

Publication Summary



Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey 2013



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About this Release

This report presents the findings from the 2013 Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS). The research was commissioned by the Scottish Government and undertaken by Information Services (ISD Scotland), National Services Scotland and Ipsos MORI Scotland.

For SALSUS 2013 reporting, the previous National Report has been replaced by a National Overview summarising the main survey findings, supported by three reports covering each of the different substance use topics (smoking, alcohol use and drug use) in detail. Local area level reporting is also available for the 2013 survey.

Key Points

Smoking

- 2% of 13 year olds and 9% of 15 year olds surveyed reported being a regular smoker.
- The proportion of 13 and 15 year olds who reported being regular smokers in 2013 was the lowest since the survey series began in 1982.
- The proportion of pupils who reported that they had never smoked increased from 45% in 2002 to 76% in 2013.

Alcohol Use

- The proportion of 13 and 15 year olds who reported drinking in the last week was the lowest since the survey series began monitoring drinking behaviour in 1990 (4% of 13 year olds and 19% of 15 year olds).
- The proportion of pupils who reported drinking alcohol in the last week decreased between 2010 and 2013 (from 14% to 4% for 13 year olds and from 34% to 19% for 15 year olds).

- In 2013, the proportion of pupils who reported never having had a proper alcoholic drink was higher for both age groups than at any time since 1996 (68% of 13 year olds and 30% of 15 year olds).

Drug Use

- 18% of 15 year olds and 4% of 13 year olds reported ever taking drugs.
- The proportion of pupils who reported that they had used drugs in the month before the survey was the lowest since the survey series began in 1998 (9% of 15 year olds and 2% of 13 year olds).
- The proportion of pupils who reported that they had never used drugs was higher in 2013 than at any time since the survey series began in 1998 (82% of 15 year olds and 96% of 13 year olds).

Background

The fieldwork for the 2013 SALSUS was conducted between September 2013 and March 2014. The survey sampled pupils in Secondary 2 and Secondary 4 in Scotland. At the time of the survey pupils were mainly 13 or 15 years of age respectively. All local authority and independently-funded schools with pupils in the target age groups were eligible for inclusion in the survey, with the exception of schools for children with special educational needs.

All pupils in selected classes were asked to complete a confidential self-completion questionnaire administered in the classroom. In total, 33,685 pupils across 283 schools participated in the 2013 SALSUS (30% of all eligible pupils). The overall response rate (based on those sampled) was 60%, which was slightly lower than in 2010 (62%). Further details on the survey methods are available in the Technical Report.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the SALSUS Reports published on the [ISD website](#).

About ISD

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Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/