The 2013 Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) was funded by the Scottish Government.

If you have any queries relating to SALSUS, please contact the Scottish Government at: salsus@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.
CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..................................................................................................................... 5

D1 KEY FINDINGS. .............................................................................................................................. 6

D2 INTRODUCTION. ............................................................................................................................. 7
  D2.1 SURVEY BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE ................................................................................. 7
  D2.2 POLICY CONTEXT - SCOTLAND’S DRUGS STRATEGY ............................................................... 7
  D2.3 SALSUS 2013 REPORTING STRUCTURE .................................................................................. 8
  D2.4 SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND RESPONSE RATES ................................................................. 8
  D2.5 SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE CHANGES. ..................................................................................... 9
  D2.6 RELATED SURVEYS .................................................................................................................. 9
  D2.7 NOTES TO AID INTERPRETATION ............................................................................................ 9

D3 DRUG USE PREVALENCE, TRENDS AND PATTERNS .................................................................. 11
  D3.1 DRUG USE PREVALENCE ....................................................................................................... 11
  D3.2 TRENDS IN DRUG USE PREVALENCE ................................................................................... 13
  D3.3 TYPES OF DRUGS USED ......................................................................................................... 14
  D3.4 FREQUENCY OF DRUG USE ................................................................................................... 17
  D3.5 WERE YOU DRINKING ALCOHOL THE LAST TIME YOU USED DRUGS? .............................. 18
  D3.6 POLY DRUG USE ...................................................................................................................... 19

D4 AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS ........................................................................................................... 20
  D4.1 EVER OFFERED DRUGS ......................................................................................................... 20
  D4.2 TYPES OF DRUGS OFFERED ................................................................................................ 21
  D4.3 WHERE PUPILS WERE WHEN THEY LAST USED DRUGS ..................................................... 24
  D4.4 EFFECTS OF TAKING DRUGS ................................................................................................. 25
  D4.5 EASE OF OBTAINING DRUGS ................................................................................................. 27
  D4.6 SOURCE OF DRUGS ................................................................................................................ 28
  D4.7 WHETHER DRUGS WERE USED, SOLD OR GIVEN AWAY. .................................................... 30

D5 ATTITUDES TO DRUGS AND INFORMATION ON DRUGS .............................................................. 31
  D5.1 KNOWLEDGE OF DRUG USE ISSUES. .................................................................................... 31
  D5.2 ATTITUDES TO DRUG USE. ..................................................................................................... 33
  D5.3 HELP WITH DRUG USE AND STOPPING USING DRUGS. ....................................................... 36

D6 FAMILY ......................................................................................................................................... 38
  D6.1 FAMILY STRUCTURE ............................................................................................................... 38
  D6.2 PARENTAL MONITORING ........................................................................................................ 38

D7 FRIENDS AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES .......................................................................................... 40
  D7.1 CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS AND TIME SPENT WITH FRIENDS. ..................................................... 40
  D7.2 LEISURE ACTIVITIES ............................................................................................................. 40

D8 SCHOOL ...................................................................................................................................... 43
D8.1 DRUGS ADVICE AND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY SCHOOL ..................................................... 43
D8.2 SUBSTANCE USE EDUCATION ............................................................................................... 43
D8.3 ATTITUDES TOWARDS SCHOOL ............................................................................................ 44
D8.4 EXPECTATIONS AFTER SCHOOL ........................................................................................... 44
D8.5 TRUANCY AND EXCLUSION ................................................................................................... 44
D8.6 SCHOOL MEALS ...................................................................................................................... 46
D9 DEPRIVATION AND SUBJECTIVE WEALTH ........................................................................ 47
D9.1 DEPRIVATION .......................................................................................................................... 47
D9.2 SUBJECTIVE WEALTH ............................................................................................................. 47
D10 HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH ...................................................................................... 49
D10.1 SELF-REPORTED HEALTH AND LONG-TERM HEALTH PROBLEMS .............................. 49
D10.2 CHILD MENTAL HEALTH: STRENGTHS AND DIFFICULTIES QUESTIONNAIRE ............. 50
D10.3 WARWICK-EDINBURGH MENTAL WELL-BEING SCALE (WEMWBS) ................................. 51
D11 SUMMARY ................................................................................................................................. 53
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D1 KEY FINDINGS

PREVALENCE

- Around one in five 15 year olds (18%) and a minority of 13 year olds (4%) reported ever taking drugs.
- The proportion of pupils who reported that they had used drugs in the month before the survey (9% of 15 year olds and 2% of 13 year olds) was the lowest since the survey series began in 1998.
- The proportion of pupils who reported that they had never used drugs was higher in 2013 (82% of 15 year olds and 96% of 13 year olds) than at any time since the survey began in 1998.
- The vast majority of 15 and 13 year olds reported never using drugs (82% and 96% respectively) and, of those who had taken drugs, a high proportion had only taken drugs once.

ACCESS TO DRUGS

- As in previous years, a higher proportion of pupils reported having been offered drugs than reported using them (37% of 15 year olds and 14% of 13 year olds reported being offered drugs).
- Cannabis was the most commonly offered drug (34% of 15 year olds and 9% of 13 year olds reported being offered cannabis).
- Older pupils were more likely to report that it would be ‘fairly’ or ‘very easy’ to get illegal drugs if they wanted to (40% of 15 year olds compared with 14% of 13 year olds).
- Pupils were most likely, on the last occasion they obtained drugs, to have got them from a friend, e.g. a friend their own age (39%) or from an older friend (29%).

DRUG TAKING BEHAVIOUR

- In addition to being the most commonly offered drug, cannabis was by far the most commonly used drug (9% of 15 year olds and 1% of 13 year olds reported using cannabis in the month before the survey).
- The most commonly reported effects of taking drugs in the last year were vomiting (18%), having an argument (16%) and doing something that was later regretted (15%).

ATTITUDES TO DRUGS AND KNOWLEDGE OF DRUGS

- Although the majority of all pupils thought that the statement ‘taking cannabis is dangerous’ was true, the proportion agreeing with this statement has fallen between 2010 and 2013 (particularly for the small proportion of 15 year olds who reported taking drugs in the last month).
- Pupils who had never taken drugs seem to be less aware of some of the risks associated with drug taking than those who had taken drugs in the last month.
- There is a lack of knowledge about the consequences of drug use amongst young people. For example nearly two-thirds of 15 year olds (61%) and over three quarters of 13 year olds (77%) who had never taken drugs did not know whether the statement ‘injecting drugs can lead to Hepatitis C’ was true.

\[1\] Drug use prevalence shows the proportion (percentage) of the population who take drugs.
D2 INTRODUCTION
This report presents the drug use findings from the 2013 Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS). This survey is the primary source of data on substance using behaviour among young people in Scotland.

D2.1 SURVEY BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE
The 2013 survey is the latest in a long running series of national surveys of young people’s substance use. From 1982 to 2000 these were carried out jointly in Scotland and England to provide national information on smoking behaviour (from 1982), drinking behaviour (from 1990) and drug use (from 1998). In 2002, Scotland introduced its own (SALSUS) survey.

The survey provides national policy makers with vital information to help develop and evaluate policies to reduce the prevalence of substance use in Scotland and to monitor progress towards achieving Scottish Government targets. Every four years the SALSUS also provides information on substance use for local areas2. These data are used to help inform local service planning, for example, to develop Alcohol & Drug Partnership (ADP) strategic and delivery plans and to monitor progress towards achieving a number of the ADP core indicators. For more examples of how the information from the survey is used please see the ScotPHO local area profiles and the SALSUS web pages.

The Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland was commissioned by the Scottish Government (SG) to carry out the analysis and reporting for the 2013 SALSUS survey. The survey fieldwork was undertaken by Ipsos MORI Scotland.

D2.2 POLICY CONTEXT - SCOTLAND’S DRUGS STRATEGY
On 29th May 2008, the Scottish Government published its national strategy for drug misuse ‘The Road to Recovery: A New Approach to Tackling Scotland’s Drug Problem’. The strategy focuses on recovery, but also looks at treatment and rehabilitation, education, enforcement and protection of children. Chapter 2: Preventing Drug Use, highlights the belief that preventing drug use, for example through substance misuse education in schools, is more effective than treating established drug problems. The strategy also recognises the importance of addressing the underlying causes associated with drug use.

In 2008, phase one of the strategy established consensus that recovery was the right approach. Phase two then focused on putting the infrastructure in place through sustained funding, the establishment of Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs), and bringing waiting times down.

The strategy is now in its third phase, where there is a commitment to making sure that quality is embedded across all drug treatment services in Scotland. Quality in both the care, treatment and recovery services provided; and quality in the data that will evidence the outcomes of people in recovery.

2 Previous local surveys were carried out in 2002, 2006 and 2010.
Other key policy documents include: ‘Hidden Harm - Next Steps: Supporting Children Working with Parents’, published by the Scottish Government in May 2006, which addresses the issues for children and young people affected by parental substance misuse.

As previously mentioned, SALSUS provides local level data for every local authority every four years. These data are used to help inform local service planning and reporting, for example, to develop ADP Action Plans. They are also used to monitor four of the ADP core indicators (three of which relate to drugs and one to alcohol use). SALSUS local data have also been incorporated in the ScotPHO drugs profiles. Further details on the SALSUS survey and its uses are available on the SALSUS web pages.

Figure D1: Scottish Drugs Policy Timeline; 2002 – present

D2.3 SALSUS 2013 REPORTING STRUCTURE

For the 2013 SALSUS, the reporting structure has been revised. The previous National Report has been replaced by a National Overview summarising the main survey findings. This National Overview is supported by three reports covering the different substance use topics (‘smoking’, ‘alcohol use’ and ‘drug use’) in detail. Additional outputs include: NHS Board, Local Authority and Alcohol & Drug Partnership (ADP) summaries (which replace the previous local reports). Complementing these reports and summaries are new, interactive Excel tables which present both national and local statistics together for the first time allowing local areas to benchmark trends in substance use. All of these documents, along with the survey questionnaire and a technical report, are available on the SALSUS web pages.

D2.4 SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND RESPONSE RATES

The fieldwork for the 2013 SALSUS was conducted between September 2013 and March 2014. The survey sampled pupils in Secondary 2 (S2) and Secondary 4 (S4) 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 (110,984 eligible
The survey was conducted in schools using a class-based design. 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\(^4\) (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.

**D2.5 SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE CHANGES**

The 2013 survey questions are similar to those used in the previous survey, carried out in 2010. However, some changes were made to reflect feedback from a SALSUS user/stakeholder consultation which was undertaken by the Scottish Government in the autumn of 2012. The changes to the drugs related questions in 2013 are available in the Technical Report and on the [SALSUS web pages](#), along with a copy of the questionnaire.

**D2.6 RELATED SURVEYS**

The latest annual survey of ‘Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2013’ was published in July 2014 by the NatCen Social Research and National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). This survey covers similar information to that published in SALSUS but please note that care should be taken when attempting to make direct comparisons between this survey and the SALSUS findings due to differences in question wording and in the age group of pupils included in each survey. Other relevant surveys include Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC), the [Northern Ireland Lifestyle and Coping Survey](#) and the [Scottish Health Survey](#).

**D2.7 NOTES TO AID INTERPRETATION**

The SALSUS 2013 questionnaire comprised a mix of mandatory questions (asked of all pupils) and sub-questions, to be answered only if relevant to a previous response, for example, if the young person stated that they had ‘ever’ taken drugs.

For the purposes of reporting, S2 pupils are referred to as “13 year olds” and S4 pupils are referred to as “15 year olds”. While most pupils in S2 are 13 years old, and most pupils in S4 are 15 years old, some pupils are slightly older or younger.

Where differences between estimates are specifically commented on in this report, these differences are statistically significant. For example, reporting that ‘the prevalence of drug use in the last month was higher in 15 year old boys than girls…’ would indicate that this difference between the genders is statistically significant at the 5% level. The report commentary focuses on the main statistically significant differences of note and does not cover all statistically significant differences.

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\(^3\) Number of eligible pupils sourced from the 2012 pupil census for local authority schools and the 2009 census for independent schools. Excludes pupils in schools dedicated to children with Additional Support needs.

\(^4\) The overall response rate is calculated as the product of the class and pupil response rates.
While there are associations between many of the behaviours explored in this report, firm conclusions about causality cannot be drawn. This is because association implies neither causality nor the direction of effects. For example, where pupils who use drugs are more likely than those who have never used drugs to have truanted or to have been excluded, it is not clear whether playing truant or being excluded makes the pupils more likely to take drugs, or if those who already take drugs are more likely to start playing truant or to be excluded from school.

All percentages are based on those pupils who gave a valid response to each question and are rounded to the nearest whole number, so may not total 100%. Some pupils did not answer each question. These ‘no answers’ have been excluded from the analysis and so tables that describe the same population may have varying bases. A small number of pupils omitted to report their gender. Therefore, the sum of the bases for boys and girls does not necessarily correspond to the bases for ‘all pupils’ in the same age group.

Pupils were grouped into those who had ‘never used drugs’ and those who had ‘ever used drugs’. Those who had ‘ever used drugs’ were further categorised as those who had ‘used drugs in the last month’ and those who had ‘used drugs in the last year’. Please note that those who had ‘used drugs in the last year’ includes those who had used drugs in the last month; ‘ever used drugs’ includes those who used drugs in the last month, in the last year and more than a year ago. On the whole, this report draws comparisons between those who had ‘used drugs in the last month’ and those who had ‘never used drugs’.

Further information on the survey methodology can be found within the 2013 SALSUS Technical Report.
D3 DRUG USE PREVALENCE, TRENDS AND PATTERNS

Pupils were provided with a list of drugs alongside some of their street names and asked to indicate if they had taken each of them ‘in the last month’, ‘in the last year’, ‘more than a year ago’ or ‘never’.

D3.1 DRUG USE PREVALENCE

Ever used drugs (includes used drugs more than a year ago, in the last year and in the last month)

Around one in five 15 year olds and a minority of 13 year olds reported ever having used drugs, with boys more likely than girls to have ever used drugs.

- Eighteen per cent of 15 year olds and 4% of 13 year olds reported ever taking drugs.
- Boys were more likely than girls to have ever used drugs (5% compared with 3% among 13 year olds and 19% compared with 16% for 15 year olds).

Used drugs in the last year (includes used drugs in the last month)

Less than one in five 15 year olds and a minority of 13 year olds reported using drugs in the last year, with boys more likely than girls to have used drugs in the last year.

- Sixteen per cent of 15 year olds and 3% of 13 year olds said they had used drugs in the last year.
- Boys were more likely than girls to report drug use in the last year (4% compared with 3% among 13 year olds and 17% compared with 14% among 15 year olds).

Used drugs in the last month

Less than one in ten 15 year olds and a minority of 13 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey, with 15 year old boys more likely than 15 year old girls to have used drugs in the last month.

- Nine per cent of 15 year olds and 2% of 13 year olds reported taking drugs in the last month.
- Among 15 year olds, boys were more likely than girls to have used drugs in the last month (11% compared with 8%).

Never used drugs

The majority of pupils reported that they have never taken drugs, with the proportion who had never taken drugs decreasing with age.

- Eighty-two per cent of 15 year olds and 96% of 13 year olds had never used drugs.

Table D1 and Figures D2 & D3

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5 It should be noted that there was a relatively high level of item non-response to most of the drugs listed in this question (Q71). Further information on item non-response is provided in the SALSUS 2013 Technical Report.
Figure D2: Reported use of drugs in the last month, last year\(^6\) or never; by age group, Scotland 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>13 year olds</th>
<th>15 year olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never taken any drugs</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used drugs in last year</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used drugs in last month</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: All pupils

Figure D3: Reported use of drugs in the last month, last year\(^6\) or ever\(^7\); by age group and gender, Scotland, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boys 13 year olds</th>
<th>Girls 13 year olds</th>
<th>Boys 15 year olds</th>
<th>Girls 15 year olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Used drugs in last month</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used drugs in last year</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used drugs ever</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: All pupils

---

\(^6\) ‘used drugs in last year’ includes those who ‘used drugs in the last month’.

\(^7\) ‘ever used drugs’ includes those who ‘used drugs in the last year’ and those who ‘used drugs in the last month’.
D3.2 TRENDS IN DRUG USE PREVALENCE

Reported drug use in the last month is used to monitor trends in drug use prevalence.

The proportion of pupils who reported that they had used drugs in the last month was the lowest since the time series began in 1998.

- The proportion of 15 year olds who reported using drugs in the month before the survey fell from 24% in 1998 to 9% in 2013. Similarly, the proportion of 13 year olds who reported using drugs in the month prior to the survey also dropped, from 8% in 1998 to 2% in 2013.

- The proportion of both boys and girls in both age groups who reported that they had used drugs in the last month also dropped. In 1998, 26% of 15 year old boys and 22% of 15 year old girls reported using drugs in the month prior to the survey. By 2013 these proportions had fallen to 11% and 8% respectively. In 1998, 9% of 13 year old boys and 7% of 13 year old girls reported using drugs in the month prior to the survey. By 2013 these proportions had both fallen to 2%.

Since 1998, there has been an increase in the proportion of pupils who have never used drugs. Levels in 2013 were at the highest recorded since the survey series began.

- Between 1998 and 2013, the proportion of 15 year olds who never used drugs increased from 61% in 1998 to 82% in 2013 and for 13 year olds from 87% in 1998 to 96% in 2013.

- The proportion of both boys and girls in both year groups who had never used drugs also increased.

Tables D2a & D2b and Figure D4

Figure D4: Percentage of pupils using drugs in the month prior to the survey; by age group and gender, Scotland, 1998-2013
D3.3 TYPES OF DRUGS USED

Pupils were provided with a list of drugs alongside some of their street names and asked to indicate if they had taken any of them. In 2013, an additional three new categories of drugs were added to the list (salvia, MDMA powder and powders or pills sold as legal highs). ‘Spice’ was included in a new, larger category (‘synthetic cannabis’) and BZP was removed. Please refer to the SALSUS Technical Report for more detail.

Presented below are the main findings in relation to the types of drugs pupils reported that they had used. A new section specifically looking at the use of ‘new psychoactive substances’ has been added.

As in previous years, cannabis was by far the most commonly used drug, with smaller proportions of pupils reporting using other types of drugs.

Drug use in last month

- Almost one in ten 15 year olds (9%) reported using cannabis in the last month, with 15 year old boys more likely than 15 year old girls to report using cannabis in the last month (10% compared to 7%).

- Smaller proportions of 15 year olds reported using other drugs in the last month: stimulants (2%), psychedelics (2%), opiates (1%), gas, glue or other solvents (1%) and tranquillisers (1%).

- One per cent of 13 year olds reported using cannabis in the last month, with 13 year old boys more likely than 13 year old girls to report using cannabis in the last month (2% compared to 1%).

- Small proportions of 13 year olds reported using other drugs in the last month, i.e. stimulants (1%), psychedelics (1%) and gas, glue and other solvents (1%).

Table D3 & D4

Ever used drugs

- Seventeen per cent of 15 year olds reported ever using cannabis, with 15 year olds boys more likely than 15 year old girls to report ever using cannabis (18% compared to 15%).

- Smaller proportions of 15 year olds reported ever using other drugs, e.g. stimulants (5%), psychedelics (4%), gas, glue or other solvents (2%) and opiates (1%).

- Three per cent of 13 year olds who had ever used drugs reported using cannabis, with 13 year old boys more likely than 13 year old girls to report ever using cannabis (4% compared to 2%).

- Smaller proportions of 13 year olds reported ever using other drugs such as stimulants (1%), psychedelics (1%), opiates (1%) and gas, glue or other solvents (1%).

Table D6 and Figure D5

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8 In some figures, data are shown for groups of drugs and other drugs individually. This is because certain drugs have similar effects and thus might be considered, to some extent, interchangeable. The groupings used are: Stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers, mephedrone), Psychedelics (LSD, magic mushrooms, ketamine, spice), and Opiates (heroin, methadone).
**Use of ‘new psychoactive substances’:**

In recent years there has been a growth in ‘new psychoactive substances’ (NPSs) coming into the drugs market. The SALSUS survey asks about a number of these drugs which can be referred to as NPSs. Those reported in the survey are GBL or GHB, mephedrone, salvia, synthetic cannabis (spice, black mamba, clockwork orange) and powders or pills that are sold as ‘legal highs’.

Some of these drugs were first included in the survey in 2010 (GBL or GHB, mephedrone and spice). In 2013 further drugs were included (salvia and powders or pills that are sold as legal highs) and ‘spice’ was included in a new synthetic cannabinoid category. As a result of these changes, comparisons cannot be drawn with the 2010 SALSUS data.
Very small proportions of 15 and 13 year olds reported having used NPSs.

- Four per cent of 15 year olds reported ever using one or more NPS. Of these, 2% reported having taken at least one NPS in the last month.

- Fifteen year old boys were more likely than 15 year old girls to report ever having used one or more NPS (5% compared to 3%) and to have taken them in the last month (2% compared to 1%).

- Among 15 year olds, the most commonly used NPSs were mephedrone, synthetic cannabis and salvia: 2% of 15 year olds reported ever using these ‘new’ substances, similar to the proportions reporting ever using drugs such as cocaine, ecstasy, poppers and magic mushrooms.

- Less than 1% of 13 year olds reported ever using one or more of the NPSs, with the most commonly used NPS in this age group being synthetic cannabis.

- Less than one per cent of 13 year olds reported using any of the NPSs in the past month.

Tables D7 & D9
D3.4 FREQUENCY OF DRUG USE

Pupils were asked how often they usually use drugs.

The vast majority of 15 and 13 year olds reported never using drugs and, of those who had taken drugs, a high proportion had only taken drugs once.

- While 18% of 15 year olds reported that they had taken drugs, 7% said that they had only taken drugs once and 2% reported that they used to take drugs sometimes but don't take them anymore.
- A small proportion of 15 year olds reported taking drugs a few times a year (2%), taking drugs once or twice a month (2%) and taking drugs at least once a week (2%).
- Two per cent of 15 year old boys and 1% of 15 year old girls said they took drugs most days.
- Among 13 year olds, while 4% reported ever having taken drugs, 2% said that they had only taken drugs once and 1% said they used to take drugs sometimes but don't take them anymore.
- For both 13 year old boys and girls, less than 1% reported taking drugs most days.
- Compared with 2010, there has been an increase in the proportion of pupils who said they have never used drugs (among 15 year olds, from 80% in 2010 to 82% in 2013 and, among 13 year olds, from 95% in 2010 to 96% in 2013).

Figure D6: Frequency of drug use; by age group, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: All pupils
D3.5 WERE YOU DRINKING ALCOHOL THE LAST TIME YOU USED DRUGS?

Pupils who reported that they had ever taken drugs were asked whether, the last time they used drugs, they were also drinking alcohol.

Of those who reported that they had taken drugs, girls in both age groups were much more likely than boys to report drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs.

- Over a third of 15 year olds (37%) and more than one in five 13 year olds (23%) said they had been drinking alcohol when they last used drugs.
- Girls were much more likely than boys to report drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs (45% compared with 31% among 15 year olds and 28% compared with 19% among 13 year olds).
- The same pattern was observed in 2010 with 56% of 15 year old girls reporting drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs compared with 38% of 15 year old boys. (The corresponding figures for 13 year olds are 39% and 27%).

The proportion of both 15 and 13 year olds who reported drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs decreased between 2010 and 2013.

- Fewer 15 year olds reported drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs in 2013 compared to 2010 (from 45% in 2010 to 37% in 2013).
- In 2013, 23% of 13 year olds reported drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs, compared to 32% in 2010.

Figure D7: ‘Were you drinking alcohol the last time used drugs?'; by age group and gender, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: Pupils who have ever used drugs
In 2013, pupils who reported ever having used drugs were asked a new question relating to poly drug use: ‘The last time you used drugs, did you use more than one type of drug?’.

Compared to 15 year olds, a higher proportion of 13 year olds reported using more than one type of drug the last time they used drugs.

- Eleven per cent of 15 year olds, who had ever taken drugs, reported using more than one type of drug the last time they used drugs compared with 17% of 13 year olds.
- Fifteen year olds boys were more likely than 15 year old girls to report using more than one type of drug the last time they used drugs (13% compared with 8%). Among 13 year olds there was no difference between boys and girls.
D4 AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS

D4.1 EVER OFFERED DRUGS

All pupils were asked whether they had ever been offered any drugs.

As in previous surveys, a much higher proportion of pupils reported having been offered drugs than reported using them, with 15 year olds more likely to have been offered drugs than 13 year olds. Boys in both age groups were more likely to have been offered drugs than girls.

- Thirty-seven per cent of 15 year olds and 14% of 13 year olds said they had been offered at least one of the drugs on the list provided. For comparison, 18% of 15 year olds and 4% of 13 year olds reported ever having used drugs.
- Thirty-nine per cent of 15 year old boys reported being offered drugs compared with 35% of 15 year old girls. Seventeen per cent of 13 year old boys reported being offered drugs compared with 12% of 13 year old girls.

Compared with 2010, the proportion of pupils reporting being offered drugs has fallen.

- In 2010, 42% of 15 year olds reported that they had ever been offered drugs. By 2013, this had fallen to 37%.
- Similarly, there was a fall in the proportion of 13 year olds reporting that they had ever been offered drugs from 16% in 2010 to 14% in 2013.

Table D14 and Figure D8

Figure D8: Percentage of pupils ever offered drugs or ever tried drugs; by age group and gender, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: All pupils
D4.2 TYPES OF DRUGS OFFERED

All pupils were asked to state the type(s) of drugs they had been offered from a list provided in the questionnaire. The list of drugs provided was updated in the 2013 questionnaire (see the Technical Report for more details).

In addition to being the most commonly reported drug used (see section D3.3), cannabis was also the drug most commonly offered to pupils, with boys more likely to be offered cannabis than girls.

- Nine per cent of 13 year olds and 34% of 15 year olds reported being offered cannabis.
- Boys were more likely than girls to have been offered cannabis (36% of 15 year old boys compared with 31% of 15 year old girls and 11% of 13 year old boys compared with 7% of 13 year old girls).
- Since 2010, there has been a reduction in the number of 15 year olds reporting being offered cannabis (from 36% in 2010 to 34% in 2013). There was no change in the proportion of 13 year olds reporting being offered cannabis (9%).

Fifteen year olds reported that the second most commonly offered drugs were stimulants. The second most commonly offered drugs reported by 13 year olds were stimulants and gas, glue or other solvents.

- Fourteen per cent of 15 year olds said they had ever been offered stimulants. Ecstasy and cocaine were the most commonly reported stimulants offered: 9% of 15 year olds reported having been offered ecstasy and 8% of 15 year olds reported being offered cocaine.
- Four per cent of 13 year olds said they had been offered gas, glue or other solvents and 4% also reported being offered stimulants. Ecstasy and cocaine were the most commonly reported stimulants offered: 2% of 13 year olds reported having been offered ecstasy and 2% reported ever being offered cocaine.

Tables D16 and Figure D9
Figure D9: Percentage of pupils ever offered drugs; by type of drug and age group, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013

Base: All pupils
New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs):
This section looks at the five NPSs (GBL or GHB, mephedrone, synthetic cannabis, salvia and powders or pills sold as legal highs).

- Around one in ten 15 year olds (8%) and 3% of 13 year olds reported ever having been offered at least one of the five ‘new psychoactive substances’.
- The ‘new psychoactive substance’ most commonly offered to 15 year olds was synthetic cannabis (5% of 15 year olds reported being offered this drug), followed by mephedrone (3%) and salvia (3%).
- Since 2010 the proportion of 15 year olds who reported ever being offered mephedrone has halved, from 6% in 2010 to 3% in 2013.

Figure D10: Percentage of pupils ever offered new psychoactive substances; by type of drug and age group, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: All pupils
D4.3 WHERE PUPILS WERE WHEN THEY LAST USED DRUGS

Pupils who reported that they had ever used drugs (18% of 15 year olds and 4% of 13 year olds) were asked where they were the last time they used drugs. Please note that some pupils selected more than one response option when responding to this question.

On the last occasion they took drugs, pupils were most likely to be ‘outdoors’.

- Pupils of both ages were most likely to report taking drugs out in the street, in a park or other outdoor area the last time they took drugs (40% of 15 year olds and 41% of 13 year olds).
- There was a decrease in the proportion of 15 year olds reporting taking drugs ‘outdoors’ when they had most recently taken drugs (45% in 2010 compared with 40% in 2013).
- There was also a decrease in the proportion of 13 year olds reporting taking drugs ‘outdoors’ when they had last taken drugs (49% in 2010 compared with 41% in 2013).

Other locations where drugs were taken, on the last occasion they were used, differed between the different age groups.

- The next most commonly reported location for drug use among 15 year olds was ‘in someone else’s home’ (31%) followed by ‘at a party’ (23%).
- In contrast, among 13 year olds, the next most commonly reported location where drugs were used was ‘at home’ (22%) followed by ‘in someone else’s home’ (19%).
- Of the small proportion of 13 year olds who take drugs, the proportion reporting taking drugs ‘at home’ has almost doubled since 2010, from 12% to 22% in 2013.

Locations where drugs were last used differed between boys and girls.

- Among 15 year olds, girls were more likely than boys to have last used drugs ‘in someone else’s home’ (36% compared with 27%) or ‘at a party’ (25% compared with 21%). Boys were more likely than girls to have taken them outdoors (44% compared with 36%) or at home (9% compared with 6%).

Table D19 & D20 and Figure D11
D4.4 EFFECTS OF TAKING DRUGS

Pupils who reported ever having used drugs were asked whether, in the past year, as a result of taking drugs they had suffered any of the effects on a list provided. Please note that the response options to this question were increased in 2013 (see the Technical Report for further details). For this reason, comparisons cannot be drawn with the 2010 data.

The most commonly reported effects of taking drugs in the past year were vomiting, arguing and doing something that was later regretted.

- Among 15 year olds, around one in five (18%) of those who had ever used drugs reported vomiting as a result of drug use in the last year. Arguing and doing something that was later regretted were both reported by 16% of 15 year olds.
- One in five 13 year olds (19%) reported arguing as a result of drug use in the last year. Sixteen per cent reported ‘being sick’ and 15% reported ‘having a fight’.
- Fifteen year old girls were more likely than boys to report ‘doing something you later regretted’ (18% compared with 13%) or ‘sending a text/email that you wished you hadn’t’ (12% compared...
Drug Use

with 9%). Fifteen year old boys were more likely than girls to report having ‘been in trouble with the police’ (12% compared to 8%) or having ‘had a fight’ (12% compared with 8%).

- Overall, more than one in three (35%) 13 year olds and four out of ten (40%) 15 year olds who had ever used drugs reported at least one effect of taking drugs in the last year.

**Tables D21 & D22 and Figure D12**

**Figure D12: Effects of taking drugs, experienced at least once in the last year; by age group, Scotland, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>13 year olds</th>
<th>15 year olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Had an argument</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vomited</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a fight</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regretted something</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stayed off school</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad school work</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trouble with police</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felt threatened</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sent text/email</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tried another drug</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posted on social network</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen doctor</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: Pupils who have ever used drugs
D4.5 EASE OF OBTAINING DRUGS

All pupils were asked whether it would be ‘very easy’, ‘fairly easy’, ‘fairly difficult’, ‘very difficult’ or ‘impossible’ for them to get illegal drugs if they wanted to, or whether they ‘don’t know’ how easy it would be to do so.

Older pupils were more likely than younger pupils, with boys being slightly more likely than girls, to report that it would be ‘very easy’ or ‘fairly easy’ to obtain illegal drugs if they wanted to.

- Forty per cent of 15 year olds and 14% of 13 year olds felt it would be ‘very easy’ or ‘fairly easy’ to obtain drugs if they wanted to.
- Boys were slightly more likely than girls to say it would be ‘very easy’ or ‘fairly easy’ to obtain drugs (42% of 15 year old boys compared with 38% of 15 year old girls and 17% of 13 year old boys compared with 12% of 13 year old girls).
- Reflecting both the lower prevalence of drug use among 13 year olds and the lower proportion of 13 year olds reporting that they had been offered drugs, younger pupils were more likely than older pupils to say that they did not know how easy or difficult it would be to obtain drugs: 51% of 13 year olds said they ‘didn’t know’ compared with 36% of 15 year olds.
- There has been a slight decrease in the proportion of 15 year olds reporting that it would be ‘very easy’ or ‘fairly easy’ to obtain drugs: from 42% in 2010 to 40% in 2013.

Reports of ‘easy’ access to drugs rose in line with frequency of drug use.

- Twenty-one per cent of those who had never tried drugs thought it would be ‘very easy’ or ‘fairly easy’ to obtain drugs compared with 67% of those who had tried drugs once, and 94% of those who used drugs at least once a week.
- As might be expected, pupils who had never used drugs were most likely to say they did not know how easy it would be to get drugs (48%), compared to 13% of those who had tried drugs once and 1% of those used drugs at least once a week.

Tables D23 & D24
D4.6 SOURCE OF DRUGS

Pupils who had ever taken drugs were asked ‘the last time you used drugs, how did you get them’? Please note that some pupils selected more than one response option when answering this question.

**Pupils who had taken drugs were most likely to report that, on the last occasion they took drugs, they got them from a friend.**

- Fifteen year olds reported that, the last time they used drugs, they got them from a friend their own age (42%) or an older friend (29%). By comparison, 13 year olds were less likely to have last obtained drugs from a friend their own age (25%) but equally likely to have got them from an older friend (30%).
- Fifteen year olds girls were more likely than 15 year old boys to have last obtained drugs from an older friend (33% compared to 25%) or a friend of the same age (44% compared with 41%).
- The proportion of 15 year olds reporting an older friend as their source of drugs dropped from 33% in 2010 to 29% in 2013.

**Other reported sources of drugs:**

- Fourteen per cent of 15 year olds, compared with almost one in five 13 year olds (18%), reported that they last obtained their drugs from ‘someone or somewhere else’9. Boys were more likely than girls to have last obtained drugs from ‘someone or somewhere else’ (19% compared with 9% of 15 year olds and 21% compared with 14% of 13 year olds).
- Since 2010 there has been a very small increase in the proportion of 15 year old pupils who reported obtaining their drugs from their mother, father or carer (from 1% in 2010 to 2% in 2013) and small drops in the proportion who reported obtaining their drugs from ‘someone I know of, but didn’t know personally (from 11% in 2010 to 9% in 2013) or from their brother or sister (from 4% in 2010 to 3% in 2013).
- For 13 year olds, the proportion reporting getting their drugs from their mother, father or carer was higher in 2013 than 2010 (8% compared with 4%). However, the proportion reporting getting their drugs from a stranger was lower in 2013 than 2010 (7% compared with 11%). Similarly, the proportion reporting getting their drugs from someone they know of, but didn’t know personally was also lower (dropping from 13% in 2010 to 7% in 2013) as was the proportion reporting obtaining their drugs from someone or somewhere else (from 23% in 2010 to 18% in 2013).
- Fifteen year old boys were more likely than 15 year old girls to have last obtained drugs from ‘someone they knew of, but not personally’ (12% compared with 5%).

Tables D26 & D27 and Figure D13

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9 No further detail collected.
Figure D13: Source of drugs; by age group, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: Pupils who have ever used drugs
D4.7 WHETHER DRUGS WERE USED, SOLD OR GIVEN AWAY

Pupils who reported ever having used drugs (18% of 15 year olds and 4% of 13 year olds) were asked whether, on the last occasion they used them, they had used them all, sold some and/or given some away.

Pupils were most likely, on the last occasion they had used drugs, to have sold some and/or given some away than to have used them all.

- Of those who had ever used drugs, 60% of 15 year olds and 47% of 13 year olds said that, on the last occasion they used drugs, they had given some away.
- Fifteen year old boys were more likely to report using all their drugs themselves compared with 15 year old girls (39% compared with 32%).
- Boys were more likely than girls to say that they had sold some of their drugs (7% compared with 4% among 15 year olds and 13% compared with 7% among 13 year olds).
- Between 2010 and 2013, there was an increase in the proportion of 15 year olds who said that they had used their drugs all by themselves (from 29% in 2010 to 36% in 2013) and a decrease in the proportion who reported giving some of their drugs away (from 65% in 2010 to 60% in 2013).
- Similarly among 13 year olds, the proportion who said that they used all of their drugs themselves increased (from 32% in 2010 to 43% in 2013) and decreased in those who reported giving some of their drugs away (from 55% to 47%).

Tables D28 & D29 and Figure D14

Figure D14: Whether pupils who have ever used drugs used all drugs themselves, sold some or gave some away on the last occasion they used them; by age group and gender, Scotland, 2013

13 year olds
- 47% Used it all myself
- 40% Gave some of it away
- 13% Sold some of it
- 46% Used it all myself

15 year olds
- 55% Used it all myself
- 65% Gave some of it away
- 7% Sold some of it
- 32% Used it all myself

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: Pupils who have ever used drugs
D5 ATTITUDES TO DRUGS AND INFORMATION ON DRUGS

D5.1 KNOWLEDGE OF DRUG USE ISSUES

All pupils were asked to read seven statements about drugs and indicate whether they thought each statement was true or false, or if they didn’t know. It should be noted that in response to these questions pupils tended to select ‘don’t know’ rather than provide an incorrect answer. This suggests that pupils are more likely to be uninformed than misinformed about some of the risks associated with drug use.

Cannabis

The majority of all pupils thought that the statement ‘taking cannabis is dangerous’ was true, however this view was held most strongly among pupils who had never taken drugs. Among older pupils who had taken drugs in the last month, the majority thought this statement to be false. In general, the proportion of pupils agreeing with this statement has fallen between 2010 and 2013.

- Overall, the majority of all pupils thought the statement ‘taking cannabis is dangerous’ was true (65% of 15 year olds and 77% of 13 year olds). For those who had never taken drugs, these proportions rose to 71% of 15 year olds and 78% of 13 year olds.
- However, a much smaller proportion of those who had taken drugs in the last month thought that taking cannabis was dangerous (27% of 15 year olds and 48% of 13 year olds).
- In fact, the majority (60%) of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month thought that taking cannabis was not dangerous. This may reflect the fact that most pupils who had used drugs in the last month had used cannabis and are thus more ambivalent about the dangers associated with its use.
- In general, the proportion of pupils agreeing with this statement has fallen between 2010 and 2013. In particular, for 15 year olds who reported taking drugs in the last month, the figure has dropped from 46% to 27%.

| Table D30a & D30b |

Heroin and Cocaine

The majority of pupils, regardless of their drug use status, thought that the statement ‘heroin is addictive’ was true. However, those who had taken drugs in the month prior to the survey were less likely than those who had never taken drugs to agree that ‘taking cocaine is dangerous’.

- The majority of all pupils thought that the statement ‘heroin is addictive’ was true, regardless of their drug use status: 15 year olds who had never taken drugs and those who had taken drugs in the last month were equally likely to feel that this statement was true (84%). The corresponding figures for 13 year olds were 75% for those who had never taken drugs and 78% for those who had taken drugs in the last month.
- Overall, the majority of pupils felt that the statement ‘taking cocaine is dangerous’ was true (89% of 15 year olds and 84% of 13 year olds). However, those who had taken drugs in the last month were less likely to say this statement was true compared with those who had never taken drugs: 82% of 15 year olds compared with 90%, and 73% of 13 year olds compared with 84%.
The proportion of 15 year olds who had used drugs in the last month, who agreed that the statement ‘heroine is addictive’ was true, decreased from 88% in 2010 to 84% in 2013. Similarly, for the statement ‘taking cocaine is dangerous’, the proportion who thought this statement was true fell from 86% in 2010 to 82% in 2013. These decreases are associated with an increase in the proportion of pupils responding ‘don’t know’ to these statements in 2013.

Table D30a & D30b

Solvents

The majority of pupils thought that the statement ‘inhaling or sniffing solvents can cause brain damage’ was true and this view was held equally by those who had taken drugs in the last month and those who had never taken drugs.

- Seventy per cent of 15 year olds and 59% of 13 year olds said that they thought the statement ‘inhaling or sniffing solvents can cause brain damage’ was true. There were no differences between those who had never taken drugs and those who had taken drugs in the last month.
- The proportion of pupils who had used drugs in the last month, who agreed with this statement decreased between 2010 and 2013: from 68% to 60% for 13 year olds and from 79% to 71% for 15 year olds.

Injecting Drugs

Pupils who had never taken drugs seem to be less aware of some of the risks than pupils who had taken drugs in the last month, with a larger proportion responding that they did not know whether the statement ‘injecting drugs can lead to HIV’ and ‘injecting drugs can lead to Hepatitis C’ were true. This was particularly the case for the statement on Hepatitis C.

- Seventy-four per cent of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month said that ‘injecting drugs can lead to HIV’ compared with only 59% of those who had never taken drugs. However, 36% of those who had never taken drugs said they did not know if this statement was true (compared with 19% of those who took drugs in the last month). Only a small proportion said they thought this statement was false (5% of those who had never taken drugs and 7% of those who had taken drugs in the last month). Similar findings were found among 13 year olds.
- The proportion of 15 year old pupils agreeing with this statement has fallen since 2010, particularly for those pupils who had never used drugs (from 68%), but also for those who had used drugs in the last month (from 79%).
- Sixty-one per cent of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month said that ‘injecting drugs can lead to Hepatitis C’ compared with only 37% of those who had never taken drugs. However, 61% of those who had never taken drugs said they did not know if this statement was true (compared with 34% of those who took drugs in the last month). Only a small proportion said they thought this statement was false (3% of those who had never taken drugs and 5% of those who had taken drugs in the last month). Similar findings were found among 13 year olds.
- The proportion of 15 year olds who had never used drugs agreeing with this statement fell from 42% in 2010 to 37% in 2013. There were no significant differences in the proportion of 15 year olds who had taken drugs agreeing with this statement.

Table D30a & D30b
Relative dangers of heroin and cannabis

More than half of pupils who had never used drugs did not know whether 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis'.

- Over three quarters (78%) of 15 year olds who had used drugs in the month before the survey agreed with the statement ‘heroin is more dangerous than cannabis’ while, among those who had never used drugs, 47% agreed. Among 13 year olds, the corresponding figures were 58% and 27%.
- A large proportion of those who had never used drugs reported that they did not know if this statement was true (50% of 15 year olds and 68% of 13 year olds).

D5.2 ATTITUDES TO DRUG USE

Attitudes to trying drugs

All pupils were asked if they thought it was ‘ok’ for someone their age to: ‘try sniffing glue to see what it’s like’, ‘try taking cannabis to see what it’s like’ or ‘try taking cocaine to see what it’s like’.

The majority of pupils felt it was ‘not ok’ for someone their age to try sniffing glue, try taking cannabis or try taking cocaine to see what it was like.

- Eighty-five per cent of all pupils thought it was ‘not ok’ to try sniffing glue to see what it was like. Fifteen and 13 year old pupils felt equally strongly that it was ‘not ok’ to try sniffing glue (85% of 15 year olds and 84% of 13 year olds). Five per cent of 15 year olds and 4% of 13 year olds thought it was ‘ok’ to try sniffing glue and a further 10% of 15 year olds and 11% of 13 year olds reported that they did not know.
- Four out of five pupils (81%) felt it was ‘not ok’ to try taking cannabis to see what it was like. Older pupils were more likely to think it was ‘ok’ to try cannabis (18% of 15 year olds compared with only 3% of 13 year olds). A further 10% of 15 year olds and 8% of 13 year olds reported they did not know.
- Almost nine out of ten pupils (89%) felt it was ‘not ok’ to try taking cocaine to see what it was like. Older pupils were more likely to think it was ‘ok’ to try cocaine (4% of 15 year olds compared with only 1% of 13 year olds). A further 8% of 15 year olds and 8% of 13 year olds reported they did not know.

Attitudes to drug use

All pupils were invited to agree or disagree with five attitudinal statements about drugs. They were also given the option of indicating that they did not know whether they agreed or disagreed. The five statements were: ‘Taking drugs is exciting’, ‘People my age who take drugs need help and advice’, ‘People who take drugs are stupid’, ‘All people who sell drugs should be punished’ and ‘It is OK for people to take legal highs’.

Table D30a & D30b

Table D31a, D31b & D31c
Pupil’s responses to the five attitudinal statements varied substantially depending on their own experience of drug use. Overall, older pupils reported a more relaxed attitude to drugs than younger pupils.

Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month (9% of 15 year olds and 2% of 13 year olds) were more likely to agree that ‘taking drugs is exciting’ and that ‘it is ok for people to take legal highs’.

- Of the small proportion of 15 year olds who had used drugs in the last month, two-thirds (63%) agreed that ‘taking drugs is exciting’ compared with only 8% of those who had never taken drugs. The corresponding figures for 13 year olds were 50% and 5%.
- Of those who had used drugs in the last month, 46% of 15 year olds and 43% of 13 year olds agreed that it was ‘ok for people to take legal highs’. Only 14% of 15 year olds and 11% of 13 year olds who had never used drugs agreed with this statement.10

Pupils who had never taken drugs were more likely to agree that ‘all people who sell drugs should be punished’, that ‘people who take drugs are stupid’ and that ‘people my age who take drugs need help and advice’.

- Sixty-five per cent of 15 year olds and 73% of 13 year olds who had never taken drugs agreed that ‘all people who sell drugs should be punished’ whereas only 18% of 15 year olds and 33% of 13 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month agreed with this statement.
- Sixty-two per cent of 15 year olds and 68% of 13 year olds who had never taken drugs agreed that ‘people who take drugs are stupid’ whereas only 18% of 15 year olds and 38% of 13 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month agreed.
- Seventy-three per cent of 15 year olds and 79% of 13 year olds who had never taken drugs agreed that ‘people my age who take drugs need help and advice’ whereas only 24% of 15 year olds and 45% of 13 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month agreed.

Between 2010 and 2013 the proportions of pupils agreeing with these two statements decreased.

- Since 2010 there has been a decrease in the proportion of 15 year olds who had never taken drugs agreeing with the statement that ‘people my age who take drugs need help and advice’ (from 76% in 2010 to 73% in 2013). There was no significant change from 2010 in the proportion of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month who agreed with this statement.

10 N.B. this should be compared to the proportion of pupils who reported ever having taken ‘powders of pills sold as legal highs’ as the question on attitudes to taking ‘legal highs’ has a wider definition.
Figure D15: Percentage of pupils agreeing with statements relating to attitudes to drug use; by age group and drug use status, Scotland, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>13 year olds</th>
<th>15 year olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taking drugs is exciting</td>
<td>50% (5%)</td>
<td>63% (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People my age who take drugs need help and advice</td>
<td>45% (24%)</td>
<td>73% (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who take drugs are stupid</td>
<td>68% (18%)</td>
<td>62% (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All people who sell drugs should be punished</td>
<td>73% (18%)</td>
<td>65% (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is OK for people to take legal highs</td>
<td>43% (11%)</td>
<td>46% (14%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: Pupils who have taken drugs in the last month and pupils who have never taken drugs
D5.3 HELP WITH DRUG USE AND STOPPING USING DRUGS

All pupils who reported ever using drugs were asked ‘Have you ever felt that you needed to get help because you were using drugs?’ Pupils were then asked two new questions which were introduced to the 2013 survey: ‘Do you want to stop taking drugs?’ They were then asked ‘If you felt that you needed to get help because you were using drugs, who/where would you go to?’ and provided with a list of response options. The latter replaced the following question in SALSUS 2010: ‘If you felt that you needed to get help because you were using drugs, would you know where to go (YES/NO?)

Pupils who had used drugs most days or in the last week were more likely than those who had only used drugs once to report ever feeling that they needed help for their drug use.

- Five per cent of 15 year olds and 7% of 13 year olds who had ever used drugs reported that they had felt they needed help for their drug use.
- Thirteen year old girls were more likely than 13 year olds boys to report they needed help for their drug use (9% compared with 5%). There was no difference between 15 year old boys and girls (4% compared to 5%).
- Fourteen per cent of pupils who reported taking drugs most days and 8% who take drugs at least once a week said they felt they needed help because of using drugs compared to 5% of pupils who reported they take drugs once or twice a month.
- One in ten pupils (10%) who used to take drugs reported feeling that they needed help because of their drug use.

The majority of pupils who had used drugs said they wanted to stop using them.

- Over half of 15 year olds (51%) and six out of ten 13 year olds (62%) who had ever used drugs reported they wanted to stop taking drugs.
- Fifteen year old girls were more likely than 15 year old boys to say that they wanted to stop taking drugs (55% compared with 47%). There were no differences among 13 year olds.

Pupils who take drugs frequently are less likely to want to stop taking them.

- Four out of ten (40%) of those who take drugs a few times a year wanted to stop taking drugs compared with 24% of those who take drugs once or twice a month. The proportion wanting to stop taking drugs reduced further among those who took drugs at least once a week (15%) and most days (11%).

Pupils were most likely to say that they would go to a friend or a parent if they felt they needed help for their drug use.

- Over four in ten 15 year olds (41%) would go to their friend if they needed help and over one in three (34%) would go to a parent. Among 13 year olds, just over a third of those who had ever used drugs reported that they would go to their parent (35%) or a friend (34%) if they needed to get help for their drug use.
Sixteen per cent of 15 year olds and 17% of 13 year olds reported that they would not know where to go if they needed help with their drug use.

Fifteen per cent of 15 year olds and 11% of 13 year olds would use websites and helplines (e.g. Talk to Frank, Choices for Life) to get help for their drug use.

Girls were more likely than boys to go to a friend if they needed help with their drug use (48% compared with 35% among 15 year olds and 43% compared with 28% among 13 year olds).

Boys were more likely than girls to go to a parent if they needed help with their drug use (39% compared with 27% among 15 year olds and 40% compared with 29% among 13 year olds).

Figure D16: Percentage of pupils who reported wanting to stop using drugs; by age group, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: Pupils who have ever used drugs
D6 FAMILY

D6.1 FAMILY STRUCTURE

All pupils were asked ‘Who lives with you at home?’.

The majority of pupils (64%) reported that they live with both of their parents. Around a quarter of pupils (23%) reported that they live with a single parent. About one in ten pupils (9%) live with one parent and a step-parent.

The proportion of pupils who reported using drugs in the last month was lowest among those living with both parents.

- Seven per cent of 15 year olds who lived with both parents reported using drugs in the month before the survey, compared with 12% of those living with a parent and a step-parent and 13% of those living in single parent families.
- 13 year olds who were living in a single parent household were slightly more likely to report that they had used drugs in the last month (3%) than those living with living with both parents or with a parent and a step-parent (2%).

D6.2 PARENTAL MONITORING

All pupils were asked ‘How much does your mother really know about’: ‘Who your friends are?’; ‘How you spend your money?’; ‘Where you are after school?’; ‘Where you go at night?'; ‘What you do in your free time?’.

For each option the pupils were asked whether they thought their mother knew ‘a lot’, ‘a little’ or ‘nothing’. The same questions were also asked to establish their father’s knowledge.

The majority of pupils felt that their mother knew ‘a lot’ about who their friends are (70%), how they spend their money (66%), where they go after school (86%), where they go at night (74%) and what they do in their free time (65%). The corresponding figures for fathers were lower (43%, 47%, 58%, 58% and 51% respectively).

Pupils who had used drugs in the last month were more likely to report that their parent did not know about their friends and social activities than pupils who had never used drugs.

- Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month were considerably more likely than pupils who had never taken drugs to report that their parents did not know what they did with their free time (24% compared to 5% for mother’s knowledge and 39% compared to 14% for father’s knowledge).
- Those who had taken drugs in the last month were also more likely than those who had never taken drugs to report that their parents did not know where they went at night (21% compared to 4% for mother’s knowledge and 39% compared to 15% for father’s knowledge).
- Similarly, those who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely to report that their parents did not know how they spent their money (18% compared to 3% for mother’s knowledge and 39% compared to 14% for father’s knowledge); where they went after school (10% compared to 2% for mother’s knowledge and 36% compared to 13% for father’s knowledge); and who their

Tables D38
friends were (6% compared to 2% for mother’s knowledge and 25% compared to 11% for father’s knowledge).  

Table D39 & D40 and Figures D17

Figure D17: Perceived parental knowledge (per cent who know a lot); both age groups, by drug use status, Scotland, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother's knowledge</th>
<th>Father's knowledge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who your friends are</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How you spend your money</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where you are after school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where you go at night</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What you do with your free time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month and pupils who had never taken drugs
D7 FRIENDS AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

D7.1 CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS AND TIME SPENT WITH FRIENDS

Pupils were asked how many close friends they had, the ages of their friends and the number of evenings they spent with their friends in a typical week.

Pupils who had used drugs in the last month were more likely to have older friends than those who have never used drugs. They also spent more evenings per week with their friends.

- There was little difference between the number of close friends reported by 15 year olds who had used drugs in the last month and those who had never used drugs. Among 13 year olds, those who had used drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never used drugs to report having no close friends (5% compared to 1%).
- More than one in ten 15 year olds (11%) who had used drugs in the last month reported having friends ‘older than me’ compared to 4% of those who had never used drugs. A similar pattern was found in 13 year olds (12% compared with 4%).
- Pupils who reported that they had used drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never used drugs to report that they spent every evening with their friends: 19% of 15 year olds who had used drugs in the month before the survey compared with 6% of those who had never taken drugs. The corresponding figures for 13 year olds were 29% and 8%.

D7.2 LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Pupils were presented with a list of activities that they may sometimes do in their free time and asked how often, if at all, they took part in them.

The largest reported difference between pupils who used drugs in the last month and those who had never used drugs was in the proportion of pupils reporting that they ‘hang around the street’ at least weekly.

- Two-thirds (67%) of pupils who had used drugs in the month prior to the survey reported that they ‘hang out in the street’ at least weekly compared with 32% of pupils who had never taken drugs.
- Two-thirds (66%) of 15 year olds and 70% of 13 year olds who had used drugs in the month prior to the survey reported that they ‘hang around the street’ at least weekly, compared with 28% of 15 year olds and 36% of 13 year olds who have never taken drugs.

Pupils who had used drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to report participating in the majority of the activities listed at least weekly. For example, socialising with friends, going to concerts, as well as doing nothing.

- Pupils who had taken drugs in the month prior to the survey were more likely to socialise with friends than those who had never taken drugs, e.g. report going to a friend’s house (85% compared with 67%) or see their friends (94% compared with 83%).
- Those who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to go to concerts (20% compared with 7%).

Tables D41, D42 & D43
Those who had taken drugs in the last month were also more likely than those who had never used drugs to report doing nothing (30% compared with 19%).

Pupils who had used drugs in the month prior to the survey were also more likely than those who had never taken drugs to use social networking sites, look around the shops, to watch sports or to go to venues such as the theatre at least weekly.

- Those who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to go to theatres or concert halls (11% compared with 5%), cinemas (30% compared with 25%) and museums or galleries (10% compared with 5%).
- Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month were also more likely than those who had never used drugs to use social networking sites (94% compared with 84%) and look around the shops (69% compared with 60%).
- Those who had taken drugs in the last month were also more likely than those who had never used drugs to go to watch sports matches (36% compared with 30%) and to play computer games (64% compared with 59%).

Pupils who had never taken drugs were more likely than those who had used drugs in the last month to read books, do a sport or do a hobby at least weekly.

- Almost half (45%) of pupils who had never taken drugs reported that they read books at least weekly compared with 29% of pupils who had taken drugs in the month prior to the survey.
- Among 15 year olds, those who had never used drugs were more likely than those who had used drugs in the last month to report reading books (38% compared with 27%). Similarly, among 13 year olds, half (50%) of those who had never used drugs reported reading books compared with 37% of those who had used drugs in the last month.
- Pupils who had never taken drugs were also more likely than those who had taken drugs in the last month to report doing a sport at least weekly (66% compared with 54%) and to do a hobby, art or play a musical instrument (57% compared with 47%).
- Fifteen year olds who had never used drugs were also more likely than those who had taken drugs in the last month to report volunteering (20% compared with 16%).

Tables D44a, D44b & D44c and Figure D18
Figure D18: Percentage of pupils reporting taking part in leisure activities at least weekly; both age groups, by drug use status, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013

Base: Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month and pupils who had never taken drugs
D8 SCHOOL

D8.1 DRUGS ADVICE AND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY SCHOOL

Pupils were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that their school provided them with the advice and support they need to take important decisions about drugs.

The majority of pupils ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that their school gave them the advice and support they needed to take important decisions about drugs, with girls more likely to say this than boys.

- Seventy per cent of 15 year olds ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that their school gave them the advice and support they needed to take important decisions about drugs.
- Around three-quarters (72%) of 13 year olds ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that their school gave them the advice and support they needed to take important decisions about drugs.
- Girls were more likely than boys to report this (71% compared to 69% of 15 year olds and 74% compared to 69% of 13 year olds).

Table D46

D8.2 SUBSTANCE USE EDUCATION

Pupils were asked if, in the last twelve months, they had any lessons, videos/DVDs or discussion in class on the blood borne infections HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Among both age groups, the majority of pupils reported that these topics had not been covered in the last 12 months, with 15 year olds more likely than 13 year olds to report receiving lessons on these infections.

- Lessons on HIV were most commonly reported (24% of 15 year olds and 11% of 13 year olds).
- A very small proportion of pupils reported receiving lessons on Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C (8% of 15 year olds and 3% of 13 year olds for each).
- Boys were more likely than girls to report receiving lessons on HIV (19% of all boys compared to 16% of all girls) or Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C (7% compared to 4% for both).

The proportion of 15 year old pupils who reported receiving lessons on HIV has dropped between 2010 and 2013.

- Among 15 year olds there was a decrease in pupils reporting that they received lessons on HIV (from 28% in 2010 to 24% in 2013).
- There was no change in the proportion of 13 year olds who reported receiving these lessons.

Table D47
D8.3 ATTITUDES TOWARDS SCHOOL

Pupils were asked how much they liked school at the moment and how often they feel strained or pressured by the schoolwork they have to do.

Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to say that they did not like school and to report feeling strained or pressured by their schoolwork.

- Among 15 year olds, one in four (24%) who had used drugs in the last month said they did not like school at all, compared with one in ten (10%) who have never taken drugs.
- Similarly, among 13 year olds, 29% of those who had taken drugs in the last month reported that they did not like school at all, compared with 7% of those who have never used drugs.
- Among 15 year olds, 49% of those who had taken drugs in the last month reported feeling strained or pressured a ‘lot of the time’ by schoolwork compared with 40% of those who had never taken drugs.
- The same pattern emerged for 13 year olds: one in three (32%) who had taken drugs in the last month felt strained or pressured ‘a lot of the time’ by the schoolwork they had to do compared to 14% of those who have never taken drugs.

D8.4 EXPECTATIONS AFTER SCHOOL

All pupils were asked what they thought they were most likely to be doing when they left school.

Those who had never used drugs were more likely than those who had taken drugs in the last month to intend to go on to university when they left school.

- Fifty-seven per cent of 15 year olds and 58% of 13 year olds who had never taken drugs reported that they would be most likely to go to university after they left school. This reduced to 35% for 15 year olds and 40% for 13 year olds who had used drugs in the last month.
- Among 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month, 28% said they expected to go to a Further Education college and 12% said they thought they would be doing an apprenticeship/trade compared to 19% and 6% respectively of 15 year olds who had never used drugs.
- Thirteen year olds who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to say that they expected to be working when they left school (13% compared with 8%).

D8.5 TRUANCY AND EXCLUSION

Pupils were asked how many times they had truanted from school, and how many times they had been excluded. It should be noted that a school-based survey such as SALSUS risks omitting pupils who frequently play truant, as these pupils may not have been present at the time the survey was being completed in class. However, pupils who were not present at the time of the survey were asked to complete the survey at a later date (see SALSUS Technical Report for further details).
Overall, 29% of all 13 year olds reported that they had truanted in the past year and 8% reported that they had been excluded since they started secondary school. The corresponding figures for 15 year olds were 38% and 10% respectively.

As shown in the previous survey, reports of truancy and exclusions from school were higher among pupils who had used drugs in the last month compared to those who had never used drugs.

- Among 15 year olds, 73% of pupils who had used drugs in the past month had truanted at least once in the last year compared with 32% of pupils who had never used drugs. The corresponding figures among 13 year olds are 71% and 27%.

- Those who had used drugs in the month prior to the survey were more likely to frequently truant: 19% of 15 year olds who had used drugs in the previous month had truanted more than 10 times, compared with 3% of 15 year olds who had never used drugs. The corresponding figures among 13 year olds are 22% and 2%.

- Among 15 year olds, 32% who had used drugs in the month prior to the survey reported being excluded compared with 7% of 15 year olds who had never used drugs. Among 13 year olds, the corresponding figures are 31% and 7%.

Figure D19: Percentage of pupils who had ever been excluded from secondary school; by age group, gender and drug taking status, Scotland, 2013

Source: SALSUS 2013
Base: All pupils
D8.6 SCHOOL MEALS

Pupils were asked whether they get free school meals or vouchers for free school meals. Overall 12% of 15 year olds and 13% of 13 year olds reported receiving free school meals or vouchers for free school meals.

As in 2010, pupils who reported taking drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to be in receipt of free school meals or vouchers for free school meals.

- Twenty per cent of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month were in receipt of free school meals/vouchers compared with 10% of those who had never taken drugs.
- A similar pattern exists for 13 year olds: 24% of 13 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month were in receipt of free school meals/vouchers compared with 12% of those who had never taken drugs.

Table D53
D9 DEPRIVATION AND SUBJECTIVE WEALTH

D9.1 DEPRIVATION

Pupils’ drug use was analysed in relation to deprivation, using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) based on pupils’ postcode\(^\text{11}\). Postcodes were imputed for pupils who did not complete the question on postcode, or who provided an incomplete or inaccurate postcode, allowing the allocation of a SIMD score (see SALSUS Technical Report for more details). Please note that care should be taken with interpretation of these findings due to the high percentage of cases where the postcode was either missing, incomplete or inaccurate (37%).

Fifteen and 13 year olds living in the most deprived quintile were slightly more likely than those living in the least deprived quintile to report using drugs in the month prior to the survey.

- Among 15 year olds, 11% of those living in the most deprived areas (SIMD 1) reported using drugs in the month prior to the survey, compared to 9% of those in the least deprived areas (SIMD 5). In line with this, pupils who lived in the most deprived areas were less likely to report never using drugs: 79% of 15 year olds living in the most deprived areas (SIMD 1) had never used drugs compared with 84% of those in the least deprived areas (SIMD 5).

- Among 13 year olds, there was a similar trend: 3% of those living in the most deprived areas (SIMD 1) reported using drugs in the month prior to the survey, compared to 2% of those in the least deprived areas (SIMD 5) and 95% of 13 year olds living in the most deprived areas (SIMD 1) had never used drugs compared with 97% of those in the least deprived areas (SIMD 5).

D9.2 SUBJECTIVE WEALTH

Pupils were asked how ‘well off’ they thought their family/the people they live with are.

Over half of all 15 and 13 year olds thought that their family/the people they live with were ‘very/quite well off’ (51% of 15 year olds and 56% of 13 year olds).

Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to rate their family or the people they lived with as ‘not/not at all well off’.

- For 15 year olds, 8% of pupils who had taken drugs in the last month described their family/the people they live with as ‘not/not at all well off’ compared with 5% of those who had never taken drugs.

- For 13 year olds, 9% of pupils who had taken drugs in the last month described their family/the people they live with as ‘not/not at all well off’ compared with 5% of those who had never taken drugs.

\(^{11}\) It is difficult to measure deprivation on an individual basis therefore area-based measures are used instead. Within SALSUS deprivation is measured using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), an area based deprivation measure based on postcode. Further information on SIMD can be found in the 2013 SALSUS Technical Report and on the ISD & Scottish Government websites.
Fifteen year olds who had never taken drugs were more likely to describe their family as ‘very/quite well off’ than those who had taken drugs in the last month.

- Fifty-two per cent of 15 year olds who had never taken drugs described their family/the people they live with as ‘very/quite well off’ compared with 47% of those who had taken drugs in the last month. There was no significant difference between 13 year olds.
D10 HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

D10.1 SELF-REPORTED HEALTH AND LONG-TERM HEALTH PROBLEMS

Pupils were asked to rate their health, in general. They were also asked if they had a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting/expected to last 12 months or more and, if yes, whether this reduced their ability to carry out day-to-day activities. Please note that the latter two questions were introduced in 2013 and replaced the previous question: ‘Do you have any longstanding illness or disability?’.

Overall, 86% of all pupils rated their health as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ (88% of 13 year olds and 83% of 15 year olds). Of the 14% of all pupils who stated that they had a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting/expected to last 12 months or more, 66% said that this affected their day to day activities either a little (56%) or a lot (10%).

Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never used drugs to rate their health as ‘fair’, ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’. They were also more likely to report having a mental or physical health condition lasting/expected to last 12 months or more, and to report that this condition affects their day-to-day activities ‘a lot’.

- One in three 15 year olds (34%) and one in four 13 year olds (26%) who had taken drugs in the last month rated their health as ‘fair’, ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’, compared with 14% of 15 year olds and 11% of 13 year olds who had never taken drugs.
- Fifteen year old pupils who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to report having a physical or mental health condition lasting/expected to last 12 months (23% compared to 14%). Among 13 year olds the corresponding figures were 25% and 12%.
- Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month, and who had a mental or physical condition, were more likely to report that their condition affects their day-to-day activities ‘a lot’ (22% of 15 year old and 13 year olds) compared to pupils who have never taken drugs (9% of 15 year olds and 7% of 13 year olds).

Tables D57, D58 & D59 and Figure D20
Figure D20: Subjective health; 15 year olds, by drug use status, Scotland, 2013

Since 2006, SALSUS has incorporated the Goodman Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), which is widely used to identify emotional and behavioural problems in children and adolescents. The SDQ asks about 25 attributes, split equally across five subscales: emotional symptoms; conduct problems; hyperactivity/inattention; pro-social behaviour and; peer relationship problems\(^{12}\).

Using results from the above, a pupil’s scores are grouped into ‘normal’, ‘borderline’ and ‘abnormal’, and added together to generate a total difficulties score (based on 20 items).

Overall, 13% of 13 year olds had ‘abnormal’ scores across all the strengths and difficulties scales, 14% had ‘borderline’ scores and the remainder (73%) had ‘normal’ scores. Among 15 year olds, 15% had abnormal scores, 17% ‘borderline’ scores and 68% ‘normal’ scores across all the strengths and difficulties scales.

Those who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to have ‘abnormal’ overall scores across all the strengths and difficulties scales.

- Fifteen year olds who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to have an ‘abnormal’ overall SDQ score (30% compared with 13%).

\(^{12}\) Further information on the Goodman Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire can be found on the SDQ website: http://www.sdqinfo.com
Similarly, 13 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never taken drugs to have an ‘abnormal’ overall SDQ score (41% compared with 11%).

In both age groups, pupils who had taken drugs in the last month were more likely than those who had never used drugs to have ‘abnormal’ scores on all five subscales of the SDQ.

- For the emotional symptoms scale, 23% of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month scored ‘abnormal’ scores compared with 17% of those who had never taken drugs. The scores for 13 year olds were 27% and 12% respectively.
- For the conduct problems scale, 32% of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month scored ‘abnormal’ scores compared with 10% of those who had never taken drugs. The scores for 13 year olds were 46% and 12% respectively.
- For the hyperactivity/inattention scale, 33% of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month scored ‘abnormal’ scores compared with 18% of those who had never taken drugs. The scores for 13 year olds were 35% and 17% respectively.
- For the pro-social behaviour scale, 23% of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month scored ‘abnormal’ scores compared with 12% of those who had never taken drugs. The scores for 13 year olds were 28% and 10% respectively.
- For the peer relationship problems scale, 8% of 15 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month scored ‘abnormal’ scores compared with 5% of those who had never taken drugs. The scores for 13 year olds were 13% and 5% respectively.

D10.3 WARWICK-EDINBURGH MENTAL WELL-BEING SCALE (WEMWBS)

Since 2010 the survey has included the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS). Developed as a tool for measuring mental wellbeing at a population level, the scale comprises 14 positively worded statements that relate to an individual’s state of mental wellbeing (thoughts and feelings). Pupils were asked to indicate how often they have had such thoughts and feelings over the last two weeks. Since 2010 the survey has included the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS). Developed as a tool for measuring mental wellbeing at a population level, the scale comprises 14 positively worded statements that relate to an individual’s state of mental wellbeing (thoughts and feelings). Pupils were asked to indicate how often they have had such thoughts and feelings over the last two weeks.

Pupils who had taken drugs in the last month had a lower mean WEMWBS score than those who had never taken drugs indicating a poorer sense of mental wellbeing.

- Fifteen year olds who had taken drugs in the last month had a lower mean WEMWBS score than those who had never taken drugs (44 compared to 48).
- Similarly, 13 year olds who had taken drugs in the last month had a lower mean WEMWBS score than those who had never taken drugs (44 compared to 50).

For the 2013 analysis, the overall score was calculated by totalling the scores for each item (the minimum possible score was 14 and the maximum was 70); the higher a person’s score is, the better their level of mental wellbeing. The mean was used as a measure of average and to compare different groups. Scores were calculated for pupils who gave a valid response to each of the 14 questions. Please note that this differs from the analysis methods used for the 2010 SALSUS reporting (see technical report for full details).
Boys who had taken drugs in the last month had a higher mean WEMWBS score than girls who had taken drugs in the last month.

- Fifteen year old boys who had taken drugs in the last month had a higher mean WEMWBS score than 15 year old girls who had taken drugs in the last month (48 compared to 39).
- Thirteen year old boys who had taken drugs in the last month had a higher mean WEMWBS score than 13 year old girls who had taken drugs in the last month (47 compared to 40).

\[\text{Table D66}\]
D11 SUMMARY

PREVALENCE

This report shows that, in 2013, the proportion of pupils who reported using 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 (82% of 15 year olds and 96% of 13 year olds) was higher in 2013 than at any time since the survey began in 1998. Among both age groups, boys were more likely than girls to report drug use in the last year, in the past month and ever.

A decline in reported drug use among 13 and 15 year olds was also observed in England\(^{14}\). In 2013, 14% of 15 year old and 9% of 13 year old pupils in England reported drug use in the month before the survey.

TYPES OF DRUGS USED

In addition to being the most commonly offered drug, cannabis was by far the most commonly used drug by pupils in Scotland (9% of 15 year olds and 1% of 13 year olds reported using cannabis in the month before the survey). Two per cent of 15 year olds and 1% of 13 year olds reported using stimulants in the month before the survey, with similar proportions reporting the use of psychedelics.

Looking at ‘new psychoactive substances’ separately, a small proportion of 15 and 13 year olds (4% and less than 1% respectively), reported ever using a ‘new psychoactive substance’ (e.g. synthetic cannabis, mephedrone), with 2% of 15 year olds and less than 1% of 13 year olds reporting using any of these substances in the month before the survey.

ACCESS AND LOCATION

Older pupils were more likely to report that it would be ‘fairly/very easy’ to get illegal drugs if they wanted to (40% of 15 year olds compared with 14% of 13 year olds). Pupils’ reports of ‘easy’ access to drugs rose in line with frequency of drug use. Pupils who had used drugs were most likely to have got them from a friend, e.g. a friend their own age or from an older friend, on the last occasion that they used drugs.

Overall, pupils of both ages were most likely to report taking drugs out in the street, in a park or other outdoor area the last time they took drugs. The locations where drugs were last used differed between boys and girls: among 15 year olds, girls were more likely than boys to have last used drugs ‘in someone else’s home’ or ‘at a party’ whilst boys were more likely to have taken them outdoors.

ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE

The majority of pupils felt it was ‘not ok’ for someone their age to ‘try sniffing glue to see what it’s like’ (85%), to ‘try taking cannabis to see what it’s like’ (81%) or to ‘try taking cocaine to see what it’s like’ (89%).

Although the majority of all pupils thought that the statement ‘taking cannabis is dangerous’ was true, the proportion of pupils agreeing with this statement has fallen between 2010 and 2013. In particular, for 15 year olds who reported taking drugs in the last month, the figure has fallen sharply from 46% to 27%.