

Publication Summary



Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey 2010

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About this Release

This report presents the findings from the 2010 Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS). The research was undertaken by Ipsos MORI Scotland and was commissioned on behalf of the Scottish Government by Information Services Division (ISD Scotland), National Services Scotland.

Key Points

Smoking

- Among 13 year olds, 3% of both boys and girls were regular smokers¹. Among 15 year olds, 13% were regular smokers: 11% of boys and 14% of girls.
- Since peaks in 1996 and 1998, the prevalence of regular smoking has substantially reduced over recent years. Among both 13 year olds and 15 year olds, levels are now the lowest they have been since the survey began in 1982.

Drinking

- Forty-four per cent of 13 year olds and 77% of 15 year olds have ever had an alcoholic drink. Fourteen per cent of 13 year olds and 34% of 15 year olds reported consuming alcohol in the last week.
- There was a decrease in the proportion of 13 year olds who had ever had an alcoholic drink: from 52% in 2008 to 44% in 2010. This was also the case, although to a lesser degree, for 15 year olds (82% in 2008 compared with 77% in 2010).
- There was an increase in the proportion of pupils who had drunk in the last week: from 11% in 2008 to 14% in 2010 among 13 year olds and from 31% in 2008 to 34% in 2010 among 15 year olds.

¹ Regular smokers – defined as usually smoking at least one cigarette a week

Drug Use

- Twenty-one per cent of 15 year olds and 5% of 13 year olds reported that they had ever used drugs. 19% per cent of 15 year olds and 4% of 13 year olds reported they had used drugs in the last year and 11% of 15 year olds and 3% of 13 year olds reported that they had used drugs in the last month.
- While between 2004 and 2006 there was a substantial decrease in the prevalence of drug use in the last month, between 2006 and 2008 prevalence decreased only among 13 year old boys. Since 2008, prevalence has decreased further only among girls: among 15 year old girls, the decline has been from 11% in 2008 to 9% in 2010 and among 13 year old girls the decrease has been from 3% in 2008 to 2% in 2010.

Background

The fieldwork for the survey was conducted between September 2010 and February 2011. Since 2002, only S2 and S4 pupils (these pupils were mainly 13 and 15 years old respectively, at the time of the survey) have been selected to take part in the survey and this was continued in 2010. Overall 37,307 pupils completed the questionnaire. The overall response rate was 62% and was calculated as the product of the class and pupil response rate.

The 2010 survey also produced local reports at NHS Board, local authority and Alcohol and Drug Partnership level.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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