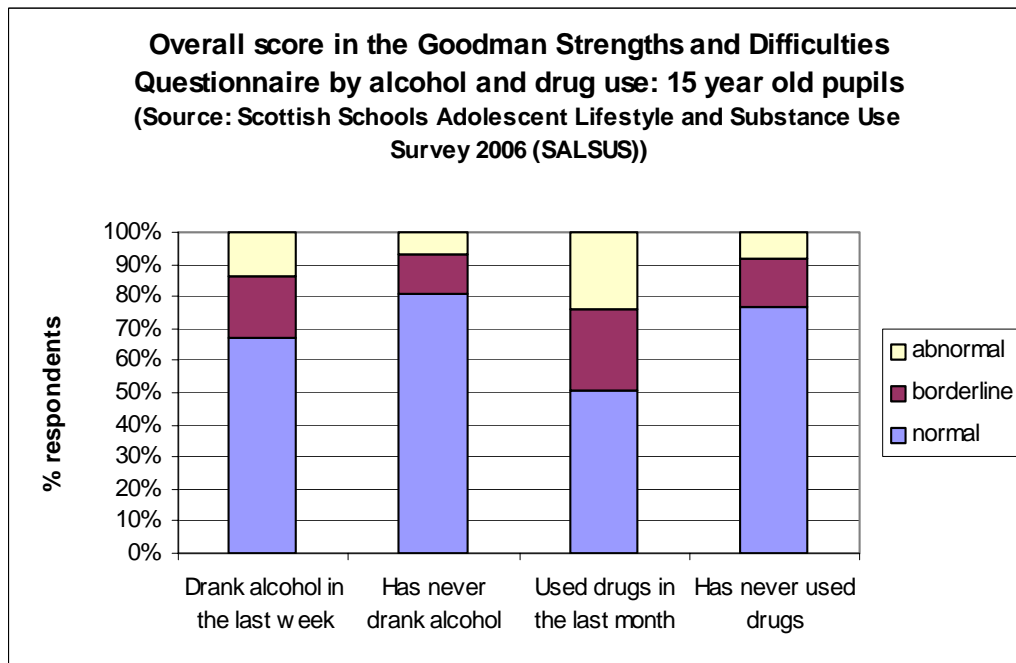


Welcome to the October 2007 Newsletter!

This Newsletter is focusing on the **Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS)** which was established by the Scottish Government to provide a broad-based approach to the monitoring of substance use in the context of other lifestyle, health and social factors. The Survey is carried out biennially among 13 and 15 year old pupils in schools throughout Scotland and collects large amount of data on the prevalence, attitudes and behaviour of young people in regard to smoking, drinking and drug use.



The above graph comes from responses to the Goodman Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) and is widely used in research, education and clinical settings to identify behavioural problems in children. The SDQ uses a series of 25 statements split into 5 categories: emotional symptoms, conduct problems, hyperactivity / inattention, peer relationships and pro-social behaviour.

The results of the SDQ were analysed along with reported consumption of substances in order to show any associations between substance use and SDQ scores amongst young people.

Responses to these statements ('certainly true', 'somewhat true', not true') are scored and scores grouped as 'normal', 'borderline' or 'abnormal' are assigned to each category along with an overall score.

Further information on each of the 5 individual categories and also on smoking is available in the SALSUS report which is available at the following link:

<http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus.htm>.

Further information is available on the SDQ in the Mental Health of Children and Young People in Great Britain Survey 2004

(http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/GB2004.pdf).

Making Sense of Mental Law – a Project to Develop and Share Information with Black and Minority Ethnic Communities about the Mental Health Act

The Scottish Government in partnership with the **National Resource Centre for Ethnic Minority Health** has commissioned a project to develop information about the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 that makes sense to people from black and minority ethnic communities in Scotland. The project will be taking place over the next year and will be phased to enable an information resource to be developed and piloted with relevant stakeholders.

It is hoped that the information will be useful for many purposes:

- For black and minority ethnic users and carers of mental health services
- For community organisations working with black and minority ethnic communities
- For Mental Health Officers and medical staff involved in the use of mental health law with people from black and minority ethnic communities
- For staff working in services where information like this would be useful
- As a training and learning resource

Outside the Box will be developing this project and can be contacted on **0141 445 3062** or email at makingsense@otbds.org.

There is a webpage at www.otbds.org/makingsense for more information.

For further information visit: www.isdscotland.org/imhip